



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## Thank you

To the Editor:

As president of the Willits Educational Foundation, I would like to thank our wonderful community for always supporting us in our Tri Tip Drive-Thru Dinner. Each year 200 tri tip dinner tickets are sold to the Willits community, and without you we would not be able to continue to give back to the schools.

I would also like to thank some of the wonderful people who continue to support us: Annette Pinon at Flowers By Annette for donating beautiful roses; Tam Adams at Emandal for baking whole loaves of bread; Kathleen Lewis for gathering all the cookie bakers and donating all the ingredients to make all the cookies; the Goss Family for taking all Friday to make their famous beans; and Kathy Shuster for making the Caesar salad dressing.

We had many people working on the meat crew, starting Thursday night and then into Friday BBQing. On Friday we had over 30 volunteers working on making and serving this wonderful meal, and without everyone's help we would not be able to do it. Between the ticket collectors, meat wrappers, people packing the bags, and the kids passing each loaded bag to the diners, it is a lot of work. Thank you everyone.

This year, thanks to all of you, we raised \$7,630.85. This money that was raised will all go back to the Willits Unified School District. In the fall, teachers will apply for a mini grant for classroom supplies and other items they need. Last year's funds started going out in November. Baechtel Grove Middle School got a new indoor bowling set for the P.E. program.

Teachers at Blosser Lane purchased different level reading books for classroom libraries. Brookside kindergarten teachers were able to get new rugs for whole group learning. Willits High School was able to get a new PA system for student activities and also Spanish dictionaries. Sherwood and Brookside got materials for their young authors fairs. We look forward to seeing what teachers want to add to their classrooms for this next school year.

Thank you to everyone. Hope to see you all at our next big Willits Unified School District fundraiser on August 25!

Jenn Drew,  
Willits Educational Foundation

## '100 Plumes of Smoke'

To the Editor:

The Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council of Willits is sponsoring an event called "100 Plumes of Smoke" the week of Monday, March 19 through Sunday, March 25, supported by CalFire and the Little Lake

Fire Department.

All residents of Pine Mountain are encouraged to do burn piles to improve the defensible space around their homes, their propane and water tanks, and their driveways.

Burn permits are required and are available at Little Lake Fire Department office at 74 East Commercial Street.

Call the Mendocino County Air Quality District at 463-4391 after 4 pm the day before you wish to burn, to be sure it will be a burn day. A recording will inform you of this.

Also during the week of March 19 through 25, if you wish specific information about your property's defensible space, representatives from CalFire will be available to visit your home.

To register and schedule a visit, call Lauren Robertson at 459-3475, or Don Mitchell at 456-9074.

Carolyn Wadman, Pine Mountain  
Fire Safe Council of Willits

## Mayor's report

To the Editor:

Things have been hopping at City Hall. First, in January, the Willits City Council contracted with Stephanie Garabrant-Sierra to be our new city manager, starting March 15. Meanwhile interim City Manager Bob Perrault has filled in admirably. We are also happy to welcome back Chief of Police Scott Warnock, after his long (and successful) medical leave.

The Revitalization-Economic Development Committee has progressed on plans for a civic billboard alongside the bypass and will be seeking funding for that project. They have also provided guidance to planner Dusty Duley on a proposed commercial vacancy ordinance, which will come back to the city council in the near future.

The Caltrans Ad Hoc Committee (Saprina Rodriguez, myself and city staff) met with Caltrans reps on March 1 to review the relinquishment plans. (This will be briefly summarized at the next Revit-ED meeting, March 8, 3:30 pm at City Hall.) There will be a public forum this spring for Caltrans and the City of Willits to explain the plans, schedule and process in detail. Phased construction on Main Street is anticipated to begin in late May. It's possible that Sherwood Road intersection work may also get underway this summer. (Meanwhile, the city also approved some repaving projects, with matching funds from the state, to extend the life of several side streets.)

On February 28, the city council addressed concerns raised by many mobile home park residents, with a report by interim city manager Perrault.

For now, we appointed an ad hoc committee of councilmembers Saprina Rodriguez and Gerry Gonzalez to seek a mutual agreement between tenants and park owners. A possible rent stabilization ordinance is still "on the table" if negotiations are unsuccessful.

Quite a few projects have been processed by staff under the city's new medical cannabis ordinance, with several now nearing operation. We'll continue to look at how well that is working. City Attorney Jim

Lance is looking into a possible excise tax on such businesses to go on the November 2018 ballot.

Once new city manager Garabrant-Sierra is on board, we expect to schedule a goal-setting meeting and then get to work on the 2018-19 budget. In the wings are the housing element and general plan updates.

The Willits City Council meets every second and fourth Wednesday, with a public comment period near the beginning of the agenda at 6:30 pm. Suggestions, complaints, etc. are always welcome! Come see how the sausage is made! Also feel free to contact me at 459-1493 or mstrong@cityofwillits.org.

Madge Strong, mayor,  
City of Willits

## Women's Empowerment Summit

To the Editor:

Thank you Donna d'Terra for your letter to the editor last week. Many have similar questions and concerns about our future. We can't ignore the challenges any longer.

I see a renewed interest in coming together to create and sustain change. We're collectively rising to join our energies for the common goal, here and now, locally.

I'm encouraged to see gatherings happening like the entrepreneurial fair at The Hub, see the unfolding of the School of Adaptive Agriculture's mission, the Healthy Mendocino Group, the study group at Mendocino College titled: "Building an Economy for Our Common Good," the Revit-ED Committee, the continuation and broadening of last year's Sunflower project, and many others. People are collaborating.

In my practice, I've seen lately more and more women in stress, disillusionment and frustration about the local issues, U.S. politics, and future prospects for the next generation and the state of this planet.

Therefore I've gathered a team to create an event in Willits in June as a response to these concerns. The event will provide support, inspiration and collaboration, and prepare new grounds for innovation for women.

In the meantime, I invite all who care about women's empowerment and how it relates to creating and sustaining the future both locally and around the world for women, men and children, to join the conversation at: [www.fb.com/NorCalEmpowered](http://www.fb.com/NorCalEmpowered).

This is a time to share inspiration and support each other to uncover our passion and creativity. On the link above, and at the live event in June, we can energize community versus division, nurture collaboration versus competition, and co-create a brighter future together. I am looking forward to this!

Claudia Wenning, Northern  
California Women's  
Empowerment Summit 2018

## Firearms in schools

To the Editor:

Last week's paper included a letter from one of our educators. It expressed great sentiment and desire to shelter our children from danger and harsh concepts. To my eyes, it read much like an ideologue's platform. There is some conflict surrounding what constitutes an appropriate response to school students being targeted for murder en masse. I am just as ignorant on the subject as last week's letter writer and as the parent of a student, equally invested

in the matter.

We can agree that schools are targeted because they make easy targets as gun-free zones, full of children. We can also agree that these shootings make for sensationalized crime if not terrorism. Where we disagree is that the Second Amendment infringes upon another's pursuit of happiness or that any of us have a "right not to live in fear of being shot." Furthermore, I would argue that a perceived right not to live in fear is a childish notion and an entitled opinion.

The idea of reintroducing firearms to schools seems really inappropriate and even scary to some folk. Many of those with this trepidation put forth that gun ownership is the problem. So, do these shootings warrant placing further restrictions on the right to bear arms? How do we make such an analysis?

And, at what point does a criminal mind come under social controls – before or after that individual has committed an atrocity? Meaning, will outlawing weaponry serve as a deterrent to a shooter, arsonist etc.? Alternatively, will removing the "designated gun-free" status from schools go further towards making a safe study environment and if so, how do we go about doing that?

I, along with most others, attended public schools and remember seeing "gun-free zone" posted. I imagined a magically gun-free environment. So, those kids who dared bring a gun to school kept it well tucked away – accept for the girl in seventh grade who shot herself in the bathroom. Apart from that event, I was unaware of occurrences of shootings – which doesn't mean that they did not occur. Bomb threats were indeed an occurrence, and I don't see anyone scrambling to outlaw the various chemical constituents needed to create an explosion.

If the idea of armed staff offends you, and you believe we are beyond guns, as a society, try asking when where and why were firearms banned from schools? When was shooting skeet phased out of curriculum? Where do teachers and staff carry weapons, and how do statistics compare? What were the effects of the 1980s assault rifle ban and what constitutes an assault rifle? How difficult is it to acquire an illegal firearm?

I have heard it argued that removing the gun-free designation would bring schools under further state control – the solution being our current prison-like environments with razor-wire, metal detectors and police officers? Equally absurd is the expectation that (specifically) black children will be actively targeted by newly armed (white) administrators, given the pernicious racism seemingly inherent in our society.

I suspect that not only are school children being targeted because they are easy prey but because they make for high-profile murders. I suspect that to some degree these are media-glorified, copycat shootings having much less to do with access to guns as they have to do with access to viewership, thereby achieving both infamous stature and instilling fear in the populous.

Even so, you cannot prevent the acquisition of a firearm no matter how much you wish to legislate them out of existence – never mind what this would mean for the Second Amendment. You can, however, act as your brother's keeper by helping to protect our children from a current threat that isn't going to disappear by further disarmament.

Sarah E. Owsiany, Willits

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



# Art Auction

Month-long Arts Center fundraiser features hundreds of items up for bid

On a night when the weather was iffy at best, intrepid Willits residents showed up to the opening of the "annual" Willits Center for the Arts Auction – which hasn't happened for about 10 years. Over 200 pieces of art, donated by approximately 115 patrons, friends of the museum, artists and local businesses graced the walls of the lower galleries. The pieces ranged from vivid oils to delicate pencil drawings, stunning photographs to quilted textiles, striking ceramics to numbered lithographs.

In addition to the art, other offerings at Saturday's reception included services, gift baskets and gift certificates, wine and more. There is literally something for everyone to bid on, no matter one's décor or interests.

The lots are being offered at tremendous savings off the typical retail prices, and the opening bids range from \$5 at the low end to \$300 being the highest for a photo print from well-known photographer, Stephen Somerstein whose historic photo depicts a multi-generational African-American family sitting in front of a "Things Go Better with Coke" billboard, watching the 1965 Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights March. There is a lovely giclee print with an apian theme from local artist Marta Alonso Canillar, who is currently showing at Brickhouse Coffee.

"We have a couple pieces from Ursula Parth, who just finished an installation at the gallery. She is offering a beautiful hand-knitted sweater and a scarf," said Gary Martin, curator of the Willits Center for the Arts. "We have one of Eva Strauss Rosen's drawings as well as a beautiful drawing of tree trunks by Linda MacDonald."

"We have some incredible work up for auction," Martin continued, "We have work by Janet Rayner who we haven't seen around for a long time. She's moved to Connecticut. We also have members' pictures such as a photo from Dr. John Glyer. We have some wonderful jewelry, freshwater pearls and work by Keith Monroe.

"We even have a deco-ish vaporizer from the Headroom, trying to keep up with current trends. We have ceramics from Doug Browe, who recently had a show here, and a piece from Bonnie Belt."

Additionally, there are services and gift certificates from businesses, such as a 2015 Petite Sirah from Bergin - Sipia Wine out of Laytonville, a meal for two from Brickhouse Coffee, a \$100 gift card from Willits Power, dinner for two with wine from Adam's Restaurant, a gift certificate from Mazahar, two season tickets to the Willits Community Theatre, a Native America porcelain doll from Heritage House, and many more.

The silent auction will be running until Saturday, March 24. People can come in anytime up to that date, Wednesday to Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm to bid or just to browse the art. "At the end of the auction, it should be a madhouse with people doing most of the bidding the last couple days," Martin explained. "There will be a final bidding party on the 24th. It will start at 6 pm and go until 11 pm."

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



Clockwise from bottom left: Lynne Whiting Robertson and Robert Yellen enjoy the Art Auction reception. Ursula Parth with the hand-knitted sweater and fabric art scarf she donated. An intriguing collage of conifer cones and acorns donated by Delores Braden. This "Coast at Sunset" photograph by Bruce Haanstra was taken in Fort Bragg in May 2011. A colorful quilt created by Anne VanderHorck. Nancy Simpson with a dragonfly quilt she made and donated to the auction. This print of a photo by Craig Gardner was featured in the "Medusa & The Serpent" series in the January 2016 edition of Goshesque Magazine. Lyndsey Burns, WCA gallery manager, and auction donor Peggy Hebrard. Tamara Adams, left, and Bobbie Yukum catered the opening of the Art Auction show.



