

[illegible]

Donations Accepted Edition No. 189

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

It was a veritable show-

Read the rest of
Regulation |
Over on Page 9

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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“This interim appointment gives us a chance to see if

Read the rest of **Stipe** |
Over on Page 9

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Supervisors also sought to reorganize the board's standing committees. Previously the board had four standing committees: Public Resources, Criminal Justice, General Government and Public Health. Supervisors reduced those to just two: General Government (Carre Brown, chairwoman,

Read the rest of
McCowan |
Over on Page 9



Above: Members of the Brooktrails Fire Department stand behind Ashes, the K-9 arson dog, including, from left: engineer Damian Angell, deputy chief Jon Noyer, fire chief and K-9 handler Daryl Schoepfner, engineer Tyler Porritt and firefighter David Wells. Below: Ashes poses for a portrait for her annual trading card. At bottom, from left: During a past spaghetti fundraising dinner, Schoepfner and Ashes do a demonstration for the crowd. Firefighters show support for Ashes.

Ashes the arson dog stays on the job

Ashes, the Brooktrails Fire Department's accelerant-sniffing arson dog, will remain on the job, the townships's board of directors unanimously decided at Tuesday night's meeting.

Dan McKee
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Dan McKee
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The 8-year-old English chocolate lab donated to Brooktrails Fire Chief Darryl Schoeppner by Helena and David Johnson from Willits KOA became the object of controversy after longtime Brooktrails resident Paul Trexel, in a letter to the board, insisted the township had no business investigating arson cases and asked directors to restrict fire department employees and volunteers to providing fire protection, rescue, hazardous emergency response services, and ambulance services, including emergency mutual aid, to the Brooktrails Community Services District.

Any arson investigations within the district, Trexel argued, should be handled by a “private sector arson investigator.”

That would have put Ashes out of work.

In his letter to the board, Trexel also claimed arson investigations were being paid for by township taxpayers. However, Schoeppner reiterated to the audience of 20 to 25 township residents attending Tuesday's meeting that "no public tax dollars are used to support, feed or train Ashes."

Ashes' support comes from public donations that help pay for her medical

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



Williams Ranch Road is a private road in the Williams Ranch subdivision maintained by the property owners through a road association. During the storms at the beginning of January, drivers began noticing a crack in the north end of the road right after the bridge to Muir Mill Road. On Tuesday, January 10 – during the big storm – the road began slipping out, and signs were set out by the road association at the north and south ends of the winding mountain road, warning travelers.

On Wednesday, the road was impassable and closed to traffic. On Thursday, the hillside along the uphill part of the road, with its layer of slick light-colored clay overlaid by wet and heavy soil, was slumping out and heading towards Baechtel Creek, taking trees with it and tearing down the electrical wires that follow the road. People in the area were without electricity for a short time.

A neighbor called Pacific Gas & Electric when a fire started, caused by the live wires. CalFire came and put out the fire, and PG&E sent a crew with chain saws to cut trees that were leaning or uphill on the slide, threatening to fall on the wires.

By that time property owners Phillip “Stu” Stewart and Robin Coomer, with Coomer’s brother Seth, had begun the long and arduous work of clearing debris, assessing and monitoring the problem of the continually moving earth slump, and taking necessary steps to protect the sensitive Baechtel Creek streambed from mud and silt.

Read the rest of
Road
Over on Page 12



Above: Seth Coomer running the TL 26 and Stu Stewart in the orange Kubota prepare the ditch to install the culverts. Muir Mill Road is in the background. Below: Logs being yarded and hauled away by neighbor and volunteer, William Snipes, who also helped push mud around.



Photos by Ree Slocum

Mike A'Dair
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Two longtime Third District residents, former Third District Supervisor John Pinches and Willits Environmental Center board member Ellen Drell, have announced they are applying for the position of Third District Mendocino County supervisor.

The Third District seat became vacant January 3 with the resignation of former Supervisor Tom Woodhouse. Woodhouse's replacement will be appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

The announcements by Pinches and Drell bring to five the number of Third

Read the rest of
Supervisor |
Over on Page 9

Mike A'Dair
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Jerry Ward, president and CEO of troubled waste-hauler Solid Waste of Willits, seems cautiously optimistic after attending a Monday meeting with an ad hoc committee of the county board of supervisors.

"I'm a little gun-shy about this," he said, because in the past, agreements he thought were a done deal had not been approved later.

Ward told Willits Weekly he presented committee members John McCowen and Dan Hamburg with a five-step plan to reverse the financial fortunes of

Read the rest of
SWOW |
Over on Page 9

Damian Sebouhian
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New Mayor Gerry Gonzalez announced his 2017 appointments of councilmembers to a variety of committees, boards and agencies during last week's council meeting.

Gonzalez and Vice Mayor Larry Stranske will serve on the council's Finance Committee. Stranske, and Stranske and Councilman Ron Orenstein will serve on the Water & Wastewater Systems Committee, while Gonzalez and

Read the rest of
Committees |
Over on Page 4

Cannabis working group report

To the Editor:

As you are aware, the Willits City Council's Marijuana Working Group met three times and held two public meetings as well. At the last public meeting on November 15, someone in the audience asked about the next steps, and I replied that the plan was to write a report – a summary of everything that had been discussed at the five meetings – and share it with the rest of the council in preparation for a discussion at the council meeting on January 11. The question was asked about how the information would be made public, and I replied that we would send it to the local press in time for you to share the information with the public, prior to the January 11 meeting. Under normal protocol, I always send official documents to the public through the city manager. As you learned last evening at the city council meeting, the document never made it out of City Hall.

The attached documents [due to the length of these documents, those interested in receiving copies are asked to email Councilmember Ron Orenstein at rono@saber.net to request a copy by return email] are the agenda summary and the supporting document that were intended to be used as the starting point for a discussion on a new marijuana ordinance. In no way was it intended to be a finished product, but merely a place at which to begin the discussion, and as some council members mentioned last night, they would have liked to have been able to read the document prior to the meeting.

To be clear, the documents are in no way an official statement or action from the City of Willits. The documents are, at this point, strictly my own thoughts, and should not be construed or represented as anything more.

As I mentioned, what you will read is a summary of the comments and ideas from the five meetings that were held. In addition, there is information that I gathered from HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area), describing conditions in Colorado after marijuana legalization, and excerpts from the marijuana ordinance from the City of Arcata, as well as comments and information I received outside of the meetings.

In creating the mock ordinance, I tried to construct a document that is a combination ordinance template with focal points for discussion. Part of the document is in "straight letters," these can be considered to be "findings": statements of fact. There are inserts in red that raise questions or require further attention. Interspersed throughout are paragraphs that are written in italics. As indicated, these are questions that resulted from the "findings," and need to be further explored and discussed. And, of course, once the specifics are agreed upon, the city attorney will then make it into a legal document.

The purpose of the document is, as I said, to serve as a starting point for further discussion. As you are aware, this topic is very complicated, and with all complicated subjects, it's sometimes easy to miss things during discussion. This document was my attempt to list the possible issues, although I'm certain I missed some.

This is not an attempt on my part to do an "end run" around the council or city government. When the council agreed to form the working group to explore the topic of marijuana in Willits, it was made very clear that this would be a totally transparent process, with the public being able to fully participate and be informed of any progress.

Several months have been spent by many people to get where we are today, but according to what we were told at the council meeting, there isn't much work product,

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.

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

and apparently a new ad hoc committee will start from the beginning.

I trust this will be received in the spirit in which it is offered: as a way of keeping the public fully informed on what may be the most important subject we have taken on.

Ron Orenstein, Willits

Willits Science Fair

To the Editor:

The 2017 Willits Science Fair will be held on February 7, 8 and 9 at the Willits Community Center. All Willits students in grades 3-12 are welcome to participate. Whole-class science projects done by kindergarten-12th grade classrooms are also welcome.

Students who are interested in doing a science fair project for the 2017 Willits Science Fair must have an "Intent to Participate" form submitted by Monday, January 23. Students or teachers must return intent forms to the Science Fair coordinator Erin Vaccaro by the deadline to be eligible to bring their project to the community center. Projects cannot be accepted at the fair without prior knowledge. Forms are available at all Willits schools, at the Willits Public Library, and online at: <https://sites.google.com/willitsunified.com/sciencefair>.

Many students will bring their projects by bus to the Willits Community Center on the morning of February 7. Judging will take place later that day. The Science Fair is not open to the public on judging day.

The Science Fair opens for the public on February 8 and 9. All projects must be removed between 3-5:30 pm on Thursday, February 9. Please note, any projects that are left in the Community Center after 5 pm are subject to disposal.

Mendocino County Science Fair Qualifier Projects will be chosen in grades 3-12. Those students or classes will be eligible to participate at the Mendocino County Science Fair, which will be held at Mendocino College on Saturday, March 18.

The Science Fair Committee is seeking judges and award sponsors. If you have any questions about the Willits Science Fair, or are interested in volunteering, please contact Erin Vaccaro, Science Fair coordinator, at 707-513-8742 or sciencefair@willitsunified.com.

Erin Vaccaro, Willits Science Fair coordinator

Holly Madrigal for supervisor

To the Editor:

Dear Third District friends and neighbors: As you may know, our former Mendocino County Third District supervisor, Tom Woodhouse, resigned from his elected position due to illness. Our next supervisor will be appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown, who will consider prospective applicants' written requests as well as recommendations from legislators and constituents.

It is my concern that the governor appoint someone who is experienced, knowledgeable and energetic, someone who is ready to start working the first day on the job. That is precisely why I am supporting the candidate who received almost half the votes among four candidates in the last election for supervisor, Holly Madrigal.

