

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Focusing on business

To the Editor:

I love making stuff. And I have come to a big decision. I need to focus on business (real business), in order for Wowser to be able to offer all the Making (the part I love). We have made some critical choices about what we need to focus on. I think you'll be intrigued to hear about it.

So, please join us on Saturday, March 21, in the Willits High School Auditorium at noon as we share a clear strategy for creating revenue to sustain ourselves so YOU can MAKE.

I hope to see you there.

Roger Wilson, Willits

Job training for Willits

To the Editor:

I am saddened that Willits has an unskilled workforce.

Wowser is taking a stand to do something about it.

We're addressing the loss of young people in Willits (under 30) by creating new local employment opportunities.

If you know me, you know I have been a person who has been involved in many projects in Willits that have worked.

Please join us on Saturday from noon to 1 pm in the Willits High School Auditorium. We will unveil plans for a sustainable business strategy, which includes training our local workforce. Please be in your seat and ready to begin prior to noon.

Cyndee Logan, Willits

New manufacturing jobs

To the Editor:

Would you like to see a strategy for creating new local manufacturing jobs?

Wowser has created a primary product line to sell outside of the county to bring tax dollars to the community. This product line is not at the expense of anything else we're doing. In fact, it supports and builds upon our values.

This product line enables us to do everything Wowser stands for by allowing for creative self-expression. And this product is promote-able, finance-able, and sell-able.

I earnestly invite you, and a friend, to join us on Saturday, March 21, from noon to 1 pm in the Willits High School Auditorium as we unveil details.

Ian Fitzpatrick, Willits

environmentalists are working to stop illegal pot growers' use of herbicides. On March 30, 2012 the Willits Environmental Center was part of the Jere Melo Foundation's Forum – "Take Back Our Forests" – along with U.S. Representative Mike Thompson, Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman, and Program Director Chris Kelly of the Conservation Fund.

As reported in the Press Democrat on July 29, 2012, the WEC members joined Tom Allman's Full Court Press operation to remove 23 tons of pot grow trash, including 57 pounds of toxic pesticides.

The Ukiah Daily Journal and The Willits News reported on July 3, 2012, that the WEC joined the Forest Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew, the Conservation Corps North Bay, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and the Mendocino County Public Safety Foundation to clean up acres of pot-trashed forest in the Covelo Ranger district. During this operation five miles of irrigation tubing and 350 pounds of fertilizer and various toxic pesticides were removed.

These are just a few examples of the exemplary work that our environmentalists do to counter toxic herbicide use in our county and beyond.

This is not hypocrisy but consistent voluntary service taken on behalf of our county. Keeping our precious environment healthy is a sacred trust, and preserving it for our children is our civic duty.

Unlike Caltrans and its contractors, our environmentalists and the Willits Environmental Center work tirelessly for free. They don't damage our wetlands, trash Native sites, or endanger our valley with so-called "state of California approved" herbicides that include poisons like Roundup.

Please do your research and listen to valley ranchers like John and Charline Ford ("Herbicides unnecessary" letter, Willits Weekly, March 12).

They know what they are talking about. Do you?

Brian Weller, Willits



"The proposed asphalt plant is dangerously close to Outlet Creek at high water stage, as can be seen in this 2012 photo" – Erin Carney and Jane Futcher

Correcting 'Herbicide hypocrisy'

To the Editor:

Jeanne King's letter of March 12 needs correcting. She started her letter with "I guess only herbicide applied by Caltrans contractors causes harm to the environment." She then went on to list the discussion topics of the recent SOLLV forum at the Willits Grange on Caltrans proposed herbicide use in Little Lake Valley. King then recited those same topics as evidence that our local environmentalists have been mum with reference to unregulated marijuana growers using herbicides in our county.

Yes, Mrs. King, this is guesswork, and you were not even present at this forum.

Here are the facts and the true story of how our

Wrong site for asphalt plant

To the Editor:

Thank you, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, for working to hard to make Mendocino County a great place to live -- safe, sustainable and sensitive to the needs of all residents.

We live at Cherry Creek Ranches, 16 miles north of Willits off of Highway 101. The southeast side of Cherry Creek Ranches borders Outlet Creek and faces Grist Creek Aggregates.

We spend countless summer hours with our friends, kids and grandchildren enjoying the spectacular swimming hole on Outlet Creek near Mile Marker Five, not far downstream from Grist Creek and the proposed asphalt plant. The first and just about the only thing our grandkids want to do when they visit from New Mexico and Santa Rosa is pack a picnic and hang out at the swimming hole – all day, every day.

They, and we, love the pristine beauty of the creek, the sweet smell of the tall grass along the banks and the peaceful sound of the wind in the trees. The kids launch themselves into the water from a rope swing attached to a tree hanging above the creek, which is deep and clear here. Even in drought years we can swim upstream in the direction of Grist Creek Aggregates for nearly a quarter of a mile.

An other family lives near our swimming hole. At dusk,

trout jump, herons glide over the water, and turtles warm themselves on the big rocks. We treasure this amazing place, which is also one of the longest remaining coho salmon runs on any river tributary in the state of California.

We want to preserve the creek as a unique recreational area and for its importance to the Eel River watershed, providing the drinking water not only for our county but for Sonoma and parts of Marin.

If you allow Grist Creek Aggregates to produce asphalt at the Longvale Site (APN 036-190-26), you will put the quiet, the beauty, the environmental quality and the natural life of Outlet Creek at risk. In heavy rain years – and we all hope to have some of those again – the rainwater saturates the ground and the creek can flood at the Grist Creek Aggregates facility, as you'll see from the photo we've included from December 2012.

Please, reject the company's request for a zoning declaration to conduct asphalt production. At the very least, require Grist Creek Aggregates to conduct a new Environmental Impact Report for the site. Mendocino County's General Plan Update EIR minimized the real and present dangers of asphalt manufacturing so close to Outlet Creek.

If California's drought continues, it's critical for you, our county's leaders, to ensure that our water and environment are pure and safe.

We know you will do the right thing and reject this environmentally risky project.

Erin Carney and Jane Futcher, Willits

Thoughtful dialogue

To the Editor:

Recent controversy over Caltrans' use of herbicides has spurred the sarcasm of some in the Willits community about the dangers of herbicides, viewed as environmentalists' hysteria and hypocrisy. Why is sarcasm necessary regarding the serious health injuries suffered by those gathering basket weaving materials or those who work in vineyards – as the recent herbicide forum taught us? The facts show damage to skin, organs, and fetuses. The forum also showed maps of the extensive mitigation lands in the 2,000 acres of the valley that Caltrans owns. If destructive chemicals are going into your creek, would you be concerned? But do we have to be only self-serving to do the right thing?

Environmentalists care deeply about many issues affecting our watershed, including the dumping of fertilizers and human waste in large pot plantations. The Willits Environmental Center has had crews clean up forest fill over time. But ecologists who take action are often few compared to those who sit back and criticize (whether for or against environmentalism).

Some, like me, are now becoming educated about the use of herbicides in Little Lake Valley. While Caltrans claims they'll use "approved" chemicals, that doesn't mean those chemicals are good for the affected plants that humans, cattle, fish, and other wildlife will consume. Just because something is "legal" does not make it right, as we know from the story of African American segregation in the South. DDT, once approved, was widely used until environmentalists like Rachel Carson alerted us to its dangers.

Caron's 1962 book "Silent Spring" is still sadly relevant today as many communities engage in mean-spirited strife rather than self-education about how best to control non-native plants. She said, "[T]he central problem of our age has ... become the contamination of man's total environment with ... substances of incredible potential for harm – substances that accumulate in the tissues of plants and animals and even penetrate the germ cells to shatter or alter the very material of heredity upon which the shape of the future depends." David Drell at the herbicide forum gave a brief lesson in just such physiological responses to herbicides such as Roundup. It wasn't very funny.

I'd like to see the larger Willits community engage in thoughtful dialogue rather than sarcasm and backstabbing when it comes to the future of our watershed. Your grandchildren and great-grandchildren may appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Kim Bancroft, Willits



Tri-Tip Dinner

raises more than \$7,000 for schools

This year's Willits Educational Foundation dinner was "the best yet," some lucky diners who took home dinner for four on the evening of March 6 declared. Perfectly grilled and seasoned beef, a hearty serving of savory Goss Family Beans, an assortment of Emandal bread (lemon rosemary loaf was delightful), salad with delicious homemade Caesar dressing and, to top it off, some mighty tasty homemade cookies.

