

Donations Accepted Edition No. 288

## Thursday, January 10, 2019

**Holly Madrigal**  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Read the rest of  
**Construction**  
*Over on page 13*

**Dan McKee**  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits Police Chief Scott Warnock said Jason Garth Gilstrap's car was eastbound on Sherwood Road "at a high rate of speed" when it failed to negotiate a turn, rolled down a steep embankment and came to rest on Main Street in front of Willits High School.

Read the rest of  
**Accidents**  
Over on page 13

Officers reportedly recovered “several thousand dollars’ worth of fraudulently obtained merchandise” at the two sites, Warnock said.

Read the rest of **Fraud**  
Over on page 6



Photos by  
Maureen  
Moore

Local stores offer a selection of chimes, and there's a giant selection online. Make sure to check out the sound before purchase, and find one that sounds great to you!

– *Maureen Moore*

## Precipitation in the Willits area as of January 9

(Note: Willits Weekly's "rain year" started September 29, with the first local rains.)

National Weather Service, Willits Howard Ranger Station as of 1/9/2019 at 12:30 pm	18.92"
Mendocino College North County Center as of 1/9/2019 at 12:30 pm	17.30"
Willits sewer plant as of 1/9/2019 at 9:30 am	19.19"
Highway 20, Willits as of 1/9/2019 at 12:330 pm	19.78"
Lucky Monkey's Ranch, 2 miles west of Willits as of 1/8/2019 at 11 pm	14.86"



The snow survey was taped, and video is available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQpAJWBVd4c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQpAJWBVd4c).

– *Dan McKee*

**Forrest Glycer**  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Wilkes noted one rescue where a vehicle went 500 feet over an embankment on Highway 20 and was “upside

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

**Mike A'Dair**  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

Taking the oath of office along with Haschak and Williams were Sheriff Tom Allman, District Attorney David Eyster, Superintendent of Schools Michelle Hutchins, Assessor/Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomie, Auditor Lloyd Weer and Treasurer-Tax Collector Shari Schapmire.

Read the rest of  
**Supes**  
Over on page 6

**Mike A'Dair**  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

The chairman, Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman, put three weighty measures on the agenda. They were: 1) use of the old Howard Hospital and possible action; 2) advise the board of supervisors to release a request for proposals for bids for a psychiatric health facility, a crisis stabilization unit and a crisis residential

Read the rest of  
**Measure B**  
*Over on page 6*

A Crescent City man was arrested Christmas Day after a sheriff's deputy and a Willits police officer stopped his pickup truck on Highway 20 near Main Street and discovered stolen mail and checkbooks from as far away as Oregon.

The Brooktrails man followed Bauer's white 2005 Chevrolet truck through town before police

Read the rest of  
**Roundup**  
*Over on page 15*







Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Intermediate

COLD WEATHER WORD SEARCH

S	T	E	L	P	W	Z	H	O	I	T	M	C	L	G	S	Z	D
U	O	G	E	F	R	M	M	S	I	L	G	U	N	S	Z	U	I
H	P	T	L	B	T	R	E	T	E	M	O	R	A	B	Z	P	P
Y	T	R	A	L	E	S	H	O	Z	C	N	Z	N	Z	P	B	L
V	E	T	G	E	R	T	T	C	A	T	F	I	O	L	R	R	F
E	E	S	E	P	U	F	K	O	I	T	F	K	E	R	R	T	U
R	L	P	R	U	T	I	S	N	C	O	D	P	C	E	R	G	Z
E	S	W	G	A	A	R	D	D	G	R	K	I	E	Y	H	A	N
H	C	O	G	R	R	E	D	U	E	U	V	P	Z	S	R	A	O
P	O	N	A	G	E	H	O	N	A	I	I	R	T	E	I	D	Y
S	N	S	H	S	P	I	L	S	T	N	K	U	S	T	L	W	C
O	V	G	Y	T	M	W	C	A	G	E	G	K	A	T	F	U	I
M	E	N	H	I	E	S	T	T	C	E	Y	L	C	I	Z	Z	T
T	R	I	S	C	T	I	K	I	S	M	U	L	E	B	S	L	C
A	G	U	L	K	O	A	K	O	A	M	V	G	R	K	O	L	R
Y	E	O	L	N	V	C	N	N	U	Y	C	G	O	U	A	N	A
Z	N	L	S	A	A	U	O	C	F	C	O	L	F	U	S	I	R
P	C	B	R	L	E	S	C	D	I	S	N	I	A	R	G	F	S
P	E	Z	B	U	I	A	S	L	A	T	S	Y	R	C	E	C	I

ACCUMULATION	BRISK	FORECAST	PELLETS
AGGREGATE	CLOUDS	FREEZING	PRECIPITATION
ARCTIC	CONDENSATION	GRAINS	SLEET
ATMOSPHERE	CONVERGENCE	GRAUPEL	SLUSHY
BAROMETER	DEPRESSION	GUSTS	SNOW
BITTER	DRIFTS	HAIL	STICK
BLACK ICE	DRIZZLE	ICE CRYSTALS	TEMPERATURE
BLIZZARD	FLURRY	ICY	VISIBILITY
BLOWING	FOG	MELT	

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			
								48				
49						50			51		52	53
56						57			58			
59						60			61			
62						63				64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Homestead  
5. More (Spanish)  
8. Type of notification  
12. Approves  
14. Mandela's party  
15. 'Mom' actress Faris  
16. Predatory insects  
18. Where honey goes  
19. Canadian flyers  
20. Of an earlier time  
21. Indigenous people of Australia  
22. Organize  
23. All over  
26. Made it through  
30. Between-meals food  
31. A quantity upon which an operation is performed  
32. German mythological god  
33. 'Heavy' type of rock music  
34. Pharmacy chain Duane \_\_\_\_  
39. First responders  
42. Mysterious  
44. Leisurely stroll  
46. Most naughty  
47. Plant tissue  
49. Small fish

50. Men's fashion accessory  
51. Distant planet  
56. Destroy  
57. Location in Norse mythology  
58. One who is deliberately cruel  
59. \_\_\_\_ Romeo, car  
60. Of the ear  
61. Former name of Tokyo  
62. Male children  
63. French/Belgian river  
64. Tide  
part of W. Africa  
17. Lucky number  
24. Doctor of Education  
25. Legendary Cubs broadcaster  
26. Female parent  
27. Mimic  
28. Connects to the rim  
29. Small constellation  
35. Indicates near  
62. Male children  
37. Criticize  
38. Shock therapy  
40. Type of cigarette  
41. The fashionable elite  
42. Shed tears  
43. Arm or branch of a bone  
44. Quell anger  
45. Where rock and rollers play  
47. 'The Alchemist' author Coelho  
48. Choppers  
49. Lacks brightness  
52. Port in Yemen  
53. Brood of pheasant  
54. Approves food  
55. A type of sign

CLUES DOWN

1. Grave  
2. Alright  
3. Sharp tooth  
4. Bird genus  
5. Important  
6. One who studies carefully  
7. Not very big  
8. Astronomy unit  
9. A way to open up  
10. Trap  
11. Handle of a knife  
13. Indicates one from a

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!

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE LOG

December 17 to January 4

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 594 incidents in this 19-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

December 17

7:33 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

9:06 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street.

2:27 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 200 block of North Main Street.

8:03 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 24000 block of Lilac Terrace.

10:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

December 18

1:12 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

8:46 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal dumping in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

9:47 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

11:43 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of South Main Street.

2:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of Monroe Street.

9:38 pm: HAMILTON, Andrew Gene (20) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Page Court following a disturbance and was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

December 19

9:57 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

10:44 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 300 block of Highway 20.

6:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

December 20

4:48 am: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

10:35 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

9:37 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of East Valley Street and Railroad Avenue.

December 21

6:54 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

11:27 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 21000 block of Locust Street.

11:46 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

5:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

December 22

6:57 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of South Main Street.

2:56 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

8:33 pm: DODD Jr., James Monroe (25) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Williams Street following a disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

9:10 pm: LANIER, Kathryn Jewel (59) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence) and on felony charges of DUI causing bodily injury.

10:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 300 block of North Main Street.

11:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

December 23

3:03 pm: Officer responded to a report of an assault in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

4:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of East Barbara Lane.

December 24

12:21 am: VOGUS, Kiauna Elizabeth Ann (21) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Holly Street. She was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery).

6:28 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

9:08 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

12:39 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

9:49 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.

10:30 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

December 25

4:07 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:15 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:22 pm: BAUER, Ethan Tyler (28) of Crescent City was contacted near the intersection of Highway 20 and South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 459 PC (Burglary), on felony charges of a felon/addict in possession of a firearm, forgery, and receiving stolen property, and on misdemeanor charges of mail theft.

December 26

8:08 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Main Street.

5:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

9:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

9:54 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

December 27

6:40 am: RODRIGUEZ, Sergio (27) of Riverside was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. He was arrested on felony charges pursuant to 212.5 PC (Robbery) and 422 PC (Criminal Threats).

12:43 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

4:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of South Main Street.

5:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Gregory Lane and South Main Street.

5:33 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

December 28

10:22 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of South Main Street.

12:49 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

4:01 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

4:59 pm: BETTS Jr., William Roy (22) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of West Commercial Street following a disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 242 PC (Assault and Battery), and on misdemeanor charges

Read the rest of WPD Over on page 15



Above, from left: Conservation Project Manager Nicolet Houtz and Golden Samuelson walk along the trail leading to a copse of redwoods. A redwood bough glistens with rain. These lofty redwoods are the main attraction of the Ridgewood Ranch hike. At right: The "Ridgewood Ranch, Home of Seabiscuit," sign greets the hikers who braved the weather to join the Mendocino Land Trust hike to the Redwood Grove at Ridgewood Ranch.

Hidden Hikes

Mendocino Land Trust hosts docent-led walks through preserved lands

The previous night's rainstorm shrunk the expected crowd braving the weather to join the Mendocino Land Trust hike to the Redwood Grove at Ridgewood Ranch in mid-December. But the small

group was rewarded with a brisk, rain-free walk through oak woodlands,

meadows, and the feature of the day, a towering redwood grove.

