

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 198

Thursday, March 23, 2017



Willits reassured about immigration issues

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
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A large group of area residents engaged in an emotional and wide-ranging discussion led by four main panelists during Sunday's Willits Town Hall meeting on immigration.

The event at City Hall was organized by the 95490 Community Town Hall Planning Group, spurred on largely by local concern surrounding immigration issues due to the current national political climate, and how north county residents could be affected by the rhetoric and policy coming from President Donald Trump's administration and others.

The panel featured

Read the rest of **Immigration** |
Over on Page 11

Salary questions top concerns at budget workshop

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Labor agreements for eight of the county's nine employee bargaining units are up for negotiation this year and, during budget discussions held Monday, two highly placed county employees told supervisors it was time to take action on the salary question.

Health and Human Services Agency Director Tammy Moss Chandler told the board she was concerned the salary issue had not received more focus in the informational presentation to supervisors given by Assistant CEO Alan Flora.

"There is a much higher vacancy rate among HHSA

Read the rest of **Salary** |
Over on Page 11

Major grant awarded to boost local streamflows

Trout Unlimited and the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District have been awarded a \$359,000 planning grant to help rural landowners on three key tributaries of Outlet Creek in the upper Eel River watershed to reduce the impacts of water use on salmon and steelhead trout.

The grant comes from the Wildlife Conservation Board's Streamflow Enhancement Program, a \$200 million fund dedicated to projects that enhance streamflow for the benefit of California's fish and wildlife. The program was es-

Read the rest of **Watershed** |
Over on Page 4



Above, from left: Nicol Persico Kunka works with Gideon in the round pen. Brian Kunka smiles with Cowboy the horse. To make the metal malleable, the horseshoes are heated to a glowing red temperature before being shaped on the anvil. Below: Husband and wife Brian and Nicol pose with their horses, Cowboy and Gideon, and dogs Quincy (with Brian) and Joe (with Nicol), at the Persicos' pond.

Photos by
Maureen
Moore



Head to Hoof

Husband and wife team provides top-to-bottom equine care

"Well, depending on the company I'm in, I say I'm either a horseshoer, a farrier or an equine podiatrist," laughed Brian Kunka as he tied his horse Cowboy to the fence.

Brian, a recent transplant to the Willits valley, is excited to get to work, helping the feet of many of Willits' four-legged friends, and his wife Nicol Persico Kunka, is ready to help the minds and dispositions of those same critters through training, lessons, and her tension-releasing and balance-restoring equine body work.

The pair has set up shop at Nicol's family ranch, P/6, the Persico Ranch, out in the Willits valley, and are getting settled, herd in tow, for a life on the Western front.

Nicol grew up in Willits, daughter of Chuck and Pat Persico, attended school here, ran for and won the title of Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart in 1988, and then left the area in 1991, bound for Chico State, where she studied ag business management. It was in Chico where she met Brian.

Brian, originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee, was working with the U.S. Army Recruiting Command and had taken over the Chico station when he happened across a classified in the Chico News & Review newspaper – a personal ad, placed by Nicol.

"It was Labor Day weekend, I was bored, skimming the paper and came across her ad," reminisced Brian. "It said 20-something, likes country music ... but it was the last line that really got me 'ability to saddle a horse, a plus!' I called her up, and we talked

Read the rest of **Horses** |
Over on Page 4

At right, top: Brian uses a rasp on one of Cowboy's front hooves. At right, above: The Kunkas take a stroll with their horses at their new home. Below, from left: Horseshoes come in many sizes, to meet the needs of many hooves. Gideon tolerates some fancying by Nicol before his round pen work. At bottom, from left: Quincy helps play clean-up crew, enjoying snarfing up the fresh trimmings and shavings from Cowboy's hoof. Brian and Nicol Kunka, ready to help equestrians in Willits.



Supes vote 'yes' on first reading of pot rules

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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On a unanimous, albeit dramatic, vote taken early Tuesday evening, supervisors voted to adopt the county's Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance. The vote represents the first of the two final hurdles the ordinance must go through before it becomes law. The second hurdle is the second vote on the ordinance, currently scheduled for April 4.

The vote was dramatic because, for a time, it seemed Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde would not support adopting the ordinance, and three "yes" votes were required to adopt it. With the Third District supervisorial seat still vacant, and with Fourth District Supervisor

Read the rest of **Cannabis** |
Over on Page 9

Brooktrails approves 'take-home' fire vehicle policy

Dan McKee
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Brooktrails Township directors approved by resolution at last week's meeting a policy that allows fire department personnel to use "rapid response vehicles" during "non-emergency times."

The fire department policy came under fire in a November 9 hand-delivered letter written by longtime Brooktrails resident Paul Trexel. In his letter, Trexel raised several "troubling" issues concerning the department's vehicle policy, arson investigation program and fire hazard abatement program, insisting the township had no business investigating

Read the rest of **Vehicle** |
Over on Page 9

Supes OK 'formula' business' ordinance

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Supervisors on Monday unanimously approved an ordinance responding to the Dollar General controversy in Redwood Valley in spring and summer 2015.

At that time, Dollar General applied to the Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services for a building permit for a store in downtown Redwood Valley. But Redwood Valley residents opposed the county's decision to issue the permit, claiming the 90,000-square-foot discount

Read more of **Ordinance** |
Over on Page 9

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

KLLG fundraising campaign

To the Editor:

Greetings! Today, March 20, 2016, we at KLLG are launching our fundraising campaign!

In 2016 KLLG was transformed from a dream into a reality! From the enthusiasm and support of the Willits community, the skeleton of a radio station was born. We raised a 58 foot tower on the east side of the grange building, built a studio, and purchased the equipment needed to get "On Air!" We currently have 28 hours of locally produced programming on our schedule. We have provided trainings titled "How to Produce a KLLG Show." More than 50 people have been trained and are in the process of becoming an on air programmer.

KLLG, Willits Hometown Radio, is running a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds to grow the station. We encourage you, our listener, to visit our website at KLLG.org and click the link that takes you to the crowdfunding page: fundkllgradio@causevox.com.

The funds raised from this campaign will help the station to purchase much-needed equipment such as: a new broadcasting console (to replace the one our sister station loaned us), air conditioning and ducting for the studio, a new EAS (Emergency Alert System), back-up generator, many cables and wires; and, if we raise enough funds ... we may even be able to begin phase 2 ... which is a second studio built specifically for producing music!

While you are visiting our website KLLG.org, be sure to check out the schedule of our locally produced radio shows! Thanks for listening!

The KLLG programmers and management team

Library's New Book Festival

To the Editor:

The Willits Library will host a very special event on Sunday, April 2 from 1 to 4 pm. It is the New Book Festival. It is free to everyone.

Take home some of the 1,000 brand-new books. There will be stacks of adult, young adult and juvenile books. These are the bestsellers you normally have to wait months to read.

In addition there will be craft activities for adults and children. You can take home your library items in new book bags. Also, there will free raffle tickets and prizes, entertainment, food and book giveaways.

Join the fun at the Willits Library.

Marc Komer, Library Advisory Board representative, 3rd District

Stropes and Kitts at WCA

To the Editor:

Mother Nature was a tad unfair opening night, and you may have stayed home after listening to the hyped-up weatherman. If so (it was a miserable night), you still have ample time to swing by Willits Center for the Arts to view the amazing Stropes and Kitts exhibit which will continue through Sunday, March 26. WCA hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.

If you're on your way to the grocery store, give yourself a treat first. Head out the door a half-hour early and swing by the Art Center. Out for a stroll? Look for the sandwich board on the sidewalk announcing the Center is open.

It's not too soon to think about a Mother's Day gift. One-of-a-kind custom work from Bruce Kitts would surely please.

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

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In addition to artwork on display, Donna Stropes brought in some fine prints of her work, as well as cards any mom would love.

Gail Richards, Willits

CalFresh = affordable meals for seniors

To the Editor:

The Mendocino County Department of Health and Human Services through their CalFresh program has blessed the Willits Senior Center with \$10,000 to be applied towards our in-house meal program for 2017.

This donation allows us to provide affordable meals to seniors at \$5.50 and non-seniors at \$7. Lunch is served Monday through Friday, 11:45 am to 1 pm, and includes a main course, vegetable, fruit, roll, dessert and beverage, plus a onetime trip through our salad bar and a bowl of soup. 10-punch lunch passes are available for purchase at the front desk in the lobby of Willits Senior Center. The cost for Willits Senior Center members is \$50; for senior nonmembers: \$55.

Thank you for your continued help serving our seniors.

Richard Baker, executive director, Harrah Senior Center

Solar Spring Break

To the Editor:

Students from Mills College will spend Solar Spring Break 2017 installing rooftop solar for the Little Lake Grange in Willits while gaining hands-on solar industry workforce training with GRID Alternatives, America's largest nonprofit solar installer.

The students will spend March 20-24 learning about solar system design, installing solar panels at a rural agricultural nonprofit, and touring sustainability demonstration sites.

The Grange is a focal point for the town of Willits, providing needed services, education and a gathering place for the local community.

The Grange will receive a 11.7 kW DC rated photovoltaic system that includes the equivalent of 45 panels and micro-inverters. The project should cover approximately 80 percent of the facility's electrical usage and should eliminate 224 total tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the system's lifetime, equivalent to 43 cars taken off the road for one year and 5,210 trees planted.

Solar Spring Break has grown from six schools and teams in 2014 to 15 schools and 17 teams in 2017, creating opportunities for students to make a difference in low-income communities while gaining a foothold in the solar workforce. Solar is one of America's fastest-growing industries, with more than 260,000 workers across the U.S., and California leads America with more than 100,000 solar jobs.

Solar Spring Break is sponsored by Wells Fargo, which has underwritten the program's expansion into a National Collegiate Network, connecting college students with careers in the clean energy industry.

Students will participate in the following activities

- March 20-24 – Mills College: This is an all-woman team, and this is Mills' first year participating in Solar Spring Break. On March 20, the Mills students toured Mendocino College's Appropriate Technology Program

- March 21-23: Install solar at the Little Lake Grange

- March 24: Students will tour the Solar Living Institute, and attend an open house at the Little Lake Grange from 4 to 7 pm.

