

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Online & Print



Thursday, October 17, 2013

Edition No. 25

By donation

State cites city for violating water standards

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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The California Department of Public Health has issued a citation to the city for violating drinking water standards following a July test.

The CDPH cited the city for its levels of haloacetic acid. Under CDPH regulations, a tank at Walker Road is sampled and tested quarterly, according to a City Hall memo.

Results from a recent test are under the limit, but will still result in a citation, due to being averaged with the July test.

The problem is not just local, but is statewide, Water Plant Supervisor J.C. England said. "We are keeping tabs; this is a warning before something can get really bad."

In a public notice, the city stated "a major challenge is how to control and limit risks from pathogens and minimize disinfection byproduct formation at the same time. Disinfection byproducts tend to be highest during the warmest time of year, or during periods of long detention times in storage tanks."

The location of the site is a "worst-case scenario" for the city, according to CDPH. "It is closest to the plant, but it is farthest away," England said. "It is kind of keeping water in the system a little bit too long."

Willits City Council members voted unanimously last week to combine the two citations, an action City Hall says the CDPH will accept.

The city plans to release a public notice to water customers, schools, rental property owners or managers, and business property owners, managers or operators in the next few days.

"We have already drank the water, and that is what it breaks down to," Councilman Larry Stranske said.

A memo from the city manager and the head of the water system says the water is safe to drink: "It is important to clarify that this does not pose an acute health risk, and is not an emergency. Citizens do not need to boil their water or take other corrective actions. If there are any specific health concerns, citizens are advised to consult their doctors," the memo states.

The city will be working to make its water better. "Nothing is a complete cure-all – you kind of have to attack it from a lot of different angles," England said.

City Manager Adrienne Moore said the city will



Pumpkin Party

Kaleb and Aybrie, two of the youngest of the J.D. Redhouse family, were hard at work Tuesday, practicing their pumpkin-carving (and eating!) skills in preparation for Friday's

Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration in downtown Willits

The public is encouraged to come and vote on the best pumpkins and enjoy all the other festivities from 4 to 8 pm on Friday.



Counter-clockwise from top:

Ashtan Bloomquist, Aybrie, 4 months, Kaleb, 6, and Jake Whitehurst plan out their pumpkin carving for J.D. Redhouse.

Kaleb shows off a handful of successfully scraped pumpkin goo and seeds.

Aybrie (left) intently watched Kaleb and Jake (right) work on the pumpkin.

Aybrie gets her first taste of pumpkin from mom Ashtan, and seems to have found new appreciation for the fall holiday.

Jake teaches Kaleb how to follow the pattern with the kid-friendly carver.

Photos by Maureen Moore



County, Ukiah to seek tax-sharing agreement

Both the Ukiah City Council and the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors have appointed representatives to a joint ad hoc committee to negotiate a tax-sharing agreement between the two jurisdictions.

Supervisors John McCowen and Dan Hamburg will represent the county; Mayor Doug Crane and Councilman Phil Baldwin will represent the City of Ukiah.

The decision was made October 8 at a joint meeting of the two bodies held in the Ukiah Conference Center.

The tax-sharing agreement under discussion will presumably find some way to divide sales tax and transit occupancy revenues that are generated in a still-to-be-determined area that would include part or all of

Ukiah, and/or part or all of the county land that is located within Ukiah's sphere of influence.

Apparently, the siren call of the tax sharing agreement is visionary enough to excite the passions of progressives, and idealistic enough to

excite the fears of conservatives. Veteran politicians and supporters of "smart growth" see a tax-sharing agreement as a way to de-fiscalize planning decisions.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen implied having an agreement was almost a prerequisite of good planning.

"I believe if we have an agreement, we can avoid the poor planning decisions of the past," he said.

Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal, the

Read the rest of **Tax-sharing** | Over on Page 11



Willits Weekly editor Jennifer Poole, left, and The Willits News publisher Debbie Clark hold "Yes on Measure 1" yards signs at the Willits Firehouse Friday. See page 2 for Willits Weekly's endorsement of Measure 1. Also, stop by the firehouse Friday evening during the Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration for yard signs and brochures or to talk with firefighters about Measure 1.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Trustee candidates address school district issues

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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Questionnaire:

As there will be no forum for the public to hear candidates for the Willits Unified School District board of trustees in the upcoming November 5 election, Willits Weekly sent a questionnaire to all the candidates: incumbents Cynthia Carni, Bob Harper and Chris Neary, and challenger Laurie Harris. There are three seats up for election. Below are the candidates' answers, edited slightly for length and clarity.

Question 1: Motivation: Why are you running for election/re-election?

Cynthia Carni: I am running for reelection because I value education and our community. Working on a board with the students' best interests in mind is a rewarding and enriching experience. And there constantly is much to learn and many ways to help!

Bob Harper: Because for the last 12 years, we've cut the budget every year, program after program, laying off lots of employees. And now it looks as if the state is going to help us have a balanced budget within a year or two, maybe sooner. So I want to be part of putting things back.

Laure Harris: I believe the district is in real trouble; we need to change the way things have been done in the past.

Chris Neary: I believe I can assist the district to get through the financial crisis created by the 2010 bond measure, which has consequences which threaten the district's financial stability.

Question 2: School bonds: Looking back, could you give a general comment on the school bond scenario, whether or not you were on the board at the time?

Bob Harper: I was on the board, and I think we need to keep the promise that we made: we estimated the tax rate on the average bill to be \$29 for every \$100,000 of assessed evaluation. It turns out that's not what happened, with the real estate values going down instead of rising. My proposal is to not sell any more bonds until assessed values come up high enough to support them.

Laurie Harris: I think the bond was misrepresented and mismanaged, and we will all be paying for this for a long time.

Read the rest of **Candidates** |

Over on Page 11

Read the rest of **Water** |

Over on Page 11

Willits Weekly and The Willits News agree: the Little Lake Fire Protection District needs a new firehouse. If passed, Measure I, the fire tax measure on the November 5 ballot, will give community residents the opportunity to borrow construction monies – at a low fixed-interest rate of 3.75 percent – from the USDA Rural Development Fund.

The extra tax assessment to pay back these borrowed funds is \$14 a unit, with the average property owner paying \$28 for their lot/parcel and their home. That's less than 8 cents a day.

The term of the loan, 40 years, is longer than a typical 30-year loan: but, unlike the

school bond debt, this loan can be paid off early, and civic-minded residents can help do that by donating a little extra toward the repayment fund every year.

Not only is the existing firehouse too small (the district's 38.6 foot ladder truck can't fit in the facility's bays and has to be kept at the Baechtel Road substation, and the Fire Rescue unit had to be specially made to fit), it is not earthquake-safe.

The North Coast hasn't had a major earthquake for a long time, but it could come any day. If emergency personnel were unable to access fire engines or equipment quickly due to a crumbled building after an

earthquake, lives could be lost.

Right now, the firehouse engines exit on Commercial Street. Fire Chief Carl Magann says sometimes the traffic is backed up so far east of the light, the engines can't get through right away. The new firehouse, although built on the same lot, with only 2,700 square feet of added space, will have bays that exit on Humboldt Street.

That existing lot is not very large: the architect who drew up plans for the new \$3.2 million facility says it's the smallest footprint he's had to work with for a new firehouse. But it's important to have fire and rescue equipment close to downtown,

recreation facilities and schools.

Borrowing money for any purpose is always expensive. One calculation shows property owners in the district will pay a total of \$2.24 million in interest on the \$2.4 million that Measure I would authorize the district to borrow. But the Little Lake Fire District, with 10,000 "units" in 360 square miles, needs a modern firehouse that better meets 21st century needs.

Measure I has to get two-thirds of the vote to pass. Willits Weekly urges voters to vote yes on Measure I on November 5.



Above: Miss Dawna's Room 3 Kindergarten class.

Below: Brookside students Sydney, left, and her friend, Tula, at the wheel.

Bottom: Shaili, left, and Luis from Brookside Elementary School.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Fire safety and fun

Brookside students enjoy a trip to the Willits firehouse

Four Kindergarten and first-grade classes from Brookside Elementary School walked down to the Willits Fire Department for visits on Wednesday and Thursday last week.

"Anybody been to the firehouse before?" asked Little Lake Fire Protection District training officer Chris Wilkes to members of Mrs. Morgan's K/1 class Thursday morning. Lots of hands went up. "Are we going to go on the fire trucks?" asked one seasoned young visitor. "Yes, for sure," Wilkes replied. But a "lecture," a video, and some test questions came first.

These kids know a lot more about fire safety than us older folks did at their age, thanks to information offered at the schools, "lots of information online" provided by the National Fire Protection Association, and visits like this to the fire station. When asked if they knew what they should do if their clothes caught on fire, many enthusiastic kids shouted back, "Stop, drop and roll!"

Read the rest of **Fire Safety** | Over on Page 9

What do YOU think?

Yes on Measure I

To the Editor:

Election Day, November 5, is right around the corner, and Measure I needs your support. Do not think that because there are not many items on the ballot that your vote is not needed.

