

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
 Donations Accepted Edition No. 142 **Thursday, February 11, 2016**

Garbage truck spill closes 101 for hours

Forrest Glycer
 Reporter
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Traffic was brought to a crawl on Highway 101 Tuesday, when a Solid Waste of Willits big rig loaded with garbage overturned in the bypass construction area just south of town.

According to the collision report from the California Highway Patrol, the semi-truck, which was towing a 45-foot-long trailer, was driving around the 20 mph curve when it fell on its side, and then slid into the concrete rail. Motorists were slowed and stopped for several hours that afternoon, as various agencies worked to clear the debris and remove the crashed truck from the road.

The driver, 29-year-old Ukiah resident Jose Nieto, was transported with major injuries to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the driver of the truck and his family," Caltrans posted on its District 1 Facebook page, "and we cannot thank CHP and all the emergency responders enough for putting their lives on the line to save others."

Some northbound traffic was able to be rerouted onto a section of what will become the southern interchange of the bypass. The area is still under construction, but had been paved last season. Caltrans spokesperson Phil Frisbie said this tactic went "smoothly."

"We were able to implement it quickly because we already had a plan in place, specifically in case there was another slide like the previous year on that hillside," said Frisbie.

Still, delays were considerable as northbound traffic reportedly backed up all the way to West Road near Redwood Valley

Read the rest of **Garbage**
 Over on Page 6

Below: The overturned garbage truck on Highway 101 just south of Willits.
 Photo courtesy of Caltrans



Above: Lois and Jeff Hoover share a heart-shaped pizza topped with sausage, mushrooms and olives at Old Mission Pizza. The pizza parlor will be offering a special Valentine's Day meal for two on Sunday, February 14. See their ad on page 7 for details. Below, from left: The Hoovers share a raspberry blueberry smoothie, topped with whipped cream, from Brewed Awakening. The heart-shaped pizza at Old Mission Pizza is the perfect size for sharing. Old Mission Pizza owner Chris Bulcke pulls the Hoovers' pizza from the oven. Below: Lois and Jeff Hoover. At bottom, the heart-shaped pizza, available this Valentine's Day at Old Mission Pizza.



'A Pizza My Heart'

Local business owners Jeff and Lois Hoover celebrate over 25 years of marriage

Still being sweethearts after 25 years of marriage looks like a 'pizza cake' when you meet Jeff and Lois Hoover, owners of the Noyo Theatre in Willits, who celebrated their silver anniversary last May.

The couple met through mutual friends, Terry and John, back in New York in 1989. Though each was independent friends with the couple, the foursome had never been out all together. This changed when Terry and John decided to set up a blind date for the two at Shea Stadium. The New York Mets and the Chicago Cubs were playing that

April in 1989, and the rivalry of the two teams – coupled with Lois' New York heritage and Jeff's Chicago heritage – seemed to be fate for their first date.

"Jeff had been waiting in his seat in the stadium when the three of us arrived," said Lois. "It was so cold since it was early April. He was frozen! We didn't really even end up watching the game, though, we just started talking and never stopped! We ended up going to a sports bar where it was warmer and watched the end of the game there"

Lois did note that the Chicago Cubs lost the game, which "was a good sign," she laughed.

Six weeks later, the pair was engaged. They were married on May 12 of 1990. Nine months later, daughter Jeri Lynn was born. She now attends UC Davis studying viticulture and enology (winemaking).

"She was our honeymoon baby!" laughed Lois.

Over the following years, the couple moved from the East Coast to Los Angeles where Lois continued work in the sound editing field, later joining DreamWorks as an animation assistant editor.

Read the rest of **Jeff & Lois**
 Over on Page 6



Trustees to debate opening sports to charter school students

The Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees will consider whether to allow students from other Willits schools, including Willits Charter School and Willits Elementary Charter School, to play on district sports teams.

The discussion was broached by Robert Chavez, principal of both Willits High School and Sanhedrin High School.

Chavez told the school board he had been researching the question in response to a comment made by Trustee Chris Neary a few meetings ago, in which Neary said he would like to explore whether it would be possible to let students from Willits Charter School play on Willits High School sports teams.

Chavez told the board it would be possible, although he noted the process to let that happen would be long and involved for the principal of the "receiving" school, in this case, Willits High School.

Mike A'Dair
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Read the rest of **Sports**
 Over on Page 13

Tensions boil over at animal shelter meeting

Mike A'Dair
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Approximately 100 people showed up at the board of supervisors chambers Monday to weigh in on the county's animal shelter which, depending on who you talk to, is either one of the best shelters in the country or one of the worst.

The discussion took place in front of the board's recently reactivated Health and Human Services Standing Committee: supervisors Tom Woodhouse and John McCowen.

The two supervisors sat
 Read the rest of **Shelter**
 Over on Page 13

Pot growers express concerns at Saturday town hall

Damian Sebouhian
 Reporter
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Cannabis growers and other stakeholders filled the Harrah Senior Center last Saturday afternoon for a town hall meeting to weigh in on Mendocino County's plans to revise its 9.31 cultivation ordinance and on other possible future cannabis cultivation regulations.

Present to listen to the advice and concerns of cannabis growers were members of the Marijuana Ad Hoc Committee: Ag Commissioner Chuck Morse and Mendocino County supervisors Tom

Read the rest of **Pot**
 Over on Page 6

Pot bill deadline removed

Damian Sebouhian
 Reporter
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As expected, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 21 into law, last Wednesday, February 3. The bill effectively removes the March 1, 2016 deadline mistakenly included in the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act passed last year.

With the deadline removed, city and county municipalities across the state can breathe a collective sigh of relief because they are now free to take their time to create their own unique rules and

Read the rest of **Deadline**
 Over on Page 13

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Thank you, City of Willits

City crews did such a beautiful job of repairing and repaving Humboldt Street between the Post Office and Willits City Hall. I or my neighbors walk this route every day, and count the huge improvements as a blessing.

The work crews were all friendly, hard-working, knowledgeable and proud of the design and implementation of this project. All the curbs and crossings are now beautifully marked and ADA compliant, after years of deterioration. Sidewalks are walkable. Older water hydrants were replaced. Rainwater flows smoothly away from where we walk and cross.

What more can I say, but thank you all again and again.

Robin LeIer, Willits

The next city council election

To the Editor:

I'd like to invite you to a special gathering of friends and neighbors on Saturday, February 13, 2016 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm at the Willits Library meeting room. We want to discuss ways to create a more positive future for Willits and finding the best people to run for Willits City Council in the November 2016 election.

Since Carlin and I came to this community in 1991, we have found many ways to connect with people in this wonderful town. We believe this is a critical time in our history, and people all over the world are coming together to support each other to make the transition from a system based on dominance to one grounded in partnership.

We are hoping people will attend this meeting who want to see the best people elected to the city council and want to work to support them in helping our community be the best that it can be. Learn about what it takes to run for city council and find out who may be considering throwing their hat into the ring.

You should consider attending if: you've ever thought about running for City Council, but wonder if it's worth the time and effort; you want the best possible people running for city council in the next election; you are interested in the future of Willits and the surrounding community now and in the future; you want to help encourage and support people who want to run for office.

We envision the meeting having the following elements: a short time to meet and greet; discussion on the needs of our town and the importance of good city council representation in 2016 and beyond; learn about which council seats will be open for the November election and timelines for the election process; hear from those who may consider running for office; hear from those who would be willing to work to get interested and qualified candidates elected and who will commit to staying involved while they are in office; and evaluate the success of the meeting and decide if people would like to meet again.

Let us know if you can come. Please pass this on to anyone you think would be interested. Together we can make a difference.

Jed Diamond, Willits

'Winter Wonderland'

To the Editor:

Six months prior.... "OK, but this is it, Tom. This is my last one. I'm not doing this again." Linda Buletti's response to Tom Herman's plea to chair his yearly project.

That Wednesday drapery fabric was delivered, and as the auction committee set about to block off the dais used by city council members, Little Lake Fire Department Deputy Chief Chris Wilkes innocently volunteered to climb a ladder and hang the satin panels. "Pleats? What do you mean you want them pleated. I don't do pleats." He did, and they were beautiful.

Saturday morning while visiting a friend in the hospital, Mayor Burton was asked about the fairy dust on his face. "Oh that. It's glitter. I've been helping decorate the hall this morning." Twelve- and 15-foot fir trees had been delivered by Annette Pinon and her crew, instructed by chairperson Buletti to create the first snowfall in her "Winter Wonderland."

Then at Sunday morning cleanup detail, with dust pan and broom in hand, Mayor Burton busied himself cleaning up the same glitter. "Whoa. I didn't know you had it in you, Bruce." He responded, "I'd like this job at the airport."

Snippet of conversation with Brad Walton about people across the United States who helped during their grueling bike ride for charity. "Invariably it was the fire departments in each town that supplied food and a place to rest our weary bones."

We could go on and on about the warmth, camaraderie, and good-natured teasing of those working together for a common cause: Little Lake Fire Department's dream of one day seeing the construction of a new firehouse. Saturday, November 15 was the culmination of six long months of behind-the-scenes work to bring "Winter Wonderland" to the community, an event presided over by Willits Rotary Club, Little Lake Fire Protection District, and the Firefighters' Association to raise funds for the New Firehouse Building Fund.

Once again, Linda Buletti completely transformed Willits Community Center from a dull, lifeless gray space to a beautiful room filled with tables covered in shimmering blue taffeta, black and gray brocade table runners, white carnation and fir centerpieces, and silver bamboo chairs, while overhead 3-foot, crystal-beaded chandeliers glittered among yards and yards of white tulle and tiny white lights. Volunteer firefighters: "Three of them? You want them where? We don't do crystal beads." They did.

All of the volunteers would like to extend a belated thank you to each and every person who helped, each and every business that donated, each and every person who bought a table, a raffle ticket, or an auction item. Your kindness and generosity will long be remembered. Overheard conversation in Donna Stropes' silent auction room: "My husband told me to come in here and buy something. I told him, 'I don't need a thing in here.' He said, 'That's not the point.'"

"Winter Wonderland" Committee – Tom Herman, Linda Buletti, Donna Stropes, Marilyn Harden, Jim Harden and Gail Richards

Behind the scenes

To the Editor:

At Mendocino County Animal Care Services, "out of sight, out of mind" is the name of the game. It's no secret the shelter is working hard to create the perception that they are doing a great job for our community.

The proponents who declare that the "Ukiah Animal Shelter is the most outstanding, compassionate government-run shelter in this country" clearly have not taken a trip to the locked quarantine area where dozens of dogs sit and wait to be evaluated for weeks, some forgotten. A month could go by without seeing the light of day.

These proponents have not been there to walk their

favorite dog only to find his underbelly fully inflamed and raw because the need for medical care was ignored or not even identified. They have not seen the deep-seated breed discrimination which results in a black, middle-aged pit bull being killed while a not-so-friendly, German shepherd gets to go to rescue after being turned down by 3+ rescues for his behavior.

This person hasn't gone into the nursery to see that nearly all of the 45+ kittens and mothers have been killed because vaccination and sanitation protocols were not followed properly.

Behind the scenes at what they call "animal care services," volunteers see the ugly side of sheltering that does not need to exist. I'm tired of hearing complaints about the public being turned away because the shelter is closing in an hour. I'm tired of hearing that one family is being charged hundreds of dollars to get their dogs out while another is having all of their impound fees waived. I'm tired of being told that the animals had to be killed because the animal was a danger for the community, when we all know the temperament testing and evaluation process currently in place is archaic and outdated. Terrified and stressed does not equal aggressive, or dangerous to the public.

