

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits



By donation

Thursday, January 2, 2014

Edition No. 35

Committee supports Brooktrails fire tax increase

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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A December 2 report issued by the Brooktrails Fire Department Revenue Enhancement Committee concluded it could find no viable alternative to placing a 50 percent tax increase before voters on the June 2014 ballot.

The report's conclusion enjoyed strong support among committee members. Committee member Paul Trexel, who had opposed the tax hike when it went before voters in July 2012, stated at a committee meeting he would place an ad supporting the tax hike in a local newspaper.

The proposed hike would increase the fire tax for single-family dwellings from \$65 to \$99 per year; the rate for duplexes would increase from \$110 to \$150; the tax on commercial properties would rise from \$200 to \$300; and the tax on vacant land would increase from \$40 to \$99 a year.

The committee met four times between mid-September and mid-November. Committee members explored contracting with CalFire to provide fire prevention services, but found the agency's offer far too expensive. CalFire offered three-tiered service at a cost ranging from \$400,000 to \$531,000 for the first year. According to the committee report, "The committee found that contracting with CalFire would far exceed the resources of Brooktrails, and would also entail a significant loss of services."

Read the rest of **Fire Tax**

Over on Page 11



A Wish for Water



At top: An aerial view of what is left in Willits reservoir "Lake" Centennial, looking towards the north.

Above: Looking south across the last remaining water in Lake Centennial.

Right: The water in Brooktrails' Lake Emily doesn't even reach the level of the dam on the reservoir's south end.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Little Lake valley suffering from driest year on record

The effects of the driest year on record are showing in Little Lake Valley and across the county. With hillsides and valleys lacking green grass, it does not look good for livestock producers in the area.

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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"Our livestock members, pretty much across the board, are selling cattle to reduce numbers because there is not enough green feed available or they are buying hay," said Devon Jones, director of the

Mendocino County Farm Bureau.

Michael Foley heads up Green Uprising Farm on East Hill Road.

Foley says this is the first time he has had to water outdoors during this time of year, "It is December, and I am still irrigating because I grow year round - to get garlic up and keep kale and cauliflower up. It is really a pain."

Aquarian Water Delivery's Dave Robinson gets an extensive view of the area's water supply as he makes the rounds to his customers.

"I am seeing people I have not seen in 20 years," Robinson said. "These are folks who would normally be

Read the rest of **Water**

Over on Page 11



Right: Heading south over the southern interchange of the new bypass and Highway 101 at the south end of Willits.

Above: One of several bridges being constructed over creeks and waterways in the Willits valley.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Environmental lawsuit against Willits bypass rejected

In a ruling announced December 19, federal judge Jeffrey White rejected a lawsuit filed by environmental groups against the Willits bypass project.

The judge found unconvincing the plaintiffs' arguments that the environmental and traffic studies done by Caltrans for the project were insufficient and flawed.

The lawsuit was filed in April 2012, against Caltrans,

the Federal Highway Administration and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, for violations of the National Environmental Policy Act and Clean Water Act. Plaintiffs included the Center for Biological Diversity, the Willits Environmental Center, The Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club and The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC).

The advocacy groups say Caltrans refused to consider

two-lane alternatives and new information about lower traffic volumes, and failed to conduct adequate environmental review for substantial design changes resulting in more severe environmental impacts.

Caltrans issued this statement by Caltrans Director

Read the rest of **Bypass**

Over on Page 11



What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Editor's Note: Willits sculptor and video artist Ron Woolsey lost his Brooktrails home to an electrical fire on December 7, the night of the "big" snowstorm. Willits Weekly will be running several letters from Woolsey sharing his experience, in hopes that it might help, as Woolsey writes, "navigate these troubled waters."

What happens after the fire

To the Editor:

I'm writing this both to friends and even strangers that supported me in a time of need. Yes, the need for a pair of shoes, but mostly the need to know that someone was there. To those people, I thank you.

But I hope this series of letters (yes, series) is of interest to others. Many of us have or will be touched by a similar event, and I am willing to share mine in a hope to help others navigate these troubled waters.

What happened?

On December 7 my life changed radically. The Unthinkable happened – my house burned down. I have been three weeks and except for accidental encounters, I have spoken very little with a few and not at all with most. Strength or weakness? I often hide from things that I don't want to look at by joking or working. There are moments when the feelings wash over me – a memory of a picture of my father swimming with his buddies in WW II. Still hoping to find it somewhere, as I did with a small stack of pictures, untouched except for the toxic smell of smoke. In that stack I discovered pictures of my cherished and departed companion, Doshi, a 100-pound female golden retriever who taught me so much over our 15 years together.

So days are filled with strong and vivid feelings – loss, hope, and, yes, even tears of joy as I find something not looked at for perhaps years, but literally a vital piece of my life. My thoughts and feelings collide.... I daily pray for it not to rain, lest it make my work harder, yet I also pray twice a day that it does rain, giving us that much-needed water.

I am most thankful for the support that I've received – it sustains me. Yet, I still struggle with being comfortable without the armor that separated me from others. Guess I am lucky that my habit of hiding in my work at least gets something done. Hopefully it will get me out of this headspace one day so that I can allow myself to dream. Hold that thought.

The next thing I will share is the first thing that I was aware of that needed to be shared, and it was this thing that prompted me to do these letters initially.

When I think of that night, waking up to a smoke alarm at 1:30 am – lucky enough to have my robe, a pair of pants, a T-shirt, socks and slippers – and running out into 15-degree weather, with snow and ice everywhere.

The second thing I think of is those men, the firemen, men like you and me, getting out of their warm beds, knowing their loved ones will worry until their return. Driving on roads that we had been told to stay off of, to fight a fire that might save a life, belongings, or even the neighborhood. I heard later that at least one man almost fell through the floor and that two sustained injuries.

The next day I remembered that our fire department, and that of Willits, had asked for more money in order to be more effective and supply the firefighters with what they felt was needed to safely carry out their duties. Duties, I might add, that are mostly performed by volunteers, not getting paid, "like, for free." Both initiatives failed. At first I got mad and said to myself and several others "that if we couldn't come up with the extra money, we should be ashamed of ourselves." And then I remembered how distasteful it had felt when we shamed each other around the bypass issue.

How can I word this?

Try to honor that some voted "no" because they thought it was the right thing to do. To these people, I suggest

that you reevaluate. Do you feel that you cannot afford this increase, or that the money is really not necessary? Or, perhaps, you really don't believe that you need the fire department's services? Then I invite you to volunteer (for FREE) for one, two or three years to fight these fires yourself, or call the fire department and ask that if a fire breaks out in your house that you do not wish for them to respond and that you will accept responsibility for any collateral damage.

I hear that Brooktrails will get another chance to vote on supporting these young men. Reconsider, think hard, record your belongings in case the insurance company asks for it, and check your smoke alarms. Please.

Before closing for now, I must first thank two very special people. Most people who know them already recognize their kind hearts, and their ability to get things done when "getting it done" is what is needed. To count them as my family is an honor. I hope that if I am called on to help that I show as much courage and strength.

Freddie Long created the YouCaring.com website, spread the word about my situation, and coordinated the fundraising effort on my behalf. And so, so much more.

Mary Holcomb – my love, my partner, immediately jumped into her car and drove to me – the appalling weather and road conditions made what should have been a 20-minute drive a four-hour ordeal we will never forget. She has washed an infinite number of loads of laundry; organized; responded and generally kept everything from falling apart; and yes, much, much more.

I really am doing well – everything will be what it will be, and I'll try to make a sculpture of it (probably a waterfall).

This letter is listed as an "update" on my YouCaring website at www.youcaring.com/other/a-friend-in-need/118145. There will be at least two more to follow, and I am exploring ways to continue and expand this conversation because this is about a lot more than me.

Thanks to all, and Happy New Year.

Ron Woolsey, former resident of Brooktrails

Are you ready?

To the Editor:

Are you ready? If our community of Willits is ever isolated from the rest of the country, are you prepared and well-supplied for an emergency? I have been asking myself this question for a long time and have found out that careful study and thought needs to go into this subject.

I thought I was well-supplied and prepared, but once I applied myself to the subject, I found out that my preparations were piecemeal and not at all fully thought out.

There are a lot of different events that could take place that would leave Willits and its residents on their own to fend for themselves. Most people are used to having the light switch turn on the lights, having water on demand, and gasoline and city services being available when needed. If all of a sudden these things we take for granted suddenly disappeared, what would you do? What if you had no time to prepare, and all of a sudden there was no water from the tap? No electricity, TV, computers, fuel to cook your food, and no communication from the outside world. What would you do?

A lot of us would get very afraid, as our security blanket would vanish. What would make the difference to you and your family survival would come down to your psychological preparation and your real preparation.

When high-stress situations arise, training and preparation are the key ingredients that help a person deal with situations outside their normal existence. In the military, it's training and more training that allows a person to adapt to stress and abnormal situations. As a civilian, preparation for difficult times gives a personal feeling of "I am ready" for this, and I can adapt. Thinking about things in advance is key to overcoming the stress of severe change that may come out of the blue and force a person to adapt or perish.

Times in the world are dangerous and we do not know that the peace and security we have taken for granted will continue. I feel that everyone, no matter who you are, needs to think about the issues we face today and be

personally ready to try to adapt to a changing environment. Being prepared is just thinking ahead: If you keep a well-stocked house with supplies on hand, you won't suffer the consequences of lack of foresight. Many people live in town and shop for food on a daily basis, and only have a few days of supplies on hand. This type of lifestyle is what will fall apart if disaster strikes. It may be convenient to trust the stores for supplies, but if trouble comes, and the stores have no supplies, then you will be in a very poor situation.

If a disaster strikes our town and leaves us without our security of food and water and electricity, it will be up to each and every one of us to adapt and find a way to make our community work. It would be a true test of our resolve for each of us. Don't look to the government to help you ... help yourself. Hungry people are dangerous, and after three days of not eating, all hell will break loose.

During difficult times, security for your family is a very important consideration. If you are in a group setting, your chance of protecting your family against predatory criminals after your stash of goods goes way up. It depends how bad things get. If the police and sheriff's departments and the fire departments are out of business, maybe out of gas, things will change fast.