Voting YES on Measure I will allow a temporary special tax for the construction of a new Willits Fire Station. This improvement is badly needed. Our current firehouse is seismically out of date and way too small for our current equipment. Some engines and equipment cannot even be stored in the current firehouse because they do not fit!

The safety and efficiency of our Fire Station is what allows our first responders to properly serve our community. When emergencies occur, we do not want our firefighters dealing with an inadequate building. After an earthquake, what if the fire doors jammed? Our community should not take that risk.

The Little Lake Fire Department has been hard at work raising over \$1.3 million dollars for construction, but now they need our support to get it done. They have made the project more modest and have sought every way to lower the cost. They know that our community is not wealthy and so they are making every dollar count.

This temporary tax will sunset when the money is raised to pay off the USDA construction loan for the new Fire Station. Please join me in supporting our firefighters and ensuring the safety of all residents for years to come. Please vote YES on Measure I.

Mayor Holly Madrigal, Willits

Yes on Measure I

To the Editor:

By now, all registered voters should have received their sample ballot, and mail-in voters should've received their "Vote By Mail" ballot. A very important ballot measure is in front of all of the voters within the boundaries of the Little Lake/Willits Fire District.

Measure I is a critical ballot measure. The Little Lake Fire Department's main building is over 60 years old and could fail during the next sizable earthquake. Measure I is a temporary Special Tax Measure that would raise property taxes for single-family residences approximately \$28 per year.

The funds raised can only be used to build the new building. The elected members of the fire district's Board of Directors have been planning for a replacement building for over 10 years and have placed over \$800,000 in a reserve fund to get the project started. The new building will allow the district's ladder truck to be housed at the North Station, which is critical for commercial building, school and apartment protection. The overall cost of the new structure is estimated to be \$3,400,000.

Living in a fire district where the vast majority of our brave firefighters are volunteers, will you please join me in voting

Yes on Measure I? It is critical for our Fire Department to replace the crumbling and inadequate Main Fire Station on East Commercial Street. Please don't put off voting YES on Measure I. Your ballots can be mailed immediately, or hand-delivered to your polling place on Election Day, November 5, 2013.

Tom Allman, Mendocino County Sheriff and resident of the Willits Valley

Harris for school board

To the Editor:

I have just recently received the voter information pamphlet, and I read the candidate information page. It struck me as the most truly ridiculous thing I've read in years! Everything that was written was the opposite of what I feel to be the truth.

How could someone that's been on the school board for more than a year think that they are anything but part of the problem? Those "experienced" members have even been previously asked by the community and a newspaper article to step down.

When one considers the bond fiasco (and how it's going to cost generations thousands of dollars to pay back); the consistent request for cutting another five days of education from our children; and the increases to administrative personnel and their wages – while the students, teachers and support staff count (as well as buying power) are decreasing – it seems to me that the only reasonable choice left for school board is Laurie Harris.

Laurie Harris will come to the board with fresh eyes and ears, without a lot of past decisions to defend, and with a sincere interest in our children, common-sense budgeting, and transparency. She also has many years of experience in the schools, as a parent, volunteer and employee. She has already received the Democratic Party's endorsement, and hopefully the votes from our town. It is definitely time for a change; a time for children to be the priority, common-sense budgetary practices to become the norm, and hope for our future.

Leigh M. Browning, Willits

Thanks for the help

To the Editor:

I'd like to thank all of the people that participated in the renovation of the stadium at Willits High School. We had a BBQ dinner recognizing the contributors prior to the Homecoming game on September 27. Homecoming was the first football game played on the new field, and everyone was pleased with the results and the efforts of the volunteers. Thanks to everyone who showed up to help, and who donated equipment and materials toward the successful project. I'd like to personally thank all of those involved.

A new "Wolverine Football" sign at the facility lists Wolverine championships from 1958 to 2004, and also thanks those who helped with the stadium improvements, starting by honoring the financial contribution from the Ventura Perez fund.

The sign also honors "materials, labor, equipment" donated by: Garman and Sons Construction; Sparetime Supply, Caltrans, MCS, DeSilva Gates, R. Wayne Bashore

Construction, Schulz Construction, SHN, Smith Concrete, Emtech Plumbing, Potter Plumbing, Tri Countries Plumbing, Potter Construction, Huddle Construction, LNS Welding, Nat Collicott, A to Z Construction, Olenik Fence, Creekside Properties, RES Electric, CalFire Chamberlain Creek, Kirk Orvis, Roger Ramirez, Dave Slater, Chris Wiley, Dave O'Leary, Aubrey Hansen, Ron Gardiner, Jeremy Cortis, Randy Weston, WUSD Staff-Students, Park Avenue Turf, and Laura McBride.

Wayne Bashore, Willits

Thank You

To the Editor:

Last week the Spanish 100 class at Mendocino College assembled a Day of the Dead ofrenda/altar at the Willits Library. We would like to invite everyone in the community to see this lovely expression of one of Mexico's rich cultural traditions. Also, many thanks to the following businesses for their generous donation of food and flowers: Lo-Bucks Market, Mariposa Market, Sparetime Supply, The Flower Lady and Flowers by Annette. Anyone wishing to place a small photo or commemorative item, can contact Donna at the library or Norma at 272-1190. Thank you.

Norma Hanson, Willits

Attract disabled visitors

To the Editor:

Willits would attract new visitors if the Chamber of Commerce would campaign to encourage its local businesses to conform to the Americans With Disabilities Act. They could then give travelers on 101, who are disabled, a guarantee that they would find clean, comfortable and accessible accommodations in Willits, in all public buildings and important businesses, such as hotels, motels, restaurants, stores and gas stations.

Please encourage readers to write to you recommending businesses that have been found to be easily accessed by wheelchairs, and to offer bathrooms for disabled that don't have "steps up!" Negative experiences could also be reported.

More and more disabled folks will be riding on our bypass soon, and we need to advertise Willits as a place welcoming to all. Just a message of intention to raise awareness to this need, would alert businesses to think about it. Compliance is the law, and Willits Weekly can make the community start thinking about it.

Betty Spence, Willits

Where are the WW boxes?

1. Old Mission Pizza
2. Brewed Awakening
3. Ace Copy and Shipping
4. Willits Post Office
5. Ardella's Dometown Diner
6. Scoops
7. J.D. Redhouse
8. The Country Skillet

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EST. 2013

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Web: www.willitsweekly.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/willitsweekly Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters from area residents, focusing on Willits issues, activities, events and people, have priority. Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred.

Letters & Commentaries must have a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No anonymous letters will be published.

Willits Weekly

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Fudge

FLAVORS

Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

In the Stars...

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Aries, avoid making promises unless you intend to keep them. If you cannot commit your time or effort, then explain the situation rather than backing out later.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

Others view you in an entirely different light than you view yourself, Taurus. Consider their perspectives and keep an open mind. It might just help you grow as a person.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 2

Many ideas are running through your head, Gemini. But you have to stick with one idea and go with it. Though this may seem like trying to find a needle in a haystack, the focus will pay off.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22

Someone puts all of their faith in you this week, Cancer. Don't be nervous about living up to their expectations. Just operate the way you always do and things will work out.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Leo, a number of things keep you occupied this week. The only difficulty will be narrowing down exactly what you want to do. Give this decision the attention it deserves.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sep 22

Virgo, no matter how many times you voice your opinion, there seems to be one person who just doesn't seem to catch on to your line of thinking. Accept such differences of opinion.

LIBRA

Sep 23 - Oct 23

Libra, sometimes you put blinders on to situations that make you uncomfortable. It is your way of coping. But this week you need to keep your eyes wide open.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22

Scorpio, you do not have the patience for puzzles this week. Encourage coworkers and family members to be as concise as possible when declaring their intentions.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21

Sagittarius, this week you will have to do a number of things on your own. Make the most of this situation, as it might just prove to be a good test of character.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20

A change of scenery could provide the change in perspective you need right now, Capricorn. The trouble is finding the right time to get away. Plan a weekend trip if you can manage it.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18

Aquarius, even though you may not relish the role, you often have to be the voice of reason. Express yourself clearly but take others' ideas into consideration as well.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

Channel all of your creative ideas into one big project, Pisces. Once you have taken that initiative, the project will take off.

