

# Willits Weekly

Online & Print



EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
 Donations Accepted Edition No. 297 **Thursday, March 14, 2019**

## County: 96 percent of pot growers will pay minimum tax

Mike A'Dair  
 Reporter  
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Ninety-six percent of Mendocino County cannabis cultivators are planning to pay the minimum tax this year for their 2018 taxes, according to Mendocino County Treasurer Shari Schapmire, who spoke to supervisors on Tuesday.

Schapmire said that of approximately 1,000 cultivators who have applied for a cultivation

Read the rest of **Tax**  
 Over on page 6

## Cannabis growers want more room to grow

Mike A'Dair  
 Reporter  
 mike@willitsweekly.com

Longtime north county cannabis activist Tim Blake spoke some "home truths" to the audience at the meeting of the board of supervisors ad hoc committee for cannabis cultivation held last Wednesday night at the Willits Community Center.

Blake said the price of cannabis is dropping and will continue to drop to about \$200 a pound. Because of overproduction, he warned, retailers and dispensaries are getting more and more picky about the kind of product they'll take, and pot grown outdoors is hard to sell to discriminating retailers if it

Read the rest of **Grow**  
 Over on page 6

## Laytonville man dies, sons injured, in Monday crash

A 38-year-old Laytonville man was killed and his two young sons suffered major injuries Monday when the 1998 Saturn they were riding in on Highway 101 north of Shimmins Ridge Road collided with a big rig.

State traffic officers report Patrick Herbstritt was driving south on the highway just minutes before noon when he apparently lost control of the Saturn, which crossed into the northbound lanes, collided with a guardrail on the east side of the highway, then spun into the path of a southbound 2011 Freightliner towing an unloaded flatbed trailer.

The driver of the  
 Read the rest of **Crash**  
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Above, from left: Brodey "nose" a thing or two about cupcakes! When Irish eyes are smiling, are they shaped like cupcakes? River has a cupcake for each hand for serious tasting. Below: River, Brodey and Wreyn wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day on Sunday, and invite everyone to come celebrate the day before, Saturday, at Cupcake Wars!



Photos by Maureen Moore

## Cupcake Crazy

### Junior Boosters fundraiser and annual baking contest this Saturday

Get your sweet teeth ready for the annual Cupcake Wars baking contest which will be held this Saturday from 2 to 4 pm. Usually held at the Willits Community Center, this year, there's a new location: the Willits United Methodist Church, located at 286 School Street, just across from the Little Lake Grange.

Maureen Moore  
 Graphics & Photographress  
 maureen@willitsweekly.com

The process will be the same, though: The event is open to the public and has a \$1 entry fee to come in and check out the cupcakes. To

Read the rest of **Cupcake**  
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### Cupcake Wars

March 16, 2019  
 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
 Willits United Methodist Church  
 Proceeds help Willits High Junior Class



Below: Nothing like a redheaded cupcake party, complete with frosting faces and all. Come by Cupcake Wars at the Willits United Methodist Church to get your share of frosting this Saturday from 2 to 4 pm.



## County will sell eight of Delaquadra's horses

Dan McKee  
 Reporter  
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

A 64-year-old Willits woman charged with felony animal cruelty warned the county Tuesday she would pursue "criminal and civil actions" if supervisors passed a resolution to sell eight horses seized by the department of animal care services in January 2018.

Katherine Anne Delaquadra called the proposed resolution "highly, highly illegal" during the board of supervisors' public comment period before the resolution was brought to a vote.

Read the rest of **Horses**  
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## Supes ask Measure B committee for more direction

Mike A'Dair  
 Reporter  
 mike@willitsweekly.com

By direction from Chairperson Carre Brown, and without taking a vote, supervisors yesterday sent a message to the Measure B Committee saying the board wants additional direction on spending recommendations included in the 2018 Kemper Report.

The wording finally agreed upon was that the board "encouraged the Measure B Committee to review and prioritize the Kemper Report recommendations."

It's not clear what effect the encouragement from the board of supervisors will have on the Measure B Committee, formally known as the Mental Health

Read the rest of **Measure B**  
 Over on page 13

## County retirement contribution goes down slightly

Mike A'Dair  
 Reporter  
 mike@willitsweekly.com

Mendocino County contributed \$278,000 less in fiscal year 2017/2018 to its retirement association than it did in 2016/17, according to an actuarial valuation completed by Segal Consulting in late 2018 and presented to the board of supervisors on Tuesday.

According to the report, the county paid \$23,569,000 to the retirement association in 2016/17; in 2017/18 it paid \$23,291,000.

Read the rest of **Retirement**  
 Over on page 13



Above: Modular classrooms at Brookside have individual heaters that go out, prompting notes like this on the classroom door. Above, right: This 50+ year old modular unit is used for storage because it is unfit for student or adult use. At right: An example of cracked asphalt on the Brookside Elementary School playground.



Photos by Mathew Caine

## A tour of Brookside School's 'fix and repair' needs

Joanne Moore  
 Reporter  
 joanne@willitsweekly.com

Over 400 of Willits' youngest students, from preschool through second grade, go to Brookside Elementary School.

It was built in the 1950s and "needs TLC," said Willits Unified School District Superintendent Mark Westerburg. "It has tons and tons of issues."

"There's pretty much zero preventative maintenance," he said. "It's all fix and repair ... lots of retrofits."

"The maintenance guys are constantly over here," said school Principal Kathleen Crossman

One of the biggest issues – and first on Westerburg's  
 Read more of **Brookside**  
 Over on page 7

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Poisoning water

To the Editor:

It made me extremely sad to read the letter from the Hofmaister family in last week's Willits Weekly. I find it difficult to comprehend how anyone could be so angry, crazy or just plain stupid enough to poison any water supply for any reason.

Pure water is a rare and precious commodity not to be taken for granted or treated with so little respect. And having known the Hofmaister family for 40 years, I can also say that they are as rare and precious as pure water.

I hope that whoever perpetuated this disgusting act is apprehended and prosecuted to the fullest extent. Poisoning water is a crime against all humanity and a blatant act of terrorism.

Norma Hanson, Willits

## 4-H: It takes a village

To the Editor:

I'm reaching out to all of you in the community of Willits because I think our 4-H Club has such amazing potential, but we need your help. This is my first year as co-community leader and only my second year in an adult volunteer/leader position. I am constantly trying to educate myself in all things "4-H," and the most important thing that I have learned so far is that a successful 4-H Club takes a village – and you are my village!

There are several roles that adults can fill and greatly improve the function and success of our club. Although the club community leaders are ultimately responsible for the overall management and compliance of the club, I think if we can divide certain responsibilities based on passion and skill, we can offer our kids so much more! My talent: paper pusher. Not exactly an inspirational beacon for the next generation, but I can get probably get you signed up for fair on time! What is your strength? Here are some examples of adult volunteer 4-H roles:

### • Community leader(s), enrollment coordinator, leadership advisor

• **Project leader(s):** Are there any florists, artists, fabricators, construction/wood workers, seamstresses, gardeners, bakers, chefs, leather craftsmen, scrapbookers, poets, computer/website designers, public speakers, or mechanics? 4-H is so much more than animals. Our club will be in need of poultry, rabbit, sheep and dog group leaders next year. It would be amazing to offer the kids an outdoor survival course, a health and fitness group, archery, or shooting sports. The possibilities of lighting that spark in our youth are endless!

### • Club activity and event coordinator(s)

• **Fundraising coordinator(s):** All funding for our club comes from fundraising and/or donations. This includes all supplies, awards, curriculum, etc. The enrollment fees only cover the insurance cost. Everything the project leaders provide to the kids is usually out of their own pocket or from a budget created from a group project fundraiser or donation. Fundraising is a dire necessity.

### • Incentives and recognitions: Pins, stripes, awards, club proficiency records

• **Resource/key leader(s):** There are several county and state 4-H events that we as a club are obligated to share hosting duties with other clubs for. These events offer amazing opportunities to our kids.

• **Outreach:** Help recruit new members and adult volunteers, including under-represented groups. Do we have any bilingual families that can help?

If you are interested or would like more information on becoming a Willits 4-H adult volunteer, please email me at: willits4hclub@gmail.com or visit: [http://cemendocino.ucanr.edu/4-H\\_Program/Adult\\_New\\_Enrollment\\_and\\_Re-Enrollment/](http://cemendocino.ucanr.edu/4-H_Program/Adult_New_Enrollment_and_Re-Enrollment/)

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding. Let's make the best better!

Natalie Spackman

## Northern California Health Summit set for April 6 in Willits

Submitted by Northern California Health Summit

The Northern California Health Summit 2019 will be held April 6, 2019, at the Little Lake Grange in Willits, from 11 am to 5 pm.

Admission is free to this inspiring day of health information, including an engaging program with inspiring keynote speakers, demonstrations, health-related presenters, hands-on practical teachings and small group lectures, entertainment, music, prizes, food, and free childcare from 12 to 4 pm.

The empowering Northern California Health Summit 2019 will offer inspiration, information and plenty of practical tools to optimize one's state of health!

The Motto: Healthy Me + Healthy You = Healthy Community

We are looking forward to presenting this unique health summit to Willits and all surrounding communities to share solutions, take action, and experience self-empowerment for one's own health and the health of one's family.

Individual physical, emotional and mental health is not only important, it is essential for the foundation of an economically healthy community.

We can do this, and the time is now!

This event is sponsored by the Little Lake Grange, WELL, and many others who care.

For info, tables, support and everything else please contact: Claudia Wenning - Quantum Level Consulting at 707-371-6103 or [claudia@claudiawenning.com](mailto:claudia@claudiawenning.com)

## Mendocino County cannabis advocacy groups announce merger

Submitted by the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance

The leadership of both the Mendocino County Growers Alliance and the Mendocino Cannabis Industry Association announced March 11 that the two groups will unify their organizations under a common mission, membership and program structure to form the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance.

Founded in 2016, the Mendocino Cannabis Industry Association is a community of industry professionals dedicated to preserving and promoting Mendocino's heritage of producing world-class cannabis and cannabis products.

Founded in 2017, the Mendocino County Growers Alliance serves Mendocino cannabis farmers and businesses through education, business development, and public policy programs, as well as member-support services.

"It is exciting to see the maturation process of the cannabis community. We are learning to streamline our efforts and limited resources to accomplish our shared goals," said Casey O'Neill, MCA policy chair.

The new MCA represents generations of small farmers and cannabis businesses who are the backbone of Mendocino County's cannabis industry, and links Mendocino to the statewide marketplace.

"MCA is devoted to sustainable community development – in the cannabis industry and in Mendocino County as a whole," commented 5th District Supervisor Ted Williams.

For more information about joining or supporting MCA, contact [info@mendocinocannabisalliance.org](mailto:info@mendocinocannabisalliance.org).

## County education jobs fair in Ukiah on Saturday

Submitted by the Mendocino County Office of Education

The Mendocino County Office of Education hosts its annual Mendocino County Education Jobs Fair on Saturday, March 16, from 10 am to 2 pm at its Ukiah campus located at 2240 Old River Road. Mendocino County and Lake County schools are hoping to fill approximately 50 job vacancies.

"Local schools employ people with a wide variety of skills and talents," said Human Resources Manager Donna Walter. "Do you have clerical or accounting skills? Do you have experience in building and grounds maintenance? Do you know how to repair or drive a bus? Can you prepare meals for hungry students? Are you thinking of becoming a teacher, but want to first experience the classroom environment? Are you a medical assistant, registered nurse, or physical therapist? We need all these people!"

Mendocino County schools employ more than 3,500 people countywide. For those interested in earning a teaching credential, Northern California colleges and university programs will be on hand to talk with applicants about teaching credential requirements and opportunities to acquire additional job skills. The fair will feature open positions for educators and administrators, as well as in clerical and accounting, food service, groundskeeping, janitorial, and more.

"If you want a job that helps empower youth with the skills and opportunities they need to build a better future for themselves, their communities, and the world," Walter said, "join us."

Job seekers should register for the event by completing an application online at <https://www.edjoin.org/MendocinoCOE>. Info: 707-467-5012.



