# Nonline & Print Nonline & Prin A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits Donations Accepted Edition No. 81 Thursday, November 20, 2014

### **Arrested:** Vacaville sex offender held in Chesser murder

Dan McKee Contributing Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

A convicted Vacaville sex offender is being held without bail after sheriff's detectives arrested him Tuesday for the November 1 murder of a young Willits woman.

Terrell James Marshall, Jr., was taken into custody after being released from a Santa Rosa hospital where he was recovering from injuries suffered when he apparently attempted to kill himself by driving his pickup truck off a Highway 162 cliff after allegedly raping and strangling Kayla

Read the rest of Arrest Over on Page 11

# **Wilkinson** draws life sentence in dragging murder

Dan McKee Contributing Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

A 24-year-old Willits man was sentenced to state prison Friday after pleading guilty to dragging his 84-yearold grandfather to his death on a North County back road.



color

At top: Turkey Toss 2014 members included, from left: David Repetto, turkey receiver Dennis Welliver, turkey tosser and WCS board member John Wagenet, WCS director Jim Marill, and Thomas Maldonado.

Above: David Repetto moves a sack of potatoes to the back of the truck.

Below: The pickup crew, from left: David Repetto (sitting), Camp Sergeant Develyn Till, Dennis Welliver, Thomas Maldonado, and Lieutenant Roy Ulatan.

Photos by Maureen Moore

# **Giving Thanks** 25th annual Community Dinner set for November 27

Little

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contact

The fourth Thursday in November is only a week away. Cooks around the country are prepping their menus for the Thanksgiving feast, and Willits Community Services and Food Bank staffers have been doing the same. They readied all the goods for the Chamberlain Creek Conservation Corps crew members, who packed up the turkeys, stuffing, potatoes and more Tuesday afternoon, taking it back to their kitchens to cook everything in time for next Thursday's 25th annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

The Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 11 am to 3 pm on Thanksgiving Day at the Harrah Senior Center, is

Read the rest of

Over on Page 12 Thanks



# **Arson fire** at John's Place

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willitsweekly@gmail.com

know *looking* 

Meet calendar

publication

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Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter jennifer@willitsweekly.com

Willits landmark John's Place is gone: the store and the bar destroyed by a suspected arson fire early Friday morning. Willits resident Lacee Marie Ross, 32, was arrested at 5:07 am Friday after holding off police for almost an hour, brandishing what turned out to be an imitation firearm.

Ross was arraigned Tuesday morning on felony charges of arson of a dwelling and seconddegree burglary, and on a misdemeanor charge of exhibiting an imitation firearm in a threatening

Read the rest of Arson Over on Page 15

### Brooktrails files new sewer plant lawsuit

Zack Cinek Reporter zack@willitsweekly.com

Brooktrails lawyers are claiming the city treated more Willits wastewater at its sewer plant than it should have, by using a portion of the plant's capacity allotted to Brooktrails.

Brooktrails attorneys are demanding a jury trial in the civil case, according to documents filed November 10 in Mendocino County Superior Court. The complaint also asks the court to stop the city from issuing building permits until "the city can assure [Brooktrails] it will not continue to encroach on [its] exclusive property rights."

Kenneth Wilkinson will have to serve 23 years in prison before becoming eligible for parole. Superior Court Judge John Behnke credited Wilkinson with the two years he had already served in county jail while awaiting trial.

Read the rest of Wilkinson Over on Page 15

## **Tribal reps** meet with Corps

following bypass protest

Kate Maxwell Reporter kate@willitsweekly.com

Native American and environmental groups concerned about archeological sites Willits threatened by bypass construction celebrated a minor victory Tuesday afternoon, when a demonstration at the Army Corps of Engineers office in San Francisco concluded with an ad-hoc meeting high-ranking between Corps officials and tribal representatives.

Redwood Valley's Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians has requested repeatedly that Caltrans and bypass permitting agencies

Read the rest of Bypass Over on Page 15

### Victims IDd in fatal crash near Hollands Lane

Three people died last Thursday on Highway 101 in a head-on collision just south of

Dan McKee Contributing Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com Hollands Lane.

Killed in the 12:40 pm crash were 62-year-old John Witter of

Sebastopol, and an Olympia, Washington, couple: Carmen H. Tribble, 75, and 89-year-old James Tribble.

State traffic officers say Witter was driving south on Highway 101 when his silver 1998 Toyota Camry crossed the double-yellow line for unknown reasons and collided with the 2010 Toyota Prius carrying the Tribbles.

Both the Tribbles and Witter were pronounced dead at

the scene.

A 2001 black Acura driven by a 21-year-old Kelseyville man was unable to stop in time and struck the rear of the Prius. The driver escaped injury.

According to the CHP, everyone was wearing a seatbelt and air bags deployed in all three vehicles.

The collision is still under investigation.

Highway 101 was closed for several hours following the collision, and traffic was detoured onto Hollands Lane.

In addition to CHP officers, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Willits Police Department, Little Lake Fire Department and CalFire responded to the crash.



John's Place fire were taken before 8 am on Friday morning. Above: Firefighters taking down a damaged wall. At right: A firefighter heads over to salvage a 1994 painting by J. Chavez, "E.L. 'Bud' Suttles on Monty, 1979," painted from an original photo by Gerri Mavis.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

Read the rest of Sewer Over on Page 15

### Man wounded in home invasion robbery

Dan McKee Contributing Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

Sheriff's deputies are seeking two men who shot one man and beat two other people in what police are calling a home invasion robbery.

According to sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten, the robbers entered a home on Highway 162 north of Willits early Sunday, demanding money from the three victims. One of the men, Van Patten says, was armed.

One of the three persons at the house suffered a gunshot wound during the incident. The robbers fled with cash, precious metals and processed marijuana, police say.

Deputies learned of the robbery at 7:46 am

Read the rest of Robbery Over on Page 11

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

#### Great editorial

#### To the Editor:

I wanted to tell you how much I agree with you on your excellent editorial "Waiting for the votes to be counted." I would love to go to the polls and vote. I live one block from City Hall and, yet, must vote by mail.

Voting is such a communal event, and I would love to go in and vote but am not allowed. I agree voters should have the mail-in option, as some people can't or don't want to come in. Those of us who want to vote in person should be able to.

Voting is a very important activity to me. I grew up in Willits and my mother, Ruth Engstrom, always worked at the polls. Elvis Mills was in charge and had people desperate to work at the election

People used to come vote just to visit with old friends and catch up on gossip. It was something important to do and, I bet, the voter turnout was higher.

I hope county officials will take your ideas to heart. It was a great editorial.

Susan Engstrom Johnson, Willits

### Election purgatory

#### To the Editor:

I would like to echo the sentiments expressed here and there throughout the community that the time has come for a change in the way our elections are run.

Leaving a small proportion of the vote uncounted on election night is understandable, but leaving over half the ballots uncounted is inexcusable. Mendocino County let 13,000 votes go uncounted on election night, an equivalent equal to 54 percent of all ballots cast. Statewide, the average is just 16 percent. We have the highest rate of uncounted ballots post-election across the state, year after year.

While I appreciate the complicated logistics involved in counting ballots, something has got to give. Leaving over half of the ballots out of the final election night count – and subsequently forcing an election certification purgatory of up to 28 days – isn't the way democracy works. At this rate, we might as well just gather in the village square and call for a show of hands.

Holding inefficient elections discourages people from voting in future elections. If fixing the problem requires we spend a little bit more money to end onerous vote-by-mailonly precincts, so be it.

Joseph Oslund, Willits

### Veterans 'Aid and Assistance'

To the Editor:

Wartime veterans or their widows or widowers who have n-home care or who live in nursing homes or assisted living facilities may be eligible for a special monthly pension benefit called, "Aid and Assistance. The Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency Veterans Services can help with applications for this benefit.

Many elderly veterans and surviving spouses whose incomes are above the Congressionally mandated legal limit for a VA pension may still be eligible for the special monthly Aid and Assistance benefit if they have large medical expenses, including nursing home expenses, for which they do not receive reimbursement.

The basic criteria for the Aid and Assistance benefit includes the inability to feed oneself, to dress and undress without assistance, or to take care of one's own bodily needs. People who are bedridden or need help to adjust special prosthetic or orthopedic devices may also be eligible, as well as those who have a physical or mental injury or illness that requires regular assistance to protect them from hazards or dangers in their daily environment. For a wartime veteran or surviving spouse to gualify for this special monthly pension, the veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which was during a period of war, and may not have been dishonorably discharged. Wartime veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980 (or October 16, 1981 for officers) must have completed at least 24 continuous months of military service or have service in

the period for which they were ordered to active duty. The Mendocino County HHSA Veterans Service Office

issues Veteran ID cards to honorably discharged veterans and assists veterans with the many state and federal benefits and programs available to them and their dependents. To find out more, visit the HHSA Veterans Service Office at 405 Observatory Avenue in Ukiah or call 463-4226. They are available to assist veterans and their families in completing all required application forms.

> HHSA Veterans Service Office, Mendocino County

### Farewell from Senator Evans

To the Editor:

threshold

For over 20 years I have served in public office, including more than a decade in the California legislature. Although I have enjoyed my job as a lawmaker, my first love is still the administration of justice. As I leave the legislature when my term expires at the end of November, I will return to my private law practice.

I am immeasurably grateful for the faith, trust and support of our great community and the hard work of my dedicated staff and supporters.

Together, we wrote the nation's first Homeowner's Bill of Rights, improved our foster care system, protected the coast, kept state parks open, updated regulation in support of California's wine industry, preserved the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as the cornerstone of California's environmental protection laws, and much

As chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I worked to strengthen consumer and privacy protection and keep our

budget is projected to see a modest growth of approximately \$5.6 billion in 2014-2015, instead of the \$34.7 billion deficit of previous years, which wreaked havoc in the lives of millions of Californians. Our rising home prices and numerous new building permits show our state is well into recovery.

