

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Keep the Code wins court victory

To the Editor:

Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Richard Henderson issued a ruling on October 21, setting aside the county's approval of a vested right to mine Harris Quarry, sought by Northern Aggregates. The court found that the county did not have enough evidence before it to grant Northern Aggregates a "vested right" and ruled on behalf of Keep the Code, a non-profit community group, who had filed a lawsuit against the county.

If Northern Aggregates had secured a "vested right" for the Harris Quarry, they would have been: 1. Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA; requirements which were signed into law in 1970 by Gov. Reagan to protect the environment and public. 2. Able to operate without a county use permit, thereby circumventing extraction limits. 3. Able to ignore the environmental protections identified in the environmental impact report for their project. 4. Able to significantly reduce oversight of their operations by the county and state agencies.

In order to prove a "vested right," Northern Aggregates needed to show that the Harris Quarry was mined commercially between 1936 and 1976. The Church of the Golden Rule, former owners of the quarry, stated that they did not operate a commercial quarry during this time period. The court observed that "the historical pattern does not indicate the existence of any commercial quarrying and aggregate activities occurring at the Harris Quarry from 1936 to 1976" and "the record is absolutely devoid of any evidence that the church operated the quarry as a commercial venture or expended any money in connection with quarrying activities and/or rock crushing and screening."

In particular, the court focused on the fact that the aerial photos presented to the court did not show an expansion of the quarry's footprint for decades.

Despite the lack of supporting evidence, the county, with a 5-0 vote by the supervisors, granted vested rights to Northern Aggregates. If the county counsel had provided a fair, impartial and lawful recommendation, this court case, a big waste of taxpayer time and money, would not have occurred. We urge the county to not waste more money on an indisputable appeal.

Because the judge ruled in favor of Keep the Code, Northern Aggregates will now have to abide by all of the environmental laws that exist today. Should the county's efforts to fast-track the proposed asphalt plant at the Harris Quarry have succeeded, it would have likely given us the same disaster scenario currently being played out with the Grist Creek asphalt plant, the Eel River, and the surrounding Cherry Creek neighborhood. This community can ill afford two asphalt plant disasters.

This board has repeatedly demonstrated a serious lack of concern for the health of the public at large when it champions business interests by ignoring Mendocino County policies, protocols, and long-term environmental guidelines in order to support making the quick buck.

Keep the Code urges the board to return to its long-adopted policies, such as the precautionary principle, designed to enhance and protect the quality of life for all citizens in this county.

Sheila Jenkins, Willits, for Keep the Code

National Home Care & Hospice Month

To the Editor:

During National Home Care & Hospice month this November, Adventist Health Home Care and Phoenix Hospice Services is shining a light on the benefits of home care and hospice and the golden opportunity ahead to increase access to home care.

Many of our country's seniors and disabled oppose the idea of being placed in a nursing home or assisted living. And they have a choice. Home care is the answer to the many Americans who suffer from disabilities, chronic or acute illnesses, surgery, injuries or chronic conditions. By keeping patients out of the hospitals and in their homes, home care saves money — and supports an even greater cause.

Hospice is based on the belief that every life matters and on giving state-of-the-art medical care that comforts and eases pain. When medicine can add no more days to life, hospice can add more life to the remaining days. Hospice turns illness into an inner journey by committing to the highest quality of care. Hospice uses new technologies to speed up its response to patients' needs, gives bereavement support, and offers public education on end-of-life care.

It is highly appropriate that we celebrate the many nurses, therapists, aides, social workers, and other providers who choose to use their lives to serve our communities' aged, disabled, injured or dying. These heroic caregivers play a central role in our health care system and in homes across the nation. When you see a home health or hospice team member this month, provide a word of encouragement. We are there because there is no place like home.

Tammy Long, Adventist Health Home Care and Phoenix Hospice Services

A pity

To the Editor:

It's a clear fall day, red and yellow leaves, blue sky, and I'm driving out along Highway 162, the Covelo Road, as it winds along the stunningly beautiful Outlet Creek and Eel River, when I begin to smell a metallic stench.

Around the bend, the air is becoming thick with dust and smoke joined by a loud, incessant, grinding pounding noise. It's Grist Creek Aggregates, aka our second county asphalt plant. I don't want to imagine what it's like to live nearby. I know the friends and neighbors of Outlet Creek have been meeting to try to get heard. Did the county Board of Supervisors actually sneak this one through, without public comment, without required proper environmental tests done?

And now it's too late, Grist Creek Aggregates is back with a vengeance. With the board of supervisors' blessings, apparently, with their unanimous vote. I had thought this was our Mendocino County, known for its dedication to protecting our land of streams and redwoods. With sorrow I see that our elected officials, our board of supervisors, are willing to sacrifice air and water quality, our quality of life. Such a pity.

Melinda Clarke, Willits

Willits Weekly's 3rd Annual Christmas Party!



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Board should return to precautionary principle

To the Editor:

Business exists in order to provide real service to the community. In the past, the vast natural resources of America encouraged wasteful and even dangerous practices that allowed pollution as a result of business production to go relatively unchecked. Those days are now in the past.

We live in new times, where we can no longer allow pollution of our bodies and environment to be a "cost of doing business" passed along to unsuspecting residents and consumers. We must insist that our elected officials consider carefully the short- and long-term consequences of their decisions. Supporting business in Mendocino County is a very important job of our supervisors and elected officials. Keep the Code values and applauds the importance of thoughtfully supporting business in our communities.

Keep the Code believes that citizens elect the supervisors to protect the health and welfare of the common good: to protect the safety and quality of life of all residents, and by extension, the environment of Mendocino. However, when the board champions a business interest over public well-being, ignoring the county's own policies and protocols, when the long-term environmental implications are disregarded in order to support the making of short-term profit, then it is our duty to object. Keep the Code believes citizens should not have to sue their own county to force it to abide by existing laws.

With their 5-0 vote granting vested rights to Harris Quarry, the supervisors risked the health of the people and environment of Mendocino County, paving the way for increased rock extraction and reduced oversight and regulation of air pollution at the quarry, and for the intention of eventual asphalt production at the highest point of Highway 101.

Toxic particulate pollution at this mountaintop location would go to Willits when the winds blow northward, or southward over Golden Rule and on to Redwood Valley, Calpella and Ukiah. Fortunately, the recent Superior Court decision by Judge Richard Henderson was able to assess the truth and the law to overturn the supervisors' vested rights decision before this harm became reality.

Keep the Code encourages the supervisors to return to the board's action of great vision in 2006, when it adopted the precautionary principle. If only the first item* had been adhered to, this costly court case would have

Read the rest of Letters | Over on Page 4

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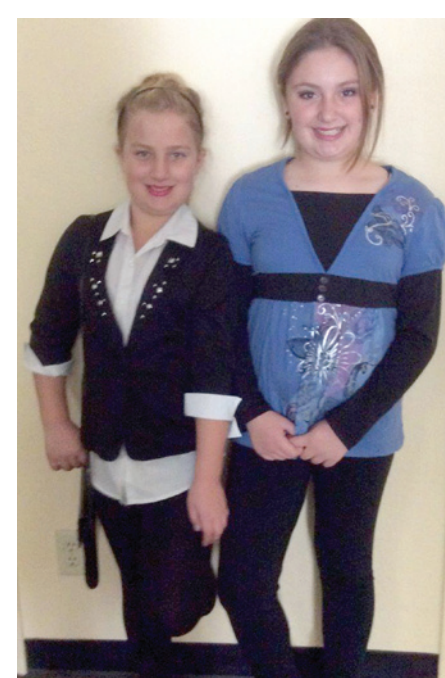
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Photo by Kacee Tyler



This past Saturday saw the return of a lovely Willits social event, the "Tea & Togs, Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show" at the Harrah Center, replete with holiday decorations, tea in old-fashioned tea cups with saucers, a myriad of scones, and various tarts, eclairs and luscious cookies on trays on all the tables, filled with chatting women. You may be sorry if you missed it as you read on. The striking fashions were all from the Senior Center Thrift Store that many of us like to think of as the "Harrah Boutique."

Kathy Neff coordinated the fashion entertainment, selected the clothes and dressed the models, and was assisted by Dorothy Roediger and Marlene Brown directing traffic down the runway. Commentary was provided by Virginia Jorge, with piano accompaniment by Evelyn Swift, make-up was done by Sarah Humphries, and the "Just for Fun Choir" offered some musical numbers.

Walking the runway in the oh, so fabulous fashions were: Mary Roediger James, Norma Avery Hanson, Kay Nord, Taylor Hartley,

Clockwise from bottom left: Maggie Graham carries a "holiday" platter. Young models Alisha Hamilton and Ashton Weeks. Five models wear lace dresses in different colors, all donated to the Harrah Thrift Shop: Norma Hanson, Kay Nord, Maggie Graham, Taylor Hartley, and Mary Roediger James. Marnye Sylvander shows off a festive Christmas sweater. Model Martha Morgan in a black embellished tunic. Norma Hanson in a black ensemble with a sparkling necklace. Norma Hanson, left, her sister Pat Hensen, right, and mom Verna Hokinson enjoy a visit with Santa.