Mendocino Land Trust works with landowners throughout the county to conserve land for future generations.

"We do work all across Mendocino County," said Ann Cole, director at the Mendocino Land Trust, "a lot of people do not realize that. We have public access mainly on the coast, but we have preserved lands all along the inland valley from Willits down to Ukiah and Hopland.

"In this particular place, we have a conservation easement which calls for public access. Not all of our conservation easements do, but this one in particular, when it was written, the landowners wanted to bring the public out to see these beautiful places," added Cole, indicating the soaring redwood trees above.

The Church of the Golden Rule is the landowner and the Mendocino Land Trust holds the conservation easement. This type of preservation agreement ensures the property is never further developed. The Land Trust holds the easement into perpetuity for the public benefit. That is why they are called a Land Trust; they preserve wilderness forever.

As the group walked across open meadows heading to the tall trees in the distance, Nicolet Houtz, conservation project manager, explained the agreements at Ridgewood Ranch: "As far as the conservation easement goes, it was funded by Save the Redwoods League and encompasses 33 acres. Six of those 33 acres are old growth, the rest are second-growth redwoods. The tallest tree in the redwood grove is 260 feet. In 1998 the top 60 feet of the tallest redwood was removed because a canker was threatening its health."

Gazing up at the grove, one can see the tallest tree has a flatness from where the top was removed. They are still a majestic sight, humbling in their height. It is hard to believe one reached 60 feet higher.

"I think the redwoods are the best seen in the rain," added Houtz. The group seemed to agree as their footsteps fell silent in the duff and the mist seemed to hug the treetops.

Earlier this year the Mendocino Land Trust led another more strenuous hike six miles up the ridge that borders the ranch to the east. A trail leads below Highway 101 and up through the area burned by the Redwood Complex Fire.

The Ridgewood Ranch Volunteer fire group was able to save the homes and trailer park in the valley, but the hills were severely burned. The Land Trust shared information about the challenges and benefits of forest fires as the group walked through the blackened trees, past remnants of snow, chirping songbirds, and vernal pools.

"We do hikes more frequently in the spring, with the wildflowers blooming. We also lead walks at Navarro Point, Pelican Bluffs, and the Shady Dell trail," added Houtz.

The Pelican Bluffs trail was officially opened this summer. Just south of Point Arena it includes an ADA-accessible loop through bluff-top meadows along towering white cliffs. The unique geology of the south coast is on full display on this trail. Shady Dell is located on the south end of the Lost Coast in the Usal Forest. The new Peter Douglas Trail in Shady Dell includes the unique, enchanted candelabra trees. The Land Trust just submitted a grant for the extension of that trail to loop the Usal property.

The Land Trust holds another easement on the Ridgewood Ranch property – 1,600 acres of oak woodlands covering the hillside east of Highway 101 up to the ridge and some areas surrounding the lower valley.

Read the rest of Hikes Over on Page 15



Above: Mist hovers over the hills of Ridgewood Ranch. At right: Jed Diamond revels in the size of an old-growth redwood.

Photos by Holly Madrigal

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The board appointed First District Supervisor Carre Brown as chairwoman, and Haschak as vice chairman. The board also revised rotation of the chairmanship of the board of supervisors, moving from the existing schedule to a new one proposed by county CEO Carmel Angelo.

Under the existing schedule, the chairmanship would rotate from District 3 to District 1 and then to districts 4, 2 and 5. As former Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg was the last regular board chairman under the old formula, Haschak would be chairman for 2019. However, Rule 3 of the board of supervisors' Rules of Procedure prohibited Haschak from becoming chairman; it states all board chairs must have been on the board of supervisors for the year prior to serving as chair.

Angelo suggested the order of rotation be changed to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Second District Supervisor John McCowen offered to switch with Haschak, allowing Haschak to become chairman in 2020. After Haschak, the rotation would proceed to districts 4 and 5, and would then go back to District 1, meaning the Second District supervisor would not become chairman until 2024.

That proposal was approved by a 4-1 vote, with Williams voting no.

Early in the meeting, Haschak and Williams attempted to show they are willing to end the business-as-usual mentality which has long set the context in which the board of supervisors operates. Haschak pulled four items off the board's consent calendar and asked for more background on the items.

The items included increasing the contract with Crestwood Behavioral Health for hospital beds for conserved persons by \$141,449; increasing the contract with Redwood Community Services for counseling services associated with the 2017 Redwood fire; an item concerning Mendocino County's investment policy for county funds; and allocation of an additional \$50,000 to Cole Creek Equestrian Center in Kelseyville to defray additional costs for keeping 17 horses impounded in late 2017 and early 2018 by animal control.

Regarding hospital beds for conserved persons, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director Jenine Miller explained the money was necessary because the department had identified that 15 people would likely need to be conserved during 2019, as opposed to the department's earlier estimate of 10. Miller said the department had no choice but to find a place for those people, who had been conserved at the direction of the court.

Redwood Community Services Chief Executive Officer Camille Schraeder told the supervisors the extra funding for fire victims' counseling services came from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and was for services already rendered in 2017 and throughout most of 2018, when RCS was working with Mendocino County to hold numerous community meetings in the town of Redwood Valley in the wake of the fire.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde asked if any of the county's general fund money would be used to pay the new contract with RCS. Schraeder replied it was all federal money and no county money was involved.

Haschak moved approval of both items, which were approved unanimously. Haschak also told the board he had had a Monday conversation with Treasurer-Tax Collector Schampire and the county's investment policy met with his approval.

"I was pleased to know we

have a socially conscious investment policy, and we have an environmentally aware investment policy. We don't invest in fossil fuels and such," Haschak said. Haschak moved the item be approved, and it was.

Department of Animal Care's Rich Molinari came before the supervisors late in the meeting to explain that the horses being boarded were impounded in October 2017 and January 2018, and two foals have been born, bringing the total of impounded horses to 19.

Molinari noted the health of the horses had improved greatly over the past year. The horses are being retained under court order and are evidence in a pending criminal case.

Molinari said the 19 horses were costing the county \$4,750 a month to board. County Deputy Counsel Brina Blanton told supervisors the case would be coming up soon, and the situation would not last forever.

Supervisor Williams surprised a few observers when he said the horses should be "liquidated."

"I'm about to drive home through Anderson Valley," Williams said. "I know that, if I do everything right, and an act of nature puts me in a ditch and I need help, that ambulance has one EMT who's being paid \$30 for a 12-hour shift. Not \$30 per hour, but less than \$3 per hour. There is no paramedic, no pain meds. And this is a large area of our county, and we have several of those.

"We're disproportionately spending more money taking care of these horses than on our own people. I understand the situation we're in, and maybe we have to do this. But I would like to suggest liquidating the horses, immediately. And if the court won't allow us, we need to push back.... We need to focus ... on our people more than on these horses that have been impounded," Williams said.

Williams' speech did not carry the day. Haschak moved the extra \$50,000 for Cole Creek Equestrian Center be allocated, and his motion was approved 4-1, with Gjerde voting no.

The new board took decisive action on the appointment of a representative to the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District. The two candidates were former Third District Supervisor Jim Eddie and former Ukiah City Councilman and current member of the Mendocino Transit Authority board of directors Jim Mastin.

Eddie was a county supervisor from 1975 to 1995 and has served on the bridge district board from 1998 to 2018, a total of 40 years of public service. An initial vote in support for Eddie failed by a 2-3 margin, with Gjerde, Haschak and Williams voting no. A subsequent motion to appoint Mastin was approved unanimously.

McCowen and Haschak were appointed to the board of directors of the North Coast Railroad Authority, an agency which has been directed to dissolve by the state Legislature.

"The new mandate is to dissolve the organization, to oversee the dissolution successfully, to convey the assets of the organization to a new company, and to oversee the development of trails, etc.," McCowen said. He added he was deeply involved in the current business of the NCRA, and asked to be reappointed to the board. He was returned to the board and told his term would begin immediately. Haschak was told he would be voted onto the board when the second Mendocino County seat becomes open in March. That seat is currently held by former Third District Supervisor Hal Wagenet.

facility for Mendocino County; and 3) recommend to the board of supervisors that it explore the use of Measure B funds to assist Adventist Hospital Ukiah Valley in remodeling its intensive care unit and emergency room for use as a psychiatric facility.

However, the committee was unable to act decisively on any of the items put forward by Allman.

Concerning the old Howard Hospital, several members offered ideas which did not always address the agenda item. City of Ukiah representative Shannon Riley opined it was premature to make any decision concerning Howard Hospital because the committee had yet to evaluate the second Kemper Report. This is the "gap analysis," also called the needs assessment, undertaken by Kemper Consulting Group over the summer and released to the Measure B Committee in August.

"I think what we need to do is prioritize the projects, to evaluate the Kemper Report in terms of a strategic plan," Riley said.

Fort Bragg representative Mark Mertle said, "We are struggling with yes, we'd like to have all of them, but do we have enough money to staff that facility?"

Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo criticized the committee for wandering off topic and straying from its charge.

"At every meeting, we need to stay focused on our charge," Angelo said. "We have the Kemper Report, but we haven't made a commitment to adopt the goals of the report. Without some very specific direction, I'm not sure we are ever going to get there."

City of Willits representative Jed Diamond said the committee needed to ask the Howard Foundation for a more refined set of engineering plans for how the old Howard building would be remodeled for use as a PHF, and for an updated cost estimate.

Diamond also called for requests for proposals from Adventist Health Ukiah Valley on costs associated with its plans to convert its old intensive care unit into a mental health facility.

Dr. Ace Barash said he would rather talk about the mental health crisis center proposed by Redwood Community Services. This center has won approval from the board of supervisors and received a \$500,000 grant from the State of California, which RCS used to purchase property on Orchard Avenue in Ukiah.

