

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

Many thanks from the Willits High School Counseling Department and the Class of 2018 to the Willits community organizations and individuals who volunteered their time and attention as interviewers at this year's Willits High School Senior Portfolio evaluations and exit interviews.

The WHS Senior Interviews were held over two evenings in January, with 76 WHS seniors individually interviewed by one of six panels of representatives from local businesses, organizations and agencies. Over the course of a detailed 20 to 40 minute interview, each student presented their five-year plans, resumes and letters of recommendation, among other portfolio components.

Thank you to the following individuals, community organizations and agencies for generously donating the time and personnel to support this capstone experience for our graduating 2018 WHS seniors:

The City of Willits, RCS - Redwood Community Services, Sonoma State University - Counseling Intern Iliana Mora, Little Lake Fire Department, California Department of Fish and Game, Willits Soroptimist, Willits Rotary, Willits PEO - Chapter XO, Little Lake Fire Department, Fort Bragg Unified School District, Coldwell-Banker Realty, Willits Chamber of Commerce, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, WHS Volunteer Athletic Coordinator Aaron Branscomb, WUSD director of special education, WUSD superintendent, and members of the board of education.

With appreciation,

Lucy Kyne, counselor,
Willits High School

WHS Academic Decathlon going to state

To the Editor:

The Willits High School Academic Decathlon team ended their regional competition well this past weekend. In total, students won 14 medals and qualified for state finals. This year state finals are held in Sacramento from March 22 to 25. California historically wins the national competition, so state finals are more competitive here than in other states.

The following students represented Willits High School at the regionals:

and will represent the team for the California Academic Decathlon:

Honors Division: Nicholas Hebel, Briana Evans, Naomi Strickland, Byron Torres, and Savanna Hofmaister. Scholastic Division: Ian Watson, Elizabeth Henning, Mychaela Nowlin, Isabelle Grieve, and Micah Stamps. Varsity Division: Alisabeth Wilcox and Ariel Reyes.

The following won medals at regionals: Mychaela Nowlin and Savanna Hofmaister won bronze in Science. Ian Watson and Nicholas Hebel won bronze in Economics. Jacob Arms won silver in Mathematics. Ian Watson won bronze in Music. Savanna Hofmaister and Ian Watson won gold in Literature. Nicholas Hebel won bronze in the Essay competition. Briana Evans won gold in the Interview. Ian Watson won gold and Elizabeth Henning won bronze in the Scholastic Division. Alisabeth Wilcox won silver in the Varsity Division. Savanna Hofmaister earned the high point award for the Willits High School team.

Mary Colvig,
WHS Academic Decathlon

Little League sign-ups now open

To the Editor:

Sign-ups for the Willits Redwood Little League are now open; register your child for the 2018 season. Willits Redwood Little League serves youth in the communities of Willits and Laytonville. Registration closes February 16, and games and practice begin in March.

For more info check <http://wrl.splay.com/site/> or check us out on Facebook at the "Willits Redwood Little League" page, or contact Player Agent Kristina Wear at kristinawear@hotmail.com or 707-513-7563. Laytonville area residents may contact Terry Guerrero at Laytonvilleyoutharcheryclub@gmail.com or 707-489-3352.

Willits Redwood Little League Local Food Pledge

To the Editor:

It's not an easy thing to reconstruct a local food system.

In its earlier days, Mendocino County had a strong local agriculture. But as transportation improved and cheap food started coming from all over the world, most farmers and ranchers could only survive by growing crops to sell elsewhere.

Priorities change, and in the last couple

of decades, many local people and organizations have worked hard to renew our local agriculture and help our communities become more self-reliant. In the process, we have had an encouraging influx of younger people learning the basics of agriculture and wanting to farm here.

However, having a well-functioning local food system requires a balancing act between those who produce food and those who consume it. One without the other doesn't work. Recognizing this reality, the Local Food Pledge was started by Willits farmers Sara Grusky and Michael Foley at the beginning of this year, as a way of encouraging community members to make commitments to buy local food in 2018 and 2019. Making a commitment means you are ready and able to pay a farmer for growing these foods for you.

Each group participant is doing at this point is listing foods not currently available locally they would like to have local farmers grow for them, with an emphasis on high-caloric foods like grains and beans. As soon as these lists are turned in at our February 12 meeting, they will be collated and the requested food items and the estimated amount needed will be sent to local farmers. With our current spring-like weather, seeds need to be planted soon!

Making a local food pledge might not be the No. 1 priority on most people's mind right now, and it could also sound a bit daunting to some. However, for those who've been nagging themselves to eat a healthier diet and would like to find out how, and/or who would really like to help support a local food system, this is an opportunity to take some of the first necessary steps with the help and support of other people.

A major goal of the group is to eventually create a substantial block of buying power that would flow directly toward the support of local farmers, ranchers and other food producers and to hopefully enlarge our land base of locally grown food.

This food pledge is set up so that each individual can adapt their commitment to their own comfort zone and monetary level. It's not easy to change an ingrained habit of buying and eating food, and it's important for a person not to go too fast or to make commitments beyond what she is realistically ready to carry out. But it's also important to make a start!

Twenty-one people attended our January 27 meeting, with a wide range of ages, lifestyles and eating habits. We welcome other interested people to join us on February 12, 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, and bring the list of foods that would be most important to you to commit having grown here.

For more information contact Mary: maryzel@willitsonline.com; 459-3963.

Mary Zellachild, Willits

WCS ranks high among California high schools

To the Editor:

Two years ago, the Charter School Association of Willits voted to increase the graduation requirements so all Willits Charter School students would exceed the "a-g" courses required for admission into four-year universities. This was a bold move that could have put the school at risk for low enrollment, but the exact opposite happened.

Our ninth grade is completely full,

Read the rest of Letters | Over on Page 13

Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians sues major drug manufacturers and distributors over opioid epidemic

On January 26, 2018, the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians filed suit in San Francisco against prescription drug manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies for their role in the opioid epidemic that has become a national crisis and devastated tribes.

For Coyote Valley, and the entire country, prescription opioids are deadlier and more devastating than any prescription drug or non-prescription drug, including heroin. In the lawsuit, Coyote Valley argues that it has suffered economic loss arising from the costs of providing medical care, counseling and rehabilitative services, welfare and foster care services, and the law enforcement and public safety needs that inevitably accompany the opioid epidemic. Indian tribes throughout the country are also seeing an alarming increase in their youth being impacted by opioid abuse, including infants born addicted to opioids and children removed from addicted parents.

"So far only six tribes have stepped up to take on Big Pharma, and they are very large population tribes far off from California. I want every tribe and tribal health provider in the United States, big or small, to show Big Pharma that all tribal governments have been harmed and deserve to be compensated for their losses," said Michael Hunter, chairman of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians. Hunter went on to say: "Enough is enough. I am proud to say we are the first tribe in the West to sue."

In addition to holding major drug manufacturers and distributors accountable for their role in the opioid epidemic, the tribe hopes to be able to provide more resources for education, treatment, preventative services, and the tribe's public safety needs.

"As soon as I learned that counties, cities and states were filing suit, I tasked my legal counsel, Ceiba Legal, to evaluate our options. We decided to retain Beggs & Lane, Frazer, PLC and the Kuykendall Group to file suit on our behalf. Now I want to raise awareness among tribal leaders that there is a way to hold Big Pharma accountable. We can't let others decide our fate for us," Hunter concluded.

The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe located in the heart of Mendocino County in Redwood Valley, California.

– Submitted by the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Redwood Valley

Museum Road Show takes a break for 2018

The Mendocino County Museum Road Show, which for the past four years has toured its multi-media celebration of local history to venues around the county, will be taking a temporary break during 2018, while the museum revamps its programs under the guidance of its recently hired curator, Karen Mattson.

In the interim, other Road Show theatrical presentations of our county's rich past have continued to educate and entertain. During October, November and December of 2017, Road Show troupe members Linda Pack, Kate Magruder, Evan Gaustad and Sean VanBuskirk traveled to nine schools throughout the county, performing abridged versions of the full productions to more than 1,300 elementary students and their teachers.

Road Show Artistic Director Linda Pack is also creating an original historical local agriculture-themed program for the Mendocino County Farm Bureau's Centennial Celebration in June 2018.

As the Road Show pauses from its annual touring schedule in 2018, new material from the 20th century is being explored and plans are being made to return in 2019 with an archival edition, reprising favorite and important stories from past productions. It offers a chance for fans – or those who missed out the first time around – to experience our history in spectacular ensemble presentations of lights, sound and image.

For four phenomenally successful years (2014 to 2017) the Mendocino County Museum Road Show has featured true stories drawn from a variety of primary sources (oral histories, letters, diaries, newspaper accounts, etc.), illustrated with archival photographs and enlivened by the accompaniment of a live band on stage.

New themes and characters have been examined each year, illuminating foundational chapters in our county's history, including the impact of the Civil War, the birth of the logging industry, the legend of Black Bart, and the ramifications of the Mendocino Indian Wars.

– Submitted by Linda Pack, for the Mendocino County Road Show

At right: From Redwood Valley and new to serious jewelry making, Linda Wolfard stands in front of one of her displays of beautiful stone earrings with hand-crafted danglers. Far right: In the center of Ursula Partch's installation is a representation of a "ghost" redwood, with her young offspring encircling her.



WCA Opening Night

Art Center's February show features Ursula Partch, Tom Zephyrs, and a pop-up jewelry store

What a great way to bring in February, the month of love, with a visit to the Willits Center for the Arts. Gary Martin, the center's curator, decorated the front gallery walls with handsome hearts. The opening party was well-attended. Members came through the doors around 6 pm for the members-only champagne reception. They were able to get the first glimpses of – and chances to purchase – art from their favorite artists. The doors opened for the general public at 7.

Fiber artist Ursula Partch was invited to do something different for the February show by Martin. Patch usually weaves, felts, knits, crochets and assembles smaller pieces of art. Martin asked if she'd make installations for the February show. She took the challenge and created gorgeous floor-to-ceiling pieces that evolved from her frustration with accumulation.

