

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Thanks for social media

To the Editor:

There are very few words which could adequately express my sincere appreciation for the thousands of "virtual officers" who helped us yesterday and today. Social media was the key to success in the safe recovery of the missing Brooktrails child. So many people helped spread the word. Thank you, thank you and thank you. I don't know how Matt Dillon and Festus were able to do their jobs without social media! I thank every one of you who helped get the word out. You are truly appreciated.

Thanks also to Brooktrails Fire. Your tenacity and dedication is very appreciated. And I thank the hundreds of first responders that helped Mendocino County in our time of need.

Sheriff Tom Allman, Willits

Editor's Note: The "Mendocino Sheriff" page on Facebook – www.facebook.com/MendocinoSheriff – is an invaluable resource in any time of crisis. A reminder: You do not have to be a member of Facebook to read the posts on the public "Mendocino Sheriff" page!

Big conflict/great concern

To the Editor:

Outlet Creek is a tributary of the Eel River and part of our "watershed" (rivers, creeks in our area are interconnected in important ways). Many of you know the area along Covelo Road and the great swimming holes there.

In the 1970s a lumber mill on the bank just above the creek on Covelo Rd (about 14 miles north of Willits) transitioned to a gravel-making plant. Unfortunately in 2009/10 the county re-zoned the area from rangeland to industrial.

Currently there is a fight going on, a big one. Some neighbors are actually fighting for their own health and ability to continue living in their homes now that the plant has been permitted to produce asphalt by a resolution that was passed by our board of supervisors this year.

This allowed Grist Creek Aggregates and Mercer-Fraser to start producing asphalt for local roadway projects. We were told this was a cost-saving and job-producing way to obtain asphalt without having to go to other counties for it. Sounds great, except this was done without a full (CEQA) review on possible impacts to the surrounding humans, animals, water, air: a risky gamble.

The site is located on a 100-year-flood plain and, over the years, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has spent over \$2,000,000 in salmon restoration to improve the habitat.

Apparently after seeking legal counsel, the county rescinded their decision (further protecting taxpayers from lawsuits?). The plant is now cranking out rubberized asphalt, which brings with it significant exhaust when the plant is in production (they are currently working on a Caltrans project north of Willits) and thin brownish layers that settle into the long narrow creek valley, noxious odors, and reports of other health-related problems.

I have driven to the site several times to see for myself and have also talked with residents there.

This is not how neighbors treat neighbors. Cheaper asphalt – great. But at what other expenses?

Friends of Outlet Creek is asking the community for help to protect the Outlet Creek watershed with a more thorough investigation. Financial donations can be sent to Friends of Outlet Creek c/o 650 Main Street, Willits 95490 and inquiries about donations can be made to wece@

sbcglobal.net, with the topic line: Outlet Creek.

There is a five-minute YouTube video called "Industrial Nightmare on Outlet Creek" that you can watch at www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqDCIYmMQM, and you also visit www.facebook.com/susan.crews.77715 to see what YOU think about this.

May the creek never flood, and may industrial fire never reach the woodlands there.

Kate Black, Willits

Burn ban still in effect

To the editor:

The Little Lake Fire Department must again remind everyone that the burn ban is still in effect in Mendocino County, and much of California. We will not be issuing permits until the burn ban is lifted.

It will take several significant rains before the ban against open burning will be lifted.

There is still a high danger of uncontrolled fires within most of the County of Mendocino. We welcome the respite the recent showers have given us, but this precipitation is not enough to increase the fuel moisture in the larger fuel models.

Thank you for your continued actions against accidental fires.

Carl Magann, fire chief,
Little Lake Fire Department



Above and below: "WILDFIRE" presentation at Little Lake Grange.

Wildfires

To the Editor:

The Now and Then Film Series and Little Lake Grange gives a heartfelt thank you to our local emergency agencies for their time and energy to give a great "WILDFIRE" presentation last night at the Grange in Willits.

Over 50 people attended the WILDFIRE film and preparedness panel organized by Richard Jergenson.

Six members of Cal Fire were available to answer questions at their well-stocked table of emergency information. The discussion panel was led by Russel Lang from Cal Fire, Fire Chief Daryl Schoeppner of Brooktrails Fire Department, and Phil Hoover from Mendocino National Forest.

Peter Norris spoke about CERT and invited citizens to take part in a training as emergency neighborhood helpers.



A basic set of emergency supplies was presented and a list made available from Marilyn Boosinger, who has a "Grab and Go - 72 hour pack" ready at all times.

Trina Johnson, a survivor of the Valley Fire, gave us a slide show and her stories of the post-burn area in Lake County. She lost her house and a dog to the fire.

Thank you, Trina, for your generosity to the people of Willits, sharing with us your story that we might learn without experiencing loss.

We collected \$200 for donation to the Valley Fire fund; thanks to all who attended and gave generously.

Everyone, please pass Cal Fire wildfire and emergency information and experiences on to your neighbors. Let's be safe together!

Annie Waters, Little Lake Grange president



Above: Junior Girl Scout Troop #10457 paints pumpkins. Below: Some of the finished creations.

Happy Hallowe'en

To the Editor:

Our Junior Girl Scout Troop, # 10457, painted pumpkins for Linda Matz to put in her store, Cat's Meow, to coincide with the Hometown Festival and Hallowe'en. The girls chose the designs, and worked in pairs to create the faces with acrylic paint. Look for them in the front windows of the store.

Ann Maglente, Willits



Above: Round Valley Elementary students have a salmon parade with a banner brought over by Laytonville Elementary School students.

At right: Ron Lincoln, Sr., right, sings a traditional song accompanied by his granddaughter Hazel, and wife, Jacquelyn, to bless the gathering and the community before the salmon feed.



Salmon Awareness Festival

Innovation and tradition at 2nd annual education day in Round Valley

By Pat Higgins, Eel River Recovery Project

The Eel River Recovery Project partnered with the Round Valley Indian Tribes to host the 2nd annual Round Valley Salmon Awareness Festival on Saturday, October 17, under the old growth oak tree canopy at Hidden Oaks Park in Covelo. The Saturday public education event was preceded by an education day at Round Valley Elementary School, where experts presented to students.

The outdoor education fair included new posters and handouts regarding agricultural best practices in the Eel River watershed, and experts were on hand for discussion and presentations. Soil productivity specialist Noah Cornell did a compost tea demonstration, which is a way to inoculate soils with microbes that feed plants. If you have a large garden area and limited access to organic material to make compost, you can use a small amount of compost to make a large volume of tea.

Anna Birkas of Village Ecosystems was on hand to talk to people about farm management that conserves resources, avoids waste and even enhances the amount of water stored in the ground and available to streams as base flow during summer. She talked with attendees about roof rain water catchment, installation of greywater systems, and how to avoid concentrating water flow where it drains from rural properties or roads.

Information tables for other Eel River Recovery Project projects included water temperature, flow, algae and fish monitoring. Jeff Hedin, who chairs the ERRP Wilderness Committee, was on hand to discuss plans for expanding wilderness in the East Branch South Fork Eel River. ERRP is facilitating purchase and transfer of a 4,000-acre parcel with old growth conifers and high biodiversity from private hands to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for eventual inclusion as wilderness. Efforts are underway to have the East Branch South Fork designated as a "Wild and Scenic River," so further similar transfers can be facilitated. Protecting these areas in wilderness will prevent their development, protect clean water supplies, and provide refugia for fish and wildlife. For more information, or to learn about field trips, call Hedin at 707-247-3030.

The traditional salmon feed was Read the rest of **Salmon** | Over on Page 4

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

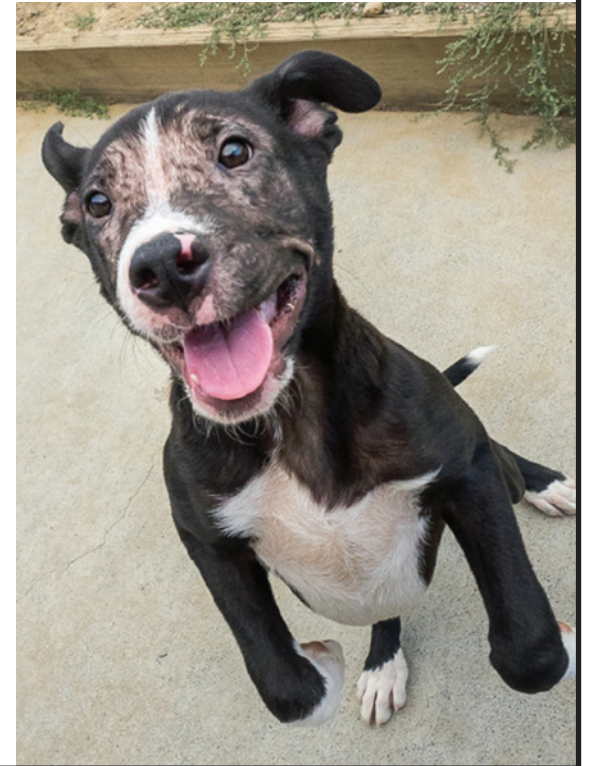
Sociable Sox

Sox is a 5-month-old neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 35 pounds. Sox is very excited about ... EVERYTHING!!!! The world! The people! The other dogs! Everything makes this adorable guy happy! And it's very hard not to find yourself in a great mood in his company. What a great gift for his forever family! Sox is very social and would be an incredible addition to a home with playful kids. He definitely needs a home where he gets lots of exercise and activity as well as love. He is also a baby and will need training and patience to learn the rules of the world and good manners. Please be sure you have the time and energy to raise a puppy.