Today, California leads the nation in implementing the Affordable Healthcare Act; 5 million uninsured Californians now have access to indispensable health services. Our economy is now recovering faster than most other states', and we've even reclaimed our title as the world's eighthlargest economy. Together, we have pulled ourselves out of the worst depression in history

As I return to my private practice, I will continue to be a strong advocate for progressive values, working families, equal protection and justice in our community. I hope my efforts over the past two decades have contributed in some small measure to a better future for us all. As I bid you farewell from public office, I look forward to joining you again as a private citizen. I'm deeply honored to have served as your representative for so many years and I am so grateful to each of you for your support.

Senator Noreen Evans, Second Senate District

### On to Sacramento

### To the Editor:

I'd like to thank the people of District Two for your support - now on to Sacramento! I look forward to representing vou in the California Assembly. It is an honor to serve this diverse and dynamic region, and I look forward to getting to know you even better in the coming years.

Many thanks to my family, friends old and new, my staff, and everyone who works to make the North Coast such a special place.

I look forward to serving you,

Jim Wood, assemblyman-elect, District Two

Thank you!

To the Editor:

Because of our supporters, we had a resounding victory on Election Night, not just for our campaign, but for our Northern California values and priorities.

And we simply could not have done it without you.

On behalf of our entire team - and especially my wife, Erika and me - I thank you for your votes, for the hundreds of thousands of doors knocked and phones dialed, for the generous contributions, for the posts and tweets and shares, and for the incredible support, encouragement and friendship you have shown throughout our amazing grassroots campaign

Thank you especially for everything you do to make



# Rain Totals in Willits

willitsweekly@gmail.com or call 459-2633 for info!

5.5 inches thru 11/18

Name	Location	Last 24 hours	So far this season
Willits Sewer Plant		.09 inches	5.5 inches thru 11/18
3rd Gate, south-facing	2,400 feet		9.4 inches thru 11/13
Lucky Monkey's Ranch	2 miles west of Willits where Skunk Train tracks cross Hwy 20		4.35 inches thru 11/14

.09 inches

Willits Water Plant







# **Be a Part of The Future**



If military service requirements are met, the Veterans Administration (VA) determines eligibility for the Aid and Assistance benefit by adjusting for un-reimbursed medical expenses from the veteran's or surviving spouse's total household income. If the remaining income amount falls below the annual income threshold for the Aid and Assistance benefit, the VA pays the difference between the claimant's household income and the Aid and Assistance

courthouses open in the face of massive budget cuts. I also chaired the Legislative Women's Caucus, advocating for the interests of women and children.

When California faced the recession and the possibility of economic collapse, as chair of the Assembly Budget Committee I was able to prevent the worst of many attempts to dismantle public and social safety net services. After many difficult years, I feel confident that the state is moving in the right direction under Governor Brown's leadership and with a strong Democratic majority in each house.

California's unemployment level is dropping; the state

Northern California the best place in America to live, work and raise a family. Now, we start the hard work of making sure that our values

and priorities are at the top of the list when important decisions are made in Sacramento.

NOTICE

EARLY DEADLINE NEXT WEEK:

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, Willits Weekly will be printing early next

week: the paper will be distributed on Wednesday, November 26. Early

deadline is end of day Sunday; and earlier submissions are encouraged!

The best way to submit letters, calendar items, press releases or

anything else to Willits Weekly is by email at willitsweekly@gmail.com.

I look forward to working with you closely as we get the job done for our local communities and all of California. Thank you!

> Mike McGuire, state senator-elect, District Two



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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Please join us in welcoming Dr. Jeremiah Dawson to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital and the **Orthopedic Joint Center of Northern California** 

Dr. Dawson will be joining William Bowen, M.D., and Jonathan Linthicum, M.D.

As a general orthopedic surgeon Dr. Dawson specializes in total joint replacement of the hip, shoulder and knee, shoulder and knee arthroscopy, fracture care, rotator cuff and meniscal tears, carpal tunnel and cubital tunnel.



84 Madrone Street, Willits, CA | 707.459.6855

to make an

appointment today!

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Messermeister

# Puzzle Page & More

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**Crossword Puzzle** 

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

# Mervin Wilson. Sr.

AQUARIUS

ASCENDANT

ASTROLOGY

CALENDAR

CAPRICORN

DEATH NOTICE

CANCER

ARIES

BIRTH

Mervin Loren Wilson, Sr. of Laytonville passed away on November 13, 2014 at the age

Mervin Wilson. Sr.

CELESTIAL

CONFIGURATION

CONSTELLATION

CHART

EARTH

FIRE

GEMINI

HOUSE

**ECLIPSE** 



9. Special event venue 40. Morning moisture COLUMN | Relationship Ins and Outs

Dear Doris:

Dear N:

	ising ins and outs
Stress	Est last
about	
sexuality	Doris Wier
	Columniat

My partner wants to have sex every other day

while I would be happy with having sex every other

week, maybe even once a month, depending on

how busy I am at work. I feel a lot of pressure, which

makes everything worse, although fundamentally I

It's good you're noticing the pressure you feel

around having sex, and understand how this is not

helpful to you or the relationship. Be aware that

many couples struggle with this same issue. It's

actually rare that partners have the same sexual needs or desires at the same time. As your example

indicates, sexual needs can vary quite a bit. The

good news is that you say you fundamentally enjoy

You mention that your desire for sex is colored

by how much stress you experience at work. Stress seems to have a negative influence on your

sex drive (as it does for many of us). First, make

like to have sex with my partner.

having sex with your partner.

At right: One of the newly created classrooms at the old Mendocino College building.

Far right: The largest new classroom constructed over the weekend.

Below: Imagination Station Director Saprina Rodriguez and her husband, Martin, by at the new school entryway.

Photo by Kate Maxerll

Bottom: City of Willits Building Inspector John Sherman and a helpful friend stand with the "Imagination Station" sign.



the students for the day, holding classes at the LDS Church Community support for Imagination Station Preschool began pouring in almost immediately last Friday morning, on Margie Drive. as news spread that the fire at John's Place had also

But when she arrived at the building to meet with fire caused an estimated \$150,000 in damages to the school. damage experts, she learned that more than half of the

103 children enrolled at the school entered new classrooms at 11 Marin Street, entirely set up over the weekend by Director Saprina Rodriguez and more than 100 volunteers. "The most important thing is making sure the students can stay on schedule," said Rodriguez, surveying the school's new grounds as students ages 2 to

By Kate Maxwell

6 began to arrive at their new building Monday morning. fast. Although the City of Willits offered use of the community When the fire first occurred in the early hours of November center as a temporary solution, Rodriguez found out at 2 pm 14, Rodriguez knew she would have to scramble to relocate Friday that she only had only 5 pm that day to find a location





Below: Volunteers move playground equipment into the new yard.

At bottom, from left: Helpers arrange the playground space before the school week starts; a classroom full of donated items; a volunteer cleans smoke off office equipment.



that would satisfy state licensing requirements. As luck would have it, only weeks before she had begun meeting with local realtors to find a new space when her lease was up two years from now

school had been destroyed With the building that Rodriguez had put \$40,000 in and much of the rest was improvements into now red-tagged, she got on the phone damaged by water and and began leaving messages for realtors. Meanwhile, smoke, including more than offers of help to clean, relocate, and donate items began half the classrooms, the coming in. Finally, she was able to reach the realtor for the bathrooms, kitchen, and the former Mendocino College building located directly across lunch room she'd built over the the street from the former Imagination Station. Although last three years. Unfortunately, the realtor couldn't bring the keys until Saturday afternoon, she estimated her insurance Rodriguez and an ever-growing number of volunteers coverage would only cover began work right away, cleaning off smoke from salvageable around \$10,000 of the school's furniture, locating moving supplies, and moving playground equipment

Rodriguez also learned "It was thanks to the firefighters that we were even able to Fridav afternoon she would save this much," said Rodriguez, as she walked around the have to find a new location new location, pointing out shelving for cubbies, work tables,

> Read the rest of Over on Page 11 Preschool



contents.

By Monday morning, the Imagination **Station rises** 

> from the ashes Preschool moves across the street after devastating fire

of 95. A wake will be held on Friday, November 21 at 5 pm at the Cahto Tribal Center in Laytonville. The funeral services will be held on Saturday, November 22 at 11 am, also at the Cahto Tribal Center.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

as a cute small puppy, then was brought back to us when he was 8 months old, because the landlord decided no animals. He has

Photo by Sage

is house-

spent half his life in the shelter. Ned was an outside/inside dog and lived in a home with children ages 8 and up and was playful with them. He

60psi

trained and did not bother anyone with his barking. Ned is an enthusiastic dog that needs training! He has great potential. He knows how to sit and is eager to learn. Please no cats: they are very distracting for this energetic guy!

> The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 10 am to 4:00 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:00 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. For more information about adoptions, please call 467-6453.

sure you are getting enough sleep and self-care Read the rest of Over on Page 13 Stress

# **Give Thanks**

for new tires, thick tread, correct pressure and for making it to Thanksgiving dinner on time

> Schedule a Tire Check today and be safe and ready this Holiday Season at Les Schwab



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# **Girl Scouts: Out and About**

Founder's Day celebration, 'Scout Shout' and Nut Sale

There's been lots of activity lately with the local Girl Scout troops including their current fundraiser, the Fall Nut Sale, the "Scout Shout" last week, and last month's Founder's Day celebration.

Scouts are out selling nuts and other fall-time goodies, including chocolate-covered pretzels, honey-roasted peanuts, spicy Cajun mix, chocolate-covered raisins and more. The girls and leaders from Junior Troop 10457 have been out in front of Safeway recently selling treats. Monies raised from the sales will go to help fund field trips and more for the troop.

The monthly "Scout Shout" was held Tuesday, November 11 in conjunction with Veteran's Day. The scouts learned about local government, laws, acts of citizenship and created posters thanking veterans for their service to our country. Attendees from Daisies and Brownies all the way to Senior Scout troops participated. The girls from troop 10457 created the posters which will be taken to the Veterans Memorial Building to be displayed for all to see.