The installations will help the North Coast transition to clean energy, save money, improve the environment, and grow economically while helping local students join the solar industry. Solar power can provide our most disadvantaged communities with long-term relief from unpredictable utility costs, well-paying wages (\$20 to \$24 per hour), and a cleaner environment.

Justin Fricker, GRID Alternatives, Willits

Grand jurors needed

To the Editor:

"All qualified citizens interested in serving on the 2017/2018 Mendocino County Grand Jury are invited to submit their applications to the Superior Court for consideration," announced the Honorable Jeanine B. Nadel, chair of the Grand Jury Recruitment/Selection Committee. The deadline for application submission is April 14, 2017. The 2017/2018 Grand Jury will be sworn in at the end of June, 2017 (date to be announced).

Service on the civil grand jury is an excellent opportunity to learn about the inner workings of

government, while providing a valuable service to the community. The 19 members of the grand jury

serve for one year and are empowered to investigate the operations of county, city and district governments; provide civil oversight of local government departments and agencies; and respond to citizen complaints.

The grand jury sets its own agenda and meeting schedule. Much of the work is performed in small committees, allowing for considerable flexibility in the work schedule and meeting locations.

Grand jurors are compensated \$25 per full panel meeting, \$10 per committee meeting and for committee attendance at public meetings. Mileage is reimbursed at the current County of Mendocino rate. There is free onsite parking. Prior to being nominated, each qualifying applicant is interviewed by a Superior Court judge. Training for grand jurors will be provided.

To serve as a grand juror, the following requirements must be met:

- At least 18 years of age
- United States citizen
- Resident of Mendocino County for at least one year
- Sufficiently fluent in written and spoken English
- Not currently serving on any other governmental board or commission during the term
- Not presently holding a public office
- Not personally active in any campaign of a candidate for elective office

Applications and related information are available on the Internet at: www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov/general_info/operations/grandjury.asp. The application may also be obtained in person at the Superior Court, 100 North State Street, Room 303, Ukiah or by calling the grand jury at 707-463-4320.

Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino

Looking to find our Willits Weekly distribution boxes?

They're located all around Willits, and there's even one in Laytonville, too!

101 Drive-In, Scoops Deli, J.D. Redhouse, Willits Post Office, Ardella's Downtown Diner, Buttercups Children's Boutique, Willits City Hall, Willits Library, Mariposa Market, the old Country Skillet, Old Mission Pizza, Gribaldo's Cafe, Brewed Awakening, Ace Copy and Shipping, Mendo Mill, the Harrah Senior Center, Grocery Outlet, Geiger's in Laytonville, Howard Memorial Hospital, Baechtel Grove Middle School and Willits High School.

In-the-mail and at-home options are available!

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Above: St. Patrick's Day dinner servers, from left, John Frankum, Kristen Noonan, Tom Moore, and Curtis Deshiell. Below, left: Tom Moore and Curtis Deshiell serve up the corned beef. Below, right: American Legion Post 174 Commander Roger Ham takes a break to pose for the camera. At right: The crowd at the American Legion's St. Patrick's day dinner.



Above: Little Lake Fire Department Top 10 Firefighters for 2016: back row, from left: Tim Caldwell, Tyler Yador, Chad Lesher, Robert McKenzie, and Brandon Jack. Front row, from left: Eric Alvarez, Mike Wilder, Bill Carter, and Jeremiah Martin. Not shown is Kristen Colvig.

Little Lake Fire Department Top 10 Firefighters, 2016

By Carl Magann, fire chief, LLFD

On March 4, 2017 members of the Little Lake Firefighters Association, including honorary firefighters, past firefighters and Little Lake Fire Protection Board members met at the main headquarters station to recognize the Top 10 responding firefighters for 2016. This is a traditional event that has been ongoing with the department for as long as anyone can remember.

Firefighters actively compete with each other for the status and recognition of being eligible for the Top 10 Firefighters each year. Some members are even reluctant to take vacation time with their families for fear of being surpassed by their fellow firefighters.

Top 10 selections are based on actual response to incidents, with additional points earned for attending drills and meetings. Total possible points for 2016 was a total of 1,020 points.

In the late 1960s, Little Lake Fire's call response was between 75 to 95 actual calls in a calendar year. In 2013, our volunteer firefighters responded locally to 350 alarms and calls for service, had 24 available drill nights, 12 meetings, and numerous hours of additional weekend training. During 2016,

Read the rest of **LLFD** | Over on Page 4

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COYOTE VALLEY CASINO



From far left: American Legion Auxiliary's Dori Grauer presides over the cake. Veteran Paul Bliss, grinning with the leprechaun on the wall. Red potatoes waiting to be served. Nancie Rice, Emma Cotney, Kassyly Noonan, and Alexasera Eidy.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Irish feast

American Legion Post 174 puts on annual St. Patrick's Day dinner

Corned beef, cabbage and potatoes, a traditional Irish St. Patrick's Day meal, was served by the amiable and jovial veterans of American Legion Willits Post 174 on Saturday at the Legion Hall. The annual Duane Brown Memorial Dinner, which has been occurring for over 20 years, serves to raise money for the various activities provided by the local American Legion post, including scholarships for Willits High School graduates and for the Legion's Boys State program, during which select high school juniors attend Sacramento State University for a week for an intensive immersion into the study of civics.

The Legion's annual fundraisers, including the St. Patrick's Day dinner and the Octoberfest celebration, also fund a variety of outreach programs for veterans in the community. American Legion members help point local veterans in the right direction so they can get the available services they need.

Helping with the festivities on Saturday were local Girl Scouts, who receive a free meal, merit badges and the chance to interact with and learn from these amazing veterans.



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"The goal of our work is to get more water in streams for fish, but we have found the way to do that is to create projects that also work for people," said Matt Clifford, an attorney with Trout Unlimited's California Waters Project. "To reliably maintain streamflows over time, we need to find ways to increase people's water security. This grant will help us achieve that goal in one of the last, best river systems for wild salmon and steelhead in California."

Later this year, Trout Unlimited and MCRCD will hold a series of meetings with farmers, residents and businesses who get their water supply from Ryan, Baechtel, and Broadus creeks, all of which are key spawning tributaries for endangered coho salmon, as well as for native Chinook salmon and steelhead. The meetings will focus on finding ways to help water users reduce their water diversions during the summer project also includes funds to measure existing streamflows, to develop minimum streamflow objectives, to design projects to help meet those objectives, and to secure the water rights and other permits needed to construct the projects. Trout Unlimited and MCRCD will follow up with a subsequent

Read the rest of
Watershed

Over on Page 11

A black and white photograph of a pit bull sitting on a paved surface, looking towards the camera with its mouth open and tongue out. The dog has a dark coat with white markings on its chest and paws. A chain-link fence is visible in the background.

A black and white photograph of a black and white pit bull sitting on a gravel surface, looking directly at the camera. The dog has a black coat with a white patch on its chest and white markings on its paws. It is wearing a dark collar. The background is a gravel area with a metal fence visible on the right side.

For more information on Jango or other adoptable animals, call 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.

Pg.4 **Phone:** 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 **Email:** willitsweekly@gmail.com

LED

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 **Willits Weekly** | March 23, 2017

Pairing Brian's shoeing skills with Nicol's horse training experience, the

To learn more about Brian's farrier business, call 209-663-2100 or email bdkunka0962@aol.com. To learn more about Nicol's lessons and bodywork, call 916-996-7126 or email Nkunka@aol.com.



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Thursday, March 23

“Both Sides of Atmosphere” at WCT: Last chance to see the show this week, which closes on March 26, and features Willits artist Donna Stropes’ watercolors, and ceramic work by Bruce Kitts, resident artist and instructor at the Mendocino Arts Center. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. Info: 459-1726.

Willits High School Swimming Meet: Willits vs. Ft Bragg/Mendocino. Thursday, March 23. 4 pm. City Pool, Willits High School. 299 North Main Street. (Coach Mattie Pinon).

Friday, March 24

Open House at Little Lake Grange: For spring break, Mills College students are installing rooftop solar at the Grange, and they will report on their progress. GRID Alternatives Bay Area-North Coast Outreach representatives will answer questions about alternative energy. Friday, March 24, 4 to 7 pm, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Shanachie Pub: Forrest, Sarah Rose and special guests. Musical buddies Sarah Rose McMahon and Forrest Glyer, plus several friends play “heartfelt original and familiar songs ... their unique brand of folk Americana.” Friday, March 24. 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, March 25

Make-A-Wish Fundraiser: Julia & Jamie Johnstone are hosting a “Make-A-Wish” fundraiser for their Senior Project, and would like to invite everyone in the community to come to their “Live and Silent Auction.” No host bar provided by Kiwanis. Taqueria Ramirez will have tacos to purchase. Saturday, March 25. Doors open 6 pm. Live auction 7:30 pm. Tickets \$10. Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Info: tickets, or donation: Julia 272-1480 or juliajohnstone@willitsunified.com.

Music at Brickhouse Coffee: Old River Road returns for a night of acoustic Americana. Saturday, March 25. 7 to 9 pm. No cover. tips encouraged. Brickhouse Coffee House, 3 South Main Street.

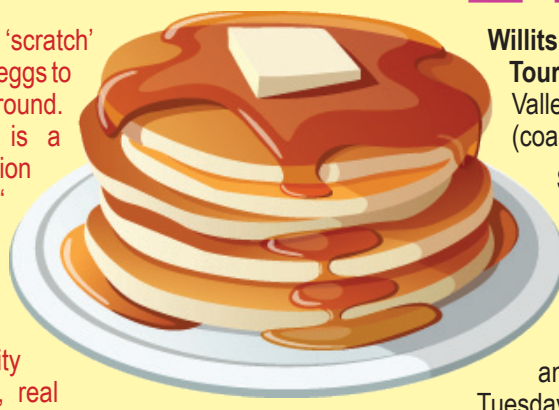
Shanachie Pub: Sandy Poze & Bob Hermann from the Bay Area play an acoustic mix of Americana, Folk, Blues, Country, and Swing. Saturday, March 25. 8 pm. \$5 cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, March 26

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am, Sunday, March 26. *Join your friends at the Grange breakfast \$8 buys

What's Happening Around Town

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 eggs, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. Live Music! \$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, 1 block west of 101). Info: 459-9716.