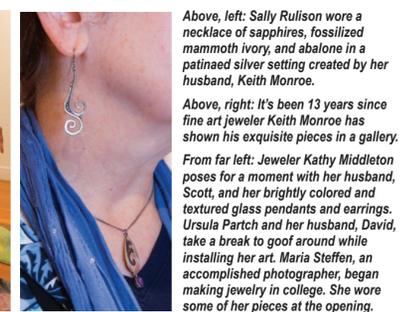
"I see all of the stuff we accumulate," Partch said. "It's in backyards, landfills – all this stuff we no longer want to use or is broken. So that can get me, but then I go out in the natural world and I go, 'OK, there are accumulations in nature there, too.' So that's what [my part of] the show is about. It's about natural accumulations – they can be beneficial and exciting."

In Partch's home is a large collection of wool she's accumulated and uses. Once she came to know local wool breeders, she visited the farms, farmers and sheep. She also attends shearings in order to handpick the fleeces. Partch's boxes of wool are labeled with different information

Read the rest of Partch | Over on Page 6



Photos by Ree Slocum



Above, left: Sally Rulison wore a necklace of sapphires, fossilized mammoth ivory, and abalone in a patinated silver setting created by her husband, Keith Monroe.

Above, right: It's been 13 years since fine art jeweler Keith Monroe has shown his exquisite pieces in a gallery.

From far left: Jeweler Kathy Middleton poses for a moment with her husband, Scott, and her brightly colored and textured glass pendants and earrings. Ursula Partch and her husband, David, take a break to goof around while installing her art. Maria Steffen, an accomplished photographer, began making jewelry in college. She wore some of her pieces at the opening.

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Bev Draudt, FNP (Se Habla Español)
Bev sees patients of all ages and has a passion for health education

John Glycer, MD
Dr. Glycer is board certified in family practice and has been caring for families in Mendocino County for 37 years. He completed medical training at the University of California San Francisco. He also has a passion for helping patients recovering from drugs and alcohol.

Andrea McCullough, MD (Se Habla Español)
Dr. McCullough completed her medical training from University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA and completed her residency in family medicine from University of California San Francisco. She has been caring for families in Mendocino County for over 10 years. Dr. McCullough is passionate about education and prevention and serving the uninsured.

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

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

Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

EST. 2013

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will be moving back and forth between pitch and non-pitch. We're able to get these instruments at the middle school through Willits Educational Foundation.

"This year for sixth grade," Olds continued, "I changed things up, going deeper into the music in terms of having really great tone and making sure that we really master that tone before moving on. For this group, I'm really proud of the sound that they have. They're a great group. They're energetic, a lot of fun. Their rehearsal etiquette, their practice etiquette, how they are as a team just really stands out."

The program only grew better as all the class levels took the stage and showed their abilities. The seventh-grade band, a group of about 24 students, played a more difficult German chorale piece, "Alle Menschen Müssen Sterben" by J. S. Bach, as well as the "Procession of the Champions." They ended with a rousing rendition of the theme music from "Pirates of the Caribbean" by Klaus Badelt, performing in pirate hats and conducted by the hook-handed Olds. The pirate chests from which the pirate hats emerged were created by three of the band members, Kate Austin, Alexis Zynda and Isabela Lopez Mora.

The eighth-grade band, consisting of only 18 students, played another German hymn, "Grant Us Thy Peace." They ended the show with Olds on the drum kit, pushing the beat as they got down to the '70s tune, "Funkytown" by Steven Greenberg.

"The concert went great," exclaimed Olds. "These students have risen to the occasion. Their sound has just greatly improved. Their teamwork, their cohesiveness, everything during rehearsal ... they're taking it to the next level and I'm really proud of each of these groups."

"Very few of these kids ever played an instrument before they joined the bands," Olds said. "A few of them had taken piano and percussion lessons and had a musical background, but everyone here is on an instrument

they haven't played before."

Thanks to a grant from the Willits Educational Foundation, new percussion instruments were able to be purchased this year, most notably pitched percussion marimbas and xylophones, which add a great degree of fullness to the sound. "I'm using that money very judiciously to make sure that these students have the instruments that they need to succeed and sound really good," shared Olds. "Maybe years down the road, when we've established this program and it's a well-oiled machine, then maybe we can go to strings. I'd like to get down into the elementary school too."

"There's a lot of great value to music education," he continued. "One is teaching teamwork. They are using their ears to listen to each other, how they sound. It's creativity. It's really wonderful seeing that creativity come out of these students, hearing that tone. It gives them an outlet that's a lot different from what they have in a math or English class. I try and give the students background and context of the music they will be performing. We discuss the music and the meanings so they have a thorough understanding."

Baechtel Grove principal Maria Munguia expressed her support and appreciation of the current music program. "Our music program has taken a huge leap in the sound of the bands, listening to each other," she said. "Mr. Olds' emphasis has been on playing as a cohesive unit, playing the different parts. That's a higher level of musical aptitude for our students. He has really raised the bar for them. In their performance, he absolutely insists that they're performing, that they're not just playing. You can really see that in their dress and their demeanor."

Principal Munguia considers music and the arts to be an integral part of the students' education. "When they have a commitment and connection to something at school," she said, "it has an effect on both their academic and social life."

From Page 5

Alto Saxophone: Ale Aleman Velasco, Diego Hughes, Tristan Mann

Tenor Saxophone: Aeon Webber, Michael Wheeler

Trumpet: Rylee Gamble, Steven Husarek, Haley Kvasnicka, Kahlia Rodriguez Lane

Trombone: Aidyn McFadden, Jasmine Preissler

Baritone: Catie Spackman

Tuba: Cole Moyle

Percussion: Lily Caine, Alisha Hamilton, Unity O'Neil Riddle, Milli Patino Martinez, Maci Yukom

Seventh-Grade Band

Flute: Kate Austin, Damian Lopez, Kaira Mora, Sheyla Sanchez, Alexis Zynda

Clarinet: Ivan Dalton, Shelby Perez Bowen, Katie Williams

Alto Saxophone: Laila Britton, Grace Croskey, Tanner Drew, Isabela Lopez Mora

Tenor Saxophone: Helena Rooney

Trumpet: Braydan Gamble, Christian Jara, Daniel Lopez

Trombone: Grant Forrester Euphonium: Caleb Jordon, Sylvia Wartell

Tuba: Jon Dyer

Percussion: David Cramer, Jared Dunham, Stephanie Estrada, Ashley Leek

Eighth-Grade Band

Flute: Danielle Barry, Olivia Hauck, Desteny Martinez, Loni Smith, Hailey Vincent, Vivi Zuniga Mexican

Clarinet: Lily Barrett, Victoria Hernandez

Bass Clarinet: Nakolo Anderson Joens-Poulton, Michael Kale

Alto Saxophone: Carlos Leon, Alan Solis

Tenor Saxophone: Zeontrey Henson

Trumpet: Jason Cox, Randy Gonzalez, Joseph Lewis

Percussion: Kyra Gibbons, Ariel Herz O'Brien



Above: Tom Zephyrs showed still life, landscape, figurative and landscape oil paintings – many never shown before – in the WCA upstairs gallery.

Photo by Ree Slocum

including the sheep's names – names like "Uno," "Imp" and "Ivy."

Partch's installations are in the second gallery. You'll get a chance to walk or sit next to a fabric waterfall and felted rock stream, walk next to a knitted "ghost" redwood encircled by her growing offspring, and re-experience the of falling autumn leaves. She also has wall hangings, scarves and leaves to gladden your senses. Partch's husband, David, helped with the installation and set up the dramatic lighting.

Martin also asked one of Willits' master oil painters, Tom Zephyrs, to show works that haven't been displayed in recent years. Zephyrs' 65 plein air and studio paintings grace the walls in the upstairs gallery and line the stairway. Some have never been shown locally.

Zephyrs is showing paintings from different stages in his artistic development. You'll see landscapes, still lifes, portraits, and some figurative work. He's been greatly influenced by impressionist painters like Van Gogh and Manet. There's one fascinating and thought-provoking piece of a Van Gogh cypress tree on one side of the painted canvas, with a more modernistic painting style of the "Cypress Motel" in front of cypress trees.

In the front gallery, Martin's paper hearts whimsically connect beautifully displayed jewelry pieces. Eleven creative and talented jewelers came together to display their work for this show. Some are new to the area or the WCA. For longtime jeweler Keith Monroe, this show is his first since 2005. He's continued to create beautiful new pieces from his vast collection of fossilized bone, gems, unusual stones, shells, etc. His work can also be seen at Mazahar Boutique in Willits.

Jennifer Zeek, who's lived in Willits for four years, re-purposes tea cans, paper, puzzles, and almost anything to make necklaces, earrings, bracelets and pins. Her business card states, "Recycle Reuse Repurpose With Style." The frames and pedestals in the front gallery are filled with gorgeous art-glass earrings, beautiful stones in twined wire settings, necklaces with matching earrings, and the list goes on.

"I think this is a breathtaking show," past gallery manager Holly Madrigal said. "The installations are stunning!" "Like something you'd see at the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco," event attendee Mathew Caine added, in reference to the installations.

Gary Martin is more than pleased with the show and remarked that the artists' prices are low, making stunning, original art affordable. The show will be up all month.

Adam's Restaurant catered the event with yummy meatballs, small sausages, spicy pockets, cheeses, nuts and delightful macaroons.

Gallery hours at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. To become a member or for further information, call 459-1726.

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To My Love Lory Lucier, I Love You to the Moon and Back. Well at least to the Totality Zone and Back. Andy Hilkey.

To my favorite moon dawgie ♥ Love Gidget.

I would like to wish my beautiful wife Jenna a very happy Valentine's Day cause you are my world and it wouldn't spin without you. I love you more and more everyday. Your husband Mark!!!

Happy Valentine's to my girls Roxy and Jaime, love Diego.

Happy Valentine's Day, John, 50 years - Bliss! Love, Lena.

