

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Read more of
Cannabis
Over on Page 11

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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1950s SLANG WORD SEARCH

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APPLE	CAT	EYEBALL	JACKETED
BABY	CHARIOT	FAR OUT	JETS
BALLAD	CLANKED	FLICK	KEEPER
BASH	CLYDE	GERM	KICK
BIT	COOKIN	GIG	KOOKIE
BLAST	COOTIES	GRODY	LID
BREAD	CRANKED	HANG	MOST
BURN	CUBE	HEP	NEST
BUTTER	DEUCE	HORN	PUNK

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CLUES ACROSS

- Fall down
- American TV company (abbr.)
- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- Gallantry
- Chinese word signifying doctrine'
- Prefix meaning 'beside'
- Act of imitating
- Tall, rounded vase
- Sixth month of Jewish civil calendar
- Rural Iranian village
- Time zone
- Military weapon (abbr.)
- Gets rid of
- Aggressive
- Addressed one's appearance
- Affirmative
- Denoting Indo-European languages
- French noble family
- Shock therapy
- Having characteristics of both sexes
- Large suitcase
- One who identifies God with the universe
- Swiss river
- Frequently
- Wipe out
- Invests in little enterprises
- Waste
- Resembles a large shrimp
- Derogatory name for rural resident
- Menswear accessory
- Tropical American tree
- Pitching statistic
- Camera type
- Cardinal number that is the sum of five and one

CLUES DOWN

- Surgical procedure of the heart (abbr.)
- Northern Scandinavia indigenous person
- Evergreen trees and shrubs
- Meat from a domestic hog
- State of insensibility
- Herb
- Annuity
- San Diego-based ballplayer
- Members of a Semitic people
- Any physical damage
- Woolen rug
- Alsos Mission leader
- Aromatic plant used as culinary herb
- Where you sleep
- Ruled Russia
- Indicates density of data (abbr.)
- Sea eagle
- Type of light bulb
- Wreath
- Graduate with a degree
- What thespians do
- 'Orange is the New Black' character
- Comedienne Gastereyer
- Romanian monetary unit
- People treated as a group
- Small European plant
- First responder group
- A person's head
- Giggle
- Bura-___: Chadic language
- Snout moth genus
- Body part
- Inspirational Wimbledon champ
- Revolutions per minute
- American software developer
- Ancient Greek city
- Female sheep
- 'The Science Guy'

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

January 20 to January 26

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **116 incidents** in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

January 20

5:43 pm: LAXA, Remelee Guerrero (47) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Harms Lane following a domestic disturbance. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disobeying a court order.

January 21

8:56 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 700 block of South Main Street.

9:24 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 700 block of South Main Street.

12:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

12:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of East Hill Road.

9:18 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance near the intersection of Holly Street and Locust Street.

January 22

1:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of South Main Street.

10:41 pm: LOPES Sr., Anthony Frank (49) of Willits was contacted in the 600 block of Hawthorne Lane. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

11:04 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Alice Drive.

January 23

12:29 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 800 block of South Main Street.

1:27 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of South Humboldt Street.

7:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

10:56 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

January 24

6:39 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

More of

Council

From Page 1

Two of the large walls in the chambers were covered with charts created by City Manager Garrabrant-Sierra which showed various stages of progress of dozens of projects the city has undertaken or is looking to begin in the future.

Community Development Director Dusty Duley said the city Planning Department has a rather full plate of projects, thanks in large part to the grants they've been able to obtain in recent years.

"We have been extremely successful in getting grants," said Duley. "We were hoping to maybe bat 50 percent, and we're batting 100 percent. That's great news."

He talked about the need to now shift from "grant writing" to "grant management."

"The concern of course is we spread ourselves too thin and we don't follow through on the promises we made when we took on the grant money and signed the contracts," he said. "And if we're not successful, then I wouldn't expect the city to be successful when receiving future grant funds."

He added that some grant-funded projects like the Rails with Trails (creating a biking and walking path near the railroad tracks) and city tree planting would add quite a bit of ongoing work for staff.

"When we accomplish that 1.6 mile trail, when we accomplish planting another 150 trees in the city – that's a big workload then for Public Works to then maintain those trees and maintain those trails," he said. "So I just want the council and the community to be understanding that we're creating these amenities, but there's future maintenance costs that go along with that.... We don't have the staff necessarily to properly take care of it at this point, so that needs to be close on the mind of the council members."

An update on Rails with Trails in the community development section of the goal setting chart said that staff was "completing a request for proposal to hire a project manager followed by a request for proposal to complete environmental review phase of project."

Regarding the Urban Forestry tree planting project, an update stated that decisions regarding tree placement are scheduled for this spring, with planting scheduled in the fall.

As for "Main Street Beautification," the update stated that the city was "working on all of it. Street trees, bulb-outs, extended sidewalks, pavers, landscaping, enhanced crosswalks, new lighting, banner location, etc..... Identified funding for everything except lighting and tree grates."

Read the rest of

Council

Over on Page 10

Willits Weekly | January 30, 2020



Far left, from top down: Italian Heirloom tomatoes are early, high-yielding, and delicious both fresh and in sauce. Cocozelle is a flavorful Italian zucchini from Naples. It is heat-loving, flavorful, and easy to grow in Willits. Criolla Sella is a pepper from the Andes that is very early, easy to grow, and adaptable. The flavor is reminiscent of habanero, with much less heat. It is excellent in salsa and in cooking, and makes a golden chili powder.



At left, from top down: It may look like a cauliflower here, but Nine Star Perennial is usually regarded as a broccoli. It is a sought-after perennial vegetable, rare in the U.S. Mullein makes a delicious tea, said to strengthen the lungs in cold weather. Its large silvery leaves and tall yellow flower stalks make good use of dry, rocky oil and rough ground. Dazzling Blue Kale is something new that is well worth growing: a lacinated (dinosaur) kale with frosty blue leaves and purple/pink midribs.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier



COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

January: Gardening outside the plot: Your garden is bigger than you think

This is the time when gardeners hatch plans for the next growing season and new varieties show up in the catalogs. My little seed company is too small and local to print a catalog, but we too are adding new varieties on our website. I'm starting to walk around the garden, remembering what went wrong or right, and visualizing new schemes.

One of my favorite things about gardening is being part of a cycle. Whether it is a favorite rosebush, ripe apples, or the first Brandywine tomato, greeting old friends is a comfort and a delight. This year, I am giving more space to my favorites. I want to plant lots of the varieties that taste fantastic, grow well here, and give a lot of food for the effort. Italian Heirloom tomatoes, Pircicaba Broccoli, Criolla Sella Peppers, Cocozelle Zucchini, Chadwick's lettuce, Lower Salmon River squash, and Pellegrini Beans head that list.

My other favorite thing about gardening is that every year is different and you can always try something new. Most gardeners can think up far more projects, plantings, and

Read the rest of

Garden

Over on Page 9

Mac users, you are not alone. Give me a call!

Blue Sky
Mac Tech
"Your Local Independent Macintosh Technician"
• Troubleshooting, Tutoring & Installation of Apple Products & Other Home Tech •

David Hannon
707-371-6160
E-mail: david@blueskymactech.com www.blueskymactech.com

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Are you a local farmer? Contact us!
We want your goods on the shelf!

Chocolate & Sweet Edibles

Tinctures & Juices

\$6 PRE-ROLLS

Lotions & Topicals

Cartridges & More

YES
WILLITS HAS A DISPENSARY!

T and T
TOWING

707-459-9116
277 N. Lenore Ave. WILLITS, CA
24-HOUR RADIO DISPATCHED TOWING

VISIT US JUST
ACROSS THE STREET
FROM BROWN'S CORNER

1788 SOUTH MAIN ST.
IN WILLITS

707-459-4200
Kure Wellness

OPEN DAILY: 10 AM TO 7 PM
KUREMENDOCINO.COM

AUTHENTIC MEXICAN DISHES - PREPARED FRESH DAILY

BREAKFAST | LUNCH | DINNER

FAMILY OWNED WITH RECIPES PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS!

166 S. MAIN ST
WILLITS, CA

Restaurant El Mexicano

(707) 459-5702

MON - SAT: 10 AM - 8:30 PM
SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 35 YEARS



Willits came out to celebrate Edie Cecarelli's 110th birthday in 2018 and help her blow out her candles, including Madge Strong, left, Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman and Bruce Burton, right.

