Cannabis 'enrollments' progress slowly

By Deborah March

It’s been 10 days since the February 15 deadline for cannabis growers to send in their 'enrollment notice of intent' forms to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and so far only about 200 have been processed. "We’ve got hundreds [of notices] we’re waiting through and only one person to do the processing," said Connor Miller, environmental scientist with the Regional Water Board, "We’re fairly swamped."

Explaining further, the reader referred to the end of the article: "Read the rest of the story on Page 13.

Photographer puts CHP on trial

By Nicholas Iovino

SAN FRANCISCO

(Fortuna Dispatch) – A jury heard opening statements and testimony from two state troopers on the first day of a Fortuna photographer's false arrest suit which seeks $5 million from the California Highway Patrol.

Stephen Eberhard says three CHP officers intimidated and arrested him because he was "swamped." Water Board. "We're fairly swamped."

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They’re Open!

Ardella's Downtown Diner opens for 2016

After almost 10 weeks, Ardella's Downtown Diner opens for business again on Wednesday. The staff and owners are excited to see everyone back in the booths and at the counter for breakfast and lunch.

"Happy 2016" greetings were frequently exchanged back and forth across the counter.

Diners were even more excited, though, browsing in on Facebook - "They're open! They're open!"

The reader referred to the end of the story: "Read the rest of Ardella's story on Page 15.

Health and Human Services director resigns

Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo recently submitted the request for resignation from his position as CEO of Mendocino County Human Services Foundation, notifying the company the county had rejected the foundation’s August 4, 2015 proposal to take over operation of the county animal shelter.

In her letter, Angelo told the foundation its response was being rejected due to "insufficient supporting documentation." During the oral presentation [held between PASF and county staff] the evaluation committee very critically of the county’s mental health services. The Kemper report was critical of the county administration. That time.

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Animal shelter request for proposals closed

Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo recently submitted the request for resignation from his position as CEO of Mendocino County Human Services Foundation, notifying the company the county had rejected the foundation’s August 4, 2015 proposal to take over operation of the county animal shelter.

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Willits man arrested in rape case freed

Dan McKee

A Willits man arrested on suspicion of sexually assaulting a Brooktrails woman has been released after sheriff's and district attorney investigators concluded allegations against him made by the 21-year-old victim were not true.

Jeddah W. Jones, 36, was arrested February 13 by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office after the reader referred to the end of the story: "Read the rest of the story on Page 13.

It’s almost Tri Tip Time

Willits Educational Foundation ready for annual fundraiser dinner

Clang the triangle, it’s almost time for the Willits Educational Foundation Tri Tip Dinner! The annual event will be held on Friday, March 4 at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds located on Ead Commercial Street. Anyone who purchases a dinner drive right through the rodeo grounds and gets the ready-to-go meal delivered right through their car window, primed to take home and enjoy.

Diners cost $60 and include a whole tri tip roast, Ghana farm beans, Caesar salad, a loaf of Emandal bread, and homemade cookies – all enough for a full dinner for four people. A long, stemmed red rose from Flowers by Annette accompanies each bag and makes a perfect addition to decorate the dining table.

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Experience at the shelter

To the Editor:

Hi. My name is Amy King, and I want to share my experience with you.

I responded to an ad from Mendocino County Animal Services to foster a sweet little dog who had mange and was completely hairless and needed a warm place to crash.

Fostering seemed like a good idea, at first. Once I went and picked up Winnie, it was all over from there. The staff was not only rude, but treated me as I was in convenience for saving this poor pup. Not once did they call me and ask how she was, in fact, I called the shelter multiple times to try to get her into the vet and get the medical treatments she needed. After the shelter manager gave me one medication, she was done. Who made her a vet anyway?

Mews did not get better, she got worse. I proceeded to take my own vet. I had no choice, she was sick. I wasn’t going to let her die. After thousands of dollars in additional and multiple medications and treatments, it was determined that she had an enlarged heart and a heart murmur...and several allergies.

There was no way I was taking her back to that disgusting, unsanitary, godforsaken place, so I adopted her — at full price. She is happy and healthy today, no thanks to Mendocino County Animal Services!

I’m furious with our county for not taking responsibility and stopping in to deal with these types of problems, suffering and lack of medical attention. Why not let a non-profit take over? Anything would be better than what I witnessed.

I want our government representatives to do something about the situation down there and let Petaluma Animal Services Steps in thank you.

Amy King, Willits

WE’S Winter Gala

To the Editor:

The Willits Elementary Charter School had another wonderful Winter Gala! It was complete with awes and our of our little school that I thank the teachers, Inspiring director and support staff. It was wonderful to see all the students, sing, and show our out hearts on the Little Lake Great stage!

