

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013



Online & Print
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
Donations Accepted Edition No. 196 **Thursday, March 9, 2017**

Jobs, short Tuesdays top WUSD board meeting

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
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The Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees heard an array of concerns at their March 1 meeting from teachers and parents on issues ranging from the elimination of certain employment positions in the district, the possibility of changing the short Tuesday schedule, and the current state of the Willits Teachers Association's contract negotiations.

The crowd at the meeting was larger than those in recent months, and many there were eager to speak their minds. The meeting took place at Blosser Lane

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

County revenues up, but fiscal future uncertain

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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County staff told the board of supervisors Tuesday that they and state officials are experiencing uncertainty regarding the direction of the national, state and local economy, in view of the change in administration in Washington, D.C.

The news was couched in a positive second-quarter budget report.

Assistant CEO Sarah Dukett told supervisors Gov. Jerry Brown recently unveiled a \$122 billion 2017-18 state budget, which represents a .02 percent decrease from last year's spending plan.

Dukett said the state

Read the rest of **Revenues**
Over on Page 10

Two WPD officers promoted to sergeant

Two Willits Police Department officers have been promoted to sergeant. Officer Kevin Leef has been promoted to sergeant effective February 19, 2017. Sergeant Leef has worked for WPD for 4.5 years and has been serving as an acting sergeant since December 2016.

Officer Ricco McCoy is being promoted to sergeant effective March 6, 2017. He has worked for WPD since September 2016, having come over to the department from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, where he was a deputy for over 5 years. He has been serving

Read the rest of **Sergeants**
Over on Page 13



Above, from left: Willits Senior Center board member, 2017 cookoff judge, 2016 People's Choice winner and 2015 Best Table winner, Virginia Jorge. Raffle tickets will be available at the cookoff. New center director, Richard Baker, shows off his chili-making skills. Below: Barker is ready to help offer a plethora of pepper-filled options during Friday's chili cookoff event.



Photos by
Maureen Moore

Time to get spicy

Senior Center holds 10th annual Chili Cookoff Friday, March 10

Get ready to sizzle on Friday when cooks will be entering their beef-and-bean best into the Willits Senior Center's annual Chili Cookoff in hopes of taking home one of the many prizes and – of course – bragging rights for the year.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
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The event will be held from 5:30 to 7 pm in the center's dining room, located at 1501 Baechtel Road. Teams will compete for winning votes in People's Choice, Judges Favorite, Hottest Chili, Most Entertaining/Best Décor and of course, Crookedest Team (competitors are always encouraged to "bribe" the judges). Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman will emcee the event.

Even though around 15 teams have already signed up, there's still room for more. Entrants who want to compete pay a \$25 entry fee per team and need to provide about 3 gallons of chili for the tasting. Entry forms are available at the center.

Those interested in tasting (and casting votes) are welcome; tasting tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for center members and \$5 for kids.

Tickets will available at the door, or presale at the center.

In addition to chili tasting – with a side of corn bread, too! – a selection of additional goodies will be available to purchase, including hot dogs and root beer floats.

Monies from the cookoff and earnings from the evening's silent auction will go to support the center. Additionally, raffle tickets for a number of themed baskets will also be up for sale at the front desk.

Friday's event marks not only a milestone for the center as it complete a decade of cookoffs, but also marks the first for newly appointed director, Kenneth Richard Barker, who goes by "Richard" among the community.

Barker received the torch from past director Allyn Nonneman who announced her retirement and encouraged Barker to go for the position. Barker officially took the seat in the captain's chair on March 1 and is already working to keep the center lively, create fun programs, and keep the cash flow rolling in for the center and the vital services it provides to the community.

Originally, Baker started working at the center as a driver, and was hired in March of 2010. Three months later, he was promoted to the transportation supervisor position where he remained for five years, before he had to leave the area to take care of a family matter. Baker eventually returned to Willits and was rehired in December of 2016 for the same position. Soon thereafter, Nonneman put in for retirement and the application process became active.

"Allyn was a big part of the process," said Barker. "She really encouraged me to apply for the position, and helped with recommendations on my behalf. It was between me and another applicant, and I feel very lucky to have gotten the job."

Barker was able to shadow with Nonneman for about a month prior to her official departure, something Barker noted he was very grateful for.

Read the rest of **Cookoff** Over on Page 13



New director Richard Baker.

Two mental health facilities for inland county?

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Inland Mendocino County could find itself with two new mental health facilities.

If current efforts are realized, the two facilities could provide half or perhaps three-quarters of the services sought by Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman in his ballot proposal for a "one-stop shop" that would have offered a 24-hour, lockdown, involuntary facility, a 30-day crisis residential facility, drug and alcohol treatment, and outpatient services.

In November, the Allman proposal – which needed a 66.67 percent "yes" vote – lost by 166 votes, receiving

Read the rest of **Facilities**
Over on Page 10

Mendocino Redwood Company recertified

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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The Rainforest Alliance has recertified Mendocino Redwood Company as operating in conformance with the principles of forest stewardship endorsed by the North American branch of the Forest Stewardship Council.

A December 1, 2015 press release on the MRC website explained what the Forest Stewardship Council is and why it is important: "The Forest Stewardship Council was born out of an effort by national and regional environmental organizations to create a standard of exemplary forest management; something they could support while allowing a reasonable

Read the rest of **Recertified**
Over on Page 10

Some growers vexed by zip tie letter

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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A March 3 letter sent to people currently enrolled in the Sheriff's Office 9.31 program caused waves of anger to roil through the cannabis-growing community, some of which sloshed into supervisors' chamber during Tuesday's board meeting.

The letter notified growers the county's 9.31 program has been suspended, although Supervisor John McCowen and Undersheriff Randy Johnson both said the letter did not signal any change in county policy.

Read the rest of **Zip tie**
Over on Page 13



Deb Holcomb, volunteer and Meals on Wheels coordinator, left, poses alongside new center director Richard Baker with their peppery mustaches.

Warning

To the Editor:

There is a deer killer in my neighborhood. Someone shot a young deer that had been born here and lived here. They used it for target practice.

It came and was unable to stand, though it tried. It lay here for hours until the Fish and Wildlife man came and had to euthanize it. It had probably been shot with a .22. He took it away to be "evidence."

About a month ago, witnesses saw a fast-driving vehicle deliberately run a deer down right on Live Oak Road and Valley Road. This is my neighborhood, and now two of the four deer that lived on my property are dead.

We are looking for you.

Bobbie Recio, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

On behalf of the American Legion Unit 174 Auxiliary, I would like to thank the town of Willits for their continued support of our programs. This past February we held our annual Sweetheart Raffle for "A Night on the Town" for two.

The local merchants donated generously, and we were able to present six prize baskets to local winners. We also put the names of those merchants donating into a drawing for a merchant basket. The community also was generous in that we received enough in donations to cover our high school scholarships to be presented to two Willits High School seniors this May.

This town is wonderful, and your generosity and support of the American Legion Auxiliary is greatly appreciated. Thank you,

Vicki Ham, president, ALA Unit 174, Willits

Tribes request repatriation of artifacts

To the Editor:

This below letter was sent to Mike Bartlett, environmental project manager at the California Department of Transportation, on February 22, 2017 from the Sherwood Band of Pomo Indians, the Coyote Band of Pomo Indians, and the Round Valley Indian Tribes, under the heading: "Re: Willits Bypass Archaeological Records Request and Request for Repatriation of Archaeological Artifacts to the Tribes."

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Pursuant to the California Public Records Act [Gov. Code Section 6250, et seq.], the three federally recognized culturally affiliated Tribes listed below collaboratively request up-to-date archaeological records that were recovered from 2001-2016 that are in the possession, custody or control of Caltrans. The archaeological records shall include, but not be limited to: inventory lists, field notes, photographs, collections methods used, artifact data including the accession numbers assigned to artifacts, and any other associated notes and/or documents. We also request complete information as to the specific locations where these artifacts are currently being stored, the manner in which they are being stored, and under whose supervision they

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

are being stored.

Our three Tribes hereby formally and mutually request that all of these artifacts be repatriated to the Tribes. This requested information is a necessary first step to enable the Tribes to craft a management plan for the curation of the artifacts.

The Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, and the Round Valley Indian Tribes make this request to ensure that informed decisions are made with regards to the physical stewardship of the collected cultural resource materials.

We look forward to receiving the requested information no later than March 22, 2017.

Mike Knight, chairman, Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Michael Hunter, chairman, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
James Russ, president, Round Valley Indian Tribes

Smoke alarms save lives

To the Editor:

As we head into daylight savings on March 12, 2017, the volunteer firefighters of the Little Lake Fire Protection District would like to remind our residents that working smoke alarms save lives. "Check your smoke alarms, when you change the clocks!" It is estimated that 65 percent of home fire deaths occur in homes that don't have a working smoke alarm. Most victims of fire die due to smoke and/or toxic gas inhalation because smoke and gas spread faster and farther than heat and flames.

A working smoke/fire detector can greatly increase the safety of your family, providing early notification of a fire in its earliest stages. This early notification can give your family the time to safely evacuate your structure. This early notification will allow us to get on scene in the developing stages of a fire, helping to limit the extent of damage to your home. On average, you will have less than three minutes to safely escape a fire once the first alarm sounds. Forming fire-safe habits is one of the best defenses against having a fire in your home – such as having a working smoke detector with alarm.

Owners of all residential rental properties are required to ensure that smoke alarms (Cal. Health & Safety Code 13113.7) and carbon monoxide detectors (Cal. Health & Safety Code 13260) are installed and operable at the time a new tenancy (when a new lease or rental agreement is signed) is created.

Currently smoke alarms are required to be installed on every floor or level of a multi-story dwelling, including basements if a sleeping room exists, as well as centrally located outside each sleeping area.

Under the state's "Health and Safety Code - Smoke Detector - 13113.7 and 13114" as of January 1 2014, owner/landlords of both multi-family and single-family rental units are now legally responsible and liable for the testing and maintenance of all installed emergency detection devices within all of their residential units including vacant residential units.

While it is the duty of the landlord to test and maintain any emergency notification devices during the course of the tenancy, the tenant has an obligation to notify the owner/manager once they become aware of a problem with any device. Once an owner or their agent has been notified, the owner/agent is then required to immediately

correct any problem under their obligation to "maintain" the device.

For more information on the U.S. Fire Administration's "Install, Inspect, Protect Campaign" and other fire prevention information, please visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms. To learn more about the Little Lake Fire District's local fire detector campaign activities, please feel free to contact the District Office at 459-6271.

Carl Magann, fire chief, Little Lake Fire Department

WHS Native American Club

To the Editor:

The Willits High School Native American Club (WHS-NAC) would like to thank the community for their generous donations made to the club at the Standing Rock event last month. WHS-NAC will be hosting a school-wide Awareness & Wellness Day on March 20 at the high school, with the purpose of motivating and educating our WHS students on such subjects as equality, health & healthy relationships, and Native American culture.