No more excuses or neglect; we need solutions for the Mendocino County Animal Care Services facility! We need a highly trained and progressive animal shelter team to do the best for our homeless pets. The animals deserve higher life release rates, proper medical attention, and lower length of stays amongst many other things. Our government-run county departments don't have the expertise, ability or funding to run an animal shelter that is modern, highly efficient and saves all adoptable animals, even those with medical or behavioral issues that can be treated.

I welcome Petaluma Animal Services Foundation to join our community so that our animal shelter can become the modern, high-achieving shelter that our homeless pets deserve.

Alana Hastings, Willits

Free Healthier Living Workshops

To the Editor:

A new group of freshly trained co-facilitators will be offering Healthier Living Workshops (aka CDSMP) in Willits, Redwood Valley, and Laytonville beginning in March. The workshops have been taught worldwide to individuals dealing with chronic health conditions or individuals that are caregivers of others with chronic disease.

The workshops are recommended by the Center for Disease Control and have proven to be very effective in teaching better symptom management (depression, fear, and frustration), improving mobility and physical activity, reducing pain and fatigue and increasing energy.

Avenues to Wellness, a community-based wellness program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation, is sponsoring these workshops. A grant from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County has been instrumental in financing some of the costs associated with this Stanford School of Medicine program.

Local co-facilitators will offer a six-week workshop in each of the three communities. The groups will meet once per week for six weeks, meeting 2.5 hours per week. Workshops are free to the public. More information can be obtained by calling Avenues to Wellness at 456-9676 and speaking to Doreen. Register today as space is limited!

Doreen Glyer, Avenues to Wellness, Willits



Photos by Maureen Moore

Shop at the Market!

Winter Willits Farmers Market offers gifts for Valentine's Day Giving



The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

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Willits Weekly

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

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EST. 2013

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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

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

Level: Intermediate

How To Sudoku:

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

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12						13	14					15
16			17									18
19			20		21			22				23
24		25			26			27		28		29
30				31			32		33			34
35		36					37		38			
39								40				
41				42				43				
44				45	46		47			48		49
50			51		52		53			54		55
56			57	58		59			60			61
62			63		64			65				66
67			68									69
70								71				

ROMANTIC WORD SEARCH

K S R U T F V B A W E R U S A E R T H C
N L U F I T U A E B G N I L R A D Y M S
L E B Z V E H H E A R T X G V S Z E A
G F Z H O N E Y Z E T A N O I S S A P D
V V A E I T E E W S W O N D E R F U L W
G N I T S A L R E V E B O I G N I R A C S
B A G G O R G E O U S O X B W O X U B S
X R Y G T L A N O I T I D N O C N U W E
B Z O W N E H A N D S O M E B A W K G X
G M X M K I A O R D E H S I R E H C N Y
M D N E A M H R I F L E Z Y I S A I E
B M V C A N P C A L S O B L C H N T V L
A C C Z V V C K T G A G R I B R U X O L
B U I A M A F E H I U R T E I A A G L C
E N I T N E L A V O W S E K V R Z S T
G L E W V F A V O R I T E T L E K O Y M
V U P A R T N E R E X V E N E K R V D E
W C H G B E L O V E D M K B T D E O Z A
T K K I S S B K E N C H A N T I N G M D
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COMPLETED	KISS	VALENTINE
CRAZY	LIPS	WONDERFUL
DARLING	LOVING	
ENCHANTING	LUCKY	

CLUES ACROSS

- Construct
- Seal
- Last from Kent Haruf
- A public promotion
- Acutely insightful and wise
- Yemeni rial
- ___ Lang (country singer)
- Blue Hen school
- Decaliter
- Point midway between S and E
- 12th Greek letter
- One point S of SE
- Pools
- Notes of hand
- Algerian dinar
- Metal cooking vessel
- Short poking stroke
- Mountain Standard Time
- Dark hairs mixed with light
- Hosts film festival
- Frost
- Former moneys of Brazil
- Bodily perceptions
- Baseball great Ty ___
- Before
- ___ Caesar, comedian
- Containerful

CLUES DOWN

- Started growth
- Biblical Sumerian city
- Where Alexander defeated Darius III
- Something to be borne or conveyed
- Removed earth
- Traveled by water
- Hirobumi __, Japan
- Antelopes
- Japanese emigrant's offspring
- For instance
- T cell glands
- Acorn trees
- Burdened
- Wound deformity
- Has faith in
- Title of honor
- Someone
- Pouch
- Comprehensive
- Separates with an instrument
- Noble
- 6th tone
- US, Latin America, Canada
- Snoot
- About heraldry
- Angel
- Female sibling
- Former OSS
- Stressed-unstressed-unstressed
- An imperfectly broken mustang
- Call out
- A long scarf
- Coconut fiber
- Scene of sports & events
- Bodily suffering
- Cloths
- A way to agitate
- No seats available
- Linen liturgical vestment
- Atomic #103
- Home screen



Above, right: Gail Richards checks the detail in David Weitzman's pen and ink drawing, "Summer Oaks." In the foreground is one of Stacey Patton's drawings, "Claire Randall Fraser."

At left, top: Art lovers enjoy Saturday's opening of the WCA's 2016 Members Show.

At left, below: Book art piece, "Nils Holgerson" by Laura Wiecek. Weicek had part of her book art collection - over 70 pieces in all - displayed at the Willits Library.

At bottom, left: Laura and Greg Corben view Jerry Albright's photo of redwoods.

At bottom, right: Jim Sweet and Lana Eberhard, cell phone in hand, enjoy seeing Robin Goldner's social commentary about smart phones, displayed in the upstairs hall at WCA.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Willits Center for the Arts

February's Members Show highlights talents of the Willits community

The Willits Center for the Arts kicked off its annual Members Art Show with a strong opening on Saturday, February 6. Artwork from 57 local artists - all members of the WCA - currently fills the center with a wide range of captivating displays, showcased in a variety of mediums, from acrylic and watercolor paintings, hand-made jewelry, ceramic and copper sculptures, to photography, mosaics, and much more.

Attendees of the opening, many who spilled in from the neighboring Sip Some Soup event held at the Willits Community Center, were serenaded by live music from musician, Chris Jibson of the trio "The Midas Well." Wine and hors d'oeuvres were available in the back room.

"[Each member artist] was allowed to submit two to three pieces of art work," said WCA board member and artist Ann Maglente. "Last year we only had enough art to fill the downstairs, but this year we had so many submissions, we filled the upstairs Great Room as well."

Such is one of the benefits of a \$35 annual WCA membership: As an artist, you're allowed to display and sell your work for free during the Members Art Show, which lasts until the end of February.

Read the rest of **WCA** | Over on Page 6

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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Chuck the Hound



Chuck is a beautiful, 3-year-old neutered male hound who currently weighs 70 pounds. True to his breed, he is curious - often sniffing at the ground or in the air - and he can be talkative when he has something to say. Chuck is a big, energetic boy who needs room to roam and guardians committed to daily exercise.

Unfortunately Chuck has tested positive for heartworm. We have begun treatment and expect no lasting health issues. During his month on oral medication treatment, Chuck will need lots of love and rest. We sure hope he's able to do that in a warm home with his forever family!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm.

We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

Photo by Rod Coats

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
Coming Soon: Hail Caesar!

DEADPOOL
(R) 1 hr 47 mins
Fri: 5:45 & 8:15pm
Sat-Tues: 12:45, 3:15, 5:45 & 8:15pm
Wed/Thurs: 5:15 & 7:45pm

KUNG-FU PANDA 3
THE WEIGHT IS OVER
(PG) 1 hr 35 mins
Fri: 4:45 & 7:00pm
Sat-Tues: 12:15, 2:30, 4:45 & 7:00pm
Wed/Thurs: 4:45 & 7:00pm

BROOKLYN
(PG13) 1 hr 51 mins
Fri: 6:00pm
Sat-Tues: 1:00 & 8:00pm
Wed/Thurs: 5:00pm

PRIDE & PREJUDICE & ZOMBIES
(PG13) 1 hr 48 mins
Fri: 8:30pm
Sat-Tues: 3:30 & 8:30pm
Wed/Thurs: 7:30pm

Movie Times for 2/11 thru 2/18 This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

Jeff, a set builder and theater tech by trade, was also teaching those skills at colleges, but the pair was ready to make a move – into their own business and north up the coastline.

Being able to live on the equity of the sale of their Southern California house, the family traveled up and down the coast looking for the perfect place to call home.

“Jeff picked Willits right away,” said Lois. “He just fell in love with it. Not on the coast, not too far in, not too busy, just right.”

Owning a movie theater wasn't decided so quickly. The original plan started as maybe owning a hardware store. However, Jeff had his eyes on the business listings, and when the Noyo came up for sale – with the real estate attached, a prime factor for lenders – the lightbulb clicked. Their knowledge of the film industry and Jeff's handy skills made it a great choice.

They worked some with the West Company in Fort Bragg, developing a business plan; Lois took classes in accounting, business and Quickbooks; and they closed escrow on the theater on June 8, 2012.

In just under a week, with the business remaining open during construction, the pair upgraded the building, added 3D screens, and gave the building some needed repairs.

Both work at the theater – alternating shifts most times – leaving email to be one of their best ways of communication. When pitched about the idea of being featured for this story, Jeff and Lois exchanged the emails below, which showcase just why they were a great selection for this Willits Weekly feature.

What are their plans for Valentine's Day? Well, Jeff is apparently quite the cook, making crockpot brisket and potatoes for one of their first meals together.

“I have something in the works,” Jeff smiled.

Happy Valentine's Day, Jeff and Lois, and to all of our Willits Weekly readers, too.

From: Lois Hoover
Date: Mon, Feb 8, 2016
Subject: Valentine's Day
To: Jeff Hoover

Okay, so I just got this phone call from Maureen Moore from Willits Weekly. She and Jennifer Poole were brainstorming the Valentine's Day issue, and here's what they came up with:

Old Mission Pizza is making these heart-shaped pizzas, and WW thought it would be “super cute” to have a local business couple enjoying a heart-shaped pizza and sharing a milk shake (2 straws) for their hot date night. Wait for it....

Yep, you guessed it.... They want us to do it!

They couldn't think of a more romantic couple than us?

Of course not!!

Love, Your Sweetheart <3 Lois

PS: You will say yes, won't you?

From: Jeffrey Hoover
Date: Mon, Feb 8, 2016
Subject: Re: Valentine's Day
To: Lois Hoover

How nice! How about pushing a meatball around the pizza with our noses? Can we wear our hats?

It's OK with me.
Love You!

From: Lois Hoover
Date: Mon, Feb 8, 2016
Subject: Re: Valentine's Day
To: Willits Weekly

He said yes!!
We <3 WW
Love, Lois and Jeff

Giving up sugar: A ‘Valentine to Yourself’

I recently decided to eliminate added sugar from my diet, and so was interested to hear the Avenues to Wellness speaker Diane Smalley give a presentation on “Send a Valentine to Yourself: There is More to Life Than the Sweet Taste.” The room was packed at the Willits Senior Center when I arrived at 5:30 on Tuesday, February 2.

Jed Diamond
Contributing Writer

Smalley came prepared with a wonderful PowerPoint presentation, along with some great handouts.