Photos by Dick Graham and Maggie Graham

Maggie Graham, Marnye Sylvander, Kylie Southwick, Alisha Hamilton, Kacee Tyler, Sierra Mayfield, Lillie Mae Unangst, Ashton Weeks and Martha Morgan. Bakers of all the edible goodies were Sharon Bianchi, Sue Sawyers, Megan Howlett-Prescott, Kathryn Prescott, Kathy Neff and Kay Nord.

Tea & Togs

Fun and fashion at the Harrah Senior Center

By Maggie Graham, contributing writer

The first category was "Five Lace Dresses," then came clothes for "Thanksgiving at Grandma's," followed by "The White Pearl Dress," a divine confection modeled by Norma Hanson, "The Little Black



Dress," "Warm Winter Wear," "Entertaining at Home for the Holidays," and "The Matinee in the City" (complete with hats and gloves for a proper visit to San Francisco), and closing with "Photos with Santa," featuring those ubiquitous decorated Christmas sweaters. Martha Morgan stole the show by appearing in red thermal long Johns with the flap in the back, and Santa, Paul Ubelhart, even came to pay a visit. A beautiful start to the holiday season was enjoyed by all.

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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EST. 2013
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Movie Times for 11/20 thru 11/26 This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 13

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

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!

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					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

- Powder mineral
- Ten million (in India)
- Culture medium and a gelling agent
- Cain and ___
- Bullfighting maneuvers
- Baseball's Ruth
- Venice beach
- Infirm due to old age
- Attentiveness
- Mortify
- Whale (Norwegian)
- Family Bufonidae
- "A Passage to India" author
- Ocean
- Dad's partner
- Owned
- Swiss river
- Female golf star Gibson
- Base
- A way to summons
- Acquit
- Male parent
- Brendan Francis ___ author
- Rattan
- Aromatic hot beverage
- Inflorescence
- Former CIA
- Make lace

CLUES DOWN

- W. Samoan monetary unit
- Baby's feeding apparel
- Queen of Sparta
- Shut
- Certified public accountant
- Payment for release
- Red twig dogwood
- Baked in
- Midway between E and SE
- A way to detest
- Mother of Cronus
- In bed
- Bolsheviks
- Farro wheat
- CNN's Turner
- Farmers of America
- Small amount
- ___ and Venzetti
- Hers in Spanish
- Belongs to sun god
- Expressed pleasure
- Small terrestrial lizard
- Regenerate
- Own (Scottish)
- The cry made by sheep
- Chest muscle (slang)
- Explode
- Notice
- Pitch
- Run due to the batter
- Fight referee declares
- Alternate forms of a gene
- Shifted in sailing
- One who cables
- Elaborate celebrations
- Expresses pleasure
- Carbamide
- Persian in Afghanistan
- 1st capital of Japan
- Welsh for John
- Radioactivity units
- Tanzanian shilling
- Hyrax

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The rest of Letters | From Page 2

been unnecessary, and taxpayer time and money could instead be spent enhancing the quality of life for all in our beloved county.

"The board of supervisors finds and declares that: Every resident, present and future, of Mendocino County has an equal right to a healthy and safe environment. This requires that our air, water, earth, and food be of a sufficiently high standard that individuals and communities can live healthy, fulfilling, and dignified lives. The duty to enhance, protect and preserve Mendocino County's environment, community health, and quality of life rests on the shoulders of local government, residents, citizen groups, and businesses alike."

See the full precautionary principle on the county web site at: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/administration/pdf/43-Precautionary%20Principle.pdf.

Cynthia Raiser Jeavons, Willits, for Keep the Code

A big stink!

To the Editor:

Mendocino County residents by now have read or heard about the asphalt plant that has fired up recently on Covelo Road near Outlet Creek. Many locals have taken their families over the years to swim in some of its great swimming holes. It's a gorgeous area, and home to salmon, trout, river otters, bear, coyote, mountain lions, and many other species (including humans!).

Grist Creek Aggregates' facility is located about 14 miles north of Willits on Highway 162 (Covelo Road). The area is technically called Longvale, and it sits dangerously close to Outlet Creek which happens to be on a 100-year flood plain (more prone to flooding). What a place to make hot asphalt!

I'm relatively certain that Grist Creek Aggregates could never get permitted today to produce asphalt in that location except by being "grandfathered in," wherein lies an ethical debate. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors fast-tracked this thing without a full environmental review to see how it might impact the area, not only the wildlife, but for real-life humans who live nearby, many who bought and set up their homesteads or retirement dreams well before the plant site was zoned from rangeland to industrial 2009/2010.

Some of these folks are getting "smoked out" by the obnoxious odors with increasing anxieties about likely chemical exposure, respiratory complaints, noise pollution ("sounds like jet engines, sometimes even at 2 am"), not limited to people who live there. Commuters back and forth to Covelo have also reported symptoms such as headaches ("Now I have to roll up all the windows when I drive by there..").

On the one hand, there's nothing wrong with our elected officials watching out for our economy by trying to bring in less expensive asphalt for road projects and possible local jobs but: at what other expenses?

Recently, a friend who lives near the plant emailed, distraught about the negative

impacts on her family, including a son with respiratory issues which have flared since the plant opened, requiring medical attention: "Kate, we feel like we're on our own out here, and nobody is going to help us, we're not sure what to do."

Since that email I've been pleased with the support from community members in Willits and surrounding areas (people who don't own property in that area, don't have financial connections) who know that we don't treat our neighbors this way, that this new plant is a risky gamble, and that the area in question is one of Mendocino County's treasures.

Grist Creek Aggregates has been fined recently over \$170,000 for 11 violations, and we are told they have not produced asphalt since the end of October. There is a legal battle now. Hats off to our Mendocino Air Quality Management District. Now I can tell my friend somebody is looking out for her and her family.

(Friends of Outlet Creek is a group of concerned neighbors and citizens from all walks of life: conservative, liberal, old, young, retired folks and working stiffs all trying to go through appropriate channels. If you can help: contact.glencolwell.paleographics@juno.com or 707-836-6595.

Kate Black, Willits

A fantastic evening at WCT

To the Editor:

Well, she's done it again ... Ann Samson

has provided an absolutely fantastic evening with her wonderful "Speakeasy: An Evening of Original Monologues" at the Willits Community Theatre.

Peter Smith and William Walls' productions were self-effacing and absolutely hysterical. Ursula Schlichting brought a certain innocence and gratefulness to the stage. Becky Button's chicken addiction was surely an "Only in Willits" story.

I understood every word spoken by Nancy Nelson, widowed and casting about for something to bring joy into her life again. Dr. Andich's Arabian adventure left me wondering - fact or fiction?

But, like all of them, it didn't really matter; they came to entertain, and entertain they did. Who can forget the thought-provoking monologue from Linda Posner, or the image of Emmy Good aging from the top down - her mid-point being glittered fingernails. She assured us her feet are still beautiful.

Wish I could have hit the "record" button.

I'm left to wonder - why one night only? I guess the obvious answer is that people have lives, but friends were disappointed they couldn't attend all three events that night: the artists' opening at Willits Center for the Arts, Steve Eberhard's show at the Brickhouse, and WCT.

I think you could easily fill the house if you offered a "Command Performance." I know I would go again, and this time bring a friend!

Thank you, Annie Samson.

Gail Richards, Willits

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Above, center: Turner and her family fluffs one of the trees awaiting its tags.

Above, right: Boxes are unpacked in preparation for the 2015 program.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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Getting ready for Christmas

At left, top: Sandy Turner and her granddaughter Breanna Lopes pose with cartons of wrapping paper.

At left, below: Turner's great-grandchildren, Viviana, 4, and Angel, 2, check out a sock monkey pop-up toy.

Above, center: Turner and her family fluffs one of the trees awaiting its tags.

Above, right: Boxes are unpacked in preparation for the 2015 program.

Photos by Maureen Moore

"Willits, it's time again for the Willits Kids Christmas Program! We are optimistic that this will be another great year!" said Sandy Turner, coordinator of the program that helps ensure a plentiful holiday for all of the Willits community.

Base camp has been set up for the 2015 event at the old Rexall building, at the corner of Main and West Mendocino streets. Turner hopes the easy location and high visibility will help the community remember to bring in presents and make this another successful year.

The first batch of gifts comes from the annual Willits Toy Run event sponsored by the Willits

Rotary Club. This year's event will be on Sunday, November 29 from noon to 3 pm. The event is open to the public, and admission is one unwrapped toy. The Road Kings will be performing, and there will be food and a no-host bar. All toys collected will be given directly to the Willits Community Christmas Program.

Turner is hoping to have the official Christmas program trees out at local businesses by Thanksgiving, to give the community the chance to help complete tag items on Black Friday.

Trees will be located at J.D. Redhouse, Safeway, Grocery Outlet, Coast Hardware, Old

Read the rest of Christmas | Over on Page 15

Out to Lunch

Remember when the question was simply, "Mexican or Chinese?" We are getting more wide-ranging choices all the time and, as of last April, we lunch-goers gained yet another one. So out we've been, several times, for our tasty Greek lunches at Nikos Gyro Shop on Main Street downtown.

Owned and run by Adrian and Evelyn Fisher, this tiny shop has a counter inside for three or four diners, as well as the large outdoor garden area in back. Plans are to cover that and install heaters this winter for year-round use.