Sox has a non-contagious skin condition which is being treated. High-quality food and proper grooming should clear up any symptoms.

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

Photo by Rod Coats



Pretty Fancy awaits her new home. Photo by Sage Mountainfire

Cats, Cats, Cats

Ukiah shelter will waive adoption fees November 6 and 7

2015 has been the Year of the Cat at Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency Animal Care Services. Between May 1 and October 15 of this year, 622 kittens and cats have entered the Ukiah shelter. This is 110 more than last year for the same time period.

To celebrate the abundant furry little bundles of joy, we are offering a unique adoption opportunity called "Feline Freedom." On Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7, every spayed and neutered kitten and cat may go to their forever homes with all adoption fees waived.

All regular adoption policies will be in effect, but the normal fees are waived. An example of a policy condition for adoption of cats is: If you rent your home, you must have written permission from your landlord to own a feline. If you have a dog and live in Mendocino County, your dog must be current on their license.

The goal of the shelter staff is to have every kitten/cat currently at the shelter go to their forever families during this event. If you've been considering a feline for your family, this is the perfect opportunity. There are plenty to choose from, and the need is great.

All felines are spayed/neutered, have age-appropriate vaccines, are tested for Félv/FIV, are microchipped, and come with a cardboard cat carrier. They also come with a free wellness exam at a local participating veterinarian.

The Animal Care Services shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours for this event on November 6 and 7 will be 10 am to 4 pm.

We hope to see you soon to adopt one of our fabulous felines!!

And, if you are a current cat owner, please spay/neuter your pet to help us keep the population down and our shelter less occupied. Thank you for your help.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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Willits, CA 95490
willitsweekly@gmail.com
www.willitsweekly.com
707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / jennifer@willitsweekly.com / 707-459-2633
Maureen Moore, art director and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047
Mike A'Dair, reporter / mike@willitsweekly.com
Jenny Senter, features writer / jenny@willitsweekly.com
Damian Sebouhian, reporter / damian@willitsweekly.com
Rachel Belvin, assistant publisher and advertising / rachel@willitsweekly.com / 707-367-9319

Justin Stephens, webmaster
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\$30,000 in restitution ordered for Branscomb pot grow

Two men convicted of trespassing on private timber company land in the Branscomb area in order to cultivate almost 2,000 marijuana plants will have to pay \$30,000 for the environmental damage caused by the illegal grow, Superior Court Judge Cindee Mayfield ruled October 9.

Clemente Flores, 36, and Refugio Perez Hernandez, 31, both formerly of Healdsburg, were previously sentenced to 16 months in county jail.

On Friday Mendocino County ordered that the two defendants be jointly and severally responsible for \$30,009.25 in environmental damages.

District Attorney David Eyster said he expects Flores and Hernandez will be deported to Mexico after they've completed serving their sentences, and doubts the timber company "will ever see a dime" of restitution.

However, he added, his office will nevertheless "continue to seek restitution for environmental damages in these types of cases.

"I can't be assured these men won't be back in this country sometime down the road," Eyster said, "so I wanted a restitution order in place, one that includes interest at the legal rate of 10 percent per annum, just in case one of them does return and hits the Lotto."

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

Dog blamed for Covelo man's arrest

A 50-year-old Covelo man was arrested October 16 at 9:35 am after he allegedly fired two shotgun blasts in the parking lot of a preschool in the 76000 block on High School Street in Covelo.

Gabriel Alejandro Ferreira allegedly had shot twice at a dog that had killed his chickens at a nearby residence, sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten explained. The dog was not injured and fled the area, deputies reported.

"There were no children in Ferreira's immediate presence at the time of the incident," Van Patten said, "and no damage to school property was noted."

Ferreira was arrested on suspicion of recklessly discharging a firearm and possession of a firearm on school grounds.

He was booked into county jail, where he is being held in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

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



Above: Anna Birkas of Village Ecosystems discusses watershed-conscious property management with Salmon Awareness Festival attendees.

Left: Eel River Recovery Project Wilderness Committee Chair Jeff Hedin, right, talks to Salmon Awareness Festival attendees about wilderness protection and expansion in the Eel River basin.

The rest of Salmon | From Page 3

the highlight on Saturday, with fresh salmon from the mouth of the Klamath River cooked on sticks surrounding an open pit. Also on the menu was corn, homemade beans, Indian fry bread and squash. Round Valley Tribal elder Ron Lincoln, Sr. gave an opening prayer and then sang songs with his granddaughter Hazel, and wife, Jacquelyn. The purpose of the songs was in part to bring on the rains that will bring the salmon home to Round Valley.

The education day at Round Valley Elementary School included a visit from Laytonville Elementary School students, who brought their textile arts salmon banner to share. Kindergarten through second grade students paraded around the school yard as a salmon run, while other students played vibraphones to create the sound of rain and running water. The project leader and textile artist, Dorje Bond, came with the students as did Laytonville Principal Lorre Stang.

Students also learned about aquatic insects, sediment in streams, traditional ecological knowledge, and water conservation, and watched underwater videos of Eel River fishes. ERRP has received a Mendocino County Fish and Game Advisory Commission grant to help teachers at Round Valley Elementary teach about salmon and river ecology. Students will take field trips and become involved in monitoring the nearby Middle Fork of the Eel River. Anyone wishing to assist with Round Valley Elementary School projects can call Bruce Hilbach-Barger at 983-6169.

For more information and access to additional educational materials, see www.EelRiverRecovery.org.



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Beautiful Roxanne

A benefit raffle by local 'Ruthie's Doll Museum' group

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

A group of Willits residents is working on opening "Ruthie's Doll Museum & Tea House" in Willits next year. The museum will house the doll collection of Ruth Boyd, whose son, Dave Parmenter, is one of the project organizers.

Ruth Boyd's collection included German and French bisque dolls, historical dolls (portraying true-to-life scenes), international dolls, handmade artisan dolls and Native American dolls.

Two weeks ago, the group had an invitational Tea Party at the Brooktrails home of Kathy Gassen, to spread the word and to recruit volunteers. One special guest was Bea from Santa Rosa, an 88-year-old Santa Rosa dollmaker whose home is "full of dolls," said Cat Lober, one of the museum group. "Bea still works on three dolls a week," Lober said.

The group has had support from other doll museums and antique doll enthusiasts. "Women in their 80s and 90s like antique dolls, and they want to keep them in collections and display them in museums," Lober said.

Bea is facing some medical bills, and the group decided to raffle off a beautiful contemporary doll dressed in luxurious historic costume, Roxanne, to help Bea out.



Above: The Stylist owner Nicole Suttles holds the beautiful Roxanne. Left: Roxanne in her winter gown.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

Nicole Suttles of The Stylist Hair Salon offered to display Roxanne and sell raffle tickets in her shop on 245 South Humboldt Street. The raffle for Roxanne will take place Thursday, December 10 at noon at the salon. Suttles also plans a holiday open house that day.

So far raffle sales are going very well. Roxanne is dressed in a dark brown velvet winter gown, with metallic embroidery, a pearl belt and collar, a dramatic brooch, and a sable stole wrapped around her shoulders. Her



coppery chestnut hair compliments her blue eyes and her "speaking" expression. Roxanne's hat is adorned with a yellow rose, feathers and pearls. "She's a little angel," Suttles said, "gracing my shop."

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



Above: Stan Watts, left, his son Daniel Watts, and helper John Green, right, work to finish the installation Monday afternoon.

The completed statues and plaque at the new Howard Hospital site.

Photos by Maureen Moore

The rest of Statues | From Page 1

The most important thing is the meeting of their eyes."

Both Howard and Babcock were instrumental in founding the original Frank R. Memorial Hospital, which has been in operation since 1928. Howard believed that his young son, Frank, who was critically injured in an auto accident on Ridgewood Ranch, might have survived the accident if there had been a local hospital. Dr. Babcock and a group of local citizens encouraged Howard to donate "the tremendous sum" of \$30,000 to help start the construction of a hospital in memory of his son.

Jann Lamprich, executive director of the Howard Foundation, who worked with Dr. Babcock years ago, said both men would be proud of the new hospital

and the effort the Willits community has put into getting it built.

"I think Dr. Babcock would be proud," she said. "He was really proud of the old hospital, and I think he would've been delighted that so many in the community helped this time, too, with their own donations and dedication and volunteering.

"And I think Mr. Howard would be proud, too. It's really his legacy for Frank that we're carrying on, and if it wasn't for those two guys, we wouldn't be doing it." Lamprich also singled out orthopedic surgeon Dr. William Bowen for his vision for a new 21st century Howard Hospital. "Dr. Bowen kept us focused on doing that, he was the big pusher, and it came to pass. And the Adventists have stepped up to the plate, and it's just wonderful."

Watts is known for his historical bronze sculptures,

as well as custom work, including previous statues of Seabiscuit. His work with the legendary - and popular - racehorse, Watts is proud to say, has led to other work, including a piece called "To Lift A Nation," with 22-foot firemen installed at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Maryland, and the second statue of two he has done of Abraham Lincoln, this one placed where Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, in Gettysburg.

Watts is working to complete another statue for the new hospital site, a version of the "Frankie and the Puppies" painting hanging at Howard Hospital. "I'm currently working on a 1.5 times life-size Seabiscuit vs. War Admiral piece, of the race," Watts said. "My intention is to finish it at Ridgewood Ranch this coming year. I'm building it there, where Seabiscuit is buried."

