



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## Asking for support

To the Editor:

The Brooktrails Volunteer Firefighters Association is asking for the support of Brooktrails residents in the upcoming June 3rd election. The Brooktrails Fire Department is asking for a tax adjustment to fund the purchase of fire equipment that includes personal protective clothing, breathing apparatus and a water tender.

Brooktrails residents currently pay \$65 a year for the current fire tax. The department is asking for an additional \$34 for a total of \$99 per year. This funding will go a long way in providing the community with emergency medical services, fire services and a comprehensive Hazard Abatement Program. This will also help replace aging and outdated equipment, which will increase the safety of the public and firefighters.

We are asking for your consideration and support, and if you have questions or concerns, please call the Brooktrails Fire Station at 459-4441.

If you wish to help with our efforts for the upcoming election, please contact us.

**Robert McKenzie, president,  
Brooktrails Volunteer Firefighters Association**

## Will you join me?

To the Editor:

I was out on one of my walks today and, as often happens, I see lots of trash. I see trash on sidewalks, in creeks, along railroads, in yards, in front of businesses. It makes me sad.

Willits is such a wonderful place to live. I feel like we have a great sense of community and spirit. We talk and wonder about how to attract people (and business) to our town. There are many wonderful ideas ... which I hope are put into action, into creation.

For me, I appreciate beauty, and I believe many people come to our area for the beauty of nature, and the small-town community ... people knowing people. Trash is not beautiful, and it is an easy fix.

Instead of so much talk, why don't each of us put into action what we feel will make our town more attractive, more beautiful, more prosperous? For me, I go out with a bag and pick up trash. There is way more trash than I can pick up. It would take a crew many days. However, if we all could do just a little, I think that effort could go a long way.

Hope you will join me. Thank you.

**Hollis Rose, Willits**

## KZYX under fire

To the Editor:

KZYX is in big trouble. At least three complaints to the FCC (Federal Communications Commission), that I know of, have been filed challenging renewal of the station's license. Being only a long-time listener myself, all I know is that the station has gone downhill. After Christina Anestad was abruptly fired, the station was near bankruptcy, and we had just concluded a supposedly successful pledge drive (?), I knew that the station was in trouble.

Since then, things have only gotten worse. The full news hour was cut to four minutes, now down to 10 including weather. There is no call-in show for the public. Previous local programming has been replaced by pre-recorded non-local shows. Two programmers don't even live here anymore yet continue their shows. Certain topics are off-limits.

The board meets infrequently, has no power, and does not communicate with the listeners. KZYX is a closed shop. It is for all of the above that I am running for the 3rd District board seat, hoping to be part of a majority that will work for change, and light. There are many of us that feel this way and I want to represent them.

## The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters from area residents, focusing on Willits issues, activities, events and people, have priority. Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred.

Letters & Commentaries must have a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No anonymous letters will be published.

**Willits Weekly**  
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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For years I depended on KZYX news to inform me, from Point Arena to Whale Gulch. Annie Esposito went out of her way to solicit news from all over this huge county. The station allowed open debate on hot local topics. That's why, I believe, we were able to pass Measure H, banning GMOs in agriculture. The public was informed and resisted Monsanto's money that poured in to deceive us.

I want the old KZYX back, the station I knew and loved, despite its faults. The station that let Judi Bari have a weekly hour-long show. Can you imagine that happening now? How about a fun, playful version of KMUD's "Thank Jah It's Friday"? The only show close to it was "Click and Clack," one of my favorites, which got canned.

I am not opposed to NPR, since it supposedly has a large following (and how do we know that?). It's not my preference but I believe in diversity. It's that I'm for more local programming, debate, diversity, and transparency.

I now get my Mendocino news from KMUD's expanded news hour, since I can't get it on KZYX. It's even reported by former KZYX news staff! I've heard Christina Anestad, Dave Brooksher, and Annie Esposito reporting on KMUD, all of whom were replaced on KZYX. I think the press should reprint all three formal complaints to the FCC as a first step. "Something is rotten in Denmark." Let's clean it up. Members may vote only by mailed ballot March 1 to 31, and must have been a member by December 31, 2013. If you are a member, please read the ballot statements and vote accordingly.

**Patricia Kovner, Laytonville**

## "State of KZYX"

To the Editor:

We are eight of the nine directors on the board of directors of Mendocino County Public Broadcasting. We are pleased to report on the remarkable "State of the Station."

We know that KZYX&Z is financially secure.

We know that the station is ready and able to provide the community with critical, lifesaving information and news when needed in an emergency.

We know that we offer programs that listeners enjoy and depend on hearing in their daily lives.

We know that the station has a devoted, stable membership. We know that the station is making necessary technical improvements to its infrastructure and equipment to improve our signals and minimize/eliminate downtime.

And we know that we owe much of this progress, this success, to the efforts and accomplishments of our General Manager John Coate and his staff.

## Business/Finances:

We give our general manager full credit for turning around the station's finances. When John Coate was hired in 2008, KZYX was more than \$200,000 in debt. At this time (February 17, 2014) we have more money in the bank than we owe. We could pay every bill we have, past and present, and still have funds in the bank. Our \$75,000 line of credit has not been touched since November, and has been untouched for eight out of the past 12 months.

For the past three years our audits, prepared by an independent professional, have included a cover letter declaring that there are no irregularities or problems with our bookkeeping and accounting practices.

John retired \$116,000 in old debts last fiscal year. He restructured our remaining debt into a single no-interest monthly payment, which we have made without fail for almost two years.

John reorganized our membership department to ensure

more timely and consistent mailings, such as pledge acknowledgement letters.

John shares all financial information with the board in a way that is prompt and upfront. During his tenure as general manager he has become an expert in managing a highly unpredictable cash flow and implementing cost control measures.

## Operations/Infrastructure:

We installed a new backup power generator at the Philo studio. In the past, the entire station would go off the air every winter, sometimes for days at a time, due to power failure. This no longer happens.

Now we have

- a new Emergency Alert System
- a new main control console in Philo
- a new state-of-the-art antenna for KZYX 90.7
- a new and improved program automation system
- a digital storage unit to begin building a comprehensive digital music library.
- backup equipment for various parts of the signal path resulting in far less downtime when something breaks

We have changed the way the satellite studios connect to Philo, saving hundreds of dollars each month in phone charges.

We rebuilt every part of the equipment required for the 88.1 signal on Bald Hill above Fort Bragg. Now it is trouble-free.

We replaced the unit that converts audio to a radio signal to a higher quality unit that greatly improves the fidelity of the broadcast.

We completely rebuilt the [www.kzyx.org](http://www.kzyx.org) website in 2012, relying primarily on the efforts of staff and volunteers.

There have been numerous improvements to office and studio components such as computers, microphones, CD players, etc., and the Philo studio building has been rewired for better reliability.

## Programming:

We have a dedicated volunteer staff of about 100 programmers, who provide a quality product, week in and week out. We have 31 local programmers and 17 local programs on the air today that were not on the air in August 2008 when John began. These include "Mendo Matters," "Give and Take," "Consider This," "The Sonic Blender," and "Portrait in Jazz," as well as many others.

We are constantly looking to update our programming to keep it fresh, and we continue to welcome new programmers and new program ideas that will help us to better serve our community. We expanded our local news coverage with the addition of Michael Kisslinger and veteran reporter and producer Sheri Quinn.

We, the undersigned trustees on the MCPB Board of Directors, are very grateful to John Coate and to his A-Team staff for their excellent contributions to our station. We are diverse, independent-minded individuals who believe wholeheartedly that they are doing a fine job of day-to-day management, and that they are moving the station forward in the right strategic direction.

**Fran Koliner, retired teacher and visual artist,  
Willits, and Holly Madrigal, KZYX board vice-president and mayor of Willits, representing the eight KZYX board members who signed this letter**

**Note:** The official phone number to get in touch with the Black Bart Gunfighters is 877-459-6044.

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Opening this weekend: 4th annual

## WCA members show

The Fourth Annual Members Art Show at the Willits Center for the Arts opens this weekend, with an artist's reception Saturday night, March 1, from 7 to 9 pm

Exhibitors are all current members of the Center for the Arts.

"Meet the artists and enjoy the display of incredible artistic talent from our community," said Janet Rayner who, with her husband Jeff Crawford, took over management of the WCA late last year. The work in this year's show includes works in mediums such as fiber arts, painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, photography and more.

"Thanks go out to all our donors, members and volunteers who have donated countless hours of time and resources to create and maintain the most exquisite public space in the area," Rayner said. "Hope to see you there!"

The members show runs March 1 through March 30 at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Thursday and Friday, 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 3 pm. Info: [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org).

See more artists on page 4



Above: "Goat's Eye View" by Lisa Bowles, fiber arts. "Creating in the form of quilting first entered my life when I was in fifth grade, and being the daughter and granddaughter of avid quilters, it should have come as no surprise that it would be a part of my life forever. Growing up I regularly accompanied my mom on all of her trips to the local fabric shops and relished pouring over the multitudes of colors and implied textures the fabric provided. While studying art during my college years, I explored painting, collage, mosaic, drawing, and photography, which I feel has influenced my desire to experiment with more non-traditional quilting patterns and methodologies."