The Founder's Day celebration focused on learning about the history of the organization and its founder, Juliette Low. All scout troops are encouraged to hold the yearly program near Low's birthday, October 31, to re-dedicate themselves to Girl Scouting. The Willits troops celebrated with birthday cake, a candle lighting and votive decorating, and singing











# **Celebrating the local harvest**

9th annual dinner sold out at the Grange

Last Saturday, November 8, the Willits Environmental and fundraiser at the Little Lake Grange. The tradition of a community Harvest Dinner began as collaboration between the Little Lake Grange and Willits Economic Localization (WELL). This year the sell-out crowd of 180 was treated to a 100 percent organic gourmet dinner, much of which was supplied by local farmers.

"When the WEC decided to host this year's Harvest Dinner, we decided to feature 100 percent organic, from the bread and butter to the coffee, tea and wine," said Ellen Drell of the WEC. "Organic is good for the earth, good for the farmer, and frankly, it's what people want to eat. So we wanted to showcase a delicious, elegant, diverse menu with all organic ingredients that are readily available, not exotic, just good basic food, and people loved it."

Redwood Valley chef Olin Cox, with his experienced helpers, donated his time and expertise to guide the WEC's team of volunteer prep cooks and servers to prepare and present the dinner. Cox was joined by Sara O'Brien on entrees, Tamara Adams on dessert, and Sheryl Smith on sauces.

"We couldn't have done this without the extraordinary generosity of the chefs, the many individuals and businesses that donated food, and the small army of WEC member volunteers who set up, decorated, cooked,



"We also want to acknowledge the Little Lake Grange, whose members, through hundreds of hours of volunteer work, have made the Grange such an exceptional community space for events like this. And of course we want to thank all the community members who came to enjoy a fabulous meal and support the work of the Environmental Center," said Craig.

The evening began with socializing and vocals and guitar music provided by Madge Strong and Diane Smalley of the local trio Chanterelle. In the Harvest Dinner tradition, the meal began with everyone joining in a moment of thanks, this time in a song of thanks led by Strong and Smalley. Dinner was accompanied by a great selection of music just right for good conversation provided by DJs Doug Prado and David Knudsen.

"We wanted to include a little 'business' too, especially for those new to the work of the Environmental Center," Drell said. WEC board members were introduced to the diners. Some in attendance announced upcoming events. WEC board member Rosamond Crowder announced that fellow board members David and Ellen Drell had received the

> Read the rest of Over on Page 14 Harvest







and skits about the founder. The event was held at Blosser Lane School on Monday, October 20.

Those interested in signing their daughters up for Girl Scouts are welcome to call Loretta Tognoli, director for the local service unit, at 1-800-447-4475. Junior troop 10457 meets on alternating Mondays from 4 to 5:15 pm at the Little Lake Grange. The girls are 9 to 10 years old. For more information about this troop, please contact Ann Maglinte at greengables@wildblue.net or call 984-6747.



Scouts Grace, Mara, Vicky, Haley, and Berenice hold signs made for the Veterans Memorial Building. Photo from Ann Maglinte Scouts get ready to perform a skit with obiects about the founder; Girls hold

At right from top: Girl

candles during the lighting ceremony; Emmelia King lights candles for the scouts. At left: Candles decorated with tissue paper Photos by Rachel Belvin Below: Scouts Vicky, Haley, Grace, Mara, Sylvia, and Peri at the Founder's Day Program Photo from Ann Maglint







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Above: Chef Olin Cox and Doug Prado prepping dinner in the Grange's commercial kitchen. Right: Head chef Olin Cox stirring up something tasty.

Photos by Rosamond Crowder





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Seniors -

### Thursday, November 20

WUMC Annual Souper Luncheon and Holiday Bazaar: at the Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, across from the Grange. Lunch is from 11:30 am to popcorn and chocolate, 1 pm, and includes soup, bread, dessert, coffee and tea for \$7. Coffee or tea and pie only is \$3.50. The Holiday Bazaar is from 10 am to 2 pm and consists of handmade craft items, homemade baked goods, opportunity drawing baskets, and white elephant bargains. Info: 459-2855

Shanachie Pub: Steven Bates. guitar. 6 pm, No cover. Visit www. stevenbatesmusic.com. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194

"The Angel of Chatham Square": Last weekend for this holiday production at Willits Community Theatre, a romantic drama set in New York City in 1948, written by Healdsburg playwright Audie Foote. 7 pm tonight, runs through November 23. This is the heartwarming story of waitress Kitty Fleming as she meets and befriends Willie, a seemingly down-andout homeless vagrant living among the other bums in the Bowery. Directed by Christine Dill, with performers Kelly Kesey, Rod Grainger, Gretchen Anderson, Ron Greystar, Pete Winslow, Tim Suttles, Mike A'Dair and David Partch. Advance tickets are available at Mazahar at 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or for credit card orders, phone the WCT office at 459-0895. Tickets will also be available at the door. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Now & Then Film Series: a screening of "Ground Operations -Battlefields to Farmfields," a documentary film "about combat veterans who are transitioning from careers as professionals dealing death into sustainable farmers, ranchers and artisan food producers. Let's watch veterans who create healthy new lives for themselves and delicious food security for communities across America." 7 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Program also includes farmer-veteran speakers and a conversation about local food and farming.

### Toys for Tots drop off locations in town

Little Lake Fire Department will be a drop-off center for the "Toys for Tots" program this holiday season. Come by our office, 74 East Commercial Street, for a visit, bringing an unwrapped gift for a girl or boy and make someone's Christmas pm at Willits High School Media Center, at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Public part of the morning memorable. Thank you from the staff and volunteers of the Little Lake 299 North Main Street. Fire Department.

Lisa Epstein's State Farm Insurance office at 733 South Main Street will be Plan (LCAP); Student Achievement; a drop-off center for the "Toys for Tots" program this holiday season. The office is District Multiyear Outlook. "Be a Part of open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. Info: 459-4044 the Future."



groundoperations.net/ synopsis. Suggested donation, \$5. Organic refreshments for sale by the Grange. Info: 459-6362.

For more info, visit: www.

### Friday, November 21 Free Zumba for Teens: Zumba is

always free for teenagers on Friday nights Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser Lane. Class at 6 pm with Melissa. Info: 707-841-7499 or www. studioiovwillits.com.

"The Angel of Chatham Square": 8 pm, see Thursday, November 20 listing for details. Playwright Audie Foote will be present after the show to

answer questions; see article on page 12 for more info.

Diggers Dancehall Fridays: Joey D Productions presents: Dancehall, Dubstep, Hip Hop, Reggae, Trance, Latin: Positive Music /Positive Vibes every Friday at Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street. 21+. 10 pm to close. No cover. Tonight: Special Guest DJ.

#### Saturday, November 22

**Republican Central Committee:** Monthly meeting of the Mendocino County Republican Central Committee is in Willits this month: Saturday, November 22, 10 am to noon at the Willits City Hall Conference Room, 111 E. Commercial Street. Info: Stan Anderson, 707-321-2592

Dyddly Gallery Special Event: 2 to 6 pm today at 1760 South Main Street. "Join us for some light appetizers and treats while you enjoy great local creations done by glass artist Gwendydd M., fabulous paintings by Patsy B., and photography by Erin C." Info: 707-472-6372 or dyddly@gmail.com.



Parish Hall at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 58 Bush Street. Menu includes polenta, salad, bread and dessert. Cocktails at 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm. \$20 adults; \$10 children. For info and tickets, call: 459-6558

Winter Fashion Show: The annual Fashion Show to benefit the Willits High School Boosters Club (and to help fund two scholarships) has been rescheduled for tonight (Saturday, November 22), 6 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111

East Commercial Street. This event features fashions from local boutiques. Tickets are \$15 each (6 and under are free). Tickets may be purchased at the door, or call 459-2752.

"The Angel of Chatham Square": 8 pm, see Thursday, November 20 listing for details

Shanachie Pub: Junk Parlor, Gypsy junk rock band: "Sounds of rock underlying gypsy jazz rhythms and a 50s tinge create a

Small Farmers Association

Roundtable Extravaganza is set for Tuesday, December 2

meeting starts at 6 pm; \$10. "5 speakers to answer your

questions": with Matt St. John, executive director, Regional

Topics: Local Control Accountability Water Quality Control Board, speaking on: 2015 State

The Small Farmers Association 2014 Annual Meeting

familiar yet twisted up sound that steers you off the beaten path." 9 pm. \$5. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194

Sunday, November 23

'The Angel of Chatham Square": Closing matinee today at 2 pm, see Thursday, November 20 listing for details

Vegan Thanksgiving Potluck: presented by "L.O.V.E." - "Laytonville's organic vegan experience." 3:30 pm at the Laytonville Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road. "Open to anyone interested in enjoying a plant-based feast in a friendly and relaxed environment: you don't need to be volunteers. Info: 459-3333.

dish to share and place settings.

Tuesday, November 25

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movie: "Big Hero 6." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Wednesday, November 26

Senior Center Thanksgiving Bake Sale: 8:30 am until sold out at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. "Enjoy homemade goodies, without having to do all the work: great food and great prices!" All proceeds benefit the Senior Center's Transportation Department.

### Thursday, November 27

Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Willits Community Services and Food Bank invites you to the 25th annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 11 am to 3 pm at the Willits Senior Center, 1501

Free Zumba for Teens: Zumba is always free for teenagers on Friday nights at Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser Lane. Class at 6 pm with Melissa. Info: 707-841-7499 or www. studiojoywillits.com.

Friday, November

Shanachie Pub: The Schindless Diggers, "the band formerly known as Schindig." 9 pm. The Pub is located at 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Diggers Dancehall Fridays: Joev D Productions presents: Dancehall, Dubstep, Hip Hop, Reggae, Trance, Latin: Positive Music /Positive Vibes every Friday at Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street. 21+. 10 pm to close. No cover. Tonight: DJ Konnex.

### Saturday,

November 29 Library Presents: "Dragons of Kir: A Board Game - from Concept to Creation. Meet local brothers Colin and Dove Byrne, the creators of "Dragons of Kir," a fast-paced

> strategy board game. 1 to 2 pm at Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. The Byrnes, who created the award-winning game while still at Willits High School, will discuss the inception, testing, and production of the game; how they turned an idea on paper into a full-fledged product. Following the 15 minute presentation there will be a Gameplay Tutorial, with copies will be available for play. Recommended for ages 10 to adult. Visit www.DragonsOfKir.com or call the library at 459-5908.