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12			13		14				15			
16			17		18				19			
20					21				22			
			23		24			25				
26	27	28	29				30					
31							32					
33							34	35	36	37	38	
			39	40	41		42	43				
		44	45				46					
		47					48					
49					50			51	52	53	54	55
56					57			58				
59					60				61			
62					63					64		

CLUES ACROSS

- Pepsi is one
- Kilocalorie (abbr.)
- Canadian flyers
- Bright fleshy seed covers
- Exclamation of triumph
- Dawn (Spanish)
- Former Spanish currency
- Illuminated
- A benefit bestowed
- Spanish beaches
- Solid water
- Baby flowers
- Surrealistic comic strip
- Uncontrollable tremors
- Dapper
- Ear shell
- Russian river
- #1 soup noodle brand
- Relating to a tube
- Air Reserve base (abbr.)
- Relating to Deism
- More dried-up
- Pear-shaped vowels
- Creator of 23 across
- Leavened rum cake

CLUES DOWN

- "Lil Abner" cartoonist Al
- Pitcher Hershiser
- Elvis's daughter
- Mt. Lebanon resort town
- Islamic civil and religious leader (var. sp.)
- Mexican American
- A sideways pass
- Bunny
- Threatening rain
- Where one abides
- Ardent devotees
- Not moving
- Midway between E and SE
- Writing materials sellers
- Even golf score
- Fabric of camel or goat hair
- Hide from police: on the ___
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Universal Standard Time (abbr.)
- British thermal unit
- Own (Scottish)
- Digital display material
- Fall back to a former state
- Tom ___ former LA mayor
- Runs PCs
- Wear away
- Russian marten furs
- Item used for 58 across
- A Scottish Highlander
- Rolls-___ luxury car
- Jeff Bridges' brother
- Bay Area Transit Authority
- As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- Metric prefix for 10 to the 12th power
- Franken-ber river

Sudoku

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

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!

Video of Brooktrails candidates night now available

A video taken by Willits Community Television of the recently held candidates night for the Brooktrails Community Services District Board of Directors is now available to watch online. This edited two-hour version of the forum video was produced by Al Rosen of Willits Community Television.

Go to <http://vimeo.com/channels/403871/6752143> to open the page with the video.

Willits Weekly recommends Brooktrails voters wishing to be well-informed about the upcoming November 5 election view this forum.

- Mike A'Dair

WELL Forum, October 6 Invest in Main Street, Not Wall Street

About 30 people gathered at the Little Lake Grange October 6 to find out what's going on with opportunities for local investing and building local enterprises. The forum was sponsored by WELL (Willits Economic Localization), a non-profit group active on these issues since 2004. Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal, president of the WELL board of directors, emceed the afternoon event.

John Kuhry, director of Mendocino County EDFC (Economic Development and Finance Corporation) kicked the forum off, reporting about exciting progress on several projects: a small-scale local meat processing plant, a wool processing facility, and a co-work facility in the old Ukiah jail. EDFC is on the verge of creating a DPO (direct public offering) that will allow local investors to help finance such projects. For further info, go to www.edfc.org.

Lynn Kennelly, director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, described the chamber's participation in BALLE (Business Alliance for Local Living Economies) and the

Willits Local First program. Local First, known for the popular Hometown

Celebrations, also promotes local businesses in other ways. Kennelly noted that 72 percent of Mendocino County enterprises are locally owned, and patronizing these local businesses keeps our money benefiting local jobs and economic activity. Contact Kennelly at info@willits.org.

Roger Wilson and Cyndee Logan were enthusiastic about the new Wovser maker-space and academy, located in the warehouse just west of the new Mendocino College campus. Community members have already invested more than \$200,000 to create this space. Wovser's goal is to use local resources, teach and share skills, foster creative ideas, and serve as an incubator for "makers" of all ages. Members can start by using communal space and equipment; then create their own space if their business grows. Info at www.wovserllc.com or 459-9697.

Michael Foley, manager of the Willits Farmers' Market and Little Lake Grange master, introduced exciting ideas for expanding local farming. One idea is to raise \$6,000 in matching funds to encourage food-stamp recipients to shop at the farmers markets. A second

is expanding local CSAs (community supported agriculture) by having large employers match CSA shares for their employees. Foley would like to expand the Grange Grains program to include locally grown oats. To do this, local farmers would need access to a combine, which leads to the idea of creating a local tool-sharing collective - through the Grange or another group. A "Mendocino-made" brand could help market local food products. Finally, Foley wants us to be training and finding suitable, affordable land for new farmers. The agriculture school at Ridgewood Ranch - a project of the State Grange - is a major step toward this goal. For more info, contact Michael at 216-5549.

Madge Strong, WELL Coordinating Committee member, described WELL's Pay It Forward fund, which accepts tax-deductible donations to a revolving fund for assisting local enterprises. The fund currently has nearly \$3,000 available and has made one \$500 loan. WELL is seeking qualified applicants whose business meets the triple bottom-line: good for the planet (sustainable, using local resources, etc.), good for people (e.g., jobs), and profit (so it can pay back the loan). For info contact Strong at 459-1493.

NOYO
THEATRE Willits, CA
Times for 10/18 - 10/24

GRAVITY in 3D & 2D
(PG) 1hr 30mins
Fri-Sun: (3D) 5:45 & 8:00pm
Sat/Sun: (2D) 1:15 & 3:30pm
Mon-Thurs: (2D) 5:45 & 8:00pm

CARRIE
(R) 1hr 40mins
Daily: 6:15 & 8:30
Sat/Sun: 1:45 & 4:00

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2
(PG) 1hr 35mins
Daily: 6:00pm
Sat/Sun: 1:30 & 3:45pm

RUNNER RUNNER
(R) 1hr 31mins
Daily: 8:15pm

Tight Wed Tuesday Films:
Gravity, Cloudy 2 & Runner Runner
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Teachers and classified staff in this photo taken last Friday at Brookside Elementary School include Dawna Allen, Melissa Bergmann, Carol Brinkerhoff, Debra Doering, Jill Frick, Barbie Gonzalez, Anne Hammond, Lenore Hansen, Claude Huffmann, Nancy Milkken, Brooke Moncivais, Paula Nunez, Cyndi Pfingsten, Kari Rescina, Jaynie Smith, Sandy Southard, Joan Thomas and others.

Photo by Jennifer Pool

Willits teachers oppose five-day cut to school year

The Willits Teachers Association and the Willits Unified School District are at impasse in labor negotiations, and the process has gone into "fact-finding" (with an independent arbitrator examining the arguments made by both sides) for the first time in 27 years.

Willits teachers have been wearing green WTA T-shirts on Fridays for the last couple of weeks. WTA President Paula Nunez says all but four teachers throughout the district - and classified staff, too - are participating to show support for the WTA's stance.

"Teachers and support staff are very united," Nunez said.

At this point, Nunez said, the major issue is the district's request to cut five days from the school year to help balance the budget. This represents a 2 to 3 percent cut in total remuneration to teachers (and other staff), but it doesn't

mean a cut in hourly wage, since staff will be taking five extra days off. Total money saved would be somewhere around \$230,000.

Teachers feel any needed cuts should come from somewhere else, citing a higher salary granted to the new Superintendent Pat Johnson, as well as more money directed toward administrative personnel (who took on new responsibilities), and for the facilities director over the summer after the June budget was signed.

"I am wearing the shirt to send a signal to the board and district office that their priorities need to change," said Brookside Elementary School teacher Devora Yundt, "and that students and teachers, the core of education, need to be the district's top priority."

Read the rest of **Teachers** Over on Page 11

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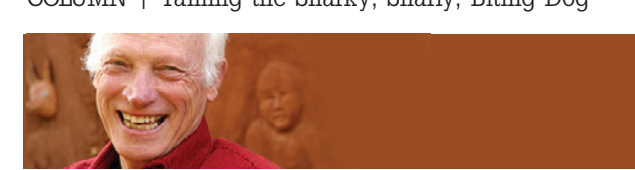
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How to handle emotions like anger

Libraries are filled with volumes of books dealing with the grand emotion: Love. This feeling gets glorified in romance novels, movies and big wedding media splashes. Anger, on the other hand, tends to be the stepchild of our emotional palate. "Let's not talk about it." "It unsettles me." "It's not nice." "It makes me feel guilty."

Wolfgang Ronnefeldt
Columnist

However, as human beings, we are hard-wired with constricting emotions such as fear, sadness, and anger, as well as expansive ones, such as curiosity, humor, wonder, compassion and love. When we don't deal with the "negative" emotions like anger, irritation, impatience or frustration, then these emotions run around like wild and untamed dogs, taking over our lives and triggering unwelcome actions. The consequences can be annoying, or in some cases disastrous, erupting in violence.

Sometimes anger can be a useful emotion. For example, it's useful when we need to set boundaries or limits on people who might harm us or limit our freedom, or who want to "use" us. A "No" fueled by anger might be appropriate in that instance. Otherwise, people might "walk all over us." But the question arises for us: do I want to be nice and loved? (by keeping quiet about an offense), or

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

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Buildings of historical interest

along the 10,000 Step Willits Walk for Health and Wellness, courtesy of Jed Diamond and compiled from "The Architectural Heritage of Willits"

Part 2 - the second half from last week's edition!

#13 - 307 Redwood Avenue - built in 1914

The house was built by Dan DeShiell for A.H. Thompson in 1914. The house is important, because it is another example of the Craftsman bungalows that DeShiell built in the 1910s in Willits. DeShiell was also the builder and architect responsible for the offices of the Northwestern Lumber Company. Additionally, this house is important because of its association with its first owner, A. H. Thompson. Thompson was the woods superintendent and foreman for the Northwestern Lumber Company.

