Online & Print Williss Phands Sible & Diss Recipes Veterals Interests & Support Sible & Diss Recipes Veterals Interests & Diss Recipes Veterals Interest

Revitalization committee hears updates on trees, pavers for Main Street

Zack Cinek
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

City Hall hopes that trees are planted and paving stones laid along downtown Willits sidewalks in September or October.

Willits city staff discussed the timeline and their need to get the project out to bid in coming months during a Revitalization and Economic Development committee meeting last week.

A tree list is getting narrowed down, red brick is favored for pavers, no curbs to trip over, and limiting placement of landscaping is the favored approach that come from the meeting.

The committee will take up the matter again with the aim of sending a recommendation to the Willits City Council.

When choosing trees, for example, things to think about include the future work of caring for the trees or keeping the sidewalks clean.

Read the rest of Main Street

Over on Page 11

Measure B
committee
discusses
regional
mental health
training
program

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

During the January 22 meeting of the Measure B Citizens Oversight Committee, committee members confronted the reality that there is no entity charged with operating the regional training center that voters approved in November 2017, when they approved Measure B by an overwhelming majority.

Language stipulating there would be a regional training center was written into the beefiest part of Measure B, in Section 5.180.030, "Specific Purpose."

There in subsection A, the text of Measure B states funds raised by the sales tax would be used to "provide for the assistance in the diagnosis, treatment and recovery from mental illness and addiction by developing: 1.) a psychiatric facility and other behavioral health facilities and 2.) a regional behavioral health training facility to be used by behavioral health

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Read more of} \\ \textbf{Measue B} \end{array}$

Over on Page 11





Above, left: Nine-day-old Mouse the Lamb enjoys being petted even at such a young age. Above, right: Mama Candy looks out from the cozy pen withe new baby twin girls, Mouse, left, and Apple, in front. Below: Mouse wonders if milk might be available from the camera?





Bahhhhbies

New furry faces start to arrive at farms in the Willits valley

It was a busy Sunday morning for Candy, the 3-year-old Hampshire/Suffolk cross ewe on January 19 as she gave birth for the first time, bringing two little ewe lambs into the world.

Candy was purchased by Willits FFA's Danielle Barry from long-time local ranchers Steve and Sharon Short. The Shorts have bred and raised sheep in the Willits valley for decades, helping many youth exhibitors in 4-H and FFA compete with competitive local livestock for breeding and market classes at local and out-of-the area fairs.

Holding true to that standard, Candy won "Best Range Ewe" at the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show in Boonville in 2018, and hopes are for the twins to continue the line of breeding excellence as Barry continues her path showing sheep.

This year's Boonville Fair will be from September 18 to 20 and accepts youth, independent and adult exhibitors for a roster of range and purebred breeding classes. Info: 707-895-3011.

– Maureen Moore

At left: Apple and mamma Candy take a peek out of their pen at the audience of adoring humans. Below: Candy nurses one of the new lambs in a spot of sunshine on Monday.



Full house, full agenda at Willits City Council

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Last week community residents packed the council chambers at Willits City Hall for a "goal setting" workshop, as the Willits City Council, city staff and locals shared their outlooks on what the priorities should be for the town moving forward.

The wide-ranging 3.5 hour meeting touched on a variety of topics, including a summary of projects from every department, some troubling staffing problems facing the city, and upgrades to the city skate park which were urged by many locals in attendance.

As laid out in the city's Manual of Procedures, the goal setting is an exercise the council and staff undertake every two years. The purpose is to "establish a limited number of high-priority consensus goals on which to focus," according to city manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra's agenda summary report. It serves as a chance to review previous goals, set new ones, and generally prioritize projects the city is working on or considering.

Read more of Council

Over on Page 4

New year, new manager at county cannabis unit

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Another growing season is fast approaching, and the county's cannabis unit has made a number of changes for the new year. The unit also has another new manager, Megan Dukett, formerly with the county's Cultural Services Agency.

The county has introduced a new cultivation permit renewal application. The application is only two pages long and contains only seven questions. Growers are required to show documentation that they either have a compliance plan, or they had a compliance plan which has been satisfied, or they can answer that they do not have a compliance plan.

They also need to provide documentation that they are currently enrolled with the State Water Board and with the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife, or that they have applied to become enrolled.

The fee for a permit renewal is \$1,174.

According to information recently provided by the Department of Planning

Read more of Cannabis

Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Never forget: A tribute to **Opal Miner**

To the Editor:

On December 16, 2019 the greatest generation lost another beautiful soul and Willits lost a special member of our community. Opal Miner worked at her insurance office until just shy of her 92nd birthday. Having fallen ill she had to take

As evidenced by the letter on her office door, she was determined to get back to work once she felt better. In a few weeks, it was obvious she wouldn't be coming back to work as cancer had taken over. In a short amount of time she was gone.

Opal always showed up to work impeccably dressed, with not a hair out of place. We all marveled at her work ethic, integrity, and yes, her filing system. She had no use for new age technology. Opal relied, capably, on her electric typewriter and paper filing system. To some it was archaic. To all it was admirable.

Opal was raised during an era when your word meant everything, when hard work was the norm, and when nothing was taken for granted. The world didn't owe them anything. It was up to them to make their way. When a friend, family or neighbor needed a hand, they stepped up. It wasn't looked upon as a kind gesture, it's just what

It was a generation when the word "hero" had real meaning. As the greatest generation passes, it is our duty to honor ethic, and wisdom they taught us

These are the values that built this incredible nation we call home. We owe it to Opal and the greatest generation.

