

**It's also
Real Estate
Section
Thursday!**

Donations Accepted Edition No. 192

Happy Valentine's Day to the love of my life, Brice McKinnon! Love always and forever, Patricia Caine-McKinnon.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Hate talk

To the Editor:

I am a woman of color who has lived in Mendocino County for 36 years. For 20 years I lived, worked and raised my children in Willits. For the past 16 years I have lived in Covelo.

Mendocino County has been good for my family and me. We feel very connected and have a deep sense of belonging here. Yes, we have had some overtly racist experiences with locals, but by and large, we have felt safe and welcome.

Last month while in Willits, I took down a flyer taped to a lamppost on Van Lane. It had the words, "American Vanguard," and I found their manifesto on the Internet. It says, "We see the corrupt system that has been forced on us, one that blatantly works against white Americans, the very race that built this country in the first place."

American Vanguard calls for white youth to "fight for America," and believes "wholesale ethnic replacement is not only natural and good, but it is unstoppable."

This is hate talk; it goes against our community standards for common decency, and is unacceptable. I ask people of Mendocino County to find the courage to stand up to racism and stand up for anyone facing racism. Hate speech is not the new normal and it must stop.

Sandra Wake, Covelo

Not for sissies

To the Editor:

I read with interest your story on ADA compliance. As a person with limited mobility who gets around on a scooter, it is a particular concern of mine. Navigating the streets of Willits is not for sissies.

First of all, I want to say that many businesses go out of their way to accommodate me. The Book Juggler, J.D. Redhouse and El Mexicano come immediately to mind. All of them have gone above and beyond to make my life a little easier. Believe me, I wish I didn't need help and that I could get around without help. It is both humbling and frustrating to need assistance, and I appreciate their kindness.

This is not true of all businesses. There is one in particular where the employees park on the sidewalk blocking it off from foot traffic. This necessitates me having to go on the street which is a dangerous proposition. I have spoken to them several times and gotten the following responses, "It's not much of a sidewalk," to which I replied that it was to me, as it saved me from having to be in the street , and "The owner told me I could." I have had to involve John Sherman but the behavior continues.

Not only are sidewalks uneven and full of potholes, but sometimes people thoughtlessly let their vegetation grow on to the sidewalk, making it difficult to get by. What might not be a problem for the able-footed, can be for a handicapped person. There is a house on East San Francisco street where the plants get very heavy, and one day I mistakenly tried to get by anyway. I slid, and landed in the street with my scooter on top of me. Thankfully three young wonderful men stopped, helped me up and got me on the way home. I had two cracked ribs, and no one cleaned the vegetation off the sidewalk.

All, I am saying is we should just be kind and considerate to each other. If you just take a minute and think of how hard it might be for another person, it would help tremendously. If your plants grow out onto the sidewalk, trim them. It makes it hard for others to use the sidewalk. If your car blocks the sidewalk, move it. Please let people use the sidewalks.

I would welcome a disability forum, and found the business owners' eagerness a welcome surprise. I was quite disappointed in City Hall's response, which seemed to be

more in the line of how to get around the regulations. It's not surprising since City Hall's handicapped accessibility is a joke. The handicapped parking spot is so far from the front door that it's useless. Imagine being on a walker and having to go that far. All the parking spots close to the door are reserved for city employees. Why is that? There is not another business in town that allows the employees to take all convenient parking. The front doors are extremely heavy and hard to open. It is an obvious that almost no thought has gone in to being accommodating.

I hope it will be an open forum where people are allowed to express their opinions. It would be great to have real handicapped people there to give their insight and frustrations. It would be great to have City Hall express real concern and not ways to get around helping the handicapped.

And, Gerry, I was so disappointed that you immediately described a lawsuit as a shakedown instead of allowing for the possibility that a person might have wanted some accessibility. Perhaps if there had been a place for open discussion and true caring, a lawsuit wouldn't have been necessary. Perhaps the person was just tired of being told that driving in the street was good enough for her even though it was dangerous.

I am totally opposed to these ADA regulations designed to help people with mobility issues being used as a shakedown. It's terrible, and just makes it harder for both the handicapped and the businesses. I am opposed to lawsuits when actual communication between the parties is a better solution. That is why I am so supportive of a public forum. I applaud businesses who actually go out of their way to help those of us who need it.

Susan Johnson, Willits

Reading the Constitution

To the Editor:

We The People are joining together to read aloud the Constitution of the United States of America. We represent various persuasions, ideologies and political parties, but this reading is not partisan. We want to celebrate our love for our country, the supreme law of our land, and each other.

Please join us from 12 to 2 pm on Tuesday, February 14 at the Willits Library. There will be copies of the Constitution given out by the Republican Party for you to take home. We want to stress that it takes both a left wing and a right wing for a bird to fly, and the same for this great country of ours, so let us join together in honoring our nation and our neighbors. For more information, call 459-2470.

Nancy Adair and Liam UiCearbhaill, Willits

A walk with grandma

To the Editor:

If you're lucky...

You have a grandma living nearby who loves to walk.

I'm going to suggest an afternoon. One for the memory bank.

Begin your time together at J.D. Redhouse for a delicious ice cream cone from Cowlick's. Remember now – she loves to walk, so suggest wearing off the calories with a stroll to the playground at the park.

When you've tired yourself out with the swings, merry-go-round and slides, continue your walk a few more blocks more to the Willits Library. I saved the very best part of the day for last. As you walk in the front door, you will see a big beautiful glass display case. This month's exhibit would please both you and grandma. It's a small collection of handmade sock monkeys from Diana Hoyt. One is all decked out in striped overalls, the other in a skirt and shawl. A third is a sock elephant.

Included in the same collection are painted Shaker boxes with farm life scenes complete with the adorable black-faced sheep, a sweet old-fashioned wooden sailboat, and wooden blocks painted with sections of trains.

There's also a tiny book titled "Recipe for a Magic Childhood." An interesting read I'm sure, but I think you already have the recipe.

Gail Richards, Willits

Not the board's place

To the Editor:

I can understand current supervisors being frustrated in not being able to conduct business fully with the lack of a 3rd District representative. We in the 3rd District are frustrated too that we have no county representative. But that's not a good reason for the board to choose our replacement. It's not their place to do so.

Even someone temporary will be casting votes that could create repercussions in our district for an unknown length of time. If that seems too dramatic a statement, look at the article on the Grist Creek plant that appeared in the Willits Weekly last Thursday. A year or so ago the full board voted for the plant – including an asphalt production component – to be sited there, with seemingly no consideration for the people and environment that could be impacted by that decision.

A multitude of agencies had their say about the plant but now, when the plant has been flooded as those impacted had suggested it could be, none of the agencies are taking responsibility. It seems government agencies are seldom set up to protect those they're "in charge of." This is just one example of why we need a local representative who will actually respond to our local needs.

Asking the governor to name a former 3rd District supervisor to this temporary position would give the board a known quantity. However, it's also almost sure to give the people of our district "business as usual" – something not necessarily to our benefit in this time of great change. On the other hand, naming someone who has an open mind and better vision about the changes taking place could shift the board's majority towards a more progressive agenda.

When the Grist Creek vote was taken, our district did have a representative on the board. So there's no guarantee that board votes will always give us what we want. But I think that – because of what's happening in our country right now – more and more people are waking up to the need to become involved if they want to have a say in what's happening. We should definitely be given a voice in who will represent us – temporarily or not!

I don't know all the applicants, but there are two Willits people who have shown us for many years their abilities to take charge – as well as being responsive to the community – that would give them a head start on the board of supervisors. Holly Madrigal has spent 12 years on the Willits City Council, while at the same time being a volunteer with many community organizations. Ellen Drell has spent over 20 years being an active advocate for our county's environment, in the process becoming very familiar with the functioning of a wide variety of governmental bodies. I believe either of these people would make an excellent supervisor.

Mary Zellachild, Willits

Women's Action Group of Laytonville

To the Editor:

Twenty-five women and one man met Tuesday evening, January 31, at the Laytonville Grange, vowing to resist President Donald Trump's inflammatory rhetoric, Cabinet appointments and executive orders targeting the environment, immigrants, women, LGBT people, and racial and religious minorities.

Diane Schankin and Cheryl Hansen created the Women's Action Group of Laytonville to show solidarity with the January 21 Women's March on Washington. Their event that day drew 70 supporters to Laytonville.

"I do not like feeling ashamed of my country," Schankin said after Tuesday's meeting. "I want to help young women become active and understand what women for centuries have fought for – what they now have and can dream of having or becoming. I want to help them understand they could lose it all in an instant."

Everyone attending the Women's Action Group meeting shared why they had come.

One woman, who said she is Jewish and lost family members in the Holocaust, admitted feeling anxious and vulnerable since Trump's election.

An immigrant from Denmark confided that she had never been politically active since coming to the United States but feels so upset by the new president's actions, including his ban on immigrants from selected nations, that she fears for American democracy as well as her own legal status.