She began by sharing her own experiences growing up in a world where sugar has become a presence in our lives. “I have a sweet tooth,” she admitted. “Anyone else?” All our hands were raised. Smalley recalled her high school years when vending machines on campus sold various types of sugary sodas along with a variety of candy bars. She remembered having a bad time with acne and severe menstrual cramps. She wanted to learn more about how sugar impacted her health.

She heard about Weston A. Price, a dentist who went around the world in the 1930s with a camera to photograph people's teeth. He found that in traditional societies, untouched by modern food practices, the people were healthier and had healthy teeth. But as modern civilization spread, and more people began eating modern foods with large quantities of sugar, white flour, and processed food, oral health and health in general began to decline.

From my own experience I knew that sugar wasn't good for me. It gives us a lot of empty calories, and sugar adds to the growing problem so many of us face with obesity and diabetes. But Smalley detailed additional downsides of eating sugar: Sugar impairs hormones; sugar is addictive; sugar can suppress the immune system; sugar reduces the body's ability to defend against infection; sugar can cause hyperactivity, anxiety, inability to concentrate, and crankiness



Diane Smalley

in children; and sugar can cause premature aging.

Smalley went beyond describing the negative aspects of sugar. She took us on a tour of the human body and described healthful herbs that not only help reduce sugar cravings, but improve the health of all our organs.

Read the rest of
Sugar | Over on Page 11

The rest of **Garbage**

From Page 1

at times. The accident occurred just before noon, and the highway wasn't cleared until nearly 5 pm.

Some in the community feel – and said so on Facebook posts about the accident – that the 20 mph curve is inherently too dangerous due to its location on the highway and the sudden drop in speed necessary to safely navigate it, but Frisbee said accidents there have been sparse.

“There have been a few,” he said, “but the collisions have been relatively low because we do have a lot of signage out there. And local commuters have been doing well to help keep the speeds down.”

“The unfortunate truth,” he added, “is that you can't make a highway 100 percent safe.... And we do our best to make them as safe as we can.”

He also noted the situation is temporary; that particular curve will become part of the southbound onramp, and “it'll be more obvious. It'll be a normal turn that people will be expecting.”

The current Caltrans goal is to have traffic on the bypass by November 8 this year.

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

While every display showcases the unique talents of its maker, there are some that stood out to me as particularly aesthetically pleasing.

These include John Wagenet's “Blacktail,” a graphite-on-board composition of a six-point buck standing gallantly next to a madrone tree, with the forested mountains of Mendocino County serving as evocative background.

Marta Canilla's “Fearless Passion,” an oil-on-canvas, photo-realistic portrait, captures the contemplative, inner world of a man about to accomplish something important.

Sue Ellen Parkinson's “Saint Cecilia Playing to the Ark” is an acrylic-on-wood composition I could easily visualize adorning the entryway of a large theater hall.

Other pieces that drew me to linger in studied appreciation included – but were definitely not limited to – Linda Park's “Redwing Blackbird” (watercolor and ink); the photography of Steve Eberhard, Wendy Wilmes and Rob Wilkenson; the watercolors of Donna Stropes; and Micky

At right: Al Kerr enjoys details of Linda MacDonald's watercolor, “Arum and Thistle.”

Far right: Jeanine Alberg and Michael Coons stand in front of Bob Wilkinson's photo, “The Picnic,” with Nan Trichler's two quilt pieces, and Coons' photo, “Waterfall Nymph,” in the background.

Photos by Ree Stocum



Fernandez' brilliant Mosaic “Our Lady of Los Muertos.”

More visits are required to fully appreciate the vast array of art displayed at WCA, a satisfying reminder of what a talented community we are fortunate enough to live in.

With the recent formation of a highly motivated all-woman board of trustees for the WCA, and with a new, favorable contract anticipated to be finalized by February 24 with the City of Willits, it's an exciting time to jump on the bandwagon and help shape the future of WCA.

Currently the art center is looking for a part-time volunteer show coordinator, a part-time manager to head up a docent program, and more teachers to help create an active art school program.

“The show coordinator is an important and exciting position because it's about going throughout the entire county and beyond and discovering new artists,” said WCA President June Ruckman. “Even though it's a volunteer

position at this point,” Ruckman added, “it's really the heart and soul of what we do every month.”

The docent program involves gathering more volunteers to watch over the center, to meet and greet, and to do other light tasks. The more volunteers, the more the center can have its doors open to the public. Each volunteer is being asked to work only one day a month in exchange for a free WCA membership.

For the remainder of the month of February, WCA will be open six days a week, 4 to 7 pm from Tuesdays through Fridays and 12 to 3 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. The arts center will be closed on Mondays.

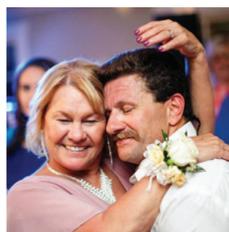
For volunteer information, call Nancy Reed at 459-1239.

WCA has an active “Willits Center for the Arts” Facebook page that is updated regularly.

For more information about current and upcoming shows, call WCA at 459-1239 or visit: www.willitscenterforthearts.org/home.



Happy Valentine's Day to my amazing parents! True love never looked so beautiful. Love, your daughter Monica



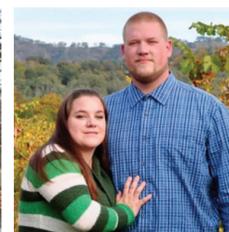
Happy Valentine's Day to my Amazing Husband Erick. Love Always, your Wife Diana



I loved you yesterday and love you still; I always have and always will. Happy Valentine's Day Izzy! Love, Shawna



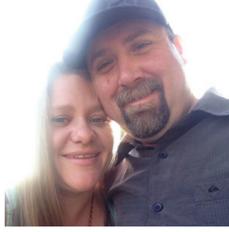
My forever valentines!! Love my three boys!!



Happy Valentine's Day to my love Casey. I love you very much! Love always, Mellisa.



Love is a wonderful thing, Bert and Christina



Jack Drew, I love u with all my heart!!



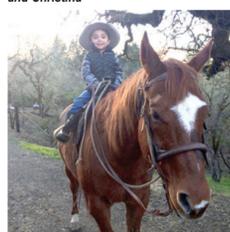
To Shelley and Brooke, love Carmen



Keith Kendrick, you are the peanut butter to my jelly.... Happy anniversary



Leslie & Juan



Happy Valentine's Day, Willits Weekly readers! Love, Grady Fossen



Melissa Pitkin & Clay Krisik

See more Willits community Valentine's Day Greetings on page 10

Amazing Athletes



JV Basketball |
Stephanie Webb,
age 15, sophomore

Position: Wing
Breakfast of Champions: Odwalla bar, apple cinnamon

Love for the Sport: “I love that it's a contact sport, and aggressive.”

Years Playing the Sport: Since fourth grade

My Amazing Athlete Stephanie Webb had 7 points, 8 steals and 6 rebounds at last week's game. She played an aggressive defensive game.

I felt it was one of the best defensive games all year, and we really attacked the hoop on the offensive end. Stephanie is also one of our two captains.

– Coach Paul Riley

Read the rest of
Athletes | Over on Page 14



JV Basketball |
Kiley Butler,
age 15, freshmen

Position: Wing
Breakfast of Champions: Cereal, all kinds

Love for the Sport: “Being a part of a team.”

Years Playing the Sport: Since kindergarten

In the last two games, my Amazing Athlete Kiley Butler has scored 20 points. She had 10 steals, 10 rebounds, 4 and assists. Offensively Kiley is really starting to come alive. She is extremely fast to the hoop.

When we played against Cloverdale, they didn't have anyone that could guard going to the hoop. Kiley is one of eight freshmen on the team.

– Coach Paul Riley

J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY

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All day Sunday, Feb. 14th

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HOURS: Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. • Friday & Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Friday, February 12

Willits Community Garden Renewal: Friday, February 12, 1 to 5 pm at the Willits Community Garden, 474 East Valley, behind the Health and Human Services building. "Join community members in garden clean-up. Learn how to get involved/join the garden. Free seeds and snacks for participants. Workday is open to all." Questions? Call Arianna at the Gardens Project at 707-467-3200, ext. 399.

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play": Opening night tonight with free-to-ticket-holders champagne reception at 7 pm for the first show of the 2016 season at the Willits Community Theatre. This award-winning avant garde romantic comedy, "In The Next Room or The Vibrator Play," spotlights the dawn of the age of electricity in the late 1800s when a scientist, Dr. Givings, has invented a new electrically-powered device for treating hysteria: the vibrator. Get ready for laughs, unexpected romance and the confirmation of true love." Directed by Mike A'Dair, starring Lee Stipe, Maheanani Phillips, Lara Eventide, Ron Greystar, Gloriann Lucero, Kristen McCallum, and Kathy De Bane. Runs through February 28. Thursdays at 7 pm (\$10); Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm (\$15), and Sundays, February 21 and 28 at 2 pm (\$10). Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.

ClosEnuf: Live at the Brooktrails Lodge, Friday, February 12 starting at 8 pm. "Come listen and jam with seasoned musicians who love to entertain. If you like to listen to good classic rock'n'roll come up to the lodge and check it out." Sign-ups at 7:30 pm for open mic jam. ClosEnuf plays at the lodge the second Friday of every month.

Shanachie Pub: Mitchell Holman Revue. 8:30 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, February 13

Winter Clothes Drive: Community Crossroads is hosting a warm clothes drive, collecting coats, hats, sleeping bags, gloves and scarves, and just about anything warm that can be distributed and worn by those in need during the cold season. Parking lot of Les Schwab, 1565 South Main Street. Saturday, February 13 and Sunday, February 14, from 9 am to 4 pm. "From local people to local people." Questions? Call Linda at 707-354-1743 or Shannon 707-489-3044.

Candidates for Willits City Council?: Those interested in discussing "ways to create a more

What's Happening Around Town

positive future for Willits and finding the best people to run for Willits City Council in the November 2016 election, are invited to meeting set for Saturday, February 13 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm at the Willits Library meeting room, 390 East Commercial Street. "Learn about what it takes to run for city council and find out who may be considering throwing their hat into the ring." See letter from Jed Diamond on page 2 for more details.

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

Shanachie Pub: Them Travelin' Birds. 8 pm. No cover. Visit <http://themtravelinbirds.com>. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant; enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, February 14

Happy Valentine's Day!

Harrah Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: Valentine's Day breakfast from 8 to 11 am at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, eggs any style, and your choice of sausage, ham, or bacon. Adults \$7, members \$6, kids \$5.

Winter Clothes Drive: Parking lot of Les Schwab, 1565 South Main Street. Saturday, February 13 and Sunday, February 14, from 9 am to 4 pm. See Saturday, February 13 listing for more details.

36th Willits Classic: This annual footrace (walkers welcome) "circles the farming community of Little Lake Valley, following beautiful rural roads with virtually no traffic." Footrace starts on Sunday, February 14 at 10 am for the 10 milers, and 10:30 am for the 5K run/walkers at Recreation Grove on East Commercial Street. Organized by the North Coast Striders; race day registration begins at 9 am. Entry fee is \$20 for adults, \$18 for members of North Coast Striders, and \$10 for ages 16 and under. Add \$3 for race day registration. Awards are given for the top three male and female overall finishers and the first-place finishers in all age divisions with medals. Second- and third-place age group finishers receive ribbons. The age groups are: 9 & under, 10-13, 14-17, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70+. To register for the 2016 Valentine's Day 36th Willits Classic run and/or join the club, visit www.striders.org where entry forms can be downloaded.

