

Caring for public lands

To the Editor:

In my life, I've served four different terms on the Round Valley Tribal Council and worked for years as a K-12 teacher. I believe in the need to care for all our land and waters. I am an educator at heart, and that's why it means a lot to me to teach people of all backgrounds – and especially children – about our public lands and how we can protect and restore these special places for future generations to enjoy.

That's why I was delighted to learn that school children have gone on field trips over the past months to explore places like the Black Butte River in Mendocino County and other places in the region. The Round Valley Indian Tribes helped lead elementary and middle school students on streamside hikes so they could learn about the area's geology and aquatic biology. I've had the honor of talking to several classes afterwards about the geography, the history, traditional fishing, and natural cycles of weather and geology of the rivers they visited. What an opportunity to inspire and teach young people about the importance of our rivers!

These trips were organized to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act, which was signed into law in 2006. Congressman Thompson championed this effort, along with Senators Boxer and Feinstein.

This landmark legislation protected public lands and water in Northern California, including 273,000 acres of wilderness and 21 miles of the Black Butte Wild & Scenic River. The Black Butte provides some of the best habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead trout in the entire Middle Fork Eel River watershed.

This is particularly important to me as a member of the Wylaki Tribe. Our Round Valley reservation is right in the heart of the entire Eel River watershed. My ancestors learned to fish in a back eddy of the Eel River, like many others native to this region. The area's tribes once thrived on its abundant salmon, a traditional source of food for the Round Valley Tribes and other First Americans. The salmon have been sacred to us since we were the only human

The rest of Shelter | From Page 1

Shelter manager Rich Molinari told supervisors Tuesday that his staff has traced the outbreak to 29 dogs from the Covelo area brought to the shelter on December 21 by Animal Control, a division of the Sheriff's Office.

Molinari said 25 shelter dogs have been cleared for adoption, should anyone wish to adopt them. The dogs have all been treated for parvo, tested for parvo, tested again for parvo (a tighter test, according to Molinari) and have been vaccinated against getting parvo in the future.

He told supervisors if all goes according to plan, the quarantine in the canine section of the shelter will be lifted January 18.

During the canine quarantine, the cat section of the shelter is open to the public.

Persons who have lost their dogs may still come to the shelter and meet with staff to locate their pets.

The county animal shelter is open Tuesday through Saturday at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah; for questions, call 463-4427.

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

inhabitants of this beautiful, outstanding watershed.

The habitat of our salmon has since been critically damaged over time, after others moved into the area to extract resources. There are natural things that happen that change the flow of water, but there are unnatural things like farming practices, livestock management, and timber industry practices that have changed the watershed for the worse. Devastating logging processes and battles over sheep and cattle grazing have caused terrible erosion to our sacred lands.

Legislation like the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act is essential when it comes to restoring our river and fisheries back to health. We're already seeing major progress just 10 years later. Stream restoration has made a major impact, since preserving even part of a stream moves the needle for the entire river system.

We're seeing more Chinook salmon, we're seeing steelhead coming in earlier, lamprey eels in abundance, and we're even seeing schools of green sturgeon — once all but wiped out due to years and years of pollution and overfishing greed.

I've even seen a difference in the creek that runs by my house. I've watched that creek for over 70 years, and how it meanders around creating pools at the bends where salmon and steelhead stay to spawn and rest. My community, the Round Valley Tribes, has been restoring this stream for several years. Seeing our sacred fish come in earlier and earlier each year lets me know we're headed in the right direction.

There's still a lot of work to be done, and continuing to protect our public lands and the rivers that run through these places is at the top of my list. The 10th anniversary of the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act is the perfect time for us to come together and reflect on what we can do, heading into the next decade and century. The consciousness of the human world is changing. We need to think cosmically about saving the world, then act locally, close to our homes.

I urge our community leaders to continue making the protection and funding of our public lands and rivers a priority. And I encourage all of us to find ways to educate our children about the importance of

these places. After all, they will be the next generation to enjoy, experience, and steward these special places.

Ernie Merrifield, Round Valley

Madrigal for Supervisor

To the Editor:

There is now a vacancy on the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors for the 3rd District. We have not been represented on the board since last summer. It is time to get a supervisor in place to represent us on the budget talks and the cannabis negotiations. Willits is hurting, with businesses reporting decreases in sales, and traffic on the new Highway 101 confused about where to exit for Willits, due to the lack of adequate signage.

We need someone appointed to the board of supervisors quickly. Someone who can hit the ground running, not just a placeholder. Holly Madrigal is that person. She has just completed her third term on the Willits City Council, 12 years in total, three of them as mayor of Willits.

In the most recent supervisorial election, Holly came in 216 votes short. Just under 50 percent of the voters wanted to see her as 3rd District supervisor. In that primary she far outpaced the other challengers: Clay Romero and Hal Wagenet each had less than 12 percent of the votes). She innovated new ways of reaching out to young, underserved and Latino voters.

Holly pioneered "Mayoral Office Hours at the Farmers Market," creating unprecedented weekly access to the political process.

Holly has been a leader on water policy and conservation. We saw that leadership during the drought. Holly brought together state legislators, local city councils and the board of supervisors. Through the Governor's Drought Task Force she was able to show the impacts on rural communities and win funding for Mendocino projects.

We need Governor Brown to appoint Holly quickly. There is much work to be done.

If you are interested in seeing Holly succeed in winning this governor's appointment, please take a moment to write an email or letter of support. Time is of the essence as decisions are being made rapidly.

Mailing address: Governor Jerry Brown, attn.: Appointments Secretary Mona Pasquil, State Capitol, 1315 10th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Online address: https://govnews.gov.ca.gov/gov39mail/mail.php

More of Water | From Page 1

flooding, according to the City of Willits, included: East Commercial Street at North Lenore Avenue, which was closed between the railroad tracks and skate park; north and south Lenore Avenue; Blosser Lane at Franklin Avenue; Elm Street at Manor Way (the entrance to Wagon Wheel Mobile Home Park); and Railroad Avenue between East San Francisco Avenue and East Oak Street.

All city streets were open Wednesday morning, with "crews busy cleaning up debris from storm," City Manager Adrienne Moore reported in a 9 am email.

While precipitation amounts vary widely around the greater Willits area, the weather station at Mendocino College on Commercial Street recorded 4.44 inches of rain on Tuesday. The station records show 11.92 inches so far in January, and 38.06 inches of rain from October 1 through 7:30 pm Wednesday night.

If you would like to send a note to Assemblymember Jim Wood, the best way is through his website – ahttp://asmcd.org/members/a02/ – click on "Contact Jim." Thank you,

Ginger Pohlson, Brooktrails

Willits Access TV

To the Editor:

Mendocino County has been providing much of the funding for public, educational and governmental (PEG) access on our local cable channels 3, 64 & 65. Funding for Willits has always gone to Willits Community Television, Inc. (WCTV) located in the old Carnegie library building.

The board of supervisors has begun evaluating the value of public access television to our local communities. We at WCTV want to provide information to the board to help them recognize the many benefits that our area has received over the years from:

- The programs and announcements that have been created and shown on these three cable channels as well as from most local programs also being available on our website willitsstv.org;
- The training and access to equipment that have been provided to residents to facilitate this local programming;
- The network of volunteer community producers in and around Willits, who have given so much time and effort producing these programs to benefit our area.

Many of you have made use of Willits Community Television's facilities, staff, and equipment or have appreciated the programs that have resulted. It would be very helpful if you could express, in a short note or letter to the board of supervisors, something about the value to the community that you see from these activities of Willits Community Television, from your own perspective. If you think it could be helpful, you might also supply a bit of identifying information about yourself.

We will be discussing Willits Public Access television/internet with county officials this coming January 19, at 10 am at a public meeting upstairs at Willits Center for Arts. Your feedback will be invaluable.

Please return your letter to us before this time, so we can take any letters of support to the meeting.

Letters of support should be mailed to: Willits Community Television, 85 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490 or emailed to wctvinc@gmail.com.

Andy Wright, station manager, Willits Community TV



‘Glass Tangents’

First show of 2017 at the Arts Center ‘delights the senses’

"Glass Tangents," the new show at the Willits Center for the Arts, features the glass art of lifetime friends Jonah Ward and Kale Haschak. Both have returned to their hometown of Willits and are making art that not only delights the senses with their beautiful creations, but can leave one in awe of what can happen in the depths of creative minds. Each has influenced the other, and both have taken glass art to very different, yet masterful conclusions, as seen in the two-room gallery in their first two-person show together.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
ree@willitsweekly.com

During their high school years in Willits, Haschak and Ward were friends who loved art and experimented with glass beads and other glass pieces using Ward's father's welding torch. They played and paid attention to the process, taking turns at making things. Each had fun and loved it. And each continued that love for art glass-making into their futures.