It would take a real big issue for that to happen, but it is possible. Right now, the Yellowstone caldera (super-volcano) is acting up, and if that blows (like Mount St. Helens), all bets are off. Other issues such as war, terrorism, or economic collapse (like the Great Depression) are possible and should not be discounted. Some things are taboo to talk about, but not for me, so I am bringing them up for discussion. Remember Murphy's Law: "What can go wrong, will," so let's not kid ourselves and stick our heads in the sand, and say it will never happen here.

As a community, our best defense against being a victim is for the whole of the population of Willits to be well-supplied with food and water, and to have a community plan to feed those who have not had the good sense (or financial resources) to supply themselves. If we as a community will stock up with supplies of needed items, to weather a disaster, then we will be ready, willing and able to take care of ourselves.

Are you ready? Do you want to get ready? Preparing for emergencies is like a parachute: if you need one and don't have it, you will not need another one, as you will not be here to face the issue again. Be Prepared: it is the Boy Scout motto, and makes sense to me. So prepare; don't talk yourself out of it, talk yourself into it.

Getting ready: It really comes down to food and water and shelter and communication. A good 4 band radio and lots of batteries, with a solar charging system, should be high on any list of supplies. I can't stress enough about clean water, as it is the most important item and needs to be addressed first and foremost. Store it at home and in your car. Have a water purification device. If you have a well, and it has an electric pump, get a generator to operate the pump. The generator will come in handy for many other things, too.

Other advantages, such as friends and associates who talk and communicate in a good neighborly fashion and who can form mutual support groups in hard times can make all the difference. Groups by their nature have different skill sets: some can cook and know food issues; others are physically strong and suited for manual labor; others are mechanically inclined and can fix or repair important items; others might have communication skills.

Whatever the case, don't try to be a lone wolf, unless there is no other choice. People trained in survival in the military might have the skills and personal fortitude to be a lone wolf and live on their own. The rest of the population needs support and the comfort of friends and family.

Short-term disasters are less difficult. They might be severe, but if there is a light at the end of the tunnel, a person's mindset would be less difficult. Long-term trouble is altogether a different ball game, and much more psychologically stressful. If a person or a family is prepared and has their supplies – and a plan – the stress of trouble becomes easier to deal with.

Plan some other place to go to, if your home is not a

Read the rest of **Letters** | [Over on Page 9](#)

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Above: Cookie Contest winners (from left): Lisa Reed and Kylie Reed of the Les Schwab Tire Center team, who were the winners of the People's Choice award for their Mocha Crinkles, and Tam Adams of Emandal, who won the Judge's Choice award for her Caramel Nut Bars.

At right: top: 2013 Cookie Contest official judges (from left): Holly Madrigal, Jolene Carrillo, Lee Bryant and Adrienne Moore. Thanks to our judges! Below: Judge's Choice award-winner Tam Adams (left) and Willits Weekly editor Jennifer Poole (at microphone) exchange "thank you's" on stage, with the Cookie Contest judges.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Cookies & WW Festivities

The big winner of Willits Weekly's first annual Cookie Contest was ... ta-dah ... Tam Adams of Emandal - a Farm on a River.

Our official team of cookie-loving judges awarded Adams the Judge's Choice Award, for her Caramel Nut Bars. Adams also won third place, in the judges' estimation, for her Blackberry Cayenne Thumbprints. Second-place winner in the judges' contest was the Howard Hospital team, for their Mocha Mint Chocolate Cookies.

Adams actually brought six different cookies, and decorated her table beautifully and seasonally with evergreen boughs and Meyer's lemons. Adams and the Emandal crew calls these cookies "Tom's crack bars," after a friend who worked at Emandal and "made the recipe his own." "We all love them," she said.

The People's Choice Award went to Lisa Reed and her daughter Kylie Reed of the Les Schwab Tire Center team for their Mocha Crinkles. Lisa Reed got the recipe from a school book fair, when her older son was in elementary school, and has made the delicious cookies every year for Christmas. "They're Kirk's favorites," she said (Kirk Reed, Lisa's husband, is the manager of Les Schwab Tire Center in Willits).

Howard Hospital's cookies were baked from recipes created by Executive Chef Kyle Evans based on "healthy" suggestions from the hospital staff. Their winning cookie Mocha Mint Chocolate entry was a plant-based cookie made with Fair Trade organic ganache, crushed candy canes and olive oil.

The "people" selected the Swedish rosettes made by Lori Dorholt of Ardella's as their second-place winner, and Lynn Kennelly's Mom's Chocolate Thumbprint Cookies as their third favorite cookies. Dorholt's traditional Rosettes, made with a flower-shaped hot iron, were fried light and crispy, and covered with powdered sugar. Kennelly's deliciously fudgy thumbprints were displayed on a "kitchen window" decorated with vintage kitchen implements and old-fashioned holiday ornaments.

Thanks to our other contestants, too: Rosanna Francheschini and Misty Gonzales of Willits Power Carhartt who made limericks to go with their entries (those bacon chocolate chip sugar cookies were unexpectedly

tasty), and Kathryn Sterngold of SugarKat, whose beautiful pistachio rosewater Turkish delight was a personal favorite.

Contestants brought in a total of 17 different kinds of cookies for the contest.

"All the cookies are wonderful. Now I'm too full & can't decide," said one of many comments on the People's Choice ballot forms and, no, this person didn't cast a vote.

Special thanks also to Devon Jones and Nancy New who sang beautiful Christmas songs and carols to add to the festivities. Thanks to Mariposa Market for donating milk to go with the cookies. And thanks to everybody who came and ate too many cookies – some attendees came and judged, went out to dinner, and came back to find out the results and eat some more cookies. We'll do it again next year, and we'll hope to see you all then!

WOMEN
international
practical
skills
education
leadership
lives
soroptimists
local



It's not too late! (But almost!)

HURRY FOR LAST-MINUTE ADS!

Send an email to:
willitsphonebook@gmail.com
and get your business included this year!

Ad copy for changes can be sent to
WPBAdCopy@gmail.com



From left: Tam Adams of Emandal and Lynn Kennelly of the Willits Chamber of Commerce.



Above, left: Rosanna Francheschini and Misty Gonzales of Willits Power Carhartt. Above, center: Kathy Albright and Lori Dorholt of Ardella's. Above, right: Kathryn Sterngold of SugarKat Kitchen.



Above, left: Rosanna Francheschini and Misty Gonzales of Willits Power Carhartt. Above, center: Kathy Albright and Lori Dorholt of Ardella's. Above, right: Kathryn Sterngold of SugarKat Kitchen.

Studio Joy
Happy New Year!
Happy New You!

This coupon entitles you to 5 Zumba classes at Studio Joy for \$25 (regularly \$42.50).

If you have never been to the studio, your first class is FREE.

Class card MUST be purchased between January 2nd and January 11th and can be used at any time. There is no expiration date on class cards. Limit 1 card per person.

See full schedule at: www.studiojoywillits.com
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Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

In the Stars...

ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20

Now may be the time to try something new, Aries. You are not one to shy away from anything, but right now you're a bit apprehensive about things. Take a leap of faith.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21

Taurus, many people look to you as a leader, and they are wise to do so. You are especially trustworthy, and you will be asked to solve a few problems this week.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 21

Gemini, there won't be much time to enjoy recreational activities this week, so you may have to find a new way to let loose. Rest assured there will be more time for fun down the road.

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22

Cancer, a new opportunity comes your way but you're not quite sure if you're ready for such drastic changes. Take your time before making a final decision.

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23

Leo, no matter how hard you try, some people just can't see things from your point of view. Don't take this personally, as everyone is entitled to their own opinions.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22

Virgo, sometimes it seems like you have all of the answers, while at other times, you might not know how to approach a situation. Take some time to analyze your approach.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23

Feeling homesick, Libra? If so, make some post-holiday plans to visit with friends or family you didn't get a chance to see during the holidays. Enjoy this time spent with loved ones.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22

Scorpio, you like to stay busy. But you sometimes feel overwhelmed with all that you have to do. Stop biting off more than you can chew and take things one task at a time.

PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your competitive juices will be flowing this week, Pisces. Enjoy the competitive atmosphere but don't take things too far.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21

Sagittarius, now is a good time to make resolutions and reconnect with distant friends. It is good to rekindle relationships and commit to spending more time with friends and family.

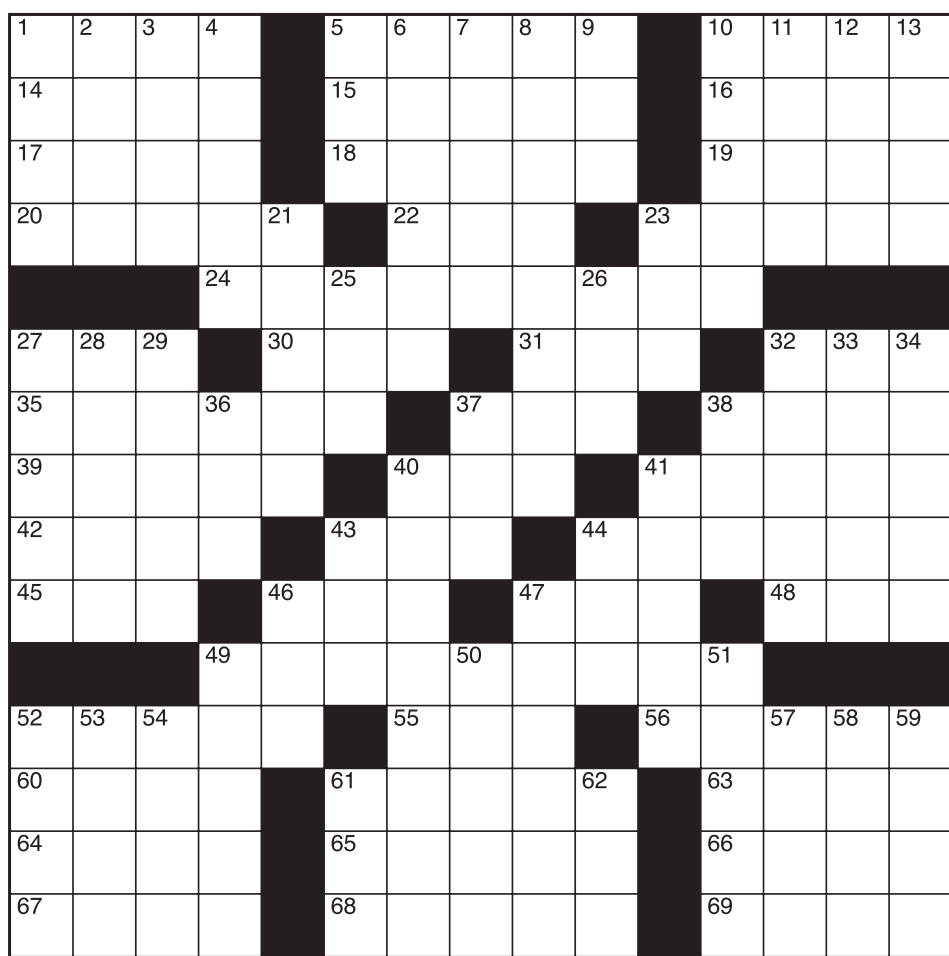
CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20

After time away for the holidays, getting back into a routine can be challenging, Capricorn. But you like to stick to a schedule, and getting back on track is the way to do it.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18

Aquarius, although you have many friends, you recently have only spent time with a select few. This week is a great time to reach out to those friends you haven't seen in awhile.

