

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Love letter

To the Editor:

Gabe "Magical" – that is what my youngest called him when they were first introduced. Names are funny that way, they are occasionally so fitting and appropriate for our characters. He is magical. We were so fortunate to see him each work day for the past four years.

I feel so privileged that my boys had hours to soak up his sweet formed masculinity, his soft-spoken way, his patience. I honor all these men and their hearts-on-sleeves California essence. We are a small town of warm hearts.

I mean these words as a love letter to Willits. Where else can Melva Jean become Aria Walker? This is a town of California Phoenix. We rise from ashes more passionate and powerful: artists, crafters, mothers, fathers, friends and neighbors. Please hold our community in your mind with golden light.

Our intuitions come from a deeper well now. Our lost loved ones are whispering winds catching us just before we make a mistake. Their wisdom walks with us just like Gabe is there reminding us to use the right tool for the job and to eat healthy.

I am one of what I think is many, many of us who were not quite aware of how much we loved Gabe until he was gone. I took it for granted he would work the late hours, greet me at the shop, and help remodel our home. I took him for granted and I am already learning from this. I will show my appreciation, go to the birthday party, make a gift, give it, I will show up for my people. With love,

Jan Bixler, Willits

A letter of thanks

To the Editor:

This thank you is delayed, as it has taken time to process the impact of the recent fires in Mendocino and Sonoma. My husband and I live in the Golden Rule Mobile Home Park and although we did not lose our home, it still has affected us in ways we cannot describe even to this day.

At 2 am on the morning of October 9, my husband, Doug, and I and our neighbors were awakened and told to evacuate right away. Doug and I had been in a fire down in the Bay Area and had learned to pack extra clothes, toiletries, medicines, water, a pet carrier and food for our kitty. We packed emergency supplies such as a radio, flashlight, batteries, blankets, pillows, coats and shoes, and our computers. We had a list of the phone numbers of our family, friends, businesses, police, fire and our local hospital and doctors.

We also kept our gas tanks full during the fire season and put aside cash and checks in case the electricity goes out. We put all our original important documents in the safety deposit box in our bank and brought a fireproof box with copies along with us. And, we had agreed on a place to meet if we were separated during the evacuation process. We were prepared. Even then, we had only a few minutes to throw all of that into our car and get out.

As I went out to the car I will never forget what I saw. Directly above our village is a hill, above Route 101. It was so red and fluid that it literally looked like lava from a volcano, racing down the hill towards our homes. There was a roar I will never forget. It was louder than a military jet, and we could feel the heat, smell the smoke and ashes were everywhere. It was then, that I realized that this fire was nothing like the one we experienced in the Bay Area.

My heart began to pound and I knew we needed to get out NOW!!! I gently grabbed our kitty and put her in the car with food and water. We brought her litter box and extra litter and food and then tossed all our other belongings into the back of our truck.

Our village belongs to the members of the Church of the Golden Rule, who leases land to our Mobile Village, an RV Park, two or three gardens, an agricultural school, and a horse-riding program for challenged children. It is the home of the famous Seabiscuit racing horse and the home of his owner, the late Frank Howard, who founded the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital.

The church members all have homes and raise cattle as well. Many people here have horses, and many native animals live in this valley. The church has its own fire crew, who came out with local police and fire departments to evacuate everyone. I couldn't imagine how we would all get out safely, nor did I ever expect to see our valley intact when we were able to return.

My husband and I were able to get onto Route 101 North heading away from the path of the fire. Our first instinct was to go to Howard Memorial Hospital, where we could sit in the emergency room and get our bearings. We were relieved to find a couple from our Mobile Village there as well. Cold and tired, the four of us went into the hospital.

When we told the staff about the fires, they were shocked, as they had not heard the news yet. They were incredibly kind, giving us warm blankets and hot tea. Our friends had cell phones, and the hospital actually had charging stations where they could be recharged. The TV was on a Bay Area channel and news began pouring in. Although our local news was not on the TV, we were able to watch the progress of the fires.

As the morning staff began to come to work, there were many stories of evacuations and the inability of some of them to get there, as Route 101 South had been closed. Our friends whom we met up with at the hospital both worked there, so they offered to help out. The wife worked in the lab and was needed since her co-worker was unable to get there. Her husband is a volunteer, who serves coffee, tea, and other drinks to the patients. In time, his help was needed as well.

At one point my blood pressure spiked, and I realized that I had forgotten my blood pressure medicine. A sweet doctor came and got me and took me into the emergency room, where he checked my blood pressure. It was dangerously high, so he arranged for me to get some medicine at the pharmacy, which is outside of the hospital near the physical therapy building. The pharmacist graciously gave me a one-month supply, as we had no idea when we could return. I was deeply touched by the caring and love of everyone in the hospital, from the receptionists to the doctors.

The hospital has a restaurant called Roots, which provides food to the patients, their families, the doctors and the staff, as well as any of the public who wish to eat there. There is always coffee, tea and water available, and they serve three meals a day. My husband and I had been on a committee to write up the business plan for the organic Commonwealth Garden located on the hospital property that supplies the produce to the Roots restaurant. We knew that we could get three good meals a day, while we were evacuated.

The manager of Roots commutes daily from Healdsburg, and as the fires began to spread in Sonoma, he was unable to work as he had to help move his family out of harm's way. Some of the workers were evacuated and could not make it into work either. A very limited staff took over and was there day in and day out, working very long hours to make sure that the patients and staff had food. My husband and I were very impressed with the skeleton crew, who remained cheerful and helpful the entire week of the fires.

As the week went on, evacuees, police and first responders also came in for meals or coffee and tea. Each day, the first responders looked more and more fatigued and our hearts went out to them. They could not stop until the threat of the fires was over, risking their lives and their health for all of us. It was through them that we were able to get the latest information. We did bring our radio, which was a godsend. Sheriff Tom Allman began giving updates and answering questions on KZYX, which was very helpful. He is such a master of communication!

Then, the cell towers melted leaving everyone with no phone service. The electricity went out, resulting in the inability to use computers. This became a hardship for those trying to connect with families trying to find out if their loved ones were alright and for the hospital computers to function. The hospital did have generators and were able to keep the lights on but scheduled surgeries had to be

postponed.

Patients who were scheduled for surgery on the day of the fires showed up unaware of the fires and were terribly disappointed, as they had waited so long for their surgeries. One woman had been dropped off by a neighbor thinking she would be there for a few days. There were no phones, and the woman had no way to get home. Thankfully, some wonderful person gave her a ride back to her home. There were two "hot spots" in the hospital where people could use their cell phones and needless to say, it was a busy area.

One of the days, the fires began to move closer to the hospital, which was on alert to evacuate. The entire town of Willits was also on alert. It was a tense time, as the doctors and nurses had to be ready at all times to move the patients out if they were advised to do so. Our wonderful CDF and fire crews were able to hold the fire line and relieve the staff of their concern for the patients.

Our dear friend, who has worked in the Howard Foundation for many years, just happened to be moving into her new home in the Haehl Creek development behind the hospital. She opened her heart and home to us and our kitty, where we stayed until we were able to return home.

We had made friends with most of the hospital staff that week and heard their stories as well. Each of them became like family, and our hearts were filled with love for each of them. We are extremely proud of our hospital. It is rare that such care and sincere concern for the welfare of the patients is present any more.

The staff worked as a team and took over wherever they were needed with absolutely no hesitation. They are loving and deeply dedicated to each other, to the patients and to all those who walk through the doors. Their smiles left a smile in our hearts forever. Thank you to all!

After one, long week, we were able to return to our mobile home. As we drove down the road to the village below, we were absolutely amazed that *nothing* burned, yet the fires had touched the very edge of our valley all the way around the perimeter. Our fire crew from our ranch with the help of outside crews kept the fire from entering our valley. Everything was still intact. We were at once incredibly grateful and incredibly saddened by the losses of our neighbors in Redwood Valley and Santa Rosa.

Our fire crews worked a *miracle* on this property. My husband and I were in awe of them. We walked around the valley and saw that the fires had come too close for comfort and knew that our fire crew had risked their lives for us. We cannot thank them enough. I still see the ferocity of that fire when we were first evacuated and cannot fathom how they kept it from burning this precious land.

This land truly feels sacred to all of us. Something bigger than all of us happened here and is happening worldwide. We are in a "moment in time." Love was etched into our hearts. As we all try to fathom the unfathomable and heal from this trauma, we have had a firsthand experience of why the great teachers of the world urge us to live in the moment. I hope we can truly cherish the "moments" we have with each other. For as we all found out, the moment holds the heart in all its fullness.

Chela Pollard, Willits

Looking to find our Willits Weekly distribution boxes?