Supercentenarian Celebration

Willits' Edie Cecarelli will turn 112 on February 5

The public is invited to come celebrate the 112th birthday of Willits' Supercentenarian Edith "Edie" Recagno Keenan Ceccarelli on February 5, 2020, with a no-host birthday luncheon at the Willits Senior Center. The event will start at 11:30 am at 1501 Baechtel Road. Come say "Happy Birthday" to Willits' special lady!

FURRY FRIEND HOPING FOR A HOME

Lively Lars

Lars is a fun, goofy, energetic boy with a really cute tail. Lars went to a training class, "Socialization for Mutts," with a volunteer who reported "he was a really good boy" in class, learning "Sit," "Down," "Up," "Off" and "Look at me!" Lars is tired of the kennel and would really like a home of his own, ideally one with plenty of exercise and plenty of balls to play with. Lars is a 2-year-old neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 75 pounds.

The Ukiah Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com or visit the shelter. For more information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

Help get every dog at the Ukiah shelter out for some exercise at the "Empty the Shelter" pack walk every second Saturday of the month, coming up on February 8.



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Groceries
Beer & Wine
Gas & Diesel
Pay at the Pump

7am - 10pm
459-4854
1799 So. Main St.
P.O. Box 428

Thursday, January 30

Willits Farmers Market: Winter market at the Little Lake Grange, 271 School Street. Thursday, January 30, 3 to 5:30 pm. Veggies, fresh salad greens, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, savory and sweet baked goods, including pies and handcrafted bread. More: gift items, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, blue oyster mushrooms, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, free herb talks, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Diabetes Management Education Program: Adventist Health Diabetes Education Program is free to any community member with diabetes or prediabetes as well as their family members/support system. Learn about managing diabetes and supporting someone with the condition. Our recipe of the week will be available at each class. Thursdays, January 30, February 6, 13, and 20, 3 to 5 pm. Seabiscuit Conference Room, Adventist Health Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive. Info: Annie, earsleAF@ah.org, 456-3132.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church
290 S. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
9:15 a.m. - Bible Class, adult & children
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Awa: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebilechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
707-303-5456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jernigan
Information: 456-9668
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
•Sound of Soul events
•Membership Discourses
•Spiritual Discussions
•ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
Call 707-456-9934
www.eckankar.org

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

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

St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-459-5714
Church Services/Communion & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Healing Prayer 3rd Sunday
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
399 W. Mendocino Avenue
707-459-5714
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
4th Sabbath of every month
family potluck at the school.
22751 Bray Road, Willits

Willits United Methodist
A Christ centered, progressive church
ALL ARE WELCOME
286 School St. (at Pine)
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor
Worship Celebrations
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com

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

out. "Dungeness Crabs steamed and delicious for your Superbowl Sunday!" Sweetwater Station, corner of Main Street and East San Francisco Street. A benefit for Willits High School seniors scholarships and other local charitable organizations. Cash and local checks only.

Willits High School Basketball: Willits vs. Lower Lake: JV 6 pm, varsity 7:30 pm. Willits High School Gym, 299 North Main Street. (Varsity Coach Tim Conrad, JV Coach Trey Henson).

Shanachie Pub: Megan Miller and the Meta: Friday, January 31, 8 pm. "A soft and sultry mix of folk, soul, jazz, western swing and blues." Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Megan-Miller-and-the-Meta-2310086229229343/>. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, February 1

Sidewalk Crab Sale: Saturday, February 1, 9 am until sold out. See January 31 listing for details.

Rancher To Rancher: Join this rancher-to-rancher discussion and make key improvements to your operation, whether your ranch is large or tiny. • Soil health • Replacing weeds with high quality forage • Planning profitability • Ideal land infrastructure and layout • Using high animal impact to build soil, grassland health, animal performance, and productivity • Accelerating improvements in grasslands, oak woodlands, riparian corridors, and wetlands with planned grazing • Biological Monitoring. School of Adaptive Agriculture, Ridgewood Ranch. 16200 North Highway 101. Saturday, February 1, 9 am to 3 pm.

Friday, January 31

Sidewalk Crab Sale: The Willits Rotary Club's annual Sidewalk Crab Sale takes place Friday, January 31 and Saturday, February 1, 9 am until sold



What's Happening Around Town

2nd Annual Four Chaplains Memorial Service: The American Legion, Willits Post 174, invites the public to the 2nd annual Four Chaplains Memorial Service, hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 265 Margie Drive, Saturday, February 1, 11 am. The Four Chaplains, also sometimes referred to as the "Immortal Chaplains" or the "Dorchester Chaplains," were four U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel as the troop ship SS Dorchester sank on February 3, 1943, during World War II. They helped other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

Pop Up Art Show: Handmade Clothing, Art Inspired Jewelry and Textiles. Opening Saturday, February 1, 6 pm. Runs through February 26. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. 459-1726. Gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.

Shanachie Pub: Nick Machado: Saturday, February 1, 8 pm. "Playing everything he's got and then some." Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Sunday, February 2

Ecstatic Dance: with DJ Dragonfly. Sunday, February 2, 10 am - Yoga warm up with Midwife Monika followed by freestyle dancing until 1:30 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. \$15 - \$25. Families welcome, children free.

Tuesday, February 4

Tightwad Tuesdays: Select films in their 2nd or subsequent weeks are discounted to \$6 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad Tuesday movies are "Dolittle," "Bad Boys" and "Joho Rabbit." Visit

www.noyotheatre.com, call 459-6696 or check the ad in Willits Weekly for show times. 57 East Commercial Street.

Domestic Violence: The Perfectly Awful Storm: Avenues to Wellness monthly speaker series presents "Domestic Violence: The Perfectly Awful Storm" by Melinda Clarke, LMFT. Tuesday February 4, 5:30 to 6:30 pm, Willits Center for the Arts 71 East Commercial Street. Free to the public, donations appreciated. "Melinda Clarke welcomes the community to better understand

the emotional and behavioral dynamics of a violent intimate relationship, and how it affects the whole family and community. Avenues to Wellness is a community-based wellness program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit: avenuestowellness.org for an online archive of past events. Info: 456-9676.

Lady Wolverines High School Basketball: Willits vs. Kelseyville, JV at 5:30 pm, varsity at 7 pm. Willits High School Gym, 299 North Main Street. (Coach Fred Austin).

Wednesday, February 5

Women in Business: All women in business are invited to the meeting of North County Women in Business, Wednesday, February 5, 8:30 to 9:30 am. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Our speaker this month will be Mary Mueller, who is a realtor. Mary will share a few secrets to help professionals connect with people. Enjoy a morning snack and network with us." Meetings are free for guests, first-time attendees, and for members of the Willits Chamber of Commerce. For non-Chamber members the cost is \$5. RSVP at our Facebook page: North County Women in Business Network or email ncwibn@gmail.com.



Mary Mueller at Women in Business

Edie Ceccarelli's 112th Birthday: Wednesday, February 5

marks the date for our supercentenarian Edith "Edie" Recagno Keenan Ceccarelli to add one more year to the 111 since she was born right here in Willits. Yes, 112 years ago and looking forward to a birthday luncheon at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. The public is invited to the no-host birthday luncheon on February 5, starting at 11:30 am, for this beautiful little lady. Mark your calendar!



Edie Ceccarelli

Thursday, February 6

Snacktime Storytime: "Storytime has never been so tasty. See what kinds of vegetables grow in winter. Try a veggie-tastic creation!" Thursday, February 6, 2:30 pm, Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Willits Farmers Market: Winter market at the Little Lake Grange, 271 School Street. Thursday, February 6, 3 to 5:30 pm. See January 30 listing for details.

Diabetes Management Education Program: Thursday, February 6, 3 to 5 pm. See January 30 listing for details.

Friday, February 7

Lady Wolverines High School Basketball: Willits vs. St. Helena, JV at 6 pm; varsity at 7:30 pm. Willits High School Gym, 299 North Main Street. (Coach Fred Austin). "Doubt – A Parable": An award-winning social commentary by playwright John Patrick Shanley. Willits Community Theatre, February 7 to 23. Directed by Steve Marston, the play follows a conflict that arises within a Catholic

church over how to adapt to changing times. "Doubt – A Parable" will show at the WCT playhouse Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees February 16, 23 at 2 pm. Tickets: Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; brownpapertickets.com; or 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Saturday, February 8

Genealogy Programs: Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Mendocino County Museum will be hosting free public workshops to help those who are new to genealogy build their family tree, and learn their family's history. Join Benjamin MacBean, Mendocino County Museum's research librarian, in learning the basics and more advanced genealogy practices. Genealogy 101: How to Start Your Family Tree; Saturdays, February 8 and April 25, 1 to 2:30 pm. www.mendocinocounty.org/museum or call 459-2736.