## Chili Cook-Off

Willits Senior Center hosts 12th annual hot, hotter and hottest competition

When Rick Williams arrived at the Willits Senior Center's 12th Annual Chili Cook-Off on Friday, it was in full swing and filled almost to capacity with chili aficionados, tasting, schmoozing, and cajoling for recipes. "I should have known better in Willits to get to one of these at the starting time," said Williams. "I should arrive a half-hour early like the rest of the town."

Indeed, this popular event is such an annual draw that people plan on getting there early to get a jump on the rest of the tasters. With 17 or so different local chilis on offer, it takes time to sample each one and to cleanse the palate in between tastings.

The professional tasters, like Mike Tobin, even bring their own utensils, a cupcake tin in which to place and arrange their samples so as to not miss any of the savory entries and to keep them organized as to heat and ingredients. Tobin, after choosing his favorite of all 17 samples, was actually able to walk himself to the window where he purchased a root beer float to wash it all down.

The master of ceremony duties, once again, were assumed by Sheriff Tom Allman, who kept the

festivities going with his blend of down-home country sensibilities and wry sense of humor. Allman made the rounds from chili booth to chili booth, attempting to get to the mysteries of the flavors and ingredients, most of which were being held in deep-state secret by their creators.

And, of course, the sheriff would never condone any sort of bribes to influence the outcome of the voting for People's Choice for Best Overall Chili, Best Decorated Booth, or Hottest Chili. He must have missed the chocolate mustaches given away by one of the participants or the free photo booth offered by another for favorable votes.

Nancy Middleton, chef at the senior center, and her friend, Ken Wiggins, offered their "South Philly Chili" for some out-of-the-region flavor. The Yokum Body Shop crew with their Tex-Mex themed booth and their "Road Kill Chili," complete with unknown skull decoration, kept the tasters guessing as to the origin of the meat. "But it's fresh," offered Bobbie Yokum. Mendo Mill created an entire barn motif in which to

Read the rest of **Chili** Over on Page 15



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## Rain Totals in Willits

Precipitation in the Willits area as of March 13

(Note: Willits Weekly's "rain year" started September 29, with the first local rains.)

National Weather Service, Willits Howard Ranger Station as of 3/13/2019 at 12 pm	50.84"
Mendocino College North County Center as of 3/13/2019 at 12 pm	41.80"
Willits sewer plant as of 3/13/2019 at 10 am	47.83"
High Horse Ranch as of 3/13/2019 at 12 pm	45.04"
Highway 20, Willits at as of 3/13/2019 at 12 pm	52.00"

The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

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

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

Volume 6, Number 297  
 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays each week  
 P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047  
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 Locally Owned | Independent | Editions Every Thursday | Online & In Print

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## The rest of **Horses** | From Page 1

She complained that she had been “repeatedly lied to and unlawfully denied” the horses’ return.

“The sale or transference of any of my horses is conversion of stolen property ... and denies me my due process that is not subject to the masses,” Delaquadra told supervisors.

“Anyone involved in the sale or transference of any of my horses will be pursued by law enforcement and will be subject to criminal and civil charges.”

In September 2018, Delaquadra was arraigned in Mendocino County Superior Court on felony animal cruelty charges following an almost five-hour August 31 preliminary hearing before Judge Ann Moorman.

Delaquadra was arrested in January 2018 after sheriff’s deputies and animal control officers served a search warrant at a Reeves Canyon Road ranch in Redwood Valley and impounded a dozen horses.

The county has been paying as much as \$4,750 a month to board the horses since they were impounded.

Sheriff’s Lt. Jason Caudillo, who heads the sheriff’s animal control division, explained at the time that deputies had searched the ranch as “part of an ongoing investigation” into complaints against Delaquadra, who has a history of conflicts with north county landlords and benefactors who allowed her horses to graze on their property, according to Angie Herman, secretary of Sonoma Action for Equine Rescue. Herman has said the organization “received a number of calls [concerning Delaquadra’s treatment of her horses] over the past four or five years.”

Back on February 5, speaking before the board of supervisors, Delaquadra accused Herman of “inciting [the] mob against me,” in collusion with animal care services.

During an investigation at the Reeves Canyon ranch in December 2017, animal control officer Angela Tompkins said she found a dozen horses (nine mares, a stallion, and two juvenile animals), all of which appeared malnourished, emaciated and dehydrated “to some extent.” On January 3, 2018, Willits veterinarian Kendall Willson testified she discovered a foal collapsed on the ground, suffering from malnutrition and severe dehydration.

Willson noted most of the horses at the Reeves Canyon site were undernourished and “in really, really poor shape.”

Sheriff’s deputies and animal control officers seized the horses, removed them from the site, and arrested Delaquadra. She was booked into county jail on suspicion of animal cruelty, obstructing or delaying an officer and battery against a police officer, but released later the same day.

Despite Delaquadra’s objections, supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved the sale of eight of her impounded animals. Six of the horses are suffering from cancerous melanomas “on numerous” parts of their bodies, the resolution drawn up by County Counsel Katharine Elliott claims, while one animal has an umbilical hernia and another’s growth “was stunted due to lack of nutrition while growing” and will probably suffer long-term health issues. Both horses, the resolution alleges, will “eventually require costly medical attention.”

“Animal Care Services,” it declares, “has determined the monetary value of each horse ... is below \$500,” due to “the future medical costs that will be required to care for the [animals] in the future” and would require “additional funds being spent by Mendocino County” for their care.

The board-passed resolution calls for the horses to be sold “by private sale without advertising by the chair of this board of supervisors for as little as \$1 per horse.”

Delaquadra, however, claimed Tuesday she possesses “a Uniform Commercial Code financing statement that makes it illegal for [supervisors] to sell or transfer any of my horses,” and demanded “the immediate return of all my horses ... to prevent any further damage to them.”

“I spent everything I have and all my work for the past 30 years to raise this herd [and] establish a state stud,” she said. “I had no idea I was being betrayed by my [veterinarian’s] secretary, [who was] causing problems for us and creating hardship.”

She begged supervisors “not to vote on this resolution as it is highly, highly illegal,” adding she was available to “discuss and negotiate the return of my horses ... at any time.”

“They are my family to me,” she said.

Delaquadra must still answer to felony animal cruelty charges at a trial currently scheduled to start April 22.

## The rest of **Tax** | From Page 1

permit with the county’s Ag Department – and who have thereby simultaneously registered with the treasurer as cannabis producers – only 40 have indicated they intend to pay the 2.5 percent tax on gross cannabis receipts. The remainder will pay a standard minimum tax on cannabis cultivation, meaning they didn’t make more reported income from cannabis than the minimum tax level.

That minimum tax varies according to the size of permit. For people growing under a cottage level permit (up to 2,500 square feet of plant canopy), the minimum tax is \$1,250 a year. For those who have a Type One permit, for up to 5,000 square feet, the tax is \$2,500 a year. For those who are cultivating under a Type Two permit, for up to 10,000 square feet, the minimum tax is \$5,000 a year.

Schapiro said she is planning to mail tax bills in April, and growers will have until the end of May to pay the tax. She added that, to date, her office has collected more from the county’s 18 cannabis retailers than it has from its approximately 1,000 registered or permitted cannabis cultivators, whose cultivation taxes were waived in 2017.

The county’s cannabis program was initiated on May 4, 2017, after supervisors had labored for more than a year on a series of cannabis ordinances. After the Redwood fire in October 2017, the board waived the 2017 cannabis minimum tax and declared that the minimum tax on cannabis receipts would have to be paid on revenues received after January 1, 2018.

### Angelo talks cannabis

County CEO Carmel Angelo said her staff has been analyzing cannabis financial numbers over the past few weeks and, although the figures are preliminary, it appears the county is upside down on cannabis to the tune of \$2.4 million.

That means the county has spent \$2.4 million more on regulating, permitting and inspecting cannabis than it has taken in from cannabis fees and taxes.

During her CEO report, Angelo addressed an idea previously floated earlier that day by Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams, who suggested the county abolish taxes on cannabis.

“I would like to see the county move to cost recovery on fees,” Williams said, “and strike the taxes altogether, because I don’t see this program as a revenue source. It’s not a profit center for the county. And it doesn’t appear, projecting out into the future, that it will be. That being the case, I would rather trim as much staff time as possible and adjust the fees up to the point where we reach break-even.”

Williams’ remarks may have prompted the response from Angelo Tuesday, in which she praised county staff and urged supervisors to hold the line on cannabis fees and taxes.

“Right now, it looks like we are subsidizing the cannabis industry to the tune of about \$2.4 million,” Angelo said. “Initially, we started with six inspectors in cannabis. So, those six inspectors, the additional staff in Planning and Building; it has just been one merry-go-round, trying to get people permitted.”

“When we look at the amount of general fund that has gone into cannabis, versus the amount of revenue that’s come in – it’s a new program, legalization throughout the state – I don’t think there is one county ... that has not had significant problems setting up its program. When you have an industry that, as Supervisor McCowen said, has been in the dark for decades, and you try to bring them into being a legal business – it’s very challenging.”

“So, my issue is the budget woes we are experiencing. We have reduced fees on cannabis. We are having another budget hearing in April, doing cannabis fees again. Every time a cannabis fee is reduced, that’s another dollar we [must] take from somewhere. I would hope we don’t prematurely jump into reducing any more fees, or any more taxes that have been [approved] by voters, when right now we are certainly in the red on this program,” Angelo said.

She added that a more thorough presentation of how much the county’s cannabis program has cost the county will be presented at the board’s March 26 meeting.

### Cannabis permits remain stagnant

Numbers released by the county’s Cannabis Unit indicate the number of cultivation permits issued and approved by the department has remained virtually unchanged since last September.

On October 2, 2018, the department released a report which stated that, as of September 24, it had issued and approved 233 cultivation permits. By October 25, the number rose to 235. By November 20, it stood at 237. On January 4, 2019, the number was 236. In the March 12 report –which contains numbers current through February 27 – the number of issued and approved permits sits at 236.

As of February 27, the county had received 1,298 permit applications. Of those, 868 were pending review, 86 had been withdrawn, 35 had been denied, and 73 were “in queue.”

During the board meeting, Cannabis Program Manager Sean Connell told supervisors his report had already been sent to them and was available to the public.

Connell did not mention any specific numbers of permits that had been issued or approved. Although supervisors spent more than an hour discussing cannabis and listening to staff and the public talk about cannabis, no supervisor asked Connell why the number of issued and approved permits had only increased by three since last September.

## The rest of **Grow** | From Page 1

has a red blush to it.

Blake said California’s central coast counties – including Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara – are selling enormous permits to applicants, enormous being on the scale of 100 acres. He added that the socio-economic model which has flourished in Mendocino County for the past half-century (small-scale growers living back in the hills) is kaput.

Currently, the maximum growing area allowed in Mendocino County is 10,000 square feet (about a quarter of an acre), and the maximum number of permits allowed per parcel is two.

“Conditions aren’t right back up in the hills,” Blake warned. “There’s not enough water, not enough labor, not enough land. We have to wake up. It’s an onslaught.”

Asked after the meeting what he thought growers should do, Blake believes growers should essentially give up the green pirate lifestyle and try to find work on a cannabis mega-farm.

“It’s gonna come down to working for large-scale cultivators,” he said. “When we look at the size and scope of what’s going on around the state: I mean my friend [in San Luis Obispo County] has 116 acres [of cannabis]. How can you save Laytonville if you don’t get that in there? If you got 20 acres [of intensified cannabis production] in Long Valley, that’s 400 jobs.”

Although other speakers lacked Blake’s oratorical flair, several of them voiced similar concerns. One grower named Lief said: “This price is going down. Unless we can increase our production, we are not going to survive.”

Lief recommended expanding the allowable area for cultivation to 1 acre for mixed light and 4 acres for outdoor cultivation.

Another speaker, Jed Davis, told supervisors it was difficult to compete with growers from other counties and asked supervisors to expand the allowable cultivation area.

