Online & Print Online & Print

Willits
reassured
about
immigration
issues

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
forrest@willitsweekly.com

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 questionstop gengering

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.



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

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

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.

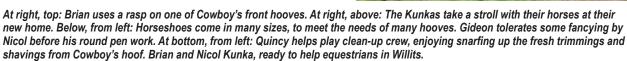
"It was Labor Day weekend, I was bored, skimming the paper and came across her ad," reminisced Brian. "It said 20-something, likes country music ... but it was the last line that really got me 'ability to saddle a horse, a plus!' I called her up, and we talked

Read the rest of Horses

Over on Page 4















Supes vote 'yes' on first reading of pot rules

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

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
mike@willitsweekly.com

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

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, Thank you for your continued help serving our seniors. 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

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 The Grange will receive a 11.7 kW DC rated photovoltaic

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

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.

treat first. Head out the door a half-hour early and swing College's Appropriate Technology Program 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-ofa-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 lette 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.



founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area

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Justin Stephens, webmaster For advertising inquiries, please call 707-459-2633 or 707-972-7047 In addition to artwork on display, Donna Stropes brought in some fine prints of her work, as well as cards any mom

Gail Richards, Willits

CalFresh = affordable meals for seniors

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

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

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 lowincome 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 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 If you're on your way to the grocery store, give yourself a Break. On March 20, the Mills students toured Mendocino

• 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

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

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

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!











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

Photos by



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.







Firefighters for 2016: back row, from left: Tim

Caldwell, Tylor Yadon, Lesher, Robert McKenzie. Brandon Jack. Front row, from left: Eric Alvarez, Wilder, Bill

Carter, and

Martin. Not

Jeremiah

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,

WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER

IN CASH AND FREE PLAY!

Read the rest of LLFD Over on Page 4



Irish feast

American Legion Post 174 puts on annual

St. Patrick's Day dinner

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, **Mathew Caine**

Corned beef, cabbage and potatoes, a traditional Irish St. Patrick's Day meal, was

during which select high school juniors attend Sacramento State University for a week for an intensive immersion into the study 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.





From Page 1

tablished by Proposition 1, the water bond passed by California voters in 2014.

"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 Water 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.'

"The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District is excited to collaborate with Trout Unlimited on this important project," said Patty Madigan, conservation programs manager for MCRCD. "Outlet Creek is one of the longest migration corridors for coho salmon in California – and we need to ensure that both people and fish have water, when they need it most.'

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 Broaddus 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 Read the rest of their water diversions during the summer

dry season, when streamflows are at their The rest of

A proven and increasingly common solution to such challenges is to build storage tanks or off-stream ponds where water can our firefighters and officers be stored during the winter rainy season, when water is plentiful, which enables water users to reduce or eliminate pumping water from the creeks during the dry season. Other solutions include rooftop systems to collect and store rainwater, efficiency measures to reduce overall water use, and coordination of diversions among neighbors so that fewer of them pump water from the creek at the same time. All are techniques that have been used successfully in other

"In most coastal California watersheds. we find that there is actually more than enough water to meet the needs of both fish and people," said Clifford. "The key is to collect the water when it's abundant – basically the winter season - and to use it as of the fire department efficiently as possible.

In addition to landowner outreach, the project also includes funds to measure existing streamflows, to develop minimum streamflow objectives, to design projects to the Year 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

Over on Page 11

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Gentleman Harper

We love our older dogs, the dogs who are quiet, yet still playful, who like to sleep a bit more, but still want to give and receive all of your love, and who love going for walks. That's Harper – he is a wonderful older dog who needs a stable environment and a real home. Harper is an 8-yearold neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 51 pounds. Harper is a gentle soul. He loves playing fetch with a tennis ball. He knows "sit" and, contrary to what you've heard, you can teach an old dog new tricks!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. Many wonderful dogs and cats await their forever homes here. To view photos and bios, please visit online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.



