

New garbage deal in the works

Zack Cinek Reporter zack@willitsweekly.com

The city and Solid Wastes of Willits are in talks for a new garbage service deal that will likely change the way residents throw away their kitchen scraps.

Council members Madge Strong and Ron Orenstein and Finance Director Susie Holmes have represented the city in ad hoc committee meetings. along with SWOW and Mike Sweeney from the Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority.

"When you negotiate, you negotiate, and it is a back-and-forth sort of thing. And that is the way we did this," Orenstein said. The

Read the rest of Garbage Over on Page 11

Supes leave animal care services as is

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

In unanimous а vote, supervisors on Tuesday decided to leave management of the county's animal care services with the Division of Environmental Health, a division of the county's Health & Human Services agency. The question was presented to the board as an opportunity to place animal care under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office. Currently, the Sheriff's Office is responsible for animal control.







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Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

The brief honeymoon period between the Willits Unified School District and California Gov. Jerry Brown's new funding formula appears to be over. The promise that a lot of money would flow from the state to the district. washing away obstacles and constraints, has turned out to be an illusion. In its place is a new landscape of caution and uncertainty.

Recent discussions with WUSD Financial Officer Tanya Michel indicated that while the state is ramping up its contributions to the district, the district's endof-year fund balance is continuing to take a hit.

For example, in the

Read the rest of Budget | Over on Page 11

Cal/OSHA back in Willits next week

Iennifer Poole Editor & Reporter jennifer@willitsweekly.com

Cal/OSHA Two inspectors working on investigating the Willits bypass falsework collapse will be coming back up to Willits next week, Cal/ OHSA spokesman Peter Melton said Wednesday.



Birdies &

Spring is in full, well, literal bloom right now in the Willits valley, and other signs of spring are also making their appearance, including one local favorite: baby chickens.

Available at Willits' J.D. Redhouse and Coast Hardware, many varieties of chicks can be bought, brought home and raised, and will grow up to produce another springtime favorite: fresh eggs.

Once you have selected chicks and purchased the recommended supplies and feed, bring them home and set them up in a brooder with a heat lamp on one side, and an area where the chicks can cool off, too, if they get too hot.

Keep fresh, shallow water available, and away from the heat lamp. A feeder complete with chick crumbles will provide nourishment, but treats can also be given once the chicks are

a few weeks old. Treats can include options from chopped-up strawberries to mealworms and crickets.

Make sure the chicks and their bedding are clean, and always contact your feed store or veterinarian if a chick is acting sickly.

You can expect the young hens or "pullets" to start laying their first eggs anywhere between their 16th and 24th week of age.

Animal care and animal control are two different divisions offering different services. Formerly unified

Read more of Animals Over on Page 9

Ad hoc committee struggling with pot questions

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

In a recent interview, Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse said his most high-profile board appointment, the marijuana ad hoc committee, was having a hard time getting a reliable handle on the most basic question: how big is Mendocino County's pot industry?

"The most difficult part is estimating the size of the crop," Woodhouse said.

Read the rest of Pot Over on Page 11











Many fruit trees are in full bloom around town, including this cherry tree, left, which showcases pink blossoms, and the white plum tree, above, with its "snowy" branches.

Darling baby chickens are for sale in a variety of breeds, resulting in a variety of eggshell colors, like those above.

> Photos by Maureen Moore

Inspectors have been and will be talking to workers, injured workers, eyewitnesses and management, Melton said.

Cal/OSHA cleared bypass contractors to clean up debris the weekend after the January 22 collapse, after an initial inspection. Melton said Caltrans, as the project overseer, and Flatiron, as the contractor,

Read the rest of Cal/OSHA Over on Page 11

County backs away from mental

health center at old hospital

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

County CEO Carmel Angelo told supervisors Tuesday that the county is no longer leading the way in an attempt to turn Willits' old Frank R. Memorial Howard Hospital into a mental health center.

"As you may know, for the past several years we have been making an effort to downsize our physical plant, to reduce the number of our leases and to consolidate our

Read the rest of Hospital Over on Page 10

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Choices in education

To the Editor:

It stated everything that I have been thinking for some time annual Winter Gala, I would like to express some wellnow. It isn't fair to our children not to give them choices deserved thanks. First and foremost to our Director Kara in their education. When these young people learn a McClellan, who continues to bring her vision and dedication trade, even if they plan on going to college, it is something to the WECS students, staff, and school and allows me a they have in their back pocket, just in case. It gives them a reason to learn some math, English, and even some history, as they would find it was useful in whatever class they were taking.

A home economics class was also mentioned. This is also a useful class, as it would teach basic cooking, how to sew on a button, repair a tear. Even teach how to balance a checkbook, how to live within a budget. These are subjects that help prepare a young person for facing new challenges.

With the present six periods offered at Willits High School, there is not really enough time for electives, as they need two periods in order to have enough time to accomplish anything in wood shop, automotive repair/welding, and some other electives. One of my sons is using the education he learned in welding class in his business today. In earlier times there were either seven or eight classes per day, which enabled the electives.

time in their present schedules?

quite worried about the present status of what is being are our students. offered In the high school and asked that his name be added to this letter.

Carlin M. Horger and Chuck Davison, Willits

Teaching money management

To the Editor:

I so appreciated Ron Stamps' well-written letter in the February 12 paper. Along with his recommendation for a vocational high school program stimulating future Gratefully, craftsmen and women, I'd like to encourage our school to have an elective program teaching money management.

One of the most effective aspects of money management and growth is starting young. It's astonishing how much can be saved if one simply starts in one's 20s or teens. Following the format for investment outlined in David Bach's "Smart Women Finish Rich" or his "The Finish Rich Workbook" can catapult our youth into financial solvency and wealth, often without the need for a college education.

April Tweddell, Willits

A bad allev

To the Editor:

On February 14, I volunteered at the play at Willits Community Theatre at 37 West Van Lane in Willits. At 10:15 pm I was walking to my car, and I tripped over the speed bump and fell down. I managed to get up and get to my car. My head was bleeding, and my right hand.

Thank You

To the Editor:

I read Mr. Stamps letter, and I only wish that I had written it. As organizer of Willits Elementary Charter School's 3rd lot of creative freedom.

> I would like to thank all the teachers who go above and beyond to bring quality, innovative education to their classrooms. To Tyler Balthrop, our music teacher and MC for the event, a particular thank you for teaching the kids "This Little Light of Mine," which always makes me tear up! I'm also grateful to Tyler, Jenness Hartley, and Joe Madden for the musical entertainment.

> I owe special thanks to Keith and Kim Shuster for their fantastic help with donations and the wonderful pulled pork they raised for us. It was delicious! Kara Garman was a huge help with soliciting donations for our amazing silent auction. I am also so thankful for the many generous local businesses that gave items that really represent who they are in our community. We couldn't do it without you all!

The Little Lake Grange, a historic treasure in Willits, is a great venue to utilize for events. Mama J of Zocalo Catering I understand that the superintendent is trying to work donated her services and did a wonderful job with the food; something out with the college to use the facilities. How is we are already looking forward to next year's Winter Gala that going to help our students when they don't have the with her in the kitchen. (February 13, 2016, "Celebrating the ones we love Mardi Gras style." Save the date!)

I had a conversation with Chuck Davison, and he is also Most importantly, and the reason that we were all there,

They worked so hard and put on such great performances, you should all be very proud of yourselves! Performing is a great way to build self-esteem and confidence, and I would like to acknowledge the parents that made the effort to make sure their kids were able to perform. I feel very fortunate to be part of such a wonderful community, and offer a heartfelt thank you for all of the support we continue to receive. I look forward to seeing you at next year's Winter Gala!

Aura de la Fuente, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

Willits Daily Bread would like to thank all the participants in this year's Sip Some Soup benefit - the 16th annual!