Read the rest of
Letters | Over on Page 15

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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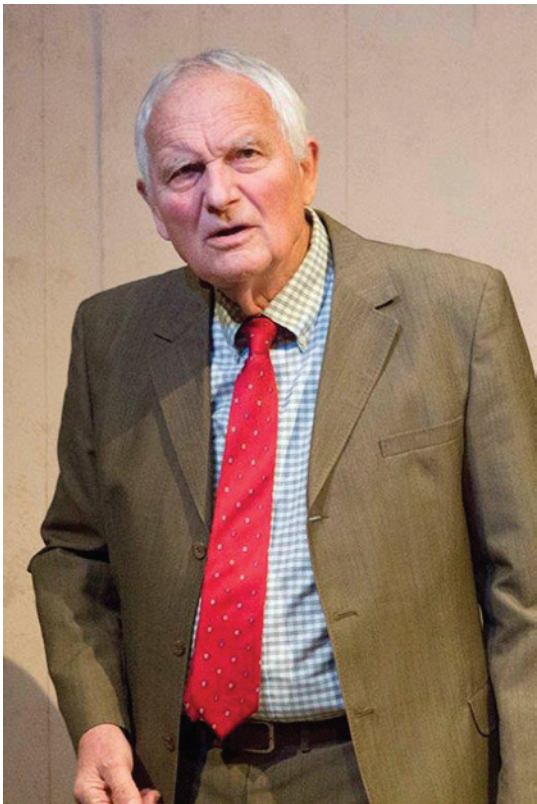
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Above, left: Actor Andy Watson plays Al's nephew, Ben. Above, right: Actor Mike A'Dair rages at his old partner.

Below, left: Director Christine Dill: "The Sunshine Boys" is Dill's third production for WCT. Below, right: Louis Rohlicek as one of the old vaudevillians in "The Sunshine Boys."



Let Love Bloom...

Valentine's Day is Tuesday, February 14th!

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At left: Nurse Maheanani Phillips tends Mike A'Dair, after he suffered a heart attack at rehearsal.

At left, below: Maheanani Phillips and Mike A'Dair play a nurse and doctor during the vaudeville skit.

Below: Actors Louis Rohlicek and Mike A'Dair take a moment to pose for the camera during rehearsal of "The Sunshine Boys."



Behind the scenes

WCT opens Neil Simon's
'The Sunshine Boys' this weekend

Behind the scenes of the Willits Community Theatre's latest production – Neil Simon's "The Sunshine Boys" – is quite different than the one portrayed within the play itself.

Mike A'Dair and Louis Rohlicek, playing the roles of the two leads, Al Lewis and Willie Clark, actually

seem to like each other, while the characters they manifest for the stage? Well, not so much.

For those who don't know the story, the so-called Sunshine Boys – Lewis and Clark – were daring and successful explorers of vaudevilian comedy who, after 43 years of performing together, had a complete and total falling out.

Fast forward to the present of early 1970s New York City, when Ben, Willie's nephew and talent agent, convinces the two to reunite for a CBS special on the history of comedy.

The first act of the play reveals the two stubborn old men awkwardly and hilariously working out their issues as they rehearse some of their old routines.

"We have such a hard time getting back together that during rehearsal we can't get past the first word," Rohlicek explained of their

character's interactions. "The entire second half of the first act is us trying to get past the first word, and we can't do it."

Luckily for Christine Dill, directing her third full-length play, art doesn't imitate life, although, she admits there's been some moments.

"I had a sleepless night after one recent rehearsal," said Dill, regarding the stress that comes with getting everyone on the same page during the last two weeks before opening night.

"I realize I do that every time," said Dill. "I get to that point where I feel that nothing is going to come together. Then, the next day, everybody knew their lines better, and we had a very good rehearsal."

Dill, a veteran actor for the Ukiah Players Theatre, ventured into directing after taking longtime stage director Reid Edelman's class at Mendocino Community College.

Dill's directorial debut came in 2013 with "Same Time Next Year," which famously resulted in the romance and eventual marriage of its stars Erin and Matt Holzauer. She followed that production up with the wildly successful and locally written "The Angel of Chatham Square" in 2014.

"[The Sunshine Boys]" is big for me," Dill said, "because the others were simple sets and 'Same Time' had two actors who were very self-motivated. This is very much more involved; it's more props than I ever had to deal with. I have to hand it to Mike; he's a very good production manager and it's good to have him in the play, because he helps me with what needs to done."

As WCT's production manager, A'Dair has been known to throw his acting chops into the ring from time to time, and with this role, he was asked to do something he hasn't done in many years: shave his signature leonine beard.

Asked about the experience, A'Dair donned a

Read the rest of
Sunshine | Over on Page 4

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Willits Weekly | February 9, 2017

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Pg. 3

a bus would have to travel from town through Brooktrails and up to the school. All of which were in the works.

At this point, Westerberg said, the main obstacle is getting electricity hooked up properly to all areas.

Westerberg noted many current Sherwood students come from outside the vicinity of the school, located about 10 miles up Sherwood Road, and he felt that trend would increase with more grades and a bus available.

"There's people who have already talked to me from town who say if you have a bus out there, we want our kids to go there," said Westerberg. "I think it's something we have to try."

He expressed his enthusiasm for the expansion, and the school in general, saying it was good for parents who wanted their kids to stay in the district but desired something outside the norm, with smaller student numbers. He noted most Sherwood students after fifth grade chose to attend schools not in the district rather than Baechtel Grove Middle School.

"It's become almost like a charter school," Westerberg said of Sherwood. "And I think it offers a great alternative for our district to have a multi-age, small K-8 environment where kids can move at their academic level and be successful."

He added that the state should provide funds for the expansion under "necessary small school funding," especially if the district met its goal to increase the number of students attending Sherwood to 42 once they implemented K-8.

In another new move initiated by Westerberg, four of the next six Willits Unified School District board meetings will be held at different district schools instead of at Willits High School. At each of the meetings, the principals of the various schools will have activities for trustees, and facility tours are planned.

Westerberg said he felt the practice would enable board members to gain valuable firsthand experience of all the schools in the district.

"I think it's important as board members that we hit each site, and we look at the classrooms," he said. "We can talk about what are our maintenance needs, structural needs, classroom needs, and those kinds of things."

The March 1 meeting will be held at Blosser Lane, with open session starting at 5:30 pm as usual. Following that, there will be a meeting at Baechtel Grove on April 5, Brookside on May 3, and Sherwood School on June 21.

At the opening of last Wednesday's meeting, the district recognized Eagle Scout honoree Robert Hayes, a junior at Willits High School who has recently been awarded the highest Boy Scouts of America badge. The Eagle Scout rank requires earning at least 21 merit badges, as well as completing an extensive final service project.

Hayes' final project involved working on erosion control at Thimbleberry Trail in Brooktrails. He is

a member of two different Willits troops, and is a junior assistant Scout master as well.

Westerberg said he was happy to have the district honor Hayes, and noted only about 2.5 percent of scouts attain the Eagle Scout status.

"It's not easy to be an Eagle Scout," said Westerberg at the February 1 meeting. "It takes a ton of time, a ton of effort. It's really a very high achievement.... It's a great thing to recognize as a district because the things he learns as an Eagle Scout are very applicable for job and career and working with other people.... This really is a great honor; we're really pleased that you'd come tonight and let us recognize you for it."

Hayes himself said he would highly recommend that others join the Boy Scouts.

"If you ever get the opportunity, it can be a great experience and a lifetime memory," he said. "You can meet all sorts of new people that you probably wouldn't have expected, and go to all sorts of places and do all sorts of stuff that you probably wouldn't have done on your own."

Westerberg added Hayes was one of the first people to be honored with a display on the new digital marquee, now up and running in front of Willits High School. The new sign gives information to the public such as upcoming sports games and events.

"It's a nice informational tool for us," said Westerberg. "I've had tons of people already say, 'Oh, there's a game, I'm glad that marquee is up there.'"

Also discussed at the meeting was the possibility of altering the early release time for district students on Tuesdays, an ongoing policy for several years. One idea being circulated was to have students start later on Tuesdays and get out at the regular time.

Willits Teachers Association President John Haschak said teachers would be OK with whatever the board decided, but felt they should consult with parents first.

"I think before we get too far along on that process, we should really be talking to parents and seeing how parents feel about a late start," said Haschak.

Westerberg said studies have shown that later start times for high school students can be beneficial, so he would be open to the idea. He and Trustee Georgeanne Croskey did bring into question whether a short day was beneficial at all, but agreed with Haschak the subject needed more assessment.

"I'm trying to find the value of what's happened since we've started [early Tuesday release], added Westerberg. "I don't think it's progressed us, so my thought is to look at what are alternatives.... But it has to be also a parent-driven solution because they have the impact of it."

In California, general taxes require approval by a majority of voters – 50 percent plus one vote. Special taxes require voter approval by a two-thirds majority, also called a supermajority –

66.67 percent of the vote. General taxes raise money for no specific purpose, but for general governmental purposes; special taxes raise money for a specific purpose or a specific project.

For example, Measure AG, commonly referred to as Sheriff Allman's mental health facilities tax, was a special tax because it would have raised money for a specific purpose: creation or development of a mental health facility in Mendocino County.