Willits High School Tennis Home Tournament: Willits vs. Anderson Valley: WHS tennis courts, 4 pm (coach Dave Smith).

Shanachie Pub: Tracy Hui, a genre-defying itinerant folk artist/song writer/composer/improviser. Think spontaneous Jazz, Appalachian, Folk, Rock and original compositions. Tuesday, March 28. 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Thursday March 30

Willits High School Swimming Meet: Willits vs. Clear Lake/Kelseyville. Thursday, March 30. 4 pm. City Pool, Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. (Coach Mattie Pinon).

Howard Hospital “Meet and Greet”: Willits community is invited to a “Meet and Greet” to welcome the hospital’s new president and CEO, Jason Wells. This event is free. It is an opportunity to learn more about Wells and the hospital; appetizers and refreshments will be served. Thursday, March 30, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Main Lobby of the new hospital, 1 Marcela Drive.

Book Presentation at Willits Library: Local author Earlene Gleisner will speak on her latest novel, “The Spirit Bundle.” Thursday, March 30. 7 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

“What’s Up with Mitigation?”: Patricia Hickey, director of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, and Chris Barlow, project manager of the Willits Bypass Offsite Mitigation Lands Project, will deliver a presentation on: “Plans for 2,000 Acres of Little Lake Valley.” This presentation will highlight the land management program to promote biodiversity in Little Lake Valley. The Willits Bypass Offsite Mitigation Project is the largest public wetlands mitigation project in the state of California. This free event, Thursday, March 30 at 7 pm, is sponsored by WELL (Willits Economic Localization) at the Willits Hub, 630 South Main Street. Info: Madge Strong 459-1493, or mstrong@willitsonline.com.

Shanachie Pub: Black Market Trust is an American pop/ vocal jazz band, featuring Jeffrey Radaich (lead guitar and vocals), Chris Irwin (rhythm guitar and vocals), Nicholas Coventry (violin and vocals), Brian Netzley (upright bass and vocals) and Brandon Laws (drums). Thursday, March 30. 9 pm. \$5 cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Black Market Trust

Friday, March 31

Willits High School Tennis Home Tournament: Willits vs. Fort Bragg: WHS tennis courts, 4 pm (coach Dave Smith).

Willits High School Varsity Softball: Willits vs. Clear Lake. WHS softball field, 4 pm (Coach Magnum Forkner).

Art Under 20 Opening Night Reception: “Please join us to celebrate the creativity, imagination and artistic gifts of our Willits & Laytonville teenage artists. Their artwork is impressive!” Opening night reception is Friday, March 31, from 4 to 7 pm, at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Art Under 20 is presented by the Willits High School Visual Arts Department. Artists from Willits Charter School, San Hedrin High School, Laytonville High School and La Vida Charter School have been invited to participate. Approximately 125 young-adult artists will be presenting their artworks to the community. The 2017 show runs from Friday, March 31 through Sunday, April 30. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. For more information call Carolyn Bookmobile which will visit Willits the event. Sunday, April 2, 1 to 4 pm. Willits Public Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Shanachie Pub: Blue Lotus returns, featuring original songs that take you from rock and roll to spaced out intergalactic madness, creating a high-energy, fun and danceable melodic hybrid. Friday, March 31. 9 pm. \$5 cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Blue Lotus

Saturday, April 1

Phoenix Rising Garden Class: This class covers soil preparation, weeding and cultivation, as well as setting up a cold frame for early crops and discussion of the role of greenhouses. Saturday, April 1. 1 to 5 pm. No charge to the public, but donations appreciated. West side of North Street, between Redwood and Pine streets. Info: Ron Woolsey 489-5408, please leave a message where and when to get back to you. “Thank you for your support of our growing food for the Food Bank and sponsoring gardening classes to our community.” Next class: May 6.

Future Farmers of America Alumni Dinner: Fundraiser featuring ribs, veggies, vegetarian entree, salad, ice cream, and a dessert auction. Tickets \$25 per plate. There will be a silent auction, and a live auction. Saturday, April 1. 5 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info and tickets: 459-6588.

Shanachie Pub: April Fools Party with Shoring (Folk, Americana), The Smoky Knights (indie rock), and hometown gal Sarah Rose McMahon. Saturday, April 1. 8 pm. \$7 cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, April 2

New Book Festival at Willits Library: The first-ever New Book Festival where over 1,000 new and popular books will be available for checkout. The library will have the latest adult fiction and non-fiction, along with popular young adult and children’s books, DVDs and audiobooks. The New Book Festival will have entertainment, crafts, snacks, a library card sign-up table, and fun giveaways. A book bag will be available for every library patron who checks out library items with their card. Also, tour the Mendocino County Bookmobile which will visit Willits the event. Sunday, April 2, 1 to 4 pm. Willits Public Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Save the Date:

“Museum Road Show,” April 7, Willits High School Annual Career Fair, April 14, Willits High School

Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, April 16, Willits High School, “Kentucky Derby Day” Fundraiser, May 6, Ridgewood Ranch

Senior Center Lunch

March 27 through March 31

Monday: Baked Chicken

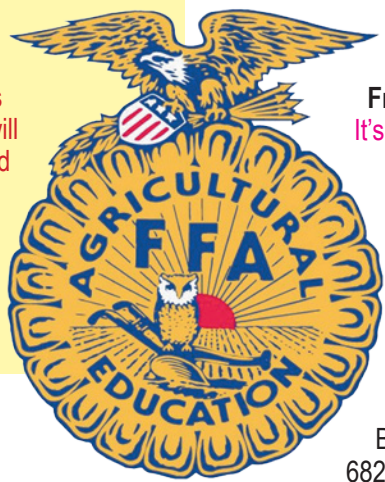
Tuesday: Baked Cod

Wednesday: Roast Pork

Thursday: Taco Salad

Friday: Turkey/Gravy Stuffing It’s Birthday Lunch week!

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



‘God of Carnage’ at WCT

Opens Friday, April 7

The French satirical comedy, “God of Carnage,” by Yasmina Reza, will open at the Willits Community on Friday, April 7 for a three-week run. This award-winning play, translated from the French by Christopher Hampton, is directed by poet, actor and musician David Partch. It features an all-star cast of local actors.

“God of Carnage” has earned overwhelming international acclaim, winning the Tony Award for Best Play and the Lawrence Olivier Award for Best Comedy. The play’s extraordinary success stems in great part from Reza’s sharp eye for human folly expressed in the language and behavior of her characters.

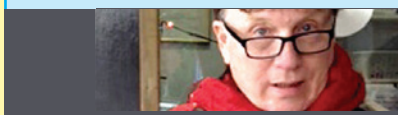
The situation: a playground altercation between two 11-year-old boys brings two sets of parents together, hopefully to resolve the matter. What begins with civilized, even diplomatic, niceties rapidly devolves into open acrimony, a bitterness that leaves the couples at odds with each other, and leaves their liberal principles in tatters. This is a comedy with a dark side; the award-winning Broadway production of the play reportedly generated gales of laughter. Yasmina Reza’s sharp wit revels in the Furies that animate “civilized” behavior.

Starring in the WCT production are Colby Friend, Andrea McCullough, Alyson Blair and Andy Watson. Director Partch brings his years of varied experience at WCT with directing, acting and musical performing to an inspired effort with his first main-stage production. He says of Yasmina Reza’s work, “It’s a gold mine. She takes an ordinary situation and lets her characters play out the scenes in some very unexpected ways. As a result we delight in the mischievous and sometimes explosive exchanges.” The New York Times has termed the play, “A study in the tension between civilized surface and savage instinct ... a satisfyingly primitive entertainment.”

“God of Carnage” runs at WCT from April 7 to 23, with shows on Thursdays at 7 pm for \$15, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm for \$20, and some Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$15. The play contains adult language and situations. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpaperickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. The Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

– Steve Hellman

COLUMN | At the Movies



‘Beauty and the Beast’

The Story: This is a musical, a romantic adventure story. An intellectually gifted country lass named Belle (teen girl heartthrob Emma Watson) loses her beloved father (Kevin Cline) in a timber wolf accident, and then an abduction by an ensorcelled furry-faced monstrosity known as Beast (Dan Stevens). Beast was once upon a time a selfish and self-important prince who was mean to the wrong old woman, and she cursed, or more aptly, cast a transfiguration spell on his royal Self-importance. His inner “ugly” became his outer “ugly.” But then, more or less, Belle meets Beast. Valentines are inevitable.

My Thoughts: I do love women. After doing an impromptu, entirely unscientific survey of young Willits women, I discovered that “Beauty and the Beast” is a romantic touchstone of their girlhood ... without reservation a favorite. So many of the young women remember with lovely, trembling joy seeing and adoring the Disney animated feature of the same name and story. These women made clear to me, unapologetically, that this is an exceptional chick flick of the highest order. No wonder I love them. Who knew?

Parents: Magical talking tea sets. Dancing rat racks. Beast may be scary to little ones. True love conquers all. Fairy tales never die. Children will love it.

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

What’s Happening at KLLG

KLLG, Willits Hometown Radio began a crowdfunding campaign this week to raise funds which will help the station to purchase much-needed equipment, such as a new broadcasting console (to replace the one our sister station loaned us), air conditioning and ducting for the studio, a new EAS (Emergency Alert System), back-up generator, many cables and wires; and, if the station raises enough funds, KLLG may even be able to begin phase 2: a second studio built specifically for producing music.

This past year, KLLG raised a 58-foot tower atop the Little Lake Grange Building, built a studio and purchased the equipment needed to get “On Air!” Currently, KLLG has 28 hours of locally produced programming on its schedule. KLLG encourages its listeners to visit its website at KLLG.org, check the program schedule, then click the link to the crowdfunding page, fundklgradio@causevox.com.

This week the station added “Spirit, Soil, Sound,” an eclectic mix of earthcentric music, prose, and more, with DJ David Grefrath, on Tuesday at 8 pm and Sunday at 6 pm. “We are excited for our Fundraising Campaign Party, April 4, at Shanachie Pub with local bands Bug Guts and Pick & Pull.”

