

## Pilot environmental regulations

on agenda for cannabis farmers event

Kate Maxwell  
Reporter  
kate@willitsweekly.com

With new statewide groundwater legislation, an agricultural industry reacting to a multi-year drought, and potential changes in marijuana legalization ahead, the impacts of cannabis cultivation on local water resources has been a focus of much concern. Locally, governmental agencies and cannabis interest groups alike are looking for ways to best address the environmental impacts

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

## REACH still reaching

for Ells Field base

Zack Cinek  
Reporter  
zack@willitsweekly.com

Air ambulance company REACH hoped to be flying from Ells Field by the middle of the month, but there is no sign of a REACH helicopter in Willits skies.

REACH's move to the Willits Municipal Airport became more complicated, due to California Environmental Quality Act processes and community concerns, than a company press release implied this summer.

For the City of Willits, the project advanced when the city council approved a contract with Santa Rosa-based firm Mead and Hunt

Read the rest of **REACH** |  
Over on Page 11

## Obamacare doctors: Regulators find insurers' lists inaccurate

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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A report by the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) has found that more than 10 percent of the medical services providers listed by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield as accepting patients insured by the Covered California insurance exchange either do not accept those patients, or are not in the locations noted in company directories.

According to a press release recently issued by the office of Congressman Jared Huffman, the DMHC found both Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Read the rest of **Doctors** |  
Over on Page 11



## It's time for turkey! GOBBLE GOBBLE

Sweatpants, cranberries, football, green beans – just several of the things that spell “Thanksgiving” in the minds and stomachs of Willitsians across the valley – but without fail, the main thought on everyone’s mind is the main event: the turkey.

Whether it’s a tried-and-true family recipe, a first-time shot with the brine, or an adventurous full-bird deep fry, the turkey itself makes a huge difference in the final outcome.

“Fresh is best” is never truer than when birds who have been feasting on grain, grass and fruits for the last 5.5 months are prepared the day before their way into the oven.

Former Willits High School ag teacher and long-time fresh turkey aficionado, Greg Randrup, knows this especially well. Birds from his flock of Double Breasted Bronze turkeys raised in the Willits valley will grace the tables of friends and family this year. They will range in size from around 22 to 45 pounds.

The Randrups’ favorite preparation method?

“I’m on team ‘No Brine,’” explained Randrup. “They just don’t need it. They’re so fresh and ‘turkey’ tasting, we just stuff the bird with a traditional mix of bread, celery, onions and spices, and it’s great!”

Top: A tom poses for his portrait.

Left, above: The Randrups’ flock of turkeys.

At left: A hen curiously watches from the flock.

Below: There’s no turkey-pardoning here, with life on the farm.

Photos by Maureen Moore

## Final election results:

Woodhouse wins 3rd District race  
Stranske, Orenstein keep WCC seats

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

Final results from the November 4 election were released Friday, and show that Tom Woodhouse won the 3rd District supervisor election by 216 votes. The certified election count has Woodhouse with 2,610 votes (51.92 percent) and Holly Madrigal with 2,394 votes (47.62 percent).

“I am deeply honored by the trust you the voters have placed in me to represent you in the Third District of Mendocino County,” wrote

Read the rest of **Results** |  
Over on Page 11

## Salmon spotted in Willits Creek

Zack Cinek  
Reporter  
zack@willitsweekly.com

After a bit of much-needed rain, salmon were sighted swimming in a Willits area creek this past weekend.

For fish making their way up the Eel River and its tributaries, any amount of rain means a better outlook than at this time last year.

“I am excited that they made it up there; there is not a lot of water in the creeks,” said Joe Scriven, a fisheries biologist with the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District.

Willits Mayor Holly

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

## Open enrollment for Obamacare starts again

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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The second round of enrollment for low-cost health insurance under the Affordable Care Act began November 15. The enrollment period will be open for the next three months; it will close on February 15.

North county residents may sign up at the Little Lake Health Center at 45 Hazel Street, across the street from the rear entrance to Howard Memorial Hospital. Little Lake Health Center Manager Becky Driscoll encouraged people to schedule an appointment with one of the center’s three open enrollment counselors.

Read the rest of **Enrollment** |  
Over on Page 11



# 2nd Annual Willits Weekly Christmas Cookie Party

Friday, December 19 at 'Ardella's After Dark'

The community is invited to attend Willits Weekly's second annual holiday party held on Friday, December 19 from 5 to 7 pm at Ardella's Downtown Diner. A night of fun is planned, with Christmas music and merriment as well as the main event: a cookie contest.

We hope to have many of last year's team of "celebrity" bakers return to make treats for the contest – and to challenge 2013 winners Tam Adams of Emandal, who won the Judge's Choice award for her Caramel Nut Bars, and Lisa Reed and her daughter Kylie Reed of the Les Schwab Tire Center team, who won the People's Choice Award for their Mocha Crinkles.


Other 2013 winners included People's Choice second-place winner, the Norwegian rosettes made by Lori Dorholt of Ardella's, and People's Choice third-place winner, Mom's Chocolate Thumbprint Cookies baked by Lynn Kennelly of the Chamber of Commerce.

Emandal's Adams won third place in the Judge's Choice contest, too, for her Blackberry Cayenne Thumbprints, with the Judge's Choice second-place award going to Chef Kyle and the Howard Hospital team, for their Mocha Mint Chocolate Cookies.

Contestants will again bake dozens of cookies, which will be on display for attendees and judges to sample, along with milk, coffee and hot apple cider. Winners will be published in Willits Weekly's first edition of 2015.

There will also be a non-contestant cookie swap table, so those who want to bring cookies and treats to exchange with other eventgoers can do so, and take home a bag of cookies at the end of the night. A soundtrack of holiday music – and a return performance by Devon Jones and Nancy New, who sang beautiful Christmas songs and carols last year – will keep the spirit of the evening festive.

Willits Weekly will also have back issues available, and T-shirts and gift subscriptions packaged for holiday gifts. Thanks to Lori Dorholt and Kathy Albright of Ardella's for letting Willits Weekly "borrow" their restaurant for this special event. Can't wait to see you all there!



How many more?

To the Editor:

How many more people are going to be killed on the stretch of Highway 101 between Walker Road and Baechtel Road before Caltrans takes action to help prevent more fatalities? My family has lived near the Walker Road intersection for 45 years and, in that time, I can recall at least eight deaths in the aforementioned stretch of road. There may have been some more that I don't remember, but there have

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

## Willits Weekly

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

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# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

been hundreds of accidents that have resulted in varying degrees of injury and could have been fatal.

Two years ago on December 7, while stopped waiting for traffic to clear so that we could turn left into our driveway, we were hit from the rear by an inattentive driver who didn't even slow down before hitting us. This collision pushed us into oncoming northbound traffic, where we were hit head on by another car. Five people were injured, some seriously.

My wife and I were the lucky ones, who came out of it with the least injuries. Our daughter suffered a broken arm and broken ribs. She has required numerous surgeries since the accident. Had we been traveling in our mid-size sedan instead of my daughter's full-size pick-up truck, I am sure there would have been a fatality or two.

This stretch of road is a "blood alley" that if it were in an area more populated than rural Mendocino County, Caltrans would have been forced to do something about the terrible toll that has happened in our area. It is time for the citizens of Willits and our county to demand that Caltrans fix the situation before they turn the existing highway over to the city and then say that it is now a Willits problem.

The freeway bypass will not do much to correct or improve this area of the highway. Caltrans in their infinite wisdom chose not to put in a third interchange that would remove traffic from this area. Most people going to Fort Bragg are coming from the south and will use the southern exit. This is also true for the Brooktrails residents who want to stop on their way home to do a little shopping in town. I do not foresee a large reduction in traffic using this stretch of road. Maybe the Caltrans crystal ball told them otherwise.

I believe that a two-way left turn lane down the center of the highway could help to alleviate the situation. While I have observed people using the one in Willits as a passing lane, I am sure that it would cut down on the number of accidents of people going north, turning left onto Walker Road, and other people traveling in either direction, turning left onto other roads or driveways.

This letter is being sent to both the Caltrans District Office in Eureka and the state office in Sacramento. However, I doubt that Caltrans will even consider addressing the issue or even respond to this letter.

Frank Deuel, Willits

To the Editor:

This year, Sherwood School is celebrating its 30th year. Without the small local businesses in our community, we would not have been as successful raising funds. We would like to encourage our families, friends, and community at large to shop local!

Here is a list of the local businesses that generously supported our events this year: Brown's Corner, Whitley and Sons, Sarah and Isaac Reeser, Sharon Brown, Jess & Brenda Derickson, Sonoma Taco Shop, Noyo Theater, Leah Smith, Earlene Gleisner, J.D. Redhouse, April May's, Willits Power, Zumba, Mendo Mill in Ukiah, Mendo Mill in Willits, Brewed Awakening, The Book Juggler, Papa Murphy's, Liz Carter, Sherwood Market, Goods Shoppe, First Nails, It's Time, Vichy Springs, Little River Inn, Buttercups, Coast Hardware, Tiger Lily, Curves, Humboldt Motorsports, Pacific Outfitters, Moon Lady, Vegetation Management Cal Forestry, Mendocino County Farm Supply, Party Creations, Northern Aggregates, Barnett Logging, Main Street Music and Video, Soul Sisters, El Mexicano, Body Works, Our Yoga Center, Mariposa, Misty Made & Sew Much More, New Trend Electronics, Cat's Meow/Trillium, and Grocery Outlet.

We recently held our annual Fall Festival. This is our biggest fundraising event. We held a raffle, sold dinner and desserts, put on a children's carnival, and provided entertainment by our very talented students. This year our show was especially theatrical, as we celebrated Dr. Seuss!