Haschak made glass lamps for his senior high school project and, after graduation, headed north to Arcata where he bought a torch so he could continue making glass lamps. In those days he "just did it out of the back window of my apartment," he said. He was bitten by the art glass bug and migrated to the rich environment of art glass-making in Seattle, learning the basics as well as advanced glass-blowing techniques.

He also worked in teams of glass artisans and was hired as part of a team to make work for world-famous American glass sculptor, Dale Chihuly. After 10 years in Seattle working in a variety of studios, of which there are "at least a hundred," Haschak met his wife, Jackie, and moved back to Willits. He has a small studio in town, "just a little back yard thing," and after four years, it's working out well.

Haschak's pieces in the show range from fine, blown Venetian glassware to his newest work of almost ceremonial sculptures: some made with thick pieces of glass where the edges are shaped and knapped like ancient spears or arrowheads and adorned with leather and feathers.

"I grew up with my father collecting arrowheads," Haschak said, "and I like that Stone Age technology of chopping pieces of stone to make tools just to survive. And the ceremony that went along with them. And most of our art comes from ceremony. Most of the great art in our culture is religious. So just wondering what they put their time and energy into, some of these objects that'd be used once, then destroyed or buried with someone."

After high school, on a very different path, Jonah Ward headed south to Oakland and the California College of Arts and Crafts, majoring in glass. He learned the various glass-blowing methods but discovered using the medium



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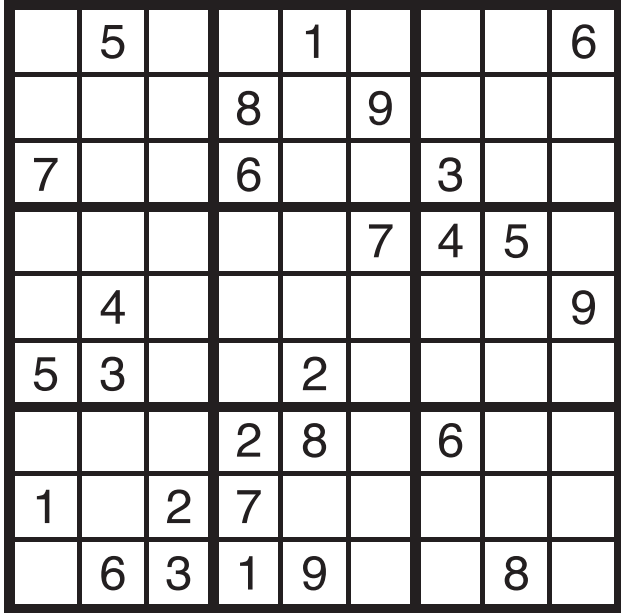
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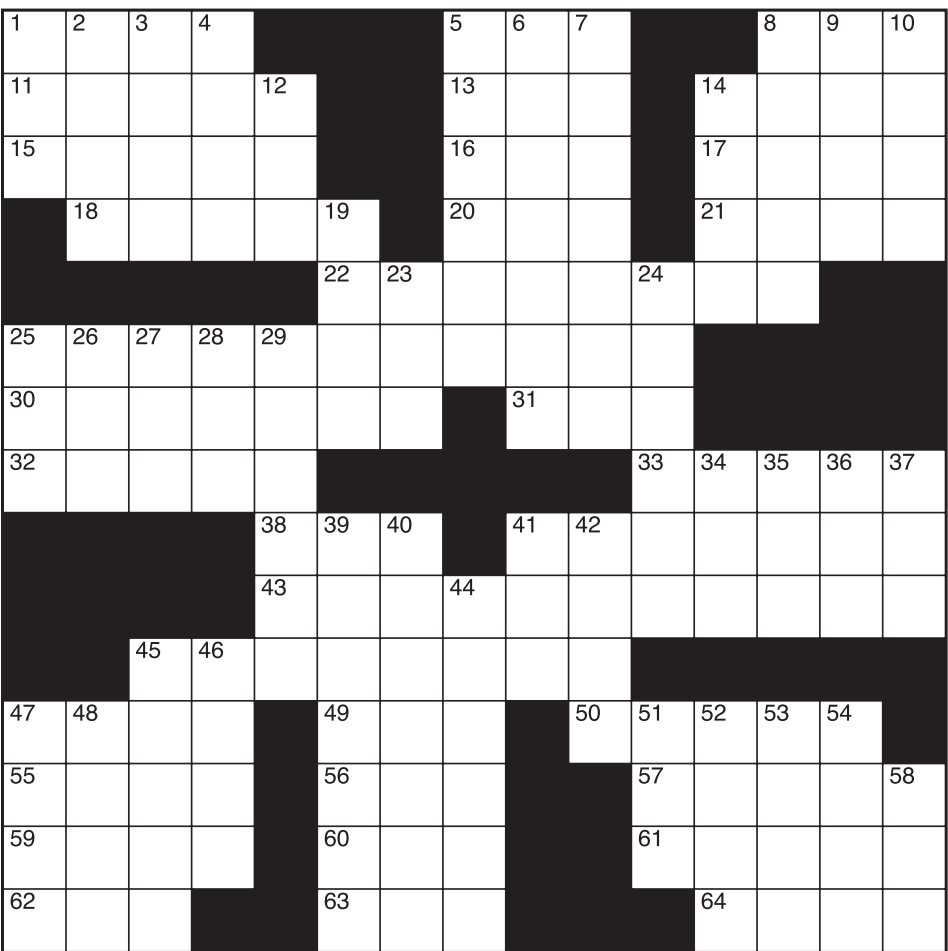
How To
Sudoku:

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!

CLIMATE WORD SEARCH

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

ANOMALY HURRICANE PREDICTION
ARID LATITUDE PRESSURE
AUTUMN LONGITUDE SEASONS
CLIMATE LOW SPRING
CONVECTION MAP SUMMER
DIURNAL METEOROLOGY TEMPERATURE
DROUGHT MONSOON TIDE
FLOODING NORMAL TORNADO
FORECAST OZONE WEATHER
FRONT PATTERN WET
GREENHOUSE PERCENTAGE WINDY
HUMIDITY PRECIPITATION WINTER



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Pain
- 5. Near the stern of a ship
- 8. Certified public accountant
- 11. External appearance
- 13. Neither
- 14. He played with Peter & Mary
- 15. Maximum
- 16. Irish republican organization
- 17. Swedish rock group
- 18. Source of chocolate
- 20. Counterparts to women
- 21. Type of levy
- 22. More tasteless
- 25. 'Use Somebody' rockers
- 30. Burst
- 31. Flightless, fast bird
- 32. Type of salami
- 33. Charges to live somewhere
- 38. Ji dynasty's ancestral home
- 41. They play music
- 43. One who cancels
- 45. Resin from an African tree
- 47. Shellfish
- 49. Notre Dame coach

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sign language
- 2. In style
- 3. Syrian city
- 4. A long narrative poem
- 5. Living thing
- 6. Envision
- 7. Flat surface on a vessel's stern
- 8. Scottish sport
- 9. They serve beer
- 10. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 12. When you expect to get there
- 14. Bullfighting maneuver
- 19. Double-reed instrument
- 23. Rural Free Delivery (abbr.)
- 24. Hardened
- 25. Small cask or barrel
- 26. Anger
- 27. Female religious figure
- 28. Central mail bureau
- 29. Ruled Russia
- 34. Geological time
- 35. Catches fish
- 36. As well
- 37. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 39. A moderately slow tempo
- 40. Female reproductive organs
- 41. Patti Hearst's captors
- 42. Twitchings
- 44. Suitable for crops
- 45. Cavalry-sword
- 46. Greek sophist
- 47. Dressed
- 48. Tight crowd of people
- 51. Basics
- 52. 'Raymond' actor Garrett
- 53. Unstressed-stressed
- 54. Old World tree
- 58. Distress signal

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NM

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Giving Back
Sanhedrin High School
collecting warm clothes
for those in need

Students at Sanhedrin High School are organizing a first-time clothing drive to benefit the community. Clothes - including warm clothes, sleeping bags and blankets - will be given away for free at the Mendocino County Youth Project's "2BU" event on February 2 at The Muse in Willits. Any leftover items will be given to the Senior Center Thrift Shop or Willits Community Services.

Community members are invited to bring gently used clothing to the school at 120 North Main Street (turn west just south of the old Vassar's Pizza), and

drop donations at the front office from 8:30 am to 2 pm any weekday through February 1.

When students helping with the drive were asked why they'd decided to do this community project, they all answered that they wanted to improve the way Willits residents thought about their alternative school.

"We wanted to get a better reputation for our school instead of being thought of as a bunch of hoodlums," said Cameron Fuller. "Most of the time it seems like Sanhedrin has a negative connotation," said Van Wilhelm.

"We feel like Sanhedrin has a bad reputation," said Steven Perez, who had the idea to do a clothing drive. "We're trying to change the way people see it. It's not a bad school, but it has a bad image. The kids here are totally determined to finish high school, to get that second chance to get further in their lives, instead of dropping out."

