

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Read the rest of
Snowpack |
Over on Page 11

WCS ends fund drive with \$37,214

Willits Community Services and Food Bank announced on March 1 that a total of \$37,214 has been raised through the 2016/17 Winter Fund Drive, well over its goal this year of \$34,000.

Final donations came in from the community members listed below:

James and Leigh Austin, David & Linda Beebe, Delores Braden, Tommie & Louise Brown, Melinda Clarke, Joanne Franklin, Michael Frey, Andrew Hill & Pauline Harper, Sara O'Brien, Timothy Rice & Elizabeth Reidel, Hollis Rose, Keith Rutledge & Nancy Simpson, Phillip & Kathy Shuster, St. Anthony Church Guild, Jack & Joan Wade, Dave & Jenny Watts, Willits Mini-Storage, and Mary Zellachild.

WCS has been serving the greater Willits and North County communities since 1981. For over 35 years WCS has provided a safety-net of human services that help cushion the effects of short- and long-term unemployment, poverty and crisis by providing temporary assistance programs and services to people in need.

"Our economy continues to make it difficult for so many people just to survive," said Jim Marill, WCS director. "The availability of financial resources from outside of our community continues to diminish, and this has made it very challenging for WCS and organizations like Willits Community Services to continue to provide essential human services."

WCS manages to provide these programs and services through a combination of funding sources, Marill said, including local contributions. Especially now, donations from local community members – including those coming in through the Winter Fund Drive – are the most important, he said, "because it is those dollars, more than any other resource, that keep the doors open, the lights on and the services and programs operating."

Although this year's Winter Fund Drive has ended, donations are always welcome: Checks can be sent to Willits Community Services, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Also, coming up this weekend, on Saturday, March 4, is "Trio of Trios," a concert to benefit WCS, featuring music by three local groups: Chanterelle, Twining Time and Just Enough. The concert will take place at the United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, and suggested donation is \$10. Questions? Call Clancy at 367-0889.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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

Volume 4, Number 195

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Sixth man held in pot grower's death

A sixth suspect in the Veterans Day murder of a north county pot farmer has been arrested by Mendocino County Sheriff's investigators and South Lake Tahoe police officers.

The hunt for 33-year-old Jesse Cole Wells of Laytonville had been underway since late 2016, when detectives learned Wells had been seen frequenting South Lake Tahoe casinos, said detective Sgt. Andrew Porter.

Mendocino County Sheriff's detectives, working with the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Douglas County Nevada Sheriff's Office, confirmed Wells had been a frequent casino visitor in the Lake Tahoe area, but failed to find him, Porter said.

Between November 2016 and February 2017, the Sheriff's Office and South Lake Tahoe Police Department had investigated additional tips and reports regarding Wells' whereabouts. Then on February 23, local police discovered the home where Wells was hiding, and sheriff's detectives obtained a Mendocino County Superior Court search warrant for the Northern California residence.

The next day, sheriff's detectives, investigators from the South Lake Tahoe Police Department.

and the department's SWAT team surrounded the home, and Wells was arrested and booked into El Dorado County Jail on homicide and robbery charges. Bail was set at \$650,000.

Wells will be extradited to Mendocino County "at some point," Porter said, and will be tried with the five suspects already in custody for the robbery and murder of 35-year-old Jeffrey Quinn Settler of Bethel Island.

Settler's battered body was discovered in a shed on a remote property some five miles from North Highway 101 in Laytonville on November 11 of last year.

Investigators believe Settler was operating a commercial marijuana growing operation on the property, and the seven men – all of whom had been employed as marijuana trimmers – attacked him in the middle of the night, then fled with more than 100 pounds of processed marijuana.

Four of the suspects had been arrested before February 10, when sheriff's detectives were notified the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office in Williamsburg, Virginia, had arrested the fifth suspect, Frederick Gaestel, 27, of Illinois.

Initially, Porter said, Gaestel challenged extradition to California. However, on February 22, the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office was notified Gaestel had elected to waive extradition and was ready to be transported to Mendocino County for prosecution.

Wells' arrest came as the result of the "cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies working with concerned citizens who came forward with the information about [his] whereabouts," Porter noted.

Currently, a single suspect, Gary Blank III, 34, of Garberville, remains at large. Blank "is believed to have fled the state of California," Porter said.

Anyone with information regarding Blank's whereabouts is urged to call Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Investigative Services Unit at 463-4421, the Sheriff's Office Tip Line at 234-2100, or the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office via the department's Facebook page.

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

Proclamation of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Recognizing March 2017 as Women's History Month in Mendocino County

WHEREAS, Mendocino County women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our county in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County women have played, and will continue to play, a significant role in every sphere of the life of Mendocino County by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home including unique roles throughout county history by providing the majority of the volunteer force particularly important in the establishment of charitable, humanitarian, and cultural institutions of the county; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County women currently hold significant leadership positions in local government and businesses, including countywide elected positions, a seat on the board of supervisors, seats on area city councils, and numerous other seats as elected and appointed members of boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of women in history has consistently been overlooked and undervalued, prompting in March 1983 the first Women's History Gala Celebration in Mendocino County, that was held at the Anderson Valley High School, thereafter, each year it has been held in the City of Ukiah, the seat of Mendocino County, with the March 5, 2017 celebration to be held at the Saturday Afternoon Club marking its 34th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the annual Women's History Gala Celebration sponsored by the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, American Association of University Women-Ukiah, Ukiah Saturday Afternoon Club, and the Cloud Forest Institute has a tradition to recognize and honor particular women who exemplify each year's designated theme. Honorees selected who embody this year's theme of "Honoring Trailblazing Women In Labor and Business" are: Pennyroyal Farm, a Boonville organic cheese and vineyard established by Sarah Bennett, Star White and Erika McKenzie; a Ukiah Valley-based, independently owned national/international paint and coating company, Penofin-Performance Coatings, created by Barbara Newell, CEO; and Ukiah's Connect Insurance owner, Maureen "Mo" Mulheren, executive director of the Ukiah Valley Networking Agency and the only woman on the Ukiah City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby proclaims March 2017 as "Women's History Month" in recognition of the achievements of all women in Mendocino County and invites the public to attend the 34th Women's History Gala Celebration to especially honor important women in our community.

Dated: February 14, 2017

John McCowen, chair, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

Covelo woman held in pickup theft

A 33-year-old Covelo woman was arrested on February 25 on suspicion of possessing a stolen vehicle after deputies responded to a trespassing incident at a home in the 1800 block of Perch Road shortly before 6 pm.

Deputies immediately noticed a 1991 Toyota pickup truck parked in front of the home that appeared to have been recently spray-painted, says sheriff's Sgt. Joseph DeMarco. The pickup's license plates also were missing.

"Deputies contacted Jennifer Michelle SchmittFeliz, 33, of Covelo at the residence and connected her to the vehicle," DeMarco said. They also learned a 53-year-old Ukiah man had reported the pickup stolen two days earlier.

Conducting a records check, deputies found the woman had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for her arrest for driving with a suspended license.

SchmittFeliz was arrested on the warrant and suspicion of receiving a stolen vehicle and booked into county jail. Bail was set at \$15,000.

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

Savings Bank employees dress 'Casual for a Cause'

Eleven non-profit organizations in Mendocino and Lake counties have received a portion of the \$11,285 contributed by Savings Bank employees and the bank during the 2016 "Casual for a Cause – Denim Days" year-long fundraising campaign. Due to the ongoing success, this effort will continue in 2017.

"Over the past five years, this effort has made a great impact in our communities with donations totaling \$66,457," said Katie Kight, Savings Bank marketing officer. "We're investing in our local youth, senior citizens, those in need, the arts, education, public safety and economic development to strengthen the quality of life in our communities."

The idea of "Casual for a Cause – Denim Days" began in January 2012 with a group of Savings Bank employees who wanted an additional way to make a difference in our communities during difficult economic times. Every Friday and Saturday, Savings Bank employees have the opportunity to dress casually by wearing denim jeans to work while supporting a variety of local non-profit organizations through voluntary donations. Each month employees at a designated branch select the organization of their choice which will benefit by the monthly contributions.