Photo by Rod Coots

Sweet Jango

Affectionate, wiggly and sweet as sugar, Jango is a big dog with a big heart to match! He's a Lab/Great Dane mix who's only 1.5 years old. Jango has been here at the shelter for a couple months, and we just can't understand why this perfect boy hasn't been scooped up! He is housebroken and loves to play with other dogs, gets along with cats, and adores people of all ages. Come meet Jango today and fall in love with

For more information on Jango or other Firefighter Chad Lesher 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.



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From Page 3

thick

LLFD

responded to 594 alarms and calls for service, worked an additional 350 to 400 hours doing wildland fire structure protection and

of these volunteers to their community and to each other is exemplary. Additionally many of these firefighters are parents, work full-time jobs, and have their own lives outside

county and within the state.

The No. 1 responder each year also receives additional status and recognition, being named Firefighter of

Our mostly volunteer force of firefighters provide including basic life support, vehicle extrication, high and low angle rope rescue, flood structure fire and wildland fire suppression for their community. They ask for nothing in return except community's for the continued support of their fire department and the personal satisfaction these volunteers get for helping their neighbors: A great concept and economical way to provide a much-

The dinner for the 2016 Top 10 was well-attended by our volunteer firefighters as well as their peer group of honorary members who carry on that verbal history of past events with this department.

needed and necessary

service to our community.

The Top 10 Firefighters for 2016 are: Driver/Operator Tim Caldwell with 476 points, Firefighter Jeremiah Martin with 478 points, Firefighter Tylor Yadon with 503 points, Firefighter Brandon Jack with 505 points, Firefighter Kristen Colvig with 514 points, with 548 points, Driver/ Operator Robert McKenzie with 652 points, Captain/ Duty Officer Bill Carter with 679 points, Captain Eric

Alvarez with 716 points, and finally Driver/Operator Mike Wilder, Firefighter of the Year, with 813 points. give a special thanks to those families that sacrifice that special time when their loved ones are on calls, and to those employers that allow their

employees to answer calls

to protect our community.

and I'd always thought it would be nice to end up back in Willits," said Nicol. "I never really thought it would be possible to move back to the property, but when Uncle Lee offered, we gladly accepted.

took up horseshoeing.

Building a business for

his farrier service over their

seven-year stay in Nevada,

Brian still made monthly

trips back down to see his

customers after the pair

moved to Galt. At their new

home, Brian continued to

build a farrier business

there, too, but, in 21014,

Brian turned his daily work

focus to being a ranch

manager on a vineyard.

allowed for another move

out of Galt, the pair decided

to move towards California

"We were ready to move,

and Nicol's family home.

circumstances

In November of 2016, the pair moved in.

"I am so thankful to her family for welcoming us onto the ranch," said Brian. "It means a lot to me being an only child it was an experience getting to know everyone - but we're so grateful to be in such a wonderful place."

Being back on the ranch, the clangs and pings of farrier work started to occupy Brian's mind again. Though he had his eye on a few other career opportunities, noted: "Everything was just pointing me back towards being a horseshoer

noted appreciation to local farriers Richard Dukes and Bob Gaston, who he met when he arrived. "The shoeing community is a close-knit group. I was very happy to meet these guys and network with them. We give one another referrals and look out for one another."

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

for what seemed like hours." pair looks to work with and help riders and their horses "He had this really great improving the horse's comfort and the rider's skills said Nicol. "That was back in 1997, and we've been at the same time.

together ever since!" Brian Nicol started training for a living in 2000 and enjoyed June of 2000 and held their competing in "extreme cowboy" trail challenges and Ranch, by the scenic pond ranch roping over the years.

In June 2011, she got a The pair stayed in Chico 6-year-old wild BLM musfor a while. Brian continued tang named Gideon, and work with the Army had 90 days to work with recruiting command, and him and prepare him to they moved the pair around compete at the Supreme to different locations before Extreme Mustang Makeover Brian was able to retire in Fort Worth, Texas. Nicol on December 31, 2003 in placed third. Reno, Nevada, where he

While she gets settled and waits for the weather to improve, Nicol is starting colts and performing bodywork on horses, including horses who are clients of Brian's shoeing business.

