

Willits Weekly

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Thursday, March 22, 2018



Ag department exodus continues

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Mendocino County Interim Commissioner of Agriculture Diane Curry has retired, according to Director of Human Resources Heidi Dunham.

Dunham said Curry left on paid leave the week of March 12 and is on vacation from March 19 through March 23. Her retirement becomes effective March 24.

In addition, Department of Agriculture Office Services Supervisor Jennifer Krauss resigned her position

Read the rest of **Exodus** |
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McGuire bill would dissolve NCRA

State Senator Mike McGuire has introduced legislation that would dissolve the North Coast Railroad Authority, the state agency that has run the mostly stagnant railroad line between the Bay Area and Humboldt County for nearly 30 years, and replace at least part of the line with a "world-class" walking trail.

McGuire introduced amendments to Senate Bill 1029 – the Great Redwood Trail Act – on March 15, following months of meetings with rail leaders, elected officials, state agencies, residents and trail-and-open space advocates.

"The decisions made two decades ago to create a rail agency without some base level of funding have proven unrealistic," McGuire

Read the rest of **NCRA** |
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Willits man dies on Highway 20

An early-morning accident claimed the life of a Willits man on March 13, the California Highway Patrol reported.

The victim, 37-year-old Steve "Erik" Garcia, was driving east on Highway 20 near Hollands Lane in the rain at about 1:40 am when he lost control of his 2004 Cadillac, which left the north edge of the roadway "and slid into a tree," the CHP said.

Garcia was thrown from the car and "sustained fatal injuries."

Cause of the accident remains under investigation, state traffic officers say: "It remains unknown whether alcohol or drugs were a contributing factor in this collision."

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



At top: Event organizers are ready for the upcoming Cupcake Wars and Chili Cookoff contests including, from left: Willits High School Junior Boosters Club member and whisk woman Daisy Barrett, executive director of the Willits Senior Center and pepper man Richard Baker, Willits High School Junior Booster Club member and frosting fan Ramneet Mann, and administrative coordinator of the Willits Senior Center, oh so spicy, Deb Holcomb.

Above, from left: Chef and firefighter Michael Wilder, left, and Training Chief Eric Alvarez of the Little Lake Fire Association won the "Hottest Chili" last year. Bunny cupcakes ready for the tasting. Tom and Bridgette Summers of the House Doctor Paints team won "People's Choice" at the 2017 chili cook-off.

2017 Cook-off photos by Mathew Caine



Far left: Katelyn and Shannon Germann with their box of cupcakes from last year's event. At left: 2017 Cupcake Wars bakers Amy Gilbert, left, Judy Austin and Carrie Andrade.

Below, far left: Ramneet Mann and Daisy Barrett of the Willits High School Junior Boosters Club are ready for the 2018 Cupcake Wars. Richard Baker and Deb Holcomb hold the 2018 Chili Cook-off trophy and some peppery inspiration for the upcoming Willits Senior Center fundraiser.



Dedication of the Lynn Kennelly Memorial Park

The late Lynn Kennelly, former director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, dedicated many years of her life to the chamber, and to the city of Willits. In honor of her life, her dear friend Cathy Moorhead, Willits city clerk, has put together a memorial park that will be a beautiful addition to the town she so loved.

Kennelly's smile was infectious, and she always had time for everyone who walked into her life – and her office. Willits was her family, and she showed us all that family love, over and over again. She is missed greatly by so many and always will be. Kennelly did more for this community than we will ever know. She worked tirelessly and was a proud supporter and believer in our town.

Please join the Willits Chamber of Commerce in honoring Lynn's memory at the unveiling of this little park, on Thursday, March 22 at 4:30 pm, in the J.D. Redhouse parking lot.

– Submitted by the Willits Chamber of Commerce



Photo by Maureen Moore

Council seeks to place excise pot tax on ballot

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
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The Willits City Council voted unanimously last week to direct staff to create an excise cannabis tax plan for businesses operating under the city's cannabis ordinance put in place last fall.

The city is hoping to craft the cannabis tax as either an ordinance or a resolution for council approval before an August 1 deadline, so it can be placed on the November ballot as a tax measure. The measure would require a simple majority approval by Willits

Read the rest of **Ballot** |
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A 'feel-good' school board meeting

Joanne Moore
Reporter
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The Willits Unified School Board of Trustees met at Baechtel Grove Middle School on March 14 for what could be described as a "feel-good meeting."

Board members were assured that significant changes implemented at Baechtel Grove, Willits High School, and Sanhedrin Alternative High School were reaping positive results; financial audit and budget report presentations demonstrated a ship-shape economic state of affairs; and middle school students ushered in the meeting with an impressive sampling of academic accomplishment.

Math students demonstrated prowess with algebra and linear equations. Odyssey of the

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

Consultant offers new approach to homelessness

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Homelessness expert Robert Marbut pointed the way to a new approach to the homelessness problem last week, telling both the board of supervisors and the public it was time to focus on recovery rather than offering help to all comers.

Marbut, whose consulting business has the slogan, "Engaging Communities to Dramatically Reduce Homelessness," is also founding president and CEO of the Haven for Hope homeless center in San Antonio, Texas. He has worked on issues of homelessness for more

Read the rest of **Homeless** |
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Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

PUZZLE
ANSWERS
ON
PAGE 11

How To
Sudoku:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

CULINARY CREATIONS WORD SEARCH

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

ABALONE ADOBO AIGUILLETTE AIOLI ALFREDO BABA BAIN-MARIE BAKING BAKLAVA BALSAMIC
BANGERS BECHAMEL BISQUE BLANCH BOIL DAIKON DEGLAZE DEMI-GLACE DIM SUM DOLMA
FALAFEL FLORENTINE FLOUR FONDANT FRITTATA GAZPACHO GHEE GLUTEN HERBS PASTA
SAUCE SEEDS SMORGASBORD STOCK TOFU TRIPE TUMERIC VINEGAR

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9
10 11 12
13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24
25 26
27 28 29
30 31
32 33 34 35 36 37 38
39 40 41 42
43 44 45
46 47 48
49 50
51 52

CLUES ACROSS

1. Builder's trough
4. Pouch
7. Adam's partner
8. Zelda soldiers
10. Network of nerves
12. Heinrich __, poet
13. Algerian port
14. Reciprocal of one ohm
16. Title of respect
17. Form of expression
19. Hoover's office
20. Samoan monetary unit
21. Cooperation
25. Fiddler crabs
26. Portion of a play
27. Tropical American shrub
29. Frosts
30. Short-winged diving seabird
31. Chemical compound used as a hardener (abbr.)
32. Diversion
39. __ Turner, rock singer
41. __-bo: exercise system
42. Large, edible game fish

43. Doctor of Education
44. Where the Knicks play
45. Basics
46. Tall tropical American trees
48. Men wear them
49. Widespread destruction
50. Midway between north and northeast
51. Vast body of water
52. Hair product

CLUES DOWN

1. Very brave
2. Go too far
3. Individual feature
4. Drug trials term (abbr.)
5. Has emerged
6. Helped the Spanish conquer Mexico
8. Northern Vietnam ethnic group
9. Dried-up
11. Reactive structures (abbr.)
14. Licensed for Wall Street
15. Japanese

- conglomerate
18. Home to the Celtics
19. Title given to Italian monk
20. Drunkards
22. Cylindrical containers
23. South American plants
24. Frozen water
27. Town in Galilee
28. Not in
29. Journalist and suffragist Wells
31. Consumed
32. Edible Mediterranean plant
33. Poke fun of
34. 'First in Flight' state
35. Fortifying ditch
36. Receding
37. Christian liturgical creed
38. Used to decorate Xmas trees
39. High-__: complex
40. Thoughts
44. __ and cheese
47. Constrictor snake

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

March 12 to March 18
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **218** incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

March 12

6:03 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

8:46 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.

9:28 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

9:35 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

9:49 am: Officers responded to a report of a structure fire in the 600 block of Crest Drive.

10:24 am: WILLIAMS, Danny Eugene (39) of Willits was contacted in the 1000 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11550 H&S (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance) and on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

4:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of a sexual assault in the 200 block of North Main Street.

March 13

8:43 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.

9:07 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of West Commercial Street and North Street.

4:10 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

7:49 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

9:13 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

March 14

2:49 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of Holly Street.

3:20 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

5:53 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of Holly Street.

7:15 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 200 block of Holly Street.

8:15 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Humboldt Street.

10:03 am: BYER, David Wesley (34) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of Margie Drive. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

10:41 am: TAYLOR, Theron Raoul (49) of San Francisco was contacted in the 100 block of East Oak Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole and remained under legal custody until returned to prison.

11:40 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of West Van Lane and School Street.

2:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Sherwood Road and North Main Street.

4:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of

Marcela Drive.

5:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Sherwood Hill Drive.

March 15

1:34 am: ALARCON, Aaron Seth (30) of Covelo was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested of misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher.

10:40 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 8000 block of Highway 20.

1:17 pm: SIMPSON, Gerald Crandall (48) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 3056 PC (felony Parole Hold) and on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

5:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:43 pm: CHARLES, Duncan Lloyd (20) of Ukiah was contacted in the 200 block of Holly Street. He was arrested pursuant to 459 PC (Burglary), on felony charges of failure to appear and prior convictions within 10 years, and misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

11:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of Coast Street.

March 16

8:20 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Pomo Court.

9:11 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

11:23 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

12:14 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

1:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of a possible kidnapping in the 200 block of North Main Street.

2:59 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance near the intersection of Barbara Lane and Central Street.

3:18 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

4:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 28000 block of Ryan Creek Road.

7:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

11:24 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

March 17

5:13 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of South Main Street.

4:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 23000 block of Sherwood Road.

6:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of South Main Street.

6:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of South Main Street.

7:39 pm: Officers responded to a report

Read the rest of WPD | Over on Page 6

LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE CALLS

March 15 to March 21
by LLFD Training Chief Eric Alvarez

03-18-18 (Highway 101, mile marker 41)

Traffic accident: Little Lake Fire responded to a reported vehicle over the bank. Upon arrival the occupants of the vehicle had self-extricated. Little Lake Fire was then cancelled by current units at scene. No injuries were reported. 8 firefighters responded for service.

03-20-18 (South Humboldt Street)

Medical assist: Little Lake Fire responded to a medical assist. Upon arrival fire personnel met with the ambulance and began patient care. Little Lake Fire assisted with bringing the patient downstairs to the waiting gurney. Once the patient was placed on the gurney and loaded into the ambulance, fire personnel were released from the scene. 8 firefighters responded for service.



