

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Tri Tip Dinner coming up

To the Editor:

The Willits Educational Foundation is at it again, asking for the community's support! In our effort to fund teachers and programs in the Willits Unified School District, we are holding our annual Tri Tip Dinner fundraiser on Friday, March 4.

In the past few years, we have used the tri-tip funds to help in so many ways. This past year was no exception. We received over \$7,000 in the early spring when we had our last dinner. This, coupled with some of our summer mail campaign donations, allowed us to give over \$12,000 in grants this past fall! We helped the schools with these funds in the following ways:

Baechtel Grove Middle School: Tetherball Poles and Badminton Equipment, Exploratory Classes, Library Books, Art and Basic Supplies, Science Materials, Bare Books, Instruments and Repair, Renaissance Faire, and Odyssey of the Mind Books.

Blosser Lane Elementary School: Supplies for 3D Project, Colored Pencils, Recorders, Chromebook, and Earbuds Intervention Program Materials.

Willits High School: Water Test Kit, Tchoukball Equipment, Musical Instrument, Kinesiology Wrap, and Emandal Field Trip.

Brookside Elementary School: Rigby Books, Young Author Faire Book Supplies, Printing and Binding of Student Novels, Art and Book Making Supplies, Materials for Creation Station, CD Players and Books on CD, Digital Voice Recorder, and Holiday Art Supplies.

Sanhedrin High School: Poetry Workshop; and Sherwood School: Skeleton Model.

These boosts to our schools come from you, our beloved Willits! Also, we receive donations from far-reaching people who hold Willits schools near and dear in their hearts.

Please help us with our dinner! For \$60, you can get a Friday night dinner to feed four people! All you have to do is drive through the rodeo grounds and pick it up. Dinner includes a whole tri-tip roast, sweet beans, Caesar salad, a loaf of Emandal bread, cookies, and a long-stemmed rose.

For ticket information and purchase, please contact Annette Pinon at 459-6588, Warren Lewis at 459-4429, or Cat's Meow in downtown Willits. One of our members will contact you right away! Join us in working hard for our Willits schools!

Kathleen Ells Lewis, WEF secretary, Willits

'Grassroots Solutions'

To the Editor:

For folks interested in the "Grassroots Solutions and Corporate Power" class in Willits starting next week, we want to be sure people know that the day has changed. Originally scheduled for Wednesdays, the class will now meet on Mondays.

The class starts next week on Monday, February 8. The time is 7 to 9 pm, and the location is Room 8030 at Mendocino College's North County Center in Willits. Workshop leaders are Jim Tarbell, author, editor and activist, and Margaret Koster, activist and organizer.

As this is a Community Extension class there is no requirement for attendance, so people are encouraged to come even if they can only attend a few sessions. Participants in last semester's class in Ukiah told us they felt more connected and encouraged about taking citizen action after being in the class.

The 14 sessions will look at four subject areas: Corporations, Democracy, & the Rise of Grassroots Popular Power; Economic Democracy vs. Monopoly Capitalism; Saving

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

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Willits Weekly

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the Environment from Corporate Destruction; and Global Governance: Who or What Will Rule the World?

You can sign up for the workshop by phone at 707-468-3236 or online at www.mendocino.edu/tc/pg/5841/register_for_a_comex.html. The cost is \$25 for all 14 workshops. If you have questions or want more information, you can contact Jim Tarbell at 964-1323. (rtp@mcn.org) or Margaret Koster at 459-5970 (mkoster@pacific.net).

Margaret Koster, Willits

A spot of tea

To the Editor:

The blue-flowered teapot jumped out from the "What's Happening" middle page of Willits Weekly last Thursday. I thought, surely I could schedule all my other Friday errands around taking an afternoon break for a "spot of tea."

I was so glad I did, beginning with the aromatic organic pu-erh blend, provided by locally owned Moonflower Tea Company. Like a juggler spinning multiple plates, our hostess Jill Dorman was kept busy brewing several kinds of teas in lovely old-fashioned teapots, remembering when each had been brewed to perfection and was ready to pour.

As tradition would have it, freshly made cucumber sandwich wedges were served, as well as several different kinds of cookies, including some melt-in-your-mouth homemade shortbread cookies.

I asked our hostess what had prompted such an unusual Friday afternoon tea party. She said, "Two ladies. Laurie Howard and Linda Park." They gathered and arranged all the tea items found on display in the glass cases. Not to be missed is the Mad Hatter inside the Library, as well as every exquisite card created by Laurie Howard using the Dutch paper craft technique of iris folding.

My thanks to everyone who made it happen.

Gail Richards, Willits

The Garden of Eatin'

Here's a 10-year plan to make Willits "The Garden of Eatin'."

1. Beautify Willits.
2. Be a "model" community.
3. Put fruit trees, nuts, berries and little gardens everywhere.
4. Have small ponds for fishing, swimming, water reserves, all over town.
5. Plan for family or local businesses in downtown zone (no corporate invasion).
6. Sit back and watch the tourists spending time in Willits (dollars).
7. Locals come to "graze" free.
8. Do our own environmental impact studies: Employ local activists and community money stays local.
9. Go fly fishing on your lunch break: Feed your family health fish; get back to nature, downtown.
10. Modernize public transportation: Wide nature paths; stroller-skating walks; family-friendly picnic sites.
11. Interactive sculpture: Different themed parts; locally invented playground equipment; small skate obstacles spread around town (the skatepark is intimidating).

M.W. Green, Willits

Thanks from WCS

To the Editor:

The Willits Charter School Theater Arts and Travel Club would like to thank our supportive community for all the donations received for our silent auction during our "Murder Mystery At The Talent Show" dinner theater fundraiser.

Thanks and praises to: Willits Tire, Old Mission Pizza, The Book Juggler, The Pet Shop, Monkey Wrench, Rio's Fish & Chips, Busters Burgers, Curves, Les Schwab Tires, 707 Salon, Complete Your Massage, Brewed Awakening, Donuts 101, McDonalds, Rolands Bakery, The Sporting Goods Store, La Bodega, Safeway, Misty Made, Tiger Lily, Moon Lady, Mazahar, Adams Restaurant, Yokums, and Kemmy's Pies.

Kim Bancroft, Willits

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

In addition to the numerous and much appreciated donations, the successful evening would not have been possible without the efforts of all the parent and staff volunteers, the inspiring performances of the students, the Little Lake Grange, and Augustina with her amazing homemade tamales. The proceeds raised will help fund our spring production of "Annie" in May and help to send students to New York in March.

Billy Hetherington, theater arts teacher, Willits Charter School

Political theater of the absurd

To the Editor:

I was among the large audience at the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District meeting Friday, January 22 in Ukiah, listening to complaints of people living along Outlet Creek where Grist Creek Aggregates has been operating a rubberized asphalt plant since September. Over 20 speakers living there protested the calamity for them and for the environment.

After five hours of testimony and questioning, the problem became obvious. The asphalt plant is operating in a canyon. Basic geography tells us that an industry spewing particulates that include burning rubber at the bottom of a canyon would allow the polluting smoke to accumulate and circulate within the canyon, due to an inversion effect. Multiple photos made by witnesses served as visual evidence of that resulting smog.

GCA's production of rubberized asphalt for use by Caltrans is making people who live in and drive through that canyon sick, ranging from severe headaches and onset of asthma to heart palpitations. The fact that burning rubber stinks and is toxic to inhale means they can't go outside without covering their noses and mouths, as they testified. People can no longer use their beautiful land for farming, gardening or exercise. Many landowners there are rightly outraged to have paid taxes for decades yet they cannot enjoy the land that they have sunk their retirement funds and future into while this plant is operating.

The political absurdity came into play when the "authorities" present made it clear that administrative rules and procedures were more important than people's lives or environmental safety rules. The California Air Quality Board had found Grist Creek Aggregates, owned by Brian Hurt, in violation. However, the lawyer representing the plant called them "alleged violations," a verbal ruse to negate the truth of what all those people are experiencing.

Robert Scaglione, the Air Pollution Control Officer for the county, repeatedly emphasized that the county is "in negotiation" with the offenders. What the audience heard was that, until the regulators find the plant violating air quality even more egregiously than what has already transpired, the plant may continue polluting and those charged with protecting the environment and the public will just keep talking about it.

And the legalese spoken by the lawyer representing the county further served to obfuscate the human issues.

The administrative loophole resulted from the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors allowing this plant to operate based on a false notion that it would be the same kind of environmentally innocuous operation that it had been 10 years ago as a simple gravel plant. The board ignored warnings that the chemically harmful addition of burning rubber should have meant rejecting the grandfathering in of this plant based on a prior permit, or at least ordering a new environmental impact report.

Marc Komer deserves commendations for asking hard questions to untie the logical circles that the authorities created to negate their responsibility to taxpayers.

The board of supervisors and any other agency meant to uphold public safety ought to pull the permit for the plant, and certainly, at the very least, not re-issue the permit. And you owe a visit to the people suffering in those hills, not to mention a personal letter of apology for the damage caused. Or offer to buy their property when they can't stand to live there if you think it was such a good idea to let that rubber burn.

A rainy January

Sierra Nevada snow pack at 130 percent of normal

The California Department of Water Resources reported good news after conducting its annual early-February snow pack survey Tuesday, at Phillips Station (elevation 6,872 feet) in the Sierra Nevada. The snow pack is "markedly improved," the manual measurements found, with a depth of 76.2 inches and a "snow water equivalent" of 25.4 inches, 130 percent of average for this time of year. "Both the depth and water content at Phillips today were the highest since 2005," the DWR press release reported.

Statewide, the average of DWR's electronic readings from 102 stations scattered throughout the Sierra Nevada show water content in the mountains is 20.4 inches, 114 percent of normal for February 2.

DWR also reported that rainfall in the three regions they track was 123 percent of the historical average between October 1 and January 31. Despite that improvement in precipitation, most of the state's major reservoirs still hold much less than their historical averages for early February, the DWR reports, and "Californians are encouraged to continue their water conservation."

Here in Willits, the weather station at Mendocino College's North County Center on East Commercial Street reported 14.09 inches of rain for January 1 through January 31, 2016, a huge increase over

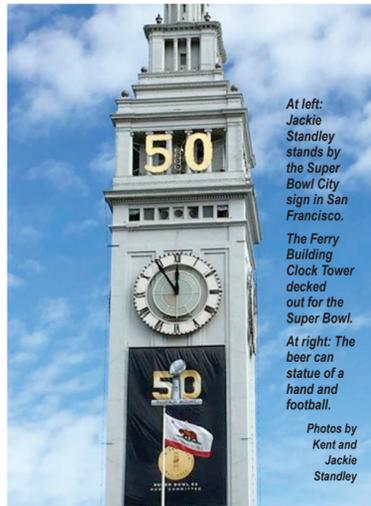


Photos by Maureen Moore

January 2015 (total rain 1.39 inches) and January 2014 (total rain 1.33 inches). The rainiest day in January, by far, was Sunday, January 17 with 2.32 inches of rain.

The Willits reservoirs are looking pretty good, too. Water in Morris Reservoir is going over the top of the dam, and the lone bench-mark tree trunk in Centennial Reservoir is now fully submerged – a great sight to see, but it still looks like there's some room to fill to the west of the tree. Birds were flying about across the reservoir in the warm sunshine Tuesday morning, and the little water bird at right enjoyed sunning itself perched atop a piece of wood.

– Jennifer Poole



At left: Jackie Standley stands by the Super Bowl City sign in San Francisco.

The Ferry Building Clock Tower decked out for the Super Bowl.