Barash spoke at length about the RCS project, which is planned to include a crisis access center, a crisis stabilization unit and a crisis residential treatment facility – the unit Kemper Consulting recommended the Measure B Committee fund first, to the tune of \$4.5 million.

Barash said he supported the idea, that it would help people afflicted with mental health issues and it would lessen the pressure on hospital emergency rooms throughout the county.

Fifth District Representative Ross Liberty said he wanted to know under what terms the Howard Hospital Foundation would make the old Howard Hospital available to the county for use as a psychiatric hospital. "I'd like to know, are they going to sell it to us, or give it to us?"

He then asked if anyone from the Howard Foundation was in the audience, and Howard Foundation CEO Arne Melo stepped forward.

"I can't speak for the board, but I think they would give it to you," Melo said. "In part, it would depend on what you want to put in there. None of us can really make a decision before we know what will go in there."

After more discussion, Allman asked if anyone on the committee would be willing to make a motion on use of the old Howard Hospital. No one was. The committee moved on to considering the Ukiah crisis center.

Barash moved the committee recommend to the board of supervisors that the county send out a request for proposals for a company to build and operate a mental health crisis center, consisting of a crisis access center, a crisis stabilization unit and a crisis residential treatment center, to be located on Orchard Avenue in Ukiah.

But Angelo pointed out that language was not what the agenda item stated. The agenda item stated: "Advise the board of supervisors to release a request for proposals for bids for a psychiatric health facility, crisis stabilization unit, or crisis residential treatment facility for Mendocino County with discussion and action."

Angelo said the way the agenda item was written,

the committee could not legally vote on Barash's motion because his motion was not on the agenda.

"The way this is written, it seems to me we could ask the supervisors to put out an RFP on either a CSU or a CRT, but not both. And we wouldn't be able to ask them to put out an RFP on a crisis access center, because that's not on the agenda. And there's nothing here that says it [must] be located on Orchard Avenue," Angelo said. "So ... it seems to me that for us to vote on Dr. Barash's motion would be a violation of the Brown Act."

The committee agreed it wanted an agenda item like the one proposed by Barash to come back to the committee at the January meeting.

The committee briefly took up the third major item proposed by Allman: that the committee recommend the board of supervisors explore the use of Measure B funds for remodeling the vacant intensive care unit and emergency room at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley for use as a psychiatric facility.

After brief discussion, members decided to consider the Adventist Health proposal at the January meeting.

Allman gave the committee information on the impact of the county's Mobile Outreach and Prevention Services teams, or MOPS. These are the two-person teams, each consisting of a mental health rehabilitation specialist and service technician from the Sheriff's Office. The county has three of them, in the interior of the north county, on the south coast and in Anderson Valley. The MOPS project began in December 2014.

At the November meeting, the committee voted 9-1 to recommend to supervisors spending \$520,800 to fund the operation of two more MOPS teams, one for the Fort Bragg area and one for the central inland area of Mendocino County, including Willits, Ukiah and Redwood Valley.

According to Allman, the MOPS teams have decreased the number of 5150 calls sheriff's deputies have responded to over the past four years. Allman gave a verbal report on the call volume over three of the past four years.

From December 2013 to November 2014, the Sheriff's Office responded to 296 calls. According to Allman, from December 2016 to November 2017, the Sheriff's Office responded to 277 calls. From December 2017 to November 2018, the Sheriff's Office responded to 270 calls.

"I feel confident some of this is attributable to MOPS," Allman said. "These MOPS teams have reduced the number of 5150 calls that law enforcement responds to."

The committee also considered a November proposal by county Auditor Lloyd Weer, that the committee consider whether it should hire an executive director. In the process of drafting the agenda, Allman had transformed this request into a proposal – that the committee should seek administrative staff support from the county to replace Sheriff's Office grant writer Dora Briley, who has been doing the secretarial and administrative work for the committee since it was formed in January.

Representative Riley reminded the committee the question at issue included Weer's proposal. Angelo said if the committee preferred, a secretarial person from the Health and Human Services Agency or perhaps one of the clerks from the Clerk of the Board's Office, could take over the secretarial duties for the Measure B Committee.

Angelo also suggested the committee form an ad hoc committee to assess the scope of duties that might fall to an executive director. "Because we don't know what we're going to do, we don't know what we're going to build, I would have a hard time knowing who we need, to do we don't know what."

The committee agreed to put an agenda item for forming an ad hoc committee on the next agenda.

Finally, the committee approved a draft budget for \$1,331,500, including \$20,000 for staff support, \$50,000 for consultant or contractor needs, and \$252,000 for two additional MOPS teams. This would include vehicle purchases and would fund the two teams from February through June 30, 2019.

The \$1.3 million figure also included \$1 million for funds to develop a psychiatric facility, a behavioral health facility and/or a regional behavioral health training facility.

Weer specified the budget was draft-only and the numbers in it could be changed by the committee at any time. The draft budget was approved unanimously.



## Bingo!

### Fun, friendship ... and cash to be won at Harrah Senior Center

There are so many ways to win. With games like Blackout, Four Leaf Clover, Three Legged Table, Layer Cake, Thirteen, Block of Nine, Turtle and Postage Stamps – and variations of each, it keeps the indefatigable regulars coming back each week and each month to sit with their game cards, their daubers, and their good luck charms for a chance to call "Bingo!"

The first Sunday of every month the Harrah Senior Center opens at 11 am for the players to congregate, buy their game cards, eat a snack or a sandwich, and socialize with the other players whom they see each month.

At 11:30 am the balls begin to fly up the shoot and get placed into the electronic grid, where their corresponding numbers and positions are recorded on the big screen for all to see and respond to by marking their multiple grids with the many-colored daubers.

But please do not disturb the players when they are marking their cards, or one will be met with a resounding "shh" as they are attempting to concentrate on the numbers as they are called. Missing a

number could possibly result in missing a win, and make no mistake about it, they are here to win.

This is some serious fun, except for except for the comradery and the piglets. The pigs are little rubber toys that make strange oinking sounds when squeezed and are utilized to make noise when the caller errs in calling a number. The caller then has to contribute a certain amount of money to the pot which can be won by various means during the session, another way to win.

The first number that comes out of the machine is called the "Pig Number." If one wins a Bingo on the Pig Number, they get the money that's in the vat which fills up to as much as \$25. There is also a raffle generated by a ticket when the participants sign in to the game, through which they can win a free lunch or dinner or money off at the Senior Center Thrift Store.

But mostly, the regular event is a social activity where players can meet, catch up and enjoy a couple hours of fellowship, gossip and excitement. They have their regular tables and groups of friends with

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



Far left: Bingo players focus on finding the numbers called out. At left: Val Parker, organizer of the Ukiah Senior Center Bingo, wins the first blackout game. Below, left: Barbara Turner wins \$50 with the pull-tabs. Below, right: Pat Yoxall sits with her array of daubers, good luck charms, and squeaky pigs. At bottom, left: Carroll O'Farrell displays her good luck charms – a mini pig and her mother's four leaf clover.



At top, right: Pat Collins, KLLG Radio general manager, works the grids.

Above: Katie Barry sells the grids to participants.

At left: Virginia Jorge, president of the board at the Willits Senior Center, calls the numbers.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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Thursday, January 10

**"The Cannabis Hour":** Interim Code Enforcement Division Manager of the Mendocino County Planning and Building Services Department, Trent Taylor, will be Jane Futcher's guest. Taylor, a former division commander with the Ukiah Police Department, will talk about how his department handles cannabis code violations, whether there will be enforcement changes in 2019 and more. Thursday, January 10, 11 am on KZYX Radio, 91.5-FM. Find the archived show at <http://jukebox.kzyx.org/>.

**Willits Farmers Market:** The market is indoors at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street for the winter, Thursday, January 10, 3 to 5:30 pm. Winter veggies, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, and savory and sweet baked goods, including handcrafted bread. More: gift items, dog treats, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Friday, January 11

**Sherwood Firewise Meeting:** Sherwood Firewise Communities will have a general meeting of all Sherwood Road corridor residents, Thursday, January 11, 6 to 8 pm at the Brooktrails Community Room. Updates on current projects as well as goals for 2019. Join an active group working to keep our communities fire safe. Information: [info@sherwoodfirewise.org](mailto:info@sherwoodfirewise.org).

**The Fire Scottish Band:** Blazing "Pure-Drop" Scottish Music at the Willits Community Theatre, Friday, January 11, 7:30 pm. International fiddle champion Rebecca Lomnicky leads The Fire Scottish band performs original, unadulterated Scottish music - fiddle, bagpipes, guitar, bodhran, whistle, and bouzouki. The Fire band features Lomnicky on fiddle, multi-instrumentalist David Brewer of the popular Celtic band Molly's Revenge, and Adam Hendey on guitar and bouzouki. Advance



Trent Taylor

# What's Happening Around Town

tickets are \$20 and are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com); or by phone 24/7 at 800-838-3006. Tickets available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

**Shanachie Pub:** Lee Vandever Band: Friday, January 11, 9 pm. "The Lee Vandever Band is from Sonoma County and brings a wide variety of musical and artistic influences together to create an edgy Americana sound." Visit [leevandeverband.com](http://leevandeverband.com). Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, January 12

**Sit 'n' Sew:** "Please bring a project to work on, sewing machine and tools." Free event. Saturday, January 12, 1 to 5 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: Rachel 707-354-0605.

**Shanachie Pub: Camp Fire Fund Benefit:** Saturday, January 12, 9 pm. Featuring local favorites, Schindig and Fruit Leather Jacket. Visit [facebook.com/schindig](http://facebook.com/schindig). Also, the Pub will be pouring Sierra Nevada Brewery's new "Resilience Butte County Proud IPA," a fundraiser beer for Camp Fire relief. "100% of the sales of Sierra Nevada's Resilience Butte County Proud IPA will be donated to the Sierra Nevada Camp Fire Relief Fund." Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Sunday, January 13

**Senior Center Pancake Breakfast:** All you can eat pancakes, real maple syrup (available at extra charge), bacon or sausage, sugar-free syrup or Grandma's biscuits and gravy. Peet's coffee. Sunday, January 13, 8 to 11 am, at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Adults \$8, Senior Center members \$7, children \$6.