#14 - 284 Redwood Avenue - built in 1907

The Northwestern Redwood Company was very important to the growth and the economic vitality in Willits at the turn of the century. The lumber mill provided many jobs in the community, and the company's subdivision was where many of their employees lived. Unlike many lumber companies of the day, they did not have a large company town. Instead, they built houses for certain important members of the company to live in. This house was built for A.A. Wilson, the bookkeeper for Northwestern. He served a four-year term on the Willits City Board of Trustees, including being chosen mayor in 1915.

#15 - 240 Redwood Avenue - built in 1913

The architectural style of this house reflects William Whited's experience with building Queen Anne-style cottages in Willits. This style is very popular in Willits and continued to be built in the area long after the style lost its popularity in more urban environments. This house does not have all of the bargeboard trim that Whited's first house at 263 East Valley Street has but does, however, have a similar floor plan.

#16 - 216 Redwood Avenue - built in 1910

This house is significant both in that it is a good example of the type of construction done in the Willits area near 1910 and that it is an important element in the Redwood Avenue streetscape. Beyond its architectural importance, it also gains significance from its builder and first owner, David Leander Sawyers and his wife, Sarah Whited Sawyers. David Sawyers came to the Little Lake Valley in 1857 with his family. As a young man he worked on the family homestead, but at the age of 24, he started working road construction in Mendocino County. In 1876 he married Sarah Whited, the aunt of Charles, William and LeRoy Whited. All three brothers were involved in house and road construction with David Sawyers in the Willits area.

#17 - 165 Pine Street - built in 1885

This house is one of the oldest buildings in Willits. It was owned in 1885 by G.W. Raymond. That same year Raymond was listed in a local directory as being a laborer. Raymond also left his mark on the town in the form of the name of the alley that enters Pine Street near his home. The primary importance of the house, however, in addition to its association with Raymond, is the house's architecture, which is unique to Willits, though common in the area. It is shaped like a Colonial saltbox, an architectural style that was common in the 19th century during the early settlement of Mendocino and Humboldt counties, as saltboxes are modest houses and easy to build with limited resources.

#18 - 134 Pine Street - built in 1885

This house at 134 Pine Street was built between 1877 and 1885 and is therefore one of the few houses remaining in Willits that dates back to the original town of Willitsville. It was first owned by T.C. Gibson, who in turn sold it to W.H. Orender, who was a sheep farmer in the valley in 1885. The house is important not only for its association with these early residents in Willits, but also for its style of architecture that is rare in the area.

#19 - 291 School Street - built in 1922

From 1877, when Hiram Willits first plotted the town's streets, this area was set aside for a school, and the street running in front of the block was named accordingly. In the early 1920s, the School Board of Trustees, comprised of John Keller, Dr. F. H. Camp, and Palmer Holt, determined to building a new school, had a San Francisco architect draw up the plans. The school building is important architecturally in Willits, as it is of a style rare in the town. It is also important as it was built during a period when the town's economy was beginning to slow down, but the town's residents were willing to spend \$40,560 for a new school.

#20 - 300 East Commercial Street - built in 1914

In 1914, the Northwestern Pacific Redwood Company decided to move their main office from their mill site at Northwestern to the East Commercial Street site in Willits. The company had been formed in 1901 by A.W. Foster, the president of the Northwestern Railroad. The building housed the office of Little Lake Industries in the Mission Revival style and features a red-tile covered hip roof. The tower, like the rest of the building, is covered in wide overlapping boards.

Día de los Muertos

Se observa el Día de los Muertos con una ofrenda o altar construido en la casa y en el cementario para dar la bienvenida a los difuntos que regresan a la tierra el 1 y el 2 de noviembre. Es una reunion de los vivos con los vivos y los vivos con sus queridos muertos. Lo que los difuntos disfrutaban en la vida se recuerda en la preparacion del altar. Se ponen fotos, flores, comida y bebida, papel picado, copal, agua y todas las cosas preferidas del difunto. Es una tradicion feliz que reconoce la muerte como algo natural: simplemente una parte de la vida misma.

Invitamos a toda la gente a visitar a nuestra ofrenda para conmemorar el Día de los Muertos a la Biblioteca en Willits. Si quieren poner algo para conmemorar a alguien especial, pueden llamar a Donna a la biblioteca o Norma a 272-1190.

– Norma Hanson

Day of the Dead exhibit at Willits Library

In honor of the Day of the Dead Mexican celebration on November 1 and 2, Mendocino College Spanish professor Norma Hanson and her Willits Spanish 1 class put up two Day of the Dead altars at the Willits Library. The altars are on display now through November 3. The Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial Street is open Mondays (10 am to 6 pm), Tuesdays and Wednesdays (10 am to 8 pm), Thursdays (10 am to 5 pm), and Saturdays (10 am to 5 pm). Closed Sundays and Fridays. Info: 459-5908.

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits



Thursday, October 17

Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale: annual event opens today with a preview for members of Friends of the Willits Library this evening from 6 to 9 pm. Open to the public on Friday, October 18 from 10 to 6 pm, Saturday, October 19 from 10 to 4 pm, and Sunday, October 20 from 10 am to 3 pm. On Sunday, books are \$3 a bag all day.

Now & Then Films: "Gasland, Part II," Josh Fox's film about "fracking." "Filmmaker Josh Fox uses his trademark dark humor to take a deeper, broader look at the dangers of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking," the controversial practice of injecting water, sand and chemicals underground to crack rock formations and free up oil and natural gas. 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Suggested \$5 to \$10 donation. Info: 459-6362. Visit www.gaslandthemovie.com for more info on the film.

Shanachie Pub: local singer/songwriter Falco 6 pm. No cover. Original folk, blues, jazz, bossa and pop. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, October 18

Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale: see October 17 listing for details.

Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration in downtown Willits: Don't miss this 7th annual celebration of "Think Local, Buy Local, Be Local," presented by the Willits Chamber of Commerce's Local First Committee, from 4 to 8 pm in downtown Willits. Enjoy a pumpkin carving contest for all area businesses (vote for the "People's Choice," and "Art in the Alley," an art exhibition in the alley between the Noyo Theatre and The Bistro restaurant. Downtown businesses will be open late, offering specials and goodies. Other businesses, nonprofit and community organizations, crafters, and many other groups will have booths with information about their offerings, special games, and freebies, and musicians and Zumba dancers from Studio



Joy will perform. Please stop by Willits Weekly's booth in front of Ardella's to say hello! Info: 459-7910 or info@willits.org.

Shanachie Pub: Moon Lady/Moon Man presents The Afro-Funk Experience, following the Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration. 9 pm. \$10. Delivering home-grown Afro-Funk, Afro-beat, reggae and original Bay Area funk, with dual guitars, bass, drums percussion, trumpet and saxophone. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 19

Final Seabiscuit Tour of the Year: Walking Tour of Ridgewood Ranch: Home of Seabiscuit. 9:30 to noon. Docent led tours \$20; children under 11 free. Info/reservations: 459-5992; seabiscuit@instawave.net or www.seabiscuitheritage.org/tourschedule.php.

Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale: see October 17 listing for details.

"Willits On Stage": a variety show featuring friends, neighbors and special guests, showing off their talents, to benefit Willits Community Services and Food Bank. Willits High School Auditorium, 7 pm. Hosted by Les Tarr and Ed Reinhart and friends. Performers to include (in no particular order): Ricky Carrillo, piano; Aurelie Clivaz, poetry & breakdance; Zumba Fitness, dance instructors & students; Verne Ostrander, songs; Chantrelle, harmonies by Madge Strong, Helen Falandes, and Diane Smalley; Myranda Goben, modern dance; Terri Davis, songs; The Cheap Jewels, bellydance with Gina, Lazula, and Delana; Rachel Kononchoff, songs; Pearl Marill, improv dance; Jeremy Miller & Megan Wolf, swing dance; Chad Eventide, juggling; Harvey Frankle, song & dance, accompanied by Jenny Watts; Myranda Goben, modern dance; New Blu Trio, harmonies by Nancy New, Anita Blu, and Don Fiers; Susan Byers, flamenco dance; Melinda Clarke & Conga Luna, with Cuban Dance (Conga Luna: Kathy Cantwell, Lyly Phoenix, Lili McFadden, Louise Marzano, and Nancy Miller; and The Swamp Poodles, music by Ed Reinhart, Les Tarr, Mark Webb, and special guest, Bob Simon. Tickets \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Advance tickets available at Goods' Shoppe, Main Street Music and Mazahar. Info: 456-9429.

Community Rights Workshop: two day workshop, October 19 and October 20, with Paul Cienfuegos on the creation of

a community rights ordinance. Sliding scale: \$60 to \$260. If interested in attending, call Peter Norris at 456-9968. Info at: www.paulcienfuegos.com.

Sunday, October 20

15th annual Willits Walk for Wellness and Community: This fall's free 10,000 step/5 mile walk around town features 20 historic homes and buildings along the route. Registration starts at 9:30 am at J.D. Redhouse, for "men, women, children and well-behaved pets on leashes," who will start the walk at 10 am, rain or shine. Bicyclists are also invited. This walk also coincides with the 125th anniversary of Willits' founding back in 1888 – its "sesquicentennial" anniversary. Walkers will get a sheet that describes each building briefly. You can walk as much or as little as you like. Water and assistance provided along the route with the Harrah Senior Center van, WHS students will mark "milestone" cards, as walkers reach their stations, and chef Adam Celaya of Adam's Restaurant, will offer treats following the walk. For more info or to volunteer: call Jed Diamond at 459-5505.

Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale: see October 17 listing for details.

St. Anthony's Mexican Food Sale: Another fundraiser in the church hall, 58 Bush Street, from 11:30 am to 3 pm. The Mexican community will be selling fresh, homemade tamales, enchiladas, tacos, atole, rice and beans. Enjoy at the hall or to take home. Come early! The September 29 food sale sold out in 90 minutes, raising \$2,000 for St. Anthony's Church.

Monday, October 21

Willits Frontier Twirlers: Beginner's classes in basic and mainstream square dance at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, from 6:45 to 8 pm, then dancing until 9 pm, with professional caller Lawrence Johnstone, who will teach and call. Every Monday night; classes are free classes through October. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more info.

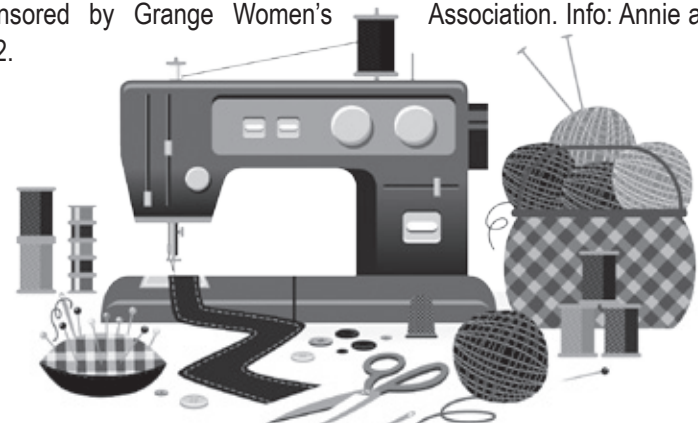
Tuesday, October 22

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

Make your own costumes for Halloween

Textile Skill Sharing: 7 to 9 pm at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Theme: Halloween Cloaks & Costumes: Last minute rip and sew; tuck and go! Bring a curtain, sheet or blanket for making a cloak...other cool used stuff, your old clown suit, your costume ideas to fit, sew up and share.

Machines available - bring seam rippers, etc. You can also bring your sewing project or machine to any "Tuesday Open Sewing Studio", no matter what the listed theme. Suggested donation of \$2 pays for heating and use of space. Sponsored by Grange Women's Association. Info: Annie at 459-6362.



Calling all artists It's Holiday Craft Fair sign up time!

Willits Center for the Arts is accepting entries for the 27th Annual Holiday Craft Fair. Friday, December 13, Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15, at the Willits Community Center. All interested artists, hand crafters, and specialty foods entrepreneurs should request application forms by e-mail to: Bonnie Belt at belt.bonnie@gmail.com or Willits Holiday Craft Fair c/o Bonnie Belt, 2291 Buckeye Drive, Willits, CA 95490 (enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope). Apply early as booths fill quickly.

Save the Date:

Halloween Party, with Funkacillin and DJs, Shanachie Pub, October 31
Mushroom, Wine and Beer Train benefit for Mendocino County Museum, November 2
Phoenix Hospice "Love and Loss During the Holidays Support Group"; November 7
"Eleemosynary"; final play Willits Community Theatre's 2013 season; opening November 8

Tuesday movies: "Gravity," "Cloudy 2," and "Runner Runner." 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Eckankar Discussion and Community HU song: 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. Ongoing spiritual discussion; a HU song "is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra and can help you experience divine love and find inner peace." Families and all faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

Friday, October 25

HazMobile Collection: at the Willits Corporation Yard, today and Saturday, October 26, from 9 am to 1 pm, 380 East Commercial Street. The public can bring up to 15 gallons per vehicle per day of toxic items like paint, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, gasoline, solvents, acids, bases, and toxic cleaners. Auto and household batteries, mercury and fluorescent light tubes (limit: 60 feet of tubes) are accepted by the HazMobile. Explosives and road flares are excluded. Free to households; small business waste by appointment and by fee. Please ensure items are kept in their original containers (except motor oil which can be consolidated), that nothing is leaking, and that all containers are tied down. Info: 468-9704 or www.mendoRecycle.org.

Saturday, October 26

HazMobile Collection: Willits Corporation Yard, see Friday, October 25 listing for details.

WHS Posters Abalone Dinner: fundraising dinner for Willits High School's sports programs. Two seating at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, at 5:30 and 6:30 pm. Dinner includes deep-friend abalone, ravioli with homemade sauce, salad, garlic bread, and desserts from the WHS cooking club. The abalone is donated by the Department of Fish & Wildlife, from poached abalone that has been confiscated. Board members of the Willits Boosters Club will be doing the cooking. Tickets are \$20; only 200 tickets will be sold; and pre-sale tickets are preferred, though there might be a few tickets available at the door. Tickets available at the House Doctor or call Donna at 459-2752 or Mark and Sheri Mercer at 459-3445 to have tickets delivered

"Night of the Living Dead" Halloween Party: 10 pm tonight at Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street. "featuring DJ Zombie T

rocking the grave stones!!!" Fun, dancing, costume prizes for best Zombies (male and female) and Best Overall (\$50 cash). Info: 459-4977.

Sunday, October 27

Willits Grange Pancake Breakfast: from 8 to 11 am, at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Organic coffee and real maple syrup upon request. Traditional plate: Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, eggs made to order, real butter, bacon, juice, coffee or tea; \$6. Organic "Local Plate": multi-grain sourdough pancakes, organic maple syrup from an Amish Farm in Michigan, farm eggs; organic yogurt &/or fresh fruit in season; \$7.

Oktoberfest!: An afternoon of good food, good entertainment, and good company at Willits Community Theatre, 37 W. Van Lane, from 2 to 5 pm. Featuring performances by Necole and Tim Suttles, Jon Mather, Richard Jeske and Friends, the Just For Fun Senior Choir, New Blu Trio and Joey Kroh. Tickets are \$20 and are available in person at Goods' Shoppe, 56 South Main Street, or by calling WCT at 459-0895 to reserve by credit card.

Ongoing Events:

"Nancy Reed & Friends" – October show at the Willits Center for the Arts. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm; Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm; through October 27. Info: 459-1726.

Farmers Market at City Park: Fall produce and more from area farmers, plus live music, flowers, crafts, baked goods, dinner and more. Last three Thursdays at City Park: October 17, 24 and 31, across from City Hall, from 3 to 6 pm. Farmers Market moves to Little Lake Grange starting in November.

Willits Community Drum Circle: 7 to 10 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Fridays. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932

Open Mic at Shanachie Pub: Every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm.

Mushroom Wine & Beer Train

The 2013 Mushroom, Wine and Beer Train, a fundraiser for the Mendocino County Museum in Willits, is set for Saturday, November 2.

After breakfast catered by Kemmy's Pies, guests at both the Willits and Fort Bragg Skunk Train depots will take the Skunk Train to Camp Mendocino, with roving musicians, historians and sparkling beverages.

At Camp Mendocino, county winemakers and brewers will show off fine spirits, wines, beers and coffees, and guests can enjoy a Mushroom Cook-Off Contest, mushroom walks, wine talks and more. Tickets are \$95. For more info: www.MendocinoMuseum.org or 459-2736.

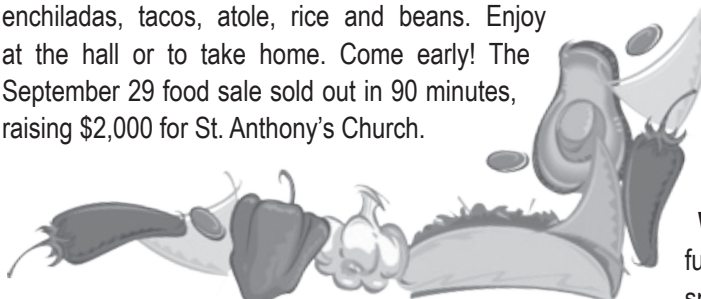


Golf Tourney & WHS Senior Class Fundraiser

This Saturday, the Willits High School Senior Class is holding a Golf Tournament fundraiser at the Brooktrails Golf Course. Check-in is at 8:30 am and tee-off follows at 9 am. Lunch is included in the entry fee of \$20. Prizes include new golf bags and gift certificates to El Mexicano and Scoops. For more information: 459-6761.



Left: Members of the beginning group move through the pattern in beat to the music. Center: Professional caller Lawrence Johnstone made following the pattern easy for all the dancers. Right: The advanced group was having a great time during the last lesson, held at the Willits Center for the Arts.



Left: The class follows instructions from caller Lawrence Johnstone. Right: Dancers at Monday night's Willits Frontier Twirlers session: back row, from left: Gerry Gonzalez, Rick Pierce, Wayne Granfors, Bill Good, Allen Garcia, Dave Watts, Connie Hewett and Rick Hewett. Middle row, from left: Sue Soss, Kris Pierce, Yvonne Wagenet, Patricia Kovner, Jenny Watts, Marna Garcia, Sharon Bianchi, Paul Uebelhart. Front row, from left: Emmy Good, Lawrence Johnstone, Barbarie Gonzalez, and Bill Bruneau.