We knew Adrian as a like, son of David Fisher. Adrian grew up here and married Evelyn from Ukiah, who has family on the island of Cyprus where she

with Maggie and Dick Nikos Gyro Shop

visited every summer as a child. No wonder she knows Greek food so well and learned to cook it. Look at the walls in Nikos to see framed family photos, as well as her traditional dance costume preserved on the left-hand wall.

Greek food, of course, features the "gyro." That's pronounced "yee-row" for those of you who, like me, think of that spinning gyroscope toy we had as children and so, mispronounced "gyro" until lately corrected. The "gyro cone" at Nikos is the large seasoned beef/lamb kind of meatloaf on a rotating spike from which Adrian carves your meat, unless you prefer the chicken gyro, of course.

On the menu you will find gyros (served in warm pita bread) as well as the halloumi sandwich which is a sort of Greek grilled cheese sandwich also on pita bread. There is a lovely "Village Salad" with their homemade lemon vinaigrette (our editor Jennifer's favorite), "Avgolemono Soup," a creamy lemon-flavored soup with egg, lemon, rice and chicken, and there is an amazing assortment of Middle Eastern items which you can order, separately, under the heading of "Mezethes."

This is my favorite way to eat, so I order a selection from the list of generous servings of pita bread, cucumber rounds, tomato wedges, gyro meat (beef/lamb or chicken),



halloumi (the sheep and goat milk cheese that's unique to Cyprus), spanakopita, Kalamata olives, feta cheese, humus, talattouri (Greek yogurt with cucumber, garlic and spices), and koypepia (stuffed grape leaves). Order as many as you like and think you have room for, but be sure to save room for the baklava for dessert, which Evelyn bakes. It is truly divine.

Nikos has recently added catered platters of the mezethes, so you can order food for your next party if you wish. Located at 42 South Main Street, 459-9293, Nikos is open Monday through Wednesday, 11 am to 4 pm, and Thursday and Friday, from 11 am to 7 pm. Visit "Nikos Gyro Shop" on Facebook or www.nikosgyroshop.com.

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Tending to our own needs

Doris Wier

When you continue to hit the same problem over and over, can't seem to make a change, what is there to do? We communicate about the issue, but there is never an effort from my partner to change the action/behavior. Do I give up, self-change, or wait, hoping for my partner to change?

L.

Dear L.:

A lot of couples run into the problem you've described here. You are asking yourself good questions. Although you and your partner have tried to communicate about the issue, you are seeing no change. This may possibly be one of those issues that come up in a partnership that is ultimately unsolvable. John M. Gottman, a relationship expert I highly respect, calls this a perpetual problem. With those types of issues, your best chance is to deal with it, kind of like you put up with an achy back that bothers you from time to time. Similar to an achy back, you have to either accept it or find a new approach and/or understanding in your self.

Let me give you an example of a perpetual problem. Let's imagine a situation where the husband grew up in a family where money was scarce. He learned to be careful around spending. His spouse may have dreamt of being with a partner who is very generous and interprets his behavior as being stingy or cheap. Living with the partner she has chosen causes disappointment in her and creates ongoing disagreements between the two of them around money.

Let me also give you an example of a problem that is solvable with the same couple. The wife learns that for the next two months she has to work on the night that is her husband's regular night out. Usually she would take care of the kids on those nights. He is not willing to give up his night out with friends. However, following a possible first reaction of disappointment and frustration, they are able to find a solution. They find that the grandmas are willing to fill in.

As you see, it is helpful to first identify what kind of issue you are having with each other, solvable or perpetual.

Keep in mind, we often end up in a power struggle over who is right and who is wrong when struggling with any type of issue or conflict with one another. This often leads to becoming entrenched in our positions and unwilling to budge. When this happens we lose our connection with each other, at least for that moment, and it becomes more difficult to collaborate on finding a solution.

With perpetual problems, I recommend that you first identify the problem as such and then honor each other's differences and the benefits those differences bring to your partnership. In the example I used above, having a partner who is careful with money would benefit the partnership by making sure the couple has a secure financial future.

Whatever issues you may be having, giving up is seldom a good solution. Giving up may create resentment. It is better to learn to understand and accept what is and stay engaged in the relationship, unless there is severe abuse going on. Sometimes we have to let go of some of our dreams in order to be able to accept our partners for who they are and appreciate what is possible with them. There is no one on earth who can fulfill all our dreams.

Warmly,
Doris

If you have any relationship questions, please send them to doriswier@embracetheconflicts.com or to WW directly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490. She will answer them anonymously on the third Thursday of the month.

Doris Wier is a certified relationship and life coach who works and lives in Willits. She coaches individuals, couples, families, and professionals. In addition she offers Explore-Shops on conflict resolution and deepening intimacy and connection in your partnership.

For more information on the process call 707-456-9246.

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North Coast representatives to hold Dungeness crab season forum in Santa Rosa

The delayed opening of the North Coast Dungeness Crab season will come under scrutiny during a December 3 forum in Santa Rosa hosted by state Senator Mike McGuire, chairman of the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, and committee vice-chairman, state Assemblyman Jim Wood.

The forum, scheduled for 3 to 6 pm in the main room of the Steele Lane Community Center, will focus on public health issues, ocean conditions, and the coastal fishing economy. A panel of experts will discuss the current status, ocean conditions, what to expect in the weeks ahead, and the impacts of the season delay.

State and federal agency representatives, fishing industry representatives, leaders from the Dungeness Crab Task Force, and North Coast county elected officials will also be present to answer questions, according to a committee press release.

In early November, just as the recreational and commercial Dungeness crab seasons were set to open, unsafe levels of domoic acid – a neurotoxin produced by algae – were found in local crab.

The closure will remain in effect until the director of the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, in consultation with the director of the California Department of Public Health,

determines domoic acid levels no longer pose a significant risk to public health and no longer recommends the fisheries be closed.

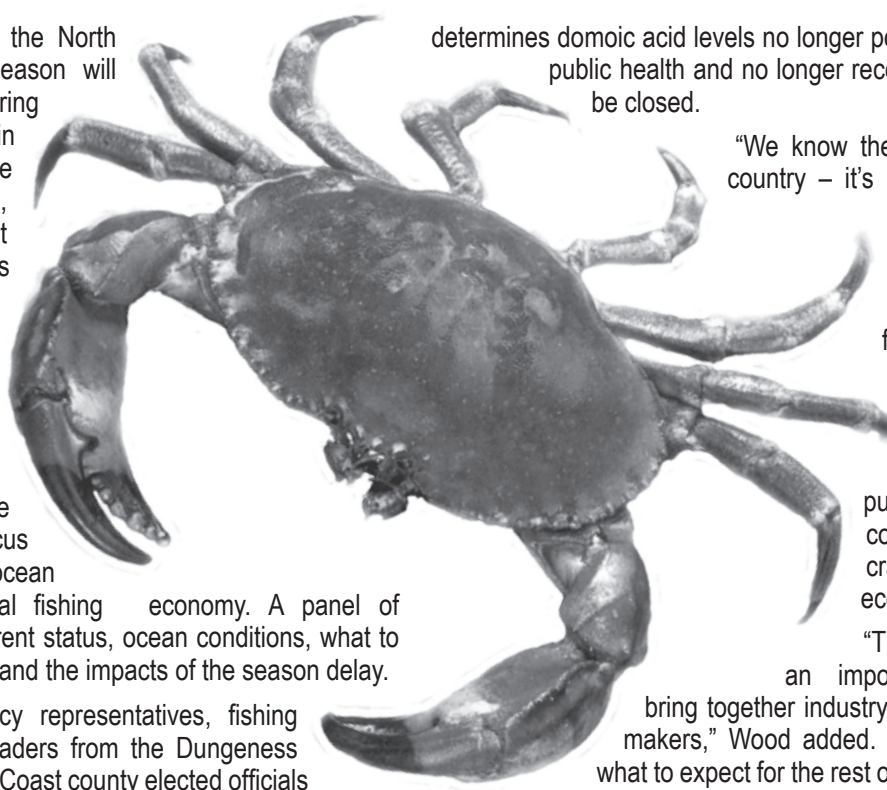
"We know the North Coast is crab country – it's a top industry here – and the decision to delay the opening did not come lightly," McGuire said. "This forum will bring all of the industry experts together in one location, focused on protecting the public's health, ocean conditions and our crab-dependent coastal economy."

"This hearing will provide an important opportunity to bring together industry leaders and decision-makers," Wood added. "It is crucial we know what to expect for the rest of this crab season, and what to be prepared for in the future."

The Dungeness crab fishery is in the top tier of California's commercial fisheries. Values have exceeded \$95 million per year, with long-term averages of nearly \$60 million annually.

For more information on the health advisories and the commission's decision to delay the recreational Dungeness crab season, visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/fishing/ocean/health-advisories.

The Steele Lane Community Center is located at 415 Steele Lane in Santa Rosa.



At left: This Caltrans photo, looking north along the Willits bypass viaduct after the final deck pour, was taken on November 10, 2015.

Below: This Caltrans photo shows all six of the new bridges at the southern interchange of the Willits bypass: two bridges over the new Route 20 extension, and four over Haehl Creek.