Healthier Living Workshop

Tuesday, April 4

Willitsians are invited to register in a free six-week “Healthier Living Workshop,” presented by Avenues to Wellness, starting April 4. The workshop sessions focus on goal-setting, problem solving, and strategizing ways to reduce pain, fatigue, anxiety and stress. Workshop sessions will include tips to better manage participants’ health, information on healthy eating, and how to incorporate physical activity into daily routine. Called the “Chronic Disease Self-Management Program,” it was designed by Stanford University and Northern California Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program.

Results of a five-year study found that people who took this program, when compared to people who did not take the program, improved their healthful behaviors (exercise, cognitive symptom management, coping, and communications with physicians), improved their health status (self-reported health, fatigue, disability, social/role activities, and health distress), and decreased their days in the hospital.

To register for this local, free six-week workshop, call Doreen at Avenues to Wellness: 456-9676.

Get your event in our calendar willitsweekly@gmail.com

Ongoing Events

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

“Both Sides of Atmosphere”: the March show at Willits Center for the Arts features watercolors by Donna Stropes – including a recent series of paintings of clouds – and ceramic work by Bruce Kitts, resident artist and instructor at the Mendocino Arts Center. Runs through March 26. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. WCA, 71 Commercial Street. Info: 459-1726.

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

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

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

The Willits Seed Lending Library: Offering information on seed saving and gardening. Seeds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables are free to seed library members, and seed donations are gladly accepted. “We look forward to seeing you at the Willits Library!”

Al-Anon Meeting: Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid) at the Evergreen Shopping Center. Saturdays at 10 am at St. Francis Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 66 East Commercial Street. “Al-Anon

Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery.”

Willits Library Activities: Tuesdays: 3 to 5 pm, “Wii Day” (video games); Wednesdays: (except the first Wednesday of the month), 9 to 10 am, “Tracing Your Past” (research your family tree, must pre-register) and 3:30 to 4:30 pm, “Lego Day” (bring your imagination and start building); Thursdays: 11 to 11:30 am, “Walkers and Crawlers” (stories, songs and a craft with the children’s librarian); Fridays: 3:30 to 4:30 pm, “Therapeutic Coloring Club” (get creative as you unwind); Fridays: 5 to 7 pm, “Youth Game Night” (Magic the Gathering, Force of Will, Pokemon, board games, puzzles, chess and more, geared for ages 10 to 14); Saturdays: 1 to 2:30 pm, “The Crafty Librarian” (fun crafts for the whole family). Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: Wendy Copperfield 459-5908.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Earlene Gleisner

Book reading for local author’s ‘The Spirit Bundle’

Thursday, March 30

Friends of the Willits Library invites the community to hear from local author Earlene Gleisner on her latest novel, “The Spirit Bundle,” set for Thursday, March 30 at 7 pm at the Willits Library.

Written in the emerging genre of “visionary fiction,” this is the second novel of the Sacred Bundle series and is dedicated with respect to all indigenous cultures throughout our world.

Gleisner hopes the teachings brought forth in the braided stories of her three main characters, Flynn Devon, Selena Howells and Amach, will illustrate ways in which we all can learn to walk in balance together on Mother Earth.

One beta reader and reviewer wrote: “‘The Spirit Bundle’ is beautifully written, well-constructed, and full of intrigue. It never lags. An absolute page turner ... at times wretched and, at other times, light and wonderful.”

Copies will soon be available at local libraries and for purchase at The Book Juggler, and the book will be available at online vendors by the end of March.

– Submitted by Friends of the Willits Library

At left: The crafts area in back of the Grange offered the opportunity to paint bird houses and to make ribbon dancers and flower crowns. Far left: The Cult of Ours band with, from left, Don Roberts on harmonica, Kyle Madrigal on guitar, Jesse Bessoni on drums and percussion, Page Fender on trumpet, and Tom Girdauskas on electric bass.

Below, left: Sarah Larkin sings with her sister Sarahs onstage at the Winter Carnival. Below, right: Lyndsey Burns, Winter Carnival producer, talks about her experiences on the road producing events throughout the U.S.

At bottom: One of five presenters, Donna d'Terra talks about growing medicinal plants for the local bioregion.



Above, left: Ruthie King and Lyndsey Burns take a moment to smile for the camera. Above, right: Rainya plays Stand the Bottle, a very difficult game. This was her second successful try.

Below, from left: A plate full of Elevenzies' pulled pork and chipotle jicama slaw and a side of kale salad. Jini Reynolds and her grandson, Soren Jackson, play the Bear Bag Toss. Greeters and ticket sellers, Rebekah Allen, left, and Eva King, enjoy their kombucha drink donated by Laytonville's The Big Chief.

Photos by Ree Slocum



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The rest of Cannabis | From Page 1

Dan Hamburg recusing himself on marijuana issues due to a conflict of interest, all three remaining supervisors had to vote "yes" for the ordinance to pass.

Gjerde repeatedly asked his colleagues for special rules that would apply to Fourth District coastal areas that would make it legal for people to grow cannabis on residential parcels that are smaller than five acres. Under the ordinance as it then stood, such cultivation would not be permitted after the termination of a two-year "sunset" period.

Gjerde claimed the great majority of residential parcels in the county between 2 and 5 acres in size are in the coastal area and, he added, most people in those areas accept marijuana cultivation as a routine way of earning a living. He warned the board he would have a hard time voting yes on the ordinance unless the two other supervisors were to compromise with him on this point.

This seemed likely to be difficult, because one of the other two supervisors was Second District Supervisor John McCowen, chief architect of the ordinance, who had repeatedly said he thought one of the main purposes of the ordinance was to get cannabis cultivation out of residential neighborhoods.

When Gjerde pushed him to the wall, McCowen wouldn't budge. "I am going to stick to my principle of not allowing commercial cultivation in a residential zone," he said. "If we don't move forward with this today, I am prepared to wait until we have a new Third District supervisor."

At the critical moment, First District Supervisor Carre Brown, who has often served as the unofficial "mediator" on the board, offered a compromise. Brown, who had herself previously expressed a dislike of the two-year sunset period and seemed to favor whittling it down further, asked Gjerde if he could support the ordinance if the sunset period were extended to three years. Gjerde was not explicit in his response. He didn't speak; he didn't nod; he didn't even blink. But when the vote was taken, Gjerde voted yes, along with Brown and McCowen.

The vote does not formally adopt the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance, however. To adopt an ordinance, it is first "read" (the reading may be waived) and an affirmative vote is taken. This is what happened Tuesday. Then, at the next regularly scheduled board meeting, the ordinance will be considered a second time. This called the second reading. (The actual reading of the ordinance may be waived.) A vote then occurs a second time. If the second vote is also affirmative, then the ordinance is adopted.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board of supervisors is April 4. If the ordinance is adopted on April 4, it will take effect on May 4.

It is difficult to summarize the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance, an ordinance that is really two separate ordinances, Chapter 10A.17, which states the rules for cultivation, and Chapter 20.242, which declares where cultivation can occur.

Taken together, the "red-line" version of the two ordinances constitutes 59 pages. Measure AF, the Mendocino Heritage Initiative, which failed to pass in the November 2016 election, was 60 pages long.

In other respects, the county's ordinance is radically different from Measure AF. Measure AF would have allowed commercial cannabis cultivation in every zoning district in the county. The county's ordinance allows it in only 11 districts and only for people who can demonstrate they were growing cannabis here before January 1, 2016.

Then, after two years, strange things start to happen. First, cultivation permits are offered for sale to new cultivators, but only on land zoned agricultural. Secondly, after

three years, commercial cultivation of medical cannabis becomes illegal in residential zones smaller than five acres.

There will be some ways around this prohibition. The first is, the county will draft and adopt language creating "overlay districts," where cannabis cultivation restrictions can be relaxed to some extent in areas that want more relaxed restrictions. Details of what these amendments or code sections will be — or what the process will be to determine the wishes of any neighborhood — are unknown at present.

According to county CEO Carmel Angelo, a request for proposals for a consultant to help the county draft this overlay language will go out by March 31. However, whether the county has overlay provisions or not won't really effect how the regulations are interpreted while the sunset period is still shining.

A second way of getting around the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance is an exemption process, which is yet to be written. As with the overlay process, the contents of the exemption subsection are vague at present. Presumably, the exemption or exception process will deal with people who are close to meeting standards.

In general, the three-person version of the board of supervisors that spent the last past 10 months working on the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance attempted to do the impossible and succeeded only in doing the possible. The ordinance is long and convoluted; it is self-referential; it depends upon the cooperation of other agencies; and to implement it will require a level of administrative excellence for which Mendocino County has not become famous in the past.

Nevertheless, of the 42 people who addressed the board on aspects of the ordinance between 1:30 and 4:30 pm Tuesday, many said they appreciated the board's efforts and especially the board's willingness to compromise — if not on all requests, at least on some requests.

One such commenter was Linda Gray, a resident of Greenfield Ranch near Ukiah. Gray had asked the board to be flexible on the question of joint tenancy — when one parcel is owned by more than one person. As written and considered and reconsidered over a nine-month period, from May 2016 until February 14 of this year, the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance provided each applicant could receive two permits, but each parcel could only have one applicant.

That ruling did not accommodate people like Gray, who owns a Greenfield Ranch parcel in common with other people. She wanted the board to allow each co-owner of a parcel to have the full right to apply for two permits. Eventually, supervisors agreed to her request.

Contacted on Wednesday, McCowen said he felt good about the outcome and was pleased at the quality of the ordinance.

"It didn't make anyone totally happy so I guess we succeeded," he said. "But I do think it offers the best outcome for the greatest number of people: for the cultivators, for the neighbors, for the community in general and for the environment. I think that's what we set out to do, and I think that's what we've done."

"Now, a lot of people think we should have gone 'all in' on cannabis, and this ordinance doesn't do that. And we didn't want it to do that. But I like where we are on this. If the market collapses, or if some of the other factors out there come into play, we're not at as much risk."

"Besides, I want there to be room for other, more traditional types of industry: other forms of agriculture, logging, ranching, for example," he added. "It's better, I think, for everybody if we try to retain the basis for a diverse economy here, and not put all our eggs in one basket."