The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto: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 5, Number 246

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EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Locally Owned | Independent | Editions Every Thursday | Online & In Print

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# Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku



## 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!

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

Level: Intermediate

## HIT THE SLOPES WORD SEARCH

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

AERIALS	CREVASSE	ICE	SLALOM
ALPINE	CROSS-COUNTRY	LIFT	SLOPE
ARTIFICIAL	DOWNHILL	MOGULS	SLUSH
BASEPLATE	DRAG	PASS	SNOW
BINDINGS	EDGE	PISTE	SNOWBOARD
BLACK	FREESTYLE	POLES	TRAVERSE
BLUE	GOGGLES	POWDER	UPHILL
CABLE CAR	GRAB	RED	WAX
CHAIR	HARD PACK	SKI	WHITEOUT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20				21		22			23				
			24		25				26				
27	28	29		30				31			32	33	34
35			36				37				38		
39				40					41				
42				43					44				
45				46					47				48
			49						50				
52	53	54				55			56		57	58	59
60						61			62		63		
64						65					66		
67						68					69		

## CLUES ACROSS

- Unpleasant substance
- Oil group
- One-time Yankees rookie sensation
- Ireland
- Less easily found
- Southeast Nigeria people
- Bridgeline Digital stock designation
- Play loudly
- Elegantly fashionable
- Open sore
- Frozen water
- Sacred Islamic site
- 'Kokomo' rockers
- Follows sigma
- Cease to exist
- Cool
- Doctors' group
- Less attractive
- Swiss river
- Greek sophist
- Grandmothers
- Afflict
- Russian pancake of buckwheat flour and yeast
- Actress Rachel Wood
- Not bright
- Western Asia peninsula
- Baseball speedster Gordon
- Golf score
- Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- Songs to one's lover
- Cattle's mammary gland
- Having ten
- Fencing sword
- Scarlett's home
- Hold valuables
- Italian Seaport
- Cain and \_\_\_
- Bad places to live
- Large, wading bird
- Witches
- Cover with drops
- Props up the head

## CLUES DOWN

- Philippine province
- Shallow channel
- Type of acid
- Cygnus' brightest star
- One who buys and sells securities (abbr.)
- Ill will
- Plant of the goosefoot family
- Intellectual
- Mineral
- Shiny silicate minerals
- Ottoman civilian title
- What you wear when eating BBQ (2 words)
- Soul and calypso song
- Advices
- 'The Spanish Tragedy' playwright
- Surrounds the earth
- Paddle
- Adjusted
- Succulent plant
- Forearm bones
- Belonging to Egyptian ascetic Apollo's colleague
- Type of mental illness
- One from Asia
- 007's creator
- Direct toward
- Pie \_\_\_ mode
- Large terrier
- Hillside
- Patriotic women (abbr.)
- Connects words
- For each
- Flower cluster
- Closes a deal
- Arabian desert
- Vaccine against poliomyelitis
- American state
- Religion practiced in China
- Type of sediment
- Hall of Famer Ruth
- 'Layla' singer Clapton
- Gamble
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Midway between south and southwest

# WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

February 23 to March 4  
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 232 incidents in this 10-day reporting period.

## Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

### February 23

9:01 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 21000 block of Meadowbrook Drive.  
12:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.  
2:32 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.  
3:22 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.  
3:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

### February 24

5:06 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of East Valley Street.  
11:21 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Holly Street.  
12:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 300 block of Penn Street.  
5:30 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Sherwood Hill Drive.

### February 25

8:12 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.  
10:36 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Page Court.  
11:25 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of Heart Willits Road.  
12:13 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.  
12:41 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1600 block of Highway 20.  
1:16 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of South Lenore Avenue.  
5:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Alder Court.  
8:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.  
10:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of South Street.

### February 26

6:21 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.  
8:05 am: HAKE, Chad Tyler (29) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11550 H&S (Under the Influence of Controlled Substance), 11364 H&S (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), and on misdemeanor charges of resisting a peace officer.  
8:17 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.  
4:19 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Alder Court.  
9:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

### February 27

10:03 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of North Main Street.  
10:34 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.  
10:57 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Pine Street.  
12:15 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.  
12:30 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of North Main Street.  
3:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Marcala Drive.  
6:11 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

### February 28

10:20 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.  
1:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.  
5:08 pm: VANHORN, Holland Ansley (35) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 148 PC (Resisting Arrest), on felony charges of failure to appear, and on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation and two counts of failure to appear.  
8:26 pm: Officers initiated a missing

Read the rest of WPD | Over on Page 6

# LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE CALLS

March 1 to March 6  
by LLFD Training Chief Eric Alvarez

### 03-01-18 (Ridgewood Road)

Little Lake Fire responded to a hallway smoke detector activation. Upon arrival Little Lake Fire was canceled due to a false alarm. The false alarm was reported by a current CalFire unit at scene. 10 firefighters responded for service.

### 03-01-18 (North Highway 101, mile marker 40)

Traffic accident: Little Lake Fire responded to a reported traffic accident. Upon arrival Little Lake Fire provided traffic control and was released shortly after. 11 firefighters responded for service.

### 03-01-18 (North Highway 101, mile marker 40)

Traffic accident: Little Lake Fire responded to a reported traffic accident, while en route Little Lake Fire was canceled. 13 firefighters responded for service.

### 03-02-18 (Canyon Road)

Traffic accident: Little Lake Fire responded to a reported vehicle hanging off the roadway with two persons trapped in their vehicle. Fire assisted CHP in removing two uninjured occupants from the vehicle. 13 firefighters responded for service.

### 03-03-18 (South Main Street)

Little Lake Fire was requested by the

Willits Police Department to assist in general cleanup of the roadway, caused by a vehicle accident. 5 firefighters responded for service.

### 03-04-18 (Highway 101 Mile Marker 39)

Traffic accident: Little Lake Fire responded to a reported traffic accident. Upon arrival one vehicle was into the metal guard rail and the second vehicle was in the roadway. No occupants were injured. Fire provided single lane traffic control. 12 firefighters responded for service.

### 03-06-18 (Highway 20, mile marker 24)

Traffic accident: Little Lake Fire responded to a reported single vehicle rollover. Upon arrival the single occupant was out of the vehicle and uninjured. The vehicle was partially blocking the roadway. Fire provided traffic control. 12 firefighters responded for service.

### 03-06-18 (Highway 20, mile marker 21)

Traffic accident: Little Lake Fire responded to a reported head-on collision. Upon arrival both vehicles were blocking the eastbound and westbound lanes. One occupant was transported to Howard Memorial via ambulance. 14 firefighters responded for service.



Photos by Ree Slocum



Above, from left: Sylvia Wartell, left, helps Ariel Herz-O'Brien as she makes her way through the expenses of their problem. Alejandra Aleman holds the board used for the opening of the Animal House team's skit. Alejandra Aleman poses with a duck puppet, as BGMS art teacher and Odyssey coach Laurie Burghardt looks on. At right: Sylvia Wartell, left, and Ariel Herz-O'Brien pose in front of one of the "Peter Pan" drawings the team used in their presentation.

# Metals for Minds

Baechtel Grove's Odyssey of the Mind teams bring home two bronze medals

On Saturday, February 24, three teams of creative young minds from Baechtel Grove Middle School participated in the regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition in Santa Rosa. Two of the student teams brought home bronze medals.

Ree Slocum  
Features Writer  
ree@willitsweekly.com

Odyssey of the Mind "teaches students to learn creative problem-solving methods while having fun in the process," the Odyssey website states. "For more than 25 years, this unique program has helped teachers generate excitement in their students. By tapping into creativity, and through encouraging imaginative paths to problem-solving, students learn skills that will provide them with the ability to solve problems - great and small - for a lifetime."

Willits students had been working in their teams to solve their chosen "problem" before and after school for months. Odyssey of the Mind provides a list of

potential problems every year, with a very detailed set of guidelines, rules and scoring details. This year's problems were in the Vehicle, Technical, Classics, Structure and Performance categories.

Laurie Burghardt, with 30 years of Odyssey coaching experience in other California schools, is in her second year teaching art at BGMS. She's the force behind bringing Odyssey, a world-wide competition, to BGMS. Her role is to be a coach who is a resource for helping the children understand the guidelines and provide materials when asked. It's important that the teams are on their own in figuring out how to solve their problem.

One of the two medal-winning teams - Ariel Herz-O'Brien, Sylvia Wartell, Helena Rooney, Mara Moratti, Jared Dunham, Shelby Perez-Bowen, and MaryAnn

Read the rest of Odyssey | Over on Page 11

At right: Students, from left, Milli Patino, Alejandra Aleman, Haley Kvasnicka, Nevaeh Jones and Aeon Webber pose with the duck structure they created out of balsa wood. Below, from left: Milli Patino and Aeon Webber from the Animal House team make balsa wood pieces for their structure. Front and back of the bronze third-place medal that each member of the two winning BGMS teams received.



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At left: Matt Davis, owner of Ridgetop Botanicals in Hopland, hosted a booth at "Speed Dating With Distro" in Ukiah to profile his company. "Distribution is a necessary link in the chain," Davis said. Below: Casey O'Neill of the Mendocino County Growers Association, with farmer Sarah O'Donnell, at the registration table for the "Speed Dating With Distro" event in Ukiah.

Photos by Jane Futcher

COLUMN | Cannabis Diary

## 'Speed Dating' event: Helping farmers connect with buyers

By Jane Futcher

It was the first event of its kind in Mendocino County. "Speed Dating with Distro," drew more than 150 people – 70 of them cannabis cultivators – to the Ukiah Valley Conference Center February 28.

The matchmakers behind the event were the Mendocino County Growers Association – a trade organization for local cannabis farmers – and the Cannabis Distribution Association, a Sacramento-based trade group representing 30 licensed distributors.

As dozens of cultivators streamed into the Conference Center, Casey O'Neill of the Mendocino County Growers Association said his group co-hosted the event to help local cultivators survive in the complex, challenging and newly regulated cannabis marketplace.

"This thing is so new that we're not exactly sure how it works," O'Neill said. "We're trying to figure out the methodologies for moving forward, and it has to be a team effort, and it's really important to see the different parts of the supply chain all get in the same room and have some discussions about how this thing works."

"And you have to be really careful when you start talking about these discussions," O'Neill continued, "because I want to be very clear that what we're not talking about is anything to do with price setting, fixing, anti-trust violations but general networking, conversation and the ability to work together."

Asked how distributors can assess a farmer's product without smelling, examining or sampling their wares, O'Neill said the City of Ukiah does not currently allow cannabis at public events.

"We asked the venue can they, can people, bring samples, and the venue said, 'Well, we're not sure, we need to check with the city, we need to check with the local police department,' and that conversation has occurred and they're still working on it, but now they're developing a

policy, whereas before not only was there not a policy but there was prohibition.

"And so this does touch on this larger question of cannabis normalization," he said, "of this process of moving out of a prohibition state and into a new reality, and all of the conversations that unfold from that, and I think it's a very powerful and important thing to pay attention to and to not lose sight of that this is a large societal, cultural transition that we are all part of and that we are all striving in, and at times it's very difficult. At times – it's bleak."

Surprisingly, there weren't actually any speed-dating stations at the event, which meant cultivators had to cruise around through the crowd looking for the 10 distributors said to be on hand.

One of the most visible distributors was Flow Kana, an event sponsor and cannabis distributor in Redwood Valley and Oakland.

Haerah Baird, Flow Kana's manager of farmer relations, said she felt a little pressure on her as one of the few distributors at the event.

"I think there's always an element of pressure," Baird said. "Certainly I think there have been challenges just with the number of farmers we have in the area and the capacity to really figure out a way that we can support all of these farmers."

Cultivator Matt Davis of Ridgetop Botanicals in Hopland paid for a booth to promote his 10,000-square-foot greenhouse farm. He said that, like many cultivators, he has not yet received his state license so he cannot sell his product to legal distributors. Still, he was stoked to be there.

"It's super exciting because distribution is a necessary link in the chain, so it's nice to have an organized event to link the distributors and the cultivators," Davis said. "It's been really challenging. I mean, like, for example, you start building a greenhouse and the rules change, and it's just one of many things, you know. We can't legally transport our product off our farms. So there's still a lot of gray area. I think the people who are going to stick with it and go for it – I think we'll make it."

Was the speed-dating event a success? Farmers had mixed reactions.

One cultivator, who paid \$100 as a "community supporter" to attend, said she wasn't sure she'd gotten her money's worth. Like several other farmers leaving the event early, she said she was disappointed but wouldn't speak on the record because she doesn't want to criticize the organizations trying to do something positive for local growers.

Cultivator Davis seemed ecstatic as the four-hour event wound down.

"I think it was a great turnout," he said. "There were a lot more people than I expected. MCGA did a hell of a job putting this together, and they definitely should receive a lot of credit. It was great. I'm looking forward to more events like this."

Jane Futcher is host of "The Cannabis Hour," every other Thursday at 9 am on KZYX. "Mendocino Cannabis Regulations and Your Property Values: Crisis or Opportunity" is the topic of her March 8 show.

The rest of  
**WPD**  
From Page 4

person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

10:47 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street.

**March 1**

6:23 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of Alder Court.

12:34 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

3:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of a shooting in the area in the 100 block of Northbrook Way.

7:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

**March 2**

6:44 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of Madrone Street.

7:56 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue and issued a citation.

9:46 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

12:56 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 400 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

2:29 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 800 block of Blosser Lane.

**March 3**

4:20 pm: TOBIN, Shannon Lee (39) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

7:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of Madrone Street.

**March 4**

10:06 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

1:55 pm: Officers initiated a robbery investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

3:19 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:05 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

7:54 pm: ACEVES LIZARRAGA, Javier Jahir (26) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery) and on misdemeanor charges of resisting a peace officer.

9:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

The rest of  
**Letters**  
From Page 2

## Celebrate two years of the Book Room

To the Editor:

Please help the Friends of the Long Valley Public Library celebrate two years of service at the Laytonville Book Room and another year closer to a public library in Laytonville!

Highlighting the two-year anniversary party for the Laytonville Book Room are The Real Sarahs presenting two sets of their magic music on Saturday evening, March 10, at Harwood Hall in Laytonville, 44000 Willis Road. Doors open at 5 pm for those who wish to gather at the bar and enjoy some snacks and peruse the "quiet auction." Purchase a pre-sale ticket now for \$20 or get it at the door for \$25. Dinner and dessert is sold separately.

Dinner will be served starting at 5:45 pm, and desserts will be available shortly thereafter. For your viewing pleasure will be a fabulous "quiet auction," the proceeds from which will go toward our Long Valley Public Library Building Fund. The Sarahs' first set will begin at 6:30 pm, so please come early to ensure your great seating. In addition, come early to purchase tickets for the fantastic "Coast Getaway" or the handmade quilt raffle!