Photos courtesy of Caltrans District 1

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

bridges for the northern interchange, north of Willits, are complete. "The falsework has been removed for those four bridges that comprise the northern interchange," Frisbie said. The railroad overhead is also very close to being completed.

Caltrans is still looking at November 2016 as the date for completion of bypass construction, but "it might be sooner," Frisbie said. "We want traffic to be on it as quickly as possible. Once we have traffic onto the new highway, we need to replace a culvert that's on the existing 101, as part of our fish-passage project."

Frisbie said much of the highway construction work was wrapping up for the season, but "people will continue to see some work, especially if we have a normal winter as people hope," although he did note the increasing speculation about the chances of heavy, El Nino rain this winter.

"The National Weather Service says there's a 50/50 chance of the rain being heavier or less than normal. We're being cautious and installing a treatment system at the northern interchange, in case we have some erosion issues. You can't miss it as you're driving by," he said, "there's a whole bunch of red containers up there. We set up an active treatment system for runoff water.

"It's a system that's similar to what we installed

at the south end to ensure that if there was erosion, the sediment would not get in the creek. The system takes in water that has sediment in it, and outputs clear water into the creek."

Frisbie said work that will continue into the winter includes: installing bicycle railing on all the bridges; putting in metal beam guard rails on various locations; and "some proofing or grinding of the bridge decks to help with traction and to ensure a smooth ride."

Frisbie dashed some cold water on those who had hoped for a walk or run across the new bypass on opening day. The final decision hasn't been made yet, but the liability appears to be an unsurmountable problem, he said.

Some of the trucks hauling dirt through town have been hauling away contaminated soil from "the wood waste area" across from the old mill site, Frisbie said. "That's something else we are cleaning up. That's been being backfilled for the last week or so, to create a new wetland area."

Frisbie said the contaminated soil was being hauled away to an appropriate landfill facility out of the area.

Also this winter, "after we have some additional rains," Frisbie said, "there's going to be some additional native plants put out there on various mitigation properties. That'll be pretty much all that will occur at the mitigation properties until next spring."



Haiti Pen Pal Project

Christa Nuñez
Columnist

Connectedness: The state of being connected and having a close relationship with other things or people.

Connectedness is a spice of life. With it, we as people experience a wonderful sense of abundance, support and meaning in our lives. Without it, loneliness, depression and stress can set in, and leave us scratching our heads at a loss about our place in the world.

Right now, right here in Willits, connectedness is front and center in the day-to-day learning of elementary school students as young as 6 years old. Right now, Willits Elementary Charter School is in the business of creating connectedness: in the shepherding relationships forged between first- and fourth-graders and second- and fifth-graders in the new Pen Pal Project between the first- and second-graders at WECS and a group of boarding school students in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The Haiti Pen Pal Project is a unique one that involves 1st and 2nd graders at WECS writing letters and sharing video content of themselves and having their letters and video hand-delivered by a volunteer from the Mendocino County non-profit, Hearthstone Village – the organization that supports the Revell Matinal Orphanage boarding school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Since there is no active postal service in Haiti, all correspondence is handled through a once-monthly visit from a local volunteer leaving for an in-person trip to Haiti.

WECS students have their letters written by mid-month, then hand them off to the next volunteer going to Haiti. The volunteer then distributes the letters upon arrival to the school in Port-au-Prince, where the students excitedly read their pals' letters and write their letters back in time for the volunteer to take the return letters back to Ukiah, where they are picked up by a WECS volunteer and distributed to the Willits students.

It's a complex dance, but a worthwhile one. Christine Felton, the second-grade teacher at WECS says: "This project fits so well with our school's emphasis on integrating subject areas and fostering an awareness of other cultures around the world... Already, they know a lot about plate tectonics and volcanic activity below the ocean's surface, and they are very excited to read the letters from their pen pals. The activities are very hands-on and personal."

When asked, several students in first grade said this project is always their favorite part of the day: They look forward to learning about Haiti. Several students have said they want to visit the Caribbean island one day themselves.

With learning centering around three key aspects underlying the concept of connectedness, curricula has been created that supports learning in an array of disciplines. The key aspects being: 1) How are we the same? 2) How are we different? and 3) How is it good that both similarities and differences exist between us?

Through learning centering around these questions, students have been able to identify the mountain-forest and marine-aquatic biomes as shared ones between our Pacific Northwest region and that of Haiti, as well as identified English, French and Creole as languages of interest to them in their foreign language reading and conversation studies.

Ashkan Nahreini – or Mr. N. as his first-grade students at WECS affectionately call him – says this: "The students created a model of Haiti using salt-dough, and will soon work on Haiti's landscape, identifying forested and deforested areas, mountainous regions, as well as major waterways, fault lines and volcanoes. This has been a great way to teach geography and geology concepts, as well as foster a sense of appreciation for other cultures."

While conversations

Read the rest of **Haiti**

Over on Page 15



Above, from left: Rising Appalachia's Chloe Smith; Sarah Ryan and Sarah "Songbird" Larkin of The Real Sarahs; Leah Smith of Rising Appalachia.

At left: Members of Rising Appalachia work in the school garden the day after the show.

Below: A few of the many music-lovers who packed the Little Lake Grange.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Appalachia Rising

Soulful troubadours play benefit for Montessori school garden

Below, from left: Jim Marill and Melinda Clarke dance in front of the sound guys. Special tour guest Arouna Diarra. More happy concert-goers.

Photos by Mathew Caine

The Willits Grange held a sold-out concert event benefitting The Tree of Life Montessori Charter School in Ukiah, on Tuesday, November 10. Performing on stage was local folk band The Real Sarahs, followed by headliners Rising Appalachia, from Asheville, North Carolina, who are currently in the middle of a West Coast tour.

The event, which raised approximately \$5,000, was coordinated by Anna Purna, parent of a Tree of Life student.

"I was super inspired by an artist called the Polish Ambassador [DJ David Sugalski] who did a permaculture action tour last fall," Purna said. "People would come to the show, and he would announce to the crowd that the next day they would be planting an orchard or building a greenhouse. They had great turnouts all over the country."

Purna, friends with the drummer of Rising Appalachia, talked with the band about using the

Polish Ambassador's model as a benefit for her daughter's school.

"We were talking about how great it would be to have all these transformational festivals that actually make a lasting mark in a way that's physically measurable, like planting something or building something that's sustainable," Purna said.

With the help and cooperation of concert promoter Pooba and the Willits Grange, the event was planned and made manifest. The day after the concert, people and students planted medicinal flowers and herbs at the Montessori school garden.

"I had designed a garden that involves a fish pond with water plants where the fish and the plants live symbiotically with each other," Purna said. "Surrounding the pond are oak barrel planters." The students planted burdock, rose hips, calendula, elderberries and lemon balm.

Read the rest of **Concert** | Over on Page 15



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A Winter Wonderland

Sold-out gala raises spirits as well as funds for new firehouse

At top from left: Christine Griggs and Richard Willoughby catch up before dinner.

Mike Smith, along with his wife, Margie, bids enthusiastically during the live auction.

Lou Calaya looks on as Jelene Carillo makes a bid during the Fund a Need auction.

Above, left: Long-time friends Zac and Krista Robinson, Phil Shuster, and Lisa and Jay Epstein had a marvelous time.

Above, right: Potter Valley Cafe workers kept a wide selection of pies handy for the crowd.

At right, top: Gaye Orvis and Mary Anne Trevey share a laugh about the bidding wars at the silent auction.

At right, bottom: Harold Darrow was the excited winner of the raffle for the mini-bike.

Photos by Jenny Senter

"It is always fun to get dolled up a bit to attend a formal event," said one of the attendees of the Winter Wonderland Gala fundraiser for Little Lake Fire Protection District's firehouse building fund. Sequins and formal attire were part of the fun at the event held at the Willits Community Center on the evening of Saturday, November 14.

Tom Herman, member of Little Lake Fire Department since 1985, and currently a board member, emceed the event. Other board members on hand were Tony Madrigal and Gerry Gonzales. Herman acknowledged the presence at the event of past firefighters Bob Borba, Bruce Burton, Dave Edgar and Bob Brown, and said he considers them as part of the fire department's "big family." He also thanked the firefighters for their dedication to serving the community.

Fire Chief Carl Magann was on hand to talk about the need for a new firehouse. He said that the firehouse, built 64 years ago, does not meet current building and seismic standards.

Additionally, the structure is too small for the current fire engines and trucks (the ladder truck has to be stored at the substation south of town). He went on to describe the "strategic bucket placement" needed before every rainstorm and shuddered to think what the predicted El Nino will mean to the firehouse's leaky roof.

The roof has been replaced several times over the years, Magann noted, but it always leaks again because of its flat roof design. While fundraisers over the past 10 years have been extremely helpful, inflation has led to a frustrating increase in the funds needed to build a firehouse that will meet current building codes. Magann expressed his gratitude to the community for supporting the Winter Wonderland Gala. Magann is hopeful voters will carefully consider voting in June 2016 in favor of the new firehouse ballot measure supporters plan to have on the ballot.

Linda Buletti, event chair, noted that the tables for the gala sold out immediately.