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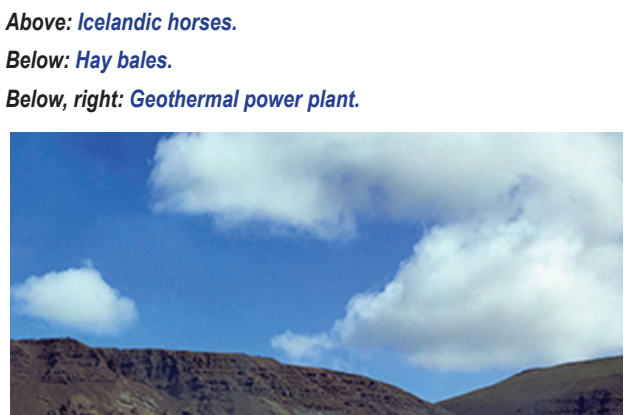
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Above, left: Waterfalls abound.

Above, right: The Land of Fire and Ice.

At left: Geothermal heat keeps streets snow- and ice-free.

At left, below: Velvety moss carpet.

Photos by Leon Springer

Leon Springer
Contributing Writer

erupted since the country was settled by seafaring Vikings around 900 A.D.

Over time, the foot-deep layer of accumulated lava and ash from those eruptions has turned to rich, fertile soil that supports incredibly productive farms along the southern coast and vast areas of lush, vibrant moss. Often, the fine ash is transported great distances on the prevailing winds, as happened in 2010 when Mount Eyjafjallajökull erupted for three weeks, carrying ash throughout Europe and disrupting international air travel.

Located in the north Atlantic, Iceland represents the largest exposed portion of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a submarine fault line that forms the earth's largest mountain chain and the source of the region's unusually frequent volcanic activity. We went to one of the few places on earth where you can stand on the exposed fault a hundred feet below the edges of two tectonic plates and see the actively spreading ridge. It was truly an OMG moment.

Across the interior of the country, the steam that pours from the geothermal vents dotting the mountainsides and the fresh water from glacial melt is used to raise sheep, cattle, pigs, and grow crops. The availability of these

Iceland: Land of fire and ice

(and so much water!)

This summer my wife, Nancy, and I had the good fortune to spend two weeks in Iceland, the incredible "Land of Fire and Ice." In stark contrast to the drought-stricken western United States, where we live, Iceland almost appears to have more water than they can handle. We should all have such problems!

In Reykjavik, the world's northernmost capital, we joined a fabulous tour that took in the glaciers, waterfalls, hot springs, and off-shore icebergs. We also visited farms, black beaches, and puffin preserves that exist side by side with the more than 200 volcanoes in Iceland's active zone, 30 of which have

natural resources is what makes seasonal commercial outdoor agriculture both possible and profitable for Iceland's farmers. Everywhere we went, fields of hay were being baled for use as livestock feed during the long winter months. Geothermal steam is often used to disinfect the soil and warm water employed to irrigate crops in the spring while the weather is still quite cool. This is Iceland, after all.

In addition to outdoor farming, greenhouses and high tunnels – heated and powered by geothermal energy – ensure a year-round supply of vegetables, such as tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers, as well as flowers and other potted plants. Indoors, it is common to use inert growing media (volcanic scoria, a dark colored igneous rock or rhyolite, volcanic rock containing silica) on concrete floors with individual plants watered using drip irrigation.

Geothermal water is also used to heat 90 percent of Iceland's households, providing very inexpensive hot water and electricity for its citizens. Many of the geothermal power plants we saw not only send power to the cities but enable greenhouses to extend their growing season with electric lighting. After heating homes and commercial buildings, the returning geothermal waste water is used to heat streets, sidewalks, and parking areas. Very progressive indeed.

Despite its cool climate and short growing season, Iceland's northern latitude has certain advantages for agriculture, allowing a variety of food crops such as potatoes, turnips, carrots, cabbage, kale and cauliflower to grow. The lack of insect pests meant that the use of agrochemicals, including insecticides and herbicides, is very low and the long hours of daylight in the cool summer allow feed grasses to grow exceptionally well. Low pollution levels, due to the country's sparse population, has also been capitalized upon by a growing organic farming sector.

For more on Iceland's fishing, seaweed harvesting, progressive politics, hot springs and glaciers, read the rest of "Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice" on Dripworks' Mainline blog here: <http://www.dripworks.blogspot.com>.



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Prop. 172 sales tax initiative and general fund revenues."

Prop. 172 funds were intended to backfill property tax revenues lost by California counties, cities and special districts to the state-controlled Education Revenue Augmentation Fund, or ERAF.

Those losses came about as the result of the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, which capped California property taxes and sharply diminished the revenues local governments had to provide services.

ERAF allowed the state Legislature to reallocate property tax revenues among local governments, and in the midst of the 1991-92 recession, the Legislature exercised that power to take property taxes to fund the state's obligation to support schools.

County fire districts need the Prop. 172 monies, MCAFD claims, because "the volunteer fire services model, as currently funded and staffed, is "no longer working or appropriate for [around-the-clock] first-responder commitments."

Twenty-one rural fire districts are spread over an area of 3,500 square miles in Mendocino County. Together, they serve more than 86,000 residents. CalFire shares local responsibility in some areas.

The districts provide fire and emergency services with mostly volunteer staff supported, in some cases, by paid professional firefighters. But many small districts, the association says, are 100 percent volunteer staffed.

Some rural fire districts provide ambulance services as well. Those services, according to MCAFD, are "staffed almost exclusively by volunteers."

While the county reimburses fire districts for costs incurred when answering out-of-district calls, it provides no funding for operational fire services, medical-aid response or emergency services, even though supervisors "can allocate any amount of funding for fire and emergency services in any given budget year," the association says.

In fact, MCAFD claims, the county "is required to provide the same level of funding for fire services that existed prior to 1993 and the passage of Proposition 172." Additionally, the county must replace any funds diverted from local fire districts as a result of ERAF.

Monies raised by the one-half-cent statewide sales tax hike were to be used to augment county public safety organization funds – for instance, fire districts, the sheriff's office, the district attorney's office, the probation department, and the county jail. None of the Proposition 172 monies "were to be diverted to the county general fund as a result of the passage of the statute."

However, the association charges, "the language of Prop. 172 was ignored immediately by the county, and previous public safety funding was diverted directly to the general fund."

Mendocino County's Public Protection budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 was \$55,414,922, including \$6.7 million in Prop. 172 tax revenue the county received for "public safety." None of that money found its way to fire districts or emergency medical service providers, the association charges.

In addition, the association claims, the 2014-2015 final budget included almost \$71.4 million in discretionary revenue mostly from local property and sales tax revenues. That revenue, the association says, "is unencumbered and undesignated revenue which has not been reserved for any special purpose, nor set aside for any specific program. It is not restricted by legal or contractual requirements."

Nearly half of discretionary revenue is appropriated to public safety, according to MCAFD.

Public Safety receives \$35 million of its \$55.4 million from special tax revenue, with the sheriff's office taking the lion's share, about \$11.9 million, and the county jail a little more than \$9 million.

The district attorney and public

interview area hospital emergency room staff, law enforcement staff, jail staff, county mental health staff, and staff and management from Ortnr Management Group and Redwood Community Services, the two mental health providers hired by the county in 2013 when the county privatized mental health services delivery.

Since the inception of privatization in May 2013, the county's mental health system has continued to be a topic of concern among patients, families of patients, law enforcement staff, and local government officials.

The service delivery system has been troubled by an array of failures and setbacks, including the difficulties Ortnr Management Group had with opening an adult crisis center on the coast and problems Mendocino County had with opening a mental health court on the coast.

In addition, in late 2014 the county received an audit exception, or invoice, from the State of California totaling \$3.7 million, claiming the county's mental health department had submitted inaccurate billing statements for the years 2007 through 2010. In July 2015, supervisors narrowly approved a contract extension for Ortnr Management Group, with Second District Supervisor John McCowen and Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde voting "no."

Last month, the county announced it was removing responsibility for the management of the Mental Health Division from Health and Human Services Agency Assistant Director Tom Pinizzotto, while retaining Pinizzotto as HHS's assistant director. Tuesday, the board unanimously appointed HHS Director Stacey Cryer as interim mental health director.

Angelo told supervisors she would make finding a new, full-time mental health director a priority. "I am thinking I would like to have a 'headhunter' to find a person for this position," she said.

A "headhunter" is an executive recruiter who can deliver qualified management personnel to a prospective employer.

"Mental health has been a controversial subject in Mendocino County for the past 30 years," said McCowen. "I believe we are delivering more services and better services now than we have in the past. I think one of the main questions I have is: How is the county going to hold our contractors accountable?"

Gjerde said he had three main concerns about the county's mental health system. "Why do we not have someone in an ombudsman position? What I mean is, say you are having some trouble with the mental health system, you have a complaint, who do you call? Right now there is no one.

"Second I am concerned about excess administrative costs. I'd like to know why it is that Ortnr has an administrative cost of 18.6 percent of its total contract, while Redwood's costs are more like 8 percent. Ortnr's administrative costs are more than double what RQMC's are. I'd like to know why.

"And third, I'd like to know why the county still has 43 employees in its mental health division when – after we privatized – we were supposed to retain something like 10 to 13 employees."

Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg said: "I would not favor going from one extreme to the other extreme. I don't think the board of supervisors should take mental health services and put it back as a county-run service."

Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse directed his remarks to Kemper, during the consultant's presentation to the board.