Above, from: Auctioneer Rachel Britten works the crowd at the Waldorf School gala. Winners of the costume contest, Carissa Chiniave, center left, and Tallia Holley. At right: Auction Chair Emily Rose Smith, with her husband, John Pinon, and son Alexander. Spring Senerchia, Waldorf School administrator. Megan Prout, one of the organizers of the Enchanted Woodland Ball.



Enchanted Woodland
Waldorf School of Mendocino County gala raises \$40,000 at the Little Lake Grange

It was a brilliant transformation. The Willits Grange Hall became a wonderland of food, families and fun. The Enchanted Woodland Ball was filled to capacity with fairies, forest creatures, Irish leprechauns and deep pockets to support quality education. Alumni, faculty and other supporters generously opened their wallets in silent auction, live auction, raffle and other games to show their appreciation for the education available at the Waldorf School of Mendocino County. By the end of the evening, approximately \$40,000 was raised in one event, 10 percent of the school's needs for the entire year.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathewc@willitsweekly.com

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Once inside the doors of the hall, there were a multitude of generous silent auction items donated by parents, some homemade, and by local businesses, to the right. To the left, the libations could be found. Quality wine was offered as well as other drinks. There was a game, The Wine Pull, where players paid \$20 for a bottle of wine that just might have a tag on the bottom, earning the player a trade-up to a \$40 bottle or a \$80 magnum.

After the auction, those remaining helped clean up and move the tables, dancing to music provided by DJ Eddie Vedolla.

The food, provided by local caterer Good Earth Kitchen, was plentiful and arrayed artistically on several tables, with choices from artichoke/olive tapenade to roasted polenta squares with fontina, wild mushrooms and herbs. Passing the beautifully decorated dining tables, the raffle and live auction prizes were displayed in front of the stage. Raffle prizes included Black Oak Roasters

Read the rest of Gala | Over on Page 11

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

PACIFIC RIM 2: UPRISING (PG13) 1 hr 51 mins
Fri: 6:00 & 8:35pm
Sat: 3:25, 6:00 & 8:35pm
Sun: 2:25, 5:00 & 7:35pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:35pm

SHERLOCK GNOMES (PG) 1 hr 26 mins
Fri: 4:15, 6:15 & 8:15pm
Sat: 2:15, 4:15, 6:15 & 8:15pm
Sun: 1:15, 3:15, 5:15 & 7:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:15 & 7:15pm

TOMB RAIDER (PG13) 1 hr 58 mins
Fri: 5:20 & 8:00pm
Sat: 2:45, 5:20 & 8:00pm
Sun: 1:45, 4:20 & 7:00pm
Mon-Wed: 4:20 & 7:00pm

READY PLAYER ONE (PG13) 2 hrs 20 mins
Thurs: (3D) 4:00pm (2D) 7:00pm

Starts Thurs., March 29: READY PLAYER ONE
Movie Times for 3/23 thru 3/29
This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!
FRIDAY, MARCH 30
from 4 to 6 pm at J.D. Redhouse
with Mphotographress / Maureen Moore
Come meet the bunny and his furry live friends
Digital images are just \$5 each!

Redwood Meadows is an active independent senior community featuring 101 apartment homes, primarily a mix of one and two bedroom apartments which are single story 4-plex cottage-type set amongst seven acres of park like landscaping.
We are a smoke-free and pet friendly community. We boast a community center where activities are held like card games, Bingo, birthdays and socials. We also have a barbecue area for residents to get together for social functions.
Redwood Meadows is conveniently located adjacent to the William F. Harrah Senior Center with a thrift store, cafeteria and taxi service, and Howard Memorial Hospital is just blocks away.

REDWOOD MEADOWS Senior Apartment Community
1475 BAECHEL ROAD
WILLITS, CA 95490
707-459-1616
MON-FRI 10:00-4:00

Junior Boosters Club will hold their annual Cupcake Wars from 2 to 4 pm at the Willits Community Center.

Honors up for grabs at the Cupcake Wars contest are Best Decorated, Best Tasting, Best Decorated Table and People's Choice. Willits High School Junior Booster Daisy Barrett noted that there's still time to enter the contest. Bakers need to bring a \$20 entry fee and a minimum of 24 cupcakes.

For tasters, prices per cupcake are \$2 each, \$10 for a half-dozen, or \$20 for a full dozen.

There's an entry fee for tasters of \$1, and people can purchase voting tickets for \$1 each also. All proceeds will be given to the Willits High School Booster Club, where the funds will directly impact the high school students. For more information or to do a last-minute entry, please contact Christy Wisdom or Jennifer Barrett at 459-7700.

For the Chili Cookoff, prizes will be awarded for Best Chili, Hottest Chili and Best Decorated Table.

Even though the event is almost here, there's still time to enter if you want to test your chili skills. The Willits Senior Center will have a table set up and ready for late entries as long as forms are in by 2 pm on Friday, March 23.

Chili entries are \$50 for a half table and \$100 for a full table. Entry forms are available at the center.

Taster tickets will be available at the door and must be purchased to vote for the above categories. Tickets are sold in sets of three (allowing one vote for each of the three categories) and are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children and \$7 for senior center members.

Fresh-baked corn bread muffins, root beer floats and hot dogs will also be available, and senior center cook, Nancy Middleton, will be bringing her cotton candy machine and snow cone maker to offer some deserts to round out the meal.

"We have lots of tickets available," said Willits Senior Center executive director Richard Baker. "Last year the cookoff was a lot of fun, and we need the communities' support again this year!"

Baker noted that Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman will be emceeing the event's silent auction, encouraging attendees to bid on the list of donated items including: 25 pounds of John Ford grass-fed ground beef; gift cards from Safeway, Grocery Outlet, and Mariposa Market; a Little Lake Auto Parts car detail kit; a Les Schwab Tire Center roadside kit; Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli gift certificates; an Al's Redwood Room gift certificate; Loose Caboose Cafe gift certificates; a Kemmy's Pies gift certificate; and an air convection fryer.

For more information on the cookoff, call the senior center at 459-6826.

For the boys, second place went to Lucas Branscomb with a time of 01:08.37; fourth place went to Bailey McAlister with a time of 01:22.73; and fifth place went to Nathan Sauers with a time of 01:24.25.

In the girls' 500 freestyle, second place went to Sara Strickland with a time of 02:26.53; third place went to Naomi Strickland with a time of 08:05.88; and fourth place went to Taylor Pardue with a time of 09:24.66.

In the girls' 200 free relay, second place went to the team of Rachel Hageman, Zannah Heandle, Taylor Watts and Naomi Strickland with a time of 02:16.69; third place went to the team of Sara Strickland, Taylor Pardue, Jaden Doak and Savanna Hofmarster with a time of 02:29.57; and fifth place went to the team of Claire Brackett, Sakora Scott, Callie Brown and Melody Leon with a time of 03:25.67.

For the boys, second place went to the team of Teophil Labus, Lucas Branscomb, Jairo Carrillo and Matt Colvig with a time of 01:53.81, and third place went to the team of Nathan Sauers, Nicholas Hebel, Rhyann Whaley and Bailey McAlister with a time of 02:23.74.

In the girls' 100 backstroke, first place went to Emma Crowe with a time of 01:28.92; fourth place went to Rhyann Whaley with a time of 01:53.79; and fifth place went to Melody Leon with a time of 02:01.90. For the boys, second place went to Lucas Branscomb with a time of 01:25.66.

In the girls' 100 breaststroke, first place went to Taylor Watts with a time of 01:38.08; second place went to Jaden Doak with a time of 01:42.34; and sixth place went to Leslie Campuzano with a time of 02:12.34. For the boys, first place went to Teophil Labus with a time of 01:24.00; second place went to Matt Colvig with a time of 01:24.18; and third place went to Nathan Sauers with a time of 01:38.25.

In the girls' 400 free relay, second place went to the team of Sara Strickland, Taylor Watts, Jaden Doak and Emma Crowe with a time of 05:29.98, and fourth place went to the team of Taylor Pardue, Savanna Hofmarster, Leslie Campuzano and Rhyann Whaley with a time of 06:36.64.

Results provided by Mattie Owen.

On March 15, When Curry was absent on those Tuesdays when there was a meeting of the board of supervisors, it was Krauss who would act in Curry's stead to present the cannabis program report.

The new departures follow the March 5 resignation of former Mendocino County Commissioner of Agriculture Joseph Moreo, who left after only one week on the job.

The exits of Curry, Krauss and Moreo coincide with the February 26 hiring of Kelly Overton as the county's cannabis program manager.

Overton won the post of cannabis manager because of his expertise in systems analysis. During his first report to the board of supervisors on March 13, Overton said the cannabis program had some problems that were slowing down the issuance of program permits.

The way staff was using technology, how they communicated among themselves, and a lack of prioritizing applications was slowing down the cannabis permitting process, Overton argued. Some simple fixes would get things moving more quickly, he told supervisors.

The issuing of cultivation permits has been a problem for the Ag Department, and for the county. Last year the department received 784 applications to cultivate cannabis but issued only 59 permits.

The slow pace of permit issuance has had an impact on the county budget. In July 2017, staff estimated the county stood to take in more than \$1 million in cultivation permit application fees and other fees associated with the cannabis program during fiscal year of 2017-18. As of December 31, however, the county had only received \$267,420 in fees.

of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

9:19 pm: GARCIA, Russ Daniel (36) of San Antonio, Texas was contacted in the 1100 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11550 H&S (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance) and on misdemeanor charges of failure to register as a controlled substance offender.

10:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 600 block of East Commercial Street.

10:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 300 block of South Main Street.

On several occasions, Curry stood before supervisors to defend her staff and her program. The most recent occasion was on February 6, when Curry made a lengthy speech defending her approach to managing the cannabis program. At various points in her talk, Curry appeared close to tears.

"State licensing is there," Curry said. "we have temporary licenses. If our cultivators can't get a state license, they don't have a local license. And to get a state license, you need a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, or you need [the state] to say that [the grower doesn't] need one.

"We have been instrumental in pushing our cultivators to get those documents, because without them, there's no state licenses. No state license, no local license.

"My staff has been on the ground, vetting these properties," Curry added. "We've been working with state resource agencies to come into partnership. They've confided in our program. I've talked to Fish and Wildlife. They're happy with what we're doing, the vetting that's going on.

"I would ask the board: what part of this process do you want us to not do?" Curry asked.

Curry began working for the county in December 2006 and advanced to the position of assistant commissioner of agriculture. When former Agricultural Commissioner Chuck Morse resigned in January 2017, Curry became interim commissioner of agriculture, working with the board of supervisors, the County Counsel's Office, the Executive Office and the Department of Planning and Building Services to put the finishing touches on the medical cannabis cultivation ordinance, which was approved by supervisors in April 2017.