The following is the letter I sent to Gov. Brown's office in support of Holly Madrigal as our next supervisor:

"As a retired teacher, voter and resident of the Third District of Mendocino County for over 50 years, I support Holly Madrigal's bid to replace Tom Woodhouse as Mendocino County's Third District supervisor. Our district has been without representation for almost five months. Our Board of Supervisors has been operating without a complete Board for almost five months. We require someone with the background and experience to start working for us immediately.

"Holly Madrigal has a business management/economics degree from UC Santa Cruz, served as a Willits City

Council member for 12 years and as mayor for three of those years. While serving, she held office hours at the weekly Willits Farmers Market. In the last supervisorial election Holly received almost half of the votes among four candidates. She has been a leader on conservation and water policy issues, testifying in Sacramento at the Governor's Drought Task Force on impacts of the drought to rural areas. Holly has been a staunch supporter of local business. She volunteers for and with local service groups, including Willits Rotary, Willits Economic Localization, the Community Foundation of Mendocino County and the Willits Chamber of Commerce. She recently launched a quarterly 5,000 copy magazine, Word of Mouth, promoting local food and agriculture. I cannot imagine anyone more qualified or more ready to start to work for the people of Mendocino County and her Third District constituents than Holly Madrigal."

I would like to add that Holly's latest venture, managing the Willits Center for the Arts, has been a huge success, bringing in more art, more business and more open hours for the Willits Art Center. She is also very concerned about the different needs of Willits and Laytonville due to the completion of the Willits bypass. Holly has the experience, the know-how, the vitality, and the skills to "hit the ground running" on her first day of work. Please join me in supporting Holly Madrigal as our next Third District supervisor. Thank you.

Susan Bradley, Laytonville

KLLG Radio on the air

To the Editor:

Greetings Willits! 2016 was a slow but steady year. With thanks to all of the community support, we now have our very own "Willits Hometown Radiol!" That's right! You can tune in to KLLG at 97.9 on your FM dial and hear your fellow community members producing shows just for you, the listener in Willits!

As the newly appointed program director, I am excited to announce that we now have our first batch of eight live shows on our schedule which can be found at KLLG.org, our Facebook page, on flyers around town, and in the article in this week's Willits Weekly!

In the next two months, we will be hosting regular classes to train programmers and engineers so that we can provide more programming for you! We are offering our free training "How to Produce a Show on KLLG" – a four-hour class to introduce you to the basic skills required to be a DJ programmer on KLLG from 12 to 5 pm on January 19 and 12 to 5 pm on February 4. All levels of experience are welcome. If you are interested in learning more about KLLG or volunteering at the station, check out the website at KLLG.org

Thank you, Willits!

Michelle Cummins, KLLG program director

Thanks from the Humane Society

To the Editor:

On behalf of the board of directors, staff, volunteers and the shelter animals, we would like to thank our community for the incredible generosity and support this past year. We are a small non-profit rescue and adoption center that does not receive any tax-based funding nor assistance from any national organization. We rely on the generosity of individuals, businesses and our ongoing fundraisers to care for the hundreds of animals that find their way to us each year. In 2016 nearly 300 dogs and 500 cats came to our shelter in Redwood Valley, almost all of which needed to be spayed/neutered, tested, micro-chipped and vaccinated.

To help offset our rising costs, we have established a corporate partnership program and wish to thank both Beckstoffer Vineyards and North Valley Mobile Home Park for generously investing in the sustainability of our shelter. We are grateful to them and everyone who supports us, whether monetarily, through in-kind donations, or volunteerism, as it enables us to continue our mission of taking in and caring for dogs and cats in need until they find their forever homes.

Our community is fortunate to have several animal rescue organizations in our midst, all working very diligently to make a difference. We are hopeful that the new year will bring about a broader understanding of the immense importance of spay/neuter and responsible pet ownership. We wish great things for all shelter animals in 2017.

Maggie Weaver, Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County



Above, from left: Milagros Patino, acting the role of Mrs. King. Teacher John Haschak addresses the crowd. Maria Tomas gives the welcome speech for the show. Students from Emelia Moore's class perform. Anthony Fuentes, at the mic, narrates a scene. Below, left: The room was full at Blosser Lane for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration. Below, right, top: A student plays "Michael Jackson," with white gloves and hat. Below, right, bottom: Dancers from Moore's class perform.



'Intelligence plus character'

Blosser Lane students celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Blosser Lane Elementary School celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Friday by treating a gymnasium full of students, faculty and parents to an epic multi-tiered theatrical performance about the life and times of the most beloved of all of America's civil rights leaders.

Organized and directed by English Language Development teacher John Haschak and fifth-grade General Education teacher Emelia Moore, the show featured third- through fifth-graders as they took turns acting out various scenes of King's life, interspersed with inspirational music and dance performances.

Haschak's students acted out King's literal story, while Moore's students performed songs and dance routines, meant to symbolize the struggles and triumphs of King's life.

A large movie screen acted as a backdrop, displaying various historical images, and an array of classic and contemporary songs, chosen by Moore, served as the show's soundtrack.

The show opened with an introduction to MLK, followed by the performers joining together to sing Bob Dylan's iconic "Blowin' In the Wind."

As the songs finished, the actors took the stage, and performed a scene about how King first experienced racism as a young boy. The scene revealed that as a boy, King had a dream of becoming a short stop for a professional baseball team, and not a preacher like his father. Some of the friends he played baseball with were white, and when those friends' parents found out about King being black, they refused to let their kids play with him.

The play progresses to show the many ways in which King and his family were forced to deal with the Jim Crow laws of the south, until King, as he becomes an adult, is inspired to take action against his people's plight.

Some of Martin Luther King Jr.'s most famous lines were quoted by the students, including: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

At the end of the show, the students all gathered in front of the audience and held up signs. Some read: "Equal Opportunity"; "End Racism"; "I Am a Girl"; or "I Have a Dream."

This was the second year that the Blosser Lane students organized such a performance about King's life.

"[Haschak] and I both have a passion for promoting and bringing more awareness to any civil rights leader," Moore said. "The civil rights era is so far removed from this generation."

Moore said that as the students learned of King's life and times, they were surprised and upset about the way black people were treated.

"This generation is very appalled by [racism]," Moore said of her students. "That's not fair," they said. 'I can't believe they were treated that way.'"

Moore said the message she hoped the students most took away from what they learned as both performers and audience members was related to King's famous quote: "Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."

"It's not just about how well you're doing academically," Moore said. "It's who you are as a person. Are you kind to other people? Do you put yourself in others' shoes?"

Moore expressed the importance of a balanced curriculum that joins academia with the arts.

The two teachers will be pairing up again to organize an end-of-school performance about another civil rights leader, Cesar Chavez.

"It awakes that spirit in the students," Moore said. "We don't do enough of it in the schools – incorporating the arts."

Dancers for the event included Nevaeh Jones; Mariah Rodriguez; Ingrid Mendoza Garcia; Lexi Shannon; Vanessa Mercado Mendoza; Kaylee Campbell, and Damaris Ruiz Fuentes.

Actors in the show included (with their roles): Josue Calderon Gil (the young Martin Luther King Jr.), Jose Mendoza (Daddy King, Martin Luther King Sr.), Milagros Patino (Mrs. King), Ana Gomez (Mrs. Conner), Gloria Gutierrez (Viola), and Edgar Chavez (the adult Martin Luther King Jr.).

Student performers hold up signs at the end of the show.

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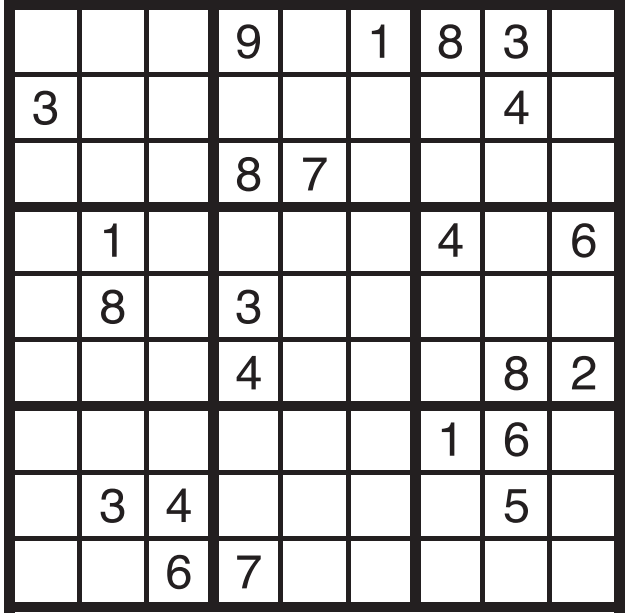
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Movie Times for 1/20 thru 1/26

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

Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku



Level: Advanced

PUZZLE
ANSWERS
ON
PAGE 11

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!