In 2016 the following organizations received funds from this program: Potter Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Hopland Cemetery – Wreaths Across America, Lake County Habitat For Humanity, Redwood Coast Senior Center, Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project, Redwood Community Services Youth Empowerment Camp, Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department, Willits Kids Club, Laytonville Food Bank, Hospice of Ukiah, and Court Appointed Special Advocates of Mendocino and Lake Counties.

"With your help we are able to provide assistance for those families in our community affected by the recent fires," wrote Richard Birk, president of Habitat for Humanity Lake County. "Only with the ongoing support of people like you can we continue to live up to our mission."

"Our current patient load is the highest it's ever been, and we are experiencing the need for more medical and in home staff," wrote Janet M. Denninger, administrator for Hospice of Ukiah. "Your gift will help us meet our present and future growth."

"Laytonville Food Bank thanks everyone at Savings Bank for the donation," wrote Norma Branson. "With your donation we gave out extra food for Thanksgiving and Christmas."

"We are grateful for the work your business does to improve and support the communities it serves," wrote Chief Ed O'Brien, Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department. "Your donation will help fund the emergency training, rescue and response of our volunteer fire department."

As the local community bank, Savings Bank is proud of their tradition of giving back to their communities and the community support and volunteer time that their employees provide.

– submitted by Savings Bank of Mendocino County



'Water Is Life'

Local talent, activists and volunteers raise \$7,026 for Standing Rock

The Water Is Life benefit for Standing Rock at the Willits Grange on Saturday, February 18 was a nine-hour fundraising effort featuring 14 musical acts, speeches from several local prominent water protector activists, a silent auction with items donated by over 20 local artists and businesses, dancing, drumming, yoga, meditation, a tea temple, a kombucha bar, food from Taqueria Ramirez and others, and much more.

The event was not only a fundraiser, but also a rallying cry to maintain the spirit of the protest movement against the Dakota Access Pipeline in the face of adversity, and many in the local community who have supported the cause in recent months came together to show their support again.

"Standing Rock is a huge template for being part of a movement," said Jaynene Johnson, who organized the event along with a group of friends and activists. "Whatever [ends up happening] out there, you can look to the example of it for people coming together in a moment's notice to create and to do something.... When we raise all of our voices together, all of our energy together, that's when we're truly powerful."

The musical acts on Saturday ranged from the solo acoustic set by longtime Train Singer and songwriter Greg Schindel, to the large ensemble of the Emandal Choral, which turned into a joyful audience participation experience with much of the crowd joining in to dance and sing.

Also amongst the bevy of local musical talent that the crowd was treated to were The Real Sarahs, Mystic Sol, The Clay Hawkins Trio, The Raging Grannies, The Farmers Market Band, The Sheds, Forrest Malakai & Sarah, Danni El, Pipe This!, Dennis Chrisp, Sarah Rose McMahon and Hal Wagenet.

All of the speakers and performers donated their time to the event, as did many other volunteers from the community in various capacities.

The money raised at the event – \$7,026 – will be distributed by the local non-profit Cloud Forest Institute in coordination with Mendo Stands With Standing Rock, "to help with clean-up, legal support and sponsoring local passionate water protectors."

Jenny Burnstadt, fiscal director of Cloud Forest Institute, spoke at the event and described the organization's goals as "to encourage communities to regain balance within ecological systems through environmental education, forest conservation, and fiscal sponsorship of likeminded local and global grassroots initiatives."

The keynote speaker Saturday was Paula Britton, tribal business administrator for the Round Valley Indian Tribes, and formerly an environmental director for various tribes including the Habematolel Pomo Tribe in Lake County. She's worked with many tribal, state and federal agencies over the years, including the EPA and the California Water Plan, studying and trying to improve environmental conditions involving water and its sources.

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At top, left: Mystic Sol and the crowd get into the groove. At top, right: "Standing Rock," acrylic on paper, 1" x 14", 2016, by artist Jazzinnh Moore.

At top: The Emandal Choir sings a joyful tune.

Above: The Sheds, with Kyle Madrigal playing the guzheng and Sarah Rose McMahon on the cello.

At left: Danni El, Dan Miller and Matt play for the crowd.

Photos by Ron Greystar



At left: Joel Mauer stands tall and "green" as the Farmers Market Band plays.

Photo by Forrest Glyer

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Thursday, March 2

Willits Winter Farmers Market: every Thursday afternoon from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Veggies, local meats and local grains, honey, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Friday, March 3

WEF Drive-Thru Tri Tip Dinner: Already sold out! Get your tickets earlier next year for the Willits Educational Foundation's dinner to benefit teachers, students and programs in the Willits Unified School District, featuring dinner for 4, with a whole tri tip, Caesar salad, beans, Emandal bread, cookies and a rose from Flowers by Annette. For ticket holders, dinners will be available for pick up between 4 and 6 pm.

Shanachie Pub: Fulfilling Prophecies, a local group featuring Morgan Stocker, Buckminster West and Bodhi Idarius. They all grew up in Ukiah, moved to Portland, grooved on punk, folk, rock, and will perform original compositions. Friday, March 3, 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, March 4

Willits Charter School Garage Sale: The WCS Peer Counseling class is having a garage sale to raise money for the Peer Counseling program and the victims of the Lake County fire. Saturday, March 4, 9 am to 1 pm. Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Students are asking their fellow Willitsians to bring donations of clothes, tools, or pretty much anything useful or decorative to the Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street, between 8 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday up until the sale on March 4. Info: Aurelie Clivaz, Mendocino County Youth Project, at 489-1258, or aclivaz@mcp.org.

Mendocino County Museum: Take the guided tour of the new exhibit: "Second Shift: 100 Years of Housework," then paint your own take-home tea towel. Saturday, March 4, from 1 to 3 pm. Tour is free with museum admission: \$4 per adult, \$1 for ages 6 to 20 , free for 5 and under. Materials for tea towel \$3. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-2736, www.MendocinoMuseum.org.

"Both Sides of Atmosphere": Beginning tonight, the March show at Willits Center for the Arts features watercolors by Donna Stropes – including a recent series of paintings of clouds – and ceramic work by Bruce Kitts, resident artist and instructor at the Mendocino Arts Center. Opening reception on Saturday, March 4 begins at 6 pm for members, 7 pm for the public. No admission. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 Commercial Street. Info: 459-1726.

Both Sides of Atmosphere

Presenting

Donna Stropes

Bruce Kitts





Opening Reception
Saturday March 4th
6 to 9 pm.

March 4th through March 26

The Trio of Trios Concert: rescheduled from an earlier date due to illness. Now Saturday, March 4 at 7 pm. The show, a benefit for Willits Community Services and Food Bank, features music by three local groups: Chanterelle, Twining Time and Just Enough. United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. "Please join us for an evening of wonderful acoustic and a capella music selections and help support a great cause!" Suggested donation: \$10. Refreshments available at intermission and after the show. Questions?: Clancy at 367-0889.

Shanachie Pub: Redbud, featuring Mendocino County locals Tobin Hendricks, Bob Dress and Yoli Rose and new guitarist Bill Thornsby. Share good vibes, rock, reggae, punk and blues. Their musical identity: "Think globally; dance locally." Saturday, March 4, 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, March 5

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop: Richard "Tootrees" Jeske presents an outdoor workshop on fruit tree pruning at the Laytonville Ecovillage on how to successfully grow fruit in our area, where to plant, which varieties to buy, and how to care for your trees. Bring pruning shears, a fruit tree ladder (if you have one), and rain gear as the workshop will

Senior Center. Bingo cards \$10 a pack. Lunch choices: Hot Dog, Nachos, Chili, Chips, Dessert, plus a special Reuben sandwich w pasta. Sunday, March 5. Doors open 10 am; snack bar opens 11 am; bingo begins at 11:30 pm. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Tommy Castro at the Grange: "Funky and soulful Tommy Castro and the Painkillers bring songs from their new album, 'Method to My Madness,' celebrating the basics of raw blues and rock" to the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Proceeds to benefit Willits Future Farmers of America Alumni. With silent auction and dinner. Doors open 5 pm; dinner through 6:30 pm; music starts at 7 pm. Tickets \$25; pre-sale dinner tickets (choice of chicken or veggie entrée with rice and beans) are available for \$10, at Moon Lady, Sparetime Supply and Main Street Music and Video. Plus dessert bar. Info: 459-0211.