Happy Valentine's Day My Luv. You will forever be my Always ILY ♥ Love Juanita

Remember these two love birds So much has happened in these past seven years, but the one thing that's remained constant is my love for you. Happy Valentine's Day Jessica Alvarado

Happy Valentine's Day, Victor! You're the love of my life! Love, Angela.

Happy Valentine's to my love Jessy Thurman love you always ♥♥

Happy Valentine's Day my love Pam Foster! Love, Marco Avalos.

Roni and John...46 years and counting!

I miss you so much Gabe Madrigal. You are the one.

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Valentine Dinner Fundraiser

Adventist Christian School of Willits You are invited to **'An Evening to Remember'** **February 14, 2018** **Service Begins at 5:30 p.m.** **22751 Bray Road**

The Adventist Christian School gymnasium will become an "Italian Villa" with ambience, lighting, and décor to make your experience memorable. The meal will feature a variety of pastas and sauces, a full salad bar, wonderful desserts, and a photo opportunity. Fundraiser tickets purchased in advance are \$10; at the door, \$12. You may pick up your tickets at Mazahar or at the school. Call 459-4333 or 954-0649.

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Thursday, February 8

Willits Science Fair: The 2018 Willits Science Fair, featuring projects from school kids around the Willits school district, is open for public viewing for the last day, Thursday, February 8, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, from 8:30 am to 3 pm. Public visitors this week will see projects adorned with the ribbons and awards their creators have won. Qualifiers at the Willits level will go on to the county science fair, set for March 10, 2018 at the Mendocino College Gym.

Diabetes Management Classes: Howard Hospital's Clinical Nutrition Manager Annie Frassinello leads another series of Thursday evening classes related to diabetes topics. Thursday, February 8, the topic is "Coping and Reducing Risks." From 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Seabiscuit Conference Room, Howard Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive. RSVP: Dietitian's Office: 456-3132.

WHS Booster Club Meeting: The monthly Willits High School Booster Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, February 8 at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS. The Boosters' next event is "Cupcake Wars," set for March 24 at the Willits Community Center.

Friday, February 9

WCA Art Talk: Willits Center for the Arts presents a talk on Friday, February 9, by curator Gary Martin on "the not-so-dark Middle Ages with a focus on the Carolingian Renaissance and its effect on art in Europe." 6:30 pm in the classroom at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Light refreshments will be served.

WCT Auditions: Willits Community Theatre holds final auditions for "Rio Hondo," a western-movie-comedy-spoof written by Bill Robens and directed by Lee Stipe. Friday, February 9 at 7 pm and Saturday, February 10 at noon, at the WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. Info: contact Lee at 456-9654 or lee.stipe@hotmail.com.

Shanachie Pub: Jon Gonzales, ukulele-strumming artist from SF weaves folk-hooks with lyrical psychedelic satire. Visit www.jongonzales.com. Opening act: Dennis Chrisp. Friday, February 9 at 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, February 10

Sign-Ups for Willits Otters: Signups for the Willits Otters Swim Team, for new and returning swimmers, are set for Saturday, February 10 at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street, from 10 am to noon. A second round of signups will be held Monday, March 5, at the Willits City Pool at 4:30 pm the day the practice season starts. Practice is at the Willits City Pool 5 to 6:30 pm, Monday through Thursday. Membership fees include: \$75 Pacific Swim membership and insurance and \$300 yearly dues (can be paid in two installments). With coaches Robert Chavez and veteran coach Lou Meier. More info: Kelly Labus, 707-489-5709.

WCT Auditions: Willits Community Theatre holds final auditions for "Rio Hondo," a western-movie-comedy-spoof written by Bill Robens and directed by Lee Stipe. Saturday, February 10 at noon, at the WCT Playhouse, 37



West Van Lane. Info: contact Lee at 456-9654 or lee.stipe@hotmail.com.

Sit n Sew: Monthly drop-in sewing group meets at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, on second Saturdays. This month: Saturday, February 10 from 1 to 5 pm. Free to all and open to the public. "Bring a project to work on, sewing machine, and tools." Questions? Call Rachel at 354-0605.

Cotton Dandee Hoedown: Free show and class at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street, from 2 to 4 pm on Saturday, February 10, with Marjo Wilson. "Tea & Time – come singalong and support the open mic for kids. Beginner ukulele for all ages; bring your ukulele. I'll be teaching Cotton's '\$ Deal' and 'C-F Ditty.'" More info: www.cottondandee.com.

Skunk Train Valentine's Train: The Skunk Train presents "Cupid's Canapes & Cocktails" on the Skunk Train, departing from Willits on Saturdays, February 10 and 17, at 4:45 pm. "Climb aboard for this unique and scenic 90-minute Valentine's Day cocktail hour ride. Featuring signature 'Cupid's Arrow' cocktails and a scrumptious selection of savory and sweet bite-sized treats." Tickets: \$66 adults; book online at www.skunktrain.com or call 707-964-6371.

"Emerging": a show featuring new works by artist Marta Alonso Canillar at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. Opening reception, Saturday, February 10, from 6 to 8 pm, with live music. Show runs through April.

Shanachie Pub: Women in Music Night, with Caitlin Jenner, folk/country singer-songwriter; Margo Cilker, roots Americana songwriter; and The Real Sarahs. "organic harmonies that enchant and uplift the spirit." Saturday, February 10 at 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, February 11

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: monthly breakfast at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Sunday, February 11, from 8 to 11 am, features choice of pancakes, with eggs cooked your style, choice of bacon or sausage, or biscuits and gravy with eggs cooked your style. \$8 adults; \$7 center members; \$6 kids under 6. Extra meat sides: \$2. Info: 459-6826.

38th annual Willits Classic Race: the North Coast Striders present the 38th annual Willits Classic – 10 mile, 5k run/walk, and "almost 1 mile" kiddy race – on Sunday, February 11. Sponsored by Adventist Health Howard Memorial. Registration starts at 9 am at the Rec Grove. The kiddy race – new

this year, for 4 to 10 year-olds – starts at 9:30 am, and the 10 mile and 5k races start at 10 am. Entry fee: \$20 adults; \$18 for NCS members; \$10 for 18 and under, and a ticket for the whole family is \$40. Proceeds benefit Willits High School and Willits "Kids on the Run" programs. Top three overall male/female for the two events will receive medals; 1st in all age divisions receive medals; 2nd, 3rd in all age divisions receive ribbons; kiddo racers all receive a participation ribbon. Age divisions: 9 & under, 10-13, 14-17, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+. More info or to receive an entry form, email Hollyenzy@gmail.com.

Logan for Supervisor Fundraiser: A fundraiser for the Cyndee Logan for Third District Supervisor campaign at the Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Sunday, February 11 from 1 to 5 pm. Featuring speakers, live, local music, chili and cornbread. "Take a stand with Cyndee for sustainable development in our district for housing, jobs and education." No admission; donations appreciated. 21+. Bands/artists include: Scotty Darda of Pick n' Pull, Johnny Young of The Johnny Young Band, banjo virtuoso Tracy Hui, Tara Logan, and many more.

Monday, February 12

Willits Garden Club Meeting: The monthly Garden Club meeting is set for Monday, February 12, with guest speaker Charlotte Smith on "Harvesting Yerba Buena." Social time starts at 12:30 pm with coffee and refreshment; speaker starts at 1 pm. Meeting ends at 2:30 pm. Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse, 16100 North Highway 101, six miles south of Willits, west of 101, south of Ridgewood (Seabiscuit) Ranch. Guests are welcome, and there is no charge. Info: contact Fran Gardner at 459-8733 or Kitty McDill at 489-6203.

Local Food Pledge Meeting: Join a group of Willits residents who are meeting monthly to take on a Local Food Pledge, to encourage community members to make commitments to buy local food in 2018 and 2019. Making a commitment means you are ready and able to pay a farmer for growing these foods for you. Bring your list of foods not currently available locally you would like to have local farmers grow for you. Monday, February 12 at 5:30 pm, at Little Lake Grange, 281 School Street. Info: Mary at maryzel@willitsonline.com or 459-3963.

Tuesday, February 13

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: "Hostiles." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Cultivate Wellness Studio Open House: "Everybody is invited to share matters of the heart" on Valentine's Eve, at the Cultivate Wellness



Studio Open House, Room 4, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Tuesday, February 13 from 5 to 7 pm. Herbal tea, giveaway and Valentines, gift certificates and remedies on offer. Hosts Michelle Cummins, 707-972-1601, and Claudia Wenning, 707-354-3111.

Wednesday, February 14

"Love Boat" live at Szechuan: "Come cruise with Love Boat this Valentine's Day evening; dine and listen to soft contemporary pop love songs." Wednesday, February 14 starting at 5:30 pm at Szechuan Asian Restaurant, 47 East Mendocino Avenue. Info: 272-3231.

'An Evening to Remember': The Adventist Christian School presents "An Evening to Remember," the annual Valentine's Day Dinner fundraiser, Wednesday, February 14, at the school, 22751 Bray Road. "The gymnasium will become an 'Italian Villa' with ambience, lighting, and décor to make your experience memorable. Service begins at 5:30. The meal will feature a variety of pastas and sauces, a full salad bar, wonderful desserts, and a photo opportunity. Advance tickets are \$10 (available at Mazahar or at the school); \$12 at the door. Info: call 459-4333 or 954-0649.

Thursday, February 15

Shanachie Pub: Native Harrow: "British folk rock meets Laurel Canyon songscapes, jazz and world music influences, and poetic secrets." Visit <https://www.nativeharrow.com>. Thursday, February 15 at 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Native Harrow

Friday, February 16

Shanachie Pub: Jon Gonzales Stringband: "ukulele hook-folk melodies for ALL humans to enjoy" out of Sonoma County. Visit www.jongonzales.com/index.html Friday, February 16 at 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, February 17

Skunk Train Valentine's Train: The Skunk Train presents "Cupid's Canapes & Cocktails" on the Skunk Train, departing from Willits on Saturdays, February 10 and 17, at 4:45 pm. "Climb aboard for this unique and scenic 90-minute Valentine's Day cocktail hour ride. Featuring signature 'Cupid's Arrow' cocktails and a scrumptious selection of savory and sweet bite-sized treats." Tickets: \$66 adults; book at www.skunktrain.com or call 707-964-6371.