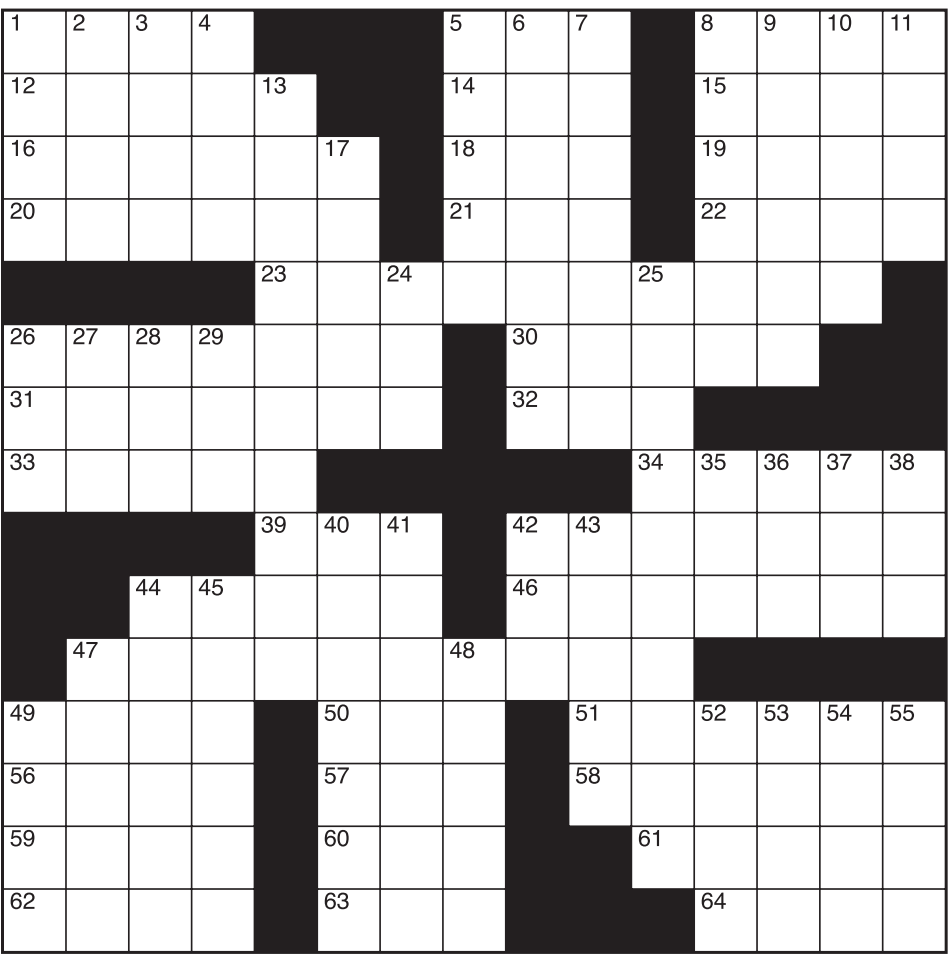
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OIL

PELLETS
POLLUTION
POWER
RESOURCES
SCARCE
SOLAR
SUPPLEMENTAL
THERMOSTAT
UTILITY
WARMTH
WIND
WOOD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Short tributary of the Seille
- 5. Where you sleep
- 8. Crinkle
- 12. Regions
- 14. United States
- 15. Icelandic poetry books
- 16. Transferred property
- 18. Electrocardiography
- 19. From here
- 20. Hunting or observation expedition
- 21. Used to make cabins
- 22. Containers
- 23. Famed patriot
- 26. Makes less intense
- 30. Forced to take refuge
- 31. Campaigner
- 32. Special security team
- 33. Egyptian city
- 34. The Muse of lyric and hymns
- 39. What newlyweds just said
- 42. Pain
- 44. Norwegian village
- 46. Produced on paper
- 47. Acceptance
- 49. Semite

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fathers
- 2. Region
- 3. The Great Barrier
- 4. Father
- 5. Civil War general
- 6. Bodyguards
- 7. Knives
- 8. Member of U.S. Navy
- 9. English prince
- 10. Expression
- 11. Giants great Willie
- 13. Curving
- 21. Detective Ventura
- 24. Martens
- 56. Small mammal related to rabbits
- 57. Ailsack
- 58. Itinerant
- 59. Has spotted
- 60. Garland
- 61. Search engine
- 62. Former Knick and Bull Curry
- 63. Student selected components
- 64. Norwegian island
- 17. Actress Keaton
- 25. Medicine that treats animals
- 26. We all have it
- 27. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 28. Kevin Smith film "Chasing..."
- 29. City in India
- 35. Went jogging
- 36. What thespians do
- 37. One and only
- 38. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 40. Obstructs from a course
- 41. Prophets
- 42. Prefix meaning on or above
- 43. Got up
- 44. Drenched
- 45. N.Y. State capital
- 47. Sampled
- 48. Tending to an end
- 49. Architectural recess
- 52. Undergarments
- 53. Ethnic group in China
- 54. Reactive structure
- 55. Greek portico

Winter Fund Drive

Willits Community Services raises \$28,475 so far

The 2016 Willits Community Services and Food Bank Winter Fund Drive has raised \$28,475 as of this week, getting close to this year's goal of \$34,000.

WCS Director Jim Marill and WCS Chief Financial Officer John Wagenet were on the corner of Commercial and Main Tuesday, touching up the fundraising thermometer with a bit more red, to show off the \$28,475 in donations.

The fund drive is going well, with contributions from stalwart supporters of the local "helping" agency and from some new donors, too, Marill said. "And we are appreciative of every donation," he added. Marill first started working as WCS director back in 1995.

"People give to the Winter Fund Drive because they believe in what we're doing," CFO Wagenet said, "and because they see the need." Wagenet has served on the WCS board for 14 years, "as a public service," he said, "and because it's something I can do to help the community."

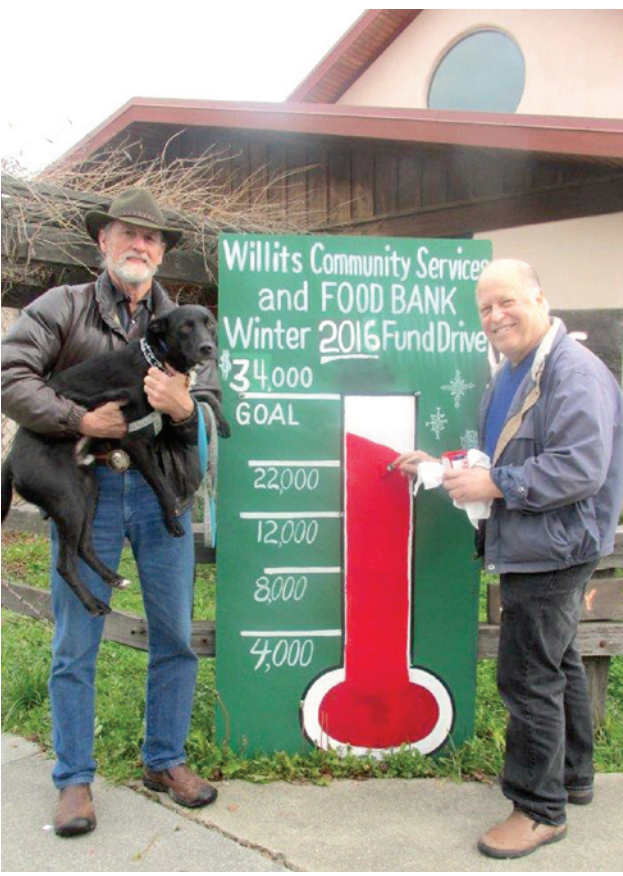
WCS has been providing essential human services to the greater Willits and north Mendocino County communities since 1981, providing a safety net of human services that help cushion the effects of short- and long-term unemployment, poverty and crisis. The availability of financial resources from outside of the Willits community continues to diminish, Marill said, and this means the local fund drive is more important than ever.

To help WCS reach its fundraising goal, please send a check to Willits Community Services, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, or donate via the PayPal Giving Fund. Open this link: https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/hub, then search for "Willits Community Services." Or donate through Ebay Charities. Open this link: http://charity.ebay.com/charity/search/ and search for "Willits Community Services."

In recent weeks, WCS has received contributions from the following donors:

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John Wagenet, left, with new pooch Barlow, and Jim Marill paint the fundraising thermometer in front of St. Francis in the Redwoods to reflect the new total for the Willits Community Services Winter Fund Drive.

Photo by Jennifer Poole

Margaret Strong; Surgery Department Staff at Howard Memorial Hospital; T.R. Eriksen Foundation; Clarence & Priscilla Tarver; Eloise Toomey; Nan Trichler; Donna Vaiano; John & Debi Vau; Tom Walz; Ed & Starla Warburton; Dobbe Wattenberg & Don Willis; Brian Weller & Freddie Long; Theresa & Jeffery Whitby; Theodore & Carolyn Wilcox; Barbara Willens; Dean & Beverly Wise; Diane Woertink; Ruth Alice Young; Patricia & Bruce Yoxall; and five anonymous donors.

Still time to sign up for spring classes at
Mendo College

The 2017 spring semester at Mendocino College starts next week, on Monday, January 23.

Many classes at the North County Center in Willits still have some open spots – ranging from basic skills classes to career track classes, to continuing education opportunities of interest to the general public.

In addition to Kathleen Kirkpatrick's Drawing class (see sidebar), Willits artist Anne Maglente is teaching Watercolor Painting classes, levels I and II. Music classes include Beginning and Intermediate Voice and Singers' Repertoire, all taught by Marilyn Simpson.

Theatre Arts offers four levels of Contemporary Dance, taught by Sandy Metzler at the Our Yoga Center studio. The short-term intensive (five days a week) Hip Hop Dance classes at the Willits High School gym are fully enrolled – but nobody's on the waiting list yet! There are slots available in "The United States to 1877" History class, in an introductory Geology class, and a beginning class on Microsoft Word.

For more info, check out Mendocino College's North County Center ad on the back page of this week's edition, or visit the Mendocino College website at www.mendocino.edu. You can register for college online, or drop by the North County Center, 372 East Commercial Street, for help with registration or signing up for classes. Info: 459-6224.

The North County Center will celebrate the new semester with "Pizza with the Dean" on Tuesday, January 31 from 4 to 5:30 pm.

'Drawing
Fundamentals'

Veteran art instructor Kathleen Kirkpatrick will teach the basics along with the finer points of drawing this spring semester in a class offered by Mendocino College.

Kirkpatrick's "Drawing Fundamentals" (ART 210A, 3 units) is scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 to 3:30 pm, starting January 24, at Sanhedrin High School, 120 North Main Street.