As usual, we had a full house of happy soup tasters, enjoying some truly delicious soups - made with lots of love - as well as bread and jam from Emandal and desserts from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Thanks to everybody who came.

We'd also like to thank all our soupmakers, including two groups who got left off our original list of participants: the Mendocino County Museum in Willits (offering Lentil Rice Soup) and the second soup made by members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church: "Sweet & Garlicky Italian Tomato Soup.³

And thanks, too, to all the donors to our silent auction, and everybody who bid on the fun selection of items. Donors included: MonkeyWrench, Misty Made & Sew Much More, Geraldine & Kent Pember, Les Schwab, Yokum's Body Shop, Barbara Carlon, Robin Goldner, Shanachie Pub, Main Street Music, Emandal, Mark & Corazon Elliott of Hidden Agenda, Earlene Gleisner, Sparetime Supply, the Yoxalls, Mariposa Market, Mazahar, the Goods Shoppe, Spartan Body Works, Mike & Ruth Dell'Arra, Ace Copy, Bill & Linda Meyerhoff, John Ford Ranch, Healing Central Chiropractic, Willits Furniture, Marcia Tichenor, Rosalina Books & Antiques, Headroom, Cat's Meow, Adam's Restaurant, Kimberly's Jewelry, Tropic Tails, Northwest Sporting Goods, Brickhouse Coffee, Buttercups, Fetzer, Linda McDonald, Sharon Baumann, and Betty Bird.

Sip Some Soup is the major annual fundraiser for Daily Bread, which provides a hot meal Monday through Thursday evenings at St. Anthony's Parish Hall. 58 Bush Street. The nearly \$5,000 raised at Sip Some Soup this year will help pay the bills and demonstrates local support for our program, which is important when it comes to winning grants and other funding. It costs about \$60,000 a year to keep the doors open at Willits Daily Bread, and donations are always welcome: please send to Willits Daily Bread, 58 Bush Street, Willits CA 95490, drop by Monday through Thursdays, 3 to 6:30 pm, or call me, Cindy Savage, at 459-3947 or 367-5669. Thanks again to the Willits community for all your support.

Cindy Savage, director, Willits Daily Bread

Invitation from the principal

On Thursday, February 26, Coffee and Tea with the Principal returns. Coffee with the Principal is at 8:30 am, and Tea with the Principal is at 3:30 pm. This time is an informal visit to chat about the current events at Willits High School, and other topics one-on-one with myself, Jeff Ritchley. Last month, a former WHS alumnus returned to find that their school record was still posted on the high

In addition, the same evening, February 26, at 7 pm, there will be a Willits High School community meeting in the Steve Short Gymnasium. This meeting will be concerning the gym floor. We will be discussing the gym floor policy, gym tarps, gym usage, and any other concern you may have. Please join me in this informal time to bring your concerns about the WHS gym floor. We look forward to seeing you then.

Jeffrey Ritchley, principal, Willits High School





'Top Ten' Firefighter and Sweetheart Dinner

... interrupted by fire call

Volunteer firefighters and their families have long ago learned fire chief of LLFPD, always supported his dream of becoming a they need to be flexible when it comes to planning events and firefighter. Reedy attributes his dedication to the fire department the Little Lake Fire Protection District's "Top Ten" and Sweetheart and conversations with Chief Smith. Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Saturday night.

Within minutes of the fire alarm, the Willits Senior Center saw Fire Chief Carl Magann and some of the very men that were to be honored

Jenny Senter Contributing Writer that night rushing out the door to the

emergency call. That left their family members, dates, fellow firefighters, and the attending fire district's board of directors to eat the dinner catered by the Willits Lions Club.

LLFPD board President Gerry Gonzalez and Nancy Stipe, LLFPD administrative assistant, took Chief Magann's place to present the "Top Ten" firefighter awards. The Top Ten Firefighters for 2014: Mike Wilder (top responder with 610 points); Eric Alvarez (586 points); Mike Cornwall (559 points); Tylor Yadon (551 points); Tim Caldwell (525 points); Bill Carter (522 points); Mike Griggs, Jr. (449 points); Kevin Reedy (442 points); Levi Linderman (418 points), and Greg Elliott (376 points).

Mike Cornwall's daughter, Karissa, and Kevin Reedy's wife, Janet, stepped in to accept their firefighter's awards.

The "Top Ten" and Sweetheart Dinner is a night every year -Valentine's Night, February 14 this year - that the department honors all of the volunteer firefighters, the previous year's Top Ten firefighters, and the families that support their participation as volunteer firefighters. Firefighters earn points throughout the year by attending fire department trainings and responding to emergency fire and rescue calls. In addition, five of these Top Ten firefighters have also attended the Mendocino Volunteer Fire Chiefs Association Fire Academy.

Fire Captain Kevin Reedy, president of the Little Lake Firefighters Association and a nine-year veteran of the fire department, said he knew since he was 8 years old that he wanted to be a firefighter. As a youth in Willits, he remembers how the late Jeff Smith, former



Read the rest of Over on Page 9 Dinner









To the Editor:

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6 Months - \$40 1 year - \$75 Additional donation included \$

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Willits Library, J.D. Redhouse, Mariposa Market

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school gym wall.

My granddaughter took me to the emergency room at Howard Hospital here in Willits. I have a black eye on my right eye and my right hand has two cuts on it. Both knees were bruised, and it hurt to walk on them. I was checked out by the staff and released after 1 am.

I am writing to help others that walk from there to look and watch for potholes and uneven walk areas. The theater could put more lighting up for the safety of the people attending the plays there. The speed bump needs to be painted so we can see it in the dark.

Linda Wiley, Willits

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 writer's name will be considered



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☐ 6 Months - \$30 ☐ 1 year - \$50

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Counter-clockwise from top: Janet Reedy, Karissa Cornwall, Mike Wilder, Eric Alvarez, Tim Caldwell, Bill Carter, Levi Linderman, and Greg Elliott with the firefighter awards; Bill and Crystal Carter; Mike Cornwall returns from the call, ready to eat in a tie and turnouts; Chief Carl Magann and his wife, Claudia, know to take advantage of a chance to dance with each other; Claudia Magann and Nancy Stipe share a laugh; Mike Wilder, top responder, and Little Lake fire district board president Gerry Gonzalez; Eric Alvarez and Jodi relax after dinner, and Kassy Aldaco and fireman Greg Elliott. Photos by Jenny Senter





Puzzle Page & More

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	4				1	5			order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the
		6					1		boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve

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Level: Beginner the puzzle!

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Above, left: The Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital's 3rd annual Prayer Breakfast. Above, right, top: Flowers and

fruit graced the tables at the prayer breakfast. Above, right, below: Pianist Sam Ocampo performing at Howard Hospital's Prayer Breakfast.

Below, left: Sam Ocampo performing at a free public concert the next evening. Below, right: Ethan Castro, Wailacki tribe of Round Valley,

Below, left: Linda Posner, Kol HaEmek synagogue, with her prayer shawl crafted by Anne

opened with a prayer for unity. Dennis Long.

Maalinte Bottom, right: Pianist Sam Ocampo Photos by Erin Creekmur

together on Thursday, February 5 to celebrate at the 3rd Annual Praver Breakfast hosted by Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital (HMH) at the Willits Community Center. "The purpose of the HMH prayer Erin Creekmur breakfast was to bring Features Writer together community illitsweekly@gmail.com

and hospital leadership in a spirit of caring to support and pray for local, national and world leaders who carry the heavy burden of responsibility," said HMH Spiritual Care Director

The National Prayer Breakfast was established in 1953 and has become an annual event, held on the first Thursday of February. This year at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. President Barack Obama said, "Slowing down and pausing for fellowship and prayer - that's what this breakfast is about." Howard Hospital's mission is to share God's love by providing physical, mental and spiritual

Prayer breakfast in Willits brings together diverse faiths Members of the Willits community came healing. "It is my praver that our community

would be a community of love, compassion and forgiveness," HMH CEO Rick Bockmann said at the prayer breakfast.