Before the meeting began, county staff provided handouts to the public which articulated five major discussion points currently being considered by the committee. One of the handouts stated: “The ad hoc committee has included these major discussion items just as they were originally presented to the board. They are presented for discussion without recommendation.”

The reference was to a board meeting held in November 2018, when many recommendations that had been approved by the former cannabis ad hoc committee (which consisted of supervisors John McCowen and Dan Hamburg) were rejected by the board during an important meeting from which Hamburg was absent.

## The rest of **Crash** | From Page 1

Freightliner, 29-year-old Francisco Rodriguez of Madera, his 30-year-old wife, Reyna, and an 8-year-old boy riding in the tractor with them, escaped injury.

Herbstritt died at the scene. His two sons, ages 2 and 5, suffered major injuries, the Garberville office of the California Highway Patrol reported.

Highway 101 was closed for several hours so Reach Air Ambulances could land and airlift the injured boys to UC Davis Medical Center for treatment.

Little Lake and Brooktrails firefighters, CalFire and Caltrans personnel, and City Ambulance responded to the accident site, as did the Mendocino County Coroner’s Office.

Highway 101 was reopened to one-way traffic shortly before 3 pm.

Cause of the accident remains under investigation.

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

The discussion points were:

1. Should use permits be considered for all Phase Three applications?
2. Should new permit applications be allowed in Rangeland zoning districts, subject to a use permit?
3. In order to limit the proliferation of hoop houses and greenhouses, should permit size be increased to 1 acre, but only for outdoor cultivation in Rangeland, Agricultural and Upland residential zoning districts? Should such permits require a use permit?
4. Subject to a major use permit, should more than two permits per parcel be allowed? Should cultivation area be allowed to exceed an acre? Or should it be allowed to expand up to 4 acres, provided no single permit exceeds an acre?
5. Should a use permit be required to ensure transferability of a cultivation permit to a new owner?

One of the handouts stated: “The ad hoc committee is in agreement that transferability ought to be allowed and therefore recommends that on or after January 1, 2020, new owners or new partners in existing cultivation sites in Rangeland, Forest Land and Timber Production Zones ought to be able to apply for cultivation permits. The process by which this would occur is open for discussion. Some options would require an administrative permit or a use permit.”

Although audience members applauded when McCowen announced that the ad hoc committee supported transferability, many were in no mood to celebrate Wednesday night. Most speakers expressed concern about the economic situation inside the cannabis industry.

David Drell opined that the county should postpone Phase Three – the final phase of the county’s cannabis program. Under Phase One, only people who could demonstrate cultivation prior to January 1, 2016 could obtain a cultivation permit in selected zoning districts. Under Phase Two, which began January 1, 2018, people were eligible to apply for cultivation permits in industrial zoning districts. Phase Three, which is slated to kick off on January 1, 2020, would open the permit process to “new growers,” people who cannot demonstrate they were growing in the county prior to January 1, 2016.

Drell felt the county should wait to begin Phase Three until all the growers who have applied for a permit under Phase One have gotten into the program.

Supervisor John Haschak asked for a show of hands on the question. About 50 people raised their hands to say they wanted Phase Three to be postponed; about 10 people raised their hands to say they wanted Phase Three to begin on schedule.

## Lost Brooktrails hiker found safe

A woman hiker who became disoriented while walking off Goose Road near Ridge Road in Brooktrails was found safe after a lengthy search by Sheriff’s Office personnel and Brooktrails firefighters.

The woman became lost at about 4:50 pm on Tuesday, according to sheriff’s Sgt. Quincy Cromer, and called Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office to ask for help.

The woman said she had located an excavator along a timber road, which she was using as shelter while waiting for deputies, communicating with MCSO dispatchers for “multiple hours” while rescuers “were directed towards her location.”

Personnel from the Brooktrails Fire Department also “responded, and assisted in locating the excavator along the timber road,” Cromer said.

However, the missing woman had left the excavator and walked uphill along a creek.

Using their emergency lights, sirens and public address systems, firefighters and sheriff’s personnel searched the area. During this time, the woman “was regularly sounding a whistle to alert responding personnel to her exact location.”

Hours later, the woman was “located and escorted to safety,” Cromer said. She was evaluated by medical personnel and appeared to have no “notable injuries.”

“The hiker’s use of her cellular telephone and whistle greatly assisted in search-and-rescue efforts during this incident,” Cromer noted.

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



## More of **Brookside** | From Page 1

to-do list at Brookside – is beyond TLC, however.

Eight portable classrooms, linked together, make up the entire western perimeter of the school, and “four of them are not usable,” said Westerburg. “They all have to go.”

The modular classrooms “are 50+ years old, and they were in used condition when they were bought,” he said. “They were meant to be a 20-year solution 30 years ago.”

“The floors are really bad,” he said. In two of the buildings, parts of the flooring just “fell in, and we had to replace a lot of it.”

One of the rooms that the district’s insurance carrier deems unfit for students is used as a teachers’ lounge.

One isn’t fit for people at all, and is “just storage,” said Westerburg.

Other classrooms at the school consist of a combination of rooms in the original building and newer portable modular classrooms.

The “portables all have individual ‘classic’ heaters,” said Westerburg. “And the heaters go out.”

When they do, it takes “a couple of days” to get new replacement units into a room.

## Read the rest of **Brookside** | Over on page 13



Photos by Mathew Caine



At top, left: Superintendent Mark Westerburg and Principal Kathleen Crossman stand outside the modular teachers’ room, not fit for use by students, with a view of the rest of the eight modular units behind them, which are 50+ years old and “have to go.” At top, right: Asphalt is no match for the roots of the large redwood trees growing next to the main Brookside School building.

Above: An example of what Brookside School Principal Kathleen Crossman refers to as “cracked-up wall” on the exterior of the building.

Below, left: WUSD Superintendent Mark Westerburg hangs on to playground equipment that was probably not new when he was in grade school. Below: Student desks, chairs, and tables are all old, from different decades past.

## Junior Varsity Baseball Mike Stevens, 15, Freshman

How Long Playing the Sport: Six years, since fifth grade



**Breakfast of Champions:** An omelet or a bagel

**Love of the Sport:** “It’s exciting. I’m passionate about it.”

This is Mike’s first year of high school baseball. He is a kid that you could put anywhere on defense. On Saturday, March 2, he had his first game and did great, he pitched and also played a great center field. Mike

will be the player to watch this year on the JV team.

– Submitted by Coach Aaron Branscomb

## Wrestling Charles Nunnemaker, 14, Freshman

How Long Playing the Sport: “This is my fourth year.”

**Breakfast of Champions:** Biscuits and gravy

**Love of the Sport:** “It’s only you out there. You can’t blame anyone if you lose. It’s a really humbling sport. And super fun.”

Charlie went 2 wins - 2 losses at the North Coast Sections. In both wins he came from being behind to victories, by pinning his opponent.

– Submitted by Wrestling Coach Brian Bowles



# Do you have chronic sinus pressure, infections, headaches or difficulty breathing through your nose?

## Learn about new treatment options at our FREE seminar on April 2, 2019

If you experience chronic sinus pressure, infections, sinus headaches, difficulty breathing through your nose, or you’ve been diagnosed with chronic sinusitis, we have good news.

Our team of specialists are experts in helping patients to breathe easy with new minimally invasive treatment options including balloon sinus dilation. This procedure uses a small, flexible balloon catheter to open up blocked sinus passageways and drain mucus that builds up. Patients benefit from improved outcomes and can immediately breathe the easy again.

You’ll have an opportunity to learn about new advances in treatment options and ask questions.

**JOIN US FOR A FREE SEMINAR**

**APRIL 2, 2019**  
5:30 Registration | 6:00 Presentation

**UKIAH VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER**  
200 S. School Street | Ukiah, CA 95482  
Room: Cabernet Room  
**RSVP: (877) 596-0844**

Dinner included  
**AHUKiah.org/Seminar**

**Adventist Health**  
Ukiah Valley

Susan Cordes, MD, FACS

Gregory Porter, MD, FACS

Qi Zhang, MD

**Thursday, March 14**

**Vintage Toys Exhibit:** Last chance to see the Mendocino County Museum's exhibit of vintage toys, which runs through March 18. 400 East Commercial Street, Open hours: Wednesday through Sunday. 10 am to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-2736.

**Willits Farmers Market:** Market is indoors at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Thursday, March 14, 3 to 5:30 pm. Winter veggies, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, and savory and sweet baked goods, including handcrafted bread. More: gift items, dog treats, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, free herb talk, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**Sherwood Firewise Meeting:** Thursday, March 14, 6 to 8 pm, Brooktrails Community Center, 24860 Birch Street. "Special guest, Emily Tecchio, field representative for Assemblymember Jim Wood, will provide an update on current public safety-related California legislation. Progress reports from the emergency preparedness, communication, and planning, current information on work being done regarding emergency access, identifying assembly areas and stored water tank locations, progress building the SafetyNet, and planning a community-wide May 4 Firewise Expo."

**Shanachie Pub: Sin A Deir Si:** Thursday, March 14, 8 pm. "A 7-piece lively Irish band from Galway Ireland." Visit [www.facebook.com/sinadeirsi](http://www.facebook.com/sinadeirsi). 50B South Main Street.

**Friday, March 15**

**Auditions for "Off the Map":** Friday, March 15, 6:30 pm and Sunday, March 17, 2 pm. A touching memory play about a family living in rural New Mexico in the 1970s. Directed by Jim Williams, May-June rehearsals and 10 performances, June 21 through July 7. Looking for three men, 20s to 50; two women 30s to 40s; one girl who can play an 11-year-old. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane, behind Shanachie Pub and Mazahar. Questions: Call director Williams at 462-9547.

**Shanachie Pub: Gypsy Thorns:** Friday, March 15, 9 pm. "local duo playing folk mixed with Southern blues rock with a good dash of Appalachian soul." 50B South Main Street.



Sin A Deir Si

ingredients for salsa, salad, or burger toppings." Saturday, March 16, 2 to 3 pm. Supplies provided. Ages 8 and up. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

**St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner:** The American Legion-Willits Post #174 offers its annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, Saturday, March 16, 5 to 7 pm at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street. The menu includes Corned Beef and Cabbage, Murphy's Spuds, Carrots, Onions and more, plus a dessert. \$18 adults, \$9 children, free under 5 years old. Tickets at the door.

**"Pretty in Pink":** a Totally '80s Party and fundraiser for the Waldorf School. "An awesome evening of friends, food and fun!" Saturday, March 16, 5 to 10:30 pm, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Small-plate-style dinner provided by Good Earth Kitchen. Extensive selection of wine and spirits donated by local distilleries. Silent and live auctions. Dancercama. \$50 per person, \$290 per table. Tickets: Cat's Meow, [www.mendocinowaldorf.org](http://www.mendocinowaldorf.org). Info: 707-485-8719.

**Saturday, March 16**

**Free Bridge Lessons:** Beginning Saturday, March 16, 10 am to 12 pm, at Redwood Meadows Community Room, 1475 Baechtel Road, Donna Vaiano will be offering eight free weekly bridge lessons to those who have had some experience playing this popular game. Information: 459-9035.

**Cupcake Wars:** The Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, is hosting Willits High School's annual Cupcake Wars, Saturday, March 16, 2 to 4 pm. Open to the public. Admission \$1. The cupcakes are available to purchase for \$2 each, \$10/half dozen, and \$20/dozen. Voting tickets are \$1 each. Info: Christy Wisdom or Jennifer Barrett, 459-7700. Proceeds go to help the Willits High School Junior Class.

**Fresh Starts:** "Plant your own delicious garden by starting ingredients for salsa, salad, or burger toppings." Saturday, March 16, 2 to 3 pm. Supplies provided. Ages 8 and up. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

**Shanachie Pub: Gypsy Thorns:** Friday, March 15, 9 pm. "local duo playing folk mixed with Southern blues rock with a good dash of Appalachian soul." 50B South Main Street.



