

County fire districts in crisis

To the Editor:

As you may be aware, there is growing concern and controversy related to the funding of our local volunteer fire districts and the impacts these controversies are having on this critical public safety service.

The current efforts by our local fire districts to seek public support in requesting dedicated fire funding through the ballot initiative process were countered by aggressive litigation by Mendocino County and its representatives. The county sued the newly formed Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts to block a proposed initiative that requests public safety tax revenues be shared with county fire districts, which currently receive no funding from this specifically collected sales tax or any other county funds. This ballot initiative would require the board of supervisors to address on a yearly basis the need to share funding of public safety tax revenues with our local fire districts.

Transparency in public safety funding is the only requirement of the initiative. This requirement, apparently, was viewed as too burdensome by the county. The following is a brief summation of the events leading up to the current status of the initiative:

On December 2, 2015, the fire association submitted the proposed initiative to the Mendocino County Clerk's Office to be placed on the November 2016 general election ballot. On December 15, 2015, the day Acting County Counsel Katharine Elliott was to provide the mandated ballot summary for the initiative, Elliott instead filed suit against the fire districts.

The county (and Elliott) had two weeks to reach out to our volunteer firefighters, but chose to wait until the last day, then sued, hoping to kill the initiative and the efforts of the fire districts.

The lawsuit went to the initial hearing immediately. At that hearing, the fire association requested an out-of-county judge to hear the case, which was refused. The court instead assigned Judge Jeanine Nadel, herself a former Mendocino County counsel.

In all of the following court appearances Judge Nadel ruled against the fire districts, leaving any resolution to be found solely in the appellate courts. The only other possibility is for the board of supervisors to change their position and work with our fire districts to seek resolution of this critical safety issue; the adequate funding of our local fire districts.

Regardless of any question of authority, constitutionality or rights to the allocation of revenues, the fact remains the same: Our volunteer fire districts will face significant operational challenges in the very near future if the county fails to act.

What led to the current legal challenges initiated by the county is the issue of how fire protection is funded and how the lack of county funding is impacting fire's operating capability.

This is how fire districts got into this situation: In November 1993, the voters of California passed Proposition 172, known as the Local Public Safety Protection and Improvement Act of 1993. This half-cent special sales tax was approved by voters to provide an additional funding source for police, fire, district attorneys, jails, probation and other direct public safety agencies.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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

Volume 3, Number 143
P.O. Box 1698
Willits, CA 95490
willitsweekly@gmail.com
www.willitsweekly.com
707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / jennifer@willitsweekly.com / 707-459-2633
Maureen Moore, art director and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047
Mike A'Dair, reporter / mike@willitsweekly.com
Jenny Senter, features writer / jenny@willitsweekly.com
Damian Sebouhian, reporter / damian@willitsweekly.com
Rachel Belvin, assistant publisher and advertising / rachel@willitsweekly.com / 707-367-9319

Justin Stephens, webmaster

For advertising inquiries, please call 707-459-2633 or 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

However, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, just 30 days following the statewide approval of Prop. 172, by resolution, declared the county's volunteer fire districts to not be classified as "public safety."

This single act by the board of supervisors at that time excluded our local fire districts from receiving any of the newly approved tax revenue. This exclusion of fire as a public safety partner 23 years ago has now created an environment that will produce the potential failure of the volunteer fire system we have depended upon for well over a century. Mendocino County's past history of funding this most basic public safety service appears to be incompatible with public opinion. However, upon deeper review, the county's refusal to fund fire has been irresponsible.

Mendocino County is asked to provide funding to all interest groups within the county, but the county's first and most critical responsibility is public safety. The current effort of our volunteer fire districts with this ballot initiative contains no secret agenda, no self-interest or personal benefits to protect. The sustained ability to provide adequate fire services to our communities into the future is the only desired outcome. Stated simply, there is no more important public safety provider than our local fire districts and the fire, rescue and medical response capabilities they provide.

The consistent, effective and professional delivery of this capability is not a choice to be made; it is a responsibility.

Today, county residents may ask a legitimate question: "How has the volunteer fire system changed; why is the system in trouble now?"

The answers will vary from one fire district to another. What is common among all districts is the following:

1. Operating costs: Insurance, fuel, maintenance, facility and equipment replacement and expendable supplies have all increased in cost over the last 20 years.
2. Training requirements: A new volunteer recruit must now complete over 300 hours of instruction and training to reach the level of Firefighter One certification, the minimum required to legally respond and assist in a fire call for service. Added training requirements occur for existing volunteers on a yearly basis. All of these hours of training are completed by volunteers without any financial assistance.
3. Response capability: The range and complexity of incident response capability has increased dramatically in the past two decades. Now, volunteers must be trained to respond to incidents ranging from traumatic injury or cardiac failure, to vehicle accidents, rescue, hazardous material spills or exposures to complex structure fires or wild land fires.
4. Volunteer retention and recruitment: This issue is the single greatest challenge facing the volunteer system.
5. Although some districts do currently have adequate volunteer rosters, the common reality is the average age of volunteers serving today, which is approaching 60 years old. These aging volunteers represent and maintain the institutional knowledge of their individual fire districts and have years

of experience in running these local fire departments. This knowledge cannot be easily replaced.

6. New volunteers are not stepping forward to replace these long-serving volunteer members that dedicated their personal lives to serve their communities. New prospective volunteers must make decisions if the rigors of being a dedicated volunteer firefighter can be balanced with the modern demands of employment and providing for a family. Unfortunately, many decide they cannot manage that balance.

The future of the volunteer fire model in Mendocino County is in crisis. The impact of years of financial neglect by the county and the decisions of past boards of supervisors and current county actions will quickly be realized if new or existing public safety funding is not adequately shared with our local fire districts. The self-sufficient, take-care-of-ourselves mentality of the past is no longer working or appropriate for a modern, well-equipped and staffed fire service.

A new model for fire protection services must be adopted to counter the impacts of volunteer loss, retention and recruitment. This new model must start with adequate funding that will equip and provide financial relief to the existing volunteers serving today and the next generation of volunteers to come. Without this shared public safety funding now, calling 911 in the near future may not provide the assistance that may have been taken for granted for too many years. The County of Mendocino and the current board of supervisors must take responsibility and act now to correct this imminent threat to the public safety.

David Roderick, director, Hopland Fire Protection District, for the Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts: Albion/Little River Fire Protection District, Anderson Valley Community Services District, Brooktrails Community Services District, Comptche Community Services District, Covelo Fire Protection District, Elk Community Services District, Fort Bragg City Fire District, Fort Bragg Rural Fire District, Hopland Fire Protection District, Leggett Fire Protection District, Little Lake Fire Protection District, Long Valley Fire Protection District, Mendocino Fire Protection District, Piercy Fire Protection District, Potter Valley Community Services District, Redwood Coast Fire Protection District, Redwood Valley/Calpella Fire Protection District, Sanel Valley Fire Protection District, South Coast Fire Protection District, Ukiah City Fire District, Ukiah Valley Fire District, Westport Water District

Hospice volunteer training in Willits

To the Editor:

Phoenix Certified Hospice of Mendocino County will be providing a free eight-week training session for prospective hospice volunteers, starting Wednesday, February 24.

The goal of hospice is to provide compassionate comfort care for patients with a life-limiting illness. Hospice care seeks to enable the patient to carry on an alert, pain-free life and to manage other

symptoms so that their last days may be spent with dignity and quality at home. The hospice volunteers are vital members of the interdisciplinary team that serves our patients and their families.

Volunteers provide respite care for primary caregivers, visiting and providing companionship for our hospice patients and assisting with errands and tasks as needed. Hospice volunteers are a wonderful, talented group of people. They often express that they receive great emotional and spiritual benefits from their relationships with hospice patients and their families.

Phoenix Hospice is a "Medicare Certified Hospice," which means that individuals and families who wish to receive hospice services can utilize their Medicare hospice benefit. Many people are not aware of this significant benefit and its availability. Pain management and symptom control is one of the major concerns in hospice comfort care. Under the hospice Medicare benefit, 100 percent of the cost of patient's pain medications is covered. This is a very important part of the benefit, in light of the fact that pharmaceuticals for pain management are extremely expensive and their costs continue to rise.

The hospice Medicare benefit also pays for 100 percent of the cost of medical equipment such as hospital beds, oxygen, wheelchairs, etc. A hospice trained team of RNs, home health aides, a medical social worker, spiritual care providers, and volunteers provide quality services, attending to the full range of human needs that arise in end-of-life care. On call 24-hour nursing services are available. Phoenix Hospice provides bereavement support for family and friends of hospice patients for one year following the death of their loved one.

Many private health insurance packages also include a "hospice benefit." They are often very similar to the Medicare hospice benefit in provision of services and coverage. A person wishing to use his or her private insurance hospice benefit is required to enroll with a certified hospice.

Phoenix Hospice is the only certified hospice in Mendocino County. Our service area includes Ukiah, Redwood Valley, Potter Valley, Calpella, Hopland, Anderson Valley, Laytonville, Willits and Covelo.

The hospice volunteer training is offered free of charge. The training's primary focus is to prepare prospective volunteers to provide supportive end-of-life care to patients and their families. Learn about the history of hospice, the volunteer role, family dynamics, grief and loss, pain management, spiritual care, communication skills and funeral procedures.

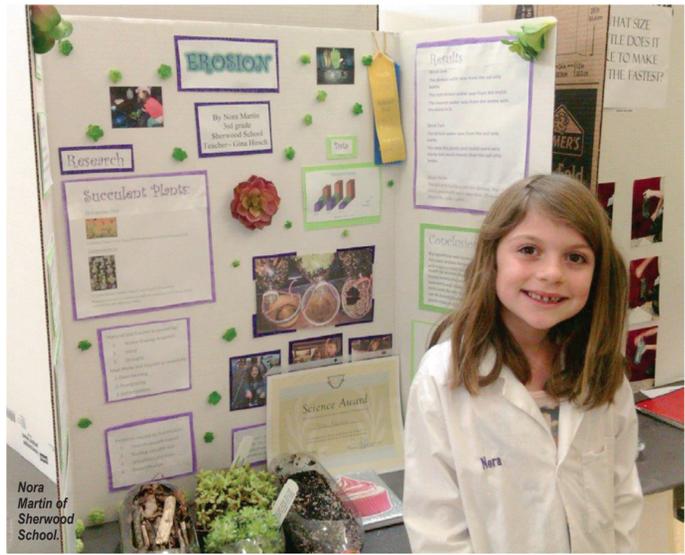
Volunteer training will begin on Wednesday, February 24 from 1 to 3 pm and will continue each Wednesday for eight weeks.