## OBITUARY

### Jim Hale

Cecil James Hale (Jim Hale), 69, of Willits passed away on Thursday, February 20, 2014. Jim was born August 20, 1944 in Flintstone, Georgia. He is survived by wife, Monika Hale, and six children: Christopher Hale, Lily Hale, Natalie Munos, Steven Munos, Stefanie Lamb, and Veronica Bentz. He is also survived by brother Kenneth Hale, sister Nancy Hale Hall, mother-in-law Jean DeShong, brother-in-law David DeShong, sister-in-law Kim DeShong, numerous nieces and nephews, and eight grandchildren. Jim Hale was preceded in death by his loving mother Mildred C. Hale, brothers William A. (Bill) Hale, Donald L. Hale, and Leonard F. Hale, and father-in-law Charles S. DeShong.

Jim Hale was an honorable Marine Corp CPL, receiving a Good Conduct Medal, 1st Award Sharpshooter Badge, and M1 National Defense. He was the sole proprietor of Austin Colour Studio and had been taking baby and family portraits since 1966. Jim photographed many children in our local pre-schools, elementary schools, and Rite Aid stores throughout Mendocino County. Jim was also enjoyed working with Jr. Giants, as a coach, volunteer and mentor, and was actively involved in the local Little League. Jim Hale donated his time to the local Willits Kid's Club, and in Brookside Elementary School classrooms. His gift was helping children within our community.

A Celebration of Life Memorial will be held at the Agape Bible Church, 290 South Lenore Avenue, on Saturday, March 8 at 1:30 pm, followed by a potluck reception. Everyone, including children, who would like to attend is welcome; please call Cynthia at 707-272-7284 after 5 pm to coordinate a dish to bring. Children can wear their Jr. Giants or Little League outfits if they like.

Those wishing to make a donation to the family may do so at the potluck reception, or through Anker-Lucier Mortuary, 95 West Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490, or call 707-459-5515.

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Right: "Glass and Steel Sun" by Morgan Rex. "Sculptor, web designer, graphics illustrator and more. I was raised in an environment that provided freedom of thought and creativity.... I began my venture in art in my early 20s, or perhaps really in high school, drawing mazes on all sorts of material including blocks of wood.... In the early '80s I started working with stainless steel, creating and manufacturing wind chimes. It was a business, and as such much of the design work was completely formed by the question of production / profit.... One day I met a sculptor who had never sold any of her art. The concept of creating for the act of creativity had become only a murmur in the back of my mind. Over the next few years I began to reemerge from the commercial gears that had consumed my work."



COLUMN | Wellness Matters



## Why infants need chiropractic

Editor's note: "Wellness Matters" is a column that will be written each month by one of the practitioners at Healing Central: Kate Black, Clancy Rash, Shawna Handschug and Diane Smalley.

**Shawna Handschug**  
Columnist

**Why babies need chiropractic.** I know what is going through your heads: Is it safe? Babies isn't easy; there are a lot of forces being exerted onto babies as they enter the outside world. Studies have shown that some level of trauma to the neck and cranial structures occurring during the birth process is common. Left uncorrected, this injury continues to impact the baby's spinal growth and development, and therefore, reduce the optimal function of her nervous system. This could result in health challenges later in life that could have been prevented.

**Starting with the obvious - squeezing through a 10 cm hole is no simple task!** Being born isn't easy; there are a lot of forces being exerted onto babies as they enter the outside world. Studies have shown that some level of trauma to the neck and cranial structures occurring during the birth process is common. Left uncorrected, this injury continues to impact the baby's spinal growth and development, and therefore, reduce the optimal function of her nervous system. This could result in health challenges later in life that could have been prevented.

**The first year of life is when the spine elongates the fastest.** On average, a baby's spine lengthens by 50 percent by the time they reach age 1. During this rapid growth period, it's important to ensure proper alignment in the baby's spine to encourage symmetrical growth. Bones change shape by growing more slowly as the result of localized physical pressure (compressive forces). Spinal misalignments change the balance of pressure across the bones, so asymmetric pressure could lead to asymmetric development when they're growing so quickly.

That first year is also when important spinal curvature develops. The curves in the neck and lower back are called "lordosis," and in the mid-back and pelvis we call them "kyphosis." These curves play an essential role in achieving proper movement, upright posture, balance, protection, and shock absorption. Proper spinal alignment while these curves are developing will help give the child a proper physical and biomechanical foundation on which they can continue to develop.

**Develop a strong, healthy nervous system.** The "central nervous system" refers to the brain and spinal cord which is responsible for processing everything we do. Movement, balance, a heartbeat, seeing a baby smile, feeling the sun on your skin, laughing, tasting, and creativity, as well as infant growth and development, are all coordinated by the brain and spinal cord. A spine that is out of balance puts tension on the nervous system. Chiropractors working with babies look for disturbances in the nervous system which could interfere with healthy growth and development.

**Is it safe for a baby to get adjusted?** Yes. Adverse events linked to pediatric chiropractic care are extremely low: estimated at 1 in 250 million pediatric visits. When adjusting a newborn, a skilled chiropractor will only use the amount of pressure that you would use to comfortably push on your eye. The child is checked for spinal misalignments by hand, then is placed in position (often in mommy's lap or on her belly), and gentle pressure is applied. It is simple, safe, and effective.

Dr. Shawna Handschug has been serving the chiropractic needs of the community for the last three years at Healing Central Chiropractic; she can be reached there at 456-1030.

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# Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

## THEATER WORD SEARCH

B U S R T G A B L A C I S P U M K I G T P S W  
 S M D T H N W L Y R I O P C S N T I N S E L W G  
 H S P Z R Y S O L O T Y E R U C K R A L E S N I  
 B C K S Z D K Z L O U H Y R U K O C R A L E I W  
 A L W S P O N T A G E E I S M O T I O U P L D E W A  
 C O Z I E W E T I S N H I B O D O N N P O L I N E R T  
 N T L O R R P I L S E C O U M U E D S N B I E T S  
 Y T L C M O S Y I O C H U S I T S R K A D Y D U E H  
 H O N S N A C N O P Y I A T A L G U Y P P L A C R O  
 G R E C T O R S L A Y I A T A L G U Y P P L A C R O  
 N A C T O R S L A Y I A T A L G U Y P P L A C R O  
 I W I T C I H K W S A Z I W I Y D C W D B N O A  
 G N I C T N A D T A Z S O B P Y D C G D E P H U A  
 N E L S I A H L C H O R E O G R A D E P H Y  
 I R N B O Z Y D I R E C T I O N E T Z S  
 S L M R I G P U O L W L E W C T K S  
 H O B L E U A U K M D L E N G T H K A H

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

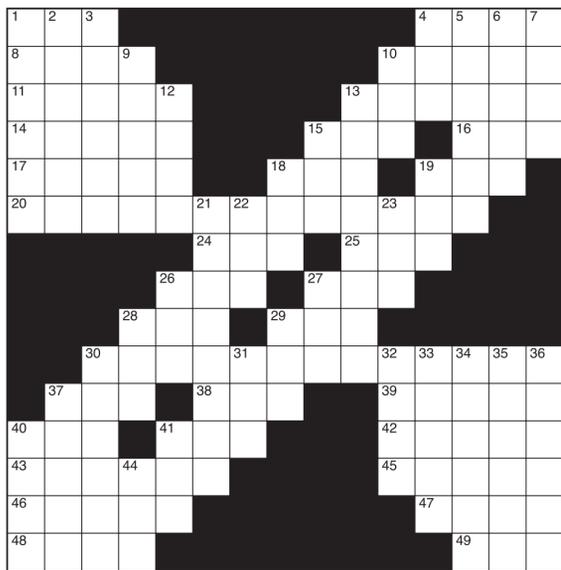
- |              |              |           |            |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| ACTOR        | INTERMISSION | PLAYBILL  | THEATER    |
| AISLE        | LEAD         | PRODUCER  | TICKETS    |
| AUDIENCE     | LENGTH       | PUBLICITY | TOURING    |
| BALCONY      | LIGHTS       | SCORE     | UNDERSTUDY |
| BROADWAY     | LYRICS       | SET       | UPSTAGE    |
| CHOREOGRAPHY | MEZZANINE    | SINGING   | WING       |
| CONDUCTOR    | MUSICAL      | SOLO      |            |
| DANCING      | ORCHESTRA    | SOUND     |            |
| DIRECTION    | OUTING       | SPOTLIGHT |            |
| HIT          | PLAY         | SWING     |            |

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

## Crossword Puzzle



### CLUES ACROSS

- Boring routine
- Back talk
- Emerald Isle
- Snow leopard
- 1/20 of an ancient shekel
- Language of Apia
- Relating to NH2
- British Air Aces
- Woman (French)
- Cheese skins
- Deafening noise
- Cheeky talk
- Early photograph
- Basics
- 007's Flemming
- Photograph (slang)
- Male sheep
- Norse sea goddess
- Small cask
- Ch. Osgood hosts
- Confederate soldier
- Radioactivity unit

### CLUES DOWN

- Respect
- Azotemia
- Exhausting
- Accumulation
- Lack of moral standards in a society
- A rascal
- X100 = 1 tala
- River of Haikou, China
- Lout
- Stockings
- Capital of Chile
- Spanish for river
- 12th month (abbr.)
- Skilled nurse
- Unit of precipitation
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- Sweet potato
- God of fields & woods
- Dream sleep
- Polish or stroke
- Kilo yard (abbr.)
- Member of U.S. Navy
- Express pleasure
- Written acknowledgment (abbr.)
- Neptune's closest satellite
- O'Neill play "The \_\_\_\_\_ Cometh"
- Homegrown
- Goalkeeper
- \_\_\_ Island, U.S. State
- Far East nursemaid
- Food grain
- 2 stripe rank (abbr.)