**LocalLights:OpenMic++ presents:** Forrest Glycer with Sarah Rose and Malakai Schindel - all local favorites with their blend of original and

familiar Americana songs. Sunday, January 13, 5 pm. Willits natives, Forrest and Malakai are also founding members of the popular group Schindig. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Open mic before and after the featured group. Suggested donation: \$5. To sign up in advance for open mic slots: [LocalLights@theSighting.com](mailto:LocalLights@theSighting.com) or 459-7054.

Monday, January 14

**Ice Cream Social:** at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Monday, January 14, 1:30 to 2:20 pm. Pie, ice cream and coffee will be served. Entertainment and prizes. Adults \$1.50, members \$1.

**"Seeds of Wellness":** Monday, January 14, 1 pm at the Willits Garden Club's monthly meeting at the Clubhouse at Golden Rule Village, Diane Smalley, L.Ac., will give a talk about her full-color book called "Seeds of Wellness." Beginning with the directions of North, South, East, West and Center, traveling through 12 lessons to create a curriculum that builds knowledge for a lifetime of health. 16100 North Highway 101, Ridgewood Ranch turnoff. Info: Diane Smalley, 456-9514.

Tuesday, January 15

**Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre:** 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: "Aquaman," "The Mule" and "Green Book." Visit [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com) or call 459-6696 for showtimes. 57 East Commercial Street.

**Marijuana Anonymous 12 Step Meeting:** Every Tuesday at 6 pm starting Tuesday, January 15. Meeting place is the Back Alley building in Catherine Lane. The lane is directly behind the United Methodist Church, which is at the corner of School and Pine, right across from the Grange.

Thursday, January 17

**Willits Farmers Market:** Market is at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, for the winter, Thursday, January 17, 3 to 5:30

pm. Winter veggies, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, and savory and sweet baked goods, including handcrafted bread. More: gift items, dog treats, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

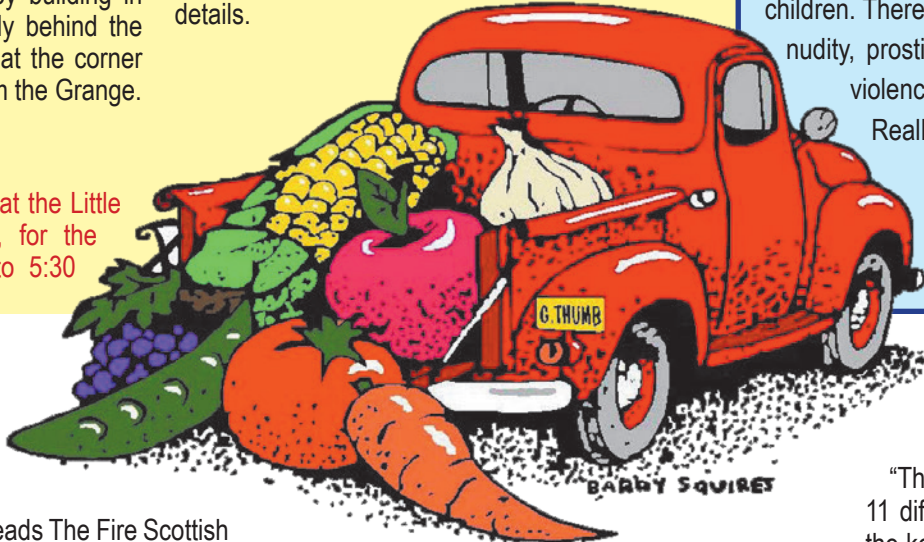
Friday, January 18

**Theatre Talks with Bill Barksdale:** A fascinating look into the world of the theater: Friday, January 18, 6 to 8 pm, "Making Theater: The Director - Creative Muse & Control Freak." Friday, February 22, 6 to 8 pm, "Making Theater: The Actor - Emotional Engine & Hair Trigger Reactionary." Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. 459-1726. Visit: [willitscenterforthearts.org](http://willitscenterforthearts.org).

**Lady Mac B's House Party:** Willits Charter School Theatre Arts presents all of Shakespeare's greatest hits in one house party. Friday and Saturday, January 18 and 19, 7 pm, Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. \$10 adults, \$5 children. Tickets: 459-5506. All proceeds go towards future Charter School productions.

Saturday, January 19

**Lady Mac B's House Party:** All of Shakespeare's greatest hits in one house party. See Friday, January 18 listing for details.



## Beyond Trade: Cultural Exchange Along the Silk Road

January 25

For over 1,000 years the ancient trade routes today known as the Silk Road connected East and West. Ruby Ming from the Asian Art Museum will present "Beyond Trade: Cultural Exchange Along the Silk Road," about the first international trade routes and how art was inspired by trade. Many precious commodities in addition to silk, such as spices, artworks, fruits, vegetables, and precious stones were traded over thousands of miles. Explore how the constant mixing of peoples and the exchange of technology, cultures, beliefs, and ideas profoundly impacted the development of civilizations along the Silk Road. Friday, January 25, 6:30 pm. Reservations encouraged: 459-1726. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

## American Legion Wants You!

American Legion Post 174 is looking for new young recruits for their service organization. "You served your country, now help serve our veterans and community." Meetings every 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Legion Hall, 189 North Main Street. Roger Ham, Post Adjutant 456-9858 or Bob Ireland, Post Commander 707-272-1997 for more information.

AT THE MOVIES



## 'The Mule'

**The Story:** Clint Eastwood stars in - and directs - this thriller-slash-family drama. Earl Stone (Eastwood) has a flower business; he is going bankrupt. He's estranged from his wife and grown daughter. There is a foreclosure notice on his house. He gets a job transporting kilos of cocaine. Top gun DEA Agent Colin Bates (Bradley Cooper) is looking to smash a cocaine ring in the Chicago area. There are good guys, and a different set of good guys. And there are some dangerous bad guys.

**My Thoughts:** Eastwood is dealing with some serious issues of family dynamics and personal failings, as well as how an honest man can be driven into immoral acts. There is a modest amount of suspense. There are some moments of kind humor, and human ego-driven idiocy and sadness. This flick is well-motivated. As with all Eastwood movies, he says what he has to say, shows what he has to show, then he ends it. I liked the movie and cared about the central characters ... and wished them all well. Enjoy.

**Parents:** Not for children. There's brief nudity, prostitutes and party scenes, some violence, and drugs are at the center. Really ... no children.

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

## Ongoing Events

**Marijuana Anonymous 12 Step meeting:** Every Tuesday at 6 pm. Meeting place is the Back Alley building in Catherine Lane, directly behind the United Methodist Church, which is at the corner of School and Pine, right across from the Grange.

**Loren Madsen's "Worry Beads" and Linda MacDonald's "Deep Within, Painting the Big Trees."** January show at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Open 11 am to 5 pm, Wednesdays to Sundays.

**"Believe":** Alcohol Ink paintings by Julie Bullock, alcohol ink art. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 East Commercial Street. Each painting is a one of a kind, as she does not offer prints of any of her original paintings. More info: [www.facebook.com/DbtDesigns17](http://www.facebook.com/DbtDesigns17), [instagram.com/dbtdesigns17](https://www.instagram.com/dbtdesigns17).

**Marta Alonso Canillar:** Well-known local artist shows her rich oil paintings. ReEvolution Gallery, 15 West Mendocino Street.

**"Promise of Paradise":** "In celebration and acknowledgement of the people who launched this watershed movement in local history a half-century ago," KZYX Radio 91.5 FM is now airing "Promise of Paradise: Back to the Land Oral Histories of Mendocino County," every Thursday at 3:30 pm. Visit: [www.kzyx.org/programs/promise-paradise](http://www.kzyx.org/programs/promise-paradise) to listen previous episodes.

**Vintage Toys Exhibit:** The Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, hosts an exhibit of vintage toys. Runs through March 18, 2019. Explore toys of the past. Open Wednesday through Sunday. 10 am to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-2736.

**Brown Bag Lunch Program:** Lunch served to the hungry in the City Park across from the Willits Police Station every Saturday at 1 pm. If rain: Under the overhang at City Hall, across the street. Served by various community-minded organizations. For information, call the Food Bank at 459-3333.

**Boomer's Friday Night Karaoke:** 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of every month, Boomer's Saloon, 45020 Highway 101, Laytonville, 9 pm to 1 am. No Cover. 21+ Please bring I.D. Hosted by DJ-Ken Steely Entertainment with KJ/DJ-Ken Steely & Anna. Come for dinner, stay for the fun.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings at Howard Memorial Hospital:** Held once a week on Mondays, 6 to 7 pm in the Seabiscuit Conference Room. Open to everyone and anyone who needs support recovering from alcoholism. Info: Cici at 456-3591

**Willits Farmers Market:** Indoors at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, winter hours: 3 to 5:30 pm. Winter veggies, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, and savory and sweet baked goods, including handcrafted bread. More: gift items, dog treats, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**Emandal Choral:** The Choral is open to all who wish to sing a cappella songs of peace and justice. Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: 367-1573.

**Friday Potluck Bingo:** Harrah Senior Center presents Potluck Bingo on Friday nights. Doors open at 5 pm; games begin at 5:30 pm. Minimum bingo buy-in \$5. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

**Weekly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group:** Every Thursday, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941.

**German Conversation Class:** Ongoing non-denominational German conversation/book reading class is open to new members (middle to advanced German speakers). No charge, but donations gladly accepted. St. John Lutheran Church, 24 Mill Creek Drive. Mondays from 7 to 8:30 pm. Info: Doris Wier, 456-9246.

**Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group:** Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or [honemann@yahoo.com](mailto:honemann@yahoo.com).

**Willits Community Drum Circle:** 7 to 10 pm at the Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Friday. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932.