"Last night I didn't sleep, because I was up all night worrying about mental health," Woodhouse said. There is a lot of doubt out there that what you are doing is going to make a big difference. We've been building up to this, and allowing poor behavior for a number of years now, and it's time to make a change.

"I can't stress enough how much I request that you spend whatever time you can speaking to the employees. That is really the only place where I have gotten my knowledge, and you are very fortunate to have so many quality employees that are courageously working in very uncomfortable positions. They are afraid to speak out, and I think if we could just solve that one problem, we would have a rich source of information.

"We have the makings of a great mental health group. But a lot of money's being wasted, and we're in denial that a lot of what we're doing now is incurring bills we will be paying three, four, five years from now.

"It's alarming to hear the stories from the people," Woodhouse continued. "People are holding their breath and hoping this is the change we've all been looking for.

"I think this is a rare time for Mendocino County, where there's a crack in this problem. If this board stands up, with the community, we can make a tremendous difference," Woodhouse said. "I know we can do much better. It's not that far out of our reach."

After Passage of Measure A?"

By its vote, the board approved its official response to a section of the grand jury's more recent 2014-15 report, which was also dedicated to examining certain problems the grand jury had with how the county administers the library system. The response was written by supervisors John McCowen and Dan Gjerde, the members of the board's ad hoc committee dealing with library issues.

In reports submitted to the county over the past two years, the grand jury has claimed many of the county's A-87 (or depreciation) costs charged to the library were improper. The grand jury also claimed the library system is, in fact, a special district, and needs to be treated as such, and the library director needs to be paid out of the county's general fund, not out of the library budget.

In discussing the response to the grand jury, McCowen focused mostly on the A-87 question. McCowen noted, in the case of the old Fort Bragg Library, which burned to the ground in 1988, the county had been improperly billing the library system for depreciation costs for a number of years. The billing was done on the assumption the library building was county property, and the county had a right to charge the library A-87 costs at an annual rate of 2 percent of the entire value of the building.

After the 1988 fire, a former mortuary in Fort Bragg was purchased and converted into a new library at a cost of \$1.2 million. The county was basing its A-87 charges on the entire \$1.2 million sum.

However, county personnel had not realized a significant portion of the purchase price and remodeling costs of the new Fort Bragg library were not borne by the county. In fact, 61 percent of the project was paid for by non-county funds.

"The board of supervisors believes the incorrect application of A-87 charges to donations, grants, and insurance proceeds, and to equipment that was paid off or was no longer in service was not intentional, but resulted from incomplete recording, tracking and accounting among departments," the response to the grand jury states.

County personnel are also examining financial records relating to the Willits library building. As with the Fort Bragg library, the county had been billing the library system for depreciation in the value of Willits library building, assuming the building was county property and had been paid for totally by county funds.

Personnel both in the library director's office and in the county auditor's office had overlooked the fact that the Willits library building was paid for, in part, by a \$407,500 state grant, and the county may not collect A-87 costs on any portion of a building's value paid for by non-county sources.

McCowen told supervisors that personnel in the auditor's office are trying to confirm the library system did indeed receive a state grant worth \$407,500 and the money was, in fact, used to build the Willits library building. If and when those facts are confirmed, those figures will be worked into the total amount that needs to be credited back to the library system.

By approving the response to the grand jury, supervisors promise that every penny improperly charged to the library system will be credited to the system. The exact amount remains unknown.

"Potentially, it is a significant refund to the libraries," McCowen said. "We can say definitively there is no disagreement that if the libraries receive grants, or donations, or gifts, those funds will stay with the libraries. We will do our level best to repay all that is owed, down to where the final "i" is dotted and final "t" is crossed."

The response also addressed the two other major findings by the grand jury: that the library is a special district and the library director needs to be paid out of the county general fund, not out of the library's budget.

Is the library a special district?

On the special district question, the response "recommends county officials seek to determine the practical difference to the library, if any, between being designated a 'dependent special district' or being 'considered a special district' for revenue and taxation purposes."

"The board of supervisors recommends county officials seek to determine the agreed upon pro rata share of property tax due the library, expressed as a percentage, that was agreed upon in 1992," the response states.

How shall the county librarian be paid?

In addressing concerns raised by the grand jury about how the county librarian is paid, the response to the grand jury defends the county's practice and recommends the county "kick the issue upstairs" to the state Legislature.

"Based on a partial survey of other county library systems, paying the librarian from the library fund appears to be common practice," the response states.

"The board of supervisors believes the practice of paying the librarian from the library fund is reasonable since the library has two dedicated sources of income – a pro rata share of property tax and the Measure A sales tax. The board of supervisors believes the law should be clarified and complied with."

In relating the findings of the report to other board members and the public, McCowen noted there appears to be a lack of clarity in the state government code that defines from which fund the librarian should be paid.

"The state education code says the librarian shall be paid from the same fund as other county officers," McCowen said. "And yet, not all county officers are paid from the county general fund. The Mendocino County superintendent of schools, defined by law as a county officer, is paid out of the office of the Mendocino County Office of Education, which is, administratively and financially, separate from the county.

"So we are actually recommending we include in our legislative platform a request that the state legislature revisit those code sections. After all, if the intent was that the county librarian be paid from the general fund, the Legislature could have easily said that. They can say so now, if they would take that issue up.

"We are recommending that," McCowen said.



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Ranch Rodeo

Annual Willits Frontier Days event offers BBQ and rodeo entertainment

The early morning rain Saturday was a blessing for those who planned to ride in the now gloriously dustless Willits Frontier Days arena for the annual Ranch Rodeo.

The event featured six events for teams of cowboys and cowgirls to compete in, showing their skills in a variety of real-life ranch tasks including Ribbon Roping, Team Sorting, Reverse Team Roping, Calf Branding, Trailer Loading and Ranch Doctoring.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

There was also a "Working Ranch Horse" class which challenged individual riders to navigate a pattern in the arena, asking for various speeds, turns and maneuvers.

Each event had an individual winning team, along with an overall winning team that accumulated the most points from all the events. Nine teams vied for the titles, including Bar DX Cattle, Mora Britton/Willits, Sunny Basin, DeSilva Gates, MC Livestock of Potter Valley, Shamrock Ranch, Fonsen Cattle, Bar TH and White Oak Ranch.

The overall winners for the 2015 rodeo were: first place: White Oak Ranch team members Ronnie Seever, Brian White and Chris Darger; second place: Fonsen Cattle team members Mike Fonsen, Stetson Burgess and Ronnie Seever; and third place: Bar DX Cattle team members Ronnie Seever, Mike Fonsen and Christina Darger.

Event winners included White Oak Ranch for Ribbon Roping and Team Sorting; Bar TH for Reverse Team Roping and Calf Branding;

Read the rest of **Ranch Rodeo** | Over on Page B7

Above: Barbecue winners with their awards, including, from left: Dusty McKemy and Vicky Williams of Folsom Ranch, who won second-place awards for beans and tri-tip, third place for bread, and Best Decorated Table from the judges – and also won People's Choice for Best Decorated Table, too. ER Energy's Yardley Herman, Larry and Pam Olson, and Bobbi Delgado hold their awards for third-place tri-tip and beans, second place for bread, and People's Choice for best tri-tip. Little Lake Fire's BBQ Rescuer team of Kevin Reedy and John Thomen hold their awards for first-place tri-tip and third-place People's Choice bread. Willits Power team members Mary Fonsen and Emily Patterson hold their awards for first-place bread and beans, third-place tri-tip and People's Choice beans.



Above, left: Samantha Arms and Danielle Barry hold handfuls of tickets that were for sale for the quilt and picnic table raffle. Above, right: The Honest Injun barbecue team of Ginger Fonsen, Jeff Cook and Harold Potter. At right: Drew McElfresh, who was also the auctioneer for the Calcutta Auction, warms up his horse in the arena before the Ranch Rodeo began. Below, from left: Tasters enjoy sampling the offerings from the barbecue teams. A paint brand marks each calf. Cowboys chat strategy in the arena.