Pete Swanton, Willits

Yes on Measure G

To the Editor:

As an involved and proud parent at Brookside Elementary, I would like to express my support for Measure G to help fix and repair Willits Unified School District or online, is hurting our community. I am

National Weather Service,

Willits Sewer Plant

Southwest of Willits

once every four weeks

Willits

Volume 8. Number 340

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The Rules: LETTERS

Willits Howard Ranger Station

Lucky Monkey's Ranch, 2 miles west of Willits

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com.

Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events

and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents

voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to

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

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founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

request to withhold the writer's name will be considered

Weekly

of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of

Mendocino College North County Center

It would be wonderful to build a new elementary school that would have all the changes that have taken place in businesses and town. education, technology, safety, security and energy efficiency; however, all of the buildings need help, and the cost is well beyond what the community could afford.

As part of the LCAP Committee and Building Site Council, I have witnessed a lot of the district's effort to fix the facilities as best they can. The teachers and staff do a wonderful job despite the facility challenges. My child is getting a good

It is now time to help maintain our schools. Willits is at a turning point and focusing on our next generations is an easy way to support our legacy of Family First.

Please vote on March 3 and support

Jeff Shipp, Willits

Skate Park improvements

I have been advocating for some muchneeded improvements to our skate park. To that end I attended the January 22 goalsetting meeting of the Willits City Council.

There are serious, immediate, and longterm needs that will affect all of our daily lives. The city is spending massive amounts their legacy by spreading the integrity, work of time and energy to deal proactively with everything on the table. The city manager, city council, and department heads each have a long list of issues that they have prioritized. Despite being very focused on these pressing problems, they remain very open to hearing from the community.

My sincere thanks to our council and the

The budget situation is also dire. Revenue is shrinking. Some of this is due to our shopping habits, as the city relies heavily on sales tax. Shopping here in town brings us many direct benefits; shopping in Ukiah, schools. My child's building is almost 70 as guilty as anyone else, and some folks non-violent responses. The workbook, "Six

Highway 20/Tranquility

Services Agency

are on display.

County Museum at 459-2736.

Mendocino County

Museum now offers free

admission every first

Saturday

Starting on February 1, 2020, the Mendocino

County Museum in Willits will be offering free

admission to all visitors on the first Saturday of the

month. The free admission day is being changed from the first Wednesday of the month to the first Saturday

to make the program available to more people of all

ages who would like to visit the museum during the

weekend. The museum is open on Saturdays from

The current exhibit, "Natural Expressions: Art

Inspired by Mendocino County," features arts and

crafts showcasing the beauty and diversity of

Mendocino County's landscapes and resources.

View mixed media art including painting, fiber arts,

and crafts made from redwood, shells, leather, and

more. Works from beloved local artists such as

Lorenzo Latimer, Grace Hudson, and Mark Walker

Learn more about the Mendocino County Museum,

new exhibits, and programming by visiting our

website www.mendocinocounty.org/museum. For

more information, please contact the Mendocino

Help save Willits Weekly!

Thanks to those who've already donated!

Submitted by the Mendocino County Cultural

Canyon Road

Pine Mountain

Brooktrails

High Horse

Rain Totals in Willits

19.7"

24.01"

Willits Weekly welcomes reports of rain and other weather information at willitsweekly@gmail.com.

Precipitation in the Willits area as of January 29 (Note: Willits Weekly's "rain year" started October 1)

years old and is well beyond minor fix and probably rely on always getting the best price to make their own budgets work.

> Shop local is more than a slogan; I'm going to redouble my own efforts to support our

All that said, I believe a small shaded area and picnic table at the skate park are now

The city currently has grant funds for shade trees for Main Street and parks: it's my hope that some of these might be planted

There is a recreation grant that specifically mentions skatepark improvements, the city could apply for. This will require time and effort on the city's part and will de facto push another grant application off the table. So this is not a slam dunk. But I think if enough skatepark supporters express their wishes, we may be able to get this done.

We have to do all we can to discourage vandalism. It is wasteful, demoralizing to everyone, and seriously hurts our efforts. If you see a problem, please have the courage to speak up. If we want our government to work for us, we have to be good citizens.

I will alert everyone to the next opportunity to show up, and be heard.

Thanks to all supporting this effort, especially the great "kids." Please feel free to contact me (agrossman@pacific.net), if I've gotten something wrong, to offer your are writing. We want to raise awareness help, or for any other reason.

Alan Grossman, Willits

Speak up against bigotry

To the Editor:

lived in Mendocino County for a long time. We have a strong sense of belonging and a deep connection to this place we call home. Last fall we presented and participated in a "Speak Up!" workshop in Round Valley, to learn how to take a stand against everyday bigotry. The group of 13 women and men shared stories of recent encounters in Mendocino County, and attempted to rewrite these stories using simple, direct, and

19.79"

17.26"

28.1"

21.09"

18.97"

We are three women of color who have

Steps to Speaking Up Against Everyday Bigotry," published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, guided our discussion. We learned that all parties concerned are hurt by bigotry: the targets, the perpetrators, and the witnesses. We learned to look at

Here are some of the stories that were

"A" went grocery shopping during a peak time when the store was very crowded. People needed to form a line to check out, and at the same time leave a space for other shoppers to pass through. A's turn was next, but as she stepped forward, another person appeared, looked directly at A, and then quickly placed herself in front

"B's" 14-year-old daughter and a some schoolmates plus one adult went shopping at a big discount store. A senior-aged couple passed by the group and said softly yet clearly enough for all of them to hear, "F _ing foreigners!"