Willits Frontier Twirlers

The Willits Frontier Twirlers got together again Monday night and had a "pretty good turnout," of about 20 people said square dancer and organizer Emmy Good. "We know we'll have even more people coming next week. We're excited we're taking in new people. We haven't had an official class for years."

The Twirlers were a Willits 4th of July tradition for many years: Good thinks the club is 64 years old. The dancers would perform at the Rec Grove in front of stage at noon, after the parade. As many as eight "squares" – with four dancers to a square – used to dance back then.

Good isn't sure exactly when the last time was the Twirlers danced at the

4th of July celebration, but thinks it might have been 2001. "Our goal this year is to have enough people who want to do that again this year."

Good and other dancers Monday night praised the skills of professional square dance caller Lawrence Johnstone. "I was very impressed with how clear and simple his instructions were," Good said. The Monday night class will be free through October, and the group hopes those interested in dancing next summer will hop on board soon, whether they are beginning dancers or just catching up, to get really proficient at the square dance patterns. Lessons are from 6:45 to 8 pm, then there's dancing until 9 pm.

You don't need to come with a partner, and no special attire is needed, although Good said she had a "huge, huge collection of costumes ... petticoats and all the stuff," so if dancers want to be costumed at some point, she can bring in costumes to share.

The Twirlers would be very interested in attracting some younger dancers, too. "If there were any high school students, we would certainly be happy to waive the fee throughout the year for high school students."

Good said the Willits Twirlers had quite the local reputation back in the day, with people coming over from Fort Bragg and up from Ukiah to join in the dancing. "We had fun," she said.

For more info, call Good at 367-7475.



Left: Members of the beginning group move through the pattern in beat to the music. Center: Professional caller Lawrence Johnstone made following the pattern easy for all the dancers. Right: The advanced group was having a great time during the last lesson, held at the Willits Center for the Arts.

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Puppy and level 1 dog training class offered in Willits. Mondays, Nov. 4 to Dec. 2. Space limited to 8 students per class; require minimum of 6 to hold class. You must register in advance. Willits Community Center, \$150 for 6-week course. Puppy class: 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm; Level 1 class: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Info: www.wellmanneredmutts.com or Sallie Palmer at 707-463-3647 or 621-3647 (DOGS).

Yard Sale
Saturday, October 19, 10 am to 2 pm. No early birds. 23291 Eastside Road, Willits. Household items, exercise bike, propane BBQ, and other miscellaneous items. Cash only.

Get Willits Weekly at home
Help support your locally owned community newspaper with a mail subscription: Willits Weekly is delivered in Friday's first-class mail to Willits addresses: \$75/year or \$40/6 months. Send check and mailing address to: P.O. Box 1698, Willits 95490 or pay using our PayPal account at www.willitsweekly.com.

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Consignments Accepted
Gavel Down Sales, located at 1611 South Main Street, is open Tues through Sat, 10 am to 5 pm, and is accepting quality home furnishings for consignment. Contact Kapila at 707.459.1300.

Eckankar
Have you had a spiritual experience? You are invited to participate in an ongoing, spiritual discussion Tuesday, October 22, at 6:30 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

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State Farm grant opportunity for WHS

Lisa Epstein of State Farm Insurance in Willits is asking community members to participate in State Farm's online "Celebrate My Drive" program, October 18 to 26, to help Willits High School win a possible \$100,000 or \$25,000 grant. Epstein says only 500 schools are registered so far, including WHS, and there are 100 grants up for grabs: 10 grants for \$100,000 and 90 grants for \$25,000, as well as a grand prize, a concert by singer Kelly Clarkson.

"I believe we have a very real opportunity to win if we can get everyone in the community involved," Epstein said. Schools are divided into two categories, small (under 750 students) and large, to help level the playing field for small schools.

"Celebrate My Drive" was started by State Farm in 2012 to promote safe driving by young drivers. Auto crashes are the No. 1 cause of death among teens in North America, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, representing more than a third of all teen deaths.

"Celebrate My Drive is a chance for communities to rally around young drivers and encourage them to make safe driving choices every time they're behind the wheel," State Farm's www.celebratedrive.com states.

How to help WHS win? Go to the Celebrate My Drive web site, and register with an email address - the only personal information asked for is a date of birth, as the contest is open only to those age 14 and over. After registering, starting October 18 and through October 26, participants can go to the web site - or the Celebrate My Drive Facebook page - once a day to "make a commitment to safe driving" by entering a phrase like: "I will not text and drive." The high schools with the most "commitments" win the grants.

Lisa Epstein State Farm Insurance will have a booth at the October 20 Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration, Epstein said, with a couple of iPads, so people can sign up and make a "commitment" right then and there. For more information, visit www.celebratedrive.com or contact Lisa Epstein State Farm Insurance at 459-4044.

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too, as well as adult education like fire extinguisher training and home safety. "We just did a group of 40, employees at the Rancharia casino," Magann said.

One interesting part of the lecture was when Wilkes asked "Would you ever be scared of a firefighter?" and "You'd never hide from a firefighter, right?" as volunteer Mike Neely, a probationary firefighter, who'd greeted the kids in civilian clothes, came back into the room in full firefighter gear, including a breathing apparatus. "That's kind of a scary mask," Wilkes said, "and a scary voice - a Darth Vader voice," as Neely talked through his apparatus. The kids were paying close attention; it seemed like they were absorbing another lesson they wouldn't forget.

After the learning time, came the even more fun time, when kids were allowed to climb up - or be lifted up - onto the fire engines, some of them taking the wheel and pretending to drive, while parents and teachers made sure they didn't run out onto Commercial Street.

About 90 kids visited the fire station over both days. When they got back to the classrooms, each visitor got a red plastic fire helmet, a badge, and a build-your-own-little-firefighter project.

"We do from kindergarten to fifth grade," Magann said. And Head Start programs,

Mr. M.J. Furry Friends

Meet M.J., a 10-year-old purebred Dachshund, weighing in at 21 pounds. Though he's an older guy, he still has lots of spunk in his step! He was surrendered by his previous owner due to having "accidents" in his house, but we have not seen that behavior when he's in our adoption room.

Like most Dachshunds he does not know he is a smaller dog, and he does alert-barking which is part of his personality trait. In the short time we've had him, what we know about him is that he's very affectionate, walks well on a leash, and he absolutely loves to hang out with you. We hope you will see the good qualities in this sweet and handsome guy. M.J. is already neutered, and ready to go home! We have a fund to help with the adoption of senior dogs, so we may offer a senior discount for this dapper guy.

M.J. and his canine and feline friends are located at the Ukiah Animal Shelter, 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. The shelter hours are: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 7 pm. Please visit our shelter website to see more photos and bios of M.J. and our other amazing adoptable dogs: www.pawstadopt.com For more information, please visit during shelter hours, or contact Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453.



Photo by Rod Coats

The rest of Snarky | From Page 5

be not so nice and show my teeth to an affront? Inhibition of anger doesn't work, nor does exaggeration. In almost all instances, drama clouds the mind and affects those around you in a negative way.

It's important to mention that there is a gender divide with the issue of anger: men tend to be more comfortable with anger than women, while women tend to be more comfortable with the emotions of hurt and sadness.

Obviously, it stands to reason that an awareness of our feelings, especially these more "snarky" ones, would be beneficial to our lives, as would be the tools to deal with them more effectively.

I am offering a special eight-week class for local residents, called "Taming Your Snarky Dog," which is an opportunity to learn greater emotional awareness. Awareness of our emotions and how they affect our life is key. Another benefit of this class will be learning and practicing tools to deal with these emotions in ourselves, as well as the emotions of others, including family members or fellow workers.

This class will be limited in size and will offer engaging and meaningful interaction designed to bring greater balance and harmony to our lives. Confidentiality is a fundamental aspect of this kind of class.

If you are interested in participating, contact me for more information at 459-2101.

Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, M.A., is a counselor with 10 years of experience teaching Anger Management classes for the County of Mendocino. The "Taming Your Snarky Dog" class is scheduled for October 20 through December 16, on Monday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9 pm. Cost: \$200. For info and to register, call Wolfgang at 459-2101.

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Puzzle Answers From Page 4

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

Condolences Column

WILBUR 'ANDY' ANDERSON
Memorial for Hugh Wiley

Longtime Willits resident Wilbur "Andy" Anderson went home to be with the Lord, Sunday, October 6, 2013, at home in Lakeport with family by his side.

Born June 30, 1919 in San Francisco to Gerhard and Rose Anderson, Andy is survived by his loving wife, Margret Anderson, of Lakeport; son Steve (Monica) Anderson of Willits; daughters Diane (Dale Fet) Anderson of Lakeport and Sharon (Fred) Scoville of Sacramento; grandson Tyler (Megan) Anderson and great-grandson Apollo Anderson of Ukiah.