Thereafter, Curry worked with

her department staff and planning and building staff to regulate the county's cannabis industry.

Casey O'Neill of the California Growers Association, who has commented extensively on the various cannabis ordinances and has attended several cannabis working group meetings, reflected recently on what has been going on in the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture.

"We fought very hard for cannabis to be regulated under the department of agriculture," O'Neill said. "We thought, because we're farmers, we ought to be regulated by ag.

"It has been extremely frustrating for us to watch all the stuff that has come down," he added. "We feel the department of agriculture has been scapegoated for difficulties in the permitting process that have not been the fault of the department. The problem has been with the state and with the county's department of planning and building. It's been quite frustrating to see the department of agriculture get blamed for stuff that is not their fault.

"We appreciate the department of agriculture. We support the department of agriculture," O'Neill said. "We are saddened by the departure of Diane Curry from her position as interim commissioner."

According to Heidi Dunham, the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture currently has 11 employees. Overton, whose position is part of the county's Executive Office, supervises five field inspectors and one clerical staff person, all of whom are employees of the ag department. Dunham said the Office of Human Resources is actively searching for a commissioner of agriculture and an assistant commissioner of agriculture.



Above: The Laytonville High School Mock Trial Team, with the Honorable Judge Ron Brown Memorial Perpetual Trophy on the Ukiah courthouse steps. Top row, from left: Wolfgang Peterson and Tyler Watson. Fourth row, from left: Cora Hamilton, Ivo Shere and Attorney Coach Beth Norman. Third row, from left: Eve Kreiling, Caruna Gillespie, Elijah Howard, Jephthah Ikeh and Attorney Coach Luke Oakley. Second row, from left: Madison Watson, Sophia Avila, Makai Steven, Natalia Cuesta-Tineo and Attorney Coach Elina Agnoli. Front row, from left: Aurora Hardwick, Bronwyn Giffilan, Kassandra Basler, Gracie Silva, Oliver Hill and Teacher Coach Bruce Potter.

Congrats Laytonville High School Mock Trial Team

Congratulations to the Laytonville High School's Mock Trial Team for winning the 30th annual Mendocino County Mock Trial competition earlier this month. Laytonville students out-argued Ukiah High School March 3 in the fictitious case of "People vs. Davidson" to reclaim the Honorable Judge Ron Brown Memorial Perpetual Trophy and earn the honor of representing Mendocino County at the State Mock Trial competition in Orange County.

Ukiah and Laytonville students played all the key roles in the case, in front of the Honorable Judge Ann Moorman while a packed house of parents and supporters looked on. "People vs. Davidson" posited a trial in which Casey Davidson, a resident of the town of Acorn, California, faced a felony count of first-degree murder for the death of Alex Thompson, another young resident of Acorn and member of Ultra Nats, an extremist nationalist group.

Donations to help defray the costs of traveling to the state competition can be made payable to the Laytonville High State Mock Trial Team and sent to Laytonville High School, c/o Bruce Potter, PO Box 868, Laytonville, CA 95454. For more info about the Mendocino County Mock Trial Program, visit www.mcoe.us/District/Department/27-Curriculum-Instruction/Portal/Mock-Trial.

'Cannabis Is Medicine'

Presenter Jude Thilman talks about the history and healing potential of marijuana

Seems that for pretty much anything that ails you – from not getting a good night's sleep to chronic pain, broken bones ... all the way to cancer, yes, cancer – cannabis could help. It's serious, safe, effective medicine.

Joanne Moore

Features Writer
joanne@willitsweekly.com

Thilman, cannabis medicine educator and owner of Dragonfly Wellness Center in Fort Bragg. "We have to open our minds to a whole new way of thinking about cannabis."

Thilman recently dispelled some of that "mountain of misinformation" for a sizeable group of very interested people at a recent Avenues to Wellness presentation titled "Cannabis Is Medicine: Changing the Narrative with Education."

Cannabis as medicine is decidedly not a new thing. Egyptian pharaohs and Chinese emperors used it thousands of years ago. It "was on our pharmacy shelves from 1848 to 1939," said Thilman. "Eli Lilly, Parke Davis, and Squibb produced many prescription drugs with cannabis as an ingredient ... at one time, over 2,000 medicines sold in the U.S. were made from it," she said.

Enter the Richard M. Nixon administration, and, in 1971, cannabis was classified (and still is) as a "schedule 1" drug under the Toxic Substances Control Act – meaning it has a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical treatment use.

Thilman explained the demonization actually started decades earlier and is tinged with racism directed at Mexican immigrants who used cannabis but called it marijuana. But that's another story....

And yet, curiously enough, the federal government's Department of Health and Human Services currently holds a patent on "cannabinoids as antioxidants and neuroprotectants," said Thilman. That's yet another story....

So, what are the components of this herb? It consists of over 500 chemical compounds, with biologically active constituents consisting of terpenes, flavonoids, and over 113 (and counting) cannabinoids.

Though all three of these constituents work together, the cannabinoids are the most important medically, and THC and CBD are the most plentiful cannabinoids, the most therapeutic, and the most studied.

And, it's the ratio of these two cannabinoids in a medicine that is important when choosing medicine for a particular purpose, not the strain of the plant. "That's left over from hippie days," said Thilman. "Strains were bred for terpene content – the smells, bouquet."

To understand how cannabinoids work their magic, it is necessary to know about the endocannabinoid system – a remarkable "internal chemical harm-reduction system designed to keep our health in balance," which is present in all mammalian species.

Thilman explained there are receptors on cells throughout our bodies, discovered in 1993, that act like keyholes, and which are "unlocked" by endogenous (meaning we make them in our bodies) cannabinoids, called endocannabinoids. They "kickstart the body's natural ability to heal," said Thilman.

Guess what else binds to and unlocks those receptor/keyholes? The cannabinoids in the cannabis plant.

The list of diseases, disorders and discomforts cannabis successfully treats is long, and Thilman stressed that successful treatment outcomes are the result of using the right ratio of CBD to THC, using the finest purest raw material (which we are fortunate to have here), and administering the appropriate dosage in the most effective way.

And, even though THC and CBD are the healing powerhouses, it is important to use the whole herb. "Isolation of chemicals doesn't honor how herbs work," said Thilman. "Herbs are living dynamic expressions between chemical compounds in the plant ... [for example] ... cannabinoids interact with each other ... the medical efficacy of CBD is enhanced in the presence of THC ... It's known as the 'entourage effect.'"

First, and "most importantly," the quality of the raw material is crucial; "choose it carefully," said Thilman, who noted that we are fortunate to live in "Mendocino ... home to the finest craft cannabis in the world." She cautioned there was going to be "a lot of schlocky stuff out there, now that legalization of cannabis has turned it into a \$7 to \$10 billion industry." Prompted by this "green rush," she said, people will be "pulling out crops to grow cannabis ... crops that were grown with pesticides and chemical nutrients.... You don't want that."

Second, use the best "delivery system." Thilman

Read the rest of
Jude | Over on Page 14



Above: Jude Thilman, cannabis medicine educator and owner of Dragonfly Wellness Center in Fort Bragg, talks at the March 6 Avenues to Wellness presentation, "Cannabis Is Medicine." Below: Organic cannabis grown in the hills of Mendocino County.



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Thursday, March 22

Dedication of Lynn's Park: The dedication of a beautiful memorial park in honor of the late and beloved Lynn Kennelly, former director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Thursday, March 22 at 4:30 pm in the parking lot of J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street. "Lynn Kennelly dedicated many many years of her life to the Willits Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Willits ... and did more for this community than we will ever know. Her dear friend Cathy Moorhead, the Willits city clerk, has put together a beautiful memorial park that many of you have generously donated to. Please join us in honoring Lynn's memory at the unveiling of this little park."



Lynn Kennelly.

Friday, March 23

Susy Barsotti Candidate Meet and Greet: Candidate for Mendocino County Third District supervisor, Susy Barsotti of Laytonville, will be at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street, on Friday, March 23, from 1 to 2:30 pm. Barsotti invites the public to join her "for convivial discussion. She wants to hear what you think about issues facing Mendocino County's Third District as well as ideas for ways to move forward. We will be serving refreshments and look forward to seeing you there."

Elect
Barsotti
Supervisor

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 cornbread 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. 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 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 Zoolco 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 <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

sourdough wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or Gluten-Free, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$8; \$7 seniors, \$5 children under 10. 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 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; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also available at the door until sold out. WCT is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).



Celtic Harpist Patrick Ball.

Country, Folk and Alternative music with a Punk Rock background." Visit <http://idiomism.wikisite.com/josephdemaree>. Monday, March 26 at 7 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Tuesday, March 27

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 movie is "Tomb Raider." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Thursday, March 29

O'Brien & Son Return to Brickhouse Coffee:



O'BRIEN & SON
Return to Brickhouse Coffee
Arranger **RON O'BRIEN** Flautist **LOREN HERZ-O'BRIEN**
home from Conservatory for spring break
In concert Thursday March 29, 2018, 7:00pm
Entertaining stories, musical anecdotes, and beautiful music from Rock to Rachmaninoff!
Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main St, corner East Commercial, Willits
\$7.00 student and senior (60+) discounted rate
\$10.00 general admission cover charge
doors open and food available at 6:00pm; music starts at 7:00pm
For sample menu, type "O'Brien & son guitar & flaut" into the YouTube search bar



Movie Night with Rygg.

Movie Night with Rygg: Bartender and movie buff Rygg plays movies of all genres "that may surprise, delight or frighten" – "enjoy one of your old favorites or a new just released film with friends." Sponsored by Main Street Video. Thursday, March 29 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, March 30

"Spirit Radio Frequencies": Gifted local musician Kyle Madrigal is performing live original music every Friday from noon to 3 pm at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. "Spirit Radio Frequencies – listen to Kyle channel the frequencies of NOW!!!" Brickhouse offers lunch, coffee, pastries, art, music, community and love – drug- and alcohol-free.

Art Under Twenty 2018: Willits High School's annual art exhibit at the Willits Center for the Arts is set to open on Friday, March 30 and run through April 29. Student artists from San Hedrin High School, Willits Charter School and Laytonville High School students are also included in the exhibit, which features the creativity, skill and imagination of over 100 artists. The opening reception, from 4 to 7 pm, features "have refreshments and entertainment that will surprise and delight you." WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. Info: 459-1726.

Shanachie Pub: Sharkmouth out of Santa Rosa is "the dankest, freshest, flyest, tastiest rock n roll band the west coast has ever spawned." Visit <https://sharkmouth.bandcamp.com/> releases to hear the December 2017 EP. Friday, March 30 at 9 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Sharkmouth.