On November 8, Measure AI received 63.04 percent of the vote; Measure AJ received 68.54 percent.

It would seem, then, that the question is: Was Measure AI a special or a general tax? However, Ukiah attorney Lawrence Rosen appears to base his argument on another, more abstruse, line of reasoning.

Here is what Rosen wrote in his complaint: "Despite [the] characterization of Measure AJ as merely an 'advisory measure,' four members of the board of supervisors who signed ballot arguments in favor of Measures AI and AJ coupled them explicitly. This is clear and obvious evidence of the board's intent to place Measure AI on the ballot to cause only legal marijuana businesses to pay special and extra taxes into the general fund for general public purposes.

"The two ballot measures were presented as a set," the complaint continues, "and these election materials support a finding that the two measures are so closely related and inseparable that they constitute, in the words of California Constitution Article XIII C, 'a tax imposed for specific purposes which is placed into a general fund.'"

"Because the two measures were presented as a set, the ballot

argument in support of Measure AJ, signed by and written at the direction of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, assured voters that the 'marijuana tax' money from Measure AI will be spent for 'critical county services' unrelated to and not caused by legal marijuana business (and their customers) that will exclusively pay that tax.

"Measure AI accompanied by its companion Measure AJ together proposed a special tax subject to Article XIII C's supermajority approval requirement," Rosen argued.

In a phone conversation with Willits Weekly, county Supervisor John McCowen defended the action and the intent of the county

"Measure AI was a general tax, and the money we raised from it was to go, and is to go, for general county services," McCowen said. "At the same time, we also submitted to the voters Measure AJ, which was a non-binding, advisory measure, which said a majority of funds raised from the Cannabis Business Tax would go to these four vital county functions.

"So how can you declare something to be a special tax, for a specific purpose, when you are only saying, in a non-binding, advisory measure, that a majority of funds will go to this or that purpose?"

"Remember, if the advisory measure is non-binding, that means, well, what it says, and so the board of supervisors, and any future board of supervisors, can spend the money any way it wants.

"The plaintiffs are asking the courts to rewrite existing law, in my opinion," McCowen said. "Since the passage of Prop. 13 in 1978, literally hundreds of jurisdictions have adopted tax measures along with advisory measures. So what we have here, really, is a small minority of marijuana growers who are essentially saying, 'I don't want to pay any taxes, and I want to continue to receive a free ride.'"



Pizza with the Dean

North County Center in Willits welcomes students to the spring semester

The main hall at Mendocino College's North County Center in Willits was filled with a cross-section of students of all ages, genders and social genres on Tuesday afternoon last week. Most were studying math or English

on their laptops or discussing their assignments with each other or with college staff. On a table near the entrance were pizzas being distributed by Dean Debra Polak. "One piece at a time, please!," Polak said. "We want to make sure everyone gets some."

There was no need for that admonition for the veggie pizzas, as the pepperoni disappeared much faster.

"We like to do this to welcome the students at the beginning of each term," Dean Polak said. Indeed, the

students Willits Weekly spoke to at the welcome "party" were enjoying their studies and looking forward to furthering their lives through their time at this facility.

The North County Center has been open since 2014 and has been a great convenience to students who wish to obtain their AA degree or transfer to a four-year college, or simply to enrich their lives through the practice of art or music. According to Polak, the students pursuing arts and aesthetics help keep classes open for their degree-minded classmates. A number of classes are still only available in Ukiah, but Mendocino College has plans for expanding in Willits when funding becomes available. Several North County classes are available through remote closed-circuit television, with cameras that follow whoever is speaking, to further enhance the intimate feeling of actually being in the classroom. There are additional classes available online.

Although most of the classes available are prerequisites to transfer or an AA degree, also offered are "associate degrees for transfer" which are aimed at matriculation into the California State University system. The school also offers certification in several areas, such as child development.

Visit www.mendocino.edu, call 459-6224 or stop by the North County Center, 372 East Commercial Street for more information.

At left: Michelle Schneider helps student Alana Smith with her Math 46 lab work.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Tom DeMarchi

At 72 years old, DeMarchi has been taking singing lessons and other artistic classes since 1995, at various campuses. He's been singing in choirs and other groups most of his life. Currently, he is singing in the choir in Ukiah, performing Mozart's "Requiem," and he has also sung with the Emandall Chorale. He finds that his continuing participation in classes keeps his voice in top shape and wards off the loss of range that comes with age.



Michael Mondo

Taking math, English, and public speaking (in Ukiah). Wants to be a teacher and work with middle school kids. He currently works with the U.S. Forest Service ("Elk Mountain Hotshots") in the summer fighting fires and running a chain saw, although he doesn't want to do physical labor all his life. Believes he can use his real-life experience (construction) in learning math, although it has been 20 years since he last took math classes.



Kaylyn Peterson

Currently taking math 46, social documentation 56, biology 200. Planning on transferring to the Ukiah campus to obtain her AA, then to another school for her BA in Human Services. Lives in Willits and finds this campus very convenient to take many of the required classes for her AA. Doesn't look forward to the drive down to Ukiah, especially during the rainy season.



Lasara Firefox Allen

Doing undergrad work in preparation for going towards a completion program and then a master's program. Wants to eventually attend Humboldt State on a remote basis for her BA. Taking math and math lab, biology (online), modern dance class (for the pure aesthetics), and speech, a required course taught in Ukiah, even though she does public speaking professionally. She finds it is harder to take the class than to teach public speaking.



Jordan Gazzano

Taking prerequisites for transfer to a program to become a registered nurse. Taking all her classes, micro-biology, health 200, math and English, at the Willits campus, but next semester, she will commute to Ukiah, a hardship as she lives near Covelo Road.

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INSIDE THE GRANGE

Willits Science Fair: Open to the public Thursday, February 9, 8:30 am to 3 pm, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Projects by Willits students in grades 3-12, plus whole-class science projects done by kindergarten-12th grade classrooms. Projects judged to be Mendocino County Science Fair Qualifier Projects will be eligible to participate at the Mendocino County Science Fair in March.

Medical Cannabis Presentation: Herbalist Jude Thilman will be giving a talk about medical cannabis for the Mendocino County American Cannabis Nurses Association Meet Up Group. All nurses welcome. Must bring proof of licensure with photo ID. Thursday, February 9, 5 to 7 pm. Willits Library. Info: Janice Cinek RN, 489-2433.

Shanachie Pub: The Irie Rockers from the coastal ridges of Northern California bring their rich musical diversity, so listeners can expect to hear stylistic influences from R & B, Rock, Funk and Electronica. Friday, February 10, 9 pm. \$5 cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Shanachie Pub: The Straw Wattles are wandering in from Sonoma to play Americana originals as

inner – serving loads of
ch bread. Also, wine and
February, 17, 2017, at 6
auCTION and live auCTION,
benefit for the Willits High
the Willits Senior Center.
ts Furniture, Tri-Counties
ny Willits Rotarian or call

Willits as a Food Destination" Forum: The Mendocino Food Policy Council is holding a community discussion on how to publicize and define Willits as a food and wine restaurant destination, and ways in which Willits can attract more tourist traffic and increase local interest in our food and wine culture. Hear guest speakers from different sectors of the local economy. All interested parties welcome to join us on Friday, February 13, 2 to 4 pm. Little Lake Grange, 2000 Little Lake Road. Visit www.mendocinofood.org for more information or to register. Free admission. Sponsored by the Mendocino Food Policy Council.

Rotary Club's All-You-Can-Eat Crab Dinner – serving loads of fresh sweet crabs, salad, pasta, and French bread. Also, wine and beer will be available for purchase. Friday February, 17, 2017, at 6 p at the Willits Community Center. Dollar auction and live auction, live music by The Basics. This event is a benefit for the Willits High School Seniors Scholarship Fund and the Willits Senior Center. Tickets are \$50, and are available at Willits Furniture, Tri-Counties Bank and the Willits Senior Center. Ask any Willits Rotarian or call Ann Alumbaugh: 459-1440, or 841-1315.



February at the Arts Center

Painters Tom Zephyrs and Esther Hart are featured, plus a ‘Pop-Up Jewelry Store’

It was a full house at the opening reception for the “One of a Kind” art show at the Willits Center for the Arts on Saturday. Featured artist Tom Zephyrs was on hand to greet art patrons, discuss his new work, and answer questions. Artist Esther Hart, whose retrospective show is in the upstairs gallery, was also there to host her event. Added to the mix were many of the jewelers who made up the “Pop-Up Jewelry Store” on display. It was a hardy art patron who could touch base with all of the artists on hand!

Gary Martin, curator of the Willits Art Center, received well-deserved recognition from Willits Center for the Arts manager Holly Madrigal and those in attendance for his professional and artful staging of not only Zephyrs’ artwork but also all of the recent shows at the art center.