Their teacher Yuliya Ritchley said the clothing drive was just the first community project the



students wanted to do. "We're talking about going to Brookside and reading stories to the students, and helping out at the senior center, too, later in the spring. We want to be more famous for positive projects!"

Mendocino Youth Project's Aurelie Clivaz, who is helping with the drive, commented that the more individualized, self-paced curriculum at Sanhedrin can be a better fit for some students than a more traditional high school culture. Students talked about enjoying guest lecturers and classes on Fridays, including public speaking with Linda Posner, acting with Billy Hetherington, and art classes with Kathleen Kirkpatrick.

Sanhedrin students can also earn dual-enrollment credits with classes at Mendocino College. "I feel that opportunity improved a lot of students' motivation," Ritchley said. "It's a different kind of pace and responsibility."

For questions, call Sanhedrin High School at 459-4801.

Above, left: Mendocino County Youth Project's Aurelie Clivaz, at left, with some of the Sanhedrin High School students helping with the clothing drive. From left to right: students Cheyenne Faustina, Van Wilhelm, Cameron Fuller and Steven Perez, holding the flyer for the drive.

Above, right: From left: Sanhedrin volunteer Jennifer O'Neil, with a bag of clothes to donate to the drive, Steven Perez, and Cameron Fuller.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Flooding around Willits and the local area on Tuesday afternoon.



The rest of Water From Page 2

Above, from left: The fence between Willits Elementary Charter School and the Lenore Gardens; submitted by Emily Apodaca. The Eel River, from the Hearst Bridge; submitted by Chuck Ream. Hearst-Willits Road; submitted by Tiffany Klee. Elk play in the water out Reynolds Highway; submitted by Holli Woodhouse.

Below, from left: A seasonal creek by the Haehli Creek subdivision; submitted by Alicia Logan. West Mendocino Avenue; submitted by Jenny Senter. Another look at the Eel River and the Hearst Bridge; submitted by Andie Lovell. Lenore Street and the Rec Grove; submitted by Ashley Rodriguez.



in a contractor this summer to reconstruct [the hillside], but for the time being, we'll be maintaining it, and keeping it out of the travel lane."

Frisbie also noted that "with the closure of Highway 1 near Manchester and Leggett [there was a big slide up near Leggett], as well as the closure of Route 128, Route 20 from Willits to Fort Bragg is currently the only access to the Mendocino coast."

With slides and falling trees threatening

to close Route 20, Frisbie said, extra staff was brought in from other areas to keep the highway open. Caltrans crews also worked through the storm to keep Highway 162 to Covelo open, too.

The "Caltrans District 1" page on Facebook has posts with some photos of the big Leggett slide, photos of the slide near the James Creek Bridge on Route 20, and also some remarkable photos of the big redwood that came down across Highway 101 in Richardson Grove.

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Thursday January 12

Public Radio Cannabis Hour: "Crimes and Cannabis" will be the topic and the guest will be Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman. The show will talk about everything from driving under the influence to the role of county law enforcement as new local and state medical and recreational cannabis laws go into effect. Thursday, January 12, 9 am on KZYX Radio, 91.5 FM in Willits. Call in: about 9:40 am. 895-2448.

Willits High School Booster Club Meeting: The monthly Willits High School Booster Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, January 12, at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at Willits High School.

Friday, January 13

Dramatic Presentation: A special play to celebrate the life and message of Martin Luther King, Jr. Presentations will be done by the English Language Development and 5th grade classes of Room 20. Friday, January 13 at 10:45 am. Blosser Lane Elementary School Cafeteria, 1275 Blosser Lane. Info: 459-3232/

Acto Especial Dramatico: Les Invitamos a un Acto Especial para celebrar la vida de Martin Luther King, Jr. Presentaciones por los estudiantes de ingles y los de 5to grado de Sala 20. Empezia a las 10:45. La Cafeteria de Blosser Lane. El viernes, el 13 de enero. Esperamos verlos. Info: 459-3232.

Willits High School Boys Basketball Games: at WHS gym against Cloverdale. Friday, January 13. JV game at 6 pm (coach James Arms); varsity game at 7:30 pm (coach Brandon Norbury).

Shanachie Pub: Dirty Cello, internationally traveled ensemble led by cellist Rebecca Roudman, brings its "high energy and unique spin on blues and bluegrass." 9 pm, Friday, January 13, \$5 cover at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, January 14

Sit N Sew: Monthly drop-in sewing group meets at the Willits Library. Free to all and open to the public. Bring your sewing machine, tools, and any project you would like to work on. Saturday, January 14, 1 to 5 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: Rachel, 354-0605.

Jude Nagle Memorial Service: The life of Jude Nagle of Laytonville, a beloved medical cannabis activist, will be celebrated. All are welcome to bring songs, memories, stories or photos of Jude – and a potluck dish to share. Saturday, January 14, 2 pm. Harwood Hall, Laytonville. Info: Erin: 972-3536.

ERRP 2017 Action Plan Meeting: The Eel River Recovery Project holds a public meeting to help create the group's 2017 action plan on Saturday, January 14, at the Willits Hub, 630 Main Street. EERP board of directors meeting from noon to 2 pm; public comment on the effectiveness of ERRP 2016 activities and/or provide ideas for needed future projects; celebration of 2016 accomplishments from 4 to 5 pm, with hors d'oeuvres and libations. Pot luck contributions are welcome. No charge for admission.

Shanachie Pub: Sandy Poze & Bob Herman, guitarist and bassist for Sonoma County's Rhythm Method, will play acoustic Americana, blues and swing. Saturday, January 14, 6 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Shanachie Pub: The Cult of Ours aka "the Kings of Groove," are playing a fundraiser for Shelley Falkenberg's memorial fund. Saturday, January 14, 9 pm. Donations please. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, January 15

ERRP Field Trip: The Eel River Recovery Project hosts a field trip, led by ERRP director and fish biologist Pat Higgins, on Sunday, January 15, to see salmon and steelhead in the wild at the University of California Angelo Reserve on the upper South Fork Eel River near Branscomb.

Assemble at the parking lot at the trail head at Wildemess Lodge Road, off Branscomb Road west of Laytonville, at 11 am. Attendees should pack a lunch, wear good shoes for hiking, dress warmly and bring rain gear. For more info or more specific directions, visit EelRiverRecovery.org, see ERRP's Facebook page, or call 707-223-7200.

Monday, January 16

AARP Smart Driving Class: Start of two-day driving class for seniors – attendees must come both days to receive a completion certificate. Pre-registration required. Monday and Tuesday,

January 16 and 17, 9 am to 1 pm. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: Carol Deuel, 459-4928.

Willits Dances of Universal Peace: "Come join us as we celebrate the unity of the world's wisdom traditions." Sacred circle movement & chanting. Monday, January 16, 7 to 9 pm. Room 4, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: 459-9085.

Tuesday, January 17

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: "Sing," "Manchester by the Sea," and "Fences." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

AARP Smart Driving Class: See Monday, January 16 listing for details.

Willits High School Boys Basketball Games: at WHS gym against Lower Lake. Tuesday, January 17. JV game at 5:30 pm (coach James Arms); varsity game at 7 pm (coach Brandon Norbury).

Wednesday, January 18

WHS Wrestling: Varsity Wolverines host a CMC Duals Meet at Willits High School, Wednesday, January

18, 5:30 pm at the WHS gym. Wolverine wrestlers are having a great season: They've come in first in two recent tournaments, at McKinley and Middletown, and are on their way to win the league championship and North Coast sections. 5:30 pm at the WHS gym.

Thursday, January 19

Willits Community Television Meeting: Do you value the role of public access TV for our local communities? Come to a public meeting Thursday, January 19, at 10 am, upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "The board of supervisors have begun evaluating the value of public access television to our local communities. We at WCTV want to provide information to the board to help them recognize the many benefits that our area has received over the years" from public access TV on cable and the internet. Please send letters of support to Letters to: Willits Community Television, 84 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490

Soroptimist Presentation on Human Trafficking: January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month and human trafficking is happening here in

Mendocino County. Soroptimist International of Willits hosts a video presentation and discussion about the dangers and warnings of someone being targeted. Guest speaker, Elle Snow, founder of Game Over, Inc. and human traffic survivor, will speak on how we can all help stop human trafficking in our local communities. Families, parents, teens, adults invited, but not

suitable for small children. Thursday, January 19, 6:30 to 9 pm, Willits High School Auditorium. Info: Tanya Musgrave, 272-8668. Visit the Game Over FB page here: https://www.facebook.com/itsgameover101/?rf=ts.

Inauguration Eve Poetry: Three eminent Mendocino County poets, Mary Norbert Korte, Linda Noel, and WJ Ray will be reading their poetry Thursday, January 19, 7 pm. \$5 donation, no one excluded for lack of funds. Willits Library

Meeting Room, 390 East Commercial Street. See article elsewhere on calendar page for more details.