'An Evening to Remember': The public is invited to "An Evening to Remember," a Valentine's Dinner fundraiser for the Adventist Christian School of Willits on Sunday, February 14. Dinner will be to be

served at the school gym – transformed into an "Italian Villa" with ambiance, lighting, and décor to make the experience memorable – at 22751 Bray Road. The menu features a variety of pastas and sauces, a full salad bar, and wonderful desserts. Service begins at 5:30 pm. Advance tickets: \$10 (available at The Goods Shoppe or at the school; \$12 at the door. Info: 459-4333.

Tommy Castro Band: "A True Blues Valentine," featuring fearless blues legends Tommy Castro and the Painkillers on Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14, celebrating the gritty, pared-down sound of their new release "Method to My Madness." Doors open at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street at 6 pm with Mendocino County farm-to-table food by Black Dog Farm (no host dinner \$12-\$25) and the hard-driving blues kickers off at 7:30 pm. Menu includes: Prime Rib, Butternut Squash Lasagna, Cheese Plate, fresh-baked bread from Roland's Bakery, Farmers Market Salad, Shrimp Bisque, and Chocolate Mousse. Get your tickets, \$20, in advance (expected to sell out) at Willits Furniture and JD Redhouse in Willits and online at Eventbrite. Children welcome: \$2 at the door. A benefit for the county's mobile spay clinic "Care-A-Van" and the Willits Elementary Charter School.



Monday, February 15

Dances of Universal Peace: "Come, join hands with us in sacred circle as we celebrate the Love that holds the universe together." Monday, February 15, 7 to 9 pm, Room 4 at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Tuesday, February 16

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

Wednesday, February 17

Mental Health Board Meeting in Willits: the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency's Behavioral Health Advisory Board (formerly known as the Mental Health Advisory Board) meets in Willits this month, February 17, from 10 am to 2 pm at the WISC building, 472 Valley Street, in the Atlantic room. "The meeting is intended for members of the



public interested in supporting their local mental health services system. Public members are encouraged to attend the meeting to ask questions and give testimony." For agenda, visit: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hhsa/mh_board.htm

Thursday, February 18

School District Public Meeting: The Willits Unified School District holds a public meeting to get public input on the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the 2016/17 budget for the Willits schools. Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 3:30 pm at Willits High School Media Center, 299 North Main Street. Info: call the WUSD district office at 459-5314.

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play": 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre; see Friday, February 12 listing for details.

'In Search of Balance': Now and Then Film Series presents this 2016 award-winning documentary that "explores a new paradigm of health, science and medicine that recognizes the importance of the interconnections between us, the food we consume, how we produce that food and the natural world at large, including the mysterious, invisible world of the human microbiome." Visit <http://insearchofbalance.com> for more details. Thursday, February 18 at 7 pm, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Donation of \$5 to \$10 to help funding licenses for this series. "Come early to see trailers & short films." Serving heirloom organic popcorn with real organic butter and Fair Trade chocolate. Info: 707-459-6362.

Shanachie Pub: Eugene Christopher Band. Indie Folk Rock. 9 pm. No cover. "Currently out of Newport Beach, Eugene grew up in Monroe, then lived and traveled around the country, but will never forget his roots in the backwoods of Swartz, Louisiana." Visit www.reverbnation.com/eugenechristopher. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, February 19

"Chinese in Mendocino County": Friends of the Willits Library (FOWL) is pleased to offer a free book presentation/signing and slide show by local author Lorraine Hee-Chorley

Friday, February 19 at 7 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Families warmly invited. "Chinese in Mendocino County" is the first-ever broad history of the Chinese in Mendocino County. The Chinese were instrumental in the county's development in the 1800s, but little has been written documenting their contribution to local history until now. "Chinese in Mendocino County," from local author Lorraine Hee-Chorley, boasts more than 200 vintage photographs. The photographs date from the early 1800s to the 1970s, painting a vivid picture of the Chinese presence in Mendocino County.

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

Shanachie Pub: Self Fulfilling Prophecies folk rock grunge popping, with Buckminster West, Morgan Stocker and Bodhi Iodarius. 9 pm. No cover. Visit www.myspace.com/selffulfillingprophecies. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, February 20

WCT auditions for 'Pump Boys and Dinettes': The Willits Community Theatre holds auditions for "Pump Boys and Dinettes," an outlaw country and western musical revue, to run in June (rehearsals in April and May). Directed by veteran actor/director/dancer and Ukiah High School drama instructor Maria Monti. Saturday, February 20, at noon, at the WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. The call is for two women and four men, 20 years old and up. Each person who is auditioning should bring a song to sing, no more than 8 to 12 measures. The women should bring sheet music if they wish to be accompanied. People who are auditioning for one of the male roles should bring their instrument and be prepared to sing and play one song. Questions? Contact director Monti at 456-0901 or tappinshoes@comcast.net.



Winter Fashion Show: A benefit for Willits High School Booster Club and two scholarships, featuring fashions by local boutiques and merchants. Saturday, February 20, 6 pm, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. \$20. Children 6 and under are free. Refreshments provided by WHS Booster Club. Info: 469-2752. Tickets at the door or available at Off The Cuff, Tiger Lily's, Carhart, Buttercups, Monkey Wrench, J.D. Redhouse, and Earth's Treasures.

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

Sunday, February 21

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play": 2 pm matinee at Willits Community Theatre; see Friday, February 12 listing for details.

COLUMN | At the Movies



'Pride and Prejudice and Zombies'

The Story: Nineteenth-century England. One does want one's daughters well-married to gentlemen of the proper class. But then there is this damnable zombie scourge to consider, so one trains the young women in the martial skills necessary to discourage those random brain eaters they are sure to encounter. A well-bred young woman knows knife fighting, saber dexterity and musketry, as well as Shaolin kung fu. This flick is clever, lightly funny, and sauced with exploding zombie heads and various dismemberments.

I really and truly enjoyed every minute of this movie.

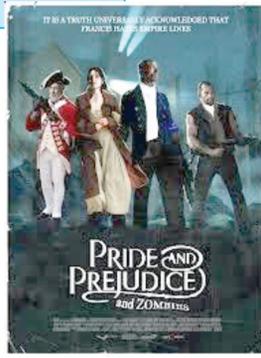
My Thoughts: And speaking of prejudice, I was dead set against this flick ... so ... stupid me. I should have known better than to judge a movie by its title, or condemn it without even seeing it. I was wrong. This was a solid little horror/thriller with some darned amusing samplings from Jane Austen. And it is beautifully produced in set and costume. I do think those Anglophile ladies who dote on all things Jane Austen will draw the line on/against the zombie part of this movie. Also, I believe that zombie lovers puke at the thought of a nancy-prancy, 19th century, painfully civilized dress ball. (Oh, sorry, did I say puke, I meant exgustivate.) I could be wrong on both counts. This movie surprised me.

Parents: Don't take your children to zombie movies, even vaguely funny ones. Take your children to the Coast Guard rescue movie or the Kung Fu Panda flick. That way they won't have bad dreams based on non-existent monsters.

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

Senior Center Lunch

Week of February 15 through February 19
Monday: Chicken Fried Steak
Tuesday: Beef Stew
Wednesday: Spaghetti
Thursday: Chicken Enchilada
Friday: BBQ Chicken
 Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.



Ongoing Events

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

2016 Members Art Show: Willits Center for the Arts February Show features works by WCA members in various media. Runs through February 28 at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Expanded gallery hours for February: Tuesdays through Fridays, from 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sundays from 12 to 3 pm. Visit <http://willitscenterforthearts.org>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Willits Library Public Events: "Pajama Story Time" for families, Tuesdays at 7 pm. "Stories for Crawlers and Walkers," Thursdays at 11 am. Technology group for help with hand-held devices, Fridays at 1 pm. Youth Game Night, ages 10-14, Fridays from 5 to 7:30 pm. Drop-in Knitting Circle, Saturdays from 3 to 4:30 pm. 390 East Commercial Street. More info: 459-5908.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday. 8 pm. No cover. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic every Wednesday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room: Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street. Info: 459-2444.

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays, November to May, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willits Avenue, Laytonville.

Save the Date

Chamber of Commerce Mixer, February 27, Willits Center for the Arts
 Willits Educational Foundation Tri Tip Dinner, March 4, Rodeo Grounds
 Twining Time and friends, WCS benefit, March 19, Willits Community Theater

Brooktrails Breakfast and Flea Market

Saturday, February 27

The Prosperity Club and Brooktrails Lodge are hosting "All You Can Eat Pancakes" for \$5 a person on Saturday, February 27 at the Brooktrails Lodge. "A great family event offering a chance to socialize with members of our community, including local artisans and vendors." Also offering biscuits & gravy, bacon, eggs, country potatoes, drinks and adult beverages at additional cost. Jumper Bounce House will also be there for the kids. Still a few flea market booths available: message 707-367-9737 for details.

FREE POSITIVE PARENTING GROUP
 From Willits Elementary Counseling Grant

SYSTEMATIC TRAINING FOR EFFECTIVE PARENTING
 Attend a parent workshop and learn: How to understand your child's behavior How to listen and talk to your child Discipline that makes sense... Have fun. Talk to other parents! Add to your Parenting Tool Box.

Workshops will be held once a week for 7 weeks

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS
 At Brookside Elementary School Room 25
 9:10:30am breakfast served

SEVEN WEDNESDAYS
 Starting February 24, 2016

#1 Mom
 #1 Dad

April 13** (After Spring Break)

Appropriate for parents of children ages 4-12. Open to all families with children in the Willits Unified School District

For more information & to sign up, please contact:
 Jackie Herz at 459-5385 ext: 1452 jackieherz@willitsunified.com
 Katie Cochran at 459-5385 ext: 1440 katiecochran@willitsunified.com

2016 Willits Redwood Little League Registration

Ongoing to February 19

Visit our website to register for the 2016 Willits Redwood Little League season: <http://wrls1.siplay.com>.

All players must register through our website. Late registration will be placed on a waiting list with no guarantee of team placement. Do not register late! Registration fee: \$95 for first player; \$85 for each additional player. For more information contact Melissa Coughlin 707/354-2226 or check "Willits Redwood Little League" on Facebook



Photos by Sarah Mayfield



Photo by April Lamprich

Cookie Time!

Girl Scouts out selling cookies now!

It's time again for Girl Scout cookie sales and scouts will be out and about until March 13 trying to sell as many boxes as possible. This year, Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Cranberry Citrus Crisps and Lemonades are a few of the available options. Boxes are \$5 each. Troops will be out almost daily until the end of the sale. They can be found at Grocery Outlet, Scoops, Safeway and Main Street Music & Video. For more information about Girl Scouts of Northern California, how to join or other information: <http://www.gsnorcal.org> or call your local troop leader.

At top: To kick off the cookie season, Willits Troop 10577 hosted a Cookie Rally on January 16 at the Willits Kids Club. Troops were welcome to attend, sing songs, do crafts, play games, win prizes and more.

Above: Charley Lamprich of Troop 10515.

At left: Dakota and Zoey Boren of Troop 10569 and younger sister and scout-to-be Kara Boren.

Below: Activities and games at the cookie rally.



Mendocino College seeks 10-minute scripts for Festival of New Plays

Local writers take note: There's never been a better opportunity to try your hand at play writing. Mendocino College is currently seeking short plays by local authors to be produced on campus this spring.

The new semester is underway at the college, and one of the most exciting events of the college's spring theater season is the annual Festival of New Plays. Once again, theater professor Reid Edelman will use short plays written by local authors to teach directing and acting students about the joys and challenges of working with new scripts. These plays will be produced in the college's annual festival at the end of the semester.