Tom Zephyrs spent most of the evening surrounded by people asking questions about his art. “To me,” Zephyrs said, “there is more to a painting than merely depicting the subject. There is the relationship between the art process and the artist. And, just as in any personal relationship, there is a give and take in the painting process where the painting will demand things and the artist will meet those demands and ask for more.” Zephyrs went on to describe the process as similar to meditation and said he often finds himself “in a better place” while painting.

Laytonville resident Esther Hart spent time enjoying Zephyrs’ work and perusing the jewelry displays before she went to the upstairs gallery where she reigned over her show of her work of the past 44 years. Her family was on hand for the evening to celebrate with her. She shocked many when she related that she didn’t start painting until she was 51, a late start for someone so accomplished! For 94 years of age, this woman was indefatigable and was a gracious host from start to finish!

Hart spent years exploring drawing, collage, watercolors, silk screening, acrylics, oils, watercolors in transparent glazes, and intaglio printmaking. Influences of what was important during her life are apparent in the flavor of Hawaii, Washington, and our own Mendocino County. Her granddaughters Amanda Hart and Cecelia Gillespie are featured in a Mendocino County-inspired oil from 2002 entitled “Iris Dance.” The scope and size of her work is impressive and well worth the visit.

The jewelry was a big hit, and the cash register was humming with purchases all evening. “This is a brilliant idea for Valentine’s Day shopping!” said Willits resident Lisa von Schlegel, who checked off a few items on her gift list. Many others agreed with her and found it great to be able to support local jewelry artisans.

Karen Mastrian of Willits was excited to be showing at the WCA. “I find it’s a gift to share my art in my own community,” she said. She usually sells her jewelry, which incorporates old silver discs and antique Chinese buttons, at Bay Area craft shows. As she becomes more involved in Willits, she said, she is “falling in love with my community,” and she hopes to be able to focus on selling her jewelry locally.

Well-known textile artist Nancy Finn became interested in

wire weaving in 2015 as a change of pace from running her business, Chasing Rainbows Dyeworks, which specializes in hand-dyed quality wool. While researching Viking “knit” wirework online, Finn became “totally smitten.” She found that wire-wrapped jewelry may pre-date the Sumerians, possibly as far back to 2,560 BC.

“It turns out that the wrapping patterns are based on a weaving pattern called Sumac,” Finn said. “All the wrapping patterns are a variation on the Sumac weave.” Her background in weaving has come in handy as she has embarked on this new art form. “This art form reminds me of Victorian times,” she said. “I love making things and working with my hands and, especially, the fact that moths don’t eat it!”

South Coast artisan Cainan Schierholtz came from Elk to be on hand to answer questions about his hand-carved jade jewelry. This self-taught artist and wood carver started using his skills as a wood carver about five years ago to carve jade for his line of jewelry. Once he started carving jade, he said he “couldn’t stop” working the jade and perfecting this challenging art craft. He brought a raw piece of ocean-polished jade to the opening reception, which he found on a beach near Big Sur. He sometimes finds jade on Mendocino County beaches, but mostly uses jade from Alaska and British Columbia.

Robert Yelland, who also paints, enjoys making jewelry because he likes the process of working with his hands. His beautiful and very lightweight earrings are geometric and leaf designs made from copper, silver or gold.

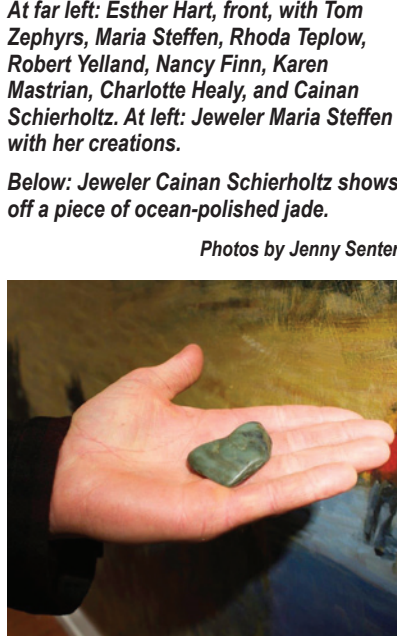
Mendocino artist Rhoda Teplow’s jewelry incorporates her own handmade porcelain beads, brass beads from the Ashanti tribe, recycled glass beads from the Krobo tribe in Ghana, and beads she has collected from around the world during her travels. She also uses hand-carved jade sourced from the middle fork of the Eel River in Mendocino County.

Maria Steffen, known for her beautiful photography, was at the WCA this time showing her jewelry. Steffen started making jewelry as a young child and went on to sell her jewelry at Pike Place Market in Seattle for 25 years. She decided to take a break from jewelry making to explore other art forms, but has come full circle and is now back creating jewelry.

Time did not allow talking to all of the jewelers, but he assured that all of the jewelry on display and for sale is worth checking out. Jewelers not mentioned in this article include: Charlotte Healy, Ted Johnson, Charles Fritz, Michelle Maldonado, Timothy Cerrato, Laura Buckner, and Lily Parsons. Last month’s featured artist, Kale Haschak, also has his beautiful roses and hummingbirds available to round out your Valentine’s gift list.

Local restaurant Scoops catered the event with delicious appetizers and desserts.

“One of a Kind” will run at the Willits Center for the Arts through February 26. The Esther Hart retrospective will be on display until the end of March. Winter hours at the WCA galleries are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. If you are interested in volunteering to be a docent, call the art center at 459-1726.



Above, from left: Karen Mastrian enjoyed the community feel of the opening. Willits artist Laura Corben, at left, with Lucy Perkins, wife of Tom Zephyrs, and Marly Perkins of Napa. Esther Hart’s granddaughters Amanda Hart and Cecelia Gillespie – in the painting and now.

At left: The WCA crowd gives a round of applause for curator Gary Martin.

Below: Jordan Myers enjoys Tom Zephyrs’ landscapes. At bottom: Four generations: Front row, from left: matriarch Esther Hart with Celina and Caruna Gillespie; back row, from left: DonnaLee Hart, Amanda Hart and Cecelia Gillespie.



At top: Portraits by Tom Zephyrs. Above: Prana Roberts loved the woven-wire jewelry by Nancy Finn. Below: Maria Steffen and Joe Dowling discuss the show, as Emmy Good, seated, takes a minute to relax.



At far left: Esther Hart, front, with Tom Zephyrs, Maria Steffen, Rhoda Teplow, Robert Yelland, Nancy Finn, Karen Mastrian, Charlotte Healy, and Cainan Schierholtz. At left: Jeweler Maria Steffen with her creations.

Below: Jeweler Cainan Schierholtz shows off a piece of ocean-polished jade.

Photos by Jenny Senter

The rest of
Ordinance | From Page 1

vacant, the discussion was limited to supervisors Carre Brown, John McCowen and Dan Gjerde.

Forty-two members of the public also addressed the board concerning the ordinance.

One central aspect of the discussion concerned restricting the cultivation of commercial cannabis in residential districts.

Early in the public comment portion of the meeting, 10 residents living in the hills west of Ukiah stated life in their neighborhoods had become unpleasant and dangerous due to cannabis cultivation there. They urged supervisors to ignore the recommendation from the county planning commission that existing cultivation in residential districts be allowed to continue, but a “sunset period” of two years be imposed, after which neighborhood growers would have to relocate.

Residents pleaded with supervisors to delete the sunset period, and immediately ban existing cultivation in residential areas zoned Rural Residential 1, Rural Residential 2, Residential 1, Residential 2, Residential 3, Suburban Residential, and Rural Community.

Supervisors, after discussion, upheld the planning commission recommendations.

McCowen and Gjerde appeared to be inching toward extending the sunset period for another year, making it a three-year sunset period, but Brown wouldn’t agree to that.

McCowen later asked his colleagues if the ban on residential cultivation should extend to non-conforming parcels zoned Rural Residential 5. Gjerde and Brown agreed to that proposal. Cannabis cultivation on parcels that conform to the standards of RR5 would be allowed, however.

The board said it favored implementing an as-yet unwritten ordinance that would create the potential for neighborhoods to receive an “overlay” zoning clearance that would exempt certain communities from the restriction on residential cultivation.

Laytonville was again mentioned as the poster-child of a locality where cannabis cultivation was an accepted practice, and all three supervisors said they favored creating some sort of process where communities could request they be exempted from the prohibition against commercial-scale cultivation.

The board directed staff to prepare such an ordinance, but did not issue a firm deadline.

Supervisors also supported directing staff to write an oak woodland protection ordinance by January 1, 2020, that would be incorporated into the cannabis ordinance. In the meantime, the board directed language be added to the ordinance stating no oak tree and no commercially valuable softwood tree, such as redwood or Douglas fir, be destroyed, cut down or harmed to create space for cannabis cultivation.

McCowen and Gjerde seemed to entertain the idea that the county ought to draft a grading ordinance to be incorporated into the cultivation ordinance, but Brown blocked that suggestion. Brown reminded her colleagues the county already has a de facto, default grading ordinance in the shape of Section 18.070 of its Uniform Building Code. She pointed out that with the incorporation of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board standards for land use in connection with cannabis cultivation, and the presumed adherence to the ordinance’s requirement that cannabis cultivators use best management practices, it is unclear what a grading ordinance could add.