Dragons OF KIR



### Sunday, November 30

Willits Toy Run & Party: This annual celebration features food, music, drinks and merriment at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, to benefit the Willits Community Christmas program, which distributes presents to local kids and their families on Christmas Eve. Price of admission is one unwrapped toy. The party begins after a Bikers' Parade through town, starting at the Evergreen Shopping Center at noon. Admission includes tritip BBQ by the Willits Rotary Club, live music by The Wild Mendohoulas, no-host bar, and giant raffle. Bring the kids to meet Santa. Open to the public; everyone nvited. Info: www.WillitsToyRun.com, call 459-6372, or email HOG@bellsprings.com.

## **Save the Date**

Small Farmers Association Roundtable Extravaganza, December 2, Little Lake Grange

Avenues to Wellness Speaker Series, December 2: Doris Wier, Harrah Senior Center

LocaLights Concert Series, December 6: Bruce Burton and Friends, plus Grand Finale, Willits Community Theater

Lavtonville Christmas Bazaar. December 7. Harwood

Willits Unified School District Town Hall Meeting, Part I, December 9, Willits High School Media Center

### Casting Call for Xmas Train

Looking for dedicated, reliable people to make the Christmas Train a magical experience for children, whose heart will be into making this new production - with themed melodramas in each car happen. Pays \$10/hour. Auditions will be held on Saturday, November 22 at 10 am at the Willits Skunk Train Depot, 299 East Commercial Street Must be 18 or older, and able to work December 6 through 23. Questions? Call Kate at 707-321-9250. More info provided when auditioning.



### **Toy Run and Party** Cultivation Bill in Sacramento. Sunday, November 30 at Little Lake Grange

Bikers and their friends have set the annual Toy Run and sustainable farming and breeding practices from a farmer six kids, they want it, and they take care of mom and dad, too. Party – an afternoon of food, music, drinks and merriment – with 20+ years experience in France, India and now That's their church's program for Christmas, and the kids go for Sunday, November 30 this year, starting at 12:30 pm at the Farmers Association Certified Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. The event, a benefit

More info check "Small Farmers Association" for the Willits Community Christmas program, kicks off with a on Facebook or www.smallfarmers.us. Email bikers' parade led by Santa and Mrs. Claus and the Little Lake smallfarmersassociation@unseen.is or call 707-489-0996. Fire Department, starting at the Evergreen Shopping Center

Willits Unified School District

**Town Hall Meeting, Part I** 

Tuesday, December 9 from 5:30 to 7



COLUMN

Vincent

Bill Murray always

never oversells

**Daniel Essman** 

surprises me. He's

got a low-key charm.

telegraphs

punchline. He moves

pathos so smoothly

He's due for an Oscar.

sarcasm

to

that he takes my breath away

The Story: Vincent (Murray) has

ust two friends in the world, his grumpy

white cat and Daka (Naomi Watts)

pregnant Russian stripper-slash-

prostitute. He's more or less getting by

when single mother Maggie (Melissa

McCarthy) and her young son Oliver

(Jaeden Lieberher) move in next door.

Vincent becomes a surrogate father

for Oliver, and that's the movie. But

(PG13)

2 hrs 3 mins

Fri: 3:20, 6:10

& 9:00pm

Sat-Thurs: 12:30,

3:20, 6:10

& 9:00pm

Movie Times for 11/21 thru 11/27

**HUNGER GAMES:** 

**MOCKINGJAY PT. 1** 

isn't really the story that makes the

Movies

**'St.** 

He

from

or

At the

**Willits Community** Christmas

Adopt-A-Family deadline is November 22

Water Board Marijuana Permitting Program; Lois Bickford, The Willits Community Christmas program's giving trees, hung with cards detailing the Christmas wishes and needs on: PTSD and Medical Marijuana; Lanette Davies, Sacramento dispensary owner and lobbyist, and ACLU businesses after Thanksgiving next week, but for those board member, speaking on: The Federal Re-Scheduling families, businesses and organizations considering the Marijuana Hearings; and Lauren Michaels, Police Chiefs "Adopt-A-Family" part of the program, the deadline is this Association legislative aide: Give your input for the 2015 Saturday, November 22.

Coordinator Sandy Turner says everyone approaches Plus a Farmers Table: "Have a friendly chat with legendary farmers from the Alan Chadwick days. Learn adopting a family for Christmas differently: "I have a church about French intensive, biodynamic, organic and in town, who always 'adopts' a big family: if there's a family of 3333. See front page story for more details Mendocino County. Find out what it means to be Small shopping, too," to help choose the presents. "Other Adopt-A-Family people just take care of the kids."

Anyone interested in adopting a family for this year's Community Christmas program should call Turner at 459-5827 needed a bit later to help wrap gifts, too: those interested in Thanksgiving at the **Senior Center** 

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the free Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 11 am to 3 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. About 500 people attended last year's dinner. Willits Community Services of local kids and their families, will be going up in local and Food Bank board members and volunteers help serve the dinner, cooked by the Chamberlain Creek Conservation crew members - including 40 turkeys! Again, the dinner is free to all, but donations are welcome, as are volunteers: To sign up, contact Kevin Copperfield at 456-9429 or call Willits Community Services at 459-

### LocaLights presents: Bruce Burton and Friends

On Saturday, December 6, the LocaLights concert series will present Bruce Burton and Friends, with Burton (home) or 490-8872 (cell) by November 22. Volunteers will be on banjo, Bear Kamoroff on bass, and John Mather on keyboard. Burton, a native of Willits, longtime Willits



thanks and celebrate this holiday with your community. There is no charge, but donations are gladly accepted and will benefit WCS and Food Bank in their continuing effort to provide essential human services in our community." Food Donors include: 101 Drive-in. Sparetime Supply, and individual contributors. Dinner prepared by

Baechtel Road. "Come give





Commercial Street, and to School Street to the Grange.

The event is open to everyone in the community organizers emphasize that the Toy Run Party is "not a bikeronly event!" Admission is one unwrapped toy, for the tri-tip dinner and buffet provided by the Willits Rotary Club, live music by The Wild Mendohoulas (New Orleans-style rhythm and blues), a no-host bar, and a giant live auction and raffle.

Info: check www.WillitsToyRun.com or "Willits Toy Run" on Facebook; email HOG@bellsprings.com, or call 459-6372.

Learn

Beyonce's

Early financial donations are welcome, as they help ensure the program can fill in any gaps in donated items: anything you can donate is welcome, even the smallest amounts add up to success. Financial donations can be sent c/o Turner cash or make a donation at the Willits Toy Run event, Sunday, November 30, where the price of admission for the party and Burton play live in a concert setting. dinner (cooked by the Willits Rotary Club) is one unwrapped toy for the program, and a giant raffle makes it easy to give a donation

crying ... amazing!

plays it straight, and

Naomi Watts does

Russian accent and

subtle physical humor....

Jaiden Lieberher,

whom I've never seen

Melissa

she's great.

She's great too.

before but is now getting parts, is

compelling. He can hold the screen

Parents: There are a couple of

(humorous) sex scenes. There's

swearing. There are laughs and crude

jokes, and also more importantly,

the dual themes of forgiveness and

Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by

next to all these fine actors.

I loved this movie.

kindness.

**DUMB** &

**DUMBER TO** 

the wisdom of the imagination

(PG13)

1 hr 49 mins

Fri: 3:30, 6:00

& 8:30pm

Sat-Thurs: 1:00,

3:30, 6:00

& 8:30pm

McCarthy

City Council member, and co-owner of Willits Redwood Company, is also an accomplished banjo player. Burton released a CD this year, "Let's Take the Long Way Home," featuring many of his own beautiful compositions (make checks out to "Rotary Christmas Fund") at 20960 East and arrangements for banjo. For a complete description Tattersfield Hill, Willits, CA 95490. Or you can spend some of the CD see the January 23, 2014 edition of the Willits Weekly. You will not want to miss this rare occasion to see

(To check out any back issue of Willits Weekly: go to www.willitsweekly.com, and the front pages of all our current year's editions will load. Click on the front page of any of the editions, and it will open, in .pdf form, to show movie, it's the scenes. the whole newspaper. To see last year's editions, scroll They had me laughing out loud, or sometimes

down to "Past Issues" at www.willitsweekly.com, and click "See Volume 1." The Burton CD article is on page 3 of the January 23, 2014 edition.)



Tickets are on sale

at Goods' Shoppe,

56 South Main St.

in Willits. Prices

are \$15 for front

(B) row, \$10 for

regular seas, and

\$5 for last row.

Proceeds from the

concerts go to the

(PG) 1 hr 48 mins

Fri: 3:05, 5:25

& 7:45pm

Sat-Tues: 12:45,

3:05, 5:25

& 7:45pm

theatre

**BIG HERO 6** 





**BEYONCE-INSPIRED DANCE CLASS** 

A percentage of class proceeds will benefit Willits Community Services and Food Bank

Take a break

from WORK and

come WORK IT!

November 24, December 1, 8 & 15

7 to 8:30 pm @ Studio Joy 1262 Blosser Lane, Willits

\$60 cash or check, 1st class for 4 class package



Pearl Marill is an actress, dancer, and choreographer born and raised in Willits. Pearl's award-winning work has been shown locally and internationally. The Beyonce-Inspired Dance Class was founded in San Francisco by BayAreaFlashMob, and Pearl is excited to bring this class to her hometown

Register Early – Space is Limited Call 831.818.9899 or **pearl.marill@gmail.com** 

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | November 20, 2014

**COMING SOON** 

Happy Thanksgiving

from the Noyo Theatre

Willits Weekly | November 20, 2014 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 9



#### COLUMN | Well Mannered Mutts



I remember a comical but serious experience one Thanksgiving years ago. I got a phone call from a dear friend and colleague. She stated her dog was ill, and all the veterinarian clinics in the area were closed. She didn't know quite what she should do.

You see, she had had a bit of a Thanksgiving turkey disaster. While cooking her very large turkey, her oven found the unfortunate time to malfunction, causing the light bulb inside to explode, causing smoke, turkey grease and mild panic.