Shanachie Pub: Rubber Tramp: "Bay Area upbeat, rock n' roll garage band, with a bit of gospel/punk/country/folk mix." Visit www.facebook.com/RubberTrampBand. Saturday, February 17 at 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
FEBRUARY 11, 2018
8-11 a.m.
Adults - \$8
Children under 8 - \$6
Sr. Center Members - \$7

MENU CHOICES

- Pancakes, with eggs cooked your style** (Choice of bacon or sausage)
- Biscuits & Gravy with eggs** (Cooked your style)
- Meat Sides:**
3 slices Bacon - \$2.00
3 links Sausage - \$2.00

Willits Senior Center - 1501 Baechtel Road - Willits, CA 95490
 707-459-6826

Do you have an event to include in our calendar? Email us! Photos, posters or text!
willitsweekly@gmail.com



Maheanani Phillips and Colby Friend cozy up in "Rapture Blister Burn."
 Photo by Mathew Caine

Cyndee Logan for 3rd District Supervisor
 February 11 1-5pm
 Join us for an afternoon at Shanachie Pub
Live, local music
Prominent speakers from the 3rd District community
Chili and cornbread
 Vegan & gluten-free

Free to the public - donations accepted.
 Entertainment by: Scotty Darda of Pick n' Pull, Johnny Young of The Johnny Young Band, Tara Logan, banjo virtuoso Tracy Hui, Tiffany Leigh-Logan

Housing Economic Development Environment

There is a better way. The one we choose, we stand with you for sustainable development in our district for housing, jobs, and the environment. The three points that led us here. This is about recognizing our traditions in Mendocino and the future we want to build together for the Mendocino County we want for ourselves.

Facebook Instagram
 Shanachie Pub 353 Main Street (Behind Redhouse) Willits
cyndee@willits3@gmail.com

Matsyahu at the Mateel

Singer, rapper, beatboxer, reggae, dub & rock artist Matsyahu plays at the Mateel Center on Valentine's Day, Wednesday, February 14, as part of his "The Forest of Faith" tour. All-ages show with six-piece rock and soul group Eminence Ensemble as a support act. 59 Rusk Lane in Redway. Show starts at 9 pm. Advance tickets are on sale online for \$30 through the mateel.org website or at regional ticket outlets, including Main Street Music in Willits.

Ongoing Events

Willits Farmers Market: Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, balsamic vinegars, local honey, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

"Natural Accumulations": the January show at the Willits Center for the Arts features Willits fiber artist Ursula Parich, who "gets her inspiration from the natural environment and how it changes throughout the day and year." She favors using locally sourced animal and plant materials for her work, and her goal is to "foster strong connections between humans and their environment." Also this month: a Jewelry Pop-Up Show, featuring work in metal, glass, paper, wire and stone from local jewelers around the county. Runs through February 25. Gallery hours: 11 am to 5 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-1726.

Tools for Fire Victims at the Farmers Market: Every Thursday, the Farmers Market and the School of Adaptive Agriculture are collecting tools for those who lost their homes in the Redwood Complex Fire. Please bring donated tools to the Farmers Market on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. If tools are dull, Keith Rosen will sharpen them during the market. If unable to transport tools, contact Market Manager Michael Ebley 216-5549 to arrange pick up.

Emmandor Choral: The Choral is open to all who wish to sing a cappella songs of peace and justice. Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: 367-1573.

Willits International Folk Dancing: Every Thursday from 7 to 9 pm. Learn recreational cultural dances from around the world. Beginners welcome. No dance experience necessary. No partner needed. \$5 per class. Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Info: Megan Wolf, 530-647-6512 or megster1989@yahoo.com

Willits Frontier Twirlers: Square-dancing workshops held every Monday from 6:30 to 7:45 pm, at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Dancers are encouraged to come regularly as new moves are taught every session. Bring your partner or come as a single dancer and join our fun-loving club!" \$5 per person, per night.

Friday Potluck Bingo: Harrah Senior Center presents Potluck Bingo on Friday nights. Doors open at 5 pm; games begin at 5:30 pm. Minimum pickup buy-in \$5. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Twice-Monthly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group: Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941.

German Conversation Class: Ongoing non-denominational German conversation/book reading class is open to new members (middle to advanced German speakers). No charge, but donations gladly accepted. St. John Lutheran Church, 214 Mill Creek Drive. Mondays from 7 to 8:30 pm. Info: Doris Wier, 456-9246.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every Tuesday at 8:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or homemam@yahoo.com.

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.

Willits Library Activities: Wednesdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Play Group," and 3:30 to 5:30 pm "Leggo Day" (bring your imagination

and start building); Thursdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Story Time"; Fridays: 5 to 6 pm "Youth Game Night" (ages 10 to 14); Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Willits Seed Lending Library: Offering information on seed saving and gardening. Seeds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables are free to seed library members, and seed donations are gladly accepted.

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: Every Saturday of the month, from 2:45 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your own projects or your yarn and needles; we have people who should be able to help solve problems and/or help you learn to knit or crochet. Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in." Info: Lotus Baker at 456-9037, or lotusb3@earthlink.net.

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: Baechtel Groves Gym, 1150 Magnolia Street. Sundays 7 to 9 pm, and Tuesdays at 7:30 to 9 pm. Some experience desired, but not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

Smoking Cessation Program: Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the MHM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 540-4202. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 5 pm. Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5:15 to 6 pm. Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 to 7 pm; Teens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0665.

Little John's: Little John's Bar and Dance Club offers Karaoke every Thursday night, from 9:30 pm to 1:30 am. "Come join in the fun and sing a song." Also, free pool every Sunday from 6 to 10 pm. 383 South Main Street. Info: check "Little Johns" on Facebook or 459-5636.

Shanachie Pub: Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday at 7 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 8 pm. "Local musicians... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic Night every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Laytonville Farmers Market: Mondays, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Local fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan goat cheeses, ranch meats, eggs, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

MTA Extends Customer Service Hours

Mendocino Transit Authority has extended the weekday hours that its dispatch center is open for calls about schedules and routes. The dispatch center is now open Monday through Friday from 6 am until 11 pm, the same hours that bus service is available in Mendocino County. On Saturday, dispatch hours are 10 am to 5 pm, and on Sunday the office is closed.

Customers can call dispatch at 707-462-1422 or 1-800-696-468, extension 2. Mendocino Transit Authority provides public bus service throughout Mendocino County. Check routes, schedules and service updates online at mendocinotransit.org.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of February 12 through February 16

Monday: Grilled Turkey & Peppercorn Cheddar Sandwich

Tuesday: Teriyaki Chicken

Wednesday: Steak Dinner

Thursday: Ham & Cheese Stromboli

Friday: Sweet & Sour Chicken

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

WCA Willits Center for the Arts
 Grand Opening March 3
THE ANNUAL ART AUCTION IS BACK!
 Final Bid Party March 24

This important fund raise keeps the art alive in our community and brings vibrant and relevant shows to your art center. Your participation and generous donations continue to bring performance, dance, poetry and visual arts to our community.

DONATE TO THE AUCTION!
 If you want to donate goods, services or art for this gala event, call Lindsey at 459-1726 or email: manager@willitscenterforthearts.org

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
 71 E. Commercial St.
 PO BOX 503, Willits, CA 95490

Mendocino Permaculture's 35th Annual Winter Abundance Fair

February 10

The Mendocino Permaculture 35th Annual Winter Abundance Fair is set for Saturday, February 10, from 9 am to 4 pm, rain or shine, at the Boonville Fairgrounds. Free admission and free classes on fruit tree & vine propagation, how to save seeds from all kinds of plants and grow your own food and herbs. "Spend the day learning from green thumbs who understand the unique climate zones and soils of our bioregion." Free scions and seeds – over 500 varieties. Please bring labeled scions, cuttings, plants and seeds to share. Tree rootstocks, organic lunch and beverages will be sold. More info: 463-8672, or see schedule at AV Foodshed online: <http://avfoodshed.com/> sion-exchange.

Fire Benefit Concert

February 24 at WCA

Freqs Entertainment & NCO present: "A Long Term Relief Plan Fire Benefit Concert," featuring Culf of Ours, Lightning Amen, Self Fulfilling Prophecies, Chaga and Clay Hawkins XChange at the Willits Center for the Arts, Saturday, February 24 from 4 pm to 1 am. Plus vendors, food and drinks (must be 21 to drink). \$15 cover at the door.

"Turn Your Passion into Profit"

February 25

"Turn Your Passion into Profit, or How to Make Willits Thrive" – a Town Hall Forum – will take place on Sunday, February 25, 4 pm, at the Willits Environmental Hub, 630 South Main Street in Willits. This event, sponsored by WELL (Willits Economic Localization), will feature speakers from the Economic Development and Financing Corporation, West Company, the Willits Tourism Board, City of Willits, the Willits Chamber of Commerce, and several local entrepreneurs. Community discussion will welcome ideas and practical steps for building the Willits economy. For more info, contact Madge at 459-1493 or mstrong@willitsonline.com.



JV Basketball | Martin Coughlin, 14, Freshman

How Long Playing the Sport: Since second grade

Position: Post

Breakfast of Champions: A waffle sandwich: two eggs with crunchy peanut butter and honey in-between

Traditions: "On game days, I always shower, put on my green and gold game socks, and sit in a specific spot when I eat my waffle sandwich."

Additional thoughts: "This is one of the best years that I've had for basketball. I've been scoring lots of double doubles, which are when you get double digits on two stats in one game, like rebounds and points. I've also gotten the most points and the most rebounds I've ever had this year, too: 24 points and 20 rebounds."

Martin Coughlin, member of Willits High School's JV basketball team, tries all the time in practice and in games. He is always giving 100 percent, with a positive attitude, and is a real encouraging team player. He rounds like Dennis Rodman!