McCowen directed staff to assess where “gaps” in regulation might occur, given adherence to water board standards and best management practices. He also said, in his view, the biggest gap in the county system of regulation was enforcement of existing ordinances or of the proposed ordinance.

Gjerde noted money would be flowing into the county eventually due to voter approval of Measure AI, the Cannabis Business Tax, some of which is to be used for enforcement.

However, due to the framework and timelines connected with payment of the tax, that money would not be available for increased enforcement at once.

McCowen suggested the board might possibly borrow money from the county’s \$11.62 million general reserve fund to pay for enforcement over the short term, and the other supervisors nodded assent to that idea.

Of the 42 people who addressed the board on Tuesday, two of the most urgent pleas came from Willits-based cannabis farmer Johanna Mortz and Casey O’Neill, vice chairman of the California Growers Association. Both pointed out that under the cannabis ordinance, it would become illegal to grow pot in many areas where marijuana is being routinely grown at present.

“If you take it out of Rangeland and you take it out of Residential, then where will we go?” Mortz asked.

O’Neill’s comments specifically addressed an opinion by McCowen that would limit the number of parcels a landowner could lease to cannabis growers. McCowen set that limit at two parcels, and the other board members agreed with him, prompting O’Neill to observe: “We told a lot of people they can relocate. There’s very few places they can relocate to, based on the zoning. So, if you say you can only lease out two parcels, there’s not enough possible relocation zones.”

The board briefly discussed possible solutions to that problem, such as potentially approving a “spot zoning” variance to the ordinance. McCowen suggested language could be added to the ordinance later that might allow collective agreements, in which two or more cannabis farmers could lease land jointly under one name.

However, McCowen resisted raising the cultivation limit in that instance to more than 10,000 square feet per parcel.

Speaking prior to the public comment period, McCowen offered a possible solution to this problem. “As this goes forward, there is going to be a migration of people out of areas that are not appropriate and into areas that are appropriate,” he said, but he did not give any suggestions as to where those areas might be.

Willits Weekly | February 9, 2017

The rest of
Laytonville | From Page 1

“We can’t find people to hire,” Gravier said. “We’ve had signs on the door, ads in different publications. We have job openings, but it’s hard to find people to fill them. We’re looking for a couple full- and part-time employees. We offer benefits: paid vacations and 401K, and we pay a portion of health insurance.”

Gravier cited the growth in the marijuana industry around Laytonville as another possible reason for the uptick in business.

“We wouldn’t have the increase if the area hadn’t increased [due to] the amount of folks that are up here in the marijuana industry right now,” said Gravier. “There’s a lot of people in the area because of that.”

Gravier acknowledged that with the state-wide legalization of medical and recreational cannabis, the industry is sure to change significantly.

“The bottom line is it could change – and it probably will – whether it’s this year, next year or five years from now. There’s going to be some changes to that industry, and maybe we’ll be able to hire some people by then.”

Gravier said with the increase in sales at the pump, “the sales in the store go up also. We’ve done some things here by offering good quality food service. It’s helped us. We have a lot of local folks eat here. People from the health center and the school.”

Pour Girls Coffee has been doing slightly better in both its drive-through service and within the store itself, said owner Crystal Finnegan.

“I haven’t noticed a huge increase, but I definitely think it has impacted our business, as we’re a little more busy than normal,” Finnegan said. “I’ve noticed more drive-through business for sure. We’re right off [Highway 101], so travelers can stop and use the bathroom. I think that matters, too, people wanting to get out and stretch their legs and take a little break.

“Usually the winter time is our slow season. It’s stayed busy because there’s been an increase since the bypass opened.”

According to Danielle Martinez, manager of Wheels Cafe & Pub, “We’ve noticed an uptick in business. I wouldn’t say it’s dramatic, but I would definitely say we were running out of food [at one point]. We expect to see even more during the summer months.”

Dan Guy, manager of Geiger’s Long Valley Market, which recently celebrated its 70th anniversary, said it’s just too early to give any accurate measurement on whether business at the store has increased or not.

“We almost have to do an apples-to-apples comparison to next October,” Guy said. “We’ll see what the summer is like. Right now, no real increase. It’s a unique year that we’re having with the rains. That might be deterring business a little bit. Right now, it’s about the same.”

Courtney Smith, general manager of Mendo Sun Market & Cafe, echoed Guy’s assessment: “It’s a really challenging thing to measure,” Smith said.

“It’s a difficult time of year because it’s winter,” Smith added. “Given our economy in this area, we see a lot of residents leave this time of year. It’s after harvest. We see folks will leave for a month or so, or two or three months.”

However, Smith reported she has seen more travelers come into the store than usual.

“We just have the kind of atmosphere where people tend to come in and tell us what they’re up to if they’re traveling,” said Smith. “We are seeing more travelers than we saw this time last year. I don’t know if it’s something that is significant enough to measure.”

Smith is also one of eight members on the Laytonville Municipal Advisory Council, or LAMAC, and noted many council members and community residents see the bypass as an opportunity.

“Some folks believe this really could be the answer for Laytonville in improving its economic stability and elasticity, if you will,” Smith said. “One thing the bypass has done is inspired our community to come together again to really look at what our vision is for the community, what we would like to see. It’s made us question a lot about what our identity is.”

Smith said one of the primary concerns for the LAMAC is pedestrian safety on Highway 101 through Laytonville.

“The community has spoken a lot about having some way to really designate our crosswalks and make it more clear. [The speed limit] drops down to a 35-mph zone here through the stretch of town, but people don’t do that. They’re cruising through at 45 mph. We would love lighted crosswalks, but it’s probably most likely not going to happen. We’ve been in talks with the Mendocino Council of Governments ... which is the body that oversees traffic safety and those issues, along with Caltrans.”

Overall, Smith believes the future should bring a general positive atmosphere to the town she calls home.

“I think it’s an exciting time for Laytonville,” said Smith. “It has the potential to really be on the brink. I think the community can come together and make that happen for themselves. Being an unincorporated census-designated location in Mendocino County – and being considered so far north county – there’s not really anyone that’s going to come in and do it for us.”

Willits Weekly | February 9, 2017

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Pg. 11

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

January 29 to February 5

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 145 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

January 29

9:03 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:05 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1400 block South Main Street and issued a warning.

January 30

12:48 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Creekside Court. OCHOA, Jose Alfredo (28) of Willits was placed under arrest pursuant to 415 PC (Disturbing the Peace) and domestic battery.

4:14 pm: Officers initiated an investigation of suspicious persons in the 200 block of School Street.

January 31

10:35 pm: Officers initiated an investigation of a suspicious person in the area of School Street and Mendocino Avenue.

February 1

6:47 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Humboldt Street and issued a warning.

9:46 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

10:24 am: Officers contacted EAGLESMITH, Jevon (21) of Willits in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. Eaglesmith was placed under arrest for battery.

12:12 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

10:06 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Holly Street.

February 2

2:11 am: Officers initiated an investigation of a suspicious vehicle in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

8:24 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

1:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping

in the 500 block of East Commercial Street.

1:18 pm: Officers responded to reported threats in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:09 pm: Officers responded to reported vandalism in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

8:32 pm: Officers contacted STENCIL, Bryan William (33) of Willits in the 1700 block of South Main Street. Stencil was placed under arrest on suspicion of violation of a protective order, violation of probation, and driving with knowledge of suspended driving privilege.



February 3

2:40 am: Officers initiated an investigation of a suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of North Main Street.

9:22 am: Officers contacted MALLO, James Allen (50) of Willits in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and placed him under arrest pursuant to 290 PC (Failure to Register as a Sex Offender).

11:34 am: Officers initiated an investigation of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:47 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

February 4



2:03 pm: Officers initiated an investigation of a suspicious person in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

5:31 pm: Officers initiated an investigation of a suspicious person in the 900 block of South Main Street.

February 5

7:06 am: Officers contacted MCCARTNEY, Kyle James (31) of Willits in the 500 block of South Main Street and placed him under arrest pursuant to 11377 HS (Possession of Methamphetamine), being under the influence of a controlled substance, violation of probation, and possessing a device for smoking or injecting.

9:41 am: Officers responded to a hit and run collision in the 300 block of Pine Street.

1:44 pm: Officers responded to a reported trespassing in the 10 block of Hillside Drive.

9:34 pm: Officers initiated an investigation of reported assault and vandalism in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

The rest of
Jail | From Page 1

missed receiving the grant. Sheriff Tom Allman told supervisors then that the county was at the top of the list of those counties that did not receive a grant.

Undersheriff Randy Johnson said Tuesday the sheriff’s office is planning to contract with Sacramento-based architectural firm Nacht and Lewis to design and manage construction of the facility. Eric Fadness, vice president of Nacht and Lewis, was on hand to show supervisors the design plans.

Two buildings are being planned: a small visitation building, and a three-story building to house inmates with mental health problems as well as violent offenders sent to Ukiah from the state prison system. The new facility would house 60 inmates and cost between \$25 and \$27 million to build, with a target cost of \$26 million.