At right: The beer can statue of a hand and football.

Photos by Kent and Jackie Standley

A stop by Super Bowl City

Willits couple checks out San Francisco festivities during weekend in city

Jackie and Kent Standley were there on Saturday, January 30, opening day, for Super Bowl City, the promotional event being held in and around The Embarcadero and Market Street intersection in San Francisco. The event runs for the nine days preceding this Sunday's big game, where the Carolina Panthers will play the Denver Broncos at Levi stadium for Super Bowl 50, held in San Francisco on Sunday, February 7.

The pair originally went to the city to see Jersey Boys, and

Read the rest of **Super Bowl** | Over on Page 6

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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

**PUZZLE
ANSWERS
ON
PAGE 11**

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

Level: Intermediate

How To Sudoku:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13			14				15		
16				17			18				19		
20						21					22		
				23		24				25			
26	27	28	29				30						
31							32						
33								34	35	36	37	38	
				39	40	41		42	43				
				44	45			46					
				47				48					
49					50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58					
59					60					61			
62					63							64	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Soybean paste
5. Unit of time
8. Watering holes
12. Joint
14. Certified public accountant
15. ___ Mater, one's school
16. Resells tickets
18. Batter's objective
19. Past participle of lie
20. State of Islands
21. Fed
22. Cause cell destruction
23. Daily Show host
26. Diagrammed
30. Cat sounds
31. Most sorry
32. Do wrong
33. Coral reef and lagoon island
34. That (Middle English)
39. Electrically charged atom
42. Nassau is the capital
44. Frogs, toads, tree toads
46. Marjoram
47. Where the Donald lives in NYC
49. Whale ship captain
50. A way to emit sound

CLUES DOWN

1. Korean War TV show
2. South American Indian
3. Cape at tip of Denmark
4. A podrida cooking pot
5. Russian sourgrass soup
6. Perfect example
7. Supplier
8. Unhealthy looking
9. Spanish beaches
10. Am. follower of the Mennonite Bishop Amman
11. Well-balanced
13. Outer surface cells

17. Fathers
24. Sun up in New York
25. Dweller above the Mason-Dixon
26. Young women's association
27. Tell on
28. Bustle
29. Poundal
35. An ugly, old woman
36. Doctors' group
37. ___ Ling, Chinese mountain range
38. Volcanic mountain in Japan
40. Leaves parentless
41. Existing in or produced by nature
42. Inclination
43. Extents
44. Peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf
45. Language of Nile
47. Twyla __, US dancer
48. Card game
49. River in E. Turkey to the Caspian Sea
52. Scored 100%
53. Tonight's former host
54. ___ and ends
55. Notable exploit

FOOTBALL WORD SEARCH

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

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|--------------|--------------|-------------|
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| BLITZ | FULLBACK | PASS |
| BOMB | GOAL | PLAYBOOK |
| BOWL | GUARD | QUARTERBACK |
| CARRY | HOLDING | RECEIVER |
| CHECK | HUDDLE | RUSH |
| COVER | INTERCEPTION | SAFETY |
| DEFENSE | KICKOFF | STADIUM |
| DOWN | LINEBACKER | TACKLE |
| DRAFT | LINEMAN | TOUCHDOWN |
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Above, from left: Fascinating paintings by Chris Forest wait to find their place in the gallery. Some of the great entries for the Members Art Show. Nancy Nazarian Reed is exploring abstracts in her latest paintings. Below: Jennie Jergenson welcomes Peggy Hebrard and her two oil painting submissions.

At left: Nancy Nazarian Reed helps quilt artist Nancy Simpson hold her entry, "Piano Jazz." At left, below left: Steve Eberhard arrives with his submission to the Members Art Show, while others finish signing in with their works. At left, below right: Laytonville resident Julie Ravins Byers arrives with her litho "This and That" and her friend Celia Price's mixed media entries.

At bottom, left: Almost every available space in the Willits Center for the Arts is taken up with submissions to the Members Art Show. At bottom, right: "Outlander" fans will recognize Stacey Patton's drawings of characters Claire and Jaime.

Photos by Jenny Senter



Annual Members Show opens Saturday

Revitalized Willits Arts Center
up to 80+ members – and growing

Jenny Senter
Features Writer



The Willits Center for the Arts was a busy place when I dropped by on Tuesday! Volunteers were bustling about, artists were dropping off work, people were becoming members, and the rooms were filling up with an amazing variety of submitted art for the Annual Members Art Show, which opens Saturday, February 6, with a reception from 6 to 9 pm.

Willits will once again be hosting a "Block Party" on East Commercial that night, with the opening and the Sip Some Soup event running simultaneously. As Nancy Nazarian Reed, Willits Center for the Arts board member, pointed out, the Willits Center for the Arts opening reception will run later than the Sip Some Soup event, and she encourages you to enjoy the soup and Emandal bread, and then pop over and enjoy the art!

Reed shared the exciting news that the Art Center will expand their hours for the month of February only to be open every day of the week except for Monday! The hours for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays will be 4 to 7 pm, in response to requests from patrons for open hours to accommodate moviegoers. On Saturdays and Sundays the Art Center will be open from 12 to 3 pm. This expansion in open hours is thanks to the large number of artists in the February show, to help host at the gallery.

"This art show is a celebration of the years of

Read the rest of
WCA

Over on Page 11

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Photo by Rod Coats

Simon is 6

Simon is a 6-year-old neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 41 pounds. This playful guy would love a home with another playful dog, since he loves to romp and play with other pups here at the shelter. It's almost impossible to believe Simon is 6 years old, given his energy and enthusiasm! This guy loves walks, exploring the yard, and spending time with other friendly pups.

It appears Simon has limited vision that may be due to cataracts. Stairs can be difficult for him, especially when he gets real excited. We have also learned that Simon would prefer a home without feline friends. Simon is a special dog who is patiently waiting for just the right person to walk in and take him to his forever home.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.



Photo by S. Coffman Photography

Senior Jack

Jack has been in the shelter since 2008. Why? We have no clue! He is a sweetheart and is always positive. He has grown on the volunteers, and everyone loves him. He is like family, and he will undoubtedly fit perfectly with your family.

Jack is an 11-year-old lab, and we know it takes a special soul to adopt a senior dog. Jack knows basic commands like "sit" and "stay" and "shake." He is a seriously cute guy, and he needs a forever home for his last years. With love and adoration he will thrive! He may be a senior, but he wants to make as many loving memories as he can. He will win your heart. He gets along well with children (better with children 5+ years).

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, where you can come visit, play with and/or adopt dogs and cats, is open to prospective adopters from 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday, and from 11 am to 3 pm, on Saturday and Sunday. 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley (right down the street from the Broiler). Info: 707-485-0123 or hsimc@pacific.net or visit www.mendohumanesociety.com.



Huge advertisements for the upcoming Super Bowl are displayed all over San Francisco.

Right: Jackie Standley poses behind a football player cutout at Super Bowl City.

Photos by Kent and Jackie Standley

Pohlson reappointed to fair board

Brooktrails resident Virginia "Ginger" Pohlson has been reappointed to the 12th District Agricultural Association, Redwood Empire Fair Board of Directors, where she has served since 2011. California Governor Jerry Brown announced the reappointments of four members of the Redwood Empire Fair board on January 20, also including Charles Coleman of Redwood Valley, Eric Crawford of Ukiah, Clyde Peter McNamee of Fort Bragg, and Roberto Muniz of Redwood Valley.

"I was very happy to be reappointed to the Redwood Empire Fair board," Pohlson said. "This is the 80th year for the Redwood Empire Fair, and the theme for this year's fair is going to be 'Redwood Empire's 80 Years of Reel Family Fun!', a movie theme, and it should be really fun."

Pohlson was state membership administrator for the National Women's Political Caucus from 2008 to 2009. She was a recreation employee at the Brooktrails Township Community Services District from 2000 to 2004 and a hairdresser from 1961 to 1991. Pohlson is a member of the Ukiah Civic Light Opera and a past member of the Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board of Directors. This position does not require Senate confirmation, and there is no compensation. Pohlson is a Democrat.



Virginia "Ginger" Pohlson

COLUMN | The Medicine Chest Garden

Medistrone Tonic Soup

Donna d'Terra
Columnist

This rainy winter season is an excellent time for a meal of delicious, hot soup.

Here is how to make a soup stock/base using herbs that gently enhance the immune system and are nutrient-dense.

Put 4 cups of filtered water into a soup pot and add:

- 4-inch stem of rosemary
- 10 to 12 dried shitake mushrooms

2 pieces of dried astragalus root (these often come in pieces that look like tongue depressors – bend and fold them before adding)

1 6- to 8-inch piece of kombu seaweed

A handful of usnea (a light green lichen that hangs from trees and has an inner white stretchy band when you pull it apart)

Chopped vegetable "ends" of carrot, onion, celery, greens, etc. Be sure to avoid anything decaying or moldy. (These can be collected for a few days and stored in a plastic bag in the refrigerator.)

Simmer gently for a few hours. Strain out the plant matter (saving the seaweed) and compost it. Put the liquid back in the pot with the seaweed that you have chopped into small pieces.

With the ingredient lists below, add or omit as desired.

In olive oil, saute onions, garlic, celery. Set aside.

In a pot, filled with your soup stock, add the following, cut into bite-sized pieces: potatoes, carrots, yams, dandelion and burdock roots. Simmer until vegetables are "al dente." Turn off heat.

Add some chopped fresh greens from this list: nettle tops, spinach, kale, lamb'squarters, broccoli, cauliflower, dandelion.

Add the sauteed onion, garlic, etc. Stir the pot, and take 1 to 2 cups of the soup out and put it into a blender with 2 heaping tablespoons of miso paste. Blend and add back to the pot of soup. Check soup for taste and desired consistency, then repeat this blending step, if desired.

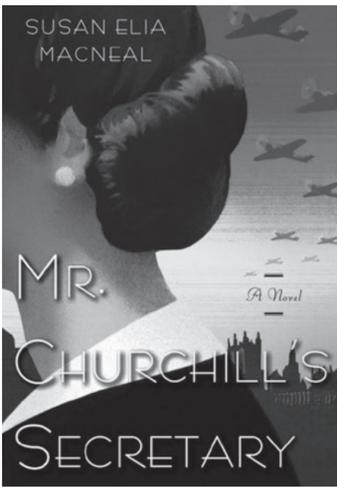
From this point, until serving, do not simmer the soup further in order to preserve all of the benefits of the miso. If you need to reheat the soup, do so just until it is the desired eating temperature.

Optional: Top with grated hard cheese (Parmesan, Asiago, etc.)

Enjoy!

[This information is not intended to diagnose, prescribe or replace the advice of a qualified health professional.]

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



COLUMN | Resendez Reads!

World War II mysteries



Fran Resendez
Columnist

If you are a fan of "Foyle's War" or "Bletchley Circle," two excellent BBC mystery series set in England during and directly after World War II, you will be interested in reading a new series of mystery novels written by American author Susan Elia MacNeal.

MacNeal, a former book and magazine editor, got her initial idea for the series while on a trip to London. She was visiting the Churchill War Rooms, an underground bunker near the Treasury, and had one of those moments of inner time travel where she could smell the cigarette smoke, hear the clatter of the typewriters, and imagine the feelings of the typists working away while bombs fell overhead during the Blitz.

This led her to create a main character, Maggie Hope, who the author describes as "part Jo March [from Alcott's Little Women], part mathematician Alicia Stott, and part La Femme Nikita." In the first book, *Mr. Churchill's Secretary* (2012), Maggie Hope is a young woman raised in America, but British by birth, who travels to England to settle the estate of her late grandmother.