Tuesday, March 7

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: "Batman Lego" and "John Wick 2." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Twining Time at Brickhouse Coffee: John Wagenet and Anita Blu of Twining Time play the first Tuesday of every month, March 7 this month, at Brickhouse Coffee

at the corner of Highway 101 and East Commercial Street. Enjoy live easy listening Folk/Americana music from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. 3 South Main Street, 459-1598. Visit Twining Time on Facebook or www.reverbnation.com/johnwagenet.

"Break the Childhood Obesity Cycle": Avenues to Wellness presents its first Tuesday of the month speaker series featuring Heather Criss, public health educator, who will lecture on understanding the environmental and social causes of childhood obesity. Tuesday, March 7, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Learn how Mendocino County compares to California statistics, and discover how we can work together as a community to improve our children's health for the long term." Criss has worked for three years on a federally funded Obesity Prevention grant, aimed at decreasing the rate of chronic diseases associated with. Info: 456-9676

or visit www.avenuestowellness.org for upcoming speaker topics and a video archive of past events.

Wednesday, March 8

Lifeguard Training: Enroll at Mendocino College for Lifeguard Class which starts today, Wednesday, March 8 at the North County Center's Museum Classroom 3, 400 East Commercial Street. Class meets on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8:50 pm starting March 8 and ending on May 24. The class will also meet on 6 Saturdays (April 1, 22, and 29, May 6, 13, and 20) from 9 am to 4:50 pm at the Willits High School Pool. Students who successfully complete all course requirements, attending all classes, and are at least 15 years old by May 24, will receive American Red Cross certifications for "Lifeguarding: Community

First Aid & Safety; CPR for the Professional Rescuer; First Aid for Public Safety Personnel." All certifications will be valid for two years. Enrollment fees for

high school students are as low as \$89. For more information, please call 459-6224, or visit www.mendocino.edu.

Thursday, March 9

Willits Winter Farmers Market: every Thursday afternoon from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Veggies, local meats and local grains, honey, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. This week's live music is by Ron O'Brien, playing his own solo acoustic guitar arrangements, from rock to Rachmaninoff.

WHS Booster Club Meeting: The monthly Willits High School Booster Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, March 9, at the Willits High School Food Center. This week is the annual Boosters election of new board members: The club is in serious need of new members and all positions within the club are available. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS. Willits High School Food Center, 299 North Main Street. Info: whsboosters123@yahoo.com.

Friday, March 10

Big Chili Cookoff Funtime Event: The Harrah Senior Center and the Willits Rotary Club present the 10th Annual Chili Cookoff. Be a taster, to help award prizes for Hottest Chili, People's Choice Chili, or Best Booth. Chili entries from organizations, clubs, businesses and individuals still welcome (\$25 registration fee). Public invited for an assortment of chilis, served with fresh-baked corn bread, plus \$2 root beer floats. Taster's Ticket: \$8 for adults, \$7 for senior center members, \$5 for children. Saturday, March 10. 5:30 to 7 pm. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Shanachie Pub: Holus Bolus (which means "All at Once") is one person, multi-instrumentalist Tom Boylan. He builds songs one layer at a time, coalescing into one sound that's acoustic-psychedelic groove-rock. Friday, March 10. 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, March 11

Winter Carnival: The School for Adaptive Agriculture is throwing a fundraiser shindig with music, food, art, crafts, and talent. Music by local favorites including Charley Crockett, Schindig, The Real Sarahs, Pick & Pull, House of Mary, plus The Cult of Ours. Special activities for kids will include a bounce house, arts and crafts area, carnival games, and surprises. Optional dinner available for purchase, silent and live auction items, as well as raffle items. Tickets \$30 adults (all day); \$20 adults (after 5 pm); \$10 for kids age 5 and up; kids under 5 are free. Tickets available online at Eventbrite.com and in Willits at J.D. Redhouse and Earth's Treasures. Saturday, March 11 from 12 noon to 10 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Tickets online at Eventbrite.com, and at J.D. Redhouse, and Earth's Treasures.

Shanachie Pub: Mendo Dope, featuring Daniel and Bryan Eatmon aka "Old E" and "Bleezy," brothers who grew up in Northern California's Emerald Triangle, Mendocino County. Their rhyming groove "infuses a west coast style flow with a cannabis culture lifestyle." With special guests Cheech, P Did It, Cuban B, King BZ, & Mr. Blap. Saturday, March 11, 9 pm. \$10 cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, March 12

Starhawk in Willits: "Head, Heart, and Hands: Hope and Action in Challenging Times," a "community empowerment workshop celebrating hope in dark times and sharpening our skills to forge solutions to the problems we face." A fundraiser for the Willits Environmental Center, featuring Starhawk, internationally known leader in the revival of earth-based spirituality and Goddess religion, and author of many books, including "The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess" and "The Fifth Sacred Thing." Permaculture, ritual and community facilitation. Bring your own lunch. Sunday, March 12. 10 am to 5 pm. Sliding scale \$50 to \$75. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: Traci at 357-5693.

Starhawk's

Heart, Head & Hands:

Hope and Action in Challenging Times

— Fundraiser for WEC —

March 12th, 2017

Little Lake Grange 10-5pm

When the world seems headed on a course of destruction, what do we need to maintain hope and keep moving forward to build a world of justice and balance? We need heart connections — with support for community that can allow us to grieve and help us move through anger and fear to compassion and commitment. We need long term thinking and strategic planning. And we need the skills and courage to take action — whether that's blocking a pipeline or planting a garden. Join Starhawk and spend a day of feeding the spirit and sharpening our tools. This workshop weaves together an introduction to permaculture design with ritual and ceremony to help us connect to our ancestral roots and deep emotions, analysis and strategy tools for planning and organizing, and nature connection to renew the spirit.



\$50-75 Sliding Scale

Register at the door.

Bring your own lunch. We'll bring our lunch break. Treats and Coffee for purchase.

For information call 707-357-5693

Lifeguard Training at Mendo College

Class starts March 8

Mendocino College Lifeguard class begins March 8, at the North County Center's Museum Classroom 3, 400 East Commercial Street in Willits. Class meets on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8:50 pm starting March 8 and ending on May 24. The class will also meet on 6 Saturdays (April 1, 22, and 29, May 6, 13, and 20) from 9 am to 4:50 pm at the Willits High School pool. Students who successfully complete all course requirements, attend all classes, and are at least 15 years old by May 24, will receive American Red Cross certifications for "Lifeguarding; Community First Aid & Safety; CPR for the Professional Rescuer; First Aid for Public Safety Personnel." All certifications will be valid for two years.

Enrollment fees for high school students are as low as \$89. A digital version of the required textbook can be downloaded for free via the internet at redcross.org. Students must have access to the textbook to complete all the required assignments. For more information, please call 459-6224, or visit www.mendocino.edu.

Add your local event to our Calendar – just send us an email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Ongoing Events

Willits Winter Farmers Market: every Thursday afternoon from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Veggies, local meats and local grains, honey, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Free Positive Parenting Group: "Systematic Training for Effective Parenting" classes are parental guidance workshops for parents of children ages 4-12. Thursday, 9 to 10:30 am, at Brookside Elementary School, Room 25. Last two classes: March 2 and March 9. Open to all families with children in the Willits Unified School District. Breakfast is included. Classes are free. Drop-ins OK. Info: Jackie Herz, 459-3232.

Bi-Monthly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Meeting: Join Linda and guests every 2nd and 4th Monday, 10:30 to 11:30 am. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941

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

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

Free Seeds for your Garden: "Check out" flower, vegetable, and herb seeds to plant in your garden. After the plants are done, save the seeds, label them and return them to Will Minor at Willits Public Library. Heirloom seeds only. No GMO and no hybrids! Questions? Call Will at 459-5908, e-mail him at minorw@co.mendocino.ca.us, or see him at the library desk.