Vehicles turning into the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds first showed their tickets, and then received a beautiful rose from Flowers By Annette. Dinner came next, packaged in a big brown bag, with plenty of food for four or more.

The hard-working crew made more than \$7,000 to benefit teachers, programs and students in the Willits Unified School District.

– Jennifer Poole

Clockwise from bottom left: Jeff Bergmann accepts a rose from Sidney Kubin. WEF's Kathleen Lewis poses with relatives, before giving them their dinner bag.

The tri-tip crew relaxes after their work is done: back row, left to right: Doug Goss, Cody Goss, Bruce Smith, and Tom Sleeper; front row, left to right: Art Cooley, Rick Crowder and Dan Pinon. Kathy Goss dishes out beans from the double-bottomed pot. The hand-crafted bean pot that has served untold thousands over the years.

Jacob Kubin selects two roses for WEF supporters buying "dinner for eight." One of two buckets of roses in shades of pink, purple and lavender.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Competitive Youth Soccer comes to Willits

Willits Spartans Soccer Club is officially up and running! A non-profit, competitive youth soccer league sanctioned by U.S. Club Soccer, Willits Spartans was founded at the end of 2014 by a group of local soccer enthusiasts. The idea behind the Spartans was to provide playing opportunities for talented athletes in our community that they would otherwise not have.

While playing soccer is of course the main objective of the program, it has evolved into something more. Team work, college preparation, community service, and good sportsmanship have become key objectives of the program, with players focusing not only on becoming better players out on the field but also better members of our community.

The first official Willits Spartans team is a U16 co-ed team. This team traveled to Redwood City recently to represent Willits at the 2015 Northern California Spring Showcase. This tournament is one of the biggest tournaments held in California each year, with the best teams from around the state attending to compete in front of college coaches from all the major schools in Northern California. The Spartans would have made Willits proud with their dedication, team



work, and good sportsmanship both on and off the field.

The Spartans program will run year-round, with teams traveling to tournaments and competitions throughout northern California. We hope to expand the program to include teams in the U13-U19 age groups if there is an interest. The cost of registration is \$20 per year plus the cost of a uniform, with teams raising money to attend

Willits Spartans needs donations! As a new league, we need everything from balls to soccer goals! If you would like to become a Spartan supporter, your donation is tax deductible!

Checks can be made payable to Willits Spartans, and can be mailed to 493 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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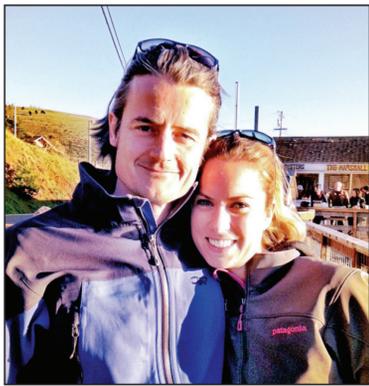
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Jason & Suzanne: Engaged!

Dave and Jenny Watts are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Suzanne Louise Watts, to Jason Dedmore, son of Deborah and Leonard Karbo, and Pat and Sara Dedmore. Suzanne Watts earned a master of science in nursing from Samuel Merritt University and works as a family nurse practitioner in Santa Rosa. Jason Dedmore grew up in Arizona and does corporate real estate. They plan to wed in 2016, and make their home in Santa Rosa.



Warren & Kathleen: 50 years!

Congratulations to Warren and Kathleen Lewis on their 50th anniversary, March 6, 2015.

COLUMN | Messages from Phoenix Rising Garden

Start to grow your own food

Ron Woolsey
Columnist

There are many reasons to produce your own food, but there is some new information you should consider. We have all heard that we should not get antibiotics unless necessary, because it will encourage bacteria to mutate into strains that can resist antibiotics. But how many of you realize that antibiotics are given to livestock in huge quantities and often because it increases body weight by 15 percent, thus giving the corporate-owned farms a 15 percent boost in profits?

Now, remember that the manure from these farms then goes to the fields of vegetables that you buy in the store. You might say, "Well that does not prove that antibiotic-resistant bacteria are showing up in the supermarket." But actually that is exactly what is happening. To view the whole story, go to www.pbs.org and type in "Frontline The Trouble With Antibiotics" or go to this URL: <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365346336>. What you see should shock you.

Some markets are taking notice of public concern. McDonald's recently announced they would no longer use chickens given antibiotics, but said the ban would not apply to cattle. Speak out. Let your concerns be known.

Read the rest of **Gardening** | Over on Page 10



Mama Daisy

Daisy is a 3-year-old spayed female Pit Bull. She currently weighs 73 pounds. Daisy came to us as a stray dog with her puppy, Elf, who has already found his forever home. She does well with other dogs and is real beauty. With our St. Patty's Day special from March 21, there is no adopt this great companion fee of \$75, which includes her spay, and a microchip.

Photo by Rod Coats

March 17 through better time to come for the low adoption vaccines, license,

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

Curious Rain

Rain is an 11-month-old neutered male Bull Terrier mix. He currently weighs 43 pounds. Rain is a favorite among staff and volunteers.

Photo by Rod Coats



He has a happy, cheerful personality and is a blast to watch in our group play sessions. Rain is very curious about everything and would love a guardian that could show him all the neat things there is to see and do outside of shelter life.

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Did you adopt one of the pets featured in Willits Weekly? Do you live in Willits, Laytonville or Covelo? We'd love to hear about your success story! Feel free to send us a Letter to the Editor to tell us about your new pet. willitsweekly@gmail.com.

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Above, left: Teacher Liesel Hendrix smiles in the face of many pies. Above, center: Plates of pudding ready to be thrown. Above, right: Teachers Hendrix, left, and Tessa Ford, show off their "Epic Pi Day" T-shirts.

Below: 8th grade students who helped set up and clean up during Pi Day this year: from left to right: Eden, Jasmine, Melissa, Dominic, and Casey.

At bottom, left: Students waiting for their turn to throw: in front, from left to right: Cole, Giovanni, Jacob, and in rear: Taylor, and left, and Michael. Bottom, center: Baechtel Grove Principal Maria de los Angeles Munguia took the first hit. Bottom, right: Big smiles from Amaya and Claire.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Cupcake Wars, 2015!

The second annual Cupcake Wars was a success with around 20 entrants and four big winners. Taking home the Best Tasting award was McKenna McNelly, Eden Hinker Tye won the Best Decorated award, Lily Barrett won the People's Choice award and Michelle Collicott won for Best Decorated Table.

2015 competitors included: the Willits High School Cooking Club, Jennifer and Lily Barrett, Ariel Molina, Megan Hall, Eden Hinker Tye, ER Energy, Lisa and Kylie Reed, Kathy Tobin, Jessie Rees, Michelle Collicott, Lena and Santa Ramirez, Veronica Leon, Crystal Smith and Cathy Lawrence, Sheila Persico, Lynn Williams, a team of the Rileys, Willcuts and Christensens, Brittany Maddox, Paulette Thompson, Rose Mann, Stephanie Roeling and Kate Abernathy.

Below, left: Grady Fonsen was on quality control at the ER Energy booth. Center: Winners of Cupcake Wars including, from left: Eden Hinker Tye, Lily Barrett, McKenna McNelly and Michelle Collicott. At right: Many of the delicious cupcakes. Right, above: Judges pose with event coordinators (standing) Julia Amador Medina at left, and Kara Rodriguez, right. Judges included, from left, Willits High School Principal Jeffrey Ritchley, Saprana Rodriguez, Kathleen Lewis and 3rd District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse.



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Epic Pi Day at Baechtel Grove

Not only was it "Pi Day" at Baechtel Grove Middle School on Friday, it was "Epic Pi Day," because this year "Pi Day," celebrated annually around the world on March 14, has a "15" in the date, too, when you include the year. The first five digits of pi - the mathematical constant representing the ratio of the circumference of any circle to its diameter - are 3.1415.

Pi Day at Baechtel Grove was celebrated by exploring the value of pi in the classrooms and, at the end of the day, with the rare opportunity for students to "pie" the adults who supervise them each day at school. Students buy tickets for \$1 each, with funds going toward their year-end field trips, and each ticket wins a chance to throw a pie at a teacher, a staff member or even the principal, Maria de los Angeles Munguia.

The pies are actually paper plates loaded with vanilla or chocolate cream pudding, and despite plastic coverings and goggles, the adults get pretty sticky by the time the last pie - 95 this year - is thrown.