Crossword Puzzle



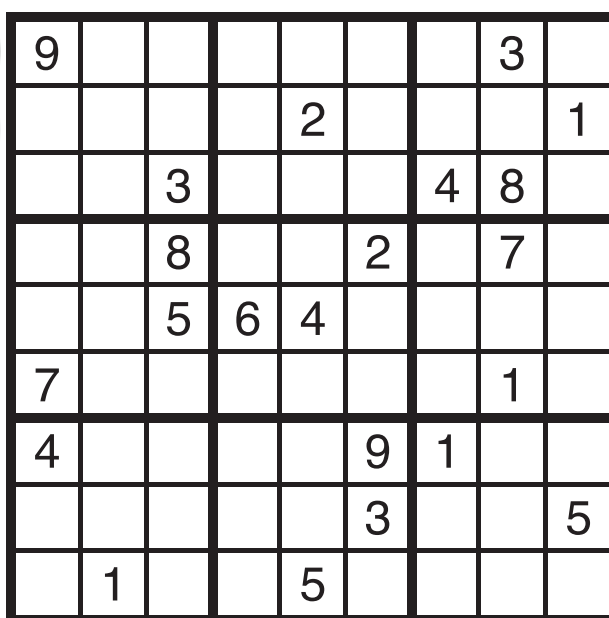
CLUES ACROSS

- Esau's descendants home
- Fragrant tropical tree resin
- Selection list
- A rectangular groove
- Plant of a clone
- Three-banded Armadillo
- Surrounded by
- Muse of lyric poetry
- Give a job to
- Ceremonial staff bearer
- By way of
- Bangladesh capital (old sp.)
- Taxicab registration
- Consumed
- Indian legume dish
- Tire nut
- Woman (Fr. abbr.)
- Spider's trap
- Have already done
- Picasso's Dora
- Sousaphones
- Campaign contributor org.
- ___ and Venzetti
- Oil cartel
- Angry
- Chauvinists
- Bloodshot
- Swiss river

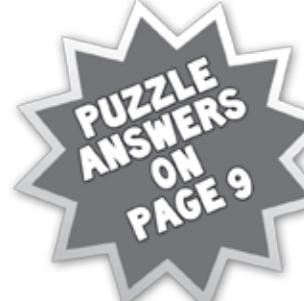
CLUES DOWN

- Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- Fallow deer genus
- Of an ode
- Phone line connector
- Before
- Insect stage
- Electronic communication
- Relating to metal
- Japanese Minister Hirobumi
- Naval historian Alfred Thayer
- A long narrative poem
- Drug officer (US slang)
- Carbamide
- Park in Northern Spain
- Canine
- Hit lightly
- Indiana Univ. Degree
- Play performer
- Hairpiece
- Pulled away
- Paper-___
- Georgia city
- Irregularly notched
- Ladies' 1st Army branch
- Begetter
- Raincoat
- Conic curve
- ___ Claus
- Family Hominidae member
- Personnel
- Actor Carney
- At peace
- Joyce Carol ___ US author
- Of cheekbone
- A one-edged cavalry sword
- Potato pouch
- Town in Ghana
- Small store
- Rover
- Oh, God!
- Force unit
- Central mail bureau
- ___ student, learns healing

Sudoku



Level: Intermediate



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

COLUMN | Well Mannered Mutts



The Death of a Dog

My dog, Skete, died. He was way over 12½ years old. For a German shepherd, that is equivalent to a 95-year-old person. I dare say that Skete had a really good life. He had adventures and played with other dogs; he went to work; he had really excellent food, medical care, and doting people who loved him. In reality, Skete had a better life than a lot of people.

I knew the day would come when I'd lose him. From the beginning, his health was in question. German shepherds are prone to hip and spine problems, and a variety of other problems. It was suspected that he had canine degenerative myelopathy, also known as chronic degenerative radiiculomyelopathy. This is an incurable, progressive disease of the canine spinal cord that is similar in many ways to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). But in the long run, I don't think that's what he succumbed to. I think it was just old age and a body that couldn't keep up with his spirit.

When he turned 11, I saw a dramatic slowing down. He had difficulty in getting up and walking. He stopped being able to jump into the back of the truck. We looked like a comedy team with me trying to assist this 105-pound dog into the back of a truck. He would put his front paws up on the tailgate, and I'd boost him in. I would see a look of embarrassment on his face when I flubbed it up. Taking him out of the truck was a demonstration of the trust he had in me to not drop him. After a while he didn't have the strength to put his front paws up on the tailgate, and I couldn't get him to go up a ramp into the truck. It broke my heart when I couldn't take him with me. I wasn't strong enough to lift him. I knew he wanted to go. His mind, his personality and spirit were still there but his body just wouldn't cooperate.

Our walks started becoming shorter and shorter. I called them "the long sniff." I would take him out the gate onto the street and just allow him to sniff the world. Some days were better than others, and some days he needed to wear booties because he scraped his hind feet on the pavement. Eventually I had a harness on him that had a handle on the back. I would try to carry him like a suitcase. He loved it. He loved the adventure of walking down the road smelling deer, raccoons and other neighborhood dogs. You could see that spark of a once-young dog still burning inside this old, old body. But soon those walks became fewer and fewer.

In January last year I dug his grave. I thought it would be any day now that I'd lose him. Skete had other plans. He seemed to rally. I would be amazed how all of the sudden I'd see one of the cats running by, and then, tap, tap, tap in some sort of delayed reaction, I'd see Skete chasing him. It was the slowest chase ever, but that spunk was there. Skete always figured out how to corner the cats, but he never harmed them.

My husband bought a car just so it would be easier to put Skete in it. We would sometimes just go for drives or go to a park, lift him out, and let him sniff around. This was now a two-person job. I could see that he wanted to play and do all the things he used to be able to do. It was as if he didn't understand

Read the rest of **Skete** Over on Page 9



It's Time

(about!)

Ukiah's Oco Time opens Willits noodle bar with sushi, tempura and more

Then, top your noodles with vegetables and condiments of your choice, like spinach, sliced green onions, tofu, cilantro, sesame seeds, or a slice of lime. Sauces include thick, tasty "Fire Sauce," as well as miso booster, soy booster and vegan soy booster.

You can also purchase tempura by the piece (30 cents for each tempura vegetable – you choose which you want – and \$1.75 for each tempura shrimp) to eat in or with your soup, on their own, or with something from the cooler.

It's Time is a great place for quick and healthy to-go food; just check the cooler and "grab and go." Last week, sushi in the cooler included tuna avocado, salmon cucumber, yellowtail avocado, shrimp tempura and veggie sushi. Rice bowl choices included chicken, veggie tempura, chicken chan and a brown rice peace out bowl, along with sides like seaweed salad and green salad.

It's Time Willits takes sushi orders by phone at 459-2621.

Willits It's Time first opened on December 19. After a limited holiday schedule since then, Willits It's Time will open on Monday, January 6 for its regular schedule of hours: Monday through Friday, from 11 am to 7 pm. 459-2621.

Judging by the number of excited comments on Oco Time's Facebook page, Willits residents are thrilled that their favorite Japanese restaurant in Ukiah has opened a branch in Willits. One recent comment: "Willitsians have been YEARNING for OcoTime...thank you for making our dream come true! You will surely have a bountiful 2014 in our wonderful town."

Owners Yoshiaki and Naoko Sakane are tending the Willits "It's Time Sushi Express" restaurant themselves, leaving Oco Time and the "It's Time" Ukiah branch in the hands of a new chef.

"Hello Willits!," the Sakanes say via their Facebook page. "It has been so wonderful, meeting new friends and seeing our pals from Willits, Ukiah and beyond. Thank you for the warm welcome! We are feeling so much joy for being here."

Willits It's Time is located at 35 East Commercial Street, between the Noyo Theatre and the Brickhouse Café. The restaurant is a Japanese-style noodle bar, that also offers pre-packed sushi and rice bowls to eat at the restaurant or to go.

A noodle bar is a do-it-yourself experience. You start by choosing which kind of noodles you'd like, including ramen, rice, or soba (buckwheat) noodles. The next step with the bowl of noodles is the broth station, where you choose chicken broth, with chunky pieces of chicken, or vegetarian miso broth.



Left: Tempura, the new topping option at the noodle bar. Shrimp, kabocha squash and yams are some of the options.



Right: Wade Hastings, home from UC Santa Cruz, and Whitney Woodhouse, currently living in Santa Rosa, enjoying their first visit to It's Time Sushi Express in Willits.

Photo by Jennifer Poole

WCS Winter Fund Drive at \$12,675

The WCS thermometer

The "thermometer" for Willits Community Services' Winter Fund Drive is up on the corner of Highway 101 and Commercial streets, and donations are already coming in.

As of Tuesday, December 31, 99 donors have contributed, and the fund drive has a total of \$12,675 toward its goal of \$32,000.