"The bodywork isn't chiropractic work; it's more about working on the muscle structure," explained Nicol. "If horses are sore, body work can help release tension and can help reverse negative muscle memory created from compensating for an injury, stiffness or other problems. Having their feet corrected can sometimes help fix the original problem, and then the bodywork can help reset the muscles and

A complimentary bodywork session is included in each of Nicol's training lessons, which she plans to give on the ranch or at the homes of her customers.

improve the movement."

"I really like to teach in a way that allows the students to feel safe and comfortable, building up their confidence and encouraging them to go, have fun, and ride, said Nicol. "I want them to feel good riding without me, to develop leadership and assertive skills to work with their animals, and then they can come back, learn a new skill, and then go off and enjoy their horse. We get horses to ride and have fun! That's what I want students to be able to do."

The pair also looks forward to getting involved witr the equestrian community, and joining the Willits Horsemen's Association, the Future Farmers of America and Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart projects.

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









Above, from left:

Julia Johnstone

shows her vacation

plan for her trip to Bora Bora. Twins

Jamie, left, and

Julia, right, fresh

off the plane and

on the boat bound

in Bora Bora. To

child's wish come

true, the sisters

have planned an

event.

fundraising dinner

At left: Julia gives her sister Jamie a

help make another

Making wishes come true

Johnstone sisters hold fundraising dinner and auction this Saturday to benefit Make-A-Wish

It was a small reprieve for the Johnstone family dipping their toes in the crystal blue waters and enjoying the tropical ambiance of Bora Bora last summer - but the experience was possible only under a heartbreaking circumstance. The Make-A-Wish foundation funded the trip for Willits High School senior Julia Johnstone and her family, when the teen became medically eligible for the program during her ongoing fight with cancer.

Johnstone, her twin sister Jamie, and parents Johnnieann and Matt spent a week in the tropical paradise back in June of 2016, and the sisters appreciated the experience so much, when it was time to choose a senior project, the pair decided that helping sponsor another child's wish would be a great way to give back to the organization which provided

Maureen Moore Graphics & Photographress maureen@willitsweekly.com

"My patient advocate said that they wanted me to have

them such an experience.

a break, relax and try to rejuvenate and that I was eligible to be granted a wish from the Make-A-Wish foundation," explained Julia. "I was asked what were my three wishes. I said a trip to Bora Bora was my top wish or a trip to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

While Make-A-Wish aims to do just that, Johnstone explained that the organization chooses to grant experience-based wishes, as opposed to material things, so her hopes for a trip were looking good. "It was amazing how quickly it became a reality,"

explained Julia. "We signed all the papers in April, and left in June. Basically enough time for our parents to get time off work, and we were gone!" Johnstone explained that the Make-A-Wish foundation

did everything to create the experience for her, including planning the trip, coordinating the flights, arranging for the family to be picked up in limos - all the way to getting them prepared for sunbathing with hats and sun screen.

"We even had first-class tickets from San Francisco to Los Angeles," said Johnstone. "Then, we ended up in regular coach for the longest trip of Los Angeles to Bora Bora, but it was fun to be in first class for the short leg of

The family was even announced on the flight, and welcomed as a recipient of the Make-A-Wish foundation. The screen at the terminal read: "Join us in welcoming our beautiful Make-A-Wish guest, Julia, and her lovely family! Wish we could snorkel with you in Bora Bora! Get your tan on, girl!"

Feeling the support of her family and friends and the honor of being a recipient of the Make-A-Wish trip were of great value to Johnstone, who noted there can be some hard days when enduring treatment and fighting such a

"It's so important to stay positive," said Johnstone. "Knowing that you can't get upset at bad news, and knowing that the next scans might be better are the things

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President

roundtreeglass@willitsonline.com

you need to focus on. Relying on family and friends to help keep spirits up makes a huge difference and making sure to get out, get fresh air, go get ice cream, do whatever you can to not cradle yourself inside. You can't focus your whole life on cancer, you have to focus on living life, spending time with your family, and being a child."

Knowing how much the experience meant to their family, the sisters knew they wanted to sponsor another child's wish, and they decided to hold a fundraising dinner and auction to raise \$5,000 of the \$7,500 needed to make another wish come true.