101 Drive-In, Scoops Deli, J.D. Redhouse, Willits Post Office, the old Ardella's Downtown Diner, Buttercups Children's Boutique, Willits City Hall, Willits Library, Mariposa Market, the old Country Skillet, Old Mission Pizza, Romi's Roadhouse, Brewed Awakening, Ace Copy and Shipping, Mendo Mill, the Harrah Senior Center, Grocery Outlet, Geiger's in Laytonville, Howard Memorial Hospital, Baechtel Grove Middle School and Willits High School.



Above, from left: Willits Wild Bunch's "No-No," "Chewie," "Tigger," and "Q" pose with stickers, temporary tattoos and other goodies donated to the Willits Children's Christmas Program by Sparetime Supply. "Molasses" and "Sugar Shaker" load toys onto the shelves. New WWB members "Wrench" and "Birdie" fill the bins with wrapping paper. "Bear" and "Lil Bit" wrap tinsel around the Christmas trees before the request tags are added.



At left: Willits Wild Bunch members and friends loaded trees, presents, supplies and more into the old Rexall building Saturday, November 18, getting ready for the upcoming holiday season, including, in back, from left: "Tigger," "Bear," "Lil Bit," "Chewie," "Pickles," "Q," "Wrench," "Birdie," "Gramps" from the Old Buzzards, "Molasses," "Bull Rider," and "Top Hat." Front row: "Barn," "Pops," "Sugar Shaker," "Sugar B," "No-No" and "Bubblez."

Below, left: Handmade quilts will be available as raffle prizes at the WWB Toy Run, this Sunday at the Little Lake Grange. Below, right: Motorcycles will be parked in front of the old Rexall building from here until Christmas as the WWB works at Holiday Headquarters.

At bottom: New members of the Willits Wild Bunch, including, from left: "Bear" and "Lil Bit" (members of the Peacemakers Motorcycle Club out of Kentucky), "Pickles," "Q," "Wrench," "Birdie," "Molasses" and "Bull Rider."

Photos by Maureen Moore

Holiday Headquarters

Willits Wild Bunch moves into old Rexall building for 2017 holiday season

It's no small task to help 460 kids have Christmas presents under the tree, but the members of the Willits Wild Bunch are up to the task again this year, orchestrating the annual Toy Run event and then helping with the efforts of the Willits Rotary Club's Willits Children's Christmas Program.

The program is based out of the old Rexall building, on the corner of East Mendocino Avenue and Main Street and will play holiday headquarters for the piles of presents, tubes of wrapping paper and gift organization areas which will allow hundreds of families to give gifts this season.

There's several new elves on hand to help out this year, too. Janice and Joel Sylvia, James Clark, Laura Hoover, Tyler Miner, Eli Mosher, Tiffany, Ann and Bear have recently joined the Willits Wild Bunch and are looking forward to helping put on Christmas this year.

Ann and Bear moved to Willits about 18 months ago from Kentucky where they were members of the Peacemakers Motorcycle Club.

"I have been on the receiving end of this kind of program, as a single parent," said Ann. "I've experienced the benefit, and I wanted to give back. I'm really blown away by the program here in Willits, it's awesome."

Tiffany was looking to get involved in some holiday festivities now that her kids have grown, and she enjoyed working with the Willits Wild Bunch last summer at the Willits Community Car Show where she helped sell Forks Market pickles as part of a fundraiser for the club. Her way of saying "pickles" also earned her the official nickname of the same word.

"I moved back to Willits after about 20 years," said Tiffany. "I wanted to do some charity work, and this is a great, strong, trusting group that I am proud to be a part of."

"I was 'voluntold' for the event," laughed James. "It's like being told you'll be volunteering. But that's OK, I'm the kind of guy who will give you my shirt off my back, and I like to help out anyway I can." James has lived in Mendocino County his whole life and also spent time in the military

Read the rest of **WWB** | Over on Page 13

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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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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Size 4 youth Boy Girl

Clothing Needs *Shoe size 8 1/2*

Sackit, leggings

Wish List *Dolls, Frozen Dolls, little kitchen set, cooking food sets*



Size 8 youth Boy Girl

Clothing Needs *Shoe size 11 youth*

Sweater(s) underwear(s)

Wish List *collection of Dinosaurs, Learning table*

Size 4 youth Boy Girl

Clothing Needs *Shoe size 8 1/2*

Sackit, leggings

Wish List *Dolls, Frozen Dolls, little kitchen set, cooking food sets*

Above: Pink and blue tags hang on trees around town listing the wishes and needs of children in the community. TJ "Chewie" Jones brings in one of the many trees which will hold the gift tags.

At right: Coast Hardware's Pamalee Thrift, left, Willits Wild Bunch's Shellie "Sugar Shaker" Revling, WWB's TJ "Chewie" Jones, Coast Hardware's Angie Woertink and WWB's Richard "Pops" Venturi hang tags at Coast Hardware. Far right: Mendo Mill's Bob Doty, left, and Jay Haegels join the Willits Wild Bunch in hanging tags on the newly placed Christmas tree at Mendo Mill.

Below: Venturi, Jones and Revling get some tag-hanging help from Kaleb Whitehurst, left, and Dylan King, right, at J.D. Redhouse.



Local Shopping

Small Business Saturday this weekend is about 'shopping small'

Local shopping season continues in Willits this weekend, with Black Friday deals on November 23 – check Willits Weekly's ads for some dynamite special deals! – and Small Business Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm on November 24, sponsored by the Willits Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Coordinator Allison Findley said there would be at least four new businesses in Willits signed up to participate in Small Business Saturday this year: Copper Thimble, Willits Garden Supply, Caribbean Vybez and Fish Out of Water.

"We're really excited that new businesses are participating," Findley said, "as well as the Mendocino County Museum gift shop – they have some amazing stuff in there!"

On Small Business Saturday, shoppers can pick up a "passport" from any participating business, and throughout the day, each time they make a purchase, that business will stamp their passport. Passports can be dropped off at any participating business by 6 pm on Saturday, and will be entered for a drawing for prizes.

The "Holiday Headquarters" of the Willits Kids' Christmas Program at the old Rexall building downtown will be open all day Saturday, trading stamps on passports for donations of toys or raffle ticket purchases.

Passports with the most stamps will be eligible for three beautiful gift baskets with goodies and gift certificates donated by local businesses. Look for the for blue-and-white "Get your passport stamped here" signs on the doors of participating businesses.

"The point is 'shopping small' on Saturday," Findley said. "All of our wonderful local businesses have some beautiful items and unique goods you can't find online, can't find at the big box stores. Why give your family something a million



Photos by Jennifer Poole

other people are going to get, when you can get something beautiful and unique – and not pay any shipping or deal with any of the lines?"

Local restaurants, including Scoops, Loose Caboose, El Mexicano, Pizza to Go, and Brickhouse Coffee are also offering stamps for purchases. "You can go eat lunch or have a cup of coffee, get your passport stamped, and then keep shopping!" Findley said.

"I want to emphasize Small Business Saturday is about celebrating and sharing the small businesses that are a part of our life. We love them, and we want everybody else to love them too!"

Small Business Saturday follows on the heels of "Discover Willits" last Saturday, November 18 – spearheaded by the North County Women in Business group, chief organizer Jenny Senter, and also sponsored by the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Shoppers met at the Willits Center for the Arts to pick up a name badge, and businesses gave special discounts to shoppers with name badges throughout the day. Shoppers also received a raffle ticket for each business they visited.

Adam's Restaurant opened early on Saturday, offering a tapas menu with a free glass of wine to shoppers who needed rest and refreshment.

Shopping winners for the day were Megan Hall and Erin Fitzpatrick of Energize Willits, who shopped as a team and visited 27 different local businesses, winning the grand prizes, including a wine rack donated by Willits Furniture.

For more information on local shopping, contact Willits Chamber of Commerce at 459-7910, or info@willits.org.

At top, from left: Ann Alumbaugh, left, and Dorothy Roediger check the sale rack in front of Mazahar on Saturday. Jan Meier, left, and Evelyn Ekdahl with some of their "Discover Willits" purchases. "Discover Willits" organizer Jenny Senter of Celtic Heritage Destinations, wearing a scarf she picked up in Scotland, checks out hand-painted scarves at Cat's Meow.

Above: Some of the "Discover Willits" shoppers show off their prize winnings at the end of the day Saturday at the Willits Center for the Arts.

Delivering trees

Willits Wild Bunch setting up tag trees around town

The familiar tag-covered trees are being delivered and set up this week by members of the Willits Wild Bunch who coordinate the Toy Run event, and help with the Willits Rotary Club's annual Willits Children's Christmas Program. The 2017 Toy Run Party will start at 12:30 pm this Sunday, November 26, at the Little Lake Grange. Detailed instructions are on each tree, but anyone is welcome to select a tag, fulfil the items listed, and drop them off at a designated location, or at the old Rexall building on the corner of Main Street and East Mendocino Avenue. Businesses interested in receiving a tree are welcome to request one by calling 707-972-8782.