Teacher Betty Meinecke explained how her students learned about pi this year: She drew a square, and asked them how to find the area of the square - they already knew how to do that. Then she drew a circle.... One kid had the idea of putting a square into the circle, so they tried that... but "there were still areas left over," Meinecke said. With pi, students can calculate the area of any circle by measuring the radius and using the pi formula.

Teacher Tessa Ford had her students put together a paper chain of 1,200 of the decimals of pi. According to the www.piday.org website, pi has been calculated to over one trillion digits beyond its decimal point.

- Jennifer Poole



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Thursday, March 19

'Still Alice': This "sensitive and restrained look at early-onset Alzheimer's Disease" opens at the Noyo Theatre, at 4 pm on Thursday, March 19, for a week's run. Oscar winner Julianne Moore plays a linguistics professor "slowly disappearing within her own body" after she is diagnosed. A representative from the North Bay Office of the Alzheimer's Association will be at today's opening show, for a Q&A after the film. Plus an information table. Special \$5 admission for this 4 pm showing. Questions?: Sienna at 459-5621.

New AI-Anon Meeting: Every Thursday Night from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. "AI-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."

Free Healthy Lifestyle Class: Adventist Health presents a series of free "Healthy Lifestyle" classes on the third Thursday evening of every month, through September 2015. The classes, on health topics of interest to the general public, are from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the 11 Oaks Conference Room, and have various presenters. This month's class, Thursday, March 19, is titled "Moving Safely," and is presented by Heather Anderson, physical therapist. To register, call 456-3132.

10th Anniversary Now and Then Film Series: Now and Then Film Series celebrates its 10th Anniversary starting at 7 pm, with a retrospective of shorts and highlights selected from the more than 100 documentaries shown over the last decade. "Catch a glimpse of energy and oil issues, water, food and farming, transportation, currency and other subjects of interest for our community resilience." Suggested donation: \$5 helps sustain the monthly film series, every third Thursday at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Organic popcorn, chocolate and refreshments for sale by the Grange. Info: 459-6362.

Friday, March 20

Shanachie Pub: Julian & the Upside Sound: 8 pm. No cover. "Based on the fiddle, mandolin and vocals of 16-year-old protege Julian McClaughan.... Original and traditional tunes and songs for both upbeat dancing and listening audiences creating new resonances with Americana, Alternative, Celtic, Swing, and Latin Jazz." Visit www.facebook.com/juliantrio. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, March 21

Wovser Announces New Plans: The public is invited to a noon event at the Willits High School Auditorium, "celebrating the breakthroughs from the recent local economic summit. Join us as we unveil plans on how we will create revenue and jobs for the community." 299 North Main Street. New plans include: "custom work for hire, opening a cafe inside the facility, expanding its hours of operation to noon to 10 pm seven days a week, and vetting a list of products to manufacture and sell to create revenue." The event is free, please be in your seat and ready to begin prior to noon. Info: 459-9697.

Drop-in Knitting Circle: Due to popular demand, the Willits Library will be holding the drop-in knitting circle every Saturday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects - we'll supply the coffee! Sign-ups are not necessary - everyone is welcome to drop in."

Shanachie Pub: The Gypsy Thorns, featuring Danielle "Feather" and JoeTucky, "playing folks music with Southern blues rock with a good dash of Appalachian Soul." Visit them on Facebook. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Sunday, March 22



Julian & the Upside Sound

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: "Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast! 8 to 11 am this morning and every fourth Sunday at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. \$7 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes and local farm eggs to be found. Choose our Sourdough Wholegrain or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, Organic Local Farm Fresh Eggs made to order, Real Butter, Juice, Organic Coffee or Tea." \$7, \$6 Seniors, \$4 children under 10. Extra sides of Organic Fruit in season, or Amish Maple Syrup \$1 each.

"Help Grow Our Local Economy: 4 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. John Kuhry, executive director, Economic Development & Finance Corp (EDFC) will speak on Local Social Impact Investing. Sponsored by WELL (Willits Economic Localization). "Find out about EDFC's plans to "connect money and ideas with entrepreneurs to create sustainable prosperity in Mendocino and Lake Counties" - including a new opportunity to invest in Local Social Impact Investment Notes (minimum investment of \$1,000)." Info: Madge at mstrong@willitsonline.com or 459-1493.

Monday, March 23

Brooktrails Community Garden Meeting & Potluck: 6 pm at the Brooktrails Community Center. "Join our community of organic gardeners and learn how to grow your own produce for as little as \$50/year." See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details, or call Freddie Long at 459-5267, email longfreddie@gmail.com, or visit www.facebook.com/brooktrailscommunitygarden.

Tuesday, March 24

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: "Cinderella," "The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," and "Chappie." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Thursday, March 26

After Hours Chamber of Commerce Business Mixer: 5:30 to 7 pm, hosted by Savings Bank of Mendocino County, 145 South Main Street. "Join us for a special presentation honoring outgoing Chamber President Ron Moorhead and a tribute to the memory of long-time Board Member Rita Rowland." Great food, fine wine, and fun networking!

New AI-Anon Meeting: Every Thursday Night from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. "AI-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."



Brooktrails Community Garden

starting at 9 am at the Willits Center for the Arts. For more information about the city's budget process, please contact Susie Homes, finance director, at 459-4601 or shomes@willitscity.com.

REACH Public Hearing: today's hearing starts at 12:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, as part of the Initial Study process regarding the REACH Air Medical Services project to establish an operations base at the Willits Municipal Airport. "This Initial

Study was voluntarily commissioned to respond to and satisfy the public that the City is taking extra steps to ensure that environmental issues are being carefully analyzed and addressed. These documents are available for public review at City Hall and on the City's website." The purpose of this hearing is to provide all interested parties an opportunity to appear and present testimony in this matter. All written comments regarding this Initial Study must be directed to the Willits City Clerk, 111 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490, or via email to: cityclerk@willitscity.com, and received no later than 5 pm, on Friday, March 27, 2015. Oral comments may be presented at today's hearing. Once the public hearing is closed on March 28, the City Council will be requested to take action to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the REACH project."

Drop-in Knitting Circle: Due to popular demand, the Willits Library will be holding the drop-in knitting circle every Saturday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects - we'll supply the coffee! Sign-ups are not necessary - everyone is welcome to drop in."

"A Farm-Raiser for Lovin' Mama Farm": featuring Candalaria



"an evening of great dance music" - cumbia and reggae - Oakland's Candalaria, at the forefront of the global cumbia-fusion movement, returning to Willits. Presented by Little Lake Grange and Cosmic Pickle Productions. "Doors open at 6:30 pm; music starts at 7:15 pm. Tickets: \$10 advance;

\$15 at the door, children under 12 free (available at J.D. Redhouse and the Green Uprising Farm table at the Thursday Farmers Market). Sound by Ancestor Radio Production. No host food by Zocolo Catering. No host local beer and wine. Sponsored by Grocery Outlet, KZYX Radio, J.D. Redhouse and Lagunita Brewery. Visit <http://www.candelariamusica.com/>.



Sunday, March 29

"Enchanting Celtic Duo": An enchanting evening of Celtic harp, rare instruments, and wondrous stories will be performed by the duo of Lisa Lynne and Aryeh Frankfurter at Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, March 29 at 7 pm. The San Francisco-based pair play an array of exotic instruments, including the ancient Celtic harp, Swedish nyckelharpa, Ukrainian bandura, citterns, Irish bouzouki, the viola, and more. Traditional and original music intertwined with humorous stories of their lives as professional musicians. Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also available at the door until sold out. Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 W. Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Willits Photography Club: meets at the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street, on the second Saturday of each month from 10 to 12 noon. All levels of experience welcome. Come to the back door of the Art Center.



Willits Frontier Twirlers: Monday night session at the Willits Center for the Arts. New beginner class runs from 7 to 8 pm, with dancing to follow from 8 to 9 pm. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. Caller/teacher Lawrence Johnson. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. \$20/month (to help pay the caller), with young dancer scholarships available. Questions? Contact Emmy Good at emmy@pacific.net or Jenny Watts at Wattsup@gmail.com.

Junior Grange After-School Program: an after-school program for kids ages 5 to 14, Mondays from 3 to 6 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Membership fee: \$1, plus \$1 annual dues. Info? Contact Zeynep at 707-972-8558 or zeynep34@yahoo.com.

Mondays at Wovser: Free events at the Wovser maker space, 330 East Commercial Street. 6:30 pm. Lectures, slide shows, flash videos, guest speakers, demonstrations. Info: 459-9697 or www.wovserilc.com.