Funding to provide essential human services is needed now more than ever, WCS Executive Director Jim Marill says. "Global economic changes have made it difficult for so many people just to survive. The availability of financial resources from outside of our community has drastically diminished, and this has made it very challenging for organizations like Willits Community Services to continue to provide essential services."

WCS has been serving the greater Willits and North County communities since 1981, providing a safety net of human services that help cushion the effects of short and long term unemployment, poverty and crisis by providing temporary

assistance programs and services to people in need," Marill said.

WCS depends heavily on local donations from the Willits community to keep the doors open and the lights on.

Willits Weekly says thank you to the community members and businesses who've donated already (see list below), and encourages other community members to chip in to help their neighbors in need. With the recent cut in food stamps benefits and with unemployment benefits now cut off for any California recipients who've been collecting benefits for more than 26 weeks, the need is especially great.

Donations to WCS's Winter 2013 Fund Drive can be dropped off or mailed to Willits Community Services, 229 East San Francisco Street, Willits CA 95490.

WCS office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from noon to 5 pm. Food distribution hours are Wednesdays and Fridays, from 1 to 4:30 pm. Call 459-3333 for more information.

Holiday cheer for Lo Buck\$ crew



Above and below left: Lo Buck\$ employees enjoy a meal during the party on December 18.

Below right: Devon Jones and Nancy New sing for the attendees.

Photos by Zack Cinek



Members of the First Baptist Church hosted a Christmas party for employees of the Lo Buck\$ grocery store that is being closed after its parent company C&K market filed for bankruptcy.

Employees were offered as much food and beverages as they wanted at the December 18 party – and a good Christmas party it was for those who were able to attend.

"They are not people who work at a grocery store, they are our family," said Cynthia Pardue, a member of the church and one of the organizers of the party for Willits' Lo Buck\$ family.

Performing excellent renditions of Christmas songs, the Girl Scouts choir sang with Nancy New on guitar, who was accompanied by Devon Jones.

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus were there too. The Clauses had presents for the children, whose names were called one by one to receive their presents.

– Zack Cinek

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Charlie and the Chocolate Factory author Roald Dahl did what during WWII?

1st Person To Call or Text With The Correct Answer Wins A Free 1st Run Movie Rental!

Last Week's Answer: **To Australia; over 2,000 miles away!**

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New Year Spin Off

A chance to spin the wheel and win up to \$200 Cash!

On Fridays, January 3, 2014 to February 28, 2014

Winter Wonderland Cash

Win up to \$200!

Saturdays, January 4, 2014 to February 22, 2014

Random Hourly Hot Seat Drawings. The more you play, the more you win!

Snow Days Pay & Play

2x points from 10:00am until 9:00pm

Guests can either Pay \$10 or \$20 at the cage and receive a slip to take back to Players Club to receive either \$20 or \$40 Free Play

Guests can only take part in promotion once per day

Sherwood Valley Rancheria Casino

100 Kawi Place in Willits 459-7330

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Sunday, January 5

First Sunday Bingo: "How do you spell FUN?" at the Harrah Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Doors open at 10:30 am. Games begin at 11:30 am. Bingo Buy In: \$10; Specials: \$2 and up. Snack bar opens at 11 am. (hamburger: \$3.50; nachos w/ cheese: \$3; add chili: 75¢; bowl of chili: \$1.50; cake \$2. Info: 459-1772.



movies: "Philomena," "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," and "The Book Thief." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Learn Knitting & Crochet: Mentors Lara Eventide and Stephanie Kroesen teach knitting and crochet at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, 7 to 9 pm. Part of the Grange's Textile and Craft "Maker" (Re-skilling) Open Studio series, several times a month. ("Let us know what you would like to learn, what you would love to teach!") Bring your yarn, some hooks, needles if you have them. You will be able to start a project that you can take home. Suggested donation of \$2-\$5. We need yarn donations of any kind and amount. Sponsored by the Little Lake Grange Women's Association. Info: 459-6362.



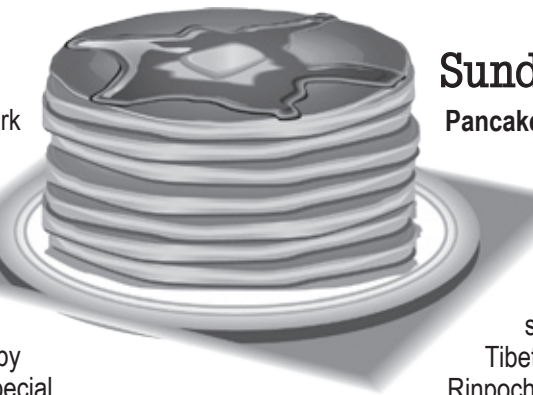
master class on "Theater Tech" starting today from 10 am to 1 pm, with a class on "Operation of Lights and Sound." Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. This first class will cover hands-on operation of lights and sound equipment; try your hand at operating a professional light board. Three additional Saturday classes, scheduled for February and March, will cover light rigging, light and sound design and set construction. Check willitscommunitytheatre.org or call 459-0895 for more info.

Sunday, January 12: from 10 am to noon: "Finding the Light in Dark Times," and from 2 pm to 4 pm: "Working with the Emotions." These talks are free, open to everyone, and will interest experienced dharma students as well as those new to Buddhism. For more info: 707-853-7274 or 456-9425.

Rising Recognition: at the Brooktrails Lodge, 24675 Birch Street. Doors open 9 pm. Can2 Entertainment & Shuster Entertainment present Rising Recognition Hosted by DJ X-Tian with special guest DJ Shabazz, with performances from CAN2 and also featuring V.I. & Cez, Lil 100 Racks, Victoria Bratton, Mac Dav, Apex, and more. Pre-sale tickets are \$10 (limited quantity, call Brie at 707-391-1324); \$15 at the door. "Come support your local artists. You aren't gonna want to miss this one!"



The Brooktrails Lodge.



Sunday, January 12

Pancake Breakfast: at the Harrah Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. 8 to 11 am. Adults: \$7; members: \$6; kids: \$5. Info: 459-1772.

Dharma Master Talks: A series of talks in Willits by Tibetan Buddhist master Lama Lodu Rinpoche at the Muse, 30 East San Francisco Street. See Saturday, January 11 listing for details.

Tuesday, January 7

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. This week's "Tightwad"

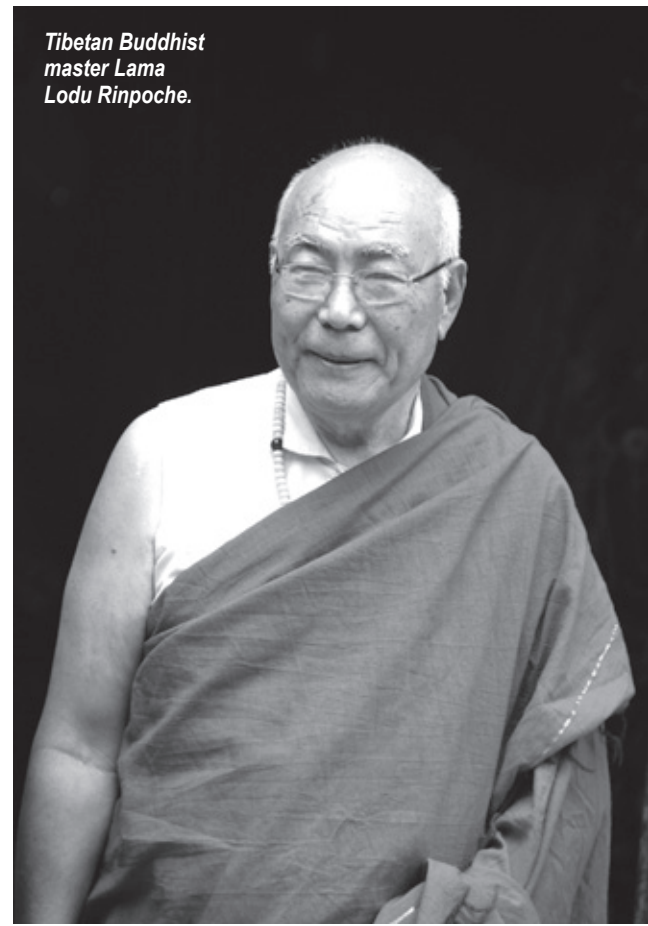


Saturday, January 11

Theater Tech Master Class: Professional theatre techs, Joe Dowling and Kevin Moore, teach the first of a four-part

Rinpoche at the Muse, 30 East San Francisco Street. Today: from 10 am to noon: "Buddhism and World Religions," and from 2 pm to 4 pm: "The Path, Destination, and Companions on the Way.

Dharma Master Talks: A series of talks in Willits by Tibetan Buddhist master Lama Lodu Rinpoche at the Muse, 30 East San Francisco Street. Today: from 10 am to noon: "Buddhism and World Religions," and from 2 pm to 4 pm: "The Path, Destination, and Companions on the Way.



Tibetan Buddhist master Lama Lodu Rinpoche.