Our parents group, Friends of Sherwood School, Inc., in cooperation with our teachers, staff and the greater community raise funds to supplement our academic program. We use these funds for art and music instruction, materials, playground equipment, and quality fieldtrips. Thank you once again to our community. A big hug, and many thanks to you all!

- ### Thanks
- To the Editor:
- Thanks to St. Anthony's Ladies Guild for sponsoring the Polenta Feed & Raffle event November 22; thanks to Jill Persico of Loose Caboose Cafe for catering the event and donating the wine; and thanks to Chris Horger of Willits Rental Center & Automotive for donating all the beer, sodas & water.
- More than 30 businesses contributed to provide us with more than \$3,300 in donations. Donations were organized into 18 raffle drawing prizes, including a grand prize of \$500 in cash.
- Prizes and donors were:
1. Cat's Meow "Fun Accessory Splurge," featuring red scarf and earrings valued at \$52; winner Leah Cassidy
  2. Mazahar Gift Basket of special soaps and candles valued at \$93; winner Rosanna Franceschini
  3. Curves Gift Pack, including 1 month membership, water bottle, shopping bag, and a Blue Lagoon water bottle, value \$140; winner Hortencia Garcia
  4. Go Fly A Kite package!, a kite from Willits Bike Shop, six Willits Subway sandwiches, \$25 gift certificate from The Book Juggler, and water bottle from Blue Lagoon, value \$116; winner Dana family
  5. Shopping Spree Experience, including gift certificate from Moon Lady, pink scarf from Tango Salon, and lunch at Loose Caboose, value \$135; winner Carol Dawson
  6. Tool Man Special, includes Emergency Roadside Kit from Les Schwab Tires and Napa Auto Parts gift certificate, value \$55; winner Deuel family
  7. Home Movie Night, with Captain America DVD, Mission Pizza gift certificate, and T-shirt from the Pub, value \$80; winner Marion Robertson
  8. Fashion Forward Accessory Splurge, with Cat's Meow Liquid Metal bracelet and ecru scarf from Tango Salon, value \$186; winner Beth Pacheco
  9. Kaleidoscope of Fabulous Finds Ensemble, featuring gift certificate from Dr. John Williams, El Mexicano gift certificate, Blue Lagoon water bottle, gift certificate from Fabulous Finds, and gift certificate from Upper Level Salon, value \$245; winner Bob Colvig
  10. "A Day at the Spa" gift bag, with lotions and sun hat from Tango Salon, and gift certificates from Toshi's Beautiful People Salon, 1st Nails, and Tango Tanning Salon, value \$102; winner Anne Hammond
  11. "Mud Man Special," featuring Emergency Roadside Kit from Les Schwab Tires, Yokum's Body Shop car wash and detail gift certificate, and Grocery Outlet gift certificate, value \$105; winner Meana Tepas
  12. Another Fashion Forward Frenzy, with yellow scarf from Off the Cuff and gift certificates from Kimberly's Jewelry and Upper Level Salon, value \$105; winner Alan Judy
  13. Christmas Is Coming gift basket, featuring assorted toys for children from The Goods Shoppe, laptop cover from Monkey Wrench, and a gift certificate from The Book Juggler. value \$97; winner Monica Wellington
  14. Tea Time Package, including assorted teas, honey, honeypot and biscotti from The Mendocino Tea Lady, and assorted tea and kitchen towels from Cat's Meow, value \$85; winner Lea Cassidy
  15. "Romance is in the Air Package," including dinner for two at Adam's Restaurant, a bottle of Frey Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc wine, and two wine glasses, value \$120; winner Bonnie Cook
  16. "Redwood Weekend Getaway," including one night's stay at Benbow Inn, a bottle of Hess Cabernet, and a soy candle from the Crafty Cat, value \$140; winner Troy Garcia
  17. iPad Mini from Willits' US Cellular, value \$529, winner Karina Santa Crus (of Shelter Cove)
  18. Grand Prize \$500 cash from contributors Family Tree of Laytonville and the Smythe family; winner Ed Tapas
- If you have not received your raffle prize, please contact Tanya Petitclerc, raffle coordinator, at 459-2727 to claim your prize as soon as possible.

Tanya Petitclerc, Willits

Read the rest of Letters | Over on Page 13

## Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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## Rain Totals in Willits

November 25, 2014

Name	Location	Last 24 hours	So far this season
3rd Gate, south-facing	2,400 feet		14.6 inches thru 11/25
Lucky Monkey's Ranch	2 miles west of Willits where Skunk Train tracks cross Hwy 20		8.05 inches thru 11/22
Willits Water Plant		0.15 inches	8 inches thru 11/25
Brooktrails, southwest	2,300 feet	0 inches	9 inches thru 11/25



## Kindergarten publishes 'Jack and the Giant Pumpkin'

Project-based learning in action! Ms. Ashley's kindergarten students at the Willits Elementary Charter School were discussing why people read, and they decided to write their own book.


Students determined what they knew and what they wanted to know about writing books: they took a trip to the library, wrote to the newspaper inviting a local author to visit, learned about parts of books, diagrammed this information, and cast ballots to determine the topic. Once they decided on writing about a pumpkin, they "dissected" real pumpkins, learned about how they grow, and then recorded this information in their science journals.

After co-writing the story, each student illustrated one page of the book, using lots of different techniques and materials.

During this process, Ms. Ashley's class covered more than 22 Common Core State Standards and now have a beautiful book to share.

Copies of "Jack and the Giant Pumpkin" (as well as a description of the learning process) will be available in early December.

— by Kara McClellan, director, Willits Elementary Charter School



Jack cut a little door with his saw, and went inside the pumpkin.



## Willits Unified School District

### Town Hall Meeting Part I

## December 9, 2014

### Willits High School Media Center 299 North Main St.

## 5:30 - 7:00 PM

### Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Student Achievement District Multiyear Outlook

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Refreshments

Drawings

Holiday Food and Toy Drive

Please bring nonperishable food items and new toys for local Christmas efforts



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## Weekly Promotions for December

### MONDAYS - Rooster & Owls

Earn 3X Points all day.  
Morning Session: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 9, 10, 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.  
Evening Session: 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 7, 8, 9 and 10 p.m.  
May win once per promotion day!  
For both Morning and Evening sessions: Play 50 coin-in (150 sessions), receive \$5 Freeplay and a \$2.00 Food Coupon

### TUESDAYS - Guy's Night

Earn 2X points all day.  
6:00-10:00 p.m.  
Play 50 coin-in (100 sessions), receive \$5 Freeplay. Hot Seat Drawings every half hour from 6:00-9:30 p.m. for \$25 cash, last drawing at 10 p.m. for \$100 Cash.

### WEDNESDAYS - Ladies Night

2X points all day.  
6:00-10:00 p.m.  
Play 50 coin-in (100 sessions), receive \$5 Freeplay. Hot Seat Drawings every half hour from 6:00-9:30 p.m. for \$25 cash, last drawing at 10 p.m. for \$100 Cash.

### THURSDAYS - Super Senior Day

The Senior Freeplay will be preloaded to the Players Club Card.  
10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.: Hot Seat Drawings each hour. Winners receive \$40 Cash.  
Half off lunch coupon for those participating.  
Specials posted at Creekside Café. 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Lunch hours.

### FRIDAYS - Friday Fun

1:00-9:00 p.m.: Earn 100 points, receive \$10 freeplay  
2:00-8:00 p.m.: Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$75 Cash  
9:00 p.m.: Hot Seat Drawing for \$100 Cash

### SATURDAYS - Saturday Night Paydays

6:00-11:00 p.m.  
Tickets will be randomly handed out twice an hour starting after 6:00 p.m.  
Drawing at 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 p.m. for \$200 Cash.

### SUNDAYS - Football Frenzy

12:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.  
Random Hourly Hot Seat Drawings. The Winner will choose a Football of their choice and have a chance win up to \$150 Cash.

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Far left: Peewee football player Seth Frost, who received the Carl Gallups Award, and his coaches Rick Evans, Israel Ramirez, Bryan Smith and Jeff Cramer. Carl Gallups was the founder of the Mendocino Youth Football League.

*Photos by Eldon Miler*

## 2014 Awards Ceremony

Next year's season will start around August 1, 2015. A new WYF board has been elected, and board positions will be determined at the Tuesday, December 6th board meeting. "We encourage everyone to join Willits Youth Football & Cheer," said Peewee Head Coach Kristin Miller. "As long as you are between the ages of 7 to 13 years old, you may play football or cheer for Willits Youth Football. The only catch is that you must be *7* and in second grade when the season starts, and you must be in eighth grade *and not* turning 14 during the season (which usually ends the second week of November).

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Don't forget to pick up your turkeys!

Mariposa Market has hundreds of local and not so local items suitable for your season's gift giving.

In addition to the wonderful "foodie" items we carry, our newly remodeled gift and housewares department is teeming with great stuff.

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• Holiday Candles	• Calendars	• Warm Woolens
• Beautiful Bowls & Mugs	• Assorted Scarves	• Hats
• "Zooties" from Silkroad	• Handkerchiefs	• Glittens
• "My First Buddha" (helps fund "Save the Children Foundation")	• Christmas Ornaments & Candy	
	• And Much More!	

# Mariposa Market

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Government	Percentage
Current government	85%
Previous government	15%



December 2014

**Osho Zen Tarot:** Receptivity, Silence, Mind  
**Medicine Cards:** Bear, Raven, Bat  
**Mayan Oracle:** Greater Cycles, New Myth, Dissonance  
**Ancient Egyptian Tarot:** Eight of Wands, Princess of Swords, Three of Disks  
**Aleister Crowley Deck:** The Empress, Knight of Disks, Indolence  
**Healing Earth Tarot:** Man of Pipes, Three of Pipes, Death  
**Words of Truth:** Fantasy Bond, Appropriate Time, Hatred

December is always a time of childlike fantasy and wonder, but this particular month it seems that it is time to see the truth of something and step out of a particular illusion that is no longer serving you. That revelation will create a bit of dissonance, but that is necessary to open to the new reality that is unfolding.