The event is planned for Saturday, March 25 at the Willits Community Center. Doors will open at 6 pm for the silent auction, purchase of raffle tickets, mingling, enjoying drinks from the no-host bar manned by the Kiwanis Club, and dinner, which will be available to purchase from the Taco Ramirez truck which will be onsite for the event.

The live auction will start at 7:30 and will be auctioneered by Tylor Yadon. To bid on items, attendees can purchase a \$10 paddle which will also allow them entrance into the event. Kids under the age of 5 will be admitted for free. A silent auction will also be running during the event. Items up for grabs include everything from

a Go-Pro camera to a chainsaw, a Yeti ice chest, guns, a photography session gift certificate, a lawn mower, 25-pound meat box from John Ford Ranch, a signed bobble head and baseball by Troy Tulowitzki and more.

Tickets are available now through the evening of the event, where they can be purchased at the door. The sisters are hoping to sell 200 presale tickets earning them \$2,000 of their \$5,000 goal.

"We've already mailed Make-A-Wish \$3,500 in donations from family, friends and local organizations," said Johnstone. "But we want to encourage everyone to come out and participate in the event."

For tickets or more information, call Julia at 272-1480.





Johnstone family: Jamie, Johnnieanr Julia and Matt, pose by the flight schedule screen at the airport, complete with a special message for Julia. At left: The

family poses for a quick photo by the crystal waters of Bora Bora.





BEAUTY & THE BEAST



24 Monroe St

Willits, CA 95490

(PG) 1 hr 58 mins 5:20 & 8:15pm Sat/Sun: 11:30am, 2:25, 5:20 & 8:15pm Mon-Thurs: 4:20 & 7:15pm

POWER RANGERS



5:45 & 8:30pm 12:00, 2:45, 5:45 & 8:30pm 4:45 & 7:30pm



12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:00pm

Sat/Sun:

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 **Email:** willitsweekly@gmail.com **Mail:** P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

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www.LesSchwab.com

Willits Weekly | March 23, 2017

Willits Weekly | March 23, 2017

Next Week:

Ghost in the Shell

707) 459-6163

Fax (707) 459-4503

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

ovie Times for 3/24 thru 3/30

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com **Mail:** P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

http://lesschwab.co/Tljs

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 gallery manager Holly Madrigal at 459-1726 or 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, showings. Tightwad films this week: "Beauty & the

March 25. 7 to 9 pm. No cover. tips encouraged. Brickhouse Coffee House, 3 South Main

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, the Grange breakfast! \$8 buys

SPIRIT

BUNDLE

you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Our tasty breakfast is a combination of comfort foods.. Choose sourdough wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or gluten-

free, Beeler's Quality

Come Help Julia & Jamie sponsor a Childs wi

Children 5 and under free

Bacon, organic eggs, real utter, 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-

Docent Training: Willits Center for the Arts needs volunteer docents. A 2-hour docent training (no charge) is being offered on Sunday. March 26 at the WCA. 71 East Commercial Street, from 1 to 3 pm. Docents are sought to "sit the gallery" once or twice a month. Weekend docents are especially interested Those

in volunteering as docents, but who can't make this scheduled training, can contact WCArental@gmail.com.

Monday, March 27

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all

> Beast" and "Kong: Skull Island." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com 57 East Commercial

Tuesday, March 28

Willits High School **Baseball Home Games:** Willits vs. Healdsburg: OLD RIVER ROAD varsity plays at the WHS field, 3:30 pm (coach Yadon); junior Rick varsity plays at City Field on Commercial Street, 3:30 pm (coach Darren Wisdom)

Willits High School Tennis Home Tournament: Willits vs. Anderson Valley: WHS tennis courts, 4 pm

What's Happening Around Town

(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-

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 Radaich (lead guitar and vocals), Irwin (rhythm guitar and vocals), Nicholas oventry (violin and vocals), Brian Netzley upright bass and vocals) and Brandon (drums) Thursday, 30. 9 pm. \$5 cover. South Main 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 Carolyn 5 pm. For more information call Bakewell at 459-7700 ext. 1533

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 danceable melodic hybrid. Friday, March 31. 9 pm. \$5 cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street Info: 459-9194.

(WHS), or 459-6769.