My friend quickly removed the half-cooked bird and deemed it inedible, due to glass fragments and not having an alternative method of cooking Sallie Palmer

the thing. The poor bird was hastily placed Columnist in the garage with the intent of being thrown in the trash later, while the family

put together a vegetarian Thanksgiving.

Unfortunately, one of her dogs had another idea and found the bird. Thinking, for sure, she had hit the mother lode, this beloved dog was in the garage munching down as much partially cooked poultry, grease and stuffing as she could possibly swallow, while the family was unaware inside the house.

It wasn't until hours later that the carcass-eating canine was discovered and the pieces of the puzzle were put together. My friend had one sick dog. Lethargic, extended belly and, if a dog could look green, she did.

After the frantic phone call, I suggested my friend take her dog to the emergency veterinarian hospital in Santa Rosa. I told her to pick me up on the way down Highway 101, and I would go with her for moral support

On our way down the highway with me on the lookout for CHP, quickly as she could. Remember this is my friend drove as November in the middle of the night and it's cold, so the car windows were rolled up and the heater was Just when you think it can't get on much worse, it does.

> There was the unmistakable and all-too-recognizable smell of a dog with diarrhea, including sound

Read the rest of Puppy







Owning a pet can turn into a serious financial commitment, with shots, flea meds, and special food – not to mention the unforeseen injury or tragic situation.

Rascal, a wire-haired terrier belonging to Willits' Misty Gonzales, was faced with one of those expensive situations recently when one of her pups had to have one of his toes amputated after fracturing a

Maureen Moore bone. Graphics & Photographress maureen@willitsweekly.com When Gonzales went to pick up her dog at the vet's office, she passed a couple rushing in through the doors with their dog which had recently been poisoned. Once they received the news of the cost for treatment to flush the dog's system, they immediately started contacting family and friends to help raise money to go through with the procedure and help them cover the cost.

"I remember thinking how lucky they were, that family and friends were all offering to pay bits here and dollars there, allowing them to reach their goal and treat the dog, and how not everyone has that kind of support," explained Gonzales. "I then thought, why not start a fund that can be used to help pet owners with veterinary care in these life-saving or direcircumstance situations?"

Rascal's Rescue was formed. The first big fundraiser was held at the Harvest Moon





after being called to Frank R. Howard Inside Norton's pickup, deputies Memorial Hospital, where the shooting located a loaded sawed-off shotgun and a loaded 9mm semi-automatic pistol. victim was being treated. The man was later transferred to an A convicted felon, prohibited from out-of-county hospital, Van Patten said. owning or carrying any type of weapon, Norton was arrested on suspicion The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office of possessing a sawed-off shotgun,

Northern Patrol Sector is investigating carrying a concealed weapon, shooting the robbery, with assistance from the a firearm from a vehicle, being an ex-Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force, felon in possession of a loaded weapon, County of Mendocino Marijuana and being a felon in possession of a Eradication Team, investigators with the firearm. Mendocino County District Attorney's Office and the California Department of Justice Bureau of Forensic Services. \$25,000 bail. No other information is available at this time. Persons with information regarding the robbery are asked to call the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Tip

## Line at 707-234-2100. Willits ex-felon held on

weapons charges with a deadly weapon and domestic North County law enforcement officers arrested Kevin Bobby Norton late Monday night on weapons charges in the 1700 block of South Main Street of an Airport Boulevard restaurant. after he had allegedly attempted to shoot himself with a sawed-off shotgun.

The drama began at about 10:30 Former Willits resident denied parole in murder case pm when sheriff's deputies were called to Taylor's Tayern in Redwood Valley A former Willits man convicted of where, they were told, the 34-year-old stabbing a Redwood Valley Water Norton was sitting in his gray pickup District employee to death in 1993 was truck holding a shotgun to his head, denied parole following a November according to Capt. Greg Van Patten. 5 hearing held at Pelican Bay State By the time they arrived, Norton Prison in Humboldt County. had left, driving north toward Willits on Troy Harden, now 43, will not be Highway 101. eligible for parole reconsideration until "An officer safety broadcast was sent to all local public safety agencies, including the California Highway Patrol and the Willits Police Department," to be on the lookout for the pickup's driver, described as a "white male adult with a shaved head, a goatee beard, and in possession of a black-colored shotgun," Van Patten said. Shortly after receiving the message a state traffic officer spotted a vehicle

matching the description of Norton's pickup driving near White Deer Lodge. When the CHP officer pulled alongside of the truck to see if the driver matched the description of the man police were searching for, he heard what he believed was a gunshot. "and the pickup's driver's-side window exploded outward," Van Patten said. Norton continued driving, pulling into the parking lot at Brown's Corner at the

south end of the city, where he stopped. The pickup was swarmed by sheriff's More water in city reservoirs

City reservoirs hold about 234 more acre questions about the water supply project in feet of water than they did around this time last the long term. year, and that is good news. "The other thing that concerns me is we

The city continues its pursuit of an emergency water supply system, started nearly a year ago, when the area was faced with Zack Cinek no rain and low water Reporter

levels. zack@willitsweekly.com "We started working on the groundwater treatment plant building with our own forces,"

He was taken to Mendocino County Public Works Director Rod Wilburn said in his Jail, where he is being held in lieu of latest update to the city council on the project at last week's meeting.

Norton has had several recent One notable sign of progress is that a brushes with the law. In August, he replacement well for one of the project's wells was arrested on suspicion of recklessly was drilled. evading a peace officer and domestic Tom Mannatt is city engineer for Willits. "We battery. In June he was arrested near drilled down to approximately 220 feet, and Caspar on suspicion of reckless driving,

at 220 feet we felt we were at the bottom of like to talk about the city letting its grass go the basin and started going into a much older formation than above."

Councilwoman Madge Strong had some

brown at city parks around town. "I would very much like to discuss it," Orenstein said.

have not gone through CEQA (California

Environmental Quality Act) – because this is

In the beginning, the project was shown as a

way to link an old agricultural well and another

well by the old ball fields to a new or temporary

City Manager Adrienne Moore said the

city's water attorney says the project is still an

Council members took action to again

renew the city's declaration of an emergency

due to drought conditions, an action they have

taken monthly since the emergency was first

Councilman Ron Orenstein said he would

not an emergency action," Strong said.

water treatment plant.

emergency project.

declared.



### District thinking small for new office site

Willits Unified Superintendent Patricia Johnson says she plans to use a cluster of six portable buildings at Blosser Lane Elementary School as a new home for the district office.	building for after-school activities. And New Horizons Independent Study is using one or more portables as classrooms. As Johnson envisions the arrangement
"As a cost-savings measure, I was looking for a location that Mike A'Dair Reporter Would be on our property," Johnson	in the future, New Horizons would move its classroom to Sanhedrin High School, while the Kids Club would have to find a new location for the activities taking place in the portable.
mike@willitsweekly.com said. "I also wanted something that would be somewhat	Johnson said she is looking at a target date of July 1, 2015 to implement her plan.
separate from an existing campus, so the district office business wouldn't interfere with what was going on, on the school campus.	The cost of preparing the portables for office use is unknown, she added. However, it is likely to be only a fraction of the cost of building a permanent building.
"This was the perfect spot," Johnson said. The cluster of portables currently stands at	Johnson said she envisions using the

using the ine cluster of portables currently stands at portables as a permanent, long-term home for



bills

Hometown Celebration in October, where Gonzales sold Italian sodas and infused waters in reusable pint-and-aunexpected massive veterinary bills that can come from an half Mason jars. Selling \$10 and \$5 jars, Rascal's Rescue

earned around \$800 for the fund. The second fundraiser was last Sunday at Willits Power Carhartt, 1600 South Main Street, where fellow co-worker Rosanna Franceschini held a Stella & Dot party. Stella & Dot is a fashion jewelry and accessories company, for which she is a consultant. Franceschini donated a portion of her commission proceeds, earning the fund another \$150.

Additional fundraisers will be continuing through the holiday season and are on display at Willits Power Carhartt. These include handmade jam, dog cookies, See's Candies, tea infusers, raffles and gift wrapping.

Melaine Grossman and Gonzales hand-crafted three varieties of jam: Orange Marmalade, Cranberry Orange Marmalade, and Pear Mystery in 8 ounce jars, which are available for \$5 each. Grossman's beloved handmade dog cookies are also available in bags of six for \$1.

See's Candies are available in two different styles of \$6 gift boxes of chocolates, \$6 boxes of peanut brittle, and a \$17 gourmet lollypop set. Lollypops are also sold individually for \$1 each at the store's counter. Tea infusers that fit onto the top of the wide-mouth Mason jars are also available for purchase, as are the jars themselves, complete with a lid

and color-coordinated drinking straw.

2021. Mendocino County Assistant District Attorney Paul Sequeira attended the hearing to argue against Harden's release Water district employee Larry Stephenson, 47, of Upper Lake, was

stabbed to death after encountering Harden, his brother, and another man during a routine maintenance check at the water outlet tower on the east shore

of Lake Mendocino. Harden, his brother Ron Trevor

Harden, and John Jensen were arrested six days later.

evading a peace officer, and resisting

an officer. In March, he was arrested

by Ukiah police on suspicion of assault

Ron Harden and Jensen were convicted of being accessories to Stephenson's murder and received

prison sentences. Because of publicity at the time, Troy Harden's trial was moved to Humboldt County.

Superior Court Judge Frank Petersen, who died in 2011, sentenced Harden to 26 years to life in prison

after jurors found Harden guilty of first-

And New ising one or





# **Doug, Noble** Come get them while they last! & Nordman

**Holiday Hours:** Monday - Saturday: 9am to 6pm Closed Sunday

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deputies, state traffic officers and Willits degree murder policemen. After

Norton emerged, bleeding from hearing, the victim's widow, Marilyn his face and left cheek. After being Stephenson, told reporters: "I pity secured by officers, he admitted he had anyone who has to go through this. intentionally fired the shotgun at himself It's a nightmare. I'll never forgive Troy as the CHP officer was following him. Harden for what he did."