Gypsy Thorns

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED**  
A BENEFIT FOR  
WILLITS COMMUNITY SERVICES AND  
KLLG RADIO  
MALAKAI SCHINDEL  
TASTES LIKE CHICKEN  
DENNIS CHRISP AND ECLECTIC COYOTES  
MISS CHERYL'S MARVELOUS RAFFLE  
KLLG STUDIOS OPEN HOUSE  
SAT. MARCH 30TH  
4-8 PM, LITTLE LAKE GRANGE  
\$10 ADULTS - \$5 AGES 13 TO 12 & UNDER FREE  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT MAIN ST. MUSIC AND VIDEO  
& JOE REDHOUSE IN WILLITS AND IN UKIAH  
AT MENDOCINO BOOKS ON SCHOOL ST.

Willits Center for the Arts  
What do these Three Paintings Have in Common?  
Cezaanne, Melissa and Pivesso.  
Art Talk  
Friday, April 12th, 2019, 6:30 PM.  
71 E Commercial St. Willits, 95490 Next to the Noyo Theater

**Neighbors in Need Concert**  
March 30  
KLLG 97.9 FM Willits Hometown Radio Presents "Neighbors in Need," a benefit concert for Willits Community Services and for KLLG Radio, Saturday, March 30, 4 to 8 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. All ages. Musical entertainment in the big room with local classic rockers Tastes Like Chicken, country and western swing with Dennis Chrisp and his band of Eclectic Coyotes, and a solo performance by local multi-instrumentalist Malakai Schindel. Cheryl's Marvelous Raffle features over \$1,000 worth of raffle prizes donated by local merchants. KLLG Radio will also be hosting an open house in their broadcast studio just down the hall from the music. Sound by Harry Kauffman. Food by Ramirez Taco Truck. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 13 to 18 years, free 12 and under. Tickets: Main St. Music and Video, J.D. Redhouse, in Ukiah at Mendocino Books on School Street."

# What's Happening Around Town

**"Paradise Lost" Photo Exhibit:** A photographic presentation about Jack and Neoma Wisdom's escape from the Paradise fire last year in Butte County and finding a home and work in Willits. Saturday, March 16 at 10:45 am, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 399 West Mendocino Avenue. All are welcome.

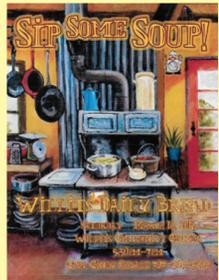
**Introduction to Compost - Part 1:** Hosted by the School of Adaptive Agriculture and the New Agrarian Collective. Saturday, March 16, 1 to 3:30 pm. 16200 North Highway 101. "This introductory workshop led by Jes & Keith of Buttercup Compost Lab will explain the microbial activity and decomposition process that goes on in a compost pile. This intro will include ideas on how to choose your compost materials and how to put them together for optimum decomposition." Tickets: [www.school-of-adaptive-agriculture.org](http://www.school-of-adaptive-agriculture.org).

**Shanachie Pub: The Dennis Chrisp Band of Eclectic Coyotes:** Saturday, March 16, 9 pm. "This show will be the band's old school rock and roll, rockabilly, psychobilly, blues and Bakersfield country." 50B South Main Street.



River, Brody and Wreyn are excited for Cupcake Wars!

**Sip Some Soup: Annual fundraiser for Willits Daily bread offers soups to taste and judge, along with homemade bread and jam from Emandal. Silent auction and more. Saturday, March 16, 5:30 to 7 pm, Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Organizations and individuals can sign up for the competition by calling Cindy Savage at 707-367-5669 or 459-2579.**



**Agricultural Inventiveness.** Books will be available for purchase, and Foley will be accepting questions and autographing copies.

**Scout Troop Get Together:** Young women 11 to 17 years or their parents are invited to hear about a year-round program of fun and high adventure, learning outdoor skills, leadership, and self-confidence through personal achievement. "Join us to find out how you can become part of Scouts BSA." Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 pm. Willits Scout Hut, Recreational Grove (next to rodeo grounds). Contact Kara at [khwohke@gmail.com](mailto:khwohke@gmail.com)

**Shanachie Pub: Clara Baker and Kendal Winter:** Tuesday, March 19, 8 pm. "Clara Baker's music is 'medicine for the heart, mind and psyche'" and "Kendal Winter's musical adventures have wandered from finger picking to electric guitars to old-time roots and bluegrass banjo." 50B South Main Street.

**Thursday, March 21**

**Willits Farmers Market:** Market is indoors at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Thursday, March 21, 3 to 5:30 pm. See Thursday, March 14 listing for more details.

**Friday, March 22**

**Baba's Bhajan Band:** Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. Friday, March 22, 12 to 1 pm. "Baba's Bhajan Band is an ensemble focused on sharing the vibrations of bhajans (healing music) with as many people as possible."

**Saturday, March 23**

**Willits Mitigation Project Tour:** Mendocino Resource Conservation District is having a public tour of the Willits Mitigation Project, Saturday, March 23, 9 am. It is an overview of the entire project, the wildlife and plants, and will be an opportunity for seeing and learning about the riparian plants, the Tule elk,

a variety of waterfowl, and of course raptors, including bald eagles and northern harriers. We will walk approximately 2 miles total and rain boots are needed due to wet ground." There is a 25 person limit for this trip; RSVP to Marisela de Santa Anna at [marisela@mrcred.org](mailto:marisela@mrcred.org). Meet at 9 am at the north end of the Safeway Parking Lot." Info: 707-841-7172.



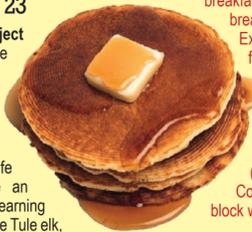
**Introduction to Compost - Part 2:** In this hands-on workshop, Keith and Jes will demonstrate how to build a compost pile and demonstrate techniques and tools that make the process efficient and successful. Their ultimate goal is to eliminate the need for any imported nutrients on the farm. Saturday, March 23, 1 to 3:30 pm. School of Adaptive Agriculture, 16200 North Highway 101. Tickets: [www.school-of-adaptive-agriculture.org](http://www.school-of-adaptive-agriculture.org).

**Brooktrails Women's Club Soup Supper:** "We are offering several soups (Broccoli & Cheese, Crab & Seafood Cioppino, French Onion, Red Lentil, and Tortellini soups), Bread, Salad, Desserts and water, iced tea & coffee, for only \$8 age 10 and up and \$5 under age 10. Hosted by the Women's Club with the proceeds going to our Scholarship fund. Saturday, March 23, 5 to 7 pm, Brooktrails Community Center, 24860 Birch Street.

**Boomers Club Quarter Auction:** A fundraiser for Willits High School Boosters Club. Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, 6 pm dinner, 7 pm auction. \$20 dinner and paddle, \$5 paddle only. No host bar. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Benefits athletic and other programs at the high school.

**Sunday, March 24**

**Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast:** "Join your friends at the Little Lake Grange pancake breakfast, 8 to 11 am, Sunday, March 24 (and every fourth Sunday through October). \$8 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods": Choose sourdough wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or Gluten-Free, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$8; \$7 seniors, \$5 children under 10. Free breakfast for firefighter; one breakfast per official ID. Extra: sides of organic fruit, \$2 to \$3 and Amish organic maple syrup, \$1. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial Street; 1 block west of Main Street)



**Neighbors in Need Concert**

Neighbors in Need Concert  
March 30  
KLLG 97.9 FM Willits Hometown Radio Presents "Neighbors in Need," a benefit concert for Willits Community Services and for KLLG Radio, Saturday, March 30, 4 to 8 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. All ages. Musical entertainment in the big room with local classic rockers Tastes Like Chicken, country and western swing with Dennis Chrisp and his band of Eclectic Coyotes, and a solo performance by local multi-instrumentalist Malakai Schindel. Cheryl's Marvelous Raffle features over \$1,000 worth of raffle prizes donated by local merchants. KLLG Radio will also be hosting an open house in their broadcast studio just down the hall from the music. Sound by Harry Kauffman. Food by Ramirez Taco Truck. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 13 to 18 years, free 12 and under. Tickets: Main St. Music and Video, J.D. Redhouse, in Ukiah at Mendocino Books on School Street."

**Brooktrails Community Garden Potluck**

"Brooktrails Community Garden is looking for new members. Join us at our Spring Equinox Meeting to learn more. Monday, March 25, Brooktrails Community Center, 24860 Birch Street. Potluck dinner at 6 pm; meeting 6:30 pm. Please bring your own place setting; plates, cups, bowls, utensils and serving implements. Bring a dish to share. Q&A session after the meeting. Info: [brooktrailscommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:brooktrailscommunitygarden@gmail.com). Check our Facebook page too!"

**Inland Mendocino Democratic Club Meeting**

The Inland Mendocino Democratic Club will hold their next meeting Thursday, March 14, 5:30 pm at Yokayo Bowling Alley, 1401 North State St, Ukiah. "Let's all join together to make our county an oasis of Justice and Peace. Come lend a hand." All are welcome. Information on Facebook and at <http://inlandmendocinodems.org>.

**Boosters Club Quarter Auction**

A fundraiser for Willits High School Boosters Club. Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, 6 pm dinner, 7 pm auction. \$20 dinner and paddle, \$5 paddle only. No host bar. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Benefits athletic and other programs at the high school.

**Prom Dress Drive**

Please bring your gently used, clean prom dresses to Willits High School main office, 299 North Main Street. Info: Aurelie 707-489-1258 or [acivaz@mcyp.org](mailto:acivaz@mcyp.org). Sponsored by Mendocino County Youth Project.

**MARCH 23**  
A Fundraiser For Willits High School Boosters Club  
6:00 PM Dinner \* 7:00 PM Auction  
Willits Community Center  
111 E. Commercial Street \* Willits, California  
\$20 Dinner & Paddle \* \$5 Paddle Only  
No Host Bar  
Tickets may be purchased at the door the night of the event. We hope to see you there!  
As always the community support of our athletes youth is greatly appreciated.

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE WALDORF SCHOOL OF MENDOCINO COUNTY  
**pretty in pink**  
TOTALLY BO'S PARTY!  
An awesome evening of friends, food, and fun!  
at the Willits Little Lake Grange  
Saturday March 16, 2019  
5:00pm to 10:30pm  
• Small photo album donated by Good Earth Kitchen  
• Extensive selection of wine and spirits donated by local distilleries  
• Silent and live auctions  
• Decoupage  
\$20 per person  
\$250 per table of 6  
Sponsored by Frey Vineyards

**Summer Arts and Music Festival**

The Mateel Community Center presents the 43rd Annual Summer Arts and Music Festival, Benbow State Recreation Area in Garberville, Saturday June 1 and Sunday June 2. The two-day advance ticket weekend pass price is \$40, single day advance tickets are \$22.50. Tickets also available at the gate for \$45 weekend pass, \$25 day. Kids 12 and under free with paid adult. Advance tickets: [mateel.org](http://mateel.org) or Eventbrite. Vendor Applications Deadline March 20. Food, craft vendor and handmade artisans are invited to complete the online vendor application at <http://mateel.org/vendors/> and select Summer Arts & Music Festival. Alternately download and print the mail-in form. Vendors inquiries: Ashley Wilma at [vendors@mateel.org](mailto:vendors@mateel.org). Deadline for submissions is March 20th. Performer Applications: Bands and performing artists are welcome to submit Electronic Press Kits for consideration to: [bands@mateel.org](mailto:bands@mateel.org) or complete the online application found at: [mateel.org/june-1-2nd-summer-arts-music-festival/](http://mateel.org/june-1-2nd-summer-arts-music-festival/).

Send in your calendar listing to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)  
Deadline is Monday for Thursday publication!

**Ongoing Events**

**Willits Center for the Arts Current Exhibits:** "Wild in the Middle": Art from Baechtel Grove Middle School art students. Runs through March 22. "California Landscapes": "California Landscapes" Features the work of local artists. Runs through March 24. 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. Info: 459-1726; [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org).