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Wednesday, November 22

Library Closing Early: Willits Branch Library will close early at 3 pm on Wednesday, November 22. It will be closed on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, and also closed the day after on Friday, November 24.

Get Desserts at the Senior Center Bake Sale: Come to Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road on Wednesday, November 22 and buy your Thanksgiving desserts. "The sale starts at 8 am and continues until sold out. Come early for the best selection."



Thursday, November 23
Happy Thanksgiving!

Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner: A Willits tradition, this event brings together people from all walks of life to celebrate and give thanks as a community. Anyone may eat the traditional Thanksgiving turkey with all the fixins' for free. There is no charge. Donations are gladly accepted. This event is presented by Willits Community Services and Food Bank at the Willits Senior Center on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23, from 11 am - 3 pm. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer call 459-3333.

Thanksgiving Day at the Noyo Theatre: Playing at the Noyo on Thanksgiving are: "Coco," "Justice League," and the last day of screenings of "Murder on the Orient Express," which will play at 1 pm, 3:30 pm, 6 pm, and 8:30 pm on Thursday, November 23. For all showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Friday, November 24

Final Weekend for Photo Club Show: The November Exhibit at the Willits Center for the Arts, is the 16th annual show of works by the members of the Willits Photography Club. The show closes Sunday, November 26. Gallery hours: 11 am to 5 pm. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-1726 or www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

O'Brien & Son at Brickhouse: Arranger and guitarist Ron O'Brien and his son, flautist Loren Herz-O'Brien in concert on Friday, November 24, 7

What's Happening Around Town

pm at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. "Entertaining stories, musical anecdotes, and beautiful music from rock to Rachmaninoff." For sample music, type "O'Brien & son guitar & flute" into the YouTube search bar. Cover charge: \$10; Doors for students and seniors. Doors open at 6 pm. "Enjoy a Willits Black Friday shopping, dining out, or catching a movie - and join us at Brickhouse for dessert, pastries, coffees, teas, and incredible music."

Shanachie Pub: Schindig is back for their annual after-Thanksgiving show. "This band of hometown Mendocino County boys plays a unique eclectic blend of folk, rock, country, blues with a jolt of world music thrown in for good measure." Friday, November 24 at 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, November 25

"Small Business Saturday": This Willits Chamber of Commerce annual local shopping event is set for Saturday, November 25, 10 am to 6 pm. Grab a "passport" from a participating local business, and get it stamped each time you make a purchase. Filled-out passports can be dropped off at any participating business and are entered into a drawing for more prizes. Passports with the most stamps are eligible to win one of three gift baskets. Businesses will be doing "Shop Small Saturday" giveaways, too. Check for blue and white "Get your passport stamped here" signs on the doors of participating businesses. Look for a home-based business expo next year! Info: Willits Chamber of Commerce at 459-7910, or email info@willits.org.

"Heavy Metal and a Bit of Punk Fire Relief": Northern California Friends and Family present an all ages dance concert with hot dogs and a raffle on Saturday, November 25 from 4:30 to 11 pm at

Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. The bands include: Union Jack and the Rippers, The Whitetrash Superstars, Fall Children, Scythe, Legal Disaster, Immortalica, Violent Obsession, and Martin Rangel. Tickets are by donation, \$20 suggested. This concert is a benefit for families and friends displaced by the recent fires. Family-friendly. All ages welcome. Toys for Tots donations drop-off, too.

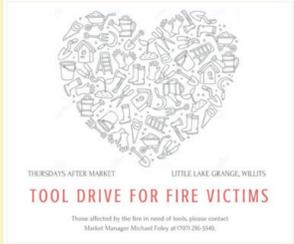
Shanachie Pub: Michelle Lambert on vocals and violin, with guitarist Robbie: "Their original style is a combination of Amy Winehouse, Adele, Ed Sheeran and The Red Hot Chili Peppers, with Robbie bringing driving rhythms on acoustic guitar that move your feet and Michelle's strong, soulful vocals and attitude-filled violin licks." Visit: www.michellelambert.com. Saturday, November 25 at 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Michelle Lambert

Sunday, November 26

Willits Toy Run 25th Anniversary Bash: The Willits Toy Run, the kickoff for the Willits Kids Christmas Program, is set for Sunday, November 26 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Motorcyclists will meet Sunday morning at the Evergreen Shopping Center, 1700 Main Street. The biker pack leaves the shopping center at noon escorted by the Little Lake Fire Department en route to the Grange where the bikers and the public will celebrate the Willits Toy Run's 25th Anniversary with live music, great food, a raffle, a no host bar, and live auction, all to benefit the Willits Kids Christmas Program. Also, a Quilt Raffle Drawing this year, to benefit the Willits Toy Run and Willits Children's Christmas Program. Toy Run Party admission cost: a new unwrapped toy.



Tuesday, November 28

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 movies: "Justice League," and "A Bad Moms Christmas." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Thursday, November 30

The Cannabis Hour: "Many cannabis cultivators have no idea they can buy crop insurance to protect their business in the event of crop failure or fire. On this week's Cannabis Hour, Jane Futcher hosts independent insurance agent and Ukiah City Councilmember Maureen Mulheren, who will share her experience underwriting cannabis clients and explain what it takes to qualify." 9 am, Thursday, November 30, KZYX Radio, 91.5 Willits. Stream online live at: http://kzyx.org/.

Tools for Fire Victims at the Farmers Market: Every Thursday, the Farmers Market and the School of Adaptive Agriculture are collecting tools for those who lost their homes in the Redwood Complex Fire. Please bring donated tools to the Farmers Market on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. If unable to transport tools, contact Market Manager Michael Foley 216-5549 to arrange pick up.

Wreath Making: Willits Power and Hardware, 1600 South Main Street, is hosting a wreath-making event on Thursday, November 30

starting at 4 pm to raise dollars for Rascal's Rescue. All wreath-making tools and materials supplied to participants for a \$25 donation. 1600 South Main Street. RSVP by November 26. Info: 459-6420.

Phoenix Hospice Celebrates "Light Up a Life": Phoenix Certified Hospice of Mendocino County is holding the 14th annual "Light Up a Life" celebration at Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital on Thursday, November 30 at 6:30 pm in the Seabiscuit Conference Room. "Light Up a Life" is a celebration to honor and remember those we love. With a small "Light Up a Life" donation, an ornament will be placed on Hospice's beautiful tree to honor a loved one who is no longer with us, or to recognize a dear friend, family member, caregiver, doctor, pet, or to celebrate a birth or anniversary. All funds raised go towards providing quality end-of-life hospice care. The "Light Up a Life" tree will be on display at the event and at the Adventist Health Home Care & Hospice, 100 San Hedrin Circle, throughout the holiday season, symbolizing the life, hope and dreams of our loved ones. Info: Phoenix Hospice 459-1818.

"Weather and the Causes of the Redwood Fire Complex": On Thursday, November 30 at Ridgewood Ranch Auditorium, 16200 North Highway 101, from 7 to 9 pm, Willits Environmental Center, the School of Adaptive Agriculture, Willits Economic Localization, and Golden Rule present: Brad Charboneau, meteorologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Eureka, who will discuss how wind, drought, and local topography supercharged the Redwood Fire Complex. Q&A session to follow. Visit: www.adaptiveagriculture.org for directions. Info: Ellen or David Dreil 459-2643.

Shanachie Pub: Sharkmouth have new material and a mean outlook on the apocalypse. Visit:

facebook.com/mouthshark. Thursday, November 30. 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, December 1

"Working in Concert with Nature": Solutonist Nicola Peel will give a presentation "Working in Concert with Nature" on projects she's coordinating that address enormous international environmental challenges. Local band Bug Guts will kick off the night with music, and wrap up the evening with a set of their post-cynical folk music. The event is free, donations gladly accepted. Friday, December 1. 7 to 9 pm. Willits Environmental Center, 630 South Main Street. Learn about Nicola's work: nicolapeel.com, and eyesofgaia.com. Info: 459-4110.

Pint Night Benefit for Fire Relief Fund: Eel River Brewing Company celebrates their 21st year and Shanachie Pub will feature two of their beers on tap, \$1 of every sale goes to the Fire Relief Fund. Also, some free giveaways at this event. Visit: eelriverbrewing.com. Friday, December 1. 7 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Shanachie Pub: Hardly Deadly is a Grateful Dead tribute band straight outta Stockton. Visit: hardlydeadly.net/index. Friday, December 1, 9 pm. \$5. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, December 2

"Sip and Shop": Willits Chamber of Commerce sponsors a new local shopping event: "a day of sipping and shopping" all day in downtown Willits. Saturday, December 2. Info: Willits Chamber of Commerce at 459-7910, or email info@willits.org.

