

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

'Adopt A Family' for Christmas

To the Editor:

My name is Kim Venturi, and I represent the Willits Wild Bunch. For several years we have put on the Willits Toy Run. We all enjoy giving back to our community and receive tremendous support from all the local businesses and clubs, to name a few: Rotary, Lions, and the Chamber of Commerce. This year we are adding to our plate. With the blessings of Sandy Turner and her family we are taking over the Willits Kids Christmas Program. Part of this program is the "Adopt a Family," and I'm asking for help from you to help make this another successful year.

Each year for more than a quarter of a century our community has come together to help Willits children by giving essential items (rainwear, winter coats, shoes, sleepwear, blankets, etc) and other appropriate holiday gifts.

Persons who wish to assist a single child can select a card from display trees located in our downtown businesses. These cards represent the age, gender, needs and wishes of one child. Don't hesitate to take a card if you are only able to meet a few of the child's needs. We will make sure that the other items are addressed.

Selection of a single child works for most of the program supporters, but others have voiced an interest in adopting an entire family. If you or your group wishes to adopt a family, you are asked to follow a different path.

I ask that you contact me so that I may assist you in choosing a suitable family. You may contact me at 972-8782. Please leave a message if I am unable to speak to you, and I will return your call promptly.

Our thanks to each of you who have made the Willits Kids Christmas program a success for the last 27 years. Local residents have responded with great compassion. Again this year the program presents an opportunity to demonstrate that you and your neighbors are part of a big-hearted, generous and caring community.

On behalf of the Willits Wild Bunch and Rotary, thank you and happy holidays.

Kim Venturi, Willits

Thanks from No on AF

To the Editor:

The No on Measure AF Committee extends its thanks and gratitude to the voting public for listening to our thoughtful arguments and voting to reject Measure AF. For some, economic considerations drove their decision; for others, it was unwanted neighborhood and environmental impacts.

But for all, the 2-to-1 defeat of Measure AF allows the community the opportunity to contribute suggestions to proposed regulation of the marijuana industry in an open public process, which is well along the way. The main goal of No on Measure AF was to allow public input to an environmentally supportive and enforceable regulation framework. We are hopeful that the result will be criteria that are attainable and affordable for the public while generating the funds necessary to ensure its viability.

Darryl Dyer, Willits

If you want to get your input on the record, the Mendocino County Planning Commission will hold two meetings to hear the public and make a recommendation to the board of supervisors. The first informational meeting will be on December 1 at 3 pm in the supervisors chambers [501 Low Gap Rd, Ukiah]. The second action meeting will be December 15 at 10 am in the same location.

The committee had very diverse members working together for good governance, and they will now go their separate ways. We anticipate that some commonalities of thought still remain, and may come forward as comments to the ongoing county ordinance process.

Hal Wagenet, member,
No on Measure AF Committee

Protesting is an American tradition

To the Editor:

I am responding to Carlin Horger's November 17 letter to this newspaper. She called attention to protesters "showing their unhappiness by the election of Mr. Trump, by protesting, burning the American flag, destroying property, private and public." She goes on say that it is inappropriate to protest over the election of someone you don't like.

There have been numerous nationwide protests since the election. In a few instances anarchistic individuals have damaged property. Overall the protests have been peaceful and meaningful. The right to assemble is guaranteed in the First Amendment. The election remains controversial because Trump lost by 2 million votes and because of his extremist rhetoric. Many voters feel cheated and worried. Republicans in Congress have protested Obama for eight years by willfully blocking the president's agenda.

Protesting is a valuable American tradition. Just because you haven't done it or don't agree with the protesters doesn't make protesting unworthy.

Marc Komer, Willits

Let's unify

To the Editor:

Never again believe the polls. We now have a president-elect that the polls predicted could not win. He did win. I lost. Originally I wanted Bernie Sanders. But he conceded to Hillary Clinton. So, due to his support for her, I voted for Hillary.

I did not vote for her, but against him. But he won. I never supported him, but I will support the American people's choice. Let us all support our new president-elect, whether we agree or disagree with him. He will be our president. Let's come together and perhaps we will "be great again." I believe that we have always been great, but let's see how much greater we will be.

I love America. Will I love America more after a Trump administration? I know it's up in the air, but he is now our next president. I, and I hope you, will support him. I don't respect him, but let's unify. Let us get behind him as our leader.

'Twas two Fridays before Christmas

'Twas two Fridays before Christmas, at Ardella's Diner. An event was just starting, no contest anywhere finer.

The walls were hung with festivity and flair, In hopes the whole community soon would be there.

The tables were set, the cookies were spread, The plans of a wonderful party dancing in our heads.

Jennifer in her scarf, and Maureen in her sweater, Couldn't think of a way for the party to be better.

When out on Main Street, there arose such a clatter, We sprang from the booths to see what was the matter.

Away to the entrance we flew like a flash, And gasped as we saw the huge crowd gathering for the bash.

The streetlights shined on the plates, trays and tins Of many cookies and sweets, baked with hope to take the win.

Honor and bragging rights would soon be bestowed, For goodies that made everyone cry their best "Ho! Ho! Ho!"

Businesses, individuals and returning champions short and tall, Set up tables displaying their goodies for the tasting of all.

More rapid than eagles, the tasters they came, And they sampled, and shouted, calling out their favorites by name!

"It's delicious, this fudge!" "Those cookies, oh my!" "The candy, divine! And the caramels, you must try!"

To Ardella's Downtown Diner, the people they ran, "We must taste and cast our votes while yet we still can!"

Tallies were made, and the judges would name The best treats made by those who competed and came.

Their photos in the paper the winners would see, With copies, we hope, of the winning recipes.

After the judging, the party will still go on, With cookie swaps (bring your own) until they're all gone,

Carols sung by Nancy New and Devon Jones, And holiday spirit until everyone goes home.

The party will pay thanks to all who have shown such support, For this crazy and amazing endeavor, WW, for short.

Join Willits Weekly to toast to next year's editions Filled with news and community, innovation and tradition.

From 5 to 7 pm on Friday, December 16 we will be, At Ardella's Diner with T-shirts and back issues to see.

We encourage all to come with this cordial invite, As we say Happy Holidays to all, and to all a great night!

— Maureen Moore

IF YOU'D LIKE TO ENTER THE COOKIE CONTEST:

Event is from 5 to 7 pm at Ardella's Downtown Diner. Enter as a business, or as an individual!

All bakers should be there for setup by 4:30 pm. We are suggesting a quantity of 5 to 6 dozen bite-sized pieces. Does not have to be cookies; sweets of all kinds are accepted.

Official judges' tasting will be done blind at the beginning of the event. Please have three excellent specimens of your entry or entries set aside for delivery to the official judges.

People's votes will be counted at the end of the night. Varieties will be showcased on the booths or bar, or both, depending on number of total entries, so there will be only small areas of display space per entry. Feel free to bring decor if desired. We will provide numbers to go alongside your entries and will have index cards also available to describe your entry, or feel free to create your own signage to place near entries.

Winners will be announced at the end of the night. Any questions, please email maureengetmail@gmail.com or call 972-7047.

You can also download the baker's entry form online here: www.willitsweekly.com/WW-Cookie-Entry.docx or check out our event page on Facebook.

We hope to see you there!



Holiday Craft Fair

Annual arts festivities expand from Community Center to Willits Arts Center, too

More crafts! The 2016 Holiday Craft Fair has expanded to make room for over 40 artists who will display their wares not only at the Willits Community Center, but also at the Willits Center for the Arts, just across Humboldt Street from the Community Center, in the upstairs gallery!

Sponsored by the Willits Center for the Arts, the new format of this long-time Willits tradition will include special events to entice customers to this additional location. New street signs will direct customers upstairs, and please note that the art center is handicapped accessible. A special door-prize raffle and a "Small Works" show opening downstairs, with refreshments, will create additional fun and excitement. And don't forget

Jenny Senter
Features Writer

that all of these events will be raising funds for the Willits Center for the Arts.

Mischell Maldonado-Pearce and her husband, C. Fritz Pearce, of Fritz & Mischell's Jewelry, will be on hand to showcase their beautiful jewelry.

Pearce and Maldonado-Pearce have been making and selling jewelry since 2004. They both have been working in the jewelry industry since 1996. Pearce has a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design and then continued his studies in Pforzheim, Germany.

Maldonado-Pearce studied in the metals program at Geological Institute of America in California. After their schooling, they both worked for various well-known jewelry designers. In June 2016, they opened their own "little jewelry store in the friendly little town of Kelseyville. Our jewelry is simple and elegant as well as fun and light. We only use ethically recycled metals." Check out their jewelry in the upstairs gallery of the Willits Center for the Arts.

Jody Ciesielczyk, of Heart of Shasta, in Mt. Shasta, saw the Willits Center of the Arts craft fair online, and will add this event to her ever-expanding circuit of fairs.

She will be on hand with her organic, raw chocolates: Not only are her chocolates organic and raw, they are

gluten-, soy-, and dairy-free, and are lovingly crafted with no refined sugar or preservatives.

When asked, "Why raw chocolate?" Ciesielczyk explained: "Raw chocolate is unprocessed and not heated above 118 F during the processing of the beans. Nutritionally speaking, most foods are more nutrient-dense and easier to digest in their raw state, which is why I use raw honey to sweeten my chocolates. I also use local products when available."

Ciesielczyk became interested in creating raw chocolates after becoming a raw foodist. While helping prepare food at raw food retreats, she became fascinated with working with cacao. This started a passion, and she said: "In creating my chocolates, I demand the purest form of cacao possible, and that is what I want to give to the customer. I create only the best raw chocolates, with the best organic ingredients!" She has been perfecting her creations for seven years now.

Longtime Willits artist and instructor Ann Maglente will be showing her "Art to Wear" hand-dyed silk and rayon scarves, as well as prints of her original watercolors and cards. Fabric art is a favored medium of Maglente's. She says: "I love working with silk, because it reacts a lot like watercolor when you touch the dye to the fabric. It flows and creates beautiful colors as it swirls and mixes on the cloth. I use three main dyes: French silk dyes, Procion dyes, and acid dyes. Each one adds something different to the scarf. I have also been experimenting with eco-dyeing, using natural materials and natural dyes to create color and images on the fabric.... Seeing a scarf after the dye

Read the rest of [Craft Fair](#) | [Over on Page 13](#)



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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.

Editor's Note: As stated in Willits Weekly's letters policy, printed on the Letters page every week, "Letters focusing on Willits and 3rd District issues, activities, events and people have priority." And we usually have plenty of letters on local issues to publish. Due to the national election, we have a couple more letters this week focusing on national issues – and fewer local letters than usual – so we are publishing the non-local letters. In general, however, Willits Weekly's "local issues first" policy will remain in effect.

Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

EST. 2013

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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku



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

Level: Beginner

How To Sudoku:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18						19				
20			21					22						
23						24	25						26	27
		28				29				30				
31	32					33	34	35	36					37
38				39	40							41		
42				43						44	45			
46		47	48				49			50				
51				52	53	54				55			56	57
		58						59						
60	61						62	63					64	
65							66						67	
68							69						70	

NOSTALGIC TOYS WORD SEARCH

O B W S K C E A J S T E S R U O T T C E R E F
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B E R I A Y A Y W F N J S J F L O P I S S A V E N U W L A M R E A B
H C T A B A H I A C S K Y N P O N K I T H M B S H L T I O P E S I N G E
T A M I T S L U L P I R D F S K O E I K Y A R E L S O S L D R A T
M N S R T V A L E O N A H D Y K S O I A V L E M I N T L E N T O C H
S R E J C O K A P O M G O N C I X R H S N T W L E C I D S
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- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| ATARI | HE-MAN | RUBIKS CUBE |
| BARBIE | HOT WHEELS | SHRINKY DINKS |
| BEANIE BABIES | HULA HOOP | SILLY PUTTY |
| BIG WHEELS | JACKS | SIMON SAYS |
| CABBAGE PATCH KIDS | KOOSH | SIT N SPIN |
| COLORFORMS | LINCOLN LOGS | SPEAK AND SPELL |
| EASY BAKE OVEN | LIONEL TRAINS | TEDDY RUXPIN |
| ERECTOR SETS | LITE-BRITE | TINKER TOYS |
| FASHION PLATES | MASTERMIND | TROLL DOLLS |
| FURBY | MATCHBOX | VIEW-MASTER |
| GI JOE | NOK HOCKEY | WEEBLES |

CLUES ACROSS

- No (Scottish)
- Heroic tales
- A way to tend
- Not or
- Where rockers play
- Dutch name for Ypres
- Ingested
- A resident of California
- Unfounded rumor
- Oats
- Type of women's coat
- Life forms
- Every
- Alternating current
- Withered
- 'Gymnopedies' composer
- Plate glasses
- Musical artist _ DeBarge
- Before
- Arrange in steps of size
- Electron cloud model
- Morning
- Leonard __, famed
- Swiss mathematician
- Capital city of Buenos Aires province
- Snouts
- Of I
- Court game
- Swiss river

CLUES DOWN

- Civil Rights group
- Early Slavic society
- Mammals that lack incisors and canines
- Blasphemy
- Israeli city
- Put this in your hair
- Black tropical
- American cuckoo
- Month in the Islamic calendar
- Cool!
- 'Take on Me' singers
- ESPN sportscaster Bob
- Accommodating place
- New Zealand parrot
- Suffix
- Egg cells
- Another name for Thor
- About pontiff
- The academic world
- Raise
- Civil rights city in Alabama
- Encompasses
- Helmet
- Nostrils
- Lovable Spielberg alien
- Divides
- Ruthenium
- Preceding all others in time
- Past participle of lie
- Fastener
- Overindulged
- Ancient lyric poem
- Ardent supporter
- Iranian village and Islamic pilgrim attire
- A fragrant resin obtained from tropical trees
- Semitic fertility god
- Millisecond
- Cool!
- 'Take on Me' singers
- ESPN sportscaster Bob
- Accommodating place



Above, from left: Laura Hoover helps collect presents at the event's entrance. A crowd of patrons waits in line to drop off presents and enter the 2016 Toy Run. Rich Venturi holds up a child's bike which was brought to the Toy Run.

At left: Venturi leads the pack of bikers down School Street on the final leg of their journey from the Evergreen Shopping Center to the Little Lake Grange.

Below, from left: David Hattan and Debbie Clark, Bear and Sharon Kamoroff, and Robert Walker arrive at the 2016 Toy Run.



Toy Run 2016

It was the "best year ever" at the 2016 Toy Run said Richard Venturi of the Willits Wild Bunch, with over \$4,000 raised for the Willits Kids Christmas Program.

The Wild Bunch is taking the reins of Christmas program this year, along with continued sponsorship by the Willits Rotary Club.

The toys - admission to the Toy Run party at the Grange was one unwrapped toy - and funds raised from the event will go to help cover the requests and needs submitted from children, as outlined on the tags hung on the Christmas Program trees that are now up at businesses throughout the community.

Venturi noted the haul of donated toys filled a van and a pick-up truck.

"We had a great selection of really nice quality toys that were appropriate for a wide range of ages," noted Venturi. "We received a lot of sports equipment, too."

Around 100 bikers gathered at the Evergreen Shopping Center and left for the Little Lake Grange at noon.

The group was escorted most of the way on the route by Little Lake Fire Department trucks and engines, however, just shy of arriving at the event, a three-wheeler vehicle fire caused a detour for the firefighters.

Many non-bikers also attended the event. Venturi said a total of about 325 people

At right: Toy Run helpers pose at the raffie table, including, from left: Shellie Revling, Margaret McGill, Kat Harris, Katherine Houghtby, Amy Spackman Harold, and Mylinda Knight.



Some of the kitchen crew who helped cook and serve the meal at the 2016 Toy Run, including, from left: Jeanne King, Ann Alumbaugh, Joleen Carrillo, Jerry Turner, Laura Defendall, Sandy Turner, Andrea Alvarez, Santa Calderon and Mike Giles, in back.



Below, from left: Happy attendees await entry into the main hall at the Little Lake Grange. Gloria Westby holds up two strings of raffie tickets. Willits Lions Club members pose at the bar with Willits Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Epstein, including from left, Glen Helton, Kevin Tahir and Dean Bauman.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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Wishing Willits a safe and happy holiday season.
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Attorney at Law
707-459-5916

WPD Activity Report

November 19 to November 25
Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 133 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

- November 19**
4 pm: RODRIGUEZ, Rebecca (19) of Willits was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation for an active Mendocino County warrant.
- 4:30 pm: Officers responded to a hit-and-run collision in the 10 block of West Valley Street.

- November 20**
10:40 am: Officers initiated a stolen vehicle report in the 100 block of Margie Drive.
1 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.
7:40 pm: BOLTON, John (40) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication).

- November 21**
1:10 am: A male juvenile was arrested in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue pursuant to 242 PC (Battery).
2 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Holly Street.
3 pm: Officers responded to a traffic collision in the 10 block of West Commercial Street.

- November 22**
12:50 pm: Officers responded to a traffic collision in the 1600 block of South Main Street.
1:50 pm: Officers responded to a hit-and-run collision in the 10 block of South Main Street.
7:30 pm: Officers responded to a traffic collision in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

- November 23**
12:05 am: A 17-year-old male juvenile was arrested pursuant to a Mendocino County warrant and for 23152(a) VC in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
5 pm: NOBLE, Larissa (25) of Willits was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to 11550(a) HS (Drug Use).

- November 24**
10 pm: WILLETT, Donald (33) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Kawi Place and arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

- November 25**
9 am: FUENTES, David (19) of Willits was arrested pursuant to 243(e)(1) PC (Domestic Battery) in the 800 block of Coast Street.

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Mon-Thurs: 4:20 & 7:00pm

FANTASTIC BEASTS & WHERE TO FIND THEM (PG13) 2 hrs 13 mins
Fri: 5:25 & 8:15pm
Sat/Sun: 11:45am, 2:35, 5:25 & 8:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:25 & 7:15pm

ARRIVAL (PG13) 1 hr 56 mins
Fri: 6:00 & 8:30pm
Sat-Sun: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30pm

Movie Times for 12/2 thru 12/8 This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

Christmas Store
Date: Dec. 1-Dec. 10, 2016
Mon.-Sat: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Closed on Sunday
Lots of Christmas items for a very low price!
Christmas Craft Faire Dec. 3, 2016
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Shop for beautifully handcrafted items made by local vendors.
See's CANDIES
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Above, from left: Brett and Melissa Sweda-Stevens of Re-Evolution. Cassandra Cannon and Katlin Porritt at The Goods Shoppe. The "Shop Small" sign outside of Mazahar. Below, left: Isabelle Burton, left, gets her face painted by Tiffany Dunlap. Claire Whitaker's face decoration is in beautiful shades of blue.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Local Money

Merchants say Small Business Saturday brought residents out to shop

This past Saturday, November 26, marked the seventh annual Small Business Saturday, a day first observed in 2010 as a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday, to encourage holiday shoppers to patronize businesses that are small and local.

A large number of Willits area residents responded by patronizing their favorite downtown shops, taking advantage of a variety of sales, and, in doing so, keeping their money local.

"When you shop locally, money stays in the community, businesses survive, especially now in these times," said Sara Mann, owner of Mazahar and The Goods Shoppe. Damian Sebouhian, Reporter, damian@willitsweekly.com

"I noticed a big increase in local shopping," Mann said. "I think people care more because they realize how important it is."

Linda Matz, owner of Cat's Meow - currently in its 30th year of doing business in Willits - concurred with Mann's observations.

"I have noticed there aren't as many out-of-towners coming through, but it appears the locals have really been energized to come into town, to shop and to support the local businesses, because we support everybody in this community," Matz said.

"If we do well, we donate to all the local charities, we support the community; we're their neighbors," Matz explained. "It stays local. It swirls around. I make money, and I go shop locally. It's not a trickle down; it's the circle of the community."

Marcia Tichenor, a Willits resident for over 32 years, was purchasing some sale items at Moon Lady when she expressed how she does as much of her shopping as she can at the local level.

"We know all our proprietors," she said of the local business owners. "We want to support our local community, and it's a wonderful place: I want to support all my friends and neighbors."



Above, from top: Vanessa Gonzalez and Morgan Riley. A "Shop Small" bag at Cat's Meow. Seasonal charm at Cat's Meow. Below: "Shop Small" was Saturday's theme in downtown Willits. At right: Maegan Brassfield at The Book Juggler. Far right: Heather Thompson at J.D. Redhouse.



Moon Lady, a women's clothing boutique, has been operating since May of 1992, said owner Marie Blancas.

"There's been no change in business," Blancas said, regarding the bypass effects. "This is a destination store. We get people from Humboldt, Lake and Mendocino counties" who come to Willits to shop at Moon Lady.

Heather Thompson, one of the many friendly employees at J.D. Redhouse, said that after the bypass opened, business had slowed down at first.

"Then it got busy around Black Friday," Thompson said. "Everyone's trying to shop locally. We've had a really good turn-out."

Melissa Sweda-Stevens, owner of Re-Evolution, which opened in October of 2015, said much of her business comes through word of mouth.

Sweda-Stevens said that once people see that the products provided by the store are fair trade, organic and are "supporting people instead of corporations," those customers go out and spread the news.

Despite support from the locals, Willits merchants communicated the importance of attracting drivers to pull off from Highway 101 and explore our small town, and all it has to offer.

In that light Mann, along with her husband Tom Mann, owner of Brickhouse Coffee, are creating a campaign called "To Bypass or Not to Bypass Willits - That is the Question!"

According to their advertising campaign, which can be found on the Mazahar Facebook page: "Old downtown Willits is the original friendly Nor-Cal inland village. Downtown Willits is walkable with easy parking, has original small family run mom & pop shops; it is personable and caring. Fashion ... Coffee Shops ... Eateries ... A 25-year-old landmark toy store and MORE!"

Small Business Saturday was launched by American Express. To find out more, visit www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/shop-small.



Bells, trees and presents, oh my!

Lamppost decorations go up in Willits, welcoming the holiday season to town

Guys from the City of Willits Public Works department were up early on the Monday after Thanksgiving, driving up and down Main Street with the goal of spreading holiday cheer. Cheer, in the form of the traditional lamppost decorations of bells, snowflakes, trees and presents, which will shine bright on posts from Commercial Street to the Willits Arch.