**Willits Frontier Twirlers Square Dance Club. Mondays, 6:30 upstairs gallery of the Willits Center for Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. \$5. Come alone or bring a friend. 707-484-3385 for info.**

**Little John's Place:** Every Wednesday Pool Tournament 12:30 pm, \$5 buy-in. Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5 pm. We'll buy the pizza, you buy the beer. Thursdays, 5 pm. Tournaments starting at 5:30 pm. 383 South Main Street. 459-5636. [facebook.com/littlejohnsplacel](http://facebook.com/littlejohnsplacel)

**Free Herb Talks:** Every Thursday, 4 pm, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. The Mendocino Herb Guild.

**Roots Engine House Tours:** Docent-led tour of the Engine House most Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Join a Roots of Motive Power and do a view classic motorcars, a steam train engine, more - up close.

**Weekly Meditation Class:** Tuesdays 12 to 1 pm. The Muse, 34 East San Francisco Avenue, by donation. Sarah Garney leads The Gayatri Mantra with a short talk.

**Marijuana Anonymous 12 Step Meeting:** Every Tuesday at 6 pm. Meeting place is the Back Alley building in Catherine Lane, directly behind the United Methodist Church, which is at the corner of School and Pine, right across from the Grange.

**"Believe":** Alcohol ink paintings by Julie Bullock, alcohol ink art. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 East Commercial Street. Each painting is a one of a kind, as she does not offer prints of any of her original paintings. More info: [www.facebook.com/DdDesigns17](http://www.facebook.com/DdDesigns17), [www.instagram.com/dddesigns17](http://www.instagram.com/dddesigns17).

**Marta Alonso Canillar:** Well-known local artist shows her rich oil paintings. Re:Evolution Gallery, 15 West Mendocino Street.

**"Promise of Paradise":** "In celebration and acknowledgement of the people who launched this watershed movement in local history a half-century ago." KZYX Radio 91.5 FM is now airing "Promise of Paradise: Back to the Land Oral Histories of Mendocino County," every Thursday at 3:30 pm. Visit: [www.kzyx.org/programs/promise-paradise](http://www.kzyx.org/programs/promise-paradise) to listen previous episodes.

**Brown Bag Lunch Program:** Lunch served to the hungry in the City Park across from the Willits Police Station every Saturday at 1 pm. If rain: Under the overhang at City Hall, across the street. Served by various community-minded organizations. For information, call the Food Bank at 459-3333.

**Boomer's Friday Night Karaoke:** 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of every month, Boomer's Saloon, 45020 Highway 101, Laytonville, 9 pm to 1 am. No Cover. 21+ Please bring I.D. Hosted by DJ-Ken Steely Entertainment with KJ/DJ-Ken Steely & Anna. Come for dinner, stay for the fun.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings at Howard Memorial Hospital:** Held once a week on Mondays, 6 to 7 pm in the Seabiscuit Conference Room. Open to everyone and anyone who needs support recovering from alcoholism. Info: Cici at 456-3591

**Willits Farmers Market:** Indoors at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, winter hours: 3 to 5:30 pm. Winter veggies, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, and savory and sweet baked goods, including handcrafted bread. More: gift items, dog treats, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

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

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

**Weekly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group:** Every Thursday, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941.

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

**Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group:** Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or [honemane@gmail.com](mailto:honemane@gmail.com).

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

**Willits Library Activities:** Wednesdays: 3 to 4:30 pm "Lego Day" (bring your imagination and start building); Fridays: 3:30 to 4:30 pm "Therapeutic Coloring." Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

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

**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 459-9037, or [lotus3@earthlink.net](mailto:lotus3@earthlink.net).

**Soroptimist 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 St. John's Lutheran Church Hall, 24 Mill Creek Drive. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

**Weekly Life Changes Discussion and Support Group:** Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 am. In the Conference Room at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Smoking Cessation Program:** Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by Adventist Health Howard Memorial. Every Wednesday at AHM's Roots Restaurant, 1 Marcela Drive, 6 to 7 pm. Register today: 540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

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

**Shanachie Pub:** Tuesdays, 7 pm: "Wabi Sabi" with host Mitchell Holman, formerly of It's A Beautiful Day ("Whitebird") features different artists every week. Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday at 7:30 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 6 pm. "Local musicians take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic Night every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Laytonville Farmers Market:** Mondays, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willits Avenue, Laytonville. Local fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan goat cheeses, ranch meats, eggs, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

**SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS**

**Agape Bible Church**  
290 S. Lenore Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Where love is first and the Bible is central.  
Sunday Services:  
9:15 a.m. - Bible Class, adult & children  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
[www.agapebiblechurch.com](http://www.agapebiblechurch.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

**Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom**  
• Sound of Soul events  
• Membership Discourses  
• Spiritual Discussions  
• ECK Light & Sound Services  
More information? Call 707-972-2475

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

**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**  
61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
Saturday confessions - 4:45 p.m.  
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass - 9:00 a.m. English  
10:30 a.m. Spanish  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-459-3066  
Church Services / Communion & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.  
Healing Prayer 3rd Sunday  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
The Rev. Betsy Brunneau

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Karl Bliese, Pastor  
Church Service:  
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00  
Bible Study / Sunday School following the service.  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
ALL ARE WELCOME

**Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
399 W. Mendocino Avenue  
707-459-5714  
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
1st Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school.  
22751 Bray Road, Willits

**Willits United Methodist**  
A Christ centered, progressive church  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
Worship Celebration  
Sundays - 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.  
459-2855  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
If you want to be included in this column please call:  
April Tweddell  
(707) 972-2475  
[april@willitsweekly.com](mailto:april@willitsweekly.com)

**Senior Center Lunch**

**Week of March 18 through March 22**  
Monday: Hamburger Steak with Onion Gravy  
Tuesday: Chicken Enchiladas  
Wednesday: Country Fried Steak  
Thursday: Teriyaki Chicken Stir Fry  
Friday: Corned Beef Hash

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

**Mendocino County Soccer Academy (MCSA)**  
**EAGLES MENDOCINO SOCCER**  
**Ukiah Academy @ Pomalifa Soccer Fields**  
U6 - 4 and 5 year olds: \$95  
Tuesdays and Fridays: 45 minute sessions  
5:00 - 5:45 pm  
U8 - 6 and 7 year olds: \$

**Ronald Odas Kendrick**  
November 24, 1934 - March 6, 2019

Ronald Odas Kendrick was born November 24, 1934 in Walker County, Alabama to Odas Julian Kendrick <deceased> and Florence Gann Kendrick <deceased>. Ron passed away peacefully on March 6, 2019 in Willits, California.

Ron was the eldest child. His siblings included Jesse Rayburn Kendrick <deceased> (Annette), Barbara Jo Wallace <deceased> (Buddy), Shirley Carol Wilson (Rayburn, deceased), and Janie Ruth Kendrick.

Ron was preceded in death by his wife of 38 years, Ethel Waneve Kendrick. They met in Laytonville, California in 1954 and married October 1, 1955. Ron married Valerie Lee Parish Harmon on July 8, 1995.

Ron's children include Ronda Faye Kendrick <deceased>, Wanda Sue (Suzie) Kendrick (Doug Heimbuch, deceased), and Ronald O'Neill Kendrick (Jerr). Stepchildren include Len Harmon and Parish Harmon (Erin). Ron's grandchildren include Joanna Kendrick Miranda and Kate Kendrick. His step-grandchildren include Austin Harmon, Emmalee Harmon, Jessie Harmon, and Jordan Harmon.

During his life, Ron worked in construction and the timber industry in Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and throughout California. Ron came west in 1954 with his father and brother seeking work. The rest of the family followed and settled in Laytonville. Ron's family ultimately returned to Alabama while he decided to make a life in California.

Ron worked for Lakeside Lumber Company in Laytonville for many years, but when presented the opportunity to own his own business, he purchased the Texaco gas station on the corner of Highway 101 and Highway 20. After owning Ron's Texaco for more than 10 years, Ron established Ron's Muffler and Automotive and opened on November 13, 1982. The business touched many people's lives and continues to operate under the new owner, and Ron's beloved protégé, Loren Luedemann.

Ron loved his community and was known for his work ethic, kindness, and compassion toward others. He was a dedicated son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, mentor, and friend. The family thanks all his compassionate caregivers at Northbrook in Willits. There will be a celebration of life announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Ron's name to the Arthritis Foundation, Alzheimer's Association or the American Cancer Society.



OBITUARY |  
**Norma Lowe**

Norma Estelle Lowe of Willits rose into heaven March 6, 2019 at the age of 81. She was born to Orville Leroy Smith and Susan H. Smith on August 28, 1937 in San Diego. Norma worked in many jobs, often more than one at a time to support her family.

The work she was passionate about was in the field of helping others, especially children, working in child care and Social Services. Her calling in life was to help others and she did so with a glad heart as often, and in any way she could.

Norma loved Jesus and was very active in Grace Community Church, working with the children and helping in VBS and 4th of July events. For years she made all of the beautiful floral arrangements for the church, and special occasions that arose including weddings, birthdays and others. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, crafts, flowers and gardening, and anything that involved children, including helping with AWANAS.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents, Orville and Susan Smith; son, Mark S. White; daughter, Jackie L. Silva; and sister, Lavern Healy.

She is survived by her children: Fred Brown, Kim Hayden, Terry Springman, and Michael White; sister, Charlene Wykes; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life for Norma will be held Saturday, March 16, 2019 at 2 pm at Grace Community Church, Willits. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

OBITUARY |  
**Cyndy Sales**

Cynthia Jane "Spitzer" Sales, a retired school teacher, devout Christian and resident of Willits, California, died unexpectedly on February 24, 2019 at the age of 67.

Cyndy was born on May 6, 1951 in San Francisco, California. She attended public schools in Daily City and was a graduate of Jefferson High School. She went on to further her education at the University of San Francisco where she earned her master's degree in Education and Teaching.

Cyndy is survived by her mother, Eleanor Louise Spitzer; husband, Craig Martin Sales; son, Robert Eugene Sales; and granddaughter, Zoe Paulette "Chingieff" Sales; step-sons: Jeremy and Jon Sales; sister, Cathy Louise "Spitzer" Brooks; brother-in-law, Roger Kent Brooks; and nephews: Tom and Scott Brooks.

A Celebration of Life ceremony is scheduled for 3 pm on March 16, 2019 at the Redwood Valley Assembly of God, 7700 East Road, in Redwood Valley, California.

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

DEATH NOTICE |  
**Chuck McEntire**

Charles "Chuck" McEntire of Willits passed away on February 24, 2019 at the age of 92. Services will be private.