"Willits Holiday Celebration": Mendocino County Museum, Roots of Motive Power, and Willits Chamber of Commerce present "Willits Holiday Celebration," Saturday, December 2 from 1 to 8 pm at the museum and the Roots

facility, 400 and 420 East Commercial Street. Take a steam train ride, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies, see the vintage toy display and antique model trains. At 5:45 pm, the community tree lighting &

sing-along. From 6 to 8 pm, the Holiday Lights Party & Mixer in the Engine House. Bring the kids and the "kids at heart" to tell Santa what they want for Christmas. All events are free of charge.

Mendocino Dance Project at WCT: The Mendocino Dance Project brings its dynamic performers to Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, December 2 at 7 pm. "This show is a rare opportunity for local patrons to enjoy a spectacular form of dance." Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Shanachie Pub: Cosmic Family Band, "Singer Songwriter / Electroacoustic / Folk Rock from Willits." Saturday, December 2, 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, December 3

Laytonville Christmas Bazaar: Harwood Memorial Park presents the Annual Laytonville Christmas Bazaar Craft Fair on Sunday, December 3 from 10 am to 4 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willits Avenue in Laytonville. Featuring over 60 local artists and crafters. An opportunity for photos with Santa is offered between 12 noon and 3 pm for a suggested \$5 donation. For more information call Laytonville Healthy Start at 984-8089.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor, Bill Nobles
Information: 456-9668
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
• Sound of Soul events
• Membership Discourses
• Spiritual Discussions
• ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
Call 707-456-9934

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service & Children's Church - 11 a.m.
Mid-week Bible Studies
Potluck every 2nd Sunday
Alan Klier, Lead Pastor
459-3106

St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-459-3066
Church Services / Communion
10:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Brumau

Still Mountain Meditation Center
1500 Hearst Road (at Valley Road)
Info: 707-357-4676
A loving space for meditation, training and practice...
Sunday Satsang / Meditation
10:30 a.m.
Tuesday Meditation group
7:30 p.m.
EVERYONE IS INVITED

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
399 W. Mendocino Avenue
459-6390
Stan Caylor, Pastor
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
1st Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school.
22751 Bray Road, Willits

Willits United Methodist
A Christ centered, progressive church
ALL ARE WELCOME
286 School St. (at Pine)
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor
Worship Celebration
Sundays - 10:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - 10:15 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com
If you want to be included in this column please call:

April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
apriltw@willitsweekly.com

COLUMN | At the Movies



'Justice League'

The Story: Superman is dead. Batman discovers supernatural insect men attracted to the smell of fear. They have too many teeth and go for the throat. Batman knows that much worse is coming. He recruits a league of powerful heroes to fight the gathering plague of monsters. Aquaman, Flash, a cyborg guy whose name I do not know, and most importantly: Wonder Woman the Amazon goddess/princess.

My Thoughts: OK I know you've got pre-conceptions and are thinking "not another one of these." Yeah, the flick has a basic good versus evil plot. Check. And also the computer graphic comic book imagery seen so often that biased audiences have learned to ho and hum (and throw in a few "whatever's!"). Put your snotty been there/seen that attitudes aside. This is a really fun high-energy movie with Gal Gadot, Amy Adams and Diane Lane (which should be enough). What these filmmakers have learned and what this flick features is the humanness of its superheroes. Their sadnesses, their humour, their awareness of ironies, all give an entertaining, even sympathetic texture and emotional content to the flick. "Justice League" earns a solid plus rating from me. Check it out.

Parents: There are too many nightmare monsters (think the Flying Monkeys), and also helpless children at risk to let our little ones see this. 12 years old and up.

Note: And for the nay-nay critics at Rotten Tomatoes: Go hatch a tomato!!!
Willitsman Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

WCT Auditions: 'Rapture Blister Burn'

Auditions for "Rapture Blister Burn," a modern comedy-drama by Gina Gionfriddo focusing on women, will be held in late November and early December at the Willits Community Theatre.

The dates are Wednesday November 29 at 7 pm, Sunday December 3 at 3 pm, Wednesday Dec. 6 at 7 pm, and Sunday Dec. 10 at 7 PM.

The show asks, What do men want? Why is it that when women give men what women think men want, men don't really want it? How can a woman balance having a career and having a family? Can women have both, or not?

The call is for four women and one man. Two of the women are in their late 30s to early 40s; one is a young woman, from 17 to 25; and one is an older woman, 60s to 70s. The man ought to be in his late 30s to mid-40s.

"Rapture Blister Burn" will rehearse in January to mid-February and will open February 16. It will run for 10 performances and closes March 4. Scripts are available at the Willits Library.

"Rapture Blister Burn" will be directed by Mike A'Dair. For information about the play call the director at 459-1576 or email him at michaeladair69@yahoo.com.

- submitted by Willits Community Theatre

Farmers market collecting donated tools for fire victims

Willits Farmers Market and the School of Adaptive Agriculture are collecting tools for those who lost their homes in the Redwood Complex Fire. Many affected by the fires lost everything, including garden and household tools. Tools are an essential part of restarting their lives and, for some, necessary to their livelihoods. Please bring donated tools to the Willits Farmers Market on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. If tools are dull, Keith Rosen will sharpen them during the market. If unable to transport tools, contact Market Manager Michael Foley at 216-5549 to arrange pick up.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of November 27 through December 1
Monday: Chicken Salad Sandwich
Tuesday: Pizza
Wednesday: Shredded Beef Tacos
Thursday: Lamb Stew
Friday: BBQ Chicken
Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entree, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

'Healing Trauma'

Avenues to Wellness presents "Healing Trauma" by Susan Sweet, licensed marriage family therapist-registered art therapist, on Tuesday, December 5 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.
Susan is a cancer survivor who will share how she uses art therapy as a tool in healing. She will teach the powerful healing benefits of art therapy to: reduce stress, identify and express feelings/thoughts, learn new coping skills, develop creativity, increase feelings of well-being, and find comfort and hope. Art therapy is a creative way to process and integrate physical and psychological trauma.

Susan has over 20 years' experience working with groups and individuals. Susan has a private practice in Ukiah and facilitates art therapy support groups at Ukiah Valley Medical Center for cancer patients and other chronic physical illnesses. Visit www.avenuestowellness.org, email atwforhealth@gmail.com or call 456-9676 for more information.

- submitted by Avenues to Wellness

Mendocino Dance Project at WCT

The Mendocino Dance Project brings its dynamic performers to Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, December 2 at 7 pm. This contemporary dance company offers an energetic style that produces thought-inspiring work—personal stories unfold through layers of movement, while the beauty of the dancers twirling and flipping in space presents meaning and abundance for contemplation. This show is a rare opportunity for local patrons to enjoy an emotionally engaging, breathtakingly spectacular form of dance. Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Santa at Little Lake Health Center

Meet Santa on Saturday, December 9 from 10 am to 2 pm at Little Lake Health Center, 45 Hazel Street. The public is invited to bring the children to talk with Mr. Claus and join the elves for face painting, coloring contest and holiday crafts. Special guests include Little Lake Fire Department and Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.). For information: 456-9600.

Healing Trauma

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 5:30-6:30 PM
Susan Sweet, Licensed Marriage Family Therapist, Registered Art Therapist, Artist
Susan is a cancer survivor who will share how she uses art therapy as a tool in healing. She will teach the powerful healing benefits of art therapy to: reduce stress, identify and express feelings/thoughts, learn new coping skills, develop creativity, increase feelings of well-being, and find comfort and hope.
Susan Sweet is a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist, Registered Art Therapist and Artist. She has over 20 years of experience working with groups and individuals. Susan has a private practice in Ukiah and facilitates art therapy support groups at Ukiah Valley Medical Center for cancer patients and other chronic physical illnesses.
Avenues to Wellness
Call 456-9676 for more information. Email: atwforhealth@gmail.com. Will offer a free consultation for more speaker topics.
WILLITS Center for the Arts 71 E Commercial St. FREE to the public. Donations appreciated. Wheelchair accessible.

Holiday Decor Store

Friday, December 1
"Everything you need to give your house that holiday feeling." Friday, December 1 at Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Information: 459-6826

Do you have an event to include in our calendar?
Email us a photo, poster and copy-and-paste text to:
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Shane Lewis

Shane Lewis of Willits passed away October 2, 2017 at the age of 43. He was born to Jean Lewis in Twin Falls, Idaho on January 26, 1974. Shane married Sarah (Gregory) Lewis July 28, 2006 in Reno, Nevada.