### How To Sudoku:

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



## Additional artists participating in the 4th annual WCA Members Show

**Below: "Graphite Tree" by Janet Rayner.** "I am a self-taught artist. I have learned by reading books, observing the world, having a family, and dreaming my wild dreams. I have learned from other artists as well as from people who say that they 'can't draw a straight line.' I have learned by trial and error (and trial and success), working with mediums such as oil paint, pencil, pastel, glass and porcelain. I have labored many years to hone my techniques. The joy I experience when a piece comes together is extraordinary, making all the work that has led up to it worth the effort!"

**Left: "Look Through Over There" by Julie Ravin Byers, sculpture.** "Loves building tall ceramic sculptures. Has worked with exciting people and large kilns. Loves the shapes of Nature and is trying to take clay as far as it will go."



## '211' Help Line re-launches

The "211" Community Information telephone hotline was re-launched last week in Mendocino County. Simply by dialing 2-1-1 on a phone, residents can reach trained specialists, who will match their needs with local community services, such as housing and food assistance, senior services, employment and immigration assistance, physical and mental wellness, and much more. The 2-1-1 call-in lines, with help in English and Spanish, are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The re-launch includes a new website with an extensive searchable database of local services and resources: [www.211mendocino.org](http://www.211mendocino.org).

FIRST 5 Mendocino, Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency, and United Way of the Wine Country, partners in the project, announced the re-launch at the Tuesday, February 11 Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting.

2-1-1 is a nationally designated number for information and referral across the country. It quickly and efficiently connects callers with local human, health and social services in their community. In addition to helping individuals on a daily basis, the 2-1-1 line plays a critical role in times of disaster.

During times of disaster, 2-1-1 Information and Referral is the centralized source of emergency information and is the one access point people need to find the real-time information that is critical. Information such as road closures, pharmacies, and volunteer efforts are all available 24 hours a day.

In California, over 90 percent of the state is



covered by 2-1-1. Mendocino's 2-1-1 call line, which debuted in 2011 and has provided information and referral for more than 10,000 inquiries, is being re-launched with improved services.

"2-1-1 is simple, easy-to-remember, toll-free, and available 24/7," said Anne Molgaard, executive director of FIRST 5 Mendocino. "Both on a daily basis and in times of disaster, 2-1-1 is the one number people need to know in Mendocino County to get help and information." 2-1-1 can alternately be contacted by calling 877-734-7794 toll-free.

# WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS

### 2014 Schedule of Events

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Admission
June 22	Sun	8:00 am	Horse Show	Jack Tharp Arena	Free
		10:00 am	Cutest Little Cowboy & Cowgirl Contest	Rodeo Grounds	Free
		12 noon to follow	Parade National Anthem Sweetheart Judging Gymkhana	Jack Tharp Arena	Free
June 26	Thurs	5:00-9pm	Hometown Celebration	Downtown Willits	Free
June 27	Fri	6:00 pm	Truck Pulls	Jack Tharp Arena	\$13-Adult \$5-Child
		to follow	Street Dance		
June 28	Sat		Carnival Opens	Old Ball Field by Rodeo Grounds	
July 3	Wed	5:30 pm	Water fights	Jack Tharp Arena	\$15-Box Seals
		7:00 pm	COPRA Rodeo West Coast Rodeo Stock		\$12-Adult \$5-Child Free
		9:00 pm	Western Dance		
July 4	Thurs	9:00 am	Horseshoe Contest	Recreation Grove	Free
		11:00 am	Parade	Hay 101	Free
		12:00 N	Western BBQ	Recreation Grove	\$15-Adult \$5-Child Free
		TBA 4:00 pm	Black Bart Gun Fighters COPRA Rodeo West Coast Rodeo Stock	Recreation Grove Jack Tharp Arena	\$15-Box \$12-Adult \$5-Child
July 5	Sun	7:00 am	Lions Club Cowboy Breakfast	Recreation Grove	\$8 - Adults \$5-Child
		10:00 am	Jr. Rodeo	Jack Tharp Arena	\$5-Adult Child Free

FOR EVENT ENTRIES AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ONLINE AT [www.WillitsFrontierDays.com](http://www.WillitsFrontierDays.com)

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## Before you know it ... It will be Willits Frontier Days time!

With the beginning of March starting this weekend (!!!), there really isn't too long before the hot summer hits, dust starts stirring, and the town starts donning its red, white and blue best for the annual Willits Frontier Days celebration.

The three-months-to-go countdown has started, and WFD volunteers and organizers are ready to start receiving entry forms for the parade, any and all of their numerous events and, of course, the Sweetheart contest.

This year's theme will be "Cowboy Winter Wonderland," and Willits Frontier Days President Marcy Barry is hoping that the three-month lead time will encourage the community to think up some great parade entries to display this year on the Fourth of July.

"We really want to encourage anyone to participate in the parade, or any of the Frontier Days events," explained Barry. "There are lots of categories in the parade that we hope people would like to sign up for!"

Classes include "Animal," where entrants can feature a live animal in their entry. Horseback riding is popular and can be classified in single, group or pony classes, but what about the 4-H showcasing their rabbit pens or walking their market lambs? Do you drive a goat-powered cart? Does your dog-walking group want to show off your "sit," "down," and "stay" skills? Enter!

Another class, "Auto / Motorcycle" offers anyone a chance to show off their wheels, four or two at a time, to the community. Have a fancy blue Gran Torino? Part of a vintage Volkswagen bus club? Wanting to showcase your steampunk-themed unicycle troop? Have a fancy Schwinn with a handlebar basket? Enter!

The "Float" category can let imaginations run wild! Remember all those parade photos of years past and images shown in the glorified hometown movies of vintage Hollywood? Those tissue-paper-and-cardboard creations of yore? Why not help bring back the fun of those artsy and creative anchor floats and enter one for your business, club or group? And for those wanting to enter, who aren't in possession of a large flatbed, many local businesses are happy to help drive participants down the road in one of their company trucks. Usually all you have to do is ask!

If you can't find inspiration in any of the above categories, an "Other" group was made just for you! The caveat of "Two or more submissions for any new identical entry category will open a new category and prize" exists, but that should only inspire folks to come up with fun new categories for the event.

Marching bands or musicians are usually included in this group, but why not showcase your karate or gymnastics

team, sports teams or after-school groups, or elective classes from Willits High School, Willits Charter School, or any of the younger grade levels? Be a cluster! Show school pride in green and gold or show off your FFA jackets and whites as an entry!

A current schedule of this year's planned events can be found at the Frontier Days website, <http://willitsfrontierdays.com>; click the "events" link in the top right corner of the tan page.

Many applications have been updated online for the 2014 events and can be filled out electronically, printed and mailed, or emailed in to event planners.

Links to the downloadable PDF applications are located right next to each event's listing, along with contact information for event chairs.

This year's program is also already in progress, and anyone wishing to advertise their business in this year's publication is encouraged to contact Willits Frontier Days as soon as possible to reserve their space.

Willits Weekly is again proud to work with Willits Frontier Days and will be distributing the official 2014 Willits Frontier Days program inside the June 26 edition of the paper, just as the 2014 Soroptimist Community Telephone Directory was included earlier this year.

Advertisers will also have the chance to repeat their ads in Willits Weekly for two editions during the Fourth of July celebrations, running alongside event coverage and photos.

For more information on advertising and a price sheet, contact Karen Cavanaugh at 272-0428 or Maureen Moore at 972-7047.



## WANTED New Members



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## Welcome Joanne LaMonica, M.D. Urology

**Please Join Us in Welcoming Dr. LaMonica to the Ukiah Valley Rural Health Center.**

Dr. LaMonica will be joining Robert E. Blackwelder, MD, urologist, who has been practicing in Ukiah for over 35 years.

Dr. LaMonica specializes in caring for both men and women suffering with conditions of the urinary system. She brings extensive skills in performing minimally invasive, advanced laparoscopic procedures. **Dr. LaMonica is now accepting new patients.**

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## Thursday, February 27

**“Do Large Marijuana Grows Threaten Water and Wildlife?”:** the topic today of “Mendo Matters” radio show, 9 am on KZYX Radio, 91.5 FM. Join host Paul Lambert of Willits and his guests, Scott Greacen, executive director of Friends of the Eel River, and Hog Farm resident Suzie Barsotti, an activist and member of the Trees Foundation, who promotes green growing practices. “A recent story in the New York Times and state Fish & Wildlife report that marijuana crops are threatening forests, wildlife and water through the use of pesticides as well as thousands of gallons of scarce water.” Call-in number: 895-2448.

**Free Medicare Counseling:** counseling from a representative from HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program), a program of senior advocacy services. A free service. Today at 11 am, 1 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Call HCAP for an appointment: 1-800-434-0222 or para Espanol llamar a Maria: 707-526-4108, ext 106.

**“Flaming Idiots”:** a new “rollicking comedy” by English playwright Tom Rooney is the first play of the 2014 season at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse. Directed

by Damian Sebhounian, the play is about two guys who “face a serious restaurant problem”: they have no customers. “Flaming Idiots” plays Thursdays (7 pm), Fridays (8 pm), Saturdays (8 pm), and Sunday, March 2 (2 pm) through March 2. Tickets are available in person at Goods’ Shoppe in Willits, online at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/566116](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/566116), or by phone at 459-0895.