We are still very much in need of volunteers and donations to help fund the event. If you would like to support the WHS Native American Club, tax-deductible donations may be left at the WHS front office and made payable to WHS-NAC, attention Julie Orr. For more information, please contact our club advisor, Lucy Kyne at 459-7700 x1513. With appreciation,

Tatyana Guevara, WHS senior and NAC president

Attracting travelers

To the Editor:

There has been a lot of talk lately about the business that has been lost because traffic no longer goes through our town. People have wondered if it would serve them to place a sign up. Should they put it at both ends of town, and how many can afford the cost?

What are the problems with attempting to attract people off the freeway and into Willits? If a car is traveling 40 to 70 mph, and hopefully the driver's attention is on driving, it is difficult to read anything. You will notice that Caltrans deals with these challenges by having a few signs as possible, not more than one to three words, and large, simple lettering.

The idea of having individual businesses supply their own signage quickly falls apart when you realize that only a few businesses can afford it, and if you have more than a couple signs, people won't read any of them and you have limited yourself to attracting only those people wanting that specific business.

So, my suggestion is to unify our effort and attempt to attract as many people as possible. Traveling through the Midwest, I often saw signs with one to three words spaced 20 to 60 feet apart, so that a driver reads the message as they travel down the road. In our case they might read: 8 gas stations, 30 restaurants, 2 city parks, 2 museums, 10 motels, etc. People are more likely to interrupt their travel if they can take care of all of their needs in one place. These signs get the traffic off the main road and headed into our town.

In an effort to facilitate people knowing what their options are and being able to quickly locate their choices, I purpose placing pullouts, after they take the off-ramp, that have maps, much like you find in shopping centers, a minimum of 4 feet by 8 feet, that have the locations of all that Willits has to offer.

We might have more than one map at each end of town. One could have gas stations, motels and restaurants, and another entertainment, like parks, museums, Skunk Train, skate board park, etc. In addition, each location could be numbered and correspond to boxes, much like you see in our state parks. Boxes could be clear plastic with lids on short poles. Restaurants could display menus, others could display hours of operation and phone numbers to call ahead, motels could list accommodations, etc. The whole idea is to make their visit as easy and friendly as possible.

Having displayed that we have a lot to offer, how do we show that we are unique and special? Most of us have seen the large sculptures near Geyserville, and the Snoopy sculptures scattered throughout Santa Rosa. Since I'm an artist and do sculptures, this is my obvious solution; others may have other suggestions. My first idea was to have a dragon 40 to 80 foot long, just as you are getting off the off-ramp. It would have a framework of rebar and heavy wire covered with lightweight fabric, which would articulate in the wind. Another idea is a very large sculptured tree that incorporated the shape of a man or woman. But I'm just one artist, and the possibilities are limitless.

If something like this were to happen, it would require joint community effort. We could possibly workshop the development and implementation much like we did with WELL. WELL could even possibly sponsor the first gathering. This is an opportunity to transcend the divisiveness that the bypass created originally. Out of this struggle we could possibly unite in a common effort to create something very special, but ultimately it all depends on you. I am an artist not a networker, but if you are interested, call me, leave a contact number and a good time to call you back. Reach out to others and share your feedback. These are not the times for disparity. Solutions only arise out of hope.

Ron Woolsey, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

I want to express my appreciation to all the people and local businesses who helped to make Willits Elementary Charter School's Winter Gala celebrating their five-year anniversary a complete success!

Thank you to Little Lake Grange for the beautiful space and stage, to the teachers who do such a great job educating the WECS students and keeping them organized at the event, to our music teacher and emcee Mr. B., to our Director Kara and her husband, Emory, to our wonderful school chef, Charlie, for the great food, to Rebecca for helping with the food service, to Billy for being an amazing auctioneer, to Jessica for running the childcare room, to all the volunteers who set up and worked the event, to all the parents and grandparents who brought the kids to perform, and for all the wonderful donated desserts for the auction.

Thank you to Lagunitas Brewing Company, Frey Vineyards, Barra of Mendocino, Parducci Wines, Germain-Robin, Tomki Cellars, Emandal, Mendocino Metals, Cat's Meow, Moon Lady, Pizza To Go, Jan Hoyman, The Book Juggler, Sweetwater Eco Spa and Inn, Vichy Springs, Main Street Music, Ukiah Family Dentistry, Headquarters Salon, Our Yoga Center, Star Kissed Jewelry, Mendo Mill, Julia Gromek, The Chief, George's Geodes and Gems, Kimberly's, Kristiansen Blown Glass, Mariposa Market, J.D. Redhouse, Jax, Artymystique Skin Care, It's In The Bag, Patrona, Chop Chop, Rasean Powell, Doris Wier, Safeway, and Grocery Outlet for their generous donations!

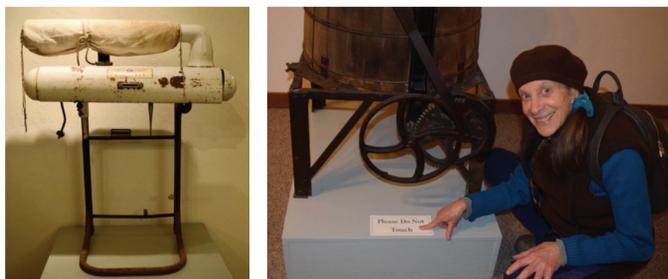
Aura de la Fuente, event organizer, Willits



Above, left: Washboards hang on the wall. Above, right: An ironing board is placed for watching the late 1940s TV.

Below, left: An electric mangle combined wringing and ironing big items like sheets and tablecloths. Below, right: Linda Posner has fun at the museum tour on Saturday.

At right: Tour guide Neeka Aguirre holds a vintage Krispy Kan. The top knob holds a desiccant to keep crackers crispy.



'Second Shift'

Who knew housework could be so interesting?

"Second Shift," a thoroughly entertaining and enlightening exhibit currently at the Mendocino County Museum, elevates the everyday household chores of women into a fascinating sociological and technological journey from the turn of the last century up through the 1970s.

Joanne Moore
Features Writer
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Women do the cooking, the laundry, and the childcare. These tasks haven't changed much over the last 100 years, but the tools and methods used to

accomplish them have.

I recently went on a guided tour of the "Second Shift" exhibit given by its curator, museum staff employee for exhibits, Neeka Aguirre. Aguirre also teaches history at Mendocino College, and her love for the subject was obvious in her remarkably entertaining and fact-filled presentation, which concluded with the opportunity to decorate and take home your very own tea towel.

The exhibit is packed with an impressive and intriguing array of items and artifacts, large and small. Some are on loan from local residents and businesses, and some are part of the museum's own collection.

There is a lot to be learned from a visit to this exhibit, and I hope I can tempt you into going by sharing a small fraction of some of the interesting things I learned.

Cooking in the early 1900s was done on a woodstove. Tending the stoves all day included getting and often chopping the wood. Take your rifle with you when you go for the wood, because you never know when you might see a deer. When electric stoves became available in the 1920s, women had to literally relearn how to cook.

Kitchen cabinets were not a part of early kitchens, and women "walked themselves to death" from the gardens to the root cellars to the woodpiles. It wasn't until the 1930s that the kind of wall-to-wall cabinets we have now became common.

Early refrigerators in the 1930s were quite small. There wasn't much that needed refrigeration, other than milk for bottle-fed babies. It seems more babies were dying in the summer months, and this was thought to be caused by spoiled milk.

For decades, laundry was usually done one day a week. Women hauled and heated the water, then scrubbed the clothes. One tub of water was used repeatedly, with the cleanest clothes washed first. Then the clothes were hung out to dry. Everyone saw what was on your clothesline. So they knew if your family had visitors, or if someone was sick, and probably knew a whole lot more.

Wringers on washers presented the peril of wringing body parts as well as clothes. Early electric washers were tiny compared

to today's appliances. The advent of the dryer, while a work and timesaving boon, increased the isolation of women according to some writers. Women were already isolated inside their homes. Hanging the clothes had been a chore that brought them together outside.

Prior to permanent press, everything got ironed. The early, and heavy, irons were called "sad irons" and were kept hot on a wood stove, which meant keeping the stove going, even in summer. You had to have at least two irons, so one could be heating up while the other was in use. Well-to-do women had more than two. Early electric irons became available in the 1920s, and every woman wanted one. Early gas irons from the 1950s had a habit of blowing up.

Prior to the wide availability of pre-made clothing in the 1930s and 1940s, most women were seamstresses by necessity. If you didn't sew, you didn't have clothes. Spinning the thread and weaving the cloth were early 1900s household tasks. When sewing machines appeared, everyone wanted one. But the machines were very expensive, so women would pool their money and buy one for the group. Expensive sewing machines also heralded the beginning of the now-common practice of buying big-ticket items on the installment plan.

Childcare in the early 1900s was focused on keeping babies alive, and their diets were supplemented with raw eggs and cod liver oil. The need for Vitamin D was well-known, and women would make sure their babies were in the sun for several hours a day. There were even cages available for purchase for apartment dwellers to hang outside the window in the sun, with the baby inside.

In the 1940s, the television, or "electric hearth," entered the home. Men were out of the home working during the day, so daytime programs and advertising were focused on women. Despite the "togetherness" television purported to create, women were still seen pictured standing behind the family sofa, ready to



Photos by Joanne Moore



At top: The amazing Peel King Wife Saver. You know you need one. Above: Irons! At left: A wood cook stove from the early 1900s.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

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Next Week:
BEAUTY & THE BEAST 2D & 3D

KONG: SKULL ISLAND in 2D & 3D

(PG-13) 1 hr 58 mins

Fri:
(2D) 6:10 & (3D) 9:00pm
Sat/Sun:
(2D) 12:30 & 6:10pm
(3D) 3:20 & 9:00pm
Mon-Thurs:
(2D) 5:10 & (3D) 8:00pm

LOGAN

(R) 2 hrs 20 mins

Fri:
5:45 & 8:45pm
Sat/Sun:
12:00, 2:50, 5:45 & 8:45pm
Mon-Thurs:
4:45 & 7:45pm

GET OUT

(R) 1 hr 44 mins

Fri:
5:30 & 8:00pm
Sat/Sun:
12:45, 3:10, 5:30 & 8:00pm
Mon-Thurs:
4:30 & 7:00pm

Movie Times for 3/10 thru 3/16

This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5



Above, left: It's time to start peppers from seed. If you have heavy clay soil, consider planting peppers in large pots. Above, right: Chards like this Erbette chard are tap-rooted like carrots. Transplant them early.

COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

March: The roots

By Jamie Chevalier

While it is natural for us to concentrate on what we can see, the most important part of the plant is invisible – the roots. How the roots develop will shape everything else about the plant, and will determine your success or failure in the garden.

Here's a way to get acquainted with the different styles of root growth so that you can give your plants the best start this spring when, where and how they need it.

Movers

Plant these now. Movers have a fibrous, dense root system that is actually stimulated by transplanting. In studies at Cornell University, cabbages had much larger root systems at maturity if they had been transplanted – and those that had been transplanted twice had the largest of all!

These slower-growing, transplant-loving crops can stay in the pot for about a month, then can be transplanted outside or to bigger pots. While transplanting doesn't bother them, crowding does. Move them if needed to maintain adequate spacing. Prime movers: tomatoes, peppers, eggplant. (Plant outside in May.) Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, collards, kale. (Transplant outside mid-April.)