Part of the reason for all the drama is astrological. December is a big month, as we have the second to the last square between Pluto and Uranus on December 15 at 12 degrees of Aries/Capricorn, which can create a bit of a tug of war for those whose sign and degree that affects.

We also have Saturn finally leaving Scorpio on December 23 (but make a mental note that it will return for you later-degree Scorpios on June 16 to September 18, 2015), which gives us a lighter emotional tone, as Saturn in Sagittarius is much more energetic.

When outer planets change signs, it is a big deal. Saturn is the authority, and it deals with limitations. Saturn helps us build discipline. Saturn puts on the brakes to make sure that we are not getting too far ahead of ourselves. Now it is going into the more adaptable sign of Sagittarius, which makes it manipulative but also more receptive.

This allows all of us to manage things better. It will give us the energy to project the energy of Saturn outward, rather than how Saturn in Scorpio reflected things inward. Now this energy will give us the impetus to go forward with what we have been trying to accomplish. What this means is that coming into the holiday season, there is going to be some great fiery energy pushing you out of your stuck places. This is going to propel you into new situations that can allow the old you to die in this time of darkness during the Winter Solstice and be reborn like the Bat again into the you that has been hidden and waiting.

Remember that we are all dancing with the patterns and energies that are swirling. These are here to help us flow and go. Do not get angry or go into blame as you break out of an old place. No one is to blame. Not even yourself. You are not ready until you are ready. Let go of the mind as it tries to figure it all out. Life always unfolds in its proper order.

The Raven is bringing back the magic and giving you access to your gifts from the spiritual domains. The Bear is allowing you to feel powerfully reflective and move with the subtle messages from your subconscious mind.

December is when the direction becomes clear, and you pull that arrow fully into the bow and let go. In that moment a new possibility emerges and you will suddenly find that you have the energy to build towards this new goal.

The Man of Pipes is awakening that receptive silence within and helps us reconnect to the magical wisdom that we each possess. It is in the silence that we find the peace. It is in the protection of nature that we reclaim our innocence. Tranquility returns as you allow for a moment of reflection and appreciation.

Let your family nourish your soul. Surround yourself with those who know and love you on the deepest and most intimate level. It is wonderful to feel loved and appreciated. Let it in. See with wonder the unfolding of your heart and spirit. Enjoy the month of December.

Suzanne Wagner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology," which can be found on Amazon.com. To learn more, visit www.suzwagner.com or call Suzanne at 707-354-1019.



28th annual event set for December 12, 13 and 14

The 28th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair is set for three days again this year at the Community Center: Friday, December 12, from noon to 7 pm, Saturday, December 13, from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, December 14, from 10 am to 4 pm. This event is sponsored by the Willits Arts Center (WAC) as a service to craftspeople and the community and is a fundraiser for the WAC.

A wide variety of arts and crafts will be displayed for sale: jewelry, ceramics (both pottery and sculptural), metal work, photography, fabric arts and wearables, glass, and herbal body products. Many of our area's favorite artists/crafters will return, along with some excellent new artists and work.

The fair will again offer the scrumptious creations from the kitchen of the Willits Charter School, always delicious and reasonably priced. The students and parents will also be bringing their homemade confections to satisfy every sweet tooth. There will be the popular "Kids Craft Fair" on Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm, for the younger artists to sell their work and, of course, our local musicians will entertain throughout the three-day event. A raffle offers the opportunity for attendees to donate to the WAC as well as have the chance to win one of the featured crafters' items.

"This fair will be our 28th annual gathering of artists and crafters," said coordinator Bonnie Belt, "and will again include Sunday for a three-day event. The fair is a big part of the Willits community's holiday season festivities, and reminds us

why we love living in our small town, seeing all our friends and neighbors, supporting the local economy and just having fun!"

The Willits Community Center is at 111 East Commercial Street, a block east of Highway 101, with plenty of parking in the city parking lot or on the streets around the park.

This year's vendors:

Rachel Arama Yusem (Clothing, Knitted), Joanne Horn (Body Products), Lynn Davis (Glass & Metal Vases), Mary Ann Underhill (Leatherwork), David Rice (Pickles), Deni (Ceramics/Pottery), Alice McAlister (Fused Glass), Anne Vanderhorck (Dolls/Quilts), Karen Gridley/Wolfgang Ronnefeldt (Bags/Herbal Body Products), Laura Buckner (Jewelry), Gregg Lindsley (Ceramics/Pottery), Morgan Rex (Metalwork/Sculpture), Bonnie Belt (Ceramics/Pottery), Tess McGuire (Hats-Felt), Janet Heppler (Handwoven Ware), Jan Stephens, (Clothing-Hand Printed), Kathy Green (Clothing-Tie Dye), Henena Thornton (Children's Handmade Clothing), Erwin Ludwig (Knives & Holders), Ann Maglente (Prints, Scarves, Garden Art), Simona Designs (Jewelry), Knox Gillespie (Ceramics/Pottery), Alfredo Vionnet (Wood Cutting Boards), Barbara Stanger (Metal Garden Art), Felicia Renaud (Glass Luminaries), William Cull (Jewelry), Roq Horowitz (Ceramics/Pottery), Susie Harper (Lampwork Beads), Summitside Photography (Photography), and Willits Charter School (Food).



At top: Shoppers enjoy wares offered at the 2013 fair.

Above: Anne Vanderhorck holds up a quilt.

Right: Wolfgang Ronnefeldt and Karen Gridley smile for the camera.

Below: Bonnie Belt's display of ceramics.



Photos by Maureen Moore



Cocktails with Candice

Vodka



Happy November! I love autumn, and I love so many of the seasonal flavors that return to us every year at this time. So many people are ecstatic with their pumpkin spice lattes, but I am excited for all of the fun, spiced adult beverages that I can't wait to enjoy. So this month, I am going to share some of my favorites and a new spin on a classic that you may want to enjoy, too.

Mulled wine is an underrated and wonderful treat. Hot wine, seasoned with spices that give warm flavor notes, is such a pleasant way to share an evening with friends and family. When I bartend at parties, I suggest that people have a big batch drink that is a quick and easy way to keep your guest's glasses full, and mulled wine fits that bill. I like to use a crockpot, that way you leave the stove free for cooking, and you will not have to keep such a watchful eye on your wine.

There are many recipes, but I feel mulled wine is something that you make your own with your own flavors. Key components are a dry red wine (don't buy the best, you will be muddling its flavor, so don't waste your money), spices and fruits. The spices are something that you can adjust according to your palate. Whole stick cinnamon and cloves are my favorite, but whole anise, peppercorns, ginger and more can be found in

many recipes. Tip: use cheesecloth to contain the smaller spices so you don't end up drinking them.

Oranges are also very common: sometimes the juice and/or zest, or simple slices. Cranberries, limes, lemons and apples are some of the other fruits that I've seen. Some people may add a little brandy, maybe some cranberry juice or even sugar. Again, this is something to play with and make your own. After all, most of the fun is testing out the new batch.

Hot Buttered Rum is one of my favorite ways to take the chill off in the fall and winter seasons. There are many recipes online to make your own batter. I have not done this; I have always used Trader Vic's premade, storebought version. I bet the homemade stuff would be even better. If you want more of a spicy flavor, use a spiced rum like Sailor Jerry. A clear rum may be best to bring out the flavor of the batter, but any rum will do. Hot water and rum melts the creamy, buttery batter that will warm your bones.

For my last drink, I am going to do one that reminds me of some of my favorite ladies from JP's club: a Hot Apple Pie. Very simple: just hot apple cider and a shot of Tuaca liqueur (flavored with vanilla and citrus). For a little extra flair, top with whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon.

Please enjoy responsibly, designate a driver and have a wonderful holiday season!

Candice Kelley has been bartending since 2006 and started her mobile bartending business Service With Style in 2013. She is available for parties large and small around Mendocino and Sonoma counties. For info call 707-354-4894 or visit www.servicewithstyle.net.

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Above: Mendocino Alcohol Fuel Group members in this year's 4th of July parade in Fort Bragg.

Left: The plaque on the historic "Revenoor" still, discovered at Ridgewood Ranch.

Below, left: Mike Ott of the Fuel Group modifies a tractor that runs on ethanol.

Below, right: the historic still, unearthed at the back of Ridgewood Ranch's metal shop.

Fuel Farming for the 21st Century

On December 6 and 7, the Mendocino Alcohol Fuel Group and the Grange Farm School will present "Farm Hack: Fuel Farming for the 21st Century," a two-day workshop considering the possibilities for making locally produced alcohol fuel in Mendocino County. The event features speakers, panel discussions, demonstrations and tours at the Little Lake

Grange, the Grange Farm School and Ridgewood Ranch.

The group will look at possible community and business collaborations using local sources for fuel, including partnerships with local vineyards and farmers, to consider creating new local opportunities for "sustainable biomass fuel production." "We're almost like a makers group of regular local people interested in all things ethanol, and alcohol-fueled vehicles," says Fuel Group secretary Debbie Baron.

When Ruthie King of the Grange Farm School located at Ridgewood Ranch first met members of Fort Bragg's Mendocino Alcohol Fuel Group, they already had

something important to tell her: a rumor that somewhere at the ranch sat a 300 gallon alcohol fuel still that had been idle for decades. Intrigued, King began looking around, and when she eventually found the still – covered in blackberry brambles in the very back of the machine shop – she knew it was an important discovery.