**Willits Library Activities:** Tuesdays: 3:30 to 4:15 pm, "The Storyteller"; fun interactive stories. Wednesdays: 11 to 11:45 am "Play Group," and 3 to 4:30 pm "Lego Day" (bring your imagination and start building); Thursdays: 3:30 to 4:30 pm "Therapeutic Coloring." Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

**Willits Seed Lending Library:** Offering information on seed saving and gardening. Seeds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables are free to seed library members, and seed donations are gladly accepted.

**Drop-In Knitting Circle:** Every Saturday of the month, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your own projects or your yarn and needles; we have people who should be able to help solve problems and/or help you learn to knit or crochet. Sign-ups are not necessary - everyone is welcome to drop in." Info: Lotus Baker at 456-9037, or [lotus3@earthlink.net](mailto:lotus3@earthlink.net).

**Soroptimists International of Willits:** Women's service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets second and third Tuesdays of every month, noon to 1 pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church Hall, 24 Mill Creek Drive. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

**Weekly Life Changes Discussion and Support Group:** Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 am. In the Conference Room at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Smoking Cessation Program:** Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by Adventist Health Howard Memorial. Every Wednesday at AHHM's Roots Restaurant, 1 Marcela Drive, 6 to 7 pm. Register today: 540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

**Free Sheriff's Activity League programs:** at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 5 pm. Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5:15 to 6 pm. Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 to 7 pm; Teens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: [www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague](http://www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague) or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

**Shanachie Pub:** Tuesdays, 7 pm: "Wabi Sabi" with host Mitchell Holman, formerly of It's A Beautiful Day ("Whitebird") features different artists every week. Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday at 7:30 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 8 pm. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic Night every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Laytonville Farmers Market:** Mondays, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Local fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan goat cheeses, ranch meats, eggs, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

## Senior Center Lunch

Week of January 14 through January 18

**Monday:** Ortega Chicken

**Tuesday:** Meatball Sub Sandwich

**Wednesday:** Monte Cristo

**Thursday:** Meat Loaf

**Friday:** Chicken & Dumplings

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. \$6.50 for those 55 and older; \$8 for those under 55. Includes soup, salad, entrée, vegetable, dessert, and drink. Salad Bar available all year. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

## 'Seeds of Wellness'

January 14

Monday, January 14, 1 pm at the Willits Garden Club's monthly meeting at the Clubhouse at Golden Rule Village. Diane Smalley, L.Ac., will be giving a talk about her full-color book called "Seeds of Wellness." Beginning with the directions of North, South, East, West and Center, traveling through 12 lessons to create a curriculum that builds knowledge for a lifetime of health. "When we plant Seeds of Wellness, a child receives the information they need to stay confidently healthy for a lifetime. As the caregiver reads with the child, everyone learns simple concepts of wellness, such as Self-Care Seeds. These ten 'seeds' help everyone to grow healthy and stay healthy. Taking more responsibility for our health is empowering and essential for a smooth transition to single-payer health care. Until that time comes, we can learn to advocate for our best health care." Info: Diane Smalley 456-9514, [dancemolloy@willitsonline.com](mailto:dancemolloy@willitsonline.com). 16100 North Highway 101, Ridgewood Ranch turnoff.

## The Fire: Scottish 'Pure Drop' music

January 11

International fiddle champion Rebecca Lomnicky leads The Fire Scottish band in a "pure-drop" music performance at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, January 11 at 7:30 pm. "Pure-drop" refers to the original, unadulterated Scottish music that includes fiddle, bagpipes, guitar, bodhran, whistle, and bouzouki. "The Fire band features Lomnicky on fiddle, multi-instrumentalist David Brewer of the popular Celtic band Molly's Revenge, and Adam Hendey on guitar and bouzouki. Members of the trio have each spent copious amounts of time delving into the traditions of their respective instruments, having lived and studied in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and the highlands of Scotland. Together, the trio performs captivating Scottish music which bridges the gap between the fiddle and the bagpipe music of Scotland. Their appearance at the WCT playhouse is a rare opportunity to enjoy the foot-stomping, hand-clapping joy of 'pure-drop' music at its best." Advance tickets are \$20 and are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, Willits; online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com); or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

## Camp Fire Fund Benefit at the Pub

January 12

In the days following the Camp fire, Sierra Nevada Brewery announced plans to brew "Resilience Butte County Proud IPA," a fundraiser beer for Camp Fire relief, and committed to brewing the beer and donating 100% of the sales to the Sierra Nevada Camp Fire Relief Fund, aimed at long-term community rebuilding support. More than 1,400 breweries signed up to brew Resilience. Their suppliers donated ingredients to every brewery nationwide. Wholesalers and retailers agreed to carry the beer and donate every dollar they received. All of them agreed to do this for free to benefit people they had never met. Every dollar Sierra Nevada receives from the sales of this IPA will go to those impacted by the Camp Fire. For more information and to see a list of those participating, visit <https://sierranevada.com/resilience-butte-county-proud-ipa>.

Shanachie Pub will be pouring this very special IPA on Saturday January 12, and 100% of the sales of Sierra Nevada's Resilience Butte County Proud IPA will be donated to the Sierra Nevada Camp Fire Relief Fund. We'll have live music by local favorites Schindig and Fruit Leather Jacket, with Isaac Frankie (Shovelman) on guitar, Kyle Madrigal (The Dirt Floor Band) on bass, and Sean Smith (Funkacillin) on drums, plu special guests. We hope you'll come out to join us and support the efforts to rebuild the Butte County community - one pint at a time. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

- Shanachie Pub

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At right: Chris Hansen's book, "Secrets of Backyard Photography," is available locally at The Book Juggler.

Far left: Chris Hansen's "Hummingbird" photo was chosen for National Geographic's "Your Shot" assignment, "Beauty of Birds."

At left, below: This beautiful image of a squirrel drinking water was taken from an unusual angle – Hansen built a plywood blind and attached the water feature to it at eye level.

At bottom: Hansen's amazing photo, "Soap Bubble," had the editor of National Geographic's "Your Shot" fooled – he thought it was a thermographic photograph of a planet.

# 'Your Shot'

## Local photographer Chris Hansen receives recognition from National Geographic

Photographer Chris Hansen is a Willits local and well-known for his bird photography. Many of his striking and colorful images are seen gracing the walls in Adventist Health Howard Memorial's Outpatient Physical Therapy complex, and many homes and businesses in Willits and beyond. His stunning book, "Secrets of Backyard Photography," is on the shelves at The Book Juggler and other bookstores across the U.S. and is available online.

Ree Slocum  
Features Writer  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

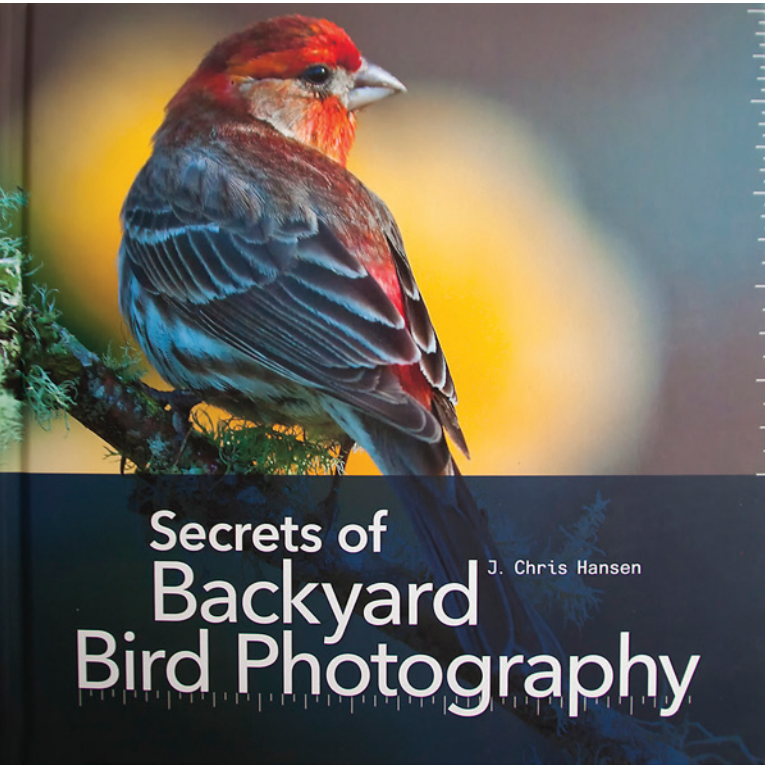
Two of his images were recently chosen for National Geographic's "Your Shot" segment of their website, quite an honor for a photographer. The idea behind "Your Shot" is to give participants a chance to mimic the process of being a photographer on assignment. Each of Hansen's photos were chosen for different assignments that were two weeks apart from one another.

"So I posted in the [assignment] that was 'Beauty and Awe,'" shared Hansen. "I sent them the 'Soap Bubble' photo because that one really pops, and I thought, 'That's really beautiful and [you can feel] in awe when you look at it,' so I sent that one in.

"The editor of 'Beauty and Awe' commented," continued Hansen, "that he thought it was a thermographic image of a planet and said he was blown away when he saw that it was just a soap bubble!"

Hansen's photo was one of 33 chosen for the assignment, out of approximately 12,000 photographs submitted.

Then, two weeks later, he was again notified that another of his photographs was chosen by National Geographic, this time for the assignment, "Beauty of Birds." Hansen said of the "Hummingbird" image, "I was never going to submit it to an assignment, but when an editor gave it what's called an 'editor's like,'



I submitted it and it was chosen for that assignment." This time his photograph was one of 20 chosen out of around 11,000.

Those weren't the first times Hansen submitted his photos for an assignment during his year-long membership in "Your Shot." "I've done a couple other assignments and not been chosen," Hansen admitted, "and when I look at what's been published, I can see why they didn't choose my shot."

Like most artists and photographers, Hansen enjoys trying new things within his medium. He has specialized in birds, but enjoys a wide range of other subjects to photograph, which is well evidenced by his "Soap Bubble" image.