Stations of the Cross: "During the season of Lent, a time of prayer and preparation for Easter, prayers for the Stations of the Cross will be offered every Friday evening at 6 pm, from now through the end of March" at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church at the corner of Main Street and Commercial streets. "All are welcome for these simple prayers; come as you are."

AI-Anon Meeting: Every Thursday Night from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. "AI-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."

Cards and Games at Willits Library: free games in the Willits Library's Community Room. Tuesday bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm; Thursday bridge sessions from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Saturday free bridge classes, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm, for new and review students. Info: Donna at 459-9035. Tuesdays evenings: "Dungeons and Dragons, the Adventurers' League," from 6 to 10 pm. Both newbies and experienced players, ages 13+, are welcome to join. Info: Dan at 972-3154. Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 pm: Chess: bring your chess set and have some fun with friends. All ability levels welcome. Info: Raymond at 841-0473.

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

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.

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

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

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday and World Music Open Mic every Monday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at AI's Redwood Room: every Wednesday night, karaoke in the bar. 207 South Main Street. 459-2444.

Open Mic Jam at AI's Redwood Room: every Friday night, hosted by Dream Capsule Entertainment, featuring talented, established local musicians from all over Northern California. Jazz, Blues, Rock. New talent welcome. AI's Redwood Room, 207 South Main Street, starting at 9 pm. Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving at AI's on Fridays from 9 pm to 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 354-3197

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willits Avenue, Laytonville. Buy local: vegetables, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, hot soup, baked goods, and more.

2014 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Haley Schuck



Looking for 2015 Sweethearts!

Soroptimist International of Willits is now accepting applications for 2015 Frontier Days Sweethearts.

The contest is open to young women residing anywhere in Mendocino County between the ages of 16 and 21 as of July 1, 2015, and who have never been married.

Judging is based on 40 percent ticket sales, 40 percent horsemanship and 20 percent on poise and appearance. The Sweetheart Contest helps young women raise money for college or other expenses, as the contestants are awarded 15 percent of the ticket funds they raise.

Interested applicants should contact Loraine Patton at 459-5363 for details. Applications can be picked up at Gateway Realty, 100 South Street, in Willits or downloaded from www.willitsfrontierdays.com. (Go to this web site, scroll down to headings (Home/ Events/ Sweethearts), click on Sweetheart, scroll down to bottom of page, see Sweetheart Entry Form.

You can also access the form through Willits Frontier Days on Facebook. Fill out the application, mail it, or drop it off at Gateway Realty, 100 South Street, Willits. Applications need to be received by Loraine Patton on or before April 10, 2015.

The Sweetheart applicants will receive their binders at the first Sweetheart meeting on Thursday, April 16 at 6 pm, at Gateway Realty. If you have any questions please call Loraine at 459-5363 or stop by her office.

Fundraiser for Rascal's Rescue at Willits Power

Support Rascal's Rescue by purchasing tickets to win an Easter basket: \$1 per ticket, 6 for \$5 and 15 for \$10. Tickets at Willits Power Equipment, 1600 South Main Street, 459-6420. Last day to purchase tickets is April 3, 2015. The drawing will be April 4, 2015.

'The Angel of Chatham Square'

Willits actors play Santa Rosa

In November 2014, the Willits Community Theatre presented "The Angel of Chatham Square," written by Audie Foote, a playwright from New York City. The play was exceedingly well attended and received. There were several sold-out shows, and people returning to see it twice. Everybody loved it.

Now the play is being staged again by the North Bay Stage Company at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts in the East Auditorium. The two lead actors from the Willits production will once again play their lead roles - Kelly Kesey as Kitty and Rod Grainger as Willy. David Patch will also play the role of one of the bums, Chester, and a few other minor parts.

In addition, the author himself will be part of the cast, as well as three other members of the cast that performed the play in Healdsburg two years ago. With this combined and experienced cast, the play will be taken to the next level in a larger and professionally equipped theatre.

This gives everyone another chance to see this wonderful play, especially those who missed it here in Willits. The play dates are: March 20, 21, 27, 28 and 29 and April 3, 4 and 5. Tickets can be ordered via the website at wellsfargoenterarts.org. There is a small surcharge for this online service. If you would like to avoid that, contact David Patch at 459-7054. You can also check out the play promotion video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm0k3neNI-w>.

Senior Center Lunch Menu

Week of March 23 through 27

Monday: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce

Tuesday: Chicken Broccoli Casserole

Wednesday: Roast Beef w/Gravy

Thursday: Chili Cheese Dogs

Friday: Pork Chops

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



Resident Theater Company of Wells Fargo Center for the Arts

Call for Quilts

Can you believe March 2015 is more than half over? Before you know it the calendar will turn to the end of August and the Long Valley Quilters' Girls Gone Stitchin' Quilt Show - August 29 & 30 - so now is the time to plan your entries and get sewing.

The theme for this year's Challenge Quilt is: Animals. Let your imagination run wild! Entries for this category must not be larger than 36" x 36".

Ronnie Crane, with his collection of antique washing machines, irons, and ironing boards was a big hit with all ages at last year's show and has agreed to be with us again in August, so be sure to mark your calendar.

Remember that not only bed quilts are accepted for showing. We also display, wall quilts/hangings, children's quilts, quilted tote bags/purses, quilted pillows and table runners. Keep your eye on www.thetafai.com website for applications and schedule of due dates for the show in August.



"Sneak peek of the raffie quilt for this year."

Photo by Jody McGeen

Remember that not only bed quilts are accepted for showing. We also display, wall quilts/hangings, children's quilts, quilted tote bags/purses, quilted pillows and table runners. Keep your eye on www.thetafai.com website for applications and schedule of due dates for the show in August.

THE LITTLE LAKE GRANGE & COSMIC PICKLE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

A Farm-Raiser For Lovin' Mama Farm

Featuring an evening of great dance music with the band "CANDELARIA" (Cumbia and Reggae) Saturday March 28

Doors @ 6:30 Music @ 7:15

••Tickets•• \$10 Advance \$15 @ the door Children under 12 free

Tickets available @ JD Redhouse, Thursday Farmers Market, (Green Uprising Farm) (No host food by Zocolo Catering)

Sound by Ancestor Radio Productions

At The Little Lake Grange 291 School St Willits, CA

At The Little Lake Grange 291 School St Willits, CA

At The Little Lake Grange 291 School St Willits, CA

At The Little Lake Grange 291 School St Willits, CA

Wovser to announce exciting new plans March 21 at noon at Willits High School

On the first full day of Spring, Saturday, March 21, at noon in the Willits High School Auditorium, the Wovser maker space will host an event to celebrate the breakthroughs that came from the recent local economic summit it hosted on February 19. The organization will announce plans for creating revenue along with a sustainable business strategy. The event is open to the public and will include information on how community members can get involved.

During the recent economic summit, Wovser hosted a group of local entrepreneurs, educators, and government officials to discuss opportunities to spur local economic growth. The summit, combined with numerous tours for community members, open houses, and the recent 95490 Town Hall has allowed Wovser to assess the feedback, and with the help of a consultant, they have developed a plan. The recently formed Office of the Chief Executive is guiding the organization. The OCE consists of Cyndee Logan, Roger Wilson, and Ian Fitzpatrick.

The 20,000-square-foot industrial arts build facility, located at 330 E. Commercial Street, offers a range of workshops, supplies, and tools for artists, inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs. In addition, Wovser is doing custom work for hire, is opening a cafe inside the facility, and has expanded its hours of operation to noon to 10 pm seven days a week. In addition, Wovser is vetting a list of products to manufacture and sell to create revenue.

"We're standing at the top of our current ladder, and we're moving to the bottom rung of the next ladder. We'd like to invite the community to join us on March 21 as we go forward from the future," says Ian Fitzpatrick. "Please be in your seat and ready to begin prior to noon."

For more information please visit <http://Wovser.org> or call 459-9697.

Curves Annual Food Drive

The annual food drive by Curves-Willits, 1726 S Main St Suite F, in the Evergreen Shopping Center, starts March 9 and runs through March. "New members can join during this month, and we will waive the \$59 enrollment fee when they bring in a bag of non-perishable foods." Current members also donate food, and all donations go to the Willits Food Bank. Questions? Call Curves at 456-0751.

Auditions for Willits On Stage 3

"Hello, Willits and nearby neighbors! It's time again to come audition for Willits On Stage 3!" Auditions will be held Tuesday, April 7 from 7 to 9 pm, Friday April 10 from 7 to 9 pm, and Saturday, April 18 from 9 am to noon at the Willits Methodist Church, School Street across from the Willits Grange. Willits On Stage 3, a benefit for Willits Community Services, will be held on Saturday, May 7 at 7 pm.