Gala | Over on Page 13

The rest of Grist Creek | From Page 1

The heart of the issue involves a missing permit to operate a crumb rubber heating and blending unit, the equipment that makes rubberized asphalt. The air quality district claims Grist Creek is required to have a permit to operate the heating and blending unit. Grist Creek responds that this is news to them. Previously, the company claims, Scaglione had said all the necessary permits were included in the "Authority to Construct" issued June 2.

In the opening paragraphs of the lawsuit, Grist Creek explicitly states that in its notices of violation the air district "asked for further permits in contradiction to prior direction that no further permits were required."

In the suit, Grist Creek attorneys provide an example of how, they said, Scaglione did not inform Grist Creek it needed a permit to operate the heating and blending unit, when he had an opportunity to do so.

"On October 1, 2015, Grist Creek Aggregates' representative reached out to Mr. Scaglione to discuss recent neighbor complaints and the start of rubberized asphalt production at the property. Mr. Scaglione informed Grist Creek's representative the neighbor complaints were part of an agenda to shut the plant down, and expressed no compliance concerns regarding operations at the property. Further, Mr. Scaglione confirmed the Authority to Construct covered rubberized asphalt production and that no separate permit was needed for rubber blending unit or ancillary equipment."

In the lawsuit, Grist Creek Aggregates claims the air district has acted with "bias and prejudice."

"Respondents [i.e., the county air district] recently claimed that this additional permit is required for the asphalt plant despite stating previously that no additional permit was required. Respondents have all necessary information to process the permit to issue and have informed Petitioner [i.e., Grist Creek Aggregates] of that fact. The Air Pollution Control Officer [Robert Scaglione] informed a representative of the Petitioner that the permit would be processed in as little as a day. To date, nearly two weeks after Petitioner submitted the permit application, Respondents still have not processed the application even though it has all the information to do so.

"Further, Respondents seek penalties from Petitioner for failing to obtain the very permit Respondents refuse to process. Thus, Respondents' failure to process the permit, while simultaneously penalizing Petitioner for not having the permit, constitutes bias, prejudice and an abuse of discretion."

In related news, on October 29, the California Air Resources Board issued a report on operations at the Longvale site. The report noted six likely violations of state air pollution control regulations, and found operations and controls at the Longvale plant were "lax."

The report reads, in part: "General housekeeping at the facility was lax. Air Resources Board staff observed significant piles of dust and fine aggregates below the aggregate conveyors; ARB staff observed leaked pools of a black material that appeared to be asphaltic oil below the asphalt storage tank; ARB staff observed broken monitoring gauges. Lack of proper housekeeping, including equipment maintenance, can be indicative of a facility not well-run and at risk of increased emissions."

According to Friends of Outlet Creek spokesman Glen Colwell, who was an air monitoring manager for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for 26 years, the plant has for the most part ceased asphalt production, although Colwell said members of Friends of Outlet Creek recently told him asphalt production at the plant occurred briefly on Saturday, November 14.

The rest of Election | From Page 1

Second-place winner Rick Kale, Willits resident and principal of Round Valley Elementary/Middle School in Covelo, took a final 24.43 percent (344 votes), while third-place challenger Perri Kaller of Willits, drew 18.04 percent of the vote (254 votes) in the final tally.

Final voter turnout in the college district race was 18.12 percent: 1,395 of the district's 7,700 registered voters cast their ballots.

Countywide, the final turnout was a bit higher at 20.76 percent, with 7,522 of the county's 36,227 registered voters casting ballots.

Voter Registrar Sue Ranochak said the county received "less than 50" ballots after Election Day, but before the new "Postmark Plus 3" deadline. The new rule allows mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day, and received by the county voter office via U.S. mail within three days after Election Day, to be considered valid.

The local elections office has to check and double-check their results before certifying any final election. "We went through our normal routine," Ranochak said, "and we were able to finish by Friday, November 13.

"We checked our inventories, did our manual tally, tabulated the ballots left at the polls, and processed and counted the provisionals," Ranochak said.

Out of 49 provisional ballots countywide this election, all but three ballots were judged valid and counted.

The rest of Memorial | From Page 1

Noting the memorial represents not only the veterans of that single war, Glassey said: "We are remembering our grandfathers in World War I, our fathers and possibly mothers in World War II and the Korean conflict, and our sons and daughters in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Glassey recognized and thanked several public officials attending the event, including county Supervisors Tom Woodhouse and John McCowan, and Willits City Councilmembers Holly Madrigal, Madge Strong, Ron Orenstein, Larry Stranske and Mayor Bruce Burton. Sheriff Tom Allman and Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez were also present.

Praising the efforts of these and other officials, Glassey said: "The City of Willits was of great assistance in moving this project forward: Thanks to the city council, city manager Adrienne Moore, and specifically John Sherman and Rod Wilburn. The County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors have supported the project. Dan Bell of Bell Monuments in Clovis, California, turned Dennis' ideas into granite; literally they are etched in stone."

After Glassey's introduction, members of American Legion Post 174 performed the traditional Posting of the Colors, followed by a moving rendition from Necole Suttles of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Mayor Burton took to the podium, recounting a story told to him by a Willits native about the ringing of the church bells on November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m., announcing Armistice Day and the end of WWI.

"That was when we began recognizing our veterans and where this Veterans Day comes from," Burton said.

The mayor expressed his condolences to the family members in attendance who had lost loved ones to the Vietnam War. "The harder battle is fought by the families that have had to deal with this loss their entire lives," he said.

Miner, a retired major, explained why he worked so hard to get the memorial project off the ground and finished – "on time, and below budget" – telling the story of going to the movies for the first time as a young boy.

"I was about 5 or 6 years old, and I went to the Noyo Theatre and watched my first movie 'To Hell and Back.'" The 1955 movie starred Audie Murphy playing himself as a WWII soldier who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for single-handedly turning back a German attack.

"I knew from there that someday I'd serve in the army, and sure enough I did," Miner said. "I retired as a major and yes,

The rest of Turkeys | From Page 1

Sengdara, along with other inmates at the Highway 20 facility, will help prepare the Thanksgiving meal in time for next Thursday's feast.

The dinner is free to attend, and everyone is welcome to attend and sit down for a meal with the community. It will be held from 11 am to 3 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, located at 1501 Baechtel Road.

Items picked up from the Food Bank included: 36 turkeys, 25 pounds of carrots, two cases of celery, eight pounds of green onions, 300 pounds of tomatoes, 50 pounds of yellow onions, 18 cans of cranberries, 36 cans of green beans, 36 cans of yams, 84 pounds of stuffing, 11 gallons of salad dressing, eight gallons of milk, 30 pounds of butter, 15 pounds of flour, four pounds of salt and 25 pounds of sugar.

There will also be 100 pies and 36 cans of whipped cream to make sure there's plenty of dessert.

Volunteer drivers will go pick up the cooked meal from Chamberlain Creek, and have everything ready to serve on Thanksgiving Day.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to serve the meal, or to help with clean-up or other tasks, is encouraged to call 459-3333.

Donations to benefit Willits Community Services will gladly be accepted, to help WCS continue to provide essential human services in our community.

Mendocino County servicemen on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Willits: Lee A. Adams (April 19, 1966), Kenneth A. Butler, Jr. (July 23, 1968), Clinton B. Fackrell (April 13, 1966), Robert M. Lathrope (August 24, 1965).

Covelo: Clyde E. Rains (March 4, 1969), Lewis L. Short (August 7, 1969).

Redwood Valley: Eugene C. Campbell (August 27, 1967), Charles E. Crain (July 2, 1967).

Ukiah: Donald G. Armstrong (April 2, 1970), Stephen C. Brunton (August 18, 1968), Dennis P. Dunsing (May 6, 1968), Edmund H. Frenya (January 22, 1966), Michael W. Green (May 11, 1969), G.B. Jackson, Jr. (September 17, 1968), Ronald L. Wafford (August 24, 1965), Jeffrey S. Wesolowski (June 19, 1971).

Fort Bragg: Daniel G. Dawson (November 6, 1964), John P. Patton (June 22, 1967), Billie E. Sandefur (November 27, 1967), Louis C. Schlote (April 16, 1968).

Mendocino: Clyde A. Lucas (March 26, 1969).

I was Major Miner," he joked. "It's all brought me back here today right down the road from the Noyo Theatre, to present this memorial."

According to Miner, Hollywood is currently in production of a movie about a Fort Bragg native who went missing in action during the Vietnam War, called "Brother of the Pilot."

"There's no winning the war, and there's no coming home with the Medal of Honor like Audie Murphy," Miner said, his voice cracking. "Dannie Dawson is still missing in action, so today we're flying the MIA/POW flag."

Jacob, the grandson of Dannie Dawson, one of the Fort Bragg soldiers on the memorial, was in attendance.

Quoting President Kennedy's famous lines, "Ask not what your country can do for you," Miner urged people to ask themselves, "What have I done for my country?"

"If you can't think of anything right away, I have a couple suggestions," Miner said. "When you see someone in uniform, tell them 'thank you for your service.' When you come across a veteran, look them in the eye, shake their hands, tell them 'thank you for your service.' If you see a wounded veteran, ask them 'how can I be of assistance,' then thank them for their service."