Photos with the Easter Bunny: Join the Easter Bunny and his live, furry friends from 4 to 6 pm at J.D. Redhouse for a photo fundraiser with Maureen Moore of Mphotographress. Digital images are just \$5 each and half the proceeds will go to benefit the Willits 4-H leather group. No appointment needed, just drop by!



Bunny wranglers Keely and Heidi Anders will be back again this year with the Easter Bunny himself.

Saturday, March 31

Calvary Chapel Easter Eggstravaganza: The public is invited to hunt 10,000 eggs and enjoy free food, games, face painting and more at the Calvary Chapel Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, March 31 from 10 am to 1 pm at the Willits High School football field. Prizes and drawings as well. All ages are welcome. Info: [info@ccwillits.com](http://ccwillits.com).

Brooktrails Easter Egg Hunt: The Brooktrails Neighborhood Association presents its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31, at 1 pm, at Ohl Grove Park, 24969 Clover Road, in Brooktrails.



The Dennis Chrisp Band

Shanachie Pub: The Dennis Chrisp Band featuring "many local talented musicians coming together for a night of original, improvised, and rare moments in music." Saturday, March 31 at 9 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, April 1

Happy Easter & April Fool's Day!

Easter Services at St. Francis in the Redwood: All are welcome at St. Francis in the Redwood Episcopal Church, at the corner of Commercial and Main streets, for Easter Services, Sunday, April 1 at 10 am, followed by a potluck Easter Feast, and Easter Egg Hunt for the children. See article elsewhere in the Calendar for

Lutheran Church is located at 24 Mill Creek Drive; info: 459-2988.

Lions Easter Egg Hunt: Willits Lions Club's 89th annual Easter Egg Hunt starts at noon on Easter Sunday, April 1. The Lions hand-dye 2,000 eggs every year. Free to attend; hunt is for children 12 and under. Kids are grouped by age, "so even the littlest hunters are assured a chance to find an egg." Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Rain or shine. Traditional egg hunt in the WHS baseball fields if the weather allows; otherwise the Lions will host a "drive-up" hunt. Info: 354-8262.



Sharon Bauman works on dying eggs for the 2017 Willits Lions Club Easter hunt.



2018
Reception: Friday, March 30, 4-7 pm
Open: March 30 through April 29
Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 11am-5pm
www.willitscenterforthearts.org
71 East Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490
707-459-1726

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.

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.

Emandala 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, 530-647-6512 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 \$. 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 and gardening. Seeds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables are free to seed library members, and seed donations are gladly accepted.

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

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

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

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

Volleyball Open Gym: Baechtel Grove Gym, 1150 Magnolia Street. Sundays 7 to 9 pm, and Tuesdays at 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Some experience desired, but not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

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

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

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

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

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

Ongoing
Events

Avenues to Wellness presents:
'Coping with Cancer: Help is Available'

Avenues to Wellness presents "Coping with Cancer: Help Is Available," a presentation by Karen Oslund, executive director of the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County, on Tuesday, April 3 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Free to the public; donations appreciated; wheelchair-accessible.

The Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County is a grassroots, nonprofit agency that is here to assist the over 500 people who are diagnosed with cancer each year in Mendocino County. Come find out what free-of-charge-services are available to anyone facing cancer. Learn the best ways to reduce your cancer risk through healthy lifestyle changes and recommended cancer screenings.

In addition to her work with the Cancer Resource Centers, Oslund is a former Willits city council member and mayor and has lived in Willits for 24 years.

Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit www.avenuestowellness.org for the ATW Speaker Series schedule for the year, presented the first Tuesday evening of every month, and archives of previous talks, or call 456-9676 for more info.



CHAMPIONS START YOUNG
4th Annual S.A.L. Willits Boxing Match
Time: 4 p.m.
April 14, 2018
Place: Willits Community Center
111 East Commercial St
Willits CA 95490
Watch Us Fight!
"The devil does not sleep, nor is the flesh yet dead; therefore, you must never cease your preparation for battle, because on the day and at the hour you expect him never rest."
- Thomas A. Kempfe

Holy Week
at St. Francis in the
Redwood Episcopal
Church

All are welcome at Holy Week and Easter services at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, at the corner of Commercial and Main Streets. The church is entirely wheelchair accessible. The schedule of services this week is as follows:

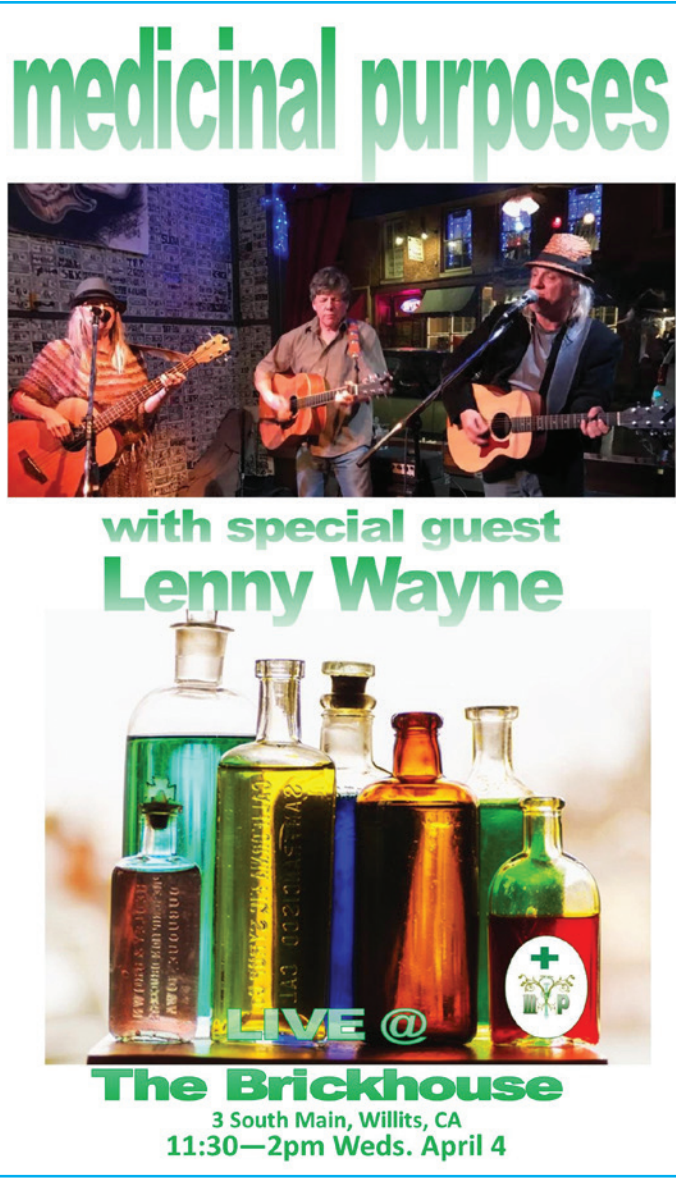
Thursday, March 29, 6 to 7 pm, Maundy Thursday: Named for Jesus's mandate that we love one another, this service commemorates his last supper with his friends, and his washing of their feet as an example of service. At the end of the service all decorations are removed and the always-burning sanctuary candle is extinguished, remembering Jesus's arrest.

Friday, March 30, noon to 1 pm: Good Friday service of prayers, Holy Communion, and a reading of the Passion of Christ. The church will be open until 2 pm for private prayer and meditation.

Saturday, March 31, 10 to 10:30 am: Holy Saturday Prayer service.

Saturday, March 31, 6 to 7:30 pm, The Easter Vigil: This is an ancient midnight service, held in Willits earlier so all may attend. It is a joyous first acclamation of Easter. We rekindle the light that was extinguished on Maundy Thursday, hear readings and sing songs retelling our story, and renew our baptismal vows. Holy Communion is included.

Sunday, April 1, 10 am: Easter Day Services, followed by a potluck Easter Feast, and Easter Egg Hunt for the children.



with special guest
Lenny Wayne
LIVE @
The Brickhouse
3 South Main, Willits, CA
11:30—2pm Weds. April 4

Senior Center
Lunch

Week of March 26 through March 30

Monday: Chicken Broccoli Casserole

Tuesday: Baked Fish (Tilapia)

Wednesday: Pork Sandwich with Caramelized Onions & Mushrooms

Thursday: Salisbury Steak

Friday: Birthday Turkey Dinner

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. \$.65 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.

Save the
Date

**WHS Booster Club
Dinner & Quarter Auction,**
April 21, Willits Community Center

**Sober Grad Tri Tip
Dinner,** April 27, Rodeo Grounds

**Ducks Unlimited Willits
Chapter Banquet Dinner,**
April 28, Senior Center



Almost Fringe Festival in Willits

Steam Punk
Weekend

Shanachie Pub is participating in Visit Mendocino's Almost Fringe Festival "by throwing a Steampunk Party both Friday and Saturday night with some of our favorite local musicians, so strap on those suspenders, tighten those corsets, and get ready for two nights of merriment!

Friday, April 6 features Self Fulfilling Prophecies, local group with Morgan Stocker (nacho the stockrocker) Buckminster West and Bodhi Idarius – "the music has elements of punk, folk, and rock, all original compositions. A favorite at the Pub! Visit www.myspace.com/selfulfillingprophecies

Saturday, April 7 is Local Singer Songwriter Night, featuring some of Shanachie Pub's most popular and well-known local artists: Forrest Glyer and Malakai Schindell of Schindig, Tracy Hui of Marty's Garden, Adam Manus, Kyle Madrigal, Margo Cilker, Clay Hawkins, Danni EI, and Ambria Zenitar.

"This April," Visit Mendocino says on its website, "Mendocino County is getting downright fringy! Well, Almost Fringy that is. Join us as we celebrate creativity, from traditional to cutting-edge, and artsy to agrarian! Experience our entire county. Choose from: sparkling wine tasting, nature walks/wildcrafting, steampunk gala, goats & wildflowers, artful giraffes, ukulele festival, bio-blitz and much more!" For a list of other events happening, visit <http://www.visitmendocino.com/fringe-2/>.

Auditions for

'Willits On Stage 5'

Auditions are coming up for "Willits On Stage 5," a community variety show, which is a benefit event for Willits Community Services & Food Bank. The show will be performed on Saturday, April 28 at Willits High School. Can you sing or dance? Juggle? Tell jokes? Spin plates?