"You can learn how to draw just like you can learn to drive a car," Kirkpatrick said. "The ability to draw is part of being human. It is not about hand-eye coordination. It is about the art of seeing accurately. You learn to trace what you are able to see onto paper."

The course will focus on learning clear and useful techniques for being able to draw a realistic likeness of people, animals, landscapes and still lives, as well as branching out to drawing from imagination and memory, and exploring fantasy, surrealism and other unique styles of drawing.



Art instructor Kathleen Kirkpatrick.

The rest of
Committees

Councilwoman Saprina Rodriguez will serve on the Revit-Ed Committee.

Gonzalez will represent the city on the Redwood Empire Division of the League of California Cities; Stranske will be the alternate member.

Stranske will fill the city's seat on the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), with Rodriguez as alternate; while Rodriguez will sit on the Economic Development & Financing Corporation (EDFC), with Councilwoman Madge Strong as alternate.

Strong also will take a seat on the Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority (MSWMA), with Orenstein as alternate; while Rodriguez will sit on the board of the Mendocino Transit Authority, with Strong as alternate.

Rodriguez will also represent the city on the Mendocino County Museum Advisory Board.

Gonzalez will take a seat on the county's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), with Strong as alternate,

while Orenstein will join the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) board, with Rodriguez as alternate.

Gonzalez and Stranske will both sit on the Caltrans Ad Hoc Committee, while Strong will join the Sonoma Clean Power board, with Orenstein as alternate.

Gonzalez and Strong will both sit on the city's Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee, while Strong and Stranske will join the JPA Feasibility Study for the Willits Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Airport grant, internet woes

In other news, the council adopted a resolution accepting a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration that will cover up to 90 percent of the estimated \$280,000 cost of making needed repairs at Willits Municipal Airport.

A report drafted by City Planner Dusty Duley said: "City staff and the airport manager have identified specific projects for this grant cycle that meet the grant criteria to improve aviation safety and federal compliance at the airport."

Repairs include a "seal coat and crack seal of the entire runway and taxiway connectors," and a plan to "shift both ends to accommodate runway safety areas 240 feet beyond the runway thresholds."

The grant money also would be used for the installation and construction of an automated weather observation system, or AWOS.

According to the report: "Airport safety would be increased for private, commercial and governmental flights with the

installation of an AWOS that automatically measures and reports flight conditions at the airport to pilots."

"It was quite a wallop we had over the last couple of days, but overall we fared better than other parts of the county," City Manager Adrienne Moore told the council about last week's rain storms.

"We did have some flooding," Moore noted. "We provided updates via email and on our Facebook page about the typical spots: East Commercial Street by Lenore, Railroad Avenue north of North Street, Creekside, and the entrance to Wagon Wheel Mobile Home Park

"It wasn't as bad as past years, due to efforts to keep the storm drains clear of debris," she said, adding, "We still have ongoing issues with our creeks and not getting permission to get into them and get them adequately cleaned out. We'll continue to work on that with Fish and Wildlife and Army Corps of Engineers over the coming months. Our crews did a terrific job in addressing everything; they were working well into the night in pretty deep water."

The city's wastewater treatment plant internet access was cut off by the plant's provider, Willits Online, on Monday, January 9, Moore told councilmembers.

"The timing was not very favorable [because] our system was being challenged [by the storms]," she said, adding Willits Online "terminated our services with no explanation."

"As you can imagine, these plants operate with some sophisticated technology to keep things in check," she noted. "We had no health and safety issues, but it was a surprise to us that this occurred. No explanation was given, so we are going to be switching providers in the next couple of days."

Moore reported that during the storms, the water treatment plant lost power twice, "causing extra hours of work by the operators to ensure our tanks stayed at optimal levels until the power grid was restored. We can basically go a couple days with a power outage and be fine."

Moore also told the council the city's wastewater treatment plant had no violations during 2016, "which is remarkable."

"The water treatment plant had only one minor violation in the distribution system this past summer, which has changed over the past year and is no longer a reportable instance," she said. "It was a great job by crews at both plants, and I want to thank them for doing such a fine job for our community."

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At right: KLLG crew, from left, Roger Wilson, Michelle Jean, Kyle Madrigal, Jim Snidow, aka DJ Big Jim, Greg Schindel and Mike Burgess.

At bottom, left: DJ Kyle Madrigal hosts "Kyle's Kaleidoscopic Dreamscape" on KLLG Radio.

At bottom, right: Michael Foley hosts the "All Along the Watchtower" talk show on KLLG Radio.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Willits over the airwaves

KLLG's new shows feature music, sports, talk, stories, interviews, and 'tour de force'

It's starting to sound a lot like Willits over the airwaves these days. KLLG 97.9, Willits' own low-power FM radio station based in the Little Lake Grange, is adding programming every week that reflects the unique and diverse character of our ever-evolving community.

Case in point, take Greg Schindel. Nobody personifies the charm, wit and quirky genius of the Willits creative spirit more than the Train Singer persona Schindel has crafted and showcased to countless members of the public during his many years with the Skunk Train. Now, because of KLLG, if you tune in on Thursday mornings at 10, you'll get to hear both of them in a one-hour show called "The Bi-Polar Express."

"There are two characters, and they go from one extreme to another," Schindel said. "It's fun to have more than one person in the studio at one time when there really isn't."

It's an auditory tour de force of entertainment, history, news, stories, jokes and guest appearances, told from the interactions between Schindel and the Train Singer in such a seamless manner of organized chaos, the listener is hard-pressed to believe there's only one person in the studio.

"In shows past, I featured the song "Casey Jones" and told the story of the train wreck [that took his life]," Schindel explained. "And the California Russian Railroad train wreck of 1969, where we had a local man here named Jerry Brooks. I have a poetry section where I choose a poem of the week and a thought for the day. I've been featuring local musicians. I've featured Malakai [Schindel], [the band] Schindig, Bruce Burton, and another songwriter named Doug Adams."

If you miss the Thursday morning airing of "The Bi-Polar Express," you can catch it the following Sunday from 8 to 9 am, during its encore time.

Featuring local talent at the station seems to be an expanding theme for KLLG, as musician Kyle Madrigal is working on making live performances a priority for his show "Kyle's Kaleidoscopic Dreamscape."

The show airs every Friday from 2 to 4 in the afternoon.

"It's diverse, magical and whimsical," said Madrigal. "I cover anything from folk genres, Americana, bluegrass, local singer-songwriters, all the way to futuristic, electronic music. Whatever it is that tickles me that I like in the moment..."

Madrigal recently featured local singer/songwriter/cellist Sarah Rose McMahon, and the two played live in

the studio for 30 minutes.

"That's something I'd like to be a focus on every show if I could," Madrigal emphasized. "I want as many local musicians to come forward and play some stuff live. I have a very good skill set with being able to mix music, so if it's a whole band that wants to play, we'd have to work that out a couple weeks in advance, to get all the equipment set up beforehand. I'm down to disseminate these local musicians and their works to get it out to as many listeners as possible, to try and keep the local arts and entertainment scene alive."

For some people, nothing is more entertaining than watching, listening to and talking about sports. Check out Buster's on a Sunday afternoon during football season, and you'll notice that even laid-back small-town folks who live hours from the nearest big sport's franchise will stand up and holler for their favorite Bay Area teams.

If you are one of those folks who has San Francisco's KNBR 680, "The Sports Leader," programmed on your car radio, KLLG has a show for you. It's called "Steve on Sports," and it airs every Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 8 pm.

Hosted by sports enthusiast and ex-football player and coach Steve Kovner, the show is soon to include a call-in feature as soon as the station acquires the necessary piece of equipment.

"It's a sports talk show, and it's going to be call-in," Kovner said. "We'll talk the Warriors, the Raiders, 49ers, Giants, the Oakland A's. I'll probably interview some local coaches, too. We'll see where the interest is."

Kovner had Buddhist teacher Steve Keyes in the studio recently for a one-on-one discussion about the Golden State Warriors.

"[Keyes] knows the team, and it was a good back-and-forth," Kovner said. "That's what I'd like to see happen, for callers to chime in and give their opinions. It's just fun."

Another talk show KLLG features is more on the serious side. It's hosted by Willits Farmers Market manager Michael Foley, called "All Along the Watchtower," and airs every Monday evening from 8 to 9 pm.

"It's a talk show about searching for hope in dark times," Foley explained. "For the first show, I played parts of a talk by Paul Kingsnorth, who is one of the founders of the Dark Mountain Project in England."

Foley's second show is a follow-up to that talk, and features an interview Foley conducted with Shawn Chamberlain of Dark Mountain Project, "who edited and compiled a book called 'Surviving the Future.' It's drawn from the work of his mentor, David Fleming,

and it's about what our future economy and society might look like once this one goes its way, as inevitably it will."

Foley hopes that in the near future, KLLG will air a live show from the farmers market, which is at the Grange every Thursday from 3 to 5:30 pm.

Other programs provided by KLLG: "Riparian Roots" airs every Wednesday evening from 8 to 10 pm, with DJ Big Jim. The show includes "commentary from longtime DJ and reggae music enthusiast" Jim Snidow. "CowPunk Rose" airs the first, third, and fifth Thursday of each month from 6 to 8 pm, with encore airings every second and fourth Thursday at the same time. The show is hosted by KLLG Program Director Michelle Jean, who describes it as "lullabies for country punks, an exploration of the 'Cow Punk' genre – country, punk, and everything in between and beyond!"

"Lost in Space" airs live every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 8 to 10 pm, with encore shows every first, third and fifth Thursday at the same time. The show is hosted by Jane Got Lost and is described as "downtempo spacey techno music."

"MacAmergin's Tales" airs every Tuesday from 9 to 10 pm with Saturday encores from 6 to 7 pm. The show is hosted by author Liam UICearbhall and is described as "story poems in song and spoken word."