Noting a recent survey shows most veterans feel disconnected from their communities, Miner said: "The memorial and the museum can serve as a bridge that connects the community with our veterans. It's already working; veterans are telling their stories. We need this memorial so these 22 honorable men can find their rightful place in history."

Necole Suttles sang two more songs during the event: "Taps" ("Day is Done"), and "America the Beautiful." Hal Wagenet of Modern Music Sound Service provided era-appropriate music, and Diane Ford provided refreshments during the reception.

Ford is the sister of one of the men named on the memorial. Robert "Mike" Lathrope was killed in Vietnam on August 24, 1965.

Inside the museum is a display called "Veteran's History Personal," which is focused on the background of the 22 men and includes photos and other effects. Nearby is a display of the medals and effects of Jesse Pitman, a Navy Seal and Willits native who was killed in Afghanistan in 2011.

The museum is currently collecting oral histories from veterans.

The Mendocino County Museum is located at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits. Open hours are 10 am to 4:30 pm, Wednesday through Sunday.



Photos by Peter Armstrong

Above: The memorial in front of the Mendocino County Museum.

Below: A reception line of veterans and county officials.

At bottom: Diane Ford, sister of Mike Lathrope, talks about remembering families.

Below, right: The Willits fallen veterans.



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At right: Tom Summers, right, of the House Doctor and his dog Ceci accept their first-place prize in the Business Pumpkin Decorating Contest – a gift certificate to Buster's Restaurant – from the chamber's Lynn Kennelly, center, and Carlin Horger, Far right: The House Doctor's first-place skeleton head pumpkin.

Below: One punkin' head in El Mexicano's spooky and colorful window display.

Below, right: Carlin Horger, left, and Lynn Kennelly, right, of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, present Emilio Flores and window decorator Shevelle Perkins of El Mexicano their second-place prize: movie tickets to the Noyo Theatre.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



House Doctor, El Mexicano win chamber pumpkin contest

The Willits Chamber of Commerce had 32 entrants into its 2015 Business Pumpkin Decorating Contest, judged by the vote of the people during the Harvest Moon Celebration in October.

First place went to the House Doctor, with its beautiful, skeleton head pumpkin, and second place went to El Mexicano Restaurant for a spooky and colorful window display of punkin' heads in the window.

The hard work of chamber board member Carlin

Horger was largely responsible for the success of this year's contest, said the chamber's Lynn Kennelly. "Gotta give Carlin a lot of credit for the increased numbers of businesses putting out pumpkins for people to vote for," she said.

The full list of participants is as follows: Adam's Restaurant, The Book Juggler, Bountiful Gardens, Buttercups Children's Boutique, Cat's Meow, Coast Hardware, ER Energy, Earth's Treasures, El Mexicano Restaurant, Energize Willits, Flower Lady of Willits, George's Geodes

& Gems, The Goods' Shoppe, House Doctor Paints, J.D. Redhouse, La Bodega Furniture, Mazahar Boutique, Misty Made & Sew Much More, Monkey Wrench, Moon Lady, Off the Cuff, Old Mission Pizza, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Scoops Deli, Starchild Chocolate, Rio's Fish & Chips, Tiger Lily's Boutique, Tri Counties Bank, U.S. Cellular, Unique Boutique, Willits Power & Hardware, and Willits Furniture Center.

– Jennifer Poole



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Free Writing Class
FREE: Creative writing class, open to all ages, held at Willits Senior Center on the first and third Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm. Call Sue (972-6422) to reserve your spot, now.

Help Wanted
Adventist Health-Homecare & Hospice Services Mendocino County. FIT - P/T - Per Diem positions: RN, Home Health Aide, Physical & Occupational Therapist. Great Team & Great Benefits. Call Trudy-HR #456-3230.

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Space for RV's and Trailers \$390 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/rp>

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.

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.

Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency
Currently recruiting for:
• Nurse Case Manager
• Senior Nurse Case Manager
For further information on the above positions or to apply, go to: <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr/openings.htm>
Click on "Job Opportunities"

Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency
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• CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER
For further information on the above position or to apply, go to: <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr/openings.htm>
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Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency
Currently recruiting for:
• Social Worker Supervisor I and II
• Account Specialist Supervisor/ Account Clerk Supervisor
• Screener
• Social Worker Assistant II
For further information on the above positions or to apply, go to: <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr/openings.htm>
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Click on "Job Opportunities"

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'Our Renewable Future'

Richard Heinberg talks about moving beyond fossil fuels at WELL event

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com



Between 40 to 50 people attended a lecture by Richard Heinberg, senior fellow of the Post Carbon Institute in Santa Rosa, at the Little Lake Grange on Sunday. Sponsored by Willits Economic Localization (WELL), Heinberg's presentation, "Our Renewable Future," covered a range of topics, from the shift towards hydro fracking, to regulating the oil, coal and gas industries out of existence, to the future of renewable energy.

Heinberg began his presentation explaining: "For the vast history of human existence, we've used energy in renewable forms," he said. "We used this energy in terms of muscle power, be it human or animal."

With muscle power as the primary means of creating energy, humans were limited in what they could create and do. Then along came the 19th century and the advent of fossil fuels.

"The shift from renewable energy to fossil fuels was absolutely epic," Heinberg said. "It changed everything about our economy and about the way we lived."

Comparing the muscle energy of a single person with a tank of gasoline, Heinberg showed a picture of a man pushing a car up a hill. It would take the man weeks, if not months, to move the car as far as a tank of gasoline could in less than a day. Extrapolating from this analogy, because of the use of fossil fuels, we have been able to do and create things that muscle power alone would never have accomplished.

However, all this technological and economic advancement has come at a price.

"Burning all of these fossil fuels is creating a nightmare, and we're only seeing the very beginning of that nightmare," Heinberg warned. "We're only seeing the tip of the melting iceberg."

Because of the vast amounts of carbon dioxide gushing into the atmosphere, Heinberg said: "We're performing an unprecedented chemistry experiment with the earth's atmosphere and oceans."

The argument often used to thwart shifting to renewable energy is an economic one, the idea that the world's economies are too wrapped up in oil, coal and natural gas. The change would cause a shakeup too many aren't willing to risk.

But according to Heinberg, fossil fuels themselves are

With rare insight, clarity, and compassion Richard Heinberg helps us face the music. — JOANNA MACY

AFTERBURN

SOCIETY BEYOND FOSSIL FUELS

RICHARD HEINBERG

getting more and more expensive to extract, and soon the cost of their extraction will exceed their utility. As vertical drilling has slowed down and given way to horizontal and deep water drilling, fossil fuels have been found and extracted at a rapid rate in places like North Dakota and Texas. Already, according to Heinberg, these states have levelled out and are slowing down production.

"Inevitably we will see declining oil and natural gas production over the next few years," Heinberg said. "The only place where shell gas is growing is the Marcellus region in Pennsylvania, and that looks like it's about to peak out over the next year or two."

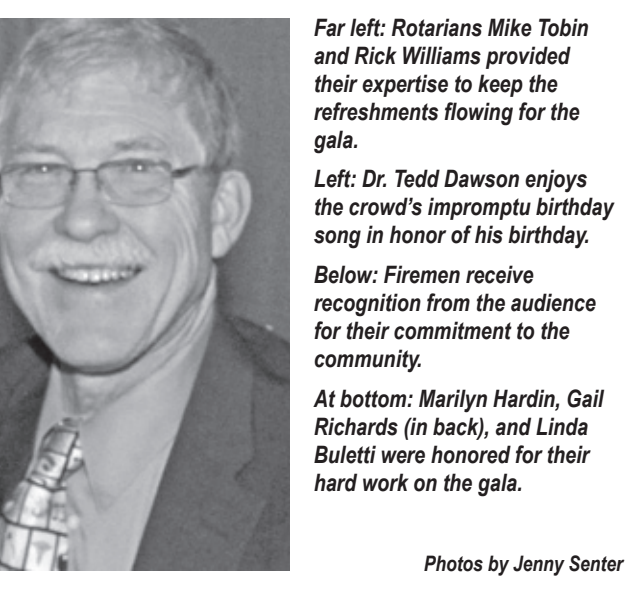
Because of these factors, Heinberg says it's vital to make moving to renewable resources the highest priority of the rest of the 21st century. It will be a long and complex process, and not a simple matter of changing from one to the other overnight, as there are still many limitations to energy sources such as wind and solar.

Sacrifices will have to be made, including the near extinction of the aviation industry, Heinberg said, as thus far no renewable energy source can efficiently replace fossil fuel in that area.

According to Heinberg, our renewable future will involve "less total energy, less controllable energy, less mobility and more localization." But the opportunities coinciding with the shift to renewables include "a more energy-efficient economy, acceptable quality of life – maybe happier – more stable climate, greatly reduced health and environmental impacts, and lastly, we will have removed carbon from the atmosphere."

This shift to renewables as the primary source of energy, ironically, needs the help of the fossil fuels industry. The

Read the rest of **Heinberg** | Over on Page 15



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

and that approximately 142 people attended the event. She was especially grateful for the help of the several volunteers who donated their time to making the Winter Wonderland Gala such a "huge success." Buletti should know, since this is the third event she has chaired for the firehouse fund.