Photos by Maureen Moore



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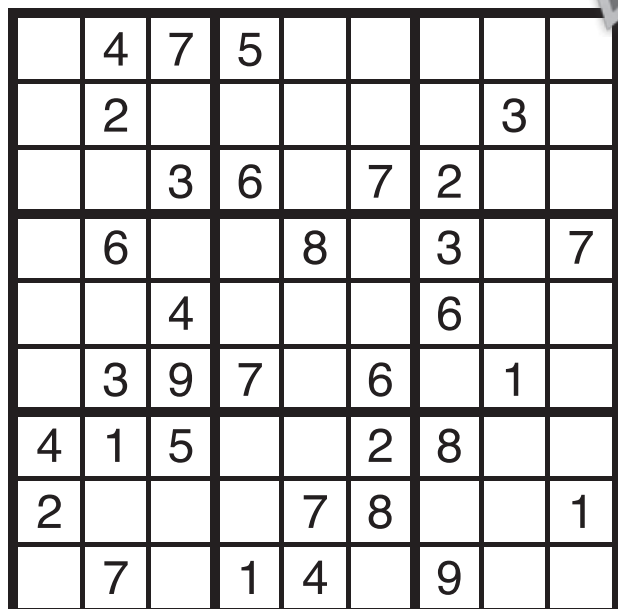
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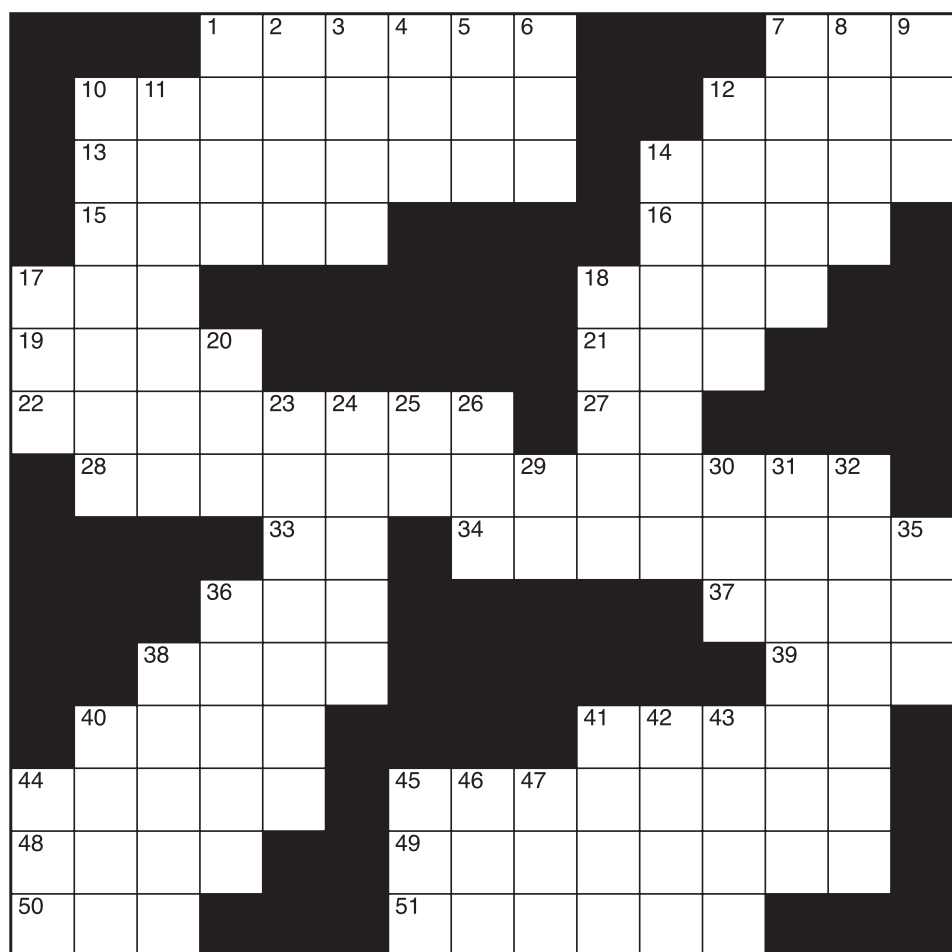
PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE B7



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!

Level: Beginner



CLUES ACROSS

- Most favorables
- 23rd Greek letter
- Rated higher
- Immature herring
- Malignant skin neoplasm
- Orange-red spinel
- Hunted beings
- Be obedient to
- Excavate with a shovel
- = to 100 cauris
- Lose hold of
- Highest card
- Western Union message
- The "Show Me" state
- Early photo process
- A public promotion
- A group of statues
- A single thing
- Ireland
- A raised speaking platform
- Leavened bread
- Farm animal shelter

CLUES DOWN

- Oral polio vaccine
- Chinese fine silk silver
- Chocolate-colored acidic pulp pod
- ___ off
- Hagiographa
- Manuscripts, abbr.
- Over the sea
- An island group of the S Pacific
- A wooden hole plug
- A purine base found in DNA and RNA
- Spanish park
- Atomic #18
- Married woman
- And, Latin
- Cantonese dialect
- Causing physical hurt
- Short trips or tasks
- Small craving
- Paddled
- Leuciscus leuciscus'
- Parting phrases: good-___
- Figure skater Yuka
- Opera song
- Create social or emotional ties
- Opposite of LTM
- Icahn's airline
- Air Reserve base (abbr.)
- Russian manned space station

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BABYBEL	GRUYERE
BLEU	HAVARTI
BRICK	JACK
BRIE	LAPPI
CAMEMBERT	MASCARPONE
CHEDDAR	MONCHEGO
CHEVRE	MOZZARELLA
COTTAGE	MUENSTER
CREAM	NEUFCHATEL
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FARMERS	RICOTTA
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GOAT	

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L H A N I T N O F M U E N S T E R I V U
Y V I T R A V A H I G D E D P G K T U N
O P Z U H I R J M M P H R E N I L B U D
L P C L N S P W A B O P D A I Y S N K W
E O L K C I R B G M Z Z A S T M E C R V
L U A V G P V O H W E M Z L R U A A P E
N G O R G O N Z O L A R C A F J D E N K
A G G D G S B D U D J R I C R D G O G D
M O S O C B F U E S E N H C E E P Z K S
O A G E U G Y C C A A H A R L B G U R
R T B M B D S A M H T Z C S A N B L P E
Z U W M A F A M R E A H G C E A P R A M
B G L E T D E E L Y H R S M B M O A V R
A J U N T E L M E P K A S Y P V R T M A
S C F T O R E B J A M G B T O K H A M F
W F Z A C V E E R N Z E M L I B Y T P Y
I H D L I E A R N E L Y O O R E D A S A
S L Y C R H K T N L K N G I E B L E U W
S A T E F C R E P A E D E E R E Y U R G

WPD Activity Report

October 11 to October 17

Prepared by WPD
Sgt. Jake Donahue



The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 239 incidents this week.

During this seven-day reporting period, WPD officers were assigned 23 criminal investigation reports, made 16 arrests, issued 6 traffic citations, and investigated 4 traffic collisions.

Of note this week

Sunday, October 11

- A male was arrested for public intoxication.
- A male was arrested pursuant to an active warrant.
- A male was arrested for a license violation.

Officers also investigated a traffic collision, two thefts, and an assault.

Monday, October 12

- A male was arrested pursuant to an active warrant.
- A male was arrested for drug possession.
- A male was arrested pursuant to an active warrant.
- A male was arrested for DUI.

Tuesday, October 13

- A female was arrested for theft.
- A male was arrested pursuant to an active warrant.
- A male was arrested for public intoxication.

While conducting a municipal enforcement investigation, a male subject provided false identification and then nearly struck an officer with his vehicle, before ramming a patrol vehicle as he attempted to evade the officers.

Officers investigated two traffic collisions.

Wednesday, October 14

WPD officers were responded to a disturbance involving several subjects near the Haeh Creek subdivision. Their investigation revealed that a verbal altercation about the victim's girlfriend escalated into a physical altercation, during which Charles Holt, picked up the head of a pickaxe and struck the victim with it. The victim was transported to Howard Hospital for treatment. Holt was arrested and booked into the Mendocino County Jail.

Suspect: Holt, Charles, 49, Ukiah

Charges: 245(a)(1) PC Assault with a Deadly Weapon

Officers investigated a disturbance and a reported public intoxication.

Thursday, October 15

A female subject was arrested for being under the influence of drugs.

Officers initiated a mental health commitment, and investigated two thefts, two reported disturbances, vandalism, and a sexual assault.

A male subject was arrested for public intoxication

Officers investigated a burglary, two reported disturbances, and a sexual assault.

Read the rest of WPD Over on Page B7



Past and present Soroptimist International of Willits members work every year to include as many community and businesses listings as they can.

Make sure to be a part of the 2016 community phone book!

Don't miss out on the 2016 book!

November 15 is the deadline for ads and listing changes for the Soroptimist International of Willits annual phone book

Every year the Soroptimist International of Willits puts together the Willits Community Phone Book as a resource to the local area.

Residential listings, business listings and Soroptimist content are all included in the annual publication, and there's still a chance to get your business included before the November 15 deadline.

Ads are available in four sizes that are based on dividing an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper. A business card size is \$120, a quarter-page size is \$160, a half-page size is \$210 and a full-page size is \$360.

Willits Weekly will again distribute 3,000 copies of the phone book in a January 2016 edition to help spread the books out to the community through our distribution boxes and via the counters of many local businesses.

Advertisers also have an option to bundle their phone book ads into the pages of Willits Weekly as well, for a special rate that ensures the ad's inclusion alongside Soroptimist content in our pages. Bundled rates are listed at right.

Now is also the time to send in requests for changes, inclusions or removals to the A to Z listings section of the phone book as well.

If you have been listed previously and would like back in; if you would like to include a cell phone or remove an address; if you are a new business and want in for the first time - please - now is the time to let the Soroptimists know.

Email your changes to willitsphonebook@gmail.com or call 972-7047 or 459-5363 with any questions.

Phone book ad sizes & WW "bundle" repeats:

Business Card: \$120
WW Bundle: (+\$40) = \$160 for both
Quarter Page: \$160
WW Bundle: (+\$60) = \$220 for both
Half Page: \$210
WW Bundle: (+\$100) = \$310 for both
Full Page: \$360
WW Bundle: (+\$200) = \$560 for both

Cut out and send in by November 15 to be included

Business: _____ Name: _____
Ad size: _____ Contact #: _____ Contact Email: _____
Willits Weekly bundle: ___Y ___N Ad copy needs to be picked up will be emailed build new ad
Requested change for residential or business listing (phone number, address, add cell phone): _____

Mail form and check made out to "Soroptimist International of Willits" to PO Box 311, Willits, CA 95490. All ads are black and white, and run one time in Willits Weekly. For info: 707-972-7047 or willitsphonebook@gmail.com. Prices subject to change.