The Friends of the Long Valley Public Library was organized in 2014 after the Mendocino Library Advisory Board and Supervisor John Pinches determined that Laytonville should have a public library. The Friends group is a program of the Harwood Memorial Park, Inc., making all donations to support the library building fund tax-deductible!

The Laytonville Book Room was a natural outgrowth of the Friends' interest in providing library services as well as having a steady, albeit modest income for the group. Currently, the Book Room has over 5,000 donated books that have been sorted and categorized for ease in locating your reading choices. Shawn Haven and her small gang of volunteers spend a sizable amount of time keeping books and other materials in order. New volunteers are always welcome!

The Book Room first opened its doors on March 18, 2016, and is located at the old Laytonville high school building, 200 Branscomb Road, thanks to our gracious hosts, Superintendent Joanie Potter and the Laytonville Unified School District Board of Trustees. The Book Room has been open for five hours almost every week since that first Friday in 2016. Many more thanks to Shawn Haven and her amazing volunteers!

The Book Room serves the Laytonville community by providing books for prices from \$.25 to \$2. Children's groups often go home with free books, and many of our customers will purchase boxes of books for great prices. The Friends have discovered an additional service to the community is our providing a responsible situation for book donations.

Many thanks to our donors and customers! We look forward to seeing old and new friends at our celebration on Saturday, March 10. Tickets are available at Healthy Start or the Book Room on Fridays. For more information please phone Healthy Start, 984-8089, Shawn, 354-3080, or Susan, 984-6070.

We look forward to seeing you on March 10!

Susan Bradley, for Friends of the Long Valley Library



## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

### Puppy Huey

Huey, at left is a 4-month-old pit bull/Lab mix who is all typical puppy. He would do well with an older dog companion to show him some manners and the doggie ropes! He's very energetic and happy-go-lucky and will make you smile to watch his antics. He needs lots of exercise, training and love, but then what puppy doesn't! Come watch him frolic and see what you think!

For more information on the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County's adoptable animals, call the HSMC at 707-485-0123, check [www.mendocinohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendocinohumanesociety.com), or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. To volunteer or help take the dogs for a walk, please join HSMC on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.



Photo by Rod Coats

### Rick Boy

This love bug is Rick. He is a 2-year-old neutered male who currently weighs 56 pounds. Rick was shy when he first arrived at the shelter but he has made great progress. Staff and volunteers are starting to get to know a dog who is becoming a lot more outgoing and affectionate. Once you become one of his favorites you will always be! He already knows some commands and is eager to please, so we think he'll learn the rules of his new home quickly. Rick needs a patient guardian who will shower him with love and help him to gain confidence.

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. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit online at: [www.mendocinoshelter.com](http://www.mendocinoshelter.com). More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.

Help get every dog at the Ukiah shelter out for some exercise at the "Empty the Shelter" pack walk every second Saturday of the month, coming up March 10.

OBITUARY |

## Marilyn Jones

Marilyn R. Jones passed away on February 22, 2018 in Ukiah, California with her daughter Sheri by her side.

Marilyn was born in Seattle, Washington on January 23, 1949 to Leroy and Jean Gibson. She was preceded in death by her father in 1989 and her mother in 2003.

Marilyn worked many jobs in her life. One she really enjoyed was being a waitress for many years at the Willits Cafe. She also worked for Blue Shield of California in Lodi, California for over 27 years before retiring three or four years



ago. In August of 2017 Marilyn moved back to Willits to be closer to family.

She is survived by her daughter Sheri Gaspard, son in-law Duane Gaspard, her granddaughter Kayla, and three great-grandchildren, her sister Margie Davidson, three brothers, Don, Dave and Darrell Gibson, and their wives, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the Newton Bracewell Funeral Home in Chico, California on March 25, 2018 at 1 pm.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive, Willits, CA 95490.

COLUMN | Intuitive Patterns

## March 2018

**Osho Zen Tarot:** Going with the Flow, Beyond Illusion, Sorrow

**Medicine Cards:** Wolf, Opossum

**Mayan Oracle:** Dissonance, Manifestation

**Ancient Egyptian Tarot:** Ace of Swords, Ten of Disks, Princess of Wands

**Aleister Crowley Deck:** Prince of Wands, Magus – Trickster, Five of Wands, Three of Shields, Three of Feathers



Suzanne Wagner  
Columnist

**Words of Truth:** Dissociated, Control, Elimination

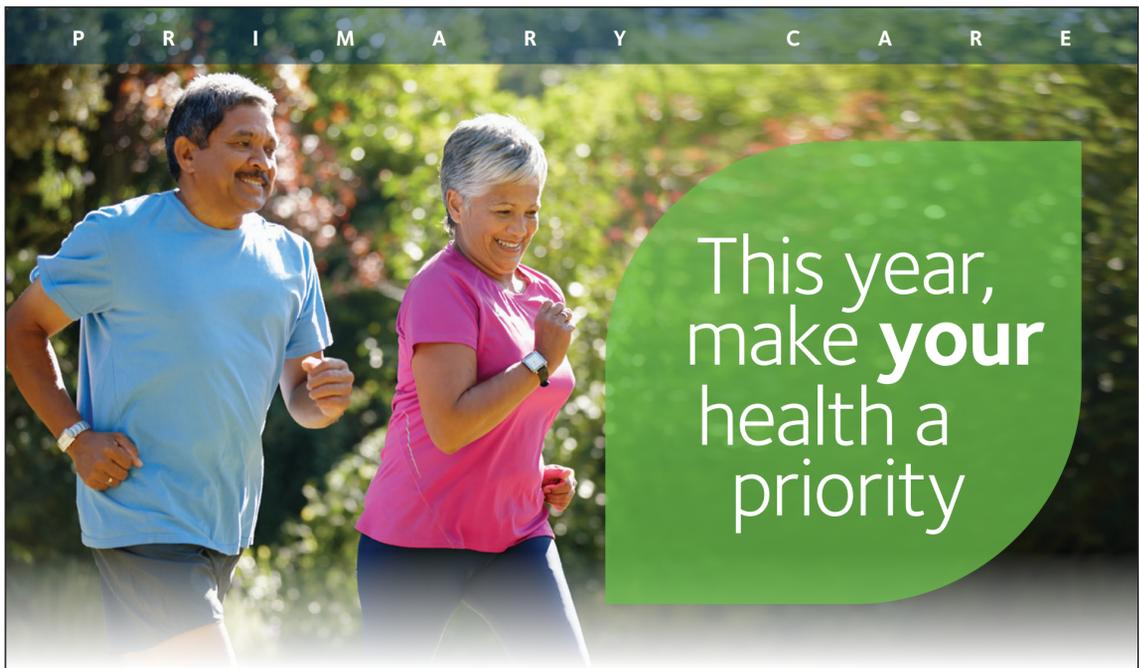
Within you is a wildness, and that wildness is attempting to come back out and into your life. What will that look like? That is up to you. But you cannot contain this fiercely intense focus that is attempting to rip apart your old world to show you a new and vibrantly alive potential that was always your birthright.

March is about looking deeply into the patterns and strategies that have not been working that have only succeeded in

hiding you from some truth. The sword of truth is cutting away the dead wood and pruning your tree, so you can blossom in the spring in a more vibrant and alive way. But when you prune a tree, that tree does not at first produce so much fruit. But it is strengthening so that tree has longevity and a greater capacity over time. Know that the fruits of your labors this month may not be seen at first, but over time will make more sense to what you are and who you are to become.

This month you are being asked to

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



### Make an appointment with a primary care provider today!

Start the new year right and make a promise to take care of yourself. One of the best things you can do is make an appointment with your primary care provider so you can talk about your health and wellness goals. Whether you want to talk about your weight, diet, or make sure you're up to date on your immunizations and screenings recommended for your age, our providers are here for you.



Bev Draudt, FNP (Se Habla Español)  
Bev sees patients of all ages and has a passion for health education



John Glycer, MD  
Dr. Glycer is board certified in family practice and has been



Andrea McCullough, MD (Se Habla Español)  
Dr. McCullough completed her medical training

from University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA and completed her residency in family medicine from University of California San Francisco. She has been caring for families in Mendocino County for 37 years. He completed medical training at the University of California San Francisco. He also has a passion for helping patients recovering from drugs and alcohol.

from University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA and completed her residency in family medicine from University of California San Francisco. She has been caring for families in Mendocino County for over 10 years. Dr. McCullough is passionate about education and prevention and serving the uninsured.

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# Ongoing Events

**Willits Farmers Market:** Thursdays from 5:30 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, balsamic vinegars, local honey, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**WCA Art Auction Show:** Willits Center for the Arts is reviving the annual Art Auction, with the gala bid party set for March 24. "This important fundraiser keeps the arts alive in our community and brings vibrant and relevant shows to your art center. The hundreds of auction items – including art, services, gift certificates and other goods – will be displayed through March 24 at the WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm; come place your bid, silent-auction style.

**Tools for Fire Victims at the Farmers Market:** Every Thursday, the Farmers Market and the School of Adaptive Agriculture are collecting tools for those who lost their homes in the Redwood Complex Fire. Please bring donated tools to the Farmers Market on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. If tools are dull, Keith Rosen will sharpen them during the market. If unable to transport tools, contact Market Manager Michael Foley 216-5549 to arrange pick up.

**Emandal Choral:** The Chorale is open to all who wish to sing a cappella songs of peace and justice. Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: 367-1573.

**Willits International Folk Dancing:** Every Thursday from 7 to 9 pm. Learn recreational cultural dances from around the world. Beginners welcome. No dance experience necessary. No partner needed. \$5 per class. Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Info: Megan Wolf, 530-647-8512 or megster1989@yahoo.com

**Willits Frontier Twirlers:** Square-dancing workshops held every Monday from 6:30 to 7:45 pm, at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Dancers are encouraged to come regularly as new moves are taught every session. Bring your partner or come as a single dancer and join our fun-loving club!" \$5 per person, per night.

**Friday Potluck Bingo:** Harrah Senior Center presents Potluck Bingo on Friday nights. Doors open at 5 pm; games begin at 5:30 pm. Minimum bingo buy-in \$5. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

**Twice-Monthly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group:** Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941.

**German Conversation Class:** Ongoing non-denominational German conversation/book reading class is open to new members (middle to advanced German speakers). No charge, but donations gladly accepted. St. John Lutheran Church, 24 Mill Creek Drive. Mondays from 7 to 8:30 pm. Info: Doris Wier, 456-9246.

**Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group:** Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or honemann@yahoo.com

**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.

**Willits Library Activities:** Wednesdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Play Group," and 3:30 to 5:30 pm "Lego Day" (bring your imagination and start building); Thursdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Story Time"; Fridays: 5 to 6 pm "Youth Game Night" (ages 10 to 14). Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

**Willits Seed Lending Library:** Offering information on seed saving and gardening. Seeds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables are free to seed library members, and seed donations are gladly accepted.

**AI-Anon Meeting:** Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rile-Aid) at the Evergreen Shopping Center. Saturdays at 10 am at St. Francis Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 66 East Commercial Street. "AI-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.

**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:** Baechtel Grove Gym, 1150 Magnolia Street. Sundays 7 to 9 pm, and Tuesdays at 7:30 to 9:30 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 Adventist Health Howard Memorial. Every Wednesday at AHM's Roots Restaurant, 1 Marcela Drive, 6 to 7 pm. Register today. 540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

**Free Sheriff's Activity League programs:** at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 5 pm. Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5-15 to 6 pm. Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 to 7 pm; Tweens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

**Little John's:** Little John's Bar and Dance Club offers Karaoke every Thursday night, from 9:30 pm to 1:30 am. "Come join the fun and sing a song." Also, free pool every Sunday from 6 to 10 pm. 383 South Main Street. Info: check "Little Johns" on Facebook or 459-5636.

**Shanachie Pub:** Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday at 7 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 8 pm. "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. Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Laytonville Farmers Market:** Mondays, from 2:30 to 5:30 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.

## Thursday, March 8

**"The Cannabis Hour":** Host Jane Fletcher's guests residential real estate agent Tara Moratti of Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty in Willits and commercial property agent Kevin McDonald of Coldwell Banker in Ukiah, will discuss "Cannabis Regulations and Your Property Values: Crisis or Opportunity?" Thursday, March 8, 9 am, on KZYX Radio, 91.5-FM. Will take questions at 9:40 am: 895-2448. If you miss the program, listen on jukebox.kzyx.org.

**Healthy Mendocino Project Summit:** for North Coast Opportunities' Healthy Mendocino project's regional action teams and interested community members.

Thursday, March 8 at Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. "An opportunity to meet each other, hear updates, share ideas, and brainstorm strategies." Shelly Mascari, the Community Wellness director at St. Helena Hospital in Lake County, will speak on "Best Practices for Working Collaboratively," 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Info: Patrice Mascalo at healthymendocino@mcinc.org or 707-468-3228.

## Friday, March 9

**Art Talk at WCA:** Willits Center for the Arts presents an Art Talk with WCA Curator Gary Martin, who will be speaking on the beginning of the Renaissance. Friday, March 9 at 6:30 pm. 71 East Commercial Street. "Join us for this informative and free event. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome!"