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

**Willits Weekly**  
willitsweekly@gmail.com



**LEGAL NOTICES LEGAL NOTICES**

Willits Weekly can run your legal notices. Email us for more info: Willits Weekly@gmail.com

WW203  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2019-F0167  
The following person is doing business as Equine Reboot, 270 Pine Street, Willits CA 95490.  
Registered owner: Robin Kane, 270 Pine Street, Willits CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on February 24, 2019.  
Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 27, 2019.  
/s/ Robin Kane  
Publication dates: 3/7, 3/14, 3/21 and 3/28/2019

WW199  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2019-F0041  
The following person is doing business as GlenMoor Enterprises, 25690 Daphne Way, Willits, CA 95490 / mailing address: 75 N Main Street #203, Willits, CA 95490.  
Registered owner: Ronald C. Moorhead, 25690 Daphne Way, Willits, CA 95490 / mailing address: 75 N Main Street #203, Willits, CA 95490  
This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2005.  
Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on January 16, 2019.  
/s/ Ronald C. Moorhead  
Publication dates: 2/21, 2/28, 3/7 and 3/14/2019

WW200  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2019-F0101  
The following person is doing business as Willits Community Services and Food Bank, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490.  
Registered owner: Willits Community Services Corporation, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 11, 1995.  
Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on February 6, 2019.  
/s/ Clarence Rash, Jr., board president  
Publication dates: 2/28, 3/7, 3/14 and 3/21/2019

WW201  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2019-F0053  
The following people are doing business as Forget-Me-Not Flowers, 50350 Hwy 101, Laytonville, CA 95454 / P.O. Box 337, Laytonville, CA 95454.  
Registered owners: Ariel J. Hanson, 50350 Hwy 101, Laytonville, CA 95454, and Carissa Chinaief, 118 School St., Willits, CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by copartners. The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 18, 2019.  
Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on January 18, 2019.  
/s/ Ariel J. Hanson  
Publication dates: 2/28, 3/7, 3/14 and 3/21/2019

WW202  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2019-F0163  
The following person is doing business as Cottage Craft Design, 24275 Cypress Drive, Willits CA 95490.  
Registered owner: John Sherman, 24275 Cypress Drive, Willits CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on March 1, 2019.  
Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 25, 2019.  
/s/ John Sherman  
Publication dates: 2/28, 3/7, 3/14 and 3/21/2019



**Current Job Openings:**

- Animal Control Officer
  - Animal Control Officer-In-Training - Extra-help
  - Corrections Deputy
  - Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
  - Eligibility Specialist I/II/III
  - Equipment Superintendent
  - Health Program Eligibility Worker
  - Licensed Vocational Nurse
  - Real Property Appraiser III
  - Registered Nurse
  - Road Maintenance Worker IV
  - Senior Public Health Nurse
  - Substance Abuse Counselor I/II
  - Supervising Public Health Nurse
- For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources)  
EOE

Legal ad placement info:  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

**Marc Komer**  
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An Affordable Non-Attorney Service  
Divorce, Living Trusts, Evictions, Probate, Incorporation, Name Change, etc.  
[www.mendocinolegaldocs.com](http://www.mendocinolegaldocs.com)  
459-2775  
104 W. Mendocino, Willits  
*I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.*

**Ken Murray Plumbing**  
Contractors License #664611  
707-459-2426 (H) 707-354-0520 (C)

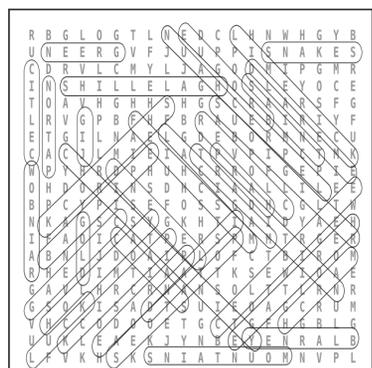
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\$250 PER DAY  
Call now to schedule your rental  
707 498 6033



**CLASSIFIEDS**

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

**Charter Enrollment Now**  
Open enrollment for the 6th - 12th grade classes at Willits Charter School is from now until April 30. Applications available in the main office at 1431 S. Main Street, Willits.

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

**Duck, Duck, be GONE!**  
Two male ducks need two lady friends and to go bunk in their pond. One white Pekin, age 2? One grey Pekin(?), age 7?, that have been raised with chickens, but now need to go live their duck lives with other ducks. Need a good home, not barbecue solution and to please stay together. Willing to trade for laying hens or two \$20 bills (pun intended.) 972-7047.

**Office Space for Rent**  
1 large space 3400'. Several small offices 100' & 270'. Call Megan 972-8776.

**Event Spaces Available**  
Event spaces available at the Willits Center for the Arts! • Great Room • Classroom • Ceramic Studio For inquiries, email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-1726. For additional information visit: [www.willitscenterforthearts.org/rentals](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/rentals)

**'Experience The Sound of Soul'**  
Tuesday, March 19, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 E. Commercial Street. Welcome to the worlds of HU (pronounced hue), an ancient, universal name for God. This sacred word can spiritually uplift people of any religion, culture, or walk of life. It is freely given - a gift beyond measure. Love is love. And you are that. HU is the Sound of Soul. Information? Call April, 972-2475 or visit: [www.TheSoundofSoul.org](http://www.TheSoundofSoul.org)

**Volunteers Needed**  
Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in the gift shop, information/greeting desk, hospitality cart and the garden. Hours are flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

**For Rent**  
One-bedroom studio for rent in northwest Willits. Wood heat, propane cook stove, PG&E. Pets OK w/approval. \$1100 month includes water and propane. Available April 1. Call for more details: 459-3160

**Freezer Empty? We can help!**  
John Ford Rancher's Choice Box- 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Now \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193. Leave a message.

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

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Adventist Heart & Vascular Institute Patient

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**LEARN MORE (888) 529-9018**

**Adventist Health** | Adventist Heart & Vascular Institute



Above, left: Both teams and a few donkeys pose for the post-game photo. Above, right: Lucas Branscomb's donkey takes a break. At right: Robert McKenzie goes for the basket. Ruthie King of the Ridgewood Ranch Fire Crew takes a moment with her donkey. The action gets fast and furious under the basket.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: Ruthie King and Taylor Drew vie for the ball at the tip-off. Below: Some players jump off their donkeys to grab the ball. At bottom: The Little Lake Fire Department takes a shot.



**NOYO**  
THEATRE Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits  
707-459-NOYO (6696)  
www.noyotheatre.com

Starts Friday, March 22:  
**US**

<p><b>CAPTAIN MARVEL</b></p> <p>(PG-13) 2 hrs 4 mins</p> <p><b>Fri:</b> 5:30 &amp; 8:30pm</p> <p><b>Sat:</b> 2:30, 5:30 &amp; 8:30pm</p> <p><b>Sun:</b> 1:30, 4:30 &amp; 7:30pm</p> <p><b>Mon-Thurs:</b> 4:30 &amp; 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>WONDER PARK</b></p> <p>(PG) 1 hr 25 mins</p> <p><b>Fri:</b> 4:05, 6:10 &amp; 8:15pm</p> <p><b>Sat:</b> 2:00, 4:05, 6:10 &amp; 8:15pm</p> <p><b>Sun:</b> 1:00, 3:05, 5:10 &amp; 7:15pm</p> <p><b>Mon-Thurs:</b> 5:10 &amp; 7:15pm</p>	<p><b>HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 3</b></p> <p>(PG) 1 hr 44 mins</p> <p><b>Fri:</b> 5:15 &amp; 7:45pm</p> <p><b>Sat:</b> 2:45, 5:15 &amp; 7:45pm</p> <p><b>Sun:</b> 1:45, 4:15 &amp; 6:45pm</p> <p><b>Mon-Thurs:</b> 4:15 &amp; 6:45pm</p>
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Movie Times for 3/15 thru 3/21      Tightwad Tuesday Titles for Mar. 19th are in RED - All tickets: \$5

**Spring & Summer Hours**

Monday - Friday 8am - 7pm  
Saturday 9am - 7pm  
Sunday 9am - 5pm

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The rest of Retirement | From Page 1

The contribution rate, calculated as a percentage of the county's payroll, also declined slightly, falling from 34.68 percent in 2016/17 to 34.27 percent in 2017/18.

According to Andy Yeung, vice president of Segal and author of the actuarial valuation, the two largest factors in the good news were the effect of investment gain and the effect of amortizing the prior year's "unfunded actuarially accrued liability" over a larger-than-expected total payroll.

Speaking of the first factor, Yeung noted that [as of June 30, 2018], "the market was still outperforming the actuarial assumptions [of the previous valuation]. As I said earlier on, if we expected the fund to earn, over the 2017/18 year, 7 percent, market value of assets was coming in much more favorably at 9.44 percent.

"Even after we go through the so-called smoothing process, where we only recognize 20 percent of market out-performance in one year, we have a rate of return of over 8 percent.

"As a result of that we are adding to the Rainy Day Fund, because there is now a deferred net gain of \$10.4 million, whereas if you look back to June 30, 2017, that Rainy Day Fund was only standing at about \$3.9 million," Yeung said.

"All in all, if you are looking at the financial results of the year, looking at the funded status, looking at the contribution rate requirement, everything turned out to be quite favorable, based again on the snapshot as of June 30, 2018."

Yeung elaborated on the second factor. "As it turns out, a higher salary also has a positive impact on the retirement association. This has to do with, any time we develop the unfunded liability or the contribution to pay off that \$212 million in unfunded liability, that amount of payment is expressed as a percentage of payroll.

"So, during 2017/18, the payroll of the retirement association [the payroll of the county] has gone up by about 9 percent. We only expected the payroll to go up by 3.5 percent.

"As a result of more employees being added by the employer, and as a result of the employees of the county getting a higher salary, when we take the unfunded liability that needs to be paid, spread it over a bigger payroll - bigger than we would have expected - the result is a contribution rate reduction, if you want to look at the contribution rate as a percent of payroll," he said.

"So, bottom line is, during the course of 2017/18, the contribution rate for the retirement association as a whole is coming down by about \$300,000."

After Yeung's presentation, Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams asked: "If we adjust salaries for regional parity, and essentially keep our head count as it is now, will that affect our assumptions? And will it affect our unfunded liability's date [of total payout] of 2039?" Yeung said the answer to that question was no.

The report was accepted unanimously. The same vote also adopted the rates calculated in the report - an overall contribution rate of 34.27 percent - as the rate that will be paid to the retirement association for fiscal 2019/20.

Read the rest of Donkey | Over on Page 13

# Donkey Basketball

## FFA and Little Lake Fire teams wrangle stubborn co-players during fundraiser at Willits High School

"I wonder if my donkey will like me." "Do you get to dribble?" "I think you just carry it around. If you dribble you might hit the donkey." So the chatter went in the parking lot of the Willits High School prior to receiving instructions on the rules of donkey basketball from Bruce Wick, owner of Donkey Sports, Inc. out of Entiat, Washington.

The event on Monday, March 4 was to benefit the Future Farmers of America. The teams consisted of the local Willits High School FFA and the Little Lake Fire Department (with guest ringers from Brooktrails Fire Department and the Ridgewood Ranch Fire Crew). Going in, the players faced the evening's sporting event with some unfamiliarity; by the end of the evening, the smiles and laughter and rich memories would be the fodder for weeks of discussions and more smiles.

The event, with a deep history going back to the 1930s, has been absent from the Willits scene for several years due to the fear that it would damage the floor in the Willits High School gym, even though it had been done in the past with no deleterious effects as the animals are polite enough to wear rubber booties.

The donkeys are professionals who know how to behave

themselves, for the most part, and know which end of the court to wander to, mostly just alternating ends. Prior to going inside with their furry partners, the local participants received instructions as to the rules and the finer points of the sport. Bruce Wick, who has owned the business since 1980, offered his insights and wisdom as to how to play and follow the rules so that everyone had fun and no one would get hurt.

"We play with five players on each team," explained Wick. "There's four people riding donkeys and a center person for each team. The center person, who does not have a donkey, stays in the large jump circle in the middle of the court. They are there to tip the ball at the beginning of each period and act as a relay person as well as to inbound the ball after the opposing team scores."

After a score, the center person runs down to the end and throws the ball to a teammate on a donkey, which needs to be accomplished quickly as the donkeys are trained to turn and go to the opposite end immediately upon a basket being scored.

## Congrats | Undeclared this Season

In the girls' 4th- and 5th-grade division of the 2019 City of Ukiah Youth Basketball League, the Willits team Baskin Robbin Bouncers had an undefeated season.

The girls scored 219 team points during the eight games and proved to be a force to be reckoned with. Congrats to Coach Colby Friend and the Baskin Robbin Bouncers!

- Maureen Moore



The Baskin Robbin Bouncers, including, back row, from left: Lexie, Cecily, Pearl, Coach Colby, Amsatou, Gracie and Mateya. Front row, from left: Lyly, Jemma, Aubrey and Amelia.

The rest of Measure B | From Page 1

Treatment Act Citizen's Oversight Committee. The committee has discussed its attitude toward the Kemper Report at length several times, and there is strong disagreement among committee members on whether the committee should or could study the Kemper recommendations.

Measure B Committee member Jan McGourty, who also chairs the county Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Advisory Board, has twice asked the committee to study the Kemper Report in detail. However, her appeals have been rejected by other committee members, most prominent among them Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman, former chair of the Measure B Committee, who told McGourty the committee would not be able to "study" the Kemper report without greatly expanding its meeting time allotment, which is currently two hours a month.

In January, Third District representative to the committee Jed Diamond floated a compromise motion, which stated the committee would "accept the Kemper Report as a guideline for this committee to make recommendations to the board of supervisors regarding program priorities and funding." At the same meeting, the committee approved a motion asking supervisors to "explore using Measure B funds" for the development of various proposed mental health facilities, a directive the board accepted and acted on only a week later.