"It's basically in brand-new condition," said King, who worked with members of the ranch and the Fuel Group over the summer to clean out the still and the surrounding areas. The "Revenoor" still was first purchased by members of the Golden Rule community in the 1970s at the ranch (which at one point had 150 residents). They were exploring ways to produce homegrown fuel for farming equipment.

"They modified it to run on steam, and so they would use wood heat and corn to make fuel, which just wasn't sustainable," King said, explaining why the still fell into disuse after only a few years.

Read the rest of Farming Over on Page 15



*Mane Effects*  
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Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Mane Effects and find us on Facebook.  
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Decorations, wreathes, trees, clothes, books,  
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Children's Christmas Program

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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

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

**Community 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 Baechtel Road. "Come give 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." Dinner prepared by Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp and served by community volunteers. Info: 459-3333.

Friday, November 28

BLACK FRIDAY!

**Shanachie Pub:** The Schinless Diggers, "the band formerly known as Schinding," featuring talented local musicians Forrest Glyer, Josh Swearengin, Michael Cantwell, and Joe Swearengin. With Knocks & Jollies. 8:30 pm. \$5. The Pub is located at 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**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: DJ Konnex.

Saturday, November 29

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

**Small Business Saturday:** the Willits Chamber of Commerce and local businesses are promoting the national Small Business Saturday event this weekend, featuring a prize drawing that shoppers can qualify for by getting stamps at participating stores, restaurants and other outlets. "Businesses will donate a prize valued up



to \$15, and all prizes will be put into a basket. Shoppers can pick up 'passports' for stamps, and if they get eight stamps, they can drop the passport off at Cat's Meow, J.D. Redhouse, ER Energy or US Cellular to be entered into the drawing. The stamps don't have to be for a big purchase," explained Lynn Kennelly from the Willits Chamber, "it could be for an ice cream cone." Look for the "Small Business Saturday, come in and shop small with us" signs in business windows.

**Golden Rule Holiday Craft and Bake Sale:** Golden Rule Mobile Village presents its Holiday Craft Fair and Bake Sale from 11 am to 5 pm, at 16100 North Highway 101, south of Willits. Featuring knitted and crocheted handmade crafts, beaded crafts, holiday decor, baked goodies and much more.

**Willits 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. 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](http://www.DragonsOfKir.com) or call the library at 459-5908.

**Shanachie Pub:** Dallas Burrow, singer/songwriter, and professional adventurer, from Texas. 8 pm. No cover. The Pub is located at 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

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 tri-tip 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 invited. Info: [www.WillitsToyRun.com](http://www.WillitsToyRun.com), call 459-6372, or email [HOG@bellsprings.com](mailto:HOG@bellsprings.com).

Tuesday, December 2

**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: "Mockingjay 1" and "Dumber 2" For showtimes: [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com). 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

## December Events at the Senior Center

Christmas Store December 5 through 14

Lots of Christmas items for a very low price

Monday through Saturday, 9 am to noon

Sunday, December 7, 10 am to 2 pm

Sunday, December 14, 8:30 am to noon

Christmas Craft Faire

Saturday, December 6, 10 am to 4 pm

Shop for beautifully hand-crafted items made by local vendors. Grab a bite to eat from our Snack Bar.

Sunday Bingo

Sunday, December 7

Snack bar opens at 11 am

Games begin at 11:30 am

Bingo buy-in \$10

Special snack bar this month: crab cakes, cheese-stuffed hot dogs, a variety of desserts, etc.

Ice Cream Social

Monday December 8, 1:30 to 2:30 pm

This month's entertainment: Claudia Dear & Eloise Toomey and "Name That Tune"

Pie, Ice Cream, Coffee & Prizes

Members \$1;

Non-members \$1.50

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, December 14, 8 to 11 am

Pancakes, eggs, and your choice of sausage, ham, or bacon

## Toy Run and Party on November 30

Bikers and their friends have set the annual Toy Run and Party – an afternoon of food, music, drinks and merriment – for Sunday, November 30 this year, starting at 12:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. The event, a benefit for the Willits Community Christmas program, kicks off with a bikers' parade led by Santa and Mrs. Claus and the Little Lake Fire Department, starting at the Evergreen Shopping Center at noon, rain or shine. Bikers then head down Main Street, to 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 biker-only 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](http://www.WillitsToyRun.com) or "Willits Toy Run" on Facebook; email [HOG@bellsprings.com](mailto:HOG@bellsprings.com), or call 459-6372.

**Roots of Motive Power Presents: Christmas Express Train**

**Free Train Rides**

**Saturday Dec. 6th**

**Noon to 6pm**

Bring the kids, and kids at heart, to Roots where children can tell Santa what they want for Christmas and receive a little gift.

**After Visiting Santa:**

- Take a Free steam train ride.
- Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies.
- See the famous railroad decorated trees.
- Listen to live music.
- Peruse a model train & antique toys.

**Don't miss: The last run of the #7 Baldwin locomotive before it's taken offline for an indeterminate amount of time being rebuilt.** (Don't miss the great photo ops being your camera!)

**Engineer Santa!** (Santa doesn't only drive a sleigh.)

**420 E. Commercial St., Willits, Calif. - Next to the Mendocino County Museum.**

## Willits Community Christmas Program Trees going up Thanksgiving weekend

The Willits Community Christmas program's giving trees, hung with cards detailing the Christmas wishes and needs of local kids and their families, will be going up in local businesses after Thanksgiving this week. Volunteers will be needed a bit later to help wrap gifts, too: those interested in volunteering for that task or others can call Sandy Turner at 459-5827 or 490-8872. 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 (make checks out to "Rotary Christmas Fund") at 20960 East Tattersfield Hill, Willits, CA 95490.



Sara Mann of Mazahar with a tag-filled tree.

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**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6**

**10:00 AM TO 11:30 AM**

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Adults with young children ages 2-6 welcome.

Pre-registration and prompt arrival encouraged.

Limited space available.

For information or to register call 707-485-8719 ext. 4, or email [enroll@waldorfmendocino.org](mailto:enroll@waldorfmendocino.org)

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# What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Thursday, December 4

**"Grange Futures":** an evening all about the populist history and future of the Grange: Music, food, entertainment, Grange history, current activities and future vision. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Potluck dinner at 6:30 pm; bring a dish to share. Free but donations welcomed. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details.



Friday, December 5

**Photos with Santa:** Get your photo taken with Santa Claus, by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly. \$5 for a downloadable digital photo. Today at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street, from 4:30 to 7:30 pm; a 50/50 fundraiser for the Willits Elementary Charter School.

**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.

Saturday, December 6

**Farm Hack: Fuel Farming for the 21st Century:** a two-day workshop at Little Lake Grange, the Grange Farm School and Ridgewood Ranch, Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7. "Join us for this opportunity to have a community-wide discussion about the possibilities of ethanol production and use for increasing sustainability." Workshops, panel discussions, tours and demonstrations throughout the weekend. Starts at 7:30 am Saturday with continental breakfast at the Grange, 291 School Street, and ends Sunday with a 1 pm luncheon at Ridgewood Ranch's Workshop Barn, followed by tours and demonstrations. See article elsewhere in Willits Weekly for more details; visit: "Mendocino FarmHack: Fuel Farming for the 21st Century" event page on Facebook; or contact Debbie Baron at 961-0717 or [mendocinodnb@gmail.com](mailto:mendocinodnb@gmail.com) to RSVP.

Senior Center Christmas Craft

**Faire:** 10 am to 4 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Shop for beautifully hand-crafted items made by local vendors. "Grab a bite to eat from our Snack Bar!" Info: 459-6826 or visit the Harrah Senior Center website [willitseniors.com](http://willitseniors.com).



**Brookside Bazaar:** 10 am to 2 pm at Brookside Elementary School, 20 Spruce Street. One of the vendors: Betty Hansen will be selling small 5 by 7 inch original oil paintings and Chris Hansen will display his recent book, "Secrets of Backyard Bird Photography."

**Morning Roses:** open house at the Waldorf Preschool and Kindergarten of Mendocino County in Calpella. 10 to 11:30 am. Parents with young children ages 2 to 5 are welcome. "Together with your child enjoy making holiday crafts, listening to stories, and playing games. Info or to RSVP call 707-485-8719, visit [www.mendocinowaldorf.org](http://www.mendocinowaldorf.org), or email [enroll@mendocinowaldorf.org](mailto:enroll@mendocinowaldorf.org).

**Christmas Train Rides:** Roots of Motive Power presents its free annual Christmas Express Train rides, from noon to 6 pm at the Roots facility at 420 East Commercial Street. Free train rides for all, plus a visit with Santa, who will give the little ones a small gift. Don't miss the last run of the #7 Baldwin steam locomotive for an indeterminate amount of time. Bring your cameras! Also cookies and cocoa, the famous train-decorated Christmas trees, model train and antique toy displays, and live music. "Come join the fun at the best Christmas party in town!"

**Studio M upstairs:** The public is invited to Studio M's 5th Anniversary Holiday Open House from 5 to 8 pm, at 1256 Blosser Lane. "Celebrating our five years providing movement improvement, health, and wellness services to our community." With festive decor, music, hors d'oeuvres and drinks, and more. Info: 459-1840, [macemoving@gmail.com](mailto:macemoving@gmail.com) or visit [www.lisamacewillits.com](http://www.lisamacewillits.com).