**"The Christians":** a reading of a new play by Lucas Hnath at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10 at 8 pm. Directed by Robert Ford. "The play tells the story of what happens when Paul, the successful pastor of an evangelical mega-church, tells his congregation that Hell does not exist. This causes a split in the church. Attempting to smooth over the split causes repercussions in Paul's marriage and in his soul." "The Christians" was among the top 10 most-produced plays in the U.S. from September 2016 to August 2017. The cast includes Adam Moore as Pastor Paul, Neda Monshat as his wife, Elizabeth, Devin von Taufkirchen as Associate Pastor Joshua, Tom Schott as a church elder, and Misty Allen as Jenny, a church member. Tickets, \$5, will be available at the door. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

**Shanachie Pub:** Jawknee Lawhorn & The Outhouse Gang: folk rock from Alabama and Los Angeles, on a West Coast Tour. Visit [www.soundcloud.com/jawkneelawhornandtheouthousegang](http://www.soundcloud.com/jawkneelawhornandtheouthousegang). Friday, March 9 at 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

## Saturday, March 10

**Senior Center Bunko:** Harrah Senior Center presents Bunko every second Monday of the month, this month

Saturday, March 10, with a light lunch at 12:30 pm, and games from 1 to 3 pm. "Bunko is a simple dice game that is quick and easy to learn. Door prizes and baskets, everyone goes home with a modest prize." \$12 per person; first-timers \$10. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

**Sit n Sew:** Monthly drop-in sewing group meets at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, on second Saturdays. This month: Saturday, March 10 from 1 to 5 pm. Free to all and open to the public. "Bring a project to work on, sewing machine, and tools." Questions? Call Rachel at 354-0605.

**Cotton Dandee Hoedown:** plus Banshee Open Mic for women of all ages, hosted by Marjo Wilson. Saturday, March 10 from 2 to 4 pm at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 North Main Street. Every second Saturday in Willits; every last Saturday from 2 to 4 pm Covelo. For more info on Hoedowns/open mic, visit [www.cottondandee.com](http://www.cottondandee.com).

**Spring Fling:** A celebration of two years of the Laytonville Book Room. Saturday, March 10 at Harwood Hall. Featuring live music by The Real Sarahs, no-host dinner at 5:45 pm by Will (Sho) 'Nuff), raffle, no-host dessert by Mary Jane, and a silent auction. Doors and bar open at 5 pm. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Tickets at Healthy Start and the Book Room. Info: 984-8089.

**Sip Some Soup:** The 19th annual Sip Some Soup, the annual benefit for Willits Daily Bread, is set for Saturday, March 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Willits Community Center. In addition to tastes of many delicious soups – and the opportunity to vote for your favorite – Sip Some Soup offers bread and jam from Emandal – A Farm on a River, desserts from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and a silent auction.

Tasting tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. For more information or to donate an item for the silent auction, contact Willits Daily Bread Director Cindy Savage at 707-367-5669, 707-459-2579 or cindysavage@yahoo.com.

**"The Christians":** a reading of a new play by Lucas Hnath at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, March 10 at 8 pm. See Friday, March 9 listing for more details.



Gigi enjoys sewing on her mini machine.

Photo by Donna Linville

# What's Happening Around Town

**Shanachie Pub: Two Worlds Fusion:** trio plays original and cover tunes, including Reggae, Soca, Calypso and Ska, as well as pop rock, blues, funk and Latin sounds. Saturday, March 10 at 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Guests are welcome and there is no charge. Info: Scott Bryant at 760- 963-6248, Gary Bodensteiner at 459-2708, or Fran Gardner, 459-8733.

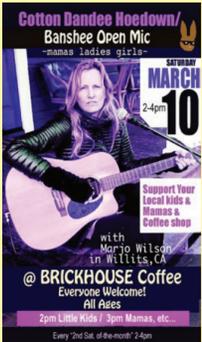


Two Worlds Fusion

## Sunday, March 11

**Ecstatic Dance Mendo:** offers a 3.5 hour embodied movement journey that "offers the community an opportunity to come together and experience the healing powers of movement and dance," on Sunday, March 11, beginning with "Movement Resonance," a contact improv class from 10 to 11 am, and then from 11 am to 1:30 pm, Ecstatic Dance welcomes back DJ Dragonfly. From 1:30 to 1:45 pm, Sound healing. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Families Welcome. \$15. For more info: Visit "Ecstatic Dance Mendo" on Facebook, contact Michelle at 707-972-1601.

**'Main Street: Then, Now & Tomorrow':** a curator-led tour of the "Main Street: Then & Now" exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, on Sunday, March 11, and a forum on the future of Main Street, in which panelists will reflect on the possibilities for – and opinions about – the future of commerce and culture in Willits. Admission is free to this event. The tour starts at 3 pm, and the forum, "Main Street: Then, Now & Tomorrow," moderated by Kim Bancroft, starts at 4:15 pm, and features a panel of guest speakers who represent various current interests within Willits, including ranching, business, railroad and the lumber industry, arts, real estate development, the cannabis industry, Native Americans, and environmental concerns.



## Monday, March 12

**Willits Garden Club:** This month's Willits Garden Club meeting is set for Monday, March 12, with guest speaker Wil Gonzalez, owner of W/E Flowers of Ukiah and the new Willits Flowers of Willits. Among his many talents, Wil designs and builds floats for the Rose Parade. The meeting is from 12:30 to 2:30 pm, beginning with refreshments and social time, with the speaker's program beginning at 1 pm. Every second Monday at the Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse, 16100 North Highway 101, six miles south of Willits (west of Highway 101 at Ridgewood [Seabiscuit] Ranch).



Wil Gonzalez

## Open Lap Swim at City Pool

Starts March 12

Willits High School Swim Team is hosting open lap swim at the Willits City Pool, 299 North Main Street, starting March 12 through June 1, from 6 to 8 am. \$4/day or \$100/30 day pass. Info: 707-367-5550 or mattiewowens@willitsunified.com

A fundraiser for the Waldorf School of Mendocino County

## The Enchanted Woodland Ball

A magical evening of friends, food and fundraising

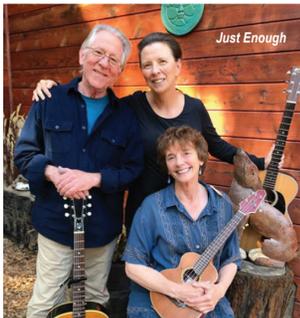
Saturday, March 17, 2018

at the Willits Little Lake Grange

5:00 – 10:30 p.m.

- Passed tapas style dinner provided by Good Earth Kitchen
- Wonderful selection of wine and spirits donated by local distilleries
- Silent and live auction
- Dancing and merriment
- \$50 per person, \$375 per table of 8

Tickets on sale at [mendocinowaldorf.org](http://mendocinowaldorf.org) or 707-485-8719



Just Enough

## Senior Center Lunch

Week of March 12 through March 15

**Monday:** Spaghetti with Meat Sauce  
**Tuesday:** Grilled Chicken Tacos  
**Wednesday:** Beef Stir Fry  
**Thursday:** Hot Dogs  
**Friday:** Corned Beef & Cabbage

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. \$6.50 for those 55 and older; \$8 for those under 55. Includes soup, salad, entree, vegetable, dessert, and drink. Salad Bar available all year. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

## Just Enough

March 25

Acoustic trio Just Enough will be back at Brickhouse Coffee on Monday, March 26, playing from 12:30 to 2 pm. "Performing a varied repertoire of folk, blues and Americana music, Clancy Rash, Kate Black and Helen Falandes blend close harmonies in a warm community setting."

Brickhouse Coffee is located on the corner of Main and Commercial Streets, downtown Willits.

1st Annual Signing Day!

Come support our Student-Athletes

Cheer on their accomplishments

Encourage their growth!

Ask questions, learn about their new homes!

WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL  
269 N. Main St.  
Willits CA 95490

March 12, 2018  
6:30 PM  
WHS Auditorium

Come support our senior athletes as they choose their collegiate destination!

Having the opportunity to further one's education along with playing sports at the collegiate level is an enormous accomplishment. The Student-Athletes of Willits High School, through their continued hard work and dedication, now have the ability to commit to an institution of their choice. We invite and welcome all members of the community to join us and show support of the successes of our young adults.

## '100 Plumes of Smoke'

March 19 - 25

The Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council of Willits is sponsoring an event called "100 Plumes of Smoke" the week of Monday, March 19 through Sunday, March 25, supported by CalFire and the Little Lake Fire Department.

All residents of Pine Mountain are encouraged to do burn piles to improve the defensible space around their homes, their propane and water tanks, and their driveways.

Burn permits are required and are available at the Little Lake Fire office, 74 East Commercial Street. Call Mendocino County Air Quality Control District 463-4391 after 4 pm the day before you wish to burn, to be sure it will be a burn day. A recording will inform you of this.

Also during the week of March 19 through the 25, if you wish specific information about your property's defensible space, representatives from CalFire will be available to visit your home.

To register and schedule a visit, call Lauren Robertson at 459-3475, or Don Mitchell at 456-9074.

## Redwood Region Logging Conference

March 15-17 in Ukiah

The 80th annual Redwood Region Logging Conference is set for March 15 to 17 at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah. Event highlights include: free Education Day for Local Schools, Banquet & Education Auction, Thursday Beer / Wine Gala with live country rock music, Vendor Booths and the Latest Equipment, Logging Show, Chainsaw Carving Exhibitions, Historical Displays, High School Forestry Competition, ProLogger Classes Available, Portable Sawmill Demonstrations, Exciting Wildlife Shows, Career Day for High School & College Students, Golf Tournament, Log Loader Competition, Logger Art Competition, Show & Shine Truckers Competition, and more. Visit <https://www.rrlc.net/> for more details.

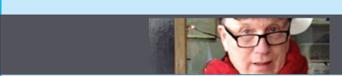
## Summer Arts & Music Festival

Vendor Applications

The 42nd annual Summer Arts & Music Festival 2018 vendor application is now posted on the Mateel website at [mateel.org/slash](http://mateel.org/slash) vendors. The deadline to submit vendor applications for Summer Arts, set for June 2 and 3 at Benbow Lakes State Recreation area is March 20. This year the application can be completed and paid for entirely online. All vendor applicants will be juried at the discretion of the Mateel Community Center. For vendor questions, please call 707-923-3368 x 32 or email Mateel Vendor Coordinator Anne Sachs at [vendorinfo@mateel.org](mailto:vendorinfo@mateel.org).

Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 5 to 10:30 pm. "A magical evening of friends, food and fundraising. Passed tapas-style dinner provided by Good Earth Kitchen. Wonderful selection of wine and spirits donated by local distilleries. Silent and live auction. Dancing and merriment." This year, the Waldorf School is also selling "Golden Raffle Tickets" as a fundraiser: Tickets are \$100 each and only 50 tickets will be sold: The winner gets to choose from four "Park Hopper" tickets to Disneyland, a weekend coast getaway with dining, or two cases of premium Mendocino County wine. Need not be present to win. Gala tickets are \$50 per person or \$375 per table of eight, and are on sale at [mendocinowaldorf.org](http://mendocinowaldorf.org) or 485-8719.

## COLUMN | At the Movies

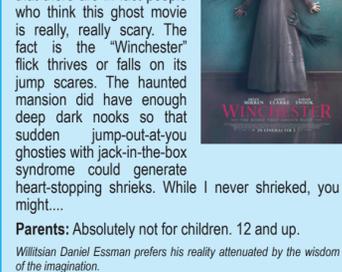


## 'Winchester'

**The Story:** Psycho killer ghost seeks revenge movie. Woman of mystery Sarah Winchester (Helen Mirren) is the super-rich majority owner of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. Sarah is sensitive to spirits of the dead. She un-builds and rebuilds her peculiar mansion all day and all night, adding bizarre new rooms and nailing closed the old ones. She seems uninged. The Winchester Company hires Dr. Eric Price (Jason Clarke) to assess Sarah's sanity. Then Eric starts seeing the ghosts. Sarah is shocked. Sarah's mansion is involved.

**My Thoughts:** A big fella whom I didn't know, but who knew me from Willits Weekly, said he had friends who told him that this movie was really, really scary, so he wasn't going to go see it. I'll take his hearsay report as more or less reliable – that there are in fact people who think this ghost movie is really, really scary. The fact is the "Winchester" flick thrives or falls on its jump scares. The haunted mansion did have enough deep dark nooks so that sudden jump-out-at-you ghosties with jack-in-the-box syndrome could generate heart-stopping shrieks. While I never shrieked, you might....

**Parents:** Absolutely not for children. 12 and up.



Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

Friends of the Long Valley Public Library presents

## Spring Fling

Celebrating two years at the Laytonville Book Room!

- Live Music with The Real Sarahs
- Dinner \$15.50 separately by Will (Sho) 'Nuff
- Raffle Dessert \$15.50 separately by Mary Jane
- Silent Auction

\$20 pre-sale Saturday March 10th Harwood Hall

Doors and Bar open at 5:00pm

## Save the Date

Waldorf School's Auction Gala, March 17, Little Lake Grange  
 11th annual Chili Cookoff, March 23, Harrah Senior Center  
 Cupcake Wars, March 24, Willits Community Center

## "Keys to Non-Profit Success"

March 13 in Ukiah

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County presents a free workshop with a facilitated conversation with an expert panel about the leadership and business practices that make non-profits successful in fulfilling their missions. Tuesday, March 13 from 12 to 2 pm at the Community Foundation of Mendocino County offices, 204 South Oak Street. Brown bag lunches welcome; drinks and snacks provided.

Panelists include Megan Barber Allende, CEO Community Foundation of Mendocino County; Carolyn Welch, CFO North Coast Opportunities; Susanne Norgard, former CEO Community Foundation; Mary Anne Petrillo, CEO West Company; and Pamela Lucas, HR director, Redwood Community Services.

"Have questions about leading your organization? Want to know how to address HR changes, business development and finance challenges? Come learn from the experience of those who have been through it." Participating organizations will be eligible for a technical assistance grant opportunity. For more info or to RSVP, contact Holly Madrigal at 707-468-9882 or visit [www.communityfound.org](http://www.communityfound.org).