Training will be held in the bereavement room at the Adventist Health Home Care & Hospice Services office, located at 100 Sanhedrin Circle in Willits. If you would like to attend the training, contact Tammy Long prior to the first class at 456-3244.

Tammy Long, for Phoenix Certified Hospice



Read all our editions online! Get right to our website by scanning the QR code above with your smart phone!



Willits Science Fair sends 79 projects to county fair level

Another successful Willits Science Fair last week resulted in 79 individual science projects (worked on by 95 students) winning the gold ribbon that qualifies them to go on to the Mendocino County Science Fair, held March 12 at Mendocino College in Ukiah. In addition to these individual projects, seven classroom projects will also represent Willits at the county level.

Organizer Sharon Hanna, resting her weary feet after long days at the Willits Community Center, said she was pleased by the quality of the entries this year. "We gave out more blue ribbons and more lavender ribbons this year, meaning more of the students got what we wanted them to do: work with procedures using the scientific method."

Hanna also thanked the more than 90 judges and volunteers that came to assess the work on Tuesday, including "40 or 50" teachers from Willits Unified. "It's such a good experience for all the faculty and staff," she said, to collaborate and engage with their peers over judging the projects.

Students from 42 classes in schools around Willits walked or rode school buses to the fair on Wednesday and Thursday to see the 225 total

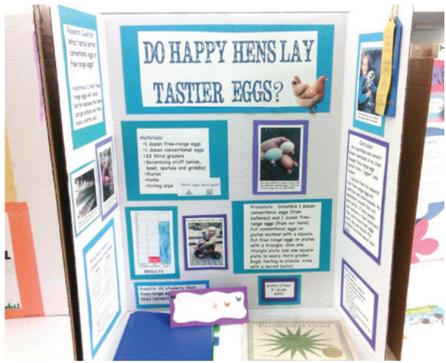
projects that were entered. Of the qualifying projects, Willits Elementary Charter School had 19 projects, Willits Charter School had 25 projects, and Blosser Lane Elementary, Sherwood School, Baechtel Grove Middle School, and Willits High School had a total of 35 projects and seven classroom projects that qualified.

"I hate to use the cliché," Hanna said, "that it takes a village, but it really does. We have such a wonderful community here. Even the people who come in to pay the water bill while we're set up at the community center, they say, 'This is so cool!' The people that wander through always love seeing everything."

Hanna is seeing children of her former students participate in the Willits Science Fair these days, and knows just how much it can mean to a child to win recognition at the fair. One boy, she recounted, was really reluctant to participate this year, but his teacher worked hard with all the students in the class, and "now he's very excited, because he's going to the county fair!" Hanna said.

Qualifiers at the county level will go on the California State Science Fair scheduled for May 23

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



Above, from top: "Do Happy Hens Lay Tastier Eggs?" was the project made by Griffin O'Rear, student at Willits Elementary Charter School. Brookside School first-grade teacher Julia Sudlow and her students look at their class project. Sherwood School students in their lab coats browse the Willits Science Fair.



Baechtel Grove Middle School teachers review projects at the 2016 Willits Science Fair.

OH HONEY!

Hive Bodies & Tools
Frames & Foundations
Protective Gear

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR A HEALTHY, HAPPY HIVE!

J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY
707-459-1214
212 S. Main St. Willits

Meet LARRY AGUIRE, PA

He's an army reserve officer, a father, outdoor enthusiast, a health teacher, a fencer, and a Willits resident, and...

He's here to take care of you.
Need a medical appointment?
Make one with Larry.

LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER
45 Hazel Street, Willits
(707) 456-9600
littlelakehealthcenter.org

MCHC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

UFC FIGHT PASS PRELIMS

COME WATCH OUR HOMETOWN GIRL, **ASHLEY EVANS-SMITH** FIGHT HER WAY TO THE TOP!

SUN, FEB 21 5:15pm
COYOTE VALLEY CASINO EVENT CENTER

HOWL YEAH!
www.CoyoteValleyCasino.com | 707.485.0700
Like us on Facebook | Facebook.com/CoyoteValleyCasino

RENEAUVS EVANS-SMITH

MCHC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

and 24 in Los Angeles.

Below is the list of projects by Willits students that qualified for the Mendocino County Science Fair. Willits Weekly will print the list of special Science Fair awards given out from businesses in the community next week.

Mendocino County Science Fair Qualifiers 2016

Willits Unified School District

Grades 3-4 Life Science

- Jack Crosky, Grade 3, Blosser Lane Elementary, Killing Machine
- Kendahl Potter, Grade 3, Sherwood School, Does Scent Affect Emotions or Color Choice?
- Isabel Young, Grade 4, Sherwood School, What's Your Favorite Animal?

Grades 3-4 Physical Science

- Elena Arkelian, Grade 4, Blosser Lane Elementary, Bubble Glory
- Ely Bowles, Grade 3, Blosser Lane Elementary, Electro Magic!
- Luka Ritchley, Grade 4, Blosser Lane Elementary, Lemon Battery
- Enzo Vacarro & Soren Pinelli, Grade 3, Sherwood School, Safest Way of Getting Rid of Mold

Grades 3-4 Earth Science

- Nora Martin, Grade 3, Sherwood School, Erosion
- Kaylie Reeser, Grade 3, Sherwood School, Wave Energy Generator

Grade 5 Life Science

- Penelope Mairand & Hunter Young, Sherwood School, Brine Shrimp
- Helena Rooney & Sylvia Wartell, Blosser Lane Elementary, What are you saying?

Grade 5 Physical Science

- Grace Crosky, Blosser Lane Elementary, To Pop or Not to Pop; That Is the Question?
- Jacob Howell & Nicholas Miller, Blosser Lane Elementary, Mentos Explosion
- Alejandro Sanchez, Jonathan Cortez & Joseph Lincoln Frazier, Blosser Lane Elementary, Popcorn: Getting A Better Pop?!
- Shelby Perez-Bowen, Blosser Lane Elementary, Would You Like Some Salt with Your Egg?

Display Projects Grades 3-5

- Jersey Green, Grade 5, Sherwood School, Tongue Tied

- Caitlin Huffman, Zynthia Mendoza & Danissa Want, Blosser Lane Elementary, Lava Lamps

- Deon Smith & Shaden Coles, Grade 4, Sherwood School, Watch Out Superman

- Claire Case Brackett & Zander Jennison, Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Three Pots In a Plant

- Aleen Hernandez, Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Light vs. Dark

Grades 6-8 Life Science B

- Jaeva Cash, Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Like, Wow

- Briana Evans & Makenzie Hansen, Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Are You Smarter than an 8th Grader?

- Alyssa Fraser, Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Testing The Waters

- Britney Patel, Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Color Blunder

- Emerald Waters, Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, ABC As Easy as 1 Chew 3

Grades 6-8 Physical Science

- Tyler Bailey, Gwyn Hernandez & Emma Compa, Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Get Popp'n!

- Makaya Caldwell, Kyla Hendry & Layla Wantt, Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Get Poppin!

- Jada Smith, Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Transesterification of Peanut Oil

Classrooms Grade 3-5

- Ms. Lohne, Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary, Metal vs Rust

- Mrs. McNeal/Ms. McClelland, Grade 4, Blosser Lane Elementary, Lights! Carrots! Action!

- Ms. Ostrove, Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary, Color vs. Memory

- Mr. West, Grade 3, Blosser Lane Elementary, Welcome to Your Satellite

Classrooms 6-12

- Baechtel Grove Middle School 6th Grade, Acid Rain

- Willits High School AP Environmental

Class, Grade 11/12, Primary Succession or Secondary Succession?

- Willits High School AP Environmental Class, Grade 11/12, Does Drought Affect H2O Quality?

Willits Elementary Charter School

Grades 3-4 Life Science

- Aaron Griggs, Grade 4, Yeast and Dry Ice Fight Night

- Griffin O'Rear, Grade 4, Do Happy Hens Lay Tastier Eggs?

- Audrey Sherf, Grade 4, Seeing Red Feeling Blue

Grades 3-4 Physical Science

- Makiah Carter, Grade 3, What Stain Remover Works Best?

- Prestin Corsetti, Grade 3, Which Paper Airplane Will Fly the Furthest?

- Brady Griggs, Grade 3, Vinegar Destruction

- Dixie Marchi, Grade 3, Foamy Explosions

- Aidyn McFadden, Grade 4, Milk Transformation

Grade 5 Life Science

- Omar Ballaho, Yeast Fermentation

- Jay Griggs, Conducting Electricity

- Garret Nunnemaker, Mentos vs. Soda

- Leilani Welch, Melting Madness

- Bryanna Gijon, Marvelous Magnetic Fluid

- Daniel LaCount, Space Rocks

- Farrow Lockwood, Clouding Around

- Ellemae Skinner, Blocked

- Katherine Wood, Fair Dice

Display Projects Grades 3-5

- Hunter Paris, Grade 5, Volumetric Measurements of Irregular Solids Using the Water Displacement Method

- Ember Youngstrom, Grade 4, Observing the Growth of Crystals

- Willits Charter School

- Grades 6-8 Life Science A

- Kaylee Anderson, Grade 6, The Effects of Fertilizers

- Farrah Breen and Sky Greystar, Grade 7, Plants and Color

- Lilah Crane, Grade 6, Rat vs. Rat

- Tristan Hofmaister, Grade 6, Timber

- Grades 6-8 Life Science B

- Hope Curtis, Grade 8, Graphology

- Savanna Hincer Tye, Grade 6, Pods or Candy

- Jasmine Wear, Grade 8, Chocolate Hearts

- Rhyann Whaley, Grade 7, Eggs

- Grades 6-8 Physical Science

- Kyren Anderson, Grade 7, Ballistix

- Emily Barbita, Grade 8, Deadly Water

- Heath Moen, Grade 7, Will Heat Oxidize Different Metals?

- Courtney Potter, Grade 6, Testing the Limit of Molecular Gastronomy

- Grades 6-8 Earth Science

- Caleb Christman, Grade 7, Can a Simple Electric Motor Pull Like a Winch?

