

## Sunday search comes up empty for missing Covelo woman

Dan McKee  
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A March 11 search by more than 120 sheriff's deputies and search-and-rescue personnel failed to find a missing 23-year-old Covelo woman allegedly kidnapped February 7 by her former boyfriend.

Ninety-six volunteers from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue team, Lake County

Read the rest of **Search** |  
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## County to change budgeting philosophy

Mike A'Dair  
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County CEO Carmel Angelo told the board of supervisors Tuesday that in future the county will be implementing a new philosophy in setting its annual budgets.

"We're not going to have a high carryover, and we are going to fill our positions," Angelo said. "That means we're not going to be seeing that nice little cushion at the end of the year."

The nice little cushion mentioned by Angelo refers to the fund balance carryover – the money which in many recent years has been left unspent at the end of each fiscal year.

Read the rest of **Budgeting** |  
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## Crime reports

### Suspect in Willits carjacking caught

State traffic officers arrested Ashley Brad Schucker, 39, on Bell Springs Road near Highway 101 on Tuesday after he reportedly carjacked a vehicle in the Evergreen Shopping Center parking lot.

The carjacking victim was sitting in his vehicle at about 2 pm while his wife was shopping, according to a Willits Police Department press release, when the Myerstown, Pennsylvania man, allegedly "got into the driver's seat and threatened to harm the victim if he didn't get out of the vehicle."

The victim's auto was later spotted by state traffic officers and, a following a short high-speed chase,

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Above: Senior Steven Duran, who will play baseball at the University of Nevada, Reno, with his proud parents, Arcelia and Martin Duran. Below, right: Cody Pedersen, left, with his Willamette University T-shirt, Nicole Karkar and Triston Martin with his T-shirt from Morrisville State College.

## Signing Night

Willits High School celebrates sending 6 seniors off to college on athletic scholarships

By Daisy Barrett, Willits Wolverine editor

Willits High School hosted its first senior Athletic Signing Day event on Monday night at the WHS auditorium. Head Football Coach Chris Bickford and his wife, Alma, arranged for the community to come and see six high school seniors commit to playing sports in college.

WHS Principal Mike Colvig and Academic Counselor Lucy Kyne were two of the speakers that wished our athletes good luck in their success to come at the March 12 event.

"Most of the boys going off to play college sports next fall are first-generation college students," Kyne explained.

Mitchell Hollingsworth was first. He thanked his family, teammates, coaches, Kyne and Colvig, and he gave a big shout-out to Bickford, his

Read the rest of **Signing** |  
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At right: Two senior football players, Cody Pedersen, left, who'll play football at Willamette University, and Triston Martin, who'll play football at Morrisville State College, with Coach Chris Bickford, center. Below, from left: Danielle Campbell holds some celebration cake, with senior Mitchell Hollingsworth, who will play football for Auburn University on an athletic scholarship. Football players, from left, Cody Pedersen, Elijah DeCent and Triston Martin hold T-shirts announcing the colleges they'll be playing football for on athletic scholarships. Head Football Coach Chris Bickford stands behind.



## Willits clinics battle opioid epidemic

With a full-blown opioid crisis sweeping the nation and impacting Mendocino County, two Willits clinics are offering "medically assisted treatment" for addicts unable to overcome addiction on their own.

Redwood Medical Clinic and Little Lake Health Center both offer the in-town treatment, and at the Redwood Clinic – which just started offering the program last year – both John Glycer, MD, and Andrea McCullough, MD, have undergone the special training needed and have been certified to administer it.

The treatment uses a medication called Suboxone (containing buprenorphine and naloxone) – a designer drug with partial narcotic effects that also blocks opioid receptors in the brain, implementing a "low ceiling" that prevents addicts from achieving more addictive and dangerous highs, even if they slip up and use stronger opioids, like heroin or fentanyl.

Glycer said this combination is designed to prevent withdrawal symptoms and manage pain in addicts trying to quit opioids, but also reduces "drug-seeking behavior" and helps patients get their lives back on track.

Read the rest of **Opioid** |  
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Photos by Daisy Barrett

## Bevy of candidates, 'bed tax' on June 5 ballot

Mike A'Dair  
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According to the final list released Wednesday by the Assessor-Clerk-Recorder's Office, Mendocino County's Third District will have eight candidates running for county supervisor in the June 5 election.

The latest candidate to join the race is Willits resident Mike Horgor, a volunteer firefighter with the Little Lake Fire Department for 18 years, who filed his papers on March 14, just

Read the rest of **Ballot** |  
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## New county pot czar increases pace of permit approvals

Mike A'Dair  
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Kelly Overton, the newly hired manager of the county's cannabis program, told supervisors on Tuesday that county departments are making progress on shattering the bottleneck that had slowed cannabis cultivation permit approvals to a drip.

In the past 10 business days, Overton said, 31 permit applications have either been issued or approved. He pointed out the new approvals mean 28 percent of all permit applications that have been

Read the rest of **Approvals** |  
Over on Page 13

## Museum budget may be cut next year

Mike A'Dair  
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Museum Director Karen Horner told the Mendocino County Museum Advisory Board on Monday it was likely the museum's \$641,000 budget would be cut next year.

Horner noted that as of December 30, 2017, the museum had spent only \$168,000 of its 2017-2018 budget and was projected to spend \$540,000 by June 30. The reason the museum had spent so little of its budget, Horner explained, is because from September to the present, the museum did not have a paid, full-time director. In addition, from July 1 to November 9

Read the rest of **Museum** |  
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# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and  
thank you letters from readers

## Everyday life

To the Editor:

I read with interest the story about the lawsuit against the city for their lack of ADA accessibility. As a handicapped individual this is a story that is near and dear to my heart. Although I felt many points of the lawsuit were exaggerated and melodramatic, I recognize the frustration of the individual trying to participate in everyday life.

No one wants to be handicapped and dependent on others to simply function. It would help if people understood that I am not trying to be an inconvenient person or trying to impose on you. I would just like to have some semblance of a normal life.

I was shocked to read the complaints about the police station. I consider the police station and the Savings Bank of Mendocino County as the most accessible buildings in town. I would like to applaud those in town who really strive to help the handicapped. J.D. Redhouse, The Book Juggler and El Mexicano have always gone above and beyond helping me to access their businesses which I am truly thankful for. The Willits Arts Center has just installed a bell to ring for assistance. My hat's off to you.

There are so few places that are accessible to me. For some reason the city park has still months later not repaired the sidewalks making the park totally inaccessible to me. The Recreation Grove's driveway is so full of potholes that it is impossible to navigate. No farmers market for me when it's there. The Grange Hall's parking lot is in such bad condition that I take my life in my hands trying to attend anything there. For reasons unclear to me there is no handicapped curb access to the Methodist Church.

I would like to thank John Sherman at City Hall who has been incredibly kind and helpful to me on numerous occasions. There is a business in town where the employees parked on the sidewalk for a long time. I had no luck in trying to point out that parking on the sidewalk is both inconsiderate and illegal, and he stepped in and resolved the situation. I appreciate him making my life easier.

The sidewalks of Willits are a nightmare. I have fallen so many times that the EMTs know my name when I call, because I have fallen and can't get up. I have broken ribs, cracked my clavicle and done real damage to my elbows (Grange Hall, are you listening?). Still I persist in trying to have some kind of normal life. So, I understand the frustration of the lady filing the suit, although I disagree with the extent of her claimed damages.

Please people, be kind and considerate. Imagine if it was you or a loved one, and then treat that disabled person that way.

Susan Johnson, Willits

## Old hospital

To the Editor:

A few days ago in Yountville, three health care

workers were murdered by a mentally ill patient who had been ordered to leave the facility. Here in Willits, with the passage of Measure B, the people in charge of spending the Measure B money want to use the old Howard Hospital to house these mentally ill patients: troubled and possibly dangerous people not just from Willits but from all over the county.

The old hospital would be used for temporary custody of the severely mentally ill, after which the patients will be released (evicted?) to ... where? Set loose on the streets of Willits? Or will the patients be put on a bus – that is, if they agree to get on a bus – and dropped off back in Ukiah or wherever they came from?

Willits is a small community, with a small police force and little infrastructure to deal with the public danger that a mental-lockdown facility will, sooner or later, inevitably bring. The old hospital is not only in a residential neighborhood, it is just up the block from our middle school, across Main Street from the charter school. The local community leaders who are eager to find a new use for the deserted hospital should not solve their empty-building problem by endangering our neighbors and our schools.

B.B. Kamoroff, Willits

## Adventist to match Senior Center donations

To the Editor:

Every time I write a letter to the editor asking for financial support for the Senior Center, I struggle. I have trouble finding the words to adequately express the gratitude and appreciation myself and my coworkers receive as a result of the generosity and kindness provided by a caring community. The senior center employees and the board of directors feel very fortunate and grateful to be a part of organization that positively impacts the lives of so many.

The senior center is a vital resource to the community. We provide door-to-door transportation for seniors age 55 or older and anyone with a disability 18 years or older, Meals on Wheels and Outreach services. We couldn't provide these services without people supporting the senior center financially. We wouldn't be able to keep our doors open without volunteers.

I have come to have faith in a process. I identify a need the Senior Center has. I inform the community what the need is, and the community responds with their financial support. We need your help; the seniors love the year-round salad bar.

The salad bar is the most nutritious food option most seniors have available to them on any given day. Duplicating all these available food options from home is something that is unrealistic and unattainable for seniors with physical limitations and those on fixed incomes.

For the second straight year Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital will support our efforts in providing healthy food options for seniors. This year they will match all donations up to \$3,000. You can also make a donation to a support a specific service we provide, or make a general donation which gives us the financial flexibility to use funds as needed.

You can make a donation by visiting our website at [www.willitsseniorcenter.com](http://www.willitsseniorcenter.com) – find the donation tab to make a donation by credit or debit card. You can also mail a check made payable to "Willits Seniors Inc." to 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits, CA 95490.