“This is bond financing,” said Johnson. “The county would have to fund the project until construction begins and reimbursement from the state starts.”

Fadness said the county might have to pay up to \$6 million during the early phases of construction, \$5 million of which would be repaid by the state. The county would have to pay \$1 to \$2 million in overall expenses.

Johnson estimated it would cost close to a million dollars a year to run the facility.

Pg. 10

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Willits Weekly | February 9, 2017



At top, from left: Gloriann Lucero and Dylan Anderson of Mariposa Market walk to the stage to collect the first-place soup prize. Seventh-day Adventist Church's Lynne and Tom Buske show off a cup of entry #22, "Veggie Posole (Vegan Mexican Corn)." Gary Owen samples soup. Below: Best soup and best table winners pose on stage with Eric Glassey and Cindy Savage of Willits Daily Bread.



Sip Some Soup 2017

Annual event raises \$5,500 for Willits Daily Bread

The Willits Community Center was filled with soup tasters and makers, eager to help choose, or be the recipient of, the coveted Best Soup awards. Between the taster tickets, donations and items from the silent auction, around \$5,500 was raised for Willits Daily Bread.

Chefs and cooks who participated this year included: Harold Curtis with Fish Chowder; Michael Streeter with Split Pea; Willits Community Services with Potato Florentine; Willits High School 9th Grade English Class with ABC Chicken Noodle; Adventist Home Health & Hospice with Organic Curry Veggie and Amrita Clam Chowder; Mariposa Market with Spicy Thai Peanut Chicken and Tomato Bisque; Elevelzie's Cafe with Mushroom Wild Rice and Chicken Cordon Bleu; and Little Lake Health Center with Promeza's Pozole.

Also participating this year: Carl Kunsman with Lamb Barley Mushroom; Roland's Bakery & Bistro with Chicken & Dumplings; Sarah Adams / Stronger Together with Vegetarian Potato French Tarragon with Cream Cheese; Mendocino County Museum with Lasagna Soup; Sharon Valentine & Sue Bertsch with Potato Leek with Bacon & Wine and Potato Leek Vegan; Glen & Barbara Muller with Legume Soup with Ham Hock; Church of the Divine Lineage with Organic Roasted Peanut Chicken Soup; Seventh-day Adventist Church with Rainy Day Tortilla Soup and Veggie Posole (Vegan Mexican Corn); Willits Charter School with Hot & Sour Soup, and Willits Elementary Charter School with Chicken Curry Comfort.

Best Soup:

First place: Mariposa Market and their Spicy Thai Peanut Chicken

Second place: Willits Charter School and their Hot & Sour Soup

Third place: Sarah Adams / Stronger Together with their Vegetarian Potato French Tarragon with Cream Cheese

Best Table:

Willits Charter School with their Hot & Sour Soup



Sharon Valentine and Sue Bertsch and their Potato Leek with Bacon & Wine.

Below, from left: Cindy Savage and soup maker Glen Muller. Water servers Aileen Gaynor and Sally Rohlicek enjoy their water-serving job, as does Louis Rohlicek, behind. Bread crew members Chris, Kashaya Adams and Tam Adams.

See many more photos from this year's Sip Some Soup online at <http://photographess.zenfolio.com/sipsoup2017>

— Maureen Moore



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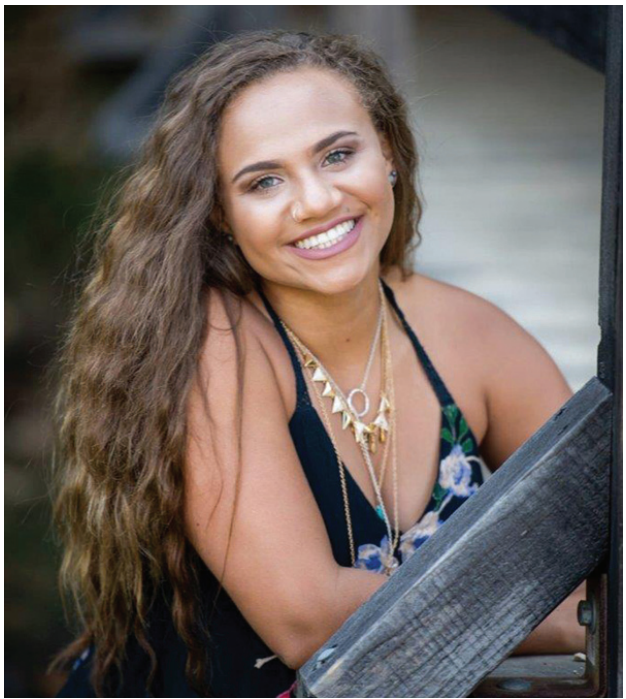
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Congrats

Happy Birthday, Rachel

To my beautiful daughter: Happy Birthday, Rachel! We love you! Thanks for being my best friend. — Love, mom.



Congrats

Happy Birthday, Chanel

Happy 18th birthday, Chanel. You're such an amazing young lady on and off the court, and we are so very proud of you. You have such a bright future ahead of you, and we will be rooting for you every step of the way.

— Lexie, Destiny and Troy Aguilar



Class of 2018

Winter Raffle basket winner

Congratulations to Gonzalo Mendoza, who works at Adam's Tire, who won the Willits High School Junior Class Raffle Basket. WHS Leadership teacher Kelley Case-Brackett drew the winning ticket for the big basket stuffed with donations from local businesses in class last week.

"Congratulations, Gonzalo!" said Bonnie Riley, who helped organize the basket fundraiser. "Thank you for supporting the junior class. Thank you to all business that donated! Thank you to all the people that bought tickets. It is appreciated very much! Thank you for your support!"

Above: Gonzalo Mendoza accepts his raffle basket prize from Bonnie Riley, left, at Adam's Tire.

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Covelo shooting victim uncooperative

Mendocino County investigators are trying to piece together a February 7 shooting in Round Valley that sent a 22-year-old Covelo man to Howard Memorial Hospital.

The only thing detectives know for sure is that Jefferey Joaquin was shot in the chest or torso with a large-caliber handgun, says sheriff's Sgt. Quincy Cromer.

Deputies were called to the Covelo Volunteer Fire Department in the 75900 block of Highway 162 at about 2:30 pm. But while they were on the way, they learned Joaquin was being rushed by ambulance to Howard Memorial Hospital.

Detectives attempted to interview Joaquin, but he refused to cooperate with the investigators and "did not provide any possible suspect information or a possible location where this crime occurred," Cromer said.

Deputies later met with Round Valley Tribal Police officers, who found Joaquin in the 22500 block of Refuse Road after the shooting. They also searched the area for evidence, but "were unable to confirm the exact location of where the [shooting] occurred," Cromer said.

The shooting remains under investigation; anyone with information related to this case is encouraged to contact the MCSO Tip Line at (707) 234-2100, or by email at crimetip@mendocinosheriff.com.

This report was based on a press release from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.



Sheriff's K9s to get body armor

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office's three K9 officers — Cam, Ruddick and Doc Holiday — will receive bullet-and stab protective vests thanks to a charitable donation from Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., a Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization. Delivery is expected in eight to 10 weeks.

Cam's vest is sponsored by The Hausman Family Foundation and will be embroidered with the sentiment: "This gift of protection provided by the Hausman Family Foundation." Ruddick's vest is sponsored by Bruce Crist of Monterey, and will be embroidered with the sentiment: "Justice delayed is justice denied." Doc Holiday's vest is sponsored by Robin Doerr Russell of Sonoma, and will be embroidered with the sentiment: "With love from K9 Lucie, Sonoma, CA."

A501c(3) charity located in East Taunton, Massachusetts, Vested Interest in K9s' mission is to provide bullet-and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs working with law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States.

The nonprofit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s has provided over 2,300 protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a cost of over \$1.9 million. The vests, which weigh between 4 and 5 pounds, are custom-made in the

Read the rest of K9s | Over on Page 15



K9 Handler Deputy Jeffrey Andrade and K9 Doc Holiday.

LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement
2017-F0066
The following person is doing business as: **Imagination Station Preschool & Childcare Center, Inc.**, 11 North Marin St., Willits CA 95490; Saprina Rodriguez, 331 West Mendocino Ave., Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by a Corporation: Imagination Station Preschool & Childcare Center, Inc., 11 North Marin St., Willits CA 95490.
The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 2/1/11.
Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on January 26, 2017.
s/Saprina Rodriguez
Pub dates 02/02, 02/09, 02/16, 02/23/2017

Fictitious Business Name Statement
2017-F0069
The following persons are doing business as: **Pacific Blue** 32301 Pearl Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. This business is conducted by a General Partnership: Carlon Cathey, 411 South Street #4, Fort Bragg CA 95437, and Stephen Dunlap, 32301 Pearl Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.
The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on February 1, 2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mendocino on January 26, 2017.
s/Stephen Dunlap
Pub dates 02/02, 02/09, 02/16, 02/23/2017

Willits Weekly was adjudicated on November 18, 2016 and is now able to run legal ads. Contact 459-2633 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com for more information.