"Radio Curious" airs every Sunday from 3 to 3:30 pm. This is a longstanding syndicated radio show hosted by Ukiah attorney Barry Vogel, which is described as "half-hour interviews on a curiously wide array of topics concerning life and ideas."

Soon, these shows will represent the tip of the iceberg for KLLG programming, according to Michelle Jean.

"Right now, I have about 40 people who are in the process of becoming programmers," said Jean. "It's a multi-step process which includes going to classes, sitting in and watching a programmer do their show, recording a show, receiving critique, and working to be ready for being on air."

Two shows produced by KZYX favorite Dan Roberts will soon be added to the list, including "Youth Speaks Out" and "The Short Wave Report."

For anyone interested in producing their own shows and becoming a programmer for KLLG, the next class will be held, free of charge, at the Little Lake Grange in Room 10 on Saturday, February 4 from noon to 5 pm.

"We have over 30 people involved with KLLG so far," said Jean. "We still need so much more help!"

KLLG can be reached at 459-5554, and on the web at: www.kllg.org.



The rest of SWOW | From Page 1

SWOW and to put it on a sound financial footing.

The first step of his plan, which includes five subcomponents, will save SWOW \$264,000 a year, which will be enough to make his bankers smile and keep the lights on at the company over the short term.

Ward also will seek a larger rate adjustment for all the contracts under which SWOW is currently operating. To determine how much of a rate increase might be appropriate, Ward and ad hoc committee members agreed SWOW would be the object of a rate-setting study, which will analyze the company's 2016 financial records and determine how much rates will need to increase to provide SWOW with an acceptable rate of profit.

Ward said he and committee members agreed the cost of the rate-setting study would be borne equally between SWOW and the county.

Any set of plans or steps agreed to by the ad hoc committee must be approved by the full board of supervisors before any steps can be taken.

The first step of the plan includes approval by the county of a Ward proposal to raise the collection fees in the South Coast franchise area – Supervisor Hamburg's district – by 12 percent. That issue is slated for discussion by supervisors sometime during next week's January 24 board meeting. The agenda for that meeting will be posted on Friday.

One of the most contentious elements in the long stalemate between Ward, the county, and Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority (the countywide garbage agency), is to accurately determine SWOW's rate of profit.

New MSWMA General Manager Louisa Morris believes SWOW's rate of profit for its Mendocino County operations, including profits from SWOW's Willits Transfer Station, is 12.23 percent, and the company is bleeding because of losses associated with Ward's operations in Humboldt County. On December 20, in a discussion with supervisors, Morris said a profit rate of 12.23 percent was good, and a few points higher than the industry standard.

Ward says Morris's numbers are wrong, because they don't include interest adjustments and income tax expenses. They also do include earnings from the Willits Transfer Station, which is profitable, but not the numbers from the materials recovery facility in Willits, which Ward says lost money last year, which is also providing services under a contract with the county.

Additionally, SWOW has contracts with the City of Willits and the City of Fort Bragg – not just with the county – for both facilities in Willits, the transfer station and the MRF.

"If you're going to include the Willits Transfer Station in the equation, add them all in there," Ward said; otherwise, Moore's numbers are "cherry-picked," he said.

With interest payments and income tax expenses included, and transfer station numbers removed, SWOW's Mendocino County operations have a profitability of only 5 percent, Ward argues.

Asked why Ward believes the Willits Transfer Station shouldn't be included in the calculation, Morris said she couldn't think of a reason. "It's one of the contracts he has with the county, so it should be included," Morris said.

Morris said ad hoc committee members also don't agree on this point. "We will be hiring an independent, objective, professional auditor to make that determination," she said. "That is part of what the rate-setting study will do."

Ward said he had to take unorthodox financial steps to make his payroll during the week of December 25 through 31, raiding company savings socked away to pay the franchise fees due to the county to pay salaries. Then, he cashed in his own life insurance policy, to pay back what he had borrowed from the franchise fee account.

Willits Weekly's phone call on Friday last week to Ward found him in his truck, picking up garbage. He was filling in for a driver who had recently quit.

The rest of McCowen | From Page 1

and Dan Gjerde) and Public Health, Safety and Resources (Dan Hamburg, chairman, and John McCowen).

During 2016, the General Government Committee met frequently, but the other three committees rarely met.

Supervisors also named McCowen as the board's representative on the North Coast Railroad Authority Board of Directors, and First District Supervisor Carre Brown, Potter Valley rancher Janet Pauli, and chairman of the board of directors of the Russian River Flood Control District Paul Zellman to the Public Policy Facilitating Committee, which works with the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Sonoma County Water Agency on issues associated with the Russian River.

On a consent calendar item, Willits City Councilman Ron Orenstein was appointed as Third District representative to the Civil Service Commission, and Margie Handley and Maureen O'Sullivan were reappointed to represent the Third District on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

As incoming chair of the board, McCowen distributed committee assignments among the four supervisors, and named the future Third District supervisor – who has yet to be appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown – to several committees and boards. The Third District supervisor also will serve on the Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County, the Economic Development and Finance Corporation, the Mendocino Council of Governments, and the Mendocino County Resource Advisory Committee.

He or she will be an alternate on the Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority Board of Directors, the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Advisory Board, and the North Coast Resource Conservation and Development Area Council.

The rest of Stipe | From Page 1

I'm a good fit on the board," Stipe, who worked for the fire district for 20 years, before retiring in 2015. The fire department "is just such an important part of who I am," she said, "it will nice to be able to still be involved in some way, and I wanted to do something on a volunteer basis for the community."

"Nancy was an excellent resource for our department," said Little Lake Fire Chief Carl Magann, "managing our health and benefit programs, dealing with payroll, keeping track of income and payment of bills, updating our records and files, and administering to the needs of the paid staff and volunteers." As secretary to the fire board, Magann said, "Nancy provided the required monthly financial statements to the board, administered oaths of office to incoming board members, kept minutes, posted agendas, and kept our department on track for many mandated items that pop up each calendar year."

"We look forward to once again working with Nancy Stipe," Magann said, "as she steps into a new path in her career. Welcome aboard Nancy!"

The Little Lake Fire board also reelected Tony Madrigal as chair of the board Tuesday night. Other members of the five-person board are Patrick Charlson, Tom Herman and Arnie Mello.

The rest of Supervisor | From Page 1

District residents who have publicly announced they will seek the position of supervisor. The other applicants are former Willits City Councilwoman and Mayor Holly Madrigal, local school teacher and union representative John Haschak, and Willits Unified school board member and large animal veterinarian Georgeanne Croskey.

Pinches, a north county rancher, served on the board for 12 years, from 1995 through 1998, and from 2007 through 2014. He did not seek re-election in 2014.

Pinches said there are three reasons why he is applying for the position. First, Pinches said, a lot of people have called him up and asked him to do it. Second, the heart condition that plagued him in recent years has improved. "The medications they have been giving me have me lined out. I feel pretty good, and I've got my strength back," Pinches said.

The third reason is to improve representation in the Third District. "The reason I got involved in politics 20 years ago was because I thought we could get better representation in the Third District," Pinches said. "Now, you know, we don't have any representation. That's not acceptable to me."

Pinches acknowledged his chances of being appointed are slim because he is not a Democrat. "I'm registered 'No Political Preference,'" Pinches said. "For Brown to appoint me, I figure I got about as much chance of winning the lottery."

Drell has been a Mendocino County resident since 1975, and has lived in Rock Tree Canyon, northeast of Willits, since 1977. In 1990, she and her husband, David Drell, were founding members of the Willits Environmental Center. In 1994, Drell ran against Pinches for supervisor. In the November runoff, Pinches soundly defeated Drell 62.8 percent (3,746 votes) to 37.2 percent (2,217 votes).

Since 1994, Drell has worked locally on transportation, sustainability and land use issues. In recent months, she has become interested in marijuana issues, and opposed Measure AF, the "Heritage Initiative," which voters rejected in November 2016 by a wide margin.

"I have been involved for the past four to six months with the development of the county's cannabis cultivation ordinance," Drell said. "I am very committed to seeing the county adopt an ordinance that makes it possible for small, responsible local growers to make a living, while protecting the environment."

Any such ordinance "must respect the desires of the majority of county residents, as expressed in the resounding defeat of Measure AF, which would have allowed cannabis cultivation in every zoning district in the county," Drell said. "I think this issue will be a major focus of the supervisors for the next several months, and I am committed to seeing this through."

"I am not aware that any of the other applicants share this view," she added. "That is why I have thrown my hat into the ring."

The rest of Regulation | From Page 1

and-tell event at council chambers last week, as four members of the public brought various items for the council to consider while organizing ordinances to regulate medical cannabis.

Perhaps the most dramatic display was conducted by a woman who runs a business called "Canna Spirit," who began her talk by handing out gift-wrapped 1 milliliter essential oil tinctures to the council.

"Each one milliliter bottle represents an entire pound of fresh material," said the woman, who refrained from identifying herself.

"Why would I just pass out seven pounds of herb to the council?" she asked. "The same reason I actually took it to the hospital. The same reason the nurses and the doctors call me every day. I'm a cannabis consultant. I'm a certified herbalist and a certified aroma therapist."

Claiming to have treated several hundred people in Mendocino County, the Canna Spirit woman described the health benefits of her product.

"Did you know that what you're holding in your hands actually kills penicillin-resistant MRSA [Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus]? Don't you want that in your hospital? It's THC-free. It's the same caliber as hemp. Whole Foods is going to be carrying this product."

The woman echoed a growing number of pro-cannabis supporters by arguing against any attempt by the city to limit cannabis to indoor production.

"I'm not going to do very well in an indoor grow, because I can't grow enough indoors," she argued. "I need acres. I'm a farmer, a real farmer growing real medicine, and I want to have a permit like a real farmer would have."