Willits Weekly CLASSIFIEDS

30 Words | \$10 | 2 Weeks

Algebra, Geometry SAT & ACT Test Prep
Mac Smith 459-MATH

Brooktrails Flea Market Vendors Needed
2015 Market is Saturday, June 6 Vendors check in: 6 am to 7:30 am Market open: 8 am to 3 pm Call to reserve booth space: 456-0734

Business Classes
"Taking Your Business On-Line": 10 am to Noon Wednesdays. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd, Willits. 10 two-hour classes, \$20 each. Call for details: 459-6826.

Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, March 26, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar. Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

Computer Help
Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$35/hr. Tutoring \$15/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamerigin@yahoo.com.

For Rent
Clean 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse/condo in a country setting, washer and dryer hook-up. No pets, no smoking. Garbage paid. \$735/month. Amco: 707-459-9601.

For Rent
Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath close to downtown area. Washer/Dryer facility on premises. Water & garbage paid. No pets, no smoking. \$795/month. Amco: 707-459-9601.

For Sale
Established Curves for sale in Willits. Top Fitness franchise, turkey opportunity, profitable business, low investment. Listed at \$39,500. Please contact Lisa: 707-391-8098.

Help Wanted Marketing Manager for Wowser
Experience required; market salary range. Deadline March 30. See ad on back page for details or visit www.wowser.com. Send letter to: Office of the Chief Executive, 330 E. Commercial St., Willits CA 95490.

Help Wanted Administrative Assistant for Wowser
Experience required; market salary range. Deadline March 30. See ad on back page for details or visit www.wowser.com. Send letter to: Office of the Chief Executive, 330 E. Commercial St., Willits CA 95490.

Poetry Group
Empower yourself. Say what you feel in shorthand; You too can write poetry! Fun group, Room 7, Willits Grange, Thursdays, 3-4 pm. Contact Ellen, groundstones@yahoo.com

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

Vacation in Mexico Cabo San Lucas/ Puerto Vallarta
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www.villadelpalmar.com \$2,500 + maintenance fee 707-354-4964

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

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

The rest of Arch From Page 1

and get that thing done."

Mayor Bruce Burton said the community project needs to be reviewed by the city's Public Works Department.

In an update on other Main Street and post-bypass planning, City Manager Adrienne Moore said she expects to hear word any day on one grant application.

Regarding the Van Lane alley project, "Community Theater Alley," which was pitched last year to council members, there are some steps the city can take to help.

The city, Moore said, could apply to PG&E for permission to underground utilities and could also survey alley property lines.

Councilman Ron Orenstein was concerned the project might go off on its own, and wanted the council to hold a final public hearing on the plan.

When the council hears issues during public comment, as they did from Mann and Swanton, the rules of the meeting mean there is little council members and city officials can do but listen.

Mann and Swanton said they were willing to have the Van Lane arch project placed on a future council agenda.

The rest of Projects From Page 1

be completed by a July 31 deadline.

The California Department of Public Health has provided \$500,000 towards the project.

City Manager Adrienne Moore says Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblyman Jim Wood are pursuing funding for Willits' water projects.

Help for Humboldt Street

A project to remake pothole-riddled Humboldt Street from Commercial Street to East Valley Street goes out to bid as soon as possible.

Construction on the work that includes sidewalks and other features is expected to begin June 1, and Public Works Director Wilburn estimates it would take 60 to 90 days to complete the project, which will cost more than \$890,000.

"This is a half-cent sales tax-funded project," Mayor Bruce Burton said. "I want to set the record straight on that." The City of Willits has an extra half-cent sales tax on all local transactions which is used for city road projects.

Council members voted unanimously to approve plans and specifications for the project.

An earlier phase of work on Humboldt Street was completed in 2013. The \$486,000 project, which went to Mendocino Construction Services, was a storm drain rehabilitation project.

A resolution passed by the council when that work was finished noted that \$116,000 was paid for by state grant money.

Water treatment plant project

A notice of completion was turned in for construction and improvements at the city's water treatment plant, a major project unrelated to the emergency water project in the valley.

At the city's new water treatment plant, there are still some kinks to work out, but the Public Works director said things are going well.

"It is an important project. It is a major project that has been done by the city the last couple of years," Mayor Burton said.

Back in November 2011, council members voted 4-1 to take a 30-year zero-percent interest loan of more than \$2.7 million and another \$3 million of state grant money to fund the project.

2011 council members Larry Stranske, Ron Orenstein, Holly Madrigal and Burton voted to approve the project budget, city council records state. Councilman Victor Hanson cast a dissenting vote that night.

The rest of Gardening From Page 4

So what can you do if you are just getting into growing your own food? You can get reliable results from several types of kale. Kale contains calcium, magnesium, vitamin A and vitamin C, and is thought to help prevent cancer and coronary disease, limit cancer progression, and lower cholesterol.

Pick some unplanted areas in your yard with plenty of light, although later in the season when it gets hot, you will also want some planting areas with semi-shade through the noon hours. At least loosen the soil with a pick or fork. If you can afford to, add potting soil, compost, or other organic amendments. But the reason that I recommend kale to start with is that it is easy to grow and will thrive in most conditions.

Go to your local nursery and buy a pony (six small plants) of each variety and plant in groups of six or more. Plants are social and respond to growing in clusters or communities. Harvest the lowest leaves, always leaving five or more leaves on the plant. When harvesting, remove the entire leaf and leaf stem all of the way to the main stalk. Remove and compost any yellowing or badly damaged leaves. No one likes dead things hanging onto itself. What you don't eat, dry; dried kale makes a great crunchy snack. There are many recipes to choose from.

For the avid gardener, prepare your beds now. The soil is dry now and hopefully will not be later. We need the rain! Get your seeds started. I sowed a little in January, a little more in February and will be doing a large sowing in March and April. Good luck. It looks like an early season to me.

These articles are offered by Phoenix Rising - A Model Village Garden - dedicated to inspiration and education, which is founded and supported by Ron Woolsey of Living Sculpture Studios. This garden has its own well water and donates vegetables to the food bank year-round. Support and donations are greatly appreciated. The new class schedule is the first Saturday of every month from 11 am to 3 pm. Classes are free. If you are a new student, you should call to confirm the schedule and location. As season changes, times may change and field trips are possible. The Phoenix Rising Garden is located on the west side of North Street between Redwood and Pine streets. Stop by, or visit Living Sculpture Studios on Facebook, or call 707-489-5408. Good gardening!

Willits Weekly
Locally Owned Independent Community Supported



Above: Volunteer Alex Harter prepares a bed for planting. Right: a head of lettuce. Below: Farm Manager Amanda Senseman with boxes of vegetable starts. At bottom, Monica Gowan is a pro on the broadfork. Bottom, right: "American Gothic" Willits-style with farmers Amanda Senseman and Sara Grusky.



Photos by Jenny Senter



Restless Heart
Friday, April 3
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets Starting at \$35

Call 800.332.9683 for tickets. Phones are open daily from 9am-9pm. Must be 21 or older to attend concert.

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Volunteer work day at Brookside School Farm

A lot of hard work needs to be done to keep a farm going, and Amanda Senseman, Brookside School Farm manager, welcomed several volunteers to a work day and potluck on Sunday, March 15. Some prepared beds for planting,

other scythed the grass between the beds, and others worked on clean-up and small repairs. All were looking forward to a potluck of fresh green salad and homemade pies baked by Senseman.

The farm, funded by a North Coast Opportunities grant, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with the goal of increasing local produce in school meals, increasing farm production capacity, and increasing student participation in school meals. Senseman is passionate about making a sustainable connection with the community. She hopes to offer a weekly farm stand at the elementary school. This will allow Brookside parents to easily access fresh vegetables as they pick up their children from school.

Volunteer Sara Grusky of Green Uprising Farm on East Hill Road said she enjoys the satisfaction that comes in an environment of sharing chores, discussing best practices, and being able to showcase the farm to the community. "The Mendocino Farmers Guild has a regular calendar of farm tours, work days and potlucks," Grusky said. "The goal is to build a network of mutual support

among the community of (especially new and young) small farmers and also to reach out to the community and show off our farms." The next planned work day is on Saturday, April 11, at her farm on 2301 East Hill Road.