Willits Weekly

HELP WANTED
Willits Weekly is looking to add to our crew of news and feature freelancers. Experienced news reporters with an interest in following a local beat in depth are encouraged to send a resume and clips to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Possible opportunity for a writer with an interest in news, but no news experience.
Willits Weekly is always happy to talk to local writers interested in covering community events, local organizations and businesses, and local people. Experienced feature writers are welcome, but writers interested in trying something new are encouraged to apply, also. An interest in taking pictures is a plus. Please send resume and samples of your writing (and sample photos if you've got them) to willitsweekly@gmail.com
Questions: Call 459-2633

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Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song: **New Day!** Wednesday, February 22, at 6 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Ancient Wisdom for Today. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

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Help Wanted
Adventist Health Home-care & Hospice Services — Mendocino County. Part Time or Per Diem Speech Therapist needed. Call H/R Trudy #456-3230.

Help Wanted
The Cemetery District of the Redwoods is currently hiring a fulltime maintenance/ groundskeeper position. Pay based on experience. Hours flexible. Call 459-5252 to pick up an application.

Help Wanted
Mortuary Transport Driver. On call, nights and weekends. Must have valid CDL and pass a drug test. Pick up an application at Anker-Lucier Mortuary, 95 W Commercial Street, Willits.

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Willits Community Services and Food Bank is seeking part-time Driver/Warehouse Facility Associate. Good driving record and people skills. Include resume or work history, references and recent DMV printout. For more info contact WCSFB 707-459-3333 or willitscs@gmail.com

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

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

Winter is Coming!
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Photo by Jennifer Poole



Marvin Dixon of Marvin's Garden-Tree Service, left, Arnie Melo of the Howard Foundation, and Greg Musgrave of Family Tree Service stand behind the fallen Ponderosa pine.



Above: WHS senior Jordan Solis, left, and Sheri Lovell hold one of Sober Grad's Valentine Raffle Baskets.

Above, right: By 9:30 am, the dining room at the Little Lake Grange was packed.

At right: WHS Class of 2017 door greeters, from left: Colten Horger, Wayne Waters, Eladio Mendez and Samantha Thomas.

Photos by Ree Slocum



Sober Grad breakfast

Volunteers serve up 270 plates of pancakes to benefit graduation night party

The lines at the 18th annual Sober Grad Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Super Bowl morning began to lengthen at around 9 am, and the tables at the Little Lake Grange filled to capacity soon after that. Family and friends grouped together enjoying each other's company and the delicious plates of pancakes, scrambled eggs and bacon, which were cooked to perfection by Liam UICearbhaill and the rest of the Grange breakfast crew. Student waiters from the Class of 2017 delivered the plates – a total of 270 breakfasts were served, including food for volunteers – along with syrup, orange juice, coffee, tea, and water. Adult volunteers like Heidi Ahders helped with the organizing and

Ree Slocum
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Read the rest of
Pancakes | Over on Page 15

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COYOTE VALLEY

The rest of
K9s | From Page 13

USA by Armor Express in Central Lake, Michigan.

The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

It takes a \$1,050 donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9. Each vest is valued at between \$1,795 and \$2,234, and comes with a five-year warranty.

"This is great!" said K9 Unit Sgt. Joey DeMarco. "We go into some dangerous situations, like illegal marijuana grows, work with the SWAT team, track fleeing felons, and conduct parole and probation searches. It's nice to know my K9 partner, Ruddick, also now has the same protection I do when tracking or going into a situation where there is a known armed suspect."

K9 handler Deputy Jonathan Martin added, "Thanks to the ballistic vest from Vested Interest in K9s, [Cam] will be safe when he is apprehending criminals and protecting Mendocino County."

"News of the donation was very heartwarming," said K9 handler Deputy Jeffrey Andrade. "Knowing Doc Holliday will be protected in the same way I am will help bring peace of mind when we are faced with dangerous situations."

"The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office program has been in existence for over 20 years," explained Lt. Kirk Mason, who oversees the Sheriff's Office K9 Unit. "During this time, our canine partners have evolved from being strictly protection partners to person trackers, evidence seekers and tactical partners. As a result, we have seen a marked increase in deployments and an increased awareness of our canine partners' capabilities by both sworn personnel and community members.

"The donation of these vests will allow our canine partners to safely work side by side with their handler in day-to-day situations which tend to increase in both numbers and complexity," Mason said. "Our handlers will now have the peace of mind in knowing that their canine partner will be deployed in all situations, knowing their canine partner has the highest level of affordable protection currently being offered."

"The house-made crab ravioli is filled with crab, smoked salmon, green onions, "a little bit of sundried tomato," and ricotta and Parmesan cheese, with an asparagus brandy cream sauce. The second special featuring local crab will be Steak Filet Oscar, filet

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978.

Vested Interest in K9s provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-deductible donations of any denomination at www.vik9s.org, or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.

This report was based on a press release from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.



K9 Handler Deputy Jonathan Martin and K9 Cam

"We want to create unity, not division," Hansen assured the group. "We want to fight back at all levels against Trump's rhetoric of hate."

Several women identifying themselves as lesbian said they feared a rollback in LGBT rights.

Those attending seemed energized by the gathering and said they were prepared to work at the county, state and national level to elect leaders who'll stand up for women's rights, protect the environment, and work for justice and equality for all.

The group's first official action was to write Gov. Jerry Brown asking him to appoint former Willits Mayor and City Councilmember Holly Madrigal to Mendocino County's vacant 3rd District supervisor's seat. "She is a woman, and this is a woman's issue," Hansen said. "I think she will protect the environment."

The next Women's Action Group meeting is Thursday, February 9 at 4 pm at the Laytonville Grange.

Jane Fletcher, Willits



Above: Family and friends make the Sober Grad Pancake Breakfast a yearly event. On the left side of the table: Tanner Drew, Alton Coke, Taylor Drew, Jack and Jen Drew, and Jeff, Maci, Kylie and Haley Yokum. On the right side of the table are Dominic Kvasnicka, Jimmy and Tracey Dawson, Lisa Yokum, and Wendy and Kevin Kvasnicka. Above, right: Liam UICearbhaill shows off a plate of perfectly browned pancakes. At right: WHS senior Kylenna Amador at the beverage counter.

The rest of
Pancakes | From Page 14

supervision. "This is the best-organized ever," Ahders said, smiling. "It's great that the kids get out in the community like this. They're not just names."

Sandy Young, longtime Sober Grad party volunteer and board member, sold tickets for the Valentine Raffle Baskets (each worth over \$600 with donated goods solicited by seniors and board members), while another board member, Angi Edgar, who's been volunteering to help with Sober Grad for 27 years, was selling tickets for the breakfast. Everything was donated, so all the profits go to the senior class event.

The Sober Grad party that takes place from 9 pm to 3 am on graduation night in June, was created by concerned parents and community members in 1986 to provide a safe, alcohol- and drug-free place for graduating seniors to gather one last time and celebrate with each other, before their launch into life after high school. Before 1986, Willits and other communities nationally had experienced tragic car accidents and fatalities on graduation night due to seniors partying with alcohol and other drugs and driving. Since 1986 and the first Sober Grad party, 31 years ago,

Willits hasn't had any fatalities due to this problem.

The party is "one last hang-out with your classmates," Colten Horger, one of the door greeters said. And the Sober Grad Committee of seniors and community members make sure it's a fun event. Some chaperones are returning graduates like Rachel Cash's two daughters, who graduated in 2012 and 2013 and live elsewhere. With activities like a casino, air hockey, ping pong, henna tattoos, signing yearbooks, and basketball (outside), to name a few, cash and goods prizes galore, and enticing finger foods, pizza and soft drinks served throughout the dark hours, revisiting the fun year after year would seem compelling.

Look for the Valentine Raffle Baskets on display at Baechtlet Grove Middle School, both Willits charter schools, and outside Safeway, with volunteers selling tickets for the drawing, which takes place on February 13.

The next Sober Grad Committee meeting is set for Wednesday, February 22, at 6:30 pm at the Willits High School Food Court. For more information about helping with the annual party, call Joyce Waters at 489-8377.



Below, left: Keely Ahders, who's been playing piano for about 12 years, treated event attendees to several lovely piano pieces. Below, right: The "Sober Grad Pancake Breakfast" sign at the corner of Main and West Valley streets.

Photos by Ree Slocum



The rest of
Dinner | From Page 1

Friday night, and continuing Saturday and Sunday night, from 5 to 9 pm, and Tuesday night from 4 to 9 pm. Crab is in season, and Chef Adam Celaya's specials include two dishes with fresh crab from Fort Bragg crabbers, as well as his signature crab cakes. Adam's Restaurant's crab cakes took second place in the 2017 Crab Cake competition in Fort Bragg.

The house-made crab ravioli is filled with crab, smoked salmon, green onions, "a little bit of sundried tomato," and ricotta and Parmesan cheese, with an asparagus brandy cream sauce. The second special featuring local crab will be Steak Filet Oscar, filet

The rest of
Letters | From Page 2

"I have a green card," she said, "but now I wonder if he'll take that away."