'Finding the Light in Dark Times'

Buddhist teachings in Willits, January 11 and 12

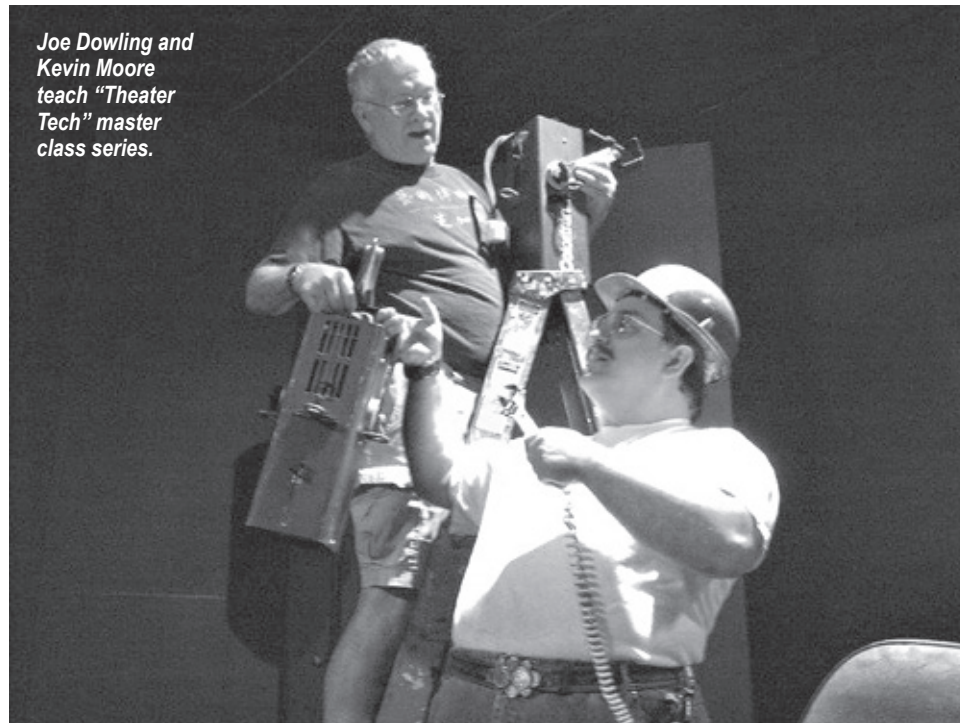
There will be a series of talks on Buddhism at the Muse in Willits on January 11 and 12, given by the Tibetan Buddhist master, Lama Lodu Rinpoche. Lama Lodu came to San Francisco in the 1970s as part of the first wave of Asian teachers to bring Buddhism to the West and has taught meditation and Buddhist philosophy to Western students for more than four decades.

Buddhist philosophy to Western students for more than four decades.

The schedule for the talks is: Saturday January 11: 10 am to noon: "Buddhism and World Religions"; 2 pm to 4 pm: "The Path, Destination, and Companions on the Way"; Sunday January 12: 10 am to noon: "Finding the Light in Dark Times," 2 pm to 4 pm: "Working with the Emotions."

Lama Lodu Rinpoche's down-to-earth approach to these subjects will interest both advanced dharma students and those new to Buddhism. The talks are free and open to all.

The Muse is located at 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-853-7274 or 456-9425.



Joe Dowling and Kevin Moore teach "Theater Tech" master class series.

Get in the Act!

Willits Community Theatre offers master classes

Ever dream about performing onstage but didn't know how? Want to design and operate the lights and sound system of a live performance, or even to design and build a set? Stop dreaming and actually learn from the masters. Live that dream!

Professional theater technicians, Joe Dowling and Kevin Moore, will begin a four-class series in "Theater Tech" beginning on Saturday, January 11. This first class will cover hands-on operation of lights and sound equipment. Three additional Saturday classes, scheduled for February and March, will cover light rigging, light and sound design and set construction.

Tony Award-nominated actress, Linda Posner, is offering two master classes on "Acting and Auditioning," on Saturday, January 18, and Saturday, January 25 at the Willits Community Theatre.

Class times are 10 am to 1 pm. Additional workshops are scheduled through May and include "Playwriting" with Don and Ann Samson, and "Directing" with Bill Barksdale.

Fees per class are \$25 adults and \$15 students. Scholarships are available to cover all costs. Funded by a grant from the Mendocino Community Foundation. Full class descriptions and scholarship forms are available at www.willitscommunitytheatre.org or call 459-0895 for more info.

Annual Tree Seedling Sale

in Laytonville

Annual sale begins Monday, January 13 at Laytonville Elementary School, 150 Ramsey Road. 2 to 3:30 pm. Sponsored by and to benefit the school's Kindergarten and first-grade classes. Seedlings are \$1.50 each; year-old potted trees are \$2 each. Seedlings include: Red Barberry, Giant Sequoia, Port Orford Cedar, Ginkgo, Douglas Fir, Sitka Spruce, Coast Redwood, Monterey Cypress, Incense Cedar, Rock Rose, Ponderosa Pine, Japanese Maple (green), European White Birch, Red Gum Eucalyptus, Common Purple Lilac, California Redbud and Jeffrey Pine. Pre-orders welcome: 984-6123, ext 107 or almostfreetrees@yahoo.com

Maria Monti to direct 'The Dining Room'

Veteran actor/director/teacher Maria Monti will direct A.R. Gurney's "The Dining Room" for the Willits Community Theatre this spring. The play will audition in late January and early February and will run from April 18 through May 4.

Monti has been the drama teacher at Ukiah High School for the past 18 years and has performed widely in the area as an actor, dancer and director. She played Big Mama in Willits Shakespeare Company's

2011 production of "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof," and also acted in "The Fantastiks," "Park Avenue" (a Woody Allen one-act) and "Butterflies Are Free" for the Willits Community Theatre. She has also acted recently in "Shrewed" and "Inherit The Wind," and she choreographed "The Music Man" for its recent production at Mendocino College.

A.R. Gurney was a notable American playwright in the last quarter of the 20th century. He wrote such often produced gems as "Sylvia" and "Love Letters." In "The Dining Room," he uses a single dining room as the setting for 17 different scenes in which he traces the decline and fall of the upper-crust, white Anglo-Saxon Protestant culture in the northeastern United States, from 1910 through 1980.

The Dining Room will be especially challenging for actors because in the play six actors – three men and three women – play 57 different roles. Monti says that a major objective of her work as director of The Dining Room will be to explore and flesh out the unique personhood of each of the play's 57 characters.

Auditions for "The Dining Room" will be held on Sunday, January 26 at 12 pm, and also on Monday, February 3 at 6 pm. The auditions will be held at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse at 37 West Van Lane. Scripts will be available at the Willits Library beginning on January 6.

For more information about the play or the auditions, please call the director at 456-0901.

– Willits Community Theatre

Senior Center Ice Cream Social

The monthly Ice Cream Social at the Harrah Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, is set for Monday, January 13, from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Bring your friends and family for ice cream, pie, games, and entertainment: featuring, this month: Jazz, Rock & Gospel with Tim & Nicole Suttles and Jon Mather on the piano,, plus "Name That Tune." \$2; \$1 for center members. Info: 459-1772.

Community Hu Song

"In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song Thursday, January 23, at 6 pm, at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. HU (pronounced "hue") is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra and can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475."



Photo by Jerri-Jo Idarius

Willits Garden Club

The first 2014 meeting of the Willits Garden Club is set for Monday, January 13 at the Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse, 16100 North Highway 101. Featuring a presentation by Donna D'Terra, a local herbalist, discussing the making and use of herbal medications. Social hour begins at 12:30 pm; presentation begins around 1 pm. Refreshments will be served. Guests are welcome, and there is no charge. For more info, please contact Willits Garden Club President Gary Bodensteiner at 459-2798. For more on Donna D'Terra and her Motherland Botanical Sanctuary northeast of Willits, check www.motherlandbotanicalsanctuary.com. D'Terra is a monthly columnist for Willits Weekly; her column on ginger as a healing herb is in this week's issue.

Mendocino College

Spring classes start January 21

The spring semester at Mendocino College starts Tuesday, January 21. Registration for the spring semester is now open; check www.mendocino.edu or call 468-3101 for admissions questions. Check page 31 of the Spring 2013 Schedule of Classes, http://www.mendocino.edu/cmllis/Spring_2013_Schedule_Web.pdf, for classes at the North County Center in Willits at 372 East Commercial Street. Classes include Business Office Technology, Fire Science, Mathematics, Child Development, Spanish, Dance, English as a Second Language, History, English, Computer Science, and more, including work experience opportunities in a number of fields. Admissions questions: 468-3101. North County Center: 459-6224

Save the Date

Senior Center Ice Cream Social, January 13, Harrah Center

Willits Garden Club meeting, January 13, Golden Rule Clubhouse

"Celtic to Contemporary" Guitar, Willits Community Theatre, January 18

"Acting and Auditioning" master class; Willits Community Theatre, January 18 & 25

Mendo College Spring Semester begins, January 21

Willits Rotary Club Crab Feed, January 25, Willits Community Center

Sip Some Soup, February 15, Willits Community Center



Kevin Copperfield at last year's Sip Some Soup event.

Sip Some Soup

This popular benefit event for Willits Daily Bread (their big fundraiser of the year) is set for Saturday, February 15 this year. Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. 5:30 to 7 pm. Enjoy some tasty locally made soups, desserts and bread from Emandal, and vote for your favorite soup. Competition is fierce! For more information, call Cindy Savage of Daily Bread at 459-3947.

'From Celtic to contemporary'

Master guitarists at the Willits Community Theatre

The Willits Community Theatre rings in the New Year with a music concert featuring American guitar masters Larry Pattis and Peter Janson performing at the WCT Playhouse, January 7 at 8 pm. Advance tickets \$15 at Goods' Shoppe, 56 South Main Street, 459-1363, or online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/537903.

Named one of the "Top 10 Best Acoustic Music Artists of the Decade" by the International Acoustic Music Awards, Larry Pattis has been a featured headline performer at such illustrious venues as the Montreal International Jazz Festival and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage in Washington DC.

In listening to his superb recordings or experiencing the magic of a live concert, Pattis succeeds in merging styles of instrumental guitar music not normally found together in the same room. Both folk and classical styles seem to be fully represented within Larry's playing and composition, and although devoted to the emotive side of the instrument, he demonstrates considerable technical prowess. His musical vision is a blending of beauty with technique, bringing forth the many voices that the steel string guitar can manifest. Pattis' music is filled with strong melodic content and rich harmonic counterpoint, supported by moving, evocative rhythms and he allows the experiences of life to influence his writing.

Joining Pattis onstage will be Peter Janson. Considered a "gifted acoustic fingerstyle guitar player" (Dirty Linen), and the winner of the "Best Contemporary Instrumental Album" in the 2006 NAR Lifestyle Music Awards, Janson's brand of American fingerstyle music brings world-class solo guitar playing to the concert stage. Reminiscent of American folk guitar, Celtic guitar, and American roots music, his original and compelling contemporary style is filled with artistry, superb technical mastery, and heartfelt passion.

Janson's music has entertained millions throughout the world on radio, digital radio, internet radio, TV, and in concert. His solo recordings include "Firelight Moonlight," "Winter Gifts," "Across the Bridge," "Sometimes From Here," and most recently "Compass Rose." He also appears on numerous international recordings and compilations.