Now and Then Films: "Minimalism: A Documentary about the Important Things," film about "a life with less," and about changing priorities in our lives. Visit https://minimalismfilm.com for trailer and more info. Thursday, January 19, at 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. \$5 donation supports the film series. Trailers & short films at 6:30 pm; main attraction at 7 pm. Serving organic heirloom popcorn with organic butter and Fair Trade chocolate.

Friday, January 20

Willits High School Girls Basketball Home Game: Willits versus Clearlake at WHS gym. JV game begins at 6 pm (coach Daniel Mendoza); varsity game begins at 7:30 pm (coach Paul Riley).

Shanachie Pub: John Underwood, a multi-instrumentalist solo artist from Reno, with friends and friends

Chris Fox and Clint Westwood. Underwood uses "six instruments around him all running into a loop pedal, so he can create a full folk band sound live, with banjo, acoustic guitar, trumpet, trombone, bass, and an acoustic style drum setup with Cajun washboard and cymbals." Friday, January 13, 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, January 21

Women's March in Laytonville: Laytonville Women's March in support of Democracy, Equality and Justice, Saturday January 21, starting at 11 am in downtown Laytonville. Women and men encouraged to come. "This local march is concurrent with the marches happening in Washington DC, San Francisco, Ukiah (Saturday, January 21. Starts at Alex Thomas Plaza, 310 South State Street, at noon and goes to the courthouse. Visit https://www.facebook.com/events/1394236220600234 and elsewhere around the country. Join us here!"

Willits Library Stuffed Animal Sleepover: Children may bring their favorite stuffed animal to the library for stories, crafts and snacks, followed by a movie. Afterwards, the children may leave their stuffed animals overnight, where the animals will have their nighttime antics filmed, as they spend their first sleepover in the library. Saturday, January 21, 1 to 3 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Shanachie Pub: Dennis Chrip & Friends. This show will feature local musicians in a night of original and improvised music. Friday, January 13, 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, January 22

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am, Sunday, January 22. "Join your friends at the Grange breakfast! \$8 buys you a

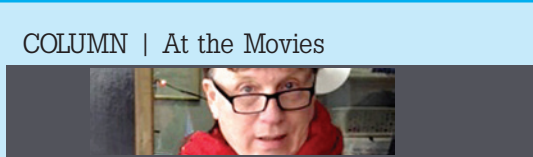
plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods.... Choose our sourdough wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or gluten-free, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic eggs, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$8; \$7 seniors, \$5 children under 10. Extra: sides of organic fruit and Amish organic maple syrup. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of

Commercial, 1 block west of 101). Info: 459-9716.

"Taking Your Next Step Spiritually": A worship service presented by Eckankar of Lake and Mendocino counties. Sunday, January 22, 11 am to noon. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 Commercial Street. Info: 456-9934. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.



2017 WCT Concert Series: Country and folk duo Nina Gerber and Chris Webster appear at Willits Community Theatre, Sunday, January 22, 2 pm. Tickets \$15. Advance tickets available at Mazahar, or online at brownpapertickets.com, or by phone 24/7 1-800-838-3006. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.



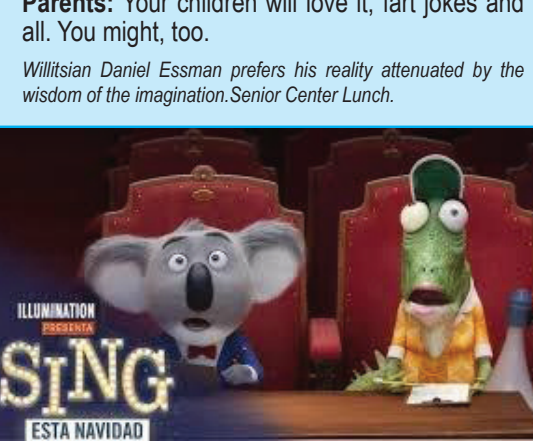
'Sing'

The Story: An animated feature. Buster koala is a fast-talking impresario who owns a musical theater that's failing. What should he do to save the theater and not feel like a failure? Why he'll put on a show! Shades of Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland! He'll put on a singing competition with a cash prize. One of his troubles is a lack of funds for a prize, but that's only one of his problems. There's also the singing competition contestants. The lady pig with too many piglets to have time to rehearse. The mellifluous she-elephant with paralyzing stage fright. The Sinatra-ish mouse who's a cardsharp being chased by some aggressive bears he's cheated at poker. Songs, silliness and four-tentacled squid combine to save the theater and send the audience happily home.

My Thoughts: Some of you know that I was not enthusiastic about watching this animated movie. This lack of enthusiasm was further validated by the "Sing" action figure collection on display at McDonalds. Child's meals, child's toys, child's movie. That's a bad equation. And also for me, a depressing movie trailer. But I repent my attitude. I pre-judged. I was wrong. The equation was wrong. This flicker show was cleverly shot. The voicings were sincere. All the songs were catchy. I expect the CD to be available soon. That will be OK.

Parents: Your children will love it, fart jokes and all. You might, too.

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



'1,000 Books Before Kindergarten'

A preschool initiative at the Willits Branch Library, "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" is a multiyear project to encourage parents to read books aloud to their younger children before they enter school. Experts say reaching this goal will help children entering kindergarten learn to read independently. Register for the program at the Willits Branch Library to receive your "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Reading Log." Then, you and your child read aloud together at least 15 minutes every day and check off each book as it's completed. Library "Story Time" counts, too. Your child will receive a prize from the library at the completion of each set of 100 books. There is no end date to the program, except the child's going to school. For information or questions contact the library: 707-459-5908, or macbeanb@co.mendocino.ca.us



Ongoing Events

Willits Winter Farmers Market: at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. 3 to 5:30 pm Thursday afternoons. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Willits Center for the Arts: The "Glass Tangents" show will run through January 29. Modern sculptural glass artworks by Kale Haschak and Jonah Ward. 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-1726.

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.

Tuesday Night Potluck Bingo: Potluck dinner and bingo every Tuesday at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. "Be sure to bring a dish to share!" 5 to 7 pm; \$5 buy-in; 50 cents per card. Info: 459-6826.

Free Seeds for your Winter Garden: "Check out" flower, vegetable, and herb seeds to plant in your garden. After the plants are done, save the seeds - label them and return them to Will Minor at Willits Public Library. Heirloom seeds only. No GMO and no hybrids! Questions? Call Will at 459-5908, e-mail him at minorw@co.mendocino.ca.us, or see him at the library desk.

AI-Anon Meeting: Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. Saturdays at 10 am at St. Francis Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 66 East Commercial Street.

Drop-in Knitting Circle: Every Saturday, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects – we'll supply the coffee! Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in."

Library Coloring Club: Want a little color in your life? Then by all means, come to the library! The Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, is hosting a Library Coloring Club, every Tuesday at 6:30 pm for ages 14 and up. "We've got the crayons and the paper – you bring the imagination."

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 Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street, in the back room. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

Life Changes: Discussion and support group with Linda Posner, Wednesdays from 10 to 11 am. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Volleyball Open Gym: at Baechtel Grove gym; Sundays and Tuesdays at 7 pm. Some experience desired, but not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

Smoking Cessation Program: Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the HMM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 10 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 8 pm. No cover. "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, 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7:30 pm; pre-signup list starts at 3 pm when the Pub opens. "An eclectic array of local musicians and even performers from around the world!" 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room: Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street. Info: 459-2444.

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays, November through May, from 2:30 to 4:30 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.

Winning Wrestlers

Willits High School Wolverines, below, brought home a first-place trophy in the Dennis Jensen Invitational wrestling tournament hosted by Middletown High School last weekend. Other medal winners were Austin Andrade, 2nd, Dominic Bertolino, D'Artagnon Meek, Jacob Arms, KC Brown, 3rd, Owen Sabastian, 4th, Ryan Rodriguez and Ethan Ferguson, 5th, and Spencer Kendrick, 6th.

Help with taxes

Thursday, February 2

On Thursday, February 2, starting at 5:15 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, Nicholas Casagrande of NC Financial Group will be hosting a free, "somewhat informal chat" about how he may help local Willitsians with their taxes. (NC Financial Group has a Willits office, and Casagrande is a Willits Weekly Real Estate section columnist). With insight on investment and insurance plans: financial categories which are interdependent and important to review at least once a year, plus a short presentation on upcoming key dates for businesses and individuals for taxes, and the importance of coordinating your taxes, investment and insurance plans. Also, Casagrande will discuss the benefits of having an ongoing relationship with a personal accountant. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided. Please RSVP by emailing pamelan@ncfinancialgroup.com, or calling 415-819-6934.

'Glass Tangents'

Through January 29 at WCA

"Glass Tangents," a one-of-a-kind show at the Willits Center for the Arts, runs through January 29. Features dynamic artworks made of glass by "longtime friends and Willits guys" Kale Haschak (sculpture pieces using classic Italian glass techniques) and Jonah Ward (a non-traditional method where molten glass is used to burn and scar wood panels to create abstract forms)." 71 East Commercial Street. Winter hours at the gallery are Wednesday through Sunday, from 11 am to 5 pm. Info: 459-1726.