If you are interested in helping the Senior Center, stop by – my door is always open to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have.

Richard Baker, executive  
director, Willits Seniors Inc.

COLUMN | Political Type

## Keeping it simple

By Jim Shields, Mendocino County Observer

To sum up the county's cannabis ordinance history for the past year, one can say it's a process filled with lots of activity but no meaningful productivity.

In my memory anyway, more time has been spent on marijuana issues the past year than any other area under discussion by far.

You can't say the board of supervisors has given the subject short shrift.

That fact has not been lost on others. For example, last fall Sheriff Tom Allman told the board, "I jokingly say that it's not the county of marijuana, it's the County of Mendocino."

Allman observed that for almost all other county business, including troublesome issues such as deteriorating mental health services, the meeting room is unpopulated by the public. In his opinion, the marijuana topic garners far too much attention compared to other matters that for whatever reason are off the public's radar screen.

Despite all the time, resources and money expended on the cannabis ordinance, by any evaluation standard or performance metric the end product to date is one of failure.

Just a few weeks ago, county officials announced with much fanfare the hiring of a new agriculture commissioner to succeed Diane Curry who had served in the same capacity on an interim basis for the past year or so.

In her final appearance before the board in late February, Curry candidly revealed there were some big problems with the pot program, such as in her estimation only 50 percent of current applicants would "be lucky" to get through the cannabis permitting process.

She also warned the supes: "The state agencies are looking at us. They want us to have a robust program, something with integrity. How do we fulfill that by not fulfilling the ordinance?"

That's a pretty damning indictment of how county officials are handling their pot ordinance.

Anyway, the new ag boss, Joseph A. Moreo, on the day he was hired explained: "I was drawn to work for Mendocino County as it begins the process of merging a traditional agricultural community with the emerging cannabis industry. I feel my years of experience will bring stability to an office facing huge changes in a rapidly shifting environment."

On the fifth day of his fledgling career with Mendocino County, Moreo announced his resignation, and to date no reason has been given by any one in charge about what prompted Moreo's about-face departure. So much for his promise to "bring stability to an office facing huge changes in a rapidly shifting environment."

By the way, Curry has now been reinstated as interim ag commissioner once again.

Any doubts left about whether this local pot ordinance process is anything other than a mess?

In a county with a population of 90,000, where it's estimated that roughly 10,000 folks are cultivators, only 700 to 800 (approximately 8 percent) have begun the application process.

County officials have taken extraordinary measures to entice balking growers to go legit. They extended the application deadline to June of this year. They have purposely – and foolishly – refused to enforce their own ordinance allowing scowflaws to clearcut lands for marijuana gardens and greenhouse construction, even though the ordinance prohibits the removal of a single tree for the purposes of cultivation.

But most importantly they have done nothing to protect the backbone of the marijuana industry, the so-called "mom and pops."

And I'm speaking of the legitimate small family farmers, the ones who've been here for years, and who are part of our rural communities' social fabric and integral to our local economies.

These folks are getting red-taped to death at the bottom end by complex, convoluted permitting and licensing regulations, and getting crushed from the top by mega-growers who are flooding the marketplace with record pot harvests that depress prices.

What needs to be done immediately at the county level is to create a simplified, streamlined process that specifically addresses the predicament of the small family cultivator. It would involve a simple cap on the number of plants (25 to 99), a minimal application fee of \$100, and an annual renewal fee of the same amount. Small farmers would pay applicable taxes just like everyone else in the industry.

Equally important is that the county must begin enforcing its ordinance. They don't need to hire additional employees to do it. For years, the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office has used aerial and now GPS imaging to adjust property tax rolls. It's a simple before-and-after photographic process. If a new structure is found on a property that wasn't there before, a notice is sent to the property owner to come in and discuss the situation and get legal.

The original aerial reconnaissance program implemented by the treasurer-tax collector was the idea of John Pinches when he was on the board of supervisors back in the 1990s, when the county was going through one of its perpetual flirtations with bankruptcy. He

Read the rest of  
Simple | Over on Page 6



Above, left Prize-winning soup crews from Adventist Health Howard Memorial, the Willits Charter School, and the Willits Elementary Charter School. At right: The big banner at Sip Some Soup at the Willits Community Center Saturday night.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: The Willits Community Center was filled to capacity with soup enthusiasts Saturday night. At right: Davi Hooper demonstrates the proper equipment for soup sampling. Far right: Cindy Savage, executive director of Willits Daily Bread, and organizer of Sip Some Soup.



Above, from left: Eric Glassey, president of the board at Willits Daily Bread, oversees the counting of the soup ballots with the help of Pat Yoxall, board member. 1st place went to Adventist Health Howard Memorial for the Thai Borscht Soup made by Chef Kyle from the hospital's Roots Restaurant.



Some of the fresh bread from Emandal - A Farm on a River. Joey Duenas won 3rd place for his Guam-style kado.

At left, above: Lily Phoenix, Wendy Copperfield and Melinda Clarke of Willits Community Services and Food Bank offered a Tropical Fruit soup.

At left: Fabi and Susie offered a Tex-Mex Chicken Soup.



## Sip Some Soup

Hundreds enjoy soups of all kinds at  
Willits Daily Bread's annual fundraiser

What can you buy for \$5,000? According to Cindy Savage, executive director of Willits Daily Bread, an altruistic organization that provides free meals to those in need Monday through Thursday at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, the money collected from the 19th annual Sip Some Soup event will provide 50 of their clients with five months of meals.

Not bad for an amazingly fun night of sampling 21 different soups from various local organizations and yummy fresh bread and jam provided by Tamara Adams of Emandal - A Farm on a River. There was also dessert to be enjoyed from the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

By the end of the evening, an estimated 250 to 300 people had enjoyed the wide variety of viscous or pureed goodness from a disparate collection of entrants, all vying to be considered the best soupmakers. Prizes were awarded for the top three most popular soups as well as the best decorated table.

First place was won by Adventist Health Howard Memorial with their Thai Borscht Soup featuring fresh local ingredients, including some from the Commonwealth Garden. It was an international delight of Thai and Russian flavors with lemongrass, coconut milk, purple potatoes, winter squash, and cilantro sprouts. According to Cici Winiger and Holly Sears, who manned

the table, their soup was gluten-free and vegan, a bit spicy, from Chef Kyle of Roots Restaurant.

Second place was earned by the Willits Elementary Charter School, a Potato Oso Gouda blend. Third place was awarded to Joey Duenas (DJ and record producer "Joey D"). He offered a Guam-style chicken or vegetarian kadu, consisting of a tantalizing blend of yellow onion, squash, bok choy, vinegar, garlic, coconut milk, lemon and curry. Duenas wants us to know the native people of Guam are known as "Chamorro, not Guamanese."

The best decorated booth prize was won by the Willits Charter School with their Irish-themed Beef Stew with Mashed Potatoes. The booth was resplendent in its green motif that rivaled the aroma of their creation.

Other notable entrants which savvy sippers collected in multi-sectioned muffin tins were Cyndee and Tara Logan and their Super Soup or Winter Root Vegetable Healing Soup, all organic and gluten-free. The soup blended rutabagas, carrots, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, parsnips, green apple, ginger, potato, sweet peppers, coconut milk and cream. nutmeg, allspice, cumin, turmeric, coriander, cloves, saffron, mustard, and black and red pepper.

The Healing Center of Laytonville, with Kirsten Thompson, vice-president, and

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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

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Willits Weekly

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volunteer Lynn Berlad, offered a Roasted Sesame Potato Soup consisting of potatoes, sesame, tahini, leek, onion, chives, cabbage, carrots, celery, maple syrup, ghee and assorted seasonings, olive oil, and lemon juice with a lot of love. This organization donates monthly to Willits Daily Bread by filling up their pantry. “We have a long friendship with Cindy Savage. We both have the same passion, to feed people who are in need. That is our joy,” Thompson said.

Along with Joey Duenas’ Guam-style soup, two other participants added to the international flavor. The first, was the Route 66 Potato Soup from Noble Capps II and Noble Capps III of Hawaii. Theirs was a simple savory blend of potato, garlic and celery. The other was an Osh-Reshteh, a traditional Persian creation offered by Reza and Debbie Ghannadan. It was essentially a vegetarian noodle soup, traditionally eaten for the Persian New Year – which is coming up the first day of spring.

“We use seven different elements that start with ‘s,’ Debbie Ghannadan said. “It is an old traditional soup. We use about seven different greens. This is the kind of soup that is basically a meal. It has a lot of beans, and we use homemade noodles.”

Creativity was in evidence at the event with the variety of traditional family and newly minted recipes such as Kyle and Jessica Tomakin’s Vegan Vegetable Soup. Brussel sprouts, carrots, onions, celery, potatoes, tomatoes, red and yellow and black peppers, garlic, salt and curry ... all organic. “It’s a cross between a stew and a soup,” Jessica Tomakin said. “We call it ‘Stoop.’ It’s an old recipe we just made up.”

Most makers utilized organic and locally sourced ingredients, as did Sierra Reno with her friend, Korin Green. “All ingredients are local within 11 miles,” Reno said. “A lot of it from gardens in Willits. Get your food from as close by as possible for the maximum health benefits, freshness and flavor. We can get together and create food economically, and then there is more money to be spent locally. Even our aprons were sewn locally. We put a lot of thought into our buying decisions.”

Tam Adams of Emandal brought bread for all to enjoy along with butter and jam. Red pepper focaccia, lemon rosemary focaccia, whole grain raisin prune bread, challah, and sourdough from Sean Fitch and Kashaya Adams could be found by following one’s nose to the center of the room.