He was taken to Howard Memorial "When Harden comes up for parole Hospital and treated for a minor again in 2021," Sequeira said, "the gunshot wound to his left cheek, Van DA's office will be there to oppose his Patten said. release.

Preschool From Page 5 The rest of

bookshelves, and play structures that had been moved into set up an online fundraising campaign for the school, too. the new classrooms. In one area, stacks of art supplies, "It's such a great example for the kids, how hard Saprina toys, books, and blankets were accumulating as donations works." continued to arrive. "There wasn't one truck that brought all this, it was each family bringing a bag or two at a time that through the community," Rodriguez said, as she discussed made it all happen. All the many hands available to help was the varied community donations. She explained that that just magic." she was told by one volunteer that strangers had seen them

"I had one parent out here mowing the lawn, others removing prickly bushes and installing landscaping, and every 15 minutes someone would drop off more donations: stuff for the kids or food for the workers," said Rodriguez of the weekend's efforts. By Saturday morning, more than 50 people had arrived to begin moving the school's remains, and by weekend's end, a total of more than 100 people - me." and an additional 100 donors - assisted with the relocation efforts. "Luckily, I knew exactly how I wanted it, and I wanted to keep it as similar I could to the old location to keep it familiar for the kids," Rodriguez said.

"The temporary fence is going up as the sun begins to rise on a new beginning," Rodriguez wrote on the preschool's Facebook page at 6 am on Monday morning, as workers arrived to install the new playground barriers before the start of the school week. That morning, the new location was completely transformed, with brightly colored paper, art and other decorations on the walls, and shelves full of space. new toys and books brought in by many different families in the community. A whiteboard in the front entrance promised an upcoming "Pajama Day" and a visit from the tooth fairy: "Just getting back to the usual!" remarked Rodriguez.

"I just love the new backyard," said one teacher as he welcomed kids into one of the larger new classrooms. "There's the cover for when it rains, and all the trees - it's just great."

"All the kids were so sad about their school, but they're Facebook page soon. Those who can help out with financial happy to be here now," said April Edwards, one parent who helped with the volunteer efforts over the weekend and who

A long driveway could be built, extending attending the sentencing eastward from Blosser Lane to the group of portables. The road and an as-yet-unbuilt fence surrounding the portables would help keep district office business separate from school activities. Johnson said.

Currently some of the portables

are being used, Johnson noted.

"It's just amazing how far these efforts have spread

Licensing agents visited the school on Monday and

will be back after 30 days to review the new location and

required improvements, including an additional playground

for 2-year-olds. Rodriguez explained that Imagination

Station will be able to stay on Marin Street for at least a

year, and is in the processing of working out more detailed

future plans with the building's owners. "It's definitely a long-

term situation," she said, although the school will still need

significant funding to complete playground construction,

purchase special equipment, and further settle into the new

"I know my mom taught me that when life kicks you

down, you get up and kick it back," said Rodriguez, as she

watched students arrive at the new space and contemplated

everything that had happened over the weekend. "I really

hope that we're able to show the kids that when something

Imagination Station is still seeking donations for children

on the "Imagination Station Preschool / Childcare Center"

contributions can visit www.gofundme.com/ha0714.

like this happens, life still goes on."

The Willits Kids Club uses one

the southern boundary of the school campus. the district office Johnson will present her plan to the board of trustees at its Wednesday, December 3, meeting

The rest of From Page 1 Arrest

Grace Chesser, 25, at a Poppy Drive home.

Chesser was discovered unresponsive shortly after 5:30 am by friends returning home from a Halloween party.

According to sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten, Chesser had been celebrating with the group, but was dropped off at the residence in the 26000 block of Poppy Drive while the remainder of the group continued to socialize elsewhere.

Several hours later, "the group returned and found [Marshall], the homeowner's cousin, at the residence," Van Patten said.

Marshall left the residence in a pickup truck.

shopping for art supplies and donated \$100 to the cause. Chesser's body was later discovered in one of the "Kids I don't even know have been riding up on their bikes home's bedrooms. She was pronounced dead after being and giving me hugs. When I got home last night, my son rushed to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. gave me a letters the students in his fifth-grade class had

written, saying how glad they were to live in a town where Almost six hours later, at about 1 pm, sheriff's people cared about helping out kids. It means so much to investigators learned the 220-pound man had driven his truck off a cliff near Mile Post Marker 12 on Highway 162.

> Seriously injured, the 44-year-old Marshall was airlifted to a Santa Rosa hospital for treatment

An autopsy concluded Chesser died "as the result of strangulation," Van Patten said. The autopsy also discovered "signs of sexual assault on her body."

On Monday, the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office issued a felony arrest warrant charging Marshall with murder, rape and sodomy.

During their investigation, detectives learned Marshall was a registered sex offender. According to the Megan's Law website, Marshall had been convicted of "sexual penetration of a victim with a foreign object by force or

He is being held in Mendocino County Jail on a no bail status

A lifelong Willits resident, Chesser was a graduate of Willits High School, where she played basketball and was ages 2 to 6, but will be posting a more specific list of needs a cheerleader. Before her death, she had been teaching belly dancing at Cloud 9 Studio and was part of an area dance troupe.

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Meet playwright Audie Foote Friday night

An amazing story of true human kindness afterward. forms the genesis for Audie Foote's play, "The Angel of Chatham Square," currently showing at Willits Community Theatre through Sunday, November 23. The centerpiece of the play is an unlikely post-war love story between a New York waitress and a Skid Row burn. To offer further details about the real-life story, Foote will be present at the Friday, November 21 performance at WCT to entertain questions from the audience



that Kitty came through from work, the bum named Willie was there to watch over her. At the start of the story is the playwright's In return she offered Willie and his friends mother, Katherine "Kitty" Foote. The year doggie bags from the restaurant. Kitty and was 1948 in New York City, and Kitty worked Willie got to know one another, and it turned nights as a waitress in a swank seafood restaurant in Upper Manhattan. In order to out Willie was educated and not a drunk, but reach home in Lower Manhattan, she had to simply homeless. switch buses at the Bowery. The notorious Foote, 65, always remembered his Skid Row area was rife with homeless men, mother's story and was so impressed that

he would later write the play, "The Angel of desperate derelicts, and alcoholic bums. Chatham Square. Late on the first night that Kitty headed home, Foote says the bus The play was first produced at the Raven's

'The Angel of Chatham Square': Don't miss it!

Greystar, Kelly Kesey,

Pete

and

Winslow

Gretchen Anderson in "The

Angel of Chatham Square.'

At left: Rod

Grainger

Kesey in "The

Angel of

Chatham

Square.'

and Kelly

I first became aware of this holiday production from the Willits Community Theatre when I received a beautiful postcard from WCT featuring Ann Maglinte's watercolor painting of two lead characters waiting at a bus stop, reminiscent of a scene from that holiday classic, "It's a Wonderful Life." Tacking it to the fridge, the postcard haunted me for days.

Last Friday night I attended "The Angel of Chatham Square," and

Willits Weekly CLASSIFIEDS						
\$10 for 2 week Algebra, Geometry SAT & ACT Test Prep Mac Smith 459-MATH Car for Sale '94 Ford Escort Wagon, 148,500 miles. Runs great, minor imperfections. Walter: 459-9573. \$750 or best offer. 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	S for 30 words! Help Wanted We have a receptionist position available for someone that loves working with people and pets. Experience required. Bring your resume to the Willits Pet Care Center, 90 South Street. Rummage Sale Every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm at 1st Baptist Church, 145 Wood Street. Rain or shine. We accept rummage donations, and have an ever- changing selection of goods!					
email macamergin@yahoo. com. For Rent Nice large 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse, close to shopping center, small backyard. No pets. No smoking. Washer & dryer on premises. \$795/month.	SEWING AND ALTERATIONS Seamstress and Sewing Teacher Barbara Carlon Visit my webpage: Zibergirl.com 707-367-6182, Willits					
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For Rent, Office Spaces Three small office spaces in town. \$250 each. Includes utilities. Rent one, two or all three. 489-7165 or 459-3141.	and pay easily online at www.WillitsWeekly.com with Paypal <b>Volunteers Wanted</b> Frank Howard Memorial					
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For Sale Dining Table, Leaf, 4 Chairs, \$60. Antique Desk, \$85. 2 Antique Chairs \$20. Twin mattress, new, \$75. Mountain Bike – Huffy, \$200. Misc. Tools, \$50. Call afternoon or early evening: 456-0381.	Gift Certificates available for Willits Wooldwl					
<b>For Sale</b> 1990 Chevrolet pick-up truck, 8 cylinder, automatic, runs good, not beat-up, OK tires. 150,000 miles. \$1,600 firm. Info: 459-2724.	Weekly! 459-2633 972-7047					
THOMAS						



Goods that will be added to the cooked food or will embellish the plates include 18 cans of cranberries, 36 cans of green beans, 36 cans of yams, 12 pounds of mini marshmallows, nine gallons of dressing, 50 fruit pies and 36 cans of whipped cream.

The dinner is put on every year thanks to the generosity of the community, and a donation station will be set up for anyone wishing to contribute. Organizers also decided again this year – due to the water shortage – to use biodegradable paper plates for the Thanksgiving dinner, instead of plates that need to be washed.

Due to supervising staff issues this year, the Chamberlain crew will not be able to serve at the Thursday dinner, so with volunteers taking the crew's place in the kitchen, event organizers hope community members will be on hand to volunteer to help serve, bus tables, slice pie and all the other tasks needed during the day.