At top, from left: Darin Bowlds hangs a bell on the post. The crew at work installing the decorations. Logan Gamble carries one of the holiday trees. At far left: Kennan O'Shea drives the bucket truck. At left: Gamble hands Bowlds a tree to hang near the Safeway lot.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Willits Weekly's CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

December 1

Nikos Gyro Shop

Reserve with us now for **Holiday Catering and Party Platters**

Book a party in December and receive 10% off your order. Call for details.

707-456-9293 HOURS: M-W 11-4 & TH-F 11-7 42 S. Main Street

December 2

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December 3

Hue
Pals * Zkano
Acorn * K.Bell * Thorlo
Davco * Eco Sox * Stance
Toesox * Bioworld * ModSocks
Mitscoots * Smartwool * Strathcona
Darn Tough * Wheelhouse * Cate & Levi
Happy Socks * Smokey Socks * Classic Alpaca
Wheelhouse * Sockwell/Goodhew * World's Softest
"Happy Holidays"
•All Legs•
Socks & More
Mendocino
44966 Ukiah Street

December 4

SANTA PHOTOS

DIGITAL IMAGES \$5

FRIDAY: 12/9 5 TO 7 PM
SATURDAY: 12/10 12:30 TO 2:30 PM
SUNDAY: 12/11 12:30 TO 2:30 PM

J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY
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December 5

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We work with ALL Insurance Companies!
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30% OFF
Any auto detail gift certificates.

TOWING CAR WASH & COMPLETE DETAIL SERVICE

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yokumsbodyshop.com

December 6

Tropic Tails

Come visit the pet shop girls and their furry, feathered and scaly friends! We love our pets and understand how important yours are to you. Choose from a wide selection of everything your pet needs for a healthy and happy life.

Pets & Food & Supplies
Open Mon-Sat 10:30-6:30
1661-E South Main Street Willits, CA 95490
707-459-4060

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December 7

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NO TAX SALE THIS WEEKEND Dec. 9-11
to jump start our 12 Days of Christmas Savings starting the 13th.

Candles 25% OFF! (DEC. 7th ONLY)

Check the store daily starting the 13th for the 12 Days of Christmas Savings

156 S. Main St. Willits • 707-459-1308
Holiday Hours: M-F 10:30-6:30 • Sat 11-5 & Sun 12-4

Willits Weekly's Cookie Party

5 to 7 pm on Friday, December 16

It's time for Willits Weekly's annual Cookie Party! We invite the community to come to Ardella's Downtown Diner on Friday, December 16 from 5 to 7 pm to taste cookies, swap recipes, listen to Christmas carols sung by Nancy New and Devon Jones, and celebrate the holiday with us! **IF YOU'D LIKE TO ENTER THE COOKIE CONTEST:** Send an email to willitsweekly@gmail.com or call 972-7047. You can also download the baker's entry form here: www.willitsweekly.com/WW-Cookie-Entry.docx. Enter as a business, or as an individual! We hope to see you there!

Thursday, December 1

Harrah Senior Center Thrift Store's "Christmas Store": opens on December 1 and runs through December 10, featuring Christmas items at very low prices: Monday through Saturday, from 9 am to 4 pm. 1501 Baechtel Road; info: 459-6826.

Shanachie Pub: Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford plays folks, Americana and blues every first Thursday of the month; this month, Thursday, December 1. 8 pm. No cover. Pick up a copy of his latest EP, "Where Have You Gone" or visit www.cdbaby.com/Artist/AaronFord. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, December 2

"Cabin Pressure": A Willits Charter School Production, opens Friday, December 2 at 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 South Street. "Cabin Pressure" follows the day-to-day working life of MJN Air, and its crew of four: Carolyn Knapp-Shapley, owner and stewardess; Douglas Richardson, an experienced pilot, fired from his last job for stealing; Captain Martin Crieff, the chief pilot who loves flying planes but isn't very good at it; and Arthur Shapley, Carolyn's overexcited and idiotic son who works as a steward. Produced by Matt Browning. Directed by Jessica Cronin. Cast: Douglas: Dylan Foley; Martin: Farrow Lockwood; Carolyn: Destiny Anderson; Arthur: Lilah Crane; Herc: Chloe Breen; Second Martin, Zoe Jordan. December 2-4, 9-11 and 16-17; Fridays and Saturdays 7 pm, Sundays, 2 pm. Tickets, \$10 adult, \$5 student, are available at WCS, 1431 South Main Street, 459-5506.

"A Christmas Carol":

Opening night for Willits Community Theatre's holiday tale about the greedy, curmudgeonly miser Ebenezer Scrooge, who ends up realizing the worth of his fellow human beings and gaining the true joy of living. Runs through Sunday, December 18. Directed by Dawn Jacobs, with an all-star cast featuring Rod Crainger, Dave Watts, Randa Craighead, Christopher Martin, Mike A'Dair, Sylvia Wartell, Robert Ford, Soren Pinelli, Kathy De Bane, Amarah Potter, and Spencer Copperfield. Plus, at the end of each show, the cast conducts an interactive sing-along with the audience, with Robert Ford and Greg Schindel on guitars, in renditions of old English carols, including among others, "Silent Night," "Deck the Halls" and "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing." Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Friday and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15, and some Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$10. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).



Poster for "A Christmas Carol" featuring the cast and production details.

Shanachie Pub: "The Cult of Ours": a new local group. "Witness Kyle Madrigal's guitar-tonic gyrations, Jesse Thunderslick Bessonni on drums with Tom G on the bass, Page Fender on the trumpet, and Donny Lama blowing harp. We bring the boogie, you bring the sweat." Friday, December 2, at 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Photo of a person in a hat, likely related to the Shanachie Pub event.

What's Happening Around Town

Saturday, December 3

Sober Grad Candy and Cookie Sales: Two homemade candy and cookie sales today to benefit the Sober Grad's graduation night party for area seniors. Saturday, December 3 at the Senior Center Holiday Crafts Fair, 1501 Baechtel Road, from 9 am to 4 pm. Also on Saturday, December 3 at the WHS Jr. Boosters Holiday Bazaar at the Willits High School Food Center, 299 North Main Street, from 10 am to 2 pm. Candy/cookie donations welcome! Please drop off your candy and cookies to Nancy Christiansen at Tangles, 59 School Street, by 5:30 pm on December 2 for the December 3 sales, or bring your candy/cookies directly to the sales before they begin. See Saturday, December 10 listing for an additional Sober Grad sale!

Senior Center Holiday Craft Fair: Harrah Senior Center's Annual Holiday Craft Fair is set for Saturday, December 3, from 9 am to 4 pm. "Come join in the fun and see all the lovely handmade items this year's vendors have created. Don't forget the Brown Bag Raffle and lots of baked goods as well!" Plus See's Candies for sale. Also, the Harrah Senior Center Thrift Store's "Christmas Store" opens on December 1 and runs through December 10, featuring Christmas items at very low prices: Monday through Saturday, from 9 am to 4 pm. 1501 Baechtel Road; info: 459-6826

First Baptist Church Christmas Fair: The First Baptist Church Christmas Craft and Vendor Fair is set for Saturday, December 3, from 9 am to 3 pm at the church house located at 145 Wood Street. Features many handcrafted items will be available along with vendor products. Info: 459-2144.

WHS Jr. Boosters Bazaar: Willits High Schools Jr. Boosters Club presents a Holiday Bazaar, Saturday, December 3, from 10 am to 2 pm at the WHS Food Center. \$20 table fee for vendors of crafts, candy or baked goods will be donated to WHS Boosters and all other proceeds go to the individual vendors. "We encourage all to come and sell or buy for your holiday needs!" Info on becoming a vendor: Christy Wisdom, 459-7700 ext. 1554 or Jennifer Barrett, 707-540-4208.

Dual Auditions at Willits Community Theatre: auditions for two plays, Neil Simon's "The Sunshine Boys" and Yasmina Reza's "God of Carnage," on Saturday, December 3 at noon and on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 pm, at the playhouse, 37 West Van Lane, just a block behind Niko's Gyros and Shanachie Pub. Call for "The Sunshine Boys" (directed by Christine

Dill, call her at 462-4015 with questions), is for two older guys who have comic timing and who can remember a lot of lines, plus two women and two men, 20 to 60 years old. Call for "God of Carnage" (directed by David Partch, call him at 459-7054 with questions). People who come to this audition may try out for either play or for both. Scripts of these plays are available at the front desk of the Willits Library.

Roots of Motive Power's Holiday Express: Annual Roots of Motive Power's Christmas party, Saturday, December 3 this year: Visit Santa! Ride the train! Festive refreshments! 1 to 5 pm, at the Roots facility, 420 East Commercial Street. Free train rides on the Roots loop hauled by the steam-powered Bluestone Mining and Smelting Company Heisler #1 locomotive, celebrating its 100th birthday! Santa Claus will be delivered by railroad speeder at 1 pm.

Mendocino County Museum's Holiday Wonderland: annual free event at the museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Holiday crafts and decorated galleries; games and play activities; storytelling and special music. Visit the museum Gift Shop. Saturday, December 3, from 1 to 5 pm. Free for all ages. Info: 459-2736.

Mendo Mill Photos with Santa: "Bring your pets and your family down to visit Santa" at Mendo Mill in Willits on Saturday, December 3 from 11 to 2 pm. "Enjoy hot cocoa, apple cider, cookies and treats for your pets in our Pet Center (20 percent off all items on Saturday)." Personal cameras welcome. 305 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-4631.

2nd annual Community Tree Lighting: Watch the tall Christmas tree from the Mendocino National Forest light up for the holiday season at this new community tradition. With holiday singing and light refreshments for sale by Willits High School senior class, 5 to 7 pm, 400 block of East Commercial Street. Sponsored by the City of Willits, Roots of Motive Power and the Mendocino County Museum. Info: 459-2736.

Candlelight Vigil for Lynn Kennelly: the Willits Chamber of Commerce invites you to honor the late Lynn Kennelly, executive director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, with a candlelight vigil at 6:30 pm (after the Community Tree Lighting ceremony at the museum/Roots) on Saturday, December 3, at the chamber office, 299 East Commercial Street "Lynn Kennelly was a beloved member of the community and a very dear friend to so many. Please join us for this informal gathering to honor Lynn."

"Cabin Pressure": 7 pm, see Friday, December 2 listing for info.

"A Christmas Carol": 8 pm, see Friday, December 2 listing for info.



Portrait of Lynn Kennelly.

Shanachie Pub: "DJ Night with Podge: "all forms of House Music from 1996 to the present concentrating on deep, funky & groovy tunes." Saturday, December 3, at 9 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, December 4

Laytonville Christmas Bazaar: The Laytonville Christmas Bazaar Craft Fair is set for Sunday, December 4 at Harwood Hall in Laytonville from 10 am to 4 pm, featuring a variety of hand-crafted arts by over 50 local artists. Refreshments will be served. There will also be an opportunity for children to have their photos taken with Santa. Info: 984-8089. "The Christmas Bazaar is an annual fundraiser for Harwood Memorial Park and we appreciate the community's support of this long-time event."



Poster for Laytonville Christmas Bazaar.

"Cabin Pressure": 2 pm matinee, see Friday, December 2 listing for info.

Open House at the 'Willits Hub': Open house at the new "Willits Hub" on Sunday, December 4 from 3 to 5 pm, at 630 South Main Street, celebrates the Willits Environmental Center (WEC), Willits Economic Localization (WELL), Save Our Little Lake Valley (SOLLV), and the Eel River Recovery Project under one roof. Food, music by Just Enough (Kate Black, Clancy Rash & Helen Falandes) and Chanterelle (Madge Strong, Diane Smalley & Helen Falandes), and short introductions. Free; all are welcome!