Former Willits city planner Alan Falleri showed off a bottle of CBD, or cannabidiol, medicine he said he gives his dog.

"This is a professionally produced product, and these kinds of things can be produced locally and sold in dispensaries," Falleri said. "It's a little dropper, and you put it in your dog food. My dog is an old dog. [Since giving him this medicine], he's perked up a little bit."

Falleri urged the council to consider the economic possibilities of Willits embracing commercial medicinal cannabis.

"We could brand cannabis products here that are non-GMO and organic," Falleri said. "It's like how Napa Valley can charge a lot for wine because their products are good. We can do the same thing here for Willits."

When it comes to taxes, Falleri called for practical restraint.

"You shouldn't treat it any differently than a farmer making a product. As far as taxing cultivators and charging outrageous fees because it's a possibility, just treat them like farmers raising a product, and permit fees and taxes should be charged accordingly."

He ended by telling the council that "indoor is an expensive way to go. I recommend you look at greenhouses as an option."

Physician assistant Joi Sandhu and registered nurse Janice Cinek shared their vision to open a unique cannabis dispensary in Willits with the council.

"In addition to offering [cannabis] that would all be organic, tested and labelled, we would offer medical consultations and follow-ups with close guidance," Cinek said. "This is something that is very much lacking in the marijuana service industry."

"I feel very strongly that nurses need to be in the dispensaries," she added. "We have a tremendous amount of training and background. I'd rather be at the bedside right now than being here, but this is something I'm very, very passionate about, and we as registered nurses, we're right there at the bedside 24/7 with the patients who are suffering and could benefit greatly from medical cannabis."

When asked by the council about a business plan, Cinek said they are waiting on the council's blessing to allow dispensaries within the city before moving forward with a plan.

"If you support our idea, we'll proceed," Cinek said. "And if you don't, it's a lot of work to do if it's not going to happen."

Bill Barksdale passed around a child-proof sealed bag he purchased while touring Oregon dispensaries.

"No cannabis product can leave any Oregon dispensary unless it's in a sealed child-proof container," Barksdale said, arguing that if Willits allows dispensaries, similar regulations should be put in place.

"If dispensaries are allowed in Willits, there should be a potency grading system for the THC," Barksdale said. Containers should be "clearly labeled with that potency information."

"Super strong marijuana can be found in even more potent concentrates," Barksdale added. "Gummy bears, pastries and beverages like coffee. These products are attractive to children, and that concerns me."

He closed by saying that although Oregon ordinarily does not implement a sales tax for most items, the state "charges 25 percent sales tax on the sale of recreational cannabis."

Jeanne King, representing the only anti-cannabis public voice during the meeting, urged the council to consider people like her who have nothing to do with the product.

"There are people that live in this town who don't grow dope, who don't smoke it, who don't transport it," King said. "They work regular jobs. They raise their children here. You need to take them into deep consideration when making your decisions regarding marijuana in this town. You will find if you don't, people like myself will move away."

What about the working group?

An apparent misunderstanding played out at the beginning of the cannabis discussion, as a nine-page document Councilman Ron Orenstein had prepared for evaluation and submitted to city staff for distribution to his fellow councilmembers was not included in the agenda packet.

In September 2016, a cannabis working group was formed in lieu of an ad hoc committee after then-Mayor Bruce Burton declined to appoint a committee. Strong, representing the direction of all the other councilmembers, moved to form a cannabis working group, with former Councilwoman Holly Madrigal and Councilman Ron Orenstein appointed as members.

"The group met several times and held a couple public meetings and met with staff on three or four occasions," said City Manager Adrienne Moore, updating the new council on the matter.

Orenstein prepared his document based on input from those meetings and from his own research. Voicing his frustration, Orenstein summarized some of what he had researched.

"If we mandate that indoor growing is the only growing that will be permitted, then we will be subject to a carbon tax or whatever," Orenstein said. "That money that would come from taxing indoor growing would be used to build a huge solar array the city has been talking about for years anyway, and it would be put somewhere near the sewer plant, which would supply electricity to the sewer plant. It could also be used to offset the electricity that indoor grows are using. It's a win-win situation."

Councilman Larry Stranske said he would have liked to have seen Orenstein's document, but that he never received a copy, and so could not reply to any of Orenstein's findings.

"You don't know what I'm talking about because you haven't seen it," Orenstein said. "I was hoping that it would be distributed to all of you, and you'd have enough time to read it and understand it; it would be a starting point. But that didn't happen, so there you go."

Based on Moore's response, it appeared the misunderstanding was at least partly due to the fact that Orenstein had labeled the document a "proposed ordinance," which, as such, went above and beyond his responsibilities.

"I appreciate that you spent time working on this, but you have a professional staff, the council has a professional staff, that has experience in different areas to put these documents together based on the direction of the council," Moore said.

City Attorney Jim Lance explained further the reasons for not distributing Orenstein's document, including the new makeup of the city council.

"We lost Holly [Madrigal], who previously served on this working group," Lance said. "It was logical that we bring this issue back, once this council is seated and once the mayor makes his new ad hoc committee appointments, and follow the directions of the new council."

After further back-and-forth between Orenstein and Lance, the conflict was at least partially resolved as Gonzalez agreed Orenstein's document should be reviewed by the newly appointed ad hoc committee and others.

"I think it would be helpful if [Moore] did distribute it to everybody, so we could see what [Orenstein] prepared," Gonzalez said. "My thoughts are that we need to have an actual ad hoc committee and not a working group to give direction to staff to start looking at formulating an ordinance, with the idea that all council members weigh in at what we're looking at."

Erma Conant

On Christmas morning, December 25th, Erma Clara Conant passed away peacefully in Ukiah, California. March 2016, she celebrated her 100th birthday. Erma was born March 8, 1916 in Fort Morgan, Colorado to her parents Henry and Catherine Beideck. She graduated from the University of Denver with a degree in business. She later obtained teaching credentials in business education, English and library science.

In 1938, she married her childhood sweetheart, Clarence Chester Conant, Jr. The couple lived in Englewood, Colorado until settling in Monterey County where she began her teaching career. A son, Charles Christopher Conant, was born in 1946. Chester and Erma moved to Mendocino County in 1950, and she later accepted a teaching position for Willits Unified School District.

A beloved and respected educator, Erma's journey began in 1959 at Willits High School and continued until her retirement in 1987 at



71 years young. Through collaboration with administration, she was a driving force in securing a grant from the State of California to build an innovative Willits High School media center and library. With her vision, commitment and tireless energy, this facility would nurture literacy and research supports for students and faculty for years to come.

Throughout her life in Willits, Erma valued

community, and she supported various organizations. As a life-long learner, she was an avid reader, a weekly bridge player, and she delighted in discovering new crafts. She continued to educate herself by taking courses and exploring learning opportunities throughout her life and retirement years. Most of all, she enjoyed discovering the world through travel, and she appreciated the diversity of the world around her. Her kitchen was always alive with good food and friends. She was a marvelous cook and loved sharing recipes. To quote from one of her honors, "Her enthusiasm for life and vision has enriched all of us." She was truly wonderful.

Erma is preceded in death by her husband, Clarence; her son, Charles (Chris) and her sister, Lucy. She is survived by her nephew, Donald Conant; great-niece, Alana Conant; niece, Tina Kunzweiler; and great-nephew, Matthew Kunzweiler. She is also survived by her dear friends, Gary, Diana, Jennifer Mann and Molly and Katelyn Snider. At Erma's request, there will be no services. If desired, contributions can be made in her name to an organization that supports literacy or the arts.

Furry Friends



Regie of Siam

For all the Siamese lovers out there, meet Regie. She is a real cuddle bug and loves attention. Regie is a 7-year-old female, which means she gets a senior discount on her adoption.

Regie will make a wonderful companion cat who will be content to sit on your lap and soak up all the pets she can. Regie is a low-energy feline who would do best in a home with adults and older children.

Due to an outbreak of parvo, the dog kennel areas at the Ukiah shelter have been closed to the public, but they have reopened as of January 18. People looking to add a dog to their family are welcome! 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.



Smart Zoe

Zoe is a young, energetic hound/shepherd mix who needs some room to run!

This lovable, goofy girl is just barely a year old and is looking for a family to call her own. Zoe will need some basic behavioral training, but she is smart, loyal and eager to please.

If you'd like to learn more about Zoe, give us a call at 707-485-0123, check www.mendohumanesociety.com, or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday.



Katherine Lee Weaver

On January 5, 2017, after her 72 years here, the Lord called Kathi (Katherine Lee Davidson) Weaver from Rancho Murietta, California, to be with him in heaven. Kathi is survived by her husband of 51 years, Wayne, her son Kenneth (with Jessie and grandkids Dakota, Natalia, and Isabel), and her five brothers Robert, Rick, Tom, Tim and Philip.

A celebration of Kathi's life will be held at Agape Bible Church, 290 South Lenore Avenue, in Willits, on Saturday, January 21 at 1 pm.

Preissler; and grandchildren: Clarah, Anna, Seth and Zoey Lacy.

For those wishing to, donations to the family would be greatly appreciated at the memorial service.

Memorial services are January 21, 2017, at 1 pm at Amazing Grace Assembly of God, 803 Coast Street, Willits.

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

she was an active member of the local Order of the Eastern Star and enjoyed activities such as reading, baking, antiquing and gaming.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers David, Andrew, and Allen, as well as sister Judith. She is survived by her sisters Janice and Carol, her children Joshua (Maria) Caine and Rebecca (Gregory) Lucas, and her grandchildren Lillian and Gabriel.