"Doubt – A Parable": Willits Community Theatre, Saturday, February 8, 7:30 pm. See February 7 listing for details.



Award-winning 'Doubt – A Parable' opens February 7 at Willits Community Theatre

By Steve Hellman for WCT

"Doubt – A Parable," an award-winning social commentary by playwright John Patrick Shanley, will show at Willits Community Theatre from February 7 to 23. Directed by Steve Marston, the play follows a conflict that arises within a Catholic church over how to adapt to changing times.

Father Flynn played by Jeff Shipp has been confronted with the problem of an altar boy caught drinking wine. The boy is African-American, and Flynn's decision not to handle the issue with the church's usual rigid response sparks stern disapproval from the Nun Superior played by Barbaralee Liiker. She suspects the worst, believing something highly inappropriate must be going on between the boy and Father Flynn. Nothing could be further from the truth, however, and grave doubts regarding church business have been planted.

Enter the boy's mother, Mrs. Muller, played by Connie Austen – a woman of great power and moral character who is determined, above all, that her son make it through life on fair terms. Ever greater proportions of doubt are now ladled onto how the church should conduct its business. A young neophyte nun, Sister James, played by Elizabeth Dellett, simply wishes that everyone would just calm down and get along. However, by the time that doubt has become the centerpiece of this moving and engaging drama, the very outcome will ultimately leave some in the audience in a state of questioning and doubt over what is proper and just, for all those concerned.

Director Marston says of this play, which won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for drama and the 2005 Tony Award: "The play as a parable is intended to present us with a lesson in the form of a question. If our beliefs become no longer relevant within changing times, then what must we do? In the face of great doubt do we harden in our stance – as we see around us all too much today in our society – or do we learn a better way in going forward and how to handle our differences?"

"Doubt – A Parable" will show at the WCT playhouse from February 7 to 23, with shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.

The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Above: Pictured in back row, BarbaraLee Liiker, and, in front row, from left, Elizabeth Dellett and Jeff Shipp, star in WCT's production of "Doubt: A Parable," which shows from February 7 through February 23. Below: Sister Aloysius (BarbaraLee Liiker, on left) and Mrs. Muller (Connie Austin, on right) disagree about what is best for Mrs. Muller's son Donald in this scene from "Doubt: A Parable" at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Senior Center Lunch

Week of February 3 through February 7

Monday: Ground Beef Tacos

Tuesday: Turkey Piccata

Wednesday: Meat Loaf and Green Beans with Bacon

Thursday: Chicken Philly Sandwich

Friday: Crab Cakes

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

40th Annual Willits Classic 10 mile & 5K Run Walk

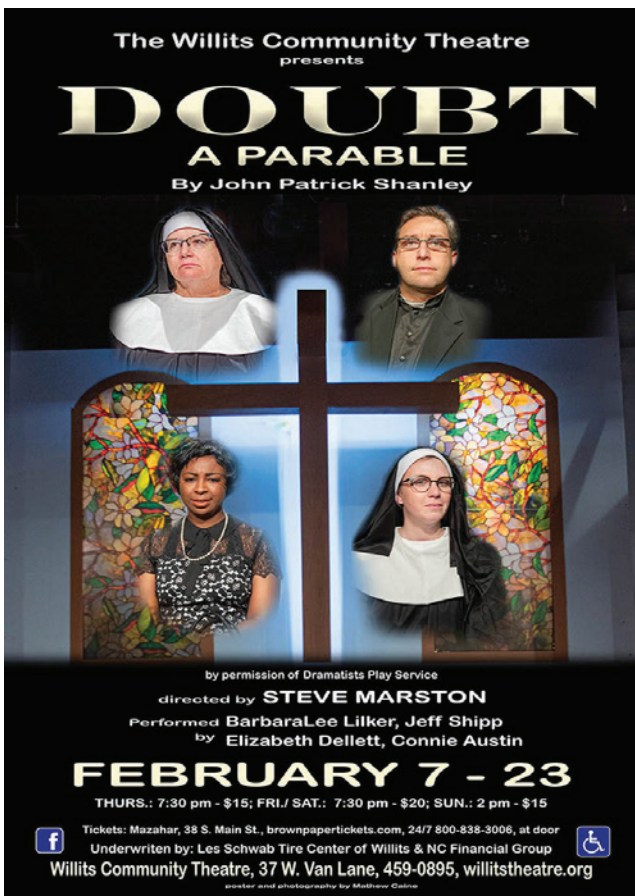
February 16
The North Coast Striders are celebrating the 40th year of hosting the Willits Classic. This is a great way to kick off the new year and meet new years resolutions' goals. More information can be found at active.com or the Striders website: striders.org. Sunday, February 16. Registration: 9 am. Race starts: 10 am. Recreation Grove Park. Entry fee: \$20 adults, \$18 NCS member, \$10 10 - to 18 years, \$40 family. Adventist Health employees race free.



Tommy Castro and the Painkillers Valentine Dance

February 14

Tommy Castro and The Painkillers will perform two sets for a fundraiser for the Little Lake Grange Great Hall. Castro is an American blues, R&B, and rock guitarist and singer who has been recording since the mid-1990s. His popularity was marked by his winning the 2008 Blues Music Award for Entertainer of the Year. Friday, February 14, doors open at 6 pm, music, 7:30 to 10 pm. Limited space so purchase tickets early. Advance tickets \$30, slightly more at the door. Dinner tickets available for \$15. The meal is local farm-to-table Vegetarian and Meat Lasagna, Caesar Salad and Garlic Bread. No-host bar plus coffee and dessert bar, and local handcrafted beer and wine. Tickets: Ukiah Co-op; Willits Moon Lady, Main St. Music, Mendocino Book Co. and Eventbrite.com. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: Moon Lady at 707-459-0211.



Willits Science Fair

February 10 – 13

The 2020 Willits Science Fair will be held on February 10 - 13 at the Willits Community Center. All Willits students in Grades 3-12 can participate as well as whole-class science projects done by kindergarten-12th grade classrooms. Projects completed by students at Willits Charter School, Willits High School, Sanhedrin, and Willits Elementary Charter School should be delivered to the Willits Community Center between 1 pm and 3 pm, Monday, February 10. Judging of Senior Division (high school) projects begins at 3 pm. Projects by students at Blosser Lane, Brookside, Baechtel Grove, Sherwood School, and non-public school students to be delivered 8 to 9 am, Tuesday, February 11. The Science Fair is not open to the public during judging. Opens for public viewing on February 12 (8:30 am to 7 pm) and February 13 (8:30 am to 3 pm). Projects must be removed 3 to 5:30 pm, Thursday, February 13. 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 14. Seeking judges and award sponsors. Info or questions about volunteering, contact Erin Vaccaro, Science Fair Coordinator, 707-513-8742 or sciencefair@willitsunified.com.

What's Happening at KLLG

"Author Spotlight" has begun on KLLG Radio. Twice a day at 7:10, morning and evening, KLLG listeners are treated to excerpts read by different local authors from their books. You might hear a poem, a segment from a novel, self-help suggestions, or a piece of local history. This new radio program is hosted by Earlene Gleisner. Interviews with these authors will be presented once a month.

If you are in the KLLG listening area and have published a book of any kind, please contact Earlene at reiki@mcn.org for a chance to participate in this program.

"The Grange Show" is hosted by Liam UICearbhail and can be heard on Fridays at 9 am and Tuesdays at 2 pm. Liam is interviewing old and new Grange members to highlight their reasons for having joined the Grange as well as their experiences since. Liam, who is the current Master, or President, of the Grange wants listeners to know, "The Grange is not just a building."

"Flroidian Slip" is broadcast on Sundays and Tuesdays at 6 pm. If you like the music and songs of Pink Floyd, this is the show for you.

Remember to use our PSA service: Businesses and organizations can submit their information two weeks in advance of their event at psa@kllg.org. Remember to tell us in a succinct form the what, where, when and why of your event and who to contact for further information. We are happy to help.



Friday, Jan. 31st & Saturday, Feb. 1st
(dates based on availability)
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At top, right: Donna Hart shows off the "joey bag" she's knit in 100 percent wool for rescued baby kangaroos in Australia.

At top, left: Knitted birds nests for baby birds are needed in various sizes.

Above: Donna Hart's first wool joey bag.