There was an obvious passion amongst the participants, a passion for taste, flavor, texture and for feeding people. “I was born to feed people,” said Willits Daily Bread director Savage. “As a mother, I just loved watching my kids eat. It’s a great parallel that our fundraiser feeds people, too.”

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The rest of Simple | From Page 2

saw it as a way for the tax department to get what it was owed without having to send inspectors out into the field, a time-consuming and employee-intensive effort.

The same thing can be done with cannabis. In fact, Humboldt County has that system in place right now; it's the main enforcement tool they utilize under their pot ordinance. Mendocino County should be doing the same thing.

These are just basic, simple improvements to a system that is currently not working for anybody. As I said there's been lots of activity – now it's time to see some productivity.

Jim Shields is the Mendocino County Observer's editor and publisher, and is also the long-time district manager of the Laytonville County Water District. Listen to his radio program "This and That" every Saturday at 12 noon on KPFN 105.1 FM, also streamed live: <http://www.kpfn.org>.

Reprinted with permission from the March 8, 2018 edition of the Mendocino County Observer, Laytonville.

The rest of Signing | From Page 1

football coach. “Mr. Bickford, you’ve helped me a lot, and if it wasn’t for you, I probably wouldn’t have even come close to playing a sport in college,” said Mitchell, who signed with Auburn University and will play football.

Ben Branscomb was next, and he also thanked his family for all the support they gave him. He announced that he will be playing baseball at Mendocino College. Third was Steven Duran. He thanked his family and Coach Bickford for helping him throughout his athletic journey. He proclaimed that he will be attending the University of Nevada, Reno and will play on their baseball team.

Elijah DeCent was up next. He thanked his coaches,

family and teammates. “If Mr. Bickford never came back to Willits High School, I guarantee I would not have been up here tonight. I have been with my team since my sophomore year, and I have never felt such a heavy bond as I do with them.” Elijah announced that he will play football at Morrisville State College.

Cody Pedersen gave his appreciation to his family and all of his coaches. Cody will be playing football for Willamette University. Lastly, Triston Martin stated: “I’d like to come out tonight by thanking my family, friends and teammates. Also, thank you, Coach Bickford, for reaching out to over 30 colleges for me. I am proud to announce that I will be playing football at Morrisville State College.”

Elijah’s cousin Danielle Campbell exclaimed: “I am so proud of my cousin Elijah, and everything he has done! I can’t wait to watch him to grow as an athlete and a person.”

The rest of the night was filled with laughter, tears – and a lot of cake!

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The rest of Disposal | From Page 6

are some items that shouldn’t be put in the collection box, such as liquids, sharps, needles, syringes, thermometers, aerosol sprays, or inhalers.

The benefits extend far beyond cleaning out cabinets. For those medications that are turned in, they will no longer be flowing through the community.

The result is that everyone is safer. An innocent, curious child can’t get them, a young person looking to use or sell a controlled substance can’t get them, and no one in the household will take them by mistake.

The new drug collection box is located at Howard Pharmacy, 3 Marcela Drive, Suite B, and unused medications can be dropped off Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 5:30 pm.

Jason Wells, Adventist Health Howard Memorial president explains that the drug collection program is beneficial to the community all around. “It’s one way we can help our community can do their part to help combat prescription addiction, and protect their households at the same time.”

Other Safe Medicine Disposal sites in Willits include the Mendocino County Sheriff Office substation and the Willits Police Department.

The rest of Opioid | From Page 1

In addition, the low ceiling of Suboxone means it is almost impossible to overdose on, while reducing the chance of overdosing on stronger opioids because of the decrease it causes in their effects.

It’s a similar strategy to that of methadone, which has been used for decades. However, methadone can only be prescribed in federally licensed clinics, of which there are none in Mendocino County, while Suboxone can be prescribed by local primary-care providers with the required special training and licensing.

According to Glycer, statistics show that when the medication is combined with effective counseling it dramatically increases an addict’s chance of recovery. Studies have found addicts attempting to go clean without medication have a success rate of about 15 to 20 percent after a year, while those using Suboxone show about a 70 percent success rate.

Glycer said he was motivated to provide the Suboxone treatment by seeing these statistics, as well as by the frustration he felt trying to help addicts previously.

“I found there were ones that I just couldn’t help,” he said. “They needed more than I could give them.”

Motivated patients can eventually taper off their Suboxone use to zero once they have stabilized their lives and are ready, he said. The end process is very gradual, Glycer emphasized, and may even require a pharmacist to make extra small doses of the drug as the patient prepares to end its use.

While the Redwood Medical Clinic has only been offering the treatment for a short time, Glycer said they have already seen some success. He emphasized that treatment of addicts must include support on many levels, addressing behavioral and lifestyle issues, as well as the underlying physiological effects that accompany the affliction.

“If you only see it as a personality disorder, you’re going to miss the boat,” he said. “And if you see it as something worthy of blame, where it’s all about them being sinners, you’re not going to get anywhere. It just doesn’t work. And it’s also not the truth.

“You have addicts from all walks of life,” he continued, “and the amazing thing I like to see is the miracles that happen. Because once someone has a narcotics addiction, a lot of the rules they once lived by go down a hole; they get lost.... So, if you take someone and put them in a stable situation ... and their craving and their drug-seeking behavior goes away, they start thinking about finances, they think about loved ones, they think about security, they think about their personal health. And, over a period of time, those come to be very important to them again.”

He said Redwood Medical Clinic is looking to add a counselor to their staff soon, and Little Lake Health Clinic currently offers counseling services for recovering addicts.

In addition, the clinics also connect patients with organizations like Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous for group counseling and support when they can.

#### Addiction statistics

Over the past couple decades, opioid abuse and overdoses have skyrocketed throughout the nation, and while California has a lower rate of overdoses than most other states, Mendocino County’s rate is much higher than the state average.

When looking at a snapshot from 2010-2015 (based on statistics from the California Department of Public Health and the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System), Mendocino County had significantly higher rates than California in general for nearly every opioid category, including overdose deaths, prescriptions and opioid-related emergency room visits.

In 2014 Mendocino County recorded around 17 overdose deaths per 100,000 residents – over four times the California average. Neighboring Lake and Humboldt counties had even higher rates of opioid overdoses during the period 2010-2014. Mendocino County also had 1,239 prescriptions per 1,000 residents in 2014, about twice the state average.

In 2016 there were 16 opioid overdose deaths in Mendocino County. Nationally, in 2016 there were 63,600 narcotic overdoses including 42,249 from opioids, an average of 115 per day.

Opioids, which bind to receptors in the brain and spinal column blocking pain signals, and which release dopamine to activate euphoric highs, include drugs naturally derived

Howard Pharmacy is located at 3 Marcela Drive, directly in front of the hospital. Aside from prescription refills the pharmacy also offers over-the-counter medications, orthopedic braces and physical therapy aides. They also offer delivery within city limits, mail delivery, fast prescription service and friendly reminder calls when prescriptions are ready for pickup. Most insurance plans are accepted including Partnership, Medi-Cal and Medicare. To learn more about Howard Pharmacy and services they offer, call 707-456-3005 or visit [www.howardhospital.org](http://www.howardhospital.org).

Adventist Health Howard Memorial (formerly Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital) is part of Adventist Health, a faith-based, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 75 communities in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Our workforce of 32,900 includes

more than 23,600 employees; nearly 5,000 medical staff physicians; and 4,350 volunteers. Founded on Seventh-day Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides compassionate care in 20 hospitals, more than 260 clinics (hospital-based, rural health and physician clinics), 15 home care agencies, seven hospice agencies and four joint-venture retirement centers. In addition, the Adventist Health Plan serves patients in Kings County. Visit [www.howardhospital.org](http://www.howardhospital.org) for more information.

from opium (morphine, codeine, heroin), synthetically produced drugs (fentanyl), or semi-synthetic drugs – a combination such as hydrocodone or oxycodone.

Fentanyl, originally developed as an anesthetic for surgery, can be 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine, and its abuse on the black market has been a driving factor in the increasing number of overdoses in the country in recent years.

Hydrocodone (Vicodin) has been the most widely prescribed opioid recently: 6.2 billion pills in the U.S. in 2016; followed by oxycodone (Percocet): 5 billion in 2016.

Dr. Glycer said much of the nation’s medical community has changed the protocol on when to prescribe opioids and their dosages in response to the crisis, and statistics do indicate that is the case. According to the market research firm IMS Health, opioid prescriptions in the U.S. increased from 112 million in 1992, peaked at 282 million in 2012, then declined to 236 million by 2016.

Glycer said for many years those in the medical field were generally trained that pain relief was of the utmost priority, and that additions resulting from prescribed pain medication were relatively rare. But now, the recommendations and training have “changed drastically.”

“It turns out that’s just wrong and that’s not true at all,” he said. “Almost anybody can get addicted. You can take anybody and give them large amounts of narcotics for a long enough period of time, and they get physiologically addicted to it, with withdrawal symptoms and cravings and drug-seeking behavior.”

Now doctors are more inclined to prescribe less-addictive drugs like those in the ibuprofen and Tylenol family whenever they can, he said.

Glycer added that he and other doctors are interested in seeing more research regarding CBD (cannabidiol) from cannabis and its potential to help with pain relief and other conditions, but large-scale results have been “painfully slow” to come in since it’s still federally illegal and heavily restricted. Anecdotal, he noted, some patients have told him CBDs did help with some conditions.

Despite the decrease in opioid prescriptions, Glycer said an increase in black market activity means plenty of opioids are still available for those seeking them, and he believes it’s important for doctors to help those in need.

“We’re left with this group of people that need help, and the group may be getting larger. And part of the reason it’s larger may be because of doctors themselves, and so all the more reason that we should help them. So that’s why we decided to get into this.”

MediCal does cover the medically assisted treatment, and Glycer said many other types of health insurance will cover treatment as well. At Adventist Health Ukiah Valley hospital, doctors in the emergency room have

also begun to give Suboxone to addicts showing early signs of withdrawal.