The program for this year's prayer breakfast included prayers and inspirational thoughts from different faiths including a prayer in the Wailacki tribe's native tongue, a Jewish blessing for breaking the bread, a Buddhist sutra, and Christian prayer for the city, state and nation.

The keynote speaker this year was pianist Sam Ocampo. Ocampo roused the audience with

his beautiful renditions of "You'll Never Walk Alone" from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Carousel," and international pieces such as Brazilian bossa nova and tango. Ocampo played a lovely memorial piece to recently deceased gospel singer songwriter Andraé Crouch, and finished off with a triumphant version of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "America the Beautiful."

Attendance was limited to invitation

only, and the crowd included members of the city council, local law enforcement and first responders, area clergy, and Adventist Health leadership. The breakfast was an opportunity to unite the community as one people sharing in fellowship, promoting healing, servanthood, and

truth, bound together with prayer. On Friday, February 6, the general community enjoyed a free concert at the Willits Community Center, performed by Sam Ocampo, that was sponsored by the Willits Christian Churches

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Weekly **Promotions** for February



Pg. 5

MONDAYS - Rooster & Owls

Earn 3X Points all day. Morning Session: 8:00 am-12:00 pm Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 9 am, 10 am, 11 am and 12 pm Evening Session: 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 7 pm, 8 pm, 9 pm and 10 pm May win once per promotion day! For both Morning and Evening sessions: Play 50 coin-in. receive \$5 Freeplay and a \$2.00 Food Coupon

TUESDAVS - Guy's Night

Earn 2X points all day. 6:00 pm-10:00 pm Play 50 coin-in, receive \$5 Freeplay. Hot Seat Drawings every half hour from 6:00 pm-9:30 pm for \$25 cash, last drawing at 10 pm for \$100 Cash.

WEDNESDAYS - Jadies Night

2X points all day. 6:00 pm-10:00 pm Play 50 coin-in, receive \$5 Freeplay. Hot Seat Drawings every half hour from 6:00 pm-9:30 pm for \$25 cash, last drawing at 10 pm for \$100 Cash.

THURSDAVS - Super Senior Day

The Senior Freeplay will be preloaded to the Players Club Card from 8:00 am-4:00 pm Half off lunch coupon for those partcipating. Specials posted at Creekside Café. 8:00 am-4:00 pm

FRIDAVS - Friday Fun

9:00 am-9:00 pm: Earn 100 points, receive \$10 freeplay 2:00 pm-8:00 pm: Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$75 Cash 9:00 pm: Hot Seat Drawing for \$100 Cash

SATURDAYS - Winter Wonderland Cash

4:00 pm-10:00 pm Hourly Hot Seat Drawings. Have a change to win up to \$150 Cash.

SUNDAYS - Snowflake Surprise 12:00 Noon-9:00 pm

Random Hourly Hot Seat Drawings. The Winner will choose a Snowflake of their choice and have a chance win up to \$150 Cash.



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Thursday, February 19

Free Chi Gong Class: Ross Lake offers a free chi gong class to honor Chinese New Year (it's the Year of the Goat) from 12:05 to 12:55 pm today at The Muse, 30 A East San Francisco Avenue. "Bring a friend or loved one!"

Free Healthy Lifestyle Classes: the first in a series of free "Healthy Lifestyle" classes presented by Adventist Health on health topics of interest to the general public. Tonight's class, "Healthy Hearts," is presented by David Ploss, MD. Classes will continue on the third Thursday evening of every

month, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the 11 Oaks Conference Room, with various presenters. Next month's class (March 19) is "Moving Safely," Presented by Heather Anderson, PT. To register, call 456-3132.

Four Shillings Short: Celtic duo plays a free concert at the Round Valley Library in Covelo, from 7 to 8 pm. See Friday, February 20 listing for details about this "delightful husbandand-wife duo."

"Bee People": Now & Then Films presents "Bee People," a documentary about bees and the challenges these glorious pollinators - responsible for one-third of the items on your dinner plate – are facing. 7 pm at the Little

Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "This ground-breaking film provides an educational and entertaining in-depth look at the "bee people" who caretake bees and who are working on finding both the cause of the Colony Collapse Disorder which is killing off beehives (nicotine-based pesticides? Mites? An as yet undiscovered virus?) and a solution: More bee people! Bee people every two miles!" Suggested donation \$5. Visit http://bee-people.com/ for more info.

Shanachie Pub: Dennis Chrisp, Sarah Rose McMahon and Saturday, February 21 Kyle of Schindig play "good ol' Americana folk music." 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, February 20

Stations of the Cross: "During the season of Lent, a time of prayer and preparation for Easter, prayers for the Stations of the Cross will be offered every Friday evening at 6 pm, from now through the end of March" at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church at the corner of Main Street and Commercial streets. "All are welcome for these simple prayers; come as you

North Street Cinema: North Street Collective presents classic movies in a spirit of community, tonight featuring "Our Daily Bread." Doors open at 6:30; film at 7 pm; discussion at 8:30

pm. Free, juice, popcorn and other refreshments served; seating mostly on the floor, please bring pillows and a blanket. "Our

Daily Bread" (1934) synopsis: "A couple during the Great Depression moves to a farm to make a go of living off the land. After first stumbling, they soon find others who wish to help. They form a collective, and despite droughts and other obstacles, soon learn they can do anything together. The film was produced in the '30s, a dark time for many, and shows a true triumph of the human spirit." Visit www.

northstreetcollective.org.

Four Shillings Short: Celtic husband-and-wife duo, Aodh Og O'Tuama and Christy Martin, play the Willits Community Theater, 37 West Van Lane, at 8 pm. Songs and stories from Celtic, folk and world origins and a collection of more than 30 musical instruments, including the hammered and mountain dulcimers, mandolin, mandola, bouzouki, tinwhistles, recorders, medieval and Renaissance woodwinds, North Indian sitar, charango, bowed psaltery, banjo, bodhran, guitar, percussion instruments and even a krumhorn, or Renaissance German by the Willits Community Christian Fellowship and is held curved horn. Advance tickets

are \$15 and available in GET STUNG person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at www. brownpapertickets.com; or by

phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.

Shanachie Pub: Jason Wright, Gypsy Flamenco Guitarist, plays solo. Visit www. facebook.com/jasonwrightguitaristo. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194

Free Saturday bridge classes: New session starts today;

by Friends of the Willits Library and the American Contract Bridge League. 10:15 am to 12:15 pm, Saturdays, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. for new and review students. Info: Donna at 459-9035. North Street Collective Design Charrette: starts at 10 am at 350 North Street. "Come tour our new green remodel with builder

designing the next phases of construction. Volunteer work day at the Willits Kids Club visit www.northstreetcollective.org.

"95490" Town Hall Meeting of 2015 features

5:30 - 6:30

Willits Senior Ce

1501 Baechtel Road

In the Lakeside Room

ions apprecia

What's Happening Around Town Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits three presenters: Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse,

a curiosity friendly approach to Nature's built-in geometric Brooktrails Township Manager Denise Rose and Willits

system. Forget the math. This is a connect-the-dot system that will improve your art and your building ideas. Experience what perfection is all about when you dive into the world of the circle. Discussions and videos will range from everyday things to archaeology's rich legacy of sacred geometric art and architecture." Info: call 459-9697 or visit Wowser.org

to see happen here – and the ways in which we can work Tuesday, February 24 together to make these things happen." Willits City Council

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Novo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Fifty Shades of Grey," "Sponge Bob: Sponge Out of Water," "Selma," and "Whiplash." For showtimes: www. novotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Shanachie Pub: Professor Gall. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South

music on Sundays at St. Francis, will emcee the evening. Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194. All are welcome." 6 pm at the church on the corner of Commercial and Main streets. "Singspiration" is sponsored Thursday, February 26

> Coffee or Tea with the Principal: an opportunity for parents and community members to talk with Willits High School principal Jeffrey Ritchley informally about current events at the high school while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea. "Coffee" at 8:30 am or "Tea" at 3:30 pm. Questions? Contact Principal Ritchley at 459-7700 or email jeffritchley@willitsunified.com.