- Grades 9-12 Life Science A

- Destiny Anderson and Jessica Cronin, Grade 10, Fecal Fiesta

- Stephany Brundage, Grade 10, The Death of Diatoms

- Nataliee Lopes, Grade 11, Sea Star Wasting Disease

- Faith Van Pelt and Bridgette Bjorklund, Grades 10 and 9, Ant Trials

- Grades 9-12 Life Science B

- Sage Aragon, Dylan Foley, and Sage Miller; Grade 9, Music and Math on Your Mind? Good...or Bad?

- Abigail Grimes and Lacey Maxwell, Grade 10, Stroop Effect

- Finlay Moore and River Hickman, Grade 10, Box Bleach and Popular Bleach Alternatives and their Comparative Effects on Hair

- Grades 9-12 Earth Science

- Chloe Breen, Grade 10, Comparison of Solar, Wind, and Biofuel Power Production

- Arlen Crawley, Grade 12, Heavy Metals in Our Rain?

- Display Projects Grades 6-12

- Aidan Bryant, Grade 10, Forensic Entomology Demonstration

- Kaya Slover, Grade 7, Oobleck

- Luna Tumulowicz, Grade 8, Solar Tumbler

City continues building growth in January

The City of Willits issued 12 building permits in January with a total valuation of \$61,250, compared to \$39,300 for January 2015.

Three heating and air-conditioning permits were issued with a valuation of \$7,800, while eight electric, mechanical, plumbing permits were issued with a valuation of \$48,450. One addition and alteration permit for a residential building was issued with a valuation of \$5,000.

Total revenue for January 2016 was \$2,235.75, more than double last year's \$1,165.45.

Ninety-two permits have been issued to date this fiscal year, for a total construction valuation of \$4,916,993, and \$55,434.26 collected in building fees.

Total construction valuation for the same dates last year was \$2,443,065, while total fees collected were \$24,518.

Twelve building permits were issued

in January 2016, compared to six in January 2015.

New business licenses issued in January 2016 included:

Lights of Gaia on Daphne Drive; owner, Erin Harpster; license issued for an unspecified business.

Cleopatra's Temple on Main Street; owner, David Parmenter; license issued for a private club.

Tamarack Solar Products on Baechtel Road; owners, David Kats and Sequoya Cross; license issued for renewable energy products.

Sweet Things on Main Street; owner, Corazon Elliott; license issued for retail clothing.

Janice Cinek Therapeutic Massage Health & Wellness on Main Street; owner, Janice Cinek; license issued for massage with health & wellness coaching.

— Willits Weekly staff

Covelo residents held following high-speed chase

Two Covelo residents were arrested last week by Round Valley Tribal Police officers following a high-speed chase along Logan Road.

The chase began after the officers spotted a vehicle driven by 33-year-old Lucy Lincoln of Covelo racing down Logan Road at about 3 pm, according to sheriff's Lt. Kirk Mason.

Officers also recognized 32-year-old Curtis Bettega as a passenger in the vehicle, whom they knew was wanted on a felony arrest warrant.

The officers gave chase, Mason said, clocking Lincoln's car at speeds reaching 100 mph as Lincoln wove in and out of traffic.

As Lincoln's car turned onto Short Creek Road, the left front tire blew out, Mason said, causing the engine to fail. Bettega reportedly tried to flee, but the tribal officers managed to detain him, and placed both Bettega and Lincoln under citizen's arrest before calling

sheriff's deputies.

While waiting for deputies to arrive, the tribal officers discovered a baggie in Bettega's front pants pocket containing almost 26 grams of methamphetamine.

Lincoln was also placed under private person's arrest for reckless driving, Mason said.

After arriving at the scene, deputies also arrested Bettega on a felony no-bail warrant and suspicion of violating probation.

Lincoln was placed under arrest by deputies on suspicion of violating probation and of harboring, concealing or aiding a person she knew was wanted for a felony, as well as reckless driving.

Bettega is being held in county jail without bail. Lincoln was being held in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

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

Willits man arrested by deputies, federal marshals

A 47-year-old Willits man was arrested by sheriff's deputies and deputy marshals from the U.S. Marshals Service on February 11 following a 6 pm traffic stop on Reynolds Highway.

Israel Ramirez, also known as "El Chino," was arrested without incident on an active federal arrest warrant, according to sheriff's Lt. Kirk Mason.

"At the time of the arrest," Mason said, "the warrant was sealed; therefore, the

charges [against Ramirez] are not being disclosed by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office."

Ramirez was taken to county jail until he could be released to the U.S. Marshals Service. He will then be taken to a federal court where the charges against him will be disclosed.

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

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

historical Mexican general, met her partner Bill Cummings at a winery in Santa Cruz.

"Trust," Olga said right off the bat.

"And being very caring and trying to anticipate what the other person's needs are," added Bill. "And trying to fulfill those needs."

Echoing the concepts of trust and support in partnership were Willits' John Sherman and his wife, Danielle, who also met in Santa Cruz.

"We met on a dance floor in a rock and roll club called the Town and Country Lodge," John said, smiling at the memory. "We've been together for 42 years, married for 40."

These couples and dozens more began the romantic evening by choosing from a gourmet menu, including prime rib, butternut squash lasagna, cheese plates, fresh-baked bread from Roland's Bakery, farmers market salad, shrimp bisque, and chocolate mousse for dessert.

Tommy Castro and his band The Painkillers took the stage around 7:30. With a giant, tie-dye tapestry emblazoned with psychedelic hearts acting as a backdrop, Castro's passionate rocking-blues style sent supercharged energy into the crowd. Soon, tables were moved to create more dance floor space, and couples took full advantage.

Tommy Castro, a very personable performer, introduced several of his songs with anecdotes, explaining his

inspiration for writing and performing them.

"It's alright if you have politicians shouting at each other, behaving badly, but they've got the whole country doing it," he told the crowd between songs. "We're a lot more alike than we are different. We should concentrate on the similarities," Castro said before breaking into arguably his most popular song: "Common Ground."

Castro's son Jackson was manning a table out front in the hall, selling T-shirts and CDs, including Castro's latest, "Method to My Madness." Jackson, with a week off from high school, has been helping the band jump-start its current tour, which began here in Willits.

He explained how he used to take his dad's career for granted, but now he's really involved. "I get to go to these shows and watch my dad be awesome."

Unlike some of the couples interviewed for this article, Jackson doesn't believe that – for him – high school is a place to begin a relationship. With a semester to go before he starts his senior year, his mind is on college and music, not his love life. A committed relationship might stifle his plans.

"Patience is the key to everything," said the 17-year-old. And why not? He's got many Valentine's Days ahead of him to learn just how true those words are.

To find tour information about Tommy Castro and the Painkillers, go to: www.tommycastro.com.

<p>57 East Commercial Street - Willits 707-459-NOYO (6696) www.noyothatre.com</p> <p>Coming Soon: Gods of Egypt</p>	<p>DEADPOOL</p> <p>(R) 1 hr 47 mins Fri: 6:00 & 8:30pm Sat/Sun: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30pm</p>	<p>HAIL, CAESAR!</p> <p>(PG13) 1 hr 46 mins Fri: 5:30 & 8:00pm Sat/Sun: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:00pm</p>	<p>KUNG-FU PANDA 3</p> <p>(PG) 1 hr 35 mins Fri: 5:15pm Sat/Sun: 12:15 & 5:15pm Mon-Thurs: 4:15pm</p>	<p>SPOTLIGHT</p> <p>(R) 2 hrs 8 mins Fri: 7:30pm Sat/Sun: 2:30 & 7:30pm Mon-Thurs: 6:30pm</p>
	<p>Movie Times for 2/19 thru 2/25 This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5</p>			



JV Basketball | Heidi Herold, 15, Freshman

Position: Wing
Breakfast of Champions: Breakfast burritos
Love for the Sport: "I love the fast pace of the game and the aggressiveness."
Years Playing the Sport: Eight years

In the tournament game against Mendocino, Heidi Herold had 6 points, 5 steals, and 4 rebounds. Against Point Arena in the tournament, she had 11 points, 4 steals, and 4 rebounds. Heidi has very good basketball sense, and she is always asking questions to understand the game even better. She is truly a pleasure to coach.

— Coach Paul Riley



JV Basketball | Jasmine Mendoza, 14, Freshman

Position: Point guard, shooting guard
Breakfast of Champions: Oatmeal
Love for the Sport: "I love the intensity and the heart."
Years Playing the Sport: Nine years

In the game against Clearlake, Jasmine Mendoza had 2 points, 3 steals, and 2 assists. In the tournament game against Mendocino, she had 6 points, 3 steals, and 4 rebounds. Against Point Arena, she had 6 points, 2 assists, 3 steals, and 3 rebounds. Jasmine has one of the nicest shots on our team and is our best free-throw shooter. Jasmine also fills in at point guard and is very relaxed at that position.

— Coach Paul Riley



Varsity Basketball | Angel De Los Santos, 16, Junior

Position: Post
Breakfast of Champions: Cereal, Cheerios
Love for the Sport: "I love the competition!"
Years Playing the Sport: Six years

Varsity Basketball | Angel De Los Santos, 16, Junior

Position: Post
Breakfast of Champions: Cereal, Cheerios
Love for the Sport: "I love the competition!"
Years Playing the Sport: Six years

My Amazing Athlete this week is Angel De Los Santos, a junior on the Varsity Girls Basketball Team. Angel has made a significant impact upon our team this season, with her leadership skills on both the offensive and defensive side of the court.

Angel is always seeking to improve and to assist her teammates in any way possible. Angel never stops working at practice, and you will never see her taking plays off during a game. With Angel's consistent work ethic and positive attitude, you can't ask for anything more, as a coach.

— Coach Jody Ward

Senior Portraiture Family Sessions Engagements Maternity & More

photo-tog-ra-press [url-tag=tel:715] owner: Maureen Moore a person who creates fabulous photo moments

NOW SCHEDULING SPRING 2016

Book now while appointments last 972-7047

FFA & 4-H FAIR PROJECT

CHARGE ACCOUNTS

PAY US WHEN YOU GET PAID

20% OFF ALL PROJECT SUPPLIES

30% OFF WHITES, BOOTS & BELTS

ALL 4-H AND FFA MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT WITH US!

J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY

459-1214

212 S. Main Street in Willits, CA

FARMERS

Where the love of learning grows

239 South Main Street - Willits

Morning & School Day Programs

8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Art • Circle Time • American Sign Language

Outside Play • Snacks • Group Activities

Inquiry Based Learning • Spanish • Infant Care

Call Today to Enroll Your Child!