Maggie's life quickly gets complicated. She decides to stay in London and ends up being hired as a typist for Winston Churchill. From there, by way of pluck, intelligence and previously unknown family connections, it's a quick and entertaining road to solving mysteries, becoming vital to the war effort, and eventually being trained as a special agent for the British government.

On her website, the author states: "I wanted to write about the civilians, who had blackout curtains and ate rationed food and slept in Anderson shelters. I wanted especially to write about the women of that time, because there was a huge sea change going on with women and their work outside the home, and how women's contributions were seen by society."

These themes are explored throughout the five books in the ongoing series, as well as such topics as Britain's secret testing of anthrax as a bio-weapon, the existence of a resistance movement inside Germany, and even a fun glimpse of "the royals" during the war.

Start with the first book and read them in order so you'll understand the many changes going on with our heroine and her friends. After "Mr. Churchill's Secretary," it's "Princess Elizabeth's Spy" (2012), "His Majesty's Hope" (2013), "The Prime Minister's Secret Agent" (2014) and "Mrs. Roosevelt's Confidante" (2015).

As you can tell by that last title, Maggie Hope travels with "The Prime" to America after the attack on Pearl Harbor has finally brought the United States into the war effort. This is my favorite of the books so far, where we get a good look at the White House and the social conditions in the South at that time. The author always ends her books with a thoughtful list of her sources, including documentaries, that may lead you on to further reading.

Whether you read by page or device, please utilize our library system and patronize independent bookstores, both new and used.

Local poet, Fran Resendez, is retired from 20 years of bookselling at the former Leaves of Grass.

The rest of Super Bowl | From Page 3

decided to pop by the just-opened event center to see the football sights.

"I'm not the biggest football fan, but we thought it would be fun to see what was going on at Super Bowl City since we were right there," explained Jackie. "I'm sure the super fans would really find it to be a great experience getting to see everything they had there."

Lots of free activities are available all week for fans to enjoy, including virtual reality booths, NFL history, team stats and a photo booth where fans can submit "game face selfies." There will also be 35 concerts, including by Grammy-winning artist Alicia Keys, OneRepublic, The Band Perry, Matt Nathanson and Chris Isaak.

Giant advertising displays are up all over the city, some like banners and displays on famous buildings like the clock tower at the Ferry Building, some like statues and artwork displayed on the streets and sidewalks.

One sculpture that caught Jackie's eye was the giant hand and football, towering over head height in front of one of the beer booths.

"The statue was really huge," said Jackie. "The outside was made entirely of beer cans, it was really impressive!"

Going on opening day, the pair also was able to see the relighting of The Bay Lights, the lights which shine from the Bay Bridge. Fireworks also lit up the sky as part of the relighting festivities.

Even though her team, the San Francisco 49ers, didn't make it this year, Jackie said she will still be at home watching the game.

"Heck yeah I'm going to be watching the game!" laughed Jackie. "I'm going to be rooting for the Denver Broncos. I think it would be really cool for 39-year-old Peyton Manning to get to win what I can only assume will be his last Super Bowl. I'd love to see the Broncos win!"



Above, from left: A display inside the library included stories and books related to the delicious brew. Friends of the Willits Library donated cookies, biscuits and other goodies for guests. Visitors enjoy their tea and snacks during the event. Below, left: Displays of tea, teapots, and literature were available for library visitors to observe and enjoy. Below, right: Loose tea from Deborah Knole's locally owned Moonflower Tea Company.

At right: A variety of tea, including Moonflower Tea, Vanilla Chai and Earl Grey. At right, below: The atmosphere of the tea party was joyous and relaxed, as friends and tea enthusiasts chatted among one another. At right, bottom left: Teapots, cups and accessories for tea brewing on display at the Willits Library. At right, bottom right: Bajer pours himself a cup of Moonflower Tea during the event, which he found to be "quite pleasant."



Photos by Rashad Sisemore



Tea Time

Willits Library celebrates the world's favorite beverage

On Friday afternoon the atmosphere was joyous and relaxing at the Willits Library, as friends chatted with one another over delicious cups of tea.

Rashad Sisemore
Features Writer

The library was hosting a special celebration of tea for both adults and children to enjoy locally blended teas, snacks and even craft-making.

As visitors socialized over their tea and nibbled on cookies and biscuits, Jill Dorman, the Willits branch librarian, was ecstatic about the large turnout of people for tea at the library. "We've had tea before ... but this is the first time we've opened it up with the community, and I really had no idea how it would turn out. It's great."

With donations small and large, the community pitched in to make the event a success. "I didn't do this all on my own," said Dorman. "Lots of people donated cookies and tea, and the Friends of the Library of course paid for stuff."

Even those who could not make it to the event gave generous donations. "A lady who came in this morning said, 'I go to Sri Lanka every year and here's some [Sri Lankan] tea I'm donating,'" Dorman said. "It was cool." Also among the donations was also

an assortment of loose teas blended by Deborah Knole's locally owned Moonflower Tea Company.

Board games and craft-making materials were also made available by Doorman and the library's volunteer staff to keep visitors entertained while enjoying their tea.

Inside the library, two displays celebrating tea were adorned with kettles, literature, and an assortment of teas to educate and dazzle visitors on the popular beverage's profound cultural impact around the world. Laurie Howards, the library's volunteer display coordinator, and volunteer Linda Park set up the displays with items collected from the community.

As happy guests left, they thanked Dorman and other library staff for the thoughtful event. When asked by Willits Weekly if Dorman would consider hosting a similar event in the future, she replied: "People seem happy, and as long as the Friends of the Library are happy and want to keep sponsoring these kinds of things, we will. It would be nice to do these things more often."

Keep up with events at the Willits Library by visiting the new "Willits - Mendocino County Library" page on Facebook.



Willits Unified School District
1277 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490
(707) 459-5314

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS concerning Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the 2016/17 Budget

The Willits Unified School District will be holding meetings to receive input from the public on matters pertaining to the LCAP and 2016-17 Budget.

Open Meeting Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.
Brookside Elementary School • Room 10
20 Spruce Street • Willits, CA

— AND —

Open Meeting Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.
Willits High School • Media Center
299 North Main Street • Willits, CA

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Photo: Vanessa Moore - a portrait who creates intimate photo moments

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Thursday, February 4

"A Positively Magical Evening": A free event with special guest Billy Riggs, Thursday, February 4, at 7 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. "Motivational speaker and magician, Riggs will inspire and amaze with his message and magic. Voted one of America's Top Five Most Entertaining speakers in 2014, he uses illusions and comedy to grip audiences, move them to action, improve attitudes, turbo charge sales and service, and change lives." Sponsored by the Willits Christian Churches Fellowship. Free and open to all. For more info: 456-3591.

Shanachie Pub: Singer/songwriter Aaron Ford, Folk / Americana / Blues. Visit www.cdbaby.com/Artist/AaronFord. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, February 5

Happy Birthday to Edie! Willits' Edie Ceccarelli celebrates her 108th birthday today, and invites the public to join her at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, for lunch, from 12 to 1 pm. The menu features soup, pork loin with gravy and mashed potatoes, veggies, and a whole wheat roll and dessert, too. Lunch is \$5 for lunch-card members, \$7.50 for non-seniors under the age of 55, \$3.50 for children, and \$5.50 for the public 55 and over. Info: 459-6826.

Willits Home BREW Club: This month's meeting of the Willits Home BREW Club will be Friday, February 5, at 7 pm at Willits KOA, 1600 Highway 20. Topic: Belgian ales. Learn about special VIP tour for BREW club members of Sierra Nevada Brewing coming up in February. "We gladly welcome any interested persons to come and check us out. We have a monthly program, a lending library, and some lending equipment." Visit <http://willitshomebrew.weebly.com> for meeting dates and more information.

"Twining Time": John Wagenet & Anita Blue of Twining Time perform easy listening music during the dinner hour: Originals and modern favorites in the spirit of old time mountain music, folk, and vintage country at Caminiti's Restaurant at the Brooktrails Lodge, 24765 Birch Street. Friday, February 5 from 5:30 to 9 pm. Visit www.brooktrailslodge.com and

www.facebook.com/TwiningTime. Info: 707-459-1596.

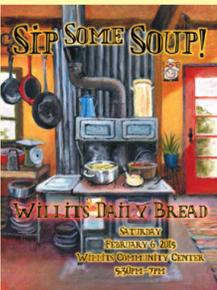
Saturday, February 6

Indoor Youth Soccer: Starts today: Soccer for boys and girls ages 3 through 13 at the Baechtel Grove Middle School gym, 1150 Magnolia Street. Games are played on Saturdays, February 6 through March 12. Times: 9 to 10 am, ages 3-5 (co-ed); 10 to 11 am, ages 6-8 (co-ed); 11 am to 12 pm, ages 9-10 (co-ed); 12 to 1 pm, ages 11-13 (boys); and 1 to 2 pm, ages 11-13 (girls.) Instructors are Willits Youth Soccer coaches who will be volunteering their services;

\$30 for the 6 week session; all funds collected will be used to fund WYS soccer travel teams. No uniform required; Must wear indoor shoes or non-marking tennis shoes; The workshop is focused on skill building, touches on ball, and passing; The fee is non-refundable and must be paid prior to first session. Sign up at Ace Copy or Imagination Station. Questions? Call Saprina Rodriguez at 354-2539.

Marijuana Ad Hoc Committee meeting in Willits: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Marijuana Ad Hoc Committee, supervisors Tom Woodhouse and John McCowen, will host a public town hall meeting on Saturday, February 6, 2 to 5 pm, in at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits to provide residents with an opportunity to hear a brief update and share their recommendations with the committee regarding potential revisions of the county's marijuana cultivation ordinance (code section 9.31). More info: Sarah Dukett at the Mendocino County Executive Office at 707-463-4441 or duketts@co.mendocino.ca.us.

Sip Some Soup: this annual (and popular) fundraiser for the Willits Daily Bread food program is set for Saturday, February 6 at the Willits



\$15 each; \$25 for two. Hint: Bring a muffin tin to carry multiple cups of soup! Questions, or to donate a silent auction item, call Director Cindy Savage at 459-2579 or 707-367-5669.

"A Celebration of Local Farming in Mendocino County": headliner Sean Hayes with local favorites Charlie Crockett and Gary Traywick. Saturday, February 6 from 5:30 to 10 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Sponsored by Emerald Triangle Glassworks and Hydro Pacific Ranch. Social time starts at 12:30 with coffee and refreshment, and Smalley's talk starts at 1 pm. Guests are welcome, and there is no charge. For more info: Gary Bodensteiner 459-2708 or Kitty McDiil 489-6203.

Willits Center for the Arts February Show: Opening reception Saturday, February 6, from 6 to 9 pm for the Willits Center for the Arts annual Members' Art Show, displaying juried works in various media. "Come and celebrate our new status as a non-profit!" Runs through February 28 at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Thursdays through Friday from 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sundays from 12 to 3 pm. Visit <http://willitscenterforthearts.org>

Sunday, February 7

Sober Grad annual Pancake Breakfast: this annual fundraiser for Sober Grad's drug- and alcohol-free graduation night party for all Willits area graduating seniors is set for Sunday, February 7, from 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Breakfasts will be served

by members of the Class of 2016 (and Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez among other volunteers) and cooked by the Grange's pancake breakfast chefs, including delicious pancakes made from scratch, scrambled eggs, bacon, orange juice, and coffee, tea or hot chocolate. Breakfasts-to-Go also available. Tickets \$6/adults, \$5/ senior citizens and \$4/10 & under. Sober Grad's Valentine Raffle Basket will also be on display at the breakfast; drawing to be held on February 13. More info: call Angi Edgar at 459-2260 or email WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com.