— submitted by
JV Coach Marcus Newby



JV Basketball | Beau Betts, 15, Sophomore

How Long Playing the Sport: played for three or four years in city league, then again in sixth grade, and as a freshman and sophomore at Willits High School

Position: Shooting and Point Guard

Breakfast of Champions: Golden Grahams cereal, a banana and an orange.

Traditions: "It's not really a tradition, but I love to cheer my teammates on!"

Additional thoughts: "I've also had a great year playing basketball; I scored my highest points in one game - 18! My tip to anyone wanting to play basketball is to just practice a lot and help motivate others."

Beau Betts, member of Willits High School's JV basketball team, is a good teammate, who works himself hard in games and in practices. Beau tries to set an example for all the other players by giving it his all.

— submitted by
JV Coach Marcus Newby



Above, from left: Gerry, Barbie and Kristine Gonzalez enjoy an early breakfast, avoiding the crowds. Carol Deuel, Kevin Mwangi Mdegwa (from Kenya and the Golden Rule Garden Project), and Frank Deuel arrive for breakfast. Paul Riley, Aaron and Lucas Branscomb eagerly await their pancake breakfast. Below, from left: A crowd gathers at the Grange to participate in the Sober Grad breakfast. Below, right: Morgan and Bonnie Riley are happy to be part of the fundraiser.



Sober Grad Breakfast

Community members show their support for high school fundraiser

Since 1987, Willits has not lost a student to drunk driving on graduation night, thanks to the Sober Grad Night Party and all the volunteers, businesses and the community who support this creative and effective alternative to unsupervised revelry.

Prior to the inception of Sober Grad in 1987 by Ruth Dell'Ara and others, Willits' graduating seniors were apt to celebrate their new lives and freedom from high school by the more traditional forms of partying, which often involved drinking and led to fatalities on the roads. Since the small beginnings, this tradition of throwing a sane and ultimately fun party for the graduates and their guests has grown into a yearly event which now involves most of the students, keeping them safe and allowing them to be able to have the life they choose after graduation.

In order to fund the proceedings and to provide the participating students with T-shirts, prizes and other incentives, the Sober Grad group, now a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation, has several fundraisers leading up to the June 7 graduation and party.

One of these is the Sober Grad Pancake Breakfast at the Grange, a widely attended event and social gathering which draws so many members of the community, that some of the late-comers may have to wait up to an hour for a seat. The fare is simple and excellently prepared by the Grange members who also cook the regular fourth-

Sunday Grange breakfast. They offer fluffy scrambled eggs, cooked to perfection, and pancakes which are light and tasty. The meal is topped off with a couple rashers of bacon. Coffee and orange juice are also available. The meals cost only \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and \$4 for kids.

Serving, cleanup and general assistance was provided by Willits and Sanhedrin High School senior class students, who performed their duties admirably and pleasantly. The students earn points and prizes for their participation in this and other fundraising efforts.

According to Angi Edgar, who has been with Sober Grad since 1990 when her first child graduated 27 years ago, the people who started Sober Grad "were concerned about the accidents and the deaths that were happening. There were way too many. They decided they wanted to do something to keep the kids safe on graduation night, keep them contained, keep them safe. We started small. There had been one or two Sober Grads before I came. We've just been growing and growing as more and more people see the effectiveness. We

Read the rest of
Pancakes | Over on Page 11



Above, from left: A beautiful redwood picnic table is delivered for the raffle. Joyce Waters, Sober Grad board member displays the raffle prize basket worth over \$900. Stephanie Strickland supplies the servers.

Photos by Mathew Caine



The rest of Pancakes | From Page 10

have not lost a child on graduation night since this came into being.

"I was one of the early ones," explained Edgar, "who went begging for donations and people used to just 'Oh, he's not here now.' 'Oh, no, he'll call you back.' But we've proved ourselves. Now we have wonderful support from the community. They support us with donations for the prizes. We give out some nice prizes to the kids. Based on what funds we raise, is what we spend on the party."

"As they got used to what we were doing and how effective it was," Edgar continued, "more and more people got on board. And now it's very hard to find anybody who says no. They always have something to give. It's a very generous community. And these are our kids. Everybody knows somebody who has a kid in the schools. It's not like the bigger cities where if you don't have kids in the school, you have no connection."

Members of the community show up to help on graduation night. "We need a lot of help that night," said Edgar. "There are many doors in the Community Center that need to be guarded all night long.... There's garbage to take out, food to put on the tables. There's something going on all night long. We have a climbing wall that we introduced last year and was so popular that we are bringing it back this year. We have a casino with funny money in which the students can win prizes. Every senior gets at least one gift worth \$25 or more."

In addition to money raised at the breakfast, there are various raffles throughout the year to help raise funds for the Sober Grad party. The annual Valentine's Day raffle basket was on display Sunday morning, filled with all kinds of goodies, including a teddy bear and chocolates, worth over \$900. There was a beautiful 10-foot redwood picnic table which could be seen outside the Grange, which will also be raffled off. For more information, email WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com.

This year, the Sober Grad Pancake Breakfast was extremely successful. Richard Jergenson of the Grange estimated that the event had served over 250 breakfasts by 9:30 am, halfway through the proceedings which were to last until 11 am.

Sober Grad is an amazingly popular event which saves the lives of children in a creative, fun and effective manner. It is a party - sane, drug- and alcohol-free - and is just one more example how of a small town comes together for a common purpose. It does take a village.

The rest of WPD | From Page 4

2:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Alder Court.

10:20 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance near the intersection of Central Street and South Street.

11:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Sanhedrin Circle.

February 3

10:40 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

12:46 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of Central Street and South Street.

4:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of East Hill Road.

5:55 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 200 block of Sherwood Road.

6:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Hill Road.

February 4

1:26 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Madden Lane.

3:20 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:19 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of Wood Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

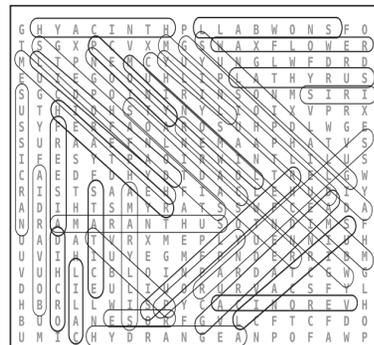
11:18 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

11:26 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:56 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

11:58 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 300 block of South Main Street.

12:27 pm: BRITTON, Talon James (22) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of Madden Lane. He was arrested pursuant to 417 PC (Brandishing a Weapon), 422 PC (felony Criminal Threats), and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).



At left: Joe Dowling and Bill Barksdale arrive to support the Sober Grad fundraiser. Photo by Mathew Caine



Current Job Openings:

Account Specialist III - Extra-Help

Cook - Part-Time

Corrections Deputy

Equipment Operator

Facility Project Specialist I/II

Library Assistant - Ukiah/Willits

Public Defender Investigator

Senior Equipment Operator

Senior Program Specialist

Social Worker III/IV A-D

(Includes Immediate Openings for Temporary Extra-Help Work)

Social Worker Supervisor I

Social Worker Supervisor II A-C

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

www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources
EOE

LEGAL NOTICES

WW139

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Willits Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on February 28, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., to be held in Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

CASE: Minor Subdivision HMLD 16-02

APPLICANT/OWNER: David and Liv Schwindt

REQUEST: Minor Subdivision of a 12.1 acres parcel to create a 1.4 acre parcel and a remainder parcel containing 10.7 acres.

LOCATION: In the City of Willits, lying on the east side of U.S. Highway 101, 0.3 mile north of its intersection with Casteel Lane, located at 397 North Main Street; APN 108-040-18.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The request has been processed through the City Environmental Review Process and it has been determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration can be recommended. Environmental concerns including traffic and botanical issues were addressed in the initial study.

Your comments regarding the proposed project are invited. Written comments should be submitted to the Willits Community Development Department, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, February 27, 2018.

Additional information regarding the above noted item may be obtained by calling Willits City Hall at (707) 459-4601, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Oral comments may be presented to the Willits Planning Commission during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits Community Development Department or the Willits Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

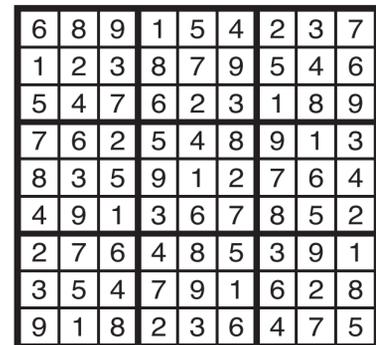
s/ Dusty Duley, City Planner for the City of Willits

Publication Date: February 8, 2018

2:25 pm: JOHNSON, Matthew James (25) of Ukiah was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of resisting a peace officer, being under the influence of a controlled substance, and violation of probation.

4:10 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

11:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 200 block of South Main Street.



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Harrah Senior Center needs bookkeeper for Non Profit, 32 hours per week (flexible), with extensive knowledge of Quick Books, experience with Excel, Word and budgets. Exceptional organization skills and attention to detail. Strong communication skills, both written and verbal. Must be flexible and have ability to manage shifting priorities and deadlines. Hourly wage depends on experience. Resume with references and job experience can be faxed to 707-459-1772, emailed to wsidirector@willitscenter.org or mailed to Willits Seniors Inc., 1501 Baechtel Rd., Willits CA 95490

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Esoteric Science
Esoteric Science, Mystery School Teachings, study group to commence weekly in Willits. Looking for members. Purpose is to clarify & make more precise our understanding of occult Truths. Contact Nicholas 707-841-0149.

EXPERIENCE
The Sound of Soul
Tuesday, February 20, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 E. Commercial Street. You're invited to experience chanting HU (pronounced hue), a sacred sound and ancient mantra. HU can uplift people of any religion, culture, or walk of life. Information? Call April, 972-2475 or visit www.TheSoundofSoul.org.