Glycer said you can’t give the medication to those who are at peak highs on stronger opioids because by blocking the receptors in the brain an addict could be sent into severe withdrawal. At his clinic Glycer tells patients they need to not use for 24 hours before beginning Suboxone.

Both local clinics also offer Narcan for patients to have on hand. Narcan is now available as a nasal spray, which can be given by a friend or companion to someone overdosing and can save lives.

Glycer and McCullough also both work with the Safe RX Mendocino Opioid Safety Coalition, part of a countywide “task force” that includes medical professionals, law enforcement, educators, concerned community members, and county employees. The goal of the group is to overlook and assess county opioid use and educate the community on its dangers.

Visit [www.saferxmendocino.com](http://www.saferxmendocino.com) for more information on the coalition.

Editor’s Note: Dr. John Glycer is reporter Forrest Glycer’s father.

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**Amazing Athletes of Willits High School**  
  
 Ben Branscomb

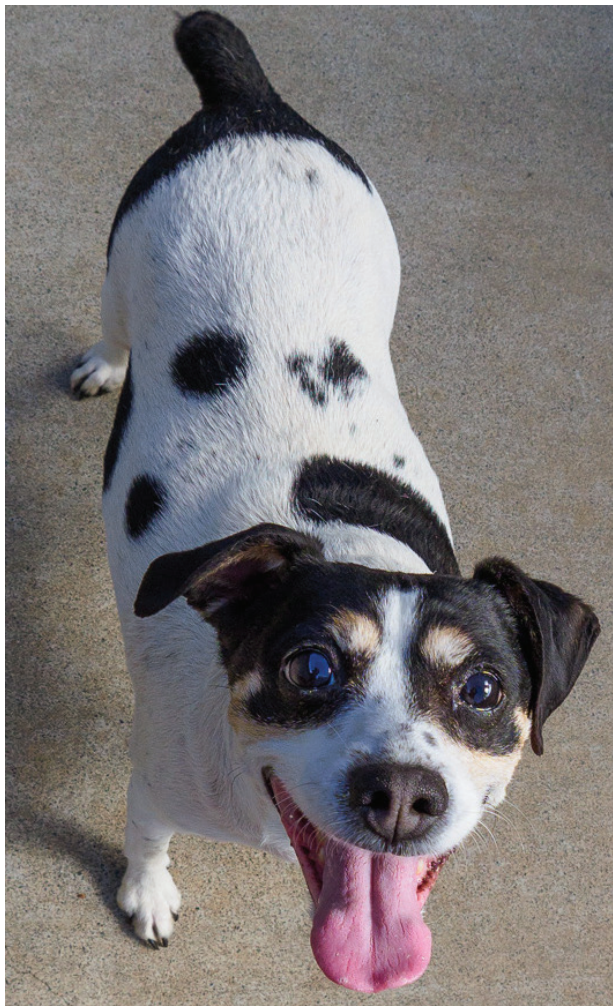
Varsity Baseball |  
 Ben Branscomb,  
 18, Senior  
 Position: Outfield  
**Breakfast of Champions:**  
 Biscuit, eggs and bacon  
**Traditions:** Listening to music before the game.  
**Additional thoughts:** "I just 'send it.'"  
 WHS varsity baseball player Ben Branscomb had solid defense in right field against St. Vincent's away game. In the last two games Ben has hit the ball well, with a key base hit against Fortuna to score two runs and secure our first home win at Dave Kline Field.  
 Varsity Baseball |  
 Cody Pedersen, 17, Senior  
 Position: First base  
**Breakfast of Champions:**  
 Eggs, bacon and toast  
**Traditions:** Wearing my lucky underwear.  
**Additional thoughts:** "I let it marinate."  
 WHS varsity baseball player Cody Pedersen has also been putting the ball in play the last two games. He is also shining in his position as

pitcher. Cody came into the game in the top of the second inning against Fortuna. Fortuna already had a big lead, and Cody was able to cool their bats down and pitch a solid five innings.  
  
 Cody Pedersen  
 We lost the second game against Fortuna 15-10, but our kids battled back and didn't give up! I'm very excited to see these kids get better and better every week.  
 – submitted by WHS Volunteer Athletic Coordinator Aaron Branscomb

**Furry Friends Hoping for a Home**  


**Big Chester**  
 Chester is such a sweetheart. This big guy came in with four other cats from a home where they had only known one person. Chester took a while to adjust and get used to letting people touch him. He has finally decided after a couple of months, and some treat bribes, that people really aren't that bad. He loves attention, but needs a slow introduction to new people.  
 Chester would love to be in a home with other cats, and would be happiest in a quiet house. Come meet this wonderful marshmallow and fall in love.  
 For more information on the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County's adoptable animals, call the HSMC at 707-485-0123, check www.mendocohumane.org, or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. To volunteer or help take the dogs for a walk, please join HSMC on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.

**Sweet Cupcake**  
 What a Cupcake! This adorable dog was easy-peasy to leash up and walk when we took her to the play yard for her photo session. She is a 4-year-old spayed female terrier mix who currently weighs 43 pounds. Cupcake is loving, sweet and calm. Our little girl has, alas, eaten a few too many cupcakes, and the first order of the day for her new guardian will be helping Ms. Cake shed some pounds. We think Cupcake will be a wonderful companion due to her sweet and happy, happy personality.  
 The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.





# What's Happening Around Town

## Thursday, March 15

**“The Cannabis Hour”:** Host Jane Fletcher will explore the “Jumping through the Hoops: Is Getting Legal Getting Harder?” – the challenges, costs and satisfactions of becoming a licensed cultivator – with her guest, cannabis activist and farmer Chiah Rodrigues of Mendocino Generations. Plus tips about the ever-changing licensing environment. Thursday, March 15, 9 am, on KZYX Radio, 91.5-FM. If you miss the program, listen to the archived version on jukebox. kzyx.org.

**Cyndee Logan Meet and Greet:** Candidate for Third District supervisor Cyndee Logan invites the public to a meet-and-greet in Laytonville on Thursday, March 15 from 4 to 6 pm at Big Chief and Daff Punk, 444000 Highway 101, and in Covelo on Friday, March 16, from 3 to 5 pm at the Village Hearth, 76101 Covelo Road. “Let’s keep the conversation going!” Visit “Cyndee Logan for 3rd District Supervisor” on Facebook for more information.

**“Hot Topics in Diabetes”:** This month’s topic is “National Nutrition Month - Benefit of Beans,” and there will be cooking demonstration with sampling of healthy recipes. Thursday, March 15, 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the Seabiscuit Conference Room, Howard Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive. For more info or to RSVP: Dietitian’s Office: 456-3132.

**Shanachie Pub:** Jordan Kirk, “an experimental singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist from Columbus, Ohio. Visit <https://jordankirkmusic.com/> to learn about his latest album “Ragamuffin Parade.” Thursday, March 15 at 8 pm. \$5. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Jordan Kirk

## Friday, March 16

**Cyndee Logan Meet and Greet:** Candidate for Third District supervisor Cyndee Logan invites the public to a meet-and-greet in Covelo on Friday, March 16, from 3 to 5 pm at the Village Hearth, 76101 Covelo Road. See Thursday, March 15 listing for more info.

**Shanachie Pub:** Burnside, from Sebastopol: “USDA-certified organic, pasture-raised, farm-to-stage cowboy disco now available for barn dances, harvest-time hootenannies and bar mitzvahs.” Visit [www.facebook.com/BurnsideTheband](http://www.facebook.com/BurnsideTheband). Friday, March 16 at 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

## Saturday, March 17

**Academic Decathlon Bake Sale:** Willits High School’s Academic Decathlon team hosts a bake sale on Saturday, March 17 from 9 am to 3 pm in front of ER Energy at the Safeway Plaza, to help raise funds for their upcoming trip



Buck Thrifty

**Mendocino Rugby Steam Donkeys Bus Excursion:** Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with a bus trip to the Mendocino Rugby game in Ukiah with the Steam Donkeys vs. Santa Cruz. Steam Donkeys team features Willits’ own Mike Mondo, Luke Kuhns, and Mike Winter. Meet at Shanachie Pub at 11 am on Saturday, March 17, bus leaves at 12:15 pm for the game; \$35; limited to 20 people, so reserve your spot today at the Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Mendocino Rugby Steam Donkeys

**St. Patrick’s Day Dinner:** The American Legion-Willits Post #174 presents the Duane Brown Memorial St. Patrick’s Day, Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner. Saturday, March 17 from 5 to 7 pm at the Veterans Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street. Veterans will be serving up Corned Beef & Cabbage, Murphy’s Spuds, Carrots, Onions, etc. and dessert. \$18; \$9 for children under 12; free for those under 5. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

**“The Enchanted Woodland Ball”:** The Waldorf School of Mendocino County presents its fourth annual Auction Gala, Saturday, March 17 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 5 to 10:30 pm. “A magical evening of friends, food and fundraising. Passed tapas-style dinner

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

**Shanachie Pub:** St. Patrick’s Day at the Pub features Santa Rosa’s hot jumpin’ bluesey swingy band, Buck Thrifty, “with sultry singing, fiery fiddling, boisterous brass, and a raucous rhythm section.” Visit [www.buckthrifty.com](http://www.buckthrifty.com) to download their new EP and singles. Saturday, March 17 at 9 pm. \$10. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

## Monday, March 19

**“A Wrinkle in Time” w/open captioning:** The Noyo Theatre presents a showing

of “A Wrinkle in Time” with open captioning for the hearing impaired, Monday, March 19 at 7:30 pm. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696. Visit [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com).