Sunday Bingo: monthly Sunday Bingo on February 7 this month, at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Doors open 10:30 am; snack bar opens at 11 am, games begin at 11:30 am, bingo buy in \$10, specials \$2 and up.

Monday, February 8

Willits Garden Club Meeting: this month's meeting features guest speaker Dianne Smalley, talking on "Body Positions to Use While Gardening." Monday, February 8, 12:30 to 2:30 pm at the Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse, 16100 North Highway 101, 6 miles south of Willits, west of Highway 101, south of Ridgewood (Seabiscuit) Ranch. Social time starts at 12:30 with coffee and refreshment, and Smalley's talk starts at 1 pm. Guests are welcome, and there is no charge. For more info: Gary Bodensteiner 459-2708 or Kitty McDiil 489-6203.

Senior Center Ice Cream Social: "Join us, Monday, February 8, 1:30 to 2:30 pm for pie and ice cream with entertainment by Bruce Burton on the banjo and Jon Mather on the keyboards." Adults \$1.50; members \$1. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, 459-6826.

Tuesday, February 9

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Kung Fu Panda 3" and "The Finest Hours." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Wednesday, February 10

Willits Stamp Club: Willits Stamp Club's monthly meeting is Wednesday, February 10 this month, from 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. The program will include stamps for purchase. Refreshments will be served.

Friday, February 12

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play": Opening night tonight with champagne reception at 7 pm for the first show of the 2016 season at the Willits Community Theatre. This award-winning avant garde romantic comedy, "In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play," "spotlights the dawn of the age of electricity in the late 1800s when a scientist, Dr. Givings, has invented a new electrically-powered device for treating hysteria: the vibrator. Get ready for laughs, unexpected romance and the confirmation of true love." Directed by Mike A'Dair, starring Lee Stipe, Maheanani Phillips, Lara Eventide, Ron Greystar, Gloriann Lucero, Kristen McCallum, and Kathy De Bane. Runs through February 28. Thursdays at 7 pm (\$10); Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm (\$15), and Sundays, February 21 and 28 at 2 pm (\$10). 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. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

Saturday, February 13

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play": 8 pm at Willits Community Theatre; see Friday, February 12 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Them Travelin' Birds. 9 pm. No cover. Visit <http://themtravelinbirds.com>. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, February 14

36th Willits Classic: This annual footrace (walkers welcome) "circles the farming community of Little Lake Valley, following beautiful rural roads with virtually no traffic." Footrace starts on Sunday, February 14 at 10 am for the 10 miles, and 10:30 am for the 5K run/walkers at Recreation Grove on

East Commercial Street. Organized by the North Coast Striders; race day registration begins at 9 am. Entry fee is \$20 for adults, \$18 for members of North Coast Striders, and \$10 for ages 16 and under. Add \$3 for race day registration. To register for the 2016 Valentine's Day 36th Willits Classic run and/or join the club, visit www.striders.org where entry forms can be downloaded. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.



'An Evening to Remember': The public is invited to "An Evening to Remember," a Valentine's Dinner fundraiser for the Adventist Christian School of Willits on Sunday, February 14. Dinner will be to be served at the school gym – transformed into an "Italian Villa" with ambiance, lighting, and décor to make the experience memorable – at 22751 Bray Road. The menu features a variety of pastas and sauces, a full salad bar, and wonderful desserts. Service begins at 5:30 pm. Advance tickets: \$10 (available at The Goods Shoppe or at the school; \$12 at the door. Info: 459-4333.

Tommy Castro Band: "A True Blues Valentine," featuring fearless blues legends Tommy Castro and the Painkillers on Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14, celebrating the gritty, pared-down sound of their new release "Method to My Madness." Doors open at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street at 6 pm with Mendocino County farm-to-table food by Black Dog Farm (no host dinner \$12-\$25) and the hard-driving blues kicks off at 7:30 pm. Get your tickets, \$20, in advance (expected to sell out) at Willits Furniture and JD Redhouse in Willits and online at Eventbrite. Children welcome: \$2 at the door. A benefit for the county's mobile spy clinic "Care-A-Van" and the Willits Elementary Charter School.



COLUMN | At the Movies



'Joy'
The Story: Joy Mangano invented, designed and organized the manufacture of the "Miracle Mop," then she, herself, sold this timesaving housekeeping tool on the QVC cable channel ... hundreds of thousands of them at \$19.95 apiece. Simply, the movie is her story. Mangano's struggle to put all of these elements together was neither simple nor easy. An amazing amount of

crap got in her way ... business b.s., family b.s., criminal b.s.
My Thoughts: As I've made clear in the past, I (along with the movie-going public around the world) am smitten with Jennifer Lawrence who stars as Joy. This movie only enhances her reputation. In all her movies, she radiates commitment, and it is clearly in her nature to play strong-willed characters ... from "Poker House" and "Winter's Bone" to "Hunger Games" and "Silver Linings Playbook," and now to "Joy." Lawrence plays the girl and woman who perseveres ... she plays tough and strong. She is credible.

You know the phrase, "Don't let the bastards get you down." Well, that sums up Joy Mangano's struggle. This is a great story about personal courage and the willingness to keep going in the face of an unusual level of nastiness. And it's all pretty much true.
Parents: There are family conflicts in the movie that children won't understand. The little ones may watch it, but the important parts will just confuse them. Teenagers and adults will be entertained.

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



Above: Zack Ireland, member of Sons of the American Legion, poses with dad and American Legion Post 174 member Robert Ireland in front of Safeway on Wednesday morning, where the two were out selling tickets for the raffle.

stay at Super 8, dinner, champagne, flowers and tickets to the Willits Community Theatre.

Tickets to win these baskets are just \$1 each or \$5 for 6. They will be sold in front of Safeway and The Book Juggler on Wednesdays and Fridays. Tickets can also be purchased from Dori Grauer at 459-6535 or Vicki Ham at 456-9858. Winners will be selected and notified on February 13.

'In the Next Room' opens at WCT

Friday, February 12

A free champagne reception will be held at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, February 12 at 7 pm to celebrate its upcoming 2016 season. The celebration accompanies the opening of the avant garde romantic comedy, "In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play," by Sarah Ruhl for its three-week run.

The first show of the season spotlights the dawn of the age of electricity in the late 1800s when a scientist, Dr. Givings, has invented a new electrically-powered device for treating hysteria: the vibrator. Get ready for laughs, unexpected romance and the confirmation of true love as Dr. Givings regularly induces "proxymisms" in his high-strung patient Sabrina, allowing her to return happily to playing her piano.

Soon, however, Sabrina falls in love with the doctor's assistant, Annie, and also befriends the doctor's wife, Catherine, who is dealing with her unhappy marriage. Inevitably Mrs. Givings begins to wonder just what good her doctor husband is up to in the next room.

"In The Next Room or The Vibrator Play" was nominated for a 2010 Tony Award for Best Play and selected as a finalist for the 2010 Pulitzer.

The Los Angeles Times termed the play "a breathtaking inventive addition to Ruhl's singular body of work." Ruhl also authored "Dead Man's Cell Phone," a 2013 hit at WCT.

Long-time WCT Veteran Mike A'Dair directs the play. He says the show represents a revolution in terms of important feminist plays of the past, for example, Ibsen's "A Doll House," in which the protagonist Nora leaves her marriage. In Ruhl's play, the protagonist Catherine stays in the marriage while the play is about her determination to make her relationship work. In that respect, A'Dair says, "In The Next Room" is a great choice for Valentine's Day and for all of February, the Love Month.

"The play is remarkable," says A'Dair. "It's a comedy about a very serious subject, and it addresses the matter full on without flinching and without any veils." One key aspect of the play that attracted him the most is that no one is degraded, no one is put down, nor women, nor men, nor God, nor the human body. A'Dair says: "You feel as though everyone and everything in the world are praised and upheld in the playwright's vision of the world, and all of the characters in the play discover some aspect of love and loving that they previously did not suspect."

The all-star cast includes Lee Stipe as Dr. Givings, Maheanani Phillips as Mrs. Catherine Givings, Lara Eventide as Sabrina Daldry, Ron Greystar as Dick Daldry, Gloriann Lucero as Leo Irving, Kristen McCallum as Elizabeth, and Kathy De Bane as Annie.

The play runs at WCT from February 12 through 28, with shows on Thursday for \$10, Friday and Saturday for \$15, and Sunday matinees for \$10. 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 play contains adult themes and is not suitable for young children.

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

What's Happening Around Town

Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, from 5:30 to 7 pm. Sip Some Soup features a wide variety of soup entries by a variety of local groups, businesses and individuals: Attendees choose their personal favorites after tasting each soup. Also featured are Emandal's homemade breads and jam and a silent auction. Tickets are

\$15 each; \$25 for two. Hint: Bring a muffin tin to carry multiple cups of soup! Questions, or to donate a silent auction item, call Director Cindy Savage at 459-2579 or 707-367-5669.

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Willits Center for the Arts February Show: Opening reception Saturday, February 6, from 6 to 9 pm for the Willits Center for the Arts annual Members' Art Show, displaying juried works in various media. "Come and celebrate our new status as a non-profit!" Runs through February 28 at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Thursdays through Friday from 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sundays from 12 to 3 pm. Visit <http://willitscenterforthearts.org>

Tuesday, February 9

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Kung Fu Panda 3" and "The Finest Hours." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

36th Willits Classic footrace set for Valentine's Day

If you're smitten with running, or just running after the one you're smitten with, then it's heartening to know that this year's 36th annual Willits Classic 10 mile run and 5K run/walk event will be held on Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14.

This popular perennial – and this year passionate – footrace will start at 10 am for the 10 miles and 10:30 am for the 5K run/walkers at Recreation Grove on East Commercial Street. Organized by the North Coast Striders; race day registration begins at 9 am.

So that every participant has a chance to feel the love, the Willits Classic awards the top three male and female overall finishers and the first-place finishers in all age divisions with medals. Second- and third-place age group finishers receive ribbons. The age groups are: 9 & under, 10-13, 14-17, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70+.

The 10-mile run circles the farming community of Little Lake Valley, following beautiful rural roads with virtually no traffic. With mostly flat terrain, the run offers a fun, fast course. The 5K course is a shorter version of the same. Refreshments and hot drinks will be served at the finish. Water is available on the course.

Entry fee is \$20 for adults, \$18 for members of North Coast Striders, and \$10 for ages 16 and under. Add \$3 for race day registration. To register for the 2016 Valentine's Day 36th Willits Classic run and/or join the club, visit www.striders.org where entry forms can be downloaded. Registration is also available at www.active.com.

Founded in November 1980, the North Coast Striders is an organization to meet like-minded individuals interested in walking and running for health and fitness.

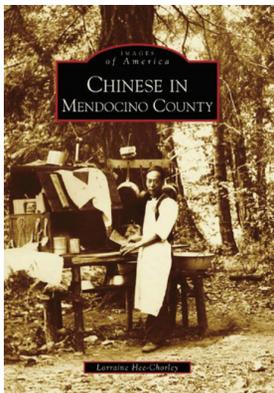
This event is generously sponsored by Howard Memorial Hospital and benefits Willits High School and community running programs.

Questions? Call Gail Leland at 707-485-7821.