This production of student-written scripts is now in its 13th year. For the past 12 years, Edelman has worked with English instructor and playwright Jody Gehman to find and develop student-written plays. Anyone residing in Lake, Sonoma or Mendocino counties is eligible to submit an original play.

"We clearly have an abundance of talented writers in this area," says Gehman, "but only a small percentage of them even think about writing a play. Playwrights aren't born, they're coerced by people like us to try it once. After seeing their work produced, most become addicted; it's a tremendous high to sit in a theater and watch your ideas come to life."

The deadline for submissions is Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14, 2016. There are no limitations in terms of theme or content, but small casts (two to five characters) and minimal technical requirements are recommended for optimal chances at production. Scripts should have a running time of no longer than 10 minutes. Electronic submissions should be saved as PDF files. For more information or to submit your play, contact Jody Gehman, 468-3150 or jgehman@mendocino.edu. You can also mail your play to 1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah, CA 95482.



46 years, and we're still having fun!



Happy Valentine's Day, my sweethearts Christian and Rickey. Grandma and Pop Pop love you!!!



35 years and still going strong. Ramon and Debbie



Happy Valentine's Day, Justin. You continue to amaze me everyday. I appreciate everything you do. I'm so lucky to have you. Love, Krystle



In loving memory of my darling sweetheart for 51 years, Lonnie H. Deaton. I love you so very much and will miss you forever. Your wife, Myrtle "Kitten" Deaton



Happy Valentine's Day to my sweeties Steven, Kyler and Kobi! Love, Yo Mama



Happy Valentine's Day to my sweetie, Aria Leigh. Grandma and Grandpa Evans love you!



Happy Valentine's Day to the Love of my Life, Norbert! You Rock my Socks! Love, Ashley Bo Thrashley!



Happy Valentine's Day, Ricco. I love you to the moon and back



"I want my grandma to be my valentine," says River



Collin, Cailin & Caden

Let Love Bloom...

Valentine's Day is Sunday, February 14th!

Flower Lady OF WILLITS

707-459-9075
242 S Main St, Willits
www.flowerladyofwillits.org

We Deliver! Willits - Ukiah - Laytonville

A Valentine Dinner Invitation

A special someone...
A special dinner...
A special night...

Sunday February 14
Serving 5:30-7:00

Advance tickets and reservations:
\$10.00 per person Family \$35 (up to 5)

At the door:
\$12.00 per person Family \$40 (up to 5)

Call for reservations: School - 459-4333
Adventist Christian School of Willits 22751 Bray Road Willits, CA

SCRATCH CARD VALENTINE'S DAY SUNDAY

Players Club members that earn minimally 40 points on each specific Sunday, will receive two (only two) Scratch Cards (via the Players Club).

Each Scratch Card will have a prize (cash or free play), which will be:

\$10 Free Play \$20 Free Play \$50 Free Play \$75 Free Play \$100 Free Play
\$20 Cash \$50 Cash \$100 Cash

Customers may receive only Two Scratch Card on February 14th for this promotion. All Free play that is won via the Hot Seat drawings must be used by 2A on the same gaming day, or the winnings (Free Play) will be removed from the customer's account

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

100 Kawi Place, Willits 707-459-7330 www.svrcasino.com

CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 30 Words for 2 Weeks

Algebra, Geometry Tutoring, Test Prep
Mac Smith 459-MATH

32 Acre Super Farm
32 Acres near Downtown Laytonville. Water Tanks in place. Wooded with several cleared areas. Includes 2 Bedroom House and Warehouse. Good Seclusion. Deeded water source. Details www.acorn-realty.com/30. BRE# 00307344

Computer Help
Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$40/hr. Tutoring \$20/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamerjg@yahoo.com.

SEWING AND ALTERATIONS
Seamstress and Sewing Teacher
Barbara Carlton
Visit my webpage: Zbergirl.com
707-367-6182, Willits.

Duplex for Rent
Deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex in Brooktrails. All appliances. Laundry room, central heat & air, garage. Incredibly nice. No smoking, no pets. \$900/month plus \$1,800 deposit. Call 984-6479.

Estate Sale
372 S. Lenore. February 12-14; Friday 11-6; Sat 9-5; Sun 9-2. Furniture, kitchen supplies, gardening, tools, clothes, linens, knick knacks, etc. Everything must go. Rain or shine.

Help Wanted
Adventist Health-Care & Hospice Services Mendocino County. FIT - PIT - Per Diem positions: RN, Home Health Aide, Physical & Occupational Therapist. Great Team & Great Benefits. Call Truly-H/R #456-3230.

Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency
Currently recruiting for:
Account Specialist II / Account Clerk II
\$2579-\$3133/Mo. Closes 2/12/16
Current vacancy in Ukiah. EOE
Apply at: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr

Ann Barker

Ann Deigner Barker of Willits passed away on January 29, 2016 at the age of 92. A native of New York and former resident of Covina, California, she had lived in our community for the past 33 years.

Ann had been a school principal for 39 years, last employed by Alhambra City Schools. She was a member of Eastern Star and First Baptist Church here in Willits, and she enjoyed her memberships and friendships in several bridge clubs.

Ann was predeceased by her husband,

Sign up now for six FREE 2-1/2 hour sessions
HEALTHIER LIVING WORKSHOPS (CDSMP)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Adults interested in becoming more physically active
- Adults with on-going health conditions (arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic pain, anxiety, etc.)

REGISTER TODAY:

Willits:
Beginning Friday, March 4, 1- 3:30 PM

Redwood Valley:
Beginning Tuesday, March 15, 9:30 - 12 PM

INFORMATION AND/OR REGISTRATION:
Doreen Blumenfeld (707) 456-9676 doreen@avenuestowellness.org

Sponsored by Avenues to Wellness, a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation

BUILD SIGNET

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

The rest of Sugar | From Page 6

To stave off sugar's effects on our lungs making us susceptible to colds and flu, she suggested herbs including Yerba Santa, grindelia, fenugreek, elecampane, mullein, and echinacea.

To counteract the inflammatory effects of sugar on the blood vessels, she suggested Omega-3 oils (including calamari oil, flax, chia, and oil from salmon and other small fishes), hawthorn, buckwheat sprouts, butcher's broom, cayenne, and turmeric.

To begin to develop the bitter taste buds that are often asleep in sugar eaters, Smalley recommended eating healthy greens and drinking green tea. Fiber found in beans, green leafy vegetables, and fennel heals the digestive tract.

For urinary health and good kidney function, she recommended "Adaptogen" herbs, including spikenard, shiitake, turkey tail, maca, ashwaganda, and other herbs such as nettle and parsley.

To improve brain and mental function, she suggested we try California poppy, chamomile, ginkgo, gotu kola, baked licorice, rosemary, and seaweeds. She also recommended exercise, which along with a good diet, can help us function at our full potential.

As always, the Avenues to Wellness talks came with wonderful healthy food delights. We had a variety of roasted vegetables, lovingly spiced with rosemary, and a very tasty coconut butter treat. Avenues to Wellness features an engaging and educational talk once a month. For more information, visit: www.avenuestowellness.org.

Jed Diamond, Ph.D., is the founder and director of the MenAlive, a health program

OBITUARY |

James Buchanan

James "Jim" Buchanan III, age 67, passed away at his home in Covelo on December 31, 2015. Jim is survived by his children: Chad and Corinne; grandchildren: Keanu and Hunter; and his sisters: Cathy, Mary and Allyson.

Jim's Memorial Service will take place on Friday, February 12 at 3 pm at the Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

OBITUARY |

Ann Barker



Ann Deigner Barker of Willits passed away on January 29, 2016 at the age of 92. A native of New York and former resident of Covina, California, she had lived in our community for the past 33 years.

Ann had been a school principal for 39 years, last employed by Alhambra City Schools. She was a member of Eastern Star and First Baptist Church here in Willits, and she enjoyed her memberships and friendships in several bridge clubs.

Ann was predeceased by her husband,

Charles William Barker, on March 3, 2001.

She is survived by her daughters: Linda Barker and Deanna Barker Deaton; grandchildren: Brian (Suzi) Burke, Christopher Burke, Heather (Efrain) Gonzalez, and Stacy Mack; great-grandchildren: Rosalie Gonzalez, Isaiha Gonzalez, and Santiago Blandino.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at First Baptist Church on Wood Street in Willits. Inurnment will be private.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

that helps men live long and well. Diamond, a Willits resident, is the author of 10 books including his latest: "MenAlive: Stop Killer Stress With Simple Energy Healing Tools." Visit his homepage <http://menalive.com>.

Healthy Resources

Healthier Living Workshops

The "Healthier Living" workshop series was designed by the Stanford School of Medicine. Each session is facilitated by trained local facilitators who lead engaging activities and share useful tips to build skills for improving and managing our health. The workshops are structured to be highly participative in a way that encourages mutual support and success among the participants so that everyone works together to build their confidence in their self-management skills. "Healthier Living" workshops are held in Laytonville, Redwood Valley, and Willits and are free. For information contact Doreen Blumenfeld at 459-2777 or Doreen@avenuestowellness.org.

30 Days Sugar Free

This is a web-based program that you can take at any time to jump-start a sugar-free lifestyle. You can get more information here: <http://30daysugarfree.com/>

'Fat Chance: Beating the Odds against Sugar, Processed Food, Obesity, and Disease'

This is a wonderful book written by Robert H. Lustig, M.D., one of the world's leading experts on health and how sugar impacts our lives. He has an engaging TED talk called "Sugar: The Elephant in the Kitchen" which you can access here: <http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/Sugar-The-Elephant-in-the-Kitch>

COLUMN | Health Matters

'Give Kids a Smile' Day



Carole Press
Columnist

By way of introduction, my name is Carole Press, and I am the CEO of MCHC Health Centers, a non-profit, federally qualified health center with three sites: Hillside Health Center in Ukiah, Little Lake Health Center in Willits, and Lakeview Health Center in Lakeport. We provide medical, dental and behavioral health care to approximately 600 people a day - both kids and adults.

Since February is National Children's Dental Health Month, I thought I'd write this first column about oral health because, while new parents are generally aware they need to take their young children to the doctor for regular medical check-ups, many are unaware that children should see a dentist for the first time when they turn 1 year old.

Good oral health affects a child's physical and emotional development, and beginning healthy routines early gives children the best chance of maintaining good health.

When a child suffers from dental disease, the damage can go beyond pain and infection. Dental disease can affect speech development, the ability to learn, and self-esteem. Small children with decayed teeth are sometimes unable to eat nourishing foods, resulting in poor growth or even failure to thrive. Schoolchildren experiencing dental pain are often distracted and unable to concentrate on schoolwork, which can result in poor school performance.

According to MCHC Health Centers dental director Dr. Doug Lewis, providing good teeth-brushing instruction is a great way to start helping your child thrive. As they age, provide your children with information about what causes cavities. Let them know that certain types of bacteria can attach themselves to hard surfaces like the enamel on their teeth.

If children don't brush their teeth to remove the harmful bacteria, the bacteria multiply and grow into a colony. This can attract more bacteria of various types, which attach to the colony, too. Proteins that exist in saliva mix in and the bacteria colony becomes a whitish film on the tooth. This film is called plaque, and it's what causes cavities.

Many people are familiar with the science experiment to see what soda does to teeth. If you're up for it, the next time your child loses a tooth, see if the tooth fairy would be willing to allow you to keep the tooth so you could soak it in Coke or Pepsi overnight. This is a great way to show your child the effects of refined sugar on teeth. It may not be quite as hard to talk them out of that soda (at least while the results from the experiment are fresh in their minds).