## Tuesday, March 20

**Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre:** All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week’s Tightwad movies: “A Wrinkle in Time,” “Gringo” and “Death Wish.” For showtimes: [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com). 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

**Covelo Spring Fling:** An Equinox Celebration Tuesday, March 20 from 2 to 7 pm, at the Village Hearth, 76101 Covelo Road. Live music, fortune telling, organic food, drinks at the weekly market. Children’s Learning with Luna program. Visit “thevillageheartcovelo” on Facebook.

## Friday, March 23

**Harrah Senior Center Chili Cookoff:** The 11th annual Senior Center Chili Cookoff, also sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willits, is set for Friday, March 23, from 5:30 to 7 pm at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. The public is invited to attend and vote for their favorite chili and enjoy fresh-baked corn bread muffins. Taster tickets are \$8; \$7 for center members; \$5 children. Also, enter your favorite chili! \$50 registration fee for half-table (1 chili entry fee and 2 voter tickets); \$100 for full table (1 entry and advertising, or 2 entries and 4 voter tickets). For more info, call: 459-6826.

**Shanachie Pub:** Northern California’s Midnight Sun, “a 7-piece band that combines potent rhythms from around the world – Soul, Funk, Reggae, World Beat, Ska, RocknRoll and more – with party-oriented, lovers and conscious lyrics that move your body and mind.” Visit [www.midnightsun.rock](http://www.midnightsun.rock). Friday, March 23 at 9 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

## Saturday, March 24

**Cupcake Wars:** The Willits High School Junior Boosters annual fundraising event is set for Saturday, March 24, from 2 to 4 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Cupcake tasters can enter for \$1; voting tickets are \$1 each; cupcakes will be for sale for \$2 each, \$10 for six, or \$20 a dozen. Prizes will be awarded in two categories – Junior for age 17 and under, and Adult – for Best Table, Best



COLUMN | At the Movies

Decorated Cupcake, Best Tasting Cupcake, and People’s Choice. For more info: Christy Wisdom or Jennifer Barrett at 459-7700.

**WCA Art Auction Bidding Party:** the Final Bidding Party for the revived Art Action at the Willits Center for the Arts is set for Saturday, March 24. “This important fundraiser keeps the arts alive in our community. Come to our gallery now through March 24 to place your bid.” Final Bidding Party, 6 to 11 pm, at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, features food by the Zocolo Collective and beer and wine from local breweries and wineries, as well as live music by Paulies Garage, a high-energy Southern Rock, Outlaw Country band from Santa Rosa. Doors open 6 pm; music starts at 7:30 pm; bidding closes at 9 pm. Info: 459-1726.

**Shanachie Pub:** High-energy, energetic Slam Rock from San Francisco’s The Wyatt Act, “Street-corner style poetry meets transgressive rock.” Visit [thewyattact.com](http://thewyattact.com). Saturday, March 24 at 9 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

## Sunday, March 25

**Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast:** 8 to 11 am, Sunday, March 25 (and every fourth Sunday through October). “Join your friends at the Grange breakfast \$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 soursough 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. Extra: sides of organic fruit and Amish organic maple syrup. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial Street; 1 block west of Main Street)

**Celtic Harpist Patrick Ball:** Harpist Patrick Ball’s annual – and popular – appearance at Willits Community Theatre, set for Sunday, March 25 at 2 pm, will be homage to the life and works of Irish poet William Butler Yeats, featuring “Ball’s spell-binding renditions of Yeats’ poems, mesmerizing sounds from his Maplewood Celtic harp, and the recounting of a central tale of an elderly Irish couple returning to their homeland in search of hope and healing.” Advance tickets are \$20 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com); or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. WCT is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).



Harpist Patrick Ball



## ‘Gringo’

**The Story:** This violent action movie is a comedy that pits decency and kindness against money worship, greed and betrayal. Model-of-decency Harold (David Oyelowo) works for his phony friend Richard (Joel Edgerton) and icy, nasty-tongued Elaine (Charlize Theron) who is decidedly not-his-friend. They run a shaky corporation that produces a cannabis pill at their manufacturing plant in Mexico. The shaky corporation has a connection with an ultra-violent drug cartel. That turns out to be a bad business choice. Threats loom. Trouble awaits poor innocent Harold.

Daniel Essman  
Columnist

**My Thoughts:** Screw Rotten Tomatoes, this movie is funny and wholly fresh. It is what is known as “a sleeper,” which is a mostly little-known flick that turns out to be really, really good. It is filled with clever dialogue and plot twists: it is two hours long but never drags. “Gringo” has wake-you-up performances from Joel Edgerton and especially cold-sex Charlize Theron (who also produced the movie). David Oyelowo plays that rare Hollywood hero who professes his belief in God; he is deeply sympathetic as the gentle innocent trapped in the venal plans and betrayals of his phony friend.

**Parents:** This movie is not for children. Random sex acts, explicit language that describes sex acts, and bloody violence. Mature teenagers and adults.

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

– Submitted by Steve Hellman, for WCT

# More happenings

## ‘100 Plumes of Smoke’

March 19 - 25

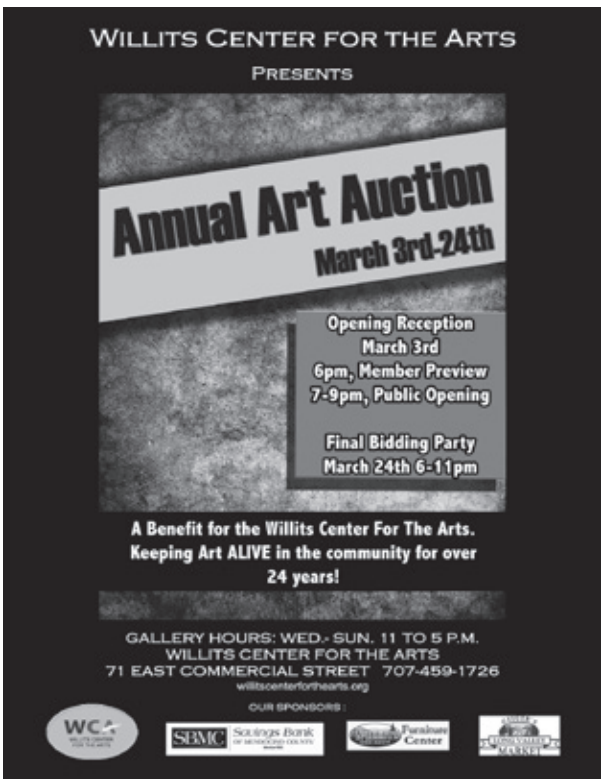
The Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council of Willits is sponsoring an event called “100 Plumes of Smoke” the week of Monday, March 19 through Sunday, March 25, supported by CalFire and the Little Lake Fire Department.

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

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

Also during the week of March 19 through the 25, if you wish specific information about your property’s defensible space, fire department personnel will be available to visit your home.

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



## Redwood Region Logging Conference

March 15-17 in Ukiah

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

## Ongoing Events

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

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

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

**Emandal Choral:** The 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.

**Willits International Folk Dancing:** Every Thursday from 7 to 9 pm. Learn recreational cultural dances from around the world. Beginners welcome. No dance experience necessary. No partner needed. \$5 per class. Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Info: Megan Wolf, 630-647-6512 or megster1989@yahoo.com.

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

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

**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 honemann@yahoo.com.

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

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

**Willits Seed Lending Library:** Offering information on seed saving

## Summer Arts & Music Festival Vendor Applications

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

## Save the Date

11th annual Chili Cookoff, March 23, Harrah Senior Center

Art Auction Final Bidding Party, March 24, Willits Center for the Arts

Photos with the Easter Bunny, March 30, J.D. Redhouse

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2 bed, 2 bath, laundry room and garage. Central heat and air, all appliances included. No smoking. No pets. \$1,200/mo. \$2,000 deposit. Call 984-4679.

**Help Wanted**  
Seasonal short-order cooks, servers, dishroom & Hostess wanted. Full and part-time, could work into permanent. Apply in person @ Willits Lumberjacks or call Kevin Wednesday-Friday from 2pm to 4pm @ 707-456-0300.

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

**In Stitches**  
Knitwear care and repair service. Holes, snags and runs. Finishing your knit items, sewing up and weaving in. Hand washing of fine-fibers. Contact Leslie, (707) 459-1019.

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

**Office Space for Rent**  
1 executive office: 1240'. 1 large space 3400'. Several small offices 100' & 270'. Call Megan 972-8776 or Margie 459-6874.

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

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

**Esoteric Christianity**  
What are the fundamental concepts of the mysteries? It may well be that these concepts, which we shall discuss, are the understandings you have sought. Please come learn with me 707-841-0149.

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

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

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**Willits House to Rent or Own**  
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# Senior Center Lunch

Week of March 19 through March 23

Monday: Reuben Sandwich

Tuesday: Sausage Hash Brown Casserole

Wednesday: Chicken & Dumplings

Thursday: Philly Cheese Steak

Friday: Stuffed Bell Peppers

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

# Ducks Unlimited Banquet

April 28

The Willits chapter of Ducks Unlimited presents a banquet dinner and auction Saturday, April 28 at the Willits Senior Center. Tickets available now. “Get in on the early bird gun raffle by getting tickets before April 1st! Family package for four: \$550 includes a Remington 10-22. Corporate package for eight: \$1,050 includes a gun of your choice from the three we have put together! Single and couples tickets available.” Call Jenn Drew, 707-345-1670 or get your tickets at Yokum’s Body Shop or Monkey Wrench!

# Just Enough

March 26

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

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



Schucker was arrested.

He was taken to county jail on suspicion of carjacking, reckless evading of a police officer, and obtaining a vehicle by threat or extortion. Bail was set at \$100,000.

**18-year-old held on weapons, drug charges**

Sheriff's deputies arrested 18-year-old Ambrose Sky Fallis on March 4, following an 8 pm traffic stop near Howard and Lovell streets in Covelo.