The rest of Vehicle | From Page 1

arson cases and demanding Brooktrails limit fire department employees and volunteers to providing fire protection, rescue, hazardous emergency response services, and ambulance services (including emergency mutual aid) to the Brooktrails Community Services District.

Previously, the board rejected Trexel's requests to abandon Brooktrails' arson investigation program and to substantially change the township's fire hazard abatement program.

In his letter, Trexel urged directors to prohibit fire department personnel from using Brooktrails Fire Department vehicles to attend out-of-district meetings, and said that only firefighters "scheduled to be on call nights, weekends or holidays" should be allowed to be "in possession of a fire department vehicle away from the station."

"At no time," Trexel argued, should a fire department employee "possess a fire department vehicle away from the station during time off, sick leave, training outside the district, or vacations."

The only time a vehicle should be allowed to leave the district, Trexel said, was for maintenance.

In response to Trexel's letter, Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose prepared a memo for the February 14 board meeting, when a review of the Brooktrails Fire Department's vehicle use policy was first scheduled. In that February 10 memo, Rose provided a number of links to policies from other jurisdictions around the country for use of emergency vehicles.

"Many departments across the country issue 'take-home' vehicles to members with chief rank designations, such as deputy chief, assistant chief or battalion chief, as well as on-call duty officers," Rose wrote, "for the purpose of ensuring that the officer is able to respond to an emergency after normal working hours. Additionally, during working hours it is the practice across the country that all 'errands' are performed in department vehicles that are fully outfitted to respond to an emergency."

The newly approved district fire vehicle policy — similarly to the policies Rose provided from other jurisdictions — allows fire department command and duty officers to take their vehicles home and use them for "travel to and from home and incidental other tasks from which the operator of the vehicle can be available to respond in a timely matter to emergency situations. This may include certain personal travel within township fire department boundaries as well as the boundaries of the Little Lake Fire District, so long as the user and vehicle are made immediately available to respond to an emergency."

All other use of staff vehicles outside of these boundaries, the policy continues, "such as training [and] vehicle maintenance are at the discretion of the fire chief and/or appropriate township officer."

The use of assigned vehicles by fire department staff, the policy adds, should not be considered a "perk," and Internal Revenue Service compensation guidelines "will apply to department personnel assigned a staff vehicle for off-duty response."

However, it states, operation of vehicles carrying needed tools and equipment are not subject to "imputed income taxation as the result of vehicle assignments," and BFD command personnel may be assigned a staff vehicle "on a permanent basis so [they] may respond 24/7 regardless of duty status."

More of Ordinance | From Page 1

liquor and convenience store would conflict with the community character of Redwood Valley.

Attorneys for Dollar General told supervisors their client had submitted its application properly; the proposed use was allowed in the commercial zoning of the neighborhood; and the issuance of the permit was ministerial, not discretionary, meaning it had to be issued as a matter of course and the county could not refuse to issue the permit.

County attorneys agreed with company attorneys, and the permit was issued, although to date, a year and six months later, no construction has begun at the site.

The episode brought to light some holes in the county's regulatory structure, namely that the county had no way to make sure the Dollar General debacle did not happen again. As it stood in September 2015, the county had no way to regulate a formula business applying for a building permit in a commercial zone. It had no way to allow the public to comment on the application. It had no way to soften the company's physical presence on the ground, or to make the physical structure blend in with community standards.

So, in 2016 supervisors directed Planning and Building to draft a new ordinance to address these issues. On Monday, Planning and Building Interim Director Nash Gonzalez unveiled the new eight-page "formula business" ordinance.

A resolution that's part of the ordinance states some reasons why the county thinks the formula business ordinance is a good idea.

"Whereas, Mendocino County contains many rural communities with a small-town environment and unique character, each of which attracts residents and visitors because of their eclectic and diverse mix of businesses, and each of which must be protected and enhanced so the unique character of the rural communities of Mendocino County can flourish without inappropriate changes;

"And whereas, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors desires to protect the unique character of the rural communities of the county and create a supportive environment for new and unique small businesses; ...

"And whereas, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is concerned that 'chain' or 'formula' businesses, whose objectives of standardization and brand identity may be in conflict with emphasizing local community character, will proliferate throughout the rural communities of the county and detract from the unique character of the county by displacing unique local or other small businesses or introducing standardized, non-unique establishments that will lessen the uniqueness and character prized by county residents;

"And whereas, income earned by independent small businesses is more likely to circulate within the local economy than the money earned by formula businesses, which often have corporate offices and vendors located outside of Mendocino County, resulting in less local economic benefit and vitality, adversely affecting the county."

The ordinance states projects that would site a formula business in a commercial zone in the unincorporated part of the county will now have to be granted a minor use permit. The minor use permit process allows public comment on the proposal.

The ordinance also defines "formula business" as any of four business types: eating and drinking establishments; food and beverage retail sales; food and beverage preparation, without onsite consumption; and general retail sales, regardless of location and ownership, which along with 10 or more other establishments maintains two or more standardized features. The standardized features include: color scheme, décor, façade, service mark, signage, standardized array of merchandise, standardized array of services, and uniforms.

The ordinance states that site layout, open space and topography, orientation and location of buildings "shall be designed to integrate with

Read the rest of Ordinance | Over on Page 11

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Museum 'Road Show'

True local stories brought to life with actors, vintage photos and music

The Mendocino County Museum's "Road Show" returns in April, opening in Willits before traveling to performances in four other locations around the county. This year's production has all-new material: Seven actors will portray more than 50 characters accompanied by a brand-new Road Show band! For three triumphant years – 2014, 2015 and 2016 – the Museum Road Show has played to packed houses across the county, bringing our history to life through stories and song.

Drawing solely on transcribed archives of recorded oral histories and other primary source materials, audiences vividly experience true local stories brought to life in an amazing ensemble presentation of sound, image and virtuoso acting. To further illustrate and enrich these great stories, Artistic Director and Production Designer Linda Pack has chosen a cavalcade of extraordinary vintage photographs of our county's history – forming the backdrop upon which the incredible tales will unfold.

This year's stories include the pivotal Frolic shipwreck, and the birth of the lumber industry; schooners and stagecoach lines – the only way in the early days to transport goods or people; the truth about the Mendocino Indian "Wars"; Grace Hudson, her paintings and her love for the Pomo; and the scandalous and comical tale of the Cattle King of Round Valley

and the Fraud Queen of Spiritualism.

In addition to Pack, who performs in the show, too, in addition to her director and designer roles, the Museum Road Show cast is made up of six renowned local actors, including Dramaturge Kate Magruder, actor, director, writer and founder of Ukiah Players Theatre; Stage Director Ricci Dedola, a Mendocino-based actor and director; actor Nichole Phillips, who just enjoyed her directing debut with "The Importance of Being Earnest" at UPT; teacher, actor and founder of Willits Shakespeare Company Billy Hetherington; Ukiah-based actor Tony Rakes, frequently featured on the UPT stage; and Fort Bragg's own mayor, Lindy Peters.

This year's band, Poonkinney Antique, has come together specifically for the Museum Road Show. Erin Brazill, Joey Goforth and Ryan Kroll play original and traditional folk songs, with a sound combining fiery gypsy jazz and sweet, pure bluegrass. Deeply committed to our county's history and to telling our stories, past and present, Poonkinney Antique is a group of gifted and hardworking local musicians.

The Museum Road Show will play for three weekends in April at the following venues: opening night, Friday, April 7, 7:30 pm at Willits High School; Saturday, April 8, 7:30 pm at Arena Theater in Point



Having fun on stage during the 2016 Museum Road Show, from left: actors Nichole Phillips, Linda Pack, Billy Hetherington and Ricci Dedola.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Arena; Saturday, April 15, 2 pm and 7:30 pm at Mendocino College Center Theatre in Ukiah; Friday, April 21, 7:30 pm at Anderson Valley Grange in Philo; and closing night on Saturday, April 22, 7:30 pm at Cotton Auditorium in Fort Bragg. Doors open half an hour early for guests to find their seats and enjoy pre-show music.

Advance tickets are \$18 for adults, and \$14 for seniors (65 and over) and youth (20 and under). At the door ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors/youth.

All tickets are available online through www.MendocinoMuseum.org, by calling the Mendocino County Museum at 459-2736, or by visiting the museum at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits during open hours, 10 am to 4:30 pm, Wednesday through Sunday. Advance purchase is strongly recommended.

– submitted by the
Mendocino County Museum



CONGRATS | Birth Announcement

Hazel Ysabel Duran

Hazel Ysabel Duran was welcomed by Angela and Victor Duran of Willits on February 28, 2017. She was born at 4:32 am, weighed 7 pounds, 9.6 ounces, and was 19 ¼ inches long. She is adored by big brother Oscar; she is the second grandchild to Joseph and Ayla Pizzo and Peggy Armstrong; and she is the 18th grandchild to Antonio and Hortencia Duran.

At right: Actors in the 2016 Museum Road Show, Kate Magruder, left, and Billy Hetherington, right. Far right: Tony Rakes, left, Lindy Peters and Billy Hetherington help tell the story about the contentious 1916 election in California, when voters were asked to make alcohol illegal throughout the state.



FRANK R. HOWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INVITES YOU TO

A Community Open House to Meet & Greet Jason Wells, President & CEO



Please join us

in giving a warm Willits welcome to
Jason Wells, our new president and CEO.

This event is free and open to everyone and is an opportunity for the community to learn more about Jason and the hospital.

Thursday, March 30
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Free and
Open to the
Community

Main Lobby of the New Hospital
1 Marcela Drive in Willits
(Corner of East Hill and Haehl Creek Drive)

Appetizers & refreshments will be served

Jason Wells comes to us from Asheville, North Carolina, where he provided physician oversight for Park Ridge Health, a 103-bed community hospital. Under Jason's leadership at Park Ridge, the number of physicians nearly doubled in size. He was also instrumental in launching new services, leading the integration of their primary care group and tremendously improving the patient experience and employee engagement.