Sheriff Tom Allman offered his expertise as an auctioneer for both the live auction and the special "Fund a Need" auction. The "Fund a Need" auction was a special fundraiser to earn funds towards the replacement of turnout gear for the firefighters. The turnout gear for each firefighter costs about \$10,000.

Brad and Jill Walton said they had a great time with "good friends, good music and good food." Walton shared that he is proud to be a part of this community and appreciates the way everyone comes together to support a fundraiser for such a worthy cause as the building of a new firehouse.

Jay and Lisa Epstein attended with their long-time friends Zac and Krista Robinson, owners of Anderson Valley's Husch Vineyards. Lisa Epstein commented that they "had a marvelous time. The wine and food was great and the community center looked amazing."





Above, left: Mary Ann Underhill and her leatherwork at the 2014 event. Above, right: Animal- and symbol-shaped ornaments with a lovely patina hung on display. Right: Wolfgang Ronnefeldt stands with his salves and body products.

Photos by Maureen Moore



29th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair

Come cheer the holiday season as local crafters show their wares

The 29th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair, Friday, December 11 through Sunday, December 13, is sponsored by the Willits Center for the Arts as a service to craftspeople and the community and as a fundraiser for the WCA.

Bonnie Belt
Contributing writer

The fair is at the Willits Community Center on East Commercial Street, just one block east of Highway 101, with plenty of parking in the city parking lot or on the streets around the park. On Friday, the fair will open at noon and close at 7 pm; on Saturday, from 10 am to 4 pm; and on Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm.

A wide variety of arts and crafts will be displayed for sale by more than 30 vendors: jewelry, ceramics (both pottery and

sculptural), metal work, photography, fabric arts and wearables, glass, and herbal body products. Many of our area's favorite artist/crafters will return along with some excellent new artists and work.

The fair will again offer the scrumptious creations from the kitchen of the Willits Charter School, always delicious and reasonably priced. The students and parents will also be bringing their homemade confections to satisfy every sweet tooth.

There will be the popular "Kids Craft Fair" area on Saturday, December 12 (10 am to 2 pm) for the younger artists to sell their work, and of course our local musicians will



entertain throughout the three-day event. There is also the popular raffle to benefit WCA where visitors can buy raffle tickets with a chance to win the crafters' work; picking out their favorite piece from the table of prizes.

This fair will be the 29th annual gathering of artists and crafters in Willits, and will again include Sunday for a three-day event this year. The fair continues the tradition as a big part of the Willits community holiday season festivities. "This fair reminds us why we love living in our small town," says coordinator Bonnie Belt, "seeing all our friends and neighbors, supporting the local economy, and just having fun!

Contact Belt for more information at 459-4792 or belt.bonnie@gmail.com.

List of 2015 Holiday Crafts Fair artists

Anne Vanderhorck, dolls/quilts; Roq Horowitz, ceramics/pottery; David Rice, pickles; Karen Gridley & Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, bags/herbal body products;

Laura Buckner, jewelry; Barbara Stanger, metal garden art; Erwin Ludwig, knives & holders; Janae Stephens; hand-printed clothing; Knox Gillespie, ceramics/pottery; Alfredo Vionnet, wood cutting boards; Kathryn Dubois, beaded jewelry; Summitside Photography, photography; Alice McAlister, glass; Sienna Reno, prints, clothing; Bob & Priscilla Gasto, metal plasmacut art; Terri Herbstrih, jewelry; Doug Volz, postcards, posters; Rex Morgan, metalwork/sculpture; Bonnie Belt, ceramics/sculptures; Denise McKeag/Deni's Pottery, ceramics/pottery; Rachel Arama Yusem, knitted clothing; Mary Ann Underhill, leatherwork; Kathy Lieberfarb, soap; Greg Burdick, turned wood; Joanne Horn, body products; Tess McGuire, felt hats; Ann Maglente, prints, scarves, garden art; Kathy Green, tie dye clothing; Gregg Lindsley, ceramics/pottery; William Cull, jewelry; Ursula Patch, felted & woven wear; Gloria Simmonds, soap; Jackie Pealaterre, woodcuts; and Marlana River, ceramics.



Above: the inside of the Community Center last year was filled with crafters and shoppers. Below, left: Jars of pears. Below, right: Booths were filled with wares and their makers. At bottom: glass vases showcase flowers in a whole new way.



The rest of Haiti

From Page 7

around diversity, peaceful co-existence, and appreciation for multiculturalism happen around the country at institutions like University of Missouri, and in cities as far-flung as Beirut and Paris, elementary students in Willits, California are doing the real work of reaching out to their peers of different lands, tongues, skin-tones and backgrounds.

Students in both countries tell not only about themselves, but also show real interest and care in learning about their pals, all with a shared sense of wonder and excitement. To them, it is apparent that the idea of "foreignness" is inherently interesting and wonderful, something to be embraced and explored. May their attitude of learning be a lesson to us all.

Christa Nuñez runs Planet Kidz, Inc. and its sister non-profit organization, KHUBA International, supporting children and families in their efforts to become stronger, more knowledgeable and caring world citizens through badge-earning activities in community service, environmental stewardship, and shared cultural exchanges. She is also the owner of CCM (CAN Cooperative Media Group), www.cancooperativemedia.com; 459-1067.

The rest of Heinberg

From Page 13

following is extracted from Heinberg's article "Cap Fossil Fuel Production Now!":

"Environmentalists are accustomed to thinking of the fossil fuel industry as the enemy; but they must eventually confront the inconvenient truth that, for the next two or three decades, oil and gas will still be necessary. That's partly because we currently need fossil fuels for building, transporting and installing renewable energy infrastructure (panels, turbines, electric cars, energy storage, grid upgrades, public transit)."

Richard Heinberg, the author of 11 books including his most recent, "Afterburn: Society Beyond Fossil Fuels," can be found on the web at richardheinberg.com, and at postcarbon.org.

Willits Economic Localization, founded in 2004, has two coordinating committee member openings, for anyone interested in helping WELL's efforts towards creating "an enduring local economy that provides health and security for our community."

WELL's latest project is working with the Economic Development & Finance Corporation of Lake and Mendocino counties to promote EDFC's "brand-new cutting-edge vehicle for local investment," the first community-based direct public offering opportunity of its kind in California. The first approved project which would receive these loan funds is a "shovel ready" wool mill in Ukiah: the "Mendocino Wool & Fiber Mill Project: From Shears to Sweaters."

As of November 6, the Mendocino Wool & Fiber page on Facebook reported EDFC had raised 63 percent of the \$250,000 needed to launch the DPO and - with matching funds - to fund the "shovel-ready" wool mill.

According to WELL member Madge Strong, this kind of local investment "does two very important things. It gives people a chance to invest their money into our local economy. Secondly when it's invested in our local economy, it is invested in businesses that are good for the planet - for people, as well as for profit."

Find WELL on the web at www.well95490.org. For information on EDFC's DPO, visit edfc.org.

Covelo man beaten during attack on girlfriend

Stefani said.

A domestic dispute that turned violent ended with the 44-year-old assailant being airlifted to a Redding trauma hospital after being badly beaten when he allegedly attacked two rescuers with a knife.

The disturbance began shortly before 6 pm on November 6, according to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Witnesses told deputies Karl Gage and his 34-year-old cohabitant girlfriend were staying in a trailer in the backyard of a home in the 23000 block of Howard Street when they began to argue, says sheriff's Lt. Greg Stefani. Gage reportedly kicked a dog he and his girlfriend share, then threw a chair at her, missing the woman but prompting two men to come to her aid. The men tried to protect the victim by taking her into a nearby house.

According to a sheriff's office press release, Gage attacked both men with a knife, lacerating one man's hand and the other man's neck.

"Both victim's injuries were small lacerations and not life-threatening,"

The rest of Concert

From Page 7

"Each plant has a book that goes with it, from a series of books I found called "Herb Faeries" [by Kimberly Gallagher]," Purna said. "The plants are personified as faeries, and they go on adventures."

Before becoming a mom, Anna Purna used to go on tree planting tours with a group called Common Vision.

"From San Diego to Chico, we planted fruit trees in schools with kids," Purna said. After her daughter Satima became kindergarten age, Purna decided to put the energy she was using with groups like Common Vision into the school.

The rest of Librarian

From Page 1

came here a year and a half ago, the library system was in disarray. The supervisors put me here with the charge to make sure things were functioning properly, and we've done that.

"We have a good team in place here," he said. "We've got a strong budget. A month ago I held a staff meeting, and I asked everyone to give me their comments, their biggest complaints. Everyone said they

The rest of Christmas

From Page 5

Mission Pizza, Mazahar, the Savings Bank of Mendocino County's Willits branch, the new Howard Memorial Hospital, Little Lake Health Center, and many more businesses as they confirm. Any business wishing to have a tree should contact Turner at 459-5827 or 490-8872.

Anyone who has an artificial tree to loan or donate is also encouraged to call Turner. She noted the program can use trees of all sizes - large, medium, tabletop, etc. - as the number of businesses wanting to help distribute tags keeps increasing.

Each tree will be covered in colorful tags, each bearing the name, age and wishes of children in need. Shoppers can pick up a tag, and purchase one, some or all of the items it lists. The unwrapped items can then be brought to the Rexall building, or to the other drop-off locations: Main Street Music or J.D. Redhouse.