Fallis was one of two passengers in a vehicle stopped for "several vehicle code violations," according to sheriff's Sgt. Joseph DeMarco. "The driver of the vehicle was unlicensed at the time."

After the car's owner gave deputies permission to search the vehicle, DeMarco said, deputies observed Fallis had a glass methamphetamine pipe in his possession when he exited the passenger side of the vehicle, and he was detained.

A search of the vehicle revealed a loaded AK47-style assault rifle between the passenger front seat and center console, DeMarco added. The rifle was removed from the vehicle, and deputies discovered the serial numbers were altered, removed or covered up – a felony. Deputies also discovered Fallis was in possession of the same ammunition the assault rifle was loaded with.

Fallis was evaluated and found to be under the influence of a controlled substance, DeMarco said.

Fallis was arrested on suspicion of being armed in commission of a felony, possessing a loaded firearm while under the influence of a controlled substance, carrying a loaded firearm in public, removing or altering a serial number, possessing an assault rifle, and possessing a methamphetamine pipe.

Fallis was taken to county jail. Bail was set at \$40,000.

**Covelo woman held for felony vandalism**

A 29-year-old woman was arrested on March 3 after sheriff's deputies investigated an alarm sounding at the Napa Auto Parts store in Covelo.

Eraina Elizabeth Davis of Covelo had been seen leaving the area when the alarm activated after a large rock was thrown through one of the store's front windows just after 9 am.

Deputies traced Davis to Grange Street and Highway 162, said sheriff's Sgt. Joseph DeMarco. They reportedly found her staggering and intoxicated. Davis also had blood on her hands and face, and lacerations on her face, hands and leg.



Ashley Brad Schucker of Myerstown, Pennsylvania.

She was treated at the scene by Covelo CalFire and Covelo Volunteer Fire Department personnel.

Deputies also discovered Davis was on county probation and had been ordered to abstain from drinking alcohol.

She was arrested on suspicion of felony vandalism and violating her probation.

After being treated for her injuries at Adventist Health Howard Memorial, Davis was taken to county jail.

Bail was set at \$20,000.

**Court action**

**Guilty pleas in pot grow**

Eugene Allon Lincoln, 63, of Covelo, pleaded guilty on March 12 to unlawful cultivation of marijuana involving environmental violations of law, a felony, according to the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office. He also pled guilty to being a convicted felon in unlawful possession of ammunition, also a felony.

His co-defendant Sonya Lou Lincoln, 53, of Covelo, pleaded guilty to unlawful cultivation of marijuana involving environmental violations of law, but as a misdemeanor.

As part of Eugene Lincoln's negotiated plea, he will be sentenced to 36 months in state prison, according to DA spokesman Mike Geniella. However, execution of that sentence will be suspended contingent on Lincoln successfully completing 60 months of supervised probation.

Specific terms of his probation, including any jail time imposed as a term of probation, will be decided at a May sentencing hearing, Geniella said.

These reports were based on press releases from the Willits Police Department, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, and the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office.



At left: Part of an illegal reservoir created in the middle of a streambed to gather and hold water to be pumped to various marijuana gardens near the Lincoln's residence in the Little Valley area of Covelo.



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COLUMN | The Medicine Chest Garden

**‘Juliette of the Herbs’:  
An herbal film night**

Juliette de Bairacli Levy learned about the healing arts by living with the Gypsies, nomads and peasants of the world for more than 60 years.

She wrote well-loved and now classic herbals for animals and for children. Her books were among the few available in this country in the 1960s, and they influenced two generations in the herbal renaissance that continues to this day.

Donna d'Terra

Columnist

"Juliette of the Herbs," the documentary about her life, will be shown on Friday, March 23 at the Grange in Willits, as part of the Now and Then Films series. This evening is also an opportunity to learn about the newly formed Mendocino County Herb Guild, the projects that are underway, and the visions they hold for herbalism in our area.

Local herbalists will be tabling with handmade products and information about upcoming classes. There will be a raffle and a taste-testing of "Community Cider," the working name for a potent herbal-vinegar-honey brew that will soon be sold locally. Free seeds and plant starts will be available while supplies last, so come early for the best selection. Herb teas and herb-seasoned popcorn will be for sale. Grange doors will open at 6 pm, and the film showing is at 7 pm.

After the film, local Mendocino County Herb Guild members will speak briefly about Guild projects, outreach, Full Circle Herbalism, and answering questions.

Join us for this inspiring film portrait of a remarkable woman, Juliette de Bairacli Levy, and to meet our herbalists and hear the exciting plans for local herbalism.

A donation of \$5 to \$10 is asked by the Now and Then Films (no none is turned away because of lack of funds).

Donna d'Terra is an herbalist and herbal educator.

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

Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue, Sonoma County Search & Rescue, Marin County Search and Rescue, Friends of Napa Search & Rescue, Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit, CalFire's Mendocino Unit Wilderness Finders Search Dog Teams, the California National Guard, Caltrans District 1, and the California Office of Emergency Services joined 27 sheriff's deputies in the large-scale search-and-rescue operation in the Covelo/Round Valley/Dos Rios area, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The teams scoured areas "on or about public roadways, with search dogs (both on- and off-leash)" in the search for Khadijah Britton.

According to sheriff's Lt. Shannon Barney, Sunday's search was confined mainly to the area's public roadways in steep, dangerous terrain that extended about 25 miles beyond the Round Valley floor.

Britton was reportedly abducted from her Covelo home at gunpoint on February 7 by her estranged boyfriend, 37-year-old Negie Fallis. Britton and Fallis had a troubled dating relationship, and Britton was wanted in connection with a January domestic violence incident involving Britton.

The two were last seen driving off in a black Mercedes sedan.

Fallis was arrested February 19, and during a March 9 arraignment hearing pleaded not guilty to charges of kidnapping, being a prohibited person in possession of ammunition, and violation of a domestic violence restraining order, said Mendocino County District Attorney's Office spokesman Mike Geniella.

District Attorney David Eyster is handling the case against Fallis, Geniella said. Fallis is being represented by Deputy Public Defender Christiane Hips.

Fallis' preliminary hearing has been set for March 23.

"Even though we were unsuccessful in finding Ms. Britton [Sunday]," the Sheriff's Office said, "we are still asking the public to call the Mendocino County Dispatch Center at 463-4086 or the tip line at 234-2100 if they have any information about this case."

In the meantime, Britton's aunt, Stephanie A. Britton, has issued an appeal for volunteers to join family members in "another large search," adding on a Facebook post that the new search will take place "within the next couple days."

Britton's mother, Connie Hostler, has created a GoFundMe campaign to raise funds for gas, food and equipment to assist with search-and-rescue efforts.

An anonymous donor has offered a \$50,000 reward for information leading to Britton's recovery.

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

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

That fund balance carryover has been significant: \$2.9 million in 2011-12; \$6.8 million in 2012-13; \$8.8 million in 2013-14; \$11.7 million in 2014-15; \$8.8 million in 2015-16; and \$6.4 million in 2016-17.

For the 2017-18 budget, based on the mid-year report, the fund balance carryover will be \$0.

The reduced carryover comes in the face of several unexpected costs and other disappointing news that came to the fore during the current fiscal year.

The Redwood fire that ravaged Potter Valley and Redwood Valley in October will cost the county an estimated \$2.5 million. County staff told supervisors the county will suffer some \$459,500 in estimated property tax losses, will spend \$700,000 in non-reimbursable costs, and could spend another \$750,000 for its share of debris removal costs. In addition, the county will forgo about \$550,000 in waived fees associated with the fire.

Executive Office staff is recommending the \$2.5 million be taken from the general fund reserve, which at the beginning of the fiscal year contained \$11.65 million.

Labor costs also are projected to rise by \$8.1 million. Of that, \$2.9 million are termed "unanticipated" by the county. They involve agreements for supplemental pay of \$2,000 for most of the county's 1,126 employees, totaling \$2.1 million, plus longevity pay enhancements of \$600,000.

In addition, the budget approved in June 2017 anticipated labor costs would increase by \$5.2 million. Although the county's Health and Human Services Agency should be able to cover some \$1.6 million of the \$8.1 million bump, that still leaves – according to the mid-year budget summary – the county on the hook for \$6.5 million in labor costs.

And the county's cannabis program has not performed as well as expected. In June 2017, county staff estimated an income of \$1,708,849 from the cannabis business tax; to date, income has been only \$709,889. In addition, the county expected to gain \$1,079,750 from cannabis permit fees and other application fees associated with cannabis production; to date those revenues have only brought in \$267,420.

The sheriff's office came in at \$1.1 million over budget. During discussions with supervisors, Sheriff Tom Allman explained why his department was in the red, including the fact his department did not receive adequate funding from the courts to pay for bailiff services, which meant the department had to pay an unanticipated \$585,000. Overtime costs from the Redwood fire came in at \$115,000. And there were one or more budgeting snafus in which "salary projections used by his department were not modified after receiving [information] from the auditor, resulting in under-projecting by approximately \$700,000."

Coroner's costs were grossly underestimated by the department due to the erroneous omission of mortuary costs at \$85,000 and an under-projection of roughly \$130,000 due to "increased coroner cases."

In addition, Allman said the county had over-estimated revenue projections by \$200,000.

On the plus side, the county continues to float along in the economic expansion created under the Obama administration, and expanded and continued under the Trump administration.

In Mendocino County, unemployment is down to 4.2 percent. The median price of a house has climbed to \$398,800, or about 88 percent of the January 2007 price. Secured property tax revenue – which makes up 50 percent of the county government's discretionary funding – continues to slowly climb.

Auditor Lloyd Weer estimated property taxes would come in at \$32.5 million at the end of fiscal 2017-18, a 1.7 percent increase from what was estimated in June 2017.