Once your children become teens, they need new information about dental health, such as the hazards of smoking and eating disorders. Did you know that those suffering from bulimia often ruin their teeth because tooth enamel cannot stand up to stomach acid? It's true.

Regardless of your child's age, dental health is important. This is one reason why we participate in Give Kids a Smile Day. Give Kids a Smile Day is a national event in which thousands of dentists and their teams provide free oral health care services to children from low-income families.

On the first Saturday of February we provide free dental care to patients we've identified as unable to afford the care they need. Our employees, many of them bi-lingual in English and Spanish, spend hours qualifying patients, scheduling the Saturday appointments and volunteering their time to provide thousands of dollars' worth of free dental care to dozens of children who would otherwise go without.

Carole Press is the chief executive officer of MCHC Health Centers, a local, non-profit, federally qualified health center offering medical, dental and behavioral health care to people in Lake and Mendocino counties.

Harrah Senior Center
Serving the Seniors of our Community

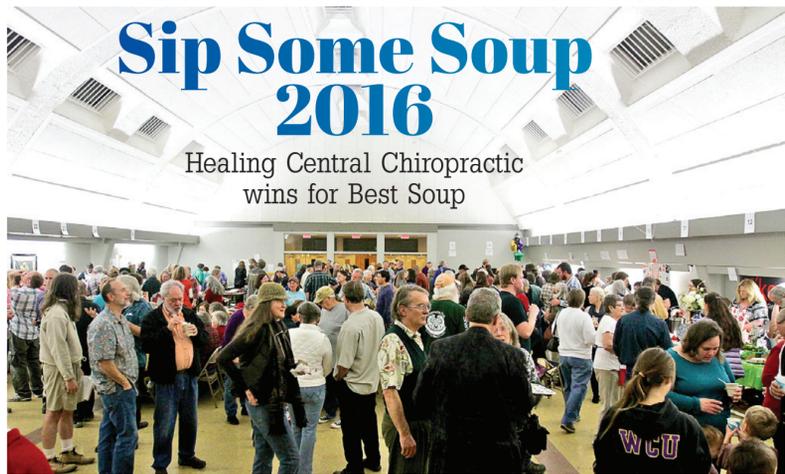
SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sunday • February 14TH

Breakfast: 8-11 a.m.
Pancakes, eggs, and your choice of sausage, ham or bacon.
Adults \$7 • Members \$6
Kids \$5

Call for more information
459-6826 • 1501 Baechtler Road



Kevin Copperfield and Tom Woodhouse (above, left) and Keith and Lotus Baker (above, center) sample soups with assistance from muffin tin trays. A group of Willits soup-lovers gather for a quick photo at Sip Some Soup 2016.



Some of the soup-makers who participated in the 2016 event: At left, from top: Dylan Anderson and Josie Hunter of Mariposa Market with their Cannellini Sausage and Sage Soup entry; Larry Desmond, Marisela de Santa Anna and Emily Desmond with their Sweet Potato Jalapeño Pear Soup entry; and Amy Fox and Shannon Granigan-Demuth with their Pizza Parmesan Soup entry.

Above: The Willits Community Center was filled with eager tasters and voters. Below: Best Table Decoration and third-place soup winners Willits Charter School (at left) pose with Willits Daily Bread's Cindy Savage (in red dress) and Eric Glassey (behind); second-place soup winners Howard Memorial Hospital (next to); and first-place soup winners, Healing Central Chiropractic (at right).

Maureen Moore Graphics & Photographress maureen@willitsweekly.com

It was one of the most successful years yet for the annual Willits Daily Bread Sip Some Soup contest, where soup-makers create their finest crocks full of special recipes, to help raise money for feeding those in need.

Three teams won awards for their cooking efforts: first place for Best Soup went to Healing Central Chiropractic for their California Curry; second place went to Howard Hospital for their Morel Mushroom Soup; and third place went to Willits Charter School with their Chicken Filé Gumbo. The Louisiana and Mardi Gras-themed soup and table also won the charter school the award for Best Decorated Table. Each team received plaques, and the chefs received custom "Willits Daily Bread Sip Some Soup" aprons.

Each of the 25 entrants paid a fee to enter, then ticket sales and silent auction bids all contribute to the overall total raised.

This year, the event brought in \$6,400.

Event coordinator and Willits Daily Bread Director Cindy Savage was thrilled to note this was the "best year ever!" for the silent auction and event overall.

"We had 58 entries for the auction, and every business I went to gladly donated," explained Savage. "I'm sorry I can't list each one individually, but I want to personally thank everyone who donated and really helped make this year's auction such a success."

There were a few big winners who took some of the great items from the auction: Darci Brueske won the weekend coast getaway, the handmade quilt and a Bavarian breakfast set; Matt Morrison took home the metal pig; Phil Shuster won gift certificates for El Mexicano, Mariposa Market and Al's Redwood Room; and Earlene Gleisner took home the porcelain clown, a purse and a hand mixer.

The money raised will allow Savage to continue her work feeding those in need with a daily meal. Right now, a bag filled with a sandwich, nuts, fruit and chips goes out to anyone in need, free of charge, from Savage's program housed at the Episcopal Church's Fellowship Hall on East Commercial Street.

Christmas Eve was the first time Savage was able to serve a hot soup dinner from the church, and she, again, cooked and served a hot meal on New Year's Eve. Since the first of the year, Savage has been trying to provide a hot meal most days – especially the cold ones! – and the monies raised from Sip Some Soup will help her to purchase ingredients, to-go containers, and other necessities to make the hot meals a more consistent offering.

Savage serves from the church hall Monday through

Chavez said he would have to notify and get permission from eight organizations, including participating schools, the league, the division, and the California Interscholastic Federation, the state organization that oversees school sports.

Chavez noted there would be pluses and minuses to making the move. On the plus side, he thought it would mean Willits High would have access to more student athletes. He said it would be good for students at Willits Charter School and would help build what Chavez termed "community cohesiveness."

On the negative side, Chavez pointed out it would be a time-consuming process for him personally. It would be somewhat risky; if an ineligible student from the charter school was discovered to be ineligible, then the Willits High team would risk forfeiting its entire season.

Chavez also noted that going forward with the policy bore the risk of angering Willits High parents, if a player from Willits Charter School were to be beat out a student from Willits High who might otherwise have made the team.

Chavez also pointed out that allowing kids from Willits Charter School to play on Willits High teams held the risk of expanding Willits High's school population and, therefore, of kicking Willits High up to a league with bigger schools than it currently plays. That's because under CIF rules, if two schools pool their resources to field a sports team, they also must

pool their student populations, and schools play in leagues determined in part by student populations. If even one student from Willits Charter School were to play on a WHS sports team, the school's student population for that team would be increased by approximately 170 students.

Chavez conceded he did not know what that would mean in terms of the many sports teams fielded by WHS.

Baechtel Grove Middle School Principal Maria de los Angeles Munguia urged the board to seek staff input on the question before making a final decision.

Chavez suggested the board might consider allowing students from Sanhedrin High School to play on Willits High teams.

He also talked about the district's "No F" policy, which means that a student who has gotten an F in the most recent academic quarter cannot play on a WHS sports team. Chavez said he called around to some area schools, and WHS was the only school with a "No F" policy. Some schools had a "one F" policy; others favored having a 2.0 grade point average. Willits High has both the "No F" policy and the requirement that participating students carry a 2.0 grade point average.

Chavez said the people he had talked to told him they would prefer Willits High to not have a "No F" policy.

After Chavez ended his presentation, Trustee Alex Bowlds wanted to talk about the "No F" policy. Board Chairman Chris Neary said he wanted trustees to discuss allowing students from other area schools, such as Willits Charter School, to play on district teams. The school board will take up those items at its March 16 meeting.

Thursday from 4 to 5:30 pm.

For more information or how you can help, contact Savage at 459-2579 or via call or text on her cell phone 367-5669. Leave a message, and she will return your call if missed.

regulations for cannabis cultivation.

The March 1 deadline in the MMRSA would have made the Department of Food and Agriculture the sole licensing authority for cannabis businesses in those municipalities that had yet to implement medical marijuana rules and regulations by March 1.

According to MMRSA author, Second District Assemblyman Jim Wood: "Now that we have given local officials the time to take a thoughtful approach to regulating medical marijuana, I hope they will maximize that time by engaging with the public and having thorough discussions."

Such discussions are currently taking place with Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Marijuana Ad Hoc Committee members Tom Woodhouse, John McCowen and Agricultural Commissioner Chuck Morse. Find the story about a recent town hall meeting the ad hoc committee hosted in this week's issue.

Wood originally adopted and amended emergency legislation removing the deadline on January 6; the state Assembly passed it unanimously on January 28.

In other cannabis news, on Wednesday, Senator Mike McGuire introduced Senate Bill 987, known as the Marijuana Value Tax Act, a bill that would, if passed, place a 15 percent tax at the point of sale on medical marijuana.

In a press release, McGuire said: "We made a commitment last year, as we were working through the huge undertaking of setting statewide regulations for medical marijuana, that we would follow up on a statewide excise tax. This needed revenue will make our communities stronger by focusing on the impacts of cultivation and use of marijuana, including funding local law enforcement and neighborhood improvement programs, state parks, drug and alcohol treatment, and environmental rehabilitation."

He expects the 15 percent Marijuana Value Tax Act to bring in over \$100 million in new revenue.

McGuire says the tax act would give 30 percent of all revenue to the new Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation. "The funds would be available to any city or county agency or department, including law enforcement," he said.

An additional 30 percent of the tax funds would go to the state's general fund. Twenty percent would go directly to State Parks "for operations and to tackle their \$1 billion deferred maintenance backlog." Ten percent would go to the California Natural Resources Agency "for the restoration and remediation of public and private lands and watersheds damaged by marijuana cultivation." The remainder 10 percent would go to counties for drug and alcohol treatment programs.

"Now that there is a long overdue regulatory framework put into place, it's time to help fund the areas most affected by the cultivation – those communities that have long been paying the price of the negative effects of cultivation brought on by the 'bad actors' who destroy the environment and bring in crime," Senator McGuire said.

He stressed the Marijuana Tax Act allows for cities and counties to be able to enact their own local taxes and fees which, according to the feedback during Saturday's town hall meeting, is sure to cause ire among the small farmers of Mendocino County.

On February 4, Gov. Brown announced the appointment of the first chief of the new California Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation: Lori Ajax, 50, of Fair Oaks. Ajax, a Republican, has been chief deputy director at the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control since 2014, where she has served in several positions since 1995.

This position, with compensation of \$150,636, requires confirmation by the state Senate.

back and listened to a couple of hours of testimony from 27 people, plus reports from county staff.

The issue seems to center on conditions at the shelter, which are not optimum. Too often dogs and cats are mistreated, people claim. Idealistic volunteers push maybe a little too hard for change; management makes mistakes with personnel.

The County of Mendocino hasn't helped things by inculcating a more or less permanent sense of crisis by drawing out the request for proposals process for a potential public-private management agreement for six long months.

The county issued the RFP in June of last year and closed it in August with only one applicant, the well-regarded Petaluma Animal Services. But county CEO Carmel Angelo did not come back to supervisors with a recommendation.

Asked by McCowen why she did not bring the matter back to the board, Angelo said her office felt the application didn't have enough information on it for her to make a recommendation. But Angelo wasn't specific about what was wrong with Petaluma's proposal.