– submitted by Gail Leland for North Coast Striders

"Chinese in Mendocino County"

Friday, February 19 at the Willits Library



The Friends of the Willits Library (FOWL) is pleased to offer a book presentation and slide show by local author Lorraine Hee-Chorley Friday, February 19 at 7 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

"Chinese in Mendocino County" is the first-ever broad history of the Chinese in Mendocino County. The Chinese were instrumental in the county's development in the 1800s, but little has been written documenting their contribution to local history until now. "Chinese in Mendocino County," from local author Lorraine Hee-Chorley, boasts more than 200 vintage photographs. The photographs date from the early 1800s to the 1970s, painting a vivid picture of the Chinese presence in Mendocino County.

Highlights of the book include the anti-Chinese sentiment in Mendocino County, the generosity of Grace Hudson and other citizens who supported the Chinese in Mendocino County, a look at the only historical structure that gives evidence of the Chinese's presence in the county, and early Chinese settlers

Learn more about the book, and see a great slide show. It's wonderful for all ages. This free event will feature an informative talk and slide show followed by a book signing. Families are warmly invited.

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Senior Center Lunch

Week of February 8 through February 12

Monday: Tuna Noodle Casserole

Tuesday: Orange Glazed Chicken

Wednesday: Pork Chops

Thursday: Garlic Butter Hamburger/Bun

Friday: Cod

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



Sweetheart Raffle

The American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 174, is once again holding their annual Valentine's Sweetheart Raffle fundraiser and selling tickets from now until February 13.

Several baskets are available to win, all of which are filled with goodies from the community that are close to \$100 in value. The Grand Prize basket includes "a night on the town for two," an overnight

Ongoing Events

Willits Winter Farmers Market: from 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Winter produce, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Music this week, February 4: the Farmers Market Band.

The Emandal Choral: ongoing rehearsals on Wednesdays, 5 to 6:30 pm, for the Choral's 21st season, at the Little Lake Grange great hall, 291 School Street. No auditions: Open to all who love to sing.

Inner Resources Institute: three free programs at the new Inner Resource Institute, 1500 Hearst Road (at Hearst and Valley roads in the old Grace Baptist Church building). • Morning Meditation: Every morning at 6 am. • Kirtan: Every Thursday at 7:30 pm. Devotional singing and chanting led by Chinmayan. • Sunday Morning Service: 10:30 am. Satsang and fellowship consisting of a short talk on practical spirituality; meditation; Kirtan and worship; and a prayer service in which we pray for individual, family and humanity's needs. Info: 707-357-4676 or innerresourceinstitute@yahoo.com.

The Mentoring Program: Free classes for girls in grades 6 through 10 in the Willits school system. Friday afternoons from 4 to 5 pm. Class subjects rotate: Herbs, Crafts, Yoga & Movement, Life Skills, and Cooking and Home Arts. Room 4 in the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, the Cultivate Wellness Studio. Call Michelle Cummins for info: 972-1601.

Tuesday Will Bowling: Every Tuesday at the Harrah Senior Center Dining Room, 1501 Baechtel Road. 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Info: 459-6826.

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

Willits Frontier Twirlers Square Dance Club: Monday night workshops at the Willits Center for the Arts, upstairs in the great room. Newer dancers from 7 to 8 pm; plus dancing from 8 to 9 pm. Lawrence Johnstone, caller. Guests always welcome! Info: Jenny Watts, 459-9526.

Al-Anon Meeting: Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. Saturdays at 10 am at St. Francis Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 66 East Commercial Street. "Al-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."

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

Willits Library Public Events: "Pajama Story Time" for families, Tuesdays at 7 pm. "Stories for Crawlers and Walkers," Thursdays at 11 am. Technology group for help with hand-held devices, Fridays at 1 pm. Youth Game Night, ages 10-14, Fridays from 4 to 7:30 pm. Drop-in Knitting Circle, Saturdays from 3 to 4:30 pm. 390 East Commercial Street. More info: 459-5908.

Soroptimists International of Willits: Women's service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets second and third Tuesdays of every month, noon to 1 pm, at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street, in the back room. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

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

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

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

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

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

Shanachie Pub: World Music Mondays: Sign ups start at 7:30 pm sharp. Music starts at 8 pm.



At top, left: The Edgar Loudermilk Band, with Edgar Loudermilk on lead vocals and bass.
At top, right: Willits local Sarah Rose McMahon plays cello during dinner.
Photos by Mathew Caine

Bluegrass for scholarships

Willits Rotary raises funds with concert and farm-to-table dinner

On Saturday evening, a veritable who's who of Willits public officials and community members gathered in the Little Lake Grange hall to sample farm-to-table cuisine, mingle, and listen to live bluegrass music, all to benefit the Willits Rotary Club's scholarship fund.

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

The Rotary Club spends much of the year raising funds that benefit deserving high school graduates in Willits, offering \$1,000 grants to approximately a dozen students.

Co-produced by Bruce Burton and Da Grand Pooba of Cosmic Pickle Productions, attendees of the event included Sheriff Tom Allman (also acting as MC), Willits Police Chief Gonzalez, Willits City Council members Holly Madrigal and Ron Orenstein, candidate for Mendocino County Superior Court judge, Patrick Pekin, and many more.

"I am very happy that this is happening," said Pooba. "It's one of my dreams for us to work together as a community. These Grange shows that we've been doing are pulling people together."

Burton and Pooba decided to team up for this production after last year's sold-out Hot Buttered Rum concert.

The Grange doors opened at 6:30 pm, and the gathering crowd was greeted by the original, heartfelt music of

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



Clockwise from above: Edgar Loudermilk; Anita Sison, left, Larry Desmond and Marisela de Santa Anna were early arrivals at Saturday's show; Edgar Loudermilk and Glen Crain, on dobro guitar; Forrest Glycer accompanied McMahon as opening act; Aaron, left, and Keith Rosen share a laugh; Lee and Evelyn Persico chat with Caroline Radice of Black Dog Farm, who catered dinner; Rotary Club member Rick Williams tends bar; and the Jug Handle Band plays after dinner, joined by McMahon, right, for a few numbers.



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Help Wanted
Volunteer Show Coordinator to arrange and schedule monthly shows at the Willits Center for the Arts. Send resume to WCA, PO Box 503, Willits, CA 95490. For more info call June @ 456-1203.

Help Wanted
Instructor for NCO Grange Farm School - Mendocino County. For full job description details & application go to www.ncoinc.org/about-us/jobs or 707-467-3200 x 302. Closes: 2/8 @ 5 pm (Postmarks not accepted). EOE

Help Wanted
Teacher Barbara Carlon Visit my webpage: Zbergirl.com 707-367-6182, Willits.

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

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

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

The rest of **Letters** | From Page 2

WCS drive up to \$30,125

To the Editor:
As of February 2, the Willits Community Services Winter Fund Drive is up to a total of \$30,125, thanks to the latest donations from the community members listed below:

Bob and Della Bennett, John Bothwell & Patricia Wilson, Dennis Craighead, Gerardo & Barbare Gonzalez, Michael & Patricia Harrison, Galen Hathaway, Wendy Hilderbrand, Karen Holden, Kathleen Hopper, David & Geri Hulse-Stephens, Cynthia & John Javons, Keith & Ananda Johnson, Edward & Audrey Kimmel, Ronda Landes, Monte & Kathleen Lieberfarb, Debbie McCubbin, S. & E. Olson, Tony & Janet Orth, Ponderosa & Sun Realty, Marlin & Carole Press, J. Francis & William Schatz, Clifford & Marcia Tichenor, Donna Vaiano, Jack & Joan Wade, Willits Mini-Storage, and Gwen & Roscoe Wood.

Please help us continue to provide essential services to our community by helping us reach our Winter Fund Drive goal of \$32,000. Donations (checks made out to "Willits Community Services") can be mailed to WCS, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, or dropped off during office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon to 5 pm. All contributions are very much appreciated.

Jim Marill, director, Willits Community Services

The rest of **WPD** | From Page 4

3 pm: Traffic collision in the 800 block of South Main Street.

January 29
6:50 am: MORRIS, Dena, 54, of Willits was contacted while camping in the 1200 block of Manzanita Avenue and arrested for an active Mendocino County warrant.

2:15 pm: Officers investigated a hit and run collision, which resulted in an injury, in the 700 block of South Main Street.
2:45 pm: Officers investigated a hit and run collision, which resulted in an injury, in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

4:30 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1400 block of South Main Street. During their investigation, they determined that during an argument PHILLIPS, Laurie, 41, of Willits scratched the victim on his neck, which resulted in injury. Phillips was placed under arrest pursuant to 273.5(a) PC (Domestic Battery Resulting in Injury).

January 30
2 am: Traffic collision in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

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The rest of **Pancakes** | From Page 1

to help ensure Willits graduates "made it to their futures."

Breakfast on Sunday will include scratch-made pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, orange juice and coffee, tea or hot chocolate. Diners are welcome to dine at the tables at the Grange and be served by Willits High School seniors, or they take their breakfasts to go, too.

Seniors and sisters Jessica and Vera Tyrell will be attending the breakfast to help serve and raise money for their senior class.

"We're excited to be helping out with the Sober Grad event," said Jessica. "We want to help raise money for this year. We encourage everyone to come down to the breakfast: The more people the better!"

In addition to helping at this weekend's

The rest of **Bluegrass** | From Page 10

local folk singer Sarah Rose McMahon, accompanied on guitar and back-up vocals by Forrest Glycer (most notably of the band Schindig).

McMahon, playing both the baritone-ukulele and cello - and with an ethereal voice reminiscent of Alison Krauss and Emmylou Harris - performed songs from her first, recently released solo album, "Lay My Burden Down."

To get a flavor of her sound, check out her YouTube channel at: Sarah Rose McMahon

The Jug Tucker Band from North Carolina took the stage next, performing a mix of melancholy and upbeat bluegrass covers, as well as originals. Founded in 2009 by Mark and Sheri Criminger, the band has shared the stage with the likes of Doc Watson, Ralph Stanley and Art Stamper.

Find them on the web at: www.jugtucker.com.

Headlining the show was the Edgar Loudermilk Band with Jeff Autry. Well-known bluegrass guitarist Autry recently joined the group, and they will be putting out a new album together in the near future. The band features Jeff Autry (guitar), Alan Bibey (mandolin), Jason Davis (banjo) and bandleader Edgar Loudermilk (vocals and bass).

"That's the crème de la crème of bluegrass

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

work spent to realize the dream of making the Willits Center for the Arts more available to the community," board member Reed said. "Our goal is to continue to reach out to the community, build relationships, and to encourage the community's involvement in 'their' art center." Reed went on to say the Willits Center for the Arts board of directors is strong with "nine hard-working members" who are determined to meet their goals.

The Art Center has over 80 paid members, and the number rises daily as artists pay their dues when they bring

Sober Grad event, the girls also made several types of fudge for the Sober Grad candy sale fundraiser held over the holidays.

What does "making it to their futures" look like to the Tyrrell sisters? Vera plans on attending Feather River College in Quincy, where she will attend vet school and possibly transfer to Bel-Rae Institute in Denver. Jessica looks to go to Santa Rosa Junior College before heading to Long Beach, where she plans to study physical therapy.

The girls will be watching the Super Bowl game after the breakfast, too, and though neither of their teams made it to the game this year - Seahawks for Jessica and the Packers for Vera - they note they'll be rooting for the Broncos come Sunday afternoon.