Moving Sale
Moving sale! Everything must go. 2176 Clover COURT, Brooktrails, Saturday, 2/10 from 11-4 pm.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/rv/>

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

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 - on the first day of class at the address below.
- \$11 for the semester. Cash only.
For more information, please contact
Sarah Walsh at 707.468.3122 or swalsh@mendocino.edu

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- en el primer día de clases en Sanhedrin High School.

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Sarah Walsh at 707.468.3122 o swalsh@mendocino.edu

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CLASSES BEGIN

Tuesday, February 20th

At Sanhedrin High School, Room 1
120 North Main St., Willits



New Willits postmaster, Melody Moffitt-Wilson, at her desk.

Photos by Colleen Pappadakis

New Willits postmaster making improvements

Willits has a new postmaster, and her name is Melody Moffitt-Wilson. Moffitt-Wilson transferred to Willits from Laytonville where she had been postmaster since April 2013. Prior to that she was the supervisor in Willits from 2008 to 2013.

Her career with the U.S. Postal Service began 36 years ago in Santa Rosa, where she worked as a letter sorting machine operator. From there she went to Napa where she was a city carrier and a clerk. She was later a clerk in Ramona before moving up to supervisor in 2005.

"I wanted to come back to Willits because I live here, and I really enjoy the office," she said. "The clerks and carriers are great; it's a wonderful office to work in." Moffitt-Wilson has already made many improvements in and around the office since her arrival in mid-December. One of the first projects she spearheaded was putting 100 parcel lockers in the post office lobby.

"It's 24-hour access, all for the PO box section. No more standing in line with the yellow cards. It should cut the lines down at least 50 percent."

She is currently working on replacing all the old central box units for multiple-residence mail stops out on the street. The broken parcel lockers will all be fixed,

helping both the customers and the carriers. In the spring she plans on having the entire post office painted, both inside and out.

"I just want to make it a better place for everybody," she said "make it not so dirty."

One of the problems that lies with having 24-hour access is the homeless people who camp out in the lobby. She already has a solution for that.

"It's a big issue, and I don't want to resort to closing it," she said. "I'm going to be ordering security cameras for the lobby. It's motion-detected, and you can play it back and find whatever time or date you want. I want it out there watching for those who are breaking the glass in the PO boxes and stealing the mail."

Moffitt-Wilson is also trying to figure out the logistics of moving the post office to a new location. "It's a dangerous parking situation for the customers because it's so small," she said. "And when people have to park across the street it's just as dangerous." It's certainly a long shot, to be able to move the entire post office to a new location, but it's not off the table, and it's something that she will be pursuing.

Moffitt-Wilson is married and has a daughter and a step-daughter who also work for the post office.



Postmaster Melody Moffitt-Wilson watches U.S. Postal Service maintenance man Patrick Legoski work on the new parcel lockers in the Willits Post Office lobby.

with a wait list in most grade levels. Enrollment jumped 19 students in one year – from 116 last year to 135 this year. Stakeholders at WCS agreed that we wanted to provide all students the opportunity to go to college. We felt that focusing on college prep with an emphasis on the arts and sciences would be of the most benefit to the students in our community. WCS tends to attract creative students with curious minds and unique natures.

Our emphasis on college prep has proven to help the students at WCS achieve at the highest academic levels. According to www.schoolidigger.com, Willits Charter High School is ranked 204th of 2001 of all public high schools in the state of California based on student performance.

In addition, 51 percent of our 11th graders met or exceeded the standards on the state CAASPP exam in the area of math, compared to the state average of 32 percent. In English, 81 percent of our 11th graders met or exceeded the standards on the CAASPP, compared to a 60 percent average in the state of California. This year, 44 percent of our current 11th graders met both of the benchmarks on the PSAT, compared to the state average of 29 percent.

The PSAT is a preparatory exam for the SAT, an exam that most colleges and universities use to make admissions decisions. According to www.greatschools.com, "the number of advanced courses taken per student at this school is much higher than the state average," with a 10 / 10 ranking. This is due to the large number of AP and STEM courses offered for such a small school. We have found that when we continuously raise the expectations for our students, they will rise to the occasion and exceed our expectations. Students of all academic ability levels have the opportunity to achieve at WCS.

Our push for high academics is balanced with a large variety of enrichment courses such as ceramics, drama, band, culinary, choir, gardening, set design, musical theater, painting/drawing, etc. Students have a chance in these courses to clear their minds and hone their creative sides.

School performances are a collaboration of all of these courses, oftentimes creating the feel of a performing arts school. Students can be seen delivering organic vegetables to the kitchen for cooking, or building set pieces for the upcoming play "Alice in Wonderland." An exciting upcoming change to our college-prep program is the addition of French and German to our foreign languages offered at WCS.

To prep our middle school students for our program, high school courses are offered to our students as early as the seventh grade. Currently we have both seventh and eighth graders in our college-prep high school Algebra I class, and a number of eighth-grade students in our CP Spanish I course. If a student is academically ready for high school, they do not need to wait.

For our students that need support, academic support classes are offered daily in both English and math, as well as an after-school tutorial taught by credentialed teachers to help students with their homework. Middle school students that begin high school courses early often find themselves taking college courses early as well.

Erin Vaccaro, our onsite college and career counselor, has put college visits on the top of her priority list here at WCS. Over their four-year high school career, students have the opportunity to visit a minimum of 12 colleges. Each year students visit at least one University of California campus, one California State University campus, and one California Community College campus.

Some examples of the colleges that our high schoolers have visited include Humboldt State University, Sonoma State University, Chico State University, San Francisco State University, UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Merced, Mendocino College, Santa Rosa JC and Cabrillo College.

WCS is now accepting applications for the 2018 / 2019 school year. Please call Director Jennifer Lockwood for a school visit or to have your student shadow for a day. Or come on by to pick up an application! Willits Charter School is located at 1431 South Main Street in Willits; 707-459-5506.

Jennifer Lockwood, director,
Willits Charter School

Regional Transportation Plan as "a gross disservice to the time, money, and public testimony that are part of a decades-long public record in support of the needed projects for the Sherwood Road Corridor."

The township argued: "A Brooktrails second access/egress project is needed to both relieve Sherwood Road traffic volumes by connecting to the Highway 101 northern interchange, and to provide a means for more rapid evacuation of area residents in times of emergencies."

In their comments submitted to the MCOG board, Brooktrails directors and General Manager Denise Rose noted the township's community services district "comprises almost 9 percent of Mendocino County's unincorporated paved roadway surface," and is part of the larger Sherwood Road corridor, which encompasses several other communities. "Sherwood Road traffic volumes currently exceed 10,000 vehicle trips per day.

Almost 3,500 people live within the township's boundaries, including Brooktrails Fire Department and Little Lake Fire Protection District firefighters, law enforcement officers and other emergency first responders.

"Given recent statewide and countywide developments, from catastrophic firestorms and earthquake activity, new attention to community second access/egress roadways is critical to community health and safety," Brooktrails directors argued. However, the finalized RTP, which the township claims downgraded Sherwood Corridor projects, "make it impossible to develop them as 'shovel ready' transportation projects," the comments to MCOG state.

"The Brooktrails Second Access Project was the No. 1 priority in the 2011 RTP, until opposed by then-Third District Supervisor John Pinches," township directors charge. "Ignoring the recommendations of two independent transportation consultants, [Pinches] convinced the board of supervisors to withdraw support. Consequently, this critical transportation and safety project fell to No. 42 in the RTP and is now improperly labelled 'nonfundable.'"

The 2017 RTP needed to "reconsider the priority placed on these projects and consider amending the plan to give them a higher priority."

The 2017 RTP "fails to advance needed projects identified in existing county planning documents for the Brooktrails community in a way that provides any program planning dollars during the next four-year period governed" by the plan, township directors wrote.

MCOG Executive Director Phil Dow, while acknowledging "we need a second access to Brooktrails, and [we] are fully supportive" of its development, noted the comments from the Brooktrails board were submitted to MCOG at the last minute, and were "not well received. Not well received at all." Some of the comments, he added, "were downright offensive."

The Brooktrails board's comments, he said, "contained gross errors" and displayed "a lack of understanding of the [transportation plan] as a document ... and its function."

He also accused Brooktrails directors of including "several inaccuracies" in their comments, statements "they should have known" were inaccurate.

The RTP "lists projects ... people have agreed are going to happen with some semblance of assurance they're going to happen in the future," Dow said. "We can mention pie-in-the-sky projects, [but] the ones in [the RTP] are things we have agreed upon."

Brooktrails "seems to think [MCOG] has some kind of responsibility for the second access," Dow said. "We don't. That responsibility lays with the board of supervisors."

Brooktrails directors, he added, "also suggest we program planning dollars for the RTP. We don't." That, Dow said, is the responsibility of the California Transportation Commission.

The final RTP listed the Brooktrails second access project as one of

three "unfunded needs."

"A second access to the [township] has long been identified as a need to provide an alternate access route to Brooktrails that would relieve traffic along Sherwood Road – currently the only access to the community – and provide an alternative during times of emergency," the RTP states. And while the county "conducted initial analysis of a potential project," the \$22 million cost would "exceed any realistic expectation of available funding in the foreseeable future."

And that future could be 20 years away, according to MCOG Program Manager Nephelie Barrett.

In the end, the future of the second access project comes down to "political will" on the part of Brooktrails residents, Dow believes.

As a result of the October 2017 wildfires that devastated Redwood and Potter valleys and threatened Willits, Brooktrails resident and former county supervisor Hal Wagenet is convinced township residents "are now motivated to find the political will to provide" some of the needed planning funds to make the project a reality.

"The proper order of things," he told the MCOG board, "is to do a study, get a plan, and then get the funding."

When the second access project was first conceived, he recalled, county engineers estimated the cost would be \$2 million, then \$4 million – and now \$20 million and maybe \$45 million in the future."

None of those higher estimates, he added, "were unrealistic."

Over the years, four studies have examined the second access problem, Wagenet said, and he "encouraged [MCOG] to reaffirm some of those initial studies."