"C" went to a restaurant-lounge to hear a musical performance. One of the musicians used a derogatory term to describe an ethnic group while introducing his song.

In all of the above stories, the perpetrators were white people and the targets were people of color. The stories range from being questionably bigoted to undeniably anti-"foreigner," which is the reason we to the general public, that the above types of stories are everyday occurrences, and are on the rise. None of the above stories include bigotry directed at people because of their gender identification, sexual orientation, size, ability, line of work, religion, or political party membership, but these stories exist, too.

We know it's difficult to speak up, and still we ask you to do so - in public, in the workplace, in schools, and with your friends, families and neighbors. Here's how: be ready, identify the behavior, appeal to principles, set limits, find an ally, and be vigilant. It takes lots of practice, and you may fumble around for the right words, but to remain silent is to be complaisant.

> Jessica Harness, Leslie Hines and Sandra Wake, Covelo

Third District Supervisor's Report

January

Board of Supervisors at the January 7 meeting. As the chair, I run the meetings with the goal of being as efficient and effective as possible. There are additional chair responsibilities such as planning for the upcoming meetings, representing the BOS on four more committees, and being the face of Mendocino County's board at ceremonial functions. It is exciting, challenging and demanding. I am loving it.

since the tragic situation in December. As the chair, I asked that the board discuss and explore options regarding emergency medical services. We started that on January 21. There are many issues, since lack of emergency medical services has been a problem for a long time. Obvious concerns are funding, communication, the lack of EMTs and paramedics to service the ambulances, and the rural nature and distances of our county. There is a possible half-day workshop on emergency medical services planned for February 24. It will be open to the public.

I am the lone appointment to the cannabis ad hoc committee. Supervisor John McCowen resigned from the committee. So I am crafting proposed changes to the ordinance that will streamline the process, protect the environment, help our small farmers remain economically viable, and maintain regulations for those who don't want hoop houses on every hilltop.

Also on February 25 at 11 am, the Sonoma



2020

I was voted in as chair of the Mendocino County

Ambulance services have been on the front burner

The ad hoc committee had a town hall meeting in Laytonville on January 22. If you have ideas about how you would like to see the county deal with the cannabis ordinance, please contact me. The ad hoc committee's recommendations will be presented to the board on February 25.

County Wildlife Rescue will present at the board of supervisors meeting. They provide humane wildlife exclusion service and education and wildlife rescue in Sonoma County. If anyone is interested in learning more about their work and how it might apply to Mendocino County, please attend their presentation and discussion afterwards

May the New Year and decade be good to you, Please contact me if you have any concerns at haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.



Quarters

Scholarship Fund and the Willits Harrah Senior Center.

north coast. By the end of the evening, 500 pounds of crab from Cato Fisheries of Fort

Bragg had disappeared from the plates of the attendees, money was raised, and everyone

This year's event attained its goals of raising funds and fun, thanks to the generous gift

donations of merchants and others as well as the tireless work of the Willits Rotarians.

Willits Furniture Center

Inventory Overstock Sell Off!

In-Stock Area Rugs! Stained Glass Lamps!

Standard Recliners start at \$289.95!

Automated Lift Chairs start at \$749.95!

year there was no Crab Fest due to the lack of legal crab on the

Over on Page 13

30% Off

Select Sofas

\$499.95: 50+ Styles!

Jan. 20th - Feb. 29th

10 AM-6 PM Mon-Fri

11 AM-5 PM Sat Closed Sun





Mathew Caine

the dependable kitchen and serving

America, the volunteers of the Willits

50% Off

30% Off

Select Mattresses!

MARITARITY

Furniture Center

775 Central Ave. Willits, CA

aid of the Willits Future Farmers of Read the rest of

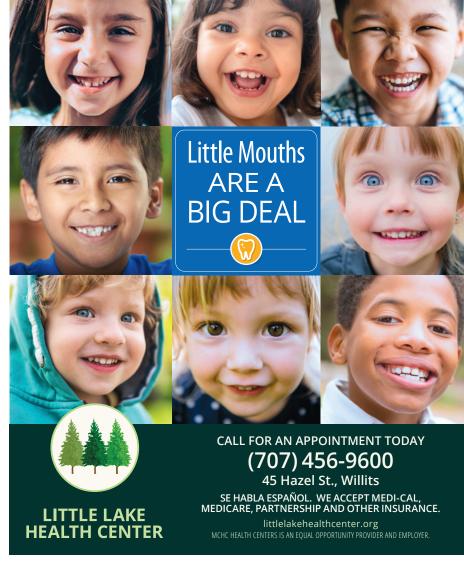


Above, left: The Community Center is full to capacity with hungry diners at Saturday's Rotary Club Crab Fest. Above, right: Rotary President Jenny Senter inspects the crabs. Far left: Alexander Rich of Rotary and Sue Sawyers of the Willits Harrah Senior Center make sure everyone gets a paddle for the quarter auction. At left: Barbarie and Gerry Gonzalez attend the Rotary Crab Fest. At right: Interesting objects d'art and useful items are available in the silent auction. Below, left: Taylor Drew brings the pasta to the tables. Below, right: Hailey Reams has her hands full with tubs of crab.