**Shanachie Pub:** twice-monthly E.T. Jazz Jam, featuring vocalist Sarah Ryan, Michael Cantwell on piano and keyboards, Aaron Bellomo on guitar, and Jesse Bessoni on drums. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. Every 2nd and 4th Thursday. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

## Friday, February 28

**“Grow More Food; Use Less Water,”** 3-day Biointensive Gardening Workshop by Ecology Action, today through March 3. The workshop includes lectures and discussion on “on Sustainability and Efficient Resource Use, Crops and Diet, Fertilization, Compost and Compost Crops, Soil Preparation and Preservation, Seed Propagation, and Income,” and one afternoon of demonstration at the Common Ground Research Garden/Mini-Farm. Presenters include John Jeavons, author of “How to Grow More Vegetables: Than You Ever Thought Possible on Less Land Than You Can Imagine,” and Dan and Margo Royer-Miller, biointensive farmers working in western Ohio. For more information, and to register, visit [www.growbiointensive.org](http://www.growbiointensive.org), or call Ecology Action at 459-0150.

**U-JAM Exercise Event & Fitness Party:** Men and woman of ages are invited to this free event, 6 to 7:15 pm at the Blosser Lane Elementary School cafeteria, 1275 Blosser Lane. Children with “actively attentive” adults are also welcome. U-JAM is a music-based dance and aerobic

# What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

class, with urban, Latin, Bollywood and hip-hop beats and moves. Presented as a senior project by Willits High School seniors Emmy Heiken and Chelcee Spaggiari. Info: 841-0498.

**The Mendocino County Museum Road Show:** An old-fashioned traveling variety show bringing county history to life in stories and song, debuts in Willits tonight, for one night only. Presented

by a troupe of the county’s most talented thespians and musicians, each show blends story and song to highlight Mendocino County’s most dynamic resource: its people. Seven actors from the Willits Shakespearie Company, the Ukiah Players Theatre, and the Gloriana Opera Company will bring 35 ordinary yet extraordinary local people from the mid-1800s to the 1920s to life. Also featuring American roots group All About Sally. 7:30 pm at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm, with a gallery show of related exhibits to view in the lobby. Tickets are \$15 adults; \$10 youth 6-20; discounts for group purchases. See article on page 11 for a review of this “must-see” show. For more info, visit [www.mendocinomuseumroadshow.org](http://www.mendocinomuseumroadshow.org) or call the museum at 459-2736.

**“Flaming Idiots”:** Willits Community Theatre, see Thursday, February 27 for details.

**Water-Wise Forum:** “How to Grow Food & Plants in a Drought” at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, 7 pm. Short presentations and shared discussion on using or re-using water in local food production in local gardens and small farms in this drought. No charge. Presenters: Dave & Jenny Watts of Sanhedrin Nursery, on “specific plant water needs, prioritizing your garden water use”; David & Ursula Parth on “permaculture saves water”; DripWorks on “drip irrigation, volume

meters, timers”; John Jeavons of Ecology Action on “biointensive water saving, soil building & planting methods”; Jamie Chevalier of Bountiful Gardens on “understanding water needs per plant for best results”; Alan Adkisson on “mycelium: the use of effective microorganisms for added drought resistance in soil & crops; Larry Desmond on “our local water sources & water geology”; Max Meyers on “aquaponics can save water”; Michael Foley, president of the Willits Grange, on: “local food report from the Farmer’s Guild”; Ann Waters, California State Grange program director, on “introduction to hugelkulture and olla jars.” “We have invited merchants and community members with drought-tolerant seeds, plants, shower savers, drip lines, water purifiers and more to show and tell.” To get a table for your water-related



goods, call: 459-6362. “Bring your wild and crazy ideas on re-using water: what is working for your household? Strips of butcher paper will be placed along the Grange hallway for your input.” Co-sponsored by Little Lake Grange and WELL. Info: 459-6362.

**Shanachie Pub:** Shawn Coleman, rock / acoustic / blues from Redwood Valley. 8 pm. No cover. Visit: [www.reverbnation.com/shawncoleman](http://www.reverbnation.com/shawncoleman). 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

## Saturday, March 1

**WCA Member’s Show Artists Reception:** The annual Willits Center for the Arts Member’s Show opening reception, 7 to 9 pm. 71 East Commercial Street. “Meet the artists and enjoy the display of incredible artistic talent from our community, including works in mediums such as fiber arts, painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, photography and more.” See article on page 3 for details. Show runs March 1 through March 30. Gallery hours: Thursday and Friday, 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 3 pm. Info: [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org).

**Shanachie Pub:** Savannah Fuentes Flamenco. 8 pm. \$15. “El Sol de Medianoche, Flamenco en Vivo”: a night of powerful Spanish Flamenco music and dance featuring Seattle dancer Savannah Fuentes, Singer Curro Cueto of Seville, and guitarist Jose Vega of Cadiz. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details. Visit: <http://www.savannahfuentes.com>. 75 seats. Tickets at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/562206>.

## Monday, March 3

**Willits Otters Sign-Ups:** Sign-ups for the Willits Otters Swim Team today, the first day of practice, at 4:30 pm, or at any practice: Practices are Monday through Friday, 5 to 6:30 pm. Lou Meier will be returning as head coach this year.

## Tuesday, March 4

**Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre:** All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week’s Tightwad movies: This week’s Tightwad movies: “Lego Movie” and “Monuments Men.” For showtimes: [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com). 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

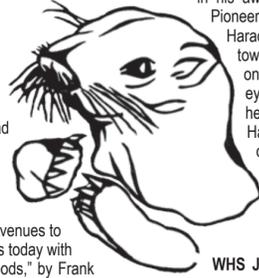
**“Powerful Plant-Based Foods”:** The new Avenues to Wellness semi-monthly speaking series starts today with a presentation on “Powerful Plant-Based Foods,” by Frank



**Reading by author Mark Rawitsch:** the first in a new Book Reading series by local authors sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library (FOWL). Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street, 7 pm. No charge, but donations welcome. Local author Mark Rawitsch has written an engaging history of the California Japanese in his award-winning book, “The House on Lemon Street, Japanese Pioneers and the American Dream.” Rawitsch retells the story of Harada, a persistent Japanese-American man, and his complex path toward the elusive American Dream of owning a home. “The House on Lemon Street” is not just about what defines a house in the eyes of the public, but rather about what constitutes a home in the hearts and minds of each and every one of us. Rawitsch recounts Harold Harada’s immigration to the U.S., the subsequent growth of his family, and the family’s experiences before, during and after the evacuation and internment of Japanese immigrants in California during World War II. Info: 459-5908.

## Saturday, March 8

**WHS Juniors Rummage Sale:** Willits High School’s junior class is



Last chance for **reduced adoption fee for cats** at Animal Shelter

The last chance to take advantage of the Ukiah Animal Shelter’s reduced adoption fee for cats and kittens: \$30 for one and \$50 for two (when adopted the same day). “We have cats and kittens – many colors, sizes, personalities – and this reduced adoption fee applies to our adoptable cats and kittens of all ages. Please come hang out with the cats in our cat colony room, and make a friend for life!! We also have many barn cats available for free, to qualified adopters.”

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. Info: Adoption Coordinator Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453 or [houghtbyk@co.mendocino.ca.us](mailto:houghtbyk@co.mendocino.ca.us) or come in during shelter hours.

In concert at WCT

## R. Carlos Nakai and Will Clipman

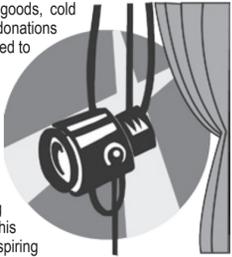
Musical artists R. Carlos Nakai, Native American flute, and Will Clipman, pan global percussion, will perform one show in Willits at the Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, March 23, at 3 pm. Advance tickets, \$25, on sale now at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, or by phone (credit card orders) at WCT office: 459-0895, or online at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/538006](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/538006).

Nakai and Clipman’s 2013 release on Canyon Records, “Awakening the Fire” was nominated for a 2014 Grammy Award for “Best New Age” album. Canyon Records says of this CD: “Grammy-nominees R. Carlos Nakai and Will Clipman delve into a primal sonic odyssey, channeling a sound that grounds each of us in the center of our being, a place where all cultures merge into the river of human existence. The ancient call of Native American cedar flute and the vibration of African, Native American and Asian rhythms connect to our innermost essence and finely tune the awakening energies inside each of us nourishing inner balance and harmony.” To listen to samples of each track, go to <http://store.canyonrecords.com/> and search for “Awakening the Fire.”

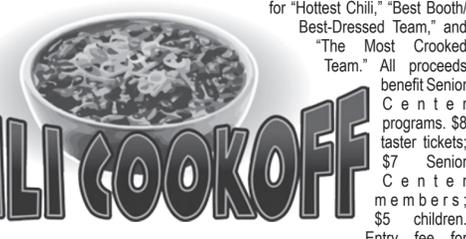
Of Navajo-Ute heritage, R. Carlos Nakai is the world’s premier performer of the Native American flute. His first album, “Changes,” was released by Canyon Records in 1983 and since then he has released over 35 recordings with Canyon plus additional albums & guest appearances on other labels. In addition to his educational workshops & residencies, Nakai has appeared as a soloist throughout the United States, Europe and Japan and has collaborated with such artists as guitarist/luthier William Eaton and composers James DeMars and Phillip

having a rummage sale benefit today at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, from 9 am to 3 pm. The proceeds from this sale are to support the 2014 Prom and the Senior Trip in May 2015. Donations of rummage items are welcome! Clothing and small household appliances and small household furniture may be dropped off from 4 to 6 pm at the Community Center on Friday, March 7. Small donations may be dropped off at WHS in Room 12, if you can’t make it Friday. “Come and enjoy some good quality shopping for a great price, and while you’re there, get wonderful baked goods, cold drinks and really good coffee. All donations that have not been sold will be donated to local non-profits, or Goodwill.”