"Sherwood Road," he contended, "never had the benefit of a design. It was just an accident of geology that gave us the [old Indian trail, wagon trail, dirt road, and paved] corridor we have today."

Mendocino County Supervisor and MCOG board Chairman Dan Gjerde explained that one of the major issues facing the project is "land availability on what we would call 'the preferred route.'"

At least in the past, said Gjerde, who is studying county road issues along with Third District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey, plans for an emergency egress road from Brooktrails north to Highway 20 have been stymied by the opposition of one area landowner. Gjerde asked Wagenet if there might be "some strategy that could be devised to eliminate that opposition," which formed the core of the board of supervisors' decision to dismiss pursuing that route.

"I think 'elimination' might be a little bit of an overly hopeful word," Wagenet replied. "But perhaps [the landowner's opposition] could be 'diminished.'"

"It doesn't take much to turn [the second access conundrum] around," Dow said. "We have almost all the information we need. We just need to take a couple of steps back and look at the realities – look at what really serves the purpose and the need – and say, 'Yeah, let's pursue this, and find some money to do an environmental study on this alternative, or that one, or that one – all the ones that meet the purpose and need."

"And then let the chips fall where they may."

Dow assured the MCOG board: "It won't be that hard. What's needed is the political will [to do it]."

Willits City Councilman Larry Stranske, who also sits on the MCOG board, told his colleagues: "It's a shame the second access got derailed along the way. But [Willits] will do whatever it can [to support the project]. We need to get going!"

But "this isn't all a county issue," Dow noted. "The township needs to take responsibility [for the project] as well."

"It's been 24 years [since the second access was first proposed], and no action," he said. "I've been burnt, and that's the source of my irritation [over the project]."

"Prove me wrong."

complex intended for mental health patients.

According to a staff report for the item, the county Health and Human Services Agency "would like the money to go [in the form of a loan] to a Redwood Communities Housing Development Corporation affiliate with whom [its] Behavioral Health and Recovery Services division will work for the term of the project. To make this happen, additional agreements are needed, including four loan documents ... as well as an agreement to assign Agreement 17-006 to the RCHDC affiliate entity, which is currently being created."

That agreement is a February 2017 accord between the county and Redwood Communities Housing Development Corporation to give \$1.33 million to the agency to facilitate construction of a housing unit for mental health patients and other Behavioral Health and Recovery Services division clients.

"The contract amount will remain at \$1,336,000. RCHDC, its partners and affiliates, and HHSABHRS are in the process of finalizing these agreements, and therefore they are not presently ready for review," a staff report states. "Nonetheless, the finalization of these documents is on a critical timeline. If they are not finalized and executed by March, it may become impossible to fund the project."

Included in the board's consent calendar, the item authorized County CEO Carmel Angelo to "execute agreements and take all other necessary steps to carry out the purpose of Agreement 17-006."

Substance abuse prevention services

Supervisors also unanimously approved a consent calendar item on a retroactive, three-year, \$2.68 million grant that enables Mendocino County to continue to provide substance abuse prevention services through June 30, 2020.

The money for the program comes through the federal government via Title 45. It is channeled to the county through the State of California's Department of Health Care Services.

According to a staff report, Mendocino County has been receiving the grant periodically since 2007.

The report stated: "Mendocino County did not receive documentation for this grant until November 2017. Therefore, the agreement is being presented now for retroactive consideration."

Acting HHSAB Director Anne Molgaard said the agreement with the Department of Health Care Services means the county's drug abuse treatment program will remain staffed at current levels.

"We have 13 counselors for Ukiah, Willits and Fort Bragg," Molgaard said, a considerable increase over staffing levels for several earlier years, when Mendocino County, the heart of the Emerald Triangle, had "only a handful of substance abuse counselors."

Supervisors also approved via the consent calendar accepting \$692,943 from the Department of Health Care Services to provide covered drug Medi-Cal services for the county's Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment program.

Supervisors approved the entire consent calendar without significant discussion.

for the county's proposed exclusive operating area.

"What we do know is that Santa Rosa and Sonoma County had a medical emergency at the same time they had the fires," Angelo said. "They had to evacuate at least one hospital. They had to evacuate several senior facilities. They had a lot to do."

During that time, "our emergency medical service provider was absolutely tied up in Sonoma County," Angelo said. "When you look at the priorities, and you look at what happened, it is understandable why they were in Sonoma County rather than in Mendocino County."

However, she added, "I think the model that has been set up by the state doesn't work. It may work on a daily basis, but it may not work in an event like we had on October 8."

Angelo, who had 12 years of professional experience working as an EMS provider and public health nurse before coming to Mendocino County, said she "really believes I have a degree of expertise in this area."

"We have been in discussion with Coastal Valleys," she added. "In the course of these discussions, we have mutually agreed that this is a model that may not work, going forward."

As of January 23, she said: "I believe [Coastal Valleys and Mendocino County] has an agreement – that we have a model – that is not working and will not work."

In her January 23 CEO report, Angelo said she intends to meet with the California Office of Emergency Medical Services to explore other options, including the possibility the county could partner with an agency other than Coastal Valleys to perform the duties of the county's EMS agency, or that Mendocino County could create its own EMS agency.

In a conversation with Willits Weekly, Angelo added she also wanted to discuss whether the EMS agency model was the right model for small, rural counties like Mendocino County.

Angelo said she expects a new arrangement will be in place by the end of the year.

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Above, from left: Jeannie King prepares for sales at the annual Rotary event. A close-up of the freshly boiled crabs from Caito Fisheries. A steamy crab pot getting to a boil, with Tim King working the propane tank.

Rotary Club sells 1,500 pounds of freshly boiled crab

This year's side-of-the-road Rotary Crab Sale was the most successful to date. A total of 1,500 pounds of crabs were purchased from Caito Fisheries in Fort Bragg for the February 2 and 3 sale – the sale was originally set for the previous week, but rough seas made for a week's delay.

All the freshly boiled crabs were sold by 12:30 pm on Saturday, the second day of the sale at the corner of Main Street and East San Francisco, at Rupe's Water Service. The Rotary was able to realize a net profit of \$6,615 after all expenses, including \$7,875 paid for the crab and \$100 for the water to boil the crabs. Over 700 crabs were cooked and sold. All crabs were freshly cooked right there in the

parking lot to ensure freshness and taste.

Twenty-nine Rotarians participated in the transport, cooking and sales of the delicious crustaceans. The effort was spearheaded by Tim King of the Willits Rotary. All proceeds will go to the Rotary College Scholarship Fund, which benefits several high school seniors each year.

On the behalf of the Rotary Club of Willits, King thanked David Rupe, who donated the use of the property on which the sale took place, Amerigas Propane, who donated 75 gallons of propane, and Grocery Outlet who donated plastic bags. More thanks, King said, goes to Sparetime Supply – without their help, the event would not be possible, as Sparetime stores the equipment and donates employees to set up and clean up before and after the event.

At left, top: Cooked crabs lined up for sale.

At left: Tim King holds two of the 700+ crabs Rotary sold at their sale.

Below: Marlene and Gary Friedman show the live crabs to Skylar Hirsch.

Below, right: A barrel of fresh crabs.

At right: A customer picks out just the right crab.



– Jennifer Poole



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Thurs: 4:25pm

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Bird reports from Little Lake Valley on Saturday

Willits birder Marisela de Santa Anna sent along this report via the "Mendobirds" group on Yahoo Groups, Mendobirds@yahoo.com:

"On Saturday, February 3, the Redwood Region Ornithological Society group came up from Petaluma and went out to the Willits Little Lake Mitigation site with me. At the Watson site, there were 12 of us, and we saw a prairie falcon, a ferruginous hawk, two bald eagles (though they could have been the same one), 250 American wigeon with two Eurasian wigeon, four common golden eyes, 50 green-winged teal, three wood ducks, and many more species, 59 in total. It was a good day!"

And Quincy Vau sent in this additional bird report from the same Saturday in Little Lake Valley:

"I was headed out into the valley yesterday and pulled over near the corners of Commercial and Bray, because I saw this guy [the bald eagle in the photo] circling overhead. After the eagle flew north, I continued onto Reynolds Highway where I got to see a territorial dispute between a northern harrier and a red-tailed hawk. I turned to get back into my car and saw a bird darting across the field at high speed which scared up a flock of blackbirds. It turned out to be a prairie falcon. Many, many wonderful bird sightings in our valley yesterday! Not sure if it was the unusually warm weather, or just plain luck on my part. Anyway, I figured I'd share!"

Those interested in learning more about local birding – Willits just had its first Christmas bird count in 2017 – can check out the Peregrine chapter of the National Audubon Society, the birding group for inland Mendocino County, which offers regular field trips and events, at www.peregrineaudubon.org.

The next field trip, set for Saturday, February 24, is a "Beginners' Bird Walk" at the Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant. "At the UWTP you can probably see more species of birds in less time than anywhere else in the Ukiah valley. Its habitat range is outstanding: riparian areas adjacent to the Russian River, settling ponds, beautiful stands of mature valley oaks, blackberry thickets, and adjacent open grasslands. Meet at the UWTP office area, 300 Plant Road, at 8:30 am. The walk around the oxidation ponds is about one mile, all on level ground." Check the website for field trip guidelines.

The rest of Tax | From Page 1

ordinance requires a simple majority "yes" vote to pass.

The word "transient" has a specialized meaning in the ordinance. "Transient means any person who exercises occupancy for a period of 30 consecutive calendar days or less, counting portions of days as full days. Any such person so occupying a space in a lodging establishment [the definition of which has been expanded to include private campgrounds and RV parks] shall be deemed to be a transient until a period of 30 days has expired, unless there is an agreement in writing between the operator and the occupant providing for a longer period of occupancy," the ordinance states.

In a staff report, Mendocino County Treasurer/Tax Collector Shari Schampire said she and her staff have determined there are currently 354 campsites in 21 private campgrounds and 1,110 RV sites in the county that will be subject to the new tax, should voters approve it. County offers would gain about \$1 million a year if the ballot measure is approved, Schampire said.