Crustaceans and Rotary Club and other volunteers serve up 500 pounds of Dungeness crab at fundraiser The attendees of the Rotary Crab Fest all-you-can-eat dinner on Saturday dissected and consumed their crabs voraciously, finding the meat in every nook and cranny. The Willits Community Center was filled to the maximum with about 204 hungry diners on January 25, a successful event to benefit the Willits Rotary Club's This year's Rotary Crab Fest was even more welcome, as last







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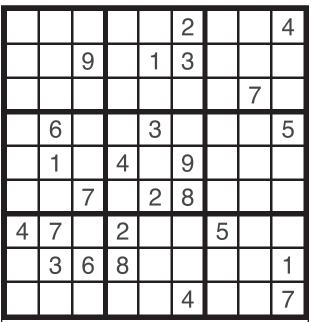
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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



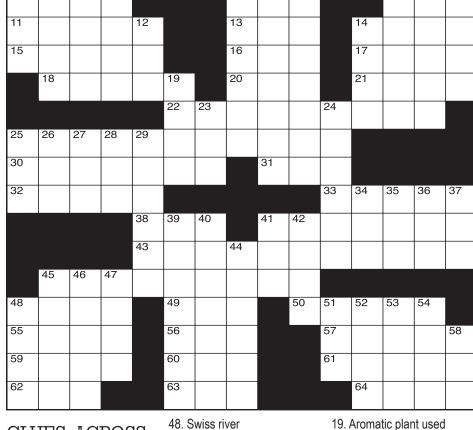
HOW TO

Sudoku puzzles are the easier it gets to solve

1950s SLANG WORD SEARCH

YKNUPJDNROHPYLRBK L K T G R O D Y M O S T T J M C M F F F

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



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Fall down
- 5. American TV company (abbr.) 8. Exclamation that
- denotes disgust 11. Gallantry
- 13. Chinese word signifying doctrine'
- 14. Prefix meaning 'beside 15. Act of imitating
- 16. Tall, rounded vase 17. Sixth month of Jewish
- civil calendar 18. Rural Iranian village
- 20. Time zone
- 21. Military weapon (abbr.)
- 22. Gets rid of 25. Aggressive
- 30. Addressed one's appearance
- 31. Affirmative 32. Denoting Indo-European
- languages 33. French noble family
- 38. Shock therapy 41. Having characteristics
- of both sexes
- 43. Large suitcase 45. One who identifies God with the universe

- 48. Swiss river 49. Frequently
- 50. Wipe out 55. Invests in little enterprises 56. Waste
- 57. Resembles a large shrimp 59. Derogatory name for rural resident
- 60. Menswear accessory
- 61. Tropical American tree 62. Pitching statistic
- 63. Camera type 64. Cardinal number that is the sum of five and one
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Surgical procedure of
- the heart (abbr.) 2. Northern Scandinavia indigenous person 45. Bura-__: Chadic language
- 3. Evergreen trees and shrubs 4. Meat from a domestic hog 5. State of insensibility
- 6. Herb 7. Annuity 8. San Diego-based ballplayer
- 9. Members of a Semitic 10. Any physical damage
 - 12. Woolen rug 14. Alsos Mission leader

SUDOKU

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,

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

The officers of the Willits Police

Department handled **116 incidents** in this

Summary of Active Investigations

and Arrests

seven-day reporting period.

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

January 20 to January 26

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

Main Street.

paraphernalia.

January 25

Northbrook Way.

probation.

January 26

Main Street.

South Main Street.

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

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

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

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

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

More of From Page 1 Council

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

"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 Read the rest of Over on Page 10 Council lighting and tree grates."

11:16 am: Officers initiated a theft

2:57 pm: DOAK Jr., Billy Ray (47) of

Navarro was contacted in the 100 block

of West Valley Street following a report of

trespassing. He was arrested pursuant to

602 PC (Trespassing), on felony charges

of possession of a controlled substance

for sale, and on misdemeanor charges of

unauthorized entry of a dwelling without

owner consent and possession of drug

7:15 pm: WATTS, Deborah Jane (49)

of Willits was contacted in the 200 block

of School Street. She was arrested on

misdemeanor charges of failure to appear

7:50 pm: Officers responded to a report

9:14 pm: Officers responded to a report

1:35 am: Officers responded to a report

of vandalism in the 300 block of South Main

11:40 am: Officers responded to a report

2:17 pm: Officers initiated a missing

2:37 pm: Officers initiated a fraud

8:00 pm: Officers responded to a report

9:19 pm: BYER, David Wesley (36)

of Willits was contacted in the 300 block

of North Main Street. He was arrested

on misdemeanor charges of failure to

appear on written promise and violation of

12:28 am: Officers responded to a report

of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection

of Mill Creek Drive and Commercial Street.

of trespassing in the 300 block of South

Main Street and issued a warning

10:04 am: Officers responded to a report

11:44 am: Officers responded to a report

3:21 pm: Officers initiated a theft

3:54 pm: Officers responded to a

disturbance in the 1700 block of South

11:59 pm: Officers responded to a report

of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of

Main Street and issued a warning.

investigation in the 1700 block of South

of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of

South Main Street and issued a warning.

investigation in the 800 block of South Main

person investigation in the 100 block of

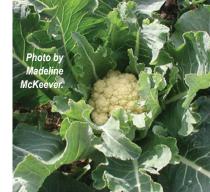
of vandalism in the 1000 block of South

of an unwanted subject in the 900 block of

of harassment in the 1700 block of Elm

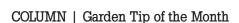
investigation in the 1700 block of South











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 At right, bottom: Lava catalogs. My little seed company is too small and local to print a catalog, but we too are adding new varieties on Morton in Oregon.