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

Drop-in Knitting Circle: every Saturday of the month, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your own projects or your yarn and needles; we have people who should be able to help solve problems and/or help you learn to knit or crochet. Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in." Info: Lotus Baker at 456-9037, or lotusb3@earthlink.net.

Library Coloring Club: Want a little color in your life? Then by all means, come to the library! The Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, is hosting a Library Coloring Club, every Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm for ages 14 and up. "We've got the crayons and the paper – your bring the imagination."

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

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

Volleyball Open Gym: at Baechtel Grove gym; Sundays 7:30 pm and Tuesdays at 8:30 pm. Some experience desired, but not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

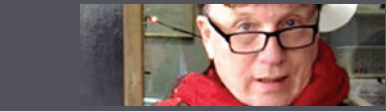
Smoking Cessation Program: Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the HHM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

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 6:30 pm; Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5 pm to 6 pm; Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 pm to 7 pm; Twens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 pm to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Singer songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday, 8 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 8 pm. No cover. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic Night every Wednesday, 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7:30 pm; pre-signup list starts at 3 pm when the Pub opens. "An eclectic array of local musicians and even performers from around the world!" 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays, November through May, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Local fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan goat cheeses, ranch meats, eggs, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

COLUMN | At the Movies



'John Wick: Chapter Two'

The Story: Murder and revenge powers more hand-to-hand slaughter than I ever imagined possible; or rather, more than I ever thought might be entertaining. In this case, John Wick (Keanu "tai chi master" Reeves) is forced pretty much against his will to assassinate a person he rather likes. And then, the treacherous relative of the deceased goes after Wicks with a slaughter force

composed of "Thugs-R-Us" heavies. But, as we no doubt already know, against John Wicks those poor thugsies don't have a chance in hell. Blood everywhere. Poor thugsies. Sequel already in the works.

My Thoughts: This is a genre movie: a "professional hit man wants to settle down in peace but they just won't let him" movie. It could have been a Tarantino effort. It could have been a Peckinpah booze-driven, existential statement. It might possibly have been a second-billed Roger Corman drive-in flick. Heck, there is unquestionably a tip of the hat to Bruce Lee and "Enter the Dragon." Keanu Reeves is a real tai chi master and rumors have it he did all his own stunts. I believe it. The fight choreographies are tight – very, very well done. On the one hand, "John Wick: Chapter Two" is a lousy date movie, but for boyfriends or girlfriends of the genre, it's kick-ass good. I myself loved the flick!

Parents: Not for children. Too graphic. Too brutal. High body count. Teens and up.

Willisian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination. Senior Center Lunch.



BINGO

St. Patrick's Day



Sunday March 5th

Harrah Senior Center

1501 Baechtel Rd

459-6826

Doors open @ 10am

Snack bar opens @ 11am

Games begin 11:30am

Minimum Bingo buy-in \$10

Lunch Special—Reuben Sandwich With Pasta

Lunch Special
Hot Dog
Nachos
Chili
Chips
Desserts

BRING A FRIEND AND RECEIVE A SURPRISE

Senior Center Lunch

March 6 through March 10

Monday: Spaghetti/Meat sauce

Tuesday: Chili Cheese Dog

Wednesday: Salisbury Steak

Thursday: Chicken Enchilada Bake

Friday: Pork Chops

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

10th Annual Chili Cookoff - Friday, March 10

The Harrah Senior Center presents its 10th annual Chili Cookoff – Organizations, clubs, businesses and individuals are cordially invited to enter their chili (\$25 registration fee) for a chance to win a great prize and bragging rights! Friday, March 10 from 5:30 to 7 pm at Harrah Senior Center, 1601 Baechtel Road. Prizes for People's Choice, Hottest Chili, and Best Booth/Dressed. Served with fresh-baked corn bread plus root beer floats for \$2. Tasters tickets: \$8 for adults; \$7 senior center members; \$5 children. Info: 459-6826.

Big Book-Room Bash

Saturday, March 18

Friends of the Long Valley Library presents the "Big Book-Room One-Year Birthday Bash" to celebrate the Book Room's one-year anniversary, on Saturday, March 18, from 12 to 4 pm, at the Laytonville Book Room, 200 Branscomb Road. The Book Room, which has amassed a collection of 4,000 volumes, "serves readers, library-lovers, researchers, kibitzers and those looking for great gifts by selling books at almost free prices." At the Bash, meet with Water Protector Atta Stevenson of the Cahto Tribe who will be talking about Standing Rock, her work and experiences there. Also, hear author Earlene Gleisner who will introduce her just-published book of fiction, "The Spirit Bundle." (Copies will be available for purchase and signing.) Refreshments by Laytonville neighbors. Info: Shawn at shawnee84@gmail.com.

34th Annual Women's History Gala

Sunday, March 5

The 34th Annual Women's History Gala Celebration is set for Sunday, March 5, 12:30 pm, at the Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse, 107 South Oak Street, Ukiah. Sponsored by Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, AAUW-Ukiah, Ukiah Saturday Afternoon Club, and Cloud Forest Institute. Honoring "Women Trailblazers in Business." Special guest: former California Superintendent of Schools and candidate for California governor, Delaine Eastin. \$10 at the door. Questions: Gala Chair Katarzyna Rolzinski at 468-9003.

Duane Brown Memorial Dinner

Saturday, March 18

The American Legion Willits Post #174 presents the annual St. Patrick's Day "Duane Brown Memorial Dinner, on Saturday, March 18, from 5 to 7 pm. Veterans Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street. Featuring Corned Beef & Cabbage, Murphy's Spuds, Carrots, Onions, etc. and Dessert. Tickets may be purchased at the door: \$18 for adults; \$9 kids under 12; kids under 5 are free.

WCA Wants You!

The Willits Center for the Arts is thriving with our expanded hours, stunning art shows, classes and beautiful rental space, but we can't do it without you. We are seeking volunteer docents to sit the gallery once or twice a month. The gallery is open 11 to 5 pm Wednesday through Sunday; we separate the shifts into 11 am to 2 pm or 2 to 5 pm. Weekend spots are especially needed.

Sitting the gallery involves welcoming visitors, answering questions about the artwork if needed, and making sales. If you are interested, our manager Holly Madrigal will walk you through the opening or closing process. You are welcome to read, make art or listen to music while at the gallery. We also have Wi-Fi internet access for the docents' use. One of our docents said she loves seeing the changing art shows when she volunteers. It is her chance to take her time and absorb the artwork. If you are interested contact Holly 459-1726 or WCArental@gmail.com

– Willits Center for the Arts

Immigration Policies Town Hall

Sunday, March 19

The 95490 Community Town Hall group presents a Town Hall meeting on "Immigration Policies and the Greater Willits and North County Regions: How Do These Affect Us? What Can We Do?" at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, from 3:30 to 6 pm on Sunday, March 19. Confirmed panelists so far include: Sheriff Tom Altman; City of Willits Mayor Gerry Gonzalez; Willits City Councilwoman Saprina Rodriguez; and immigration specialist for Congressman Jared Huffman, Heather Gurewitz. Panelist presentations will be followed by a moderated public discussion. Info: Jim Marill 707-513-9981 or Jane McCabe 707-540-3802.



Make Silent Auction Refreshments ***

\$10 at Door Everyone Welcome



34th Annual Women's History Gala Celebration

Sunday, March 5, 2017

12:30 pm

"Honoring Trailblazing Women in Business"

MC: Madge Strong

Willits City Councilwoman

Rocio Ortega's

Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse

107 South Oak Street,

Ukiah, CA

Mendocino Women's Political Coalition (MWPC)

PO Box 1149 Ukiah CA 95608

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AAUW

USAC

Cloud Forest Institute

Guest Speaker



Delaine Eastin

California Governor

MAKE-A-WISH

Greater Bay Area

WHS Senior Project Fundraiser

Come Help Julia & Jamie sponsor a Childs wish!