**WCT Theater Tech Master Class:** Discover the secrets of special effects at the next class in Theatre Tech at the Willits Community Theatre, 39 West Van Lane, from 10 am to 1 pm. Professional lighting and sound technicians Joe Dowling and Kevin Moore recommend this class especially for directors and aspiring directors and students of all ages. They, as well as theater techies, will learn the limits and opportunities a good lighting and sound designer can offer, with a hands-on experience. Topics: “major elements of light and sound design, the planning and execution of the design as well as using special effects to create a theatrical environment.” Enrollment accepted at the door: \$25; \$15 for students. Scholarships are available for all classes in the Theatre Tech series. Info: 459-0895 or [www.willitstheatre.org/learn-from-the-masters](http://www.willitstheatre.org/learn-from-the-masters).



**Harrah Center Annual Chili Cookoff:** 5 to 7 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. 1st place prize awarded with the most popular votes. Judges will award prizes for “Hottest Chili,” “Best Booth/ Best-Dressed Team,” and “The Most Crooked Team.” All proceeds benefit Senior Center programs. \$8 taster tickets; \$7 Senior Center members; \$5 children. Entry fee for



chili contestants: \$25. Bring three gallons of heated chili, crock pot, ladle, decorations, sign & extension cord. Info: 459-6826.

**Guitar virtuoso David Rogers:** “Rogers fuses classical, jazz, early, and world music elements into powerful and moving performances based on both his original compositions and traditional repertoire. His program includes Spanish music, originals by Leonard Cohen, the Rolling Stones, Roxy Music and the Beatles, along with compositions of J.S. Bach and Rogers’ own work. The Washington Post has praised his “astoundingly florid” solo improvisational style. He has been called a “modern master of the classical guitar” by 20th Century Guitar. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, at 8 pm. Tickets are \$15 and available online at [brownpapertickets.com/event/538016](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/538016); in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; or call 459-0895 for credit card orders.

**Shanachie Pub:** Mendo Dope, Skunk Funk & Friends, 9 pm, \$10 cover.

## Sunday, March 9

**Medical Marijuana Laws:** free presentation by attorney Ed Denson, 4 to 6 pm, at the Long Valley Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road, Laytonville. “Denson has been at the forefront of the legal aspects of marijuana cultivation since the 1980s.... Now a member of the NORML legal committee and one of the leading marijuana defense attorneys in California ... he represents a number of patient collectives, and frequently counsels medical patients on how to be, and stay legal, under California law. There will be a question and answer period.”

# Save the Date

**Train Singer Greg Schindel,** March 10, Harrah Senior Center

**Boy Scouts Troop 88 Spaghetti Dinner,** March 15, LDS Church

**CERT Training,** Brooktrails Fire Department, March 15, 16 and 22

**“Last Call at the Oasis,”** Thursday, March 20, Little Lake Grange

**Musical artists R. Carlos Nakai and Will Clipman,** Sunday, March 23, Willits Community Theatre

## ‘Powerful Plant-Based Foods’ Tuesday, March 4

The new Avenues to Wellness semi-monthly speaking series starts Tuesday, March 4 with a presentation on “Powerful Plant-Based Foods,” by Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital’s Executive Chef Kyle Evans and Annie Dogali, RD, also from Howard Hospital. 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Lakeside Room at the Senior Center. Free to the general public. The presentation will include a recipe demonstration, food tasting and super food discussion that will help you navigate your wellness journey to a healthier lifestyle. Chef Kyle and Annie remind us, “Eat healthy, play hard, live well!” More info: 459-2777.



Glass among many others. Nakai has received and been nominated for many music and art awards, and his “Canyon Trilogy” and “Earth Spirit” both received gold record status (the first Native American recordings to earn this achievement). He has sold more than 4 million albums in the course of his career. Visit: [www.rcarlosnakai.com](http://www.rcarlosnakai.com).

Will Clipman, a percussionist, poet, maskmaker, storyteller and educator, began playing his father’s drums and his mother’s piano at the age of 3. He played his first professional gig at 14, and has since then mastered a pan-global palette of over 100 percussion instruments in addition to the traditional drumset. Clipman, who has also won and been nominated for many music and poetry awards, has recorded over 60 albums, including more than 30 for Canyon Records, where he is regarded as the house percussionist. In addition to his solo work, Clipman has performed with many internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles. Visit: <http://www.willclipman.com/>

# Ongoing Events:

**Willits Farmers Market:** Winter market at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Winter produce, hot house tomatoes, local meats, dinner, crafts, live music (jazz by Dorian and Dorothea May this week) and more.

**“By Hook or By Crook”:** Sewing, Knitting & Crochet Circle at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street. 3 to 5:30 pm, Room 10, during the Winter Farmers Market, through April. Sponsored by the Little Lake Grange Women’s Association. Bring your current project or some yarn, hooks, needles if you have them and want to learn something new. Hand-sewing and mending is also great “circle” work. Come with a friend; come and make a friend! There are also sewing machines and materials available in Room 10. Info: 459-6362.

**Girl Scout Cookie Sales:** through March 16, around town and door to door. **Thursday, February 27:** Scoops: 3 pm to 6 pm. **Friday, February 28:** Safeway of Willits: 3 pm to 6 pm. **Saturday, March 1:** Safeway of Willits: 9 am to 6 pm, Tower Mart: 10 am to 3 pm, Main Street Music: 1 pm to 4 pm. **Sunday, March 2:** Safeway of Willits: 9 am to 3 pm. **Thursday, March 6:** Scoops: 3 pm to 6 pm. **Friday, March 7:** Safeway of Willits: 3 pm to 6 pm. **Saturday, March 8:** Safeway of Willits: 9 am to 6 pm. **Sunday, March 9:** Safeway of Willits: 12 pm to 3 pm. **Thursday, March 13:** Scoops: 3 pm to 6 pm. **Friday, March 14:** Safeway of Willits: 3 pm to 6 pm. **Saturday, March 15:** Safeway of Willits: 9 am to 6 pm, Tower Mart: 10 am to 3 pm. **Sunday, March 16:** Old Mission Pizza: 11 am to 3 pm.

**“Members Art Show”:** the March show at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Features art work by WCA members. March 1 through March 30. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1726.

**Willits Community Drum Circle:** 7 to 10 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Fridays. 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 HHM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

**Big Screen video games:** Fridays from 4 to 5:30 pm at the Noyo Theatre. Arcade-style games, multi-player, with both casual and cartoony fighting games. Everyone gets a chance at the controller. Moderated by assistant manager Steve Thornton: “Gamemaster Steve.” Fridays afternoons to start, with hoped-for expansion to an evening

tournament-like event. \$5 (no gift certificates or passes accepted). 57 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-6660.

**Willits Frontier Twirlers:** Beginner’s classes in basic and mainstream square dance, Monday nights at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, from 6:45 to 8 pm, then dancing until 9 pm, with professional caller Lawrence Johnstone, who will teach and call. Info: 459-9526.

**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](http://www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague) or Mike Tobin: 354-0565

**Work Days for Grange School of Agricultural Arts:** scheduled on many Saturdays at the school site at Ridgewood Ranch, 16200 Highway 101. Skilled and unskilled help needed. Bring gloves and tools, if you have them. Follow the “Farm School” signs. Lunch available for those who RSVP by Friday each week (drop-in volunteers welcome, too). Info: Antonia Partridge at (707) 272-1395 or [farmdirector@californiaigrange.org](mailto:farmdirector@californiaigrange.org). More info at <http://californiaigrange.org/agschool/mission.html>.

**Shanachie Pub:** Open mic every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm. 50 B South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Just For Fun Choir:** directed and accompanied by Nancy New. Meets Mondays at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, from 1 to 2:30 pm. Accepting new members of all ages and abilities. Info: call Nancy New at 459-1276.

**Brooktrails Lodge Winter Schedule:** every Thursday night at 8 pm: “Dream Capsule Entertainment,” featuring local musicians and talent; Happy Hour, and Ladies’ Night specials. Every Friday night: Open Mic, with drink specials and prizes. Every Saturday night: “Electro-Dance” at 7 pm. Info: Shawntee Wirth at [dreamcapsuleindustries@gmail.com](mailto:dreamcapsuleindustries@gmail.com) or 459-6792.

**Laytonville Winter Farmers Market:** Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 at the Laytonville Grange, 1620 Branscomb Road. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, jewelry, aprons, children’s clothing, knife sharpening and more.

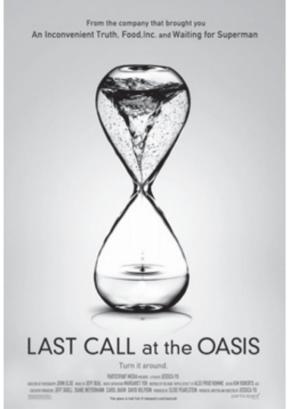
# Flamenco at Shanachie Pub

Saturday, March 1

“El Sol de Medianoche, Flamenco en Vivo,” a night of powerful Spanish flamenco music and dance featuring Seattle dancer Savannah Fuentes, singer Curro Cueto of Seville, and guitarist Jose Vega of Cadiz. Saturday, March 1 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 B North Main Street. \$15.