Willits High School Community Meeting: 7 pm at the Steve Boosters The Willits Short Gymnasium at Willits High School. "This meeting will be concerning the gym floor. We will be discussing the gym High School Boosters Club is looking for floor policy, gym tarps, gym usage, and any other concern you may have. Please join me in this informal time to bring members. your concerns about the WHS gym floor – Principal Jeffrey Ritchley."

> Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly Jazz Night with local musicians. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. "Fellow jazz musicians are encouraged to bring their and partake during the second set,

> > so long as it fits within the moment of sounds!" 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, Info: 459-9194.

Friday, February 27 Stations of the Cross: St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church; see Friday, February 20 listing for details.

Hot Buttered Rum: San Francisco's "West Coast high-altitude Americana. bluegrass and indie folk" favorite plays a Grange Farm School Benefit at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Opening act

Shanachie Pub: House of Love Night with DJ Podge. 9 pm. country/rockish vocal duo Sarah "Songbird" Larkin and No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant Sara Ryan, playing with a full Info: 459-9194

The Real Sarahs, Mendocino

County folk/acoustic/blues/

band. Hot Buttered

Rum does their "happy, sing-along mix of hoedown, high art and roadhouse rock" next, and the show is closed by San Francisco's Dusty Green Bones, "Psychedelic/Jam-Grass/ Rock" and "Native Americana Slamgrass." "All the bands are excited to be a part of this benefit for the crucial work of the Grange Farm School, concert promoter Da Grand Pooba of Cosmic Pickle Productions says. Food by Zocalo Catering and beer and wine will be available for

purchase, as well as a silent auction. Doors open 6 pm; music starts 6:30 pm. Advance tickets: \$15 (at J.D. Redhouse); at the door: \$20, under 12 (kids are welcome) \$5. Sound by Ancestor Radio Productions. Sponsored by Grocery Outlet, Zocalo Catering, Lagunitas Brewing, J.D. Redhouse, Frey Vineyards and KZYX radio.

vocal/songwriting duo of Dave Adkins and Edgar Loudermilk, two of the most admired players in bluegrass, is coming to Willits for the first stop of their West Coast tour accompanied by a six-piece band. The first single, "Backside of Losing," from their highly anticipated, self-titled new album from Mountain Fever Records has just been released. Last year's release, "Nothing to Lose," included numerous singles that dominated the bluegrass radio charts. The Willits show, at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, is a benefit for the Willits Rotary Club's High School Scholarship Program. Doors open at 6:45 pm. Concert promoter Bruce Burton says he'll be playing a set of songs rom his own 2014 bluegrass CD, "Let's Take the Long Way lome," accompanied by Bear Kamoroff and Jon Mather, to open the show. "Edgar said he'll sit in for our set, and maybe some other band

members, and I'm noping I can talk my son, Ernie, to sit in, too," Burton said. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance by calling Burton or Linda Buletti at 459-0436, as can tables for six people (with wine) \$200. for Some tickets may be sold at the door the night

of the event. Shanachie Pub: Charlie Crockett with special guest from New Orleans. 10 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info:



Saturday, February 28

Hanz Araki, Colleen Raney and Stuart Mason

Celtic Trio: Concert of authentic Irish and Scottish tunes by award-winning Irish flute player and singer Hanz Araki, singer and bodhrán player Colleen Raney, and guitarist Stuart Mason at the Willits Community Theatre. 8 pm. Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar 38 South Main Street; online at www.brownpapertickets. Adkins & Loudermilk Bluegrass Concert: the powerhouse com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out

Save the Date Senior Center Chili Cookoff. March 6

WEF Drive-Through Tri-Tip Dinner, March 6 Mendocino County Museum Road Show, March 7

Do you have an upcoming event? Let us know! We love to feature events from all over the community including Willits, Laytonville and Covelo! Email us details and a photo or poster: willitsweekly@gmail.com





'Fifty Shades of Grey'

Daniel Essman Columnist

> The Story: Anastasia, a lovely girl though a bit simple, finds herself attracted to Christian, a billionaire who looks like a male clothes horse and flies a helicopter. They fall in love. They have sex...of a sort. The movie asks the all important questions: will they stay together, and are the handcuffs necessary?

My Thoughts: Dakota Johnson (Anastasia) is awfully pretty and Jamie Dornan (Christian) is just as pretty. They are nice to watch.

Also...in the clever name

The movie, like so many

Hollywood movies, exploits

the pornography of expensive

things. The fancy cars, the fancy

penthouses, the fancy secretaries

in their little black dresses. Okay, I

Parents: And really, do you have

would not be averse to the latter ..

interesting.

to ask..

concession stand at football games. Info: 972-Mondays at Wowser: Chris Hardaker, MA, anthropologist, gives a free presentation on "The Secrets of Sacred Design: Mother Nature's



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459-9194. **Senior Center Chili Cookoff**

The heat will turned on "high" for the Harrah Senior Center's 8th annual Chili Cookoff contest, set for Friday, March 6 from 5:30 to 7 pm at the center, 1501 Baechtel Road. With one of the prizes being "The Most Crooked Team" (bribes accepted, to benefit the Senior Center's Outreach Program) and a team of judges like Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez, Little Lake Fire Chief Carl Magann, and Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse in charge of awarding that prize, MC Sheriff Tom Allman will likely be overseeing some hot and heavy action. Tasting tickets are \$8, \$5 for children, and \$7 for Senior Center members. The first place prize for "Most Popular Chili" will awarded by a vote of the people, with other prizes like Best Chili, Hottest Chili and Best Booth/Best Dressed Team awarded by the judges. Chili will be accompanied by fresh-baked corn bread; ice cream floats for \$2 will also be available. Last year's winners for "Best Chili" (Jack Isborn), "Most Popular Chili (Yokum's Body Shop). "Hottest Chili" (The Hillbillies), and "Best Booth/Best Dressed Team" (the Bean-Gos) will all be participating this year to defend their titles. Among the contestants: Silas Keyes & Lucy Pennock, aiming to compete in the "Hottest Chili" category; the Black Bart Gunfighters are planning a hot beef and maybe a vegetarian chili; Debi Menesini is making a 7-Meat Hunters Chili, and Adam & Lou Celaya of Adam's Restaurant will be offering Adam's Family Chili. Team entries are



The SECRETS OF SACRED DESIGN



Mondays at Wowser Monday, March 2: Michael Hackleman gives a free presentation on "Electric Vehicles, History and

Future" at 6 pm on Monday, March 2. Monday, March 7: Join the NorCal Inventors Club on Saturday, March 7 at 1 pm. This free event





trips, art supplies and more. Boosters Club

bylaws state 80 percent of all funds raised go to the Athletic Department, with 20 percent going to other school-approved functions. A high school group or class that wants to use funds raised by the Boosters for supplies or equipment or to help pay for a special trip to a competition writes up a proposal to be considered for funding. The Boosters also raise money at the Snack Shack

CONCEPT Zalala () Line In Fry Jines and

2164 or whsboosters123@yahoo.com.