Saturday, March 25, 2017

Willits Community Center

111 E. Commercial St.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Live Auction at 7:30 p.m.

\$10.00 admission

Children 5 and under free

Dinner will be available for purchase, provided by Taqueria Ramirez.

No host bar provided by Kiwanis of Willits.

If you have any questions, would like to purchase pre-sale tickets or make a monetary donation please call Julia (707) 272-1480

Pg.6 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Willits Weekly | March 2, 2017

Willits Weekly | March 2, 2017

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Pg. 7



From left:
The Youth Poetry Slam at Brickhouse Coffee.
Nikolai Ritchley delights the crowd with some stand-up jokes.
Dan Roberts performs his tribute to Judy Bari: "Give Charlie The Moon."
Below, from top:
Tom Mann plays host at Brickhouse Coffee for the evening.
Forrest performs his religiously inspired hip-hop poetry.
Levi, Paige and Sheila Persico prepare to enjoy an evening of spoken word.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Youth Poetry Slam

Open mic at Brickhouse Coffee 'gets better and better all the time'

Brickhouse Coffee hosted the sixth Youth Poetry Slam last Friday evening, and as Mendocino County Youth Project member Billy Hetherington declared to a full house of supportive spoken-word enthusiasts: "It just gets better and better all the time."

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com
An array of poets, storytellers, hip-hop freestylers, and even a young stand-up comedian signed their names to the open mic list and kept the audience entertained and awed throughout the evening.

Tom Mann, owner of Brickhouse Coffee, kept the audience and performers satiated and hydrated.

Tristen Cockrall, a recent graduate of Sanhedrin High School, played the role of emcee, and explained to Willits Weekly the importance of spoken word and its influences on the youth in the community.

"Poetry is such a pure way for people to come and express themselves and make friends," said Cockrall. "People really get moved by it. If someone is really lonely or down and depressed, and they go to some poetry and share that with everybody, and come out of their comfort zone, they realize that there are so many people in the crowd feeling the same way."

One of the first poets of the evening, Katie Madison, expressed just that sentiment before reciting her poem "The Tunnel of Life."

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"Since this is a safe place, I thought it would be really nice for me, and for everybody else who can possibly relate, to [share this piece]," Madison told the crowd.

"This is a beautiful thing," Hetherington said of the event. "I love that Tristen is stepping up and taking this on and that you guys keep coming back. I grew up around here. I know what it's like. It's easy to get distracted. It's nice to have spaces like this where you can feel safe enough to bare your soul. I like it when people come and say they're just here to listen and not share, and then a few people later, they're signing up [to read]. That's success to me, and I love that."

Tristen credited Hetherington, and other youth workers Aurelie Clivaz and Carter Lane with inspiring him to become co-director of Youth Poetry Night.

"I went to one of the poetry nights, and I liked it," said Cockrall. "I stayed in contact with Billy and Aurelie. I saw them at school, and they knew I recently had a child and that I really wanted to be a youth worker."

From there, Cockrall joined forces with other artists in Ukiah to create a "big, giant galaxy mural" as part of a Youth Action Party.

Cockrall is currently accepting submissions from youth for an art showing at Brickhouse Coffee to be scheduled sometime in the near future.

"It's going to be for the Youth Poetry Slam and the art show," Cockrall said. "The art show is going to run anywhere from two days to a month after the poetry slam. It's a perfect opportunity to get recognition in the art and poetry world."

Interested artists are encouraged to contact Cockrall at 349-0356, or at tristencockrall.te@gmail.com

The following are excerpts from some of Friday's performers:
"But when I see you, you are so broken and shattered, just like me. Which means that I will take your salted wounds and instead of sugar, I will pour upon them, honey."
– McKenna McNelley (from "I Prefer Honey Over Your Sugar")

Read the rest of Poetry Over on Page 9



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The rest of Water From Page 3

from the Oceti Sakowin, one of the main camps at Standing Rock, were forcibly removed by police and federal authorities, and over 40 were arrested. Still legal actions and protests continue against the pipeline, including a "Rise with Standing Rock" Native Nations March planned in Washington D.C. on March 10.

"We have to just keep going, and we have to encourage each other to keep going with whatever it is you're doing on a daily basis," said Britton. "I tell [young people], don't be a bright light by yourself, you need to join with others in order to get things done. And I would say that to this same group. As a community we need to figure out how we can help even more."

Willits activist Sierra Rose Alexander gave a moving slide show presentation of her many experiences at Standing Rock, and she agreed with the need to keep fighting for indigenous and environmental justice.

"You really can think of the front lines as everywhere, and that you can have an impact wherever you are," said Alexander, who grew up on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in southeastern Montana, and has worked at Green Uprising Farms in the Willits area.

"So let's keep this fire burning. It's lit a fire in all of us. Just don't let it fizzle out. Whatever happens, we still go on. Even if the pipe goes in the ground, we still have a big victory, and a lot of people are awakening."

Throughout the event, Britton, Alexander and others spoke about what led them to go to Standing Rock, how being there changed them, and the importance of keeping the movement that coalesced there going. Britton called her experience there "truly, truly moving."

Sara Grusky, a co-owner and co-founder of Green Uprising Farms, who was another speaker at the fundraiser, said she was drawn to the No DAPL cause after protesting against the Willits bypass, and saw parallels with both movements involving Native American rights, and environmental water issues.

"I can't even articulate how amazing it was to be a part of that," she said about being at the Standing Rock camps. "To feel the strength and the generosity, the dedication, the resistance, the community that we just built in the moment of necessity. It'll have to happen again and again in these times."

Johnson said that while she had thought of organizing such a benefit months ago, it really came together over the last few weeks before the show through weekly meetings with a small group, but many others from the local area were quick to rally and help.

"The community was super generous with us within that short amount of time," she said. "It feels great.... It really was fluid the way it all came together. And I just attribute it to living in a really great community."

Among the core group of organizers was Kyle Madrigal, who took the lead on gathering the musical talent. He also played in four of the musical acts on Saturday, helped with stage management, and coordinated playing the entire show live on the Willits radio station, KLLG, 97.9. He said this is a practice KLLG will likely repeat for future shows at the Grange.

Jazzminh Moore was another who played a big part in organizing the event, leading the effort to get items from artists and businesses to donate for the silent auction.

She also created the art for the event poster, which was one in a series of five paintings she did called "The Liberty Series," with the goal of using the proceeds to support Standing Rock. She said she created the first one the day Donald Trump was elected and the last the day he was inaugurated.

"I wanted to be able to do something tangible, and not just forward Facebook posts about news.... And so creating work that can then be printed and all the proceeds donated to Standing Rock is something that I could do in physical reality (to help)."

Other artists and craftspeople who donated included Cyndee Logan, who also helped with planning the event, Jacob Souk, Joel Mauer, John Roussos, Jane Ghotlos, Robin Goldner, Elizabeth Raybee, Erik Leons, and Ron Greystar, who did photography for the event.

Businesses and groups who donated included Re Evolution, Paradigm, Testa Vineyards, Parducci, Willits Center for the Arts, Holistic Health Consultation, East Hill House Herbs, Low Gap Whiskey and American Craft Whiskey.

Johnson also wanted to give thanks to Katrina Weaver, Lyndsey Be, Jacob Stillman, and the many, many others who donated their time and efforts.

Joel Mauer, in addition to donating his art, also helped with organizing and planning, led a yoga and meditation session at the event, and gave the last speech of the night, talking passionately about his experiences at Standing Rock.

"It was an honor to be there," he said. "It was hard. It was cold. It was uncomfortable. But I felt blessed and we all did. Everything that we did felt filled with radiance and energy.... This movement is continuing on. And the question is, 'What do we do with it? How do we marshal this energy into a directive; a focused, creative place? How do we create the world that we want to see?'.... There's a marriage between thought and action that must come into play."

Willits Weekly | March 2, 2017

The rest of CEO From Page 1

excellence."

Wells will leave his position as chief operating officer of Physician Enterprise and vice president of Experience at Park Ridge Health, a 103-bed hospital near Asheville, North Carolina. In this capacity, he oversaw business development and strategy, marketing and communications, hospital and clinic patient experience, and the operations of 38 medical practices. During his tenure, more than 50 physicians and providers and several new specialties were added to the network.