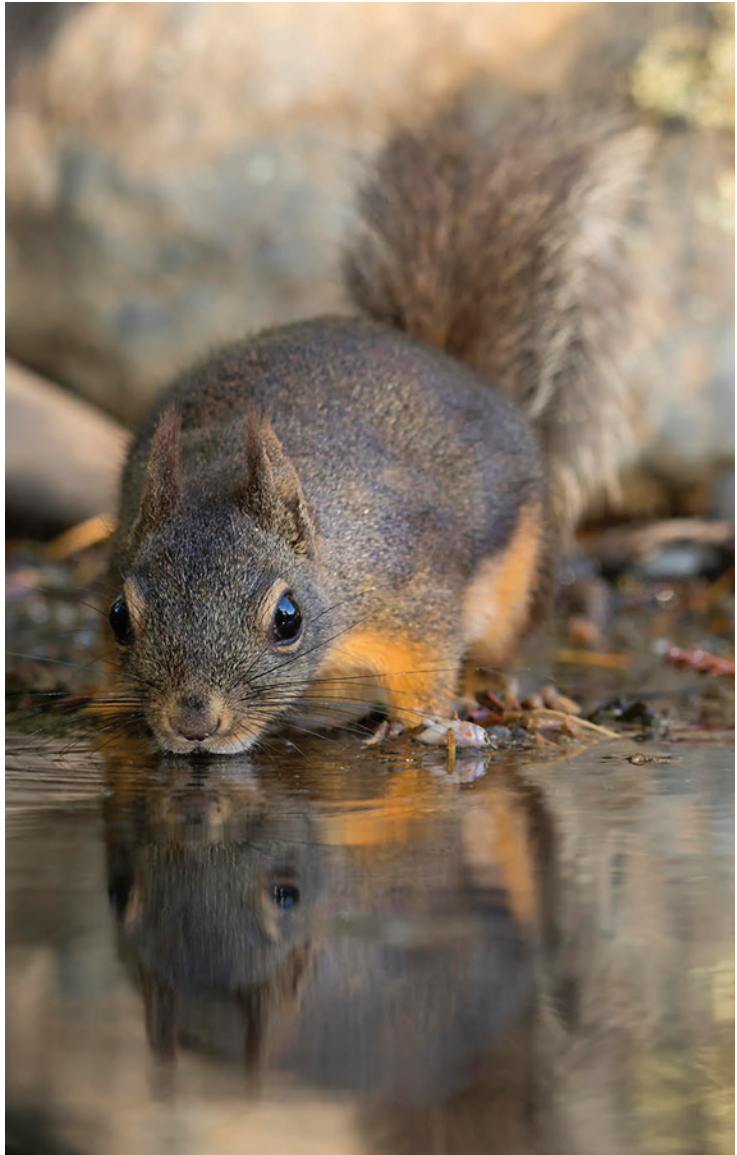
Digital photography has helped in his exploration, "I find with digital photography I do more risky shots than I've ever done before. When it was film, I knew I had a finite number of shots. I had 36 chances, and I didn't want to waste 'em. I usually didn't take a shot until I was pretty sure of it. With digital I think, 'Ah, I'll try it. If it doesn't work, it doesn't work.'"

Currently Hansen is creating another edition of "Secrets of Backyard Photography," this time focusing on the details of a variety of setups in which to photograph birds. One setup that will be in the book is a basic set-up for water features that attract birds and wildlife. Using various props and backgrounds, one can completely change the scene and attract different species.

He's also including what bird photographers jokingly call, "bird on a stick." It's one of the simplest set-ups imaginable, yet Hansen took it to a different level in his "Hummingbird" photo chosen for National Geographic's "Beauty of Birds" assignment. He set up a dynamic background, surrounding the hummer with bright color.

Hansen is also working on another book about photographing wildlife. He isn't ready to give any details, as yet.

Chris Hansen has a blog: [www.christsthephotog.blogspot.com](http://www.christsthephotog.blogspot.com). You can find more images of his work and follow him on Facebook. To submit your own photography to National Geographic's "Your Shot," go to [www.yourshot.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.yourshot.nationalgeographic.com).



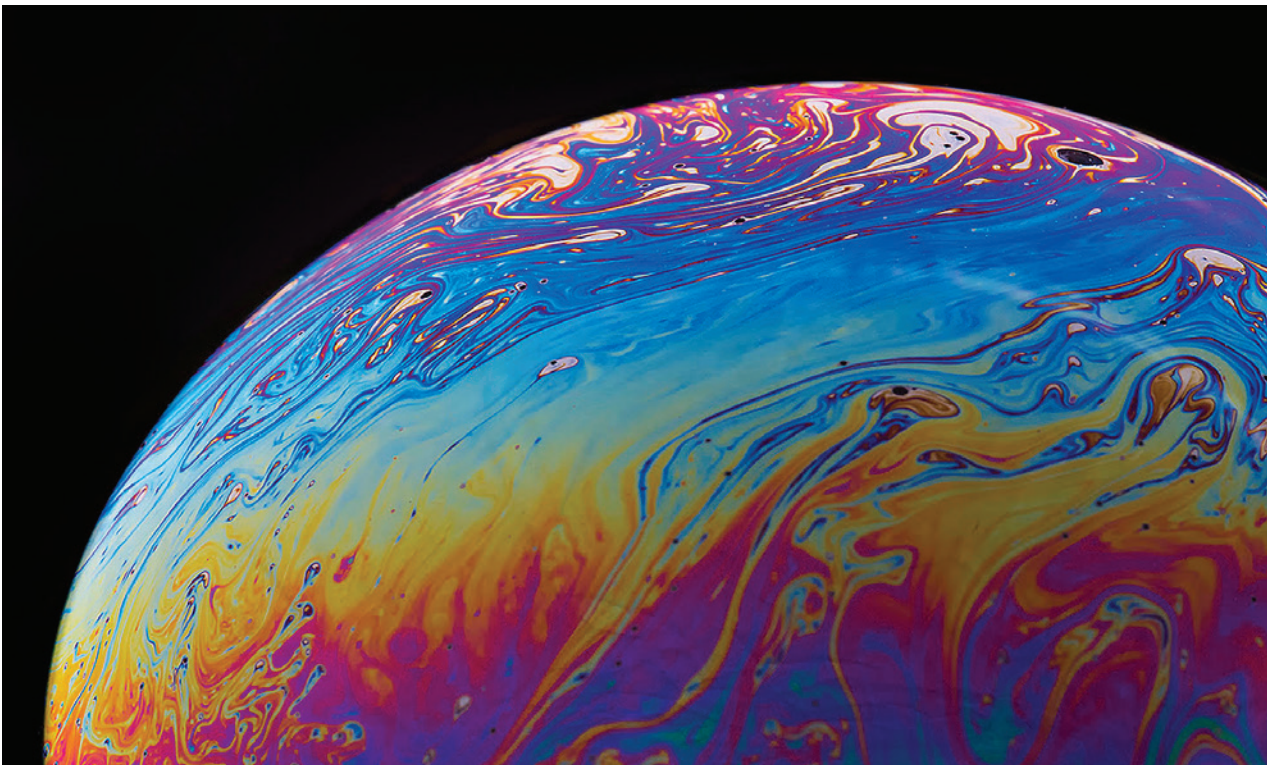
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## The rest of Construction | From Page 1

Chief Eric Alvarez and others sort through the mountains of historical paperwork and files.

Office operations are being transported across town to the fire station on Baechtel Road. That facility has been cleaned and reorganized to accommodate the additional, temporary uses.

The department is finding other locations to temporarily store large equipment that is not needed on an immediate basis, such as the antique fire engine, generators, and the department's rail speeder. All essential equipment is being located at the Baechtel Road station.

Since the community passed Measure J, the district has been moving full steam ahead to build the new firehouse. If all goes well, the LLFPD hopes to develop the request for proposals for construction to be completed this year. But there are many steps to complete before that happens.

Wilkes did say the project is not currently being impacted by the federal government shut-down.

The board approved shifting the \$900,000 raised by the community for building the new firehouse out of reserves and into the capital improvement budget. This will be used to help finance construction.

Staff requested the midyear budget review be postponed until the next meeting, and the board agreed.

Chief Wilkes provided information on the part-time assistance of ALS (Advanced Life Support) services on emergency calls, noting ambulance availability is a constant struggle in Mendocino County and, without a current exclusive operations agreement, the department is challenged to coordinate area coverage of these services.

Wilkes described some recent emergency calls involving a diabetic crisis. An ALS professional riding along with the fire apparatus can administer corrective drugs on-site and avoid the patients' time and expense of a trip to the hospital. The fire district board approved this strategy.

Board chair Tony Madrigal, in working with the department, has noticed that when the department is involved in emergency rescue situations the tools required for vehicle extractions are bulky and time-consuming to use. The department had to recently rescue someone from a car that had plunged 550 feet down a steep embankment.

Madrigal approached the chief about researching Etools which are more modern, lighter and easier to use in these situations. The department investigated the purchase and decided it was a worthwhile investment, and the board unanimously agreed to the \$24,682 expense.

In contrast to the current hydraulic tools in use, the new devices are battery-powered and can be stored in a backpack. Current tools run off an electric pump or a gas-powered hydraulic pump. When responding on a steep almost vertical slope, crews spend time scraping out a level place to position the pump, so they can extricate the victim.

The new tools will be safer for firefighters to use to cut into and spread vehicles to rescue occupants more efficiently. This item was not previously planned for the equipment budget, but there are funds available from strike team deployments.

Training Chief Alvarez provided a report on recent training activity. In December trainees played a fire department-style Jeopardy game with the consolation prize being a flu shot. On January 22, a joint training drill will be conducted with Brooktrails Fire Department, including CPR recertification and standard first-aid certification. Several volunteers have completed the Code 3 driving class, which means the department now has 17 engineers. Within the next three months, two more engineers should be certified.