In his free time, Jason enjoys spending time with his wife and their three children (11, 8 and 5). They are looking forward to camping in the redwoods, enjoying the beach and spending time together exploring the beautiful Mendocino county area.

Frank R. Howard
Memorial Hospital

Will be known as:

Adventist Health
Frank R. Howard
Memorial



Above, from left: If it's the Willits Winter Farmers Market, that means it's time for truffles and chocolates hand-crafted by Robert Goleman of Bolliver's Fine Foods & Confections.

Michelle Costa arranges her jars of fermented foods.

Radishes, rainbow chard and other leafy greens can be purchased at the Green Uprising Farm table.

Members of the Winter Market crew, including, back row, from left: Richard Jeske, Chris the guitarist, Keith Rosen, Mike Taaning, Sue Clark, Liam Uicearbhaill, Sierra Alexander, Michelle Costa, Wendy Copperfield, Lisa Williams, Will Minor, and Dave Beebe.

Front row, from left: Valerie Trimmer, Amanda Fairall, Robert Goleman, Maria Bilsborrow, holding baby Lavender, and market manager Michael Foley.

Below: Shoppers check out the fresh veggies and jarred goods at the Green Uprising Farm table.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Meet you at the Market

Winter Willits Farmers Market in full swing
on Thursdays at the Little Lake Grange

Just because it's still too chilly for tomatoes, it doesn't mean there's nothing happening at the Willits Farmers Market. Things have moved indoors, as is traditional for the winter market, into the hall of the Little Lake Grange. The market is still held on its normal day, Thursday, from 3 to 5:30 pm, closing a half-hour earlier than the summer market.

Artisans, groups and farmers make up the usual roster of the winter market crew. Green Uprising Farm provides winter vegetables: Chard, radishes, bok choy, microgreens – and most recently, robust and delicious spinach – fill their tables. Amanda Fairall of Fairall's Farm has her homemade jams, eggs, baked savory goods and cookies, and Mike Taaning of Inland Ranch offers eggs and quality pork, beef and lamb, including his tasty Italian and chipotle sausages. John Ford Ranch sells their ranch-raised natural beef – no hormones or antibiotics. Valerie Trimmer offers handmade knitted gifts. Schnitzler Apiaries sells local honey, on and off the comb, and Robert Goleman of Bolliver's Fine Foods & Confections offers a wide variety of ready-to-eat and heat-and-serve entrees and sides, as well as desserts and artisan chocolates.

The Willits Library and Willits Environmental Center have informational tables at the market each week – last week, Sonoma Clean Power was there, too. Come pick up the new edition of Willits Weekly (or pay a bill or buy a subscription or T-shirt) at our weekly table, too!

The Willits Farmers Market will move back outdoors the first week of May.
– Maureen Moore



Above, left: Representatives from Sonoma Clean Power, Mendocino County's new default electricity provider as of June, explain how their services will work. Above, right: Lotus, Toni and Sheri, who gather to spin at the market each week, show off photos and the story about the knitting club they were excited to read about, published in the March 16 edition of Willits Weekly.

At right: Richard Jeske and Chris sing for the market vendors and attendees at last week's market. Below, left: Carlin Diamond chats with Sue Clark at the John Ford Ranch table. Below, right: Valerie Trimmer's colorful crocheted finger-less gloves.





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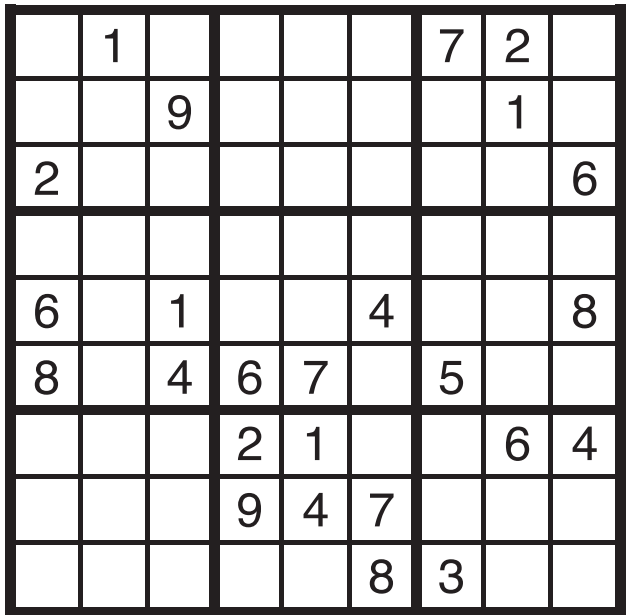
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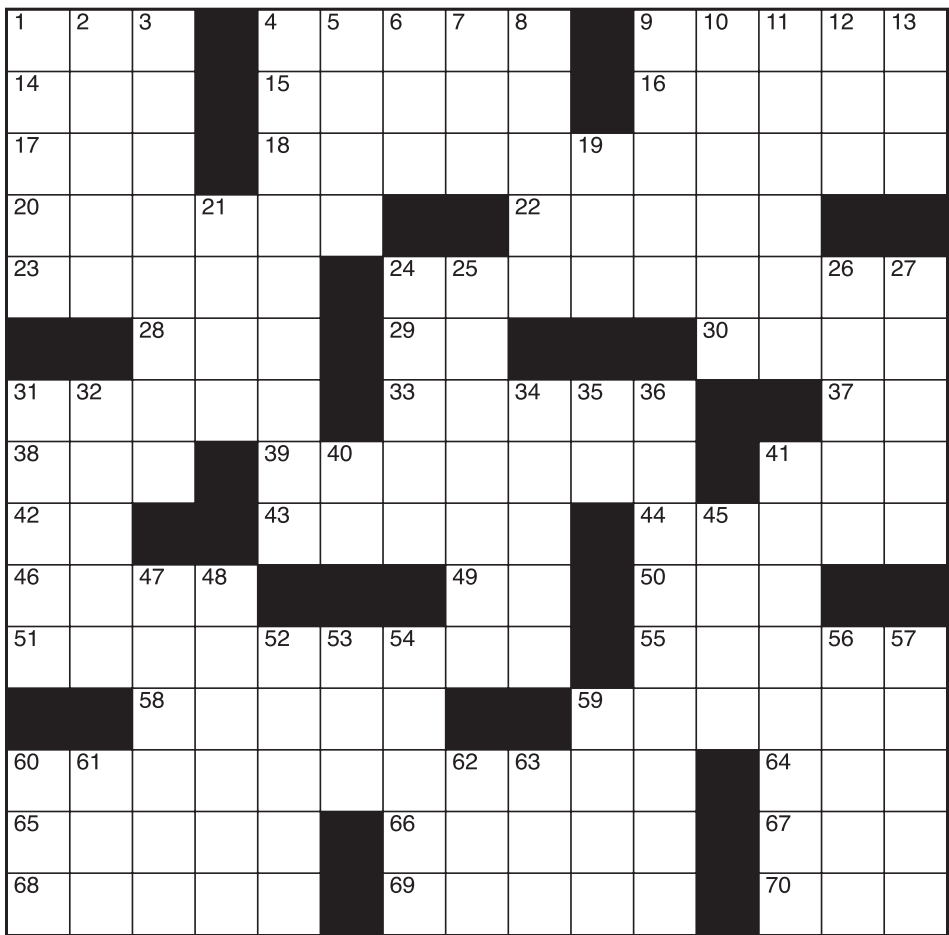


Level: Advanced

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T O R O T S I C R I E N R G R E A F L E N A E R M O
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CLUES ACROSS

- Thick flat pad
- Green regions of desert
- Fill with dismay
- Boxing legend
- Soup
- Your sibling's daughter
- A long thin implement
- Late ESPN anchor
- Motives
- Astronomy term
- Semitic Sun god
- Small cigar
- Promotions
- Not off
- Line or plaster the roof
- African Indian people of Alberta, Canada
- Rituals
- Chlorine
- Red deer
- Offers a good view
- Post-indictment arrangement
- Blood group
- Razor clams
- Fleshes of animals
- Nipple
- Indicates position
- Electrocardiogram

- Can be disconnected
- Tall military cap
- Cape Verde capital
- Not written in any key
- Creative
- Suffix
- Stacked
- One who consumes
- Not he
- Whiskey and milk are two
- Entryways
- and cheese

CLUES DOWN

- Marketplaces
- Hawaiian greeting
- Mark left by the sea
- Strongly affected by something
- Music and painting are two
- Small coin (French)
- Letter of the Greek alphabet
- A gesture involving the shoulders
- Grey geese
- Meal in the park
- Human beings
- What thespians do
- Allow
- Third-party access

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POLICE LOG

March 13 to March 18

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 130 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

March 13

7:20 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of South Street.

6:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Holly Street.

6:36 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street.

10:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

March 14

1:19 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:47 am: Officers initiated a Fish and Game violation investigation in the 400 block of East Hill Road.

7:56 am: QUILTER III, James Emanuel (21) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on charges of felony domestic violence/inflicting corporal injury.

10:13 am: HARRELL, Robert Willie (33) was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on charges of receiving stolen property.

11:18 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

11:20 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

11:30 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1400 block of Baechtlet Road.

5:42 pm: MAXFIELD, Bradley (22) of Willits was contacted in the 1200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 602 PC (Trespassing) and on charges of misdemeanor violation of probation.

7:21 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of West Valley Street.

March 15

8:03 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:44 pm: Officers responded to a report

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

2:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of a possible shooting in the 100 block of Pine Street.

10:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of Humboldt Street and issued a warning.

March 16

12:35 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

7:11 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Blosser Lane and Highway 20 and issued a warning.

12:01 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

March 17

2:10 am: HERNANDEZSUTHERLAND, Miguel Angel (23) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of Holly Street. He was arrested on charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance.

5:23 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

9:57 am: MUNSON, Steven Len (59) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of East Hill Road and Baechtlet Road. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order).

1:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

2:01 pm: TORRES, Vincent (22) of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on charges of misdemeanor failure to appear.

3:30 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of North Main Street.

3:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 200 block of North Main Street.

4:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of Holly Street.

March 18

9:29 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of East Valley Street.

9:38 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of Della Avenue.

2:35 pm: GOINES, Charles Wayne (71) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of Mill Street. He was arrested pursuant to 273.5 PC (Felony Corporal Injury).