At left: Three knit birds nests stacked on top of a joey bag.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Kangaroo Cuddles

Willits resident is knitting 'joey bags' for orphaned Australian wildlife

Donna Hart of Willits is using skills and expertise she's gained over a lifetime of knitting to help wildlife harmed by Australia's raging bush fires. Hart is knitting 100 percent wool "joey bags" for orphaned baby kangaroos, known as "joey bags," and knitting nests for baby birds, too.

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

She is sending her completed wildlife goods to Carolina Waterfowl Rescue, which has put out the call to help injured wildlife down under, and is collecting batches of homemade nests and pouches to mail to Australia.

The joey bags need to be 100 percent wool, Hart explained, but birds nests can be knit of any kind of yarn, including leftover balls and bits and pieces, unless

it's too fuzzy, which can make baby birds' feet stick.

Following the news about the Australian fires, Hart saw the item about the rescue group asking knitters for help. She's already sent a box of 36 birds nests of different sizes and colors.

"All our wildlife needs help," Hart said, "regardless of where you're at. I wish the wildlife organizations would get the word out more about what kind of things they do need. I'm sure there's more out there than me who'd be willing to help."

Hart is also a volunteer at the Willits Chamber of Commerce, where she works Monday, Wednesday and Friday with chamber director Ron Moorhead, who

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

The rest of **Garden** | From Page 5

experiments than they actually have time and energy for – never mind space. So I'd like to suggest some ways that you can try new stuff without adding a lot of new garden space.

One new idea that is gaining momentum is growing perennial vegetables. Like many new things, perennials are an old, old thing rediscovered. Before modern supermarkets, perennial vegetables were what people in Europe ate after their stored produce was gone and before new crops could sprout and grow. Biennials like overwintering kale, sprouting broccoli, and winter cauliflower also produce during the early spring "hungry gap." A few perennials remain in our markets and tables; think rhubarb, asparagus, and artichokes.

Not only do perennials provide food at a time when nothing else does, they do it in a space that few other food plants want. Many of these crops disappeared because they didn't fit well into plowed fields. But they are just right for subsistence farms and homesteads – or for suburban lots – because they fill a variety of niches in the landscape. Some are happy to live near fruit trees, benefiting from both summer shade and the yearly mulch of leaves, undeterred by tree roots. Others, like Sylvestra, can make a permanent erosion barrier on slopes.

Caucasus Mountain Spinach is actually a vine, and loves to grow on the north side of a building. Good King Henry makes a seasonal groundcover in semi-shade. Lovage is a big, handsome plant that is perfectly at home in the flower garden with shade-loving perennials like delphiniums and bleeding hearts.

Herbs are another category of plant that will live in marginal conditions vegetables would disdain. Most familiar herbs like poorish, very well-drained soil, but others want the opposite – a marsh. So take advantage of a rocky spot for Thyme, Sage or Grindelia, and plant Marsh Mallow, Meadowsweet, or Figwort next to your leaky faucet.

Self-Heal spreads by runners, making a carpet in shade. Instead of worrying about it taking over your herb beds, why not use it to carpet the ground under trees or berry bushes? Even a plant as aggressive as Mint can make a pest-fighting groundcover under big vines or mature trees.

Next time you walk around the garden, lift your eyes past the boundaries to see what niches are empty or filled with weeds. There is usually something interesting that needs to grow in just that kind of spot.

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in Alaska and California and taught gardening in schools, as well as living in a remote cabin and commercial fishing. She wrote the Bountiful Gardens catalog from 2009 to 2017, and is now the proprietor of Quail Seeds, www.quailseeds.com.

The rest of **Knitter** | From Page 8

bought the 100 percent wool for the joey bags Hart is working on now. She started the first bag on Friday and finished it on Sunday, she said.

"It's such a simple pattern," she noted. Hart is using a circular needle to knit her bags, but regular knitting needles will work fine too, with the knitter combining two finished squares to make the bag.

Hart has copies of the knitting instructions and tips issued by wildlife rescue organizations at the chamber offices, 299 East Commercial Street, that she's happy to give away. Drop by or call her at 459-7910 Monday, Wednesday or Friday for more info.

Asked why she decided to volunteer at the Willits Chamber, Hart said: "I worked all my life, including 35 years with Bank of America, and when I went down with a bypass and heart surgery, that kind of ended my employment." Hart traveled with her father for a year, before he passed away, and then decided she needed to find a volunteer position.

"You can't just stay home," she said. "My daughter Pam was working at the Skunk Train and knew the chamber was looking for someone to answer the phone, and thought it would just suit me.

"I do love it here," she said. "I meet so many people from all over, and talk to them about why they came here, and where they're going."

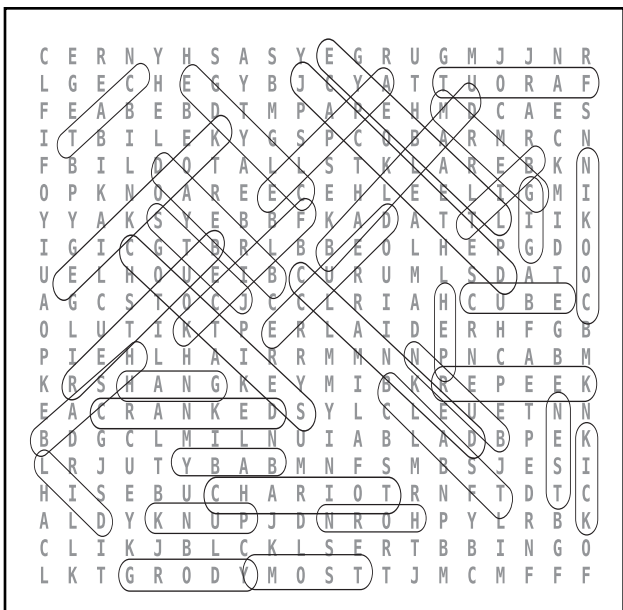
Visit www.willits.org for more general information about the Willits Chamber of Commerce, "Making Willits a better place to live, work, and play" since 1926.

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW258 Fictitious Business Name Statement 2019-F0797 The following person is doing business as Tam's Soap Etc., 27040 Hawk Drive, Willits, CA 95490. Registered owner: Tammy Lynn DeMarco, 27040 Hawk Drive, Willits, CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2019. Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on December 30, 2019. /s/ Tammy DeMarco Publication dates: 01/23, 01/30, 02/06 and 02/13/2020	WW259 Fictitious Business Name Statement 2020-F0033 The following person is doing business as County Line Property Solutions, 25071 Goose Lane, Willits, CA 95490 / mailing address: P.O. Box 1199, Ukiah CA 95422. Registered owner: John Lindsay, 25071 Goose Lane, Willits, CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2015. Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on January 15, 2020. /s/ John Lindsay Publication dates: 01/23, 01/30, 02/06 and 02/13/2020
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Current Job Openings:

Account Specialist Supervisor
Administrative Services Manager I/II
Building Maintenance Mechanic I/II/III
County Health Officer
Deputy County Counsel I/II/III/IV
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
Deputy Public Defender I/II
Eligibility Specialist I/II
Facility Project Specialist I/II
Heavy Equipment Mechanic
Library Assistant –
Part-time/Covelo & Point Arena
Senior Auditor/Appraiser
Senior Program Manager
Senior Public Health Nurse
Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C
Supervising Public Health Nurse
Supervising Staff Assistant – Fort Bragg

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
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CLASSIFIEDS

Car For Sale

Rare 1992 Honda Civic Si, blue hatchback. Manual transmission, sunroof, 195K miles, after market rims, runs good with newish transmission. \$4,000/obo. Call/text Matt: 354-4942.

Office Space for Rent

1 large space 3400'. Several small offices 100' & 270'. Call Megan 972-8776.

Rental Wanted

Rental Wanted: Retired female with steady verifiable income, excellent credit and references, looking for 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath home around March 1. Kristin: 707-245-6038

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 510-5895. See at "http://www.oakrivne.net/tp"

Event Spaces Available

Event spaces available at the Willits Center for the Arts! • Great Room • Classroom • Ceramic Studio For inquiries, email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-1726. For additional information visit: www.willitscenterforthearts.org/rentals

'Experience The Sound of Soul'

Tuesday, February 18, 2020: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 E. Commercial Street. Welcome to the worlds of HU (pronounced hue), an ancient, universal name for God. This sacred word can spiritually uplift people of any religion, culture, or walk of life. It is freely given – a gift beyond measure. Love is love. And you are that. HU is the Sound of Soul. Information? Call April, 972-2475 or visit: www.TheSoundOfSoul.org

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Huge Indoor Rummage Sale

Deep Valley Christian School Gym - One Day - Saturday, February 1 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley. Come join our team, call Deb at 707-459-6826.