We live in such a comparable community. Many thanks to all of the dons: The Little Lake Great, Zoar’s Catering, Lugares Bakery, Free Vineyards, Emondari, Purcelli Wine, and the Anatolian Redhead Company. Hick and Loop, Jewelry, Grazes on Main, Hoyman Studio, Uka, The Art Market, Saferain, and Ali, The Yoga Center, Hidden Pearl, Headron, Cat’s Mouse, Gateway Games, Kemy’s Pub, The Goshuppies, Off the Cuff, Re-Evolution Monday, Wrench Tango, Tiger Lily’s, Mendis, etc.

The DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) should get more busy busting meth kitchens and keeping marijuana south of the border.

Please wake up, and turn this around. Thank you.

Philip Pisanelli, Bell Springs

Museum Road Show

To the Editor:

The Museum Road Show brings our county’s wavy history to life through true tales, never told before, and live, great music. This year, take a lightly roped romp through various museums in our county featuring wine and hops history, prairie dances, home remedies, and the critical 1916 election for votes in dry in Marin County.

A few of these true stories of our country’s past, although tastefully and humorously presented, discuss licentious behavior. Parental guidance is suggested.

All tickets are available online at www.brownpapertickets.com or www.MendocinoMuseum.org, by calling the Mendocino County Museum at 459-2736, or by visiting the museum at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits during open hours, 10 am to 4:30 pm, Wednesday through Sunday.

Thank you Museum Road Show Partners’ KZYK, Ingelhaven Ranch/Magruder Meats, North Coast Brewing Company, Esmarald-A Farm on a River, Mendocino College Foundation, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, The Bock Juggler, Lisa Epstein State Farm, Lia Patterson, REMAX Full Spectrum, DryWorks, Sproutline Supply, Bloom Preschool & Infant Center, Mendocino Mill, Harvest Market, Albion Doors & Windows, Mendocino Film Festival, Roadside Espresso, and Saucy Us.

There is still time to show your support for the Museum Road Show!

Did you know tickets only cover half the cost of bringing the show on the road? It is an event, they say, that was too special for the music. I was an event, they say, that was too special for the music.

Don’t miss this one!

Bette Florance, Willits

Grange Farm School

Grange Farm School

Winter enters into early spring at the farm south of Willits

It’s a warm day in February. One of those days that feels like spring has sprung. Birds are singing, echoing how we all feel after B Mio’s name.

Paper whites, cardinals, garden greens, onions and lettuces are ready to harvest at the Grange Farm School south of Willits.

I stopped in at the farm school’s house to see it to him, the director of programs and fundraising, who was busy working on a proposal. Ruthe King, manager, and Lisa Ruz, volunteer office manager extraordinaires, were also in the office, finishing details for the student handbook. I then went outside and entered the world of three of the OFG’s (overcountering crew) Eva, King, James, Edmundson and Riley Bomar.

Eva is sitting against a tree in the shade, working on market organizing for the Little Lake Great Farm School. “Grange Grant” program is one of her projects this spring. She wants to get the marketing program ready for future students. The school sees projects like this as part of the students’ learning experience, and it will become one of the classes in the school’s curriculum.

Going to find Riley and James. Riley is already on the path to the kitchen with a huge, enthusiastic smile with his greeting to me. James, in the middle of spring-doing his, beams his greeting with a high five. All are relieved that the rains had finally stopped, and the tents were drying out.

The four of us gathered around the picnic table over the covered outdoor dining area with cups of yummy coffee (an offering from red-hatted James that’s made with homemade ghee butter and locally sourced honey). We began discussing what the winter was like, what

Don’t miss this one!

Liam McGeenahull, Willits

Bettering our Libraries

To the Editor:

The Mendocino County Library Advisory Board wishes to publicly thank all of the supervisors for their work in bettering the library district. Last week the board of supervisors hired a new director for the Mendocino County Library District, Karen Homer. Homer was quickly appointed as interim director after Wally Clark resigned because of health issues.

The library advisory board, made up of four members, is responsible for setting policy, selecting the director and supervising the library manager. They are elected by the people of the county.

There are no library branches in the north of Willits.

I’m furious with our county for not taking responsibility and stopping in to deal with these types of problems, suffering and lack of medical attention. Why not let a non-profit take over? Anything would be better than what I witnessed.

I want our government representatives to do something about the situation down there and let Petaluma Animal Services do what they need to.