Divers

Direct-sow these, or start just two weeks early, and transplant carefully. Divers make a few, large, succulent roots that are brittle, like a good carrot or a bean sprout. They break when a cabbage root would bend.

Divers do not like transplanting, and should be either direct-sown, or transplanted when quite young, before their roots get too big. On the other hand, they are not so worried by crowding. You can shoehorn them in among earlier vegetables or a cover crop. Popular divers: beans, beets, carrots, chard, cilantro, corn, dill, fennel, peas, parsnips, poppies, radishes.

Sprinters

Plant every few weeks as soon as the ground can be worked. Sprinters are the juicy, leafy, fast-growing plants that mature very quickly – Asian greens, lettuce, spinach and mustard. They have been bred for crisp juicy leaves, mild flavor, and fast growth. They can be sown in place or transplanted once – but then they need to get down to business and finish up. They bolt quickly when mature, or if they get pot-bound, so don't leave them in pots more than a month.

Sprawlers

Start these in mid-to-late April. Sprawlers are large plants with far-ranging root systems. They love organic matter. Give them a sunny position after your last frost date, even if it means cutting an opening in your winter cover crop, or planting the young starts among your spring peas and lettuce.

Some sprawlers: sunflowers, okra, summer and winter squash, melons, cucumbers, pumpkins, watermelons, gourds.

More tips and articles on seed-starting can be found in the "How-To" and "Seasonal" pages of Bountiful Gardens' website: www.bountifulgardens.org.

Jamie Chevalier has gardened professionally in both California and Alaska. She writes about gardening for Bountiful Gardens Seeds, www.bountifulgardens.org.

Below, left: Lettuce and Asian greens like this Nozaki Brite cabbage love cool weather, and will bolt if they get pot-bound. Plant them often. Below, right: Beautifully colored rainbow chard.



Photos by Jamie Chevalier

Nurse celebrates 40 years of service

to Howard Memorial Hospital

By Cecilia Winiger, for HMH

Being a nurse is a calling – being a nurse for the same hospital for four decades is even more inspiring. That's Cindy Bodensteiner's story, a long-time nurse and director of surgery at Frank Howard Memorial Hospital who celebrated 40 years of service to the hospital and the community.

Bodensteiner recalls vividly when she first applied for the job. It was 1974, there was no internet and no online employment sites, so she showed up with her handwritten resume at the Human Resources office. Now 40 years later, she says she still loves every minute of her job and cannot imagine working anywhere else.

In a day and age where job-hopping by "millennials" is the new norm, Bodensteiner says it never crossed her mind and that the love for her coworkers, the hospital and this community is what keeps her fulfilled. "What I love about working here is the caring attitude of my coworkers and physicians; the compassion we have for our patients and each other. I know that many people feel that their hospitals or other places of employment are 'special,' but the specialness of HMH is palpable as soon as you walk through the door. I am grateful to come to work in a place that makes me happy every day and know that I have friends who will lift me up when I'm having a rough day," she explains.

Originally from Laytonville, Bodensteiner learned about the hospital in an elective class on nurse's aides in high school. She went to school to become a surgical technician and came back to Willits to apply for her dream job.

"When I started I was making \$2.95 an hour. And gas was only 60 cents per gallon," she muses about days gone by.

She started out as an operating room technician and nurse's aide, became a licensed vocational nurse in 1985 and, three years later, became a registered nurse, all while working full-time and raising a family. Today, she's an RN "first assistant," working alongside surgeons during procedures, and she is also the director of the surgery

department, supervising and mentoring 28 employees.

Having had the longest tenure of any nurse at HMH, Bodensteiner says she has seen the community change through the years, and she thinks the hospital has done a great job at keeping up with those changes. From three beds separated by curtains in the intensive care unit to four private rooms with their own bathrooms – and from one operating room to four – Bodensteiner says the hospital has come a long way.

"Back then we had one nurse on each shift. There were no radios, let alone cell phones, so there was no warning that an ambulance was coming. But we made it work and saved a lot of lives," she shares.

Bodensteiner says there's never a dull day on the job. She recalls one story as a nurse in the emergency room when she literally risked her life when an intoxicated and combative patient tried to stab her. "Thankfully, a brave soul who just happened to be visiting another patient saw what was transpiring, put his head down, ran as fast as he could, and tackled the patient! At the same time, the Willits Police Department came bursting through the back door! To say I was a bit shaken is an understatement! That Good Samaritan was honored by the Willits City Council for his bravery.

Besides the excitement of it all, Bodensteiner says

Read the rest of [Service](#) | [Over on Page 12](#)

Handsome Henry

Henry, below right, is a 1-year-old male Lab mix who currently weighs 64 pounds. Just like any Lab, Henry is affectionate and loving. This good-looking dog will need to meet any potential canine roomies, as he was a little fearful while meeting Oliver, the shelter's large tester dog. We also are recommending that the children in Henry's new home be 12 years and older, as right now, he likes to jump on people for attention – a behavior that is easy to correct. Henry will do great in an active home where he lives inside with his family and gets lots of love and attention. Don't wait; come meet this handsome dog today.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. Many wonderful dogs and cats await homes here. To view photos and bios, please visit online at: www.mendocoinimalsshelter.com. Please join us the 2nd Saturday of every month – March 11 this month – for our "Empty the Shelter" pack walk and help us get every dog out for some exercise! More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.



Big Louie

Big-dog lovers, get ready to have your hearts stolen! Louie, at left, is a 2-year-old shepherd/Lab mix with a heart as big as his head. This big hunk loves to play with his toys, enjoys romping with other dogs, and can't get enough human cuddles! Louie would do best in a home with children over the age of 7.

For more information on Louie or other adoptable animals, call 707-485-0123, check www.mendocoinimalsshelter.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.



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Glorious stained glass

Adventist Church on West Mendocino installs beautiful new windows

The Seventh-day Adventist Church finally has new stained glass windows. At a cost of approximately \$35,000, countless man-hours, and six months from concept to final product, the church unveiled the new installation – featuring beautiful redwood trees and ferns – to the oohs and aahs of the very pleased congregation. Members agree the new windows are a vast improvement over the previous pink glass panes and much better than the stained glass-like film that the church attempted to use before. The down payment was provided by Chiles Smith and the balance by the congregation.

Mathew Caine

Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

The panels were designed by Clinton Conley of Boring, Oregon who has done stained-glass installations all over the country, including the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the Rio Lindo Academy of Healdsburg. He brought over 35 years of experience into this project. Each panel, created out of glass and resin, 2 inches thick and weighing over 100 pounds, needed to be lifted into a custom framework by a lift. The total weight of each side is over 1 ton. Conley works closely with Monte Church, also of Boring, who specializes in assembling and installing Clinton's creations.

The church, located at 399 West Mendocino Avenue at Spruce Street, plans an open house to show off its new windows on April 22.



Above, from left: Monte Church, who works closely with glass designer Clinton Conley, works on the window frame. Redwoods and ferns are featured in the new stained glass windows at the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Work continues on the frames. Monte Church shows how the top panel looks with backlight.

The new panels in place as seen from the outside, left, and inside, below.

At bottom: Clinton Conley with some of his window panels instead the church.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, left: Head Elder Don Smith, Pastor Stan Caylor and stained glass designer Clinton Conley. Above, right: Clinton Conley, who designed the new stained glass windows.

Below, left: The boom lift in front of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Below, right: Raising the first panel.



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ENTER YOUR CHILI (\$25 REGISTRATION FEE) FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GREAT PRIZE AND BRAGGING RIGHTS!
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Thursday, March 9

Matinee Movie at the Library: "Twilight" a teen vampire love flick will show from 4 to 6 pm. Free. Willits Public Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

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

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

Friday, March 10

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



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

Saturday, March 11

Learn to Plant and Prune: Phoenix Rising's first class of 2017. Ron Woolsey will instruct on fruit tree pruning, and greenhouse design, construction and operation. Bring: Hand clippers (extra clippers will be available). Saturday, March 11. 1 to 5 pm. Located on Pine Mountain about 10 minutes from town. Classes are free, but donations are welcome. Text or call in advance for directions: 489-5408, leave a message with callback number. Next class will be on April 1, at 1pm. at the in town location: North Street. between Redwood and Pine.

Sit N Sew: Monthly drop-in sewing group meets at the Willits Library. Free to all and open to the public. Bring your sewing machine, tools, and any project you would like to work on. Saturday,

What's Happening Around Town

March 11, from 1 to 5 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Information: Rachel at 354-0605.

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

Father-Daughter "Frozen" Winter Ball: presented by the Willits High School sophomore class. Saturday, March 11 at the Willits Community Center, 7 to 9 pm. "A fun event for children of all ages. Girls, bring your father, grandfather, uncle or significant role model to share a delightful evening of magic, laughter, dance, and good things to eat and drink." Open to the public. Pre-sale tickets for two can be purchased at J.D. Redhouse, Monkey Wrench, Shear Envy, and the WHS office for \$25. Tickets at the door will be \$30, and any extra person is \$12.50 more.

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



Starhawk's Heart, Head & Hands: Hope and Action in Challenging Times. Friday, March 10, 7-9 pm. Little Lake Grange 10-5pm. \$50-75 Sliding Scale. Register at the door. Bring your own lunch. There will be a hot lunch break. Treats and coffee for purchase. For information call 707-357-5693.

Monday, March 13

Willits Garden Club Meeting: the monthly Garden Club meeting is set for Monday, March 13, with guest speaker Ollie Kolkman, who will discuss "Birds of Mendocino County." Social time starts at 12:30 pm with coffee and refreshment; speaker starts at 1 pm. Meeting ends at 4:30 pm. Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse, 16100 North Highway 101, 6 miles south of Willits, West of 101, south of Ridgewood (Seabiscuit) Ranch. Guests are welcome, and there is no charge. Info: contact Fran Gardner 459-8733 or Kitty McDiil 489-6203.

Ice Cream Social: Pies, ice cream, coffee plus games and the music of Greg Schindel. Prices: Senior Center members \$1, non-members \$1.50. Monday, March 13. 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Relay For Life Meeting: Planning Committee Meeting and Team Captain Meeting for this summer's Relay in Willits, July 29-30. Wanted: new people to fill chair positions on Committee and new teams. Come join us. "Relay For Life - Willits is all

Sunday, March 12
Spring Forward!
Don't forget to change your clocks!

Sunday St. Patrick's Breakfast: Pancakes, eggs any style, biscuits and gravy. Adults \$7; children under 8 \$5; Senior Center members \$6. Ham, bacon, link sausage: \$2 extra. Sunday, March 12. 8 to 11 am. Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Starhawk in Willits: A "community empowerment workshop celebrating hope in dark times." This fundraiser for the Willits Environmental Center features Starhawk, internationally known leader in the revival of earth-based spirituality and Goddess religion, and author of "The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess" and "The Fifth Sacred Thing." Permaculture, ritual and community facilitation. Bring your own lunch. Sunday, March 12. 10 am to 5 pm. Sliding scale \$50 to \$75. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: Traci 357-5693.