Anyone wishing to adopt a whole family is also welcome to contact Turner directly and can purchase toys, clothes and other items for all the children in one household. Straight monetary donations are also

Gage was punched and kicked by the victims, a 37-year-old man from South Lake Tahoe and a 44-year-old Round Valley man, until he "ceased his violent actions and walked away from the property," Stefani said.

Deputies from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, assisted by a California DFW game warden, were summoned to the Covelo home to investigate the reported assault. Arriving first, the game warden found Gage seriously injured. Deputies arrived and began to gather evidence and interview the parties.

"Gage's injuries were serious in nature, and he remains hospitalized," Stefani said. A case has been submitted to the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office requesting charges of assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm be filed against Gage.

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

Raising \$5,000 for a school garden project from a single event is energy efficiently used.

"Music brings people together," said Purna. "Then what do we do once we're together? There's so much potential in that."

To find out about Rising Appalachia's tour dates, visit www.risingappalachia.com. You can follow The Real Sarahs on their Facebook page.

Tree of Life Charter School is located on Ford Street in Ukiah and can be reached at 707-462-0913.

County Executive Officer Carmel Angelo announced Clark would be leaving during Tuesday's board meeting. Supervisors praised Clark for his work, particularly for the technological upgrades that have taken place during his time as county librarian.

Supervisor Dan Hamburg favored the individualized approach. He told the other board members he understood the needs of his district better than other supervisors, and was certain such was the case for each of the other supervisors as well.

McCowan moved that each of the supervisors draw up a short list so that he could compile a final list, then and there. However, his motion received no second. Hamburg then moved that the board should follow the "district approach"; his motion received a second and was supported unanimously.

Health and Human Services Agency Director Stacey Cryer announced that her department would fund \$130,000 worth of grant requests, bringing the total of county largesse to \$380,000.

Cryer said her department would fund the following projects: 1.) National Alliance of Mental Illness, \$4,827, to support the Family to Family and Peer to Peer programs; 2.) Healthy Mendocino, \$4,950, to pay for Community Health Needs Assessment; 3.) Manzanita Services, \$5,000, to purchase kitchen appliances; 4.) Nuestra Alianza, \$7,408 to support a Mexican culture summer program for Willits children; 5.) Good Farm Fund, \$3,000 to help the group provide grants to small farmers; 6.) Anderson Valley Elder Home, \$9,000 to assist group in creating a community garden in the Anderson Valley; 7.) Brooktrails Community Services District, \$25,000 to help with renovation of kids' playground; 8.) Mendocino County Youth Project, \$34,082 to provide short-term housing to homeless youth, and 9.) Ford Street Project, \$23,300 to Unity Village shelter for homeless families and creation of children's activity center.

Anyone wishing to adopt a whole family is also welcome to contact Turner directly and can purchase toys, clothes and other items for all the children in one household. Straight monetary donations are also

greatly appreciated, as program volunteers will go out right before Christmas and use the cash to make sure all of requests are met. "Donations can be made by check or cash to the Rotary Christmas Program," explained Turner. "Remember, all donations are tax-deductible!"

The program has operated out of the Sparetime Supply warehouse for the past several years, and Turner expressed her immense appreciation to Mike Griggs, Sr. and the Sparetime crew. Having the highly visible location this year, however, is something Turner and the crowd are looking forward to, as they hope it will encourage participation and create more awareness for the program, too.

"As always, our goal is to help make the holiday season more merry for those in our community who are experiencing hardship," said Turner.

Any and all offers to help or questions are welcome, and can be directed to Turner at 459-5827 or 490-8872.



At left: Tags will soon be out on trees just like this one, displayed at a local business last year.

Below: Santa Tim and Santa Rick helped deliver toys for Christmas at the end of the 2014 program.



The rest of Identity

From Page 1

Savings Bank of Mendocino County employees, although several people have said they received bogus calls claiming to represent other financial institutions.

The automated recording then prompts the caller to provide personal identifying information, such as card PIN number and social security number, to get the card reactivated, a sheriff's spokesman says. Once the information has been supplied, the call is terminated abruptly.

"This has been determined to be an identity theft scam," according to a sheriff's office press release.

The Savings Bank of Mendocino County has issued the following statement:

"If you receive an automated phone call that conveys it is from Savings Bank, it is fraudulent. Do not provide requested information. The bank does not make automated phone calls and will not call customers to activate their debit cards or ask for account or card information.

"The bank will call customers if there is unusual activity, and it is suspected to be fraud," a Savings Bank spokesman added. In such a case, "the calls are made in person, not automated."

Anyone who receives a suspicious call should always consult with their financial institution or local law enforcement agency prior to releasing any personal financial information, the sheriff's office says.

Persons with information that might identify the persons responsible for this identity theft scam is urged to call the sheriff's office tip-line at 707-234-2100.

This report was based on press releases from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and Savings Bank of Mendocino County.

The rest of Grants

From Page 1

balance at the end of the 2015-16 budget-making process.

Overall, there were 62 applications, requesting \$1.3 million.

Of the original \$250,000, \$64,000 has already been promised. In September, the board directed that up to \$60,000 would be made available to create a permanent winter homeless shelter in Ukiah, and \$4,000 would be given to Leadership Mendocino.

The main action of the day occurred late in the process, when board members discussed how to distribute the funds. Supervisor John McCowan favored a direct and open horse-trading session, in which the board would allocate modest amounts of money to various county organizations, such as senior centers and family resource centers. Remaining funds would then be allocated based on open, majority-rule votes.

Supervisor Dan Hamburg favored the individualized approach. He told the other board members he understood the needs of his district better than other supervisors, and was certain such was the case for each of the other supervisors as well.

McCowan moved that each of the supervisors draw up a short list so that he could compile a final list, then and there. However, his motion received no second. Hamburg then moved that the board should follow the "district approach"; his motion received a second and was supported unanimously.

Health and Human Services Agency Director Stacey Cryer announced that her department would fund \$130,000 worth of grant requests, bringing the total of county largesse to \$380,000.

Cryer said her department would fund the following projects: 1.) National Alliance of Mental Illness, \$4,827, to support the Family to Family and Peer to Peer programs; 2.) Healthy Mendocino, \$4,950, to pay for Community Health Needs Assessment; 3.) Manzanita Services, \$5,000, to purchase kitchen appliances; 4.) Nuestra Alianza, \$7,408 to support a Mexican culture summer program for Willits children; 5.) Good Farm Fund, \$3,000 to help the group provide grants to small farmers; 6.) Anderson Valley Elder Home, \$9,000 to assist group in creating a community garden in the Anderson Valley; 7.) Brooktrails Community Services District, \$25,000 to help with renovation of kids' playground; 8.) Mendocino County Youth Project, \$34,082 to provide short-term housing to homeless youth, and 9.) Ford Street Project, \$23,300 to Unity Village shelter for homeless families and creation of children's activity center.

In addition, Cryer said she would be willing to provide partial funding to the following projects: 1.) \$2,500 to the Round Valley Indian Health Center for equipment for its Bike Wednesday program; 2.) \$2,000 to Flockworks, to create a large-scale mural in Fort Bragg; 3.) School of Performing Arts and Cultural Education, an unknown amount to provide scholarships for qualifying children and youth; 4.) Willits Kids Club, an unknown amount of cash, energy or contacts in order to assist with obtaining chairs and tables for new modular classrooms; and 5.) North Coast Opportunities, \$10,000 to assist with the organization's new healing meals program, in which free, organic, nutritious meals are provided to families in which a family member is battling cancer.

Contacted near press deadline, Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse said he had not yet prepared his final list.

A Willits Weekly count indicated Woodhouse has nine grant applications, totaling \$212,664, to choose from. They are 1.) The Little Lake Grange Farm School, \$4,200 to upgrade facilities inside a barn at Ridgewood Ranch; 2.) Willits Lions Club, \$5,000 for general support; 3.) Laytonville Healthy Start, \$5,800 for operational support; 4.) Tapestry Family Services, \$14,664 for mental health services in Laytonville; 5.) Mendocino County Blacktail Deer Association, \$25,000 for cleanup of large-scale pot grows; 6.) Harrah Senior Center of Willits, \$33,000, funding for outreach staff; 7.) Round Valley Indian Tribes, \$35,000 for food and support of Round Valley seniors; 8.) City of Willits, \$45,000 for a feasibility study to create a Greater Willits Area Recreation District; and 9.) Woosee, \$45,000 for development of revenue production plan and construction of a "tiny homes village."



What's this I hear about cookies?!

It's almost time for Santa Photos again!

Maureen Moore pho•tog•ra•phress 707-972-7047

Check the Willits Weekly Calendar and Facebook for times and days!

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home Spuds

Spuds is a 10-month-old male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 30 pounds. Spuds is truly one in a million. Between his looks and his personality you won't stop laughing! While he is nearly full-grown, Spuds looks like a puppy and probably will forever! Haven't we all always wanted a dog to stay a puppy?!? With his short legs and squat body and perky ears he is unique and adorable, and his playful, silly personality is a perfect match for his looks! Spuds would love a home with kids or other dogs to play with, and will need exercise, activity and training to be a healthy, happy boy.



Photo by Rod Coots

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.



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