Memorial services are being held at the Redwood Meadows Clubhouse, 1475 Baechtel Road in Willits, on Saturday, February 11 at 1 pm. The family requests that donations be made in her name to the GBS/CIDP Foundation International (www.gbs-cidp.org) in lieu of flowers. She touched the hearts of all who knew her and will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.

Sandra 'Candy' Lacy

Sandra "Candy" Lacy of Willits passed away December 31, 2016 at the age of 54. Born April 2, 1962 to Emmett & Lavonn "Dalton" Vann in Marysville, California, she married Duane Lacy on February 15, 1979.

Candy enjoyed cooking and baking, and particularly loved and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Emmett & Lavonn Vann; and twin sons, Jonathan and Michael Lacy.

She is survived by her husband, Duane Lacy; her children, sons: Robert, Joseph, David and Mark Lacy, and daughters: Jennifer, Elizabeth and Katy Lacy and Ellen



Shirley Caine

Shirley Bernice Caine, 63, a longtime resident of Willits, California, was called home to God on Thursday, December 29, 2016.

Shirley was born to parents Andrew and Lucile Waletzke in Austin, Minnesota. After graduating, she came to California and eventually settled down in Willits. She worked for many years as a legal secretary II at the Willits branch of the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office. Her greatest pride in life was her devotion as a loving mother and wife, which gave testament to her character and positive outlook on life. Before her courageous fight with Guillain-Barré syndrome,



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WOMEN'S MARCH

In solidarity with the big March on Washington for Democracy, Equality and Justice

Come to the Women's March in Ukiah!

Saturday, January 21 from Noon to 2 p.m.

(Men, families and kids all welcome!)

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The rest of Ashes From Page 1

care upkeep and training, and by the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association and the Brooktrails Firefighters Association. A pet food company provides her food.

Ukiah Fire Chief John Bartlett and Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire Chief Don Dale attended Tuesday's meeting to voice support for Ashes.

Born in June 2008, Ashes graduated from the Canine Academy Training Center in Leander, Texas, after spending three months in the academy honing her skills as an accelerant detection dog. Then Schoepfner joined her for a two-week training program that concluded with both handler and dog certified as an accelerant detection team.

Ashes is trained to detect many ignitable liquids: gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluids, diesel fuel, among many others.

Arson dogs are considered the "gold standard" of arson detection. There are only eight in California, Schoepfner says, and "most of those are in Southern California." The nearest Northern California arson dog is in Sunnyvale.

An arson dog's keen nose can locate accelerant scent as low as parts per billion. The dogs can quickly investigate a fire scene, quickly honing in on a suspicious area. Arson investigators can use photo-ionizing detectors, but the instruments are slower and cannot always distinguish between accelerants and other materials normally present at fires.

The dogs can quickly canvas a fire scene and eliminate arson as a cause early in the investigation. However, should a suspect be located at or near the fire scene, an arson dog can locate the smallest drop of accelerant on the person, even if the suspect has washed their hand multiple times.

Ashes and Schoepfner are the only authorized arson investigation dog team in the Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma counties area. The team "has provided critical evidence and testimony in a number of [arson] cases throughout the county," wrote Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose in her report for the meeting agenda. Ashes "was instrumental in the conviction of a resident in the arson fire that involved the severe injury of an occupant of a residence," and "in determining that several fires in Lake

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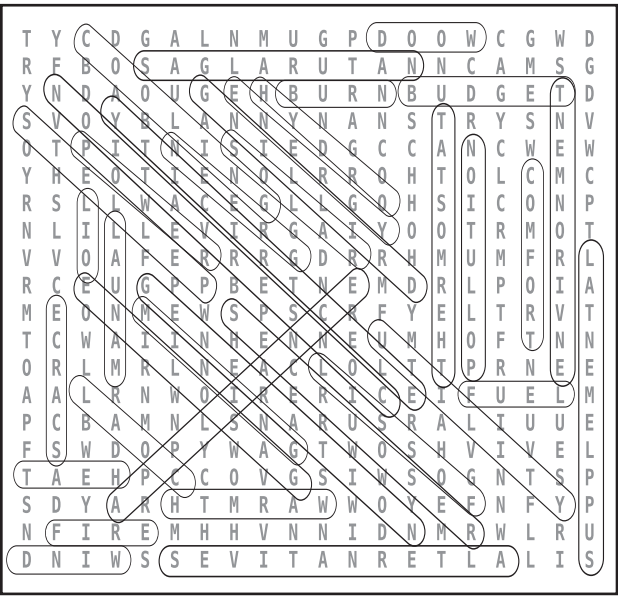
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County and Mendocino County were the work of a serial arsonist."

Ashes and Schoepfner also "have been able to clear school buildings where bomb threats have been made, or a suspicion of possession of firearms by a student, including [at] Willits High School and Sherwood School," Rose added.

The department's arson program, "as it currently exists, is one of the primary specialized mutual aid resources [Brooktrails] provides to Mendocino County's public safety net," Rose noted in her report.

In addition to her arson duties, Ashes is also certified for search-and-rescue operations.

Both members of the team must be re-certified each year by the National Fire Protection Association, Schoepfner noted. "It's a pass-or-fail test," he explained. "An arson dog who's only right 80 percent of the time is useless. A dog is required to pass the test 100 percent to be re-certified."

Ashes easily earned her re-certification, he added.

Although the chief and the arson dog share the same house, Schoepfner is quick to point out: "Ashes is the rock star. I'm the 'roadie,' and I'm OK with that."



Ashes was ready for a ride in the REACH helicopter at a past Airport Day event at Ellis Field.

Photo by Maureen Moore

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.

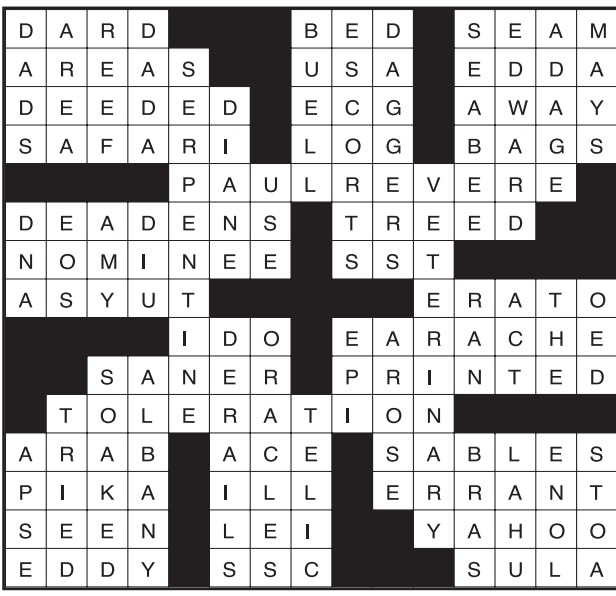
NOTICE OF HEARING

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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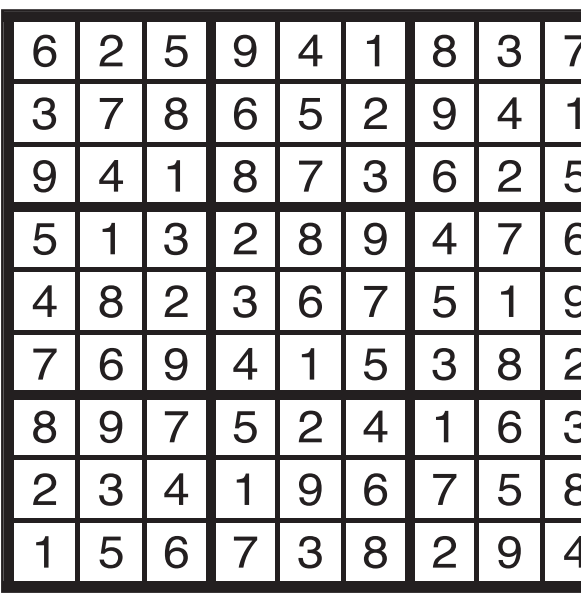
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The rest of
Road | From Page 1

Coomer and Stewart bought the property with the Williams Ranch Road easement through it about four years ago, knowing they were dealing with a piece of land that was damaged by antiquated logging practices and road building performed without realizing the need for adequate drainage in places. The couple has been educating themselves about BMP, “better management practices,” and working on different parts of their land to remediate problem areas.

“It’s time to make sure that you’re doing your best practices, and this is the best we get at this time to save this creek,” Robin Coomer stated. Wanting to make sure their ideas were aligned with the best they could do, the couple hired hydrologist Anna Burkis to look at what was being done, and received congratulations on their work thus far.

Neighbors from different parts of the subdivision came to help: some with light and heavy equipment; some with hand tools, T-posts, and people power. Rosamond Crowder, neighbor and volunteer, explained that bales of straw placed up from the creek were installed to slow down and stop the runoff of sediment into the creek that hosts salmon during spawning season.

Volunteers also used the T-posted bales to hold back earth in some places, and spread the straw on the raw earth to keep the next rains from washing the soil into the stream. Huge lengths of plastic covered earth piles to stabilize them, and culverts were being replaced to help drain the waterlogged soil to, hopefully, prevent further sliding.

With the threat of the storm coming on Wednesday, January 17, the crew of three – with help from the neighbors – have been working nonstop for eight days, 11 hours per day. They finished the culvert just as the first drops of rain were making patter sounds on the black plastic. As of Wednesday noon, word is is that the slide is holding thus far.

The road at the north end of Williams Ranch will be closed for an undetermined time.



At top, from far left: Stewart digging the trench with his Kubota. Volunteers making a catchment for sediment to prevent it from entering the creek. Toni Amelung, neighbor, volunteers her time cutting and limbing trees.

Above: A view of Baechtel Creek showing a slick pocket of light-colored clay, an uprooted tree, Janae Stephens walking to help the straw crew, and Stewart digging the trench for the culvert.