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Relay For Life Meeting: Planning Committee Meeting and Team Captain Meeting for this summer's Relay in Willits, July 29-30. Wanted: new people to fill chair positions on Committee and new teams. Come join us. "Relay For Life - Willits is all

about fighting back cancer!" Planning committee 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Team Captain meeting 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Everybody welcome to either/or both meetings. Monday, March 13. Willits Community Center Back Conference Room. 111 East Commercial Street. Info: Karissa Gutierrez 545-6728.

Tuesday, March 14

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Logan" and "Get Out." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Wednesday, March 15

Get Your Business on Google: West Company is offering one afternoon and one evening workshop (both the same) on how to set up Google My Business, including how and where to set up a website. Learn how to get your business on Google. Everyone welcome. Wednesday, March 15. 3 to 4 pm, or 6 to 7 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Free. Must RSVP: Sandra, 467-5913, or sandra@westcompany.org.

Thursday, March 16

Matinee Movie at the Library: "Hunger Games," a teen mutual slaughter flick, will show from 4 to 6 pm. Free. Willits Public Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

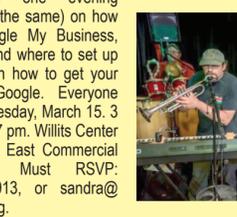
Willits Winter Farmers Market: every Thursday afternoon from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Veggies, local meats and local grains, honey, dinner, savory and sweet



Grange, 291 School Street.

Hot Topics in Diabetes: Howard Hospital's Clinical Nutrition Manager Annie Frassinello will speak on the topic, "Sugar Addiction and How to Conquer It." Thursday, March 16. 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Seabiscuit Conference Room, Howard Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive. RSVP: Dietitian's Office: 456-3132.

Friday, March 17
Happy St. Patrick's Day



Funkacillin

Shanachie Pub: St. Patty's Day Party with Funkacillin. Five Mendocino County musicians and one Bay Area percussionist will be "puttin' the stank on it." Cherie Sheraque, vocals; Lex Kraus, guitar; Jim Dooley, trumpet and keyboard; Steven Serbins, drums; Jake Keller, bass; Phil Montalvo, percussion. "The one thing that can solve most of our problems is dancing." And "Funkacillin aims to put your troubles on the back burner with a mix that will have you flashin' back to the days of paisley prints and platform shoes, and get your booty shakin'!" Friday, March 17. 9 pm. \$5 cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, March 18

Ancestry Day at the Willits Library: A day of fun for the whole family! Saturday, March 18, 1 to 3 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Free. "Creating simple family trees for the young ones, and research tips and tricks for the older generation. Bring your laptop if you have one." Info: 459-5908.

baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Now and Then Film Series at the Grange: "King of Hearts," the 1966, brilliant Alan Bates anti-war film; when the inmates of an asylum take over a small French town while the Great War ravages the countryside. Goodies available: heirloom organic popcorn, fair trade chocolate. Thursday, March 16. Trailers and short films at 6:30, feature starts at 7 pm. \$5 donation. Little Lake

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

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

Sunday, March 19



Los Troubadoux

Town Hall Meeting: "Immigration Policy in Willits & the 95490 area." A moderated discussion, with questions and answers about immigration. Panelists include Heather Gurewitz (immigration specialist for Congressman Jared Huffman), Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman, Willits Mayor Gerry Gonzalez, and Willits City Council Member Saprina Rodriguez. "Everyone interested in how our community responds to immigration-related issues is welcome to attend. We believe a community that talks together about issues that affect us all is a stronger, more resilient community." Sunday, March 19, 3:30 to 6 pm. Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. Info: Jane McCabe 456-9067, Jim Marill 707-513-9981.

Sunday, March 19

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

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5 pm to 6 pm; Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 pm to 7 pm; Tweens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 pm to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

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

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

Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

The 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. "We look forward to seeing you at the Willits Library!"

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

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

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

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

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

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COLUMN | At the Movies



'Logan'

The Story: Logan aka Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) is older, tired and maybe dying. He drives a limo, and takes care of an aged and perhaps semi-senile Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart). Logan just wants to be left alone. It's the future and it seems like that all the other mutants of the X-Men are dead. But maybe there are more mutants - especially a mute little girl named Laura (Dafne Keen) - she's feral and she has claws.

My Thoughts: Don't get me wrong about what I'm going to write. I very much

like this flick, and at the same time, I was amazed at how many people, innocent and guilty, are slaughtered by gun and blade. We, the viewers, are expected to be thrilled by the decapitation of bad hombres. It's a given. It seems bleak, but let's not be too judgmental. This is not a sign of decadence. Historically, we human beings have preferred to have our plays awash with gullies of blood and rolling heads. Always have. Always will. It's a dramatic equation: Save the innocent; savage the guilty. Like I said - bleak. And I suppose that sums up the movie "Logan." That, and feral girls with claws.

Parents: The movie is rated "R" and is too violent and too sad for our impressionable little ones. Teens and up.

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

Personal Monologues meeting at WCT

Saturday, March 18

A planning meeting for the upcoming 2017 original monologues show at Willits Community Theatre will be held on Saturday, March 18 at 3:30 pm at the Willits Library. Persons interested in participating in the show are invited to join organizers Annie and Don Samson in settling questions relevant to performance date and rules for participants. Also to be discussed will be dates and times for the preparatory monologue workshops.

Last April, in 2016 anyone who was interested in performing a personal monologue at Willits Community Theatre was able to attend three free monologue-writing workshops under the capable guidance of Willits author Annie Samson. And several months later, on the weekend of July 23 and 24, eleven participants in the monologue-writing workshop performed their spoken word efforts in "Speakeasy III: An Evening of Original Monologues."

The "Speakeasy" shows have been popular sellouts the last three years at WCT. Participants will have the opportunity once again to write their own personal monologues and work in a collaborative process in preparation for their performances on stage. For information, contact Annie or Don Samson at 459-9014.

Countywide Call for DJs

A new low-power FM radio station in Laytonville is looking for committed volunteer DJs. Harold Day at KPHT-LP is putting out a countywide call for disc jockeys with a love of and for Americana music. If this interests you, the reader, Day requests you contact him at his email: harold@kph-tlp.org, by phone 223-0993, or by paper mail: PO Box 1202, Laytonville, CA. 95454.

A fundraiser for the Waldorf School of Mendocino County



ART UNDER 20~17



Reception: Friday, March 31, 4-7 pm
Open: March 31 through April 2
www.willitscenterforthearts.org
71 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490
707-459-1726

Immigration Policies Town Hall

Sunday, March 19

The 95490 Community Town Hall group presents a Town Hall meeting on "Immigration Policies and the Greater Willits and North County Regions: How Do These Affect Us? What Can We Do?" at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, from 3:30 to 6 pm on Sunday, March 19.

Confirmed panelists so far include: Sheriff Tom Allman; City of Willits Mayor Gerry Gonzalez; Willits City Councilwoman Saprina Rodriguez; and immigration specialist for Congressman Jared Huffman, Heather Gurewitz. Panelist presentations will be followed by a moderated public discussion. Info: Jim Marill 707-513-9981 or Jane McCabe 707-540-3802.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of March 13 through March 17

Monday: Lima Beans/Ham
Tuesday: Hamburger Steak
Wednesday: Lemon Tilapia
Thursday: Baked Chicken
Friday: Corned Beef and Cabbage
Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entree, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

WCA Wants You!

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

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

- Willits Center for the Arts



The Art of the Seed
The Willits Library is calling artists of all ages to depict and interpret plant species from our Seed Lending Library. Help us create an art exhibit that inspires our community to grow, share and save seeds. This exhibit will be juried and prizes will be awarded.

Deadline: April 21st
• Size no larger than 10x12
• All mediums welcome
• 2 Dimensional only
• Incorporate the common name of the plant species into your art

Artists Reception: Thursday, May 4th

Entry Forms and Seed Lending Library Information available at:
Willits Library
309 E. Commercial
707)459-5908

https://www.facebook.com/WillitsLibrary/



Sober Grad Valentine's Basket winner

Congratulations to Bill Wilson, father of Willits High School senior Miranda Wilson, who won the Sober Grade Valentine's Basket raffle this year. Wilson won two baskets stuffed with more than \$700 worth of goodies donated by local businesses and a beautiful bouquet of roses donated by Flowers by Annette - who also delivered the baskets on Valentine's Day.



Living with wildlife
Skunks: Love is in the air

By Cathy Ortiz

Have you caught a whiff of skunk smell outside your home lately? Love is in the air! The breeding season for skunks typically falls between January and February in our area, and baby skunks - kits - follow a couple months later.

against predators. If you do come upon a skunk, don't panic, just move slowly and give the skunk plenty of room to waddle away and make its escape.

While courting, the male skunk will chase the female insistently until she is either cornered or she has had enough of his advances, at which point she will turn her tail and spray him to let him know she is not interested in his intentions. Little does she know, her spray has pheromones in it that only excite her partner more! Off they go again, the male chasing the female until she finally concedes to his advances. Afterwards, the male will continue to pursue multiple females. Some frisky males will roam up to five miles in one night to rack up conquests.

Skunks are nocturnal foragers who eat fruit, plants, insects, eggs, small mammals and fish. They are wonderful hunters, particularly of rodents. They dig out underground yellow jacket nests to eat the larva. Many grape vineyards love having skunks around for these two reasons.

Skunks are naturally very docile creatures and will only spray when startled or provoked. This spray is the only defense skunks have

There are two species of skunks in Mendocino County. The Striped Skunk and the much smaller Spotted Skunk. Gestation period for skunks is approximately 66 days; skunks produce a litter of between 2 to 10 young, called "kits." Four is the average litter size.

By their eighth day, the kits are able to release musk from their scent glands.

Willits Otters swim in first meet of the year



For the first time in their history, the Willits Otter Swim Team began practicing in February. Twelve swimmers have swum through all the rain and unpleasant weather. More swimmers just began on March 6, the historic time of beginning the season in Willits. New swimmers are invited to begin on April 1 in the Otter Pups program.

Fortunately, probably as a reward for their perseverance in the harsh climate, the weather was as perfect as it could be at Napa Community College, where the first meet of the year was held February 25 and 26. Four swimmers, McKenna and Kaylen Thom, Aden Johnson, and Teo Labus had a great time. McKenna, Kaylen and Teo all placed high and achieved B+ times. Aden had two personal bests and placed in the 50 freestyle.

the first time in the 13-14 division doing the 200 breast stroke, and he achieved first place and a B+ time standard. He said, "Coach, that's the first time I've swum against swimmers who were shaving!" Saturday ended with McKenna Thom getting a B+ time in fifty freestyle and placing fourth. Speedster Kaylen Thom was seeded in the first or second fastest heat in the very large 10 and under girl's division and placed all her swims. A great beginning to the new season.

The Willits Otters swim through August, and attend swim meets in Napa, Rohnert Park, Petaluma, Vallejo, Ukiah and Willits.

- Coach Lou Meier

Willits Otters at the first swim meet of the season at Napa Community College on February 25 and 26.

Anti-skunk wash: A home remedy for removing skunk odor from dogs

- Mix together the following: 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide, 1/4 cup baking soda, 1 teaspoon liquid soap
- Soak the dog with water and then work the solution into a thick lather on the dog. Leave lather on for 3 to 5 minutes and then rinse off. (Make certain you don't get any solution in the dog's eyes.) Wash dog afterward with regular dog shampoo. Do not try to store this mixture in a closed container.
- Remove outside food sources, such as pet food and garbage is the best deterrent to not attract skunks and other wild animals near and around your home.