All ages, all talents, and all abilities are invited to audition their acts, which should be no more than 5 minutes; the idea is not to showcase only professional talents, but to have a good time, laugh, and enjoy the fun, silly, or unique talents of our friends, neighbors and special guests. Auditions to be held at the Willits United Methodist Church, School and Pine Streets, on Saturday, April 7, from 10 am to 1 pm, on Wednesday, April 11, from 7 to 9 pm, and by special arrangement. Info: Kevin at 456-9429.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home



Special Santana

Santana is a 5-year-old miniature poodle with special needs. She came in with her mother and sister when their owner died recently, and she is trying her best to adjust. She is blind, so the new world is particularly scary for her right now. She is apprehensive when she first meets someone new, but after some quiet time and gentle play she starts to show her sweet personality. She would do best if she could be adopted with her sister or her mom because they do tend to look after her. She is not the least bit "snappy," as you might expect and is really quite endearing. Come meet her and the rest of her family soon!

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

Goofy Knox

Looking for a fun dog? Knox is your guy! He is a 2-year-old neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 65 pounds. Knox is a goofy guy who loves to play with toys and is pretty much always in a good mood. Every day is a good day as far as he is concerned!

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.



OBITUARY |

Steve 'Erik' Garcia

Steve Erik Garcia was born June 19, 1980 in San Antonio, Texas. Erik, as he affectionately was named, departed this life on March 13, 2018 in California. Erik lived a full life that began with elementary beginnings in San Antonio, where he attended Fox Tech High School, graduating in 1998 with a desire to see the world and cook. Those pursuits took him across the country and eventually landed him in Maui, Hawaii, where he would spend the majority of his adult life.

If you were a friend or loved one, he probably offered you a place to stay in Hawaii if you came to visit. That's the type of loving person he was. His zest for life shined through in everything he did and everyone whose path he crossed. Through his life, he spent most of his time making people laugh and feeding them. Everywhere he went and with everyone he encountered, he left an indelible mark. Whether you were left smiling or laughing, every encounter with Erik was intended to leave you in a better place than you were before he arrived. That's the way Erik would have wanted you to feel right now.

Left to continue his memory are his mother, Gloria Garcia, his sister, San Juanita Washington, and his beloved niece, Isabella Morgan. He is also survived by a host of uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

Erik's true love was his grandfather who preceded him in death, Manuel E. Garcia, whom he has gone to reunite. Erik's final resting place will be his beloved Hawaii.

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



The rest of
Gala | From Page 5

all aspects of the education and personal relationships within our school.

"Our core mission and responsibility is to help our students develop this deep center of their being as they move from early childhood to adulthood. The education we offer is designed to appeal to – and nurture – the special capacities that emerge at each state of the child's adolescent development."

Founder Rudolf Steiner created the Waldorf concept at the culmination of World War I in order to develop an education system that would preclude the conditions that led to the war. Currently there are 1,200 Waldorf schools worldwide.

Waldorf School of Mendocino County teacher Kelly Austin has this to say about the school: "Head, heart and hands, the thinking, feeling and willing in a child. We are trying to create people that are going to be human beings. And what is the value of being a human being? Going out into this technological world. What can they do that machines can't. We offer a huge variety of programs in the arts and academics because we don't know what the future is going to be for each child, and we are trying to give them every opportunity when they step out in the world."

Austin's sentiment was echoed in every faculty member and alumnus interviewed at the gala. That staff and parents and graduates come back to support the school so generously speaks volumes about how they perceive the value of the education they received.

To learn more about the Waldorf School or to donate to the school or their Fire Relief Fund, visit <https://waldorfmendocino.org>.

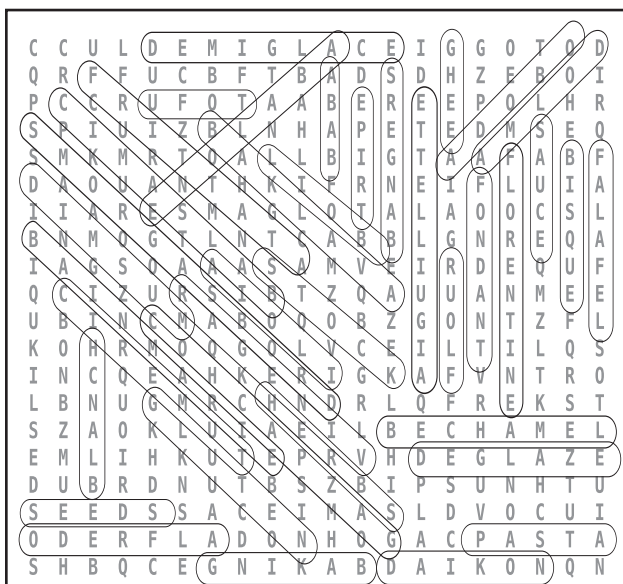
The rest of
State | From Page 3

Ian Watson, who won four medals at Regionals, shared his preparation. "Music and science are my main subjects," he said, "so I am devoting my time and effort to them. I am also skimming through the other subjects so I'm focused and ready for Super Quiz. I am really excited for State and can't wait to compete on a larger scale!"

Nick Hebel, who received the highest score of our team at Regionals, shared his excitement, too. "This competition gives our team a chance to showcase what we've spent a year learning. With the support of our coach, community, and each other, I believe that we will excel at State."

During the competition, our Academic Decathlon team will spend three days interviewing, speaking and testing. Our free time will be spent studying, swimming in the pool, and attending the annual post-competition dance. Our team is thrilled to be attending State for our second year and look forward to the challenging competition for the exciting opportunities it provides.

We will return home on March 25 as proud Decathletes, with experience in public speaking, probing interviews, and difficult tests. Most of all we look forward to this competition as a chance to strengthen our skills and our friendships. Until then, off to State!



OBITUARY |

Jack Tharp

It'll sure feel better when it quits hurtin', he'd say to us, after every bruise or cut or scrape, after every broken bone or broken heart.

Yesterday my Papa Jack quit hurtin'.

Yesterday my hero died....

He was the man who set every bar I ever aimed for. The toughest, hardest-working, funniest, most humble man I've ever known. The man who taught me how important it is to stand up for what you believe in. Who taught me to work tirelessly toward a goal. Who taught me to respect others. To be unfailingly honest. To give my word, and to keep it.

He showed me how to remain gracious in victory as well as in defeat. He showed me that it's OK to disagree with someone without disliking them. He showed me how to ride a horse and how to appreciate a poem.

He demonstrated endless patience with children. He taught me to be polite, but not to take any s---. To find humor in everything. To make no excuses. To love fiercely....

He was the greatest man I've ever known. I'm sure going to miss him.

In memory of my grandfather, Jack Lee Tharp.

— Melissa Mondo, Willits

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Deputy District Attorney I/II/III
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- Willits
Engineering Technician I/II
Information Systems Technician II
Senior Engineering Technician
Senior Public Health Nurse
Substance Abuse Counselor I/II
Vocational Assistant
For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources
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John Ford Rancher's Choice Box: 50 pounds of steaks, roasts and ground beef. \$300 (\$6/pound), amazing deal! Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call now: 459-5193.

Brooktrails Deluxe Duplex

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.

Bus Trip to Safari West from Ukiah

The California Retired Teachers is sponsoring a Daytripping, Inc. luxury bus trip to Safari West that is open to the public. Bus will leave from the Ukiah Fairgrounds parking lot at the end of Mazzoni St. at 8:00 a.m. May 15 and return at 4:30 same day. Tickets cost \$154 each and include coffee and donuts going, park admission, buffet lunch, wine and cheese on the return. Space is limited and tickets must be bought in advance – call 577-8894 for tickets.

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.

Help Wanted

Associate Teacher I-II HS/IT for Willits-based position. Bilingual pref. Sal. \$ 14.00 - \$ 17.70/ hr DOQ. For full job description details & app go to www.ncinc.org/about-us/jobs or 707-467-3200x 302. Closes: 3/26 @ 5pm (Postmarks not accepted). EOE

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 macamerigin@yahoo.com.

Drivers Wanted

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

Enrolling Now

Enrolling now for Fall 2018 - Preschool, Kindergarten, First Grade. Deep Valley Christian School (15 minutes from south Willits). Call Sandy Peters at (707) 367-5748 for information.

Esoteric Christianity

Study group •The 7 Visible and Invisible Worlds, Epochs, Globes and Periods •The Four Kingdoms •Involvement, Evolution & Epigenesis •Occult analysis of Genesis & the Bible •More. Contact 841-0149.

Rr Rent Office

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

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

Heartfelt Counseling

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

Help Wanted

Mortuary Transport Driver. On call, nights and weekends. Must have valid CDL and pass a drug test. Pick up an application at Anker-Lucier Mortuary, 95 W Commercial Street, Willits.

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.

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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.

Piano Lessons

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

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

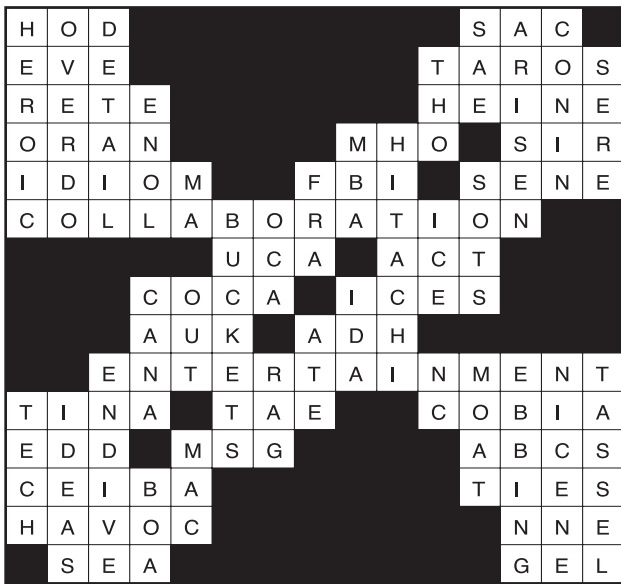
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tp>

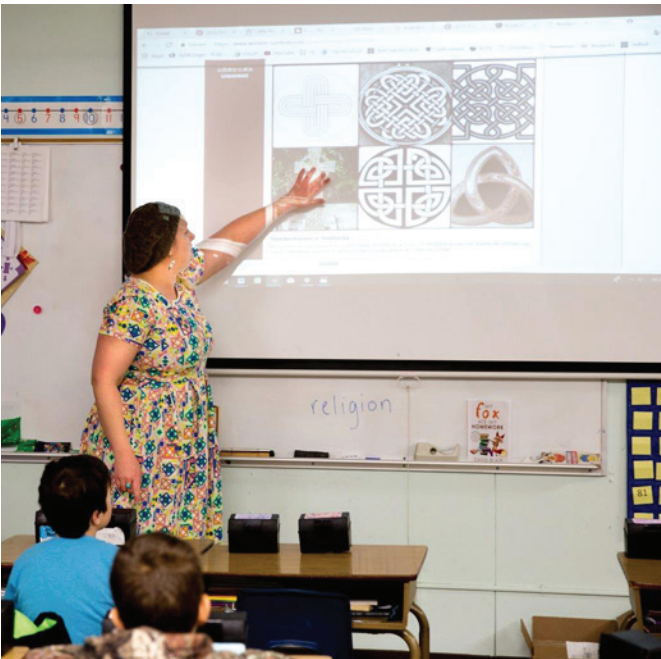
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Far left: The happy third-grade students, along with Rachel Alviso and Joe Madden, pose with some of their favorite drawings of Celtic knots.