Room To Bloom Preschool.com 707-456-9743

Preschool #233008715 & Infant #233008719

Room To Bloom Preschool

Where the love of learning grows

239 South Main Street - Willits

Morning & School Day Programs

8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Art • Circle Time • American Sign Language

Outside Play • Snacks • Group Activities

Inquiry Based Learning • Spanish • Infant Care

Call Today to Enroll Your Child!

Room To Bloom Preschool.com 707-456-9743

Preschool #233008715 & Infant #233008719



Brown Butter Brussel Sprouts with Ricotta and Angel Hair Pasta

In a small pot over very low heat, melt butter slowly until foamy. Continue to cook, occasionally swirling pan to check bottom for darkening of liquid butter. Watch closely; Burned butter and browned butter are not the same. Turn off heat when butter becomes golden.

- 10 brussel sprouts
- 1/2 stick of butter
- 1 cup ricotta



4th annual Prayer Breakfast

Howard Hospital hosts spiritual gathering at community center

By Cecilia Winiger, for HMH

On Thursday, February 4, during the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington D.C., Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital hosted its fourth annual Prayer Breakfast, a spiritual gathering of the Willits community. Coordinated by HMH Chaplain Dennis Long, the event brought together

faith leaders, community leaders, medical personnel, first responders, and local business owners.

Five local faith leaders led in prayer from their respective faiths – reflecting the diversity, acceptance and openness of the Willits community. Prayers were offered for unity, home and family, protection, and for the city, state, and nation.



Photos courtesy of HMH

Held at the Willits Community Center, over 200 members of the community attended the annual event, which started in 2012 as a gathering to draw upon the rich faith and diversity of the community as the source of its strength and hope for the future.

In between magic tricks

and jokes, inspirational speaker and magician Billy Riggs inspired attendees with his message of achieving balance and happiness. According to Riggs, the keys to a happy and balanced life are: character; maintaining relationships; achievement or working towards a goal; and faith or believing in something far more important than one's self.

Riggs emphasize the importance of making goals, to keep you inspired and motivated. He encouraged everyone to make a bucket list and to keep adding to it every day. In speaking about spirituality or faith, Riggs said that one has "to realize that not everything is up to you, so that when things don't go your way, you have a higher power to turn to besides yourself."

As a parting message, Riggs said: "Find people you can be yourself with, people who will be there for you when you need them most. Invest your life in people, not things. Don't wait till you're 85 to realize this, because by then it's too late."

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

Baby Chicks

are available now!

Organic and Non GMO
feed available
Quality poultry supplies
for all life stages

J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY

A LOCALLY OWNED MERCANTILE

212 South Main Street Downtown Willits 707-459-1214

OBITUARY |

Linda Hartke

Linda Marie Hartke, 65, passed on February 5, 2016 in Willits, with her family by her side.

She was born March 13, 1950 in Vallejo. She graduated from John Swett High School, class of 1968.

Linda worked for In-Home Supportive Services for many years. Later in life she enjoyed spending time with all her grandchildren, watching movies and TV and even watching them play videogames. She loved watching her "General Hospital."

She is preceded in death by her parents, Raymond Andrade, Betty Frizado (Gade) and her dog, Lady.

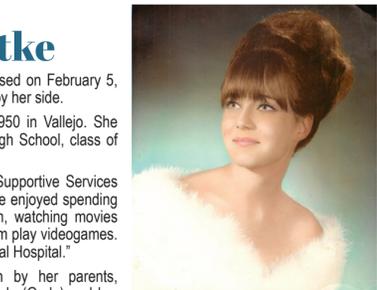
Linda is survived by her children Angelina Southwick, Marcus E. Gomez and Matthew Hartke; her son-in-law, Timothy Southwick; and her grandchildren Timothy and Malaina Southwick, John and Cherokee Southwick; Joseph and Alasia Southwick; Sierra Southwick and Michael Marney, Patricia Southwick, Raymond Gomez, Bianca Gomez, River Ramsing, Hunter Southwick and Sapphire Southwick.

She is also survived by her great-grandchildren Leilani Welsh, Timothy Southwick, Jesus Jr. Garcia, Gabriel Garcia, Zayden Southwick, Kassidie Garcia, Embertynn Southwick, Joseph Marney, and Jace Southwick, and her ex-husbands Marcus W. Gomez and Bryan D. Hartke.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 3:30 pm on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 1750 South Main Street, in the Wagon Wheel Rec Hall.

DEATH NOTICE | Jerry Maddox

Jerry Alan Maddox of Willits passed away on February 1, 2016 at the age of 68. Memorial Services will be held at the Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel at 3:30 pm on Friday, February 26, 2016. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



9th ANNUAL Chili COOK OFF

ENTER YOUR CHILI FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GREAT PRIZE AND BRAGGING RIGHTS!

\$25 ENTRY FEE

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUTREACH

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- People's Choice
- Judge's Favorite
- Hottest Chili
- Most Entertaining/Best Décor
- Craziest Team (voted on by the judges)

March 11, 2016 • 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Call Willits Harrah Center for entry form or more information.

Harrah Senior Center

1501 BAECHEL RD. WILLITS 459-6826

NC Financial Group
www.ncfinancialgroup.com
STAXCLINIC an NC Financial Group Company

Wealth Management
Taxes | Investments | Real Estate | Insurance | Annuities

Nicholas Casagrande, EA
CA DRE #01854336, Insurance #0H68496

Office: (415) 480-3669
Fax: (415) 480-3668
Mobile: (415) 717-0822

nicholas@ncfinancialgroup.com
"nicholas.casagrande@ceterafs.com"
Investment email

22 Battery Street, Suite 401, San Francisco, California 94111
5643 Paradise Drive, Suite 4, Corte Madera, California 94925
660 So. Main Street, Suite D, Willits, California 95490

Advisory services offered through Cetera Investment Advisors LLC. Securities offered through Cetera Financial Specialists LLC (Selling Insurance business in CA as CFGS Insurance Agency). Member FDIC. Equal Opportunity Lender. Member Equal Housing Opportunity.

Do it Best WILLITS

POWER & HARDWARE

HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT

Lawn & Garden Equipment • Generators
Sales, Parts & Service • Pick-up & Delivery

1600 S. Main St. Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420
Willits, CA 95490 Service: 707 459-0596
willitspower@gmail.com Fax: 707 459-6369

SPARETIME SUPPLY

WINTER HOURS:
MONDAY - SATURDAY 9 AM TO 6 PM SUNDAY: CLOSED

208 EAST SAN FRANCISCO AVE. WILLITS, CA 95490
PHONE: 707-459-6791 WWW.SPARETIMESUPPLY.COM

February is Dental Month!

FEBRUARY SPECIAL
15% Discount on dental cleanings and extractions only.

Call to schedule your appointment today!

WILLITS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

DR. FRED S. JACOBS D.V.M.
DR. TEJINDERPREET NAGRA D.V.M.
VETERINARIANS
SMALL ANIMAL PRACTICE
459-6723 or 459-4634
19612 N. HWY. 101, WILLITS, CA 95490

BUD GARMAN
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC. Lic# 879517

707-459-5859

Environmental Restoration - Ponds
Septic & Water Systems - Site Development
Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery

24900 N. HWY 101 IN WILLITS GARMANCONST@GMAIL.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

Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, February 25, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar. Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

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 macamergin@yahoo.com.

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.

For Rent
2 bedroom, 1 bath house located in the Willits Valley. \$1,000 month, with an attached studio. \$300 month. Call 707-367-1346; evenings 707-391-7768.

For Sale
'04 Cargo Trailer, 24' x 8.5', 2 axle, 6 lug rims, side door and large pull-down door in back. Very good condition. \$5,200 or best offer. 707-489-2130.

Help Wanted
Mazahar Boutique is looking for 2 very qualified, mature & experienced boutique salespeople. If this is you, please apply in person and bring a resume with you to 38 South Main Street, Willits.

Help Wanted
Noyo Theatre: part-time position available for Assistant Manager. Duties include selling concessions & tickets, counting money, cleaning theaters. Help train & supervise staff, make work schedules & assist with hiring. Must be willing to work evenings, weekends and school holidays. Print on-line application & drop off at theatre. No calls. www.noyotheatre.com/Employment%20App.pdf

Help Wanted
Adventist Health-Homocare & Hospice Services Mendocino County. F/T - P/T - Per Diem positions: RN, Home Health Aide, Physical & Occupational Therapist. Great Team & Great Benefits. Call Trudy-H/R #456-3230.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers \$390 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at <http://www.oakrivine.net/p/>

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

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

The rest of Western Web | From Page 1

down – very early Thursday morning – to Willits on a truck bound for San Francisco. Our delivery folks pick up the bundles and start delivering to newspaper boxes and businesses first thing Thursday mornings.

Sometimes, Willits Weekly also features special inserts, like this week's 2016 Willits Community Telephone Directory, put together by Soroptimist International of Willits. Western Web also prints the directory, uses automated machinery to stuff a phone book into each of our papers: a great way to distribute the book to the community.

In addition to how much we appreciate the print quality provided by Western Web, we are also proud to be supporting a business that prints other independent publications, and that also focuses on green practices.

Western Web uses low VOC (volatile organic compounds), vegetable-based inks as well as paper that is at least 40 percent post-consumer waste and 100 percent recycled.

Plain paper and inked trimming waste is collected through a huge vacuum system, then bundled for recycling.

Paper is purchased from – and sold back to – United States companies only.

The printing plates made for each page are also recycled; the used plates are melted back down to form new blanks.

Each page requires four plates, which each hold one of four colors: cyan/blue (C), magenta/pink (M), yellow (Y), and black (K). The plates each transfer one color to the page, with the following ink overlapping the previous ink. These layers create the mix of colors to make the final full-color CMYK image.

This attention to detail, appreciation of independent small businesses, helpful and knowledgeable staff, environmental consciousness and efficient professionalism make us proud to have Western Web be a part of the Willits Weekly team.