Covelo man arrested after shooting tribal officer with 'birdshot'

A shotgun-toting 22-year-old Covelo man was arrested Tuesday afternoon following an exchange of gunfire earlier that day with Round Valley Indian Tribal Police officers.

Officers had gone to a home in the 22500 Block of Refuse Road in Covelo shortly before 10:30 am after receiving a call from the homeowner about an unwanted and armed man on his property.

One officer covered the front of the house while the other went to the rear of the residence, said sheriff's Lt. Shannon Barney. The officer in the front of the house saw Jeffery A. Joaquin in the driveway, got out of his patrol car with his duty-issued shotgun, and demanded Joaquin "drop his gun."

Instead, Barney said, Joaquin fired one round from his shotgun at the officer, striking him in the face with what appeared to be "birdshot." The officer returned fire, Barney said, firing two rounds from his shotgun at Joaquin, who had hidden behind a vehicle.

"Witnesses yelled at Joaquin to drop the firearm," Barney said, and he did, removing his shirt and placing his hands in the air "as if to surrender," before fleeing west on foot.

The tribal officer "appeared to have been struck with at least one pellet in the face, but [the birdshot] did not break the skin" because the two men were about 50 feet from each other and "the energy of the birdshot appeared to have dissipated."

Mendocino County Sheriff's detectives were called in to investigate and a manhunt was begun to find the 175-pound suspect, Barney said.

Just before 4 pm, Round Valley Indian

Tribal Police received an anonymous tip that Joaquin was holed up at a home in the 25300 Block of Barnes Lane.

After several tribal officers arrived at the home and demanded his surrender, Joaquin emerged from the home and was taken into custody. He was later transferred to the custody of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Joaquin was taken to Howard Memorial Hospital for "medical clearance" after having difficulty breathing before he was booked into the Mendocino County Jail, Barney said, emphasizing the medical problem was unrelated to the earlier exchange of gunfire,

and that Joaquin had not been injured during the brief firefight.

On February 7, Joaquin had been involved in a different incident, Barney said, where he was shot in the torso by an unknown assailant, but Joaquin refused to cooperate with law enforcement officers during their investigation of that incident.

Joaquin is being held without bail in county jail on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, using a firearm during the commission of a felony, possession of a firearm with the intent to commit a felony, being a felon in possession of a firearm, possessing a short-barreled shotgun, and a warrant charging him with violating conditions of the Post-Release Community Supervision, Realignment Act of 2011.

So far, Barney said, Joaquin has "refused to provide a statement in this case, so the motivation behind the assault is not known."

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



Above: Willits FFA President Caitlyn Forrester and Vice President James Brown hold the poster for the upcoming FFA Alumni Dinner. Above, right: Willits FFA officers: James Brown, Caitlyn Forrester, Bailey Ferguson, DJ Buzzard, Devin Heiken and Keegan Reed. Below, the 2017 officer team. Below, right: Devin Heiken holds a ticket for the April 1 dinner.



Young Willits grapplers fare well at Twin Cities Invitational in Sutter

By Wayne Shull, coach

Saturday morning came early for the Baechtlet Grove Cougars and Willits Sheriffs Activities League Youth Wrestling teams as they gathered at Sutter Union High School to compete in the 2017 Twin Cities Invitational Wrestling Tournament.

Grapplers representing over 15 clubs and schools, ranging in age from kindergarten to eighth grade, came to test their skills and try for their chance at a gold medal. The competition took place in two gymnasiums on six mats that

were seldom vacant.

Wrestlers began facing off around 9 am, and the competition concluded at approximately 4 pm that afternoon.

The K-3 age competition took place in the north gym, and grades 4 to 8 wrestled in the south gym. Willits Sheriffs Activities League grapplers who brought home medals were:

Gold Medals (1st place): Vladimir

Read the rest of **Wrestle** | Over on Page B6



FFA Alumni Dinner

planned to support Willits chapter

The Willits FFA Alumni is holding a dinner at the Little Lake Grange on April 1, 2017. It will start at 5 pm, and tickets cost \$25. The dinner will include ribs, veggies, a vegetarian dish, bread, green salad, ice cream and a dessert auction. Future Farmers of America relies on its alumni to garner support for FFA from their local communities, raise funds for chapter activities and scholarships, assist at FFA leadership camps and conferences, and more.

You don't have to be a former FFA member to support FFA, agricultural education, and the future of agriculture. In the past few years since the Willits FFA Alumni group has been started, they have successfully raised enough money to completely fence the perimeter of the school farm, send more than 15 students to leadership conferences, and start a fund to purchase a new ag truck. By attending and supporting this dinner, you are supporting the local youth and the FFA program.

If you would like to be a part of the FFA Alumni or would like to purchase tickets, please contact Annette Pinon at 459-6588. Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you there.

— DJ Buzzard, secretary, Willits High School FFA



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Live Your Dream 2017

Ashlee Milenewicz, winner of the 2017 Live Your Dream award, attended the Soroptimist International of Willits luncheon on Tuesday, March 21 to receive her \$1,000 check and speak to the group.

Milenewicz, a single mother, is attending Mendocino College while supporting her daughter and her grandfather's care needs.

The Live Your Dream award recognizes women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families. The award gives them a boost in resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

Above: SIW president Divora Stern poses with award-winner Ashlee Milenewicz, who holds her daughter. Below: Luncheon attendees clap for Milenewicz, who gave a moving speech after receiving her check.



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Photos by Maureen Moore

Meet the (new!) Soroptimists



Three new members joined the roster of the Soroptimist International of Willits chapter: Susan Soss, Becky King and Elaine Hope. The new members were introduced and inducted into the club during the March 21 meeting. The new members received their official Soroptimist ribbons, and their sponsoring members received a star-shaped pin.

The Soroptimists are always looking for new members interested in supporting women and girls in the community.

The club meets at Old Mission Pizza on the second and third Tuesdays of the month at 12 pm. All ages, professions and retirees are welcome to join.

Involvement levels can vary, but all are

Read the rest of **SIW** Over on Page B7



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Bertolino, 40-pound class (kindergarten) and Jordan Shull, 55 class (first grade). Silver Medal (2nd place): Gavin McFadden, 55 class (second grade) and Leo Moratti, 75a class (fourth grade). Bronze Medal (3rd place): Poncrazio Bertolino, 50 class (second grade) and Isaac Silva, 65 class, (second grade).

Jesse Arms, 75b class (fifth grade), wrestled very well but did not place.

In the south gym, the fourth-through eighth-grade competition took place with Baechtel Grove wrestlers finishing as follows:

Gold Medals (1st place): MaryAnn Bertolino, 85b class (sixth grade); Adrian Rabano, 90a class (sixth grade); Geovani Bertolino, 90 class (eighth grade); Micah Warner, 145 class (eighth grade); and Isabella Nunez, 175b class (eighth grade). Silver Medal (2nd place): Tyler Dalton, 110b class (sixth grade). Bronze Medal (3rd place): Kamren White, 80a class (sixth grade). Bronze Medals (4th place): Kevin Arms, 125b class (seventh grade); Laney Hendry, 140 class (eighth grade); Amber Nowlin, 165 class (seventh grade); and Cecilia Cramer, 195 class (eighth grade).

Other notable performances were shown by Tanner Drew, 85a class (6th grade); Devon Rabano, 90 class (seventh grade); and Taylor Drew, 115 class (eighth grade), who was due up to wrestle off for a medal, but coaches withdrew him from competition due to injuries.

Both the Baechtel Grove and the Willits Sheriffs Activities League teams are built with young wrestlers, with most of them competing this year for the first time. The young men and women listed above have been dedicated and motivated individuals. They have made tremendous improvement in just a short month-and-a-half season.

There are two weeks remaining in the 2017 season of school competition, and beginning in April some of the team will continue wrestling through the Willits Sheriffs Activities League program and will compete in some of the USA Wrestling events being held around the Redwood Empire and Sacramento areas.

This Saturday, March 25, the Baechtel Grove team will be travelling to Redwood Valley for the Eagle Peak Invitational Tournament and the Willits Sheriffs Activities League team will be traveling to Healdsburg for the Healdsburg Wrestling Club Tournament.

The Willits Sheriffs Activities League wrestling program is open to anyone interested, male or female, between ages 4 and 18. Currently, practices are being held at Baechtel Grove Middle School in the wrestling room behind the gym, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 pm.

This practice schedule could change as of April. For more information, call Wayne Shull at 707-489-8562.

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Local business owners learn to ‘Claim Your Google Listing’

“Claim Your Google Listing,” a free one-hour workshop hosted by the Willits Chamber of Commerce and presented by West Company’s Sandra Arellano, was a hit for local business owners. Designed to set up and verify

Jenny Senter your “Google My Business” listing, the workshop aimed

to help local business owners increase their presence on the internet. Two training sessions on Wednesday, March 15 made it convenient for about 20 people to learn to, literally, put their businesses on the map – the Google map that is.

Business owners from Willits ran the gamut from brick-and-mortar businesses to home-based businesses. While every person had different skill levels on the computer, Arellano was able to meet their needs, and all came away with a better understanding of the benefits of their business being verified by

Above: Lisa Epstein, president of the Willits Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, welcomes attendees at one of two Google workshops the chamber sponsored. Below, left: Sandra Arellano of West Company discusses how West Company helps Mendocino County business owners. Below, right: Local business owners discuss challenges staying up with technology for business.



Willits Frontier Days gives back through annual community donations

Willits Frontier Days likes to give back to the community that supports the Fourth of July festivities each year, and this year was no exception.

Monies earned at the festivities make this program possible. Willits Frontier Days members also collect their tips earned during Frontier Days, which are used as donations. Last year, \$1,500 went to the Willits Christmas Kids Program, and the rest of the tips allowed the purchase of a vintage coin-op bronco ride for the rodeo grounds.

Representatives of some of the clubs and groups who received donations, totalling \$6,550 in all, attended a recent Willits Frontier Days meeting to accept their checks.

The Willits High School swim team received \$250; the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center received \$1,000; and the Little Lake Fire Department received \$600 for fire prevention education.