Deputy CEO Jenelle Rau was a little more specific, explaining it had to do with money. The proposal from Petaluma "attempted to be responsive but in a very vague way," Rau said. "The cost effectiveness [of their proposal] is suspect, based on the operation we already have and the amount of money we have to work with."

Over the past few weeks, Health and Human Services Director Stacey Cryer has placed animal shelter Director Sage Mountainfire on administrative leave and revoked the active volunteer status of three people, including Rebecca Edwards and Shanna Phillips. Cryer said she took those actions to "stabilize the situation." She noted that for the past two or three months there has been a feeling of "increased tension" among the staff at the animal shelter.

Three bits of information are key to understanding what is going on at the animal shelter. The first is that, in 2015, shelter volunteers logged more than 5,000 hours of service. As Ann Koch told supervisors, "I have never seen as many volunteers working in a shelter as we have working in ours."

At the same time, volunteers can only perform certain tasks and, by virtue of the labor contract with the shelter's nine paid employees, there are many tasks volunteers cannot perform.

The second piece of key information is the "live rate" of animals – those animals placed into the shelter who make it out alive – is 82.4 percent. The live rate for the Petaluma Animal Shelter is 98 percent.

A few judicious quotes might convey the wide range of opinion on how the shelter is being run.

"My daughter witnessed staff punching and kicking animals in the shelter," said Willits resident Paul Truette. "She had witnessed inmates visiting staff there, and handing off things to take back to their incarceration in the jail. Hazardous and infectious diseases in there were not taken care of, and were swept under the table there. So she brought that up with Mrs. Mountainfire, and was told to take that back to her constituents and her lower-level staff."

"She did so – and was harassed continually. She was called a snitch and a whistleblower, those kind of things."

"I don't think that's good business, and I don't think that's a good thing to have in administration."

"I have visited animal shelters up and down the state. The Ukiah shelter is among the best," said John Engdahl. "They have the creativity, the commitment, the drive. I've had nothing but good experiences there."

"This is very difficult, stressful work, he added. "It is difficult to see, it is difficult to watch for people of good will, who have a great deal of empathy. One way people cope with being in a shelter is to take that sadness, that grief, and turn it into anger."

"It's very easy to look at management with indignation and say: 'We should be doing this. We should be doing that.' We cannot save them all."

"Best Friends in Utah, which is the best in the country, probably the world, has similar problems to what Ukiah

has," Engdahl said.

"I would ask the board to give management, the current management – not to nuke this current structure, as it is," he said. "Volunteers must definitely have a place, have a function. They should have a voice, but not always a vote."

"I am just reminded of when I vote, and I'm not sure about an issue on my ballot. I look at my voter's pamphlet," said Jackie Loich. "And if I'm not clear about what the arguments are, I look at the people who are supporting it. And if it's people who I respect, then it gives weight to that side of the argument."

"I know from looking at Facebook that issues with recent volunteers and people who have been asked not to come back have been calling the staff people killers and murderers, because they do euthanasia."

"This is a very emotional and difficult thing for people to do. They don't work there so they can kill things. And it just really makes my heart pound to hear them spoken of this way, because dogs don't have water."

"I know people who have worked there for a decade, who have brought their experience and their specific talents, to getting dogs adopted and, you know, just look at that, compared to people who have been there for a year or two? Would these people have supported a concentration camp? The way it's being presented. They're reasonable, intelligent and talented people, who have stuck by this place, with the only satisfaction being, save the dogs. I hope you will keep that in mind," said Loich.

"I've watched animal control, done tons of rescue myself, through the years," said Jeanie Clark. "Gratifying and heartbreaking. I watched animal control go through manager after manager."

"There's something just not working right there," Clark said. "I think of it as – and I mean this with no disrespect to anyone – but, it's the good old boy theory. Let's just go with the status quo, and not rock the boat."

"We're all here for the best interest of the animals. And we need guidance, and new ideas. We don't have to fire the whole staff. But we have to work together as a team, on this effort."

"I don't think we're going to want to go back to the status quo now. I don't see why we wouldn't want to bring in Petaluma Animal Services to come in, give us some guidance, bring us some new ideas about what they're doing."

After the public concluded their comments, HHS director Cryer reminded committee members this is the same shelter that was a community treasure just a year ago, when Sheriff Tom Allman was offering to take over management of the shelter. Allman's offer was made in response to a grand jury report that found having animal control under the sheriff's office and animal care under the Health and Human Services Agency generated tension and distrust between the two wings of animal services in the county.

McCowen and Woodhouse discussed the issue and decided the committee would recommend to the full board that the CEO conclude the RFP process. This means the county will write a letter to Petaluma Animal Services advising them their proposal to run the Ukiah animal shelter has been reviewed, but too many questions remain to enter into an agreement at this time.

The committee's recommendation will be presented to the board of supervisors in the morning hours of Tuesday, February 16.

During the regular board meeting that took place Tuesday, February 9, several members of the anti-county, pro-Petaluma faction came before the board during the public comment portion of the meeting to address supervisors once again on the animal care issue.

"I thought the meeting on Monday was a huge waste of everybody's time," said Alana Hastings.

"I was disappointed by the meeting on Monday," said Bobbi Le Moffa.

McCowen told speakers the issue was by no means closed, and would be discussed further. "It will be heard either at 9:15 or at 9:30 on February 16 and, at that time, the board will have an opportunity to approve, or deny, or modify the recommendation of the committee."

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Read the rest of Soup Over on Page 13



Above: Edie Ceccarelli at her birthday table, with Lillian Vogel.

Below, from left: Ceccarelli dances with Creek Norris; Supervisor Tom Woodhouse reads a letter of congratulations from the board of supervisors; Mayor Bruce Burton congratulates Ceccarelli.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

Happy Birthday!

Edie Ceccarelli turns 108

The Harrah Senior Center had a record turnout for lunch at Edie Ceccarelli's 108th birthday party on Friday, February 5. The place was filled with well-wishers – more than 108 of them! – enjoying lunch, conversation, live music and brief speeches celebrating Willits' oldest resident.

The birthday girl was accompanied at the table of honor by another well-known Mendocino County elder, Lillian Vogel from Ukiah, who turned 106 on September 11, 2015. Ceccarelli's nephew, Don Kennedy, was visiting for the occasion, too.

"The air and water must be good in Mendocino County!" Lee Persico, who was also sharing the ladies' table, quipped to the crowd when he took the mike. Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse read a letter of congratulations from the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to Ceccarelli who was, as always, dressed beautifully and also adorned with a statement hat.

Willits Mayor Bruce Burton talked fondly about Ceccarelli, who was Burton's late father Ed Burton's dancing partner for years, and their Sunday evening dinner dates.

When the music started – Burton on banjo, Ernie Burton on guitar, Bear Kamoroff on bass, and Jon Mather on keyboards – Creek Norris asked Ceccarelli for a spin around the floor, which she certainly enjoyed.

Happy Birthday, dear Edie! And a marvelous 2016 to you.

– Jennifer Poole



The rest of Athletes | From Page 7



Varsity Basketball | Hannah Friend, 18, senior

Position: Block

Breakfast of Champions: Overnight oats

Love for the Sport: "I love that it's a fast-paced contact sport."

Years Playing the Sport: Since third grade

My Amazing Athlete this week is Hannah Friend, a senior on the Varsity Girls Basketball Team. Hannah is one of our team's leading rebounders despite her not being one of the tallest girls on the team. She simply outworks her opponents with her effort and ability.

You will likely find Hannah strength-training in the fitness center prior to practice, and it's also quite possible you will find her at the local gym exercising after practice, too. Hannah's remarkable work ethic has led her to being one of our offensive and defensive leaders.

– Coach Jody Ward

Fire districts take their case to state Supreme Court

Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts' attorney Chris Neary filed a writ of mandate with the California Supreme Court Wednesday following last week's rebuff by Superior Court Judge Jeanine Nadel of MCAFD's attempt to place an initiative before local voters. That initiative would require the board of supervisors to at least consider sharing Proposition 172 funds with the county's 22 unincorporated fire districts.

Dan McKee
Reporter
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The writ asks the high court to set aside Nadel's February 3 ruling "excusing the performance of a statutory ministerial duty" by Acting-County Counsel Katherine Elliott to "name and summarize a proposed initiative measure and replace it with a writ of mandamus commanding Elliott ... to perform the duties imposed" by California's Elections Code.

Neary's writ also names the County of Mendocino, acting by and through its board of supervisors, as a "real party in interest" in the suit.

Neary argues that MCAFD members Tony Orth of the Brooktrails Community Services District, Dave Roderick of the Hopland Fire Protection District, Emily Strachan of the Mendocino Fire Protection District, and Michael Schaeffer of the Comptche Community Services District, "as citizens and electors of the Mendocino County," filed a notice of intention to circulate an initiative petition with County Clerk-Recorder Sue Ranochak, along with a request that the proposed initiative be named and summarized so it could be circulated to gather enough signatures to place it on the November 2016 ballot.

On December 2 of last year, Ranochak delivered the paperwork to the office of the Mendocino County Counsel, "thereby activating [Elliott's] ministerial, statutory duty to name and summarize the proposed initiative within 15 days to enable the circulation of the proposed initiative to begin."

However, Elliott "refused to perform her statutory and ministerial duty." Instead, she filed suit on December 15 against the proponents of the proposed initiative, asking Nadel to excuse her from titling and summarizing the initiative on the grounds that Elliott believed "the proposed initiative contains fatal legal flaws and would be invalid as enacted."

At a December 22 hearing, Nadel granted Elliott a temporary stay and said she would hear arguments from both sides at a January 29 hearing.

On February 3, Nadel ruled in Elliott's favor based on the language of the proposed initiative, particularly those parts that would require the board of supervisors to add fire district funding as a line item in the county's annual budget and consider "as an official budget request" allocation of up to 30 percent of the estimated \$7.2 million per year in Local Public Safety Fund (Proposition 172) monies the county receives to independent fire districts as well as additional budget hearings in each of the county's five supervisorial districts. Those requirements, Nadel said, would impinge on supervisors' right to manage the county's fiscal affairs.

However, she failed to rule on whether the initiative was unconstitutional under California law.

In his high court filing, Neary claims Nadel "did not have the authority, either inherently from the circumstances or as arising from this matter," to excuse Elliott from performing her "statutory, ministerial duty [as] county counsel," but acted "without such authority."

In Wednesday's high court filing, Neary argues MCAFD does not have an "adequate remedy at law other than the relief sought by this petition" because the superior court's ruling has excused Elliott from performing "a statutory duty imposed by the Legislature," and it is "only through the exercise of the statutory duty imposed upon the county and its county counsel ... that the petitioners of the proposed initiative may exercise their First Amendment right of free speech and to petition their government arising under the federal Constitution, and their rights under

the [California constitution] to instruct their government, and their right of initiative...."

"The failure to name and summarize the initiative," Neary claims, "operates as a complete bar to circulation of the proposed initiative" among Mendocino County voters.

Neary is asking the state Supreme Court to issue a ruling in the case by no later than February 21, since MCAFD has chosen "to present the proposed initiative to the electors at the November 2016 general election and the delay created by this litigation will effectively deny" MCAFD any possibility of doing so because "deadlines for the November 2016 election will likely expire before this matter could be heard."