Sales tax revenues and transient occupancy tax revenues continue to trend upward, while new income from Senate Bill 1 (2017), the Road Repair and Accountability Act, is starting to come in, although, according to Transportation Director Howard Dashiell, the new revenue won't amount to much in fiscal year 2017-18.

Altogether, the auditor projects that Budget Unit 1000 – discretionary income at the disposal of the board of supervisors – will increase by the end of the fiscal year from the July 1, 2017, estimate of \$64,537,616 to a projected \$65,423,000.

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

the museum again lacked a paid curator.

City of Willits representative to the advisory board Saprina Rodriguez said she was upset that the museum's budget was going to be cut, and felt the county should retain the 2017-18 budget amount and use unallocated money to accomplish the many tasks that remain to be undertaken at the museum.

That, Horner suggested, was not likely to happen. In discussions with the county's executive office, she said, it had been decided not to fill the position of administrative supervisor, a position previously held by Paloma Patterson. Instead the county will seek to fill the position of program specialist.

According to the county's website, a museum program specialist, "under general supervision ... is responsible for researching, analyzing and developing recommendations related to a variety of programs, coordinating the development and implementation of program or operational changes, monitoring program contracts, grants, progress, budget and regulation compliance, acting as the technical program expert, and performing other program-related work as required."

"I see this position as being someone who oversees the daily operations," Horner said, "in terms of strengthening visitors to the museum through fun, education, and informative programs that correlate with exhibits. They would also work in tangent with the curator to create exhibits ... and more interactive exhibits. They would come up with creative approaches to marketing the museum, outreach, and bringing the museum to the community."

However, Horner added she wasn't certain the museum's budget would be cut. "I mean, this is just a guess. I don't make the final decision. And I don't know how much. It could be \$100,000. It could be \$40,000. I don't know."

Third District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey, who attended the meeting, said the board of supervisors had decided it would be good policy for supervisors to attend museum advisory board meetings. Last month First District Supervisor Carre Brown attended; this month Croskey was there.

"We want to come to these meetings and increase our presence here so your concerns can be heard quicker," Croskey said.

In a post-meeting conversation with Willits Weekly, Croskey talked about the county Executive Office's idea to combine the administrations of the county library system, the museum and the Parks Department – a tiny subsection of the Facility and Fleets Division of the executive office – into one standalone department: the Cultural Resources Agency.

Croskey said she supports the idea. "We need to do more to support the cultural resources that this county has," she said. "If we put them together, there could be a mutual enhancement. The museum could help the libraries; the libraries could help the museum. It would be as if we are adding another branch to the library."

When asked how having a part-time museum director was going to help the museum, Croskey said the addition of Curator Karen Mattson to the museum staff would offset the deficit that would be caused by loss of a full-time director.

"We have a great curator," Croskey said. "We didn't have that in the past. Karen [Mattson] knows what needs to be done, and she wants to do it. And I think Karen [Horner] can do the director part."

Asked if downsizing the position of museum director from fulltime to part-time means, in essence, that previous museum directors were being paid for working a full-time job when in reality they were needed only part-time, Croskey replied, "I really don't have any knowledge of how things were before I got here."

Croskey said she would be making a presentation to the board of supervisors on the benefits of creating a Cultural Resources Agency at the March 27 board meeting.

Newly appointed chairwoman of the Museum Advisory Board, Rebecca Montes, appointed board members to three subcommittees: Montes and Rodriguez were appointed to a bylaws subcommittee to review and make possible changes to the advisory committee's bylaws. Roots of Motive Power representative Troy James and Montes agreed to work on a subcommittee to review and possibly revise the museum's collections policy.

Mattson said she would advise that subcommittee.

James and Roger Kruger agreed to work on a subcommittee to review and revise the memorandum of understanding between the museum and the Roots of Motive Power. Horner agreed to consult with the Roots MOU subcommittee before passing on a final draft to the County Counsel's Office.

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

approved, or permits issued since May 4, 2017, have been approved in the past 10 working days.

As of now, 847 applications for cultivation permits have been received, 87 permits have been issued, plus 25 permit applications have been approved. (The term "approved" means the county has finished its work on a permit and approved it and is waiting for applicants to come down to Ukiah and pick up the permit.) Eighteen applications have been denied, and 18 applications have been withdrawn.

Progress is due to making a few basic organizational changes to the way the ag and planning departments handle marijuana permit applications, Overton said.

The most important change is that Overton has asked county staff to prioritize permit applications.

"It's like the post office," Overton said. "If someone in line at the post office wants to send a fragile package of food to Finland, and 10 people are behind him wanting to buy stamps, we are going to move that person off to the side. He will get the attention he needs. But the people who are waiting in line to get their stamps are going to be able to go."

"So, we are going to be able to expedite the permit process. We are going to be able to prioritize the permit process, and this will not slow anyone down. It's kind of a simple process: good customer service."

Overton has evaluated both the ag and planning departments, and has determined the work habits of both departments could be improved in three areas: how employees use technology, how they communicate internally, and how they prioritize their work.

**Supes OK rangeland expansion correction**

Supervisors voted unanimously to correct an error that had crept into the cultivation ordinance. The error concerns a double asterisk which erroneously appeared next to the abbreviation "RL" in Table 1 of Section 20.242.040(B). The double asterisk meant an administrative permit would be necessary when growers cultivating cannabis in rangeland wanted to expand their grow site. Removal of the double asterisk means growers will need only obtain a zoning clearance before they can legally expand the site.

A correction was also made to Section D of the same section of the ordinance, which before the correction, read: "An existing cultivation site, which qualifies for a [cannabis ordinance] permit, may continue within the FL [forest land], the TPZ [timber production zone], or the RL (rangeland) zoning districts not to exceed 2,500 square feet of cultivation with a zoning clearance, administrative permit or minor use permit as listed in Table 1. The existing cultivation site may be expanded to a [cannabis ordinance] outdoor or mixed light permit type that allows up to 10,000 square feet of cultivation in conformance with all applicable [cannabis ordinance] requirements and conditions and with an approved administrative permit or use permit as listed in Table 1."

By virtue of action taken Tuesday, the reference to rangeland was removed from Section D. Correcting the error has taken six months. County staff found correcting the error would not trigger the need for additional environmental review.

Kathy Monroe, past president of the Dorothy King Young Chapter (that is, the Mendocino County coastal chapter) of the California Native Plant Society, read a letter from the society urging supervisors not to allow expansion of cannabis cultivation into the rangeland zoning districts. While that is not exactly what supervisors did Tuesday (they simply lowered the administrative hurdles a grower seeking to expand an already existing site in rangeland would have to jump over), the Native Plant Society letter expresses the concerns of a portion of the environmental community over allowing cannabis production in rangeland.

"Rangeland often contains habitat for rare, endangered and threatened species, sensitive serpentine habitats, and provides contiguous wildlife corridors. Additionally, without a grading ordinance, expansion of cultivation into these areas will lead to increased erosion and stream degradation. In the strongest terms possible, we urge the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to not open the county to litigation and not allow the expansion of cannabis cultivation into inappropriate areas," Monroe said.

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Above, left: Curators Kim Bancroft and Judy Berdis pose under the arch in their "Main Street: Then and Now" exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum.

Above, right, from top: Jane Fletcher, host of "The Cannabis Hour" on KZYX Radio, advises Willits to embrace and support the new legal cannabis industry. Bill Barksdale of Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty talks about the current real estate market in town. Ernie Burton of Willits Redwood Company talks about the role of the lumber industry in the history of Willits.



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Above, left: Former City of Willits planner Frank Howard talks about uncovering archives at City Hall. Above: Co-curator Kim Bancroft leads the audience on a tour of the "Main Street: Then and Now" exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum.

At, right, from top: Rick Martin of Roots of Motive Power talks about the railroad history of Willits. Watercolorist Ann Maglente and her imaginative depiction of a Pomo Indian trail. Karen Horner, acting director of the museum, presents a token of thanks to Kim Bancroft and Judy Berdis for their contributions.

## Main Street: Tomorrow?

Forum and tour at Mendocino County Museum considers the past, present and future of Willits

The day was about change. Main Street was the subject. Two separate events blended into one theme Sunday at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits. Within the theme there was an exploration of the past, present and future of Willits. Change also touched the future of the museum itself.

Central to the events was the current exhibit in the Long Gallery of the museum, "Main Street: Then and Now," which has been up since June of last year. The exhibit will, most likely, be coming down in the next few weeks to make way for new innovative projects. The hope of Karen Horner, county librarian and acting museum director, is that there will be a revived interest in the Main Street show and that more people will make sure to see this brilliant and well-conceived exhibition of the history of our major thoroughfare which was conceived by then-director Alison Glassey, Kim Bancroft and Judy Berdis. The study was born out of photographs in the Parkins Photographic Collection of 1914, a collection that is open to public viewing upon request.

The show consists of cutouts of the new and old versions of buildings along Main Street, starting at the south end as you enter and proceeding in order to the north, along with text and remembrances and histories. Sunday's event included a curator-guided tour of the exhibit by Bancroft who, along with Berdis, did extensive exploration into the past and present of this historical Willits road, once a highway.

The history of Willits is of logging, the wild west, the railroad, the Pomo Indians and more recently, cannabis agriculture as well as other farming and ranching. "From 1900 to 1920 was a heyday for Willits because of the railroad," Bancroft explained to the audience of mostly long-time Willits residents. "In 1901 the railroad came from San Francisco to Willits, and they started working on a connection from Willits to Eureka. Meanwhile, the railroad was connecting from Fort Bragg to Willits.

"Willits was the hub of the northern California universe. Hundreds of people would get off the railroad at Willits and go to any number of amazing hotels that were here, including the Hotel Willits, the Van Hotel, the Travelers Inn. There were lots of services not only to provide the railroad folks but also the people who were traveling. That opened up Willits, not only for freight and tourism but a lot of other things," Bancroft said. She went on to explain the colorful history of our town and the changes that were brought on by fire, earthquakes, economics, and the changing world around us.