Western Web is able to print jobs large and small, for companies and individuals. If you are interested in getting quality work at a great price and supporting a great company, contact Western Web at 707-444-6236 or check them out online at www.Western-Web.net

– Maureen Moore

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

Just send in your ad today
via email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency
Currently recruiting for:
Program Administrator
\$4229-\$5141/Mo. Closes 2/29/16
Current vacancy in Ukiah in the Health and Human Services Agency. EOE
Apply at: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr

TELEPHONE (707) 459-2163
FAX (707) 459-2319

ALFRED F. KERR, D.D.S.
FAMILY DENTISTRY

OFFICE HOURS: 12 W. VALLEY STREET
By APPOINTMENT: WILLITS, CA 95490

Marc Komer
Legal Document Assistant

An Affordable Non-Attorney Service

Divorce, Living Trusts,
Evictions, Probate, Incorporation,
Name Change, etc.

www.mendolegaldocs.com
459-2775
104 W. Mendocino, Willits

I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.

Adam's
Restaurant

50 S. Main St
707-456-9226

C BROWNS
Groceries
Beer & Wine
Pay at the Pump
Gas & Diesel

459-4854
1799 So. Main St.
P.O. Box 428

7 am to 11 pm
365 Days a Year

The rest of Western Web | From Page 1

down – very early Thursday morning – to Willits on a truck bound for San Francisco. Our delivery folks pick up the bundles and start delivering to newspaper boxes and businesses first thing Thursday mornings.

Sometimes, Willits Weekly also features special inserts, like this week's 2016 Willits Community Telephone Directory, put together by Soroptimist International of Willits. Western Web also prints the directory, uses automated machinery to stuff a phone book into each of our papers: a great way to distribute the book to the community.

In addition to how much we appreciate the print quality provided by Western Web, we are also proud to be supporting a business that prints other independent publications, and that also focuses on green practices.

Western Web uses low VOC (volatile organic compounds), vegetable-based inks as well as paper that is at least 40 percent post-consumer waste and 100 percent recycled.

Plain paper and inked trimming waste is collected through a huge vacuum system, then bundled for recycling.

Paper is purchased from – and sold back to – United States companies only.

The printing plates made for each page are also recycled; the used plates are melted back down to form new blanks.

Each page requires four plates, which each hold one of four colors: cyan/blue (C), magenta/pink (M), yellow (Y), and black (K). The plates each transfer one color to the page, with the following ink overlapping the previous ink. These layers create the mix of colors to make the final full-color CMYK image.

This attention to detail, appreciation of independent small businesses, helpful and knowledgeable staff, environmental consciousness and efficient professionalism make us proud to have Western Web be a part of the Willits Weekly team.

Western Web is able to print jobs large and small, for companies and individuals. If you are interested in getting quality work at a great price and supporting a great company, contact Western Web at 707-444-6236 or check them out online at www.Western-Web.net

– Maureen Moore

WILLITS MAIN STREET CORRIDOR PLAN SURVEY

The City of Willits is just getting started with the Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan. A design and engineering team has been hired to assist the City and coordination is beginning for the Willits Main Street Corridor Planning Fair (charrette), to be held April 18-22, 2016. The Planning Fair will provide many opportunities for community members to share their vision and design concepts for Main Street, and to have these ideas translated into plans that can be vetted by the City and Caltrans.

Which issues are important to you? Please rank each issue according to its level of importance.

	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important
Pedestrian/bicycle safety	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Intersection safety (i.e. Commercial and Main; E. Valley and Main)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Supporting local businesses along the Main Street corridor	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Landscaping and "greening" of Main Street	<input type="checkbox"/>				
On-Street parking	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Off-Street parking (parking lots)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Parking for trucks and trailers	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Traffic Calming	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Public Art	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Places to gather/sit	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Natural storm water management (biowales, retention basins, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Gateway treatments	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Signage/Wayfinding signs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Access to transit (bus stops)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>				

This survey will close on March 1, 2016. Please mail to or drop off at City of Willits, attn: Survey, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490.
To take this survey online, please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/WillitsMainStreetPlan

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

HMH President and CEO Rick Bockmann provided a heartfelt greeting, sharing how working for a hospital has shown him the importance of prayer, especially since most people come to the hospital during their most vulnerable times. "Every time, I hear the helicopter landing, I realize that someone is in there needing help. And I say a quick prayer. I'm a firm believer in the power of prayer." He also acknowledged his appreciation for the local leaders' dedication and commitment and for their effort to come together as one family serving the needs of the community.

As the prayer breakfast came to a close, Chaplain Long offered a final prayer of dedication where he asked for a special blessing on the Willits community and the nation.

Later that night, Riggs amazed and amused the community with his magic at the Willits Community Center, while emphasizing his message of positivity. In a performance that was equal parts hilarious and uplifting, over 250 attendees came away inspired after the event, co-sponsored by HMH and the Willits Christian Churches Fellowship.

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

of Willits was contacted amongst a group of campers in the 400 block of East Hill Road and arrested for an outstanding Mendocino County warrant.

February 13
7:30 am: SMITH, Jennifer, 32, of Willits was contacted amongst a group of campers in the 800 block of Blosser Lane and arrested for an outstanding Mendocino County warrant.

7:45 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance at a residence in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue. During their investigation, officers determined a juvenile male had battered his adult guardian. The juvenile was arrested for 242 PC (Battery).

February 13
8:30 am: Investigation of a reported vandalism in the 200 block of School Street

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

of Willits was contacted amongst a group of campers in the 400 block of East Hill Road and arrested for an outstanding Mendocino County warrant.

February 13
7:30 am: SMITH, Jennifer, 32, of Willits was contacted amongst a group of campers in the 800 block of Blosser Lane and arrested for an outstanding Mendocino County warrant.

7:45 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance at a residence in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue. During their investigation, officers determined a juvenile male had battered his adult guardian. The juvenile was arrested for 242 PC (Battery).

February 13
8:30 am: Investigation of a reported vandalism in the 200 block of School Street



Across the top, from left: Runner Robert Swodoba with his first-place 5k run medal; Jim Longwith (#278), winner of the Men's 70+ division in the 5k race, finished 10th overall; Karen Poole, first-place winner in the women's division for the 5k race; Organizers Vin Madison, left, and Rodger Schwartz pose with the timer. At left: Runner #363 coming in for the finish.



Photos by Damian Sebouhian



Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com



Above, left: Runners prepare for the start of the 10-mile run, including Alexander Kramer (#343), at left, overall 10-mile winner. Left: Runners get set for the 5k run, including Robert Swodoba (#332), 5k overall winner. Below, from left: Roger Ramirez, Ukiah High School track and field coach, monitors the run from his motorcycle. From left to right: Ginny Cholez, Dennis Cholez, Carol Jadicker, Pollyann Johnston and Pat Prettie pose before their 5k run. Map of race route.



SAW SUPREMACY STARTS WITH HUSQVARNA



550 XP[®] CHAINSAW
Designed for quick acceleration and unmatched maneuverability, this saw is ideal for both in-tree and ground operations.
Air Injection™ | X-Torq® | AutoTune™ | 3.75 hp
FROM **\$599.95** MSRP



372 XP[®] CHAINSAW
STILL frustrated with the reliability of others? All Husqvarna XP[®] saws utilize a durable forged three-piece crankshaft to assure reliability under demanding professional conditions.
X-Torq® | Magnesium Chassis | 5.5 hp
FROM **\$879.95** MSRP



440 CHAINSAW
Be more productive with this powerful, fuel efficient saw. With 24% more fuel capacity than the leading competitor in its class, you'll be running stronger, longer.
X-Torq® | Tool-less Chain Adjust Optional | 2.41 hp
\$299.95 MSRP



T540 XP[®] CHAINSAW
Designed for pro arborists and utility services who need excellent performance in combination with the best ergonomics. High performance auto adjusting carburetor **standard**.
Adjustable Handle Size | X-Torq® | Low Vib® | 2.4 hp
FROM **\$639.95** MSRP

YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR FARM OR FOREST



240 CHAINSAW
15% more power than the leading competitor in its class. Ideal for clean-up and pruning tasks around the home.
Air Injection™ | X-Torq® | Low Vib® | 2 hp
\$179.95 MSRP



450 RANCHER CHAINSAW
A powerful all-round saw with professional features for exceptional results. 12% less weight than the leading competitor.
Air Injection™ | X-Torq® | Smart Start® | 3.2 hp
450 FROM **\$369.95** MSRP
450 RANCHER **\$399.95** MSRP

FIND YOUR HUSQVARNA AT



WILLITS

POWER & HARDWARE

1600 S Main St • Willits, CA 95490
Phone: (707) 459-6420 • Fax: (707) 459-6369
Store Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-6pm
Sat. 8am-5pm • Sun. 10am-4pm

Brands we stock & service:      

READY WHEN YOU ARE

residents. The new contracts will specify what each must do to fill in service gaps the county wants filled, and will offer specific plans for how those gaps will be filled and how the county will ensure both companies comply with requests for additional services.

In statements made to supervisors Tuesday, representatives from both ASOs said they approved of the proposed changes – in principle.

In addition, Angelo will begin drafting a new request for proposals to potential providers of adult mental health services delivery in Mendocino County. Angelo will send out the new RFP if Ortner fails to provide the services the county wants.

The steps were taken in response to a 62-page report prepared by Kemper Consulting Group, released February 5. The report was notable because of its willingness to blame the County of Mendocino for some of the shortcomings in Ortner's performance.

The report found very little to criticize about RQMC or its main subcontractor, Redwood Community Services. Speaking of mental health services in general, early on in his presentation report, report co-author Lee Kemper told supervisors the number of people receiving county mental health services had increased over what it was before the county decided to privatize mental health.

"A substantial amount of care is being delivered," Kemper told supervisors. "The array is well-developed on the children's side, and is in need of further development on the adult side."

What went wrong

The Kemper report was blunt in its criticism of county government for its role in creating many of the shortcomings in adult mental health services delivery.

In apportioning blame, the report referenced former Mental Health Director Tom Pinizzotto, who was removed from his position late last year.

"We believe these weaknesses or gaps in the ASO contract are the result of three dynamics," Kemper wrote. "[There was] the former mental health director's intention of getting the ASO contracts in place as quickly as possible, with the belief any gaps in the contracts – such as specific service delivery requirements, data reporting requirements, and implementation of electronic health records – could be addressed after the contracts were executed."

Second was the "former mental health director's expectation that documented processes for determining medical necessity for mental health services, periodic quality improvement reviews of ASO service delivery, annual external quality review organization reviews, and compliance with Medi-Cal treatment and billing requirements, in combination, would assure overall mental health service needs among children and adults would be addressed."

Third was the failure of other county officials.