Andy grew up on a large family ranch in Sherwood Valley, where they raised milk cows and sheep, earning high awards and numerous ribbons as a 4-H member. He was also a highly decorated Eagle Scout. After the war broke out he joined the Army Air Corps, where he became one of the top Army squadron captains, training many B-17 and B-24 pilots for combat during World War II.

Returning home, Andy started his own logging and trucking business, during which time he and his brother Charlie built Andy's (Honky Tonk) Bar, Restaurant and Motel, which is now known as Brown's Corner.

Andy became the No. 1 Piper Airplane sales associate in the USA, while managing the old Willits Airport on Commercial Street. He trained many Willits residents to fly and sold them airplanes. During that time he made many trophy hunting and fishing trips to Alaska, Canada and Mexico.

Andy was involved with building Wagon Wheel Mobile Home Park, having set up and sold most of the homes existing there today. He continued to sail motor homes, cars and trucks into his 90s, while staying very involved in the stock market.

Andy lived an exciting and adventurous life and will be sorrowfully missed by family and friends. Services were held Wednesday, October 16 at Anker-Lucier Mortuary in Willits, followed by a full military graveside service at the Willits Cemetery, and a potluck gathering at the Wagon Wheel community room. Pastor Glenn Hayes of Kelseyville Baptist Church officiated the services.

Saturday October 19, 2013, at 2 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts. All are welcome. Please bring a memory if moved to do so. We are grateful to the community for their caring generosity during our loss.

— Elizabeth Wiley

"Bob Harper has been a strong and supportive voice for choice in education, charter schools and vocational education for the past 12 years. In the upcoming November 5th election, please join us in voting for Bob Harper!"
— John Jeavons and Cynthia Raiser Jeavons

Re-elect Bob Harper
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Please join me in improving our public safety for the Willits area.
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Canine Kitchen

Controversy around big-brand dog food creates incentive to make it at home

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb boneless chicken breast
- 1 cup brown rice
- 5 cups water
- 1 16-oz bag frozen medley of cauliflower, broccoli, carrots
- 1 pinch rosemary

DIRECTIONS

Cube or shred chicken breast into one-inch pieces and place into dry, hot skillet. Brown the meat and add rice, rosemary and three cups of the water. Bring to a boil, cover and reduce heat to a simmer. Continue cooking until rice has absorbed the water and chicken is cooked through. Add frozen veggies and the last two cups of water. Cover again and cook until veggies are soft and additional water has been absorbed.

Using a potato masher, smash ingredients into a more homogeneous mixture, not fine puree, but more to a consistency of chunky soup or lumpy mashed potatoes.

Let cool before serving alone or mixed in with kibble. Portion out leftovers into individual containers and store in the fridge until next feeding. Always consult your vet before changing feeding regimen.

Columnist | Relationships

I am right and you are wrong?

How often have you thought or felt that you were right and the other person was wrong?

It is perhaps one of the most common traps that causes disconnection and conflict in relationships. Although I am familiar with this trap, I had an interesting experience while visiting my dad in Switzerland this summer. An experience that clearly illustrates the truth of the following: Everyone is right from their own perspective.

My dad had recently moved into an apartment for elders and asked me to help him hang some of his treasures from Africa on a wall. Since he is not allowed to put any nails into the walls himself, he wanted me to play with the display on the floor, then make a drawing afterwards for the maintenance man. We were sitting about three feet apart when he told me where I should place the items on the floor. I put an object down and sat back on my chair, before I placed the next one on the floor. When all the items were arranged, I again sat back on my chair.

We looked at the final display, and he pointed out that the fly chaser, an object with an animal tail, needed to be turned more to the left. I first insisted that the way I had put it down was correct. But my dad was not at all happy and continued to say that I was wrong. I decided that it was not worth getting into an argument with my 88-year-old father, whom I only see once a year, about who was right and who was wrong. In order to disperse the tension and feel emotionally closer again, I instinctively moved my chair next to him.

Only when I was sitting right next to him, did I understand what had just happened. We were both right. From where he was sitting, the way he wanted the object placed looked correct. From where I had been sitting, three feet away, it looked correct as well. We were both right from our different perspectives. We laughed about it in the end, and my dad now has everything up on his wall exactly the way he wanted it. He is happy and so am I.

This story demonstrates how easily we can get into fights about the question, who is right and who is wrong. It also shows that fighting about who is right and who is wrong is useless. We would be much better off to remember to "put our chairs" next to one another, so we can see the things in front of us from the same point of view. Another possibility is to put ourselves into the other person's position, to see how things look from their perspective. This can make all the difference in the world, and our relationships would benefit greatly. Until next month.....

Doris Wier is a certified life and relationship coach who works and lives in Willits. She coaches individuals, couples and teachers, and also offers Explore-Shops on conflict resolution in partnerships. Info: 456-9246 or www.embraceconflicts.com

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GMO

The rest of Tax-sharing | From Page 1

only candidate for Third District Supervisor present at the meeting, said: "I think if we can welcome new businesses without trying to woo them, we will all benefit."

Opponents of a tax-sharing agreement, including incumbent Third District Supervisor John Pinches, view any compact as a net loss to the county.

Pinches believes the county gains more from having lands, businesses and industries that lie outside Ukiah, yet within its sphere of influence, under county jurisdiction, rather giving them to Ukiah and receiving only a portion of their tax revenues.

After naming a number of service losses sustained by Third District outlying areas in recent years, Pinches said any net loss in revenue to the county would mean those outlying districts would be hit again. "This is not about money, it's about services," he said.

Pinches' sentiments were echoed by Baldwin, who argued a tax-sharing agreement may be little more than a chimera. Baldwin said there had been little interest in the issue among his constituents, and noted the night meeting was sparsely attended by the public.

"And yet tonight we hear this drumbeat: 'Get it done. Get it done.' Why?" he asked. "Where is all this pressure coming from?"

"The City of Ukiah cannot jump into an agreement that would guarantee a reduction of services in the city," Baldwin said.

The situation is made more complex by recognizing the City of Ukiah plans to annex some portion of county land lying north of the city. That annexation has been in the works for some time, and only needs an agreement on sharing property taxes to move forward.

The property tax agreement is not part of the tax-sharing agreement under discussion by the ad hoc committee. Therefore, the portion of sales tax revenue under discussion is, in effect, a gift to the county, a case of getting something rather than nothing.

A tax-sharing agreement between the county and the city would mean the two entities would agree to stop competing with each other to attract new businesses and industries to their respective jurisdictions.

Instead, some portion of the county's former revenue would go to the city, and some portion of the city's new revenue to the county.

The most difficult aspect of the agreement is that both entities must benefit and the net benefit for both parties must be more than that which would result from doing nothing.

Depending on what shape the final agreement takes, at issue is the potential for sharing as much as \$6.1 million, or as little as nothing.

Total sales tax revenues for the unincorporated area surrounding Ukiah will be \$1.6 million for 2013. Total

The rest of Water | From Page 1

sales tax revenues for Ukiah will be \$4.5 million for the same year. If the final agreement stipulates that both Ukiah and the county divide sales tax revenues for both the city and unincorporated areas, \$6.1 million would be split in some way.

However, it is likely the dividend will be much smaller. It could be the final agreement will stipulate that only sales tax from a portion of the unincorporated area will be shared. That would put only about \$1 million at issue.

Or the potential pact could say only sales tax revenues from new businesses in the unincorporated area would be subject to the agreement. In that case, the amount of money put up for grabs could be very small, or even nothing, if no new businesses locate in the agreed-upon area.

Mendocino County Counsel Thomas Parker outlined the areas of the compact yet to be agreed upon, including which year will be selected as the base year and what the formula for dividing up the dividend will be.

Both sides have yet to agree on a "make whole" provision, which would guarantee that if one party did not earn its full base-year tax increment, the other party would fund it up to the base-year revenues.

Both sides also have yet to agree on a "Costco addendum," which would exempt Costco tax revenues from being part of the tax-sharing agreement, for an undetermined period of time.

Both sides have yet to agree on a "poison pill" agreement, which would prohibit the county from changing the land-use designations in the areas subject to the agreement.

Theoretically, this portion of the agreement would prevent the county from prohibiting growth or new industry from locating in the area under discussion, which could render the agreement both pointless and onerous to the city.

"I think virtually everything is up for negotiation," McCowen said.

Ukiah businessman Ross Liberty urged the joint committee to reach an agreement. "This is not a zero sum game between the city and county," Liberty said.

"It is actually a zero sum game between the city and the county on the one hand, and corporate America on the other."

According to Liberty, it is the businesses and developers who site, build and operate huge stores and mega-malls, who benefit from the lack of a county-city tax-sharing agreement.

The rest of Teachers | From Page 5

have a much better treatment plan when work being done to upgrade the water treatment facility is completed.

City Engineer Tom Mannatt told the council his staff is working to support ongoing work at the plant.

"We are going to be working on that throughout the winter," Mannatt said.

Councilman Bruce Burton said he wanted to know if the problem required a second opinion. "I need something to get a foothold on," Burton said. "Otherwise I do not think I can be very helpful in the process."