Kevin Copperfield will be coordinating volunteers, and nterested persons are welcome to contact him directly at each other and their relationship together. 456-9429 or call Willits Community Services at 459-3333 to get signed up. Spots do fill up early so call soon to get your If you have **any** relationship questions please send them to doriswier@embraceconflict: com or to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490. I am happy to answer your time reserved! Copperfield noted that many of the morning questions anonymously in my column every third Thursday of the month. Until then shifts were already covered, but that mainly, volunteers Doris Wier is a certified relationship system and life coach who works and lives in Willits. She were needed for the 1 to 3 pm shifts and the 3 to 5 pm shifts. coaches individuals, couples, families, and professionals. In addition she offers Explore Shops on conflict resolution and deepening your intimacy and connection in your partnership Loading up the The rest of Thanksgiving food. From Page 10 Puppy effects, coming from the rear of a release of stress and tension "DON'T LET YOUR DECK BE A SAFETY HAZARD" the car. At that point I told my friend: "Go ahead and speed. If a cop pulls us over, he'd take • Handrail replacement or repair (to code only) one whiff and surely let us go with a warning. He might even give us an escort." We finally arrived at the 24hour veterinarian hospital, and CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION brought in a very sick, messy and smelly dog. The staff took (707) 671-3561 the poor pup into the back area while my friend attempted to fill out paperwork without her reading glasses. I assisted her with filling in the information, **T. LAWRENCE** Adam's at which point it is assumed by the staff that we are a couple. We are referred to as the "mommies." With all the stress, Restauraut tension, rushing, smell, and concern for the poor sick dog, all my friend and I could do is 50 5. Main St burst out in laughter. I'm sure 202-456-9226 the veterinarian thought we (707) 489-4131 were callus and unfeeling about the plight of this sick animal, when the exact opposite was true. Our laughter was actually W O D (N A T A LÌA I R) N S F 9 3 4 6 58 NARA <u>e (recnac)</u>(sy<u>n</u>astr<u>y</u> 83 2 9 6 5 CHAR ALCEA 6 8 5 3 2 4 9 MIENS PARALLE 69 82 7 5 З 4 5 2 8 З 9 6 4 2 6 8 9 5 1 7 3 4 2 5 9 4 3 6 7 8 96 7 3 8 5 2 4 ELUTED RENEW 5 4 9 6 2 3 8 AD

Rascal From Page 10 The rest o

leash and toys for their pooch. The \$5 per ticket raffle is for a \$60 gift certificate to Adam's Restaurant, complete with a bottle of wine. The \$10 per ticket raffle is for a Stella & Dot bag filled with pampering products, including shampoo, lotion and hair care products.

Gift wrap for the pups is back again, too, after being such a success last holiday season. Unwrapped presents can be brought into Willits Power Carhartt to be expertly boxed and wrapped by Gonzales, Grossman and Franceschini, for a donation. The ladies stressed that gifts certainly don't have to be purchased at Willits Power to be wrapped, though of course, they'll wrap those purchased there, too.

The group also has a group on Facebook under "Rascal's Rescue" where interested persons can join and keep up to date on happenings. Gonzales is in the process of completing the paperwork to gain the group official nonprofit status.

For more information about the fund, or to donate, please call Gonzales at 459-6420.



The rest of From Page 4 Stress

time, which will give you more energy to interact with your partner in general and also sexually.

Some of us keep ourselves busy as a way to avoid sex, while others don't understand the importance of "alone time" and selfcare. These types of busy-ness can all interfere with our sexuality. If you think that any of the above behaviors are part of your difficulties, you may want to reconsider your priorities and where having sex with your partner lies in importance.

Second, have you talked with your partner about your difficulties yet? It may be the perfect time to talk honestly about your sex life and start exploring it together again. Share with your partner how pressured you feel around sex and that you want to change that. Tell him or her how much you enjoy having sex together. Share particularly memorable sexual experiences you enjoyed with your partner

Third, you may each want to rate your sex life on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the most satisfying and vibrant. Ask each other questions about what you feel is lacking in your sexual life and what you each fantasize about. How could you take better care of your sexual life together? What would you need from each other to do that? How can you support each other better? In other words, make your sex life your new common project.

For a lot of people, having sex is the easiest and quickest way to relax and feel connected, but it is not the only way. If sex is not working well, you may feel disconnected even more. It can be tricky. In general, I recommend you both look for multiple ways to relax and (re)connect.

Sex should not be a chore. Sex is a way to interact, to explore yourself and each other, an expression of yourself and, often, your love. For committed couples, sex is also a mutual celebration of

The story has a happy

ending. The dog recovered. We

made it home alright. The car

was thoroughly cleaned. The

veterinarian bill was eventually

to be extremely careful about

what your dog eats during the

holidays. Watch your dog during

holiday get-togethers. It is

tempting to give dogs leftovers

and special treats, but that's

not advisable. There are some

dogs that seem to be able to eat

anything and others who have

delicate stomachs. It's just not

worth it to chance a midnight

run to the veterinarian if you

can avoid it. Keep to your dog's

normal diet and have a happy

Sallie Palmer is a Certified Dog Traine

with the International Association of Canine Professionals. She has been training

dogs and their people for over 25 years.

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To learn more about Sallie, go to www

and safe holiday!

wellmanneredmutts.com.

The moral of this story is

paid off, and life went on.



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2014 Sempervirens Award for Lifetime Achievement in Environmental Advocacy from the Arcata-based Environmental Protection and Information Center (EPIC) the previous evening at an event at the Mateel Community Center in Redway.

Priscilla Hunter, tribal elder of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, spoke briefly about ongoing efforts to protect Native American cultural sites threatened by the Willits bypass.

Finally, WEC Board member Craig Mountain read his favorite Wendell Berry poem to a rapt hall.

The guests then lingered over a long and relaxed dessert – apple crisp with whipped cream or ice cream churned on the spot.

Katie Sontag entertained into the evening, singing beautiful original songs, accompanying herself on the guitar.

"This was a great success in every way. Yes, it was a lot of work, but worth every minute. We were pleased to continue the wonderful Harvest Dinner tradition and extend another big thank you to everyone who helped to make it such a success," Craig said.

> - submitted by the Willits Environmental Center

# **Ellen and David Drell receive 2014 Sempervirens** Award

Willits Environmental Center, were awarded the 2014 to the federal wilderness system in 2006. The Willits Sempervirens Lifetime Achievement of Environmental Environmental Center was founded in 1990. "to give Activism Award by the Environmental Protection and environmental advocacy a public face in Willits. Information Center (EPIC) earlier this month. The award was presented at EPIC's 37th Annual Fall Celebration on Friday, November 7 at the Mateel Community Center in Garberville.

Photo by

Thayer Craig

Known for their efforts opposing Caltrans' Willits Bypass, the Drells are lifelong forest protectors and wilderness musician Darryl Cherney (2011), founder of Ancient Forest add 40,000 acres to the Yolla Bolly Wilderness in 1984 Jeff Hedin (2013).



Former winners of the Sempervirens Lifetime Achievement Award have included Karen Pickett of the Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters, EPIC's forest advocate Richard Gienger, Patty Clary, the executive director of Californians for Alternatives to Toxics, activist/ advocates. Among their successes was a campaign to International, Rick Klein (2012) and Piercy forest activist





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The rest of From Page 1 Arson

manner. She pled not guilty and is being held in the Mendocino County Jail on \$130,000 bail.

The fire was discovered by a Willits Police Department officer, who called in a report of "a fully engulfed top-story residence on fire" above John's Place at 4:05 am.

Little Lake Fire Department was called out and started working on the fire from the rear, as officers were knocking on doors: the bottom apartment tenant was awakened and evacuated.

At 4:20 am, Ross was spotted inside the bar holding what looked like a black semi-automatic pistol to her head. "During the incident, she was waving the replica firearm," WPD Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez said. "In the dark it looked very real.'

All WPD officers responded, and a request was put in for a crisis negotiator and the SWAT team, but the suspect was subdued before the SWAT team arrived. Officers started trying to negotiate with Ross; firefighters in the back yard were sheltering in place, while still putting water on the fire.

"She had access to that whole first-floor area," said Little Lake Fire Chief Carl Magann. "From the law enforcement side, they can't take any chances. Their safety, the safety of the public, and the firefighters' safety comes first.

"I have a lot of admiration for the Willits police for what they did to keep us safe."

"The primary focus was on protecting lives." Gonzalez said. "including the firemen, who had responded and were now fighting the fire from the rear/roof."

Eventually Ross was "talked out of the building," and continued to speak with WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue outside on Commercial Street. "Sgt. Donahue actively engaged Ross." who would "point the gun to her head then yell and scream.'

When Ross turned back to look at the fire, Sgt. Donahue was able to use his Taser on Ross. She was taken into custody without further incident.

"I credit Sgt. Donahue's good judgment and negotiation skills for being able to resolve this situation without loss of life or injury to anyone, including Ross," Gonzalez said.

Firefighters were able to move on the fire by 5:10 am, but at that point the flames had already gone through most of the building, Fire Chief Magann said, "and we had a general collapse of the roof above the bar and the dance floor."

The fire was contained by 6:39 am, and completely out by 10 am.

Ross was arrested twice by WPD last month: on October 18 for misdemeanor battery, "use of force or violence upon another" (she was held in county jail for three days), and on October 26 for misdemeanor vandalism and petty theft (she was released later that same evening)

Ross was also arrested "on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance" in January 2014 and November 2013, and arrested "on suspicion of drunk driving" in August 2013, along with probation violations.

In 2009. Ross was arrested on suspicion of child endangerment, and failed to appear at the subsequent court hearing.

On Veterans Day, WPD responded to a report Ross was throwing glass down the stairs, and WPD dispatch called the Imagination Station preschool to request students be kept inside until officers could get there.



From Page 1 Wilkinson

Jury selection had been scheduled to argued Wilkinson was high on alcohol. begin in April, when Wilkinson changed methamphetamine and "bath salts" at his plea to guilty to retain the possibility the time he murdered his grandfather. of parole for the 2012 murder of his Wilkinson later dropped the insanity grandfather. Richard Mel Wilkinson. plea.

First-degree murder carries a Thompson also challenged the 25 years-to-life prison sentence. If autopsy findings, insisting the elder Wilkinson had gone to trial and been Wilkinson was already dead before convicted of murder with special being tied to the truck. circumstances, he would have faced Wilkinson has maintained his life behind bars without any possibility grandfather died from an epileptic fit of parole. after he hit him with the ax. He said

Wilkinson later attempted to withdraw he dragged the body down the road his guilty plea, but Behnke ruled there because he could not lift the body into were insufficient legal grounds for him the pickup. to do so. Attorney Jan Cole-Wilson, At Friday's sentencing Assistant who is representing Wilkinson, said she Mendocino County District Attorney is appealing Behnke's ruling.