**LocaLights Concert Series:** final concert of this year's series features Bruce Burton and Friends, with Burton on banjo, Bear Kamoroff on bass, and John Mather on keyboard. Plus a Grand Finale to the season, featuring songs presented by a variety of musicians who have already performed at previous LocaLights concerts this year, including Twining Time (Anita Blu and John Wagnert), Chanterelle (Madge Strong, Diane Smalley and Helen Falandes), Verne Morninglight, and David Patch. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub), at 7 pm. Tickets are on sale at Goods' Shoppe, 56 South Main Street in Willits. Prices are \$15 for front

row, \$10 for regular seats, and \$5 for last row. Proceeds to benefit WCT.

**Willits Center for the Arts:** December show showcases Malakai Schindel's "steam punk" three-dimensional and canvas exhibit, featuring Kaylyn Marie's steam punk fashions. Opening reception is tonight from 7 to 9 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Thursday and Friday 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 3 pm. Info: contact Malakai at [malakaiaart@yahoo.com](mailto:malakaiaart@yahoo.com).

Sunday, December 7

**Laytonville Holiday Bazaar:** Annual Christmas Bazaar at Harwood Hall, from 10 am to 4 pm, at 44400 Willis Avenue in Laytonville. "Keep your holiday shopping local this season with over 40 local artisans!" Toys, Wood Crafts, See's Candies, Pottery, Glass Art, Jewelry, Quilts, and much more. Refreshments, Santa's Workshop inside Healthy Start, and photos with Santa! Info: 984-8089.

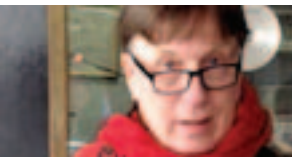
**Bingo at the Senior Center:** monthly Bingo at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Snack bar opens at 11 am; games begin at 11:30 am; Bingo buy-in \$10. Special snack bar this month: crab cakes, cheese-stuffed hot dogs, a variety of desserts, etc. Info: 459-6826.

**Photos with Santa:** Get your photo taken with Santa Claus, by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly. \$5 for a downloadable digital photo. Today at ER Energy, in the Safeway Shopping Center, from 12 to 3:00 pm; a 50/50 fundraiser for the Willits Junior Horsemen Association.

**Magician/comedian Ken Garr:** One show only, 2 pm today at Willits Community Theater. This family-appropriate show features Garr's humor and friendly demeanor, and his expertise at magic tricks. Advance tickets are \$15 in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com); or by phone with a credit card at the WCT office, 459-0895. Tickets will also be available at the door. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details.



COLUMN | At the Movies



## 'Mockingjay Part 1'

**The Story:** If you've seen part one, "The Hunger Games," and part two, "Catching Fire," then you are already clued in to what's happening. If not, you'll be confused, so get a friend who knows the story to fill you in or ... even better, rent the first two parts at the video store and catch up. In brief, Katniss Everdeen has

been rescued by District 13, a highly militarized society. Her rescuers want her to be "The Mockingjay," the visual symbol and leader of the revolt against the tyranny of The Capitol. Katniss has some serious reservations about taking on the role ... serious reservations!

Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss is incredibly brilliant as the conflicted heroine.

The loss of Philip Seymour Hoffman to the world is magnified by how good he is in this movie.

"The Hunger Games" is okay.

"Catching Fire" is really, really good.

And ... "Mockingjay" is epic!

**Parents:** Lots of onscreen tension and violence. If the kids have seen the first two movies, this one ranks about the same.

**Special Love Note:** Elizabeth Banks is especially funny and dear as Effie Trinket.

## Save the Date

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

**Willits Weekly's Annual Christmas Cookie Party,** December 19, Ardella's Downtown Diner





I, Jenny Lyn Senter, am thankful for my wonderful husband, Chuck.



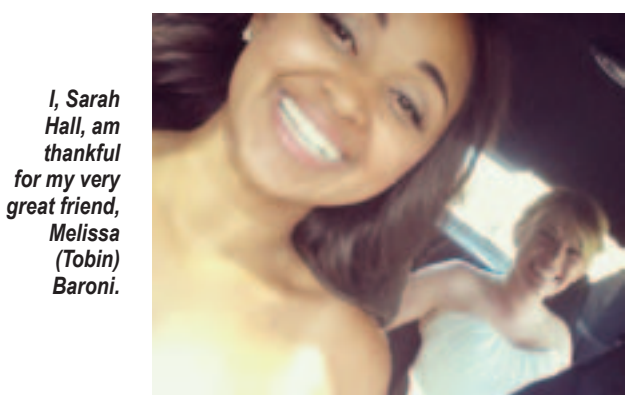
I, Randolph Brown, am thankful to my wife, and to Victor Hansen for a ride in his helicopter for my birthday.



I, Megan Hall, am thankful for My Girls: Erin Fitzpatrick and Rachel Cash!



I, Matthew Jennison, am thankful for all the light, laughs, and love from these three.



I, Sarah Hall, am thankful for my very great friend, Melissa (Tobin) Baroni.



I, Marcia Kennedy, am thankful for Benjamin Wilson, my son, and all the hard work he's done to be clean and sober for nearly three years.



## The rest of Enrollment From Page 1

"It's a fairly lengthy process," Driscoll said, "and if you get five or six people ahead of you, you will have to wait. I would hate to see [people] not make an appointment. Making an appointment also helps [people] come prepared. Because there is a lot of information that is required."

Interested people can schedule an appointment at 456-3900. Enrollment counselors are available Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday (after December 1) from 8 am to 5 pm.

Area residents should note that this year the fines for failing to sign up for health coverage will increase. According to information on Covered California – the website for California's insurance exchange program – the fee for failure to sign up will increase substantially in 2015 and will increase even more significantly in 2016.

For 2015, the fine for failure to enroll for health care will be 2 percent of the consumer's income or \$325 per person, whichever is larger. In 2016, the fine will be 2.5 percent of the consumer's income or \$695, whichever is larger.

## The rest of Results From Page 1

Supervisor-Elect Tom Woodhouse in a comment requested by Willits Weekly. "To everyone that participated in the democratic process and took the time to vote, thank you for being involved: every one of your votes mattered."

"Going forward, we will be exchanging ideas, listening to each other and working together to improve the community of Mendocino County."

"I am available at 367-6334, and my office at 2 North Street is open for business. I look forward to your call so we can set a time to meet. I will also be setting office hours in Laytonville and Covelo for you who live in those communities."

"I would be remiss if I did not thank my family and friends who supported, encouraged, and financially contributed to the campaign: without you, I could not have won the election."

In a statement requested by Willits Weekly, Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal writes: "I admit that I am glad to see the campaign season behind us. It is time for our community to come together and get to work. I congratulate Tom on his win, and I want him to know that I am available to be a resource for him."

"Our 'Team Holly' put our hearts and souls into this campaign, and we especially reached out to our younger residents and the Latino population. We can do more to engage these groups locally. I want to thank all of our volunteers for donating so much of their

time and energy.

"I also want to thank everyone who honored me with his or her vote. I will continue to work within our community both as a city councilwoman and as a volunteer. I have to do something with all of this very specific knowledge about Mendocino County water systems, budgets, mental health concerns, and economic opportunities. I will continue to do my part in making Mendocino County a better place."

Final results for the Willits City Council race – with two seats up for election – show candidates placed in the same order as the Election Night results, with the two incumbent councilmen winning reelection. Larry Stranske won first place with 41.82 percent of the vote (721 votes), and Ron Orenstein won second place with 31.9 percent of the vote (550 votes). Challenger Robin Leler received 25 percent of the vote (431 votes).

Measure S, the local anti-fracking and community rights measure, won resoundingly, with 69.52 percent of the vote countywide.

Final turnout in Mendocino County was 52.7 percent, with 25,017 of 47,470 registered voters casting a ballot.

The Mendocino County vote for Congressman Jared Huffman (D) was 72.01 percent, with 27.99 percent of the vote going to Dale K. Mending (R).

## The rest of REACH From Page 1

to study the project.

City Manager Adrienne Moore said REACH will be reimbursing the city for the study's bill, something normal on these kinds of projects.

The study, termed an initial study, examines impacts from the project to determine if the city needs an environmental impact study for the helicopter base.

The Willits Municipal Airport sits at the end of Poppy Drive on a ridge at the edge of Brooktrails Township.

In a press release this summer, REACH pitched its plans to set up operation for a helicopter at Ellis Field.

If the project is completed, the base will be one of more than 20 REACH bases in California, Oregon and Texas.

A November 14 REACH letter said REACH expected to be up and running by November 25.

In the letter, REACH said it planned to lease from another operator at the airport temporarily, while obtaining approval to operate permanently.

An attorney from the Keep the Code organization said in a letter this month a court-issued restraining order would have been sought had REACH started making flights.

However, Moore said, REACH voluntarily agreed to refrain from that sublease plan at this time.

REACH president Sean Russell said REACH is working toward a number of different solutions, but nothing has been nailed down yet.

The company serves the area with the aircraft it plans to use here, but which are currently based elsewhere, said Russell.

"We are not backing away from believing we can provide a value-added service to Willits and Mendocino County from that location," Russell said.

In October, Santa Rosa attorney Rose M. Zoia in a letter questioned the project's compliance with CEQA provisions.

Zoia sent the letter on behalf of Keep the Code, a Willits-based organization that fought expansion of the Harris Quarry and opposed the take of fill dirt from the Apache mill site for the Willits bypass.

A sample of Zoia's clients from a list on her website include groups with names like Ukiah Citizens for an Urban Forest, Save San Juan Valley, and Rohnert Park Citizens to Enforce CEQA.

The letter claims no regulatory exemption exists for zoning consistency, and says safety hazards and noise problems should be reviewed by the city.

Zoie and Keep the Code also state concerns about disruption of sleep, dust, fuel and fire hazards, and Northern Spotted Owls.