# Farmers Convergence

North Coast agrarians gather at Ridgewood Ranch for sixth annual hands-on conference

The day was chilly and cloudy, but that didn't deter the more than 150 farmers, interested individuals, nonprofits, and businesses from attending the Sixth annual North Coast Farmers Convergence at Ridgewood Ranch on Tuesday, February 20 and Wednesday, February 21.

The Convergence is a project of North Coast Opportunities and the Mendo Lake Food Hub. It is a vehicle to gather some of the greatest agrarian minds in Mendocino, Lake, and Sonoma counties committed to environmental stewardship, humanely raising animals, and providing their communities with tasty nutritious food while making a reasonable living.

The idea for a conference grew out of a realized need for local farmers to gather and to share their combined experiences, experiments, and farming and business practices with one another.

Organizers also recognize the deep experiences of the successful heritage farmers like the Decaturs from Live Power Community Farm and Doug Mosel from Mendocino Grain Project, as well as innovative, newer farms like Singing Frogs Farm in Sonoma County, Fortunate Farm in Caspar, and Tequio Community Farm on Ridgewood Ranch. All the food producers are committed to increasing local food security with delicious and healthy food for the communities they serve.

As Ruthie King, the School of Adaptive Agriculture's director of operations, stated in her opening remarks, "This is a home-grown conference for us all to get to know each other and to have a moment where we can share information and also have some creative collaboration."

Continuing to set the tone for the day was Doug Mosel from the Mendocino Grain Project leading the multi-aged audience in

reciting Michael Brownlee's "Local Food Declaration of Independence." The simple yet profound declaration is a pledge to support local food and agricultural producers. The pledge also stresses the importance of honoring our lands, living soils and water.

Heritage farmers Stephen and Gloria Decatur inspired and entertained the crowd with their long and rich farming history. It began in the 1970s working with Biodynamic French Intensive Gardening guru, Allen Chadwick, at UC Santa Cruz and later at Chadwick's Garden Project in Covelo.

Stephen Decatur remembered: "When Chadwick appeared with his brilliant, creative genius, he began building a garden that was a garden for us all to re-enter as humans. He gave us a model of man working with Nature but in consciousness and love and gratitude and respect. That became the motivation for the rest of my life."

The Decaturs purchased their own farm and continued farming and building upon Chadwick's ideals. They've implemented practices like using horses' power, developing a CSA - community supported agriculture - program, and hosting school groups to let them learn about the farming experience.

The schedule at the Convergence then spread out into a wide variety of learning options including a panel discussion with local experts about "Climate Smart Farming in the Real World." They discussed the challenges they face as agricultural producers in an ever-changing and unpredictable climate and discussed solutions to overcome them.

The panel consisted of Paul Kaiser of Singing Frogs Farm in Sonoma County, Adam Gaska of Mendocino Meats in Redwood Valley, Gowan Batist from Fortunate Farm, Caspar, and moderator Evan Wiig from The Farmers Guild in Sonoma County.

The following is a partial list of



Above, left: Lunch offerings at the Farmers Convergence included bread baked from local grains and a medley of local, roasted root vegetables. Above: Takashi Yogi from the School of Adaptive Agriculture, gesturing, along with Michael Foley from Green Uprising Farm, also standing, lead the "How to Work Smarter: Lean Farming" workshop.

Below, left: Gloria Decatur from Live Power Community Farm, with her husband, Stephen, tells a story about children's experiences on the farm. Below, right: Travis Niderost, along with a workshop participant and Ruthie King, butcher some newly killed chickens.



At top: Tequio Community Farm's Isabel Quiroz and Hunter Flynn talk about the time- and labor-saving seedling planting system they recently purchased with money from a Good Farm Fund grant. Above, left: Todd Spanier, founder and CEO of California Truffle Orchards, was one of the exhibitors at the Convergence. Above, right: In the "Seed Saving in Action: Building Seed Growing Boxes" workshop, participants used recycled materials to make a rodent-proof seedling box.

The rest of  
**Odyssey**  
From Page 5

Bertolino - decided to create a presentation about the idea that there are always two sides to every story. The students chose J.M. Barrie's classic book, "Peter Pan" to create a quirky and humorous skit, with props and costumes.

"In the story of 'Peter Pan,' people completely overlook the fact that Peter Pan kidnaps children and that's not a good thing," Sylvia said. "What we're trying to show," added Ariel, "is that Peter is normally a hero that saves Wendy, but..."

"But he's the one that put Wendy in danger," Sylvia interjected. "He's the one that took her to Never Land in the first place."

The other two teams were participating in Odyssey for the first time, including Alexis Zynda, Kate Austin, Isabela Perez, Niek Lopez-Sierras, and Brooke Pateman, who chose a problem in the Theater category, "A Stellar Hangout." This team had to do an eight-minute skit with entertainment, food, a quest and a 3-D map, creating an alien hangout and their own script about a human that interacts with the guests.

The second medal-winning BGMS team - Alejandra Aleman, Nevaeh Jones, Milli Patino, Haley Kvasnicka, Alisha Hamilton, Aeon Webber and Emily Barnard - chose "Animal House," a problem in the Structure category. This team had all sorts of last-minute disasters, teacher Burghardt said, including that their balsa wood structure - which made up 50 percent of their score - fell apart before they got on the 7 am bus to the competition.

"Instead of yelling at each other and blaming," Burghardt said, "this group pulled it together." The students brought glue and tape to fix the structure, repairing it in the hallway of Santa Rosa High School. They had more technical problems in their skit on stage, but handled the problems with patience, humor and perseverance.

The rest of  
**Farmers**  
From Page 10

workshop choices: "How to Work Smarter: Lean Farming"; "No-Till Farming Roundtable Discussion"; "Common Vegetable Pests and Integrated Pest Management"; "Community Kitchen Development"; "Ranching with Wildlife," and "Introduction to Quickbooks."

A "Seed Exchange" in the Howard House and hands-on workshops rounded out the afternoon, including "Seed Saving in Action: Building Seed Growing Boxes" and "Hands-on Compost Workshop." The "Humane Slaughter and Butcher: Poultry Workshop" used a mobile food slaughtering and butchering trailer.

Throughout the day the Golden Rule's main dining room housed relevantly curated information booths. Attendees browsed through, talking with both presenters and gathering more information to fuel their passions.

The locally sourced lunch ingredients included seasonal produce, meats, grains and fruits provided by Ridgewood Ranch and The Food Hub farmers. A crew of Ridgewood Ranch volunteers turned the ingredients into delicious hearty dishes with vegan and gluten-free options.

On Wednesday morning there was a "Food Safety Modernization Act and Good Agricultural Practices" presentation. Tequio Farm at the ranch was used as the real-world example of how to scale food safety practices on a farm.

The cross-pollination of experiences had the event buzzing with ideas for future collaborations, experiments and connections. Attendees left the Convergence with the inspiration, momentum and dedication to continue working towards a food-secure future.

To learn more about Convergence sponsor North Coast Opportunities, visit [www.ncoinc.org](http://www.ncoinc.org).

To learn more about Convergence sponsor the Mendo Lake Food Hub visit [www.mendolakefoodhub.com](http://www.mendolakefoodhub.com) or call Caroline Radice at 707-467-3238.

The rest of  
**Auction**  
From Page 3

Paulies Garage, "a rebel outlaw country rock band from Santa Rosa," will provide the entertainment.

Lyndsey Burns, gallery manager, says the WCA has set a goal of raising \$10,000 from the auction. "We were blown away by the generosity of the community and the art community," she said. "We have a full gallery, and we were still accepting donations today. A couple people dropped items off today. There have been a lot of local businesses that have supported us, given us gift certificates or gift baskets."

"This is a rare opportunity to purchase art at well below retail value," Burns continued. "They say that a lot of silent and regular auctions usually sell for about 50 percent of retail value. If we could get more it would be awesome, but it is an opportunity for people to purchase a piece of art that they might not normally be able to buy."

"I'm sure there will be a few pieces where there will be bidding wars going on," Burns said. "The last

couple days should be crazy. We're expecting a good turnout on the 24th for our Final Bidding Party."

On the wish list for the proceeds from the auction is a new track lighting system to replace the antiquated, barely working system that projects light unevenly on the walls due to irreplaceable fixtures. The remainder of the money will be utilized for regular maintenance of the gallery. On Martin's wish list is a new floor.

After the culmination of the auction, the "Art Under 20" exhibit, curated every year by Willits High School art teacher Carolyn Bakewell, will open on Friday, March 30.

After seeing the generous response from the Willits community to the call for art donations, it is quite possible that this "annual event" will return year after year without another 10-year hiatus. For anyone looking for some stunning art at well below retail prices, this is a chance to take home some great local pieces.

WW141  
CITY OF WILLITS  
SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE  
ORDINANCE NO. 2018-01

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 28, 2018 at a regular noticed meeting the City Council amended Title 13 entitled "Sewers" of the Willits Municipal Code.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLITS AUTHORIZED AMENDING CHAPTER 13 - SEWERS OF THE WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNIFORMITY AND CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS

Ordinance No. 2018-01 amends Chapter 13 of the city's existing sewer ordinance bringing the City of Willits Municipal Code into conformance with current requirements of the City's NPDES (National Pollution Discharge System) permit, incorporate forthcoming federal pretreatment standards, to establish a sewer lateral inspection program, and incorporate general needed corrections.

A certified copy of the full text of the Ordinance is posted and may be read at the City Clerk's office, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, CA.

The foregoing ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting, held on the 28th day of February, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: Gonzalez, Stranske, Orenstein, Rodriguez, Strong  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

This summary of the adopted ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code Section 36933.

/s/ Cathy Moorhead, City Clerk  
Publication Date: March 8, 2018

# CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks

**Affordable Tutoring**  
English, Math, Test Prep, Homework Support, Study Skills, Maddie Armstrong ... 707 841-3106. Call to arrange free consultation and grade availability.

**Amazing! Beef Special**  
John Ford Rancher's Choice Box: 50 pounds of steaks, roasts and ground beef. \$300 (\$6/pound), amazing deal! Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call now: 459-5193.

**Bus to Safari West**  
Bus Trip for Retired Educators. Ukiah to Safari West. May 15. You can bring guests. Cost is \$154 per person. Call Daytripping, Inc. for tickets 707-577-8894. Details: 456-0908.

**Computer Help**  
Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$50/hr. Tutoring \$30/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamerjin@yahoo.com.

**Drivers Wanted**  
Shuster's Transportation, Inc seeks Class A Drivers for Full Time Chip Truck position. Benefit package includes medical, dental, and holiday pay. Min 1 year experience and current DMV report required: (707) 459-4131.

**Drivers Wanted**  
The Sound of Soul Tuesday, March 20, 6:00 - 7:00 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 E. Commercial Street. You're invited to experience chanting HU (pronounced hue), a sacred sound and ancient mantra. HU can uplift people of any religion, culture, or walk of life. Information? Call April, 972-2475 or visit [www.TheSoundofSoul.org](http://www.TheSoundofSoul.org).

**For Rent**  
Executive office - 2 large offices, 1 small; kitchen, bath and reception. 1,240 square feet. An additional 370 square feet could be added if needed. Call Margie, 459-6874 or Megan, 972-8776.

**Willits House to Rent or Own**  
4 bdrm, 2 bath house in town. Fixer-upper but fully functional. \$175k, \$25k starts your ownership. Call 775-225-4594.

**Heartfelt Counseling**  
Divora Stern LCSW, Energy Psychology, (707) 354-9911. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, EFT, Alternative Modalities Available. Somati/TRE, Art As Therapy. Seeking Help As A Strength. 716 S. Main Willits. Partnership & Medicare Accepted

**Help Wanted**  
AH-Home Health & Hospice is looking to fill the following positions: PT- OT- ST & HHA F/T, P/T & Per Diem available. Call H/R Trudy at 707-456-3230 or apply online at [adventisthealth.org](http://adventisthealth.org).

**Piano Lessons**  
Now, openings in downtown Willits piano studio. Accepting new students or pianists who would benefit from occasional coaching. Learn fundamentals of music & keyboard performance. Maggie Graham M.A.: 459-2305.

**RV/Trailer Space for Rent**  
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tp>

**SEWING AND ALTERATIONS**  
Seamstress and Sewing Teacher  
Barbara Carlon  
Visit my webpage: [Seamqueen.blog](http://Seamqueen.blog)  
707-367-6182, Willits

**Volunteer Opportunities**  
The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our team, call Deb at 707-459-6826.

The rest of  
**Intuitive**  
From Page 7

make decisions and choices that serve you over the long haul, knowing full well that you are not going to reap the benefits right now. There is conflict in the manifestation right now. That self, inside you, needs to go through some pain and emotion in order to work through the dissonance that has been eating away at your energy and reserves. It is time to pull back and wait until you have clarity.

The control you believed you had seem to be like moonbeams in your hand, and there is a place where you must let go of what is not working: No matter how attached to it you are or how well it worked before. You are in a place of controlled growth. Yes, you are being coaxed to move in a particular direction and in a particular way. It feels right now, abnormal. It feels not organic nor authentic. But you are being molded and shaped into a place that you never perceived

To learn more about Odyssey of the Mind visit [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com).

as a direction of importance. You are becoming something very different than what your soul has expressed up to this point.

Don't worry. It is going to be OK. This is going to eventually make sense. It is just right now, it seems out of alignment. And it is out of alignment with your former self. But you did not come here to maintain the status quo. You came to be magnificent. But comfort and repetition lured and tricked you into this place that allowed your powerful potential to fall asleep. And it is you that has to fight to wake back up.