Savannah Fuentes (Real flamenco straight up and stunning,” the Seattle Post-Intelligencer) was born in Seattle to parents of Irish and Puerto Rican ancestry and grew up in a community of musicians and artists. In her late teens she discovered flamenco, and started performing seven years ago. Making brief trips to Spain, she studied with artists such as La Tati, Belen Maya, and Cristobal Reyes. She currently tours throughout the Northwest with esteemed flamenco artists such as Jesus Montoya, Pedro Cortes, and Saray Munoz Barrull.

Guitarist Jose Vega’s passion for flamenco began years ago in his hometown of Cadiz, Spain. At age 16, Jose began performing in the flamenco bars and tablaos of Cadiz, and throughout Andalusia. He is an accomplished guitarist and a powerful expressionist, who has performed in the most prestigious peñas (flamenco clubs) and tablaos (concert halls) in Spain,



## Weight Watchers needs you

Weight Watchers is looking for new members, to help keep the group going in Willits. Every Monday at 6 pm at United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. Doors open 30 minutes early for registration and weigh-in. Info: 800-516-3535 or [www.weightwatchers.com](http://www.weightwatchers.com).

and has accompanied some of flamenco’s top artists.

Now living in Canada, Vega has performed at the International Music Festival of Qatar, the Montreal Flamenco Festival, the Luminato Festival in Toronto, and the Royal Oak Arts Festival and Concert of Colors in Detroit.

Curro Cueto was born and raised in the flamenco neighborhood of Marchena, where he was mentored by artists such as the excellent guitarist Melchor de Marchena. At age 18 he began studying music theory and flute at the Conservatory of Málaga, and later continued at the Conservatory of Córdoba. He has collaborated with artists such as “The Güito” Manolete, “El Chino,” Enrique de Melchor, Victor Monje Serranito, and Angel Rubio. Since 2013, he’s been part of The Bejazz, a Jazz flamenco fusion group. Cueto is also known for teaching and writing teaching books/CDs like “Flamenco Rhythm & Singing Method,” which was released in 5 languages (Castilian, English, French, German and Japanese).

Visit: <http://www.savannahfuentes.com>. 75 seats. Advance tickets at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/562206>.

## Now & Then Film Series ‘Last Call at the Oasis’

Water isn’t just a Third World worry. Now & Then Film Series presents “Last Call at the Oasis,” a timely documentary by filmmaker Jessica Yu about our urgent water issues, focusing on the U.S.A. and California’s drought. Thursday, March 20 at 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange. The film explores the drought, threats to fishing and agriculture, the safety of drinking water, fracking, weather and waste, examining the looming global water crisis and what can be done to avoid it. “While water is arguably the world’s most important natural resource, shockingly little is being done to protect the global water supply, and a number of leading scientists produce evidence suggesting the amount of potable water is diminishing at an appalling rate ...” Featuring a combination of expert interviews (including Erin Brockovich) and comedy sketches (featuring Jack Black). “Last Call at the Oasis” examines what can be done to help save our freshwater supplies before it’s too late. Thursday, March 20 at 7 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Suggested donation of \$5-\$10. Organic popcorn and chocolate, refreshments for sale by the Grange. Info: 459-6362.

## March Events at Harrah Center

• Bingo, Sunday, March 2. Doors open 10:30 am, games begin at 11:30 am. Bingo buy-in \$10.

• Chili Cook Off, Saturday, March 8, 5:30 to 7 pm, tickets on sale at the Harrah Center. Adults \$8; members \$7; and children \$5.

• Pancake Breakfast, Sunday March 9, 8 to 11 am, adults \$7; Senior Center members \$6; and children \$5.

• Ice Cream Social, Monday, March 10, 2:30 to 3:30 pm. This month’s entertainment is the very talented Train Singer Greg Schindel. Senior Center members \$1 and non-members \$1.50.

## Willits Otters

Willits Otters swim team is pleased to announce the return of Lou Meier as head coach. Sign-ups are Monday, March 3, at 4:30pm at the city pool, 299 North Main Street, or at any practice: Practices are Monday through Friday, 5 to 6:30 pm.

## Scouts Dinner

Willits Boy Scouts Troop 88 presents its 4th annual Spaghetti Dinner, plus a live Dessert Auction. Saturday, March 15 at LDS Church, 265 Margie Drive. Dinner at 5:30 pm; dessert auction at 6:30 pm. Tickets \$8; \$25 for family of 4. To purchase tickets, contact any scout from Troop 88, or Matt Anderson (367-6537), or Alli Anderson (367-4767) or check [www.facebook.com/groups/WillitsBSATroop88](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WillitsBSATroop88).

Willits Weekly | February 27, 2014

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Little Lake Fire's

## Top Ten Firemen of 2013

The Little Lake Fire Department held its Annual Awards Ceremony at the Willits Harrah Center last Friday, honoring its Top 10 Firefighters and its 2013 Firefighter of the Year, Ned McKinnon.

McKinnon was awarded the Firefighter of the Year honor because he put in more time on drills and incident calls than any other Little Lake volunteer.

The Top 10 firefighters who gave the most time to serve the public in 2013 were: Mike Griggs, Ned McKinnon, Mike Neely, Bill Carter, Tim Caldwell, Kevin Reedy, Willie England, Eric Alvarez, Levi Linderman, and Donovan Shively.

"You go by any incident, and you're normally going to see one of these individuals there," said Fire Chief Carl Magann. "It's almost a given."

"I don't think the public really realizes the commitment these volunteers make," Magann said.

The ceremony also featured the awarding of certificates to three new Emergency Medical Technicians, Mike Neely, Levi Linderman and Eric Alvarez.

These annual awards ceremony dinners have been happening for many years. "We've got pictures that go back to the early 1970s and late 1960s," Magann said.

This year's dinner, catered by the Lions Club, also incorporated the "Ladies Appreciation Night" the department holds every three or four years. "We try to recognize the wives and families," Magann said. "They put up with a lot with us. If it weren't for the families' support, some of the firefighters wouldn't make it onto the Top 10. There's a lot of interrupted family events ... dinners ... birthdays" when the firefighters get the call to an emergency situation.

Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez and Little Lake Fire Protection District board members attended the dinner, as did four "honorary" fire department members with many years of service, Bob Petty, Dave Edgar, Jim Robertson and Joe Mondo. Nancy Stipe, administration assistant for the fire department, "did the math," adding up the years of service represented at the dinner, and came up with a total of 5 million hours.

Above: LFLD firefighters who attended the dinner, including the Top Ten award winners.

Below: Top Ten Firefighters for 2013, from left to right: Mike Griggs, Ned McKinnon, Mike Neely, Bill Carter, Tim Caldwell, Kevin Reedy, Willie England, Eric Alvarez, Levi Linderman, and Donovan Shively.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Right: The new EMTs from left: Mike Neely, (Chris Wilkes, Training Chief who presented them their certificates), Levi Linderman, and Eric Alvarez.



Left: Pink and white heart-topped sweetheart cupcakes added to the dinner's ambiance, held on Valentine's Day at the Willits Senior Center.

Below: The four "honorary" fire department members, left to right: Joe Mondo, Bob Petty, Dave Edgar and Jim Robertson.



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3rd District Supervisor



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Classified listings in Willits Weekly are great! Contact us today to place an ad - 972-7047 or 459-2633. It's only \$10 for 30 words for two weeks!

**Help Wanted**  
Position available for person who loves to work with people and pets. Experience preferred but not required. Please bring resume to Willits Pet Care Center.

**Help Wanted**  
Mentor/companion for fun loving adult. Employer maintains a NON-smoking & fragrance-free workplace so employee must be a non-smoker & refrain from using all aromatic or scented products. Requirements: fingerprinting, reliable car, valid CDL/insurance, HS diploma, and able to clearly speak, read & write English. Duties: Promotion of self-determination skills, assistance with daily living skills, plus support with consumer's community involvement. Starting pay \$9.90/hour plus mileage. Send resume to: % JOBS, P.O. Box 1035, Willits, CA 95490.

**For Rent**  
2BR/1.5BA, downtown Willits. Nice place! Duplex w/garage, washer/dryer in unit, walking distance to shopping, library, college, A/C, N/S, pets nego., \$1,025/mo + \$1,500 dep. Now taking applications. Loraine@Gateway Realty, 459-5363.

**For Rent**  
3 Bdrm/2 Bath. Custom woodtile floors. Westside Willits location, wrap around deck, drought tolerant landscape, solar panels. Custom kitchen, Viking range, granite countertop, custom cabinets. \$1,650/month. 459-4757 or 227-5339.

**For Rent**  
Commercial studio rental: 2 separate studios, approx. 400 square feet each, centrally located, off-street parking, air conditioning, \$350 & \$325 per month, utilities included. 707-354-2473.

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The rest of **Quarry** | From Page 1

yards per year, the amount of its 1997 use permit, during the pendency of the vested rights claim. Thus, Northern Aggregates could be forced to close Harris Quarry early in the calendar year because it reached the 75,000 cubic yards per year limit."

Northern Aggregates is asking supervisors to establish whether Northern Aggregates has a vested rights claim on Harris quarry, that the board claim original jurisdiction over the CEQA document for the reclamation plan for the quarry, and that it claim original jurisdiction over the reclamation plan itself.

The rest of **IRS** | From Page 1

Schapiere, the practice has been in place in Mendocino County since 1998, when former County Treasurer Tim Knudsen administered MCERA, and was continued until the 2007-2008 fiscal year, when Jim Andersen was MCERA administrator.