Additionally, Wells provided executive oversight of several significant accomplishments including national recognition for multiple years as a top 100 healthcare employer in Becker's Healthcare Review and the 2015 best performer in the state of North Carolina on hospital HCAHPS "willingness to recommend."

"Jason's background includes leading organizations to achieve high patient satisfaction and experience ratings, a natural fit for Howard Memorial Hospital, which routinely receives exceptionally high scores from patients. Additionally, he has extensive experience in physician recruiting, a significant focus for Howard Memorial Hospital and the Mendocino County community," adds Eller.

Wells, who is passionate about improving the patient experience and physician recruitment, says he's looking forward to partnering with providers and the community to bring in more physicians to fully utilize this impressive facility delivering exceptional care for our community.

"I am humbled to have been selected to lead such an impressive community treasure as Howard Memorial Hospital. As the largest employer in Willits, we play a key role in economic development for Willits and the greater region. And this is such a pivotal time for the hospital and the community as we work together to find innovative ways to deal with the impacts of the new bypass. The new hospital is state-of-the-art, and it complements the exceptional providers and staff. I'm looking forward to building on that reputation for great care so we can draw people in to experience this unique hospital in such a great community."

Asked what brought him to Willits, Wells says he loves the small-town feel. "My wife and I both lived in small towns. She grew up in Fall River Mills, California, and her parents still live there, and they are thrilled to have their grandchildren close by."

"We are excited to be moving to Willits. There is something special about truly connecting with friends in a small town that is lost in a large urban setting. We experienced the friendly spirit of Willits during our visit in January and have been excited about making the move and making new friendships and exploring everything that the community has to offer," he adds.

Kevin Erich, who took over HMH's leadership temporarily while the search for the new CEO was underway, says he feels confident that he is leaving the hospital in Wells' capable hands. "As much as I have loved my time here, I'm excited to have Jason assume leadership over this hospital and community that's really close to my heart. With his energy and experience, I'm confident that he will do well and he will take HMH's exceptional care to the next level."

The community is invited for an open house to meet the hospital's new CEO. The open house will be held on Thursday, March 30 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Main Lobby of the new hospital on 1 Marcela Drive. Appetizers and refreshments will be served.

At right: The new CEO for Howard Hospital, Jason Wells.

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

February 20 to February 26

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 142 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

February 20

8:39 am: Officers initiated an assault investigation in the 10 block of Creekside Court.

10:20 am: Officers initiated a death investigation in the 100 block of Margie Drive.

11:38 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 10 block of West Valley Street.

12:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 10 block of West Valley Street.

12:24 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

12:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 300 block of South Main Street.

1:35 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

5:02 pm: Officers responded to a reported trespassing in the 60 block of Hillside Drive.

6:00 pm: Officers responded to a reported trespassing in the 60 block of Hillside Drive.

February 21

4:07 am: Officers responded to a reported disturbance in the 40 block of Bush Street.

11:36 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

5:32 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

February 22

3:08 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

5:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of East Valley Street.

10:10 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 800 block of South Main Street.

February 23

12:00 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of East Valley Street.

2:14 am: Officers initiated a death investigation in the 10 block of Alder Court.

11:24 am: Officers responded to a hit-and-run collision in the 300 block of South Main Street.

The rest of Poetry From Page 8

*"When you left me I felt the muffling darkness
Close in tighter and tighter.
You told me in your very own words that
God only gives us what we can handle
And those words now hold an immense
amount of wisdom."*

– Katie Madison
(from "The Tunnel of Life")

*"This poem does not yet exist. Passing
through the filters of my own perception,
reverberating inside my body and coming
out of my mouth. This poem is this moment
and this moment is the only one we ever
really have."*

– Michael Jaguar
(from a freestyle performance)

*"Why did the cookie go to the doctor?
Because he felt crumbly."*

– Nikolai Ritchley
(from his list of memorized jokes)

*"There are so many things
I've learned to love. The
way my mother laughs,
how her head tips back and
her eyes close. When you
can tell someone is smiling
even though you can't see
their face. Singing in the
car at night. Somehow,*

3:44 pm: Officers responded to a reported skate park violation in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road and issued a warning.

3:55 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street.

February 24

8:19 am: Officers responded to a report of a possible hitchhiker under the influence of a controlled substance on Highway 101 between mile markers 40 and 50.

12:50 pm: HEPPE, Patrick Andrew (30) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to 245 (A) (1) PC (Assault with a Deadly Weapon).

4:22 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

9:13 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

February 25

2:02 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

8:27 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

10:14 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

1:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person on Marin Street.

5:23 pm: CARVER, Jeffrey Wayne (33) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Holly Street and arrested pursuant to 647(F) PC (Public Intoxication).

11:11 pm: Officers responded to a reported trespassing in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

11:45 pm: FONTAINETUCKER, Heidi April (41) of Willits was contacted in the 40 block of Bush Street and arrested pursuant to 243 (E)(1) (Domestic Battery).

February 26

1:31 am: MUNYERIA, Gitahi (35) of Chicago, Illinois was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to 647(F) PC (Public Intoxication).

7:51 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

11:38 am: Officers responded to a reported fight in the 500 block of East Commercial Street.

3:59 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1600 block of Baechtel Road.

having the world fly by you makes the music 100%."

– Jocelyn Bebe (from "A Couple Words Strung Together About the Little Things")

*"Will we be friends or will we be foes?
Will we be content with the decisions we
chose?*

Will we look forward to the past to unfold?

Or will we stay stripped like a delicate rose?"

– Dahve Hooper
(from "Would We Be Friends")

"There is no quick fix solution.

All those methods just create more pollution.

The only way to truly feel deep satisfaction

Is to recognize the power of your every action."

– Aurelie Clivaz
(from "The Zombie Apocalypse")

*"It's time for a better solution/solar power
from the sun/it's sustainable/it's part of our
evolution/pay attention to the world and the
issues that surround you/mother nature is so
bountiful but why do we take it for granted/
It's about time we start thinking about all the
people that live on the planet."*

– Thomas Bender (from "Truth")



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From left: "Valley Morning" and an untitled watercolor by Donna Stropes. Below: One of artist Bruce Kitts' ceramic pieces. At bottom, from left: Watercolors "In the Clouds," "Into the Mist," and "Harbor of Dunoon Scotland," by Donna Stropes.

‘Both Sides of Atmosphere’

March show at the Arts Center features artists Donna Stropes, Bruce Kitts

The March show at the Willits Center for the Arts is entitled “Both Sides of Atmosphere,” and features watercolors by Willits artist Donna Stropes and ceramics work by Bruce Kitts, current artist in residence at the Mendocino Art Center.

The opening reception for the show is set for Saturday, March 4 at the Arts Center, 71 East Commercial Street, from 6 to 9 pm.

The paintings Stropes chose for this exhibit are mostly of recent work, including a series of paintings of clouds. “About a year ago, I started to paint clouds,” Stropes said. “I’ve always done a lot of things that were ‘atmospheric,’ with light and sunrise or sunset, but I never really did clouds. I left clouds out of so many of my early landscapes!”

“But living up on the hill,” she continued, “I look up and see these beautiful clouds. There’s a pasture across Sherwood Road

with an open view, and we have the most beautiful sunsets, especially when it’s cloudy. I’ve been looking at these clouds for a long time, but all of a sudden I started wanting to paint them.”

Other watercolors in the show feature a different kind of “atmosphere” – the fog. “I like painting trees and mist and fog,” Stropes said. “I love our foggy mornings.”