– Willits Community Theatre

Spiral Dance

A standing-room only crowd enjoyed the 19th Annual Winter Solstice Celebration and Spiral Dance at the Grange on the Winter Solstice, December 21.

This photo, at right, with Annie Waters in the middle and Jenny Montes on the right, is of the "midwinter tale for children and adults about generosity and giving," performed at the celebration this year, loosely adapted from "Mother Hilda," a German fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm.

Ginger

(Zingiber officinale)

My focus as an herbalist is on herbs that can be easily grown in our gardens or sustainably collected in the wild. However, there are some herbs that don't fit this description, but are readily available and are healthful, healing herbs. Ginger is one of them.

Ginger is native to Asia, where it has been used for at least 2,000 years; it has been used in Europe for 1,000 years. In 14th century England, it was the most popular spice, after pepper. One pound of ginger was valued at the price of one sheep.

Donna D'Terra
Columnist

Today there are many easy ways to use this versatile root (technically a rhizome), such as a hot tea or in soup. (In this article I am referring to using the fresh, not dried root.)

Ginger is warming and stimulating, encouraging perspiration, which can be helpful for colds and flu, especially when taken at the onset. It can also be helpful for people who often feel chilly or who have cold hands or feet.

Ginger is a specific herb for nausea from indigestion, morning sickness (used short-term), and motion sickness. For the latter, it can be more convenient for it to be on hand in candied ginger form, so you can have it in your car or boat.

Other properties of ginger can help lower blood pressure and cholesterol and help prevent heart disease and stroke. (Ginger should be avoided by people with gall bladder disease, or if taking blood-thinning medications.)

As we continue into the cold weather months of winter, here is a tea recipe to try:

Grate a piece of ginger the size of your thumb (more or less to taste preference). No need to peel the ginger. In a covered pot, simmer it gently in 1 1/2

to 2 cups of water for about 10 minutes. Strain out the ginger pieces. To the tea, add a pinch of cayenne powder and honey to taste. (Optional: add the fresh juice of a lemon.) Enjoy!

Mariposa Market
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Right: Dorit Schmidt-Petersen, at left, treasurer of the Brooktrails Women's Club, and Judy Corzine, at right, president of the club, stand with Deputy Chief Jon Noyer in front of one of the Brooktrails fire engines.

Photo by Jennifer Poole



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Congratulations Column



Newbie
Riley Cleland

We welcomed Riley Mason Cleland on December 27, 2013 at 3 pm. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 18 inches long. Parents Chad and Alicia Cleland of Mad River and grandparents Chip and Deanna Cleland of Willits couldn't be happier!!! Our beautiful baby boy Cleland!



Newbie
Callen McCoy

Callen Marcus McCoy born December 27, 2013 at 8:30 am to parents Ricco and Michelle McCoy, brothers Connor and Colin McCoy all of Covelo, and Grandparents Mike and Kathy Tobin of Willits. He was 9 pounds, 21.5 inches long.



Happy Birthday
Christopher Moore

Happy Birthday to Christopher Moore, who will turn 62 on January 5.



Brooktrails Women's Club donates to Fire Department

The Brooktrails Fire Department has \$800 more to spend on training and equipment, thanks to a December donation from the Women's Club of the Brooktrails Property Owners' Association.

The Women's Club was happy to make the donation, club president Judy Corzine said (quoting the fire department's motto), "so the Brooktrails Fire Department can continue to serve the community with dedication and pride."

The club members are "great supporters of the fire department," Brooktrails Fire Department Deputy Chief Jon Noyer said, dispensing hugs to president Corzine and club treasurer Dorit Schmidt-Petersen, as well as thanks.

The Women's Club fundraises for scholarships, too, with an annual Flea

Market & Bake Sale at the Brooktrails Community Center parking lot the first Saturday in June, and an annual quilt raffle in December.

The Brooktrails Fire Department has 18 volunteer firefighters, and two paid staff members, Chief Daryl Schoepner and Deputy Chief Noyer.

Keep up with the Brooktrails Fire Department by "liking" their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BrooktrailsFire. The Facebook page reported Sunday, December 29, that "Chief 5201 and Engine 5281 responded to a mutual aid request to Willits for a wildland fire on Reynolds Highway today," and that the "fire was contained by Little Lake Fire to 1 acre of heavy brush."

- Jennifer Poole



Happy Birthday
Holly & Maureen

Maureen Moore and Holly Sears shared their 29th birthday on December 27. Both Maureen and Holly were born on the Mendocino Coast, on the same day of the same year. They grew up down the street from one another, attended many years of school together, and their mothers Susan and Kathryn attended birthing classes together as well. Dinner at El Mexicano and a SugarKat Kitchen cake concluded Friday's celebration.

IN MEMORY

The community is welcome to come and attend the memorial service for John Moore, starting at 2 pm at the Agape Bible Church on January 2. John passed away just a few days shy of his 93rd birthday back in November, and was preceded by his wife, Ginny, who passed away in July of 2012. A formal service will start at 2 pm, with refreshments and sharing of stories and memories after.

Furry Friends
Hoping for a Home
Young Miss Thumper

Meet super-sweet Miss Thumper! At only 10 months old, this young lady would love to find a home where she can be a part of activities. She absolutely loves people, she loves to go for walks, and she's very affectionate. Since Thumper came to us as a lost dog, we don't know anything about her past. But from what we can tell about her, she seems to be a well-balanced canine with a delightful disposition. We believe she

will make a great companion or a family pet. She is current on her vaccinations, and is already spayed - so she's ready to meet her new family and go home right away!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter, 298 Plant Road, is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. We have many other wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here as well. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.pawstoadopt.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info: contact Adoption Coordinator Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453 or houghtbyk@co.mendocino.ca.us

Photo by Rod Coats

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Classifieds

Algebra, Geometry
College Preparatory Mathematics, Individual Instruction. Mac Smith 459-MATH

Help Wanted
Housekeeper wanted for Baechtel Creek Inn. Must be able to go up and down stairs, lift up to 30 pounds, and be reliable and willing to work. Apply in person.

Body Life Studio
Jenna Byrne teaches concepts and practices in movement function and expression to activate and utilize your movement and life potential. Private session \$50-\$60. www.bodylifestudio.com.

Help Wanted
Maintenance person wanted for Baechtel Creek Inn. Must be available on weekends, and weekdays. Apply in person.

Community Hu Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song Thursday, January 23, at 6 p.m. at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra and can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

House For Rent
2-bedroom, 1-bath house for rent within Willits city limits. Has small garage in back. Available 2/1/14. \$950 per month. Call for application: 459-3141.

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 macamerjg@yahoo.com.

House Rental Wanted
Looking for a 3 bedroom house to rent long-term, close to town. Local Willits business owner (with 1 dog). Very responsible and quiet. 707-235-9315; References available upon request.

For Rent
Large 2-bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Country view, but close to shopping. No pets. No smoking. \$770/month, including garbage. Armo: 459-9601.

New Patients Welcome
Phillip J. D'Angelo, DDS
Cosmetic/Family Dentistry
707-459-4664

For Rent
Large 2-bedroom, one bath apartment, with garage. Close to downtown. No smoking. Small pet negotiable. \$775/month. Water/garbage paid. Armo: 459-9601.

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Puzzle Answers From Page 4

E	D	O	M	E	L	E	M	E	M	E	N	U
D	A	D	O	R	A	M	E	T	A	P	A	R
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9	2	1	4	8	5	6	3	7
8	7	4	3	2	6	9	5	1
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4	5	6	8	7	9	1	2	3
2	8	9	1	6	3	7	4	5
3	1	7	2	5	4	8	6	9

his physical limitations. He wanted to run but his body wouldn't let him.

As sorry as I felt for Skete, or how much I grieved for him even while he was still alive, he would have none of it. He didn't tolerate my husband or me snuggling or fawning over him in pity. He would playfully bump us with his massive paws if we became too melancholy. It was as if he were reminding us that he was still there. He wanted to be with us, but he didn't want any of this weird energy we had going on. He was still alive, and his personality was present.

Just when I started to allow myself to think this old boy might make it to 13, that day arrived. He got up as usual. I took him out to relieve himself. I offered him breakfast, but he wouldn't eat. I thought he was just being picky and removed the dish so Trooper, my other dog, wouldn't eat it. Skete went to his bed and lay down.

I went about my day preparing for puppy class and didn't give him much thought. Then at 3 pm, it dawned on me that he hadn't moved from his bed. I went to him. I could tell something wasn't right. His eyes had a look of uncertainty and confusion. I helped him up and moved him outside, but we could only make it a few feet to his outside

bed. He couldn't walk, and he urinated on himself. Now, he had a very clear look of helplessness. Crying, I called my husband and then called the veterinarian.

My husband came home, and we both knew but didn't want to admit, it was time. The veterinarian assistant was a knight in shining armor. She told me they would do their best to come to our home and help us.

We placed Skete on a blanket and carried him to the lawn. He used to love to roll around on the cool green grass. It was a beautiful autumn day. The cats came and lay on the blanket next to him. Trooper lay nearby, not understanding anything. We fed Skete roast lamb from last night's dinner. I so wished I had given him that for breakfast. We offered him a piece of beef and, in true Skete form, he rejected it. This made us laugh for an instant. We just lay down next to him and told him how much we loved him. The veterinarian team arrived at 6:30. They were as understanding as possible, as my husband and I continued to fall apart. They confirmed what we already knew.

Even in those final moments, that light that was the essence of Skete was still there. He trusted us to the end. He snuggled and interacted with my husband and ate the

last of the lamb. His eyes that had been shifting involuntarily, relaxed. He simply went to sleep. And we, who had tried so hard to prepare ourselves for this moment, were filled beyond description with grief.

We carried Skete down to the grave I had dug 10 months earlier. We laid him to rest and filled his grave with daffodil bulbs and flower seeds.

Even though I knew I had to say goodbye, I told myself I would celebrate Skete's life and not mourn it. That was a total lie. As much as I tried to mentally prepare myself, I went into a sort of shock. I stopped functioning. I couldn't think straight, and I couldn't stop crying. I felt guilty but didn't know why. I just simply fell apart. This animal was so much more than a dog. He was an energy force full of life. And now he is gone.