Volunteers Needed

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in the gift shop, information/greeting desk, hospitality cart and the garden. Hours are 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.

Public Works Superintendent Bill Wilson said there had been a lot of work done by the engineering department and other staff for the Main Street plans.

"They've done a lot of prep work, and they've been trying to fit things in while they're doing all these other projects," he said. "It's incredible work."

He did note that they'll have to wait until the official relinquishment of the former Highway 101 happens – currently scheduled for March – to do much more, including completing an enhanced crosswalk at State Street and Main Street near the high school.

"Caltrans needs to leave before we can touch a lot of this," he said.

Wilson said that tree management is currently at the top of his priorities. "It's all about public safety right now with Rec Grove and what's happening down there," he said, referring to some giant limbs which recently fell and did some damage to the park, including to the Scout Hut.

Duley expanded on the item "Promoting Housing Development," which Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez said she felt should be the city's biggest priority.

"Without housing all these other pieces don't come together," she said. "We can't increase sales tax at the rate we want, because we can't open up a business, because we can't find employees, because they don't have housing. Everything keeps coming back to housing."

Duley said they've been working on the housing issue on several different fronts.

"We have a number of applications that we're currently processing that are hopefully going to recognize a decent number of new housing units in the community," he said. "We're looking to support new housing opportunities by looking at expanding the city limits. We have completed two updates to the housing element in the last year and a half, and we got the letter yesterday saying [the latest housing element is] actually officially approved, so congratulations to the council. And that identifies an opportunity for over 600 units to be built just within the city limits of Willits."

"And then recently," he continued, "we've actually now made an effort to reach out to experienced housing developers and talk to them. Because if we go through this exercise and create these opportunities, it becomes important to talk to those folks to make sure that we're creating the opportunities that they want to take advantage of. And so that's led to some tours of town, it's gotten some excitement, and it's led to them looking at purchasing some property in Willits."

Building inspector/code enforcement officer Davey Bowles talked about efforts the city has made to inspect the Van Hotel on the corner of Main Street and Commercial due to safety concerns.

The city passed a vacancy ordinance in 2018 which increased the rules and regulations on vacant commercial buildings for maintenance and security, and created fines for owners if there's a lack of effort to utilize, rent or sell their properties.

Bowles said city staff sent the Van Hotel owner a letter via certified mail asking that he give permission for an inspection by Bowles and Little Lake Fire Chief Chris Wilkes, but the letter was "not accepted."

"They're going to attempt to re-give the letter to him," explained Bowles. "If he rejects it again, we are going to take that as non-compliance. We gave him 10 days to contact us to inspect the building. If he doesn't respond, we're going to go and basically ask for a warrant to enter the building."

Some other community development department projects currently being worked on or considered include the food truck ordinance, building permit fee review, the flood emergency response plan, the update of city landscape standards, airport runway rehabilitation, and updating planning and building permit applications.

Project Manager Jeremy Ronco gave a rundown to the council of projects the city engineering department is working on.

Those projects Ronco said were in progress or the city had to address this year included an emergency action plan for city dams; pavers and trees on Main Street; the annual striping of roads (to roughly a quarter of the town each year); the Pavement Preservation Project, which this year "will address several problematic sections of pavement with dig-outs at various locations in town"; the groundwater improvement project; landfill closures; and the rehabilitation of East Valley and Commercial bridges.

He also hoped that they could begin work on the Blosser Lane improvement project, which will include "new accessible pedestrian and bike paths from Highway 20 to Blosser Lane School, drainage improvement [and] paving."

One community member suggested the city consider placing speed bumps on Blosser Lane because of all the cars that are often speeding there.

The city is also exploring options with Caltrans to alter the Blosser Lane/Highway 20 intersection to make it safer.

City Utilities Superintendent Scott Herman pointed out most of the projects Ronco mentioned are generally projects that multiple departments collaborate on, including water and wastewater.

Projects he added that are in the works for this year are the Maple Street Pump Station and Riverwatch lawsuit compliance, for which inspections of the sewer line have been completed and repairs are being prioritized.

Councilmembers generally didn't give too many specifics at the meeting in terms of how they would like to prioritize the items.

Councilmember Madge Strong said she would like time to digest all the information before she gave too much input, but did say she would like efforts towards more energy sustainability to be one of the top priorities.

Manager Garrabrant-Sierra responded that she was planning on putting an item up for approval soon which would implement sustainability guidelines for city staff.

Mayor Gerry Gonzalez wanted an approach which put things that the city needed to get done ahead of any wish-list items, given the current state of the budget, which Garrabrant-Sierra summarized at the meeting.

"The City of Willits currently [is operating] at approximately a half-million-dollar deficit because we have lost sales tax due to various forces," she said. "Amazon is probably the biggest [reason], and the bypass and what not. We have lost considerable revenue, and we are now at a half-million-dollar deficit. And we are trying to figure out ways to deal with that. We have cut our expenditures in the last budget considerably, and our staff tries the hardest they can. We are currently by far the lowest-paid workforce in the county."

She said that skyrocketing insurance costs have also hit the city hard, having "pretty much doubled" in the last year.

Cannabis tax funding for fire department

Gonzalez said that the ad hoc committee the council formed to work with the Little Lake Fire Department had come to a tentative agreement to give 25 percent of all of Measure I revenue – the special cannabis tax Willits voters passed in 2018 – to Little Lake.

Chief Wilkes explained to the council that the sharing of the tax revenue with the fire department was something that was planned from the beginning, and was in the language of Measure I.

"When we worked together with the community development department to build Measure I, and to build a comprehensive cannabis ordinance within the community, it was a collaborative effort," he said. "We wanted to see public safety, we wanted to do everything that we could do to have it be viable if the council chose to have that ordinance go through within the city."

"When the ballot language was placed, it was to fund items such as police, fire, roads and recreation," he continued. "I think that's the best use of that kind of tax and that kind of money."

He explained that since Little Lake was a separate entity and not funded by the city, this contract was necessary to get some Measure I money back to the department.

"The big reason for us being a part of that is, especially with the extraction facilities, it takes the fire department's signature, and police for that matter, in order to get the state licensing that ... the proprietors of these businesses need to get their state license," said Wilkes. "So we're assuming a large liability with the sign-off of the equipment within these facilities. That's the big one."

He said the department would likely spend the first money they received on better quality gas analyzers for inspecting cannabis extraction facilities.

He added that, while there wasn't nearly enough money coming in yet, if the funding increased in the future, they would also consider adding a fire marshal position to the department.

The council expressed verbal support for the contract – which is for 25 percent of Measure I money "net after expenses" – and it will now be written up by staff and come back on the agenda for official approval by the council at a future meeting.

Rodriguez said she hoped they would get some assurance that the rest of the Measure I funds were going towards police, roads and recreation as was stated in the measure's language.

WPD staffing levels critically low

Willits Chief of Police Scott Warnock gave a disconcerting assessment of the "critical staffing levels" they currently have at the police department.

"We are having trouble hiring people and retaining people," said Warnock, who is retiring March 4.

In addition to his retirement, he said another officer will be leaving the force at the beginning of March, which could leave them with only four officers in total.

Warnock said he was not aware of even one applicant for the chief of police position, but City Manager Garrabrant-Sierra said that she did have a promising lead for an interim chief.

Currently, Warnock said he is having to fill in on shifts more than usual, and in February, the WPD is looking at putting some officers on weekly shifts consisting of seven 10-hour days in a row, followed by just one day off.

"So the point is it's very critical," he said. "Our main goal is to maintain this police department and not lose it. Also the city manager has allowed us in March [to work] out deals with other cities to have their officers assist us and fill some shifts on an overtime basis."

He explained that a big part of the problem is the lower relative pay in Willits compared to sheriff's deputies and officers in larger jurisdictions including the Ukiah Police Department.

"It's very difficult – we are the least paid agency ... in this area of Northern California," he said. "When somebody wants to be a police officer, they don't tend to come to us. We try to recruit them. We go to them and tell them the benefits of working in this wonderful place to try to get them."

Warnock did add that Garrabrant-Sierra had been working "to get some incentives going" to potentially entice officers to work in Willits and stay longer.

"We have some funds that are not general money funds that we are allowed to spend to try to get some people to stay," said Warnock.

He also noted they did have a few potential officers in the background check process, who could possibly come on board in the future, including a trainee who would hopefully be ready to begin work by the end of March.

He did warn there would be consequences if the staffing fell to a low-enough level.