Monday, December 5

Grange School Leadership Meet & Greet: The Grange School of Adaptive Agriculture is holding a Leadership Meet & Greet event on Monday, December 5 from 4 to 6 pm at the Grange Schoolhouse at 16200 North Highway 101, south of Willits. "Looking for a way to engage and activate your community? Seeking a way to impact the future of our food system? Interested in joining a dynamic team working towards a common goal, inspired by passionate young farmers? Meet staff, graduates of the program, and our board to get a better understanding of the complex programming at GSAA. Consider joining an Action Team, working to creatively meet our mission of training the current and next generation of farmers in the science, art, and business of food production." Refreshments provided, tours available. For directions or more information, visit www.School_of_Adaptive_Agriculture.org.



Poster for Grange School Leadership Meet & Greet.

PEO is an organization centered on educating women.

WHS Booster Club Meeting: The monthly Willits High School Booster Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, December 8, at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS!

Tuesday, December 6

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: "Arrival," "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," and "Moana." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Dual Auditions at Willits Community Theatre: auditions for two plays, Neil Simon's "The Sunshine Boys" and Yasmina Reza's "God of Carnage." Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 pm. See Saturday, December 3 listing for details.

"Working Through Loss & Grief": Avenues to Wellness presents its December speaker event, "Working Through Loss & Grief: Finding Light in the Darkest Time" on Tuesday, December 6 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, with Roland Hulstein, MSW, therapist and spiritual care provider at Phoenix Hospice. "Learn the common elements of the grief process. Discover the misconceptions related to grief, and ways to move through and perhaps beyond our loss. Explore the idea that loss can lead to opportunities to grow and change." Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Free to the public; donations appreciated! Wheelchair accessible. Info: 456-9676, awforhealth@gmail.com or www.avenuestowellness.org/.

Wednesday, December 7

North County Women in Business Network: a Holiday Breakfast Potluck at this month's meeting, Wednesday, December 7 from 8:15 to 9:30 am, at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Please bring a little something that will serve about 20 people: Last name A-L: Bring something fruity; last name M-S: Bring something sweet, last name T-Z: Bring a main dish. "We will take time during the meeting to honor the memory of Lynn Kennelly, executive director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce."

Thursday, December 8

"A Christmas Carol": 7 pm, see Friday, December 2 listing for info. Tonight's show is a fundraiser for the Willits P.E.O. Sisterhood scholarship fund. Tickets are available by calling Vicki Ham, 456-9858 (or at the door if any are still available).

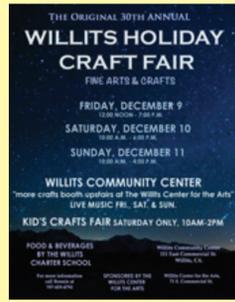
WHS Booster Club Meeting: The monthly Willits High School Booster Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, December 8, at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS!

Friday, December 9

"The Gift of Art: Small Works Show": The December show at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, runs December 4 through

24, with an opening reception tonight, Friday, December 9, from 6 to 9 pm.

30th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair: annual holiday arts and crafts fair sponsored by the Willits Center for the Arts. At the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, as usual, and also expanded to the upstairs gallery at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Friday, December 9, from noon to 7 pm; Saturday, December 10 from 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, December 11 from 10 am to 4 pm. Food from the Willits Charter School kitchen. Live music by Marian and Dorothea Day playing holiday jazz on piano and upright bass; Emandal Chorale, guest director, Madge Strong; Vern Morninglight, vocals and guitar; Ron O'Brien, classical guitar; Twining Time, John Wagenet & Anita Elliott; and David Partch, guitar and vocals. Raffle with prizes of works from every participant in the fair.



Poster for Willits Holiday Craft Fair.

Classical guitarist Ron O'Brien: Ron O'Brien, arranger/guitarist, plays solo acoustic guitar – everything from Rock to Rachmaninoff, plus entertaining musical anecdotes. Friday, December 9 from 7 to 9:30 pm at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. \$5 cover. Doors open and soup, pastries, coffees, teas, and other seasonal hot beverages available at 6 pm.

"A Christmas Carol": 8 pm, see Friday, December 2 listing for info.

Shanachie Pub: Stone House Band, formerly known as Black Iris Band, is a classic rock and blues cover band featuring veteran players Todd Brayton, lead vocal-drums; John Coughlin, lead guitar-vocals; John Chambers, bass guitar-backing vocals; and Joe Munch from Laytonville. Friday, December 9 at 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Photo of the Stone House Band.

Skunk Train's "Magical Christmas Train": The Skunk Train's first "Magical Christmas Train" of the season out of the Willits Depot, 299 East Commercial Street, is set for Sunday, December 4, at 3:30 pm, and again on Saturday, December 10 at 1:30 (this run is sold out), 3:30 and 6 pm. Seats might be available on sold-out trains due to cancellations – or new trains might be added! – but reservations are always recommended! Trains run every day out of Willits from December 11-23. "A 90-minute train ride through a storybook wonderland, cookies, hot chocolate in a souvenir mug, and a personal visit with Santa Claus himself. Come dressed in your Christmas morning pajamas, if you'd like, and join us in carols and reindeer games!" 60-minute train rides out of Fort Bragg available on Saturday, December 3 and Saturday, December 9. Call 707-964-6371 for more info or reservations, or visit www.skunktrain.com/christmas.html for info and to buy tickets: \$44 for ages 13 and up; \$34 for ages 2-12; free for children under 2; \$10 for dogs.

Willits Holiday Crafts Fair: 10 am to 6 pm today at the Willits Community Center and the Willits Center for the Arts. See Friday, December 9 listing for details.

Sober Grad Candy and Cookie Sale: A third homemade candy and cookie sale today to benefit the Sober Grad's graduation night party for area seniors. Saturday, December 10 at the Willits Holiday Craft Fair at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, from 10 am to 4 pm. Candy/cookie donations welcome! Please drop off your candy and cookies to Nancy Christiansen at Tangles, 59 School Street, by 5:30 pm on December 9 for the December 10 sale, or bring your candy/cookies directly to the sale before it begins.

"A Christmas Carol": 8 pm, see Friday, December 2 listing for info.

Shanachie Pub: Crosby Tyler, the One-Man Tub-

Thumpin' Band: "Blend back porch-bluegrass with Delta blues and add a keen sense of social commentary and wrap it up in a one man band." Visit www.crosbytyler.com. Saturday, December 10, at 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

"Discover Willits": A day of discovery, food, wine and chocolate! North County Women in Business, Ukiah Women in Business, and Women In Business Coast invite all to "Join us in discovering the great shopping opportunities in Willits! Start your exploration at 11:30 am on Saturday, December 10, on the corner of North Main and West Commercial. You will receive a list of 'Sites to Discover' and instructions. Each site will reward you with a raffle ticket. Collect as many raffle tickets as you can!" Followed by lunch at 2 pm, at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, catered by Elevenzies Cafe, served with wine from BARRA of Mendocino, and topped off with delicious chocolates to pair with your wine." Tickets: \$20. RSVP: Jenny Senter, jsenter@celticheritagetour.com or 707-888-7834 by December 2.

Willits Holiday Crafts Fair: 10 am to 4 pm today – the final day of the fair – at the Willits Community Center and the Willits Center for the Arts. See Friday, December 9 listing for details.

"A Christmas Carol": 2 pm matinee today; see Friday, December 2 listing for info.

Skunk Train's "Magical Christmas Train": The Skunk Train's first "Magical Christmas Train" of the season out of the Willits Depot, 299 East Commercial Street, is set for Sunday, December 4, at 3:30 pm, and again on Saturday, December 10 at 1:30 (this run is sold out), 3:30 and 6 pm. Seats might be available on sold-out trains due to cancellations – or new trains might be added! – but reservations are always recommended! Trains run every day out of Willits from December 11-23. "A 90-minute train ride through a storybook wonderland, cookies, hot chocolate in a souvenir mug, and a personal visit with Santa Claus himself. Come dressed in your Christmas morning pajamas, if you'd like, and join us in carols and reindeer games!" 60-minute train rides out of Fort Bragg available on Saturday, December 3 and Saturday, December 9. Call 707-964-6371 for more info or reservations, or visit www.skunktrain.com/christmas.html for info and to buy tickets: \$44 for ages 13 and up; \$34 for ages 2-12; free for children under 2; \$10 for dogs.

Willits Community Christmas Chorale: The 29th annual Willits Community Christmas Chorale is set for Sunday, December 11 at 6 pm at the LDS Church, 265 Margie Drive. Featuring 14 performances this year, including Emandal Chorale, Ed Rinehart, choirs from St. Francis and St. Anthony's churches in Willits, Chanterelle, and many more. Also, a community sing-a-long during a slight intermission. "And lots of cookies and hot cider will follow the program. Please join us." Questions? Call Roni McFadden: 391-5461

KYBU 96.9 FM: Round Valley celebrates 5 years of KYBU community radio with a Black and White Gala, Sunday, December 11, from 6 to 11 pm at the Round Valley Commons. Silent auction. Wine and beer. Photo booth. Free for KYBU members. Dinner for purchase. Live musical showcase of Round Valley local artists. Black & white attire encouraged.

30th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair

December 9 to 11

The 30th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair is sponsored by the Willits Center for the Arts as a service to craftspeople and the community and as a fundraiser for WCA. The fair opens Friday, December 9, from noon to 7 pm, continues Saturday, December 10 from 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, December 11 from 10 am to 4 pm.

This year we have expanded the fair from its usual location at the Willits Community Center to add the Upstairs Gallery at the WCA, across Humboldt Street from the Community Center. For the first time the Willits Center for the Arts building will have an active part in the Holiday Craft Fair. The Center for the Arts is having a coordinating art opening Friday night with their "Small Works" show on the ground floor. For this combined opening celebration there will be food and drinks for the patrons along with entertainment. Upstairs there will be 14 new craft booths with jewelry, photography, quilts, dolls, ethnic clothing, candles along with vinegars and chocolates.

For the Upstairs Gallery location there will also be a separate "door prize" raffle. Fair visitors will pick up their entry form at the Community Center and if it is stamped after visiting the Upstairs Gallery they will be entered in a drawing for a special hand-crafted prize.

In the main building, at the Willits Community Center, a wide variety of arts and crafts will again be displayed for sale: jewelry, ceramics (both pottery and sculptural), metal work, handmade

soap, photography, fabric arts, hats, leatherwork, clothing, pickles and herbal body products. Many of our area's favorite artist/crafters will return along with some excellent new artists and work.

The fair will again offer the scrumptious creations from the kitchen of the Willits Charter School, always delicious and reasonably priced. The students and parents will also be bringing their homemade confections to satisfy every sweet tooth. There will be the popular "Kids Craft Fair" area on Saturday, December 10 only (10 am to 2 pm), for the younger artists to sell their work and, of course, our local musicians will entertain throughout the three-day event. There is also the popular raffle where visitors can buy raffle tickets with a chance to win the crafters' work as a donation to the Willits Center for the Arts.

This year's expanded fair will be our 30th annual gathering of artists and crafters, and will again include Sunday for a three-day event. We are so pleased to have the Willits Center for the Arts finally be a physical part of this year's fair. Due to the incredible community support the Holiday Craft Fair continues, and the Willits Center for the Arts has been revitalized as an integral part of the Willits cultural community.

Willits Community Center is located at 111 East Commercial Street, and Willits Center for the Arts - Upstairs Gallery is located at 71 East Commercial Street. Call the WCA for more info: 459-1726

– Willits Center for the Arts

Welcome the Season
December 3, 2016 Saturday

Roots of Motive Power HOLIDAY EXPRESS
Visit Santa Ride the Train Refreshments
1-5 PM

MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM WONDERLAND
Holiday Crafts & Decorated Galleries Games & Play Activities Story-telling & Special Music

COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING
Museum & Roots Open Holiday Singing Refreshments for sale by WHS Students
5-7 PM

Sponsored by City of Willits, Mendocino Co Museum, Roots of Motive Power, Willits Chamber of Commerce and President's Circle, Baechtel Creek Inn, Harwood Memorial Hospital, METALX, Spawntine Supply, Super & More!

Willits Charter School Menu at Holiday Crafts Fair December 9-11

Willits Charter School is excited to provide delicious food for all of the visitors and vendors at the Willits Holiday Craft Fair, December 9 to 11 at the Willits Community Center. This year we have a new culinary instructor at WCS, Charlie Widner, and will be offering some brand-new items, including a fresh take on some our favorites. Visitors can purchase a la carte items or a full meal. All meal items prepared by our culinary program students. Food will be available from the beginning of the fair until the very end! Be sure to come hungry! All funds go back to our school so we can continue to provide enriching programs such as music, art, drama, dancing, and our culinary program. WCS appreciates your support, and we look forward to seeing you there!

– Jennifer Lockwood, director, WCS

40th annual Winter Arts Fair

December 10 and 11 at the Mateel

The 40th annual Winter Arts Faire will once again inhabit the Mateel Community Center in Redway on December 10 and 11. This two-day family event features nearly 50 handmade artisan booths, diverse musical entertainment, children's storytelling, a delectable holiday menu, and a visit from Santa both days from noon to 3 pm. Winter Arts Faire will be open from 10 am to 6 pm both days. \$5 admission; free to Mateel members and kids 12 and under. Info: 923-3368 or visit www.mateel.org.

Roots of Motive Power Presents: Christmas Express Train

Free Train Rides Saturday Dec. 3th

1 pm to 5 PM

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.
- Visit the kids' coloring table.
- Peruse antique model trains.

Raffle
Enter for a chance to win a wagon full of toys!

400 E. Commercial St., Willits, Calif. – Next to the Mendocino County Museum

Add your event to our calendar! willitsweekly@gmail.com

Black & White Gala

Celebrating 5 years of Community Radio

KYBU Radio
The Best of Local Music
Silent Auction
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Awards for Pastors
Live musical showcase of Round Valley local artists
Black & White attire encouraged

ROUND VALLEY COMMONS
SUNDAY DEC. 11, 2016
6:00PM-11:00PM

KYBU 96.9 FM
Round Valley Community Radio

Senior Center Lunch

Week of December 5 through December 9

Monday: Beef Stew
Tuesday: Baked Cod
Wednesday: Pork Chops
Thursday: Hot Roast Beef Sandwich
Friday: Chicken Fried Steak

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Willits Weekly's
4th Annual Christmas Party!

Friday, December 16
from 5 to 7 pm

at Ardella's Downtown Diner

Cookie Tasting & Voting Live Music & Merriment

Come celebrate with us!

Info: 707-459-2633 or 707-972-7047

A Willits Charter School Production
December 2-4, 9-11, 16-17
Fridays & Saturdays 7pm, Sundays 2pm

CABIN PRESSURE

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Directed by JESSICA CRONIN

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AMY ADAMS "ARE YOU HERE?" DREW STARBUCK

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WHY ARE THEY HERE?

Produced by MATT BROWNING
Directed by DANIEL ESSMAN

COLUMN | At the Movies



'Arrival'

The Story: First Contact! Twelve enormous alien spaceships land on Earth. Professor of Linguistics Louise Banks (Amy Adams) joins a team of investigators and military intelligence experts to decode and translate the complex alien language. The cryptic behavior of the aliens, combined with our innate human paranoia, push the nations of the Earth into a frantic state of suicidal aggression.

My Thoughts: This is a great science fiction movie. I was blown away by Amy Adams; her leading woman performance is intelligent, emotionally complex, tremendously sympathetic.... She tells entire stories with her face. This fine flick is unpredictable, suspenseful, and there are moments that brought me to tears.

Important: Do not come in late, even for popcorn or toilet time. See the movie from the very beginning!

Parents: Too complex for children. Teens and up.

Note: This is one of the year's best films. 93 percent positive reviews on rottentomatoes.com, calling it "a must-see for fans of thinking person's sci-fi." I so very much agree.

Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.



OBITUARY |

Emma Betts

Emma Marie Betts of Willits passed away in Santa Rosa November 25, 2016 at the age of 76. She was born June 1, 1940 in Covelo to Robert Stillwell and Frances Ledger Stillwell. Emma married Ross Betts May 11, 1957 in Ukiah. She cooked at the Brooktrails Lodge and Dan's Frontier Room over a period of 10 years. She became a certified nursing assistant (CNA) and worked at Northbrook for five years. Emma was a member of the Round Valley Indian Tribes. She greatly enjoyed her family, watching her grandchildren play sports, and sing and play music, and she loved gardening.



Emma is preceded in death by her husband, Ross, and her daughter, Kendra Betts. She is survived by her children: Michael (Brenda Harrison) Betts, Dianna (Larry Wood) Betts, Kevin Betts, Sherry (Barry Wright) Betts, and Darlene Betts; grandchildren: Michael Boyette, Eric Betts, Bryanna Betts, Travis Betts, Jani Wright, Trevor Wright, Lane Wright, Janine Wright, Kayla Kryla, and Cody Kryla; and numerous great-grandchildren.

A viewing is scheduled from 4 to 6 pm Thursday, December 1, 2016 at Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel, with funeral services at Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel Friday, December 2, 2016 at 11 am, followed by a graveside service at Willits Cemetery.

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

Energetic Rambo

Are you looking for an exercise buddy with lots of energy? Then look no further, because Rambo is your boy! Rambo is a 1-year-old male shepherd mix who currently weighs 63 pounds. This handsome boy is a friendly dog who is very energetic. He is in need of an active family willing to commit to his continuing training. We aren't sure how Rambo will react around other dogs, so if you have another canine in the home, a meet and greet is suggested prior to adoption.

If you think you have room in your heart

and home for Rambo, please stop by the shelter and meet him today. The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of more of the wonderful adoptable animals at the shelter, please check out www.mendoanimalshelter.com. Please join us the 2nd Saturday of every month – this month, December 8 – for our "Empty the Shelter" pack walk and help us get every dog out for some exercise! More info about adoptions: 467-6453.



Photo by Rod Coats

Furry Friends



Big Buzz

Two-year-old Buzz is 13 pounds of cuddly, kitty love! This big fella is a Valley Fire survivor who would love to find a family for the holidays. Buzz loves people of all ages, but would prefer to be the only pet in the house. He's neutered, microchipped, up to date on his vaccinations, and ready to go home with you today!



To find out more about Buzz or other adoptable animals, call the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County at 707-485-0123 or visit www.mendohumanesociety.com. HSIMC, where you can come visit, play with and/or adopt dogs and cats, is open to prospective adopters from 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday, and from 11 am to 3 pm, on Saturday and Sunday.



Turkey Day

500+ friends and neighbors enjoy Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner

The 27th annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner served heaping plates of classic Thanksgiving food to more than 500 diners last week at the Harrah Senior Center.

The event, organized by Willits Community Services, is not a fundraiser: Meals are free, although donations are always welcome.

"WCS hosts these community Thanksgiving dinners to help encourage our sense of community," said Jim Marill, executive director of WCS. "The more we feel connected to each other, the better off we will be as individuals and as a healthier, thriving community."

Kirk Gustafson is a regular – and happy – guest at the senior center's Thanksgiving dinner: "I've been coming for 10 years," he said, "with my son and family." He was sitting next to Larry Minson. "This is my first year," Minson said. "I love it! I've lived in Willits for 30 years, and I don't know how I missed it. This is the best Thanksgiving event ever!"

Audrius and Tommy were traveling through Willits, with two other friends: "We're having a two-month adventure in America," Tommy said, with a laugh. "Thank you!" The foursome was glad to celebrate an American holiday surrounded by locals.

"Big Red," a Willits resident and a newspaper man – he worked the press at the Boonville newspaper when he was young – thanked volunteer Diana Hoyt at the door for a great time and a good meal served by "a lot of good volunteers," he said. "It was very comfortable. This was my first time, and I thought it would be more like just sit down and get what you get."

Instead volunteers – in shifts – waited

on diners, asking what they wanted to drink, what kind of turkey they wanted, and brought around desserts. Volunteer brothers Ivan and Adrian Carrillo, with the help of their dad, Juan Carrillo, were dressed in their Scouting uniforms to help serve pumpkin pie.

Genevieve Workman was "the salad lady," she laughed. Dressed in a tidy apron, she presided over the salad table against the wall, offering plates of salad and dressing choices. "This is the first time we've volunteered," she said, indicating her husband, Jeremy, who was serving out on the dining room. "The kids were out of town, and we decided to come here. Last year I did Thanksgiving for 20 people!" Workman said maybe next year they'd bring the kids, to the community dinner, too, so they could help volunteer.

Sondra Gynkiss had saved out a portion of her Thanksgiving meal for her 89-year-old neighbor, she said. She enjoyed the Thanksgiving dinner tradition at the senior center, but has missed seeing the crew from Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp – who prepare the dinner each year – actually in the kitchen serving it, too, as they used to do. "I miss the orange shirts!" Gynkiss laughed.

The senior center does deliver a "Meals on Wheels" Thanksgiving Dinner, with a few extra meals than usual, said director Allyn Nonneman, to those who can't get out. "But we like them to come here to eat, if they can, because it is a community celebration," she said.

"I come here to see all my friends!" said April Woodard. "I see everybody I know here." April has been celebrating at the Community Thanksgiving Dinner for 20 years. "I volunteered for years," she said, "but now I just come to enjoy family. I wouldn't miss it. It is a family here!"



Far left: The crowd enjoys the Thanksgiving meal at the senior center. At left: Kitchen crew members help serve the attendees. Photos by Doug Pollard

Below, left: Nancy Hoon, Pat Collins, former senior center director, and Ruth Volz. Below, right: Volunteers Genevieve Workman and John Almida.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Above, from left: "Big Red" and volunteer Patti Richardson in her "Here Comes Grandma" T-shirt. Maggie Graham enjoys Thanksgiving at the center. Scouts Ivan and Adrian Carrillo help out by serving pie. Below, from left: April Woodard, a longtime attendee and former volunteer at the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Sonya Gynkiss with a plate for her 89-year-old neighbor.



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OBITUARY |

Morris 'Jack' Harwood

Morris Jackson Harwood, "Jack," 87, of Willits, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Sunday, November 27, 2016 at the Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa. Jack was born July 8, 1929 in Ukiah, to Arthur "Big Bud" and Belva Harwood. Alongside his older brother Bud and younger sister Sue, he was raised in Branscomb, where he proudly co-owned and operated Harwood Products saw mills and remanufacturing plant in Willits and Branscomb.

Jack was a longtime member of the Laytonville Lions Club and Ukiah Cannibal Club. He graduated from Laytonville High School in 1947 and from the University of Oregon in 1952. Jack was then drafted by the United States Army. After serving active duty in the Korean War, he joined the reserves in Camp Roberts, where he was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant in 1961.

Jack met "the love of his life," Margo, on a cruise to Mexico, and the two were soon married in a small ceremony in Carmel. Shortly after, they moved to Willits and began raising a family. Together they enjoyed travelling the world, and later built a home in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where they spent seven months of each year.

Jack was a good man. Private and quiet, but to those who knew him best, fiercely caring and loyal. He enjoyed watching Oregon Ducks Football and the occasional "Gunsmoke" Western. He most loved being with family, and quietly sitting on the deck in Cabo with a glass of wine, enjoying the sunset.

Jack will be remembered as a loving husband and father. He adored his wife, Margo, and was very proud of his four daughters, Lori, Marchel, Kristie and Shelley, and two sons, Stuart and Jim, as well as 10 grandchildren, one great-granddaughter and many loving nieces, nephews and friends.

Per Jack's request, in lieu of a public memorial, close family will gather privately in remembrance.

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Photos by Ree Slocum



Above, left: Bruce Hilbach-Barger, rear, center, encourages the crowd at the ERRP meeting at the WEC to be in dialogue and in communication with officials making decisions. Above, right: A female chinook salmon digging a spot in the gravel river bottom to lay her eggs. Below: Pat Higgins, managing director ERRP, left, with Hilbach-Barger, part of ERRP's wilderness and education programs, discuss the details about what ERRP has to offer Willits.

Watershed volunteers

Eel River Recovery Project looking to expand services in Mendocino County

When the drought happened in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Patrick Higgins who's now the managing director of the Eel River Recovery Project, figured the Eel River was dead. In the fall of 2009, when Higgins began studying the chinook salmon run, he figured there were about 1,000 fish left and the species might survive for maybe 50 more years. But, now, Higgins admits he was wrong: "Just put your face in the water," he says, referring to the fish the EERP volunteers find in the river.

In fall of 2010 Higgins joined with the Friends of the Eel River organization and found 20,000 to 50,000 fish in the Eel. In October of 2011 the Eel River Recovery Project, which is now a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was born. He's watched yearly changes in spawning fish populations and realizes there are many complex reasons besides rainfall that determine exactly when, where, and why these amazingly resilient fish choose to gather and migrate upstream to spawn. Higgins told the group he is "inspired by the Eel River's resilience and has been surprised to no end."

On Tuesday, November 15, Higgins gave a PowerPoint presentation about the state of salmon and Eel River health to a gathering of about 25 people at the Willits Environmental Center. Higgins and Ellen Drell, WEC director, emphasized the fact that the watershed from the Ridgewood grade north is in the complicated Eel River basin consisting of the Middle, North, and South Forks and the main stem of the river that flows to the ocean.

As complex as the river system itself are a plethora of factors affecting the health of the water, fish, and other wildlife along the system: warming of the oceans, creating changes that may kill fish or cause them to move to colder waters; warming of pools in the Eel in low-water years,

making it too warm for fish to spawn; high concentrations of nutrient-rich runoff from some farming practices (cannabis included), that can cause overproduction of cyanobacteria in low-water years; and road-building, landslides, and other natural and human disturbances that change the flow and quality of the water, to name a few.

What ERRP does is monitor the water in the 3,600-square-mile watershed with volunteer efforts in each geographical area. During the year they're checking water flow volumes; monitoring the existence of cyanobacteria, which can be deadly to dogs and make children extremely ill; and tracking the presence and count of chinook, coho, steelhead and other fish species (some invasive), as well as their travel to spawning areas.

They collaborate and work with a variety of tribal, community and governmental organizations. Last year ERRP worked with UC Davis scientists to find out what was causing blindness to chinook in one area of the Eel. The scientists found that an eye fluke carried by high concentrations of a snail species found in the area was most likely the culprit.

ERRP has educational programs for students and – believing in what Higgins calls "community consensus building" – provides public outreach to solve problems around water-friendly practices with a current emphasis in cannabis farming.

Higgins and Drell are hoping to set up an ERRP office in the WEC building and create a partnership with WEC to expand the service area of ERRP, providing the Willits community with educational materials and outreach services, and citizen help in monitoring the Eel's flow volume, water quality, algae, and fish populations in its most southern reaches.

The hopeful feeling in the WEC meeting room for a



healthy river system, some of which starts in Willits, was palpable. Higgins believes that "more people agree than disagree" about protecting the Eel River ecosystem and that "we can all work together to make a better future." He questioned the room: "Can we come in harmony with nature? That's what ERRP is all about."

People who want to volunteer in the interior portions of the Eel River watershed and in tributary basins can contact ERRP Managing Director Pat Higgins at 707-223-7200 to report when they see concentrations of fall chinook migrating or spawning. ERRP then tries to join them in the field to video and photo document and determine the number of live fish present, spawning densities, and also carcasses.

To find out more about the Eel River Recovery Project, visit www.EelRiverRecovery.org. To volunteer call 707-223-7200.

The WEC will host another meeting for people concerned about the Eel River with Pat Higgins and ERRP on Tuesday, December 13 at 6 pm.

Being Bipolar:

Living and loving in a world of fire and ice

By Jed Diamond

Most people don't know I'm bipolar. After years of loving kindness shown to me by my wife, therapy with a caring and skilling therapist, and medications to help keep me in balance, my illness is in remission. Even if you had known me when I was the most out-of-control and crazy, you probably wouldn't have been aware that anything was wrong. No one likes to be seen as "mentally ill." Even with our more enlightened understanding of mental illness, there is still significant stigma attached to mental illness as opposed to physical illness. We talk more easily about heart disease, cancer and diabetes. It isn't so easy to talk about depression, bipolar disorder and anxiety.

Let me take you back to March 1998, the year I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. If you had seen me in my community in Willits, you would have observed a 55-year-old man who seemed to be living the perfect life. Carlin and I had been happily married for 18 years. Our children were grown, and we were living in our dream home in the country. I had a successful psychotherapy practice and my fourth book, "Male Menopause," was well on its way to becoming an international best-seller. I was involved in a men's group and was active in our community. I was joyful and exuberant most of the time and got more work done than most people. I could talk up a storm, and if there was any complaint about me, it was that at times I was a bit over the top emotionally, with new ideas for striking it rich and changing the world coming one on top of the other.

But Carlin lived with a more painful reality. In a letter she wrote to my doctor she said: "Jed has rapid mood changes. He's angry, accusing, argumentative and blaming one moment. The next he's buying me flowers, cards and love notes. He's smiling and enthusiastic. He's inconsistent in many areas of his life. He's very picky about some things and sloppy about others. He will spend time arranging Scotch tape, scissors, etc. on the top of a shelf, marking each one's place carefully with a piece of tape so he can return it to its designated place. At the same time he can have papers around him ankle-deep on the floor or piled on top of counters. It has become tiresome arguing with him. Nothing seems to get resolved. He seems to thrive on the intensity of the argument."

For more than four years Carlin tried to convince me that I needed help. I resisted. I avoided. I blamed her for not supporting and loving me the way I needed it. She hung in, persisted. I finally agreed to see a doctor, mostly to get her off my back, not because I really thought I needed help. Most people suffering from bipolar disorder think we're fine – better than fine, super fine. Others seem slower, less alive, less interesting. We're sure they are just trying to hold us back, close us down, change us into ordinary people, diminish the extraordinary beings we know we are.

The truth of my own bipolar disorder dawned on me slowly. Carlin's quiet insistence that I get help and her unconditional love and support began to sink in to my defended psyche. I also read a book by one of the most respected experts on bipolar disorders in the world, Kay Redfield Jamison. In her book, "An Unquiet Mind: Memoir of Moods and Madness," she helped me see that even a professional, with a world-wide reputation in the mental health field, can suffer from mental illness and live to talk about it. In the book's prologue, she offers this revealing portrait of her illness against the background of her professional life:

"Within a month of signing my appointment papers to become an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles, I was well on my way to madness. Within three months I was manic beyond recognition and just beginning a long, costly personal war against a medication that I would, in a few years' time, be strongly encouraging others to take. My illness, and my struggles against the drug that ultimately saved my life and restored my sanity, had been years in the making."

I knew this was a book I needed to read from a doctor I knew could help me. As I read more about her experiences, I began to see myself. There was one description that ripped me apart. In the epilogue she sums up her experiences in a way that gave me the push I needed to get past my resistance to get the help I so desperately needed:

"Others imply that they know what it is like to be depressed because they have gone through a divorce, lost a job, or broken up with someone. But these experiences carry with them feelings. Depression, instead, is flat, hollow and unendurable. It is also tiresome. People cannot abide being around you when you are depressed."

With the following words she absolutely nailed what was going on inside me. She was speaking my truth in a way I had never been able to articulate or share.

"You're irritable and paranoid and humorless and lifeless and critical and demanding, and no reassurance is ever enough. You're frightened, and you're frightening, and you're not at all like yourself but will be soon, but you know you won't."

All these words resonated with me. I was irritable, paranoid, humorless, lifeless, critical and demanding. No matter what my wife, Carlin, did to show me she loved me, it was never enough. I knew I was frightened inside, but I had to admit I was frightening to the people who loved me the most.

I was prescribed a medication, Depakote, to deal with the out-of-control "ups" that would have me doing one project after another without needing to sleep. I was also prescribed an anti-depressant, Zoloft, to deal with the subsequent "downs" when things would eventually crash and I would become irritable, angry, and depressed. Within three weeks my bipolar illness was beginning to come under control. It took more than seven years before my illness was fully in remission.

Like Dr. Jamison, at first I fought staying on the medications. I was afraid I would lose my creative edge, that my feelings would be blunted, and I would be sentenced to a life without any real highs. I found that wasn't true. On medications I was just as emotional and creative, and I actually got more done, wrote more books, did more work. When you don't have to deal with the emotional crashes that follow the highs, life is much more enjoyable, stable and fulfilling.

But it wasn't just the medications that saved my marriage and likely saved my life, though they certainly helped. The psychotherapy I did with my doctor allowed me to explore the roots of my problems and to track the day-to-day triggers that would set me off. Ultimately, the greatest healing comes from learning to love more deeply and to be loved in return.

I learned that it's almost impossible to love a person who is in the throes of bipolar disorder. Our lives are too chaotic, and our emotional edges can cut deeply and hurt those we love the most. It's also impossible to love ourselves. There's a fragility to our lives that keeps us in constant terror that our world will collapse, even as we spend more and more energy putting on the mask of jovial well-being.

Healing from bipolar disorder takes three elements:

- People who love you and give you the "tough love" necessary for you to get help.

- A good doctor who can evaluate your need for medications.
- A psychotherapist (I was lucky that my doctor also did therapy) who can help you understand the stresses that trigger your ups and downs and help heal the wounds from the past that feed your present illness.

It's not an easy journey for the person going through it, for the family and friends who want to support their loved ones, or for the professionals who work with us. But it can be done, and lives are saved every day by those with the courage to deal with bipolar disorder and other mental illnesses. I look forward to your comments and hearing about your own experiences.

Jed Diamond, Ph.D. is a psychotherapist, marriage and family counselor, and specializes in men's mental health. He is the author of 14 books including international best-sellers, "Surviving Male Menopause" and "The Irritable Male Syndrome: Understanding the 4 Key Causes of Depression and Aggression." For more information: visit www.MenAlive.com, email Jed@MenAlive.com, or call 707-459-5505.

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WW's Cookie Party!
It's almost time for Willits Weekly's fourth annual Cookie Party and festivities. The party will be held at Ardella's Downtown Diner on Friday, December 16 from 5 to 7 pm.

Help Wanted
Experienced, Organized, Creative Cook!
The Harrah Senior Center in Willits is looking for an individual that is enthusiastic and upbeat and can plan nutritious, balanced lunches using fresh ingredients, order and monitor inventory supplies, maintain a clean & sanitary kitchen, and have a current Food Safety Manager certificate. This individual should be able to work well with others, train volunteers or hired personnel, and be able to lift 40 lbs., stand for long periods of time, and pass a drug test. Please e-mail or fax application/resume before December 5 to: wsidirector@willitscenter.com or 707-459-1772.

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Cage/Vault Manager
Full-time, various shifts, weekends, Salary: DOE, with benefits, preferred, but not necessary, gaming experience. Applications can be found at www.svrcasino.com, Sherwood Valley Casino Admin. Office or e-mail HR at ktuttle@svrcasino.com (707)459-7330.

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Santa Photos in Willits!
Meet Santa Claus at Mendo Mill in Willits on Saturday, December 3 from 11 am to 2 pm. The following weekend, December 9, 10 and 11, Santa will be at J.D. Redhouse. Stop by from 5 to 7 pm on Friday, December 9 and from 12:30 to 2:30 on both Saturday and Sunday, December 10 and 11.

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

Drayage Company of Eureka moved the locomotive to Willits via truck in June 1963. The locomotive resided at the Rudolph Ranch in the Willits valley, well-protected from the elements by an arrangement of timbers and tin, and from vandals by Rudolph's gruff reputation. Rudolph's dream of an operating loop track at his ranch with a growing stable of steam locomotives never came to fruition. Rudolph would own the Bluestone Mining Heisler #1, Pacific Lumber Company Climax #38, California Western Railroad Baldwin #14, and the Folsom Prison Alco #1.

Rogan Coombs, a Humboldt County lumberman, purchased the Bluestone Mining Heisler from the Rudolph estate in 1991, and moved the locomotive to Glendale in Humboldt County for storage. There it remained until 2005, when it was purchased by Chris Baldo and returned to Willits for a major rebuild. The locomotive returned to operation under steam at Roots of Motive Power in September 2006, as part of a "Steam in the Redwoods" celebration with the California Western #45 making a rare visit to Willits. It had been 45 years since the locomotive was last operated at Blake Brothers in Richmond.

After hauling passengers for the Holiday Express from 1 to 5 pm on Saturday, December 3, the Heisler will be available for photographs on the Commercial Street side of the Engine House from 5 to 7 pm during the Willits Chamber of Commerce Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Come admire this 100-year-old beauty. We should all look this good.

COLUMN | Intuitive Patterns **December 2016**

Astrologically you are still reaching into the new areas as Mars is in Aquarius, so taking risks, stretching out of the old and into the new, gives you fresh insights and skills to navigate this uncharted world you are moving into. There is a Mercury Retrograde December 19 to January 8, 2017, so double check those travel plans and have some backups just in case weather cancels some flights and you have to come up with Plan B.

December is a time to let go and find how to make this time precious. Something greater is waiting for you if you will let go of the past perception and allow gravity to do its work. Gravity is forcing you to go with the universal flow rather than the flow, opinions and patterns of your mind. You are finally recognizing that you have been fighting constantly for months, and you are exhausted with the effort that may or may not have gotten you anywhere. Truth clarifies over time, and you may be surprised to notice over the next year the things that you were so attached to and believed in so strongly are going to collapse back into the quagmire from which they were truly rooted.

When you let go of the identification you have in your personal "I," you will discover your innocence that you had left behind and abandoned in your quest to be right. This is a month to get in touch with your sensitivity, intuition and compassion again. When you seek things of light, you automatically begin to dissolve all the obstacles that have kept you separate from others, from each other, and from being a part of the whole.

It is time to listen. Listening is passive and you have to let go of your ego and forget yourself completely to fully listen to what is being presented. When you are open and receptive, you are fertile ground for new information to germinate in your consciousness.

As this is a month of holidays, parties, family and friends there is a quiet passivity that is allowing you to move into a place of relaxation and deeply needed rest. However, that cannot last forever. Be alert to the unexpected happening, especially more towards the end of the month.

This is not a month without conflict. If you have been dealing with an inner battle, it will be time to examine the views that you hold that are contrary to your development as a whole and conscious person. Notice where your inner dialogue is stopping your progress and locking you in a position that is going to take a lot of energy to maintain

in the face of the reality that is asking you to move into. You can waste a lot of energy holding onto a belief that is no longer valid or a perception that is not true. Within you is a compassionate and giving heart. Within you is a quiet and clear mind that is centered and objective. It is time to discover both and allow them to guide you on the path forward.

Remember, not getting what you want is a great gift. It points out the delusions of the ego and sometimes harshly forces you to admit that you believed those who told you what you wanted to hear and that you have been bamboozled.

This is a month where you stand at a "portal of transcendence." This is a doorway to your true self, but to find that doorway you have to admit where you got caught in the duality and chose one side of that duality and ignored the other side, which was asking for equal time in your consciousness. You are always both sides, light and dark. When you learn to listen to both, then you can see the whole truth and move through life with less reaction and more authenticity.

You are in a process of transformation. It is time to listen to that secret voice inside. Those that hold the greatest wisdom are much less willing to speak it. Learning how to hold your tongue until it is the right time and moment is what this month is about. Real power does not need to yell, scream, or make others do what it wants. True wisdom allows for the journey that they know each individual needs to take to discover what is true for them. Truth cannot be taught or explained. It has to be experienced.

Instead of pushing your opinion on others, listen and observe from where that information is anchored in their body. Notice if they are coming from their mind, their heart, or their guts. How the information is anchored tells you a lot about the person and how they organize their reality. Only by understanding another can you effectively guide them to the dawning of their own truth.

This is a month to let go of the fantasy of past people in your life and accept what the universe is offering you instead. Clinging to those in the past is no longer appropriate. Those that cannot see you, cannot see you. Let go of waiting for them to recognize your light and love. Move on. Let those that can see you're light and appreciate your heart be your spiritual family.

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. For more information: visit www.suzannewagner.com, email suzanne@suzwagner.com or call her at 707-354-1019.



Suzanne Wagner
Columnist

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

leased soon." Currently, he is undergoing treatment at a Sacramento-area facility after being taken into custody at his home on suspicion of resisting arrest and domestic battery and then placed on an involuntary hold.

On November 18 in Ukiah Superior Court, Judge Richard Henderson granted Carlyn Woodhouse a two-week temporary conservatorship of her husband, including the authority to resign her husband's seat on the board of supervisors.

Neary said the family's reluctance to submit a letter of resignation on behalf of Woodhouse is because of a lack of communication between the County of Mendocino administration and himself.

"We need to file something that results in some sort of remuneration for Tom," Neary said. "We think that he's entitled to make a claim for a disability benefit. In order to make that claim, we need certain information from the county. And you can't file a disability claim after you resign."

Neary said the county has been slow in giving Neary the information he is seeking because it is "conflicted." "I don't want to say anything negative about the county," Neary said. "They have been very cooperative. But the county is obviously very conflicted by this thing. Because they're feeling conflicted, we are not able to get some of the information that we need to be able to assess the situation as fully as we need to."

Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo disputed Neary's claim that the county is conflicted about the Woodhouse matter.

"The county is not conflicted on this," Angelo said. "The board has said from the beginning that board members, and I myself, wish him the best, and we hope he gets through this and does fine. If the family believes Supervisor Woodhouse has suffered an injury while on the job, then they should file a worker's compensation claim. Any claim filed by the Woodhouse family will be treated fairly, just the same way we treat a claim from anybody else."

"I have no knowledge of what the Woodhouse family, or what Chris Neary, is waiting for," Angelo said. "We have been told that Chris Neary has stated ... that he is negotiating with the county. The board of supervisors is not negotiating with Supervisor Woodhouse, or with his family. We cannot do that, because that would be a gift of public funds. So, we cannot negotiate on this. We are very clear on our legal responsibility on this point. The county does not have the ability to negotiate a settlement."

"If the family is waiting for a settlement from the county, then Supervisor Woodhouse is going to be the sitting supervisor from the Third District for the next two years."

Carlyn Woodhouse and Neary are due back in court for another closed hearing on Friday, December 2, to seek an extension of the temporary conservatorship that was granted on November 18, according to Neary. Court documents from that earlier hearing had stated Neary and Carlyn Woodhouse would be seeking a permanent conservatorship of Supervisor Woodhouse on December 2.

Willits Weekly asked a number of citizens, most of whom are frequent commuters, about their observations and opinions regarding the state of city traffic since the bypass opened.

Carina Lopez commutes from Redwood Valley to her job as office manager for Willits Charter School.

"It's very easy for me to

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

"some future counts at the north interchange, but we're not sure when those are going to be available," he said.

Since the bypass opened on November 3, the area of Main Street north of Highway 20 now officially belongs to, and is the responsibility of, the City of Willits, while the area from the southern interchange to the Highway 20 intersection remains under the purview of Caltrans.

"That's still our jurisdiction," Frisbie said. "We were looking to see how the bypass is affecting that area."

The City of Willits has no plans to conduct its own traffic studies; the city will rely on the data Caltrans provides.

Regardless of what that data shows, however, based on feedback from a number of Willits-area residents – including City Planner Dusty Duley, Little Lake Fire Chief Carl Magann, Mendocino Transit Authority bus drivers, postal carriers, and others – the traffic reduction is not only significant, but welcomed.

"I've been able to make left turns out of businesses where before it was enough of a hardship where I might take a right and circle the block," Duley said. He added that his wife – who comes home from Ukiah during peak hours – has been having a much smoother commute.

"Where she used to get backed up from the Highway 20 intersection stoplight past the Super 8, now she's maybe waiting on one green light," said Duley.

Longtime MTA bus driver Patrick Charlson voiced his surprise about the amount traffic has been reduced since the bypass opened.

"[At first] I wasn't in favor of the bypass," Charlson declared. "But, I must admit, it's made my job a hell of a lot easier. Traffic has really let up. We don't have trucks coming through town [as much] any more. I drive three days a week, about 100 miles a day inside the city limits of Willits. It's bare. It doesn't seem like there's a lot of traffic."

Charlson explained he used Thanksgiving week to gauge the significance in the reduction of traffic.

"Traffic used to pick up on the Tuesday" before the Thursday holiday, but this year, Charlson said, "we had hardly any traffic on Tuesday, and on Wednesday it was a piece of cake to drive through town."

Willits Postmaster Dale Briggs reported a unanimous vote of appreciation for the reduction in traffic from his postal carriers.

"It makes their jobs easier," Briggs said. "They like the fact they have the ability to turn left on Main Street without having to wait for several minutes for traffic to clear. They have clearer vision, so it helps them and takes stress from them to not have to deal with the heavy traffic flows. Obviously, safety goes hand in hand with less traffic."

Fire Chief Magann concurred with Briggs. "We're happy with the amount of the traffic in the downtown area since the opening of the bypass," said Magann. "We've had a lot less accidents within the city limits."

But Magann added the true test in figuring out the impact to traffic will be during the summer and holiday travel times.

Citizen/commuter feedback

Willits Weekly asked a number of citizens, most of whom are frequent commuters, about their observations and opinions regarding the state of city traffic since the bypass opened.

Carina Lopez commutes from Redwood Valley to her job as office manager for Willits Charter School.

"It's very easy for me to

make the left out of [the charter school] driveway and go southbound," said Lopez. "The southbound traffic seems lighter to me in the afternoon. I never had any issues northbound in the morning, but I've noticed there's been less traffic in general on Main Street in Willits since 101 opened."

Sheryl McFadden, owner of Room to Bloom, said: "Before I would wait anywhere from 15 to 25 minutes in traffic. Now I zip right through town with hardly any issues – maybe only a red light to slow me down."

Josh Swearingin, a Ridge-wood Ranch resident and bass player for Schindig, said: "The bypass has had a positive impact traffic-wise from my perspective. I also like that I didn't have to run across the street at night when I was trying to go to the bank to get more money when we were playing Shanachie Pub on Friday. It was plenty clear for me to be able to walk safely across without fear of being hit by someone who wasn't looking for pedestrians."

Rachel Farkas, a full-time Mendocino College student, said: "It's easier when I come into town after a long day, and I just want to make a couple of stops; it's doable. It doesn't feel like – by the time I get into town, I just want to go home. I can actually zip in and out of places and do some errands."

Farkas added she's received feedback from ranchers in the valley, who have "lost their peace and quiet. When they go to feed their horses, all they hear is rumbling on the highway. I feel for them. It's sound pollution."

April Tweddell, who said she "lives right next to the new bypass," acknowledged the increase in noise.

"Let's just say I've made peace with the fact that there no longer will be silence in my life when I go outdoors," Tweddell said. "Life changes. We had 25 years of quiet, and now we're experiencing something else. Life is good. In town, the lack of traffic from large trucks is heavenly!"

Other consequences

While there was no negative feedback regarding the reduction in Willits traffic since the bypass opened, several people voiced concerns about faster drivers, highway signage, and the effects of less through-traffic on local businesses.

"One of the things we've predicted that seems to be coming true is that people are now driving faster going through downtown," Duley noted.

"When we redesign Main Street, coming up with [traffic calming measures] will prove to be beneficial to us."

Duley acknowledged that, with less people driving through Willits, "comes fewer people stopping at businesses," therefore "we're continuing to explore those opportunities to use highway signage to help promote Willits and our local economy and small businesses."

"If you drive to Cloverdale, you'll see that they have a number of signs in each direction, noting downtown Cloverdale." Duley and other city staff are encouraging Caltrans to provide the same for Willits.

Chief Magann agreed better signage at both ends of the highway should be a priority.

"I had a vendor in here yesterday, and he said he was in Ukiah before he realized he had driven by Willits," Magann said. "I've heard from other individuals that the off-ramps aren't really marked clearly enough."

Magann added Highway 20 signage needs improvement as well.

"I know people who [exit] on what is now South Main Street, and there's no signage that says '20 this way.' I've gotten some comments that [Caltrans needs] to mark that a little better for the Highway 20 connection."

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

diminutive Dow, who is only 4 feet 10 inches tall and weighs 115 pounds, because of cool temperatures and heavy rains sweeping through the area. When she became separated from her nephew, she was wearing blue jeans, a gray, hooded sweatshirt, and hiking boots, Barney said.

Dow also had undergone neck surgery recently, which might have rendered her unable to ask for help from anyone she met in the forest.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team searched the area on Thanksgiving but were unable to locate her. On Friday, additional mutual aid assets from Lake, Marin, Contra Costa, Napa, and San Mateo counties joined the hunt for Dow, as well as Mendocino County CalFire personnel and search dogs from the California Rescue Dog Association.

Despite the storms and cold, on Saturday, November 26, at about 1:45 pm Dow was found alive.

This report was based on posts from the "Mendocino Sheriff" Facebook page.

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

cal marijuana – and now with the passage of California's Proposition 64, will likely govern cultivation of non-medical marijuana, too.

Supervisors and county staff have been working on four interlocking ordinances since April of this year: a cannabis cultivation ordinance, a zoning ordinance, a business license ordinance, and a taxation ordinance. The taxation ordinance appeared in the recent election as Measure AI.

As of the vote count so far, Measure AI has received a "yes" vote of 63.62 percent. Because Measure AI is a general taxation measure and not a special taxation measure, it needs only a majority – 50 percent plus one vote – to pass. The deadline for final election results to be released is December 6.

According to Planning and Building Services Senior Planner Mary Lynn Hunt, county staff will respond to the comments at the planning commission's December 15 meeting. The item will then be continued to the planning commission's January 19 meeting, when, if all goes well, the commission will vote to approve the two documents.

After that approval, the documents will be sent to supervisors for their review.

"We are hoping to get those documents to the board of supervisors in early February," Hunt said.

Altogether, the four ordinances will comprise a regulatory system that will have enormous repercussions throughout the county. Willits attorney Christopher Neary has several times commented that whatever the county does to regulate the marijuana industry will determine how life is lived here for the next 20 years.

Willits-area resident Ellen Drell has been following the deliberations on the cultivation and zoning ordinances closely for the past several months.

"I opposed Measure AF because I thought it did not sufficiently protect the environment," Drell said recently. "I thought the county process was a better way to go, and now, after reading the documents, I feel the county ordinances are headed in the right direction. This is a significant land use decision that the county is making, and I am committed to working on it."

Former Third District Supervisor Hal Wagenet also has been watching the process of ordinance drafting. Wagenet said he thought the cultivation ordinance had a couple of notable weaknesses.

One was the lack of a well-defined system of law enforcement for growers who violate the regulations of the ordinance.

"If you find egregious behavior, you need to have abatement authority," Wagenet said. "And while the general drift in the industry, from Proposition 215 to the county's 9.31 program, to Measure AF and to the No on AF movement to, now, Proposition 64, has been to move it from a criminal classification to an agricultural activity, with lesser penalties associated with that, that needs to be balanced by the well-known fact that the industry has been outside the law, operating as a cash-driven industry, since its inception. So you have to have some enforcement that has teeth, or you won't get compliance."

Wagenet said that currently the enforcement provisions of the county's cultivation ordinance are vague.

He also questioned the initial assumptions of the project description, what is referred to as the baseline. "The county is assuming that between 2009, when the update to the general plan was completed, and today, not much has changed," Wagenet said. "I don't think that's a valid assumption. To me, over the last eight years, there has been a tremendous amount of growth in that industry. When you have a flawed baseline, that's something you can be sued on. Anybody that has some bucks could turn this into a three-year EIR process, and that could be very expensive."

The Mendocino County Planning Commission meets in supervisors' chambers at 501 Low Gap Road in Ukiah. The planning commission meetings are live-streamed and archived on the county's YouTube channel here: <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSYx7uSxR-GyRh20JtuwFg>.

Second suspect held in Laytonville murder

A second suspect has been arrested in the November 11 murder of 35-year-old Jeffrey Quinn Settler of Bethel Island, California, at his commercial marijuana farm in Laytonville.

On the evening of Wednesday, November 23, 23-year-old Gary "Giggles" Fitzgerald of Roanoke, Illinois, turned himself in at the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, says sheriff's Lt. Shannon Barney.

Fitzgerald was booked into Mendocino County Jail on suspicion of homicide. Bail was set at \$650,000.

During their ongoing investigation, detectives were "able to contact and interview Amanda Wiest, 26, of Fairfax Virginia, Barbey said. Wiest had been listed as a possible suspect in the case, but after talking with investigators, her status was "changed from suspect to victim of a kidnapping along with a 4-year-old child" believed to be her daughter, Barney said.

"Charges of kidnapping will be forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for review in addition to the charges of homicide and robbery against the suspects in this case," he added.

On November 14, Mendocino County sheriff's detectives arrested Zachary Ryan Wuester, 24, of Haskell, New Jersey, in the 100 block of East Commercial Street in Willits on suspicion of murder and robbery. Wuester had been persuaded to surrender himself to authorities by a deputy United States marshal, Barney said. Bail was set at \$650,000.

Five other suspects in the case are still being sought: Frederick Gaestel, 27, of Clifton, New Jersey; Gary Blank III, 34, of Elgin, Illinois; Jesse Wells, 32, of Binghamton, New York; Michael Kane, 25, of Pleasantville, New York; and "Richie," last name unknown, about 25, possibly from San Diego.

Investigators believe the suspects – who had been hired as trimmers at Settler's commercial marijuana grow – killed Settler sometime before dawn on November 11, while he was sleeping in a pot shed on the property.

Anyone with information about the case, or the current whereabouts of the five suspects is urged to contact the sheriff's office Investigative Services Unit at (707) 463-4111 or the Sheriff's Office Tip Line at (707) 234-2100.

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

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

deeply missed."

The chamber invites the community to a candlelight vigil honoring Kennelly, on Saturday, December 3, at 6:30 pm at the chamber offices at the Skunk Train Depot, 299 East Commercial Street. The vigil will take place after the 2nd annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting at the Mendocino County Museum and Roots of Motive Power facility on East Commercial Street, a new tradition Kennelly helped to start last year.

"Lynn's favorite color was red," the statement says, "and many people plan to wear red scarves to the vigil.... As Lynn's family, friends and colleagues continue to grapple with this devastating loss, the chamber will provide updates as details become available about memorial services and additional commemorative moments for the community."

A memorial fund has been established for the family at Savings Bank of Mendocino County under the name of "The Kennelly Family Benefit Fund."

The Chamber of Commerce office will be closed until Monday, December 5. All inquiries may be directed to the chamber's board of directors at info@willits.org.





Kids Christmas Tag Trees

Annual holiday gift-giving trees up at businesses now

Trees bearing the tags of Christmas gifts desired by more than 300 kids are up at local businesses now for generous community members to pick up and fulfill.

You can find the Willits Kids Christmas Program trees at Safeway, Grocery Outlet, J.D. Redhouse, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Tri Counties Bank, Healing Central Chiropractic, Coast to Coast, El

Mexicano and many more.

Select a tag, purchase some or all of the items listed, and return the gifts with the card to the old Rexall building or at a drop-off box around town. Drop-off locations include J.D. Redhouse, Grocery Outlet, Lisa Epstein's State Farm Insurance and the Willits Chamber of Commerce.

If a business would like to have a tree, or for more info, call Kim Venturi at 972-8782.



Above: Willits Wild Bunch members get ready to place trees around town.

From far left: Kat Harris points out tags on a tree at The Goods Shoppe.

Another tree, hung with tags for the filling.

Kim Venturi shows off a tree at Main Street Music.

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RAFFLE
to benefit
INLAND MENDOCINO COUNTY
HUMANE SOCIETY

PHOTOS WITH SANTA

SALE SATURDAY!

20% OFF

ALL ITEMS IN THE PET DEPARTMENT

Saturday December 3rd
11am - 2pm

BRING YOUR PETS AND YOUR FAMILY DOWN TO VISIT SANTA
AND ENJOY HOT COCOA, APPLE CIDER, COOKIES AND TREATS FOR YOUR PETS IN OUR PET CENTER

PERSONAL CAMERAS WELCOME

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