"Insufficient attention was given by other county leadership, including the Health and Human Services director, county counsel, county executive and the board of supervisors, to the significance of the ASO contract gaps – most specifically the following: 1.) lack of clearly defined contract deliverables, notably the lack of a formal program implementation plan from each ASO to be approved by the mental health department; 2.) lack of specified ASO service delivery goals, objectives, timelines and performance metrics; 3.) unclear structure for receipt of defined data and other reporting by ASOs; and 4.) lack of specified fiscal, programmatic or other penalties for subpar ASO performance."

The Kemper report was specific about how the failure of the county allowed the failure of Ortner to happen.

"Had the ASO contract required the submission of ASO implementation plans for approval by [the mental health division], the requirements

contained in the ASO scope of work could have been incorporated into these plans as well as the county's mental health plan and [the mental health division] would have been in a position to review, understand, negotiate and approve the overall framework for the service delivery system proposed by each ASO," the report stated.

"The absence of these implementation plans, and the lack of a plan approval role by [the mental health division], left the county with accepting the service delivery systems as they have been defined and established with each ASO, and with little uniform documentation of each delivery system," according to the report.

What does the county want?

The Kemper report lists 36 recommendations that would enhance ASO performance, but supervisors have yet to determine which of these it wants to implement.

Some of the more important recommendations include the creation of the county position of an ASO contract manager to monitor the performance of the ASOs, and creation and implementation of an electronic health records system to interface between each ASO and the county's mental health division.

The report calls for both ASOs to write and sign memoranda of understanding with each component of the county mental health services delivery system, including the other ASO, local hospitals and community health centers, the public guardian and justice systems, and the county's substance use disorder treatment services branch.

The report calls for Angelo, HHSA Director Stacey Cryer and new Mental Health Division Director Jenine Miller to "develop community consensus about developing in-county short-term crisis services and residential services."

The report also calls for providing mental health services to remote areas in the county, including the Point Arena area and Covelo.

In addition, the report calls for "the county executive, HHSA director and the new [mental health] director to establish a renewed spirit of openness and transparency with the Mental Health Advisory Board, through frank discussion of key issues and successes of the county's mental health delivery system."

One question not discussed Tuesday was – granted these improvements are necessary – how much are they going to cost and who is going to pay for them?

Close to the brink

The decision to continue with Ortner and hope a more explicit contract will clear up problems in delivering adult mental health services came after three members of the board of supervisors stated publicly they didn't trust Ortner to meet the needs of the county and its residents.

During discussion toward the end of the afternoon, Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse came out openly against Ortner. In remarks to his colleagues, Woodhouse said: "We have not done a good job, the people who have done this outsourcing. They have put tremendous amounts time on this, and the product is just to me just totally not acceptable. And so to give [Ortner] another chance, to do all this paperwork and tighten up the contracts...."

"To me, when I was doing business for all those years, the main thing was not to write the tightest contract, to make my buyer close. It was to read the buyer, figure out what they wanted, and then write the contract so that both sides got what they wanted. And then it would slide along, and then the bumps were not about whether or not you were going to buy. They were about how to make it better for everybody."

"The 50 health care professionals who spoke here a month or six weeks ago didn't say, 'We want you to draw up a tighter contract with these providers.' Nobody said that. They said, 'This doesn't work for

us.' We're not getting it. They were very clear that the relationship wasn't working, it wasn't the right partner."

Then, speaking to Kemper, Woodhouse continued: "Today you showed us that Redwood Quality was just doing a wonderful job. We can start with them. We can tighten up the contract with them and even do a better job. The flow is there. It's happening. I think that is something I could support. Because when you work with somebody that has the same intention as you, then the challenges that you learn, you can apply to the next person you work with."

"But I don't feel the same way about Ortner Management Group," he noted. "It just doesn't work for me."

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde echoed Woodhouse in different words. "I'm not convinced that MOUs with them, and with other groups, will suddenly make the relationship better. I'm just concerned we are prolonging the day, if we go down this course, of dealing with another RFP process to get somebody else in here to replace Ortner."

"As was pointed out in the report, there were things they were contractually obligated to do. Now just because the contract doesn't have a hammer, doesn't mean they shouldn't have fulfilled it," Gjerde said. "If their heart was in it, they would have fulfilled the contract, as weak as it was. Some people have said the contract that Pinizzotto gave us was weak as water. But as weak as it was, they should have fulfilled what little they promised to do."

First District Supervisor Carre Brown lined up on the same side as Woodhouse and Gjerde. Addressing Mark Montgomery, vice president of operations for Ortner, Brown said: "You did come up and speak. You offered no apologies for anything that has occurred that gives stress to many of our providers, our partners. That distresses me, and I have to go. 'Enough is enough.'"

But Supervisor John McCowen's comments then completely changed the direction of the conversation.

"We do have a pretty comprehensive report," McCowen said. "We have a number of recommendations and, while Mr. Montgomery didn't say, 'Gee, I am really sorry we didn't do better over the last two and a half years,' he did say, unequivocally, that [Ortner] supports the recommendations and is prepared to rewrite the contract and to implement the recommendations."

"That would represent a pretty clear way forward," McCowen said. "If, instead, we say, 'Well, Ortner, thanks, but no thanks. We're giving notice, and we're going back out for an RFP,' the only sure result is continued uncertainty and, I believe, no improvement in delivery of adult mental health services for some interim period of time. And then, we're starting over with, perhaps, a completely new provider."

"There's no guarantee that Redwood would be the successful bidder," McCowen added. "I think providing children's services and adult services are not the same thing. I don't question their commitment or their performance. That might be a great solution. But we are going into a period of extended uncertainty if we go down that road and, after all that has gone into the current system thus far, I think it is worthwhile to see if we can successfully implement the recommendations. And I think, again, that is the best way forward."

The rest of the board agreed with McCowen. Kemper suggested the two-track strategy described in the beginning of this story. The board questioned whether it could approve such a strategy within the constraints of the Brown Act, and it was determined to play it safe and not change it.

Gjerde, the board's chairman, asked Angelo to return on March 1 with a clear plan of action upon which the board could legally vote. By general consensus, the other board members agreed with Gjerde, with no vote taken.

Of the 13 members of the public present at the meeting, only one – Bill Barksdale – declared his interest in running for city council.

"I want to see Willits become the kind of city I want to stay in, live in, grow old in, and probably die in," Barksdale told the group.

Barksdale, a Mendocino County resident since 1987, and a City of Willits resident since 2009, is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker/Mendo Realty. Barksdale said many Bay Area people can't afford to live there anymore, and are looking at relocating to more rural areas like Willits.

"Those people are exploring whether or not Willits is a place they want to live in," Barksdale said. "Many of those people have skills and job-creating abilities. They have interest and experience in education. How do we attract those people here?"

Although Barksdale hasn't officially declared his candidacy, he certainly sounded like someone on the campaign trail. During the last couple months, he has been attending city council meetings and attended a few of the local cannabis forums as well. During this time Barksdale has been organizing his thoughts and visions for the future of Willits.

"How do we deal with mental health and people with disabilities and make our infrastructure more usable for those folks?" he asked. "How do we improve public transit? How do we help foster more economic growth? How do we support local business?"

Barksdale also brought up other issues, such as affordable housing for seniors and low-income citizens, and other attendees echoed his concerns.

Nicky Keyes, who identified herself as a physically disabled citizen of Willits, called for better public transportation that provided service well into the evening.

Michael Foley, who identified himself as a "disfranchised voter" because he lives just outside the city limits, declared his interest in what he called "democratizing wealth" and creative, outside-the-box thinking for small-town economic growth. Inspired by the book "What Then Must We Do," by Gar Alperovitz, Foley expressed his interest in starting up a reading group to explore the book and its ideas.

Orenstein, who was reelected to his third term in November 2014, strongly encouraged anyone interested in running for a council seat to attend as many meetings as possible to get the feel for the job and to educate themselves about all the issues.

Orenstein expressed the importance of keeping things in perspective and to be clear about one's motivations for being on the council.

"It's never a good idea to sit on the city council if you have an agenda," he said. "You do it because you want to serve the community. That's the bottom line; that's what it's all about."

That bottom line, City Manager Moore explained, involves a fiduciary responsibility of maintaining the police force, public safety, water, sewer and roads.

"The business of running the city is not sexy," said Moore, who has over 25 years of public service experience. "As staff, we'd like to see council members getting elected who take an interest in all of it. Everyone has their specific interests, but the business of the city comes first. Staff's responsibility is to stabilize our fiscal resources so we can build from there and pursue other visions."

All in the room agreed the two biggest challenges for the future council to tackle are the Main Street relinquishment project and the eventual legalization of recreational cannabis.

While Barksdale admitted that cannabis legalization should be taken advantage of in some way, he strongly cautioned the City of Willits to be careful not to make it an all-encompassing economic force.

"I don't want the symbol of Mendocino County and the City of Willits to be a marijuana leaf."

Burton, who stated he will be running for re-election this November, identified Howard Hospital's new facility as a landmark success and said that the challenge now is to attract health practitioners to the area.

"It's our greatest economic opportunity with the hospital here," Burton said. "We're going to have to work hard to staff it and for it to maintain itself."

Both Orenstein and Strong cautioned interested candidates with big and bright visions to prepare themselves for the budgetary constraints the city is currently under.

Strong, who is nearing the end of her first term, explained: "I had big ideas and goals in my platform when I ran, but when you look at the annual budget and the capital improvement budget, and try to project that out to five or 10 years, you realize the city just can't do it all."

Orenstein expressed that visions only reach fruition when there's a partnership between the city and the general public or private sector. He cited the building of the skate park as an example of that partnership. Once a committee was formed and action was organized, what had been a pie-in-the-sky dream for 25 years transformed into reality.

"Within about three or four years of establishing the committee, we raised \$600,000 dollars [including a recreation grant from the state], and we got the first skate park in Mendocino County," Orenstein said. "It all started with a citizens group of over a dozen people. We made it happen."

Orenstein cited the creation of the recent dog park as a result of implementing that same exact strategy.

"I have learned that getting citizen groups together with a vision and working really hard for a period of two to three years of intense labor – they can get these things done," he said.

The three council seats open in the November election are currently being held by Mayor Bruce Burton, Councilwoman Holly Madrigal and Strong. The filing period for interested candidates is between July 13 and August 7.

To learn more about this process and how to get involved, contact Moore at 459-4601.