Sip Some Soup needs soup makers

Saturday, February 4

The annual fun-time soup competition "Sip Some Soup" is set for Saturday, February 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, at Willits Community Center. The goal of this event is to raise money to feed the hungry in the Willits community. There will be soups to taste and judge, Emandal bread and jam to eat, desserts from the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and a silent auction. Cost to attend this charity fundraiser is \$15 a person, or \$25 per couple. More soup makers are needed! Make soup as an individual, a team, a group, or a work place! Contact: Cindy Savage at 367-5669, or 459-2579, or cindysavage6@yahoo.com.

Senior Center Lunch

Entrees for the week of January 16 through January 20

Monday: Chili-Cheese Dog
Tuesday: Pinto Beans/Ham
Wednesday: Lamb
Thursday: Lemon Tilapia
Friday: Ham w/Cherry Sauce

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



Musical Duo at Willits Community Theatre

Sunday, January 22

The 2017 Willits Community Theatre concert series kicks off with the country/folk duo of Nina Gerber and Chris Webster on Sunday, January 22 at 2 pm. Gerber and Webster are guaranteed to bring an amazing blend of effortless voice and acoustic skill to their show. For more than 20 years the pair has been performing together, with a mix of blues, country, pop and R&B sounds.

Nina Gerber is a powerhouse in her acoustic skills on guitar, and as well as a producer and arranger. Gerber first gained prominence in her long-time accompaniment with Kate Wolf, and since has gone on to perform with a number of folk artists. Her playing has been described as "smoky," "precise," and "full of the licks you love to hear."

Chris Webster's career spans more than two decades, including a stint as lead singer for the Mumbo Gumbo band. Webster offers up power and passion; her singing can move from wrenching torch songs to gentle ballads. Her voice has been described as "winsome," "evocative" and "fervent." As a singer-songwriter, Webster's material touches on existential angst, romantic confusion and spiritual longing.

The WCT Playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane. Advance tickets, \$15; available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets also available at the door until sold out.

– Steve Hellman for WCT

Three Poets on Inauguration Eve

Thursday, January 19

Three eminent Mendocino County poets – Linda Noel, Mary Norbert Korte and WJ Ray – will read from recent and life works Thursday, January 19, 7 pm, at the Willits Library meeting room, 390 East Commercial St.

Linda Noel, former Poet Laureate of Ukiah, is a member of the Koyungkowi Maidu Northern California tribe. She first distinguished herself in American poetry with the chapbook "Where You First Saw the Eyes of Coyote" (1983). She has been extensively anthologized, and one of her poems was included in Houghton Mifflin Harcourt school texts. An autographed copy of that poem is at the Autry Museum of the American West.

Mary Norbert Korte, as a 14-year-old, was published in the Atlantic Monthly. As a young woman, she left the vocation of the Dominican Order, and she committed herself to poetry as her life mission and, at about the same time, moved to Mendocino County. Extensively published, her work is represented in "Women of the Beat Generation" (1996) and as the first entry of "Wood, Water, Air and Fire: The Anthology of Mendocino County Women Poets." Korte's collected papers are housed at the University of Rochester, New York.

WJ Ray, though a Willits writer and poet in his own right, is better known for his 30 years of producing poetry programs in Mendocino County. In 2001, Ray began to publish his research on who he believed to be the actual author of Shakespeare. He co-wrote "Shakespeare Identified" and has recorded on the wjray.net website a collection of his biographical and literary thoughts, and is quoted in books, on radio, CDs, DVDs, Facebook, and all over the internet.

Support for this poetry reading is by donation. \$5 suggested, but no one excluded for lack of funds.



John Underwood



Willits Youth Futsal League Late registration OK

The new Willits Youth Futsal League, with coaches Martin and Saprina Rodriguez of Willits Youth Soccer, had its first games January 7, but late-comers are still being accepted. Futsal is a form of indoor soccer, played between two teams of five players each, one of whom is the goalkeeper. The game is played on an indoors court. The cost is \$40. Insurance and equipment is provided. Non-marking gym shoes must be worn. No uniform to purchase. No awards. Every Saturday through March 11. Coed teams ages 4-5 play 9 to 10 am. Coed teams ages 6-7 play 10-11 am. Coed teams ages 8-9 play 11 am to noon. All girl teams ages 10-13 play noon to 1:30 pm. All boy teams ages 10-14 play 1:30 to 3 pm. Info: 354-2539 or saprinarodriguez@gmail.com.

'Taking Your Next Step Spiritually'

Sunday, January 22

"Taking Your Next Step Spiritually" is the theme of a worship service presented by Eckankar of Lake and Mendocino Counties: Ancient Wisdom for Today. The service is set for Sunday, January 22, 11 am to noon, at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. A panel of speakers will share insights and personal experiences on why it's important to keep moving forward in our spiritual lives, and they will also share some techniques on how to help keep ourselves spiritually connected and active. "Are you learning something new every day from what you are doing? Are you getting insight and help from within? This is what you ought to be working for," explains Harold Klemp, spiritual leader of Eckankar: Religion of the Light and Sound of God.

Eckankar teaches that the spiritual essence, which is Light and Sound, connects everyone with the heart of God. This Light and Sound is the ECK, or the Holy Spirit. Direct experience with these twin aspects of God opens the deep spiritual potential within each of us. The Light and Sound purify, uplift, heal, and direct us on our journey home to God. As a spiritual exercise to connect us with the Divine, the service will include a HU Song. Singing the word HU can uplift and align us with Divine Spirit.

If you wish to learn new techniques to help you better understand and experience more of God's love and understand how these techniques can offer insights of higher consciousness, then join us at this worship service. For more information call: 456-9934.

– Lori White, for Eckankar of Lake and Mendocino Counties

Willits Rotary Crab Sale

Friday, January 27 and Saturday, January 28

The Willits Rotary Club presents its annual street Crab Sale. Fresh crab, steamed right on the spot, corner of Main Street and San Francisco. Friday 8 am until dark; Saturday 8 am until sold out. Benefits Willits school and community programs.



Learning Depot

New after-school program offers fun and education

The Learning Depot Academy afterschool program is just barely two months old and is already near full capacity.

Saprina Rodriguez, owner of the West Mendocino facility that currently serves 45 K-5 students, began the afterschool program at her popular Imagination Station day care center on East Commercial Street a few years ago.

"We were only allowed to serve 12 students at that location," Rodriguez said. "The alumni kept coming back, and it kept growing. It was hard for me to tell parents that we couldn't meet their needs. So, I got to thinking about it. Last summer in June, I rented the charter school, and we had about 50 students – surprisingly enough – that signed up for our summer program. It was more than I expected."

Due to the summer program's success and the needs of parents, Rodriguez decided to go on the hunt for a property that would meet everybody's needs. As luck would have it, Rodriguez found a residential property in the most propitious of locations.

"We wanted to have that home environment, but we wanted it to be educational, so we settled on this house," Rodriguez explained. "It's only a block and a half from Brookside School, and I live three doors down, which makes it really ideal, because when I need something, I can just run home and get it."

With a staff of five employees, including two credentialed teachers, the Learning Depot provides a 1 to 8 student-to-teacher ratio.

"That's what parents are looking for," said Rodriguez. "They're looking for a low student-to-teacher ratio with a homey environment. We know each student; we can tell you how their day went. When we pick them up from Brookside Elementary, the teachers tell us what happened in school, if there were any concerns, anything we should note about their homework. With 1-to-8, it's pretty easy to make sure we follow up on all the little things."

Melissa Bergmann, who teaches first grade at Brookside, spends two days a week at the Learning Depot to help students with their homework.

"I help with reading and math homework," Bergmann said. "They could all use help with homework, and when they get home, they can be with their families, having dinner and stuff. It helps alleviate the parents' jobs a little bit so they can focus on the family."

Five rooms are set up, each with its own respective activities, including a kitchen where students learn the basics of cooking.

There's a computer area where students who have finished their homework can use computers to play educational reading and math games. If students would rather play with toys and board games after their homework is done, they can visit the "privilege room." Students can also practice their art skills with Lisa Gillespie at the art station.

"Each staff member has [his or her] specialty that they bring to the program," Rodriguez said. "When you're not teaching a group with your specialty, then you're helping with general supervision and assisting the other staff, making sure that the flow of the afternoon goes really smoothly."

"We have a very diverse group of kids," Rodriguez continued. "Some are high-achieving students; some are struggling in different subjects; some are working on their social and emotional skills."

Roughly 70 percent of the parents pay tuition out of pocket while the other 30 percent are subsidized through CalWORKS.

"One of the unique things about this program is that parents don't have to commit to a five-days-a-week program," said Rodriguez. "It's based solely on what their needs are."

According to Rodriguez, there are a couple days available for additional students to participate in the program. The Learning Depot will be expanding their hours during the summer and there are still a few spots open.