At 3 weeks of age, their eyes open. Kits nurse from their mothers until weaned at 8 weeks of age.

Average lifespan for skunks in the wild is three years. Many skunks do not survive their first full year, falling victim to severe winter weather conditions, infectious disease, automobiles, or predation by birds of prey, bobcats, foxes, mountain lion and coyotes.

During the coldest winter months, skunks will burrow into dens together. They do not hibernate but remain dormant and rely on their fat stores for energy.

Tips to remember

Fence off the underside of your home and repair openings in outbuildings to protect from skunks looking for a nice dry warm place

to den or to have their young.

Remove outside food sources, such as pet food and garbage is the best deterrent to not attract skunks and other wild animals near and around your home.

Drive carefully and watch for animals, particularly at dusk. Cars kill too many skunks.

Do not let dogs run free - especially at night where they can encounter a skunk. It's no picnic washing your dog at midnight after it has been skunked.

Do call our Mendocino Wildlife Association Hotline at 984-6363 if you have questions or concerns regarding our wild neighbors. We are here to help.

DEATH NOTICE

Kenlyn Long

Kenlyn Henry Long of Covelo passed away on February 28, 2017 at the age of 77. A visitation/wake will be held on Friday, March 10 at 5 pm at 76321 High School Street in Covelo. Graveside services will be held at Valley View Cemetery on Saturday, March 11 at 11 am.

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

DEATH NOTICE

Nina Lee

Nina Joan Lee of Willits passed away on February 18, 2017 at the age of 89. As per her wishes, no services are planned. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



Memorial Tea In Honor Of Mrs. Erma C. Conant Saturday, March 11, 2017 2:00 - 4:00 pm Brooktrails Community Center

Online and in print! Willits Weekly The community newspaper

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!

9x9 grid with numbers: 2, 5, 9, 7, 3, 5, 8, 2, 1, 4, 8, 5, 3, 1, 4, 3, 7, 2, 5, 8, 6, 2, 9, 4, 4, 8, 3, 1, 6, 5, 6, 9, 4, 3

Level: Beginner

CHILI WORD SEARCH

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

- BEANS, BEEF, BISCUITS, BOWL, BREAD, CASSEROLE, CHEESE, CHICKEN, CHILI, COOKER, CRACKERS, CUMIN, CUP, DELICIOUS, DINING, ENTERTAIN, FILLING, FRANKFURTER, GARLIC, HEARTY, HOT, JALAPENO, KITCHEN, LADLE, MEAT, ONIONS, PEPPERS, POT, POWDER, SAUTE, SAVORY, SIMMER, SLOW, SOURCREAM, SPICY, STEW, STIR, STOVE, TOMATO, TURKEY

10x10 crossword grid with numbers 1-64.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Fall down, 5. Walmart founder Walton, 8. Los Angeles time zone, 11. Gallantry, 13. Early Supreme Court justice Bartlett of Maryland, 15. Act of imitating, 16. Popular basketballer Jeremy, 17. Round Dutch cheese, 18. S. American rodents, 20. Comic opera "Princess", 21. Commodities buyers and sellers (slang), 22. Hovers, 25. Having had one's head cut off, 30. One-time monetary unit of Greece, 31. Not no, 32. Beloved Cubs third baseman Ron, 33. Shapes, 38. Giants signal caller Manning, 41. Moves all the way around, 43. Babe Ruth retired as one, 45. Relinquishing, 48. Native religion in China

CLUES DOWN

- 49. Not well, 50. Fill with high spirits, 55. In bed, 56. Type of pet, 57. Somewhere to go, 59. Smaller quantity, 60. Ingested, 61. Singer and Jacobs are two, 62. Anger, 63. British rockers, Zeppelin, 64. Like, 24. Hold molecules, 25. Tooth caregiver, 26. Amount of time, 27. Beverage container, 28. Perform, 29. Appollo's grandmother, 34. Obsolete home entertainment device, 35. Serbian mythological demon, 36. Bulgarian currency, 37. Midway between south and southeast, 39. Makes sense, 40. A way to single out, 41. Criminal (slang), 42. Former Tigers third baseman Brandon, 44. Wobbled, 45. Singapore's second highest peak, 46. Grossly overweight, 47. Radioactivity units, 48. Famed Spanish painter, 51. Internet router algorithm, 52. Expression of sorrow or pity, 53. Druidic mother goddess, 54. Electronic counter-countermeasures, 58. Midway between east and southeast

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

February 27 to March 5

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 162 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

February 27

8:29 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of East Commercial Street. 9:45 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1400 block of South Main Street. 10:18 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1400 block of South Main Street. 12:45 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 block of Coast Street. 2:58 pm: SIMARRO, Sierra Raquelle (29) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of Coast Street. She was arrested on charges of felony failure to appear. 3:29 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street. 5:07 pm: ELLIOTT, Norbert Brent II (23) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on charges of forgery. 5:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal drug use in the 1400 block of South Main Street. 8:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 800 block of South Main Street.

contacted and arrested on charges of being a fugitive from justice, in the 100 block of North Main Street.

12:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of Pearl Street. 1:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of Shell Lane. 1:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted person in the 700 block of South Main Street. 4:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1700 block of South Main Street. 5:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 600 block of Railroad Avenue. 6:11 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street. 8:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of Margie Drive and issued a warning. 11:55 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run collision investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

March 2

1:20 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person vehicle in the 100 block of Holly Street. 7:47 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 800 block of South Main Street. 11:16 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

February 28

7:04 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane. 10:28 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Holly Street. 11:10 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue. 2:02 pm: ELLIS, Kirk Adam (33) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on charges of violation of probation. 4:56 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Creekside Drive. 6:23 pm: CARRIGG, Lake (32) of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on charges of misdemeanor failure to appear. 10:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted person in the 800 block of South Main Street.

12:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the area of Railroad Avenue and East San Francisco Avenue. 12:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal drug use in the 400 block of East Commercial Street. 3:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street. 4:31 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

March 3

11:03 am: Officers responded to a reported disturbance in the 1100 block of South Main Street. 3:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street. 4:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning. 11:41 pm: Officers responded to a reported disturbance in the 1400 block of South Main Street. 11:59 pm: Officers responded to a reported disturbance in the 200 block of South Main Street.

March 1

9:22 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Holly Street. 10:43 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. 11:58 am: PECK, John Charles (57) was

Read the rest of WPD Over on Page 13

OBITUARY |

Khevan Lennon-Onaje

Khevan Lennon-Onaje passed away on Thursday, February 23, 2017. Khevan was born April 2, 1956 to Wallace and Charlotte Lennon in Cleveland, Ohio. He was married to Deborah Morningstar Rogers for 30 years.

Khevan was a professional musician for over 40 years and pastor of Mani Christian Fellowship Ministries since 2009.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Eckankar: The Adventure of a Lifetime • Community HU Songs • Membership Discourses • Spiritual Discussions • Workshop Services • More information? Call 707-456-9934

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

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

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

If you want to be included in this column please call: April Tweddell (707) 972-2475 april@willitsweekly.com

Hampton and Freddie Hubbard. His music and ministry touched the lives of thousands.

Khevan served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the American Legion Willits Post 174.

Khevan was preceded in death by his mother, Charlotte Lennon, and his father, Wallace Lennon. He is survived by his wife, Deborah Morningstar Rogers-Lennon, his adopted goddaughter Isis Moore, his sister Gail Lennon, his brother David Lennon, and Michael Simpson, Ryan and Clarissa Bonner-Connelly, Liam, and many other beloved nieces and nephews. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



photo-graphess [707-972-7047] maurengetsmail@gmail.com

Room To Bloom Preschool Where the love of learning grows 239 South Main Street - Willits

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Memorial Tea In Honor Of Mrs. Erma C. Conant Saturday, March 11, 2017 2:00 - 4:00 pm Brooktrails Community Center



Online and in print! Willits Weekly The community newspaper

budget was tight because of "reduced revenue expectations and unknowns facing California's outlook.

"There are many unknowns influencing spending reductions and freezing planned expenditures," she said, "including volatile state funding from personal income taxes and capital gains, the impending sluggish economy, and a new administration in Washington, D.C., that could make significant changes to federal programs and state funding levels."

Assistant CEO Alan Flora discussed how some of those variables are playing out at the local level. Property values in the county are up; an average residential property is now valued at \$366,300. That represents an increase from an average value of \$260,000 in January 2013, but down from the 10-year high of \$452,000 in January 2007.

These values don't accurately reflect prices on the coast, which are considerably higher than in the rest of the county, Flora added.

Because property values are going up, tax revenues are projected to rise slightly, although slowly. County Auditor Lloyd Weer told supervisors he projects revenues from secured property taxes will increase \$224,000 from his June 2016 estimate of \$31,526,000. The new estimate for that revenue stream is \$31,750,000.

Despite the uncertainty, county economic forecasters believe revenues from sales tax will increase, from \$4.1 million to \$4.7 million. Even so, this is a decline from last year's \$5.4 million, because of the "Triple Flip wind-down that resulted in a one-time bump in sales tax receipts."

With economic permutations taken into account, Weer projects a \$1.2 million increase in revenues over what he predicted in June 2016. His second-quarter budget unit 1000 estimate projects revenues of \$59,825,949. Budget Unit 1000 is that portion of the county budget that is controlled and spent by the board of supervisors.

In discussing the fiscal perturbations that have occurred since last July 1, county executive office staff detailed which departments are projected to be over budget and which will be under budget. Projected to finish the fiscal year well under budget are: Clerk of the Board (\$149,760); Board of Supervisors (\$42,529, estimated savings due to not having a Third District supervisor); Auditor (\$52,216); Human Resources (\$68,297); Information Services (\$161,595); Probation (\$241,389); Agriculture (\$277,388); Planning and Building Services (\$401,312); County Museum (\$74,240) and General Relief (\$97,673).

Projected to come in over budget were Court Collections (\$47,937); Probation (\$48,592); Facilities (\$67,539); Animal Care (\$80,096, due to having to deal with two parvo outbreaks); Jail

The poor financial performance of mental health is due to another audit exception levied against the county's mental health division, this time for \$1.1 million for the year 2009-10. The surprise levy came only two months before a March 2017 notice that the state would be reimbursing the county for \$2.4 million for an audit exception already levied against it for the year 2006-07.

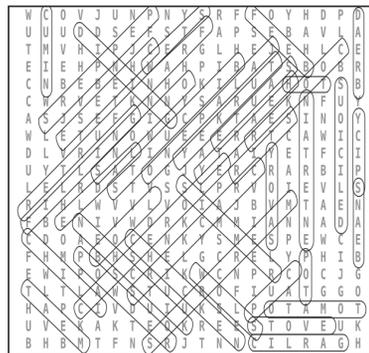
With so much money coming in, more than is going out, why then is the county looking at a negative bottom line for mental health for the current fiscal year? Health and Human Services Agency Director Tammy Moss Chandler explains it's because the state moves quickly when billing the county for past errors, or exceptions the county committed, but moves slowly when it is reimbursing the county for past audit exceptions overbilled by the state.