Monica Gowan, who works for Inland Ranch Organics in Redwood Valley, is a member of two long-time local farming families. She helped out in the garden with the broadfork or U-Bar, a tool designed for John Jeavons of Ecology Action, more than 35 years ago by two Stanford engineering students.

"Working with local farms fulfills my passion for community," Gowan said. "Together we grow food, teach, share, care for the environment and each other." Gowan is also involved in a new farmer's network, the Inland Farmers Guild. This group meets every third Tuesday of the month at the Little Lake Grange; social hour starts at 6 pm and potluck at 7 pm, followed by a presenter.

Bill Boosinger volunteers when he can and made fast work of hand scything between the beds. Boosinger, a retired school teacher with Mendocino County Community Schools, likes helping out on the farm, knowing students in Willits schools will enjoy the produce grown in the garden. Senseman, scything in another part of the garden, said she does not use any power mowers in the garden itself.

According to Senseman, the most popular produce for the schools is lettuce, sugar snap peas, kale, tomatoes, cucumbers, and winter squash. Christy Wisdom, Willits Unified Schools food service director, distributes the food to the appropriate school kitchens for the students' use. Overflow of produce is sold at the Thursday Willits Farmers Market to help cover expenses.

Senseman's labor of love has her working at the garden about 12 hours a day, seven days a week. She said volunteers are always welcome at the farm to help with weeding, bed preparation, and watering. Special needs currently are someone with expertise in pruning grapes and someone to help build another greenhouse. If you can help at the Brookside School Farm, Senseman asks that you email her at brooksidescchoolfarm@gmail.com or call 707-841-0254.

MARCH 2015
SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

MONDAY • 8AM-10PM
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY
Earn 3X Points ALL Day
MORNING SESSION 8AM-2PM
Hourly hot seat drawings for \$50 free play
EVENING SESSION 5PM-10PM
Hourly hot seat drawings for \$50 free play. For each session earn 50 points to receive \$10 bonus play plus a \$2 food coupon.

FRIDAY • 9AM-9PM
PAYDAY FRIDAY
8AM-4PM - Earn 100 points to receive \$10 free play.
4PM-8PM - Hot seat drawings each hour for \$100 free play.
9PM - Hot seat drawing for \$150 free play.

TUESDAY • 6PM-10PM
GUYS NIGHT
Earn 2X Points ALL Day
Earn 50 points to receive \$15 free play. Hot seat drawings every half hour from 6pm-9:30pm to win \$50 free play. Drawing at 10pm for \$100 free play.

WEDNESDAY • 6PM-10PM
LADIES NIGHT
Earn 2X Points ALL Day
Earn 50 points to receive \$15 free play. Hot seat drawings every half hour from 6pm-9:30pm to win \$50 free play. Drawing at 10pm for \$100 free play.

THURSDAY • 8AM-5PM
SUPER SENIOR DAY
If you're 55+, this day is for you!
8AM-4PM
• Earn 50 points to receive \$15 free play.
• Plus 1/2 off coupon for meal special at the Creekside Cafe.
9AM-5PM
• Hourly hot seat drawings for \$50 free play.

SATURDAY • 4PM-9PM
SATURDAY NIGHT MADNESS
Hot Seat drawings every hour. Win \$50-\$150 free play based on your level of play that day.

SUNDAY • 12PM-9PM
SUNDAY SURPRISE
Hourly hot seat drawings. Winners will choose one of 12 Sunday Surprises to keep the action going with \$25-\$100 free play.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS
\$5-\$15 free play. Valid 1 day in March. Come celebrate your March birthday here. Just stop by the Players Club booth and present your players card and a valid photo ID to receive your Birthday Bonus Free Play!

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100 Kawi Place in Willits
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Photo by Jenny Sontor

Rotary members donate to FFA Alumni group

Brad Walton of the Willits Rotary Club presents a check for \$700 to Becky Bowlds and Kelley Case-Brackett of the Willits FFA Alumni group. Individual Rotary members donated the funds to be earmarked for a new pickup truck for the Ag program at Willits High School.

Fundraiser for Rascal's Rescue at Willits Power

Support Rascal's Rescue by purchasing tickets to win this Easter basket: \$1 per ticket, six tickets for \$5 and 15 for \$10. Tickets at Willits Power Equipment, 1600 South Main Street, 459-6420. Last day to purchase tickets is April 3, and the drawing will be April 4.



Rascal's Rescue also recently donated to the "For Love of Spike" fundraiser aimed at helping cover the veterinary bills of a service dog who was injured during an attack at his owner's home in Redwood Valley.

A trust fund was created for Spike at Alexander Valley Medical Care, and more than \$4,000 has already been raised to help cover X-ray, MRI and other vet bills. Now, funds are being sought to help cover the estimated \$300 per month in antibiotics Spike will need over the next year, as well as follow-up visits and progress monitoring.



Above: The Easter basket at Willits Power. Left: Spike, the injured service dog.

OBITUARY | Caroline Bonnet

Caroline Bonnet

1939-2015

Caroline Williams Bonnet passed away peacefully at home in Cloverdale March 7, 2015, after a short illness. Caroline was a wise, intelligent, eccentric lady who led such a varied life. She was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, and grew up in Atlanta, Georgia.

In the mid-1960s, she moved to Berkeley, and in the late '60s she moved to Mendocino County, where she homesteaded on her property near Willits. After that, it was on to Hawaii, ashrams in India, and trekking in the Himalayas.

She went to nursing school late in life and worked in in-home care. She was a musician, singer, dancer, and a life-long learner.

She is survived by her son, Jay, and his wife, Stella, their children Genevieve



and Luke, and three great-grandchildren, Aidan, Rhyann and Jason. She was also survived by her nieces Terry Benzel and Leslie Jones.

Caroline will be dearly missed by all who knew her. A private service will be held by the family at a later date. Final interment will be at Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia.

The rest of Grist Creek | From Page 1

The permit was renewed in 1982 and again in 2002.

In order to approve the siting of a new asphalt plant there, county planners have determined it would be best not to issue a new use permit, which might require Grist Creek Aggregates to undertake an Environmental Impact Report. Instead, they opted to keep the 2002 permit and not evaluate siting an asphalt plant next to a salmon-bearing creek from an environmental perspective.

According to County Planner John Speka: "Environmental concerns, in our opinion, were not to be evaluated because they were already considered in the 2002 permit." In addition, some other planning and zoning concerns were dealt with in 2009 and 2010, when the county approved the rezoning of the site from Rangeland to General Industrial, as part of its General Plan update.

In order to approve the plant, supervisors needed to determine that the installation and use of the asphalt plant would not constitute a new use or a changed use at the site. A more recent owner of the plant, Granite Construction, operated an asphalt plant at that location as recently as 2005.

Eight residents of the area spoke out against approving the plant, most citing environmental and/or aesthetic concerns. "I do not believe this project contributes to the general welfare of Mendocino County," said Cherry Creek's Jane Fletcher. "I think it is environmentally extremely risky and it will create potential water pollution. We live in a time when the drought and water shortages are extreme. People are constantly being told water is the number-one concern of law enforcement.

"I feel this project potentially risks the purity of Outlet Creek," Fletcher said. "Our grandchildren come every summer. The first thing they want to do is swing from the rope swing we have on Outlet Creek, in the deep pool at Cherry Creek. We have a family of others living there. We see herons and trout. It is a very, very delicate ecosystem, and the potential destruction of this project is very disturbing."

"Having an asphalt plant this close to a creek would never pass muster if it were coming up today," Kirk Lumpkin pointed out.

"In the past," said Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, "I've complained about state and county agencies that have become so strict we can't develop new business or do anything anymore with all those agencies' restrictions. I'm relying on those exact same agents to do their job and inspect this place. If they don't, then there's really no reason to have them. I think that was their intent, to protect us and protect the fish."

"If there's a problem, I want to be called. My wife and my family go there, we watch the salmon there, just downstream at Legal Bridge. They're waiting to get up into the headwaters. They're jumping three feet in the air. So it's a vital fishery."

"I understand the seriousness of this action," Woodhouse continued. "We absolutely have reached the point where we have to have materials to repair the roads. They're all falling apart at this point. We say that at every meeting on transportation."

"Instead of shipping it in from Humboldt and Sonoma counties, having them have the jobs and having them take the responsibility of protecting the environment, we should take on the responsibility of protecting the environment ourselves. After all, it's our resources - our timber and our rock - that's all we have here. We have to have an economy that's based on something real, other than marijuana," Woodhouse said.