At left: In Spanish, Rachel Alviso describes Celtic knots and their Christian symbolism on crosses and other carved stone and drawings found in some of the British Isles.

Below, from top: Jobe shows the second Celtic knot she made in her art class, "Dios es uno solo," or "God is one" in English. Nick shades his Celtic knot, "Dios es uno solo," with a shading tool. Maestra Alviso helps Aedan learn to use the shading tool that is part of the drawing kit.

At bottom, left: Maestra Alviso demonstrates the next step in making the "El undo delta de la Trinidad." Students are helped by their teacher, Joe Madden, and aide, Rebecca Daun-Widner.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Celtic Knots

Willits Elementary Charter School students learn – in Espanol – how to draw the complex decorative symbols

Joe Madden's third-grade class at the Willits Elementary Charter School was treated to making Celtic knots as their art project last week. With St. Patrick's Day – an Irish Celtic holiday – just around the corner, the weekly art lesson for all six grades was about drawing the complex Celtic knots. The Spanish and art teacher, Rachel Alviso – fondly called "Maestra Alviso" – made the decorative knots come alive in their simplicity with her step-by-step instructions.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
ree@willitsweekly.com

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Mid-week Bible Studies
Potluck every 2nd Sunday
Alan Klier, Lead Pastor
459-3106

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707-459-3066
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Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
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What she had just informed the students in Spanish translates to, "Today we're going to draw Celtic knots" in English. Alviso continues the lesson in Spanish with her exquisitely rolled "r's."

She first talked about the knots originating in the British Isles as symbols of their Christian religion. One knot is called "Dios es uno solo" – "God is one" in English. This was the first knot she taught the attentive third-graders how to draw. It started with drawing a simple square in the center of their paper. As she continued drawing each step on the board, showing the 19 students how to make the new lines, teacher Joe Madden and teacher's aide, Rebecca Daun-Widner, helped those children who needed extra assistance. They also spoke to them in Spanish.

And yet there can be frustrations. "Every once in a while, if they're just not getting it, and I see a bunch of question marks on their faces, I'll slip in a little English. You saw it today when they weren't getting the word I was using for 'stop,' so I drew a stop sign on the board to help clear up the confusion," Alviso explained. And it worked.

Teaching art and incorporating the Spanish

Read the rest of Celtic Over on Page 13



Amazing Athletes

of Willits High School

Golf | Nathan Maples, 17, Junior

How long playing the sport: Three years

Breakfast of Champions: Pancakes

Traditions: "Before I tee off, I picture my shot landing on the green every time."

Additional thoughts: "I'm hoping by next year, we will get our pennant."

Junior Nathan Maples is a three-year varsity golf player for Willits High School Junior. He qualified for NCS sections last year as an individual player. Nathan has moved up to the #1 player this year and has come in second place in his first two matches this year. He was four strokes off medalist in the last match at Buckingham Golf Course in Lake County.

– submitted by Coach Scott Herman

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Golf | David Mann, 17, Senior

How long playing the sport: Three years

Breakfast of Champions: Honey Nut Chex and bananas

Traditions: "Before I tee off I stand behind the tee box and look at the green."

Additional thoughts: "I think by next year, we'll have our pennant back."

Junior David Mann rejoined the team this year after missing his sophomore year and has been a great addition to the team, playing in the #2 position. He improved from his first high school match 13 strokes in the second match. He hopes to qualify for Sections this year.

– submitted by Coach Scott Herman

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The rest of Celtic From Page 12

language grew from a desire of the WECS staff about three years ago to incorporate art in more of what is offered at the school. The idea of having weekly art classes became an extension of the charter school's commitment to having an active art program. According to Kara McClellan, the WECS director, the art program is one of her favorite parts of the school.

"What's wonderful about the teachers at our school is that they are always pushing, pushing, pushing to take things to the next level," she said. "Because we pushed to develop an art program that fit our unique school, we got together a group of interested and diverse staff members about three years ago."

Over that next summer they created a team that currently consists of: Alviso, the Spanish teacher who has art experience; Becky Butten, the independent studies teacher with art experience; Christine Felton, a second-grade teacher with publishing and digital art background; Rebecca Daun-Widner, garden coordinator and classroom aide; and McClellan, the director trained in process facilitation. The inspired group met throughout the summer months and created the perfect program for their school.

"What's really interesting when you start a program from scratch is you can re-imagine what you want it to be," McClellan said. The group decided the art classes would be taught in what they call, "stacking functions." Each 70-minute class focusses on an art concept like color, perspective, the fundamentals of drawing, painting, other mediums, art history, etc., while learning something about one of the seven different continents in the world. The classes are also tailored to the seasons, to holidays, or what the children are learning in other classes. To top off the "stacking" objective, the classes are taught in Spanish.

Each class at WECS, from kindergarten through fifth grade, gets a daily half-hour Spanish lesson from Alviso and a 45-minute art class taught in Spanish once a week with her. When asked why she teaches art exclusively in Spanish, Alviso answered: "It's a huge benefit that the students get to learn Spanish or another language at school. Studies show that it helps brain development when you're growing up to learn two different languages. I really do see the benefits."

Teaching art in another language reinforces common words while adding new words and concepts students may not be exposed to in a regular language class. Sometimes Alviso has seen children know an English word because they learned a similar word in Spanish. She also believes their test scores improve due to their language skills. They're learning how to solve problems, think more creatively, have better critical thinking skills, and, generally, have higher academic achievement because they can converse in two languages.

An interesting aside from the Maestra: "Most kindergartners don't know that I speak English yet! I only speak to them in Spanish, and I don't let English slip out when I'm in their room," she laughed. The WECS art curriculum also includes local artists working in any medium. All the materials for the art classes are donated. Anyone with donations or those who'd like to volunteer their art skills to teach an art class, please contact Maestra Alviso at 459-1400.

The rest of Ballot From Page 1

voters to pass.

Interim City Manager Robert Perrault presented the council with the reasons to pursue a cannabis tax, along with various ways it could be implemented.

While fees put in place by the council last year do cover application processing and inspection costs for new cannabis businesses, Perrault said, they "do not cover the impacts of the new industry on the day-to-day operations of the city."

Among those impacts, he listed law enforcement, fire protection services, city street wear from increased traffic, "and to some extent even the social fabric of the community."

Perrault said the tax revenue would be funneled into the city's general fund, and the council would decide how to allocate it during the budget process.

Of all the options, he and staff recommended a tax based on a percentage of gross receipts. Other possibilities include a flat tax – with one set amount for all businesses each year – or a square-footage tax based on the size of the business facility.

Perrault said he preferred gross receipts because "it would be easy to collect the information from audits provided by the businesses, and it would also be equitable," since smaller businesses would pay less than larger ones.

Most of the council agreed with Perrault's assessment, though some concern was expressed about whether cannabis business owners would report their total income accurately.

Councilman Ron Orenstein said he liked the idea of gross receipts, but worried about underreported revenues. He felt cannabis businesses might have more incentive to "fudge the numbers" than other businesses since they would be paying higher taxes, while still competing with those on the marijuana black market paying no taxes.

"There is that balance point," he said. "We don't want to kill the legitimate businesses, but we also need to get our fair share of the revenue.... Human nature says you don't report all the revenue you're going to make because you don't want to pay more taxes."

Mayor Madge Strong said the threat of an audit should be a good deterrent for business owners in avoid hiding income.

"They're going to have to account for where their products are going, and they're going to have to have books that are pretty well kept," she said.

Perrault suggested the city clearly inform all cannabis business owners they are subject to an audit at any time, and also consider randomly selecting some businesses for audits.

City Building Official John Sherman pointed out cannabis business facilities will be inspected by himself and other staff at least every 90 days, which will give the city a good idea of what's going on in each business.

Perrault and City Attorney Jim Lance, who will help design the tax plan, said there are plenty of cities in California that have already enacted excise cannabis taxes to draw ideas from.

"We wouldn't be reinventing the wheel here," said Lance. "There's lots of other cities that have done this and that have provided good templates for us to work from."

For example, according to Perrault, the City of Cloverdale has enacted a tax with a cap of 10 percent gross receipts, but with the option to set it at any rate lower than that on an annual basis. For the current year, the rate is only 4.5 percent.

Lance said he liked Santa Rosa's tax measure – a hybrid model taxing cultivation by square foot and all other businesses by gross receipts. Some council members seemed open to this type of model during discussion.

The council didn't recommend any specific percentage numbers for the gross receipts tax, but Orenstein emphasized the amount didn't necessarily need be for only cost-recovery, since it was an excise tax.

"It's the company paying for the privilege of doing business in your jurisdiction," he said. "There is a privilege in that there is ability for them to work in an area that has a market ready for them."

Perrault said staff estimated putting the tax measure on the ballot would cost the city roughly \$10,000.

According to a recent memo to the council from Lance and Perrault, the city has currently received about a dozen applications for cannabis business permits, with several more expected soon.

The first business is expected to be fully permitted and operational within the next 45 days.

Water main flushing starts Monday

Submitted by the City of Willits

City of Willits will commence its annual water main flushing and valve operating program on Monday, March 26. The purpose of the flushing program is to remove accumulated sediments that may have collected during the normal operation of the water system. The flushing is expected to take approximately one month to complete.

The flushing will start at the base of Pine Mountain and continue westerly into town. The flushing of Main Street is expected to commence on or about the week of April 16 and could take up to one week. Main Street flushing will occur at night in order to minimize the impact to businesses. Motorists are urged to use caution in these areas, as the roads will be wet and the city's work crews will often be in the roadway.

Customers may experience a drop in pressure along with discoloration of their water for short periods in the areas being flushed. Although the water may be brownish, it is safe to drink. Care should be taken in washing clothes, particularly whites as they may be stained. Please check your water for discoloration before washing clothes.

For more detailed information about where the flushing will be occurring, customers may call 459-7104 for recorded information or call City Hall at 459-4601.

The rest of Meeting From Page 1

Mind participants described award-winning group effort creations. Eighth-grade science teacher Vanessa Haggett described four "energy plans" for Willits on display, which were created by her students.