He worked as a shipping clerk for Metal FX. He enjoyed fishing, camping, and spending wonderful quality time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Jean Lewis Alaniz. He is survived by his loving wife, Sarah Lewis; children: Alex Lewis, Riley Lewis, Savannah Lewis, Shayna Crandall, and Evan Crandall; his sister, Jessica Love; and many nieces, nephews, uncles and aunts.

He will be lovingly remembered December 2, 2017 at 1 pm, at a memorial service at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 265 Margie Lane, Willits.

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



Gorgeous Gaia

Would you help Dr. Chana Eisenstein place this beautiful kitty in a great home?

Her name is Gaia, and she is "super sweet, healthy, spayed, vaccinated, microchipped, and she's an absolute doll," Dr. Eisenstein said.

"I adopted her from the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County, but after trying and trying for months, she just cannot get along with my family of cats," she said.

"It isn't her fault. She's a wonderful cat, and it isn't easy for an adult cat to adjust and assimilate into a household of cats with strong personalities. She is an incredibly sweet, gentle cat; she purrs constantly and would be a perfect cat for anyone, even someone with dogs, but she isn't a candidate for living with other cats," Eisenstein concluded.

Interested in Gaia joining you for the holidays? Contact Chana Eisenstein at 459-5236 or via email at drchana@easthillvet.com for more information.

– Submitted by Chana Eisenstein, veterinarian, East Hill Veterinary Clinic



Congrats Sober Grad Basket

Congratulations to Robbie Burgess, who won Sober Grad's jam-packed-with-goodies Fall Raffle Basket in the raffle drawn at the Sober Grad Committee's monthly meeting on November 15.

Willits Sober Grad is a nonprofit organization that raises funds each year to provide a safe and sober party for graduating seniors of high schools in the Willits community. Since the inception of the Sober Grad party in 1987, no lives of graduates have been lost on graduation night.

Sober Grad is looking for candy-makers to donate candy for their next fundraising efforts, candy sales at the Harrah Senior Center's Craft Fair on December 2 and at the Holiday Craft Fair at the Willits Community Center on December 9. Another way to help out is to volunteer for the annual Pancake Breakfast at the Little Lake Grange on February 3. Contact Joyce Waters at willitsobergrad@gmail.com or 489-8377 to get involved.

At left: Robbie Burgess, winner of Willits Sober Grad's Fall Raffle Basket.

'Freckles' Sanford

Sanford wins the Cutest Muzzle Freckles Award at the Ukiah Shelter. He is a 2-year-old, neutered male mixed-breed. Sanford enjoys the company of humans, and he kept us entertained during his photo shoot. At his first try at multi-dog play group, Sanford was reactive to other dogs, and he did not stay to play. Sanford may do best in a home where he is the only canine getting all the love and attention.



Sweet Primrose

Primrose is a 2-year-old, medium-tall mixed-breed girl, maybe Labrador or Weimaraner. She is tan and white, with white toes. She is generally passive and amenable. She might prefer to be an only dog, but she likes some dogs more than others. She does like most people, and calm older children seem to get along with her just fine! Come meet this sweet canine! She also likes to play in the water and take long walks.

For more information on Primrose or other adoptable animals, call Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County at 707-485-0123, check www.mendohumane.org, or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley.

Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. To volunteer or help take the dogs for a walk, please join us on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.



Different groups of teams can compete in various classes including officer, open and grade level. Willits teams who went to compete include, above, from left: The officer team, from left: Beau Roberts, Lucas Branscomb, DJ Buzzard, Madison Forrester, James Brown and Keegan Reed. The open team, from left: DJ Buzzard, Alexis Reyes, Devin Haikin, Morgan Riley, Jasmine Mendoza and Grace Horger. The first-prize freshman team, from left: Taylor Drew, Kaiden Butler, Callie Brown, Claire Case-Brackett, Samantha Arms and Collin Spackman.



Willits FFA wins at competition in Boonville

Willits Future Farmers of America kids rocked it last week in Boonville doing the FFA opening and closing ceremony competition. The freshman team came home with first; the open team got third; and the officer team did great as well. FFA teams from all over the Lake and Mendocino section went to Boonville on November 14 to compete at the mock performance of speeches given by the officers at the beginning and end of FFA meetings. Teams include positions like president, secretary and sentinel, and each has a specific script that must be memorized and spoken at competitions and the chapter's regular meetings.

– Jennifer Drew

COLUMN | The Medicine Chest Garden

Winter wellness

As we move into the winter season, it is also the season of colds and flu. At an herbal study group that I participate in, we discussed ways to stay healthy, as well as what we might do when "something is coming on" – that slight sore throat or headache or an overall achy feeling. Here are a few of these ideas and suggestions:

Donna d'Terra Although it may seem obvious, a good reminder is to wash your hands with hot water and soap before preparing food or eating and when you have returned home after being "out in the world."

Open windows when it is practical to bring fresh air into your home.

If you have a wood stove or a heater that would allow this, set a pan of water on it to humidify your home. Dried herbs such as lavender (or a few drops of the essential oil), can be added to the water for an air-cleansing effect and a lovely smell.

Try to find even 10 minutes each day to lie down and

completely relax. Scan your body and wherever you feel tension, breathe into that area, relaxing it a little bit more with every out-breath.

Drink more water. We tend not to drink as much water as we did in the warmer months, but proper hydration is still very important. Leaving the water out to get to room temperature may make it more appealing than cold water. Or, warm it up slightly and add a slice of fresh ginger or a wedge of lemon to give it more taste.

We all have ways our bodies signal us that we are at the beginning of a cold. When this happens, consider some of these:

Rest and sleep as much as you can.

If you are feeling chilled, drink a ginger-lemon tea: Grate fresh ginger, simmer in a covered pot for 5 to 10 minutes, and strain. Add fresh lemon juice, a pinch of cayenne powder and honey, if desired. A tea of dried garden sage is also antimicrobial and warming: Bring water to a boil, turn off heat, add herb, cover and let steep for 5 to 10 minutes. Add lemon and honey, if desired. (Sage tea is not appropriate for women who are nursing.)

Echinacea is an herb that is specific for the very beginning

phase of a cold. It can be taken as tea or tincture.

Try a foot bath: A rubber dishpan works well. Heat water to desired temperature, and fill the pan half-way. Add a few drops of essential oil. Rosemary is slightly stimulating and can bring the energy down from your head if you have a headache. Lavender is relaxing. Continue adding hot water to the pan as needed.

Eat soup cooked with onions, garlic, leeks, leafy greens and some form of protein.

Avoid sugar and alcohol.

I am wishing you all a beautiful, healthy winter season!



[This information is not intended to diagnose, prescribe or replace the advice of a qualified health professional.]

Donna d'Terra is a Willits area herbalist who has been teaching herb classes for 25 years.

WINTER WONDERLAND MANAGER DRAWINGS

November 20th - December 19th

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Brands we Stock & Service:

Wreath Making Event
November 30th
See store for details.

about loved ones or neighborhoods, asking how to help, and offering thanks, places to sleep – and showers.

On Tuesday and Wednesday McFadden worked with Mendocino County Search and Rescue. "Today's adventures in the fire zone," she posted on Facebook Wednesday night. "Working with Dr. Kerry Levin and Search and Rescue. Today we got out 11 horses/donkey/ponies and minis. And five sheep. And can I just say John Tilley is the best horseman I have ever known. He knows exactly how he wants his trailer, and then he gets inside those tiny horse minds and gets it done. Been awesome watching him work!"

Reflecting later on that experience, McFadden told Willits Weekly she would never forget "going into the fire zone and catching horses left behind, many of whom wanted nothing to do with us. Several took hours to load, all while helicopters were swarming overhead dousing flames. And walking a lame horse over the still-burning debris of her owner's house down the lane to the trailer. This was a horse our office had been treating for years. Made it personal."

Seeing the devastation firsthand was difficult: "Homes still burning, trees falling in front of me, burned carcasses of beloved horses," she told Willits Weekly. "Trying to catch a badly burned kitten who somehow survived the fire, but when finally caught 36 hours later, it was obvious that we needed to humanely euthanize it. That was hard because it had such a will to live."

On Thursday and Friday, there was still work to be done rescuing injured and hungry horses, but "the frantic activity at the fairgrounds has diminished some," she posted.

"What can I say?" she posted on Saturday, after being ordered by her granddaughter to rest, as advised by her doctor, after "four days of

wrangling horses in the fire zone" took their toll on her achy back and legs. "I am shell-shocked by all that I have seen the last six days. Going into the burn area with John Tilley to collect animals that were found was very rewarding. Did things I haven't done since I was 20!!! Most were not haltered, so it was a rodeo at times. All I can say is I'm sorry my friends. I'm so sorry!"