When you are trying to wake from a deep sleep, your conscious mind fights to come back into this world. You are fighting now. And you are awakening. Yes, it feels exhausting and so much easier to fall back into the sleepy numbness of the old dream.

Yet something will not let you go. Something

is calling to you. That is because it is time. This is the time you knew would be what could powerfully call you to be and do what you are really here to do.

The Divine Feminine is poking at you to hear her, listen to her, and listen to the calls from the earth. Are you willing to surrender to the Divine? Are you willing to allow her to show you what you forgot you carry as a great gift? You are being asked to integrate your totality and to come together to help ignite a fire that will tear down the world of deception and suffering.

Suzanne Wagner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology," which can be found on Amazon.com. For more information: visit [www.suzannewagner.com](http://www.suzannewagner.com), email [suzanne@suzwagner.com](mailto:suzanne@suzwagner.com) or call her at 707-354-1019.

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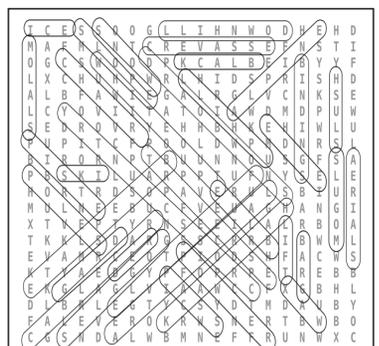
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Above, center: Acrylic Pour Painting class students pose with their teacher, Rossi Jensen, center. Finished canvases from the class, above left and right. From far left: Art teacher Rossi Jensen, Creek and Mia have become their own canvasses. The aftermath of the Acrylic Pour Painting Class at the Willits Center for the Arts. McKenzie's "pretty in pink" canvas matches her attire.

Photos by Mathew Caine

# 'Pour Painting'

## Even beginners can create beautiful, colorful, abstract paintings with this art technique

"This is my Acrylic Pour Painting Class," explained Rossi Jensen, "which freely translates to 'Chaos.'" And "chaos" is an apt description of the room filled with 25 kids of varying ages and some of their parents. By the end of the two-hour session there were splashes and globs of color on the tables, in the paint cups, in the aluminum troughs, on the aprons, on the butcher paper on the floor, on the hands and faces of the participants and, oh yeah, beautiful swirls of color on the small square canvasses, drying in the sun.

"This is my second class of this particular genre," Rossi said. "I've been teaching painting classes here in Willits for a year and a half at the Center for the Arts. For acrylic pour painting, there are four techniques. Today we worked on two different techniques. The first is a 'Puddle Pour.' We take half paint, half Elmer's Glue-All and some Flotral, which is a flow medium to make it all drippy.

"We mix the colors separately in a cup and then pour them on our canvasses and stretch them out and let them run off the canvas and get all messy. We also add oil or alcohol to them so that when we're done spreading the paint out we can torch it, and it will make bubbles in the oil or alcohol or cells come out of your picture. It will look like the cells of a plant leaf or Jupiter or Mars or the stone jasper.

"The second technique we did today is the 'Dirty Pour,' where we pre-mix all of our paints with the glue or the Flotral, and then we pour them into one cup in a way that the colors stay somewhat separate. Then we flip the cup over onto the canvas and let it go. Then we stretch out the paint and torch it."

Torching is a technique where heat is applied to the still-wet paint in order to bring up varying patterns and bubbles to the surface of the composition. It is the final crowning touch to the projects that have created as many laughs and smiles as they did finished art pieces.

After watching a video explaining how the two pour paint techniques work, the participants were ready to pick up their 12 inch by 12 inch square canvasses, choose their colors, and mix the paint with the materials which help the colors flow and bubble. They are encouraged to experiment, to collaborate and let their

imaginings flow wildly with the paint.

Every piece participants created was different and personal. Some just grabbed colors haphazardly hoping they would work together in an artistic manner, while others went in with a plan and chose colors that would fit into the color schemes in their rooms. All came out with amazingly beautiful art pieces into which they poured their hearts and visions.

"The other kinds of painting classes we have done are traditional step-by-step paintings that will take you from the beginning to the end in one two-hour session. This class, however, is new. It's creative. It's abstract. It's great for beginners because no matter what you do it's going to look good," said the flamboyant Miss Rossi.

"Even though it is a beginner class, the kids get a finished artwork or two. Even if they have never done art before they get more comfortable with making art, especially since their first piece is beautiful, or amazing, or abstract, or crazy. They also get to bond and be together with other kids. It's a place where they can make new friends. Not just for the kids class but also for the adult class. The adults come here and make new friends and have a good time.

"It's a place to get out of your house and do something in a safe environment. The more positive and fun things we get our teens involved in, the less other things they will get into. That's my plan with my kids. They get to engage in a fun, crazy time and get artwork they can hang in their rooms or give to their parents or hang in the living room or send to grandparents. The classes are always different. We'll be having Pour Painting classes twice a month here."

The \$25 entrance fee includes all materials, paint and two canvasses. Extra canvasses are available for \$6 for a 12 inch by 12 inch canvas or \$12 for a 16 inch by 20 inch canvas, "which can take a double flip cup and you can do it with a partner."

And the adult classes come with wine.

To find out more, visit "Painting with Miss Rossi" on Facebook; for reservations, email skunktrain1@gmail.com or call 707-354-8100. A "Teen Acrylic Paint Pouring Party" is set for this Saturday, March 10, from 1:10 to 3 p.m.



At top: Rossi Jensen, cleaning up at the end of the class Above: Art teacher Rossi Jensen, her assistant Creek and Mia work together on a "Dirty Pour."

Below, left: Juseus, with Roxanne, uses a cup to pour onto, too. Below, right: Riley uses heat to bring out bubbles and textures in her painting.



## The rest of Mediation | From Page 1

meetings, the committee will attempt to facilitate developing a lease structure that will be acceptable to both sides. The 4-1 vote included a stipulation that if there is no agreement between the two sides by the council's June 20 meeting, then it will reassess whether rent stabilization action is necessary.

Councilman Larry Stranske dissented, stating he didn't think the council and city government should become involved in such private business matters.

For the second time in just over two months, tenants from the Wagon Wheel mobile home park and other activists packed city council chambers, hoping to sway the council to pass some form of rent stabilization in the face of what they see as unfair tactics by new park owners, BoaVida Communities, and their property managers.

Interim City Manager Robert Perrault summarized the situation for the council and laid out three options from which they could choose: instruct city staff to create a rent stabilization ordinance, form the ad hoc committee, or take no action. Perrault said it was staff's recommendation to form the committee due to cost concerns and the time a rent ordinance could take to implement.

In his summary, Perrault explained the base rent of \$485.85 for tenants at Wagon Wheel had risen by \$60 last year after BoaVida Communities purchased the park - a 12 percent increase. In addition, a \$50 discount many of the tenants had enjoyed under the previous owners - for things like paying rent on time and maintaining "exterior appearance" - was eliminated for most recipients due to a stricter interpretation of the rules by the new owners. These tenants essentially saw a \$110 rent increase.

Perrault did note that \$34 of the \$60 increase was attributable to a reassessment of property taxes by the new owners after purchase of the park, a common occurrence when property shifts hands.

However, complaints by tenants about the new owners were numerous, including receiving threatening letters from the property managers for violations they felt were not justified, and some tenants claiming they were pressured into signing the long-term leases because they feared the offers would quickly expire and be replaced with higher rent increases. Some tenants said they were told they only had a month to decide, and one tenant claimed he was told he was not allowed to take a potential contract off the park grounds, even to show it to a lawyer.

Perrault said 68 of the 113 tenants at Wagon Wheel Park had already signed long-term leases of between 15-25 years, and any rent stabilization ordinance would not be legally apply to them.

Abe Arrigotti and Ben Smith, representatives from BoaVida, which bought Wagon Wheel and Valley Oaks mobile home parks last year, defended the actions of their company, arguing they were simply trying to keep the parks running smoothly and ensure tenants kept up with appropriate standards of cleanliness and maintenance.

"Our goal in buying properties is long term," said Arrigotti, owner and operator of BoaVida. "We don't buy properties to come in to a community, paint them and make them pretty and turn around and sell them. We're long-term investors in real estate. Our goal is to provide safe, clean, decent housing for any city and community we operate in. We want

to be invested into that community. That's our goal in Willits and has been from day one."

Arrigotti said some of BoaVida's actions were simply enforcing rules put in place by the previous owners regarding maintenance of park spaces - rules, they said, that had been ignored previously due to "mismanagement." For example, Arrigotti said park regulations state the only items allowed to be stored outside a mobile home are barbecues, bicycles, and "approved outdoor patio furniture" - anything else could potentially be a violation.

While Arrigotti didn't explicitly tell the council he was opposed to rent stabilization, he did warn of potential consequences, noting an \$8 million judgment pending against the City of Carson related to their rent ordinance.

"Please don't take that as anything from me," he said after mentioning it. "We're not interested in suing you. We love the city of Willits. We don't like attorneys. They're people that cost way too much money, and we prefer to leave them out of it. But that is something that's out there."

When asked by Councilmember Gerry Gonzalez, Arrigotti acknowledged two of their properties in southern California had a rent stabilization ordinance in effect and it had never really been an issue for them.

In his summary, Perrault noted that out of about 485 cities in California, approximately 100 of them had some form of rent stabilization in effect for mobile home parks.

Rent stabilization ordinances generally use the Consumer Price Index as a reference for how much rent may be increased.

Smith, the regional property manager for BoaVida, said he believes the CPI is "not a great tool" since real estate values often increase more quickly than cost-of-living prices the CPI reflects. However, he added he and BoaVida are "willing to subject ourselves" to the index if that was the decision of the council.

According to Perrault the long-term leases of BoaVida did look at CPI, but also had a minimum of a 4 percent annual rent increase for 25-year leases, and climbed to 5 percent per year for 15-year leases. In addition, this November will see a \$35 increase for all long-term leases, an increase of more than 6 percent.

CPI has generally increased in California only around 3 percent in recent years, which Arrigotti acknowledged. Additionally, Councilman Ron Orenstein pointed out that some ordinances don't use the full 100 percent of CPI to guide rent increases.

Under the terms of the long-term leases, BoaVida also can increase base rent by passing on "operational expenses" to tenants, although both Arrigotti and Smith said this was a very rare occurrence for the company.

Perrault did discuss the rent ordinance the City of Ukiah adopted for mobile home parks, which he praised, adding it would be a good model for Willits to look at if it wanted to go that direction.

Ukiah uses CPI as a reference, but also caps rent increases at 5 percent per year even if the CPI increase is higher. It also has cost-recovery methods in place for the city both through the owners and tenants of the parks.

J.R. Rose, a Ukiah resident who said he had advocated for that city's ordinance for years, recommended the Willits council take a look at how Ukiah approached rent stabilization, which covered seven different mobile home parks within the city limits.

## The rest of Quits | From Page 1

essentially the same thing. "It wasn't the job he thought it was."

When asked if Moreo's decision to quit had anything to do with the county's decision to hire a cannabis manager, Angelo said Moreo knew the county would be hiring a cannabis manager before he accepted the job.

In a county press release issued upon his acceptance of the position of ag commissioner, Moreo was quoted as saying: "I was drawn to work for Mendocino County as it begins the process of merging a traditional agricultural community with the emerging cannabis industry. I feel my years of experience will bring stability to an office facing huge changes in a rapidly shifting environment."

When asked if Moreo's resignation would mean Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture Dianne Curry - who until Moreo was hired was working as interim ag commissioner - would return to her post as interim ag commissioner, Dunham said she did not know. She said Curry was on vacation, and she and County CEO Carmel Angelo had not yet discussed the current situation.

In 2017, the first year in which Mendocino County issued permits to cultivate cannabis, the Department of Agriculture received 784 applications for a permit, conducted 434 pre-approval site inspections, and issued 59 permits.

## New cannabis manager hired

In other recent news related to the county's cannabis program, Kelly Overton has been hired as Mendocino County's new cannabis manager. Overton will oversee the cannabis-related activities of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Planning and Building Services and will work to make both departments function more efficiently in implementing the county's cannabis program.

According to the press release from the Mendocino County Executive Office, Overton "has previously worked as a process improvement and disaster management consultant with numerous nonprofits and municipalities."

Overton holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, a master's degree in Public Health from Tulane University's School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine, a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Massachusetts/Boston, and a graduate certificate in Conservation Biology from Columbia University's Earth Institute Center for Environmental Sustainability.

"I'm excited to join the county team," Overton said, "and look forward to working with staff and stakeholders to make Mendocino's cannabis program thrive."

"Mendocino County should and will become a blueprint for how legal cannabis can be a positive force both economically and socially," Overton said. "My immediate goals are streamlining the permit application process and working to further establish cannabis as an economic driver in the county."

According to Wikipedia, Overton is also an animal rights activist and author of books and articles related to defending the rights of animals and protecting the environment.

## The rest of Board | From Page 1

retirement in 2017. The other candidate, David G. Smith, director of technology for the Mendocino County Office of Education, and former technology supervisor for the Ukiah Unified School District, has been a Brooktrails resident "for about four years."

Tyler-O'Shea, who describes herself as a "do-er," has been employed by the Prevention and Planning Unit of the county's Public Health Division for the last 16 years. During that time, she successfully implemented more than 18 grant-based student-support, youth leadership advocacy, sustainable communities, and Safe Routes to School programs.

In her application for the vacant board seat, the 20-year Brooktrails resident said she's "not afraid to fight for what I believe in," but also "values and respects views that are different from mine."