Now I know why that saying came about "What's wrong with you? You act as if your dog just died." And yes, he did, and I hope you will forgive me if I'm not my usual self.

Sally Palmer is a certified dog trainer who uses balanced approaches to training. She is a member of the International Association of Canine Professionals and an American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen evaluator. She has been training people and dogs for more than 25 years and is a retired police officer K9 handler. For more information, visit www.wellmanneredmutts.com.

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Giving the gift of Christmas

Willits woman participates in Christmas program from start to finish

Because Kat Harris was off work this December due to a knee surgery, this year was the perfect time for her to do something she's never done before: participate in the Willits Kids Christmas Program all the way from start to finish. An avid motorcycle fan, Harris usually enjoys just participating in the Toy Run along with her husband, Jerry, but she was excited for the opportunity to see the gifts the rest of the way through this year.

As is their tradition, the Harrises did participate again in the Toy Run this year, and while in town one day, Kat decided to stop into the warehouse at Sparetime Supply and help program coordinator Sandy Turner with the wrapping and organizing efforts.

Maureen Moore Designer & Photographer
 maureen@willitsweekly.com

"She was so glad I finally made it in there to see the other parts of the program," laughed Kat. "Sandy put me right to work, and I was able

to wrap all the gifts for an entire family."

Kat was urged to return the following day with the promise of a "special job" just for her - one she would find out more about the following morning. She was greeted the next day with a list of all 175 families, and the charge of contacting each one to confirm the number of children and addresses and to remind the heads of households that Santa would be arriving on Christmas Eve. Almost six hours - and several cell phone recharges - later, all the families had been notified.

"A wonderful woman by the name of Santa was there with her two children to help with all the bilingual phone



Top: The first group, coffees in hand, arrives to load trucks and other "sleighs."
 Above: Kacey "The Elf" Tyler gives her mom, Jaime Wilkes, a quick hug in the loading area.

Above: Kat Harris excitedly follows Tim "Santa" King to one of the early-morning deliveries.

Photos by Maureen Moore

calls," explained Kat. "They were a huge help!"

This year, a little more last-minute shopping was necessary to finish filling the tags. Kat surmised the winter storm that blanketed Willits and surrounding areas with snow in the weeks leading up to Christmas hampered the community's ability to purchase and bring in toys and goods. Residents did, however, make ample cash donations, which enabled the crew to make a final shopping spree to finish completing the tags.

Kat was able to assist on the shopping trip, too, taking the request of one little 11-year-old right to her heart: a pretty party dress.

Conveniently, Kat's elf-in-town and family friend, Sequoia Jones, 11, was just the size and age of the dress-requester, and the two had fun shopping and modeling not one, but TWO dresses that ended up being purchased and given out on Christmas Eve.

After the final shopping trip was complete, Kat and Sequoia also had the honor of wrapping the last two gifts to

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



Above: Sequoia Jones and Kat Harris pose for the camera while out delivering.

Left: Kat and Sequoia watch as Tim "Santa" King makes his first delivery.

Below: Left: Tim "Santa" King and Rick "Santa" Maddox pose together. Right: Justin "Santa" Colwell gets ready with a can of pre-game Monster.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Above: The first crew of loaders and deliverers (left) load trucks, as Little Lake Fire's Mike Griggs, Jr., checks down the list (right).

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

able to skate through a dry year."

Robinson said the two private springs he draws from have consistently yielded 1,000 gallons per day, year after year. But now the springs' output has "been reduced to 800 gallons or less per day," Robinson said, "There is literally a drop in the valley water table."

The Mendocino County Department of Agriculture has begun surveying livestock and hay producers in the county in anticipation of the United States Department of Agriculture placing a drought declaration on the county.

"It was extremely dry the first four months of this year (2013): January, February and March were the driest on record," County Agricultural Commissioner Chuck Morse said.

Morse recalled 2012's "March Miracle" rains, "a last-ditch godsend that helped people's reservoirs." A Pineapple Express type of storm could help matters, but Morse warns not to count on it.

Gilbert Cox of Shamrock Artisan Goat Cheese says his water is doing fine, but "knock on wood."

"We get our water from a spring," Cox noted.

1976 and 1977 are on the record books as a dry time for Mendocino County, but even that year had more going for it than present conditions.

Cattle rancher John Ford, who runs John Ford Ranch, where he raises grass-fed beef, remembers the '76-'77 drought. "That was a cakewalk compared to this one, and that year it rained pretty good in the fall; we had 14 inches," Ford said. "This is not looking real shiny."

However, he added, since area trees have lost their leaves, they are not pulling up water. Ford said his well was looking better than he expected when he checked it earlier this week.

In the homes on his property, Ford said he was able to save on water by installing low-flush toilets. "It makes a tremendous amount of difference."

For ranchers like Ford and others, the prospects for grazing cattle do not look bright. "It is just not there," commissioner Morse said about the state of range feed in the county.

If dry weather persists "we are going to be in the throes of a crushing drought," he said.

The rest of **Fire Tax** | From Page 1

Committee members also explored the possibility of pursuing a merger, or seeking a contract for services through the Little Lake Fire District. However, according to the report, a Little Lake Fire District representative "advised [the committee] informally it was not interested in pursuing a merger or a service contract" with Brooktrails.

The committee identified a number of needs in the Brooktrails Fire Department. Among its priorities are securing 26 units of personnel protective equipment - complete fire prevention clothing and equipment packs for firefighters - at a cost of \$5,035 each, a total of \$130,000.

The district also needs 12 self-contained breathing apparatuses, for a total of \$150,000.

It also is imperative, the report concluded, that the district obtain a water tender. According to an appendix to the report, the Brooktrails Fire district has been without a water tender for the past eight years. If the district does not secure a water tender, Brooktrails' ISO insurance rating will be jeopardized. The cost of the vehicle, with equipment, is \$310,000.

Committee members included Justin Buckingham, Paul Lambert, Bob Houtz, Paul Trexel, Dickie Weinkle, Brian Weller and Monica White. Brooktrails residents Peter Norris, Robert Nowlin, Philip St. Pierre, Sarah Schuyler and Bob Whitney participated in some or all of the meetings. Brooktrails board member Tim Ramming was also a member of the committee, which was chaired by Rick Williams, vice president of the Brooktrails board of directors.

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

be given out during the 2013 program: "I think they were numbers 2,922 and 2,923," Kat said.

On Christmas Eve morning, Kat showed up again at the warehouse with all the other volunteers, drivers, Santas and elves to load up the sleighs and deliver the toys to the awaiting kids and families.

Kat was assigned the in-town route that was headed by Tim "Santa" King and his mom, Jeanne King. Sequoia also joined in the delivery efforts.

"I was so happy when Santa invited us to come in to the houses, and we got to help pass out presents and see the looks on their faces," said Kat. "We asked if they wanted to have their photo taken with Santa, helped set them up by the tree, and participated in all the enjoyment the families felt."

At one of the stops, Kat noted that one little girl was dressed to the nines and waiting so patiently and excitedly for Santa's arrival, she couldn't believe it.

"She was so cute, hands folded in her lap, big bow in her hair and holiday dress; she was smiling so big and was so excited to see Santa on Christmas Eve."

Their route included about 15 houses and, thanks to all the preparation efforts by Turner and the elves, all but one bag was able to be delivered, and it caught a ride back home for a second attempt with the receiver's neighbor.

"It was such a great experience and so fun to see everyone's appreciation of the program and all the hard work," said Kat. "If you can go and help next year, do it: it's a great holiday event in our community."

Willits Weekly | January 2, 2014



How much water are you using?

With the Willits City Council "anticipating the need to declare" a Stage III water emergency at the January 8 city council meeting, Willits residents might want to check to see how much water they're using.

A Stage III water emergency will mean mandatory water conservation measures, including a limit on residential usage of 250 gallons per day for each occupied unit.

To find out how many gallons you're using per day, take a look at your water bill. The city bills in "units," not gallons. Look for the "Usage" header on the green band on your bill: the first figure underneath that will be the total number of units your household used that month.

Each unit, said Deputy City Clerk Cathy Sanders, equals 738 gallons.

So, if your household is using 4 units of water, that equals a total of 2,952 gallons a month. Divided by 30 days, that equals 98.4 gallons a day, well under the 250 gallon per day limit.

The Stage III water emergency ordinance also prohibits "all nonessential uses of water," including (but not limited to): "The washing of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, and all other hard-surfaced

areas; the washing of motor vehicles, trailers, airplanes, or boats; and the refilling of swimming pools, hot tubs and spas, except as required by the fire chief for use as standby neighborhood fire suppression."

The city also has asked Willits restaurants to serve water only on request.

Details of the City's "Water Shortage Emergencies" ordinance can be read online at library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=16698 (scroll down to Chapter 14.90 on the left).

If you're already conserving water, Willits Weekly would like to hear your water-saving tips: please email to willitsweekly@gmail.com or post at www.facebook.com/WillitsWeekly.

DripWorks pointed Willits Weekly to the "Save Our Water" website: www.saveour20.org. The site was created by the California Department of Water Resources and the Association of California Water Agencies, and has good information on water conservation, including tips to save water inside and outside your home.

- Jennifer Poole



Lake Ada Rose in Brooktrails (left) and Lake Emily in Brooktrails (above) are also showing signs of low water levels.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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

Malcolm Dougherty on December 19 after the ruling was announced: "Caltrans takes seriously its responsibility to preserve the species and habitats on these lands, and we are pleased that the judge rejected this lawsuit. This project eliminates a chronic traffic bottleneck while enhancing fisheries and hundreds of acres of local wetlands."

Local bypass opponents did not have high hopes the lawsuit would prevail, after Judge White, in November 2012, declined to issue an injunction against bypass construction until the lawsuit was resolved.

"It's disappointing that the court accepted Caltrans' inadequate review and flawed rationale for the purpose and need of this project," said Aruna Prabhala, staff attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity in a press release issued after the ruling. "We disagree with the determination that the environmental impacts of the Willits Bypass project are not significant."