"But most of all I am so sorry for my boss, Dr. Mike Witt, who lost everything he owned yet his camper stood there unscathed. His horses and horse trailer got out [and his cat survived]. He was in Oregon [when the fire started, but came back to help out]. So he was camped out at the fairgrounds along with multitudes of his patients. Giving service and advice to those who needed it. I love this man!"

Wrapping up a week of unforeseen crisis was a post of a different kind: McFadden posted that she'd been notified that her award-winning book "The Longest Trail," based on McFadden's own teen years in the High Sierras riding horses and managing horse-packing tours, had won the Independent Authors Network Book of the Year award in the non-fiction inspirational category. And not only that: the Kindle format version of "The Longest Trail," according to one report she saw, had jumped up hugely in popularity.

"How can a book jump up in popularity so fast in one short week when I was busy getting horses out of fire zone and not marketing my book?" McFadden posted. The answers were not long in coming: "Karma," "Good karma," "Maybe because you are deserving????," and "Because you were busy saving horses.... Facebook is a really big PR device, and the best marketing is just becoming known for who you are. You were very busy helping your community ... news like that spreads fast."



At top, from left: Roni McFadden's beautiful Romeo at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Dr Kerry Levin and a rescued POA pony. McFadden's first equine rescue from Redwood Valley, a burro.

At right: One of many donated loads of horse supplies, this one from Rainbow Ag.

Below: Flocks of chickens, ducks and Guinea hens at the "Poultry Hotel" at the fairgrounds.

At bottom, left: The Western States Horse Expo dropped off a truck-load of donations. At bottom, right: McFadden's horse Yankee shows off his "14" painted for emergency identification – each owner had a number, rather than each animal.

Photos courtesy of Roni McFadden



service.

Janice and Joel Sylvia have been Toy Run riders and event participants in the past, but decided to join the Willits Wild Bunch as members, and participate in the other parts of the fundraising events.

"I have been a recipient of the program in the past," said Janice. "This is also my way of giving back to the community. We have done the Toy Run in the past, but were feeling really inspired to get more involved this year."

Janice helped decorate the room, including proudly creating the cute tree-shaped cut-out in the store window's wrapping paper.

Joel, a local business owner, noted the camaraderie of the group and how it was a great way to give back to the community.

"I know so many of these guys from the shop," said Joel. "It's a great group, and it's exciting to get to see how they all work the program from the other side."

This year is the first that the Willits Wild Bunch is operating under an official non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 standing, and they're offering tax donation receipts to all who donate.

Donations have already been rolling in, too.

Sparetime Supply received 12 pallets of gifts from vendors, including coloring books, stickers, bubbles and tattoos, that they donated right to the Christmas program.

"We've only picked up about three pallets worth," said Willits Wild Bunch's Kat Harris, as she happily gazed across the west wall of the shop, already stacked high with boxes. "We'll be sharing the extras from their donations with Covelo, Laytonville, Cloverdale, Ukiah and Fort Bragg, too."

The Willits Wild Bunch will also be participating in the Small Business Saturday event November 25, offering stamps on the event passports for those who donate a toy or buy a raffle ticket.

There's two lovely quilts, a gift basket, a flying metal pig, and more to win in the raffle; the drawing will be held during the Toy Run Party on Sunday, November 26 at the Little Lake Grange. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20 and are available at the Rexall building. The quilts were made by local quilters including the Ukiah Quilters Guild and the Grapevine Quilters Guild. The metal pig was donated by Willits Furniture Center, and the gift basket contains a spa day including lotion, scrubbies and more pampering products.

Information: 707-972-8782.

a "tipsy tow" and provide the driver's name, home address, phone number and vehicle/driver location.

If a tow is needed further than 10 miles, motorists are charged a standard rate.

AAA Northern California's Topsy Tow program has kept thousands of impaired drivers off roadways, the company said in a press release.

AAA estimates that a first-time DUI conviction can cost a motorist more than \$10,000 in fines, penalties, legal fees and increased insurance costs.

done – by two different crews – at the same time in the same location. More delays happened due to Ukiah contractor Granite Construction having to move some of its big equipment during the day.

Granite Construction is doing both emergency repair projects.

"One big problem day was last Thursday," Reed said. "Caltrans had a meeting in Willits, and some of our folks got stuck, too."

Work on the second emergency repair project, repairing burned guard rails and replacing wooden guard rail posts with metal posts, will continue during the day.

Reed said the Caltrans office had received a number of phone calls about delays of up to 30 minutes on the grade between mile marker 33 and mile marker 42, about nine miles of highway.

There is no official estimate of when the repair work will be completed, but it is expected to continue at least through the end of the year.

Thanksgiving gathering, it is imperative to wear your seat belt," CHP Acting Commissioner Warren Stanley said. "Wearing a seat belt is essential every day of the year, but we do not want to have festivities ruined as a result of people not buckling up for their trip."

– submitted by the California Highway Patrol, Sacramento HQ

Willits Weekly

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Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on October 24, 2017.

sLinda H. Baker Pub dates 11/02, 11/09, 11/16 and 11/22/2017

of sexual assault in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:35 pm: BORUP, David Kay (49) of Willits was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation.

6:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of North Main Street.

6:14 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Holly Street.

November 19

7:50 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

9:09 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

5:42 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:14 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:19 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

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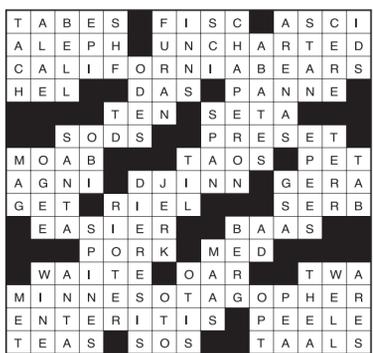
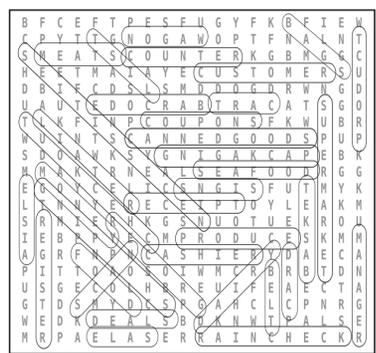
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1	9	4	8	7	5	6	2	3
6	3	8	9	4	2	7	5	1
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4	5	6	3	9	8	2	1	7
8	4	5	6	1	3	9	7	2
7	1	2	4	5	9	3	8	6
9	6	3	2	8	7	1	4	5



Above: Tom Allman checks the apples on one of the 120 apple trees he's planted on his Willits property. Below: A bottle of Sheriff Tom Allman's home-brewed hard cider, "Satisfied Apples."

Photos by Ree Slocum, Word of Mouth



Arresting Flavors

Tom Allman's home-crafted, small-batch hard cider, made for giving with Mendocino County apples

By Holly Madrigal, Word of Mouth

Sheriff Tom Allman gets a gleam in his eye when he talks about making hard cider. "It's just so much fun, and it is a retirement plan – for whenever that is," Tom laughs.

"My wife Laura and I were visiting friends in England and we ended up in a little pub, and they served us a pint of hard cider. It was not too sweet and it was crisp and refreshing," he remembers. "Maybe we drank too much because we got it into our heads that we could do this."

It may seem unconventional, given that the fertile Willits valley has typically grown hay and provided rangeland for cattle. Though apples are a different story altogether, Tom was optimistic. In fact, he remembers that there was a historic cider house not far from his home in Willits. And the roots for cider are deep in this country; hard cider was a traditional family drink in frontier times, since it wasn't always safe to drink water. Research, in fact, even suggests that Johnny Appleseed wasn't planting apples to eat; rather, he was interested in varieties that made delicious cider.

After his visit to England, Tom and Laura began researching what it would take to produce cider and sketched out a rough plan. It was a multifaceted project, with some pieces coming more quickly than others. The name – Satisfied Apple – was easy to settle on.

Collecting materials took more focus. The pneumatic apple press, for example, came from North Carolina, while the apples themselves came from their own property and friends' trees as well.

When it was time to produce the cider, Tom found eager help in family and friends. Tom's family came down from Humboldt County, and along with some in their local community, the apples were soon getting pressed. The rewards came quickly, as "family and neighbors all took home fresh juice for their families."

That fresh, unfermented apple juice, Tom says, is completely different from that which can be bought in a store. "It's a revelation. Like, oh my gosh, where have you been all my life? It's so sweet and good." Tom also decided to venture into cider vinegar, noting that it's "so good for you." With a light effervescence and a wallop of tang, the vinegar is an explosion of taste and texture.

Tom is careful to note that he does not sell hard apple cider and doesn't produce more than 200 gallons a year. Rather, he makes it for his own enjoyment and is honing his craft. He has traveled as far as Oregon State to take cider making classes at the university. And he has stayed close to home for the annual fruit tree pruning workshops held by Dave Watts and Richard Jeske.