The board of supervisors' resolution adopting the ordinance also clarifies who would, and who would not, be subject to the tax. The bed tax would not be imposed "on campsites that are exempt from such taxes, such as a campsite in a state park, or any facility operated by local government entity, or the owner of a membership camping contract in a camping site at a campground."

Currently, visitors staying in Mendocino County hotels and motels pay a 10 percent bed tax.

The rest of ADA | From Page 1

in," he said. "The people who come here have told me they are happy with conditions here. They are happy with the improvements we are making."

When asked how much it will cost to remediate all of the items detailed in Waters' report, Baker twice said, "I have no idea."

In the two months since the report was submitted to the center, he said, the senior center has upgraded or replaced some 40 items on its ADA checklist. The center has installed grab-bars in the bathrooms and installed hand-activated sink faucets, Baker noted. The tables in the dining room and computer room have been lowered. Round, twisting door knobs have been replaced with lever-type door handles. The center has adjusted the height of the bathroom mirrors, the toilet paper dispenser, and the hand-sanitizer dispenser. An ADA accessible front door has been installed in the thrift store.

Eighteen Braille signs have been installed to identify various rooms throughout the senior center, and the front counter in the center's lobby has been lowered.

"I'm comfortable we're doing what we can," Baker said. "We are a nonprofit. We don't have a lot of money. We don't want to shut down or close our doors.

"On the other hand, we want to provide access to people with disabilities. So, we are doing what we can, as we can, within our budget," Baker said.

He added people who want to help the senior center meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements may make donations to Willits Seniors, Inc. Donations can be dropped or mailed to Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits, CA 95490, or online donations can be made at www.willitsseiorcenter.com/donations/.



At left: A prairie falcon.
Below: An American bald eagle.

Photos by Quincy Vau

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Curry's comments apparently came in response to recent remarks by Second District Supervisor John McCowen, regarded as the chief architect of both the cannabis cultivation and cannabis facilities ordinances.

On December 17 of last year, McCowen suggested "there seems to be an ongoing lack of understanding [on the part of county staff] about the urgency" of expediting the cannabis permit process. Again, on January 23, when McCowen was in the process of shepherding a number of recommendations concerning the county's cannabis ordinance through a review by the County Counsel's Office, McCowen said he was worried about the low number of permits that had been issued.

"I'm worried about [whether] we can get enough people in the program to make it viable," he said.

In recent weeks, McCowen has said he is disappointed in the number of pre-site inspections that have taken place and has urged the agriculture department to "expedite" inspections.

Pre-site inspections are conducted early in the permitting process, after a cultivation application has been submitted to the county, but before the ag department has determined whether it will issue a permit to the applicant. Pre-site inspections usually take two to three hours and, according to both Curry and to Third District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey, are very thorough.

"State licensing is there," Curry said. "We have temporary licenses. If our cultivators can't get a state license, they don't have a local license. And to get a state license, you need a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, or you need them to say that you don't need one. We have been instrumental in pushing our cultivators to get those

documents, because without them, there's no state licenses. No state license, no local license.

"My staff has been on the ground, vetting these properties," she added. "We've been working with state resource agencies to come into partnership. They're confident in our program. I've talked to Fish and Wildlife. They're happy with what we're doing, the vetting that's going on."

"I would ask the board, what part of this process do you want for us to not do?"

Curry said one of the main bottlenecks in the process is the slow pace of permit issuance by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State Water Resources Control Board, which has caused Curry and her department to diverge from a strict interpretation of the county's cultivation ordinance and to issue cultivation permits pending issuance of state Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements.

"If we would follow our ordinance, we would have nobody in our program," Curry said. "Because there is one person who has their Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.... I have no control over what Fish and Wildlife does," she said.

County cannabis manager interviews

County CEO Carmel Angelo told the board her office has received 41 applications for the position of county cannabis manager and has narrowed the number of viable applications down to 10. Angelo said she will be meeting soon with county Code Enforcement Manager Trent Taylor who, she said, has worked closely over the last six months with both the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Planning and Building Services, to strategize about how to make the

county's cannabis permitting process more efficient and effective.

"I believe that with the cannabis manager position being filled, and also with Mr. Taylor's efforts on streamlining and assisting us with the permitting process, that this board should see some improvements," Angelo told the supervisors.

But Willits cannabis nurseryman Ron Edwards, who has been attending meetings of the board of supervisors since May 2016, said he fears the county's entire cannabis program is in jeopardy, largely due to the state's inability to create an efficient strategy.

"I want to know what is going to happen?" Edwards said. "What is the standard for compliance come this cultivation season? Because, if we don't have the state, is one agency going to say: 'Well, you don't have both [a county permit and a state license] so you're not in compliance.'

"It's really going to be important to be very clear. Otherwise, we're going to head back into what we had last year, where people who were in the program are going to be the ones who are being eradicated," Edwards said. "What are we going to do about that? We are going around. We don't have a clear guideline of where we need to go. And I don't know the solution. But I can see problems coming. And they are very serious.

"I think we need to have all agencies working on this, because we are headed for problems," he said.

North county grower and chairman of the California Growers Association Casey O'Neill said he appreciated the work done by county staff working on the cannabis issue. "I really appreciate the efforts of the various departments to work this thing through," he said. "In my opinion, this is the most complex public process we're going to deal with in this decade."

Rain Totals in Willits
2017/18 rain year
Precipitation in the Willits area as of February 6

National Weather Service, Willits Howard Ranger Station	19.20"	Willits Weekly
Mendocino College North County Center	16.27"	welcomes reports
High Horse Willits	17.31"	of rain and other
Pine Mountain Willits	16.23"	weather information
Highway 20, Willits	15.18"	at willitsweekly@
Lucky Monkey's Ranch, 2 miles west of Willits	20.59"	gmail.com.

The California Department of Water Resources measured 4.1 inches of snow this week in the Northern Sierras, which is only 22 percent of the average for this date historically.

Maxstadt guilty of attempted murder

A 28-year-old San Jose man will be sentenced to state prison on February 20 after being found guilty of attempted murder of a state traffic officer during a December 2016, high-speed chase up Highway 101 that began in Ukiah and ended in Willits.

Ryan Joseph Maxstadt was found guilty of the attempted murder of a California Highway Patrol officer on January 19 by a Mendocino County Superior Court jury. The jury also found true special findings that the attempted murder was "willful, deliberate and premeditated; that when the defendant made his attempt to kill he knew or should have known that the CHP officer was a peace officer performing his duties; and that during his attempt to kill the defendant personally and intentionally discharged his revolver at the officer," according to Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster, who prosecuted the case.

"Maxstadt was convicted last August of assault with a firearm on a peace officer, a felony; personally using a firearm during the assault, a sentencing enhancement; recklessly evading a peace officer, a felony; being a felon in possession of a firearm, a felony; vehicle theft, a felony; and true findings that Maxstadt has previously served two prior prison terms," Eyster said. However, that jury hung on the single charge of attempted murder – 11 for guilt to 1 –

setting the stage for January's five-day retrial on that count and associated special findings.

Maxstadt was arrested after sheriff's deputies received a December 26, 2016 phone call regarding the theft of mail from a resident on rural Robinson Creek Road in Ukiah. Ukiah police officers located Maxstadt's car near Talmage Road and Hastings Road, but when they tried to initiate a traffic stop, the car sped off, heading north on Highway 101 toward Willits. California Highway Patrol gave chase as a pursuit that reached speeds of 100 mph.

At Walker Road, Willits police officers deployed spike strips, which flattened the car's tires, but Maxstadt continued to try and outrun pursuers along Highway 20. Near Holly Street, he fired at traffic officers several times with a handgun. The shots missed.

After abandoning his car, Maxstadt was found hiding in a creekbed in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

Maxstadt "is not eligible for probation," Eyster noted. Any sentence imposed by Judge Ann Moorman will be served in state prison.

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

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More Valentines
from page 7



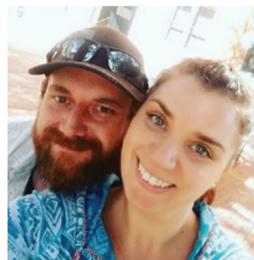
Keep Calm & Be My Valentine!
Izzy Perry & Shawna
Handschug.



Happy Valentine's Day Shawn
and Nevaeh. I love you both
to infinity and beyond. Love
Always, Lela (Mom).



Happy Valentine's Day to my
best friend. I love you.



Happy Valentine's Day to our
favorite dude, Kyle! Love
Maureen, Roxie & Kitty Moose ...
(well, probably not Kitty Moose)



Happy Valentine's Day to my
husband Larry. I love you,
Laura. Thank you to our pastor
who married us.



Happy Valentine's Day to my
husband Michael love you so
much love Naomi.



Tracy and Randy 23 years
strong. Love you now and
forever baby.



Lisa, No mountain too high, no
canyon too wide, to the moon
and back my love will preside.
Happy Valentine's Day every
day. Johnny K



Happy Valentine's Day to my
hubby Wes. Even if you are an
A's fan. Love Wifey.



The rest of Centenarian | From Page 1

Evelyn Persico, another friend, Carlin Horger, took Ceccarelli to City Nails where she was gifted a manicure and pedicure by the staff of the salon. She choose a bright pink polish – and made sure to match it to her lipstick! Ceccarelli also enjoyed lunch at Loose Caboose with Kathleen Goss, Doug Goss and Betty Grider.

Persico's husband, Lee, is a cousin to Ceccarelli. He helped emcee the event and spoke to the gathered crowd about Ceccarelli, her family, past and connection to Willits.

Please join us all in wishing a very Happy Birthday to our very own "super-centenarian!"

– Maureen Moore



Happy Valentine's Day to my
Gamble Family - Brandi, Rylee,
Logan & Braydan. Love you
lots! Nana.



Happy Valentine's Day to my
wonderful husband, Jeremy.



Photos by Maureen Moore

Above: Help
lighting 110
candles,
and, at left,
help blowing
them out
– it was
all hands
on deck to
celebrate
Edie's 110th
birthday!

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