C BROWNS CORNER
Groceries Beer & Wine
Pay at the Pump Gas & Diesel
459-4854
1799 So. Main St.
P.O. Box 428
7 am to 11 pm
365 Days a Year

24 Hour 7 Days a Week
Emergency Service • Call Anytime
Tom Wake - Plumbing
Serving in Mendocino and Lake Counties
Full Service Residential, Commercial
• Faucets & Tubs • Garbage Disposals • 20+ YEARS
• Toilets • Pipe Repairs • Pipe Repairs
• Gas Lines • Fixture Replacement EXPERIENCE
For Fast Service Call
707-391-4343
Lic: #884811

HARRAH Senior Center Events
~ November 1 ~
Bingo
~ November 21 ~
Tea & Togs Fashion Show
~ November 25 ~
Thanksgiving Pie Sale
~ December 4 thru 14 ~
Christmas Store
~ December 5 ~
Craft Faire (tables for rent)
Willits Harrah Center
Serving the Senior of our Community
459-6826 • 1501 Baechtel Road

TELEPHONE (707) 459-2163
FAX (707) 459-2319
ALFRED F. KERR, D.D.S.
FAMILY DENTISTRY
OFFICE HOURS By APPOINTMENT
12 W. VALLEY STREET
WILLITS, CA 95490

Adam's Restaurant
90 S. Main St
707-456-9226

ARE YOU IN THE DARK?

WILLITS POWER & HARDWARE CAN HELP BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!

EU3000iS
3000 Watts (25A) of Honda Inverter 120V AC Power
Super Quiet - 49 to 58 dB(A)
Convenient Electric Starting
Advanced Inverter Technology

EU2000iS
2000 Watts (16.7A) of Honda Inverter 120V AC Power
Super Quiet - 53 to 59 dB(A)
Lightweight (less than 47 lbs.)
Advanced Inverter Technology

EU1000iS
1000 Watts (8.3A) of Honda Inverter 120V AC Power
Super Quiet - 53 to 59 dB(A)
Lightweight (Apx. 29 lbs.)
Advanced Inverter Technology

Best WILLITS POWER & HARDWARE
Quality Service & Sales since 1999

1600 S Main St • Willits, CA 95490
Phone: (707) 459-6420 • Fax: (707) 459-6369

Store Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-6pm
Sat. 8am-5pm • Sun. 10am-4pm

Brands we stock & service: HONDA, STIHL, Husqvarna, BCS, BOW, carhartt, Columbia, HH, Danner, KEEN

Same Day Service available!

Wowser teens

As a community, Willits is not without its struggles. Extensive drug abuse and addiction, poverty, rampant unemployment, homelessness, an economy sustained in part by hidden factors having to do with the widespread, untaxed sale of a semi-legal drug, child neglect and abuse, educational under-performance, and a high level of reliance on social services.

Christa Nuñez
Columnist

After moving to Willits from New York City over ten years ago, I slowly began to see past the beautiful tree-lined avenues of Brooktrails to take notice of some of these glaring problems.

As time went on and my family grew, I struggled to create a viable plan to keep my kids focused on moving in the right direction. However, as proactive as I felt my planning was, I found myself at somewhat of a loss as to what to offer my increasingly science-minded kids, to support their habit of making, experimenting with and destroying things.

I needed to find something, fast, and preferably outside my house. It was then that I got a call from my marketing cohort, Ian Fitzpatrick, to help out with something called Wowser. It was then that I fell in love, not just as a marketer to interesting and beneficial organizations, but as a mom. In this column, "Kids Create Community," I will showcase examples of the wonderful achievements of the young people we call neighbors and friends.

As you may have heard, Wowser is closing. This first column is my ode to them, who supported the young folks of Willits in amazing ways. Here are a few highlights of the accomplishments of Willits youth at Wowser since its inception in 2012.

Many young people created a myriad of different types of bicycles – cruisers, three-wheel trikes, BMX trick bikes, a giant unicycle, a pogo stick – all from raw materials and recycled bike parts.

A bunch of teenagers worked together to create the rolling bandwagon. Under the tutelage of Roger Wilson, the designer and welder of the piece, several young people spent their time grinding and fitting the pieces of metal to fit together, allowing it to spin, rotate and roll simultaneously.

Shy and Alex built a racer for the Kinetic Carnivale Handcar Races and afterward turned it into a taxicab to shuttle locals.

A teen named Alex Rodriguez built a larger Gerni wheel to accommodate his growing height after he outgrew the first one he used when he started at Wowser.

A young man named Caleb built a "Practical Shield," and several young people built swords and full-plate armor for the Society for Creative Anachronism.

Tara Logan, a 17-year-old girl, created Espresso Yourself Café, after realizing that there wasn't a place in Willits to hang out at night except bars or at Burger King. She thought teens might like a coffeehouse, so they decorated, stocked, created the signage for, cleaned and ran Espresso Yourself, which became a fun, oversized gypsy wagon coffee bar inside Wowser serving local teens. The oak barrel tables which served in the seating area of the Espresso Yourself Café were also built by Willits young people.

Several Willits Charter School students learned to cast silver jewelry at Wowser.

Read the rest of **Wowser** | Over on Page B7



Roger Wilson, Wowser co-founder, with Chloe Nuñez and her "Chloe Cart" invention: half-shopping cart, half-bike.

SPARETIME SUPPLY

FALL HOURS:
MONDAY - SATURDAY: 9 AM TO 6 PM
CLOSED SUNDAYS

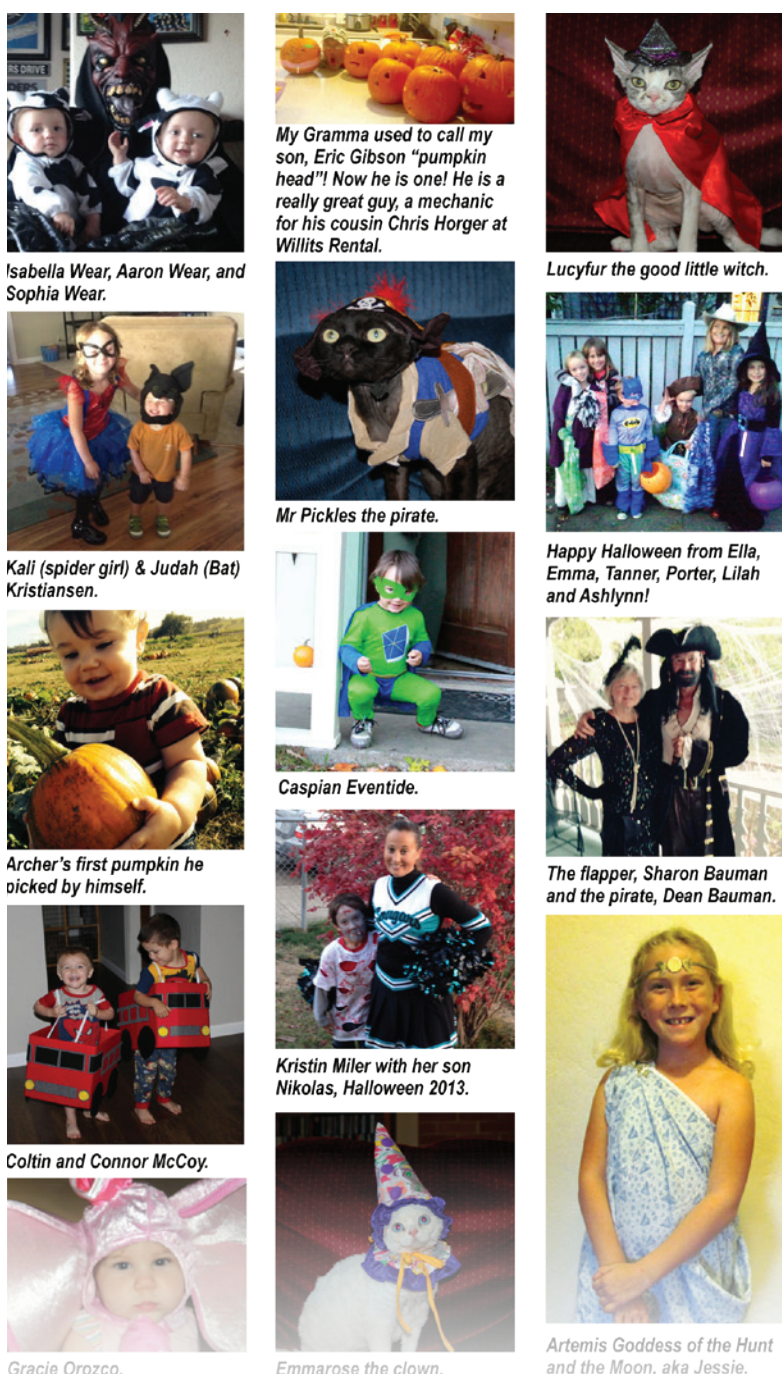
208 EAST SAN FRANCISCO AVE, WILLITS, CA 95490
PHONE: 707-459-6791 WWW.SPARETIMESUPPLY.COM

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We work with ALL Insurance Companies!
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Sallie Palmer
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CELL: 707.621.DOGS
WELLMANNEREDMUTTS@GMAIL.COM
WWW.WELLMANNEREDMUTTS.COM



Help Fund our New Firehouse!