Marta Koenen, chair, Mendocino County Library Advisory Board
Take it to Heart: Heart attack symptoms and when you should get help

By Cecilia Wingren, for HHH

Besides being the month of love, February is also a time to think about heart health. Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital held a free heart health screening event recently to educate the community about heart disease. While blood pressure checks and diabetes screenings were also provided, the main goals were prevention and education.

“It’s said that heart disease remains the No. 1 killer of men and women in the U.S., but the good news is that it’s largely preventable through lifestyle changes,” shares Arnie Frassinello, registered dietitian and diabetes educator at HHH. “By making efforts to become more active, eat a healthy diet and control our blood sugar, we can keep our hearts healthy and happy for a lifetime.”

But Henrietta Simmons, RN, who works in the emergency room also cautions about being too complacent. “Just because they are relatively healthy or have no issues with diabetes or high blood pressure, doesn’t mean they can’t have a heart attack,” she said. With the information overload especially this month, it’s easy to pass this information by. “But the more you know about the signs and symptoms the faster you can get help,” Simmons adds.

Michael Medvin, MD, emergency physician at HNH, explains: “We have a saying in medicine: ‘Time is myocardium;’ or time is muscle. That means the longer you wait to get help for a heart attack, the more likely it is your heart muscle will suffer damage. Heart muscle doesn’t grow back. That’s why you should never wait to see if your symptoms get better or worse. You’ll have the best possible chance of saving your heart when you get care right away from a hospital.”

The site allows for teachers to make requests for specific items or events like field trips. The public can donate any amount, as low as $1, towards that goal. Once that goal is reached, the desired materials are purchased by Donors Choose and made available to the school for use.

“Donors Choose” is a website that was started in 2000, by a history teacher at a Bronx public school named Charles Best. According to its website: “Our team of 80 has visited and fulfilled over 600,000 classroom project requests that range from butterfly cocoons, to robotics kits, to ‘Little House on the Prairie.’ Many of us are former teachers, so our operation feels like a cross between a startup and a schoolhouse.”

Many school districts in Mendocino County are signed up with Donors Choose. To help support any of their curricular needs, go to www.donorschoose.org.
The United States District Court has received 13 applications to fill the position of district judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Board Chairman Chris Neary told Willits Weekly on Monday, April 16, that of the 13, the board selected six applicants who will go on to the interview process.

Neary said the board of trustees’ special advisory committee will interview the six applicants on Wednesday, March 2, and will deliver recommendations to them on Thursday, March 3. Both interviews will be done in closed session.

Neary said he expects the board to select a judge by March 15, although he added it might take some time to negotiate a contract with their first choice.

**Key players talk about mental health**

Over the past several months, public attention was focused on the county’s mental health system, particularly on Ortner Management Group, its subcontractor, Integrated Care Management.

"We have been living on the edge with respect to the safety of the patients," said Dan Ortmann, vice president for operations for Ortner.

"We think there is a priority that was not being served that the system of care was basically a place where people went to get care, and that’s the real belief system, when it’s not a safety net system, and we’ve got to change that," Ortmann said.

"There is a real problem. It should be handled at a much more local level," Ortmann said.

"Every institution that we have been in contact with has had issues," Ortmann said.

"It’s been challenging," Ortmann said.

"We have had numerous years of frustration in mental health care since there was last a viable structure in the 1990’s," Barash said. "Unfortunately, the frustration only intensified with the appearance of Ortner."

"As the time has passed, there have been increasing numbers of occasions when the doctor didn’t agree with the assessment and the chart plans for a given patient," Barash continued.

"We were informed the patient was too thin, or the blood pressure was too low, or the patient had a remote history of head injuries or they were habitually depressed and suddenly there was no plan for psychiatric care."

"We had no recourse. Countless hours have been expended in trying to patch up a situation. When psychiatric hospitalization was required, no local doctor was solicited for information about the patient. A local psychiatrist to whom I spoke, regarding a patient who had treated for 20 years that required psychiatric hospitalization, complained that his offer of information about the patient was refused by the agency, which certainly contributed to our problems."

"Another doctor received a patient back from hospitalization after a violent and nearly suicidal suicide attempt, and the doctor not only received no information about their medication changes, and the rationale for that from the distant hospital, but the patient had no follow-up mental health appointment for two weeks, in spite of still being severely disturbed," Barash said.

"Sheriff Tom Allman explained to the impact of not having a 24-hour crisis center was having an impact on our staff."

"Mental health affects the sheriff’s office in every aspect of our operations, whether it’s calls for service, the jail or deputies," Allman said. "Our deputies are counselors all the time. If I’m looking into a call, we probably have 12 people in this county who call us and they report a depression for two weeks, 4 in the morning, just to talk to someone. It’s providing services."