"If we lose enough people and we don't get help from other departments, there's potential that the sheriff's department could take over," he said. "And it's going to cost a lot more money and you're going to have little control. And you're going to have a lot less services."

Gonzalez, who was chief of police in Willits for many years prior to being on the council, said he could relate to Warnock's frustrations.

"The whole time I was chief I was cutting and it was really depressing to be honest with you," he said.

On a positive note, Warnock said they did expect to have a new Emergency Operation Plan for the city completed before he retired. According to the goal setting report, the creation of the new EOP has been a collaborative effort with city staff and the Little Lake Fire Department.

In addition to police officers and a police chief, the city is also currently looking to hire dispatchers, an assistant engineer and two accounting positions.

Skate park improvements

Many in the community had come to the meeting to show support for upgrading the facilities at the city skate park.

Shawna Jeavons led off the discussion during the public input time, pointing out that when the skate park was open to the public in 2004, it was planned that further work would include benches, water fountains, bathrooms and shade structures, but they never materialized.

She also asked those in the audience who came to support the skate park to stand up, and about 15 to 20 people stood, including several youths.

"So we have a real life civics lesson tonight," said Alan Grossman who spoke after Jeavons. "We've got a lot of young kids in the audience and so let's show them how this works and what we can do."

"From my observation the skate park sees more daily visitors than the city park or Rec Grove," said Grossman. "My family uses all three, and we know that's the case. Considering the amount of attention and financial support the city allocates to each – it may be geography, history or it may be the constituency but it's not right."

He said that his family could donate considerably towards the shade structure. Grossman acknowledged that a bathroom and other improvements would add to the maintenance workload required by the city, but felt it was worth the investment

"It's a great skate park," he said. "However, in the summer it's really too hot to use. These kids are so dedicated, they're out there anyway. They bring their own water. But it's way too hot. And this is the city's responsibility, and you are the people who can do it. You are really the people with the authority to get it done."

"My family will pay for a structure like the one at the dog park," he continued. "I've got a check for you, I've got some nice letters from other members of the community. We can get that done now, it's a band-aid. It doesn't have to take months or years, or studies. We want the parents and the families to be at the park to support and supervise their kids and kids who aren't supervised, but there's not one bench there."

"Longer term, we need shade trees, we need a shade sail," he continued. "Maybe some lights and of course bathrooms because bathrooms are just common decency."

For bathrooms, he suggested putting in a crosswalk and allowing people to use the bathrooms across the street near the rodeo grounds, which are typically locked now.

Several councilmembers and staff showed interest at the meeting in looking into the skate park improvements, and inquired about the best way to move forward.

"We've actually talked about that when the idea was brought to us," said Garrabrant-Sierra. "It's really doable and Bill [Wilson of Public Works] had a lot of good ideas for what a shade structure could look like and should look like."

City asked for help with ambulance issue

For the third consecutive city council meeting, family members of Joan Davis came to ask the council and staff to take action to improve the ambulance services in the city and county.

Davis passed away on December 2 of a major heart attack following a delay in ambulance service in Willits. Her family members have been attending local meetings and urging action by local representatives since the incident occurred, hoping to help prevent a similar tragedy befalling another family.

Paul Hosford said he was encouraged by a recent Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting where the ambulance issue was a topic of discussion for over two hours, but he wished that the city would take a more active role.

"I would ask for help from Willits city to join in with the voice at the supervisors meeting in regards to the ambulance services," said Hosford. "I think it's going pretty well, but all of you up here are pretty powerful. And with your voices, it would help our need for the Hosford family and our community to make things happen."

Paul's wife, Diana Hosford, agreed with her husband's assessment, and felt the city should be more involved, though she did thank Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez for attending the last BOS meeting.

"When it started out I felt like when we went to meetings, nobody was pulling together," she said. "Now I feel like after yesterday's meeting, people are pulling together, people are understanding what's going on. But what I'm asking is the city more get involved with it too. It's going to need the community pulling together and you guys being part of that."

Councilmember Greta Kanne said that she wrote a personal letter to Third District Supervisor John Haschak and "was very adamant in telling him that this was a critical issue" that needed to be addressed, and immediately heard back.

Rodriguez commented, "My hope is that the council will have a discussion and come to some sort of consensus that we're going to at least let the county know that we stand together in supporting the work toward a comprehensive plan."

Garrabrant-Sierra said she has been in contact with the county and feels that for now they should wait to see the results from a study the City of Ukiah is conducting on the ambulance issue, so that all parties can better break down the costs and find the most effective strategy moving forward.

"As we come up with a recommended tree list, maintenance becomes part of the decision making," said Community Development Director Dusty Duley.

It is likely that the spaces for trees will be 3 feet by 8 feet or 4 feet by 6 feet to make a 24-square-foot space for each tree.

"We are specifically looking for variations that do not have wide root systems," said Jeremy Ronco, project manager in the city's engineering department.

The city estimates that 30 to 50 trees will be planted along Main Street from East Valley Street to the vicinity of Sherwood Road and Willits High School, paid for with grant money.

The city's best estimate is about \$2,500 per tree. The paver stones and other landscaping is not covered by grant money.

There's hope that additional trees from the grant can be used elsewhere in town.

Problems due to too much landscaping or planter boxes with curbs, obstructions to people getting out of cars, or trees with messy fruit or leaves, for example, were also mentioned.

"As a plant person, I say the more plants the better, but as a realist who has been hearing how dire our financial situation is and how understaffed our public works is – how do we pay for it and how do we take care of it," Councilwoman Greta Kanne said.

A document, the Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan, offers some guidance on the final outcomes in downtown based on the feedback of 2016 public planning sessions.

Work in downtown is driven by the handover of the street from Caltrans to the City of Willits, after which the city will take ownership of what used to be Highway 101 in downtown Willits.

At a RevitED meeting you could expect committee members to work together with members of the public in attendance to recommend a decision on a certain issue to the city council for consideration.

Some past RevitED meetings were more active than last week's. Low attendance was a point of frustration for Restaurant El Mexicano owner Tony Madrigal.

"You would think more business people would want to get down here and voice concerns with what needs to be done to get more people to come to their businesses – to revitalize downtown and help the south end of town more," Madrigal said.

With an eye on catching traffic coming over Highway 20 from Fort Bragg to Willits, Madrigal said he is working on a plan to put a sign for downtown on Highway 20.

Madrigal said he is looking for volunteer help to design the sign that downtown merchants would then help pay for.

and Building Services, since May 4, 2017, 141 cultivation permits have expired, and 62 permits have been renewed. In October 2019, 101 permits had expired and only four had been renewed.

Transferability

Beginning on Monday, January 27, the cannabis unit began accepting applications to transfer permits to new ownerships. This is a program feature which has long been sought by many within the cannabis industry and which the board of supervisors finally agreed to in September 2019.

The application packet for transfer of a cultivation permit is nine pages long and requires a lot of documentation.

Applications can be submitted in person at the Ukiah Office of the Department of Planning and Building Services, 860 North Bush Street, on Mondays and Wednesdays between 8 am and noon. They can also be submitted by mail. The fee for applying for permit reassignment is \$333.62.

According to information on the department's web page, only valid and issued cultivation permits can be reassigned to a new ownership. If a permit is expired, and if the owner of the permit wants to reassign it to a new owner, the permit will have to be renewed by the original permit holder before it can be reassigned.

New cannabis unit manager

Megan Dukett, the new cannabis unit manager, replaces Sean Connell, who resigned from his position in October 2019. Dukett was until a few days ago the program administrator for the county's Cultural Services Agency. As such, she worked in the county museum and the county's Parks Department.

According to a press release issued last week by the county's executive office, while working in the Cultural Services Agency, Dukett "made many positive improvements in programming and staff development, including successfully improving systems and policies to better serve the public."

"Prior to coming to Mendocino County government," the county statement continued, "Ms. Dukett worked for various historic sites, museums, and parks in program management and has a seasoned background in program development

\$369,000 to purchase a vacant church building and a separate small house located at 8207 East Road in Redwood Valley for use as a training facility and a Sheriff's Office substation. The final figure was \$389,000, with \$270,000 to come from Measure B tax dollars and \$116,700 to come from Sheriff's Office asset forfeiture funds.

A few months later the board of supervisors approved spending \$50,000 on immediate necessary improvements on the vacant church building and potentially approving an additional \$200,000 for use on it, pending the receipt of a detailed work plan on what improvements were being considered.

During the January 22 Measure B Committee meeting, it was determined that Tom Alman, now Sheriff's Office representative on the committee, would work with Measure B Project Manager Isabel Gonzalez for 20 hours to come up with a work plan for building improvements.