In addition, the state is also reducing realignment revenues for the year 2011 by \$750,000.

Board Chairman John McCowen acknowledged a portion of the budgetary problem with the Sheriff's Office is due to the national search that went on after the November 2016 Laytonville killing of Jeffrey Quinn Settler, where seven suspects fled to locations across the United States. McCowen said it took a lot of money to bring six of the seven suspects back to Mendocino County. (The seventh suspect is still at large.)

Another reason for the shortfall is the decline in projected revenue to the Sheriff's Office due to the semi-legalization of marijuana.

"Going forward, we're not going to have some of the revenue that we've had in the past," said Undersheriff Randy Johnson. "We're going to have to come to a decision-making time, and the board is going to have to make some decisions. The revenue we have had in the past is not going to be there, and yet we're still going to have the same number of responsibilities, if not more."



harvest," according to MRC. "The FSC protocols are extensive, with 66 principles and conditions, requiring environmental protections, monitoring, assessment, and comprehensive management plans. FSC standards also go beyond other certification protocols to include the important review of social impacts and community involvement."

The report recommending recertification was released to the public on February 28. Of particular importance in the recertification process is the issue surrounding the company's compliance with Measure V, approved by county voters last June 7. Measure V declared it a public nuisance for a forest landowner to leave dead trees standing in the forest for more than 90 days.

That measure seemed to be directed for the most part at Mendocino Redwood Company, which annually treats hardwood trees, especially tan oaks, with herbicides on tens of thousands of acres of its forestlands. The company says it uses the practice, which it calls "frill treatment," to encourage redwood tree growth and return forest composition closer to the way it was before 1850.

Critics of the practice – who call it "hack and squirt" – say it increases fire danger in the forest, puts firefighters at increased risk of injury and death, and introduces dangerous herbicides into the forest environment.

Rainforest Alliance determined that even if the company ignored Measure V's provisions, MRC would continue to operate its company within the principles of Forest Management Standard Indicator 1.1(a), which states: "Operators will demonstrate compliance with all applicable federal, state, county, municipal and tribal laws, and administrative requirements."

Rainforest Alliance auditors cited California Civil Code Division 4, Part 3, Title 1, Section 3482.5 (e), which declares agricultural practices exempt from nuisance laws and explicitly includes timber harvesting in a list of agricultural practices covered by the code section.

In addition, auditors said MRC was in compliance with Forest Management Standard indicator 1.1 (a). "The Rainforest Alliance auditor determined that as of the date of the on-site evaluation (September 27 and 28, 2016), trees intentionally killed and left standing for longer than 90 days had not caused any damage making MRC liable; therefore, regardless of the applicability of the ordinance to MRC, the [timber operator] has demonstrated continued compliance with all applicable federal, state, county, municipal and tribal laws, and administrative requirements."

In the section of Rainforest Alliance's recertification report entitled "Stakeholder Consultation Process," auditors Jamie Overton and Karen Brenner explained they had made efforts to contact members of the community and other stakeholders, with equivocal success.

"In the case of MRC, prior to the actual surveillance audit and forest site visits, a public stakeholder notification was developed and distributed 60 days in advance. It was delivered to Rainforest Alliance's national list of stakeholders as well as MRC's list of stakeholders with e-mail addresses. This list provided a basis for the audit team to select individuals for interviews and to learn of sites that could be visited during the [on-site] evaluation.

"Rainforest Alliance also intended to conduct two focus groups, one with proponents of Measure V and one with forest industry professionals. However, invitations to participate were declined due to scheduling conflicts and/or lack of response from invitees."

Rainforest Alliance says it sent out 267 notices to participate in the evaluation of MRC and received only 28 responses.

only 66.22 percent approval.

Camille Schraeder, chief operations officer of county mental health services provider Redwood Quality Management Company, on Tuesday confirmed her company has found a site for a potential residential crisis center.

Schraeder wouldn't say more and declined to give any details. She said she would be more forthcoming when her company and the property owner have agreed on terms.

"I don't want to blow it by going public now," Schraeder said. "But I hope to be ready with some kind of announcement in May."

Schraeder told Willits Weekly her company would use a \$500,000 grant from the state to help fund the project. The county has had the grant for nearly two years and needs to commit the funds by June 30. But RQMC would need to raise more money to complete the project.

At the same time, Margie Handley of Willits and volunteers are gathering signatures in support of turning the old Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital on South Main Street into an emergency mental health treatment center.

According to a letter signed by Handley, the old hospital would become "a 24-hour lockdown facility for 16 patients, with drug and alcohol rehab and other mental health programs that will provide support for people in need."

In her letter, Handley addressed two commonly asked questions:

Can the old HMH pass state seismic standards for hospitals? Handley replies those standards apply only to acute care facilities.

Why Willits? Why not Ukiah? To which Handley answers: "Willits is the center of the county and has a ready-made facility. Why spend money for a new building when we already have one that is vacant?"

Handley and her volunteers are trying to gather 1,000 signatures supporting the idea to present to the Willits City Council. Contacted on Wednesday, Handley said she had 350 signatures already, and has 50 copies of the letter of support out. Each letter has spaces for 15 people to sign.

She added she doesn't know yet how much it will cost to retrofit the old hospital. "I don't have the cost for that, but we have to find out," she said.

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Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song: **New Day!** Wednesday, March 22, at 6 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Ancient Wisdom for Today. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

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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 macamergin@yahoo.com.

For Rent
Professional Office Space for rent; various sized offices. \$1.00 per foot. Madrone Professional Group. Call Margie at 459-6874 or Megan at 972-8776.

For Sale
PELLET STOVE: Many replacement parts. Works well. Includes stovepipe and spare parts. 20 years young. \$250. Call: 459-0344.

For Sale
Tarps. "Used." Heavy vinyl. Billboards, many sizes. Call Dave at 984-6332.

Help Wanted
Part-time position available at Harrah Senior Center's Thrift Store. 20 hours per week, flexible hours. Apply at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd, Willits CA 95490, 707-459-6826.

Help Wanted
Part-time position available at Harrah Senior Center's Thrift Store. 20 hours per week, flexible hours. Apply at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd, Willits CA 95490, 707-459-6826.

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Help Wanted
Adventist Health Home-care & Hospice Services – Mendocino County Part Time or Per Diem Speech Therapist needed. Call H/R Trudy #456-3230.

Massage Space Available
Massage space available at Candace Lee's new office. Call 459-0757 Wednesday through Friday.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers \$390 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at <http://www.oakwine.net/tip>

SEWING AND ALTERATIONS
Seamstress and Sewing Teacher
Barbara Carlson
Visit my webpage: Zibergirl.com
707-367-6182, Willits.

Vacationing?
Pet and house sitting available. Dogs, cats, horses, you name it; in home or my home. Veterinary technician experience. Excellent references. Call 707-367-9319.

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.

Volunteers Wanted
Frank Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in various departments of the hospital. Hours: flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

We Buy Houses & Land!
Any Area, Price, Condition. Behind on Payments? Call or Text (707) 841-0120.

\$10 for 30 words for two weeks!
Email us!

LEGAL NOTICES

WW106
Fictitious Business Name Statement

The following person is doing business as: Suite 75, 758 South Main St., Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual: Christina Bowers, 370 Laurel St., Willits CA 95490.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on January 25, 2017.

s/Christina N. Bowers
Pub dates 02/23, 03/02, 03/09, 03/16/2017

Willits Weekly was adjudicated on November 18, 2016 and is now able to run legal ads. Contact 459-2633 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com for more information.

MARCH 2017 CALENDAR

MONDAY POINTS DAYS 4X POINTS
All Players Club members will earn 4X Points from 10A to 10P on the days of the promotion!

TUESDAY POT OF GOLD PLINKO
Hot Seats 12 Random Hot Seat Drawings

Approximate Times of Hot Seat Drawings
1P – 4P (twice per hour = 6 Drawings)
7P – 10P (twice per hour = 6 Drawings)

Winner will receive one Plinko Chip. The Winner will place the Plinko chip in a slot of their choice on the top of the Plinko board. The plinko chip will slide down the board and will land in one of 8 prize slots. Prizes will be randomly placed at the bottom of the Plinko board.
The prizes are: "\$20 Free Play", "\$40 Free Play", "\$60 Free Play", "\$100 Free Play".

HOT SEATS & Bonus Spin WEDNESDAYS Double Your Fun!
EARLY SESSION: 11A ending at 3P
2 random winners/hour (8 total winners)
Each Hot Seat winner will also spin a prize wheel that could double their Free Play winnings.
EVENING SESSION: 7P ending at 11P
2 random winners/hour (8 total winners)
Each Hot Seat winner will also spin a prize wheel that could double their Free Play winnings.
Customers may win up to two separate Hot Seats each week for this promotion

Scratch Card Sunday! 10am-8pm!
Players Club members that earn minimally 40 points on each specific Sunday, will receive one (only one) Scratch Card (via the Players Club). Each Scratch Card will have a prize (cash or free play), which will be
\$10 Free Play \$20 Free Play \$50 Free Play
\$75 Free Play \$100 Free Play
\$20 Cash \$50 Cash \$100 Cash
Customers may receive only one Scratch Card each Sunday for this promotion.
-All Free play that is won via the Hot Seat drawings must be used by 2A on the same gaming day, or the winnings (Free Play) will be removed from the customer's account.

SUPER SENIOR DAY
50% DISCOUNT FOOD COUPONS ISSUED (to be used for that day only) when the customer has earned minimally 50 points from 10A to 7P.

BINGO!
\$100 GAME 12PM & \$150 FOR 1PM & 2PM
\$200 GAME 8PM
\$250 GAME 9PM
\$300 GAME 10PM
Players Club members must have earned minimally 50 points to receive a bingo card for the 12P, 1P & 2P bingo games. Bings at 12P for \$100 cash and 1P & 2P for \$150 cash for each game winner.
Players Club members must have earned minimally 75 points (throughout the day) to receive a bingo card for the 8P, 9P & 10P bingo games. Bings at 8P (\$200 each game), 9P (\$250 for the 9P game and \$300 for the 10P game).
ANY SENIOR (55+) THAT WINS A BINGO GAME (Not a second chance!) WILL WIN A \$50 FREE PLAY BONUS!
Bingo Cards won start being issued at 10A for the 11A game, and 9P for the 7P game. The 12P, 1P & 10P cards will be issued after the earlier game has ended. If two customers claim the win together, the prize amount is split between the two winners.
For the 2P and 9P & 10P, there will be a "Second Chance Win" opportunity. After a customer has lost a bingo game, they will be given a second chance to win. The game will continue until a second "Bingo" is won, and the "Second Chance Win" customer will win \$50 Cash for the 2P game and \$100 Cash for the 9P & 10P game.
The "Second Chance Win" opportunity will be announced before each of the specific games.

FRIDAY NIGHT PAYDAY!
WIN CASH FROM 8-11!
\$100 8:00PM
\$200 10:30PM
\$250 10:30PM
\$300 11:00PM
At each drawing (except the 10P drawing), an entry will be drawn from the Raffle Barrel. The winning customer will have 30 seconds to claim their prize. If the number is not followed the money for the specific drawing will be forwarded to the next drawing for the specific drawing. Free 9P drawings have no winners, the \$100 will be forwarded to the 10P drawing and will be worth a \$100 cash prize.
For the 10P drawing, if there is no claim on the drawing, there will be an additional drawing. This process will continue until a winner has claimed the cash prize. Customers may win up to 2 times each night of this promotion.