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# Making Willits Thrive

An overflow crowd of locals gathers at The Hub for business development forum

For anyone who has ever dreamed of starting a business in Willits, *keep dreaming!* Help with whatever you need is here.

That was the clear takeaway from a recent town hall forum sponsored by WELL, Willits Economic Localization, called "Turn your Passion into Profit, or How to Make Willits Thrive."

Joanne Moore  
Features Writer  
joanne@willitsweekly.com

Local economic development heavy hitters, along with budding and successful local entrepreneurs, came together to share their services and stories with an overflow crowd at the Willits Environmental Hub at 630 South Main Street on February 25.

Representatives from the Willits Chamber of Commerce, the City of Willits, and the newly formed Willits Tourism Board described their economic development missions and roles.

Local dynamo and city council member with three businesses, Saprina Rodríguez, spoke of the strategies and projects that the Willits Tourism Board was considering "to attract visitors and enhance the visiting experience": healthy and hip eateries, bike trails, running events, a website, magazine, and "Willits 101 training for all in customer service" are a few of the current ideas in various stages of development.

Chamber of Commerce coordinator Allison Findley said the Chamber was "your local information center for anything you need ... with help every step of the way in founding your business."

Willits interim city manager Bob Perrault told the group the city was a good information source and "here to help you understand. If you're thinking about a business and have a location in mind, come to see [city planner] Dusty Duley first and get an idea of where your business can fit in" with respect to permits and zoning. "We know the vacancies," he said.

And, there's money to be lent.

The non-profit Economic Development and Financing Corporation's executive director, Heather Gurewitz, described EDFC as "an alternative financier – meaning an alternative to traditional financing organizations, like banks.... You have to be rejected by a bank to use our services."

She said they had several different loan programs, and could make "business loans up to \$250,000." You can find

them at edfc.org.

And then there's West Company, which has been in the county for over 30 years. Nothing beats them for help with pretty much anything you need to succeed in your business venture. CEO Mary Anne Petrillo told the crowd that the company "helps businesses succeed in whatever format they need – feasibility studies, loan access, marketing strategy, no-cost one-on-one confidential counseling."

You can stay with their counselor as your business evolves, or West Company will "find you a specialist to get the information you need," she said.

The company also hosts workshops designed to help individuals just starting out or looking to expand. Check out their many offerings and client stories and testimonials on their website, westcompany.org.

Of the five entrepreneurs who spoke to the audience, two of them, Jim Smith and Laura Rowland, credited West Company with providing indispensable business support.

Smith's Business, FBA Inspection in Fort Bragg, works with Amazon and eBay sellers doing shipping and merchandise quality control work for their businesses selling private label products.

"I was working 12 to 16 hours a day making almost nothing," said Smith. "I would have been out of business the first year without West Company. Today, we probably have 8,000 clients."

West CEO Petrillo gave Smith equal credit for his own success thanks to following up and doing the hard work. "We can show you the right way," she said. "But it's people doing the homework ... putting the time into it – that's how successful businesses are built."

Rowland, in the very early stages of developing a "mobile food truck" business with her sister, said that "going to West Company was my first stop," and she's already a very satisfied client. "Our counselor told us "to get a partnership agreement ... [and that] ... helped us develop who we are and what we want to be."

Other small business owners told their stories of going it alone.

Above, left: Janae Stephens of Organic Attire talks about how she and her husband, Gary, started their business. Above, right: The attentive crowd at the February 25 "How to Make Willits Thrive" forum at The Hub. Below: "How to Make Willits Thrive" presenter Mary Anne Petrillo, CEO of West Company, in red, smiles at local entrepreneur and city council member, Saprina Rodriguez.



Danny Church opened Gateway Games at 395 South Main Street about three years ago. His business began with "a game club in Laytonville. We would play D&D and other stuff, but we had to drive to get supplies." To make a long but interesting story short, Church saw an opportunity and a place for rent in Willits, and Gateway Games was born. Noting that "banks will not help you out if you have nothing," he said he started the business with a combination of credit card debt, small personal loans, and free rent for awhile in exchange for renovations. After two years, the debt was paid off, and the business is going strong.

Which perfectly illustrates what was a common theme repeated at the forum – passion for what you do is critical to your success.

Church's success with Gateway Games is obviously a reflection of his enthusiasm for the "sport."

"Do what you love," said Janae Stephens, who told the group about her "Organic Attire" business, "because you're not going to get paid for all your time, especially in the beginning." She and her husband, Gary, started their successful hand-dyed block printed organic cotton clothing business "organically – pun intended," said Stephens. Although she didn't recommend it, they started with no business plan – or loans – beginning with selling original silk-screened items on the street in San Francisco when they were in college. Clearly, doing what they love has worked for them.

Smith's business helping people successfully sell on Amazon and eBay started "with a little app" that scanned things and showed how they were selling on Amazon. Clearly enjoying his new app, he started selling things he found in his house ... and things he found in his parents' house and things he found at flea markets. He even found a long-forgotten but unopened original Nintendo Zelda game that he bought as a back-up years ago so he would never be without – that scanned in at \$999!

Jason Morash, owner of Morash Media Productions, provides business marketing services and enthusiastically told the group that it's possible to "have fun" growing their businesses. "Cold calling is not necessarily a bad thing," he said. "You're providing a service.... Get out and meet people. It's really just relationships."

His enjoyment for networking and making connections everywhere he goes was obvious and will be obviously critical to the success of his business.

Rowland is passionate about her traveling food trailer selling "Italian ices and frozen custards at festivals and concerts" in the summer time.

"Don't give up your daydream," she said.

## The rest of Access

From Page 1

formation of a so-called "boulevard district."

According to a fact sheet provided by Orth, a boulevard district is a legal entity that "may be formed for the purpose of constructing and maintaining boulevards." Such districts "may acquire real and personal property and rights of way within the district by purchase, gift, devise or condemnation."

"In addition, they may issue bonds and, when directed to do so by a vote of the people of the district, may levy taxes for the construction, maintenance or repair of district boulevards, and the payment of indebtedness and running expenses of the district."

The fact sheet adds that "a boulevard commission is the governing body of a boulevard district and exercises all of the powers vested in the district." Among other things, the commission may call an election to determine whether bonds will be issued to acquire rights of way, to construct a boulevard, or "for payment of a contract to construct all or part of a boulevard."

In a conversation with Willits Weekly, Orth described a five-step strategy toward building a second access road for Brooktrails. The first step would require the Brooktrails Township board of directors to create a second access interest committee. Orth said he believes the Brooktrails board will be taking this step soon.

The interest committee will ask the county board of supervisors to endorse this solution. Supervisors would then ask LAFCO, the county's Local Agency Formation Commission, to undertake a study to delineate the boundaries of the boulevard district and assess its economic viability.

With that information, an election would be held to levy a tax on boulevard district residents. The tax would fund further study of the costs of the project, pay for pre-engineering, and elect commissioners to the district.

According to Brooktrails attorney Christopher Neary, passage of the tax measure would require a supermajority – two-thirds of registered voters within the boundaries of the proposed boulevard district, plus one voter, voting in the affirmative.

If the taxation measure passes, the boulevard district would be created.

The most important order of business thereafter would be to hold an election on a bond issue. According to Neary, passage of the bond would require a majority vote, not a supermajority. However, the electorate for the bond would include registered voters, plus property owners, and votes would be weighted in terms of how much each voter would be required to pay in an annual assessment.

The purpose of the bond issue would be to raise what Orth termed a "local share" of money to pay for a portion of the project. Once the local share had been raised and socked away, the County of Mendocino could seek state and federal funding to finance the lion's share of the project.

Mendocino County Department of Transportation Director Howard Dashiell told people attending the meeting that a 2013 study of potential second access routes to Brooktrails estimated that Alternative A (the short route that runs from Primrose Drive at Acacia Court down to the KOA Campground on Highway 20) would have cost about \$10 million.

One of the potentially feasible alternatives (planned to run from Brooktrails Drive in central Brooktrails through privately owned St. Francis Ranch down to the northern interchange of the Willits bypass) was estimated to cost \$22 million.

Orth said he estimated the boulevard district would likely have to raise some \$3.5 to \$5 million to provide a reasonable local match. Rick Williams, president of the Brooktrails board, said he estimates members of the

boulevard district would pay about \$50 a year per parcel for 30 years to retire the bond.

Orth told Willits Weekly he believes proceeding in this manner would improve the chances of securing state and federal funding.

"That's the whole reason that we've been working on this for the past 30 years," Orth said. "It would help us for three reasons: First it shows that people in this area really want a second access into and out of Brooktrails and are willing to put up their own money to make it happen. Second, the proposed roadway would connect to Highway 101 directly. And thirdly, the fires that occurred in this county and elsewhere in California last October would enhance the viability of the project because of the state Legislature's interest in providing for fire safety, which a second access road would do."

The boulevard district idea was well-received at the meeting. Third District supervisory candidates John Haschak and Cyndee Logan, as well as former Third District Supervisor Hal Wagenet, spoke in favor of the idea. Logan said she would be willing to help organize a fundraising event to provide initial funding for the campaign.

The boulevard district idea was unveiled after several speakers addressed the current situation. Brooktrails Fire Department Deputy Chief Jon Noyer told the assembly that Brooktrails' emergency evacuation strategy was defunct.

Noyer said the unpaved roads which had formerly formed the arterials of the evacuation plan have not been maintained and are no longer passable. "I would not send my mother down those roads. Why would I send you?" he said.

When asked if the Brooktrails Fire Department, or the county board of supervisors, could initiate a short-term program in which those private roads could be improved and made passable, Noyer remained skeptical. He said the responsibility would not fall to Brooktrails, because they are private roads.

"In the longer term, it might be feasible," he said. "But over the short term, I can't guarantee that we are going to be able to use them."

Some members of the public were unhappy with the direction the meeting went. Local resident Keith Rutledge told officials who spoke to the public at the meeting – including Dashiell, Orth, county Office of Emergency Services Program Specialist Rick Ehler, Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde and Third District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey – that he was unclear why they were talking about a strategy to fund and build a second access to Brooktrails when the more urgent issue was providing an emergency exit in the event of fire.

Speaking to Willits Weekly the day after the meeting, Rutledge explained why he was unhappy. "California just had the worst disaster since the 1906 earthquake. That fire could have come down the west side of Pine Mountain and it could have come up Reeves Canyon and it could have come up into Brooktrails. We could have been evacuated and we should have been evacuated."

"Now, if we had been evacuated, where would we have gone?" Rutledge continued. "You just heard the Brooktrails deputy fire chief tell us Brooktrails doesn't have an evacuation plan. For most people there is only one road in – Sherwood Road – which would have brought people down into the fire. So that's what we need to be working on, and we need to work on it immediately."

"We don't need to use fear of another fire as an excuse to bring back this old idea of a second access for Brooktrails. I'm not against a second access. But it is a long-term project, something that may take 20 years to build – if it ever happens," Rutledge said. "What I am saying is we need emergency exits out of Brooktrails, and out of the upper Sherwood Road area, and we need them now."

## The rest of Sued

From Page 1

allegations it contains.

In a Monday interview with Willits Weekly, the plaintiff in the suit, Jeanette Brown, said the city "has had 28 years to correct [the deficiencies outlined in the suit] and they've done practically nothing. They could have [made improvements to bring city facilities into ADA compliance] a little at a time," Brown said. "There's hardly a place in town where [a disabled person] can even go to the bathroom."

In his February 22 federal suit, Frankovich claims the city "failed to provide integrated settings" so Brown and other disabled persons [could] fully participate in city services, programs, activities and opportunities," such as the ability to utilize the Willits police station to file reports and obtain information, and to secure information and documents at Willits City Hall.

In a Tuesday interview with Willits Weekly, Frankovich alleged Brown encountered architectural barriers at the Willits Police station, during a May 17, 2017 visit, including insufficient directional signage and parking in the city Hall's and station parking lots. Brown found "no accessible path to the entrance of the station, either from public sidewalks or the parking lot, while a service counter in the station was too high, making it difficult for Brown to make out a police report about harassing phone calls."

The woman also found a lack of directional signage to show accessible entrances to City Hall and the Willits firehouse, a lack of ADA-required disabled parking stalls, and a lack of handicapped accessible women's and men's public restrooms, Frankovich said.

Frankovich said the city has failed to meet 2010 ADA compliance standards regarding parking, entrances, meeting rooms, service counters, men's and women's restrooms, and accessible routes from public sidewalks to entryways – all violations of both federal and state regulations.

In addition to three complaints for injunctive relief stemming from alleged civil rights violations regarding lack of accessibility at city buildings, the suit also alleges that when Brown visited City Hall and demanded to see whatever plans and budget documents the city possessed to remedy ADA compliance issues, "the city didn't have them." Instead, Frankovich said, then-City Manager Adrienne Moore and City Code Enforcement Officer John Sherman took Brown into a conference room, "closed the door and interrogated her for an hour."

"That," he noted, "is retaliation, and it's unlawful." As a result, the federal suit names both Moore and Sherman as defendants, both as employees of the city and as individuals. It also faults city officials for "failing to create and implement a bona fide transition plan or to otherwise remove barriers in a timely manner to comply with the American with Disabilities Act."

Sherman told Willits Weekly he has not yet been served with a copy of the lawsuit either, and could not comment on the contents.

Frankovich says he expects a court date within 150 days. At that hearing, the different parties will try to mediate their differences before federal Judge Robert M. Illman.

## The rest of Cruce

From Page 1

of investigative hours [were] spent on the case, and the department was in continuous contact with investigators from the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office," Gonzalez said.