Little Lake Fire Protection District & Willits Rotary

Drawing for the Motovox Minibike Pictured Above

\$5/ticket or 5 tickets for \$20

Drawing to be held November 14, 2015 at the Winter Wonderland Fundraiser
Need not be present to win
Minibike can be seen at Commercial Street Firehouse



Color Run

Rainbow runners raise \$21,000 for their schools

The high school track was a blur of brightly colored powdered chalk on Saturday, as families and community members participated in a Color Run fundraiser. The PTOs at Brookside and Blosser Lane elementary schools and Baechtel Grove Middle School decided to get a little creative with their annual walk-a-thon, and they had a great turnout despite the rainy skies.

Alice Ledford
Features Writer

back to the schools, so about \$21,000 was raised for Willits schools on Saturday.

Students from Brookside, Blosser Lane and Baechtel Grove raised Color Run donations for their respective schools. Three top-earning students from Brookside were Kingdom Kirby, who raised \$350, Ava Arkelian, who raised \$304, and Kall Kristiansen, who raised \$230. Top earners at Baechtel Grove were Taylor Drew and Dominick Kvasnicka, who raised \$500 each. At Blosser Lane, there were six students who each raised \$500 for the Color Run: Isabella Beauseau, Chad Douglas, Tanner Drew, Katelyn Germann, Haley Kvasnicka and Charley Lamprich.

Local DJ Mike Tobin donated his time to MC the event, playing music and getting the crowd pumped up prior to the Blast Party kickoff. The participants were given a color packet and white T-shirt when they registered, and then the crowd gathered to "blast" each other with colored powder before taking off down the track. The volunteers or "color crew" had buckets of extra powder, and they decorated the racers as they circled the track.

Willits High School students were busy raising money during the event as well. The freshmen had a face painting booth; sophomores sold healthy snacks like fruits and granola bars, and juniors sold water bottles. The Brookside PTO had a booth set up selling sweet treats to raise additional funds.

Sarah Leake was also there with a booth to raise money and spread awareness about the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Her son, Conner, who attends Brookside, is diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. After the event participants helped to clean up, earning prizes for collecting trash.

The annual walk-a-thon/Color Run event raises money for various things not covered by the school district's budget, such as assemblies and extra school supplies. Seventy percent of the \$30,000 raised by the Color Run went directly

Overall the event was a great success. Stefanie Ford, one of the Brookside organizers, said she was "really thankful."

"We couldn't have asked for anything more," she said, "and we feel very supported."



At top, left: Mark, Nora and Jenna Duarte in their rainbow glory.

At top, right: Cecily Potter and her dad, Josh, dressed in tutus and other fanciness for the Color Run.

Above: Colorful participants make their way around the track at Willits High School.

At left: Becky Hope, Sydney Mell and Mariah Lavine had a great time walking the track.

Photos by Alice Ledford



Clockwise from bottom left: Even a four-legged friend got blasted with colored dust.

Amarah Kelley and Gavin Shannon take a break from dusting themselves with powdered chalk for a quick photo. Some families had their own blast parties while waiting for the race to begin.

Colored powder tossed in the air helped ensure full color coverage for runners.

Photos by Alice Ledford



Photo by Nathan DeHart

Heritage Luncheon offers fall bounty

A delicious and relaxing afternoon of local culture and conversation will be on offer at the 6th Annual Heritage Luncheon, taking place at the Mendocino County Museum on Saturday, November 7 from 1 to 3:30 pm. Guests will be served a lunch of tasty mushroom dishes, local meats, cheese and produce, along with frolicsome wines and frisky beers.

Expert speakers will be on hand to share their knowledge about cooking with fungi, winemaking and the advent of beer-brewing in the county, including Merry Winslow and Alison Gardner, authors of "The Wild Mushroom Cookbook," and Mark Beaman, associate winemaker at Mendocino Wine Company. Guests will also be able to view the museum's collections of historical equipment, including a complete still and the first wine-bottling machine in the county.

Tickets are \$35, and all proceeds support museum exhibits, events and educational programs. For tickets and more information, visit www.MendocinoMuseum.org or call 459-2736.

This event is part of Mendocino County's annual Mushroom, Wine and Beer Festival, with tastings, tours, classes, special menus and more, taking place throughout the county November 6 to 15. For more information and a downloadable brochure visit www.visitmendocino.com/event/mushroom-wine-and-beer-fest/.

The Mendocino County Museum is at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits and is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4:30 pm.

— submitted by the Mendocino County Museum



Fireman's Red Help fund a new Willits firehouse with a Motovox mini-bike raffle

A big "Winter Wonderland" benefit for a new Willits firehouse planned for November 14 is already sold out! But organizers would like to invite the community to participate in this Willits Rotary fundraiser by buying raffle tickets for a beautiful red Motovox Mini-Bike.

The Motovox off-road vehicle can be seen at the Little Lake Fire Station, 74 East Commercial Street. Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. Raffle tickets can be purchased at Willits Furniture, J.D. Redhouse, Willits Power & Hardware, and at the fire station, too.

Organizer Linda Buletti said she is pleased this year's fundraiser has (already!) been so successful, but that Rotary wanted to give everyone a chance to help fund a new firehouse for the Little Lake Fire Protection District. "We really want to involve the public with this," Buletti said. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at the November 14 benefit event at the Community Center, but there is no need to be present to win.



Photo by Jennifer Poole

Sober Grad's Fall Raffle Basket

\$600 worth of 'warm and fuzzy' fall items

This year's Fall Sober Grad raffle basket is making the rounds, stuffed full of \$600 worth of "warm and fuzzy" gifts, goodies and gift certificates, including two "California Dreaming" passes to Disneyland.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each and six for \$5. All proceeds of the Fall Basket raffle go towards funding the 2016 Sober Grad party for high school graduates in Willits next year. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at the Sober Grad Committee meeting on Wednesday, November 18.

Other items include three blanket throws, two candles, a movie, candy, hot chocolate mix, coffee, wafer rolls, caramel sauce, and a wire bird; a gift certificate from Main Street Music; a bath towel, notebook, dish clothes, scarf, and quotable canvas, from Cat's Meow; a fall wreath and teddy bear from Flowers by Annette; and a gift certificate to Crush Restaurant.

The basket will be displayed at various stores around town, or contact Joyce Waters at WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com or 489-8377 to ask about tickets.

— Jennifer Poole



Photo by Jennifer Poole

The benefit features a sit-down dinner in a festive setting with beer and wine, a silent and live auction, and a champagne bar in the Willits City Council chambers ("We're going to cordon off the dais," Buletti laughed.) Including the proceeds from this next event — and with the help of their sponsors, Buletti emphasized — the Willits Rotary Club will hope to have raised a total of \$100,000 to go toward a new firehouse in Willits.

— Jennifer Poole

At left: Firehouse benefit committee members Tom Herman, left, and Linda Buletti pose with the Motovox Mini-Bike inside the SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologists offices on Main Street.

CLASSIFIEDS

32 Acres Super Farm
32 Acres near Downtown Laytonville. Water Tanks in place. Wooded with several cleared areas. Includes 2 Bedroom House and Warehouse. Good Seclusion. Deeded water source. Details www.acorn-realty.com/30. BRE# 00307344

Algebra, Geometry Tutoring, Test Prep
Mac Smith 459-MATH

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

Duplex for Rent
Deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex in Brooktrails. All appliances. Laundry room, central heat & air, garage. Incredibly nice. No smoking, no pets. \$900/month plus \$1,800 deposit. Call 984-6479.

For Sale
Show off your Arts/Crafts with this easy-to-assemble Chrome Tubing & Connectors shelving units. Includes 1/4" Plexiglass shelves. For Jury Arts & Crafts Booth Shows. \$250 takes all. 456-1170.

For Sale
2006 Harley Davidson Buell Blast motorcycle. Very clean. Stored 4 years. Runs very well. Yellow & black. 75 miles/gallon. Good commuter bike. \$2,800. 459-6085.

For Sale
McNab/Rhodesian 7-week-old puppies. First shots, wormed. 5 male, 2 female. Willits: 459-2129.

Help Wanted
Mortuary Transport Driver. On call, nights and weekends. Must have valid CDL and pass a drug test. Pick up an application at Anker-Lucier Mortuary, 95 W Commercial St, Willits.

Help Wanted
J.D. Redhouse & Company is hiring for a warehouse position immediately. We are looking for a reliable person who is ready to work and is self-motivated. Must be able to lift 100+ lbs. Must be available weekends. Pay is based on experience. Please drop off your resume at 212 South Main Street as soon as possible.

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

Volunteers Wanted
Frank Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in various departments of the hospital. Hours: flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

Yard Sale
Automotive, Barn Stuff, Tools. Small motors, misc. hardware, and more. October 24 through 31 — all week. 9 am to 3 pm. 31400 Sherwood Road.

Wanted: Brown Paper Bags with Handles
For the Willits Senior Center's Meals on Wheels and Meal Carry-Out Program. Call Mariya at 459-6826 or bring to 1501 Baechtel Road.

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

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Automotive, Barn Stuff, Tools. Small motors, misc. hardware, and more. October 24 through 31 — all week. 9 am to 3 pm. 31400 Sherwood Road.

30 Words | \$10 | 2 weeks

Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency
Currently recruiting for:
• Deputy Director of AODP

Develops & implements policies & procedures for the Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUDT) Programs. For full job description details and to apply, go to: <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr/openings.htm> Final Filing date 11/4/15 EOE

Get your ad in next week!
Email us your ad copy:
willitsweekly@gmail.com

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

The rest of Ranch Rodeo

From Page B1

Fonsen Cattle for Trailer Loading; and Bar DX Cattle for Ranch Doctoring.