Willits Stamp Club

Collectors share their pastime at the Willits Library

A small group of stamp enthusiasts – or philatelists (pronounced “fe-la-te-lists”) – meets every other month, on a chosen Wednesday, at the Willits Library. From 5 to 6 pm, for a mere hour, they gather together with stamp books, collecting books and albums, magnifiers, stamp tongs, and boxes of stamps to help one another fill out their collections.

The group, with a range of members aged from their late 60s to Mack McClelland, who’s 99, has been meeting for about two years, with a shared sense of enjoyment, knowledge and trust.

Boxes and envelopes of stamps go home with members and are brought back to the next meeting in two months. Lucky that, since there are thousands of stamps in some of the boxes to sort through!

Stamps have been collected since they were first printed in England in 1840. “The Penny Black” were the first adhesive stamps and were printed in sheets to total 68,808,000 individual stamps. Bought for a penny, they’re now worth a few thousand dollars in “mint” condition. In the U.S., the first stamps issued were the 5 cent Benjamin Franklin (3,700,000 sold and worth about \$500, used) and the 10 cent George Washington

(865,000 sold and worth about \$1,400 used). Unused in very fine condition? These stamps can fetch upwards to \$30,000!

But the story of stamp collecting is not just about price and value. The club members also enjoy the miniature pieces of art and rich history revealed in each stamp. According to Marvin Talso, president of the Willits Stamp Club, the celebrated 1898 Trans-Mississippi Commemorative \$1 stamp, “Western Cattle in Storm,” depicts the ruggedness of the American West and is considered one of the premier U.S. stamps made.

Widely used by stamp collectors, educators and art enthusiasts, “An American History Album” by Michael Worek, Jordan Worek and Terrence W. McCaffrey is a popular book that details the history of a large selection of U.S. stamps.

The next meeting of the Willits Stamp Club is Wednesday, April 13 at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, from 5 to 6 pm. Dust off your grandmother’s 1933 “International Junior Postage and Stamp Album,” entice your son, daughter or grandchild to come along, and head to the library. Young people interested in stamp collecting are welcome to attend for encouragement and help in getting a collection started or expanded.

Across the top, from left: A “Graf Zeppelin” \$2.60 stamp, issued in 1930 as part of the first set of trans-Atlantic airmail stamps. They were expensive – \$2.60 was equal to a day’s wage for some – and after 2.5 months, the unsold stamps were removed from service and destroyed. John Smoot and Mack McClelland sort through a box of stamps. A well-worn 1933 “International Junior Postage and Stamp Album,” displayed with a recent collectors’ catalogue. Pat Wilson, foreground, browsing through stamps to fill in his collection.

Above, top: A 1972 George Washington Bicentennial “cinderella” (not for postage purposes) stamp. Artfully made and worth \$1. Above: Stamp collectors Dave Beebe, Bruce Brunell, Chuck Riley, and Joyce Stamps enjoy their pastime together.



Above, left: The very popular commemorative “Elvis” stamp, issued in 1993. Above, right: Mack McClelland, the oldest philatelist in Willits.

Ca. Lic # 9277007 Serving areas of Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties W.C. & G.L. insured

B.A.S. ROOFING, Inc

Roofing applications available to fit any roofing need
Residential & Commercial

Online: www.basroofing.com
Office: (707) 462-4514
Mobile: (707) 367-3786
Sonoma: (707) 541-6934
Email: basroofing@live.com

WE'RE NOW STOCKING CHICKS, FEED & FAIR SUPPLIES

Feed, Grain and Shavings Now Available for
HORSES, COWS, SHEEP, GOATS, HOGS & MORE

Baby chicks will be here next week!
GREAT EGG LAYERS & MEAT BIRDS
Fancy Fair Show Birds & Rare Breeds Available
Chickens | Ducks | Turkeys | Quail | Geese | & More

Best WILLITS POWER & HARDWARE
Quality Service & Sales since 1999

4-H & FFA FAIR CHARGE ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE

1600 S Main St • Willits, CA 95490 Store Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-6pm
Phone: (707) 459-6420 • Fax: (707) 459-6369 Sat. 8am-5pm • Sun. 10am-4pm

Brands we stock & service: STIHL Husqvarna BCS canham Columbia Hilti KEMPER

Willits Unified School District

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

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

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

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

Willits High School • Media Center
299 North Main Street • Willits, CA

YOKUMS BODY SHOP

Auto Collision Specialists
We work with ALL Insurance Companies!
Lifetime Warranty - All Makes and Models - Free Estimate!

CAR WASH & COMPLETE DETAIL SERVICE

1619 S. Main St. Willits, Ca 707-459-9385
yokumsbodyshop.com

Well Mannered MUTTS

Dog Training
INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION • PUPPY HEAD START • GROUP CLASSES
BEHAVIOR CONSULTATION

Sallie Palmer
CERTIFIED DOG-TRAINER

707.463.3647
CELL: 707.621.DOGS
WELLMANNEREDMUTTS@GMAIL.COM
WWW.WELLMANNEREDMUTTS.COM

Well Mannered MUTTS

The rest of Eberhard

From Page 1

arrested in July 2013 as he covered a protest against a highway project in the Northern California town of Willits. Eberhard agreed to dismiss Caltrans as a defendant in January.

During a pretrial conference last week, Judge Donato said he’s “been itching for an opportunity to have a televised trial” as part of the Northern California U.S. District Court’s “Cameras in the Courtroom” pilot program.

Despite Donato’s assurances the video would be edited, not live, and that both parties could block objected footage from being broadcast, state attorney Harry Gower III refused to consent, saying Eberhard and his supporters could edit and manipulate the footage.

“The plaintiff and his associates have demonstrated they would make poor use of this,” Gower said. He said a photo Eberhard took of one defendant, CHP Officer Teddy Babcock, was plastered on disparaging T-shirts.

Donato said that story did not change his perspective, and he remains “terribly disappointed” with the state’s decision. But he said he cannot televise the trial without consent from both parties.

After the hearing, Eberhard said he had nothing to do with the person who printed his photo on T-shirts. Eberhard’s attorney, Duffy Carolan, had no objections to broadcasting the proceedings.

Preparing for trial

The trial begins on February 22. Each side will be limited to nine hours of testimony, with 30-minute opening statements and 45-minute closing statements, Donato said.

Nine jurors will be selected from a pool of 35 to 40. They will be asked to decide whether CHP officers arrested and intimidated Eberhard to retaliate against him for covering the protests and to dissuade him from continuing to cover the issue.

Eberhard says officers simply wrote citations and released protesters at the construction site, but they arrested him to chill his First Amendment rights.

Donato rejected Eberhard’s motion to exclude testimony from the state’s expert witness on proper police arrest procedures and protocols, but forbade the expert from weighing in on the specifics surrounding Eberhard’s arrest.

Donato also denied the state’s motion to exclude testimony on Eberhard’s pain and suffering from the arrest, finding those details would inform the jury on the issue of damages.

To calculate damages, Donato said, Eberhard must present specific, non-abstract, compensable losses that can be analyzed in dollars, such as lost wages, lack of employment or medical bills.

The judge said the alleged chilling effect on Eberhard’s newsgathering was too abstract to support a claim for damages, but if Eberhard lost work as a result of the arrest, that could be valued in terms of dollars.

After partially surviving two motions to dismiss and one motion for summary judgment, only a handful of Eberhard’s original claims against the CHP and three named officers will go to trial.

Jurors will be asked to decide whether the alleged intimidation, assault and arrest violated Eberhard’s First Amendment rights; whether it had retaliatory intent, in violation of state and federal civil rights laws; and whether he deserves damages for the state’s conduct.

The Willits Bypass Project, which is nearly done, is also the focus of another federal lawsuit by Native Americans tribes, who say the state failed to protect sacred artifacts and resources when building the new \$300-million stretch of highway.

This article was reprinted courtesy of Courthouse News Service, www.courthousenews.com, a nationwide news service for lawyers and the news media based in Pasadena.



Mike A'Dair Supervisor John McCowen

Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

As a longtime community member, Mello said he understands the importance of the LLFD.

“I know our little fire department has always been well-managed and equipped,” he said. “I feel that’s a good thing just given where we live. It’s a high-hazard area, and I can understand the importance of doing all we can to make sure our fire department is ready and able to help when they need to.... Wherever I can help, I’m happy to help.”

Mello currently works as executive director of the Frank R. Howard Foundation, and has a lot of previous experience on other community boards. Since living in Willits, he’s served as a member of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, the Harrah Senior Center, the Willits Rotary Club and the Willits Airport Commission.

The LLFD board consists of five locally elected officials. Any resident of the district can run for a board seat. All members of the board are volunteers and receive no salary or remuneration. Tony Madrigal is the current board president.

The board meets the second Tuesday of each month at the district offices at 74 East Commercial Street at 5 pm. Interested community members are invited to attend and participate in discussions.

The rest of Attack

From Page 1

Before that, the woman claimed, Jones assaulted her against her will for almost five hours, threatening both the victim and her family while “committing numerous sexual assaults against her,” Barney said.

After interviewing both the woman and witnesses to the attack at the victim’s home in the 24000 block of Birch Circle, detectives identified Jones as the alleged assailant, and located and arrested him, Barney said.

“At the time of the assault,” he added, Jones “was on felony probation for cultivation of marijuana.”

Jones was booked into county jail on suspicion of forcible rape, forced oral copulation, penetration with a foreign object, making criminal threats, and violating his probation.

Anyone with information related to this case, Barney said, “is encouraged to contact the Mendocino County Detectives Division via the Mendocino County Tip Line at 707-234-2100.”

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



Jeddiah William Jones

Animal shelter discussion hits scheduling snafu

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors surprised even the most jaded observer last week when it overturned two public promises to hold discussions February 16 concerning the county’s animal shelter.

Supervisor John McCowen assured the public during a February 8 meeting of the board’s Health and Human Services Committee that the full board would consider the recommendations of the committee regarding the animal shelter at its February 16 meeting.

Then, during the morning session of its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 9, the board discussed McCowen’s promise and reported it.

The support, though, wasn’t unanimous. Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse told the rest of the board he thought there might not be adequate time to consider the animal shelter question,

Supes OK library adjustments

Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved a resolution to agree to defray charges levied erroneously against the county library.

Somewhat surprisingly, the amount to be repaid to the library comes to just under \$100,000. In previous, informal discussions, Supervisor John McCowen had estimated the sum would reach more than a million dollars.