Geometry Un-Plugged!" 6 pm at Wowser, 330 East Commercial Street. "a family friendly and

taught by Donna Vaiano. Also sponsored

Estok Menton. Join us in brainstorming and

Jason

Wright

Sunday, February 22 "95490" Town Hall Meeting: the first

north street collective

Cards and Games at Willits Library: free games in the Willits Library's Community Room. Tuesday bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm; Thursday bridge sessions from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. NEW Saturday free bridge classes, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm, start February 21, for new and review students. Info: Donna at 459-9035. Tuesday evenings: "Dungeons and Dragons, the Adventurers' League,"



Discovery Park to follow." Info and to RSVP call Noel Woodhouse at 707-367-6335 or

new People interested in becoming board members - the new board president is David Barrett - or in volunteering their assistance with Booster Club fundraisers are invited to the Monday, February 23 meeting, at 6 pm, in the Food Center at Willits High School. The Boosters Club raises funds to help buy sports uniforms, pay for school

Mayor Bruce Burton. The theme of the meeting is "How can

we improve?": with presenters "starting the conversation by

sharing their own vision of how to improve our community

to benefit all of its residents," the meeting is intended to

give all residents of the 95490 zip code "a chance to share

our thoughts, ideas and plans on what more we would like

Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street, from 4 to 6 pm. Info:

Jane McCabe at janemccabe44@yahoo.com or 4056-9067.

"Singspiration": St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal

Church hosts "Singspiration" this month: "an opportunity to

join together to sing favorite hymns and learn some new

ones; groups or individuals who wish to perform are asked

to come a bit early to sign up. Greg Schindel, who leads the

at a different church

every other month.

February 23

Monday,

WHS

Club:

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

The Emandal Chorale: this community chorus based in Willits is in its 20th season, and you are welcome to join! Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm. No auditions necessary. The Chorale meets upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Free English class/Clase de ingles gratis: Every Thursday at 7 pm / Cada jueves a las 7 pm. At the LDS church, 265 Margie Drive. Info: 707-758-8709. WCA Members Art Show: ongoing through March 1 at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Works by 45 WCA members in various media. Gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm.

Center, 71 East Commercial Street, on the second Saturday of each month from 10 to 12 noon. All levels of experience welcome. Come to the back door of the Art Center

Willits Frontier Twirlers: Monday night session at the Willits Center for the Arts. New beginner class runs from 7 to 8 pm, with dancing to follow from 8 to 9 pm. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. Caller/teacher Lawrence Johnson. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. \$20/month (to help pay the caller), with young dancer scholarships available. Questions? Contact Emmy Good at Emmy@pacific.net or Jenny Watts at Wattsup@gmail.com.

Alateen Support Group: for teens ages 12-17 that are friends and family members of problem drinkers and/or addicts. For teens only. Every Thursday, 6 to 7 pm, Room 44 at Willits High School, north of gym near pool. Contact: Aurelie at 707-489-1258 or Cindy at 707-972-4748 or cynlamon@gmail.com.

Junior Grange After-School Program: an afterschool program for kids ages 5 to 14, Mondays from 3 to 6 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Membership fee: \$1, plus \$1 annual dues. Info? Contact Zeynep at 707-972-8558 or zeyny34@yahoo.com.

Mondays at Wowser: Free events at the Wowser maker space, 330 East Commercial Street. 6:30 pm. Lectures, slide shows, flash videos, guest speakers, demonstrations. Info: 459-9697 or www. wowserllc.com.

from 6 to 10 pm. Both newbies and experienced players, ages 13+, are welcome to join. Info: Dan at 972-3154. Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 pm: Chess: bring your chess set and have some fun with friends. All ability levels welcome. Info: Raymond at 841-0473.

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

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

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

Willits Photography Club: meets at the Willits Art Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 11 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens,

Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/ MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

459-9194.

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday and FREE to public; World Music Open Mic every Monday. 8 pm. Signups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday. 50 Refreshments will be se Call 459-2777 for info South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info:

Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room: every Wednesday night, karaoke in the bar. 207 South Main Street. 459-2444.

Open Mic Jam at Al's Redwood Room: every Friday night, hosted by Dream Capsule Entertainment, featuring talented, established local musicians from all over Northern California. Jazz, Blues, Rock. New talent welcome. Al's Redwood Room, 207 South Main Street, starting at 9 pm. Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving at Al's on Fridays from 9 pm to 1:30 am.

Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 354-3197 Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Laytonville Grange. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, and more.

to become one). This is an opportunity to share ideas and resources, and to build a network of people to tap into for support.

Wowser is located at 330 East Commercial Street. For more info, call 459-9697 or visit www. Wowser.org.



Tuesday, March 3 Fresh, Fast & Frugal

p.m.	 Baking, roasting chicken in convential, crock pot or solar oven Shopping for meat & chicken
, Willits	 How to use a chicken for many meals - from roast to soup
I.	Recipes for multiple mealsThe nutrient value of chicken broth
erved. ormation.	We will enjoy some chicken salad, begin simmering a stock, and learn more about crock pot cooking and why it is a miracle in the kitchen.

ISA AN Annie has a B.S. in Food Science and Human Nutrition from Michigan State University. Studying about nutriwww.avenuestowellness.org tion deepened her food-love affair and she wants to atwforhealth@gmail.com share her experience with you!

See www.avenuestowellness.org for Speaker Series Topics

Drop-in Knitting Circle at the Willits Library

Willits Library will be hosting a drop-in knitting circle on the first Saturday of every month, starting March 7, from 3 to 4:30 pm. "Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects - we'll supply the coffee!" Sign up at the Willits Library if you would like a reminder before each knitting circle, but signing up is not necessary: Everyone is welcome to drop in.

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WEF 5th annual **Drive Through Tri Tip Dinner**

The Willits Educational Foundation's annual Drive Through Tri Tip Dinner is set for Friday, still being accepted (\$25 entry fee); call 459-6826 for info, or fill out March 6, 4 to 6 pm at the Rodeo Grounds. the entry form on page 9 of this week's Willits Weekly. Dinner for four people – \$60 – includes: whole tri tip, Goss Family Beans (cooked all day in a "wonderful old pot borrowed from Eddie Schmidbauer and filled to the brim with 80 pounds of dried beans," a loaf of Emandal bread (a local favorite), Caesar salad with homemade dressing, homemade cookies, and a longstemmed rose. "All proceeds go to benefit teachers, programs and students in the Willits Unified School District. These funds are used for grants made for individual special requests. They are not part of the music, library and art monies that are given with proceeds from the Garden Party." In 2014, the Willits Educational Foundation gave the following grants: Baechtel Grove Middle School: \$1,200 for Science School and digital timers; Blosser Lane Elementary School: \$1,000 for after-school art program; Brookside Elementary School: \$905 for art and book making projects and Young Author Fair books; Sanhedrin School: \$240 for Poetry Workshop; and Willits High School: \$2,060 for document camera, video camera, PE equipment, and CBR motion detectors. WEF

tries to fulfill requests from teachers throughout the year: In the previous four years, WEF has raised a total of \$23,263.18 to help district schools and teachers. For info or to purchase tickets, call Annette Pinon at 459-6588 or Warren Lewis at 459-4429.