Jamie Chevalier

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, Piricicaba 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 Over on Page 9 Garden

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

Mac Tech

"Your Local Independent Macintosh Technician"

David Hannon

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



At right: The Pellegrini

bean is a very rare

Its flavor, both as

green beans and as

mature dry beans is

outstanding. Like the

it can be found at

Lamp Romaine is

a new lettuce from

Spotted lettuces

have become more

farmer/breeder Frank

common recently, but

these swirling colors

are something truly

other vegetables here,

Photos by Jamie Chevalier



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 lacinato (dinosaur) kale with frosty blue leaves

golden chili powder.

and purple/pink midribs.



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

Supercentenarian Celebration

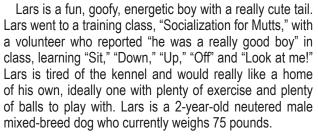
Willits' Edie Cecarelli will turn 112 on February 5

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



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.



BROWNS Gas & Diesel Pay at the Pump 7am - 10pm 459-4854 1799 So. Main St. P.O. Box 428

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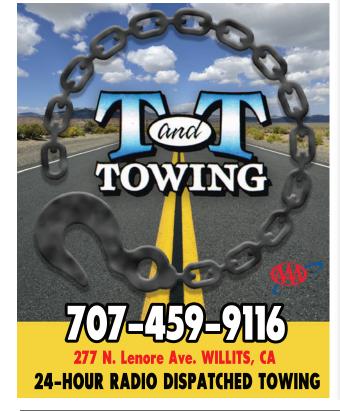
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AUTHENTIC MEXICAN DISHES - PREPARED FRESH DAILY

as culinary herb

23. Where you sleep

25. Indicates density

of data (abbr.)

27. Type of light bulb

29. Graduate with a degree

35. 'Orange is the New Black'

36. Comedienne Gasteyer

40. Small European plant

41. First responder group

42. A person's head

46. Snout moth genus

48. Inspirational Wimbledon

51. Revolutions per minute

52. American software

53. Ancient Greek city

58. 'The Science Guy'

54. Female sheep

44. Giggle

47. Body part

champ

developer

37. Romanian monetary unit

39. People treated as a group

34. What thespians do

character

24. Ruled Russia

26. Sea eagle

28. Wreath

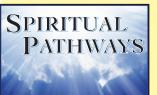
Thursday, January 30

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. Willitsroasted 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** Education member with diabetes or pre-

Program is free to any community diabetes as well as their family members/support system. Learn about managing diabetes and



Agape **Bible Church** 290 S. Lenore Ave. Adventist Willits, CA 95490 Howard Where love is first and the Bible is central. Hospital, 1 Marcela Sunday Services: Drive. Info: Annie, 9:15 a.m. - Bible Class, earsleAF@ah.org adult & children 11:00 a.m. - Worship 456-3132. Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m Info? 707-459-1905

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Churc 803 Coast Street

www.agapebiblechurch.co

P.O. Box 489, Willits 707-303-5456 Morning Worship - 10:30 a.r Pastor Burton Jernigan Information: 456-9668 EVERYBODY IS WELCOM

The Church of **Jesus Christ of** Latter-day Saints 265 Margie Drive Willits, ČA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME

Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Eckankar: The Patl

f Spiritual Freedo Sound of Soul events Membership Discourses Spiritual Discussions •ECK Light & Sound Service 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. Children's Church - 11 a.m Mid-week Bible Studies Potluck every 2ND Sunday Alan Klier, Lead Pastor 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church 61 W. San Francisco Ave Willits, CA 95490 Father Aaron Bandanadan Mass times:

Saturday confessions - 4:45 p.m. Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mass -9:00 a.m. English 10:30 a.m. Spanish We welcome All Ŵalks of Faith

St. Francis **Episcopal Church** I North Main Street, Willit 707-459-3066 Church Services/Comm

& Sunday School - 10:00 a.m Healing Prayer 3rd Sunday ALL ARE WELCOME The Rev. Betsy Bruneau St. John

Lutheran Church Karl Bliese, Pastor Church Service: Sunday 10:00 to 11:00

Bible Study/Sunday School following the service. (707) 459-2988 24 Mill Creek Drive ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day **Adventist Church** 399 W. Mendocino Avenue 707-459-5714 Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m. Worship Service - 10:45 a.m

4th Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school. 22751 Bray Road, Willits Willits United Methodist Christ centered, progressive church

ALL ARE WELCOME 286 School St. (at Pine) Rev. Rosemary Landry, pasto Worship Celebration Sundays - 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m 459-2855

Facebook: www.facebook.coi

you want to be included in this column please call April Tweddell (707) 972-2475

out. "Dungeness Crabs steamed and delicious for your Superbowl Sunday!" Sweetwater Station, corner

any community member with diabet or prediabetes as well as their family members/support system.