At left, top: Logs block off access to the slump. Bales of hay secure the earth pile, while plastic tarps cover the earth so water runs off in the next rain.

At left: The very top of the slump showing the slippery clay that helped cause the slumping.

Photos by Ree Slocum

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ASL-201 ELEM AMERICAN SIGN LANG: LEVEL II	0022	M	5:30PM- 8:20PM	MCMU 3	3.0	GEL-201 GEOLOGY	0024	T	9:00AM-11:50AM	MCMU 3	3.0
ART-210A DRAWING	0038	TTh & TTh	12:30PM- 1:05PM	Rm ART	3.0	GEL-202 GEOLOGY LABORATORY	0025	T	1:00PM- 3:50PM	MCMU 3	1.0
			1:15PM- 3:20PM			HLH-213 LIFEGUARD TRAINING	0213	W & S	6:00PM- 8:50PM	MCMU 3	3.0
					Materials Fee \$28.00	Short Term (03/08-05/24)			9:00AM- 4:50PM		TBA
ART-222A PAINTING-WATERCOLORS I	2220	MW & MW	2:00PM- 2:35PM	MCMU 1	3.0	0213 Class meets 6 Saturdays, from 9 am - 4:50 pm on April 1, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20.					
			2:45PM- 4:50PM								Materials Fee \$73.00
ART-222B PAINTING-WATERCOLORS II	2221	MW & MW	2:00PM- 2:35PM	MCMU 1	3.0	HST-202 THE UNITED STATES TO 1877	0017	T	5:30PM- 8:20PM	Rm 8020	3.0
			2:45PM- 4:50PM			HUS-154 FUND OF INTERVIEW & COUNSEL**	1540	M	5:30PM- 8:20PM	Rm 8002	3.0
BIO-200 CONCEPTS OF BIOLOGY	0015	Th	5:30PM- 8:20PM	MCMU 3	3.0	HUS-156 CASE MGMT & DOCUMENTATION**	1560	W	5:30PM- 8:20PM	Rm 8002	3.0
BUS-136 INTRODUCTION TO MANAGEMENT	1360	W	5:30PM- 8:20PM	Rm 8030	3.0	HUS-160 LAW, ETHICS AND HUMAN SERVICES**	1600	Th	5:30PM- 7:20PM	Rm 8002	2.0
BUS-201 MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING	2010	F	8:30AM-12:20PM	Rm 8020	4.0	HUS-172 WORKING IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES**	0172	F	9:00AM-11:50AM	Rm 8002	3.0
BOT-50 MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY	5005	MWF	9:00AM- 9:50AM	WHS 4	3.0	HUS-501 WORKING IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES**	5010	F	9:00AM-11:50AM	Rm 8002	0.0
BOT-101.3 INTERMED TYPING/KEYBOARDING	4861	MW & MW	5:00PM- 5:05PM	Rm 8010	1.0	MTH-40A MATHEMATICS LABORATORY A	0040	TTh	4:00PM- 5:20PM	Rm 8000	0.5-1.0
			5:15PM- 5:50PM			MTH-40B MATHEMATICS LABORATORY B	0041	TTh	4:00PM- 5:20PM	Rm 8000	0.5-1.0
BOT-120 MICROSOFT WORD, BEGINNING	0000	MW & MW	5:00PM- 5:20PM	Rm 8010	1.5	MTH-46 PRE-COLLEGE MATHEMATICS	0046	TTh	1:30PM- 3:50PM	Rm 8020	5.0
			5:30PM- 6:20PM			MTH-60 BEG ALGEBRA FOR STEM & BUSINESS	0061	TTh	1:30PM- 3:50PM	Rm 8010	5.0
BOT-121 MICROSOFT WORD ADVANCED	0010	MW & MW	7:00PM- 7:20PM	Rm 8010	1.5	MTH-220 STATISTICS	2200	MW	5:30PM- 7:20PM	MCMU 1	4.0
			7:30PM- 8:20PM			MTH-540 BASIC MATHEMATICS LABORATORY	0042	TTh	4:00PM- 5:20PM	Rm 8000	0.0
CDV-100 PRINCIPLES IN PRESCHOOL PROG.	0100	F	9:00AM-11:50AM	Rm 8030	3.0	MUS-230A BEGINNING VOICE	0033	T & T	2:30PM- 2:50PM	Rm 8030	1.0
CDV-134 ADVAN ADMIN OF PRESCHOOLS	0134	M	5:30PM- 8:20PM	Rm 8030	3.0				3:00PM- 4:20PM		
CCS-100 CAREER PLANNING SUCCESS	1000	MWTh	9:15AM-10:05AM	Rm 2	3.0	MUS-230B INTERMEDIATE VOICE	0034	T & T	2:30PM- 2:50PM	Rm 8030	1.0
CSC-20 BEGINNING COMPUTER SKILLS	2000	MW & MW	5:30PM- 6:20PM	Rm 8010	1.5				3:00PM- 4:30PM		
Short Term (02/06-05/01)			6:30PM- 6:55PM			MUS-230C SINGERS' REPERTOIRE	0035	T & T	2:30PM- 2:50PM	Rm 8030	1.0
CSC-201 COMPUTERS AND COMPUTER APPLS	0130	MWThF & MWThF	11:20AM-11:45AM	WHS 33	3.0				3:00PM- 4:20PM		
			11:55AM-12:10PM			POL-203 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**	2030	MW	12:30PM- 1:50PM	Rm 8002	3.0
	0131	MWThF & MWThF	1:00PM- 1:25PM	WHS 33	3.0	PSY-215 PSYCHOLOGY OF PERS GROWTH	0215	Th	9:00AM-11:50AM	Rm 8030	3.0
			1:35PM- 1:50PM			SOC-200 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	0012	T	5:30PM- 8:20PM	Rm 8002	3.0
	0132	MWThF & MWThF	2:05PM- 2:30PM	WHS 33	3.0	SPE-210 INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION	2100	W	9:00AM-11:50AM	Rm 8030	3.0
			2:40PM- 2:55PM			SST-164 CONSTR DOCS I: BLUEPRNTS SCHEM	1640	T & MWThF	10:50AM-11:40AM	WHS WHSMC	3.0
	2101	Th & Th	5:30PM- 7:50PM	Rm 8010	3.0				11:20AM-12:10PM		
			8:00PM- 9:20PM				1641	T & MWThF	12:20PM- 1:10PM	WHS WHSMC	3.0
CSC-500 COMPUTER LABORATORY	5000	MW	5:30PM- 8:20PM	Rm 8010	0.0				1:00PM- 1:50PM		
Section 5000 is intended to support concurrent enrollment in online Business Office Technology classes.						THE-130A HIP HOP DANCE: BEGINNING	1300	MWThF & T	9:05AM-10:05AM	WHS WHSGYM	1.0
CED-50 INTRODUCTION TO WORK EXPERIENCE	0050	TBA		Rm 8002	1.0-3.0	Short Term (01/23-03/24)			8:55AM- 9:45AM		
CED-195 GENERAL WORK EXPERIENCE EDUC	2120	TBA		Rm 8002	1.0-6.0	THE-130B HIP HOP DANCE: INTERMEDIATE	1301	MWThF & T	9:05AM-10:05AM	WHS WHSGYM	1.0
ENG-10 BASIC READING AND WRITING	1010	TTh	9:00AM-11:20AM	Rm 8020	5.0	Short Term (03/27-05/26)			8:55AM- 9:45AM		
ENG-60 READING AND WRITING LABORATORY	0016	TTh	4:00PM- 5:20PM	Rm 8000	0.5-1.0	THE-230A CONTEMP DANCE: BEGINNING	2300	TTh & TTh	5:30PM- 5:50PM	Rm ROOM 1	2.0
ENG-85 ACCEL PREP FOR COLLEGE WRITING	0084	TTh	5:30PM- 7:20PM	Rm 8030	4.0				6:00PM- 7:20PM		
ENG-160 TXFR-LVL READING & WRITING LAB	6001	TTh	4:00PM- 5:20PM	Rm 8000	0.5-1.0	THE-230B CONTEMP DANCE: ADVAN BEG	2301	TTh & TTh	5:30PM- 5:50PM	Rm ROOM 1	2.0
ENG-200 READING AND COMPOSITION	0030	T	5:30PM- 8:20PM	Rm 8010	3.0				6:00PM- 7:20PM		
	0031	M	9:00AM-11:50AM	Rm 8030	3.0	THE-230C CONTEMP DANCE: INTERMEDIATE	2302	TTh & TTh	5:30PM- 5:50PM	Rm ROOM 1	2.0
ENG-560 BASIC READING & WRITING LAB	6002	TTh	4:00PM- 5:20PM	Rm 8000	0.0				6:00PM- 7:20PM		
ESL-503C ESL: ORAL COMM SKILLS C	5030	W	5:30PM- 8:20PM	Rm 8020	0.0	THE-230D CONTEMP DANCE:ADV INTERMED	2303	TTh & TTh	5:30PM- 5:50PM	Rm ROOM 1	2.0
FSC-196 FSC-OCCUP WORK EXP EDUC	6910	TBA		Rm 8002	1.0-8.0				6:00PM- 7:20PM		
This section is designed for CalFire volunteer training. All students MUST contact the CWEE office in Ukiah for course instructions: 468-3047.						**This course is being taught in Ukiah and will be live-streamed to the Group Study Room - #8002 of the North County Center/Willits. Students will be able to interact with the instructor and students in real time. Enrollment is limited to 6.					

Welcome Back Students and Faculty! Come join us for

PIZZA WITH THE DEAN!
Tuesday, January 31st 4 - 5:30 PM

Mendocino College North County Center - 372 Commercial St., Willits - 707.459.6224