"We're very disappointed in the ruling," said Ellen Drell of the Willits Environmental Center, "but we're not surprised. The thing that has been so disheartening is that the judge, understandably, deferred to Caltrans' opinion that only this particular bypass would serve the purpose and need of the project, and that the judge's position on the need for the project was based on misinformation from Caltrans."

Drell said "although an appeal hasn't been ruled out," it was unlikely, "since any arguments in an appeal would be restricted to what was in the written record at the time of filing."



The area prepared for the bypass route at the north end of town.

Photo by Maureen Moore

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Willits man held after Sherwood Road crash with sheriff's vehicle

A 49-year-old Willits man is being held in Mendocino County Jail after the 1988 Chrysler sedan he was driving crossed a double-yellow line and struck a sheriff's department patrol vehicle early Monday.

Kenneth Phillips was traveling east in the 200 block of Sherwood Road when he collided with the sheriff's SUV headed west at 12:30 am.

Both Phillips and sheriff's Deputy Joseph DeMarco suffered minor injuries in the collision; DeMarco's K-9 partner, Ruddick, escaped uninjured. However, the SUV suffered significant damage, according to a sheriff's department report, and had to be removed from service. Phillips also suffered minor injuries.

Willits police officers investigating the accident determined Phillips had a strong odor of alcohol on his person, was driving without a license, and was driving without auto insurance.

The officers arrested Phillips on suspicion of causing bodily injury while driving under the influence, operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license and operating a motor vehicle without proof of financial responsibility.

He is being held in county jail on \$50,000 bail.

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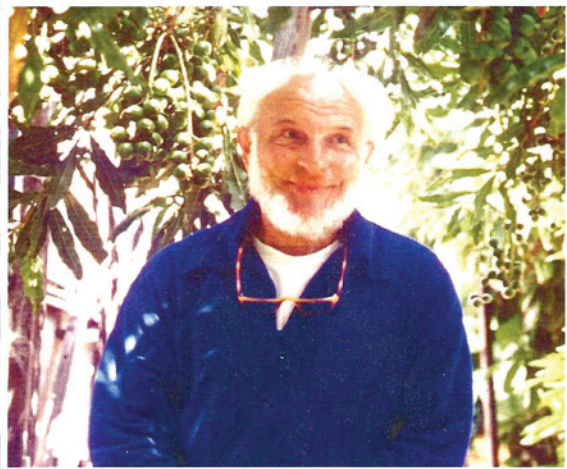
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A Helping Hand

Senior center program gets help for those in need

The words "no, we can't do that" are just not in Priscilla Tarver's vocabulary: she and her colleagues in the Harrah Senior Center's Outreach Program made that clear during a December interview. Tarver has been director of Outreach for more than three years now, and she knows how to get help for people in need in the Willits community. "I'm pretty good at begging," she said.

Tarver also has the certainty that she's in the right place – "I was planted here by the Lord" – doing the right thing, and walking her talk as a Christian.

The Outreach Program's main focus is helping seniors and disabled people. The program is "bound contractually" to help that population as its first obligation. "But our doors are open to any age group," Tarver said. "We try to help everybody who walks in the door. There's nothing we say 'no' to: no trouble, problem or need."

One advantage Tarver has is an extensive network of contacts: She knows which agencies can help Outreach help others, and local volunteers and professionals know Tarver is a resource to call if they're concerned about a neighbor or a client.

During the interview, a volunteer came in to say that she'd received a phone call because one of Outreach's clients hadn't shown up for a therapy session, and wasn't at home, according to the in-home help provider who'd checked the house. Tarver suggested calling the Metropolitan Transportation Agency to see if one of the MTA drivers had seen the client on a bus, and then suggested asking the Willits Police Department – "they are really, really good about doing welfare checks," Tarver said – to keep their eyes out for her.

Something like that happens every day at the Outreach Program, in one form or another. "We get constant emergencies," said Sherry Bixler, the fiscal arm of the Outreach program. "Maybe it's 10 degrees outside, and somebody has no heat, or somebody can't get out of their home because of the ice." Tarver tells a story about a man who'd fallen and broken a hip; somebody called Outreach, concerned, and "we went and got him" she said.

"Once we've dealt with somebody once, we're going to keep on helping them," she said. "We establish a relationship; it becomes personal."

Another advantage is Outreach's ability to fill in the gaps, to fulfill needs without a lot of the bureaucracy that comes with a big agency. "We're not by the books people," Tarver said. There's a food pantry in the back of the Outreach office, and medical equipment for loan or to give away. "There are no rules, no application. If you need it, you get it," she said.

Francis Neumeyer, a retired CPS worker, joined Outreach a few months ago to help with the program's biggest issue: housing. "Outreach to me is advocating for anyone who walks through these doors, and I mean anyone," she said. Affordable housing is hard to find in the Willits area.

Tarver wishes the Willits and its City Council would reconsider a shelter for the homeless, "instead of putting up roadblocks and complaining. How about we work together, build something and resolve the problem?" she said.

To fiscal agent Bixler, Outreach is "helping the people who can no longer take care of their own needs. What I'm doing is being their own personal bookkeeper." Working with North Valley Bank, Bixler sets up an account for each of her clients, and works as a "rep payee," paying all their bills, setting up medical appointments, making sure groceries are taken care of, and writing checks for each client's weekly expenses. Referrals for fiscal help come through private contacts and also through Adult Protective Services.

"To me," said Tarver, "outreach is stepping out of your own box – not looking across the street and talking about the person who has problems, but going over and seeing if you can help."

"If everybody in Willits would help just one person – just one person – we wouldn't have the problems that we have here in town. What I'm asking from the community is to reach down inside yourself and look

at who you live by. Don't pass up that person. If you can't help them, call us and tell us you saw this person in need."

Outreach is funded by "a lot of grants," some funding from the City of Willits, general fundraising and donations, and special endowments and bequests from people who have passed away.

Tarver's final thoughts for the community: "Please know that this is something doable. Everything we do here is doable. It's not some grandiose dream. That's the advantage of living in a small town: You know your neighbors. Please help them, and please help us help them!"

Donations to the Harrah Center's Outreach Program can be sent via check made out to "Harrah Senior Center" with "outreach program" in the memo line. Cash donations dropped off at the center, 1501 Baechtel Road, are welcome too: "Even \$10 helps." Right now, Outreach could also use tarps, sleeping bags and blankets for the winter, as well as gloves and hats. For more information, or to let Outreach know about somebody who needs help, call the Harrah Senior Center at 459-1772.

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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Right: Everyone is welcome at the Outreach Program's door.

Far right: The food pantry at the back of the Outreach Program's office has emergency food for people in need.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Thank yous to the community

Editor's Note: A list of personal thank yous (in no particular order) that came up during Willits Weekly's recent interview with Priscilla Tarver, Francis Neumeyer and Sherry Bixler of the Willits Senior Center Outreach Program:

Community Foundation's Angel Fund group; Howard Hospital and their caseworkers, staff and board members (coffee and donuts for the homeless in the morning); South Asia Buffet did Thanksgiving buffet for the people in their motel complex and homeless; St. Anthony's Catholic Church; Daily Bread; "I want to really thank the hotels in town. They take our clients, put up many homeless who don't always leave the rooms in perfect condition, and they're still helping."

Rotary Club Crabfeed; Lions Club: glasses & exams for low-income, and annual fundraising dinner; Social Services in town, "who we work very closely with"; thank you to the local clinics and doctors "for taking on our clients when they are in need."

Adult Protective Services, CPS (Child Protective Services), IHSS (In Home Supportive Services); Willits Police Department wellness checks; two attorneys: Jim King and John Smoot; thanks to Ukiah agencies CDC (Community Development Commission); George and Alice at the VA; a large thank you to Mike at AAA (Area Agency on Aging); Social Security Office in Ukiah: Enrique, Roberto, Carol, Steve, Audrey, Nancy, Maria, Rocio; MSSP (Multipurpose Services Senior Program).

"Our Community Service workers are really wonderful, and our center's volunteers essential to our existence."

Willits Community Services and Food Bank; "a personal thank you to my husband Clarence Tarver and our tenant, Paul Rogers, who have helped with clients"; thanks to the City of Willits – "the girls in the office" and John Sherman; Phoenix Hospice / Adventist Health; our local churches – for the vouchers they give for the hotels; Agape Bible Church – for their coats program.

North Coast Opportunities; HEAP program (Home Energy Assistance Program); Redwood Coast Regional Center; our local banks; Mayacama Industries.

Lo Buck\$ and Safeway (donate foods); our own Center – all the departments, Meals on Wheels, Volunteer Driving Program, Thrift Store (helps with items for homeless clients), and Front Desk volunteers; thanks to our two maintenance guys.

Free firewood program at Senior Center for 60+ and disabled members of the center; Chamberlain Creek and Parlin Fork Conservation Camps (help with wood program and Thanksgiving dinner); Sparetime Supply; thanks to PG&E "has been a fantastic agency to assist clients."

Libby at CCHAP (Community Care HIV/AIDS Program); thanks to Noyo Theatre for the popcorn they give us; MTA bus drivers and dispatchers, Terry the dispatcher and drivers Stacey, Richard, Patrick and Jodi; Printing Plus; and T.R. Eriksen Foundation.

Thanks to Flowers by Annette; Soroptimists; Mendocino Redwood Company, LLC; Tom Gunther at DeSilva Gates (bypass firewood); Sherwood Valley Rancheria; and Ukiah Ambulance Service.

NOYO THEATRE

Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-NOYO (6696)
www.noyotheatre.com

Starting 1/10:
Saving Mr. Banks

THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY

(PG)
1hr 54mins

FRI to SUN:
12:00, 2:30,
5:00 & 7:30

MON to THURS:
5:00 & 7:30pm

PHILOMENA

(PG13)
1hr 38mins

FRI to SUN:
1:00, 3:15,
5:30 & 7:45pm

MON to THURS:
5:30 & 7:45pm

THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG

(PG13)
2hr 41mins

FRI to SUN:
12:30 & 7:15pm

MON to THURS:
7:15pm

THE BOOK THIEF

(PG13)
2hr 11mins

DAILY:
4:30pm

Times for 1/3/14 - 1/9/14 This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5