The week before his arrest, Cruce was one of six injured when his 2014 Jeep Patriot left East Hill Road west of Eastside Road, plunged down a steep embankment and landed on its roof in a creekbend.

Cruce suffered major injuries in the accident and was taken to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital for treatment.

In addition, five Willits teenagers were injured in the June 23 accident. Taylor Carter, 14, riding in the front passenger seat of the Jeep, escaped with moderate injuries. But four other passengers in the vehicle: 13-year-old Alyssa Bacon, 13-year-old Stevan Beers, 13-year-old Paris Yadon, and 12-year-old Shandra Silva – all riding in the back of the Patriot – were not wearing seatbelts.

Bacon suffered moderate injuries, the California Highway Patrol said, and was taken to Howard Memorial Hospital for treatment. Beers, Silva and Yadon all suffered major injuries in the crash.

Beers was airlifted to UC Davis Medical Center for treatment; Silva and Yadon were taken to Oakland Children's Hospital.

At the time, state traffic officers believed Cruce had been driving under the influence of alcohol.

Last Friday, Cruce entered a "no-contest" plea to one felony count of continuous sexual abuse of a child, and a second "no-contest" plea to a separate felony count of committing sexual acts with a child 10 years of age or younger, according to District Attorney Office spokesman Mike Geniella.

By stipulation, Geniella noted, Cruce will serve an indeterminate sentence of 15 years to life in state prison for sexual conduct with a child aged 10 or younger and a consecutive six-year sentence on the continuous sexual abuse count – an aggregated term of 21 years to life for the two felonies.

In addition, Cruce also will serve an additional 44 months in prison after pleading "no-contest" to unlawfully driving a motor vehicle under the influence causing great bodily injury to a passenger as a result of the June 23 accident.

If the parole board should decide in the future that Cruce should be paroled," said Assistant District Attorney Richard T. Welsh, who prosecuted the case, "he will first have to undergo an evaluation to determine whether he continues to pose a danger to society and should be classified a sexually violent predator."

"Should that evaluation determine he is a sexually violent predator," Welsh said, "[Cruce] will be transferred to Coalinga State Hospital for SVP treatment and only released upon being found by a Mendocino County jury to no longer present a danger to the community." This report was based partially on a press release from the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office.



## The rest of Oversight

From Page 1

Recovery Services Director Jenine Miller if there was anyone in her department, other than Miller herself, who could assess mental health services and the facilities available in Mendocino County, but Miller replied there was no one besides herself who knew everything there was to know about everything having to do with mental health.

Angelo thought it would be a bad idea to have Mendocino County staff do the needs assessment.

Diamond cautioned the commission that, in his view, the scope of work specified in the motion was too broad. "I think it's a good motion. I just want to be sure that what we are asking a consultant to do is focused on what the charge of this group is; that it isn't 'Mental Health everything' – because that's not what this group is charged to do."

Allman assured Diamond that aspect of the recommendation would be made clear when the RFP was written.

The matter was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously.

Prior to the needs assessment discussion, the citizens oversight committee grappled with its mandate.

Allman read from the language in Measure B, which stated Measure B was to "provide for assistance in the diagnosis, treatment and recovery of mental illness and addiction by developing a psychiatric facility and other behavioral health facilities" and in addition, to fund "a regional behavioral health training facility to be used by behavioral health professionals, public safety and other first responders."

Allman clarified that language meant the purpose of the oversight committee was to make recommendations to the board of supervisors about what kind of brick-and-mortar structure or structures within the budget provided by tax money raised by Measure B should be built. The commission is also charged with reviewing expenditures to make sure Measure B funds are spent in accordance with the intent and purpose of the initiative.

After some discussion, the oversight committee decided it didn't need a mission statement.

### Old Howard Hospital

Margie Handley, Howard Foundation president and former Third District representative to the county's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Advisory Board, reported on the current status of the old Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, which has remained vacant since the 2016 opening of the new Howard Hospital off East Hill Road.

Handley said the foundation paid \$48,000 to fund a study to determine how the old building might be reconfigured to be used as a mental health facility. The study determined the hospital could legally be used for that purpose, but it would cost between \$11 million and \$14 million to reconfigure and retrofit the building.

The difference in cost reflected labor costs, depending on whether whoever did the work would be using labor at prevailing wage (\$14 million) or a private firm with its own employees (\$11 million).

"We know the state supports [using] this building," Angelo said. "When Measure B passed, I had to call Margie and tell her that I can't promise you anything, because now we have a lot more money to spend. But to spend \$11 to \$14 million to renovate this building, which would be located in the center of the county, might really be a practical and viable solution."

Allman appointed Miller, Angelo and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Advisory Board Chairwoman Jan McCourty as an ad hoc committee to gather and review information about the old Howard Hospital.

The ad hoc committee will report on what it has learned at the oversight committee's next meeting.

Find a Willits Weekly distribution box at:

- 101 Drive-In, Scoops, J.D. Redhouse, Willits Post Office, Village Market, Cafe 77,
- Buttercups Children's Boutique, Willits City Hall, Willits Library, Mariposa Market, the old Country Skillet, Old Mission Pizza, Romi's Roadhouse, Brewed Awakening, and Ace Copy and Shipping. Additional boxes at Baechtel Grove Middle School, Willits High School, Mendo Mill, the senior center, Grocery Outlet in Willits, and Geiger's in Laytonville.

**EVERYTHING**  
FRIDAY TO SUNDAY: MARCH 16, 17 & 18, 2018  
**PET SALE!**  
20% OFF  
TREATS, TOYS, BEDS, SUPPLEMENTS AND MORE!  
10% OFF PET FOOD!  
RAFFLE PRIZES!  
**J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY**  
A LOCALLY OWNED MERCANTILE  
SEE STORE FOR DETAILS. LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND

**WCA**  
Willits Center for the Arts  
Grand Opening March 3  
**THE ANNUAL ART AUCTION IS BACK!**  
Final Bid Party March 24  
This important fund raiser keeps the arts alive in our community and brings vibrant and relevant shows to your art center. Your participation and generous donations continue to bring performance, dance, poetry and visual arts to our community.  
**DONATE TO THE AUCTION!**  
If you want to donate goods, services or art for this gala event, call Lyndsey at 459-1726 or email: manager@willitscenterforthearts.org  
WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
71 E. Commercial St.  
PO BOX 503, Willits, CA 95490

**NOYO**  
THEATRE Willits, CA  
57 East Commercial Street - Willits  
707-459-NOYO (6696)  
www.noyotheatre.com  
Starts Friday, March 16:  
**Tomb Raider**

**A WRINKLE IN TIME - 2D & 3D**  
(PG) 1 hr 50 mins  
Fri: (2D) 3:30 & 8:30pm, (3D) 6:00pm  
Sat: (2D) 1:00, 3:30 & 8:30pm (3D) 6:00pm  
Sun: (2D) 2:30 & 7:30pm, (3D) 5:00pm  
Mon-Thurs: (3D) 5:00pm, (2D) 7:30pm  
Movie Times for 3/9 thru 3/15

**BLACK PANTHER**  
(PG13) 2 hrs 14 mins  
Fri: 5:15 & 8:15pm  
Sat: 2:15, 5:15 & 8:15pm  
Sun-Thurs: 4:15 & 7:15pm

**GRINGO**  
(R) 1 hr 50 mins  
Fri: 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45pm  
Sat: 1:15, 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45pm  
Sun: 2:45, 5:15 & 7:45pm  
Mon-Thurs: 5:15 & 7:45pm  
This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor, Bill Nobles  
Information: 456-9668  
**EVERYBODY IS WELCOME**

### Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

- Sound of Soul events
- Membership Discourses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?  
Call 707-456-9934

### Grace Community Church

*Celebrating Life In Christ*  
25 Hazel Street, Willits  
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m.  
Worship Service &  
Children's Church - 11 a.m.  
Mid-week Bible Studies  
**Potluck every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**  
Alan Klier, Lead Pastor  
459-3106

### St. Francis Episcopal Church

1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-459-3066  
Church Services/Communion  
10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
*The Rev. Betsy Bruneau*

### Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

399 W. Mendocino Avenue  
459-6390  
Stan Caylor, Pastor  
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
**1st Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school.**  
22751 Bray Road, Willits

### Willits United Methodist

*A Christ centered, progressive church*  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
Worship Celebration  
Sundays - 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.  
459-2855  
Facebook: www.facebook.com

If you want to be included in this column please call:

**April Tweddell**  
(707) 972-2475  
april@willitsweekly.com



# It's time to Sip Some Soup!

## Annual Willits Daily Bread fundraiser this Saturday at Willits Community Center

The soup will be on and ready for the sipping for those who come to the Willits Community Center this Saturday for the 19th annual Sip Some Soup event.

Doors will open at 5:30 pm, with eager soup sippers likely to be elbow-to-elbow at first. Food will be served until 7 pm. Entry to the event is \$15 per person or \$25 for two tasters.

Almost 20 soup makers have already signed up to try for the win, including individuals like Willits Daily Bread volunteers Kyle and Jessica, and organizations like Willits Charter School, the Willits Environmental Center, Willits Community Services, Adventist Health Howard Memorial, the Cancer Resource Center and Little Lake Health Center, to name a few.

Savvy tasters know that bringing a muffin tin will help keep their cups organized while they circle the hall lined with soup booths. Votes can be cast for Favorite Soup and for Best Table Decoration.

Emandal bread will also be served – Tam Adams and her staff of bakers provide delicious selections for event enjoyment and extra loaves are also available after the sale to take home and enjoy.

This year, the silent auction will also return, and Willits Daily Bread's Executive Director



Above, from left: Donations for the auction include a flamingo beach blanket and Goji Tarocco Orange candle from Cat's Meow. Cindy Savage, executive director of Willits Daily Bread, picks up a package of Calico Critters and a metallic mirror from Sara Mann at Mazahar. Four CDs were donated by Cherie Sheraque of Main Street Music for the Sip Some Soup auction.

At left: Cindy Savage and Summer Beers, Willits Daily Bread volunteer, work on a soup recipe. Below: Several of the auction items up for grabs. At bottom: Summer Beers stirs the giant pot of soup.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Cindy Savage has been out collecting donations of all kinds to entice bidders.

Thus far, items include a two-night stay for two adults at the Dell'Ara's Casa Del Mar guest house in Caspar, 25 pounds of beef from the John Ford Ranch, a bowl from local artist Marlana River, prints of original oil paintings by Sue Ellen Parkinson, a book of plays from Don Sampson, a memoir entitled "Flashbacks" by Jim Gibbons, a garden plaque/stepping stone called "Green Man" from Jon and Anne Maglente, a handmade doll, with extra dress, potholders and a table runner by Anne Vanderhork, Contigo water bottles and a blanket from Kellie Taylor, a Trivial Pursuit game from Ace Copy and Shipping, a vest donated by P. Parker, coffee



Photo by Cindy Savage

donated by Blessed Bean coffee, a Chiro-Flow pillow from Healing Central Chiropractic, and a necklace and stones from George's Geodes and Gems.

Come, bring a friend, enjoy some soup, bid on some interesting gifts, and help raise money for Willits Daily Bread. For more information, contact Savage at 367-5669.

– Maureen Moore

# MARCH 2018

## SATURDAY'S MATCH PLAY MADNESS!

9AM-3PM

**BUY IN AT THE CAGE \$25 AND GET \$50 FREE PLAY ON PLAYER'S CLUB CARD**

6PM-11PM

**BUY IN AT THE CAGE \$50 AND GET \$100 FREE PLAY ON PLAYER'S CLUB CARD**

**100 POINT BUY IN AT 9PM**

**(UP TO 1 CARD PER GUEST, PER SESSION)**

## Happy St. Patrick's Day

**SATURDAY • MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>**

All Player's Club Member(s) (via Player's Club Booth) that wear the color Green will receive \$5.00 in free play (once per Club Member)

YOU MUST BE WEARING A GREEN VISIBLE ARTICLE OF CLOTHING

## Lucky Spring Giveaway!

**Mondays – Thursdays earn entry tickets 8am-8pm**  
**Every 100 points = 1 ticket entry**

On March 31st at 4pm One lucky winner will get a Package Deal of:

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) 48" DECK RIDEMOWER    | (1) TELESCOPIC POLE SAW |
| (1) 20" FIREWOOD CHAINSAW | (1) BLOWER              |
| (1) PRO TRIMMER           | (1) 16" CU DUMP CART    |
| (1) TILLER                |                         |

There will be 4 ticket drawings for \$500 in cash, randomly once an hour between the hours of 5pm and 9pm

**Sherwood Valley Rancheria Smokeshop**  
100 Kawi Place • Willits  
Hours: Monday-Friday 10am to 6pm  
Saturday 11am to 5pm • Closed on Sundays

# SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

100 Kawi Place, Willits 707-459-7330 www.svrcasino.com

Management reserves all rights to cancel or alter any promotion with little or no notice.



## Congrats | Willits FFA speakers

On Wednesday, February 28, Willits FFA competed in our section speaking competition in Kelseyville against nine other chapters and over 60 students. The top four students in each category get to move on to the regional competition, which will also be held in Kelseyville this year on March 23.

This year three of our Willits students get to advance on! Congratulations to DJ Buzzard, 3rd in Job Interview, Jacob Arms, 2nd in Impromptu, and Claire Case-Brackett, 1st in Creed!

All of our students represented us very well, and we were very proud!!

– Submitted by Kelley Brackett, for Willits FFA

Above: The Willits FFA group holds their certificates of participation and ribbons, with advisor Kelley Brackett, in rear, right.

At right: Speaking competition award-winners DJ Buzzard, Claire Case-Brackett and Jacob Arms hold their FFA awards and ribbons.