The board of supervisors' directive to encourage the Measure B Committee to revisit the Kemper Report emerged from an annual report to supervisors on the 2018 activities of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board presented to the board by McGourty.

In her presentation of the annual report, McGourty said the BHAB had recommended supervisors approve and endorse the project implementation program as presented in the 2018 Kemper Report.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen commented that it would do no good for the board to approve and endorse those recommendations, because supervisors could only spend Measure B money on projects that have been recommended by the Measure B Committee.

McCowen's comments prompted a long, circuitous conversation, which included Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams making a motion "directing" the Measure B Committee to "study" the Kemper Report. Other board members softened Williams' motion, changing the word "direct" to "encourage" and changing the word "study" to "review and prioritize."

The motion then was downgraded to a directive, which was pronounced by Brown.

Other recommendations in the BHAB Annual Report urged the county to adopt a policy allowing county employees to receive county pay while serving on county boards and commissions; that the board of supervisors should take action demanding insurance parity for mental health patients; and that supervisors should put pressure on the state Legislature to review the Innovation Program funded by the Mental Health Services Act.

According to the report, county staff recently submitted a project to the MHSA Innovation Program, a process that took four years.

"Our county had great difficulty preparing our first MHSA Innovative Plan and continues to struggle to comply with the state's idea of innovation," the annual report said. "In addition, there seems to be a bias favoring larger counties and technology in general. For example, Los Angeles submitted

a technology plan that was vaguely worded and hardly innovative by MHSA's own standards, which was changed in implementation and again goes against the regulations of the MHSA Innovation Program."

McGourty asked supervisors to "contact the Legislature" and ask it to "oversee the OAC's innovation actions for accountability."

The request to seek insurance parity refers to the discrepancy in services available between those who receive MediCal and private insurance companies.

"County services ... only serve the severely mental ill and those who qualify for MediCal," the report states. "People with private insurance are only served by county providers [when in] crisis. Those who can qualify for MediCal are assisted by staff, since their services are reimbursable. Those with private insurance have few or no services available to them.

"We recommend that the board of supervisors contact the state Legislature and [other] state organizations to pursue this goal of parity."

## Supes OK Measure B staff position

By unanimous vote, supervisors approved creation of a new county staff position: "Measure B administrative services manager." The person hired to fill that position will be responsible for overseeing the several projects being envisioned for construction to enhance and expand the county's mental health services in accordance with the provisions of Measure B, approved by voters in November 2018.

According to Carmel Angelo, the Measure B administrative services manager will "make sure the work we want done will be done on time and on budget."

County Human Resources Director Heidi Dunham explained the position was created by combining several other job descriptions. "It was not an existing position. It was a hybrid of several existing positions that we already had," she said.

A resolution passed by supervisors sets the base salary for the position between \$66,144 and \$80,366 dollars a year. The salary and benefits will come from Measure B funds.

## Stepping Up Initiative

Health and Human Services Agency Director Tammy Moss Chandler detailed the status of the county's Stepping Up Initiative, a nationwide effort to reduce the number of people with serious mental illness incarcerated in the nation's jails. Mendocino County adopted a resolution stating the county would participate in the Stepping Up Initiative in 2015.

Chandler's presentation was upbeat and positive but contained no information about any benefits conferred upon the community by the initiative to date. She did state that her office had gathered community partners to work on the Stepping Up Initiative, including the board of supervisors and executive office, HHSA, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, the Mendocino County branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and several branches of law enforcement in the county, including the sheriff, the public defender, the probation department and the county's superior court.

She noted that upcoming goals for Mendocino County with respect to the initiative included completing the self-assessment tool by next month and kicking off a countywide forum in May, which the national movement has called "the Month of Action."

The rest of Donkey | From Page 12

"You can check one another, guard one another like you do in regular basketball. The center person can get any ball that they can reach from the middle circle, and they need to be ready to get a pass from an official after a violation. The center is a really good spot for anyone who is having second thoughts about riding these donkeys.

"You have to be on your donkey to shoot the ball and to play defense. The definition of 'on the donkey' is a leg on each side of the animal with both feet off the ground." This proved to be harder than it sounded, as many of the players jumped up on one side, only to find themselves on the ground on the other side of the donkey and having to get up and try again.

"You're allowed to get off your donkey to get a rebound or a loose ball," Wick continued. "You've got to take your donkey with you. You're not allowed to go anywhere on the court without your animal." This rule caused much hilarity as the donkeys did not always desire to go where their riders were trying to drag them. This caused the now de-donkeyed riders to stretch to the full extent of their limbs, while at the same time trying to pull their donkeys closer and faster than the opposing players were, while trying to be the first to get to the loose balls.

"We don't want anybody mistreating the donkey, hitting, kicking or pulling their ears, talks, hair. Some of the donkeys are quick, some are slow, and none of them are going to cooperate," Wick said. "There's no kind of beating you can give them that's going change that, so get on and go with the flow ... and don't get upset if he's going the wrong way."

The instructions ended up an apt foreshadowing of the evening's contest, with both teams fighting hard and with respectable sportsmanship, and with the fire crews edging the FFA in the scoring. No one will remember the score but all will remember the fun, the excitement and the donkeys with which they became friends.

The stands were full, with well over 100 spectators in the bleachers, bringing a profit of over \$1,000 for the FFA to help fund their annual trip to Anaheim for the State FFA Conference, a leadership and learning gathering to which Willits is bringing 18 kids. Although they are known as Future Farmers of America, their teacher, Kelley Case Brackett, the event organizer, explained that most will not go into farming as an occupation and that the main benefit is about learning leadership.

Look for this fun and hilarious event again next year as it was wildly successful, and the floor survived intact - with just a bit of sweeping necessary thanks to the donkeys who have yet to be house-broken.

The rest of Brookside | From Page 7

Classrooms in the original building have "14-foot high ceilings ... curtains that have been grandfathered in ... too many louvred windows ... [and] not enough electrical outlets," he said.

"No one would put in that many windows now, and louvred windows would never do," said Westenberg. "We should put in drop ceilings and take out the windows and put in double pane."

And back in the 1950s, when the building was constructed, two electrical outlets per classroom were adequate, which is obviously not the case today.

"We have to run extension cords," said Westenberg.

The classroom furniture is a hodgepodge of tables, chairs, and desks from decades past.

"There's horrible furniture in [every] classroom," said Westenberg.

Crossman added that other furniture not in use, but still usable, was kept and stored in the modular room unit to use for anything else.

Some of the classroom ceilings leak.

"We had to do the ceiling in number 12 three times," said Westenberg. "We repainted and re-plastered, but it continued to fall apart with water coming down the corner."

In fact, the school's roofs in general, being flat, require "fairly regular" resealing and recoating. The outside walls "need to be sealed," Westenberg said, "and it needs a paint job for sure."

Also on the laundry list of things that don't work or need to be replaced are water fountains, bathrooms, and lighting.

"Drinking fountains are a huge issue for us," said Westenberg. Outside ones

amount of playground for the volume of kids," she said. "The playground structures are pretty old, and the playground needs grading."

A significant area of the playground is also covered in asphalt; and a significant area of that asphalt is in a state of disrepair.

"It's about twice the size of the high school parking lot, and at some point we will have to deal with it," said Westenberg. "The only good thing about asphalt is you can grind it up and reuse some of it."

Still, it's "very expensive," he said, estimating the cost at about \$800,000.

Albeit smaller, there is another area of cracked asphalt at the school - caused by the very large redwood trees.

"They're beautiful and a problem at the same time," said Westenberg. "The roots are spreading out, heaving up sidewalks - everything around them," and they're "a bigger problem" where there is water and plumbing infrastructure.

There's also another set of trees on school property causing problems: The entire northern side of the school's property "backs up to Mill Creek" and is lined by trees.

Problem is, the trees are "hanging over the tops of yards" owned by people who live on Mill Creek Drive - on the other side of Mill Creek.

"We have an arborist coming to do a creek assessment," Westenberg said. "Then I'll meet with the owners."

He estimated the cost at "a ton of money."

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of stories by Joanne Moore that will explore the fix and repair needs of the Willits Unified School District buildings.



Above, left: Nick Barron, clinical applications manager at MCHC's Little Lake Clinic in Willits, enjoys this beautiful baby learning early how to use a toothbrush. Above, right: One of the 20 Mendocino County youngsters treated during "Give Kids a Smile Day."



Photos by Mathew Caine



At top: Volunteers Tom Moore and Curtis Deshiell serve up the corned beef at the American Legion's St. Patrick Day Dinner in 2017. Above: The crowd at the Legion Hall for that year's dinner celebration.

## 'Give Kids a Smile Day'

MCHC Health Centers dentists and staffers provide \$10,000+ in free dental care

Submitted by MCHC Health Centers

To celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month in February, MCHC Health Centers continued its annual tradition of participating in "Give Kids a Smile Day."

On the first Saturday of February, dental employees volunteered to provide free dental care to 20 children who could not otherwise afford it.

"We had yet another successful year of giving back to our community," said Dental Manager Margo Arellano. "Six dentists and 21 dental staff members came in on their day off to provide more than \$10,000 worth of free care."

The team provided exams, x-rays, fillings, extractions, sealants, and more.

By visiting a dentist regularly starting at age 1, children are more likely to maintain good oral health, which helps ensure the ability to communicate properly, to get good nutrition, and to avoid the embarrassment that can come from speech impediments or physical deformities.

MCHC Dental Director Dr. Doug Lewis thanked the dentists and other employees who supported the event, including the patient service representatives, dental assistants and sterile techs who scheduled the patients, prepared the equipment, set up the rooms, and then cleaned up after the event was finished.

"Give Kids a Smile Day" is a national event in which thousands of dentists and their teams provide free oral healthcare services to children from low-income families.



In February and throughout the year, MCHC Health Centers provides dental care to children. For more information, call (707) 468-1010.

MCHC Health Centers is a local, non-profit, federally qualified health center offering medical, dental and behavioral health care to people in Lake and Mendocino counties.

— Jennifer Poole

C H I R O P R A C T O R

# Welcome Craig Boyle, DC Chiropractor

Please join us in welcoming Craig Boyle, D.C. to our community. Dr. Boyle brings over 35 years of experience and a passion for helping patients experience less pain and improved function. He uses a blend of techniques for each patient's unique needs, including manual and instrument adjusting to ensure optimal comfort.

Prior to joining us, Dr. Boyle was caring for patients at Adventist Health Feather River in Paradise, CA. Preceding this, he lived in Alaska where he provided chiropractic care to a community, including loggers and fishermen, for 19 years.

"My wife and I love the beauty of the countryside, and we feel it is the most beautiful hospital we have ever seen. The mission and vision here at Adventist Health Howard Memorial is inspiring. The cultivation and use of organic produce in the Roots Cafe to nourish the patients, staff and community is wonderful." — CRAIG BOYLE, D.C.

Now welcoming  
new patients  
(707) 459-6115

www.AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org  
Redwood Medical Clinic  
3 Marcela Drive, Ste C | Willits, CA



## The rest of Chili

From Page 3

present their soy-free "Chicken Chili with a Kick."

Of course, the Little Lake Fire Department was back with their "Three Alarm Chili" in regular and hot versions, but it was OK as they could extinguish any fires created by their genre-breaking uber-spicy chili.

The Center for Healing Investigation in Reflective Practice offered an artistically themed chili with meat (all locally sourced, organic). Nancy Adair of CHIRP shared a booth with the only vegan chili in the room, by chili contest veteran Mike Adams of Nurturing Seed Gardens. The senior center plans to offer an auxiliary prize for "Best Vegan Chili" next year — if they can get three entries or more.

The Tri Counties Bank team, under the stewardship of Jason Korte and Katelyn Garcia, had been cooking their chili for two days in order to perfectly meld all the flavors. Their offering was presented with extra onions, sour cream, green onions, cheese and cilantro to meet the taste of the attendees.