SATURDAY FUN • HOT SEATS (FREE PLAY) March 11 & 25

Round #1:
11 AM to 12 PM – 2 random winners per hour;
12 PM to 1 PM – 2 random winners per hour;
1 PM to 2 PM – 2 random winners per hour.
Each winner will win \$50 in Free Play.
Customers will have to play a minimum of \$20 to be eligible for Round #1.

Round #2:
5 PM to 6 PM – 2 random winners per hour.
6 PM to 7 PM – 2 random winners per hour.
7 PM to 8 PM – 2 random winners per hour
Each winner will win \$75 in Free Play.
Customers will have to play a minimum of \$30 to be eligible for Round #2.

Round #3:
9 PM to 10 PM – 3 random winners per hour.
Each winner will win \$100 in Free Play.
Customers will have to play a minimum of \$40 to be eligible for Round #3.

Round #4:
10 PM to 11 PM – 3 random winners per hour
Each winner will win \$150 in Free Play.
Customers will have to play a minimum of \$50 to be eligible for Round #4.

All winner(s) must use their promotional "Free Play" by 2AM the night they won, or the Free Play will be removed from their account. Customers may win up to two (2) times each Saturday of this promotion.

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS
SATURDAY SPORTS FUN MARCH 1 & 4
We will be giving away 4 pairs of tickets to the Golden State Warriors game on March 26
Earn entries (25 points/entry) on March 1, 4
Drawings at 8P & 9P on March 4
2 pairs of tickets for each drawing time each week. The Raffle Barrel will be emptied after the 9P drawings each week. Players Club members may win once per week and up to 2 times for this promotion.

BINGO!
Saturday Bingo Fun • March 18
6PM "Buy-In" for the 7P & 8P games
75 Points
7PM Game - \$150 Cash
8PM Game - \$150 Cash
9:300PM "Buy-In for the 10:00P, 11:



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

Elementary School instead of Willits High School as part of a plan to have the board visit different schools in the district over the next few months.

Some in the audience expressed misgivings about a resolution the board unanimously approved that night to eliminate a social worker position and a grant counselor position from the district for the next school year, and to "reclassify" the job duties of two yard assistant supervisors at the high school to more custodial and groundskeeper-related work.

Superintendent Mark Westerburg explained that eliminating the two positions was "really not optional," since they had been funded by an elementary counseling grant that was ending, and the district would no longer be receiving around \$500,000 in grant funds.

Lisa Mey, a fourth-grade teacher at Blosser Lane, argued having counselors available for students who need them was very important.

"I've been teaching for over 20 years, and kids are changing," she said. "I have students in my class whose parents have signed a permission slip for counseling, but they cannot receive it because we don't have enough staffing for counselors. I really request very strongly that you include that in next year's budget. It really affects their academics."

Regarding the change in duties for yard assistants, some in the crowd contended Baechtel Grove and Blosser Lane needed more supervision, and perhaps positions should be shifted there for student safety instead of focusing on maintenance at the high school.

But Westerburg said the needs of other district schools needed to be dealt with separately from altering high school positions since they were different sites. For Willits High School, he said, the shift made

sense, given all the cameras now in place for school security, and because "in general high school students need less one-to-one supervision."

"We see the facility pretty well," he added, noting there would still be one yard supervisor on duty at the school. "We're going to add to our custodial and our grounds crew because I think that's a higher priority for us right now."

Several teachers also spoke at the meeting, opposing potential changes in the short Tuesday schedule, which provides teaching staff time for organizational meetings at each school site after students are released early that day.

Westerburg and the board have been exploring different options for altering the Tuesday schedule, including starting classes later instead of ending them earlier, or having no short day and letting teachers meet after a regular school day instead for additional pay.

"There are lots of options to consider," said Westerburg, who added he was glad to receive input on the topic from teachers and parents.

"The bottom line is we're taking instructional time away to do this," he said, "so it needs to be productive, it needs to be managed and organized, and should show significant value because it costs significantly to do it."

WTA President John Haschak said that in his discussions with teachers he found strong support for leaving the Tuesday short day as is. He noted there was particularly strong opposition to eliminating the short days completely, since teachers felt the weekly meetings were crucial for staff collaboration, discussion and planning.

In a survey of 50 teachers Haschak conducted, over 40 had a negative reaction to the idea, and wrote several pages worth of commentary explaining their reasons. He



At far left: Coaches Brian Bowles and Mike Colvig with wrestlers from the NCS championship-winning Wolverines team and their awards.

At left: Coach Paul Riley talks about the highlights of the Willits High School girls basketball season.

Photos by Forrester Glyer

added that three-quarters of those surveyed said they would find it difficult or not be able to attend meetings after their regular work hours.

"You'd lose that whole site cohesion and the ability for people to make collective decisions," said Haschak. "Overall, we think it's a bad idea, we don't want to go there, and we hope this floated idea is just done away with."

My concurred, saying: "There is tons and tons of research that supports teacher collaboration with student achievement."

Haschak also spoke about his frustration regarding ongoing contract negotiations between the WTA and the district.

"We're not seeing any kind of movement on the district's part," he said. The WTA has "put out proposals that have tried to lift up new teachers, compress the salary schedule, and do what we were trying to do last year. I think the district is doing something along a similar line, but it's not working."

Haschak asked the board to consider that many new district teachers were already having trouble finding housing they could afford, and potential increases in the cost of living, STRS (Student Teacher Retirement System) taxes, and healthcare premiums could cut 7 percent out of current salaries.

He suggested the district consider using more of their reserves if necessary, which he said were at over \$2 million, and were only required to be around \$600,000.

He also brought up the difference in salary increases between teachers and superintendents in the district in recent years, noting that over the last 11 years, teachers have had an 8.5 percent increase while superintendent pay has risen by more than 60 percent.

"It's just something to think about when we go into negotiations," he said. "There's no reason to hardball these teachers that are doing a great job and trying to give their best effort. We're trying to attract and retain the best teachers we have."

The board did not respond to Haschak's contract comments, but Westerburg did agree with California School Employees Association Willits Chapter President Dan Green that CSEA negotiations were going well.

The rest of **Nursing** | From Page 4

one of the best things about working for the hospital is caring for her community. "Because we are a small community, it's our own friends, neighbors and family members who end up here. It gives them such comfort to know the people that are caring for them. I love seeing someone I've helped, doing so much better at the grocery store or at the post office, and they are all very grateful. It makes everything we do so worth it."

Having seen four remodels and just recently the move to the new hospital, Bodensteiner says one of the highlights of her career was being part of the process of building the new facility. "I have been waiting for the new hospital for so long! It's amazing how well we've done in such a small facility. Now it's finally here, and it's everything that the community deserves," she said.

Even though 40 years seems like a lifetime, she says retirement is the last thing

The rest of **Housework** | From Page 3

serve while the rest of the family sat and watched TV.

The "Second Shift" exhibit can be seen until May 28, and is well worth a visit. While visiting you will undoubtedly be captivated by a wide array of other top-notch displays at our fabulous local museum: a fully recreated soda fountain, a dentist's office, buggies, all kinds of wagons, everything

"The district threw out some pretty tough stuff, and we threw some pretty tough stuff back," said Green. "We seem to have resolved most of our issues, and we feel overall it's been pretty productive, and we'd like to thank the district for that."

Near the beginning of the meeting, the Willits High School wrestling team was recognized for its triumphant season. The team won the North Coast Sections Championship for the first time since 2008 this year, and also won the league title with a perfect record of 8-0. The team also placed first at tournaments in McKinleyville and Middletown, and third at a Healdsburg Duals Tournament during which they faced off against several much larger schools.

Coaches Brian Bowles and Mike Colvig attended the meeting with a group of wrestlers from the team to talk about their experiences and show off their pennants and other awards. Bowles stressed the team's success came from emphasizing work ethic, character and strong support among teammates.

"I really feel like this team has grown to be a family, and I think that's the reason we did so well as a team – because we treat each other as such," he said. "My goal as coach is to bring these kids far with their character, and I think this championship comes from that."

The Willits High School varsity girls basketball team also was recognized. Coach Paul Riley praised his players and talked about their season. The girls' team went 14-13 overall, competed in the NCS playoffs, won a tournament in Point Arena, and placed third at a tournament in Healdsburg.

Riley and Westerburg both praised senior Chanel Alexander, who scored 1,050 points in her WHS career, one of few players who have scored over 1,000 for Willits High School girls basketball.

Other items discussed at the meeting included the application for a hybrid-fuel bus grant submitted by Westerburg, and final approval of a shared facilities agreement with the City of Willits. As part of that agreement, the district will maintain the high school swimming pool and Baechtel Grove gym, and the city will be in charge of upkeep on the tennis courts.

on her mind. "I love my job so much! To have worked at HMH for that long has been an honor, a blessing, and an experience I wouldn't trade for anything!"

Asked what she would tell those who are just starting in the field of nursing, she had these words of advice: "Come to each patient's bedside with an open mind, an open heart and be prepared to share your knowledge, your skill and your compassion, and to make every effort to provide the best healing you can offer. Each patient presents an opportunity for you to make a difference in their life, even if it's only a small one. And with each patient you can learn something. We have been given an extraordinary opportunity to make a difference, take every advantage you can to make that happen for every patient. Honor yourself, your profession, continue to grow and learn. The opportunities as a nurse are endless."

trains, Native American history and artifacts, a gift shop with a surprising array of high-quality merchandise for all ages, and much more.

The museum is located next to the Willits Branch Library at 400 East Commercial Street and is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4:30 pm. For more information, visit www.MendocinoMuseum.org or call 459-2736.



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

"That was a crash course in everything I needed to know, and there's still so much to learn," laughed Barker. "I hope that if I can do just half of what Allyn has done, I will consider myself a success. I feel that some of the deciding factors in me getting to take on her job were that they saw my passion for the center, and desire to care for seniors ... that it really came through."

Now, ready to guide the center under his leadership, Baker wants to prioritize the grants for the year, and then start looking for new ways to get the community involved and the center active, and also for new ways to bring in revenue.

"There's a lot that goes on here, and I am going to work hard to make sure we keep up with grants we receive and try to come up with new and creative ways to bring in income, too," said Barker. "One project we hope to focus on is getting a mid- to full-size truck donated from a dealership that we can use for our thrift store."

Barker noted the revenue generated from the thrift store helps carry many of the non-money making programs, classes and offerings available through the center.

"That store is our cash cow," laughed Baker. "We really rely on it to help fund the center's daily activities and annual needs, and they need a truck to help with donations and moving boxes and larger items."

Reaching out to businesses, individuals and the community comes easy to Baker; during his pre-Willits years he worked in sales and fundraising projects including sports calendars and advertising jobs in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he gained experience in developing relationships, making contacts and networking, which, he says, have all come in handy with the new job.