For more information about Sober Grad's Pancake Breakfast on Sunday call Angi Edgar at 459-2260 or email WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com.

music," said Pooba of both the Loudermilk band and the Jug Tucker Band. Mark from Jug Tucker and Jeff Autry spent 30 years playing music in the same [North Carolina] county." And here they were, sharing the same stage in Willits.

Loudermilk himself has been to Willits several times to perform with different band configurations, and according to Burton, "He really likes it out here in Willits."

The menu was provided by Black Dog Farm. Diners' plates were piled high with pulled pork sliders or barbecue chicken, with sides of mac & cheese, potato salad, cole slaw or beans, or lasagna with wild-crafted mushrooms and locally raised beef.

Because there was no Rotary Club crab sale this year due to the closure of the California crab Fishery, Burton and Rotary members are scheduling other events to fill the gap in fundraising.

"We have an event scheduled for mid-March [at the Willits Center for the Arts] with a group called John Reischman and the Jaybirds," Burton said. The band is an internationally touring group out of Vancouver that plays a mix of "new" and traditional bluegrass music.

"It's not 100 percent finalized, but it looks like it's coming together," Burton said.

in their work. Reed pointed out there are many perks to being a member, but being able to host a show, having art displayed on the center website, and being invited to future membership-only parties are just a few of the many benefits.

If you are interested in becoming a member or getting more information about the Willits Art Center, go to <http://willitscenterforthearts.org>. To volunteer with the Willits Art Center, please contact Nancy Reed at 459-1239.

WILLITS WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Across: 1. A type of fruit. 2. A type of bird. 3. A type of fish. 4. A type of vegetable. 5. A type of flower. 6. A type of animal. 7. A type of insect. 8. A type of plant. 9. A type of tree. 10. A type of rock. 11. A type of mineral. 12. A type of metal. 13. A type of gas. 14. A type of liquid. 15. A type of solid.

Down: 1. A type of fruit. 2. A type of bird. 3. A type of fish. 4. A type of vegetable. 5. A type of flower. 6. A type of animal. 7. A type of insect. 8. A type of plant. 9. A type of tree. 10. A type of rock. 11. A type of mineral. 12. A type of metal. 13. A type of gas. 14. A type of liquid. 15. A type of solid.

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At top, from left: Richard Jeske displays how to spur prune grapevines. Jeske discusses the difficulties of growing fruit trees in the Willits valley. Jeske shows folks attending the workshop how to properly root a new grapevine from a cutting.

Right: Participation was encouraged, as afternoon workshop attendees could try spur pruning grapevines for themselves.

Below: Dave Watts talks to participants about the importance of proper grapevine pruning in preparation for springtime budding.

Photos by Rashad Sisemore

Pruning wisdom

Local fruit tree experts share their knowledge at free workshop

Dave Watts, owner of Sanhedrin Nursery, and Richard Jeske, expert in tree pruning and grafting, held a dual-location pruning workshop this past Sunday, January 31.

The workshop began at the orchard section in the back of Sanhedrin, where Watts and Jeske discussed and demonstrated the two different kinds of pruning cuts: thinning and heading. A thinning cut gets rid of a branch at its source; heading is when a plant is cut back to a stub, lateral bud or small lateral branch.

According to Jeske: "Heading cuts promote branching. Sometimes this is desirable; often it is not. Thinning cuts open up the tree to more sun."

Approximately 20 people attended the workshop, gleaned wisdom from the two arborists with over 80 years of combined experience. The two have been conducting these workshops for roughly 25 years.

Watts and his wife, Jenny, started Sanhedrin Nursery in 1981, coincidentally the same year that Jeske and his wife, Jacqueline Morninglight (of East Hill House Herbals), acquired their property in Willits: the year that Jeske planted his first apple tree.

Watts explained his approach to pruning isn't about "trying to train the tree to form," but involves maintaining the fruit wood, controlling the tree's height, and opening up the tree for more light exposure.

"When you're pruning for sunlight, remove diseased-damaged branches and crossing branches that are growing towards the inside of the tree," Watts said.

In an article Jeske authored for the workshop in 2013, he writes: "Six hours per day of full sun is the minimum requirement. Do not create a canopy of lush growth at the top of the tree, as eventually that will eliminate fruiting in the lower reaches."

Jeske's own trees – the workshop continued after lunch at Jeske's orchard – are pruned such that he can attend to them without the need of a ladder. The tallest fruit tree on his land is about 10 feet high. "Any tree that I can prune just from the ground is going to likely give me all the fruit I need."

The two arborists emphasized the importance of identifying tree growth before making any pruning cuts.

"You can tell last year's growth by measuring the tip of the branch to its first ring," Jeske said. "From there, the next ring you come to represents the two-year growth." With apple trees, it's at that mark, from two- to three-year growth, where fruiting spurs are likely to form.

Because Dave's trees at Sanhedrin's are quite a bit larger, he prunes some of these spurs, so as to create bigger fruit, rather than more fruit. In doing so, he mostly targets spurs growing from the underside of the branch.

"The thing to look at is, how much did your tree grow last year and what is your fruit like," Jeske said. "If you have

plenty of water and fertile soil, and you didn't thin, and all your apples look good, then you don't have to do anything. But if your tree didn't grow well, and you didn't have a lot of water and your fruit is small, then you have to analyze ways to correct for next season. You might need to thin a lot or water more and find ways to increase the soil fertility."

For those folks just starting out and wondering what trees they should plant, Jeske suggests European pear – more reliable in this climate than Asian pear – European plum, and several varieties of apples including Gravenstein, Golden Russet, Roxbury Russet, Fuji and Gold Rush.

Jeske specializes in grapes, and he has approximately 150 different varieties, most of which can't be found in stores.

With just under an acre of land to work with, Jeske utilizes it to its fullest, maintaining 30 different fruit trees, raspberries, the grapes, and a vegetable garden.

"A lot of my garden space is for tree collards, which I propagate for Bountiful Garden Seed Company," said Jeske. "They buy cuttings from me every week."

Richard Jeske is available for private consultations at 459-5926. Come October, he will be holding his popular annual grape-tasting event on his property, which is free to the public.

As always, Sanhedrin Nursery has a plethora of fruit trees available for sale. Call them at: 459-9009. Find them on the web at www.sanhedrinnursery.com.

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(PG13) 1 hr 57 mins
Fri: 5:45 & 8:15pm
Sat/Sun: 12:45, 3:15, 5:45 & 8:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:45 & 7:15pm

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Sat/Sun: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm
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Chana Eisenstein, DVM

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Willits Weekly
The local newspaper
willitsweekly@gmail.com

revisions, reductions, or additions" to fire district funding as they deemed fit. However, any "official or person whose budgetary requests have been revised shall be given the opportunity" to plead their case before the board during or prior to supervisors' final budget hearings.

When the initiative proposal came before Acting-County Counsel Katharine Elliott to be titled and summarized so petitions could be circulated to gather voter signatures to place the measure before county voters, she immediately filed suit as "an individual in her official capacity," seeking to have MCAFD's measure declared "constitutionally invalid."

In her filings, Elliott argued, the initiative would strip supervisors of their right to manage the county's finances.

On January 29, both sides argued their cases before Judge Nadel. But those arguments centered not so much on whether the initiative was "fatally flawed," but rather on whether Elliott possessed the legal standing to try and halt the initiative process, especially since the measure does not directly affect her office and supervisors had not authorized her to file suit on the county's behalf.

Elliott replied that as acting-county counsel, it was her "statutory duty" to intervene in any matter that would violate supervisors' prerogative to manage county funds.

At issue is an initiative provision that would require the board to insert a line item in the county's proposed and final annual budget regarding fire district funding.

Nadel agreed with Elliott that under current state law, there are no restrictions regarding how Prop. 172's one-half-cent sales tax monies may be spent, so long as they fund "public safety uses of local agencies."

Elliott also noted supervisors have set a March 8 hearing to discuss this year's budget priorities "in an open hearing that will include emergency medical services and fire district funding."

And, she emphasized, "any special district [including fire districts] can come to the board and ask for funding."

Elliott said she found the most fault with the proposed initiative's request that 30 percent of all \$7.2 million in Prop. 172 funds the county receives would be set aside to support fire and emergency medical services.

"I have an issue with that as well," Nadel replied.

But Neary insisted it's not Elliott's job to pick and choose which of her duties as county counsel she's required to perform. She must perform all of them, including titling and summarizing MCAFD's proposed initiative.

Elliott, he said, "is not representing the board of supervisors" with her suit. "Where's the statutory authority for county counsel to initiate litigation on her own? That's the board of supervisors' responsibility, and the board of supervisors is out of the picture. All that's left is the county counsel."

However, Elliott argued that by titling and summarizing the fire districts' initiative, she would be "giving it a mark of legitimacy" despite the fact it might be unconstitutional. To do so, she said, would be misleading county voters. "All I'm doing is seeking judicial review of this initiative."

While Neary conceded MCAFD "did not have a chance to have a conversation over the initiative's wording," he noted, "up until now we haven't received much attention from the board of supervisors when we just asked [for funding] politely."

He also maintained the time to argue the constitutionality of the proposed measure would come later in the initiative process, either after enough signatures have been garnered to place it on the ballot, or after voters approved it.

Nadel admitted she was "intrigued" by Neary's argument concerning Elliott's legal standing to thwart the initiative process, and promised to rule on the case "as soon as possible."

Neary's law office on Tuesday said most rulings are issued either Thursday or Friday.

will replace the single-line system that now exists, which runs from Santa Rosa to Eureka and points north.

With a fiber ring, when the line is broken or down in one location, fiber-based telecommunications service can still be delivered throughout most of the service area. Only the area in close proximity to the breakdown will go out.

Marc Blakeman, AT&T vice president for external affairs, told board members the ring likely will be functional by the end of the year.

Blakeman also said AT&T has secured federal Connect America Fund 2 dollars from the state of California. The purpose of this money is to extend telecommunications service into hard-to-reach areas. Blakeman said certain regions within Mendocino County were "absolutely at the top of the list."

Blakeman added he did not know what areas would be connected, and the company will seek recommendations about that from the Mendocino County Broadband Alliance. First District Supervisor Carre Brown said she heard AT&T was planning to extend internet service to approximately 5,000 homes in this county.

Blakeman and AT&T Area Director for External Affairs Rhunette Alums took quite a bit of flak from both the public and supervisors. After he had announced his company's intention to use CAF2 dollars in Mendocino County, Regina Foster of the energy organization TURN (Toward Utility Rate Normalization) said AT&T's plans to upgrade service in this county were "a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed."

Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg, who mentioned he lives just a mile or so southwest of Ukiah, told AT&T representatives that both his internet service and his phone service go on the friz regularly, while Second District Supervisor John McCowen complained: "We have a lot of people who appear to be participating in a steadily deteriorating network."

Neither Blakeman nor Alums offered responded to McCowen's observation.

Supervisor Brown was diplomatic. "Thanks for coming," she said. "I hope you can see here from our feistiness that we are concerned. But nevertheless we're glad you're here, and I hope you don't let that keep you away."

Blakeman thanked supervisors for their courtesy.

Federal and state agencies have approved articles of incorporation and tax-exempt status for the new 501(c)3 nonprofit, and the WCA board is currently in negotiations with the city to establish a lease agreement in order to "independently manage and operate the WCA and its activities," City Manager Adrienne Moore said.

That agreement would include the transfer to WCA of approximately \$15,000 in operating funds WCA has generated through its various activities, but which is currently being held by the city.

Although WCA would be given control of its own funds and operations, including maintenance and upkeep responsibilities, the city will continue to own the WCA building and will continue paying its base-level liability insurance coverage.