Students attended the Chief's Fire Academy where they experienced the "Hot Room" to learn about fire behavior. This allows recruits to gain confidence with their gear in real fire exposure. The experience allows them to see first-hand the physical impacts of fire in a controlled environment.

Chief Wilkes also updated the board on the significant amount of time that staff must spend on cannabis facility permitting. More than 10 applications are in process currently. Once they get over the primary permitting hurdle, the workload should slow down as it shifts to periodic inspections and monitoring projects. Because of the passage of Measure I, the department is being compensated for these regulatory requirements, but it still takes a great deal of staff time to ensure safe compliance.

The meeting closed with an update from the chief providing statistics for 2018, which included 683 calls for service. This comprises traffic accidents, rescues, and fire response. The last two months of the year were especially full, with 77 callouts in November and 78 in December.

The meeting closed with an update from the chief providing statistics for 2018, which included 683 calls for service. This comprises traffic accidents, rescues, and fire response. The last two months of the year were especially full, with 77 callouts in November and 78 in December.

Chief Wilkes wants to thank the volunteers and staff for going above and beyond these past few months with the move, deploying strike teams, and covering all the calls here at home. "The hard work of our team does not go unrecognized," he said.

The next meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board will be held at Willits City Hall Tuesday, February 12, at 5 pm. The public is welcome to attend.



Willits City  
Manager Stephanie  
Garra-brant-Sierra  
with retiring  
Councilman Ron  
Orenstein.  
Photo by Forrest Glyer

## The rest of Busy | From Page 1

down on a victim with someone trapped inside and another walking wounded occupant outside the vehicle.

"It was all handled by your local fire department, your local rescuers," he said. "They were out there for seven hours that night to pull that off and get that job done ... for no pay.

"You have an expert-level fire department with well-trained volunteers," he continued. "I would easily put them up against any big city fire department. We do the same stuff ... sometimes more."

The number of responses has risen recently because the department is responding to more medical-aid requests due to a decreased ambulance presence in the Willits area.

While there generally used to be two ambulances operating in Willits, now there's only one, so the fire department often responds to every medical aid call rather than just the most serious ones, as it normally would.

In November, Wilkes said, the department responded to 77 calls, 26 of which were medical aids they normally wouldn't have responded to when there were more ambulances available.

He said he is hopeful the county will address the community need for increased ambulance availability.

"Certainly, we need to make sure to have an EMS service here at a higher level than we have it right now," he said. "Our folks are working extra hard to add calls and take away time from work and their families to produce a quality EMS service to assist our ambulance. But by no means is this a fix."

Wilkes also clarified confusion on social media about people seeing Little Lake vehicles with sirens on heading in different directions at the same time, causing some residents to think they were lost. The department had responded to a vehicle accident and then had to respond to two medical-aid calls in different locations.

"So yes, we had vehicles going in three different directions, literally, at one time with lights and sirens going," Wilkes said. "It's not because they're lost, I assure you of that. It's always funny to see how that works in social media."

Wilkes also thanked the community for its support of Measure J, which passed in November and funded a new firehouse, and for support for the department in general.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank all the families and local businesses that allow their employees and loved ones to leave at dinnertime or during work," he said. "Without them, none of this stuff happens."

### New finance director

The council was also introduced to new city Finance Director Yujun Du, who was hired after many months of searching.

Du has worked in the finance sector for 14 years, holds master's degrees in business administration and civil engineering, and previously worked as finance director for the city of Rio Vista.

"I'm really glad to be here," she said. "In the past few weeks, I really feel the hospitality from the office staff here. Everybody's

## The rest of Accidents | From Page 1

Gilstrap died at the scene, Warnock said. A passenger in the vehicle, 48-year-old Mark Holland of Willits, escaped without serious injury.

"It is not currently known if alcohol or drugs played a part in the accident," Warnock added.

A 34-year-old Willits man was killed around 8 pm on December 30 when his compact SUV left Highway 20 west of Willits.

State traffic officers said David Carlos Amador's Honda CRV was westbound when it failed to negotiate a left turn on the highway, left the roadway, crashed through a fence and plunged down a dirt embankment where it collided with a tree.

Amador died in the crash, officers said.

Due to the late hour and heavy fog, the accident was not discovered until after 12:30 pm the following day.

The accident remains under investigation, but the California Highway Patrol believes alcohol or drugs did not play a part in the accident.

A Willits police officer was injured just after 9 pm on December 22 after responding to reports of a vehicle off the roadway along Sherwood Road.

The incident occurred after the Willits Police Department received multiple calls of a possible drunken driver on Sherwood Road.

The officer found 59-year-old Kathryn Lanier's vehicle and "tried to get [Lanier] to leave her car, said Chief Warnock.

Instead, Lanier slipped the vehicle into gear, knocked the officer down, and dragged him about 30 feet while he was beneath the car.

The officer was rescued by Mendocino County sheriff's deputies who arrived at the scene.

He was transported to Howard Memorial Hospital by ambulance where he was treated for his non-life-threatening injuries and released the following day.

State traffic officers arrested Lanier on suspicion of drunken driving.

"The Willits Police Department would

like to thank Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and CHP for their assistance during and after the accident," Warnock said. "Their assistance was invaluable."

### January 7 highway accident

A 51-year-old Round Valley man suffered major injuries Monday shortly after 9 pm when his southbound Dodge pickup truck crossed the Highway 101 median strip and collided head-on with a northbound Nissan Altima just south of Redwood Valley.

State traffic officers reported Ransome Anderson Jr. of Covelo was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving.

Anderson was taken to Adventist Health Ukiah Valley for treatment.

The Nissan's driver, 40-year-old Matthew Adams of Ukiah also suffered major injuries in the crash, officers said, and was airlifted to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital for treatment.

*This report was based on press releases from the Willits Police Department and the California Highway Patrol.*





## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

### Playful Shay

Shay has just recently come to the shelter and is new to the whole experience. This cute, perky little mixed breed is about a year old and weighs in at 45 pounds of curiosity and playfulness. She's a little shy at first, but she loves her toys and treats and sometimes they can bridge those first awkward moments. We continue to learn more about her each day, so stay tuned for updates! Meanwhile, come by and meet her!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is located at 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Please give us a call at 707-485-0123 if you have questions. You can view all our adoptable dogs and cats on Petfinder or through our website: mendohumanesociety.com. To volunteer or help take the dogs for a walk, please join HSMC on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.



### Happy Hanna

Cute as the proverbial button, Hanna Banana is sweet, energetic, happy and affectionate. We took Miss Banana out for a fun-filled off-leash romp and photo shoot, and can report that she is loads of fun and a very happy dog. Hanna is an 11-month-old spayed female mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 46 pounds. We think Hanna would be very happy in a home with a playful canine friend to spend her days with.

The Ukiah Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. 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 some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit at: www.mendoanimalsshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453. Help get every dog at the Ukiah shelter out for some exercise at the "Empty the Shelter" pack walk every second Saturday of the month, January 12 this month.

## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

### Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
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Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor, Bill Nobles  
Information: 456-9668  
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### Grace Community Church

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

### St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandanadan  
Mass times:  
Saturday confessions - 4:45 p.m.  
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass -  
9:00 a.m. English  
10:30 a.m. Spanish  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

### St. Francis Episcopal Church

1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-459-3066  
Church Services/Communion  
& Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.  
Healing Prayer 3rd Sunday  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

### St. John Lutheran Church

Karl Bliese, Pastor  
Church Service:  
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00  
Bible Study/Sunday School  
following the service.  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
ALL ARE WELCOME

### Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

399 W. Mendocino Avenue  
707-459-5714  
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
1st Sabbath of every month  
family potluck at the school.  
22751 Bray Road, Willits

### Willits United Methodist

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Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
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Children's Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.  
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## The rest of Roundup

From Page 1

pulled Bauer over at about 11:30 pm, according to sheriff's Sgt. James L. Wells.

The officers found the gas can in the truck's bed, and while Bauer was trying to locate the vehicle's paperwork, officers noticed an empty gun holster in the glove box.

While attempting to locate registration for the truck, the deputy reportedly saw mail from Brooktrails, Willits, Redwood Valley and numerous locations in Mendocino County in the pickup's cab.

A further search of the truck revealed checkbooks, checks, and other mail from as far away as Oregon, Wells said. Officers also located a rifle hidden under the pickup's hood.

Bauer was arrested on suspicion of possessing stolen property, mail theft, forgery and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

## Mendocino College North County Center to offer Human Services course this spring

Submitted by Mendocino-Lake Community College District

Are you interested in a career in, or are you already working in the human services/social services field? For the first time, the Mendocino College North County Center in Willits will be offering an on-the-ground class to enhance your future in this growing field. Spring classes start January 22.

"HUS 156 – Case Management and Documentation" will be offered this Spring 2019 semester, on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 8:20 pm. Instructor Helen Falandes, M.Ed has over 30 years' experience in human services agency work and 17 years as an adjunct instructor.

This class will help students to increase their understanding and skills around the paperwork that keeps client services running, to build and polish interviewing and communication skills, and to learn more about crisis intervention and community resources.

Strengthen your future in human services/social services, register today! Registration is now open, online at the Mendocino College Web Advisor site or in person at the Mendocino College North County Center, 372 East Commercial Street in Willits, phone: 459-6224. There are center staff and academic counselors available to assist with financial aid applications and registration.

There are a wide range of classes offered at the North County Center, from AGR-181, Sustainable Spring Vegetable Growing and ASL-200, Elementary American Sign Language, through Art, English, Fire Science, Math, and Political Science classes (to name only some), to SCT-164 Construction Documents 1: Understanding Blueprints, and Theatre Arts classes including hip hop and contemporary dance classes at various levels.

Visit www.mendocino.edu for more information.

## The rest of Hike

From Page 5

The redwood grove visited today stands out proudly from the valley floor west of the highway. As you drive past on the road, it is easy to spot. You may wonder why you never noticed it before. Like the resident herd of white fallow deer, you may not notice them unless you look specifically. Once you spot them, the collection of trees stand out clearly from the surrounding pasture.