January 30, February 6, February 13 and February 20

3:00-5:00 pm

with the condition. Our

recipe of the week will

be available at each

January 30, February

6, 13, and 20, 3 to

5 pm. Seabiscuit

Conference Room,

Friday,

Sidewalk

Sale: The

Rotary Club's annual

Sidewalk Crab Sale

takes place Friday,

January 31 and

Saturday, February

9 am until sold

AT THE MOVIES

'Dolittle'

Two new features starting on Friday: This

preview is drawn from generally available

written and video descriptions of these

'JOJO RABBIT'

The Story: A dark comedy/satire about

pointless hatred. A very young member

of Hitler Youth has an imaginary friend

- it's the Fuhrer Himself. The boy's

girl in their house. The reality of the

Jewish girl challenges the hateful anti-

Semitic, anti-human Nazi propaganda

being pounded into the young boy's

head. Apparently, the movie is really

funny and sad. I am excited to see it.

The idea of laughing at Nazis does

challenge my stomach, but the trailers

are, in fact, very funny. And years ago,

I did laugh at "Springtime for Hitler"

in "The Producers." And besides, the

best way to deal with human filth is to

This movie is nominated for six

Oscars: Best Picture, Best Supporting

Actress (Scarlett Johansson), Best

Adapted Screenplay, Best Costume

Design, Best Production Design (the

overall "look" of the movie), and Best

BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

AKA 'BAD BOYS 4'

The Story: Cop-buddies action

comedy sequel. Detective Marcus

Burnett (Martin Lawrence) and

Detective "Mike" Lowery (Will Smith)

are the wisecracking good bad boys

going after the really really bad guys

in a drug cartel. Everyone knows this

movie is funny-stupid, but at the same

time highly enjoyable. This flick gets

four bright stars by audiences and

critics. From the reviews, "Bad Boys 4"

Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his

reality attenuated by the wisdom of the

sounds like fun.

imagination.

laugh at the mugs and skells.

Film Editing.

mother (Scarlett

Johansson) is

hiding a Jewish

new offerings at the Noyo.

Dan Essman

January 31

Thursdays,

Health

Crab

Willits

Memorial

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-andthe-Meta-2310086229229343/. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main

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-torancher discussion and make kev improvements to your operation, whether your ranch is large or tiny. • Soil health • Replacing weeds with high quality forage • Planning profitability • Ideal land nfrastructure and layout . Using high animal impact to build soil, grassland health, animal performance, and productivity · Accelerating mprovements 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.

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

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:

40th Annual Willits 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

Mendocino County Classic 10 mile & 5K Museum Free Admission on First Saturdays

Beginning February 1, the Mendocino County Museum will be offering free admission to all visitors on the first Saturday of each month, changed from the first Wednesday of the month to make the program available to more people of all ages. Museum is open Saturdays, 12 to 4 pm. The current exhibit, "Natural Expressions: Art Inspired by Mendocino County," features arts and crafts showcasing the beauty and diversity of Mendocino County's landscapes and resources. Visit www.mendocinocounty. org/museum. 459-2736. 400 East Commercial



What's Happening Around Town

2nd Annual Four Chaplains Memorial Service: www.noyotheatre.com, call 459-6696 or check Edie Ceccarelli's 112th The American Legion, Willits Post 174, invites the the ad in Willits Weekly for show times. 57 East 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

Pop Up Art Show: Handmade Clothing, Art Inspired Jewelry 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

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

Inspired

Jewelry

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

Tommy Castro

and the Painkillers

Valentine Dance

February 14

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.

Tommy Castro and The Painkillers will

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

Handmade

Clothing

and

the emotional and behavioral dynamics of a violent intimate relationship, and how it affects the whole family and community. Avenues to Wellness is a communitybased wellness program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Textiles 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.

The Willits Community Theatre

A PARABLE

OUBT

ed by STEVE MARSTON

FEBRUARY 7 - 23

Underwriten by: Les Schwab Tire Center of Willits & NC Financial Group
Willits Community Theatre, 37 W. Van Lane, 459-0895, willitstheatre.org

BarbaraLee Lilker, Jeff Shipp

Fair

February 10 – 13

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

Edie Ceccarelli 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!

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

Friday, February 7

Lady Wolverines High School Basketball: Willits vs. St. Helena.

> JV at 6 pm; varsity at 7:30 pm. Willits High Gym, 299 School North Main Street. (Coach Fred Austin). "Doubt - A Parable": award-winning social commentary

by playwright John Shanley. Patrick Community February Theatre, 7 to 23. Directed by Steve Marston, the

play follows a conflict that arises within a Catholic

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

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

"The Grange Show" is hosted by Liam UiCearbhaill

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

"Floidian Slip" is broadcast on Sundays and Tuesdays

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

at 6 pm. If you like the music and songs of Pink Floyd,

and can be heard on Fridays at 9 am and Tuesdays at 2 459-5506.



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).

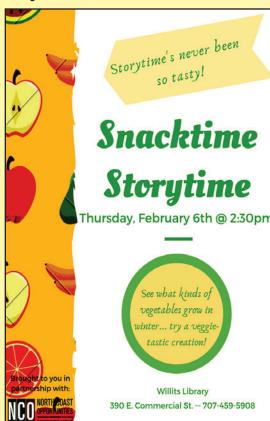
Saturday, February 8

church over how to adapt to changing times

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



Valentine's Day Sitting

Service

February 14

Take a break for yourselves on Valentine's

Day. Do something romantic or fun and leave

your kiddos in good hands. All proceeds go

to fund the Travel Club's Washington D.C.

trip in June. \$20 per child, \$10 for each

additional child in the family. Crafts, movies,

games, will be provided. Kids will be making

their own pizza and baked goods. Thirty

spots available. Drop them off at Willits

Charter School. Sign up early at Willits

STATIC DANCE

Class 10 am

Dance 11am

Charter School, 1431 South Main Street,

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 Lilker. 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 Lilker, 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 Alovsius (BarbaraLee Lilker. 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





know, "The Grange is not just a building."

this is the show for you.