It was just after this was agreed to that Second District representative Shannon Riley asked two questions.

"I assume, since we will be having a dedicated training facility, we will be expanding our training offerings in this area. Who is actually responsible for managing and planning these training events?" Riley asked.

She was told by newly elected committee Chair Donna Moschetti that policies and procedures regulating use of the building had been written and were then being reviewed by the county counsel.

Riley was not satisfied with Moschetti's answer, so she tried again. "Are we actually creating a training program that is going to be implemented at this location, or are we treating this location like another conference room or facility that's elsewhere in the county?" she asked.

"It's a great question, because developing a training program for Behavioral Health is something that could put us in the forefront of all the counties in the state," Alman said. "However, the two county agencies that provide more trainings for mental health than any other county agencies would be obviously Mental Health [Behavioral Health and Recovery Services] and the Sheriff's Office. And the Sheriff's Office certainly has a need for working with the other first responders, so, fire and police and so forth on mental health training, and I believe you can count on the Sheriff's Office taking the lead on coordinating that training, and I believe that Mental Health would be able to take the lead on coordinating their necessary training."

After further discussion it became clear that no one on the committee had realized that the someone in county government would need to develop a training program for use in the newly acquired training center. Riley again spoke clearly about what she wanted.

"I don't want to spend \$500,000 plus of the committee's money on another conference room so I really do want to see an enhanced training program. I want this to be what Measure B was about, and what we all – what the former sheriff [Alman] envisioned, and what our mental health professionals envision. This is not just another conference

professionals, public safety and other first responders."

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room, but an opportunity to provide better services than we ever have before," Riley said.

Riley moved that an ad hoc committee be appointed that would discuss and plan for the creation and management of a regional first responder mental health training program. Alman suggested the work load of Riley's proposed ad hoc be folded in to the existing training center ad hoc, which consists of Behavioral Health Director Jenine Miller and himself, and which is charged with coming up with a work plan for additions and enhancements to the physical plant on East Road in Redwood Valley.

Moschetti seemed to think that was a reasonable idea, but she was advised by County Counsel Christian Curtis that it would be better to keep the two ad hocs separate. She was about to ask for a motion establishing this second ad hoc, when Alman reminded her that creation of a second ad hoc on the regional training center was not on the agenda. Moschetti agreed, and so the item was tabled. It is possible that it will be agendized for the February meeting.

A few minutes later, two additional seats were created on the existing training center ad hoc, the one charged with coming up with a work plan for the refurbishing of the Redwood Valley training center facility. Fourth District representative Mark Mertle was named to sit on this ad hoc, and a seat was promised to the committee representative from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

The vice chair of the advisory board, Meeka Ferretta, has been nominated to serve on the Measure B Committee, and would therefore occupy the fourth seat on the training center work plan ad hoc, but Ferretta has not yet been placed on the Measure B Committee by the board of supervisors, so she was not actually placed on the work plan ad hoc. The motion to seat Mertle and, tentatively, Ferretta, was approved unanimously.

In other Measure B Committee action, National Alliance for Mental Illness representative Donna Moschetti was named committee chair for a two-year term, and Third District representative Jed Diamond was named vice chair, also for a two-year term.

The committee agreed to hold its July 22 meeting in Fort Bragg and its September 23 meeting in Willits. Sharla Scott, who was present from the County Counsel's Office for the first part of the meeting, told the committee the legal evaluation of the recent public-private partnership proposal from Adventist Health would be finished by the February meeting.

County Behavioral Health Director Miller told the committee she will be meeting with the board of directors of the California Health Facilities Financing Authority on January 30. Miller said she would be presenting documentation that Mendocino County has met the demands of the CHFFA board concerning the \$500,000 grant that CHFFA awarded Mendocino County in 2014; namely, that the design firm of Nacht and Lewis has been awarded the contract to provide architectural services to design the proposed crisis residential treatment facility for which the grant was given, and that said facility will be located at 631 Orchard Avenue in Ukiah.

Miller said she is going to ask the CHFFA board to extend the date by which the project must be built from May of 2021 to November 2021.

Grand opening of Ukiah Redwood Trail segment on Friday

Submitted by the Office of State Sen. Mike McGuire

The City of Ukiah, the Greater Ukiah Chamber of Commerce, and Senator Mike McGuire are coming together this Friday, January 31 to celebrate the grand opening of the newest portion of the Great Redwood Trail.

"This Friday is an exciting milestone for the Great Redwood Trail," Senator Mike McGuire said. "This is the first phase of the trail to open since we started transitioning the 320-mile-long decaying railway into a world-class destination for hikers, nature lovers and neighbors. We are grateful to the city and the Ukiah Valley Trail Group for their leadership on this project, Friday is going to be a great day!"

The grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony will be held this Friday, January 31 at noon along the trail in Ukiah (at the corner of Clara and Mason streets near the bridge).

"The city is excited to open the Great Redwood Trail in Ukiah, which is more than just a path, it is a true community asset, and we are grateful to have been able to partner with Senator McGuire on this amazing project," Ukiah City Engineer Tim Eriksen said.

When complete, the Great Redwood Trail will provide hikers, bicyclists, and nature lovers access to rolling oak woodlands, rugged and remote North Coast river canyons, and old growth redwood forests along the north coast counties of Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino and Humboldt.

"The Greater Ukiah Business & Tourism Alliance loves the idea of increased tourism in our community, which the Great Redwood Trail will bring; as well as offering more options for locals to lead healthy lifestyles in a nearby, safe, beautiful, location," said Una Wirkebau, CEO/executive director of the Greater Ukiah Business & Tourism Alliance.

"This trail is about passion, vision and collaboration. Phase three of this project happened because of the collaboration between the city, North Coast Opportunities, and the Ukiah Valley Trail Group. No one organization can make it happen, but together we can," said Neil Davis, director of the Ukiah Valley Trail Group.

Adventist Health Ukiah Valley, a supporter of the trail network, will be providing refreshments for the grand opening event.

Winter Hours

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8 am - 6 pm

Saturday

9 am - 6 pm

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Above, from left: Wearing the approved beard guard, Mike Burgess expertly flips eggs for an over-easy customer. A diner enjoys a plate full of pancakes and bacon. Nancy Finn places plates loaded with pancakes, eggs and bacon in the food window so they can be delivered to tables. Below: A table filled with retired Redwood Community Services employees meets at the Grange breakfast: From left, Clare Friedlander, Becky Wilson, AJ Barret, Shauna Heiselt, Nori Dolan and Deborah Lovett. At right: Earlene Gleisner is the volunteer who makes the gluten-free pancakes: "They're made to order," she said. At right, below: Volunteer Beth Riedel happily serves everyone orange juice.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Hotcakes and Conversations

Starting the day off right with a hearty breakfast and community connections at the Little Lake Grange

The great hall in the Little Lake Grange was buzzing with conversation as Grange volunteers served about 180 people delicious, custom-ordered breakfasts last Sunday, January 26. The pancake breakfast has been around for more than 40 years, according to Erica Kroesen, longtime Grange member and the Little Lake Grange business manager.

Things have changed over the years. "Way back we had 40 to 50 people coming here," said Kroesen. "Now we typically serve 150 to 180 people, have a lot more volunteers, and added gluten-free pancakes as well as organic maple syrup and local eggs to the menu."

Volunteers are the backbone for the success of getting out the delicious, filling breakfasts in a timely and organized manner. In the kitchen each person has a job with its own station. According to volunteer and official pancake flipper Richard Jergenson: "Everyone is family in the kitchen. It's pretty intuitive and it's a dance to move around, cuz it's a

small kitchen," he informed.

Jergenson is also one of the reasons they serve organic maple syrup. "I used to sneak in my own organic maple syrup when I first started going to the breakfasts. I hid it under the table," he admitted with a chuckle. Pure maple syrup is now a popular addition to the menu.

In the kitchen, the Barker for the breakfast orders is Little Lake Grange President Barbie Svendsen. "It takes 30 volunteers working about 100 hours," she said, "some for two days, to get the Grange ready and serve the breakfasts." Pat Collins, who takes the orders and money, attested to that when she mentioned she'd been there for a while setting up on Saturday.

The breakfast at the Little Lake Grange has a healthy local following. Lots of Willits folks have been coming for years. "I live around the corner," said Linda Posner, who's been attending the breakfasts for 40 years. "A lot of people who come here live around the corner."

"I see people I know and love," continued Posner, "and I see people I don't know. Sometimes I'm sitting at a table with them and get to know them. That's wonderful!