In the Working Ranch Horse class, first place went to Joe Dennis, second to Kayla Zlich, and third to Christina Darger. Darger's horse, Pistol, also won the Top Ranch Horse of the Day award as well.

There were also two other competitions running side by side with the main event rodeo: the barbecue contest and the Calcutta Auction.

The Calcutta Auction allowed spectators to bid on teams at the start of the rodeo. The highest bid "buys" the team. Whoever the "buyer" of the winning team is also wins money at the end of the rodeo. This year's Calcutta winner was Jubal Chilson, who earned \$3,395 from White Oak Ranch's team win.

For the barbecue contest, five teams (ER Energy, Willits Power, Folsom Ranch, Little Lake Fire Department's BBQ Rescuer, and Honest Injun) vied for awards from judges Diana Hosford, Paul Hosford and Gerry Gonzales, and the People's Choice awards, too.

The judges awarded first place for tri-tip to the BBQ Rescuer team of John Thomen and Kevin Reedy, second place to the Folsom Ranch team of Vicky Williams and Dusty McKemy, and third place to the ER Energy team of Scott Herman, Yardley Herman, Bobbi Delgado, and Larry and Pam Olson.

Judges' winners for beans included first place to the Willits Power team of Mike Garrity, Mary Fonsen and Emily Patterson; second place to Folsom Ranch; and third place to ER Energy.

Bread winners included first place to Willits Power, second place to ER Energy, and third place to Folsom Ranch. Folsom Ranch also took home the judge's award for Best Decorated Table.

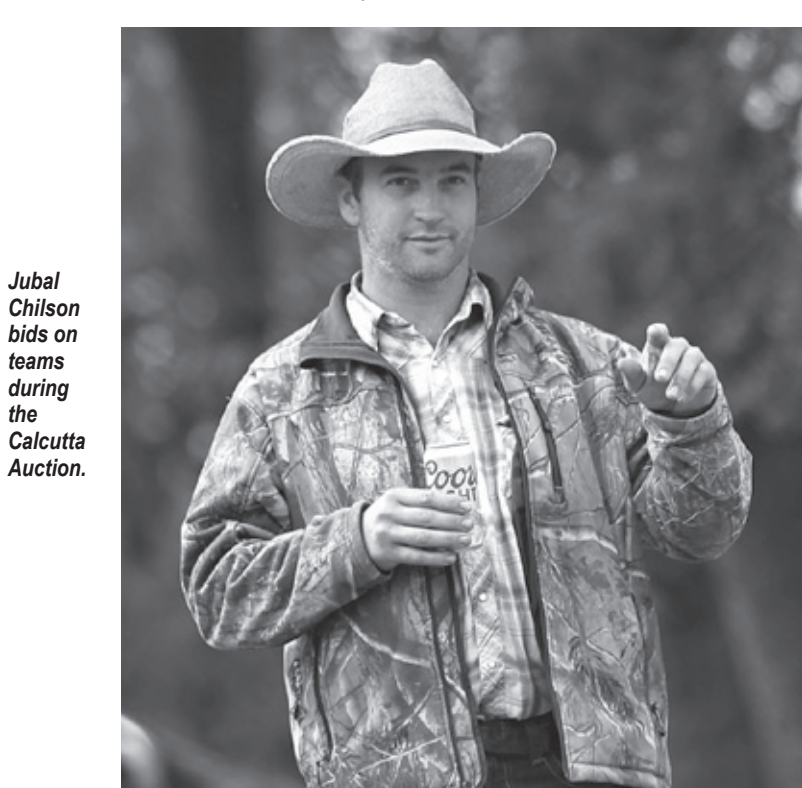
The People's Choice award went to ER Energy for tri-tip, Willits Power for beans, BBQ Rescuer for bread, and Folsom Ranch for Best Decorated Table.

Samantha Arms and Danielle Barry of the Willits Junior Horsemen Association were also at the event, selling last-minute raffle tickets for a quilt and picnic table. East Hill Veterinary Clinic won the quilt made by Rachel Cash, and the picnic table was won by Evelyn Persico.

Making the event a success is always a group effort, and the 2015 committee included Robbie Burgess, Dan Arkelian, Mary Fonsen, Mattie Pinnoe, Joe Dennis, Marcy Barry and Art Cooley.

Barry noted the committee's appreciation to all the sponsors and volunteers who helped make the event happen again this year.

"We really want to thank our sponsors McFarland Trucking, Sunnybrook Ranch, T&T Salvage and Storage, Alfred Kerr, Art Cooley Logging, Willits Les Schwab, Willits Grocery Outlet, Gravier's Chevron, Robbie Burgess, Geiger's Long Valley Market, Joe Dennis, J.D. Redhouse, ER Energy, Willits Power, Flowers by Annette, Ukiah Auto Dismantlers, Ukiah Farm Supply, Sparetime Supply, John Ford Ranch, Lee Persico, Bob Weiss and Sheri Cronin," said Barry. "And, of course, all our volunteers, too: Harold Potter, Fred Barry, Annette Cooley, Riata King, Twila King, Doug King, Mike Underhill, Alexis Rutherford, Bobbie Tiley, Danielle Barry, Samantha Arms, Rosanna Franceschini, Annette and Dan Pinnoe, Eli Owen, Ginger Fonsen, Drew McElfresh, Jim Bean, Kat Willits, Kathryn Baechtel, and Lee Persico. We couldn't have done it without you all!"



Jubal Chilson bids on teams during the Calcutta Auction.

The rest of WPD
From Page B3

Saturday, October 17

• Officers responded to a reported domestic disturbance in the Wagon Wheel Mobile Home Park. During the course of their investigation, officers learned the suspect, Clifford Konopasek, had allegedly assaulted a 17-year-old minor, and over the past few weeks had also engaged in repeated sexual acts with her. Konopasek was arrested and booked into the Mendocino County Jail.

Suspect: **Konopasek, Clifford, 19, Willits**
Charges: 261.5(b) PC: Unlawful Sexual Intercourse with a Minor; 243(e)(1) PC: Domestic Battery; 140 PC: Witness Intimidation

• Officers responded to a reported gunshot wound victim. The victim, a 31-year-old male, was found to have a life-threatening gunshot wound but is currently expected to survive that injury. The incident is being investigated as an attempted murder. However, the investigation is ongoing, and no further details are available at this time. Information that does become available will be released by future press releases.

WILLITS LOCAL BUSINESS

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

24 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS SAVINGS

Purchase one or several days to showcase your sale in Willits Weekly's Christmas Calendar!

Ads will be presented on a festive holiday group "calendar" looking ad each week, showcasing the upcoming sales for that week only.

In November 25, paper we will print days Dec. 1 thru 3
Days: \$40 each day

In December 3, paper we will print days Dec. 4 thru 10
Days: \$55 each day

In December 10 paper, we will print days Dec. 11 thru 17
Days: \$65 each day

In December 17 paper, we will print days Dec. 18 thru 24
Days: \$75 each day

Ads run Dec. 1 to Dec. 24
Ad size: 2 col. (3.25") x 3" high • Full Color
Ad size commitment deadline: Nov. 20, 2015
Multiple purchases allowed.

Contact Rachel Belvin
Willits Weekly Ad Representative
rachel@willitsweekly.com
(707) 367-9319

Willits Weekly's Black Friday Special

3 Col (5") x 5"
BF SPECIAL \$100 (reg. \$120)

3 Col (5") x 10.5"
BF SPECIAL \$225 (reg. \$252)

Ads to run November 25 (Wednesday!)
Ad size commitment deadline: November 20, 2015

Contact Rachel Belvin
Willits Weekly Ad Representative
rachel@willitsweekly.com
(707) 367-9319

8TH ANNIVERSARY SALE

212 S. Main St. **OCTOBER 23, 24 & 25** 707-459-1214



\$1 MINI SCOOPS & BUY 1 POUND, GET 1/2 POUND FREE FUDGE

15% OFF
PET SUPPLIES
& ACCESSORIES

30% OFF
CLOTHING
& FOOTWEAR
MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN

15% OFF
KAMIK & MUCK
RAIN BOOTS



\$16 PER BALE
ALFALFA



25% OFF
TOYS & GIFTS
FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY



PET FOOD & FEED SALE SATURDAY ONLY



Purina Mills
\$4 OFF
50-LB BAGS



SAVE UP TO **\$5 OFF** DOG FOOD
TASTE OF THE WILD & DIAMOND NATURALS VARIETIES



\$3 OFF
50-LB BAGS



SAVE UP TO **\$10 OFF** DOG FOOD



SAVE UP TO **\$5 OFF**
CAT FOOD



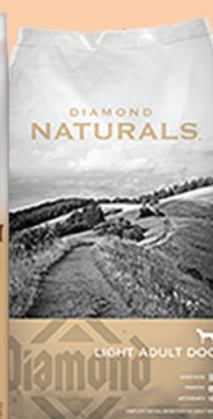
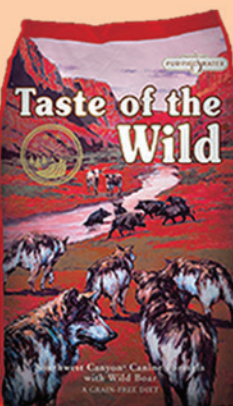
BUY 1 GET 1
1/2 OFF
70-LB SWEET COB



THESE SELECT VARIETIES



FACE PAINTING | BOUNCE HOUSE
HSIMC PET ADOPTIONS
KEMMY'S PIE TASTING & PIE EATING CONTESTS



(SELECT BRANDS AND VARIETIES - LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND)