Willits Weekly | Edition 86 | October 12, 2023





Sparetime Garden Center now offers U-Haul rentals

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Submitted by U-Haul International

U-Haul Company of California is pleased to announce that Sparetime Garden Center has signed on as a U-Haul neighborhood dealer to serve the Willits

Sparetime Garden Center at 208 East San Francisco Avenue will offer essential services like U-Haul trucks, trailers, towing equipment, and support rental items.

community.

Normal business hours are 9 am to 6 pm Monday through Saturday and 9 am to 5 pm on Sunday. Make reservations for U-Haul products at this dealer location by calling (707) 459-6791 or visiting https://www.uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-Willits-CA-95490/048048/

Sparetime Garden Center partners Jaime Wilkes and Andrew Hosford are proud to team with the industry leader in do-it-yourself moving and self-storage to better meet the demands of Mendocino County.

U-Haul has teamed with independent dealers to offer rental equipment to do-it-yourself movers since 1945. During these challenging times for small businesses, more than 21,000 dealers across the U.S. and Canada are generating

supplemental income through their U-Haul affiliation. When customers rent from a U-Haul dealer, they are directly supporting an independent small business in their

> The local affiliates are not U-Haul franchises as there are no financial investments required to be a neighborhood dealer. These small businesses have committed a portion of their lot space for U-Haul equipment, and a portion of their time to help meet the mobility needs of their neighbors. Learn more about the dealer program and how to join by visiting uhaul.com/

Founded in 1945. U-Haul is the No. 1 choice of do-it-yourself movers with more than 23,000 rental locations across all 50 states and 10 Canadian provinces. Our customers' patronage has enabled the U-Haul

fleet to grow to 192,200 trucks, 138,500 trailers and 44,500 towing devices. U-Haul was recently named one of America's Best Large Employers (Forbes, 2023); a Best for Vets Employer (Military Times, 2022); and one of the Healthiest Workplaces in America (Healthiest Employers, 2022).

Advertise in Willits Weekly's monthly real estate section!

Call April at 707-972-2475 for ad info, pricing and sizes!



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393 Redwood Avenue - \$750,000

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Pop culture and life

The times we're living through lately really beg that we think about the challenges that affect our lives. This may seem like quite an odd approach, but that's never bothered me. I was taking notes while I watched James Cameron's film "Avatar." His films are so inventive and are often about survival – overcoming adversity, or not. He also examines hubris – arrogance.

I began taking notes on the themes and plot-points, the qualities of the characters that Cameron points out as qualities that inspire survival and renewal – sometimes known as disaster recovery and renewal. We live in politically energetic times, but also in wildfire and earthquake zones – the character, inner strength, preparedness and, yes, even virtue (dare I say that!) of each of us begins to define the moment and the way forward.

Admittedly, we're talking about a "story" here in the form of a film, yet as with any work of art, there is some enlightenment. I once heard Ram Dass say in an interview, "I'll take my enlightenment wherever I can get it." I love that attitude

In "Avatar," Earthlings have come to another planet to mine it for a valuable "something," doesn't really matter what. The beings on the invaded planet face a new threat and must find a way to overcome it or perish. Our bodies do this every day. So do nations and so do each of us as individuals. So how did Cameron visualize these creatures, these beings that eventually survive? This is how it seems to me:

> First, the inhabitants of this planet have a deep connection with the place. They realize that their very survival depends on being good residents, caretakers for the time they are here. It's not a belief; it's a pragmatic situation of recognizing the mutual dependence of place and each other to have a sustainable home. I call these the "Pure Spirits." They greet each other by saying "I see you." In other words, "I see into you."

We all have this ability. It's not just Cameron's fantasy. We have just been lulled into ignoring it. "I see you." These creatures have a connection – empathy. "I was just thinking about you." That's a form of empathy. This extends to all inhabitants of the planet, all life. And it's clear that the planet itself is completely alive and the creatures that live there are a part of that shared life, all interdependent for survival

Emergency preparedness is something we as individuals and society do in order to help us survive. Our local fire department and hospital are components of being prepared for inevitable emergencies. Having operable fire extinguishers in your home and work places, even in your vehicles, are more personal examples of being prepared. Also having a "go bag" to grab that contains some of the basics if you have to escape if a fire or earthquake – even social upheaval – threatens.

The movie teaches that trust must be earned. Personal courage must be cultivated. This story doesn't deny the fact that there are "leaders" and there are "followers." That's OK where there is trust, true intuitive, honest trust. Each has their part so that things work together for the benefit of all.

There seems to be a perverted belief that capitalism must have winners and losers. That's not a tenant of capitalism, and anyway, any good economist will tell you that in the U.S. we have a symbiotic system of capitalism and socialism. When these systems work together, all benefit and are cared for.

The use of words is often manipulated and perverted for the benefit of someone else or some group. Tribalism is the old culture of fear of others, not without basis in fact, but sadly a reminder that we choose to see each other's differences as a fearful thing. The fact is we each have different skills and interests that together create a whole. Each of us is a part.

In "Avatar," there is unification and courage in the face of challenge and great sorrow, fearlessness is a quality that is sometimes called upon. There must be trust and honor. There is a balance to Life. Nature is the very essence of balance. In "Avatar" there is a place for prayers to be heard. Prayer is not necessarily a religious thing. It is a much more fundamental instinct of humans to think about and even acknowledge that we need help sometimes. It's a reaching out for connection.

The film illustrates that there is a global network, what I called earlier "nature." Humans can have a tendency to be out of harmony with nature. When we have people who are homeless and others with huge wealth, there is an imbalance. We all age and get "old" if we live long enough. Disabilities happen through organic changes or injury. War and conflict is an imbalance – a flashing red light of imbalance. Caring for and about each other and one's own self is part of balance.

The great psychologist / psychiatrist and, I would say, philosopher Carl Jung taught us about archetypes. Archetypes are symbols that represent basic truths. Cameron's stories often rely on archetypes. The "shadow" is one. The shadow might be looked at as the dark side of life, the fearful or evil. The shadow is always with us, too. In "Avatar" the shadow is greed and disrespect for the balance of life. It's natural for us to struggle with the shadowside, to let the light illuminate.

The feminine, which is part of each of us, is the archetype of birth and creativity. Water and, thus, the oceans is a feminine archetype. Life on Earth begins in water – the womb, the egg. The moon is also a feminine archetype. The embryo begins in darkness and the moon is the light – much like intuition that guides the way.

Approximately 71 percent of the Earth's surface is covered with water. What do scientists look for when exploring other planetary bodies for life? Water. Without it, life as we know it cannot exist. Water moves around our planet in the form of water vapor, aquifers, rivers, ice. It's absorbed and given off to be reused constantly. In general, about 60 percent of a healthy human body is water. Fat contains less water.

The archetype of the hero who defends and protects, that's a part of each of us. Hermann Hesse's "The Wanderer" is the archetype of the fool perhaps, the one who steps out into the unknown – the scientist, the explorer who also appreciates freedom but learns that suffering is also a part of life. Suffering just is. It's also a part of life. It's there, just as joy in

And so it goes. Storytelling is as old as humans. As we remember our history, so we can learn and evolve. In this time of transition, as rapid communication becomes a crude form of quantum physics, we grow and change. We make choices. Population grows, perhaps to a point of imbalance. But nature will have balance. That's the rule. That's the story being

Bill Barksdale was inducted into the 2016 Realtor® Hall of Fame, and served as Chair of the County of Mendocino Assessment Appeals Board settling property tax disputes between the County Assessor & citizens and businesses. DRE# 01106662, Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty Inc. Read more of Bill's columns on his blog at www.bbarksdale.com. 707-489-2232

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Fire Prevention Week: CAL FIRE urges that cooking safety starts with you

Submitted by CAL FIRE, Sacramento

CAL FIRE is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week™ campaign, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™." The campaign provides an opportunity to educate everyone about the simple but important actions individuals can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States.

"CAL FIRE encourages all Californians to embrace the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, 'Cooking safety starts with you," said Chief Daniel Berlant, recently appointed state fire marshal. "Creating fire safe habits in the kitchen will help keep you and your family safe from cooking iniuries and ensures you are doing everything vou can to prevent a fire from starting in your home while cooking."

"Year after year, cooking remains the leading cause of home fires by far, accounting for almost half (49 percent) of all U.S. home fires," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA. "These numbers tell us that there is still much work to do when it comes to better educating the public about ways to stay safe when cooking."

CAL FIRE and NFPA offer these key safety tips to help reduce the risk of a cooking fire:

• Have a "kid- and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove or grill and anywhere else

Anything you can cancel due to lack of use?

• Did you set up a FREE TRIAL you forgot to cancel?

Auto-paying helps reduce late fees, protects credit rating for bigger

things, saves you time. You may get reward points, you get fraud

protection. However, you need to check to make sure there are not

mistakes on individual bills and that you are actually using a service

for which you are paying AND know that companies raise rates, so be

I applaud the use of autopayments as long as you are reviewing

Some bills are better to NOT autopay – one is your credit card bill.

Manually paying it each month is a great reminder to review what you

are spending, see if there is anything you can cut out, and make sure

expenses have your approval. So, mark your calendar a week or so

And my pro-tip for mortgages is make two payments a month – both

autopay. One on the due date, payment-in-full and another two weeks

later – interest only. This will reduce what you pay and the years you

Take a look at your bank and credit card statements right now ...

Nicholas Casagrande, EA, is an accountant and a financial advisor.

His firm, NC Financial Group, is a wealth-management firm serving

individual clients as well as small-to-medium-sized businesses. Client

work includes personal and corporate taxes, investment planning,

insurance, and real estate. NC Financial Group's Willits office is

before the credit card is due and review, then pay!

your autopays a few times a year and your autopays do not put you at

Anything need to be tweaked?

risk of overdrawing your account.

Review your autopays regularly

COLUMN | Numbers by Nick

holidays are looming!

aware of increases.

My best,

Nick

hot food or drink is prepared.

• Watch what you heat. Always keep a close eve on what you are cooking. Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

• Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove to help prevent accidental burns and always watch young children in the kitchen.

· Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

• If you need to use your fire extinguisher. apply the Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep (PASS) method: Pull the pin to break the seal and test the extinguisher. Aim at the base of the fire and ensure you have a means of escape. Squeeze the operating handle to discharge the extinguishing agent. Sweep from side to side, aiming at the base of the fire until it is completely extinguished. If the fire cannot be extinguished, then retreat to a safe distance from the fire and call 911.

An accessible and working fire extinguisher is fundamental to kitchen safety. Having the correct type of fire extinguisher in an accessible location and knowing how to safely use it is essential to safely being able to put out a fire in your kitchen.

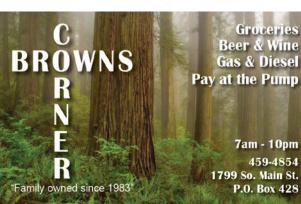
"Taking a few extra steps while in the kitchen could prevent injury, property damage, or even death. Please take these tips seriously and practice them every time you are cooking," said

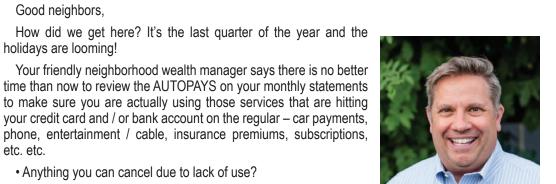
For more information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking safety, visit www.fpw.org.











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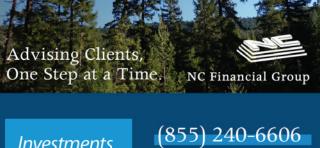
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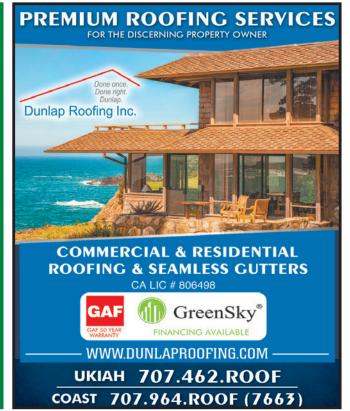
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Routine maintenance

Now is a good time to do the routine maintenance that and hold it next to the door or window. If the



Richard Selzer Columnist

will keep your home in good working order - and make winter a cozier affair. Make a list and check things off as you can. You'll be glad you did.

Gutters, downspouts and drainage - Before the first big rain of the season, it's a lot easier to clean the gutters and clear debris. Be sure the splash block at the bottom of the gutter directs water away from your house. While you're at it, confirm that the slope of the ground around your

home directs water away from your house, too.

Outside faucets - It only takes one freezing night to burst an uninsulated pipe. Adding insulation is cheap and easy, and it helps avoid expensive repairs and a big water bill. This is also a good time to store hoses for the winter.

Windows and doors - To see if you need to add caulking and weather stripping, strike a match, blow it out, smoke comes at you, add weather stripping.