Funds go to Willits High School seniors and other local charitable organizations.

Thank you for your support!



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.







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

a joey bag. Photos by Jennifer Poole

first wool joey bag.

At left: Three knit birds

nests stacked on top of

expertise she's gained over a lifetime of knitting to help wildlife harmed by Australia's raging bush fires. Hart is kitting

100 percent wool "joey bags" for orphaned baby kangaroos, known as "joeys," and knitting nests for Jennifer Poole baby birds, too.

completed 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

She is sending her

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

Donna Hart of Willits is using skills and it's too fuzzy, which can make baby birds'

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

Annual Willits Rotary SIDEWALK CRAB SALE

Kangaroo Cuddles

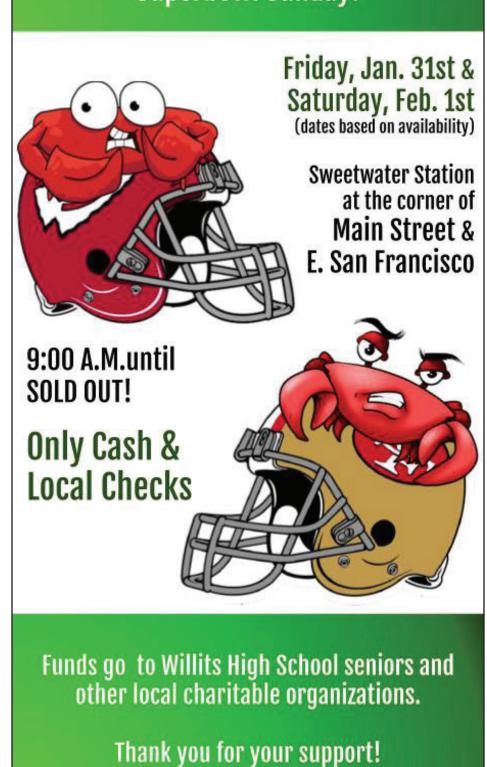
Willits resident is knitting 'joey bags'

for orphaned Australian wildlife

Get Dungeness Crabs Steamed & Delicious for your **Superbowl Sunday!**



Willits, CA 95490



The rest of

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

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 Sylvetta, 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.

From Page 8

bought the 100 percent wood 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

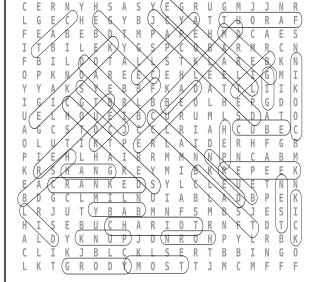
Chamber, Hart said: "I worked all my life, including 35 years with Bank of America, and when I went down with a bypass and heart surgery, that kind of ended my employment." Hart traveled with her father for a year, before he passed away, and then decided she needed to find a volunteer position.

"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.





LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name

The following person is doing 7040 Hawk Drive, Willits, CA Registered owner: Tammy Lynr

DeMarco, 27040 Hawk Drive,

above on n/a.

This business is conducted by a ndividual The registrant commenced to ictitious business name listed

Statement filed with the lendocino County Clerk-Recorde on December 30, 2019.

01/23, 01/30, 02/06 and 02/13/2020

Fictitious Business Name

Statement 2020-F0033 The following person is doing business as County Line Property

Solutions, 25071 Goose Lane, Willits, CA 95490 / mailing addres P.O. Box 1199, Ukiah CA 95482. Registered owner: John Lindsay 25071 Goose Lane, Willits, CA This business is conducted by an

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2015. Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorde on January 15, 2020. /s/ John Lindsay

Publication date 01/23, 01/30, 02/06 and 02/13/2020



Current Job Openings:

Account Specialist Supervisor Administrative Services Manager I/II Building Maintenance Mechanic I/II/III County Health Officer Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II Deputy Public Defender 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:

www.mendocinocounty.org/government/ human-resources

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> Volunteers Needed

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive of the members community to volunteer in the gift shop, information/greeting desk, hospitality cart and the garden. Hours are ble and can includ weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

> Volunteer Opportunities

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

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V | A | L | O | R B E L L I G E R E N I N D I P | O | R | T | M | A | N | T | E | A | U

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

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

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 be leaving the force at the beginning of March, which could 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

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 aroundwater 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 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

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.

Pg. 10 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Mayor Gerry Gonzalez wanted an approach which put things that the city needed to get done ahead of any wishlist 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

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 citv."

"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

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

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 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

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

"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

Warnock did add that Garrabrant-Sierra had been projects that multiple departments collaborate on, including 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

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

"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

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

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

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

"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

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

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

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

Main Street

"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 The final figure was \$389,000, with \$270,000 to come from

"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.

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

A document, the Main Street Corridor Enhancement

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.

From Page 1 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

and management, staff and volunteer leadership, strategic planning, process development, and customer service. Ms. Dukett has a Bachelor of Arts degree and comes to [the cannabis unit] highly recommended for her experience in project management.'

Dukett inherits a unit that has been long plagued by controversy, understaffing, high turnover rates, astronomical goals, and an almost complete breakdown of a parallel department at the state level. Formerly housed in the Department of Agriculture, the unit has seen the unexplained departure of former Interim Commissioner of Agriculture Diane Curry in 2018 and of Commissioner of Agriculture Harinder Grewal in 2019.