Schapiere noted MCERA actions were done with the knowledge and approval of the county board of supervisors. She added MCERA credited the funds into its pension account several years ago and, therefore, the IRS determination does not increase MCERA's Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability, which currently stands at about \$132 million.

Schapiere said MCERA caught a break from the IRS, since the total amount of money diverted from the MCERA pension fund between 1998 and 2008 probably amounted to at least \$40 million.

According to a press release issued by outgoing MCERA Administrator Richard White, MCERA applied to the IRS for a "favorable determination of its tax-qualified status and an associated filing under the IRS's Voluntary Corrections Program" in January 2011.

White said the IRS has been looking at the MCERA situation in tandem with similar problems and irregularities experienced by other California counties.

As part of its participation in the IRS Voluntary Corrections program, MCERA admitted that from 2002 to 2006 it had no excess earnings, yet still diverted \$9.6 million into the retiree health insurance fund. It told the IRS it had voluntarily restored that amount to its pension fund, and the IRS said such a move was adequate.

"This successful resolution of the IRS process was critical to the protection of the tax-qualified status of benefits for members of the MCERA," said Schapiere.

The rest of **Grocer** | From Page 1

Sonoma County-based Lola's Market were among those on the mailing list.

Harvest Market and Ukiah Natural Foods were also contacted by the city prior to the mailings earlier this month.

Grocery Outlet answered its letter with a phone call to Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore.

Bill Coyle is the vice president of real estate for Berkeley-based Grocery Outlet. He said Grocery Outlet knew about the opening and is researching the market and the building.

"We only have so many dollars and resources, and we have to pick the best location to warrant investment," said Coyle.

Coyle added his "that is off" to the city for trying to make something happen by sending out letters.

"It is not common - it happens from time to time - but it is more of a rarity," Coyle said when asked about the frequency of letters like the one Willits

Keep The Code spokesman Bob Whitney told Willits Weekly he did not know the item was on the board's Tuesday agenda. When told the board had discussed the matter, Whitney said if Northern Aggregates "can demonstrate they have a vested right, then they don't need a use permit. They can just claim they are grandfathered in."

He added he was not certain that would be the upshot of a finding in favor of vested rights, but he would certainly discuss the matter with his legal counsel.

The rest of **Revenues** | From Page 1

city expects revenues to be down \$193,000 from calculations during last summer's budget talks.

Willits' budget for the fiscal year was calculated with expectations of about \$4.1 million in sales tax revenue.

Money the city collects from property taxes, business license fees and other revenue is expected to be down, the report stated.

The mid-year review of the city budget projects a general fund reduction of \$619,000. Revenues are projected to be \$193,300 less than originally believed.

To start the fiscal year, the city had about \$2.2 million in its general fund, according to budget documents.

General fund money is dispensed to city departments such as sewer, water, public works and law enforcement.

City council members approved the budget last year with about \$1.8 million expected to be left in the general fund this June.

Instead, the general fund is expected to be about \$1.5 million when city budget talks resume this year, according to the report.

About four months remain in the fiscal year, which runs from July 2013 to June 2014. Numbers could change between now and then.

Effects of water rationing have not been factored in to the report's review of water fund revenues. Those revenues look to fall short of predictions by \$150,000 even before the effects of rationing are calculated.

City Hall is still waiting to assess the effects of water conservation on the budget. "It is too early to say with any certainty what effects water conservation will have on revenue," said Financial Director Gordon Elton.

Public Works' top position - public works director - has gone unfilled. That's one reason why the water fund is expected to come in about \$74,000 under budget, the report stated.

The city's consultant helped with the report,

producing charts and graphs comparing segments of Willits' economy to the cities of Fort Bragg, Ukiah and Lakeport.

Willits has seven gas stations along Main Street which produce some 34 percent of the town's sales tax revenues, according to a portion of the report compiled by consulting firm Muni Services.

Gas stations and the wholesale sale of building materials are the town's top two sales tax producers, according to the report.

Restaurants provide 10 percent of the city's sales tax revenue - three percent below an "average" town, the report stated.

Wholesale building materials account for 13 percent, nine percent above average. Food markets generally average five percent of a town's economy, but in Willits, food markets generate 13 percent of city sales tax.

Willits' economy expects to benefit from Highway 101 traffic coming down Main Street for a few more years as freeway construction continues.

"A lot of people pass Ukiah by because they do not have to get off the freeway unless Ukiah is their destination," said Elton, who worked for the City of Ukiah before retiring and filling in here in Willits.

Not ranking in Willits' economy were department stores and new car sales. Department stores generate about 11 percent of sales tax revenue in other towns, new cars sales about nine percent.

City's Top 25 in sales tax (alphabetically): Arco AM/PM, Brown's Corner, Chevron, Coast Hardware, Flyers Service Station, Helms Petroleum, J.D. Redhouse, Les Schwab Tire Center, Little Lake Auto Parts, McDonalds, Mendo Mill & Lumber, NorCal Recycled Rock, 101 Trailer & RV, Peterson Trailer, Ray's, Redwood Tree Service Center, Rite Aid, Safeway, Safeway Service Station, Shell Service Station, Sparetime Supply, Taco Bell, Tower Mart, Village Market and Willits Power Equipment.

# Furry Friends

Hoping for a home

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Photo by Rod Coots

## Playful Patrick

Meet Patrick, a very energetic & playful young dog! We are guessing he is around a year old, and based on certain characteristics that he may be a mix between Australian Shepherd and Fox Terrier. He may have something else in him, but whatever it is made a very handsome and stunning guy! He weighs 32 pounds, and he is a very athletic dog. He met two dogs during his behavioral evaluation, and he did great with both of them.

His young and exuberant personality would best be matched with a family with older children, as he can be a little nippy. We also think he would do well with a companion/family with an active and outdoorsy lifestyle. We hope you will come meet Patrick, and see if he will fit into your family!

Through the month of February – two more days! – we are having an adoption special for cats and kittens of all ages. The adoption fee for one cat is \$30, and for two cats adopted the same day, the adoption fee is \$50. We also have many barn cats available for free, to qualified adopters.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. For more information, contact Adoption Coordinator Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453 or houghtbyk@co.mendocino.ca.us or come in during shelter hours.

## Success!

### WCS Winter Fund Drive surpasses goal

The 2014 Winter Fund Drive for Willits Community Services and Food Bank has come to a successful conclusion, raising \$33,118, more than its goal of \$32,000.

"We are very excited and very happy," said Jim Marill, executive director of WCS. "This is going to really help provide services for people in need in our community in the coming year. We are grateful to the community for their support."

**Donations as of February 25: Delores Braden; Tom Fall; Everett Smith & Marian Hulett-Smith; John & Yvonne Wagenet; and Ed & Starla Warburton.**



**March 2014**  
Suzanne Wagner  
Columnist

March is the moment when you realize that you cannot do it alone. It is time to allow others to bring their own gifts and skills into your life. You do not have to do everything. When you allow others to participate in the creation, not only will it nourish you but also it allows for a fully embodied manifestation with complex flavors and coloring.

We need others to pull ourselves out of our misery. We can become so attached to the struggle and needing to do everything ourselves that we push and strive but never completely arrive.

This month you are being asked to become a participant in the creation, not just a spectator. To philosophize is to speculate and imagine. To participate is to get your hands into the clay and mold that reality into being. It is the participation that creates the feeling of fulfillment. It is in the doing that you find the magic.

This month you are not at a place of completion, but you will be aware of the direction. If you stay awake and aware, when you arrive at what you believe is the completion, you will once again see more options and doorways to walk through in this journey of self-awareness.

Right now, without having to do anything, you are consciousness. Awakening to your natural state is a choice. When you choose to align with your essential self, you will discover that all around you are the elements that will allow you to manifest. But you do need to recognize those people and gifts and allow those energies to transform and shape what is attempting to emerge in the creative process.

This month look into the mirror and really get to know yourself. There is tremendous power that exudes off of those who have journeyed deep inside and have come to the place of acceptance and knowing of who they are.

If you are not magnetizing what you need in your life, you have disconnected with some essential part of your authentic self.

Enlightenment means that you are not enslaved by others' opinions or by your own ego. Authenticity is an upsetting force to some, a relief for others. When you are presented with someone just being, you either find great attraction to him or her, or you will feel not good enough. Then you might attempt to step away, become invisible, or ignore them.

When you feel that insecurity to step back or to disappear, instead just stop and stay present. Do not move forward, but also do not move away. Feel the disturbance in your energy field, and lean into the discomfort. Allow the authentic presence of another to break you out of your negative self-talk and misery. When you allow yourself moments of awareness and clarity, you will discover that no situation, community, society, person, or nation can actually confine your spirit. Let your spirit become a beacon to open others to the uplifted possibility that is right in front of you.

Do not be afraid. You are connected right now to your spiritual family. Allow others to support and help you. Together you can step out of the limited illusion in which you are experiencing. It is your commitment and choice that will allow you to do it now.

Have a fabulous month.

Suzanne Wagner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of the books: "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology." Her books and CDs can be found on Amazon.com. She also is the creator of a free app: "Wild Women Series," that is available for iPad and iPhone. She also gives a once-a-month Psychic Fair at Mazhar in Willits. You can reserve your space in advance at the store, 38 South Main Street. For more information about Suzanne, visit www.suzwagner.com or call her at 707-354-1019.