Several attending said they believe Trump may be laying the ground for a dictatorial, even fascist takeover of American democracy by creating chaos, overwhelming voters with sudden changes, undermining the Constitution and appointing Cabinet members who may mismanage or even abolish the very agencies they are expected to lead.

mignon, with lump crab meat on top of the filet, drizzled with Béarnaise sauce.

Steaks will be available with a special peppercorn treatment, and the specials also include a flat iron steak with chimichurri sauce. Other house-made ravioli options include artichoke spinach ravioli with a brandy cream sauce, and chanterelle and porcini mushroom ravioli – "hand-picked from the forest" – with a Madeira cream sauce.

Delicious desserts will be whatever strikes Chef Adam's fancy. "It's all about the love that I put into my cooking," he says.

Adam's Restaurant is located at 50 South Main Street; call 456-9226 to make reservations (recommended).

Roland's Bakery & Bistro in the Evergreen

Shopping Center is offering an all-inclusive Valentine's dinner on Tuesday, February 14, starting at 7 pm, by reservation only. Dinner tickets are \$75 per person. Chef Ray Roland says he's still got some openings, but those interested should make reservations soon.

The Valentine's dining event will start with a first

The rest of
Weather | From Page 14

Director Arnie Milo, who came by to chat with Marvin Dixon of Marvin's Gardens Tree Service in Willits and Greg Musgrave of Family Tree Service in Laytonville, who were there checking out the scene to make a bid to remove the tree.

Dixon estimated the Ponderosa pine was 50 or 60 years old, was somewhere between 100 and 130 feet tall, and could weigh between 15 and 20 tons.

With the drought in recent years, Dixon said, the roots systems of trees have died back, so they're more vulnerable to toppling right now. Eventually, if the normal wet weather continues, the roots will grow back.

Dixon said it wasn't easy to tell if a big tree was in danger of falling. "You can check the forks on the tree," he said, "and if one of them is cracked, that limb should be taken out." Dixon advised those living with big trees to

course of assorted appetizers – "We're going to wait and see what looks good," Roland said – accompanied by a glass of champagne. The second course will be a Shrimp Louie Salad – with fresh crab, fresh shrimp and homemade Louie dressing – paired with a glass of Parducci Sauvignon Blanc.

The main course offers a choice of roasted duck – "a half duck, slow roasted, bone in" – topped with a pomegranate and sundried cherry reduction, or of Beef Wellington – beef tenderloin and mushroom duxelles, wrapped in Roland's croissant dough. Patrons are asked to let the restaurant know their choice of main course when making reservations. Entrées are accompanied with vegetable and potato fritters paired with either Parducci Pinot Noir or Garisole Cabernet.

For dessert, Roland's will be offering house-made mini New York cheesecakes, topped with a mixed berry coulis.

Roland said he made the choice of his Valentine's menu "because these are things we think are for fine dining, and we love to make them. We're looking forward to seeing people from the neighborhood, enjoying this fine meal right here in Willits."

Roland's Bakery & Bistro is located at 1726 South Main Street; call 841-3058 for reservations.

keep an eye on them. "If the ground is cracked around your tree, go out to check when the wind is blowing. If the ground is moving and lifting, then you know," that the tree is vulnerable to failing.

The Ponderosa in the back patio of the hospital will likely be cut up for firewood.

The National Weather Service has posted a Flood Watch for the region, including northwestern interior Mendocino County, starting at 4 am Thursday morning and going through 4 pm Thursday afternoon, as Willits Weekly goes to press Wednesday night. To keep up with NWS forecasts and weather records for our area, visit www.weather.gov, and enter "Willits, CA" – or your own address – into the "Enter Location" field at the top left of the main website. NWS updates their forecasts at least twice a day.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Mama Cookie

Cookie is 1.5 years old and looking for her very own forever home! This sweet lady was found as a stray in Willits, living with her litter of five kittens in a patch of berry bushes. Cookie loves to nap in the sunshine, and enjoys a good scratch behind the ears. She likes people of all ages and some other cats, but would prefer a dog-free home.



For more information on Cookie or other adoptable animals, call 707-485-0123, check www.mendohumanesociety.com, or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday.

Lovely Mia

Mia is a beautiful 3-year-old mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 61 pounds. Mia is a stunning dog who knows little basic obedience, like "sit" and "down." She is good around other dogs large and small. Mia is a little cautious, but she is very attentive, and will no doubt learn the ropes of her new home quickly. Mia might be housetrained.



During her photo shoot, Mia was exuberant, dashing around the play yard enjoying being able to run and be goofy. Mia is not a fan of being restrained by a hug, and therefore we suggest she live in a family with older kids only – 16+ years old. Mia also needs to live in a cat-free household.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. Many wonderful dogs and cats await their forever homes here. To view photos and bios, please visit online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com or visit the shelter. "Please join us the 2nd Saturday of every month – February 14 this month – for our "Empty the Shelter" pack walk and help us get every dog out for some exercise!" For more information about adoptions please call 707-467-6453.

Celebration of Life

"A Celebration of Life" for Maureen A. Stainbrook, who passed away on December 18, 2016 at the age of 78, will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2017, at noon at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

All who knew her are welcome to attend this gathering to honor the life, love, laughter and wisdom of this amazing woman. The family encourages anyone to bring photos or share stories during the celebration.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to your favorite animal charity or to local Hospice would be appreciated.



Far left: Chuck Ream holds the banner for his Champion Ewe at a Reno All American show. At left: Ream with his Supreme Champion Young Flock, at the Oregon State Fair, 2008.

Below, left: Ream helps set legs for exhibitors at the 2013 Boonville Fair's senior sheep show. Below: Ream poses with Kenzie Wattenberger, a 2012 recipient of a Mendocino County Junior Livestock Auction Committee scholarship.

Suffolk Sheep Award

Chuck Ream inducted into the United Suffolk Sheep Association Hall of Fame

When you're in Willits, and you think "sheep breeders," a few names come quickly to mind: The Randrups, the Shorts, the Rileys, but the main one of the big leagues is certainly Chuck Ream of Windswept Ranch.

Ream has spent decades raising his Suffolk herd of sheep at his ranch out Hearst and has traveled internationally to show, judge, and ... recently, receive a very special award.

On November 15, 2016, Ream attended the United Suffolk Sheep Association's annual meeting and dinner at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky where he, along with five other ranchers, received an induction into the USSA's Hall of Fame and a sculpted and engraved sheep trophy.

"I'm so flattered to win this award," said Ream. "It's such an honor to be acknowledged. Historically, I'm only the third person from California to ever win it. It was such a lovely event, but it was strange to attend for the first time in 25 years, and not show!"



Ream started life in Mechanicsburg, Ohio, raised on a farm that raised dairy cattle. His connection with sheep started way back in those early days, too, however. Chuck's brother Jim raised Shropshire sheep there on the family farm, and the two decided joined forces – Jim was 11 and Chuck was 14 – to rent their own farm. Their new place was 5 miles down the road from the family estate. The two were both devoted 4-H members, and both were on state-winning judging teams, too.

When it became time to attend college, the herd was sold, and Ream attended Ohio Wesleyan University. He then entered into the U.S. Navy, became a lieutenant and even served in Naples, Italy. Time in the service exposed him to California. He moved to San Francisco before eventually purchasing land in Willits and returning to livestock.

Ream became involved with the Suffolk breed in 1975, when he purchased his first sheep from Ray Craig in Atascadero. In the last 40-plus years, he has grown his herd into an impressive sight and a successful business. Five sheep sired by "California Jack" started Ream's herd.

Suffolks are a larger breed of sheep; mature rams usually

range between 250 and 350 pounds, and ewes usually weigh between 180 to 250 pounds. The breed was originally a result of crossing Southdown rams on Norfolk Horned ewes. They have distinctively black, smooth heads, ears and legs, and they produce a white fleece.

Feeling the call of his 4-H roots, Ream got involved with the local chapters of 4-H (serving for 43 years) and the high school-aged Future Farmers of America (serving for 11 years). He also joined the Mendocino County Junior Livestock Auction Committee and has served there for 43 years, and was the chairman for 13 years, something that he noted he was quite proud of. Ream was also an agriculture teacher at Willits High School from 1971 to 1980, and then later at Potter Valley High School for 4 years.

Ream also started the North Coast Junior Suffolk Sheep Show, held in Ukiah, which evolved into the North Coast Invitational Sheep Show; he started the California Junior Fitting Camp; he has been selected as the "Sheep Person of the Year" by the Sonoma County Purebred Sheep Breeders; he has been the United Junior Suffolk Sheep Association's junior coordinator, served on the USSA's scholarship committee, and has served as the junior coordinator and scholarship coordinator for the Junior Grand National Livestock Show.

He's also received many awards for his own sheep; notably receiving "champion" titles at the California State Fair, the Grand National Livestock Show at the Cow Palace, and at the Reno All-American Show. Ream won Grand Champion Ram at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale in 2009 and High Selling Yearling Ram at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale in 2016.

Congratulations, Chuck!

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