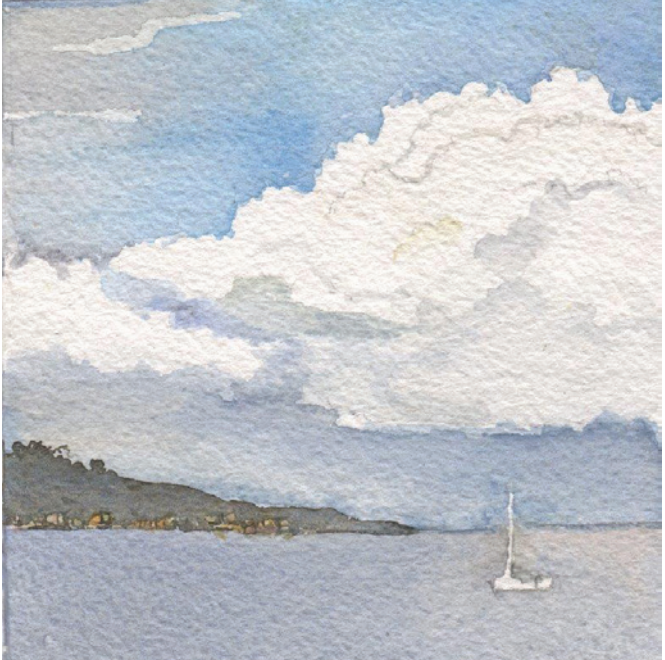
Stropes told a story about how she and Kitts, along with curator Gary Martin and her husband, Larry Stropes, talked about what they should name the show. Larry favored “Both Sides Now,” after the Judy Collins song about clouds (and life and love), and another suggestion was to make a title out of the Willie Nelson song, “Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground.”

But after Kitts talked about how he glazes his pottery, blowing “atmosphere” into the kiln, that struck a chord with all. “I like the atmosphere,” Stropes said. “I like the clouds and whatever is going on in the space up there, and that’s how we came

up with the theme.”

Illinois artist Bruce Kitts, who is spending the year as a resident artist and instructor at the Mendocino Art Center, has contributed a dozen pieces – all for sale – to WCA’s March show. “My most recent work focuses on showing the inherent qualities of clay,” he said. “Leaving parts unglazed, over slipping attachments and letting the slip squeeze out the sides, showing ripped edges, leaving marks on the surface; these are all examples of letting the clay speak for itself. Texture and surface play an enormous part in my work. I try not to let any part of the surface go without attention. By utilizing the atmospheric firings provided at the Mendocino Art Center, many of the minute surface details become far more pronounced.”

“Both Sides of Atmosphere” runs through March 26. Winter gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-1726.



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The rest of Roads From Page 1

The damage on Orr Springs Road occurred at milepost marker 39.2, some 4 miles west of Ukiah, where the hillside under the road slipped out, leaving a huge crater and taking about three-quarters of the road with it.

County road crews have closed the entire road.

On Tuesday, Dashiell said his crews were busy putting in a bridge to make the road passable to one-lane traffic.

“We’re working on it now,” he said. “We’re drilling holes now to measure compaction and density. So far, it seems good down there.

“Once we put the bridge in, we will watch it carefully to see how it holds up,” he said. “If we see cracks forming, we’ll have to close the road again.”

A permanent fix might cost anywhere between \$1 million and \$1.5 million, Dashiell said. He was hesitant to give an estimate of when that fix might be in place.

“If I say this summer, and then it doesn’t happen this summer, then everyone will be mad at me, so I won’t say that,” he said. “It could be as early as this summer, though, if all the planets align. But a lot of these major repairs come in two or three years after the event.”

Mountain View Road is the main connector between Point Arena and Boonville. According to Dashiell, the road has had problems in different locations. In December, it was assailed by a collapsing culvert. Road crews stabilized it. Then, in January, there was a major slide that took out one lane.

“We still have at least a lane, everywhere along the road,” he said.

The Laytonville-Dos Rios Road is a secondary access road, that connects Laytonville with Dos Rios and Covelo. It is 13 miles long and saves locals who want to get to Dos Rios from Laytonville some 10 miles, when compared to the alternate route of going down to Highway 162 and then up to Dos Rios.

Dashiell said a section of the road near a creek has developed several slips. “The road is closed, officially. “Now, some of the guys up there who have these monster trucks, they are able to get through,” he added. “There’s nothing we can do about that. There is sort of one lane open to the left. We have been watching it. It isn’t getting any worse, but I am advising people to go around.”

Branscomb Road connects Laytonville with the coast, near Westport. For about 10 miles, the road runs along the South Fork of the Eel River. During intense winter storms, the river eroded the bank, and part of the road slipped out. One lane remains open. “It hasn’t gotten any worse,” said Dashiell.

Peachland Road starts up about a mile north of Philo and runs north for about four miles. Dashiell said a slip developed and his crews closed the roadway, but – as with the Laytonville-Dos Rios Road – some of the locals with big, four-wheel-drive trucks are ignoring the signs and going around the slip.

Dashiell estimated the total cost of repairs for all 30 roads with problems will reach about \$7 million. He added that the Federal Emergency Management Authority and the Emergency Management Authority of California have visited the county to assess damage in various locations.

The Federal Highway Authority pays 88.53 percent of costs to repair roads that are part of the Federal Highway System, as Mountain View Road and Orr Springs Road are.

FEMA pays 75 percent for damages on roads that are not part of the Federal Highway System, and when FEMA pays, often but not always, Cal-EMA will engage to pay approximately 80 percent of the remaining 25 percent. According to Dashiell, this means that in the best-case scenario, Mendocino County will have to pay 6.25 percent of the cost of major road repairs when FEMA and Cal-EMA have engaged but the FHA has not.

“We could have some damage we don’t get reimbursed for,” Dashiell warned.

Continued delays at 101 southern interchange

Meanwhile, winter storms have caused an ongoing slide at the southbound Highway 101 on-ramp south of Willits.

According to Caltrans Public Information Officer Phil Frisbie, work crews are engaged in maintenance work at the site, where mud and boulders are slowly sliding down the hillside onto the road. Frisbie said southbound motorists should expect intermittent delays of up to 10 minutes as crews “swap out dump trucks.”

The work is ongoing on most week days from 7 am to 7 pm.

Local Caltrans employees say sometimes delays are longer, and are recommending – unofficially – that Willits residents heading south consider taking the northern interchange to get on the highway.

Once the rains stop and the next season of stable warm weather begins, Caltrans will begin work to permanently fix the slipping hillside, Frisbie said. He said motorists should expect that work to continue at least until early summer.

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The rest of Ordinance From Page 1

While the committee recommends the city allow a plethora of cannabis-related businesses – including indoor cultivation, nurseries, manufacturing, testing, dispensaries, distribution and transportation operations – considerable contention remains regarding specific areas.

They include:

- The current recommendation to prohibit the use of volatile solvents for the purposes of cannabis manufacturing;

- Placing a cap on the number of use permits for cannabis-related businesses;

- The current recommendation to allow for indoor-only cultivation;

- Buffer zones between “sensitive receptors” and cannabis businesses.

In his report, Duley iterated the committee’s recommendation to allow for the use of only non-volatile solvents for cannabis manufacturing purposes.

“Given the safety risk of many processes using volatile solvents, as noted in discussions with the Little Lake Fire Department, the ad hoc committee is recommending only manufacturing using non-volatile solvents be allowed,” Duley said.

During public comment, Lee Jensen, who identified himself as a biochemist specializing “in the medical properties of marijuana,” strongly disagreed with the committee’s recommendation.

“What I want to do is to be able to separate the various cannabinoids for their potentially different medical benefits,” Jensen said. “If you limit us to not allowing volatile solvents, you’ll pretty much kill that process.

“With proper training,” he argued, “using certain volatile solutions is very manageable. In a testing facility, you’re going to need volatile solvents. I would encourage you to at least allow liquid volatile solvents. You would hamper us from doing proper extension of medical research and extraction if you disallowed [them].”

Dell Potter, who said he’s been a cannabis cultivator since 2010, agreed.

“I would suggest you revisit the idea of hydrocarbon extraction and volatile extraction,” Potter said. “When it’s performed with certified equipment in a class-1, division-1 lab where there’s no chance of combustion or spark, it’s completely safe. I think it’s used throughout the chemical and food industry, and is a common method with safety protocols available for it.”

While Councilmember Ron Orenstein voiced his support of putting a cap on the number of use permits granted cannabis businesses, he warned the process for deciding who gets a permit should be “foolproof,” to create a fair environment and stave off potential litigation.