The plans were based on the use of renewable energy sources and student projections of a \$500,000 yearly budget with a need for 21 megawatts a year – one plan even harnessed energy from wind as vehicles zoomed by on the bypass.

Principal Maria de los Angeles Munguia described Baechtel Grove students' recent science fair successes – 80 projects entered and 14 competing at the county level. Two became alternate state qualifiers (county gold medal winners Jack Buckingham and Jadyan Arnold, with "The Amazing Adventures of the Hovercraft," and county gold medal winners Ingrid Mendoza and Vanessa Mercado, with "Detecting Bacteria"). One qualified for the state science fair (county silver medal winner John Michael Kale, with "Magnet Powers").

Munguia told trustees that changes at Baechtel Grove this school year had resulted in "a great improvement in the climate." Some of those changes include a new class schedule which results in longer core classes (math, science, social studies, and language arts), more elective classes, separate lunchtimes for each grade, and teachers teaching only one grade-level with more time to collaborate.

The daily presence of new Dean of Students Mackenzie Erickson is also a very positive addition to the school, she said.

Willits Teachers Association President John Haschak brought up the issue of school gun violence – and the suggestion, by some, that armed teachers might be a way to deal with the issue.

Haschak described a recent episode at Seaside High School in Monterey County involving a teacher who had a gun in the classroom, teaching a class about gun safety. He pointed the gun at the ceiling – and it went off, injuring students. "We don't want to go there – being armed," said Haschak.

California School Employees Association Willits chapter President Dan Green told trustees about ways "to use what we have" to increase safety in the event of a school shooting.

Noting he had been in construction for 40 years, he said there were ways to use

buildings as defense. Green offered to consult with the district to teach "staff how to use structures to their advantage."

The board was also told that Baechtel Grove "kids came out of their rooms and stood silently and respectfully for 17 minutes ... [and] ... a group of Willits High School kids met out front" during a March 14 nationwide student protest.

Trustee Alex Bowlds likened these becoming-all-too-common school tragedies "to the cascade of errors that lead to an [airline] crash." One of those errors in school-shooting cases, he pointed out, is that it's often known beforehand who a likely perpetrator is.

"In many of these cases," he said, "if someone had just spoken up...." Superintendent Mark Westerburg agreed. "Listen to the students," he said. "They know."

Westerburg described the high school as "a whole different place this year. There's been lots of change. It's very positive."

He added he had "enjoyed coaching basketball," and had nothing but praise for the district's bus drivers, whom he has been getting to know better while riding their busses to games. "They do a great job," he said.

And while on the topic of transportation, Westerburg informed the board there would be separate transportation for grades K-5 and 6-12 next year. "High school kids talk about stuff kindergartners shouldn't listen to," he said.

Westerburg and trustees also expressed continuing gratitude to Les Schwab Tire Center, whose latest contributions to the district were "new wireless scoreboards in the high school gym."

The meeting ended with trustees agreeing on a procedure and timeline for selection and appointment of a new board member to replace Trustee Laurie Harris, who resigned at the board's December meeting.

Anyone interested in applying for the seat must submit an application by no later than Friday, April 13. Trustees will interview and select the new board member at their May 2 meeting.

Persons interested in the position may call the district office at 459-5314, ext. 1101 for more information. Or download the application by looking under the "News" tab at willitsunified.com.



Above, from left: Hot peppers come in all shapes and sizes. This mix includes Serrano, Criolla Sella, Joe's Long, Korean, Anaheim and Jalapeno peppers. Vibrant Joy is a mild purple-stem bok choy from organic farmer/breeder Frank Morton. It is a new variety bred using traditional heirloom methods. A local favorite, Pineapple is a gold-and-red-swirled tomato that is both big and delicious. The flavor is mild, sweet and fruity.

COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

March: Spring Equinox

Sunlight is finally gaining the upper hand! It's a good time to plant seeds – both outdoors and indoors. Honeybees are starting to visit my garden. Right now they are all over the bright-yellow flowering stalks of kale, mustard and turnips that have overwintered.

Jamie Chevalier
Columnist

Notice that the kale flowers smell like honey? The bees think so too! So if you have cabbage-family greens that are sending up flowers, leave them to bloom. They attract not only bees but the many aphid-eating insects that are looking for nectar right now.

If you have flowers blooming now while pollen is scarce, you are making a great start toward eliminating pests before they become a problem. Flowers with so many petals that there are no stamens won't attract beneficials. Stamens look like antennae and have pollen on them – any flower with a yellow center like a daisy, or with visible stamens will work.

I recommend planting calendula now, about a half-inch deep in any pot or spare corner. They sprout well in cool soil and flower fast. Other pest-fighting spring flowers are poppies, bachelor's button, wild coreopsis, and alyssum. Arugula and cilantro are food plants with flowers bees and beneficials love.

Nothing tastes as fresh as the first vegetables of spring. You will want to get peas and lettuce going now. Other spring favorites to start now are broccoli, beets, carrots, turnips, and mustard. Broccoli and other cabbage-family plants (like kale) sprout best at room temperature. Root crops, lettuce, and Asian greens can handle cool outdoor soil.

There are some exciting new spring possibilities from organic farmer/breeder Frank Morton. They're in the mustard family, but flavors run all the way from totally mild to wasabi-hot. My favorite is a deep purple leaf for salad or quick cooking called Vibrant Joy. Or how about Mizpoona Salad Select for a fast-growing, cold-weather-loving salad green? The hot-but-sweet Dragon Tongue already has a local following. All are available from local Quail Seeds.

Most people have favorite tomatoes and peppers. Sometimes the best varieties for our area are only available as seed. The transplants at big-box stores and nurseries are often types meant for nationwide distribution, and few are heirlooms. It's not hard to start your own, and March-April is the time to do it.

Starting seed indoors requires a very sunny window, or a fluorescent "shop" light, but any cool white bulb will do – you don't need "grow lights" for baby vegetables. The light does need to be close – about 6 inches from the plant – so make them adjustable. I put my seed flats on the floor and suspend lights from the underside of the kitchen table.

If you haven't started onions for the year, do it soon. Onion plants grow leaves until the longest days in June, then start bulbing up. Each ring of the onion bulb is the base of a leaf. Start them now in good potting mix, transplant out into well-composted soil to make lots of leaves, and they'll have lots of rings for big flat onions. Good luck, and happy gardening!

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in Alaska and California and taught gardening in schools, as well as living in a remote cabin and commercial fishing. She wrote the Bountiful Gardens catalog from 2009 to 2017, and is now the proprietor of Quail Seeds, www.quailseeds.com.

Above, from top: Peas can be planted now. Give them compost and a sprinkling of lime or wood ash in well-drained soil. They can also be grown in tubs on the patio, with a tomato cage for a trellis. Who doesn't love tomatoes? This Brandywine grew naturally in a heart shape. (The photo has not been photoshopped or altered.) Brandywine is widely considered the benchmark for great heirloom tomato flavor. Peppers have a small root system and adapt happily to containers. These Corno di Toro plants bore two dozen huge sweet peppers each. Dragon Tongue is a farmers market favorite, with a flavor both sweet and hot, as well as dramatic purple-on-green coloring. Criolla Sella is an unusual pepper that has the fruity, smoky flavor of a habanero, without the extreme heat. It is about as fast as a jalapeno or serrano, making it perfect for salsa and cooking. Myona is a great tomato for salsa and canning because of its big yields of big, tasty paste tomatoes. The story goes that it was bred by an Italian-American push-cart vendor. When asked the variety, he said, "It's a-my-own-a."

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The rest of Homeless

than three decades. He spoke to supervisors on March 13 and then publicly at a March 15 meeting in Ukiah.

Marbut stressed that the community needs to focus on recovery – on getting people off the streets and into housing. "The mission should no longer be to 'serve' the homeless community; instead the mission should be to dramatically and consequentially increase 'street graduation' rates."

To do this, Marbut said, members of the what he calls the Homeless Remediation Team – the county's Health and Human Services Agency, the cities, the churches, the nonprofits – must work together.

Marbut said all the players need to review his report and confer on his approach and recommendations. Then, assuming they agree Marbut's basic approach will work and the goal he espouses is worth pursuing, those players should get together to craft an action plan on homelessness tailored to Mendocino County.

In Marbut's written draft report, he offered a nine-step program toward a more effective strategy for the homeless.

First on his list was that agencies serving the homeless community need to develop "a common understanding of the scope, scale and structure of the problem, gain buy-in and agreement for one overarching strategic action plan," and "move from tactical, one-off decision-making to strategic decision-making based on data."

The team must move from "agency-centric to system-centric decision-making," Marbut said, to "reduce duplication of services while increasing agency specialization" and "operate at maximum capacity by increasing utilization of the overall system."

It also should "encourage all organizations and the public to engage, rather than enable, individuals experiencing homelessness."

"Strategic coordination between the county and the cities" on the homelessness issue should be improved, and the team should "fully build out and then robustly utilize the Homeless Management Information System."

The Homelessness Management Information System is a software program used to identify and track homeless people.

In his draft report, Marbut writes that Mendocino County is not using the HMIS to its full potential: "Currently the HMIS system is predominantly being used as a 'score-keeper' for federal compliance and is not being utilized to coordinate master case management nor is it being used to track individual recovery plans."

In addition to general advice, Marbut offered several specific recommendations. He noted people experiencing homelessness, or who seem to be experiencing homelessness, can be broken down into three categories: those who are "very homegrown," and who have deep roots in a local community – some 39 percent of the homeless – and those who are "somewhat homegrown," about 23 percent of the homeless population.

Marbut describes the "somewhat homegrown" category in almost the same terms as the "very homegrown" category. However, whereas the "very homegrown" category requires that "most attended local high schools," the "somewhat homegrown" category requires that "many attended local high schools."

Marbut recommends the Homelessness Remediation Team focus on helping "very homegrown" and "somewhat homegrown" people.

Speaking to the board of supervisors on March 13, he recommended the team follow the example of Willits Community Services, which has a policy of offering food for three days to all who ask. After that, Marbut said, if a person does not meet the criteria for those the food bank is charged to help, they should be told the food bank can give them no more food.

Marbut called this "a wise policy" and suggested other organizations would do well to emulate it.

"I've never heard of a person who recovered from homelessness because they received food," Marbut said.

He also said many apparently homeless people, who migrate on the north-south corridor from San Diego to Seattle, are not truly homeless,

according to the federal HUD definition of homelessness. Marbut recommended local agencies offer few services to those people.

"Simply put, if a person is not on the year-round local HUD-defined Homelessness Management Information System list, they should not receive services over an extended period of time," Marbut wrote in his draft report. "There must be universal resolve not to hand out limited resources to individuals not truly experiencing homelessness."

Marbut also criticized what he called the "duplication of services" in Ukiah.