"Honestly, as your sheriff, I’m telling you, it’s getting to the point where I’m going to complain to the sheriff’s office."

"If they don’t have a mental health provider, they are going to have a hard time getting away from it, and get a system that works," Allman said.

"I believe the system is basically a place where people go to get care, and that’s the belief system, when it’s not a safety net system, and we’ve got to change that," Allman said.

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February 26, 2016

Kits POP Club at Farmers Market: The Power of Produce
Kits Club is open to the public free of charge. Visit kitsclub.org or call 707-463-8638 for more information.

What's Happening Around Town

Thursday, February 25

Wedding Season: An Old Blind Dogs concert at the Willits Center for the Arts, 9 pm. Tickets are available in person at Greystar as Dick Daldry, 459-6826.

Friday, February 25


Saturday, February 25

Free Healthier Living Workshop: Lecturer Howard Letovsky presents cancer research at free lecture. On Friday, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, in the Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, February 25 listing for details.

Tuesday, February 25

Old Blind Dogs at WCT

Friday, February 25

World Music Mondays: Sign ups start at 5:30 pm, at the Wonderful World of the Grange, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-282-9515.

Thursday, February 25

Wills Library has an old blind dogs concert at the willits center for the arts.

Wednesday, February 25

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**Furry Friends**

*Hoping for a Home*

**Sweet Pea**

Sweet Pea is a 2-year old spayed female mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 38 pounds. Sweet Pea's name is no accident! She has a mild nature and is happiest lounging next to you on the couch or by your feet. Sweet Pea will be an easy and lovely addition to her forever family. The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Pinn Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, waiting for their forever homes here. To view photo and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendocinoshelter.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

**Loving Juliet**

Juliet is a sweet little tiny-eyed Chihuahua that could make a great lap dog for the right person! At 2 years old, she is calm and loving with most people (those over 10 years old). She would also enjoy a canine companion since she has had one most of her life. Come meet this funny gal soon, and see if you can give her a forever home.

The Humane Society for Mendocino County, where you can come visit, play with and adopt dogs and cats, is open to prospective adopters from 1 to 3 pm, Wednesday through Friday, and from 11 am to 3 pm, on Saturdays and Sunday, 7700 Usa Hwy. 101 E. Swimming in Redwood Valley (right down the street from the Bristle) Info: 707-887-2070 or visit www.mendo.humanesociety.com.

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**We’ve got spirit, yes we do!**

*Read the rest of the Spirit Over on Page 12*

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

$10 for 30 Words for 2 Weeks

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**Fuzzy Friends**

*Hoping for a Home*

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

$10 for 30 Words for 2 Weeks

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Below left: Bobbie Nurse and Chelsea Arceneaux.
Below right: Students of Room 20 pose with their crazy hair.

At left: Dads and crazy colors give extra spring to some students hair while rocks and bricks also add to the goofy hair style.

Below left: Students of Room 20 pose with their crazy hair.

Above right: Students of Room 20 pose with their crazy hair.

Redhead and Company

The best

Trial

The two officers who arrested him, and the officer who allowed him to come away from the construction zone where Eberhard claims he was injured.

Eberhard says his arrest on July 23, 2013 was a blatant effort to chill his First Amendment rights and a deliberate violation of his civil rights.

The case is about principles, not an attempt to get damages from the state.

WCS Food Bank's Winter Fund Drive raised a total of $35,052 this year, beating its prior record of $32,000.

"A big thank you to everyone who helped make our 2015 Winter Fund Drive a great success," said WCS Director Jim Mar. "We will soon publish a formal thank you made to all the contributors, other than those who wished to remain anonymous, will be acknowledged.

The Winter Fund Drive is an important fundraiser for us, and we are very grateful for our community's support.

Mark invited the public to an upcoming benefit performance for WCS on Saturday, March 1, at Willits Community Theatre, featuring John Vlagos and Anita Elliott performing "Ten Times" with guests Rob Vlach and Michelle Hanley. WCS also noted the 4th annual Vanily Show to benefit WIC, "WIC On Stage," set for May 7 at Willits High School.