"I've been in Willits for 22 years," said Baker. "I moved here from Salt Lake City when family members needed help with a home that had a fire. I loved it so much here that I just stayed. Now I just go back and visit the rest of the family still

Arizona man dies in Ryan Creek crash

An 83-year-old Phoenix, Arizona man was killed on March 5 when he apparently lost control of his car on Highway 101 north of Ryan Creek Road, about six miles north of Willits, and the vehicle plunged down an embankment and hit a culvert pipe.

The California Highway Patrol is still trying to determine why the northbound 2003 Toyota Camry, which was traveling "at a slow rate of speed," veered off the highway shortly after 7 pm in cloudy weather.

What is known, the CHP says, is that the Toyota became airborne after striking the culvert pipe, ejecting the driver, who was not wearing a seatbelt. The Toyota then rolled on top of the elderly man before continuing down the embankment.

Several people who witnessed the accident attempted to resuscitate the driver, without success. He was pronounced dead at the scene by Willits Ambulance EMS personnel.

Caltrans assisted with traffic control during the vehicle recovery, along with the Little Lake Fire Department and Mendocino County sheriff's deputies.

"Alcohol does not appear to be a factor" in the accident, the CHP said.

This report was based on a press release from the California Highway Patrol.

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

as an acting sergeant since December 2016.

"I wish to congratulate both officers for their hard work and dedication to the Willits Police Department and their service to the citizens of our community," said WPD Interim Chief of Police Scott Warnock.

– Willits Police Department

Adam's Restaurant
50 S. Main St. Hwy. 101, Willits, CA
New phone number
707-409-4378
*Open Tuesday through Sunday
Closed Mondays*

At left: Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez accepts a brownie bribe from Relay for Life team member Jennifer Sookne at last year's cookoff. At left, below: Chili contestants of the Bean Go's group, including from left, Virginia, Diana and Leslie. Below: "Miss Chili Pepper" Martha Morgan, who turned 92 years old last summer, enjoyed attending the 2016 chili cookoff event.



living in Utah, instead of the other way around!"

Barker noted how he felt the community here was remarkable. He appreciates that even though Willits is a small, rural area, the community supports its local groups and organizations.

"We really want to continue to interact with the community on all age levels and interest levels," said Baker. "Even though we do serve the senior crowd, we are really trying to break the stigma that the center is only for them."

A large offering of classes, programs and events are held at the center each month, all of which the public is welcome to attend. The dining hall and full-service kitchen are available to rent for everything from big parties to small gatherings, on both corporate/business or personal levels.

Lunch is available Monday through Friday, and the salad bar has recently been able to be open year-round. Baker mentioned his long-term hopes and dreams to even one day try for an all-organic salad bar.

In the meantime, Barker noted the social benefits of the center, and how it's really become a "godsend" for those who need it.

"Sharing the knowledge of the elder community is important, and one of the things I love about working here is hearing the old stories, things about how Willits used to be, and connecting with the history of this area. Listening to those stories helps keep me motivated and inspired working here," said Barker. "We're all going to get older at some point, and we want to be available to provide the resources, camaraderie and support for the community as they need it."

Especially if you haven't recently visited the senior center, go and see what's happening there – and say "hi" to Barker in his new job.

The center is located at 1501 Baechtel Road and can be reached at 459-6826.

The rest of **WPD** | From Page 9

March 4

3:02 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the area of Baechtel Road and Shell Lane.

6:50 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

7:52 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the area of Railroad Avenue and East San Francisco Avenue and issued a warning.

3:24 pm: **BRUCE, Dustin Reid** (33) of Willits was contacted in the area of Margie Drive and Monica Lane. He was arrested on felony charges of evading a peace officer and reckless driving, and misdemeanor charges of driving with a suspended or revoked driving privilege.

4:21 pm: **SIMERSON, Nathaniel Kester** (38) of California was contacted in the 100 block of East Valley Street. He was arrested on charges of violation of probation.

March 5

7:45 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

8:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted person in the 200 block of School Street.

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I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.





The rest of **Zip tie** | From Page 1

"The county is currently in the process of developing medical cannabis cultivation regulations that will supersede Chapter 9.31," the letter stated. "Current projections are that the MCCR will be adopted in March and that new applications will be available in May.

"The county was previously required to stop accepting applications for the 9.31 permit program pursuant to a settlement agreement that resolved a legal challenge to the adoption of the 9.31 permit program. Accordingly, the county lacks clear authority to issue additional permits or permit renewals, and lawful cannabis cultivation pursuant to Chapter 9.31 is limited to 25 plants.

"Although permits pursuant to chapter 9.31 will not be renewed, your permit application entitles you to priority processing for MCCR permits once MCCR is adopted and the county [can] resume issuing permits," the letter stated.

Several people came to the podium Tuesday to explain about the letter to the board of supervisors.

"This letter left us in confusion," said Mark Thies. "You know, we're back to the 25-plant limit, and the third-party inspectors are saying: 'We're going back to canopy, you know, a sea of green' ... so, it's like, we're going two places at the same time. It's really confusing, and people have made investments.

"I don't know really what I'm asking for," Thies said, "except – is it possible to rewrite the letter so we feel more protected? Because, as cultivators, we're already kind of out on a limb in regards to the feds, so if we don't feel protected by local government, it's kind of like, what are we doing here? What's going on?"

A speaker who identified himself only as Brandon, said: "The actions of the county government over the last two years greatly concern me. When the temporary ordinance was adopted last year after Supervisor Woodhouse and Supervisor McCowen failed to craft a permanent ordinance, despite having had nine months to do so, 9.31 participants were asked to put out a good-faith effort to be compliant with the new cannabis regulations.

"This proved to be a monumental task," he said. "It was very expensive and very difficult. Unfortunately, that good-faith effort has not been returned by county government on any level. We have been misled and marginalized time and again by the board, particularly by Supervisor McCowen. The most recent actions of the county government have resulted in a gap in the permit process and have left everyone in a legal limbo.

"This unjust action jeopardizes my farm," he complained. "It jeopardizes the safety and security of myself and my family. This is abhorrent and unacceptable. We need a permanent cultivation ordinance that is reasonable and workable, and we needed it a year ago."

Board Chairman McCowen, however, said the situation was well in hand, and growers had no reason to be apprehensive.

"We all know the letter went out," McCowen said. "Whether the letter went out or not, there was going to be a gap between the 2016 program and the program currently under development that we hope to adopt as soon as we reasonably can. We are under legal scrutiny. We do have to follow CEQA, and that's inevitably made the process more drawn out.

"I understand everyone's concern," McCowen added. "I think we all do. I also am reasonably confident the sheriff understands the situation and will have respect for the fact that people who are doing everything they reasonably can are not the highest priority for law enforcement."

After supervisors heard from the public and continued to other business, two-thirds of the people sitting in the board chambers left the meeting and met in the hall to discuss their fears with Undersheriff Johnson, who is in charge of the 9.31 program.

Johnson reassured them that cancellation of the program does not signal a change in policy on the part of the Sheriff's Office.

"This is just cleanup stuff," Johnson said. "I am just here to say, 'Take a chill, Bill.' We're not going to go out looking for people to bust. The only time we're gonna show up is if we get a complaint."

Contacted Wednesday by Willits Weekly, Johnson explained the impetus to send out the letter came from the county's legal wing. "The concern was trying not to trigger another lawsuit, before the new ordinance is adopted. Nothing is changing. We're still working with the board of supervisors and with county staff to develop a new cultivation ordinance that hopefully will be adopted soon."

County CEO Carmel Angelo noted tentative dates in the ongoing cannabis process. In her report to the board, she noted the first reading of the cultivation ordinances has been scheduled for March 21. On March 28, there will be a board workshop on the cannabis facilities and business license ordinances. The second reading of the cultivation ordinances is set for April 4. On April 17, the board will consider new ordinances for Chapter 9.30 and Chapter 9.31.

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At top, from left: Contemplating the sky: Kathy and Phil Shuster look at Donna Stropes' paintings. Watercolors by Donna Stropes. Artist Bruce Kitts, with WCA curator Gary Martin.

Above, left: Donna Stropes, Bruce Kitts and Gary Martin.

Above, right and below, left: The ceramics work of artist Bruce Kitts.

Below, center: Ceramics by artist Bruce Kitts, displayed in the front room at the Art Center.

Below, right: Amy Michelle Stropes and Donna Stropes.

At bottom: Donna Stropes, with a wall-full of her watercolors, answers questions from the attendees.

Photos by Mathew Caine

'Both Sides of Atmosphere'

Opening night at WCA's March show featuring Bruce Kitts and Donna Stropes

"Both Sides of Atmosphere" are exquisitely represented this month in the watercolor paintings of Donna Stropes and the pottery work of Bruce Kitts currently being displayed at the Willits Center for the Arts.

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

Both artists discussed their works to an enthusiastic audience during WCA's opening night this past Saturday evening.

Kitts described the process of atmospheric firing as "incorporating an element to the kiln that will create different chemistry onto the surface of the work."

For Kitts and his crew in Comptche, the ceramics they turn out are created using wood firing and soda firing, the latter using a mix of water and baking soda.

"It gets pretty intense," Kitts told the crowd. "There's a lot of smoke and fire. The added atmosphere is creating the glaze, and that will adhere all of our work onto the shelf. You'll see a lot of wadding marks on the bottom of the work."

The wood-firing method Kitts uses involves a team of workers who take turns to "stoke a kiln for sometimes up to eight to nine days," Kitts said. "It

gets so hot in the kiln that the wood ash is melting and creating a surface. A lot of the wood fire work you see, all the color and variation, is completely thrown from melted ash; there's no glaze on there going into the kiln."

Kitts described the group process as very labor-intensive and community-oriented.

"It takes a huge crew to do it, which is one of the fun parts," Kitts said. "It's a very ceremonial event."

Kitts received his MA at Eastern Illinois at Charleston and has only been in the Mendocino County area since June of 2015.

As an art major at Illinois Central College, Kitts discovered his love for pottery when he decided to spend his last elective on a ceramics course.

"I pretty much fell instantly in love with it, which is the story of a lot of ceramic artists," Kitts said.

Donna Stropes has been painting since her high school days, when she sold her first painting in 1963, but only recently has she taken to representing clouds in her watercolors. Thus, the other side of "atmosphere."

"It was an emotional reason why I got into painting them," said Stropes. "I also went to Tennessee, and some of these paintings are from the Smokey Mountains."

Stropes said the view from her studio eventually inspired her to paint what was right in front of her every day.

Until that moment of inspiration Stropes was on a long hiatus from painting.

"The clouds got me to paint [again], I have to confess," Stropes said.

Stropes describes her reasons for painting on her website donnastropes.com.

"I'm able to let go of the drudgeries of daily life and be there, wherever it is that I'm painting. I am equally comfortable with a still life set up in front of me, or outdoors in the elements painting my little plein air studies. Light and shade, how to capture the essence of a place on paper, or canvas, all appeal to me. The transitional period of dawn, dusk, and gray winter days are the quality of light which most interests me."

These elements and more are gracefully and brilliantly showcased in her art.

"Both Sides of Atmosphere" will run through March 24. WCA is located at 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are from Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. Visit willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-1726 for more information, or to inquire about volunteering as a docent.



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