'Museum Road Show' covers county's history

Opens in Willits, Saturday, March 7

The Mendocino County Museum presents the 2015 Mendocino County Museum Road Show, opening in Willits on Saturday, March 7, for one night only, before traveling to shows in Point Arena, Ukiah, Philo and Fort Bragg. Now in its second year, the show features enactments of oral history stories by noted local actors and is accompanied by music both original and traditional by Americana

Tickets (advance purchase is recommended) are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors 65+, and \$10 for youth 20 and under. Order tickets online at www. MendocinoMuseum.org, by calling 459-2736, or by visiting the museum, 400 East

Harrah Senior Center Lunch Menu

Week of February 23 through 27 Monday: Beef Tips and Noodles Tuesday: BBQ Beef Sandwich Wednesday: Baked Cod

Thursday: Chicken Alfredo Pasta Friday: Birthday Dinner: Turkey

with all the trimmings

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

AARP Smart Driver class

There will be an AARP "Smart Driver" class held on

Wednesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 19 from 8 am to 12 pm at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. "You need to attend both days to receive your certificate. This is a new program produced after three years of research. Due to space limits you need to pre-register." Call Carol at 459-4928 for a registration form or for more information

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Commercial Street, during open hours, 10 am to 4:30 pm

Willits Science Fair sends 76 projects to county level fair

were judged at the Willits Science Fair last week, and 76 projects by students in grades 3-12 have qualified to compete at the Mendocino County Science Fair on March 14 at Mendocino College in Ukiah. Of those 76 qualifying projects, 19 were from Willits Elementary Charter School; 18 were from Willits Charter School; and 39 were from Willits Unified School District schools. "Thirty-four special awards sponsored by local businesses were also given out," Hanna said, "and PG&E is giving every elementary school student who brought a project to the science fair a seed pot starter kit." Willits Weekly will list the special award winners next week.

2015 Mendocino County Science Fair Qualifiers

Willits Unified School District

• Sydney Kubin, Grade 3, Blosser Lane, Control the Mold

 Grace Croskey & Madilyn Donahue, Grade 4, Blosser Lane, If You Give a Goat Some Hay.

Jacob Kubin, Grade 3, Blosser Lane, Suck It Up

 MaryAnn Bertolino, Madeline Hoagland & Kaira Mora, Grade 4, Blosser Lane, Which Diaper Is Most Absorbent?

Grades 3-4 Physical Science

• Alexandra Titus, Blosser Lane, Grade Flashlight Test

Batteries • Ellemae Skinner, Sherwood School, Grade 4,

- Savanna Lewis & Sheridan Wood, Blosser
- Grade 5 Life Science





Challenge

What's Up Down There?

Grade 5 Physical Science

Coyote Mayer, Grade 5, Static Electricity

Class B (Display) Projects Grades 3-5

Water Gone?

• Bryce Sjolund, Grade 4, Rising Water

Willits Charter School

Life Science B Grades 6-8



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Lawn & Garden Equipment
Generators Sales, Parts & Service Pick-up & Delivery 1600 S. Main St. Willits, CA 95490 willitspower@willitsonline.com

plumbing fixtures.

Disabilities Act.

there.

The rest of From Page 1 Hospital

services into fewer buildings," Angelo said. "After looking at it for some time, we have determined that turning that building into a mental health center may take more work than we can Builders Exchange. afford."

Angelo then said she thinks the idea is not dead: further discussions are now occurring between the county's mental health providers and the Howard Hospital Foundation. "We are now liasioning with our providers and the foundation. It is our understanding that these discussions are happening.'

Woodhouse won't support routine vote

Supervisors endorsed a fiat from the State of California, requiring it to update certain sections of the Mendocino County Code, and set a date for a public hearing to consider the changes. March 17 was selected as the date for the public hearing.

In response to the dictate coming down from the state Legislature, a team of planners from the county's Department of Planning and Building Services has proposed accepting the required changes, and moving regulations affecting county grading and excavating from the Uniform Building Code, where they currently reside as Appendix Chapter 70, to Chapter 18.70 of Title 18 of the county

The shift apparently will do nothing to the actual provisions of Chapter 70, except make it easier to find.

code.

Mendocino County has a reputation for being one of the few rural counties in California that does not have a grading ordinance. From 2004 to 2006, the county attempted to craft a grading ordinance that would address environmental concerns. while garnering support of wine growers, farmers and developers. The long and agonizing effort failed shortly before former Third District Supervisor John Pinches was elected to his second

and no one is ever going to tell me l can't grade my own road to get to my term house. I am not going to get a permit At a meeting of the board of to do it. So I am very concerned that supervisors, during which the fate of the grading committee was discussed, Pinches called the proposed grading ordinance "a three-legged horse" that needed to be "put out of its misery." Just minutes after Pinches made his remarks, it was: supervisors voted to disband the grading committee. believe in.'

Lee Howard, a veteran player in Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gierde county politics, currently affiliated with are making slow but steady progress both the Russian River Flood Control in an attempt to recast the governing District and the North Coast Builders structure of the county's illogical Exchange. addressed supervisors on and ineffective tourism and lodging Tuesday, affirming the shift would not promotional bodies. hurt the interests of the North Coast

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Currently, the vital industry is governed by a poorly functioning "What you have before you is mish-mash of five boards, which total probably what we have on the books 56 members. There is the Mendocino todav." Howard said. "This would County Lodging Association. the make it clear, would codify it, and Mendocino County Promotional put it out in the clear. This is not new. Alliance, and Visit Mendocino County We're goin' with what we have. which acts as staff for the two aforesaid hope you make it very clear as far as organizations. In addition, there is the what you're gonna do on CEQA [the county board of supervisors, which California Environmental Quality Act]." offers financial support to MCLA and In addition to moving Appendix 70 to MCPA, and which administers the to Title 18, there are some proposed countywide Business Improvement changes to Title 18, which are not District (BID). There also is a BID what environmentalist David Brower advisory committee. might have called earth-shaking.

Under the revisions, fences 7 feet high McCowen characterized the system or lower don't need a building permit as "extremely cumbersome, unwieldy to be constructed. Smoke detectors and ineffective."

would have to be changed 10 years He said he and Gjerde have helped after purchase. Rooftop solar panels arrange meetings between and among must have two 3-foot-wide access the groups, through which all of the pathways and must be located 3 feet major players have agreed to work from the roof ridge. When permitted together under a single, 11-member alterations, additions or improvements board. The MCLA and the MCPA are being done on existing buildings, would continue as organizations, but non-compliant plumbing fixtures must would have no direct line of authority be replaced with water-conserving into the governing board of the BID.

To date, McCowen said. Accessibility standards in the building code would be harmonized representatives from the promotional with those in the Americans With alliance and the lodging association have agreed in principle to term limits

for board members, to the principle of Despite the innocuous nature of financial transparency, and to holding the proposed changes. Third District their meetings under the guidelines of Supervisor Tom Woodhouse cast the lone dissenting vote on the measure. the Brown Act.

Questioned later as to why he would However, McCowen said so far not support it, Woodhouse said: "It agreement has not yet been reached becomes a game. All that was doing on which organization would be hired was tightening up the language, or retained to act as staff to the BID making it simpler to understand, but McCowen added representatives there is an inch worth of paperwork who have met with him have agreed

to increase the annual "bed tax." "The grading ordinance is slowly collected from county hotels, motels, taking away our rights," he argued. bed-and-breakfasts and other lodging "I live on a dirt road. I have ponds. providers, from 1 percent of revenues to 2 percent of revenues.

He noted any provisional





Willits Community Services raises more than

\$33,000 in fund drive

Willits Community Services and Food Bank has met and surpassed its Winter Fund Drive goal of \$32,000, with donations as of February 18 totaling \$33,019.54.

"All of us at Willits Community lennifer Poole Services and Food Bank are Editor & Reporter so excited and grateful to our nifer@willitsweeklv.com community for helping us reach

and exceed our fundraising goal this year!" said WCS director Jim Marill

"These community dollars will go a long way to help WCS continue to provide essential human services to our community. Our programs include Food Bank, emergency food and shelter utility assistance, transportation, blankets, winter jackets, personal items, infant items, referrals and other programs for people in need in our community. Thank You!'

Marill said the "thermometer" signboard reporting donations will remain up at the corner of Commercial and Main streets through the end of February. Donations are always welcome: please send to or drop off at WCS 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Info 459-3333.