To find more information about the after-school program, call Rodriguez at 459-6543.



At top, left: Learning Depot director Saprina Rodriguez with students at the crafts table: Alexa Williams, Jessalyn Harwood and Olivia Heffe.

At top, right: Teacher Rachel Cash in the kitchen with Niko Avalos, Ella Swinney, Rainya Siebel and Christian Flores.

Above, left: Students Alexa, Jessalyn, Olivia and Alyssa.

Above, right: Rainy, Ella and Broide Johnson do a jigsaw puzzle with Teacher Chris Hale.

At left: Cash at one of Learning Depot's computers.

At left, below: Christian Flores and Niko Avalos open a can in the kitchen.

At left, bottom: Broide Johnson, Adella Carter and Ella Swinney enjoy a game of Twister.

Photos by Mathew Caine



SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Eckankar: The Adventure of a Lifetime
•Community HU Songs
•Membership Discourses
•Spiritual Discussions
•Worship Services
More information?
Call 707-456-9934

Willits United Methodist
A Christ centered, progressive church
ALL ARE WELCOME
286 School St. (at Pine)
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor
Worship Celebration
Sundays - 11:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com

If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Willits Unified School District has immediate openings for **Substitute Bus Drivers**. The School District will pay for all licensing costs plus 50 hours of training for qualified applicants selected for this opportunity.



Applications available at the Willits Unified School District Office
1277 Blosser Lane (south end of Blosser Lane campus)
Contact Laura Sleeper, Human Resources
459-5314, ext 1102

GET READY

WHS Senior Formal photos
January 12 ± 13

with photography by
maureen moore

www.mphotographpress.com | 707-972-7047

The rest of
Sheriff | From Page 1

have been secured by Animal Control for a 10-day bite quarantine.

The Animal Control Division has one previous contact with Pinon regarding a previous dog bite, Barney said, but it did not involve the same animals.

The investigation is continuing, and Pinon faces a "legal process to determine whether or not the animals will be returned [him] or if they will be deemed dangerous animals and euthanized," Barney says.

The Sheriff's Office is requesting anyone who may have witnessed the dog attack or has previous knowledge about these animals to contact the Animal Control Division at 463-4086.

Deputies arrested 35-year-old Jennifer Skinner of Willits shortly after 2:30 am on January 7 following a traffic stop in the 300 block of North Main Street on suspicion of felony domestic violence (battery) and taken to county jail.

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

The rest of
Flu | From Page 1

patient exposure to children who are at higher risk for transmission of viral infections, and to protect children from getting sick, Fletcher said. Exceptions may be made for dire situations.

Individuals who aren't feeling well and have symptoms such as fever and cough shouldn't visit hospitalized patients, she added. "If they have these symptoms but need to use the hospital's services, they will be asked to wear a mask."

In addition, all hospital visitors should wash their hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer gel when entering and leaving a patient room, and everyone should cough or sneeze into their arm, shoulder or tissue to reduce the spread of germs.

Flu cases usually peak from December through February and may continue into May, according to public health officials. "Given this, these safety measures at HMH will be in effect until further notice," Fletcher said.

John Glycer, MD, family medicine physician at Redwood Medical Clinic says it's not too late to get vaccinated. "The flu vaccine this year is a good match. Vaccination and proper hand-washing is the best way

the 31000 block of North Highway.

Skinner, who had reportedly had been drinking, "went out for a little while that night," says sheriff's Sgt. Joseph DeMarco. When she returned home, she and her 33-year-old longtime boyfriend became embroiled in a verbal argument, "which turned physical."

The victim told deputies he was awakened by Skinner yelling at him and accusing him of adultery, DeMarco said. "She then attacked him causing minor injuries to his face and head."

Following the attack, Skinner left the residence, driving a gray-colored Honda Accord. Deputies stopped the vehicle in the 300 block of North Main Street.

Skinner was arrested on suspicion of felony domestic violence (battery) and taken to county jail.

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

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John Glycer, MD, family medicine physician at Redwood Medical Clinic, located at 3 Marcela Drive, in front of the hospital. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. Walk-ins are welcome.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 459-6115.

The rest of
Gonzalez | From Page 1

hoping I can do it justice."

Born and raised in Willits, Gonzalez plans to carry out his duties as mayor like he conducted himself as chief of police: by being visible and involved.

"I'm out there in the community, not just sitting in my office," Gonzalez said. "I'm out and about trying to be as involved as I can be."

As part of modeling his police chief persona, Gonzalez said he "drew from experiences from the past where we had other chiefs of police, some of whom weren't out there in the community and others who were. I thought the more effective ones were out in the community, and tried to deal with problems before they became bigger problems."

Gonzalez said his most rewarding experiences as chief came from "the ability to solve crimes locally, to be able to put a face and a name to the victim and even the suspect."

Working in a small town can be helpful, he said, "because a lot of times crimes are solved with the help of the community. If you lost your purse, or got your home broken into in the Bay Area, the likelihood of that crime being solved [is much lower]."

On the other hand, the nature of a small town like Willits means a lack of resources and incentives to keep police officers in the area.

"When you start off as a police officer, you want to learn the trade, then later on, once you're an officer, you want to hone certain skills," Gonzalez explained. "Some folks want to investigate traffic accidents. Some want to become detectives; some want to have a lot more excitement. A small town doesn't always afford you the excitement or the special duty assignments you would get in other areas. There's more opportunity and more money elsewhere."

As mayor, Gonzalez sees "economic development and supporting our local businesses as one of my main concerns. If local businesses aren't thriving and tax revenue is down, then our local resources suffer. In the end, people want the basics from the city: water, sewer, roads, police. To deliver those basic services, we must have tax revenue."

To that end, Gonzalez believes "cannabis is a part of the solution. I don't think it should define us, but it is one source of revenue we can't ignore."

It's important for the city to develop appropriate local ordinances for cannabis cultivation that "protect the city, the residents, and the

environment," Gonzalez explained. "It's the same if somebody came to town with a cement plant. We'd want to make sure they would mitigate any environmental or health impacts before it affected the town, and make sure they paid their fair share of fees and taxes."

Gonzalez praised councilmembers Madge Strong and Ron Orenstein for organizing the Cannabis Working Group and for "pressing forward with the cannabis issue. It's an integral part of keeping the conversation going and allowing the public to have a say. In the end, it is the council that will make the final decisions, but hopefully with input from the public."

Before retiring as chief, Gonzalez attended a law enforcement briefing where a speaker told those in attendance that local municipalities "should not wait for the state to write the local rules. If [we] leave it up to the state, [we] may find local issues won't be addressed."

Gonzalez compared the importance of creating local cannabis ordinances with alcohol regulation.

"It's no different than ABC [Alcohol Beverage Control]," said Gonzalez. "Some of their rules are tied to the number of licenses issued – to provide the basic framework. But if you don't want a liquor store next to your high school, there is an opportunity for a city to object. If you don't raise the issues through your own ordinances or your own mechanisms locally, they won't be addressed."

Another mayoral priority Gonzalez identified includes promoting Willits through improved signage on Highway 101 and on Main Street south of the Highway 20 intersection. "[Second District Assemblyman Jim Wood's] office has reached out, and they've been pretty active" in putting pressure on Caltrans to improve the signage situation for Willits, he said.

"If you don't have good signs and people are showing up in Laytonville wondering where Willits went, then that's on Caltrans," Gonzalez said.

But Gonzalez emphasized that attracting people to Willits is not all Caltrans' responsibility.

"There will come a time when we as a city need to do something, and that we'll need to figure out ourselves," Gonzalez stressed. "We need to let people know that we're here."

Mayor Gonzalez can be reached via email at ggonzalez@cityofwillits.org. His voicemail number is: 456-3404.

The rest of
Supervisor | From Page 1

disorder. He attended his last board meeting in late August, and over the succeeding four months missed 10 board meetings in a row, was detained by law enforcement three times, and was hospitalized several times.

"Although I have made significant progress in recovering from my recent health issues, I have not fully recovered, and my current health concerns prevent me from fully representing the interests of the Third District," Woodhouse said in his letter of resignation. "Therefore, I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors ... effective immediately. I extend my best regards to the board as it continues to work in guiding the county into the future."

In the wake of that resignation, Mendocino County has asked California Governor Jerry Brown to appoint someone to fill Woodhouse's position. According to Deborah Hoffman, deputy press secretary for the Governor's Office, neither Brown nor his office will disclose who has applied for the post.

"We don't discuss the names/number of applicants," Hoffman said. "As for timing, for every appointment we make, the top priority is selecting the best possible candidate and that ultimately dictates timing."

Those who wish to apply for the appointment, should fill out the online application at www.gov.ca.gov/s_appointmentsapplication.php. Any prospective appointee must be registered to vote and be a resident of the district.

Madrigal, a Democrat, served on the city council from 2004 to 2016, and as mayor in 2009, 2013 and 2014. She also has served on a number of city and county committees, including the North Coast Railroad Authority Board of Directors, the city's Revitalization and Economic Development Committee, the Cannabis Policy working group, the Mendocino Council of Governments, the Local Agency Formation Committee and the Caltrans Ad Hoc Committee.