Through Neary, MCAFD is asking the California Supreme Court to issue an alternative writ of mandate ordering Nadel "to set aside [the] February 3 ruling and issue a writ [commanding] Elliott, as acting-county counsel [to perform] her duties pursuant to [the] Elections Code, or to show cause before [the high court] ... why [she] has not done so, and why a peremptory writ should not be issued."

Neary also is asking the state supreme court to order the county to pay for the costs of the action, and "issue such other further relief [the court] deems appropriate under the circumstances."

While Neary acknowledges that most filings with the high court are rejected out of hand, some are referred to the state appellate court for hearing.

However, he argues in his brief, "if this case was filed in the Court of Appeal there is a possibility that even with expedited review ... the clock will run out on this measure and ... it will be mooted because the time necessary to process an initiative process through all of its steps requires 251 calendar days."

In addition, he says, there are now at least three known cases where local government officials tactically refused to perform a statutory duty and filed a mooted lawsuit to question the substance of the measure when proponents attempted to place before the [voters] legislation disfavored by the local government.

"There are two district court of appeal decisions where this practice is at least impliedly approved," he adds, "and which have been accepted by the respondent court as precedent for the tactic.

"Because this tactic has the likelihood of recurring throughout the state," Neary argues, "a uniform rule is desirable and ultimately obtainable only from [the high court] even if [it] remands this matter for expedited review to the district court."

In the event the high court cannot rule on the case by February 21, "it is requested that [the court] deem the matter as being one as likely to recur and to not dismiss the matter as being moot."

Willits school board report

Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees Chairman Chris Neary continues to chip away at long-simmering dissatisfaction and squabbling within the school district.

The most recent meeting was a case in point. Neary guided the board through several icebergs and sandbars during the meeting and even before the meeting. The result is a school atmosphere in which some of the dust stirred up over recent months is beginning to settle.

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The meeting began at 4:30 pm and immediately went into closed session. When Neary and the other board members came out at 4:45, Neary announced the board had held a discussion on item Closed Session E, consideration of complaint against school personnel, and had determined it was premature to consider it during a closed session period that was scheduled for that evening, after the regular public meeting.

Because another person had been invited into the closed session, and because Superintendent of Schools Patricia Johnson had been asked to not attend the closed session, the question arose that perhaps trustees were deliberating on some item related to Johnson.

A day after the meeting, Willits Weekly asked Neary what was up.

Neary said the item concerned workplace grievances among district classified staff, and did not directly concern Johnson. Neary added there had been a lot of complaints about one supervisor's managerial style and the grievances seemed to fall below the threshold of standard operating procedures on how the union and district administration deal with grievances.

"It became pretty obvious these weren't grievances, they were complaints," Neary said. "They looked to me like they were complaints about one particular individual, although some of them seemed to be complaints about district policy.

"To have a closed session airing of complaints against one employee, without giving that employee his due process rights, would have been pushing the Brown Act," he said. "So we had that meeting, there at the beginning of the regular meeting, to determine if going ahead and dealing with that item in closed session was premature.

"The other man who was there, who just happened to be at the meeting on another item, was an attorney," Neary added. "I invited him in because I wanted another attorney there as I was leading the discussion."

After the school board returned to open session, Neary announced the district will retain an independent investigator to conduct discussions with all the complaining parties and the accused party, to determine if any of the complaints rise to the level that might require board action.

"It's going to be expensive, but we have to do it," Neary said.

Maintenance report

One of the areas ironed out was maintenance and transportation. Trustee Laurie Harris has for months been stating that a new play structure destined for Sherwood School is sitting in a box in the district yard and the district has been remiss in putting it up, because district employees have been so busy building a new office for the district administration they have failed to deal with the needs of the children.

Maintenance and Transportation Director Terry McGillis presented a report on the recent activities of his department, including photographs of the current play structure at Sherwood, to show the kids do have something to play on now. He told trustees his department does indeed have the new play structure in storage and that putting up the new structure is on his department's "to-do list."

McGillis reviewed his department's activities at Blosser Lane Elementary School, where a freeze over the Christmas vacation caused a thermostat to break, which caused pipes to freeze and burst, which caused ceilings to fall in and kitchens to flood.

McGillis said his staff has repaired all of the damage

and also installed three new heating and cooling units in Blosser Lane classrooms.

"The district is old," McGillis said. "It is showing its age. And it is rapidly approaching the time when the Band-Aid approach is not going to be enough."

Dan Green, a district maintenance person who works under McGillis, reported on the recent flurry of work associated with Proposition 39. The proposition allows the state to pay the lion's share of costs for retrofitting schools with modern lighting equipment.

According to Green, companies hired by the district recently installed 6,700 4-foot fluorescent lamps and 2,800 ballasts (the fixtures into which the fluorescents are placed). Employees worked on 3,150 light fixtures and replaced 320 light fixtures.

According to a communication from Jonathan Luther of lighting manufacturers Osram Sylvania: "A color spectrum of 5000 Kelvin was chosen, as it mimics natural daylight. Daylight provides gentle illumination with accurate color rendering. Recent studies in schools have shown that children learning in natural and full spectrum light had fewer absences and enhanced mood. Other studies have consistently shown that students in well-illuminated classrooms have significantly higher test scores, are quieter, and are more focused."

Green said the old fixtures, which in many cases were still functional, were distributed to local businesses and nonprofits, including Ardella's, Scoops, Willits Community Theatre, Purple Moose Thrift, U Wash Laundromat, Round Tree Glass, Willits Charter School and Redwood Meadows Senior Living Center, among others.

Transportation report

Since December, Harris has been asking for an accounting in district expense for shipping out buses to Healdsburg for repair, versus what it would cost to hire a second maintenance person in the bus barn. Harris has said that, as Willits's largest employer, it would be helpful to the community to keep school district jobs local.

At the February 3 meeting, Superintendent Johnson presented board members with information showing that hiring an entry-level mechanic would cost the district \$57,993. Whereas, the district has spent \$42,664 on the Healdsburg bus experts, plus another \$45 on overtime for a driver. Johnson said this represents a savings to the district of \$15,284 since July 1, 2015.

"The district realizes significant cost savings by using outside vendors," McGillis said.

The school board did not discuss the item further.

Johnson again requested the school board give her permission to purchase two new school buses for approximately \$400,000. This item was approved unanimously.

Communication

Harris has stated in the past that she believes she is not getting the same information from the superintendent as other board members are. Neary mentioned that, going forward, any board member who seeks information from the superintendent will give a request for information to Trustee Georgeanne Croskey, and Croskey will forward the request to Johnson. Johnson will then provide the requested information to each of the board members, not just to the board member who requested it.

Enrollment

Johnson reported district enrollment continues its recent decline. Over the past three years, enrollment has gone from 1,600 in 2013-14, to 1,596 in 2014-15 to 1,521 in 2015-16.

Johnson said that P2 Average Daily Attendance, which is taken in March, will likely be still lower than last year's. Johnson said this will impact the district's budget.

She added because of a skillful use of state educational law regarding funding, the district may be able to stave off budget cuts in 2016-17, but that cuts might have to happen in 2017-18.

Supes let Harris Quarry vested claim stand

The board of supervisors took no action Tuesday in response to a peremptory writ issued by Superior Court Judge Richard Henderson ordering the county to rescind its May 20, 2014, resolution affirming Northern Aggregates, Inc., has a vested right to operate the Harris Quarry and may do so without submitting an environmental impact report.

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Henderson issued the writ December 21, telling the county it had 30 days from the date the county received the writ to rescind the vested rights resolution. The county received the writ January 4; February 3 was the deadline for action by the county.

According to Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, on February 2 supervisors decided unanimously to reschedule the matter for their February 9 meeting. That decision, he said, was made in response to a request by Northern Aggregates attorney Tina Wallis.

On February 9, Acting-County Counsel Katherine Elliott advised supervisors Northern Aggregates had filed an appeal on Henderson's ruling on February 3. Therefore it was within the accepted practices of the law to let the county's 2014 resolution stand until the

appeals court issues its ruling.

At issue is the claim by Northern Aggregates that it has a vested right to conduct mining operations at the Harris Quarry, located at Ridgewood Summit about 7 miles south of Willits on Highway 101. Attorneys for Northern Aggregates have argued that commercial mining operations have continued at the site since the 1920s.

On October 21, 2015 Henderson ruled the county was in error when it found Northern Aggregates had a vested rights claim. Noting the testimony of Tracy Livingston and Richard Tyrell, two representatives of the Church of the Golden Rule, which currently owns Ridgewood Ranch and which owned Harris Quarry from 1962 to 1983, Henderson wrote: "Both Tracy Livingston and Richard Tyrell declared credibly and with sufficient personal knowledge that the Church did not operate the quarry on a commercial basis during its ownership and did not intend to expand the quarry operations. While there is some conflict between the declaration of Bud Garman and those of Livingston and Tyrell, the declaration of Bud Garman contains no objective evidence from which a fact-finder can divine the intent of the property owner...."

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

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

Open Meeting Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.

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Above: The Little Lake Grange was full of hungry pancake eaters for the annual Sober Grad Pancake Breakfast. At right, from top: Siena Karp holds plates of pancakes and eggs ready to deliver to the table. Sisters Avery Cash, holding Shri, 4, and Devina Cash sit with Cordero Brewer from Hayward, at right, to enjoy a meal at the breakfast. The Toy Run volunteers came to eat and enjoy in matching red shirts. Nick Rescina, Victor Rodriguez and Destiney Gamez-Webb pose with the Valentine's Day raffle basket at the breakfast. Customers come into the grange and purchase tickets from Angi Edgar. A group of smiling senior girls including Siena Karp, Kristine Gonzalez, Kristyna Hewitt, Melissa Aceves, Alia Duran, Vera Tyrrell, Gabby Agenbroad and Jessica Tyrrell.



Packed for Pancakes

Sober Grad breakfast filled the Grange with hungry eaters

There was a great turnout for the annual Willits Sober Grad pancake breakfast at the Little Lake Grange last Sunday, where 238 meals of pancakes, eggs and bacon were served to hungry event-goers.

Almost \$1,500 was raised, with half coming from presale tickets and the other half from at-the-door tickets, donations and tips.

"I think we had a lovely day," said Willits Sober Grad's Angi Edgar. "Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. There were many, many compliments regarding the food – mine was great! We had plenty of seniors helping. The sun was out. It was great!"

Several Willits High School senior class members were on site to help seat, serve and clean up tables, and folks from the Little Lake Grange helped cook pancakes in the kitchen and supervise cooking efforts.

"A special great big thank you to the Grange members for all you did to make this the success it was! I think we should do it again next year!" laughed Edgar.

The Valentine's Day Raffle Basket was also displayed, and raffle tickets were available to

purchase. The drawing will take place on February 13, and the winner will receive about \$500 worth of goodies donated by the community.

Just a few of the items the winner will get: a dozen roses from Flowers by Annette and gift certificates and merchandise from Cat's Meow, Adam's Restaurant, El Mexicano, Tango, Re-Evolution, J.D. Redhouse, Sparetime Supply, Suzanne Pope, Karen Cavanaugh, Rebecca Smith and the Brooktrails Golf Shop. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5, and can be purchased at Willits High School or wherever the basket is displayed. More info: call Angi Edgar at 459-2260 or email WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com.

If you would like to get involved with Sober Grad – the annual drug- and alcohol-free graduation night party for seniors in the Willits area – or help out with upcoming events, the next meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, February 24 at the Willits High School Food Center.

The next fundraising event will be the Tri-Tip Dinner held on April 29, and the Ducky Derby is usually planned for May.

– Maureen Moore



Photos by Maureen Moore



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