Shortly afterwards, Woodhouse moved that siting a new asphalt plant on the Grist Creek quarry at Longvale did not constitute a new or changed use from what had been there before, and his motion was approved unanimously.

The rest of Arrest | From Page 1

unidentified victim believed was a pistol, and fired. The shot shattered the passenger's side window in the victim's vehicle and broke the windshield.

The victim then fled toward Covelo with Henderson in hot pursuit and continuing to fire, according to sheriff's reports, the two vehicles speeding through the town before the victim was able to elude Henderson in traffic.

Deputies, assisted by state traffic officers, stopped Henderson's vehicle on Highway 162 near Dos Rios. When his vehicle was searched, deputies allegedly discovered a pellet pistol that looked like a firearm, pellets for the weapon, several items believed stolen in a recent Willits burglary, marijuana, and a substance in a hypodermic syringe deputies believe was methamphetamine.

Deputies also discovered Henderson was wanted for felony theft in Missouri.

Henderson was taken to county jail on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, making criminal threats, receiving stolen property, vandalism, possession of marijuana for sale, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of drug paraphernalia, Van Patten said.

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

The rest of Herbicides | From Page 1

The June 2014 Mitigation and Monitoring Plan maintains, several times, that "if the use of herbicides is being considered, the Caltrans District 1 director will be consulted so the district can discuss the decision with the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors," but there is no longer any mention of language like: "Caltrans does not use herbicides in Mendocino County" in the 2014 document.

Woodhouse told Willits Weekly this week Caltrans has not approached the county office to arrange any discussion of the use of herbicides with the board of supervisors but that he, personally, had been talking directly with Caltrans District 1 Director Charlie Fielder.

Woodhouse said he'd had one long meeting already with ranchers in the valley, with the Mendocino County Resources Conservation District, the agency which will be acting as "Land Manager" for the longtime monitoring of the mitigation lands with a \$645,000 annual contract.

He added he was sending the information he got from the forum about the many different herbicides Caltrans lists as legal to use on mitigation lands to the county's ag department and will talk about them with staffers.

Despite a comment in a Caltrans letter posted on the agency's blog that said an "Herbicide Use Plan" had been approved in September 2014, Brendan Thompson of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, told Willits Weekly last November no such plan has been approved or submitted. Caltrans' spokesman Phil Frisbie has since confirmed that developing and submitting an herbicide plan will be up to the contractor chosen for the mitigation work, which, according to the February 2 bid document, includes application of herbicides as well as planting of native species.

Frisbie also posted on the Caltrans District 1 blog: "Caltrans had anticipated using manual methods to eradicate 32 targeted invasive plants growing on mitigation parcels ... but the accelerated time schedule negotiated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the reinstatement of a permit no longer makes this possible."

Multiple calls for comment to the Army Corps' San Francisco office were not returned.

"Mitigation is Caltrans' compromise," Woodhouse said. "They agreed to it to get the project they wanted, but trying to create wetlands and remove invasive species and the impacts that you have when you do such things have unintended consequences. Playing with creeks and sediment is a very challenging ongoing experience."

Woodhouse noted RCD staff was "very clear they're not going to have an ongoing herbicide program on the mitigation; they're not going to be spraying herbicides."

But the 2014 Mitigation and Monitoring Plan says: "With respect to invasive species control, Caltrans has a developed a Property Analysis Record (PAR) that provides for invasive species management in perpetuity at the wetland establishment sites." And that PAR (in tables in Appendix R) budgets for the use of herbicide spraying for "On-going Invasive Plant Species Control," because of the requirement that no more than 2 percent of the total mitigation property will have invasives.

The table mentions annual work by one crew, three days a month, for five months a year, at \$54,648 plus costs for supervision and purchasing herbicides.

The rest of Garbage | From Page 1

been meeting to negotiate a new contract.

"I want our agreement to be in compliance with state law, and to [have the] least impact [on] ratepayers," Mayor Bruce Burton said.

The new contract may change how Willits tosses table scraps and how SWOW handles it, too.

"I [have reservations about] having weekly pickup of green waste," Burton said. "That is clearly doubling a service. Yard waste is currently picked up every other Friday morning in the City of Willits."

Councilwoman Holly Madrigal said she favors a mixed organics approach.

Martin Mileck, who owns Cold Creek Compost, has told the city he would like to receive Willits' mixed organics at his compost facility near Potter Valley.

But some council members think the city should not specify who gets the organic waste after SWOW collects it.

"I like not specifying," Madrigal said. "I think we are not in a position to specify."

Food waste and mixed organics, freezing service rates, and increasing SWOW's franchise fee are some of details committee members have said they are talking about.

Concerning food waste, there are two proposals for how Willits residents can handle their scraps before SWOW takes them.

One option is for food waste to be placed in green cans with yard waste and hauled to a permitted compost facility, a February committee report stated.

Or SWOW could provide small kitchen containers with bags that could be tossed in the curbside green container.

With the bag and small container approach to collecting food scraps, the bags of food waste would be removed at the transfer station and taken to C&S Waste Solutions in Lakeport.

The rest of LAFCO | From Page 1

Formation Commission Fire Protection Services Municipal Service Review.

In Covelo, for instance, the MSR finds, "current financing levels are barely adequate to deliver services since the district is so remote and removed from mainstream economic opportunities." The fire district may have to ask "voters for approval of a new benefit assessment when the current assessment becomes inadequate."

It may be difficult for the new assessment to win voter approval. Like other north county areas, the median household income is far below state levels: in this case \$24,750 per year.

In fiscal year 2012-2013, Covelo fire district revenues mounted to slightly more than \$249,000, 79 percent (about \$196,600) of it raised from contributions and charges for services. Property taxes put only \$52,194 dollars into district coffers. District residents paid no special assessments.

Total expenses were \$184,537, 80 percent for services and supplies, leaving the district less than \$65,000 in the black. That's a step up from FY 2011-2012, when purchase of a fire engine and ambulance left the district more than \$36,500 in the red.

The district's part-time paid fire chief and 15 unpaid volunteers provide services to 3,400 residents scattered over 25.7 square miles, but actually cover an additional 400 square miles through mutual aid agreements with CalFire and the U.S. Forest Service. The district's ambulance, purchased in fiscal year 2011-2012, serves not only Mendocino County, but southern Trinity County and part of southeastern Tehama County.

And while the district is compensated for time spent fighting wildfires on state and federal lands after an initial four hours, "the majority of wildland fire responses are reportedly uncompensated. Nor does the Round Valley Indian Tribal Council "provide revenue or reimbursement to the district for fire response calls to the reservation or to Hidden Oaks Casino," the report notes. "The Indian Health Clinic may send reimbursement for medical services, but ... reimbursement restrictions are numerous and reimbursement is not guaranteed."

The district also charges for services to non-residents, but according to the LAFCO survey, "reimbursement is often limited and sporadic."

Only 10 percent of the district's 700-plus annual calls are fire-related, and 60 percent of those are for wildland fires. Medical emergencies keep the district's three ambulances and five emergency medical technicians and two first responders busy; 80 percent of all calls to which the district responds are for medical aid.

The CFPD claims it generally has "sufficient capacity to provide services to its current service area and future [limited] growth, with the exception of an area in the extreme eastern portion of the district in Mendocino National Forest and Wilderness Area."

However, the MSR noted the "district struggles to provide a sufficient level of services in the remote areas and relies heavily on mutual aid with federal and state government agencies."

The district has been working towards replacing its fleet of 11 vehicles over the last 10 years. "Most of these replacement vehicles were used and either purchased from other fire departments or acquired under the Federal Excess Property Program," the MSR notes.

The district also has completed 75 percent of planned renovations to its Highway 162 fire station, replacing all the floors and lighting fixtures, repainting exterior security lighting, repainting the interior, and updating the station's water system and plumbing fixtures.

Fire services in the communities are classified by the advisory Insurance Service Office. ISO classifications (from 1 to 10, with 1 being the best) indicate the general adequacy of coverage.

The Covelo Fire Protection District has an ISO rating of 9 for residential structures, and an ISO rating of 10 for commercial structures. The low ISO ratings result in area residents paying heavily for insurance coverage.

Fire department in-town response time was between four and eight minutes, according to the district. Outside Covelo, however, response time could be up to 90 minutes, depending on location. And the district worries the closing of a critical fire access road by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife could slow responses in some areas even more, the survey states.

Like other north county fire districts, Covelo's five-member district board has been appointed by the board of supervisors for the past five years.