He noted in his draft report that Ukiah now has three functioning day centers, with a fourth to open soon and a fifth in the planning stages.

The drop-in center run by MCAVN, the Mendocino County Aids/Viral Hepatitis Network, was named as the first day center. The Wellness Center, run by Manzanita Services, is the second day center, according to Marbut. The Ukiah Library, which Marbut says serves as a sort of shelter for a plentitude of homeless throughout the day, is the third.

Marbut noted that Redwood Community Services plans to open a fourth day center next to the Ukiah Winter Shelter, and "Nor-Cal Christian Ministries has submitted an application to the City of Ukiah to operate a would-be fifth day-center in south Ukiah," Marbut wrote.

Marbut argued this is wrong. "Ukiah ought to have one day center," he wrote. "Service duplications such as the above have several negative effects to the overall system: creates inter-agency inefficiencies, creates intra-agency ineffectiveness, crowds out utilization of excess inventory by other programs, dilutes core competencies of agencies, and opens the 'system' up to 'service-shopping.'"

Marbut also offered a number of clinical recommendations, including establishing a system-wide service eligibility and triage criterion, creating a countywide virtual case management system, establishing street-level outreach teams – especially in mental – and developing "meaningful" mental health and substance abuse rehabilitation slots.

Marbut also recommended "separating children from chronically homeless adults whenever possible."

Although Marbut did not expand upon this theme in his presentation to the board of supervisors or in his draft report, he was quoted on the topic in a 2016 story by Heather Hacking published in the Chico Enterprise-Record.

In that story, Hacking quotes Marbut as saying: "Co-mingling of adult males with children is dangerous and causes issues for insurance. One of the dangers is the long-term development of children who might grow up thinking the homeless adult male lifestyle is normal.

"He said he saw 'co-mingling' of homeless adults and children at City Plaza and Depot Park," Hacking goes on to write. "Families with children are elbow-to-elbow with single adult males during meals and at shelters. This needs to stop immediately. They shouldn't be in the same buildings. They shouldn't be crossing paths for the bathroom. They shouldn't be in the same space for food."

At the close of his draft report, Marbut reminded readers that his report wasn't perfect and could have unanticipated consequences. "Some mid-course adjustments will need to be made," he wrote. "System improvements will in turn unveil new opportunities not previously seen. The law of unintended consequences always kicks in. Sometimes this is good, but at other times it means that underlying issues, hidden before, now become exposed and need to also be addressed."

Health and Human Services Agency Acting Director Anne Molgaard said her agency would be following up on Marbut's plan in the near future. The county will be working with key stakeholders – including homelessness task force teams from Ukiah and Fort Bragg and other service providers – to review Marbut's report and to determine whether it offers a framework for effective and beneficial action.

Molgaard added the homelessness team should have a clearer idea on how it will respond to Marbut's report within the next six months.

Supes hear critics of housing ordinance

Supervisors took a quick look at Mendocino County's "inclusionary housing" ordinance at last week's board meeting, heard from critics of the measure, and decided to discuss the controversial issue – later.

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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The ordinance was adopted, reluctantly, after Legal Services of Northern California filed a lawsuit against the county in March 2009. John Pinches, chairman of the board at the time, signed the ordinance, although he voted against adopting it.

The ordinance provides several overlapping or stacked incentives, which require housing developers to either construct a certain number of low-cost housing units along with other "market-rate" houses they might build in a given development, or pay an "in lieu fee," to be placed in an account to build low-cost housing later at another location.

Developers seeking to build "market-rate" housing, would also have to build a certain number of "low-income, very-low-income, extremely low-income, or moderate-income" houses at the same location at the same time.

According to the ordinance, if a developer builds five to 25 units, 10 percent must be "affordable," if he builds 26 to 50 market rate units, 15 percent must be affordable; if he builds 51 to 75 units, 20 percent must be affordable; and if he builds 76 or more units, 25 percent must be affordable.

Developers who don't want to build affordable housing at that time and place must pay an in lieu fee to the county. The in lieu fees are steep: for up to two units, it would be 2 percent of the median sales price for a single-family residence of the same size in Mendocino County. If the development is three to four houses, it would be 5 percent of the median sales price. But if it is five units or more, it would be 20 percent of the median sales price in Mendocino County for a house of the same size.

The ordinance also includes a system of incentives and density bonuses that defy quick description.

The inclusionary housing ordinance hasn't worked out as well as proponents of the measure had hoped. Only about \$120,000 has been collected from the in lieu fees, over a period of nine years. In addition, few or no housing developments of more than 10 units have been built in the county since 2009.

During discussion at the March 13 meeting, several speakers suggested the inclusionary housing ordinance was a factor in the dearth of county housing.

"We need market-rate housing," said Ukiah businessman and former supervisor

Rep. Huffman names new Mendocino County field representative

Submitted by the Office of Congressman
Jared Huffman (CA-02)

Washington, D.C. – Representative Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) announced in February that Sheba Brown will serve as his Mendocino County field representative as of March 5.

"I'm delighted that Sheba has decided to join our team, and I look forward to working with her to serve the people of the North Coast," said Rep. Huffman. "She will be an invaluable asset to the people of Mendocino County and to me as I continue to fight for the values and people of California's second Congressional district."

Sheba Brown brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to Rep. Huffman's office. She previously worked in Outdoor Education

The rest of NCRA | From Page 1

explained. "We have spent the past months having honest, and difficult, conversations about exactly where it is practical for freight to operate on the rail line. These discussions have been focused on the highest and best use of the remaining miles of track."

SB 1029, which will be heard in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee in early April, offers a "path for the future" for the 300-mile-long rail right-of-way through California's North Coast and ancient redwoods, McGuire said.

"Our goal moving forward is to create a world-class trail system for the entire length of the line – from San Francisco Bay to Humboldt Bay – which would become a destination for locals and outdoor enthusiasts from across the planet," the senator added. "The trail would be a significant economic driver for our region and traverse through some of America's most scenic landscapes, connecting folks with ancient redwoods, state parks and local trails."

Facing aging infrastructure that has fallen into disrepair on large portions of the rail line, as well as a longterm lack of sustainable funding, SB 1029 would dissolve the NCRA and segment its right-of-way in two.

The "Northern Segment" – from Willits to Arcata – would be temporarily transferred

John Mayfield. "If there's a market for low-income apartments, and that sort of stuff, the marketplace will do it, but this abortion we've got adds about 20 percent onto the cost of building by the time you're through. You need to get rid of this inclusionary zoning ordinance. You need to get back to where you can let the market take care of what it's supposed to do.

"I encourage you to repeal the ordinance," Mayfield said. "Don't Mickey Mouse around with it –because nowhere in the state can you find that it's produced additional housing. It's deterred people from providing that housing."

Ukiah Realtor Dick Selzer also blasted the ordinance. "Regardless of how you feel about whether we should be providing housing to those less fortunate, the inclusionary ordinance is a disaster," Selzer said. "Only in California can you make housing more affordable by taxing it. It just doesn't work.

"The ordinance looks like it is going to add about \$14,000 to \$15,000 per unit.

"The other thing you need to remember is, developers don't pay that," Selzer said. "Mr. Gillan [one of the speakers during the discussion who said he was a developer] is a nice guy, but he's not going to pay that. The buyer of those homes is going to pay that. It comes into play for Gillan when he has to decide whether or not he's going to build them. And if he can't make a profit – and by the way, profit is not a dirty word – he's not going to build them."

Local attorney Lisa Hillegas, one of the attorneys from Legal Services of Northern California, which sued the county in 2008 over its failure to do anything to meet its state-mandated responsibility to provide low-cost housing, defended the inclusionary housing ordinance and urged the supervisors to support and even expand it.

"Since 2009, 90 percent of the housing built in this county has been 'above moderate' market-rate housing," Hillegas said. "Since its inception, smaller developers – the 'little guys' – have been following the ordinance. They've been paying their in lieu fees. And now we have a big guy coming in and saying: 'I don't want to pay anything.'

"If you need to improve the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, do it," she continued. "Make it more understandable. Make it stricter. Make it so that it will actually work, because we are getting into an area now where housing is actually being built. Improve it; don't gut it. Don't take away any of its teeth. Make it more effective," Hillegas urged.

After hearing public comment on the ordinance, supervisors decided to close discussion of the item and reschedule the matter for fuller consideration at a later date.

and served with AmeriCorps in Alaska and California. Most recently, Brown has been working at Parents and Friends, Inc. in Fort Bragg, where she spent three years supporting individuals with developmental special needs and their families. In all her roles, Brown has shown a passion for hands-on advocacy and public service. She is a graduate of Haverford College.

Brown will be filling the position previously held by Heather Gurewitz, who after four years of excellent field work, moves on to serve as executive director for the Economic Development and Financing Corp. Brown will be splitting her time between Congressman Huffman's district offices in Fort Bragg (430 North Franklin Street; 707-962-0933) and Ukiah (559 Low Gap Road; 707-671-7449).

to the state Department of Transportation, which would undertake a "railbanking" process, cataloging property easements and advancing environmental work, according to a spokeswoman for McGuire's office. The Great Redwood Trail Agency would then take over and begin building the actual trail in the next couple of years.

The legislation would also authorize the continuation of excursion and potential freight trains around Humboldt Bay.

The "Southern Segment" – from Willits to Lombard in southern Sonoma County – would be transferred to a separate agency, which would be responsible for continuing freight operations on the portion of the line currently active, and for creating the southern portion of the Great Redwood Trail.

"No specific successor agency has been decided upon yet," McGuire said, "as [the measure] is still very early in the legislative process and discussions are continuing."

SB 1029 also would allow a freight rail study to be completed to measure the potential interest in continuing or expanding freight operations.

This report was based on a press release from the Office of State Sen. Mike McGuire.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES SINCE 2014

COMMUNITY GIVING & FIRE RELIEF



\$1.5 Million

Since 2014



771

EVs sold/leased

Since 2016



\$70.7 MILLION



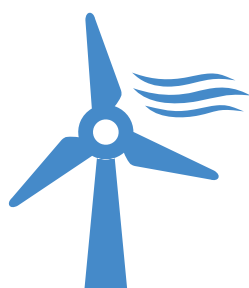
Customer bill
savings since 2014

SERVING 87%

Of eligible customers in
Sonoma & Mendocino Counties



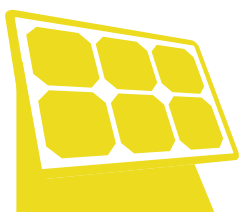
46 MW



New California
wind power
built

\$1.4 MILLION

Paid to
customers
for excess
solar energy
generation



Cleaner electricity. No additional cost.



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