"I have planted over 120 apple trees here," he says. "I get the good ones because I work with Dave Watts at Sanhedrin Nursery. I order them early. If you order trees in late fall you are going to get a better quality tree than those who wait until

spring."

Tom also credits the Gowan family for helping in those early years. They sold him organic apples and talked shop about the best fermentation methods, yeasts and apple varieties. "They make a really good hard cider and have been so generous with their knowledge," adds Allman. "When I asked them why they would help me out, they said, 'If Mendocino County had just one winery, no one would come and visit.'"

"I am by no way competition to the Gowans. They produce hundreds of thousands of gallons a year and consider themselves small cider producers," Tom adds. "Compared to them I am a micro-micro producer."

At this point, Tom still buys apples from Gowans. "I am probably three years away from being able to grow all the apples I need on-site," Tom explains. Still, he is looking down the road at the long process of developing cider and gaining the certifications allowing it for sale. He's even taken the step of designing a logo, with the help of Tim Ramming at Printing Plus.

Tom notes that the local community has influenced him significantly and continues to do so. For example, Tom says that "at first, I was concerned because I could never get two apple ciders to taste the same." It wasn't until he sought out input from others that he realized his mistake. "I was speaking to a man in Ukiah. He is about 80 and makes hard apple cider. [He] almost yelled when he told me, 'That's the idea! You don't want to be a cookie cutter!'"

As Tom and Laura continue to learn, they also continue to develop the vision for this post-retirement plan. Tom, for instance, proudly shows off a new tank that will make sparkling cider, and they are setting aside funds to buy a 15-barrel Brite Tank someday.

Still, the focus on local production extends to how Tom sees sharing the results. "I see myself producing hard cider that is going to stay in Mendocino and Humboldt County." He describes a scene he envisions. "Imagine if this was a summer evening, and the weather was just right," he says. "We could have a little covered area out here, and you could come taste cider and eat homemade pizza."

"I think that would be just about perfect," he adds.

Considering Tom's passion, his partnership with Laura, and the support of their family and community, it seems that sipping Satisfied Apple Cider on a warm day in the future is more than just a possibility. Given some time, it may well be exactly as Tom sees it: a certain type of perfection, in the tastiest, most local of ways.

Reprinted from Word of Mouth Magazine, Fall 2017 edition

Word of Mouth Magazine shares stories about local food, farms, and restaurants in Mendocino County. wordofmouthmendo.com • 707-841-0612 • wordofmouthmendo@gmail.com

The rest of Library | From Page 1

the same fund from which other department heads are paid.

Riley said of 35 California's smaller, rural counties, 22 pay their library directors from their county's general fund. Twelve counties pay their library directors from library funds. One county splits the source of the salary, with 75 percent coming from that county general fund, and 25 percent coming from the library fund.

Riley said Humboldt, Tuolumne, Tehama and Colusa counties each pay their county librarian from their general fund. She concluded the education code can be interpreted either way, depending on the preference of that county's board of supervisors.

County Librarian Karen Horner told the supervisors that during the recent fires, libraries in Willits and in Covelo were very important communication hubs. On Monday, October 9, 222 people used the internet at the Willits Library, and 373 people used the internet at the Covelo Library. Horner estimated that during Monday and Tuesday of the first week of the fire, 500 to 600 people were at the library throughout both days.

Library Advisory Board Second Supervisorial District representative Lynn Zimmerman told supervisors she thinks, and the Friends of Ukiah Library agrees, the Ukiah library needs a new building. The population of the greater Ukiah area has increased by 70 percent since 1970, she said, but the footprint of the Ukiah library has remained the same.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen told Zimmerman the job of raising money for a new library building in Ukiah would fall to the people of the Ukiah area.

Susan Bradley and Shawn Haven of the Friends of the Long Valley Library reported their organization has established a fundraising entity called the Book Room, in Laytonville, where people can buy used books at rock-bottom prices. Bradley said currently the Book Room has nearly 7,000 books, which are sold from anywhere between 25 cents to \$3. From those sales, the Friends of the Long Valley Library has raised \$3,000 over the past year.

The group has raised \$5,000 from other fundraising events, and has received \$4,000 in donations and memberships, bringing the total of funds raised in 2017 to \$12,000.

"We are raising money so we can have our own building," Bradley said.

Bradley asked if her group could be assigned a contact person in the county executive office, who would be able to help the group as it seeks to get its own building and become part of the county library system. County CEO Carmel Angelo declined to assign anyone from her office to be that person, saying people in her office were too busy with assisting citizens in the aftermath of the Redwood fire.

County Librarian Karen Horner, however, said she would be glad to assist the group.

According to Fourth District representative to the advisory board

Ann Rennaker, the Fort Bragg library needs to expand, due to overuse by the public.

"We have no more shelf space," Rennaker said. "When we get new books, we have to throw out old books."

Fort Bragg Friends of the Library has purchased a vacant double lot adjacent to the current library, she noted, and plans to build a new building there sometime in the future. "It's a long-term project that will require quite a bit of fundraising," Rennaker said.

Library Advisory Board Chairman Marc Komer asked county Angelo how long Homer would be tasked with running the county museum, in addition to running the library system. Angelo replied the situation could be expected to last for another two to three months.

The CEO said she plans on bringing an agenda item to the board of supervisors, in either December or January, through which the supervisors could address the question of hiring a new museum director.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde asked Komer whether he thought it advisable to begin planning now to run a ballot measure to reinstate Measure A, the 2011 measure that placed a one-eighth percent sales tax on purchases made in Mendocino County, and dedicated those funds to the county library system.

Komer reminded Gjerde that Measure A imposed the tax for 16 years. He said the tax, which was passed in 2011 and which started assessing an increased sales tax in April of 2012, was therefore in its fifth year, and that it had about 10 years of life left. He suggested it would be wise to begin the planning process to re-run the ballot measure one or two years before it was due to be placed on the ballot.

Both Gjerde and McCowen suggested perhaps both the Library Advisory Board and the board of supervisors should consider running the measure next time as a permanent tax. Komer did not disagree, saying only: "Realistically, it's not going to be me. Because that would mean, I will have been on this board for 20 years. But there will be other people who will come forward to carry that torch. It will take careful planning to make [the measure] pass."

"Whether or not the library director gets paid this way or that way, that's a minor issue," he said. "What really is important is that the funding is there and that we can carry the work of the library with full staff, with expansion of services, in Fort Bragg and on the coast, in Covelo, in the Bookmobile, and in Ukiah and in Willits. This is our dream, and it's coming to fruition, because we all want it, and we work for it."

The rest of Damage | From Page 1

Lancaster from the California Geological Survey gave a public presentation of the report in the board of supervisors' chambers in Ukiah.

According to the report, the Redwood fire burned 36,523 acres, mostly in the upper Russian River watershed. Approximately 98 percent of all acreage that burned was on privately owned land.

The fast-moving fire burned structures, but it did not penetrate deeply into the soil.

Ramaley said 27 percent of the fire area sustained "very low" soil damage and 38 percent of the area sustained "low" soil damage. Thirty-four percent of the burn area sustained "moderate" soil damage, while less than 1 percent of the burn area sustained "high" soil damage.

Computer modelling of potential debris flows revealed that 24 of the 258 basins within the burn area have a 50 percent chance of producing a debris flow. "Because most of the burn area sustained 'low' or 'very low' soil damage, we expect that if debris flows do occur, they will be isolated," Lancaster said.

The WERT report estimated erosion at a rate of 15 to 30 tons of soil material for 50 percent of the burn area. The erosion rate will rise to between 32 tons and 59 tons on a small percentage of the burn area.

EPA to assist with asbestos

Fire Recovery Director Tammy Moss Chandler told supervisors on Tuesday the federal Environmental Protection Agency has been called in by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to take over asbestos cleanup at many of the structure sites throughout the fire area.

According to Michelle Rogow, EPA section chief for the Northern California fires, 26 sites have been identified by the DTSC as having bulk asbestos, that is, more asbestos than the DTSC can handle.

Rogow said the EPA is looking for a staging area in Redwood Valley and is planning to start work on Monday. Mendocino County Air Pollution Control Officer Barbara Moed said her department would be working with the EPA on the cleanup, but added that up to the instant when she stood up to address the board of supervisors, she hadn't known the EPA would be involved and hadn't known her department would be involved with it. Moed said she would talk to the EPA at the earliest opportunity.

Temporary housing

Deputy Executive Officer Steve Dunicliff told the board he is continuing to work on convincing the Army Corps of Engineers to allow camping sites at Lake Mendocino to be used as temporary housing sites for people burned out of their homes by the fire.