The Willits Wild Bunch, not wanting to leave anything to chance, brought three different kinds of chili: their famous "Full Throttle Chili," "Wookiee Chili" (no Wookies harmed in the creation), and "Open Road Chili." Additionally, they were raffling off a toddler Harley Davidson tricycle, a bottle of "Harley Davidson" Rum, and a Harley Davidson mini-grill, the proceeds of which were to go evenly to the senior center and the annual Toy Run.

Reza and Debbie Grandin brought chili that was "wood-fired at our house," offering four different kinds of meat. Martha Morgan and Katie Barry had "Old Fashioned Chili" that we've been making for years" to taste, with guest vegetables. Jerry and Sandy Turner, with great-grandson Angel, had the Rotary Club booth with their entry.

In addition to the chili, the senior center raffled off some prizes from generous local merchants: A "Margarita Madness" basket, won by Chuck Harris; a \$100 Senior Center Thrift Shop certificate, won by Neil Orr; a "Deluxe Coffee" basket, won by Senior Center volunteer Diana G.; a "Grilling Accessory" basket, won by Val Parker of Ukiah; and a John Ford Beef gift certificate for 25 pounds of ground beef, won by Lisa Yokum. The Wild Bunch raffles were won by Eli Mosher (rum), Jackie Beck (tricycle), and Neil Orr (grill).

Finally, the time had come for the grand prizes. The Hottest Chili 2019 was won by the Little Lake Fire Department. The Best Decorated Booth was captured by the Northbrook Healthcare Center — the voting was as close as possible with only one vote separating them from the Mendo Mill booth. And the People's Choice Chili winner of 2019 went to the Willits Wild Bunch for all three of their entries.

The proceeds of the evening will go to help keep the senior center offering all the valuable services they provide to the community.



## Farm Convergence

Local growers gather again to discuss and celebrate the local food system

"John Jeavons once told me that our lifetimes' wealth would be determined by the quality of your food, I think that time has come. That it is now," said keynote speaker Donna D'Terra at the 7th annual North Coast Farmers Convergence.

Co-hosted by the Mendo-Lake Food Hub, the School of Adaptive Agriculture, and NCO's Garden's Project, the convergence sought to gather farmers and friends from throughout Northern California for a day of celebrating the local food system.

The morning kicked off with a talk by D'Terra, a 35-year practitioner of herbalism and founding director of Motherland Botanical Sanctuary and Herb School. She inspired the crowd with a discussion of the connection between food, health and herbal medicine. She demonstrated that full circle, bioregional herbalism has the opportunity to not only increase personal health but can lead to jobs and economic prosperity.

The amount spent annually in the U.S. on herbal supplements is 5.6 billion dollars, and if a portion of that was switched to the local economy, we would receive better quality herbal health products and create jobs. The food system has similar potential which was discussed throughout the day.

D'Terra's keynote was followed by a panel consisting of four local leaders in the local food movement. Caroline Radice of the MendoLake Food Hub shared how the Hub's wholesale produce transportation system has greatly increased the viability of small farms.

Restaurants, schools or hospitals can now order fresh produce from all over Mendocino County, direct from local farmers. The farmers only have to drive as far as a local refrigerated "node" to leave their produce, knowing that it will be delivered to their customer.

Last year the Food Hub sold over \$360,000 of local produce. And they are not just working in Mendocino County. They have developed a business relationship with other regional Food Hubs. Working with Capay Valley Farm Shop, they bring apples and pears from Lake and Mendocino counties and bring back citrus. The Food Hub is considering transitioning into a farmer / producer co-op in the coming year.

Daniel Ryberg farms within the Mendocino County Jail and helps provide food for 300 inmates a day. He has a goal of supplying 100 percent of the lettuce and tomatoes for those meals in the near future. Ryberg shared that

his work is challenging yet rewarding and they plan to begin beekeeping at the jail. His work provides lots of opportunities to increase inmate health and to teach valuable life skills.

Panelist Lama Nasser-Gammet lives in Boonville and has a thriving mushroom business with her husband. They grow primarily oyster mushrooms which sell out rapidly at the Ukiah Farmers Market.

She shared challenges which included not being able to find enough organic straw grown locally. The straw is used as a growing-medium for the mushrooms. They travel to the central valley to find enough supply. They do not have access to land (currently renting where their farm is located), which was a challenge echoed by many of the farmers at the event.

The last member of the panel was Joshua Sternberg, a market farmer with the New Agrarian Collective and graduate of the Grange School of Adaptive Agriculture. Sternberg grows vegetables of all kinds which he sells at the farmers market in Willits and Ukiah.

He shared a bit about what drew him to a life in agriculture and what he has learned along the way. Now in his fourth market season, he admitted that it is a hard way to make a living. Sternberg remarked that Mendocino County has many well-known farming mentors like John Jeavons, Stephen and Gloria Decater, and Michael Foley. "I have to remind myself to reach out when I have questions. It is easy to feel like you have to figure everything out on your own." He said that living at the historic Ridgewood Ranch, with the Golden Rule community and other farmers is a huge benefit. "But I need to be patient with my own learning curve," he added.

The convergence then broke up into workshops ranging from "Taxes and Bookkeeping for Very Small Farms," "Communication and Leadership Skills," and "Farmer-Led Policy Change" with the National Young Farmers' Coalition.

One workshop titled "Produce Love" was hosted by Gina and Sorren of Strong Roots Farm and Open Circle Seeds. They shared the results of their 2018 variety trials. These growing trials involved 43 varieties of winter squash, 35 types of melons, and 6 to 10 varieties of tomatoes, peppers, and sunflowers! These were all grown on their farm in Potter Valley with the winners allowed to mature to seed to sell.

The attendees of this workshop got to learn the winners. Best Acorn squash is "Sweet Reba" which tasted delicious and stored well. Butternut squash: "Honeynut" ("Baby Butternuts" tasted the best but did not store well). For the melons, "Sharlyns"



Above: Master butcher Monte Vanderhork walks attendees through the various cuts, anatomy and best practices for breaking down a whole sheep.

Below: A group gathers in the sun for one of the many workshops that were given throughout the day.



Photos by Holly Madrigal



Above, left: Farmers listen to one another during a workshop at the 2019 Farmers Convergence.

At top: Donna D'Terra, keynote speaker at the 2019 Farmers Convergence, discusses the connection between food, health and herbal medicine.

Above: Caroline Radice, center, and Eliot Hartley chat with a friend, left, during the recent 7th annual North Coast Farmers Convergence at Ridgewood Ranch.

were the best for seed and sale. "We had to taste all these delicious melons," laughed Gina, "but someone had to do it."

The group agreed to come help with taste-testing this summer. The assembled group then shared their favorites of all kinds of produce. Kyle from Nye Ranch in Fort Bragg described the complex flavor of purple Sicilian garlic. Someone else commented that they had tasted that garlic while in Sicily and it was incomparable. Sarah Foley shared some of her favorites like Radicchio "Casto Franco" as well as "Honey Badger" sweet corn. The workshop was aptly named as the "Produce Love" was evident.

Of course, lunch at this farm conference was a celebration of local food in of itself. Jay Holecek cooked up a feast with lamb from Mendocino Meats and heritage pork from the New Agrarian Collective. This was served on handmade heirloom blue corn tortillas with veggies and salsa from Fortunate Farm in Caspar.

The afternoon concluded with more workshops like "Year-Round Production Strategies," "Soil Health," "Breaking Down Barriers to Housing," "Herbal First Aid for Farmers," and "Land Access." Master butcher Monte Vanderhork was on hand to demonstrate how to butcher a whole sheep. He walked attendees through the various cuts, anatomy and best practices for breaking down a whole animal.

Grain grower and philosopher Doug Mosel led a workshop called "How Do We Keep Going?" This tackled the emotional challenges to small-scale farming life like isolation and financial stress. The group bonded and was restored by gratitude for the ability to engage in farming work. They discussed the importance of asking for help — both technical and emotional — and the critical role of humor to lighten the load.

Mosel ended with a poem from Wendell Berry called "A Vision" which reads in part:

"If we will have the wisdom to survive / To stand like slow-growing trees on a ruined place / Renewing, enriching it / If we will make our seasons welcome here / Asking not too much of earth or heaven / Then a long time after we are dead / The lives our lives prepare will live here ... / This is no paradisaic dream. / Its hardship is its possibility."

An appropriate sentiment for this gathering of farmers and producers sharing their knowledge for the season ahead.

## The rest of Meditation

From Page 5

The teachings are not in opposition to anything in the Judeo-Christian tradition. One might consider it a pathway to the deep understanding of all divinity, whether one follows the teachings of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, or any of the thousands of religions in the world today. Garney states that her teachings, which she channels from her spiritual forefathers and foremothers, has actually brought people closer to and given them a better understanding of the religious traditions which they grew up in.

To discover more about Sarah Garney's teachings or to book a session: sarahgarney@gmail.com, or visit www.sarahgarney.com.

## The rest of Cupcake

From Page 1

vote, tickets are \$1 each, in addition to the entry fee. Votes will be tallied for Best Table, Best Decorated Cupcake, Best Tasting Cupcake, and People's Choice. Winners of each category will be awarded a \$50 prize. Cupcakes will be available to purchase to take home and enjoy for \$2 each, \$10 for a half-dozen, and \$20 for a dozen.

As always, proceeds from the fundraiser will go to support students in our community. This year's funds will be allocated to the Willits High School Junior Class.

For more information, reach out to Christy Wisdom or Jennifer Barrett at Willits High School: 459-7700.

Willits Weekly: Read online or in print!

# MARCH CALENDAR

**Wild Wednesdays!**  
**MARCH 6, 13 & 20**  
**8AM – 11PM**

Double your fun with Matchplay.  
 Get **\$40 FREE PLAY** for \$20 cash!  
 Just stop by the Cashier's Cage.

— THURSDAYS MARCH 7, 14 & 21 —

**WIN FREE PLAY!**

**BINGO!**

12PM – 2PM Win \$100-\$150 Free Play  
 3PM Win \$175 Free Play or DOUBLE if you earn 600 points.  
 7PM – 9PM Win \$125-\$175 Free Play  
 10PM Win \$300 Free Play or DOUBLE if you earn 600 points.

## GIFT OF THE MONTH

**EVERY SAT & SUN MARCH 9 – 31**  
**10AM – 5PM**

Redeem 500 points on Saturdays or Sundays to receive a Get Ready to Fly Away Luggage Set.\* Get a different piece each week, while supplies last.

\*For guests who did not receive a Gift of the Month postcard.



Introducing **VIRTUAL BLACKJACK**

**\$3 MINIMUM**



## SMOKE SHOP DISCOUNT

Stop by the Smoke Shop and get

**10% OFF**  
 all purchases in March.

Must show your SVC Players Club Card.  
 Cannot be combined with any other offer.

*st. paddy's*  
**day special**

**SUNDAY MARCH 17**



Get your Corned Beef Sandwich & Fries in the Café for only **\$1.99**

**GONE IN 60 DAYS**  
**Mustang Giveaway**

**EARN ENTRY TICKETS DAILY**  
**MARCH 1 – 30**  
**8AM – 10PM**

100 points = 1 entry ticket  
 All entries are FREE!

**5X**  
**Entries on Tuesdays**  
 100 points = 5 entry tickets

**Weekly Drawings**

**FRI · SAT · SUN**  
**MARCH 8 – 24 5PM – 10PM**

**Finale Week Drawings**

**WED · THURS · FRI · SAT**  
**MARCH 27 – 30 5PM – 10PM**

11 winners each day get **\$100 Free Play**. Barrel emptied each week after the 10pm drawing on Sunday for the next weekly drawing, but **all entries** qualify for the Grand Prize Drawing.

## Grand Prize Drawing

**SATURDAY MARCH 30**  
**AFTER 10PM**

1 lucky person will win the **2019 FORD MUSTANG ECOBOOST COUPE!**



Actual make, model and color may vary.

Winner is responsible for any taxes, fees and licensing. Non-transferable. See Player's Club Booth for complete details.

**SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO**

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