Additional details of the project have started to take shape as previously reported.

Brooktrails granted water and sewer hookups for the new REACH base, but asked the city to sign an agreement holding the township harmless if the project was ever sued.

# Christmas Calendar

December 1 through 4, 2014 - check next week to see what new sales are featured!

## December 2

### 20% OFF

#### All Columbia Clothing

**1600 S. Main St. Willits 707-459-6420**

### La Siciliana and Gavel Down Sales are teaming up to give you discounts!

**Bring your same day receipt from either business to receive 10% off your purchase at the partner business.**

**1611 S. Main Willits 459-5626**  
Open for lunch and dinner 11am-9pm Tuesday-Sunday

**1611 S. Main, Ste. A Willits 459-1300**

## December 3

### Brewed Awakening

**Holiday Flavors**

Gift certificates make great stocking stuffers!

**1437 South Main Street Willits ~ 459-7055**

## December 4

I, Becky Button, am thankful for these two goofy, wonderful, absurd children that wake me up at weird hours, wipe yogurt on my nice clothes, and make my life WAY more interesting than it was before.

I, Nicole McLeod, am thankful for Sage and Connor Basler, she loves of my life!

We, Oma Hofmaister, are thankful for our grandchildren, Savanna, Tristan and Ursula, and their parents.

I, April Tweddell, am thankful for my three incredible daughters!

Boyfriend Coop (black) and Cousin Solo (tan) are thankful for their snuggle time.

I, Randolph Brown, am thankful for my family and grandchildren: Doug and Glenda Brown, Sandra Dee Brown and kids, Eric and Shelby and family, and Nicholas Brown and his family, and for our health and warm home.

I, Kally Mondo, am thankful that I have such an amazing family!

I, Julie Mondo, am thankful for my beautiful daughters, Zandria and Arabella. Mondo: <3 they both love to DANCE!>3

I, Jayden Osejo, am thankful for my loving family that keeps me safe and well.

## The rest of Doctors From Page 1

are in violation of state law because of the mistakes. However, the report does not say whether the companies will face legal charges or financial penalties as a result of the misrepresentations.

According to the report, 12.5 percent of the service providers listed by Anthem Blue Cross are no longer in the location noted in the company directory.

In addition, 12.8 percent of the service providers affiliated with Anthem Blue Cross, which the company directory states will accept patients insured by Covered California, will not do so.

For Blue Shield, 8.8 percent of the service providers listed in the directory as accepting patients insured by the Blue Shield program under Covered California do not accept those patients.

Of those providers Blue Shield lists as accepting patients covered by Blue Shield

under Covered California, 18.2 percent of them are no longer at the address listed in the directory.

Covered California is the insurance exchange for California under the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare. Last year, 1.1 million Californians enrolled for health care under the ACA. A significant portion of those enrolled under the network provided by Covered California.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield account for nearly 60 percent of the enrollment under Covered California.

The November 19 statement from Congressman Huffman applauds regulators for looking into concerns he first raised in a June 25, 2014 letter to Mark Morgan, president of Anthem Blue Cross.

In his statement last week, Huffman writes: "I have heard firsthand about the chaos and confusion created by inaccurate and misleading information on the physician networks for Anthem in the North Coast, and know that many of my constituents have been hurt by these failures. This action by DMHC brings much-needed accountability and ensures consumers that regulators are working to protect their interests."

In May, the Ukiah Valley

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Gift Certificates make amazing gifts!

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Congratulations on your bundle of joy

[so excited]

How is a gift certificate to a local or national photographer [so excited]

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[so excited]

Please let me know when you'd like to schedule and we'll set up something for you.

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6 a.m.-12 noon

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First 5 people receive a special surprise.

12 noon - 6 p.m.

20% OFF!

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Buttercups

Children's Boutique

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6-8 a.m. — 40% OFF!

First 5 at door when open 50% OFF one item until 6:30 a.m.

8-10 a.m. — 30% OFF!

10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. — 20% OFF!

Sales rack 60% OFF all day

Sales exclude Petuna Pickle Bottom. All sales final.

Tiger Lily's

Boutique

150 S. Main Willits 459-0512

6-7 a.m. — 40% OFF!

7 a.m.-12 noon — 30% OFF!

12 noon-6 p.m. — 20% OFF!

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UP TO 40% OFF STARTING FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Bikes for Santa's Workshop

BPOA joins forces with Wowser

This year the Brooktrails Property Owners Association (BPOA) has joined forces with the new Wowser organization for working on bicycles to donate to the Willits Community Christmas program.

Wowser is a great workshop located at 330 East Commercial Street in Willits. They have made this building available to the entire community to come and work on bikes, as well as a great variety of other types of personal projects. Many folks visited the Wowser open house this month and saw the wide range of equipment and projects in action.

The BPOA has again been active this past year in collecting used bicycles from local residents, the Willits Police Department, and Solid Waste of Willits. Our BPOA elves had a special one-week-long session last month at Wowser to make serviceable bikes for the

Willits Rotary Club to include in their annual Santa Claus distribution program, the Willits Community Christmas program. BPOA has rehabbed, repaired and donated 490 bikes since they started in 1997 to the Christmas program, including 26 bikes last year.

The public is invited to work on bikes for this program by calling Roger Wilson at 459-9697 to make arrangements. You can make it a fun time by bringing some friends with you. Cleaning materials and repair parts are supplied, but bring your own set of hand tools for your project.

Anyone wishing to donate a bicycle to the program may drop it off at Wowser between the hours of noon and 6 pm, or call for pickup.

— Robert Terry, BPOA Bikes for Santa program

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57 East Commercial Street - Willits 707-459-NOYO (6696) www.noyotheatre.com

Coming Soon — Exodus: Gods & Kings

PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR 2D/3D

(PG) 1 hr 32 mins

Fri-Sun: (3D) 12:45 & 5:45, (2D) 3:15 & 8:15pm

Mon-Thurs: (3D) 4:45, (2D) 7:15pm

HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PT. 1

(PG13) 2 hrs 3 mins

Fri-Sun: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm

Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:00pm

DUMB & DUMBER TO

(PG13) 1 hr 49 mins

Fri-Sun: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm

Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30pm

This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

WILLITS POWER Equipment

1600 S. Main St. Willits 707-459-6420

Carhartt

BLACK FRIDAY ONLY SALE

COUPON 30% OFF One Clothing Item

Must bring in coupon - one per customer. Offer good on 11/28/14.

Gift Wrap for the Pups!

Rascal's Rescue will be doing gift wrapping and selling See's Candy.

Call Misty for details: 459-6420

All proceeds will go to Rascal's Rescue.

Rascal's Rescue 1600 South Main Street Willits, Ca 95490 707-459-6420 rascalsrescue14@gmail.com

Happy Holidays

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014 FROM 5-8 P.M.

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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. Armo: 459-9601.

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.

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.

Help Wanted Laytonville Unified School District Announces the Following Vacancies: Instructional Assistant - 3 hrs/day, 5 days/wk. 8:30-11:30 am. Salary Range: \$9-80-13.53/hr. Bus Mechanic - 16 hours per week. Salary Range: \$14.71-20.32/hr. Paid holidays & vacation. Pro-rated health benefits may be available. Substitutes - Bus Drivers, Instructional Assistants, and Teachers. All positions are open until filled. Please call (707) 984-6414 for more info. EOE

Help Wanted NCO Community Action-Mendo/Lake Counties: Farmers Market Promotion Coordinator for NCO. Strong mktg & people skills req. Bilingual pref. Mendo/Lake Co travel req. 20hrs/wk. \$22.00/hr. Job Desc & Appl at www.ncoinc.org or (707) 467-3200 ext.302 Closes: 12/4 @ 5pm (Postmarks not accepted). EOE

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!

Santa Photos Three upcoming chances in Willits to have your photo taken with Santa! Friday, December 5 from 4:30 to 7:30 pm at JD Redhouse & Company Sunday, December 7 from noon to 3 pm at ER Energy Kitchen & Hearth Tuesday, December 9 from 5 to 7 pm at Little Lake Fire Department Digital images just \$5 each! Info: 707-972-7047

SEWING AND ALTERATIONS Seamstress and Sewing Teacher Barbara Carlon Visit my webpage: Zibergirl.com 707-367-6182, Willits

Things to sell? Willits Weekly's classified ads are an inexpensive and effective way to sell your goods, let people know about your services and get your word out to the community! Just \$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!! Email us your ad to willitsweekly@gmail.com. All classified ads go online and in print for one low price!

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

Gift Certificates available for Willits Weekly!

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Big Jupiter

Jupiter is a perfect example of the canine species in looks and personality. He is a 2-year-old Shepherd Akita mix, weighing in at a whopping 91 pounds. Jupiter can be a little wary in unfamiliar environments, but once he gets comfortable, his truly loving personality starts showing. German Shepherds are one of the most intelligent breeds, so his new family will have a great time teaching him all kinds of tricks and commands, and Jupiter will have a great time learning new things as well. He will need room to stretch his legs: regular exercise makes a happy dog. Anyone who loves the larger breeds and is looking for a great companion should come meet Jupiter today.

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 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

OBITUARY | Robert Bragdon

Robert Bragdon

Robert Gary Bragdon, known as Bob to his friends, passed away on November 18, 2014, of cancer at the age of 64. He claimed he finally found something he could grow: well, too bad it had to be cancer. He was born September 28, 1950 in beautiful downtown Burbank, California. He was raised by his parents, Dick and Ruth Bragdon, on their 1,600-acre alfalfa ranch in the Mojave Desert. The Bragdons sold the ranch when Bob was 12 and moved to Laytonville, California, where his father taught high school. Bob went to Utah State University on a football scholarship, and later transferred to an engineering college in the Bay Area to get a BA in Architectural Engineering. He worked most of his life as a general contractor in the Bay Area and Mendocino County.