Dunicliff said he met with Corps representatives and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials on Friday to make the Lake Mendocino pitch directly. FEMA supported the idea, but the Corps response seemed lukewarm. Dunicliff said FEMA has asked the Corps to give them a yes-or-no answer by December 1.

Dunicliff said he has been tasked with finding housing, or finding a place to put an RV or a travel trailer, for approximately 43 households burned out by the fire. He noted he sees three options for people: first, FEMA will pay for a hotel or motel; second, people can live in an RV or a travel trailer on their own land; or third, people can live in FEMA-manufactured living units, to be supplied by FEMA when living spaces become available.

"We're looking for a place for people to live for the next 18 months or two years, while they are working on their next steps," Dunicliff said.

DTSC taking a Thanksgiving break

Chandler said the DTSC workforce is returning to the Sacramento area for the Thanksgiving holiday, after having cleaned up household hazardous waste from more than 300 properties in the burn area. The DTSC workers will be returning Monday.

OES, Dashiell to meet

Department of Transportation Director Howard Dashiell told supervisors on Tuesday that he was "not hopeful" the county would be able to receive California Office of Emergency Services funds to repair road damage caused by the fire. Dashiell added his department had been out recently taking photographs of various damage locations.

"We are trying to document damage, and I will negotiate as much as we can," Dashiell said, "but I am not hopeful. As you know, many of our roads were not in great shape before the fire, and FEMA and OES don't like to build things back up to a condition that is better than before a disaster."

Board Chairman John McCowen pointed out he was aware of many instances in which continued, heavy truck traffic from fire trucks and other emergency vehicles have administered a lot of damage to county roads.

Dashiell nodded and said, "We will do our best to make that case."

County to tell OES how many sites need final abatement

Also on Tuesday, county CEO Carmel Angelo told supervisors the state's Office of Emergency Services sent the county a letter last week, stating the county has until December 1 to notify it what properties it will need to abate in the wake of the fire.

These are properties where owners have not submitted a right-of-entry form to the county Planning & Building Division, so the Army Corps of Engineers can do the work for free, nor have they submitted a pledge to the county's Department of Environmental Health to clean up their property at their own expense, McCowen explained.

Department of Planning and Building Services Code Enforcement Division Manager Trent Taylor said his department sent out abatement letters to 66 property owners last week, although he noted some of the abatement letters may have been mailed erroneously. Taylor said his office is continuing to work on the list of 66 property owners, adding he believes eventually the number of people who will need to be abated at public expense will be much lower than 66.

Supes OK hazard mitigation grant application

The board voted 3-0, with supervisors Georgeanne Croskey and Dan Gjerde absent, to direct the county to seek a hazard mitigation grant from California OES. Chandler said the grant funds would be used for erosion control and streambank stabilization projects, and the county will be working with the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District to do the work.

If the county got the grant, it would have to put in matching funds valued at 25 percent of the grant amount. Chandler said she had directed employees in the Health and Human Services Agency to scour the administrative landscape to see if any available funding could be found to use for the county's match.

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I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.

Adam's 5th Anniversary Thanksgiving

Appetizers:
Fresh Washington Bay Oysters with Hogwash
Traditional Clam Chowder
Award-Winning Crab Cakes

Entrées:
Standing Roast Bone-In Prime Rib with Cracked Pepper Salted Crust and Rosemary Au Jus Sauce
Lamb Shank - Braised Slow-Roasted in Tomato Cabernet Demi-Glace Sauce
Organic Roasted Turkey Brine-Spiced
Tomatoes - Cilantro-Infused Harvest Vegetable Stuffed

Classic Sides:
Yukon Gold Infused-Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Traditional Pilgrim Classic Gravy
Artichoke-Andouille Sausage Stuffing
Cranberry Current Persimmon Sauce
Balsamic Glaze Oven-Roasted Brussel Sprouts

Desserts:
Pumpkin Cheesecake
Peach Crisp
Chocolate Decadence
Apple Spiced Cake
Crustless Pumpkin Parfait

90 S. Main St. Hwy. 101, Willits, CA In-house Reservations & Pick-up Orders: 707-496-6768

Sober Grad needs candy-makers

Sober Grad is getting ready for its annual homemade candy sale fundraisers for the graduation night Sober Grad party at the Willits Community Center next June. Sober Grad volunteers will be selling candy at the Harrah Senior Center's Christmas Craft Fair, on Saturday, December 2, from 9 am to 4 pm, and at the Willits Holiday Crafts Fair at the Community Center, on Saturday, December 9, from 10 am to 6 pm. Can you help by making a batch or two of your favorite candy?

"If your kids have already graduated, we still accept candy from 'former parents of seniors!'"

said Sober Grad's Joyce Waters. "If you want to make candy to help out Sober Grad, we would be honored to accept it!"

Popular varieties include toffee, peppermint bark, turtles, dipped pretzels in chocolate and sprinkles, and fudge (nut-free and with nuts). If you need some inspiration, or feel like trying a new recipe, email willitssobergrad@gmail.com for a list of links to many fun and easy online candy recipes.

Candy can be dropped off with Delores at City Hall (until 5:30 pm) or with Emily at Chase Bank (before 6 pm) or at the fairs.

At left: Tyler Austin, Wayne Waters and Kayla Stone at Sober Grad's 2016 candy sale at the Willits Holiday Crafts Fair at the Community Center.



2018 phone book comes out soon!

It's just about time to start reading the pages of the 2018 Soroptimist International of Willits Community Telephone Directory. *Now is the time* to let the club know about changes needed to names, addresses or phone numbers, or for complete removals or new additions.

In the continuing effort to help keep numbers accurate and relevant, members of the club are calling each number listed in the book.

"So ... when your phone rings, it just may be a SIW member verifying your name, address and phone number," explained Soroptimist Loraine Patton. "Let the member know if you would like to have any changes made to your listing, or if you have converted your home number to a cell number or have any other changes to how you want your information listed in the Willits Community Phone Book. You can also submit information regarding changes directly to willitsphonebook@gmail.com."

It's time for businesses to check their listings, too. New businesses that are not currently listed in the book need to reach out to the email address above and submit their

information in order to be included in the 2018 edition. There is no automatic list or information-gathering software used by the club; the previous year's content is used and updated upon request.

Businesses are also welcome to purchase advertisements that show up as display ads throughout the pages of the book – see below for a chart of pricing for each of the available sizes.

"All businesses that advertised in the 2017 book should have received either an email or letter via U.S. mail regarding advertising costs," said Patton. "If you would like information regarding advertising, you can also email the phone book committee at willitsphonebook@gmail.com. They answer every email they receive."

Willits Weekly partners with the

Soroptimists to help distribute 3,000 of the 4,000 copies of the book by inserting it in our one of our editions, but we also offer advertisers a bundled rate if they choose to buy

ads in the phone book and the newspaper. Bundled ads will run alongside Soroptimist-related content, and buying these ads is another way to show support to the efforts of the non-profit club. Money collected for phone book ads goes to finance scholarships and other programs sponsored by SIW.

For more information about changes and advertising, or about joining Soroptimist International of Willits, contact Patton at 459-1606 or email willitsphonebook@gmail.com.

– Maureen Moore



There's still time to include your ad!

Cut out and mail in this form right away!

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

Business: _____
 Ad size: _____ Name: _____
 Contact #: _____ Willits Weekly bundle: ___Y ___N
 Changes: _____

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



North Bay Fire Relief Fund

How to Apply for Support

Our hearts go out to those impacted by the devastating North Bay fires. If you've lost your home or suffered economic hardship due to interrupted or lost employment as a result of the fires, you can apply for assistance from the North Bay Fire Relief Fund. Assistance is available for all fire victims in the four impacted counties (Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino & Lake), including undocumented residents.

We've partnered with the following agencies to accept applications and disburse funds to fire victims. RCU is paying all administrative costs (including for nonprofits), so 100% of donations are supporting fire victims.

Mendocino & Lake Counties

North Coast Opportunities

- ▶ **Apply online:**
www.ncoinc.org
- ▶ **Applications also available at:**
 - Mendocino County Local Assistance Center (LAC):
Crossroads Shopping Center, 1375 N. State St., Ukiah (near Raley's)
 - Lake County Local Assistance Center (LAC):
Clearlake Senior Community Center
3245 Bowers Ave., Clearlake

For more information visit www.redwoodcu.org/apply4firerelief

The Press Democrat
pressdemocrat.com



MIKE McGUIRE
STATE SENATOR

We are continuing to accept contributions to help fire victims. To donate, visit www.redwoodcu.org/northbayfirerelief

100% of donations are supporting fire victims. RCU is covering all transaction and administrative fees, including any administrative costs of nonprofits we've partnered with to provide resources needed to take fund applications and provide checks to those impacted by the fires. RCU Community Fund Inc. (RCUCFI) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization—Tax ID #47-5084832. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.