He criticized the ranking process currently recommended by the committee.

“If [you] rank from one to 10, how do you decide? It’s arbitrary, and it can be challenged,” Orenstein said. “I don’t know what the answer is, but you need to be mindful that it could be challenged.”

“[Ranking is] common,” City Attorney Jim Lance replied. “In personnel decisions, you might have 10 applicants applying for one job, and there’s some arranging that goes with that. We have some good examples [of permit application ranking]. The City of Berkeley and some others out there have some pretty sophisticated criteria for ranking these businesses and narrowing them down from a large pool to a small pool [with] the city council considering the top three applicants.”

Former Willits City Planner Alan Falleri argued against capping the number of permits for cannabis businesses.

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Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

The rest of Report From Page 1

recommend are the indoor-grow categories broken up into three separate levels.”

A small indoor operation would be considered up to 5,000 square feet; a medium operation would be from 5,001 to 10,000 square feet; while a large operation would be from 10,000 to 22,000 square feet.

“The committee is recommending indoor cultivation businesses be allowed within the limited industrial, heavy industrial and industrial park zoning districts, and prohibited in all other zoning districts,” Duley reported.

Despite significant stakeholder pressure during the committee’s public meetings and previous city council meetings for the city to consider greenhouse cultivation, the committee’s current view is to “prohibit outdoor and mixed-light medical cannabis cultivation,” Duley said.

“The general thought is that outdoor cultivation would likely result in a nuisance to the community due to odors,” Duley continued. “The city has realized this from small, unpermitted, personal outdoor grows which have occurred in the city.

“The committee agreed that lands outside of the city limits and within the county currently provide ample opportunities for outdoor cultivation and in locations that are more appropriate than in an urban setting.”

However, despite that recommendation, Duley added: “The committee further noted that outdoor or mixed-light cultivation within a greenhouse may be considered [later], should it be proven such a setup could operate without causing odor, security or visual impacts.”

In addressing setbacks and buffer zones, Duley noted MCRSA requires cannabis businesses with a storefront or mobile retail outlet, “such as a dispensary, be located at least 600 feet from a school.”

During his presentation, Duley displayed a map that identified all schools in the city, accompanied by the 600-foot buffer zone, which would significantly narrow the scope of allowable cannabis businesses.

Duley clarified that a buffer zone “is measured from property line to property line and not from a building that houses children and a building that holds the marijuana business.”

Duley used a cannabis nursery as an example.

“If you had a license for a nursery, and you had a retail outlet where you could purchase plant starts at that nursery, that would be considered a storefront, and subject to an automatic 600-foot buffer from schools,” Duley said. “We can generate a list of properties by parcel numbers so you’ll have an understanding of the number of properties inside that potential buffer.”

Although cannabis businesses specific to cultivation, manufacturing, distribution and transportation would be limited to the three industrial zoned areas, other types of businesses –

such as testing labs and dispensaries – could operate in community commercial and heavy commercial zoning districts, according to the committee’s recommendations.

Because some cannabis businesses could theoretically meet a buffering requirement by not having a storefront, Duley noted the council has other options to consider.

“The point of the buffers is to avoid impact to sensitive receptors [like schools],” Duley said. Those impacts include “odor, noise and visual impact.” However, in some cases, he said: “You won’t be able to smell or see it from outside the building. If we identify the standards – and applicants can meet them – then potentially we met the intent of the buffers and we won’t need the distance buffer.”

On the other hand, Duley suggested the city may want to add other “sensitive receptors” to the list of required buffer zones, such as parks and churches. Duley showed what the map would resemble in such a climate.

“You can see that when you add additional sensitive receptors, it quickly starts eliminating potential eligible properties to get a cannabis permit,” said Duley. “With the [Rec Grove] park, a lot of the industrial land to the northeast section of the city becomes ineligible for having a cannabis permit.”

Duley said the council will have to decide what kind of permitting process should be implemented when drafting the ordinances for cannabis businesses.

The two recommended methods to choose from are administrative use and discretionary use.

“One benefit of [administrative use] is that staff would only be charged with reviewing an application for consistency with the applicable standards identified in the cannabis ordinance,” Duley said. “Provided a business is consistent with the standards, staff would issue the permit. This would result in significantly less staff time to process an application relative to staff time required to process a use permit.”

With a discretionary use permit, the “city council would have the authority to approve, deny or place additional restrictions or conditions of approval on any individual project. Some jurisdictions have required use permits for all cannabis-related permits for this reason.”

Duley added the council will also have to decide whether to place a cap on the number of use permits permissible within city limits.

For instance, “the city could allow only three dispensary permits, and potentially limit the largest indoor grow operations,” Duley said. “There’s a concern that locals, who don’t have the resources others out of the area have, may have a harder time participating in the permit process in Willits. So, the thought was we cap the largest-size grows and allow additional smaller-type operations. The council can cap any of the permits for any type of activities.”

With a cap on permits in place, the city would have to create a fair process to decide who gets them, especially “if you receive more applications than the number of permits to issue,” Duley said. “Ultimately, we thought that some sort of scoring or ranking system would be the most appropriate, fairest way to find the cream of the crop among the application pool.”

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Photos by
Maureen
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Become a WHS Booster

Fundraising club for extracurricular activities
at Willits High School seeks new board members

The Willits High School Booster Club encourages anyone interested in having fun helping out with high school activities, especially sports, to join the club's board of directors – maybe even to become an officer.

“More new members are necessary for the WHS Boosters to continue,” board member Bridgett Summers said. “We have a good thing going, and it's time for other people to step up.”

The Booster Club board has 10 voting board members, but those currently serving as officers “are ready to let somebody else be officers,” Summers said. The annual meeting where board members are elected is set for Thursday, March 9; the club holds meetings on the second Thursday every month at the WHS Food Center, starting at 6 pm.

“Being a member of the Booster Club is easy,” Summers said. “It shows your support for Willits High School students, and helps support athletics and extra-curricular activities.” Monies raised by the club are used for purchasing uniforms, for equipment (a recent request was for instruments for the high school band), and for scholarships.

Booster Club volunteers raise funds by staffing the concessions stand at the fall football games each year, and there's a good list of volunteers happy to do that, Summer said.

The club is in a good position financially right now, thanks to a series of “solid annual fundraisers” which members have been putting on in recent years. Current board members and volunteers are more than willing to help newcomers with the details of how each event is put on.

Two fundraisers coming up soon are the Cupcake Wars competition (being organized by the WHS student Jr. Boosters club this year), scheduled for April 15, and the Boosters Dinner and Quarter Auction, set for May 13.

Two other annual events are the Boosters Golf Club Tournament, held in September last year, and the Winter Fashion Show, tentatively scheduled for November 11.

Dave Barrett, president of the Willits Booster Club, has been involved the last seven or eight years, and he agrees becoming involved with the Boosters is a perfect way to give back to the community. “Everything we do is fun,” he said. “There's not a whole lot of stress involved. We put on some really fun and entertaining events.”

When asked why he got involved himself, Barrett said: “I'm a huge advocate of youth in our community, and a strong believer that the more opportunities we can create for young people, the more successful they're going to be.” Students involved in extra-curricular activities are typically “more successful,” he said. “They get better grades; they're more connected to the community and their school. I like to support those programs, to make sure those things exist for kids, and the better the programs are, the better off the kids are.”

Both Barrett and Summers stressed Booster board members do not have to be parents of current high school students. “Our doors are open to anyone who wants to be involved in our community,” Barrett said, including “retired folks still entertained by youth sports, who want to stay connected.”

Those interested can come to the March 9 meeting, or contact the Boosters at whsboosters123@yahoo.com for more information.



Some of the Booster Club
fun over the 2016 including,
clockwise from above, left:
WHS students pose together
to promo the Booster Club's
Quarter Auction. Isabel
Gutierrez and Camryn
Christensen smile with auction
tickets. Bridgett Summers,
secretary of Boosters, handles
raffle tickets, and Diana Peart
plays the green during the
Booster's Golf Tournament.
Jr. Boosters and
customers during
last year's
Cupcake Wars.



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