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Photos by Mathew Caine

Above, left: Event organizer Ann Alumbaugh is hard at work preparing the salads. Above, right: The paddles go up in response to quarter auction items. Below, left: Diners have a great time dissecting – and eating – their crab. Below, right: Richard Baker, Willits Harrah Senior Center director, and Holly Madrigal of Rotary look over the quarter auction items.

The rest of Crab From Page 3

Harrah Senior Center, and most importantly, Rotarian Ann Alumbaugh, the organizer who has stewarded the Crab Fest for the past 10 years.

The evening was not just about the crab, the two kinds of pasta (mac and cheese and baked ziti), the salad, the bread, or the desserts. In addition to the food, the fun level was greatly enhanced through Andrew Hosford's stewardship of the quarter auction. As people entered the Community Center, they had the option of purchasing numbered paddles for \$5 which would enable them to bid on a myriad of donated items.

Items that were displayed on a table near the stage were assigned a value of one or two quarters. When an item was brought to the front of the stage by one of Hosford's "Vanna White" helpers, people were prompted to place that number of quarters in a metal bucket.

Alternately, they could place two rolls of quarters (\$20) in the buckets which would allow them to participate in every drawing without having to throw in more quarters. As each prize was displayed, the bidders who wished to be in the drawing raised their paddles and a corresponding number was pulled from a bowl. The paddle holder with that number won the item.

Some of the items up for the drawing this year included a variety of gift baskets with different themes like ice cream, bath, beer, rum, cooking, Girl Scout cookies, and gardening. Other items included adult coloring books, four Zumba classes, a bouquet of flowers, antique cat figurines, a \$25 gift certificate to Loose Caboose, two CDs from George Husaruk (band member of The Basics), a toy remote-controlled dune buggy, and bottles of wine and champagne.

Prior to beginning the quarter auction, Hosford read the

The rest of Crab From Page 12

The rest of Pancakes From Page 12

I'm looking around and everybody's engaged and talking and they're eating good food. What's not to love?"

For David Hulse-Stephens, he thought: "It's a fabulous community experience. Geri and I are gluten-free, and we had the gluten-free pancakes with real maple syrup and local eggs."

Nancy and Dennis McFarland have been in the community for 35 years. It was their first time at the breakfast. "We were home," she admitted. "And it was my turn to cook!" he laughed. They've recently decided to get more involved in their Willits community and have also tried breakfasts at the hospital and Harrah Senior Center. They said they enjoyed the food and will be back.

There is a wealth of Grange pancake breakfast aficionados who attended the Little Lake Grange last Sunday. Tom Liberatore and Liz Perkins are from Talmage and supportive of Granges. They often go to the Philo Grange for

breakfast as well as the Little Lake Grange. Besides the food, "It's the people you meet," said Liberatore. "Once we met some people who lost their house in the Redwood Valley fire and then moved to Paradise. We saw them again and learned they've been burned out twice!" he said with amazement.

KZYX&Z's "Time of Useful Consciousness" programmer, Maria Gilardin visited from Philo. She said she likes Granges, their breakfasts, and visiting the community in Willits. "There are so many creative and engaged people here," she said. "Last time I sat next to a guy who was wearing a red Trump hat and we had a good conversation."

Ellen Taylor is a Grange member in Petrolia in Humboldt County. She was in Willits visiting Lanny Cotler, a friend who's a Willits Grange member, and they all decided to have their morning meal at the Grange. She was enjoying meeting new folks.

The Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast is a great way to see friends, meet new people, and introduce family and friends to the wonderfully diverse Willits community.

Coming up this Sunday, February 2, is the Annual Sober Grad Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Superbowl Sunday at the Little Lake Grange from 8 am to noon. The meal will be made by the Grange breakfast cooks. There will be Hank's Famous Pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, with coffee, tea, milk and orange juice.

Members of the Willits High School senior class will be serving, with parent volunteers' help as well. Join other members of the community while supporting a sober graduation. It's also a great way to get ready for the Super Bowl!

The Little Lake Grange is located at 291 School Street in Willits. Their pancake breakfast is the fourth Sunday of each month from 8 to 11 am.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Above, from left: Volunteer Pat Collins sorts orders for bookkeeping; her duties also include setting up the dining room and taking breakfast orders. Renata Abbade, who emigrated from Brazil 18 years ago, registers to vote with Cynthia Raiser Jeavons. Barbie Svendsen, who barks out the orders, takes a moment to smile for the camera.

COLUMN | MCOE: A Perspective on Education

A year as the county superintendent

By Michelle Hutchins, Mendocino County superintendent of schools

January is a great time to look back over the past year and set goals for the year ahead. A year ago, I had a lot of goals but little experience as a county superintendent of schools. Now, I have both experience and goals – and a great team who knows how to transform ideas into action.

My campaign promises were these: 1) confront chronic absenteeism by forming countywide attendance boards and teen courts; 2) decentralize services to overcome Mendocino's geographic challenges; 3) assist local school boards in developing effective governance structures; and 4) inspire a culture of innovation.

Here's where we are now:

Reducing chronic absenteeism

Having a countywide attendance board and teen court may be helpful, but the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office is focused on addressing violent crimes, and I do not want to pull resources away from that. Chronic absenteeism is defined as students missing at least 10 percent of the school year, which equates to missing only a couple of days a month.

Statistically, students who are chronically absent are less likely to graduate from high school. It usually starts as early as kindergarten (when students are learning the fundamentals). Although chronic absenteeism continues to challenge local schools, I've learned that many districts are using creative approaches to help students improve their attendance.

Locally, in Point Arena, there are signs all over town educating students, parents and visitors about the importance of regular attendance. In Mendocino, they've hired a social worker to help identify and overcome barriers to attendance for individual families.

In Round Valley, they are bringing more Native culture into the schools, making the schools more welcoming for many of their students. In Ukiah, one of their school resource officers is focused primarily on attendance, doing home visits, and helping families get their students to school even under difficult circumstances.

Decentralizing services

My second goal, decentralizing operations, was for the Mendocino County Office of Education to work more effectively and efficiently. We are now better utilizing our resources by reducing unnecessary travel through video conferencing. This allows everyone access to the same information at the same time.

When we do travel, we make sure it is as worthwhile as possible. For example, rather than having school district employees travel to MCOE, our employees are more often traveling onsite to schools so we can see the challenges districts face firsthand.

We have also redesigned our operations to improve communication and break down silos. We hold regular "huddles" where all the MCOE employees working with a given school district come together to share activities and ideas. We know who will be at school sites, what activities and events are planned, who might need extra support, and how we can work together to provide the best possible support.

Enhancing governance

My third goal was to improve governance. In 2020, I'll join county school board members as they attend district school board meetings. I'll also provide professional development opportunities, so county and district school board members can gain a fuller understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

Another way we're enhancing governance is at the administrative leadership level. MCOE is working with the Studer Group to create a strategic plan and improve operations. We are also supporting districts through a Principals' Network in collaboration with UC Davis and Ukiah Unified School District.

Both the Studer Group and UC Davis' Professional Learning Communities use similar approaches to problem solving – review a problem, develop a solution, implement small incremental changes with real-time analysis, then make adjustments and try it again until the problem is solved.

Inspiring Innovation

My final goal was to create a culture of innovation. Innovation takes vision and courage. The good news for Mendocino County is that we have a new educational services assistant superintendent who is well-versed in this work, having done it in Marin and Sonoma counties.

Kim Kern joined MCOE a few months ago and she is leading the way. She recommends "going slow to go fast." She says having clear goals and an unwavering commitment can lead to real and lasting change.

We've started a few pilot projects, and they are truly exciting, such as fifth-graders coding at Blosser Lane Elementary in Willits and students presenting solutions to local education challenges in Anderson Valley. As these projects grow, I'll share more about them in future columns.

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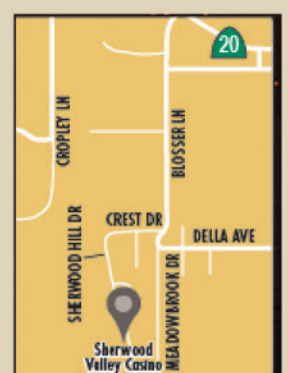
5PM – 10PM

Every 10 minutes, 2 guests will **win \$50 Free Play**. Must be playing with your card in any machine. If we call your name, you'll have 1 minute to claim your prize, or that prize will be forfeited.

Must be 18 & over to play
Gambling a problem?
Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

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

**SHERWOOD
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