The Soroptimist International of Willits chapter received \$750 to aid in human trafficking awareness; the Lions Club received \$1,000 to help re-roof the Boy Scout hut in the Rec Grove; and the Willits Rotary Club received \$500 to help with the Brooktrails playground rehabilitation efforts.

“We also gave the Willits 4-H welding group \$300 for five new helmets; the Willits 4-H leather group received \$400; the Willits 4-H dairy group received an \$850 aluminum grooming chute; the Willits 4-H sheep group received \$150 for new Spandex lamb tubes; and the Willits 4-H Club as a whole received three sets of brooms, shovels and rakes at a cost of \$250 with the help of Mendo Mill,” said Willits Frontier Days Vice President Marcy Barry. “We also want to give Little Lake Napa Auto Parts a special thank you for helping with the sponsorship of the welding helmets.”

If you have a club or organization that would like to be considered for next year’s donations, contact willitsfrontierdays@gmail.com or call Barry at 272-5395.



Google. Now if a prospective customer does a search for their business, it will show on the Google map and display information about their business in an easy-to-read format.

Holly Madrigal of Word of Mouth magazine said: “I am reasonably tech savvy, and I still learned new tools to improve my business here in Willits. Especially with the bypass, it is more important than ever to make sure you are represented accurately online.”

Home-based business owners often don’t

want their address appearing on the Google map. These business owners were happy to learn they could opt out of having their address shown.

For more information about upcoming Willits Chamber of Commerce events and trainings, be sure to check the chamber’s calendar at <http://willits.org/>.

Contact West Company for training opportunities at 707-467-5913 or www.westcompany.org.



Above: Recipients of the 2017 Give Back donation from Willits Frontier Days pose together, including, from back row, at left: Willits Rotary Club’s Jolene Carrillo, Willits Lions Club members Verd VanBezooyen and Dean Bauman, Soroptimist International of Willits members Vicki Ham and Divora Stern, Little Lake Fire Department’s John Thomen, and Willits Frontier Days member Rick Crowder. Front row, from left: Willits Rotarian Holly Madrigal, Willits Frontier Days President Fred Barry, and Little Lake Fire Department’s Eric Alvarez.



Above: Willits 4-H kids pose with their new welding helmets, made possible with the donation from Willits Frontier Days, including, from left: Tanner Drew, Clayton Cooley, Colin Spackman, Taylor Drew and Danielle Barry.

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encouraged to participate in any of the club’s activities, which range from creating the Community Telephone Directory to scholarships to fundraising for non-profits like Project Sanctuary.

For more information, email SIW president Divora Stern at onenimindbody@gmail.com or drop into a meeting.

Phone book note:

If your personal listing, business listing or cell phone listing needs to be added, removed, modified or otherwise changed, please email willitsphonebook@gmail.com to have those changes made in the 2018 book.

Businesses wishing to purchase advertisements to support the book can do so at any time throughout the year; there’s no need to wait! Either clip out and mail in the advertising form found on page 88 of the current book, or call 972-7047 or email willitsphonebook@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you to all the amazing advertisers who not only advertised in the 2017 SIW phone book, but also chose to continue their support of the SIW by repeating their ads on this page. More advertisers will be featured with additional Soroptimist content in a future edition of Willits Weekly.

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW108

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2017-F0221

The following person is doing business as: **Butternut Squish / Guccis Grizzlies**, 2471 Bear Place, Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual: Jordan Scott, 2471 Bear Place, Willits CA 95490.

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

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on March 9, 2017.

s/Jordan Scott

Pub dates 03/16, 03/23, 03/30 and 04/06/2017

WW112

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2017-F0229

The following person is doing business as: **Moore Zamora Inc. DBA ComfortAir Heating Cooling**, 530 Orr Springs Road, Ukiah CA 95482. This business is conducted by a corporation: Moore Zamora Inc., 530 Orr Springs Road, Ukiah CA 95482.

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

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on March 13, 2017.

s/David Moore, President

Pub dates 03/23, 03/30, 04/06 and 04/13/2017

WW107

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2017-F0147

The following person is doing business as: **Energize Willits**, 25726 Bear Lane, Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual: Megan Hall, 25766 Bear Lane, Willits CA 95490.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 2/23/2017.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on February 23, 2017.

s/Megan Hall

Pub dates 03/16, 03/23, 03/30 and 04/06/2017

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WW109
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Christopher Peter LoPinto
CASE NO. SCU-CVPB-17-26797
1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Christopher Peter LoPinto, Christopher P. LoPinto.
2. A **Petition for Probate** has been filed by Brad Walton in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino.
3. The Petition for Probate requests that Brad Walton be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
4. The petition requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
5. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
6. A **hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:** Date: April 7, 2017 Time: 9 AM Dept.: E Address of court: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. Branch Name: Ukiah
7. If you **object** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
8. If you are a **creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent**, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the **later** of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 580(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
9. You may **examine the file kept by the court**. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
10. Attorney for Petitioner, Jennifer M. O’Brien: 110 South Main Street, Suite C, Willits CA 95490; 707-459-5551.
Pub dates: 03/16, 03/23, 03/30/2017

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WW111
NOTICE OF HEARING – DECEDENT’S ESTATE OR TRUST: DARLA RAE BENTON
CASE NO. SCU-CVPB-16-26718
1. Notice is given that GAIL LOUIE and LUJUANA GALICIA, petitioners, administrators of the Estate of Darla Rae Benton, deceased, have filed a petition in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino to determine estate’s ownership of real property and for instructions. The real property described in the petition consists of approximately 10 acres and is commonly known as 25701 Mendocino Pass Road, Covelo, Mendocino County, California, more particularly described as follows: Lot 3 of Section 32, Township 23 North, Range 12 West, Mount Diablo Meridian, APN 032-410-04.
FULL CAPTION: GAIL LOUIE and LUJUANA GALICIA, as administrators of the Estate of Darla Rae Bennett, deceased, Petitioners vs. The testate and intestate successors of THOMAS A. BENTON, deceased; the testate and intestate successors of EDWARD BENTON, FLOYD BENTON, ELMER BENTON, and EUNICE RAYWINKLE, all deceased; NORMA RAMIREZ; and ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN claiming any legal or equitable right, title, lien, or interest in the property described in the petition adverse to petitioners’ title, or any cloud on petitioners’ title thereto; and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive, Respondents.
2. You may refer to the filed documents for more information. (Some documents filed with the court are confidential.)
3. A HEARING on the matter will be held in this court as follows: Date: June 2, 2017; Time: 9 am; Dept.: E. Address of court: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, Courthouse, 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.
4. Attorney for Petitioner: James F. King, Mannon, King & Johnson, P.O. Box 418, Ukiah CA 95482; 707-468-9151.
Pub dates: 03/23, 03/30, 04/06 and 04/13/2017

WW110
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF
Elizabeth Ferguson, aka Elizabeth Delores Ferguson
CASE NO. SCU-CVPB-17-26791
Notice is hereby given to the creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named decedent, that all persons having claims against the decedent are required to file them with the Superior Court of the County of Mendocino, at 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482 and mail or deliver a copy to Patricia Gene Bandenbrook and Bette Jo Miller, as Co-Trustees of the Elizabeth Ferguson 2009 Revocable Trust, dated April 28, 2009, wherein the decedent was the settlor, c/o Jennifer M. O’Brien, Esq., Neary and O’Brien, 110 South Main Street, Suite C, Willits CA 95490, within the later of four months after March 16, 2017 or, if notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, 60 days after the date this notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, or you must petition to file a late claim as provided in Section 91303 of the Probate Code. A claim form may be obtained from the court clerk. For your protection, you are encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, with return receipt requested.
Dated: January 31, 2017
Signed: Jennifer M. O’Brien, Neary and O’Brien, 110 South Main Street, Suite C, Willits CA 95490
Pub dates: 03/16, 03/23, 03/30/2017

WILLITS WEEKLY

March 23, 2017

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047
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Howard Memorial Hospital unveils new name and mission at employee event

By Cici Winiger, for HMM

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital has been caring for the Willits community since 1928. Through the years, the hospital has evolved in an effort to address the growing needs of the community and beyond.

It is along these lines that HMM announced a new chapter in its history on Thursday, March 16, during an employee event that unveiled the hospital's new brand direction, including a new name, expanded mission statement, and core values that support its vision of transforming the health experience, outcomes and status of the Willits community. Going forward, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital will be known as "Adventist Health Frank R. Howard Memorial."

The new mission statement, "living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope," broadens the hospital's focus from solely caring for the sick to helping the community be healthier. It also reflects the hospital's heritage of providing physical, mental and spiritual care and staff to break down the walls of a traditional health system and extend their reach more deeply into the community.

"This truly signifies our commitment to providing the very best care for our friends and neighbors. We want them to

come to us not just when they're sick. But we also want to keep them well so they can live life to the fullest and keep this community thriving," explains Kevin Erich, interim president and chief executive officer for HMM.

In addition to the expanded mission and new name, HMM is also introducing a new visual identity that represents the spirituality and fresh optimism of the organization. The tagline – "Together inspired" – speaks to the hospital's coming together with communities throughout Mendocino County and the power that connection will have to move its neighbors toward a healthier life.

While the hospital and its affiliated clinic, the Redwood Medical Clinic, must wait for final approval from the California Department of Health before fully switching to the new name, employees are excited about the new name and brand direction. "Today's event was really exciting, and I feel proud to be part of this team. It's great to know that we're already doing great work every day, but this new mission just puts that into words and allows us to be more and do more for our community," said registered nurse, Kim Katri.

To learn more about the hospital's new brand direction and Adventist Health's mission and vision for the Willits community, visit www.howardhospital.org.



At top, left: Howard Memorial Hospital Interim President and CEO Kevin Erich signs the giant billboard. At top, right: HMM unveiled a new name, mission and values on March 16, to reflect its commitment to transforming the health experience of the Willits community. Above: Bo Stephens approves of his new HMM swag.

At right: Erich speaks to the crowd. Jeanie Goforth and Rebekkah Steinbuck smile at the photo station. Lunch boxes from Scoops Frozen Yogurt and Deli were available to enjoy during the mid-day event.



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