Railings, walkways and steps Secure railings and loose boards and fix tripping hazards.

detectors Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms -To avoid the middle-ofthe-night alert that your batteries have expired, change the batteries and test your alarms once a year. If you don't, you may not get an alert when you need it most. Just so you know, newer smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms have 10year batteries, so if you're still replacing batteries every year, you might consider replacing your alarms rather than batteries.

Fire extinguishers – If you have a fire extinguisher (and you should), make sure it is still pressurized by confirming that the little indicator points to green. Rather than storing the extinguisher in the garage behind several boxes or under the kitchen sink where it will be unreachable in the event of a kitchen fire, put it next to a doorway for easy

Lint trap - In case you

didn't know, lint loves to

catch fire. In your clothes dryer, you should remove

lint from the trap after every

load. Also, make sure the vent from the dryer to the

Extension cords - If

you are foolish enough to have extension cords in

high traffic areas (like I do),

consider moving them. If

that's not practical, at least

make sure they are well

secured. If the cords look

Roof - A 30-year roof

doesn't mean you should

ignore it for 30 years. Repair

loose shingles and check

flashing, eaves and soffits.

If your flashing needs new

mastic (sealant) - and it

Chimney - Before you

fire up your fireplace this

winter, have a chimney

sweep inspect the chimney,

repair cracks, and clean the

probably does - apply it.

damaged, replace them.

outside is clear.

next to the house. It'll save the paint and prevent critters from hiding where they shouldn't. Trim tree branches up 10 feet from the ground. **Leaks** - After the first rain, walk around the interior of

Shrubs and trees – Cut back any shrubs that grow right

closets and attics. While you're in the attic, make sure you have ample insulation and that it's in decent condition. Tile, tubs and showers - Repair grout and caulking

your home and check for signs of water, including inside

Refrigerator – Vacuum and clean the coils to keep your fridge from working harder than it needs to. Dust works as an insulator on the coils, making it harder to cool the

before problems get worse.

Heating / air conditioning – Replace the filter every few months, and if it's been a few years since you last had the unit serviced, consider an inspection.

Mouse check - Block potential rodent access points into your home. If a hole is big enough to get their head through, it's big enough for their whole body. Fill the hole with steel wool, then spray expanding foam containing pesticide.

Water heater – Flush your water heater and it will last longer. The particulates in water sink to the bottom of your tank, creating an insulation barrier and causing tanks to rust faster and work less efficiently.

It's easy to put off routine maintenance, but if you take care of your house on a schedule, it typically saves time, money and headaches in the long run.

If you have questions about real estate or property management, contact me at rselzer@selzerrealty.com. If you have ideas for this column, let me know. (If I use your suggestion in a column, I'll send you a \$25 gift card to Loose Caboose!) If you'd like to read previous articles, visit https://selzerrealty.com and click on "How's the Market?"

Richard Selzer is a real estate broker who has been in the business for more than 45 years.



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PRESENTED AT: \$449,000

Tara Moratti

707-367-0389

ivinmendo@gmail.com

Randa Craighead

707-841-7778





Two story 3 bed 2 bath home with 2nd lot included. The lower bedroom / bathroom has a private entrance and can be made into a separate apartment or living space. Detached storage building, home needs some TLC. PRESENTED AT: \$280,000

3 bed. 2 bath home with nice front yard and additional off street parking, Bright living room with a picture window of the with a picture window of the easterly views. Open concept kitchen and dining area, fully fenced backyard. Appliances and roof were replaced in the last few years. REDUCED TO: \$329,500







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203+/- Acres Park Like Property in Branscomb

Many building sites, with paved road access. Power and phone is on the property. Also beautiful redwood trees, fir and oaks throughout the parcel. There is 3/4 of a mile

parcet. Infects 574 of a fine of the Eel River running through the middle of this property. Approximately 96 acres of the land is level. There is an old rustic barn/shop with power. Possible subdivision of 37+/-acres with RBS zoning. \$980,000



3.3+/- Level Acres Great opportunity for a commercial business or investment

property. There is a 1,700+/- sq. ft. office building with 4 separate offices and 2,646+/- storage attached. The metal shop is 4,608+/sq. ft. with drive thru bays and roll up doors. Approximately 3 acres are paved. There is a new septic system and city water. Used previously for years as a truck shop business. Many more details





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