As a master carpenter, he took pride in teaching his craft to his employees and friends. Bob also worked for the Housing Authority of Mendocino County, and managed both large and small manufacturing firms. He was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and served as bishop of the Willits Ward for many years.

His love of kids was evident when he coached youth soccer, and he was a popular motivational youth speaker from Santa Rosa to Eureka.

He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Madeline Bragdon of Willits, his son Richard Bragdon of Honolulu, and his daughter Shantel Bragdon (husband Pule), also of Honolulu. Bob's sister Suzy and her husband Tom Kelley live in Brooktrails. We would be remiss if we didn't mention Zippy and Smokey, Bob's crazy but faithful dogs that clung to him like a third and fourth leg. Bob loved life and laughter, and he brought joy and laughter to everyone around him. He loved his family, the LDS Church, and his many friends. He loved travel, photography, and was a world-class snow skier. He enjoyed writing and storytelling.

A funeral service will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Chapel at 265 Margie Drive in Willits on Tuesday, November 25 at 1 pm. A viewing begins at 12 pm. Interment will be at the Little Lake Cemetery on East Hill Road in Willits.

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

OBITUARY | Marvin Brannon

Marvin Brannon

Marvin Lester Brannon of Willits passed away on November 16, 2014 at the age of 77. Born in Exeter, California and a former resident of Ukiah, he had been a member of our community for 67 years. He is survived by his loving wife, Patricia 'Pat' Brannon, five beloved children, nine grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Marvin's greatest joys were sharing with Pat the raising of his children and two of his grandchildren, and loving time spent with all of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He thoroughly enjoyed the ocean, lakes, and water sports including, but not limited to: fishing, boating and camping.

Marvin was an active lifetime member of the Ukiah Gun Club, and enjoyed his membership in the NRA. He was respectful and appreciative of the right to bear arms with the recognition for the responsibility that also entailed. He was a past president of the Ukiah Jaycees; served three terms with the Mendocino County Grand Jury; was active in the Republican Party; and was a past board member, treasurer and business manager for his Willits Assembly of God Church, which he diligently and faithfully served with love.

A Celebration of Life at the Agape Bible Church will be held on December 6, 2014 at 11 am, with a luncheon to follow the services in the all-purpose building of Agape.

Those wishing to make a contribution in his name are encouraged to think of St. Jude's Children's Hospital, which has had a positive direct impact on the family.

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

DEATH NOTICE | Scott Bulkley

Scott Bulkley

Scott Wohlsen Bulkley, born on June 20, 1953, died on November 3, 2014.

A Celebration of Scott's Life will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2014, from 1 to 5 pm, upstairs at the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street. Bring your Scott stories! Wheelchair-accessible (elevator in rear). No alcohol permitted. Catered by Sarah Schleider. Potluck dishes welcomed.

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G A P E S A L A D

A M U L E T A C A C I A

P A R I S H I L T O N M E

S A N N A T S E D E R

S C I P I N E D D I R E

R E P B B C D A T F C C

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T I R A N A A R I N N

A T V A C C I N A T I O N

E L A P S E I P H O N E

B L A T S A Y E S

Julie Cooley, fire prevention specialist, CalFire Mendocino Unit

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# RED TAG SALE!

**November 28, 29 & 30**

**Black Friday Hours: 8 am - 7 pm**

Get up to **50% off** selected items

**ONLINE:** [www.ErEnergy.com](http://www.ErEnergy.com)  
 Pear Tree Shopping Center | **UKIAH** | 707-462-9676  
 Safeway Shopping Center | **WILLITS** | 707-459-9700

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Computer Repair, Supplies, Accessories, Upgrades, System Cleanup, Virus Detection, System Repairs.

**\$35 Special**  
Computer System Virus Detection and Clean-Up (Expires December 25, 2013)

UPS, FedEx, Verizon logos.

**OPEN 11/28 - 11/30 at 9AM**  
 20 Hwy 20 - Willits Mon.-Fri. 10am-6 pm Sat. - Sun. 10am - 5pm Phone: 707-459-6938

Unique and beautiful gems, crystals, fossils, beads, jewelry and more!



## 3rd Annual Black Friday Evening Sale

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. til 9 p.m.  
**First 10 people receive a \$30 gift certificate!**

**30% OFF Storewide**  
**50% OFF Clearance Table**

600 South Main Street, Willits (707) 472-7412

# CHRISTMAS TRAIN



This 90-minute round-trip train ride includes:  
 ✧ A visit from Santa and elves  
 ✧ Music  
 ✧ Cocoa and Cookies  
 All guests encouraged to wear pajamas!

## SKUNK TRAIN

**Willits Depot** Daily, December 6 through 23  
**Fort Bragg Depot** December 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

**707 964-6371 • WWW.SKUNKTRAIN.COM**  
 CHILDREN (2-12): \$25 • ADULT: \$35

COLUMN | SpecialIZING in Creativity

## Turkey cupcakes

Nicole Basler  
 Columnist

#### What you will need:

Cupcakes, homemade or box mix  
 Chocolate frosting  
 Candy Corn  
 Red Licorice  
 Mini Orange M&Ms  
 White Frosting Nutter Butter Cookies

Pre-made Goggly Eyes, or you can make your own with white frosting and mini chocolate chips.

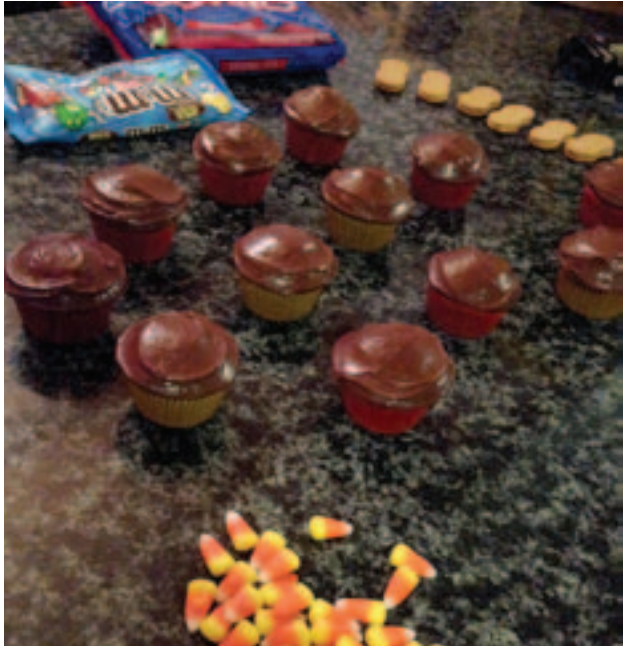
#### Instructions:

After you have your desired amount of cupcakes, you need to frost them with chocolate frosting and then place six pieces of Candy Corn around the back of each cupcake. Next you need to cut your Nutter Butters down: I cut the end tips off; that way I had room to push the neck down in the cupcake to make it a little more sturdy.

You need to put some white frosting in a piping bag (a Ziplock bag with the tip cut works as well), put a dab of frosting behind your eyeballs, and place them on the Nutter Butters. Then, for the nose, attach M&Ms sideways below the eyes with frosting. You need to cut the Red Licorice into thin little pieces for the red "snood" that turkeys have; you can cut them however you would like. Frost and place next to the M&M nose.

Let the frosting harden before placing decorated cookies onto the cupcakes in front of the Candy Corn pieces. You will then have the cutest little turkey cupcakes! :)

Original craft inspiration posted on Pinterest; photos by Nicole Basler.





## 4 Hour Holiday Sale

6 am-10 am on Friday, November 28

**25% OFF** Storewide  
 Toys, Games, Arts, Craft Supplies & Stocking Stuffers  
**Sales on Selected items will Run All Day**

REGULAR HOURS:  
 Monday-Saturday: 10 am-6 pm & Sunday 11 am-5 pm • Open Fridays until 8 pm

**56 South Main Street • Willits • 707-459-1363**

#### The rest of Farming

From Page 7

She immediately contacted the Fuel Group, which for three years has met monthly at the Fort Bragg Grange, exploring local options for fuel sources, production collaborations, and machine modifications. Along with Golden Rule Ranch's manager Cody Bartholomew, Grange Farm School interns, and community members, they began work to get the still in a condition to begin running again, but this time on lees (vineyard waste), or other agricultural wastes.

The next step, they hope, is to begin the permitting process to become a small alcohol fuel plant, and use the historic still to process ethanol to run equipment at the Grange Farm School, like tractors and machines with two-stroke engines.

"It would be so exciting to get it running and licensed as a demonstration for community-supported energy," said the Fuel Group's Baron. "We want to show people how it could work – and it just might work! If we did it this way once, maybe we can do it again."

"It's a perfect fit, because our job is to teach the next generation some of the different methods and techniques for sustainable farming, and here's a method of alternative energy that has already been used at the farm," enthused King. "Plus, what remains after the fermentation and distillation is perfect compost for the crops!"

King plans to grow test crops of corn and Jerusalem artichokes as possible fuel feed stocks at the Farm School next year, but the group is also hoping to build partnerships with local vineyards and other farms to recycle waste products for fuel use, particularly lees from grape wastes.

"We want to explore the possibilities and experiment to find a way to sustain ourselves with a carbon-neutral fuel for local farmers, retailers, and consumers," says Baron. "We're just people in our backyards seeing what we can do."

Each day of the Farm Hack will begin at 7:30 am at the Little Lake Grange, with breakfast and an introduction by Baron and King. Saturday morning will focus primarily on local speakers and more general topic overviews, including a Fuel Group science presentation and a business plan presentation from Bartholomew for a local fuel farm.