## 'Museum Road Show' a must-see

Performance brings Mendocino County pioneers to life

If you are interested in learning about the history of Willits and Mendocino County from the mid-1800s to the 1920s, attending the debut of the "Mendocino County Museum Road Show" this Friday evening at Willits High School is a must.

Rather than being presented in standard play form, the "Museum Road Show" is a collection of stories, performed verbatim from accounts of actual residents of Little Lake Valley and elsewhere in Mendocino County.

The true tales are read by an energetic cast, including Willits Shakespeare Company veterans Billy Hetherington and Bryan Arnold. The seven-member cast also features members of the Ukiah Players Company, including mainstay Kate Magruder, and Fort Bragg's Gloriana Opera Company. This theatrical delight is directed by Linda Pack, former artistic director of the Gloriana Opera Company. Pack is also known for her oral history show on KZYX radio, "Mendocino County Remembered."

One of the play's first acts is entitled "Fiddler in the Woods" and chronicles some of the adventures of Bey Barnwell, a musician from Lakeport, born in 1888. Other acts include "Local News," "Children in Peril," and "The Love of Teaching," which relates the antiquated and controversial rules regarding female teachers, implemented by L.W. Babcock. Another segment is comprised of a woman conveying her disappointment at the ethnic segregation of the area during the early 20th century, which she woefully dubs "the stinkin'."

**The rest of Candidates**  
From Page 1

in the Third District office for the people. As a deputy that began happening, and I retired."

Tobin was not available for comment on deadline for this edition.

Contacted recently by phone, Gassen said: "I'm backing down. My father is very ill, and I have some health issues of my own, so I'm not going to run."

That leaves three declared candidates: Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal, Willits Realtor Tom Woodhouse, and Willits metal fabricator Clay Romero. To date only Madrigal has filed to run for the seat.

Romero said Wednesday he intends to file by the March 7 deadline. Contacted by phone, Woodhouse said that he, too, intends to file soon.

"We paid our \$600 and we are going to file," Woodhouse said.



Other highlights of the show include Bryan Arnold's turn as a smooth-talking reverend who relentlessly promotes Prohibition in 1914, stories from records of stagecoach robberies in 1878, and several stories about how various parts of Mendocino County were ravaged by the San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

Each story segues seamlessly into the next, and is punctuated by folksy songs performed by the harmonious acoustic trio, All About Sally. The sound effects are eerily realistic, and the period costumes are dead on.

One quickly gets lost in the dialogue, feeling as though you're hearing the tales directly from the mouths of Mendocino County residents of yore. At the Saturday dress rehearsal attended by Willits Weekly, Willits actor Billy Hetherington said he was excited to be working with "such a fine group of actors from different theater companies." Hetherington found the show interesting to do, "because it brings to life the stories of the pioneers of our community."

**The rest of Ambulance**  
From Page 1

ambulance service provider.

Establishing an EOA reduces the risky aspects of the free market system, helping ensure competing ambulance companies don't compete themselves into extinction.

The 4-1 vote is the latest step to shore up Mendocino County ambulance companies. In 2011, Fitch Associates did a study of the entire system, concluding it was everywhere weak and numerous individual providers were struggling financially. In 2013, a second Fitch study concluded that establishing one or more EOAs could potentially provide some stability to the system.

The recommendation to establish the EOAs was couched in equivocal language. According to the report, "establishing exclusive operating areas may stem the deterioration of the EMS system somewhat and allow it to evolve into a more stable system with higher levels of consistency, reliability and performance."

Health and Human Services Director Stacey Cryer told supervisors Tuesday the process to establish an EOA could take two years. Cryer added she was concerned some of the more severely stretched providers might not survive until the EOA is in place.

"Museum Road Show" runs just over an hour, and is as educational as it is entertaining. The show is also appropriate for viewers as young as 6, and children are welcome.

The first performance of "Museum Road Show" is in Willits at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street, on Friday, February 28. The show then plays Saturday, March 1st, at the Anderson Valley Grange in Philo; on Friday, March 7 at the Little Theater at the Ukiah campus of Mendocino College; and on Saturday, March 8 at Eagles Hall in Fort Bragg.

Doors open at 6:30 pm, with a gallery show featuring traveling exhibits of artifacts, interactive displays, live music, and refreshments. Show starts at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth 6 to 20, with discounts for groups of 10 or more.

Information and tickets are available at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, or online at [www.mendocinomuseumroadshow.org](http://www.mendocinomuseumroadshow.org).

"I am very concerned about services in Laytonville and Covelo," she said. She added she would be asking supervisors for some money for the weakest, most endangered ambulance providers in the next budget. When asked what she meant by money, Cryer said she would likely be asking for \$200,000 to \$300,000.

Supervisor John McCowen cast the lone vote against the proposal. McCowen said there were too many unknowns and he didn't think the implied time constraints were real. "I don't see the need for immediate action," he said. "There are a lot of unknowns. Like, where will the money come from?"

Supervisor Dan Hamburg replied those questions could be explored in more detail down the road.

The proposed inland county EOA will include roughly two-thirds of the county. It stretches from districts north of Laytonville and Ukiah, westward to Anderson Valley and surroundings, and then south to the boundary with Sonoma County.

Ambulance services in Willits are currently being provided by Verihealth.

Left: Billy Hetherington, left, and Bryan Arnold in the "Local News," segment of the "Museum Road Show."

Below: Ricci Dedola, left, and Nicole Paravicini, in the "Museum Road Show."

Photos by Nathan DeHart



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## Holly Madrigal

3rd District Supervisor

"As a responsive and experienced leader I know we need new solutions to face the challenges ahead. I will return focus to the 3rd District and make progress on needed projects like the Brooktrails 2nd Access Road and increased economic vitality. I will work with the board and the community for the benefit of Mendocino County as a whole." Mayor Holly Madrigal

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- Built a large reserve for the City of Willits to protect its finances
- Created 'Mayor's Initiative' to increase manufacturing by 3%
- Worked with Brooktrails Board member to develop a post-bypass plan for the Willits area.

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Right: The Printing Plus crew. From left: previous owner John Cedarholm, Tanja Ramming, Miguel Jiminez, Morgan Ramming, Jennifer Ramming, Arlen Ramming, Tim Ramming and Saren Ramming.

Photos by Maureen Moore



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*[uh-toog-rah-press]*  
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✓	✓	10	11	12	13	14
✓	✓	17	18	19	20	21
✓	✓	24	25	26	27	28
✓	✓	31				

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# Passing the torch

Printing Plus gets new owners and new services

As of January this year, local shop Printing Plus is now in the hands of new owners: the Ramming family of Willits.

Lead printman and design guru, Tim Ramming, is heading up the new business and is able to bring his years of industry appreciation and expertise to the new venture. Ramming was a fan of graphic design at a young age; even attending a Photoshop camp in seventh grade before eventually taking graphics classes in school and working in a print shop in Sacramento. Since returning to Willits, Ramming successfully assumed the reins of Allen Jablonski's old printing business - which was purchased and renamed King Prints in 2011. King Prints is now melding with Printing Plus to offer all customers a one-stop shop for all their printing needs ... and even more (coming soon!).

Working with Tim, and also co-owners of the new business, are Arlen Ramming, Tanja Ramming, and Tim's wife, Jennifer. Their daughters Saren, 2 1/2, and Morgan, 1, also come in and supervise when necessary.

Arlen is in charge of broadening the existing shop's offerings, working on the T-shirt and garment printing side of the business and helping develop soon-to-be-available new options, including stone and metal engravings and glass etchings for projects, including trophies and memorial pieces. Tanja is the businesswoman, helping keep track of accounts, billings and office managerial services. She's also the friendly face at one of the front desks, welcoming clients into the newly rearranged shop on East Commercial Street.

More interior and exterior upgrades are planned, too, Tim explained. Larger signage out front, the new layout of the front office, removal of old machinery in the back, and installation of the shop's darkroom will all give the building a facelift and help staff be efficient and welcoming to customers.

Being charged with continuing the legacy of community-based service started by the previous owners, John and Anne Cedarholm, is not something the Rammings are taking lightly. They plan to continue serving many non-profit and volunteer organizations with the same level of assistance. Willits Center for the Arts, Willits Community Theatre, Willits Frontier Days, the Willits Senior Center, Mendocino Historical Society, the American Legion, the Boy Scouts, Sip Some Soup, Roots of Motive Power and Sober Grad are just a few of the local groups the Rammings are proud to continue working with.

"John and Anne really set up the transition of the business in a way to allow us to continue the same service and experience to all the community," explained Tim. "We plan to do our best to keep the legacy going."

John still stops in and continues to offer guidance and assistance to the new owners, making sure things go smoothly as they progress into the even-busier summer season.

"We're already really busy, and things continue to go more smoothly each month," continued Tim. "It's great to have John's help, and everyone is getting more and more familiar with learning all the ropes of the business and the needs of each particular job."

As always, jobs in any stage of completion are welcome at Printing Plus; Tim and the staff are able to help start projects from scratch with designs for business cards, stickers, magnets, newsletters and more, and are also able to make larger and poster-sized prints, bound booklets, calendars, T-shirts, logos and just about anything else you can imagine.

Stop in and say "hi" to the new owners, or find out more about what they can offer you at 262 E Commercial Street, or give them a call at 459-9401.

- Maureen Moore



Top of row: Tanja Ramming loads a shirt onto the T-shirt press under Saren's careful watch.

Above: The outside of Printing Plus on East Commercial Street.

Below: Arlen Ramming holds the handles of the Miehle machine with Miguel Jiminez behind.



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