In 2016 she chose not to seek a fourth term on the city council.

She ran unsuccessfully for county supervisor twice. In 2010, Madrigal lost to John Pinches by 291 votes. In 2014, she lost to Woodhouse by 216 votes.

Madrigal attended Cabrillo Junior College in Aptos, California from 1996 to 1998 and the University of California at Santa Cruz, where she received a bachelor of arts degree in Business Management in 2000.

"I believe I can do the job

[of supervisor] well," she said, "and I think my experience and background will allow me to get to work right away."

In addition to Madrigal, Willits Weekly has learned of two other area residents who have applied for Woodhouse's vacant board seat: Willits Unified School District Trustee Georgeanne Croskey and Willits Teachers Association President John Haschak.

A Willits native, Croskey graduated from Willits High in 1996, and graduated magna cum laude from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio with a bachelor of science degree in physics.

After serving as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, she graduated from Ohio State with a PhD in veterinary medicine in 2012. Since 2013 she has been a large animal veterinarian serving Lake and Mendocino counties.

Croskey has never run for public office, but was appointed to a vacant seat on the school district's board of trustees in October 2015. She re-registered as a "no party preference" voter in October.

"I want to be a supervisor to help ensure this county remains a beautiful, safe place to live," Croskey said. "We need to work hard during the next several years to set up protections for our environment. I also want this to be a place of opportunity and growth for our children.... The Third District needs a voice on the board that is willing to make sure everyone is represented. I hope to be that voice."

Haschak has been a bilingual teacher in the Willits Unified School District for 27 years. He also has been active in union activities, and has been chapter president of the Willits Teachers Association most of the last 13 years.

Active in the teachers' labor union at the state level as well, Haschak was chairman of the Redwood Service Center (a regional division of the California Teachers Association) for four years and served as vice chairman of the CTA Budget Committee for six years.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1981 and his teacher's certification the following year.

A member of the Mendocino County Democratic Central Committee, Haschak has not run for public office before. He said he is seeking Woodhouse's seat on the board of supervisors because "we need progressive leadership" in that office.

"I think I'll be able to work with people in the Third District and on the board of supervisors," he said, "so we can get things done and move the county forward."



Lady Wolverines

Varsity basketball team wins ‘intense’ game against Fort Bragg

The Willits High School varsity girls basketball team defeated rival Fort Bragg 61-52 during last Friday’s action at home, improving the Wolverine’s overall record to 12-3, with a league record of 2-0.

Senior Chanel Alexander was the leading scorer for the Lady Wolverines, finishing with 25 points and 11 steals. Angel De Los Santos added 15 points, along with a team-leading 7 rebounds. Vanessa Champ contributed with 12 points.

It was an intense back-and-forth game that showcased the hot and cold shooting of the Wolverines, as they notched only 9 first-quarter points to the Fort Bragg’s 12. The Wolverines heated up in the second quarter, finishing with 24 points to Fort Bragg’s 15. The cold struck again for the Willits squad in the third, as they finished the frame with a meager 4 points. It looked like Fort Bragg’s Timberwolves might run away with it, as they finished the third quarter on a hot streak of their own with 15 points.

But the Wolverines defense, led by junior point guard Morgan Riley, enforced its will using its intense press style to clamp down on the Timberwolves in the fourth quarter, which opened up the floor for fast break opportunities. The Wolverines took advantage, with a scoring outburst of 23 points for the quarter.

Riley finished the game with 3 assists, 4 steals and 7 deflections.

“A lot of people don’t pay attention to deflections [as a stat], but I do,” said WHS girls basketball head coach Paul Riley, enjoying his 18th year as a basketball coach for the Willits Unified School District. “A deflection can result in a steal from somebody else, and they’d never have gotten the steal without the deflection. I teach everybody to get their hands in the lanes and get deflections.”

Riley credited the Wolverines’ intense style of defense for wearing down the Timberwolves in the fourth quarter, as he explained the flow of the game.

“We press end line to end line all the time,” said Riley. “I never take it off. It’s a very intense style of play that we run. Friday’s game was very intense on both sides – very physical. It was a good, exciting game with a lot of lead changes. They kind of jumped out to a lead, then we took it over, and they caught back up and took the lead again. It bounced back and forth a little bit, then at the end, we kind

of wore them down, which is what my style does.”

Riley expressed his optimism that the team will make the playoffs in February.

“That was my goal coming in – to make the playoffs,” Riley said. “I pretty much let it be known to the girls that this was a realistic goal, and they’ve set the tone for it.” The road is still a challenging one, however, as the competition is stiff.

“Our league is really tough,” Riley said. “Cloverdale is strong, Lower Lake is strong, Clearlake’s strong, Kelseyville is super-loaded [at 13-1]. Anybody can beat anybody on any given night. I’m hoping we can be a 500-league team, and if we can do that, we can get into the playoffs.”

Coach Riley also praised sophomore Araceli Arellano for playing hard and contributing to the team effort with 5 steals and 5 rebounds.

“[Arellano] is a workhorse,” Riley said. “She battles. She doesn’t come off the court very often because she’s in great shape and has no quit in her.”

The Wolverines travel to Cloverdale to take on the 9-5 Eagles tomorrow at 7:30 pm. The next home game is scheduled for Friday, January 20th against Clearlake.



Above: Haily Findley, #3, inbounds.

Below, from left: Chanel Alexander, #4, takes a difficult shot. Angel De Los Santos, #24, shoots over the Wolverines. Chanel Alexander, #4, shoots.

At bottom: Wolverines and Timberwolves watch the ball.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Above, left: Angel De Los Santos, #24, takes a free throw. Above, right: Chanel Alexander, #4, looks to pass.

Below: Morgan Riley, #2, gets behind the opposition and takes a shot.

At bottom: Kiley Butler, #20, shoots a layup.



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The rest of
SWOW | From Page 1

from Ward, but repeated phone calls have not been returned.

In response to Ward’s plea, supervisors agreed to form an ad hoc committee to study the issue.

Committee members Dan Hamburg (District 5) and John McCowen (District 2) met with Ward once over the holidays and plan to meet with him again.

McCowen, who spoke to Willits Weekly on January 10, said one of the objects of the meeting was to reach agreement with Ward on how to interpret SWOW’s financial records.

An analysis by Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority General Manager Louisa Morris concluded SWOW’s financial troubles don’t stem from the company’s contracts in Mendocino County, but from losses SWOW sustained by hauling Humboldt County garbage.

Morris determined SWOW lost \$304,133 from its Humboldt County refuse operation in 2014, and \$175,298 more from the same operation in 2015.

According to Morris’ calculations, SWOW garnered an overall profit ratio of 12.23 percent in 2015 for all its Mendocino County operations which, according to Morris, is several points higher than the industry standard.

“Ratepayers in Mendocino County should not be impacted by SWOW’s Humboldt County operations, and SWOW’s request for a larger rate increase should be evaluated using profit-and-loss information from its Mendocino County operations only,” Morris wrote.

At the board’s January 10 meeting, supervisors passed two SWOW-

related consent calendar items. The first rescinded a previous waiver of the requirement that Ward provide a performance bond for each of his six contracts with the county equal to 25 percent of the annual gross revenue of each contract.

According to MSWMA’s Morris, in most cases performance bonds can be obtained from lending institutions for a small percentage of the value of the bond. In SWOW’s case, with gross revenues for its Mendocino County operations of \$1 million in 2015, the performance bonds should cost SWOW approximately \$25,000, if Ward can get them.

Asked why the county and MSWMA would chose to impose additional financial requirements on a company fighting for its survival, Morris said the bonds would protect the county and, ultimately, SWOW’s solid waste customers.

“With the performance bonds in place, if SWOW goes under, then we have \$250,000 that the county can use to help us find a resolution to the problem,” she said.

The other item approved January 10 was a letter to Ward asking him to agree to not sue the county. However, in this case, Ward may have a reason to be unhappy. And therein lies a tale.

In late 2015, Ward was encountering sustained financial difficulties. He asked the county for a large rate adjustment. In response, supervisors created an ad hoc committee, consisting of Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg and former Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse. The ad hoc committee met with Ward several times, but had difficulty agreeing on the numbers in SWOW’s financial books. According to the franchise agreement between the waste hauler and the county, when a disagreement arises relative to the contract, an independent

auditor is supposed to audit the company at the company’s expense.

In May 2016, former MSWMA General Manager Mike Sweeney proposed a slate of concessions to SWOW that did not include the large rate increase Ward was seeking, but which both Sweeney and the Hamburg-Woodhouse ad hoc committee maintained would provide SWOW with \$108,000 worth of increased revenue. Ward rejected the concessions, stating they would not be enough to turn the company around.

In June 2016, Sweeney proposed SWOW pay for an audit. Ward rejected that suggestion, as well.