To improve the fire district's financial position, the MSR recommends the board "negotiate with the Round Valley Indian Tribes for a reimbursement formula for medical and fire calls and responses."

Leggett

At the northern end of the county, the Leggett Valley Fire Protection District protects the town of Leggett and 29.0 square miles of adjoining timberlands; however, because the terrain "is so diverse and rugged, that 29 square miles equates to

about 145 square miles," according to the LAFCO review.

Outside the boundary area, the district's sphere of influence stretches for 30 miles along Highway 101 and one-half mile on both sides of the highway, thus increasing its service area by an additional 18 square miles.

While there are only 300 full-time residents living in the district (122 in Leggett itself), an additional 300 to 700 people flood the area during the summer to camp or attend special events like Reggae on the River.

And while residents seem fairly happy with the service the eight-member volunteer fire department provides, the MSR believes additional funding and additional volunteers during daytime hours are a must.

"The district currently operates on a fairly 'bare bones' budget, although revenues [currently] appear to be sufficient to fund operations," the review points out. But the margin between financial health and disaster is less than \$13,000, since the district relies solely on property taxes and donations to fund itself. Members of the department's strike team are paid for responding to fires on government lands, and the district does charge emergency fire response fees for providing services to non-residents who do not have contracts with the district; however, the review notes, "it is difficult for the ... district to collect these fees."

The district also saves money "by not participating in any formal automatic aid agreements," according to the MSR. It does, however, maintain mutual aid agreements with other agencies: CalFire for wildland fires, and the Piercy Fire Department.

The nonprofit Volunteer Firefighters Association holds fundraisers throughout the year to raise money to buy new fire equipment, fire station improvements and training aids. The group typically raises about \$10,000 annually, the report says, a large portion of the funding for the district. In the summer, the Mountain Folk Festival is held and typically raises an additional \$5,000 to \$10,000; some funds are derived from anonymous donations made by churches, community members, and the area's logging company.

The Mendocino Community Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant from its Community Enrichment Program for \$5,000 to help remodel and renovate the town's American Legion Hall, which the fire district owns, adding ADA access ramps, "improving both the center's accessibility and its attractiveness as a rental location."

Within the last few years, "funding for a long-awaited, new four-wheel-drive wildland fire engine was awarded through a Federal Assistance to Firefighters grant," according to the LAFCO survey. However, "generating the required 10 percent match amount for the engine took significant effort and funds from many sources."

Until that engine arrived, the department's resources "consisted of only a very old CalFire Type 3 engine, an older 3,000-gallon water tender, and a 4-wheel-drive rescue unit which can carry up to five volunteers," the report stresses.

The district "does not have a water system, and there are no hydrants" according to the LAFCO survey. "The district relies on residents having their own individual water cistern adjacent to their homes."

As part of the Mendocino County building permit process, "the county requires a cistern to be constructed," the report notes. "However, this requirement is not always met, especially for structures that predate current building codes or fire safe regulations, or for structures that were constructed without permits."

Aging and obsolete equipment, combined with district fears that its current water supply is not "adequate" even though "it has worked for 40 years," have resulted in an ISO rating of 9, which means area residents pay stiff insurance rates.

Water supply improvements, the five-member, supervisor-appointed board of directors admits, are "necessary, and the district is considering forming a watershed district or applying for a federal grant."

Traffic accidents account for approximately 42 percent (50 calls) of the 120 calls the department responds to each year. Firefighters also battle four to five small vegetation fires and one or two structure fires ... most years," according to the report. The balance of calls are for non-traffic-related medical aid.

District response times to incidents average 10 minutes per call, but can take up to 90 minutes in remote areas.

Although the district "manages to function on limited revenues," the survey determined, "current financing levels are not adequate to deliver services. There is not enough funding to accommodate an additional need for expansion of medical response services, and training of additional personnel."

In addition to renovating the community's only fire station, the district is considering seeking a grant for a new water tender.

Next week: The Long Valley Fire Protection District in Laytonville.

Water Day #5

Earth, Water & Fire

Everything You Need to Know and About Living in Harmony with Nature!

Date: Saturday, March 21
Time: 9 AM-4 PM
Place: Garberville College of the Redwood Campus
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Concurrent Sessions with Practical Information:
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Seeking Applicants for Board of Directors

Wowser, located in its 20,000 square foot facility here in Willits, is going through transformative growth and is seeking a vibrant Board of Directors.

Wowser invites you to apply for a seat on our Board. As we continue to grow as an economic catalyst for Willits, we're seeking forward thinking and business-courageous individuals who are eager to create jobs and provide skills training for the community.

We're creating a super-structure which has our Board of Directors at the top. The Office of the Chief Executive (OCE) reports to the Board which provides accountability, guidance, input, and leadership.

Wowser is seeking a working Board that has profound conversational intimacy in a safe space. A Board that is capable of vetting audacious possibilities that are realizable.

We'll be working and learning together on new and innovative approaches with all insights focused on transforming Willits to a story of success.

We want a working Board whose members roll up their sleeves and works with our leadership team.

Wowser offers ongoing board leadership development.

This is a transformational business opportunity. Join us.

Deadline for applicants: March 26, 2015.

Please send a letter to:
Office of the Chief Executive
Roger Wilson, Cyndee Logan, Ian Fitzpatrick
330 E. Commercial St.
Willits, CA 95490

For more information go to www.Wowser.org

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Seeking Applicants for a Marketing Manager

If you're an outstanding Digital Marketing Manager with experience optimizing campaigns and looking to join a great team, look no further. We're looking for someone to match our high energy, drive, and integrity while working with us through our steep growth curve. The ideal candidate will be a disciplined, organized, and project management oriented.

Responsibilities:

- Drive and execute large scale product campaigns
- Work with the Office of the Chief Executive (OCE) for ongoing management and optimization of these campaigns with a heavy emphasis on tracking and reporting
- Coordinate appropriately across other channels to ensure smooth integration of multi-media advertising campaigns
- Develop and tactically execute crowd funding campaigns
- Lead customer experience testing and optimizations throughout the customer journey (ad creative, ad placement, landing page experience, conversion forms, post-conversion relationship, A/B and multivariate testing, etc)

Desired Candidate has:

- At least 4 years of experience with a strong performance history and demonstrated success.
- Experience with Crowd funding a plus
- Knowledge of Ad Servers, campaign optimization tools, or online tracking technology desirable
- Exceptional ability to communicate cross-functionally within a highly energetic team
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically about complex issues, leading to thoughtful recommendations, action plans, and campaigns that drive high ROI
- Comfortable speaking about and presenting data

Salary range: Market

Deadline for applicants March 30, 2015.

Please send a letter to:
Office of the Chief Executive; Roger Wilson, Cyndee Logan, Ian Fitzpatrick
330 E. Commercial St.
Willits, CA 95490

For more information go to www.Wowser.org



Seeking Applicants for an Administrative Assistant

This support person will be a member of the Administrative Team and report directly to the Office of the Chief Executive (OCE). The Assistant will provide administrative support, manage projects, interact with high level contacts and make appropriate decisions where necessary in order to effectively carry out the business of Wowser.

Responsibilities include but aren't limited to:

- Administrative support for various projects in a high growth environment. Duties include managing OCE calendars, scheduling appointments, completing expense reports, screening calls, reviewing incoming mail/email and routing appropriately, and other tasks as requested
- Understand all receptionist duties in order to manage and provide back-up for the receptionist throughout the day including routing calls, greeting guests, giving tours, making badges, and seating meetings
- Communicate clearly and professionally via phone, email, and written correspondence with Wowser's investors, portfolio companies, and outside parties
- Interact with investors, donors, and prospective companies in a courteous, professional manner
- Schedule all aspects of travel (domestic & international) for meetings, conferences and other events
- Anticipate the needs of the OCE and initiate communications or schedule accordingly
- Attend Wowser functions as necessary

Desired Skills and Experience:

- Three years of current administrative support. A background in a corporate environment is preferred.
- BA degree preferred but not mandatory
- Some Knowledge of MS Access and skilled at Word/Excel/PowerPoint; comfortable learning new computer applications and conducting research on the internet
- Highly organized and able to prioritize and respond to a fast paced growth environment
- Strong team player; flexible and willing to take on unfamiliar tasks
- Ability to problem-solve and have good judgment skills

Salary range: Market

Deadline for applicants March 30, 2015.

Please send a letter to:
Office of the Chief Executive; Roger Wilson, Cyndee Logan, Ian Fitzpatrick
330 E. Commercial St.
Willits, CA 95490

For more information go to www.Wowser.org