Paul Sequeira called Wilkinson's According to court documents, actions "as gruesome and horrific [an Wilkinson tied his grandfather to a act] as I have ever seen." pickup truck at his aunt and uncle's "Kids killing their grandparents is East Hill Road home after hitting him unusual," he noted. "It's something we with an ax, and dragged him some six can't explain.' miles before dumping the body down a steep Pine Mountain hillside across He warned Wilkinson he would Mariposa Creek Road near the home "never get out of prison until you come

of his mother's boyfriend. clean" with the state Board of Prison An autopsy revealed the retired Terms. lumber mill worker, who suffered from

While Judge Behnke conceded dementia, died of "multiple blunt force Wilkinson had displayed "no criminal trauma." sophistication" in the murder, he noted dragging the elderly man to death was In 2013, Wilkinson pleaded not guilty "inexplicably heinous. Basically, it tore by reason of insanity. His attorney at the

time, Public Defender Linda Thompson, The rest of From Page **Bypass** 

increase protections for cultural sites uncovered during construction. report was filed in 2006. At Tuesday's protest, the most recent incident in bypass protests occurring over the last two years,

around 100 demonstrators from

consultation.

states.

According to John D. Hardesty,

Army Corps public affairs chief, the

agency responded by mail and email

on November 14 and November

tribal concerns over archeological

The rest of Sewer

From Page 1

The city has the right to use 690,000 gallons per day of sewage treating capacity; Brooktrails retains a right to have 490,000 gallons a day, court documents state.

But, Brooktrails claims, in 2012 the city used 20,000 gallons per day more than it should have by taking treatment capacity legally belonging to Brooktrails.

The new suit comes in addition to an ongoing sewer lawsuit between the township and the city about disputed expenses associated with construction of the city's new wastewater treatment plant.

Brooktrails' sewer wastewater is treated at the Willits wastewater treatment plant in the valley. The township produces its own drinking water, but has approached the city about tying into Willits' water supply

At a November 12 city council meeting, Public Works Director Rod Wilburn briefed council members about the city's wastewater metering.

This summer Brooktrails used the Freedom of Information Act to request records of calibration for the city's meter, a council report stated.

In an e-mail report to area news media, Mayor Holly Madrigal summed up the situation:

"A couple of key issues were identified: one of which is the accuracy of the influent Parshall flume meter which had been installed so it could not read when the flows were lower than 4 inches, as could

occur during drought conditions like we have seen this past year. "Another problem is that the pipe elevations have an incorrectly

built slope increase, as well as a concrete lip created by an offset in two connected pipe segments. This has created backflows towards the meter, which has caused inaccurate flow data.

"Needless to say these findings have been very concerning to staff, which has been actively seeking solutions to the problems," Madrigal wrote.

many as 30 sites discovered since the the project, which the State Office project's initial environmental impact of Historic Preservation stated (in a September, 2013 letter) could constitute a potential archeological Tribal and environmental groups have requested a downsized northern district and include National History

Hunter's November 6 letter states

that after tribal concerns were aired

a confidentiality agreement with

the tribe, and after it was refused,

On Tuesday, protestors set up at

the Army Corps headquarters to give

speeches, perform traditional native

songs, and distribute information about

the impacts of the bypass. According

to Save Our Little Lake Valley protestor

negotiations effectively stopped

Registry-eligible sites



Call 367-9319 or email rachel@willitsweekly.com

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"On arrival," Chief Gonzalez told Willits Weekly, the situation was "not as reported. She was inside her apartment, and the people or person hired to clean up was throwing glass objects down during cleanup." So, "no crime was observed or ultimately reported, so no action was taken," Gonzalez said.

Ross was originally also booked on suspicion of "attempted murder," based on the presence of the downstairs tenant in the apartment she is charged with setting on fire, but the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office did not pursue those charges.

Imagination Station was also badly damaged by the fire. "Three rooms were completely destroyed," said preschool owner Saprina Rodriguez, "and the rest of the school has water and smoke damage, as well as some burn damage."

But Rodriguez was grateful to firefighters for saving as much as they did, and with the help of more than 100 volunteers over the weekend, Imagination Station moved across the street to the old Mendocino College building, and reopened for students on Monday morning.

"We had exposure on the south side of East Van Lane," Chief Magann said. "We worked really hard trying to keep the fire out of Saprina's portion of the building.

Other fire agencies called in included Brooktrails, called first, then Redwood Valley and Laytonville, and then Ukiah and Hopland.

"It should've just been a simple apartment fire," Magann said. "We knock it down, and we all go home. But circumstances didn't lend themselves to that.... We've been pulled away from fires because there was a chance of explosion or dealing with hazardous materials, but this is the first time we've ever been forced off a fire by somebody with a suspected firearm."

Magann said the John's Place fire was the biggest fire in the Willits area since the Windsor Mill fire, circa 1985.

The John's Place building is owned by Nareshbhai and correspondence was not received. Jivanbhai Patel of SETA LLC, of Ukiah, Magann said. The Patels ran the Kwik Stop store, and Dan Chesser had the lease for the bar and owned the liquor license.

Fire code gives the building owners 30 days to demolish the fire-damaged structure now surrounded by a sturdy fence, Magann said. The burned-out building is "not only an attractive nuisance and an eyesore, but it's a liability protections and damage to wetlands. for the owners."

The incident remains under investigation. Anyone with additional information is urged to contact WPD Sqt. Donahue at 459-6122.

Mendocino County and the greater Bay Area gathered outside the Army in the area and reduce ecological Corps' district headquarters, including impacts. They are also requesting a in the press, Caltrans recently sought activists from the American Indian supplemental environmental impact Movement, the Bay Area Coalition for report to address the additional sites discovered, which consulting Headwaters, and critics of the project. archeologists for the tribes say could Pricilla Hunter, government-topotentially be former villages or sites government representative for the of significance. Coyote Valley tribe, helped organize the protest to request in-person Both Coyote Valley and Sherwood

meetings, addressing what the tribe Valley tribes have yet to sign formal claims are Caltrans' violations of final agreements with Caltrans Section 106 of the federal Historic government-to-government for Preservation Act, concerning tribal consultations over cultural sites, due consultations and cultural sites, and to an inability to reach agreement of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. with the agency about the treatment and future handling of archeological

him apart."

In a November 6 letter, Coyote resources Valley Chairman Michael Hunter formally requested a November A Tuesday press statement from 18 meeting with the Corps after Hardesty reiterated the Army Corps the tribe says it received no formal of Engineers' understanding that response to requests made in early legally "the California Department of July for government-to-government

Transportation (Caltrans), through the Federal Highway Administration, for both sides to have escalating is the lead federal agency for the "These are our treasured cultural Willits bypass project, and therefore resources that are being adversely is the lead agency for Section 106 of impacted, and Caltrans is clearly not the National Historic Preservation Act negotiating in good faith," the letter (NHPA) and tribal consultations."

interchange design, which they say

will protect several important sites

However, other agencies, including the Army Corps and the North Coast Water Quality Control Board, have permitting authority over certain aspects of the project.

17, respectively, claiming the Corps of Engineers believed it did not "It's ridiculous that Caltrans should have jurisdiction over the tribe's be the final arbiter of their own concerns. Demonstrators say the compliance with federal regulations,' said Redwood Valley activist Polly Girvin, explaining the difficulties tribes Local tribes, including Willits' have experienced in formally holding Sherwood Valley Rancheria, have the agency accountable. "Other previously expressed frustration with what they characterize as Caltrans' agencies just end up rubber-stamping unwillingness to adequately address

everything. We know we have a right to be at the table.

Tribal members also expressed Several different sites uncovered during bypass construction have been impacted due to outdated mapping or permitting agencies as to the extent an absence of tribal monitors, with as of archeological discoveries on

tensions, when we can sit down and listen to each other," said Hardesty who attended the ad-hoc meeting, as did Deputy Commander Major Adam Czekanski, and Jane Hicks, district regulatory branch chief. During an almost hour-long meeting, the Hunters repeated their requests and concerns

to Corps officials. Hardesty explained: "We told them if they can help identify a list of concerns within our jurisdiction, then begin to build an agenda, we will pass it on to our commander," Lt. Commander John C. Morrow, who was appointed this summer and has the authority to

decide whether the Corps will enter into its own consultations with the tribe "We value our relationships with

tribal groups," he said.

concerns that Caltrans – as required Coyote Valley representatives plan to continue talks with the Corps and – has not fully informed other other permitting agencies to maintain pressure to protect sacred sites.

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Freddie Long, demonstrators made repeated phone calls, wrote emails, and sent a letter up to Army Corps offices, via security guards, requesting a meeting. After about three hours, three demonstrators began a sit-in outside the building entrance, and officials finally invited Pricilla Hunter and her daughter, Melinda, inside. "We felt there was no reason





# nzing Athletes of Willits High School



### Cross Country | Rachel Kanonchoff, 17, Senior Breakfast of Champions: Yogurt or bagel and cream cheese

Position: Varsity girls captain

Love for the Sport: Cross country is challenging, and it feels like everyone is a family.

Team captain Rachel Kanonchoff is the only runner on the team who has not missed a single workout in two years. Her hard work and dedication has paid off, as she lowers her times each race. She set a PR (personal record) by more than a minute at her home course in Brooktrails.



Football | Justin Thom, 16, Junior

Breakfast of Champions: Cereal

Position: Wide receiver and cornerback

Love for the Sport: The anticipation before the games and the teamwork. Football is fun and makes me try my hardest.

Justin Thom had five receptions in the win over Kelseyville, including the game-winning touchdown for 67 yards. He also played good defense at safety, after switching from the cornerback position.

Photos by Rachel Belvin

PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION

Join Us in Welcoming Stephanie Kim, D.O.



As a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician, Dr. Kim specializes in the comprehensive diagnosis and management of pain of the spine, nerves, tendons, joints and muscles.

Dr. Kim received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley and her doctor of osteopathy from Touro University California, College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago where she was chief resident of the physical medicine and rehabilitation program.

She brings vast experience helping patients reduce or eliminate pain so they can get back to a healthy, active life.

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