Mayor Holly Madrigal said a decision to contact an expert could be recommended by an ad-hoc committee.

Also at the water plant, city staff has begun pursuing voluntary testing under the guidance of CDPH for blue-green algae.

At present there is not a blue-green algae standard in the U.S. - no required testing - but blue-green algae is currently on the EPA's watch list, the city says.

Councilman Ron Orenstein, a Philadelphian, recalled the Delaware River water supply of the Pennsylvania city.

"If you can survive that, you can survive anything - to put it into perspective," Orenstein said.

It was a summer of yucky water for Willits, and in August the city responded to complaints that its water tasted bad and smelled, in the words of some townsfolk, like pond water.

The city explained the poor taste and odor coming from the tap was due to an algae bloom sparked by low reservoir levels and high temperatures at the time.

The city tests water several times per week and reports test results to the CDPH.

The rest of Candidates | From Page 1

Chris Neary: The bond issue was improvident in that it relied upon ascending property values in the middle of a recession and locked the district in for the life of the loan. I was not on the board at the time, but I believe it was reasonable for those who were on the board at that time to rely upon the financial advisor.

Cynthia Carni: The bond scenario is hopefully getting some answers and resolution. A very slow, difficult time for our community and the board, with many factors contributing, but yet we did get some much-needed infrastructure and physical spaces that have improved each site. It is a very complicated problem that I have witnessed since the beginning, when I was appointed to the school board to replace a departing member.

Question 3: Labor: The school district and the Willits Teachers Association are now in "fact-finding" for the first time in many years, regarding the district's plan to cut five days from the school year to help balance the budget. Do you agree that cutting five days from the school year is the best or only way to resolve budgetary difficulties at this time?

Laurie Harris: Our students cannot afford to lose another five days, period. Two or three years ago they lost five instruction days, and I do not agree this is the way to resolve the budget issues.

Chris Neary: Reduction in the school year is the best way to balance the budget, but is not in of itself a desirable thing because it reduces teacher compensation and reduces the educational opportunity for students. Because salaries constitute the largest budget item by a wide margin, reduction has to start with salaries. Of all the ways to reduce salaries, school year reduction is the most preferable, because it defers the reduction to the end of school year, so it can be reevaluated before being imposed, as the variables of income such as average daily attendance and scope of additional state funding are known, while straight layoffs would have their effect even if revenue improves over projections. In other words, school year reduction, even if recognized contractually, is avoidable, while layoffs are not.

Cynthia Carni: Union negotiations are a very politically powered part of the district and education, and a process I have learned much about. Our district's unions have historically been at polar ends of the facts, how/why we see it, to spend and work for the interests of the teachers, where the district places the student foremost. The district also is responsible for

seeing the whole picture, as an employer. Due to our dire straits in finances, I see the negotiated five days as necessary, not ideal. It is the least amount needed to get a balanced, live-within-our-means budget that the County Office of Education approves.

Bob Harper: If you look at that question in isolation, it's never good to take five days away from the kids. But if cutting five days means you can keep classes at a reasonable size or not cut the pay of employees, it seems like a good trade-off, reducing by five days to save \$230,000 to \$250,000 a year.

Question 4: Common Core: Do you have a comment on the new Common Core standards?

Chris Neary: I am troubled by central tinkering with standards, because it causes commotion and the tangible benefits are not certain. Differing standards precludes effective performance comparisons. In any event, the new standards are not optional for the district.

Cynthia Carni: Implementing Common Core standards is an exciting time in education reform: the standards are to measure and ensure each student has the necessary skills for success in life. I see the focus on the depth of knowledge necessary to understand key principles that will guide future learning. This depth, along with global benchmarking, ensures that our students measure and compete against the best from around the world. The school board should provide leadership to ensure the necessary breathing room for success throughout the process, support our teachers with the resources necessary to implement the new teaching regime, and lead in educating the public on these dramatic and systemic changes.

Bob Harper: I've been an educator for 42 years. I've been an elementary school and upper-grade classroom teacher, a principal and a superintendent in Napa County. After my wife and I retired to Mendocino County, I taught basic math and beginning algebra for 10 years at Mendocino College. I have a life credential for teaching K-14 from the state of California and a life credential for administrative services. I have a BA in psychology and child development and a master's degree in education, school administration.

Laurie Harris: I am a parent and a volunteer. I've had three students in the school district for the last 11 years. I've volunteered on campus each week with each of my children. I've worked as an aide, both regular and special ed, in the Willits schools, as well as driving all of my kids and their teammates to their sporting events, which I can honestly say has been one of my greatest joys. I have been a police dispatcher and a senior center bus driver; I've done in-home health care; and I am a compassionate straightforward person, who believes in a common-sense humorous approach to life.

Chris Neary: I am a graduate of the Willits school system. I have been a lawyer for 38 years, and I am actively engaged in ranching. I served on the school board from 1980 to 1992. I came back on to the board last November because I believe that the school district is facing a crisis due to unanticipated results of the 2010 bond measure.

Question 6: Other: Any other comments?

Chris Neary: I believe we will find a way through all of the financial problems facing the district. Attendance is increasing through improvement in the economy and heroic efforts by the teachers and administrators.

Bob Harper: What I hope for our school system is that all students are so strong academically, and so well-prepared, they will truly have a choice of whether to go to college or pursue some other dream, and can be successful on either of these paths.

Johnston said 85 percent of the district's budget goes to salaries, and also noted teachers had been able to earn back three of the five days proposed to be cut through paid "professional development days" in August, paid for by funds in a restricted account that could only be used for that purpose.

Johnston said the district was very pleased that enrollment was up at all school sites this fall, and that attendance has continued to be "extremely strong" in the district: meaning more ADA (average daily attendance) funds will flow into Willits schools.

"The outcome of this year will be determined on attendance and monitoring the budget," Johnson said, "and whatever we can take for furlough days will help us through the rest of the year."

The plan is that needed furlough days will be taken in the final week of school, Johnson said, and although education takes place every day at Willits schools: "It is winding down at the end of the school year," she said.

Finally, Johnson said: "We actually have cut administrative costs across the district. We've saved a ballpark figure of \$60,000 over last year's budget in administration."

The principals, who've added days of work, "are also wearing multiple hats," Johnson said. "If we were short in one area," Johnson said, "it's in administration. It's a concern to me that I make sure we have administrative support at all the school sites. Right now there is a lack of support."

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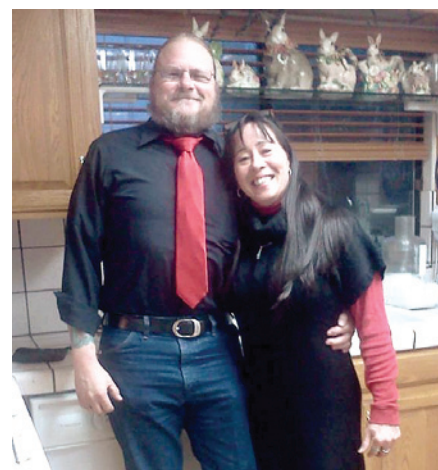
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Congratulations Column



Engaged
Rich & Kim

Congratulations to Rich Venturi and Kim Chin on their recently announced engagement. Both families are very happy about the union. They will make their combined home in Willits.

Back in the Air

Right: The view behind Shell Lane and Redwood Meadows senior housing, looking west across the construction.

Below: Looking northwest over East Valley Road and the Shuster's trucking yards. Cement pads delineate where the columns will sit for the elevated portion of the freeway.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Willits Weekly took another aerial look at the Willits bypass route, thanks to Table Bluff Helicopters, on Saturday, the day of the "Take a Stand for the Willits Wetlands" Rally



Above: Julia "Butterfly" Hill, famous for her two-year-long tree-sit in Headwaters Forest, and (right) Priscilla Hunter, one of the founders of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, address the crowd at the rally. Photos by Ree Slocum



2nd Birthday
Grady Fonsen

Happy 2nd birthday Grady Fonsen! We love you! ♥mom & dad dad. Grady celebrated his birthday on October 11.



Happy Birthday
Jennifer Poole

Happy Birthday to Willits Weekly editor Jennifer Poole who was born on October 17, 1955, in Boston, Massachusetts. Poole celebrated birthdays in Marblehead and Beverly, Massachusetts; in York, Farmington and Ogunquit, Maine; in the Florida Keys, and in Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose, California, before moving to Willits in 1992. Salutations and good wishes (and newspaper subscriptions?) will happily be accepted Thursday, October 17 at the Willits Farmers Market from 3 to 6 pm.



Above: Participants at Saturday's rally form a circle for a healing ceremony on the wick drain area of the Willits bypass. After negotiations, Caltrans agreed to give rallyers access to the bypass route for the ceremony. Photo by Ree Slocum



Above: left: The south end of the bypass construction, looking north up the route. The current freeway shows in the bottom left corner of the image. Right: The north end of the bypass construction, looking south. 101 shows just to the left of the tree line at the right side of the image. Photos by Maureen Moore

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Trivia

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