Moore, City Clerk Cathy Moorhead and City Attorney Jim Lance – working with the WCA board – asked council members for direction in finalizing the lease agreement.

Mayor Bruce Burton was absent from last week's meeting, and Councilwoman Holly Madrigal recused herself for a possible conflict of interest. That left Vice Mayor Ron Orenstein, Councilmember Madge Strong and Councilmember Larry Stranske to offer their opinions on what terms should be included in the lease.

While no action was taken, it was agreed the agreement should be a five-year lease, that WCA board members should report to the council a year after finalization of the lease, and that language should be included to ensure the WCA improves its outreach and the physical appearance of the building to draw more support from the community.

WCA board members seemed pleased with the terms, and the board has already put plans in motion to expand the center's sphere of influence. This includes erecting a sign somewhere on Main Street, painting the building's exterior as well as the upstairs Great Room, engaging in outreach activities with schools, and much more.

"We want to at least triple the art classes held at the center for 2016," said WCA's Ruckman. "We have plans to create secure lockers for instructors who teach there regularly. We want to encourage more than just visual arts, and are actively looking for other groups to bring their energy to our center."

To help with these and other activities, WCA is

because many of them already have their own programs in place," Ward told the council. "So far we only have about three or four restaurants signed up to our service."

Ward speculated people often have a hard time dealing with change, and once they have a routine in place, they're reluctant to add a new one to the mix, especially in regards to training staff.

Part of that training would involve knowing not to put the wrong material in with the organic waste.

"We have to make sure the management knows about the service and that their training programs are consistent," Ward explained. "For instance, we don't want the staff to scrape straws into the food waste bins."

It's been a one-on-one dialogue with restaurant owners to try and get them on board to see the benefits of the program.

The biggest incentive for owners, Ward added, is the money they could save, since a large percentage of a restaurant's waste is organic material. This material isn't limited to food scraps, but includes items like napkins, paper towels and paper plates.

Compostable bags will soon be made available at Mariposa Market, Ward announced.

"We do encourage the public to buy compostable bags when throwing out their waste," he said, "because without them, the waste could cause odor issues, especially during the summer months."

Councilwoman Madge Strong, who helped lead the way to get the green waste program off the ground, said the important thing is to not be discouraged by the slow start.

"It's not an insurmountable challenge," said Strong. "But it's going to take persistence." She added restaurant diners could drop hints to employees about putting organic materials in a separate bin.

Councilwoman Holly Madrigal is encouraged by the program and feels it will catch on with more and more people eventually.

"I did receive some comments from the public saying they are excited about the program and they're just now starting to use it."

Regarding other waste-related matters, Ward informed the council too many people are tossing their old batteries and other non-welcomed materials in with their recycling.

"I want to let the public know that you can drop off your cell phones and household batteries for free," Ward said. "But unfortunately they're putting them in the recycling carts, and as we process recyclables, they drop through with our crushed glass and end up going down to San Leandro for processing. The environmental health department is getting on them to get the darned batteries out of recycling."

Ward also wanted the public to know that when you toss your plastic bottles into the recycling bin, you should leave the caps on. It's a common misconception that plastic caps should be separated as a different kind of plastic from the bottle.

"We prefer you keep the caps on the bottles," Ward said. "Because, like the batteries, they go into processing and fall down into the glass."

To learn more about Solid Waste of Willits and the recycling and waste services it provides, visit www.solidwasteservices.net/index.html, or contact them by phone at 1-800-694-2722.

currently in the process of hiring a part-time manager. The board is currently reviewing applications and hopes to make a decision soon. Part of the new manager's responsibilities will be heading a decent program designed to keep the center open for more days and longer hours.

Volunteer coordinator and WCA board member Reed credited several different events held by the center last year for WCA's annual evening.

"We held a 'Draw 'til You Drop' event, which was a very successful fundraiser," Reed said. "Our annual holiday craft fair was very successful, and our raffle ticket sales were up. The volunteer list has grown and includes young, vibrant and eager artists: They are the future of WCA and art in Willits."

Towards the goal of increasing its financial well-being, WCA has recently increased its artist fees from \$50, to \$100.

"Most art centers and galleries charge that amount," Reed explained. "And artists seem willing to pay it."

Other plans include opening a gift shop, selling alcohol and providing live music as well as catering during art openings, renting out the classroom and the Great Room more often, displaying more art in those same rooms, and inviting more seniors from the Harrah Senior Center to volunteer their time.

Reed was pleased to announce the Willits Chamber of Commerce is planning a Winter Mixer at WCA on Thursday, February 25, in the Great Room. "We are very excited to be hosting this," she said.

Ruckman offered her thanks to those who helped the WCA to reach its goals this past year and to expand its plans for the future.

"We owe Dale Dingman a big debt of gratitude for all the hours and all the energy he put in to the art center," she said. "And we can't thank Adrienne Moore and Cathy Moorhead enough for all their support through the years. It's the countless volunteers and past commissioners that have kept this center alive."

Willits Center for the Arts can be found on Facebook and on the web at <http://willitscenterforthearts.org/home>.

WCA's annual Members Art Show will open this weekend, with an artists' reception scheduled for Saturday, February 6, from 6 to 9 pm.

Highway Patrol officers, a helicopter and a cherry picker moved in to take him down.

Parrish was originally charged with three trespassing infractions, then later with 16 misdemeanors, including charges of trespassing and unlawful entry, after he turned down the first plea deal offer from the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office.

Caltrans had originally asked Parrish be held responsible for almost \$500,000 in restitution costs for the construction delay, but later lowered the request to \$150,000, then to \$108,990.

The \$9,460 Judge John Behnke ordered Parrish to pay in December 2014 covered 4.5 days of stitcher rental by Caltrans contractor DeSilva Gates, as well as the costs of getting the wick stitcher ready for work again.

After a number of court appearances, delays and continued negotiations with the DA's office, Parrish accepted a plea deal in January 2014. The deal gave him a "credible assurance" that restitution would be limited to less than \$10,000. Parrish wrote in an account of his recent court experience published in the Anderson Valley Advertiser, and required him to enter a no-contest plea to two infractions with sentencing delayed for two years, with terms including completing community service and not interfering with bypass construction.

Back in court two years later, Superior Court Judge David Nelson "promptly dismissed all charges," Parrish wrote. "It happened so fast, and was so anticlimactic — this being after 20 court appearances spanning two and-a-half years, and hundreds of hours of contemplation on my part — that I didn't even understand what happened until Omar [Parrish's attorney Omar Figueroa] explained it to me after the fact."

Nelson also converted the \$9,460 in restitution from a criminal to a civil matter.

"I feel really good about the overall experience," Parrish told Willits Weekly. "I feel proud of what I did, and I feel even the whole legal thing, though it was stressful, was still a pretty good experience overall; for one thing I got a lot of support, and the overwhelming majority who go through a major legal scuffle with the DA and a powerful state agency usually don't."

Parrish said he thought the story of his legal experience "helps in its own way to shed light on some of the issues we were trying to address, because I think Caltrans ended up looking like kind of a big bully with the bloated restitution they were trying to exact. And that's the narrative about the bypass as a whole, this really bloated, huge project ... Caltrans just trying to build the biggest possible project, in league with their corporate friends, the contractors."

Parrish said although he thought "this is a really good outcome overall," he was "disappointed to have to pay restitution ... especially given my critique of Caltrans as having imposed this huge boondoggle on everyone in Willits and wasting huge amounts of money."

He emphasized he was grateful to about 60 supporters who had donated funds to help pay the restitution order, including organizers of a New Year's Eve benefit in Willits. But, he said, "Giving Caltrans money is not something I relish doing."



At top: City of Willits' Public Works employee Kenan O'Shea uses a large broom to texture the fresh cement. Below: Public Works' Logan Gamble and O'Shea work behind the "sidewalk closed" sign on the west side of Main Street. Photos by Maureen Moore

Safer Sidewalks

Public Works Department repairs buckled sidewalk near Main Street arch

The sidewalk on the west side of Main Street just under the Willits Arch is now much safer to walk on, with its new flat surface and freshly poured cement.

A few crew members from the City of Willits Public Works Department were out brushing the drying cement Tuesday morning on the newly fixed 30-foot by 6-foot section.

"The sidewalk had been lifted about 8 inches and was very uneven and unsafe to walk on," explained Logan Gamble of Public Works. "The roots from the ornamental fruitless pear tree that was here had

really damaged the concrete. It was a trip hazard, and we're happy to get it fixed."

Gamble noted Public Works did the job to be proactive and help take care of the issue before it became too much of a problem.

"And with that tree gone, northbound traffic gets a better view of the Willits Arch now, too!" said Gamble. **— Maureen Moore**



Howard Memorial Hospital's Chef Kyle Evans tries out butternut squash as an ingredient option for Saturday's soup contest. Photo by Maureen Moore

Sip Some Soup on Saturday

Howard Hospital one of the many entries in 2016 contest

Get ready to "sip some soup" this weekend when chefs and cooks from around the community will try to win the title of People's Choice for the annual Sip Some Soup contest. The event will be held this Saturday at the Willits Community Center starting at 5:30 pm. Tickets are available at the door for \$15 per person or \$25 for couples. Tasters can sample all of the entries and cast their vote for the tastiest. A contest is also held for the Best Decorated Table. Emdamal will be on site with their delicious homemade bread, and the ladies of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will have desserts available, too. Monies raised from the event go to support Willits Daily Bread, to help provide free bag lunches to those in need in our community. More info, Cindy Savage at 459-2579 or 367-5669. **— Maureen Moore**

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Willits High School's Athletes of the Week



Varsity Basketball |
Kelsey Butler,
age 17, Senior

Position: Wing

Breakfast of Champions: Oatmeal and toast

Love for the Sport: "The intensity and being on defense."

Years Playing the Sport: Since kindergarten

My Amazing Athlete for this week is Kelsey Butler. Kelsey is a senior on the Varsity Girls Basketball Team. Kelsey is one of my starting guards. Kelsey is one of the hardest-working and most dedicated athletes I've ever coached.

Kelsey rarely comes out of the game because she really doesn't ever slow down or become fatigued. Kelsey does so many things on the defensive side of the game that don't show up on a stat sheet. She is tenacious, the most intense and relentless defender I've ever coached or witnessed at Willits High School. If Kelsey is guarding you, you're about to have your hands full.

— Coach Jody Ward

The rest of Cold Case | From Page 1

his legs near a wooded area along Highway 20 on his way to the Mendocino Coast. His discovery launched a decades-long investigation.

In a two-day operation, sheriff's investigators were able to recover 90 percent of the victims' bones, including an earring featuring a tiny, dangling bird carved out of shell, and in 1985 the remains were sent to the FBI in an attempt to identify the teens.

The remains, however, were misidentified at the time as those of a teenage girl and a younger boy, perhaps her brother.

In 2000, forensic dentist Dr. Jim Wood, now a North Coast assemblyman, examined the skulls' teeth and concluded the jaws were too dissimilar to be related, Allman said.

Later, DNA samples were sent to a Texas laboratory for analysis, but the results were never returned to sheriff's investigators, he noted.

It was not until 2011, when the British Broadcast Company teamed with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for a story on cold cases in the United States, that the remains were re-exhumed and new DNA samples – sent to the University of North Texas Center for Human Identification for testing – were conclusively matched to their families in November 2015.

Now that the tests have confirmed the identity of the two Forestville teenagers, Allman is "hoping somebody out there knows something," because "there's a lot of things we still don't know."