The final list of donors for the 2014/15 Winter Fund Drive: Betty Alexander; C.E. Borycki & Earl Poytress; Bruce Burton; Melinda Clarke; Roger Dillan; James & Nancy Eaglin; Joanne Franklin; Elizabeth Janich & Earl Povtress; Paul & Jan Lambert; Hollis Rose; Soroptimist International of Willits; Emandal-A Farm On A River Betty & John Lemmer: Debbie McCubbin: Louis & Janice Meier; Patricia Moeller; Judith Tauber; Willits Mini-Storage and 19 anonymous donors.

The rest of From Page 1 Budaet

current year, the district will spend \$247,000 more than it will take in. In the next fiscal year, 2015-16. that amount is predicted to increase to \$738,749, meaning the district's financial reserves are being depleted. This has warning buzzers sounding throughout district offices.

The rest of

"The district cannot maintain the current level of spending," according to a report prepared by Michel and given to the district's board of trustees at a meeting held in December "The ending fund balance is being depleted contributions to programs are increasing, with carryovers being expended and increased PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) and STRS (State Teachers Retirement system) in both out years [i.e., in 2015-16 and in 2016-17] and with increased salary costs in 16/17.

"The district needs a formula to address these issues."

The new financial landscape is due to changes implemented at the state level. In 2012-13. the Brown administration introduced sweeping reforms affecting the funding of education in California.

The new program is called the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). In brief, the state agreed to drastically reduce programmatic constraints and allow increased autonomy in spending to individual districts. However implementation of the new program meant there would be less money, at least initially.

In response to this, Brown created a new funding category called "Gap Funding," designed to restore money to districts that would be negatively affected by the new funding formula to previous funding levels. In addition, the LCFF program would step up Gap Funding, so hard-hit districts would be fully funded over an eight-year period.

The most recent policy pronouncement from Sacramento indicate "the Gap" is being closed faster than initially promised, with almost 58 percent of the gap being closed in just the first three years. The state is increasing what it pays for Average Daily Attendance (ADA), with the total going up to \$8,673 per student, per year.

At the same time, the state is requiring districts increase contributions to the two retirement systems for district employees. Those increases are sizable, with contribution levels expected to increase from 8.88 percent in 2014-14 to 19.1 percent in 2020-21 for teachers, and from 11.77 percent in 2014-15 to 20.4 percent in 2020-21

To top it off, in a recent talk Michel emphasized it was difficult to predict anything with certainty because the state is changing its projections on a regular basis.

"These numbers will change," she said. "The state changes them monthly, almost weekly."

When asked for a thumbnail sketch on the district's financial status, Michel said: "It all depends on the state economy and on what the state does. All we can do is go through our The rest of budget with a fine-tooth comb and make sure that everything that can be tightened up is tightened up." District Superintendent Patricia Johnson noted that the district is facing several new challenges that will affect the budget. She said that the state has mandated that local schools provide 220 minutes of physical education for children between first and sixth grades every 10 days. In addition, the state has mandated that the district improve its provision of health care services. Johnson also noted that the district now employs between 15 and 20 teachers who are near retirement, who therefore have venerable skill levels but who also come with a formidable price tag. These costs, plus the increased contributions to PERS and STRS. plus a predicted raise for Willits Teachers Association employees in 2016-17, have combined to put quite a strain on the district's budget. Nevertheless, Johnson said she is "carefully optimistic." "We have to watch where every penny goes," she said. "And we have to know that it is going to benefit the district, if not today, then in the long run, that it will save costs later, and we just have to be very careful where we spend it all.

Pot From Page 1 "I had conservatively said it was 40 percent in the Third District. I mean, 40

percent of the people in my district are connected to the business in some way. But when I spoke with people who were already in the business, they laughed, and told me they thought it was more like 60 or 70 percent.

"At a certain point, you know, it doesn't matter," Woodhouse said, Willits Weekly was interviewing the supervisor in a local restaurant, and Woodhouse used the eatery as an example. "Let's say it's 25 percent. If this business depends on marijuana dollars for 25 percent of its revenues, and if those revenues go away, then this business is toast "

Woodhouse has been on the committee for almost a month. It is charged with determining the economic impacts of statewide legalization of marijuana in Mendocino County, and is limited to functioning over a brief, 90-day period.

When asked how many times the committee has met, Woodhouse said it has met more than one time, and he has engaged in numerous accidental hallway meetings and telephone calls with fellow committee member. Second District Supervisor John McCowen.

When asked what he now thinks the economic impacts of marijuana legalization will be, Woodhouse's reply was enigmatic. "It's hard to say what it really means. It's how they tax it and how they enforce it, too.

"Right now we're in a bubble, like the housing bubble," he said. "When it popped, people were really impacted. Home values declined by 50 percent. People had to leave town, people divorced, banks took over a lot of properties. Now, if something that is propping up 40 or 60 or 70 percent of the local economy suddenly goes away...

"But some people actually think it will improve the economy, that what we lose in quantity we will gain back in guality, or in branding, or in the clarity that being legal will bring. I think that's true, but I think it will take some time for that to wash out. I think it's the transitional period that's going to be ... interesting.

"The other scenario is, if [the price for marijuana] goes below \$300 a pound, it's going to be tough. Right now it takes about \$600 a pound to produce," he noted. "If it goes below that, I think we're not going to be producing that much marijuana.

"But either way, it's going to happen, and we have to have a plan about what we want and about what we want to visualize and then make it happen."

When asked if these meetings were being publically noticed, if they were public meetings, Woodhouse said they were not. He noted representatives from six North Coast counties, including Mendocino County, have been invited to attend a "Marijuana Summit" to be held March 5 in a back room somewhere in Santa Rosa. According to a memorandum sent by County CEO Carmel Angelo, the meeting is closed to the public.

"This is invitation-only and is not a public meeting," the memo said. "The intent is to hear what is happening in states with recreational legalization and develop a unified statement that protects and supports local control with the ability to tax and regulate recreational marijuana."

Animals From Page 9

and compared it with his own organization. "What you have at the animal shelter is a lot of volunteers who are working very hard because they love animals," he said. "That's a lot like us, because we do the same thing. We work very hard because we love animals."

Chartrer did have one small criticism. "It could be cleaner. But, most places could be cleaner."

Hamburg told his colleagues there were really no other options but to continue to have HHSA run the animal care division.

He then proposed that animal care remain with HHSA; that HHSA have discussions with PASF, or with other organizations, regarding alternative management scenarios; and that any such potential arrangement be brought to supervisors for discussion and a vote. His motion was approved unanimously.

The rest of From Page 1 Garbage

committee started work on the new deal in May.

The city asked for SWOW to lower its rates and proposed that SWOW buy the city's street sweeper for \$500 and handle street sweeping services.

SWOW countered the city's proposal with an offer to freeze rates and to sweep the streets with its own street sweeper – allowing the city to keep its machine, a report produced by the committee stated

Part of the deal may decide how food waste is collected, which could mean putting food scraps in separate bags and placing it with yard waste.

The city proposed that SWOW collect yard waste and food waste together and deliver it to a permitted facility for processing into compost

The city wants to avoid a requirement in the contract that food waste/green waste be sent to any particular business.

But compost pioneer Martin Mileck wants to receive waste at his business. Cold Creek Compost – a permitted facility

On top of a mountain off the Potter Valley Road, Mileck operates Cold Creek Compost as a zero water-runoff facility positioned on an impervious pad with a pond to collect runoff that is then used in the composting process.

In the report, SWOW proposed another method that did not include Cold Creeks Provide each household with a small kitchen container and a supply of biodegradable bags.

The waste collected in the bags would then be placed into yard waste bins, which are collected on a bi-weekly schedule, dumped on the SWOW transfer station floor, and then transported to a compost machine operated by C&S Waste Solutions in Lakeport.

During the meeting, Ward said he also would add Cold Creek Compost to the arrangement

MSWMA's Sweeney told the council he favored a mixed organics approach to garbage service, similar to a program he said has been successful in Portland, Oregon.