The funds to be reimbursed are A-87 charges, established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget in its circular A-87. The purpose of A-87 charges is to defray to local governments allowable costs the local government incurs in connection with implementing federal grants or other agreements with the federal government.

Tuesday’s resolution marked the culmination of six months of discussions undertaken by the supervisors’ library ad hoc committee in response to two reports issued by the county grand jury. Supervisors Dan Gjerde (District 4) and John McCowen (District 2) sat on the library committee.

In its 2013-14 and 2014-15 reports, the grand jury levied numerous allegations against the county, arguing many of the A-87 charges assessed against the libraries were improper.

It was thought the county had levied A-87 charges against the entire value of the new Fort Bragg Library, without taking into account that two-thirds of the construction costs for that library had come from grants and private donations, and were therefore not subject to A-87 charges.

It was likewise presumed A-87 charges had been assessed against the Willits Library, when a large part of the costs of construction of that building had been funded by a state grant.

It was also assumed, during early parts of the discussion, that these costs had been assessed against the library for many years.

However, in researching the history of the county’s A-87 charges against the libraries, Auditor-Controller Lloyd Weer discovered the county had failed to assess the A-87 charges during the period of time when it thought it had a right to.

The upshot of the work of Weer and the library ad hoc committee was written into the resolution approved Tuesday, which states: “1. the library is

The rest of Water

From Page 1

during January 2015, and again between June and September.

As a result, the City of Willits received a notice of violation from the California Division of Drinking Water on August 12, 2015, and a notice was sent to Willits water customers the following month.

According to the city’s latest update to water customers, sent last week: “It is very important to emphasize that the most recent quarterly tests, conducted in October 2015 and January 2016, show the concentration of TTHMs meets the appropriate levels in the City of Willits distribution system.”

The high amount of TTHMs were not as a result of using more of the chemicals than usual, but rather, due to concentration buildup at the two specific sites with too-high levels.

“Walker Road is a long way from the treatment plant, with far fewer users, so the water isn’t replenished as much,” Wilburn said, adding that the drought and water conservation efforts kept the city from doing its usual flushing of the system.

“Since September, we’ve started using a different chemical in our clarifier at the new water treatment plant,” Wilburn said, “and we’ve seen very good results removing organic material at the source.

especially since the board had already committed to spending the afternoon discussing the Kemper report on mental health.

In order to create more time for the mental health discussion, the board asked CEO

Carmel Angelo to reschedule the Kemper report item for 1 pm, rather than the regular 1:30 pm start of the afternoon session.

With two public promises made on the scheduling issue, and with the issue having been discussed at some length, the matter was apparently settled.

But Woodhouse brought the issue up again later in the day Tuesday, convincing a majority of supervisors to move the presentation and discussion of the Kemper report to 10 am on February 16. The motion passed 3-1, with Supervisor Carre Brown voting “no” and McCowen not voting, as he had left the room.

A full discussion of the animal shelter question will be rescheduled to an undetermined date.

due a refund, estimated at \$31,636, for all A-87 equipment use charges actually charged to the library for equipment purchased prior to 2012-13; 2. the library shall not be charged A-87 use charges for equipment purchased with dedicated library funds (i.e., Measure A funds or the pro-rata share of property tax); 3. the library is due a refund, currently estimated at \$43,788, for building use charges related to the application of such charges to \$257,638 in insurance proceeds and \$472,150 in donations partially used to construct the Fort Bragg Library; 4. the library is due a refund, currently estimated at \$24,000, for building use charges related to the application of such charges to \$400,037 in state grant funds partially used to construct the Willits Library; and 5. the county executive office shall work with the auditor-controller to determine the exact amount of the refund due the library, and shall take all necessary steps to refund the money without delay.”

“The plan is to clean up that credit and give it to them all in one lump sum,” Weer said.

In researching what actually happened, Weer discovered the county did not assess the full extent of its A-87 charges against the library from 2008 to 2012, which, had it been assessed and paid, would have amounted to a funding source back to the county of some \$200,000.

In addition, the board of supervisors concluded those A-87 charges assessed for use of equipment purchased prior to 2012 were invalid.

In discussing details of the resolution prior to voting, Supervisor Dan Hamburg attempted to put the actions of the county into a positive light. “I’m surprised the money we are talking about here is less than the amount the county forwent in the run-up to Measure A,” he said.

In explaining why the amount to be credited to the libraries was relatively small, McCowen said, “An assumption had been made that A-87 charges had not only been calculated, but had also been assessed and collected.” The implication of McCowen’s statement was that assumption was incorrect.

“Now that we can get this behind everybody, I think we have an opportunity to get the library, the library advisory board, the board of supervisors and everyone to focus on how we can improve the library,” said Gjerde.

By removing organic material at the clarifier, it decreases our disinfection byproduct concentration throughout the system.”

Wilburn credited the change in chemical application as well as the increase in rainfall for the positive change in TTHM concentrations.

According to a report presented at last week’s Willits City Council meeting, the City of Willits anticipates the problem has been solved.

A table from the report, at left, shows the improvement in test results.

For those who might be worried about health effects of drinking city water during those periods of higher concentration of TTHMs, the report states that only chronic exposure over many years could result in illness.

“The scientific study that is the basis for this regulation,” the report reads, “showed that some people who drink 2 liters of water every day, containing disinfection byproducts in excess of the maximum limit, over a 70-year period may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.”

Unique Food For Unique Events
Not Just Gyros | Expanded Food Options | Competitive Catering Pricing

Nikos
Gyro Shop

Village Salad Baklava & Coffee
Lemon Chicken Grilled Cheese
Hot Soup Haloumi Sandwich
Traditional Gyros Falafel & more!

707-456-9293 HOURS: M-W: 11-4 & Th/F: 11-7 42 S. Main Street

707.459.5193

JOHN FORD RANCH
RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

WE'RE NOW STOCKING
PAINT

Best COLOR SOLUTIONS SELF-PRIMING INTERIOR LATEX FLAT SATISFACTION GUARANTEE NEUTRAL BASE

Best BEST LOOK PAINT AND PRIMER IN ONE INTERIOR LATEX SEMI-GLOSS ENAMEL LIFETIME WARRANTY ULTRA WHITE

Best SUPERDECK DECK & DOCK ELASTOMERIC COATING Perfect restoration and waterproofing in one

Do it Best WILLITS POWER & HARDWARE
Quality Service & Sales since 1999

1000 S. Main St. • Willits, CA 95490 459-6420 • Fax: (707) 459-6369 Sat. 8am-5pm • Sun. 10am-4pm

Tires LES SCHWAB

FOUNDER'S CELEBRATION

TIRE SIPING
ON SALE
BUY 3, GET 1 FREE

CUSTOM WHEELS
\$50 OFF
WHEN YOU BUY A NEW SET OF 4

WHEEL ALIGNMENT
\$20 OFF
WHEN YOU BUY 4 NEW TIRES

LES SCHWAB OF WILLITS
1565 S MAIN ST, WILLITS, CA 95490
(707) 459-5938
OPEN: MON - FRI: 8 AM - 6 PM & SAT: 8 AM TO 5 PM



Willits Frontier Days gives back to community with \$3,000 in donations

Above: Vicki Ham and Loraine Patton of Soroptimist International of Willits pose with Willits Frontier Days past president Rick Crowder and current president Marcy Barry and Kevin Reedy and John Thomen of the Little Lake Fire Department.

Photo by Lee Persico

Each year, Willits Frontier Days makes donations back to other service clubs, groups and organizations as a way of saying "Thank You" back to the community.

This year, six groups received donations, including the Little Lake Fire District, that received \$350 for their smoke detector program; the Soroptimist International of Willits, who received \$500 for human trafficking awareness and \$250 for their book project; Willits High School's peer empowerment summit received \$300; the TRAIL program at Ridgewood Ranch

received \$1,000; the Willits High School swim team received \$300; and the Willits 4-H sheep program received \$300. All in all, donations totaled \$3,000 for 2016.

Representatives from many of the organizations attended the Willits Frontier Days monthly meeting last week to receive their checks. Attendees included Loraine Patton and Vicki Ham from the Soroptimist International of Willits, John Thomen and Kevin Reedy from the Little Lake Fire Department.

- Maureen Moore

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Loving Sundance

Sundance was "Mom of the Year" in 2015. She had a litter of her own and, once they were weaned, she took on four more litters! Sundance is a wonderful cat with lots of energy and lots of love to give. She likes to play with other cats if they will play with her. And she will take any attention you send her way. You will find her loose in the Cattery and loving life. But she would love a home of her own even more.

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



Photo by S. Coffman Photography



Photo by Rod Coats

Big Moose

Moose is a 3-year-old male Shepherd mix who currently weighs 82 pounds. Moose is a big boy who needs lots of room to romp around and plenty of exercise. He is a social dog who really loves his treats. Moose walks well on a leash and is eager to please and learn new things.

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.

Sober Grad

Basket Winner

Leti Ceja, pictured, with the Sober Grad Valentine Raffle Basket, is this year's lucky winner of the fundraising raffle.

Ceja is an instructional aide at Brookside Elementary School which is where she bought her raffle tickets. Ceja, who has been with the Willits Unified School District for 22 years, has a daughter who graduated last year, and several friends graduating this year, and wanted to support Sober Grad's drug- and alcohol-free party on graduation night for all Willits area graduates.



The basket was stuffed full of wonderful items including: 1 dozen roses from Flowers by Annette; many items donated by Cat's Meow; and more donations from Adam's

Restaurant, El Mexicano, Suzanne Pope, Karen Cavanaugh, Rebecca Smith, Tango, Re-Evolution, J.D. Redhouse, Brooktrails Golf Course, Sparetime Supply and more.

We Love Your Pets Too

10% OFF
Dentals Cleanings during the months of February & March

East Hill Veterinary Clinic

East Hill Veterinary Clinic provides experienced, gentle and compassionate care for all stages of your pet's life. Our goal is to nourish the human-animal bond through preventive, proactive medicine, surgery and client education.

Emily Nietrzeba, DVM
Chana Eisenstein, DVM

1200 East Hill Road
Willits • 707-459-5236
www.easthillvet.com

Restaurant El Mexicano
Serving our community for over 30 years.

Burritos • Tacos • Salads • Nachos
And so much more!

Lunch & Dinner Specials on Mondays

166 S. Main St.
Willits
707-459-5702
Monday-Saturday
10:00 am - 8:30 pm