Many of the old buildings are still standing, albeit in need of repair and retrofitting. Many sites that we now take for granted are actually integral pieces of our colorful history. Oral history as well as utilized in the creation of the exhibit, as exemplified by an interview done with Edie Ciccarelli, Willits' oldest resident, now 110 years old. As a young girl, Ceccarelli remembered singing on the stage during intermissions at the old Colonial Theatre, where now sits the HeadChange Smoke Shop, formerly the Headroom.

Bancroft led the crowd down Main Street with added commentary from Ann Maglente, who painted a wonderful watercolor of the Pomo Indian Pass as she imagined it. Rick Martin of Roots of Motive Power,

Read the rest of Main Street | Over on Page 15

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The rest of WPD | From Page 4

in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 10851 VC (Vehicle Theft), 215 PC (Carjacking), and on felony charges of evading a peace officer (reckless driving) and taking a vehicle without the owner's consent.

2:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of North Main Street.

### March 9

7:00 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

8:34 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

9:29 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:26 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

2:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:27 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

3:11 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.

4:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Holly Street.

5:07 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

6:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

### March 10

12:46 pm: WILSON, John Paul (37) of Willits and RAMIREZ, Manuel Rocky

(30) of Willits were contacted near the south end of the Willits bypass following a pursuit. Wilson was arrested on felony charges of evading a peace officer (reckless driving), and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol content of .08 percent or higher, unlawful operation of a vehicle, driving with a suspended/revoked license, and violation of probation. Ramirez was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol) and violation of probation.

2:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of South Main Street.

3:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of West Van Lane.

3:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

3:49 pm: WILLIAMS, Danny Eugene (39) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Hazel Street and Magnolia Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 14601 VC (Driving with Suspended/Revoked License) and on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance and violation of probation.

4:54 pm: LOPES, Anthony Frank (47) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of West Van Lane. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

5:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

5:37 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

6:42 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

The rest of Main Street | From Page 14

also a museum volunteer, explained some added aspects of the railroad. Frank Howard, former planner for the City of Willits, told of papers and maps he found rummaging through old boxes in City Hall that helped in the planning of the show.

The audience was enthralled with the visions of old Willits and the connection to the current visage of the city. For those who might miss the Main Street show, there is a book in the planning stages which will encompass much of the exhibition plus further remembrances and photos.

Once the tour was over, the audience was invited to stay for a forum on the future of the city, entitled "Main Street: Then, Now & Tomorrow." Panelist Allison Findley, coordinator of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, spoke of the challenges in post-bypass Willits. Ernie Burton of Willits Redwood Company talked about the role of the lumber industry.

Bill Barksdale of Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty added his expertise and prognostications as to the local real estate market. Jane Fletcher, host of "The Cannabis Hour" on KZYX Radio, suggested Willits embrace and support the new legal marijuana industry, and artist Maglente, as a board member of the Willits Center for the Arts, spoke about the great number of talented artists in our area and the formation of the Arts Center.

Using the iconic Main Street as a microcosm for all of the area's business, arts and industry, the two events on Sunday led to a greater understanding of Willits' history as a basis to come up with a coherent plan for the future.

The rest of Ballot | From Page 1

before the deadline.

Horger joins Willits teachers John Haschak and Shawna Jeavons, Laytonville residents Pamela Elizondo and Susan Barsotti, Willits resident Cyndee Logan, former three-term Third District Supervisor John Pinches, and Covelo emergency childcare worker Tony Tucker in the race.

Four incumbent elected Mendocino County department heads are running unopposed for new terms of office: Sheriff Tom Allman; county Treasurer Shari Schapmire, District Attorney David Eyster, and county Auditor Lloyd Weer. According to Assistant Registrar of Voters Katrina Barolomei, their names will appear on the June 5 ballot even though they are running unopposed.

As of the Wednesday, March 14, 5 pm deadline, three employees of the Mendocino County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder's Office are running for the assessor-clerk-recorder position being vacated by the retirement of Sue Ranochak: Dirk Larson, Katrina Bartolomie and Jeanette Kroppmann. As mentioned, Bartolomie is assistant registrar of voters, as well as assistant clerk-recorder. Larson and Kroppmann are both real estate appraisers and work in the assessor's side of the Assessor-Clerk-Recorder's Office.

Two candidates are running for the position of superintendent of schools for Mendocino County: Bryan Barrett and Michelle Hutchins. Kathy Wylie, who had filed initially to run for the office, did not submit all the necessary papers by the March 14 deadline, and is no longer a candidate, according to the county elections office.

Family law Judge Carly Dolan, appointed to replace retiring Judge Richard Henderson by California Gov. Jerry Brown in 2017, is seeking a full term on the Superior Court bench in Ukiah. Before her appointment to the bench, Dolan served as an assistant public defender.

Clay Brennan is running for re-election as judge for Fort Bragg's Ten Mile Court, where he handles, criminal, civil and family law cases.

Also on the ballot is Measure G, which would amend the Mendocino County Code to authorize collection of a "transient occupancy" or bed tax on short-term visitor accommodations (30 days or less) in private campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks.

If passed, the measure would add an estimated \$1 million annually to county coffers.

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Above, left: Laytonville High School's varsity boys basketball team, 2017 Division 6 champions: back row, from left: Coach Joel Firks, Nick Scarberry, Ethen Luna, Liam Maizner, Eric Evenson, Nathaniel North, Coach Josh Firks and Justin Jepson. Front row, from left: Tate Campbell, Cody Lynch, Tanner Holdorff, Nathen Luna, Leibel Firks and friend. Not pictured: Michael Rawles. Above, right: Laytonville High School's varsity girls basketball team, league champions: back row, from left: Tylo Smith, Melissa Adkisson, Akeela James, Sarah Felton, and Athena North.



Photo by Sarah Felton

# Laytonville Warriors

Varsity, JV and girls basketball teams win big this year – all undefeated in league

By Colleen Pappadakis

There is one thing that Laytonville High School's basketball program didn't forget to bring this season, and that's the "Magic." The Laytonville Warriors wrap up a season that the kids, the school and the community will never forget. History was made as all three of the basketball teams went undefeated in league. The JV boys, the varsity boys and the varsity girls all received league pennants and finished league 14-0.

"It was magic in every sense of the word," says varsity boys coach Josh Firks. "We are blessed to be doing what we are doing. We're not going to be rich, but we sure are rich with the fact that we get to touch kids' lives. You wouldn't know the difference between an NBA championship and an NCS championship, it feels the same for me."

The varsity boys went deep into the postseason, winning all four North Coast Section playoff games at home and stretching their winning streak to 18 straight. The Warrior fans did not disappoint. Several Laytonville alumni came from near and far to join in the celebration and cheer on their team. The whole community came together all the way until the end, when the Warriors finally faced defeat in the CIF State Championship game against Sacramento Adventist (27-5) on March 7.

Although the epic, historic ride is over, there

is much to be taken away from their amazing journey this season.

Firks, who has coached this same team since they were sixth-graders, created the perfect storm this season. All of the love, commitment and devotion finally came together.

"There is no way you can win without doing the time and the work during the offseason," he says. "You can't just show up during the season and practice hard and play hard – everyone is doing that. It's the hours and the time when the season is not on that you are calling them into the gym to keep them playing, that is how they are getting good. That is what is making our champions, I know it is."

On the back of every Warriors' warm-up sweatshirt is the word "Family." This small town team is not about individual success, but team success. Firks says: "Good players make coaches look good. I had some great players and they helped me look good."

Firks' devotion and faith in his team proved to be the heart of this dynasty.

"I appreciate them trusting me and allowing me to coach them," he said. "I don't always make the right decisions, but the kids believed in me and would do whatever I asked them to do, right or wrong. Our love and belief in each other is a major part of our success. We are a team and a family and our willingness to put the team's success in front of our individual success

is why we were so good."

The varsity girls (25-5) also made history at Laytonville High this year, winning their first NCS playoff game. Following their undefeated league record, they took second place in the NCS and won the first round of the CIF State Championships.

They were on an 18-game winning streak when they lost to Rincon Valley Christian in the third round of the NCS playoffs. Four days later they bounced back to beat Ripon Christian (Modesto) on the road 48-41 in the State Championships. The underdog Laytonville could only suit six players for the game, while Ripon suited 15. It was a huge win for the Warriors.

Coach Corey James has a coaching philosophy that practically mirrors Josh Firks': "We treat it like one big happy family. Everybody is tight, we are a small community, everyone joins in," said James.

With just one senior on the team this season, the JV team is a young team, but James says they have all been playing with each other since sixth grade, so this is their time to shine.

"This is a very talented team. They are still young, so we are still developing, but we are only going to get better," said James.

The Warriors season ended last Saturday when they lost in the second round of the CIF State Championships to Redding Christian, 37-50.



At left: John McCaffrey's "Don't Forget the Magic" sign just south of Laytonville proved an inspiration for the Laytonville Warriors basketball program this year. "We took those words to heart," said varsity boys Coach Josh Firks. "The boys and girls teams won pennants, none of the teams lost a single league game, and both varsity teams made history."

Below: Laytonville High School's varsity boys basketball team, league champions and 1st in the North Coast Sections, celebrates after winning 66-65 over Cornerstone Christian on March 3.



## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

**Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
399 W. Mendocino Avenue  
459-6390  
Stan Caylor, Pastor  
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Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
1st Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school.  
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Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
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Sundays - 11:00 a.m.  
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If you want to be included in this column please call:  
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(PG) 1 hr 50 mins  
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Sat: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm  
Sun: 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30pm  
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30\*pm  
\*Monday 7:30 show is Open Captioned for the Hearing Impaired

## DEATH WISH

(R) 1 hr 46 mins  
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Sun: 2:45 & 7:45pm  
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