"They have been so successful they have so little waste they have cut back collections, Sweeney said.

SWOW owner Jerry Ward said he is happy to go back to the ad hoc committee to talk about rates.

Contract negotiations mark 15 years of service during the city's first SWOW deal. Councilwoman Strong praised SWOW over that decade and a half. "I do think SWOW has given Willits good service, and I appreciate that," she said.

Strong added she favored getting the best deal for the ratepayers and diverting green waste

She noted it was not inconceivable to take the deal to competitive bidding - but she and other council members preferred to continue negotiating.

Mayor Bruce Burton said, under terms in

the past contract, unpaid bills could cause

a household's water to be shut off, adding

with mandated service there was a charge if

Burton also wanted the street sweeping

arrangement to be dropped. "I really do not

understand where street sweeping came into

the picture.... It is kind of a shell game of a use

residents did not have service.

of public money.'

The rest of

for certificated employees

With the adoption of the proposed ordinance on March 17, or shortly at BID imbroglio thereafter, the ordinance now in the appendix will take its place in the

Mendocino County code.

TIRES * DIL CHANGE * TUNE-UP * ALIGNMENT * FRONT ENDS * BRAKES * ENGINE REPAIR 707 459-4626 Fax: 707 459-1607 Adam Meza, Owner 230 Shell Lane Willits, CA 95490

agreement would have to be we are losing our personal property approved by the governing boards rights – all for good reasons – all for of the four organizations, and fire safety and energy conservation then by supervisors. After board and all that keeps us safe. But I just approval, it would be subject to a don't like the pattern. So I know it's not vote of the membership of the lodging an effective vote, but I am not going to association. restate and re-affirm things I just don't The committee's efforts were

lauded by Gjerde. "I expect we will McCowen, Gjerde working hard reach a final agreement. We've made so much progress that I can't imagine

that we will fail to keep making Second District Supervisor John McCowen told the board he and progress.'

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> Emily Nietrzeba, DVM Chana Eisenstein, DVM





"We are doing all the right things in all the right directions, to keep costs down and to build up our student enrollment. We just have to do the right things," she said.

The tightness of the district budget was demonstrated at the February 4 meeting of the district's board of trustees, when the trustees received a report on how much it would cost for the district to cover transportation costs for team sports events. According to a report prepared by Johnson, it would cost \$13,560 for the district to cover all transportation costs for sports. The district's budget for 2014-15 is \$16.9 million. Johnson told the board that the district could not afford to cover sports transportation costs. The board members nodded and said they understood.

"I hope we will continue to keep this item in mind if things change," said board member Saprina Rodriguez.

Willits Weekly | February 19, 2015

From Page 1 Cal/OSHA

were directed to preserve and secure evidence as they removed the rubble.

"We were photographing the debris from the falsework collapse," Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie said. "There were numerous photos taken before things moved and as debris was being moved, and we were taking samples of materials." Including, as an example, Frisbie said, pieces of shattered wood that may have had a flaw that couldn't be seen by inspectors: "All the wood is graded and inspected to make sure it has no flaws," Frisbie said, "but hopefully, if it is something like that, someone will spot it."

The two giant concrete columns on the north side of Haehl Creek that were leaning in toward the creek after the accident were demolished with a giant hydraulic jackhammer starting Saturday, January 31.

Frisbie said the falsework in the span over Haehl Creek that collapsed was inspected "immediately before the concrete pour began," and was checked regularly as the heavy wet concrete was poured into place.

Caltrans and Flatiron inspections so far have found no safety problems with the rest of the falsework along the viaduct section, Frisbie said. "At this point there's no indication that there's any issue with the falsework," he said.

Public comments "Unfortunately, it is a possibility we may never find out what happened," Frisbie said.

Melton had no further information about the status of the Cal/OSHA investigation except to comment: "Something definitely went wrong, and our goal is to find out what it was."

Melton reiterated that Cal/OSHA's focus is worker safety: "We're not going to let anybody get put into harm's way," he said. "We've already seen what happened once when something goes wrong, and at this point, we're working carefully to make sure this doesn't happen again."

The Cal/OSHA Sacramento office has been getting some calls from Willits, Melton said. "They're taking the calls and talking to people," he said. "Any safety complaints sent to Cal/OSHA are treated confidentially." The Sacramento office can be reached at 916-263-2800.

Other than the clean-up work, no further work is being done by Caltrans at the site of the construction accident, but Caltrans did announce a concrete pour on another section of the viaduct last Wednesday afternoon.

"This was a section - Frame 5, approximately halfway along the viaduct out toward the water treatment plant – that had been previously scheduled to pour before the falsework collapsed," Frisbie said. "There was a brief delay while things were looked at again and due to the storm. There were no modifications to the falsework that needed to be done, and so now, things are moving back along as far as the viaduct goes.

Two-thirds of the concrete for Frame 5 had already been poured, before the collapse, and last week's pour was the second "deck pour," Frisbie said.

Councilman Larry Stranske said he would like to see SWOW work with Cold Creek. "I would personally like to have them work with the compost people and come up with a solution for both entities."

Councilwoman Holly Madrigal asked how dog poop would be handled if a new system was put into place.

"What is a little dog doo when you bring in 300 to 400 tons of chicken [poop]?" Mileck said.

Every Willits City Council meeting begins with a call to order, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a time slot where citizens have three minutes each to speak about business not

featured on the meeting's agenda.

During public comment time on February 12, Willits resident Jed Diamond gave signed copies of his book, "Composting Abbie," to members of the city council. Diamond's book, illustrated by Willits' Ann Maglinte, tells the story of composting a dead whale washed up on the Mendocino coast.

"The blue whale is the largest animal that has ever lived on the face of the earth," Diamond noted.

Cold Creek Compost and its owner, Martin Mileck, provided the composting muscle to compost the whale. Mileck was at the city council meeting for negotiations on the city's new Solid Wastes of Willits contract.

Retired City Planner Alan Falleri introduced Boy Scout Troop 212: members were attending the city council meeting as they learned about government as part of their "Citizenship in Community" merit badge project.

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 **Email:** willitsweekly@gmail.com **Mail:** P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 11





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Living Without Pain



Rascal's Rescue: needs help and a home for Devo

Devo is a sweet 2 1/2-year-old neutered male Siamese cross. He arrived at East Hill Veterinary Clinic with a urinary tract obstruction that resulted in kidney failure. He was also so severely infested with fleas that he was anemic. After his urinary obstruction was relieved, his kidney failure was resolved, and his parasites were treated, he is on the mend.

Devo's owner is unable to care for him and is hoping he can be adopted by someone who can provide him with the love, care and special diet he needs. Thanks to Rascal's Rescue, an organization started by Misty Gonzalez at Willits Power, a fund has been created to help offset the cost of Devo's care. Donations are being accepted by Rascal's Rescue for this project and others. Rascal's Rescue can be reached at 459-6420, or donations can be brought to the Rascal's Rescue donation jar at Willits Power, 1600 South Main Street.

Delightful Khloe

Photo by Sage Mountainfire

Khloe is a 2-month-old female German Shepherd mix puppy. She currently weighs about 18 pounds, but is sure to grow up to be a medium to large dog. We also have three of Khloe's sisters here as well. Like all pups they are absolutely adorable and delightful and sure to bring endless joy to their new homes. And, like all puppies, they will need a lot of patience and guidance to grow into their best big dog selves. It takes a lot of work to raise a baby, so please be sure you've got the time and energy! The reward for your efforts is a lifetime of love and loyalty!

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.

Wednesday, March 4

5:00 p.m. registration 5:30-6:30 p.m. seminar

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RSVP to 877.596.0644 Space is limited. Light refreshments will be served. www.uvmc.org/painfree

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