Currently, hikes like this one are docent-led only. Ridgewood Ranch is a working-ranch community, home of the Church of the Golden Rule, Seabiscuit Historical Stud Barn, the School of Adaptive Agriculture, the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center, Tequo Farm, New Agrarian Collective, and a number of private residences. These free, scheduled hikes allow access to this amazing place while preserving the safety of the livestock and privacy of the residents.

Another way to win is to purchase "pull-tabs" which are cards with five chances to win if there is a prize hidden under the tabs. The prizes range from \$1 to \$50.

The Harrah Senior Center exists to provide services and activities to seniors, including Chair Aerobics three days a week, Chair Yoga, Computer Lab Help, Dance Exercise, Ukulele Group, Balance and Posture Exercise Class, Bible Class, Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group, Bridge, Tole Painting and of course, Bingo. These are all designed to keep Willits' seniors active, healthy and informed.

Monday through Friday at 11:30 am, a

outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

Morales is being held without bail in county jail.

### Willits man held for kidnapping, battery

A Willits man was arrested December 29 at about 10 pm by sheriff's deputies on suspicion of kidnapping, false imprisonment, battery resulting in serious bodily injury, making criminal threats and negligent discharge of a firearm following investigation of two incidents in rural Laytonville.

Robert Dean Williams, 44, was arrested after he allegedly threatened and later shot at two men working on a gate at a property in the 57000 block of Registered Guest Road, according to sheriff's Sgt. Luis M. Espinoza. The men "were reportedly employees of the property owner and had legal right to be at the location."

When deputies contacted Williams, they found a 22-caliber pistol among his belongings. A record check revealed Williams was on summary probation and prohibited from possessing firearms.

Earlier in the day, Williams allegedly assaulted a 42-year-old Garberville man near the 4000 block of Spy Rock Road. The man had been in the area to visit friends, Espinoza said, when his car broke down.

The man told deputies he had been confronted by Williams, who accused him of being a thief, knocked him to the ground, held him on the ground "for a significant period of time" and "assaulted him with his own pepper spray."

The victim later drove to Arcata,

"where he sought medical treatment for multiple injuries," Espinoza said.

Williams was arrested and booked into county jail. Bail was set at \$125,000.

### Willits woman nabbed for aiding fugitive

Sheriff's deputies arrested a Willits man trying to avoid service of a felony arrest warrant and the woman who was allegedly aiding him following a Tuesday traffic stop in the 2800 block of Ridgewood Road.

Deputies believed Marvin Gibson, 34, was a passenger in a vehicle driven by 40-year-old Alice Strang of Willits when they pulled Strang over just after 12:30 pm on January 8, said sheriff's Sgt. Quincy Cromer.

Deputies found Gibson in the rear passenger's seat, Cromer said, and arrested him on a warrant charging him with first-degree burglary, grand theft, and receiving stolen property.

Deputies also "determined [Strang] had provided false information to them multiple times and misidentified the subject she was transporting in her vehicle," Cromer added, ultimately determining the woman "was attempting to conceal and aid Gibson in his efforts to avoid arrest." Strang was arrested on suspicion of harboring, aiding or concealing a wanted fugitive and taken to county jail. Bail was set at \$15,000.

Gibson was booked into county jail, where he was to be held in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

*This report was based on press releases from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.*

## The rest of WPD

From Page 4

of false imprisonment and disorderly conduct (alcohol).

5:06 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

6:33 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

10:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 500 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

### December 29

12:10 am: YOUNG, Jonathan Austin (38) of Trinity Center was contacted near the intersection of Holly Street and South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 496 PC (Receiving Stolen Property), and on misdemeanor charges of petty theft, disorderly conduct (alcohol) and failure to appear.

6:22 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

7:10 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance near the intersection of Casteel Lane and North Main Street.

7:54 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of East Commercial Street.

### December 30

4:48 am: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

6:59 pm: REXRODE, Mikel Edwin (48) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

9:11 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Lenore Avenue.

### December 31

4:12 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.

### January 1

2:09 am: DAVIS, Brice Glenn (33) of Laytonville was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

2:41 am: JONES, Leda May (34) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

3:50 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of Coast Street and West Valley Street.

### January 2

6:13 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.

11:04 pm: WALKER, Claud Alexander (30) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of Elm Lane following a domestic disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to 3056 PC (Violation of Parole).

### January 3

1:00 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.

2:21 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

3:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

### January 4

5:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

5:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Lenore Avenue.



# Our improvements are getting attention

By Mark Westerburg, WUSD superintendent

Every year, the California Department of Education assesses public schools on several criteria, collectively called the “California School Dashboard.” Schools that don’t meet certain standards or show enough improvement are put on a list to receive special attention from the CDE.

That attention used to be called “program improvement.” Then it was called “targeted assistance.” Most recently, it’s been renamed to “differentiated assistance.”

For the past 12 years, schools in Willits (and throughout Mendocino County) have been on that list, but things are changing in Willits. During the last two years we have been making substantial changes, updating curriculum and providing professional development for our staff. I’m excited to report that things are going in the right direction – so much so that Willits Unified School District is no longer on the list to receive differentiated assistance.

For the 2017-18 school year, WUSD met the standards on instructional materials, facilities, implementation of academic standards, parent engagement, school climate, and access to a broad course of study. Our graduation rates are up, and a huge number of our students are graduating with Career Technical Education endorsements. Our suspension rate is down, and our absenteeism is holding steady.

County Superintendent of Schools Michelle Hutchins stated: “Based on a review of student group performance on Dashboard indicators, your school district is no longer eligible for differentiated assistance.... We applaud you in this effort.”

Now, this doesn’t mean that we are done making changes; in fact, just the opposite. It’s clear that what we’re doing is working, so we plan to keep doing what we’re doing: continually finding ways to provide students and staff with the tools and information necessary so they can build the skills

and knowledge they need to be successful.

Along those lines, we’re investing in some important efforts at the elementary and middle school levels right now. Based on a recent assessment, it turns out many of our students in the third through eighth grades have some gaps.

For students to succeed in math, they need a strong foundation in basic arithmetic: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals and percentages. Although the education system has moved away from memorization in favor of conceptual problem-solving, I don’t think it’s fair to ask students to solve problems until we give them the tools to do so.

Therefore, we’re doing a half hour of technical math remediation for all students every day, memorizing multiplication tables and reinforcing other basic operations. No one should graduate from high school without knowing how to read a ruler or without understanding that 7x3 is the same as 7+7+7.

Same goes for English: Students have to learn the basics. You can’t write until you can read. You can’t read until you understand the sounds letters make. English fluency and reading comprehension require a firm grasp of the 44 sounds of the English language, so we’ve adopted a Language Arts curriculum called, “Unlocking the Code.” It’s incredible to watch the students go from frustrated to getting it.

Another exciting development is happening in computer technology. When we provided all middle school and high school students with their own Chromebooks, we freed up computers that we can now use at our elementary schools. Our IT staff created computer labs for our teachers to use, and it’s making a huge difference.

Whether our students pursue a university education or enter the trades, whether they end up in service, agriculture or manufacturing, they need a basic understanding of the world around them. WUSD encourages each student to pursue whatever pathway fits them best, because in order for a society to function well, we need doctors, teachers, contractors, farmers, mechanics, and a whole bunch of others.



The rest of

Market

From Page 14

Winter is the season for greens, when we restore all those minerals and phyto-nutrients our bodies need to remain healthy in the wet weather and throughout the year. Shoppers should expect more and more greens – from salad mixes to spinach to bok choy – week after week. But it’s more than greens, because this is also the season for radishes, turnips, carrots, and other root crops. Not always in big supply at the market right now, all these foods will be turning up as the season progresses.

It’s not the cold, by the way, that makes produce scarcer this time of year. Willits is blessed with a moderate climate and lots of rain most winters. And farmers can keep crops relatively protected under hoop houses and row covers.

What holds crops back, especially in the days surrounding the Winter Solstice, is lack of light. As daylight hours decrease rapidly in November and December, plants slow down, and only a few varieties continue growing at all during the “Persephone Days” from mid-November to mid-January.

Lettuce barely budes and has to be well-started to be available this time of year at our latitude. Turnips and radishes and Asian greens will grow a bit during these two months, and spinach begins to take off in January. But growth is slow. Farmers who are smart and plan ahead can have winter crops like cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and brussels sprouts in the ground and well-developed for this time of year, but that takes space, too, that is often occupied by summer crops well into the fall.

When to expect the beginnings of spring abundance? February is a good month for winter crops to begin to appear in quantity at market, especially baby lettuce and other salad greens, spinach, and the root crops. In the meantime, shoppers who are in the market for produce at the height of nutritional value should come early to enjoy the harvest of the slow days of winter.

But Willits Farmers Market offers more than produce. Inland Ranch brings eggs, lamb, and pork alongside its produce offerings. The New Agrarian Collective also features eggs, lamb and pork. Fairall Farms always has an enormous selection of creative jams and jellies, alongside hot prepared food. Bolliver’s Fine Foods & Confections offers sweet and savory items and baked goods, as well as dinner fixings every week. Shewolf Coffee has become a local sensation with vegan and gluten-free donuts. And Eliot Hartley brings nutritious sourdough breads made from whole grains, including a spelt bread for those on a low-gluten diet.

Our crafts vendors, too, continue to come to market, with knitted wear by Valerie Trimmer, quilts and sewn crafts by Lisa Williams, and jewelry by Timothy Cerrato and Erin Harpster.

Willits Farmers Market accepts EBT cards and offers a Market Match, doubling EBT customers’ money up to the first \$20 each week. See the market manager to get chips in exchange for a swipe of the card.

Michael Foley is Willits Farmer Market manager and co-owner of Green Uprising Farm. Write him at [foley.mw@gmail.com](mailto:foley.mw@gmail.com) or stop by the manager’s table with any questions or concerns.

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