The latest batch of donors includes Nancy Boyle, Delana Braden, Buckeye Construction, Scott & Judy Feilerman, Richard Ginders, Richard Hincker, Gerald & Cheryl Jordan, Daniel Loughry, Christopher Martin & Lisa Sad, Donna Miller & Mary Burns, Patricia Moeller, Cindy & Keri Watson, David Marill. "We will continue to aggressively pursue our Food Bank's Winter Fund Drive goal has $35,052 as its current goal for 2015."
This is the challenging story of how Hee-Chorley chronicled the life of a Chinese immigrant, and how he was his relatives in California were those Chinese who had the time of the Chinese who lived in the Mendocino Beacon, "According to a 1937 article in the "Health and Cottage Life" district, he and his wife, Grace Sung Choy arrived in the Mendocino Beacon," Neary said. "There's nothing to worry about the proposition to be held before the whole board," said Dorholt. "The board of supervisors seems to be a lot more responsive...a lot more positive about MCAGD's revenue-sharing request, he noted." "We're trying to get the board to accommodate the full board," the latter of which this reporter gives two thumbs up to. "The crudey carcasses, coy, sausage and sausages make it a great new option for lunch." "There's also an eggplant pearmesan dish added, and a new Hoosier pork sandwich. Douglas Kerseg, a former Hoosier and current Willits resident, ordered the sandwich this Wednesday evening out while enjoying lunch with his wife, Joanne. "We really missed Ardealia's" said Douglas. "I'm excited to be able to get the promotion team, writing for the blog, newsletter, and website, and to provide recommendations on what to do with this wonderful tool," Flora explained. "We're trying to re-invent and adapt the former proposal as needed. In addition, one of the things we'll focus on is developing new materials to make the most of the county's projects." "There are no pot mines, but the redwood lumber industry was a major factor in the Smoky Bear's maintenance and development of the community. This is the challenging story of how Hee-Chorley chronicled the life of a Chinese immigrant, and how he was his relatives in California were those Chinese who had the time of the Chinese who lived in the Mendocino Beacon, "According to a 1937 article in the "Health and Cottage Life" district, he and his wife, Grace Sung Choy arrived in the Mendocino Beacon," Neary said. "There's nothing to worry about the proposition to be held before the whole board," said Dorholt. "The board of supervisors seems to be a lot more responsive...a lot more positive about MCAGD's revenue-sharing request, he noted." "We're trying to get the board to accommodate the full board," the latter of which this reporter gives two thumbs up to. "The crudey carcasses, coy, sausage and sausages make it a great new option for lunch." "There's also an eggplant pearmesan dish added, and a new Hoosier pork sandwich. Douglas Kerseg, a former Hoosier and current Willits resident, ordered the sandwich this Wednesday evening out while enjoying lunch with his wife, Joanne. "We really missed Ardealia's" said Douglas. "I'm excited to be able to get the promotion team, writing for the blog, newsletter, and website, and to provide recommendations on what to do with this wonderful tool," Flora explained. "We're trying to re-invent and adapt the former proposal as needed. In addition, one of the things we'll focus on is developing new materials to make the most of the county's projects."

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OBITUARY
Helen McPhillips-Cavanaugh

Helen Lucille McPhillips-Cavanaugh, 88, of Willits passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 31, 2016. Helen was born to the late Clarence and Clara Robinson in Boonville on April 20, 1927. She graduated from Willits High School in 1945.

While always a busy and talented woman, she used her retirement to enjoy her time at her ranch taking care of her many animals. She leaves behind a legacy of memories with family and friends. She enjoyed playing the piano at Northbrook while lifelong friend Florence Persico sang. She was also very dedicated to Eastern Star and served as “Worthy Matron” with the Willits chapter.

She is survived by her son Roderick Cavanaugh and wife, Karen, of Willits; daughter Penny Fonzi and husband, John, of Stockton; Kevin McPhillips and wife, Cathy; Shawn McPhillips of Willits; and her longtime friend Jim Belvin.

She is survived by 11 grandchildren and two great-grandsons: Ashley Cavanaugh; Andrew Cavanaugh and fiancé, Sierra Hayes; Haley Grant AKA Samantha Autumn Helene; Jason Fonzi and wife, Ashley; Aaron Fonzi; Rachel Belvin; Edward McPhillips; Allison (McPhillips) Chang and husband, Nick; and their two children, Bryce Vernon Chang and Graham Henry Chang of Arbuckle. Also surviving are other family: Tilda Robinson, wife of William “Bill” Robinson of Whitter Springs; Mike and Sherry Falge of Whitter Springs; Fred and Lara Robinson of Whitter Springs; and numerous great-nieces.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Charlie Cavanaugh, Vern McPhillips, her parents, and her siblings, William “Bill” Robinson and Alice Faige.

The family is planning a Celebration of Life to be held at the Willits Senior Center on February 27, at 2 pm. Any charitable contributions can be made to the Little Lake Fire Protection District.

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