Sunday morning's speakers will include panel discussions facilitated by Charlie Acker of KZYX's "Environmental Hour," with: "Ethanol for Enterprises," including Teisha Mechetti of Humboldt's MoonLightning Fuels, and "Ethanol for Sustainable Communities," including Redwood Coast Energy Authority's Jerome Carman, discussing using indigenous, native plants for fuel farming. Also on the panel: an Environmental Health Senior Hazmat Specialist on potential safety considerations and permitting procedures.

In the afternoons, the event will move at 1 pm to Ridgewood Ranch, where lunch will be served and guests encouraged to explore the still shed and ranch metal shop, where "business" and "community" networking and discussion areas will be set up. Tours will be given, and "Show and Tell" tables displayed with different examples of modified (and operating on ethanol) farm equipment contributed by Fuel Group members. Bartholomew will give ethanol-powered tractor hayride tours, and "Mike the Mechanic" will demonstrate his modified carburetor.

The event is also sponsored by Farm Hack, a national small farmers group which networks "to develop, document, and build tools for resilient agriculture and communities." The Greenhorns, an organization which creates media to "recruit, promote, and support the new generation young farmers interested in sustainable agriculture," will be recording the Farm Hack event "for the benefit of farmers everywhere."

Those interested in attending the event should contact Debbie Baron at 961-0717 or [mendocinodeb@gmail.com](mailto:mendocinodeb@gmail.com) to RSVP. Updated info can be found on the "Mendocino FarmHack: Fuel Farming for the 21st Century" event page on Facebook.

#### The rest of Salmon

From Page 1

Madrigal was able to record video of fish she spotted in Willits Creek near the Willits High School campus.

The Eel River Recovery Project works to count and track salmon on their journey from the sea to their spawning location.

The group estimated Chinook numbers in the Eel River to be 14,900 to 25,000. Those figures are down from about 20,000 to 50,000 the year before.

Eel River Recovery Project asks that if you see fish give them a call. The project has video of fish this year, including hundreds of holding salmon taken November 9 at Dos Rios.

The Recovery Project's Pat Higgins himself counted about 250 Chinook at the mouth of Outlet Creek and about 500 at Dos Rios on November 9.

#### The rest of Regulations

From Page 1

of the industry in a changing regulatory environment.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control board has moved forward in drafting a potential pilot "cannabis cultivation regulatory program," which will seek to offer a tiered permit program for cannabis cultivation on private land to regulate marijuana grow discharges into water sources in watersheds from Sonoma County north and east to Siskiyou County. The program is being developed using state funding and in conjunction with a statewide taskforce.

At the Small Farmers Association's "Five Speakers to Answer Your Question" Annual Meeting Roundtable Extravaganza on December 4 at Little Lake Grange, water board Executive Officer Matthias St. John will speak to the public about the pilot program, along with other issues relevant to small marijuana farmers. The event will also feature experts on sustainable farming, new medical research, federal rescheduling hearings, and upcoming statewide legislation.

"My goal with this program is to get folks who want to come in the front door and work with regulatory agencies, to get their operations above-board from the standpoint of environmental quality, to able to work in coordination with regulators," St. John told Willits Weekly. "One commitment we're making is that anyone willing to participate and come forward, we're willing to work with them to come into compliance.

"It's really an opportunity for North Coast producers to do their operations in an environmentally sound way according to best management practices. And it's good business."

One concern often facing cannabis producers is that "coming out in the open" to ensure compliance with local or regional marijuana regulations may put them at risk for punitive state or federal level actions due to legal contradictions. As part of the pilot program's development, state water board authorities and the California EPA have reached out to federal attorneys and are planning a meeting.

"Since we're not regulating the activity itself, just the impacts of water discharge and waste on water quality," says St. John, the board expects the program to work within federal law and stand up to future regulatory changes.

The program will be similar to one being developed for the northern Central Valley's district five, and the hope is that it will ultimately serve as a framework for a similar statewide program.

Several medical cannabis farmers and board members of the Small Farmers Association – which includes former participants in Mendocino County's 9.31 marijuana zip-tie ordinance – said fear of federal action after the program's end had previously caused them to stop seeking more public regulatory compliance. However, they added that increased legalization in other states, and changing attitudes among regional regulators, made them feel the time is right to reinstate local and regional regulations (such as the 9.31 program) to establish successful programs as future models.

"We want to carve out a safe space for

A seven-day forecast from the National Weather Service predicts the Willits area and the region should see some more rain near the end of this week.

"This is the one that should trigger the next run," Higgins said. "The next wave of fish should load up."

In other places, 162 Chinook were counted from November 20 to November 23 at Van Arsdale Dam near Potter Valley.

The Ukiah office of the United States Geological Survey maintains an in-stream flow meter in the middle fork of the Eel River at Dos Rios.

The latest data from the USGS gauge says the river is flowing at a rate of about 621 cubic feet per second.

A look into some creeks in the Willits area

small farmers as we ride the wave ahead," said Small Farmers Association inspector Julia Carrera of the SFA's work with the water board and their hopes of reinstating the zip-tie ordinance. "We want to create a model on that record that may not be perfect but, if it's successful, then we can build on it and expand, and shift revenue away from raids and towards better goals."

St. John explained that pilot program regulations will consist of three tiers of water quality discharge permits, with specific characteristics and thresholds for discharge quality that will determine which category farmers can apply for.

The difference between tiers will be established by factors including: site characteristics such as slope, proximity to water sources, and acreage in use; development characteristics such as grading, drainage, and soil disturbance; operational factors such as soil amendments, number of plants, water use and waste management; and whether existing environmental hazards or violations are already at the site.

Specific conditions "that are pretty cut and dry" will apply to all sites, but only those deemed low- to no-impact will qualify for tier one, which requires inspections, but no annual fee.

Properties determined to already be in violation of standards for water quality discharge, or with issues concerning pre-existing water storage or sourcing from unpermitted waterways, will be considered tier three, and be required to undergo cleanup and abatement regardless of ongoing cultivation activity.

Tier two will require landowners to enroll and develop a water-quality management plan (and storm water permitting for new sites) with water board oversight, and pay annual fees.

Currently, the board has distributed draft regulations to regional stakeholders, including county governments, law enforcement agencies, and cannabis farming and industry groups.

"It's been great to work with the water board, and St. John has been instrumental in hearing our concerns," says Carrera. St. John explained stakeholder input would help determine thresholds for site characteristics that would help establish a baseline between tiers one and two to ensure the regulations made sense on the ground.

The Small Farmers Association, which is currently providing recommendations to the water board, uses a tiered, closed-loop system of medical cannabis cultivation and inspections based on an expansion of requirements from the 9.31 ordinance. Focused on developing environmentally sustainable best management practices for medical marijuana growers, SFA has developed a drought policy and inspection frameworks for processing and packaging to help guide farmers to the least harmful environmental methods.

The water board hopes to release draft regulations to the public in late winter/early spring, after which a board meeting and public comment period will be held.

St. John says the board would like to have the program approved by mid-2015 in order to

shows a healthy trickle, but no significant volumes of water yet.

"The creeks have not responded big time yet," says Scriven. He said a long break between storms could cause problems.

Scriven reminds people not to take fish out of creeks and to let them spawn.

Chinook salmon are listed under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species. Coho salmon are listed by the ESA and the California Endangered Species Act as threatened.

If you see fish, call Higgins and let him know at 223-7200. On the web, the project can be seen at [www.eelriverrecovery.org](http://www.eelriverrecovery.org). The conservation district is at [www.mrcd.org](http://www.mrcd.org). Both organizations are on Facebook.

secure funding for program implementation.

"Generally the stakeholder response has been very positive, and there is relief that someone is willing to take this issue seriously," he told Willits Weekly.

Aside from St. John's attendance at the Small Farmers Association event, meetings between water board members and Mendocino County officials and groups are planned in the next several weeks. The program's funding, which runs through the end of fiscal year in June 2015, includes a significant outreach and education program, along with the regulatory and enforcement aspects, which is designed to help enrollees learn about the program and reach compliance before enforcement efforts are expanded.

"For those really trying to do the right thing, we want to give them time," said St. John, explaining the agency follows a "progressive enforcement program" to work with landowners.

Some of the program's water quality criteria is drawn from current water board regulations, which regulate discharge from whatever activity is occurring.

"To some degree it doesn't matter if it's marijuana or a tomato if there is a threat to water quality," said St. John. "Some of it is pretty comparable to how we're proceeding now, just under the umbrella of a regulatory program."

St. John says most violations occur due to erosion issues from site development.

However, the pilot program will streamline the cleanup and abatement process, and encourage cultivators to get ahead of new regulations.

The program will also have four additional staff members. Two have been hired and two more have offers, says St. John, and have begun work on program development.

The Small Farmers roundtable will also feature experts covering timely marijuana topics, with a table for interested members to discuss sustainable farming techniques and the inspection process.

Representatives from the Police Chiefs Association will take public input and answer questions about an upcoming 2015 state cultivation bill for medical growers, which SFA is involved with.

Louis Bickford, state representative for Native American Vets, will discuss medical marijuana and PTSD treatment. Lanette Davies, Sacramento dispensary owner and ACLU board member, will answer questions on federal rescheduling of marijuana hearings.

The Small Farmers Annual Roundtable Extravaganza will be held at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Tuesday, December 2, at 6 pm. Public admission: \$10.

Additional information on the Small Farmers Association event and organization can be found on the group's Facebook page, [www.smallfarmers.us](http://www.smallfarmers.us), and at 489-0996. Recordings of the water board meetings discussing the pilot program's development can be found on the agency's webpage: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast).

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