The unit lost the services of its first cannabis manager, Kelly Overton, after four months of employment, and of its second cannabis manager, Sean Connell. after 10 months of employment. The unit also lost the services of its former program administrator, Chevon Holmes, who left the unit in April 2019.

The unit was transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Planning and Building Services in March 2019. Since then, its performance in terms of number of permits issued has improved, although the unit has never, at any time since its inception, managed to have 300 cultivation permits functioning and active among what Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams estimates around 9,000 cannabis growers countywide.

According to information provided recently by Planning and Building Services, the unit, which is expected to ride herd on 1,429 applications, which translates into 1,429 separate cannabis operations, would, if it were fully staffed, have eight employees. With the addition of Dukett, it now has five employees, including one full-time inspector, 1 full-time administrator, one extra-help inspector and one extrahelp administrator.

The same information from Planning and Building Services indicates that the cannabis unit currently has 909 permit applications under its review. Of those, 867 are held up at either the State Water Board or the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, or at both.

professionals, public safety and The rest of other first responders. Measure B

In July of 2019, the Measure B From Page 1 Committee approved spending \$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.

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

During the January 22 Measure B Committee meeting, it was determined that Tom Allman, 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," Allman 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 [Allman] envisioned, and what our mental health professionals envision. This is not just another conference

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. Allman 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 Allman 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

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

The City of Ukiah, the Greater Ukiah Chamber of Commerce, and Senator Mike McGuire

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!"

are coming together this Friday, January 31 to celebrate the grand opening of the newest

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

"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

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

happened because of the collaboration between the city, North Coast Opportunities, and



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refreshments for the grand opening event.



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Above, from left: Wearing the approved beard guard, Mike Burgess expertly flips eggs for an overeasy 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.





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 small kitchen," he informed. 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

Ree Slocum

Grange business manager. Things have changed over the vears. "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

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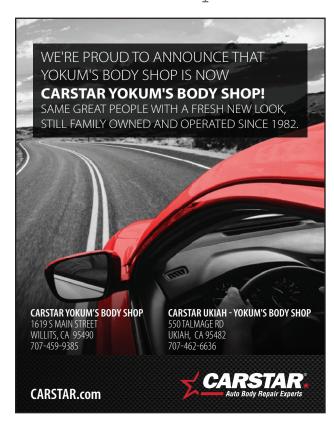
Jergenson is also one of the reasons they serve organic maple syrup. "I used to sneak in my own organic maple syrup when I first started going to the breakfasts. I hid it under the table," he admitted with a chuckle. Pure maple syrup is now a popular addition to the menu.

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!

> Pancakes Over on Page 13 Read the rest of



BAD BOYS FOR LIFE



(R) 2 hrs 4 mins 5:15 & 8:00pm 2:30, 5:15 & 8:00pm 1:30, 4:15 & 7:00pm Mon-Thurs: 4:15 & 7:00pm

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From Page 3 Crab

look over the quarter auction items. Harrah Senior Center, and most importantly, Rotarian Ann Alumbaugh, the organizer who has stewarded the Crab Fest Rotarians ask themselves when planning their actions and 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 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 From literacy and peace to water and health, we are always of quarters in a metal bucket.

Alternately, they could place two rolls of guarters (\$20) in the buckets which would allow them to participate in every drawing without having to throw in more guarters. 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

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 Bassics), a toy remote-controlled dune buggy, and bottles of wine and champagne.



From Page 12

Pancakes |

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 in Willits visiting Lanny Cotler, a friend 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 meeting new folks.

I'm looking around and everybody's 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

> 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 who's a Willits Grange member, and they all decided to have their morning meal at the Grange. She was enjoying





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, 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

Above, left: Event organizer Ann Alumbaugh is hard at work preparing the salads.

Richard Baker, Willits Harrah Senior Center director, and Holly Madrigal of Rotary

Rotary International "Four Way Test," the four guestions

events: "Is it true? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be of benefit to all

According to their website: "Rotary is a global network of

1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem solvers

who see a world where people unite and take action to create

lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and

in ourselves. Solving real problems takes real commitment

"For more than 110 years," the website continues,

"Rotary's people of action have used their passion, energy

and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects.

working to better our world, and we stay committed to the

The Rotary Scholarships provide \$1,000 to \$1,500 to

deserving seniors each year, much of which is generated by

this event. The other recipient of funds from the Crab Fest

is the Willits Harrah Senior Center, which provides a myriad

of programs to the older population of the area, including

help with filling out forms for Social Security and Medicare,

counselling, a place to meet, daily lunches, transportation

Willits Rotary Club's popular Sidewalk Crab Sale will again

take place this year on Friday, January 31 and Saturday,

February 1, from 9 am until the supply of fresh-boiled

Dungeness crabs are sold out, at the Sweetwater Station,

corner of Main Street and East San Francisco Street. The

funds from the Crab Sale go to scholarships for Willits High

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

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,

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

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.

tea, milk and orange juice.

Willits community.

School seniors and other local charitable organizations.

services, free firewood in the winter, and many others.

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:



Superintendent of Schools Michelle Hutchins.

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.

Pg. 13

4FEBRUARY CALENDAR





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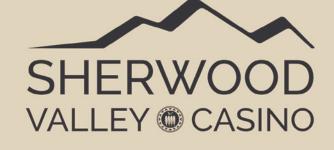


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