No further meetings took place between Ward and the ad hoc committee. Sweeney retired on September 27 and Woodhouse became ill. With Woodhouse unavailable, the SWOW ad hoc committee did not meet again, resulting in a six-month stalemate between SWOW, MSWMA and the county.

Ward appeared before the board of supervisors on December 20 to appeal to the full board. He rejected a proposal made earlier by Sweeney and the first ad hoc, telling supervisors the projected concessions did not add up to \$108,000, and that, at any rate, his company needed an additional \$275,000 a year to stave off the reaper.

“I don’t have the money [to pay for an audit]. I cannot make payroll next week,” Ward said, referring to the week of December 25 through December 31.

Ward asked for a 4 percent increase in collection fees in the Anderson Valley franchise area, a 9 percent hike in collection fees in the South Coast area – which includes Point Arena and Gualala – and the closure of three recycling materials buy-back centers located in Westport, Boonville and Gualala.

It is unclear if the concessions Ward mentioned at the December 20 meeting are in addition to the concessions offered by Sweeney and the ad hoc committee, or instead of them.

LEGAL NOTICES

Willits Weekly was adjudicated on November 18, 2016 and is now able to run legal ads. Contact 459-2633 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com for more information.

WW101
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Filed January 9, 2017

CASE NUMBER SCUCVCPT 1768591

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

FOR CHANGE OF NAME

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Petitioner **Kapila Benz** filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Kapila Benz to **Kapila Ambrosios Pendragon Phoenix**

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petitioner without a hearing.

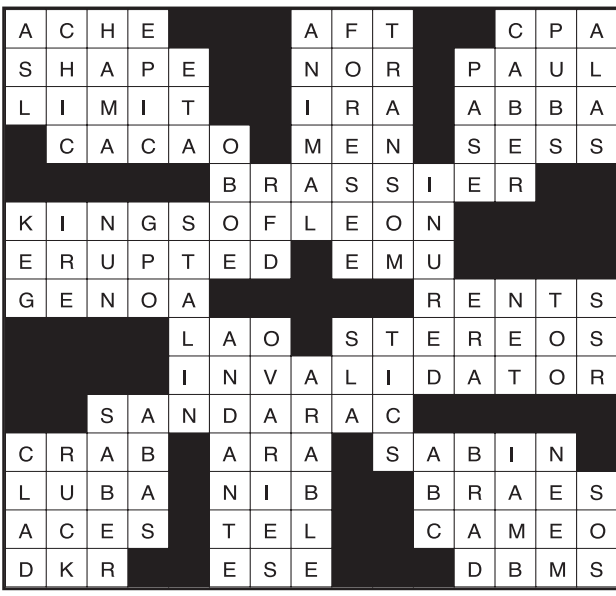
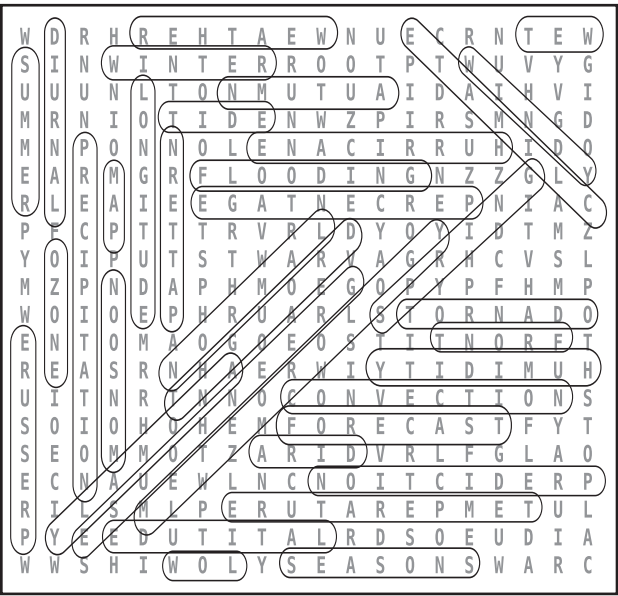
NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: February 17 2017, Time: 9:30 am, Dept. E, Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 North State Street, Ukiah CA 95482

Date: 02/17/2017

s/Kapila Benz

Pub dates 01/12, 01/19, 01/26, 02/02/2017



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Community HU Song

In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song: **New Day!** Wednesday, January 25, at 6 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Ancient Wisdom for Today. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

Help Wanted

Adventist Health Homecare & Hospice Services – Mendocino County. Part Time or Per Diem Speech Therapist needed. Call H/R Trudy #456-3230.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers \$390 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tip>

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Vacationing?

Pet and house sitting available. Dogs, cats, horses, you name it, in home or my home. Veterinary technician experience. Excellent references. Call 707-367-9319.

Volunteers Wanted

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

Volunteer Opportunities

The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our team, call Deb at 707-459-6826.

Winter is Coming!

John Ford Rancher's Choice Box: 50 pounds of steaks, roasts and ground beef. \$300 (\$6/pound), amazing deal! Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call now 459-5193.

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Below: Jim and Marilyn Harden at Marilyn's birthday celebration.

Congrats | Birthday Girl Marilyn Harden

Congratulations to Marilyn Harden on her 75th birthday, which was commemorated with a gala celebration at the Willits Center for the Arts on Saturday evening, attended by family and friends. Happy Birthday to you, Marilyn!



COLUMN | The Medicine Chest Garden

A medicinal formula for everyone

When making an herbal formula, medicine makers often speak in terms of “parts” of each ingredient. A “part” can be any measurement (a teaspoon, a cup, etc.), depending on the quantity of medicine being made.

Below is a formula, appropriate for all ages and all levels of health.

The knowledge behind the formula comes from many wisdom traditions.

Donna d’Terra
Columnist

One part gratitude (“appreciation, thankfulness”)

Gratitude connects us to source-level energy and can help us remember our interdependence. It reminds us of what is already present in our lives and acknowledges all we are given by the Earth.

Studies show that those who practice gratitude are healthier, happier, more helpful to others, and more likely to reach their goals.

Some people keep daily gratitude journals or lists. Some pray in gratitude each morning. Whatever way we do this, orienting ourselves towards what works in our lives is perpetually rejuvenating.

One part reciprocity (“to offer a return for something that is given”)

Reciprocity asks: How can we sustain the giver as well as the taker? We can give back in many ways – education, land stewards gratitude, ceremony, volunteering, activism, and so on. We can use our creativity through poetry, dance, music, craft, art, in service of reciprocity.

We can use our “voting dollar” as an indirect currency of reciprocity. Every time we buy something, we are choosing who and what we want to support. In these ways, we nurture the world that nurtures us.

One part mystery (“the unknowable, unexplainable part of life”)

Mystery is called by many names: alchemy, guidance, synchronicity, magic, etc. Let us make room for this and recognize it when it graces our lives.

Instructions for taking this formula:

- Mix ingredients well and with great intention.
- Take daily and as often as necessary.
- Share this formula with loved ones, friends, neighbors and community.
- Refill as often as possible.

Postscript:

Almost 40 years ago, I moved to Willits on the flip of a coin. We had been traveling for a week, north as far as Oregon, looking for rural property, and had not found anything that was a good fit for our family.

A little road-weary, we were heading home late in the day and stopped in Willits for gas. My partner noticed a realty office nearby and went to investigate. They had a property they could show us the next day.

We flipped a coin to decide: Head home to the Bay Area or stay overnight in Willits. The coin toss said “stay,” and the next day we bought that property and moved to Willits.

I am ever-grateful for the grace in that coin toss that brought me to this place where I feel so deeply rooted. In whatever ways I can, I hope to nurture this community that has nurtured me for 40 years.

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

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Young Sequoia

Looking for a young cat that’s matured past their kitten phase? Sequoia is a young lady looking for a quiet home where she can continue to grow into her full feline glory. She gets along with other kitties, but would do best in a home without young children. For more information on Sequoia or other adoptable animals, call the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County at 707-485-0123, visit www.mendohumanesociety.com, or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, open from 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday, and from 11 am to 3 pm, on Saturday and Sunday.



Arthur is an 8-month-old neutered male cat who has the most beautiful tabby markings. He has a very mellow personality, which will make him a great companion cat. Come on down to the shelter to meet Arthur and all his feline friends today!



The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. Preventative disease control measures are still in place for all dog kennel areas at the shelter.

Due to an outbreak of parvo, the dog kennel areas at the Ukiah shelter are currently closed to the public. Preventative disease control measures are still in place for all dog kennel areas at the shelter. Cats are still available for adoption, and if you have lost your dog, you can still come to the shelter and meet with staff to locate your pet. The “Empty the Shelter” pack walk on the 2nd Saturday of every month has been cancelled this month.

Saturday Giveaway Fleece Vest January 14



Starting at 1pm, Players Club members that earn 130 points on
Saturday January 14, could redeem their points for a Fleece Vest

(While Supplies Last)

Management reserves all rights to cancel or alter any promotion with little or no notice.



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