Allman spoke to family members of

the victims, as well as law enforcement officers and the media at Tuesday's press conference to announce the findings.

He hopes confirmation of the girls' identities will help investigators figure out who killed the girls and dumped their bodies off the side of the road.

Nonetheless, little is known about the case, Allman conceded, including how the girls died. Their death certificates acknowledge they were murdered, but examinations of the bones failed to determine how they met their deaths.

Trimble's absence was reported right after she vanished, according to family members. Graham, who had often left home without notifying her parents, was reported missing later that month, according to a brother.

Both Trimble's parents have died, but several other relatives were in attendance Tuesday. Graham's parents, who live in Forestville, did not attend the press conference, but Trimble's brother, 58-year-old Ron Graham, flew from Utah to be present.

An investigation was launched by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office after the girls went missing, but details of the reports, including interviews and timelines, were not immediately available.

Discovering the teenagers' identities is a tribute to the vast improvements made in DNA testing and other forensic technology, Allman acknowledged, as well as the perseverance of the many detectives and other people and organizations that kept seeking answers to the mystery.

"I hope you never believed we'd forgotten this case," Allman told the families.

At least two former sheriff's officials who

The rest of Survey | From Page 1

retention basins, etc.); gateway treatments; signage / wayfinding signs; and access to transit (bus stops).

The survey also has a place to enter "Other" comments.

The Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan will develop a vision for the three-mile stretch of Main Street located within the city limits. The community-based plan will be developed through a participatory process to be held the week of April 18. Designers and engineers will be on hand to translate the public's ideas into a plan for the future of Main Street.

A companion project, the Downtown Streets and Alleys Connectivity Study, will also kick off in the coming weeks, with community engagement on both projects closely coordinated.

For more information on the Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan, visit www.willitsmainstreetplan.com.

For any questions or concerns, please contact City Manager Adrienne Moore at 459-4601 or amooore@willitscity.com.

This report was based on a press release from the City of Willits.



The rest of Grist Creek | From Page 1

Management District on November 17 of last year.

As both sides argued during a previous hearing held in August 2015, Friends of Outlet Creek maintained the MCAQMD was in error when it issued the permit, and attorneys for the county and for Grist Creek Aggregates argued Air Pollution Control Officer Robert Scaglione acted appropriately and legally when he issued the permit.

The difference between the August 2015 hearing and the one last Friday was that, on Friday, the hearing board heard testimony from the public concerning health and psychological impacts plant neighbors had suffered during the month and a half the plant was in heavy operation, from late September to mid-November 2015.

After two tie votes, one of which concerned a motion to revoke the crumb rubber unit's permit, the hearing board voted unanimously to direct Scaglione to come back to the board after concluding his negotiations with Grist Creek Aggregates owner Brian Hurt and report whether he believes conditions imposed upon the facility by virtue of the negotiations will significantly affect plant operations.

Previous to that vote, the four-member hearing board failed to approve two motions. An initial motion made by board member Marc Komer to revoke the permit for the plant's crumb rubber unit failed on a 2-2 vote. Komer and board member Chet Koehn voted in support of that motion; hearing board Chairman Tom Johnson and board member Eric Crane voted against it.

Revocation of the permit for the crumb rubber unit would mean the plant would not be able to produce rubberized asphalt. However, it would still be able to produce asphalt, according to Scaglione.

A second motion made by Johnson would have deferred action on the item until after the board hears Scaglione's report. However, Johnson's motion did not specify a date by which Scaglione must report back to the board. It too failed on the same 2-2 vote.

After that vote, Komer added the April 15 date and the resulting motion was approved unanimously.

The decision by the hearing board indicates the possibility a majority of board members are seriously considering revoking the plant's crumb rubber unit permit.

There are three reasons why this can be deduced: First, there is the fact Komer moved to revoke the permit, and voted in favor of his motion. Secondly, board member Koehn sided with Komer to revoke the permit. Thirdly, board chair Johnson said the impacts upon public health, as described by several neighbors of the plant, were unacceptable to him.

The public cries out

Johnson's statements came after nearly four hours of public testimony from neighbors of the plant. Each person who spoke claimed the plant was having a devastating impact on their lives.

"I can't go outside when the plant is running," Amy Lee complained, telling the hearing board she was diagnosed in 2011 as being chemically sensitive to two compounds – both tire vulcanizers – and both of which, she claimed, are being released by plant operations.

"I have to stay inside," she said. "I cannot open my windows, even at night when it is so hot inside you can't sleep and you can't rest."

"I can't take that risk when the plant is running. My home is not safe. I can't use my property, and my health is at risk."

"The smell is horrible," added Susan Crews. "You can't breathe. You can't go outside. I have to take a dishrag and put it over my mouth to go outside. I'm spitting constantly to try to get that taste out of [my] mouth."

"You lose your appetite. You can't eat. I've lost 7 pounds

in a week," she said. "I don't think we deserve this."

"I've suffered from nausea," Robert Lawrence told the hearing board. "I've had headaches, and my sinuses, my mouth and my nose have swollen up and burned. I've suffered from psychological upset ... from stress. You can smell the odors, yes. But it is so bad you can taste it in the air, even in your own house."

"And the noise is unbelievable," Lawrence complained. "It's like something you'd hear living next to an airport. It's so bad, so loud, that it sets up a pattern of resonance with my house – with the actual physical building of my house – and whole house vibrates. It is so loud inside my house it's actually quieter outside."

"Besides being an environmental nightmare, it's been a personal disaster for me, because I've put everything I had into my property, and now my property is worthless," he said. "My retirement is ruined. I feel like I have my back against the wall."

"I was forced to put a cloth over my mouth and nose to protect my lungs from the sickening fumes," Christina Valdez, a young woman who told the hearing board she had planned to make her father's property near Cherry Creek her future home.

"Not only could I smell it, I could actually see a thick plume from Grist Creek Aggregates filling the air. I tried convincing my dad that he and the construction crew needed to be wearing filtration masks, because I was concerned for their immediate and long-term health."

"After several attempts to go outside and be captivated by the beauty of my future home," Valdez continued, "I was forced to leave and go back to Lake County, because of headaches and concern for my own health. I was banned from my own property for several weeks because I was consistently told the poor air quality was remaining the same."

Before lunch, seven people spoke; after lunch, another 18. All the speakers, except one, were opposed to the plant, either for environmental, aesthetic, health, financial or psychological reasons.

The one person who spoke who didn't complain about the impact the plant was having on him personally was Dennis Slota, a longtime county water agency hydrologist who recently retired.

As a former county official, Slota is familiar with state and federal environmental regulations and protocols, and criticized the way the county is handling the project, which county legal staff maintain is not even a project.

"I've looked at the documentation that the county used to approve this project," Slota said. "It's basically an in-house, staff-prepared, low-level document. I'm amazed the county would be relying on something like this to meet [California Environmental Quality Act] requirements for this plant."

Chair Johnson weighs in

In a statement made near the close of the hearing, board chair Johnson summed up his views on the issue. He spoke about statements made earlier in the day by Mark Harrison, attorney for Grist Creek Aggregates.

"Mr. Harrison has mentioned that ... this is a zoning-entitled property and they have a right to have a plant here, and there are difficulties and they want to comply with their obligations, but we're stuck with the plant. We're stuck with the way the plant operates."

But Grist Creek Aggregates doesn't "have any approval to pollute the skies of Mendocino County and that isn't going to be tolerated," Johnson said.

"There isn't any testimony here today that the people who have testified are inaccurate," he noted. "There's no rebuttal of the statements they've made. People's lives are being impacted by the way the plant was run, and I'm not

entirely satisfied by the response from the district.

"The proper procedure is that notice of violations get issued," Johnson continued. "Those notices of violations are then negotiated properly between the applicant and the district. The outcome of those violations – which are at this point alleged violations – will be at some point hopefully resolved down to non-violations, or they will be found to be violations."

"If they are violations, I think those violations could sustain revocation of the permit, but do not necessarily sustain revocation of the permit," he added. "Those violations ... have to wind their way through the process. That process is not an interminable process."

"Health and Safety Code Section 4254 allows this board to deal with private nuisances and public nuisances, and allows this board and this district to fashion a remedy that solves the problems, so people don't have to walk out their front doors and gag themselves to death," Johnson said. "They don't have to wear rags on their faces, and they don't have to close their windows at night. They don't have to listen to this interminable machine going on and on throughout the night. They don't have to put up with a lot of nuisance and abuse from a plant that may or may not be in the right place."

"I do think the CEQA process [has been] dealt with in the earlier hearing. That CEQA process is winding its way through the courts," he said. "The courts are going to deal with the CEQA process. It's either going to be determined that the county was correct, or the county was incorrect. The courts are going to direct a resolution of that process, and I don't think that it's appropriate for this board to step into the middle of that now."

"That isn't to say that some cowboy can come along and set up an operation in Mendocino County and create havoc with the people who live here. That's not going to be tolerated by this board, and it's not going to be tolerated by this district," Johnson said. "I'd like the district to work itself through the violation process. I'd like to see the district get this plant up and running in an appropriate, non-offensive manner. They can, fine, and if they can't, then we'll come back and deal with that after those violations have been dealt with."

After Johnson spoke, the hearing board began voting. After the third vote was approved, the meeting was adjourned.

What does it mean?

Contacted several days after the hearing, district Air Pollution Officer Scaglione was asked if he thought the Longvale plant could operate without wreaking havoc on peoples' lives.

Scaglione first noted that the air district can't assume what impacts this or that pollutant will have on an individual person. "That's a personal thing, for each individual," Scaglione said. "We can't account for each individual's reaction to this or that level of pollution that might be in and around the site. We don't even try to account for that."

But when asked if the Longvale plant could operate without violating Section 41700 of the California Health and Safety Code, which states that nobody shall release into the air contaminants or pollutants that will have a deleterious effect on people's health, Scaglione said he was certain the plant could meet that standard.

"We have an asphalt plant down in the Ukiah Valley, out there on North State Street. It's about the same size as the Longvale plant. And we get very few complaints out there. In the past three years, we have had only two complaints, I think."

"There is a technology out there that will enable Grist Creek to run a clean plant," Scaglione said. "My goal is to protect air quality, and we need to keep busy on that."



Willits High School freshman Edén Hinker Tye and senior Kelsey Butler hold the 2015 Sober Grad Valentine's Day Raffle Basket.

Sober Grad Valentine's Day Raffle Basket

There's still time to purchase tickets for a chance to win the 2016 Sober Grad Raffle basket. The drawing will take place on February 13, and the winner will receive about \$500 worth of goodies donated by the community. Just a few of the items the winner will get: a dozen roses from Flowers by Annette and gift certificates and merchandise from Cat's Meow, Adam's Restaurant, El Mexicano, Tango, Re-Evolution, J.D. Redhouse, Sparetime Supply, Suzanne Pope, Karen Cavanaugh, Rebecca Smith and the Brooktrails Golf Shop. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and can be purchased at Willits High School or wherever the basket is displayed. Keep an eye out for it at Mariposa Market and Safeway over the next week. For more info: 459-7700.



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It's almost Valentine's Day, and Willits Weekly is once again excited to feature free photos of the community's loved ones this holiday. We will print as many photos as we can in the February 11, 2016 edition. Please email photos to willitsweekly@gmail.com, or text them to 707-972-7047.

Also, please include a caption, identifying yourself, as well as those in the photo. First names only are OK.

An example:

"Happy Valentine's Day to my sweetie ___[their name]___! Love, ___[your name]___."

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