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:

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

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-

Sunday, April 2 New Book Festival at Willits Library: The first-

ever New Book Festival Shoring 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.



"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

Wednesday: Roast Pork

Thursday: Taco Salad

Friday: Turkey/Gravy Stuffing

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-

It's Birthday Lunch week!

Monday: Baked Chicken

Tuesday: Baked Cod

CULTO

'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-

Daniel Essman faced monstrosity known as Beast (Dan Stevens). Beast was once upon a

COLUMN | At the Movies

time a selfish and selfimportant prince who was mean to the wrong old woman, and she cursed, or more aptly, cast a transmogrification spell on his royal Self-Importantness. 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?

racks. Beast may be scary to little ones. True love conquers all. Fairy tales never die. Children will

wisdom of the imagination.

Parents: Magical talking tea sets. Dancing hat Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the

What's Happening at KLLG

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

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, fundkllgradio@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."

Workshop

Tuesday, April 4

call Doreen at Avenues to Wellness: 456-9676.

Get your event in our calendar

KLLG, Willits Hometown Radio began a second studio built specifically for producing music.

Healthier Living

Willitsians are invited to register in a free sixweek "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 (selfreported 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,

willitsweekly@gmail.com



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,

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

Gleisner hopes the teachings brought forth in the

braided stories of her three main characters, Flyn

Devon, Selena Howells and Amach, will illustrate

ways in which we all can learn to walk in balance

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

Copies will soon be available at local libraries and

- Submitted by Friends of the Willits Library

for purchase at The Book Juggler, and the book will

be available at online vendors by the end of March.

March 30 at 7 pm at the Willits Library.

cultures throughout our world.

together on Mother Earth.



Brickhouse Coffee

Saturday, March 25, 7-9 pm

The Willits Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Willits High School for the 2nd annual Career Fair. Participation by our enthusiastic Willits businesses will allow over 500 students from the high school and other local schools a solid opportunity to get to know how a real business works and explore the variety of career options right here in Willits. Set for Wednesday, April 26, from 8 am to 12 pm at the Willits High School gym, 299 North Main Street. The deadline for local businesses to sign up to participate in this career fair is Friday, April 14: to register, contact Nicole Burke at 459-7700 or nicoleburke@willitsunified.

2nd Annual Career Fair

Local businesses encouraged to sign up

Info: 459-9194.

and Wellness April 4 Avenues to Wellness "Community Design and Wellness," a presentation by speaker Neil

Davis, a Public Health nurse and community advocate. Neil Davis



He is a founding member and director of Ukiah Valley Trail Group and Walk & Bike Mendocino. He is passionate about how community design can support our health and how to make permanent behavioral changes. "It's never too late

'Community Design

Learn how to adopt strategies to make exercise a new and enjoyable habit. Discover the ways community of past events.



to start moving your body more!"

design and support can help your in tatters. This is a comedy with a dark side; the award-winning health. Avenues to Wellness, a program of the Howard Foundation. offers a speaker the first Tuesday of the month. Info: 456-9676, or visit: avenuestowellness.org for upcoming speaker topics and a video archive



Art Under 20 at WCT Friday, March 31

gallery debut.

ART UNDER 20~'17



Reception: Friday, March 31, 4-7 pm Open: March 31 through April 2 www.willitscenterforthearts.org ercial Street, Willits, CA 95490

The 18th annual Art Under 20 show opens on Friday, March 31. The opening night reception for the artists will be held 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 also been invited to participate. Approximately 125 young-adult artists will be presenting their artworks to the community. For some of them it will be their

"This year's show will be a wonderful experience for the artists who are exhibiting their work!" Art Under 20 has become one of the most popular shows at the Willits Center for the Arts. Last year's show was visited by over 1,000 people. "Please join us to celebrate the creativity, imagination and artistic gifts of our Willits & Laytonville teenage artists. Their artwork is impressive!"

Art Under 20 through Sunday, April 30. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. Info: call Carolyn Bakewell at 459-7700 ext. 1533 (WHS), or 459-6769.

'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-yearold 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

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

Broadway production of the play reportedly generated gales

"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 brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also available at the door until sold out. The Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

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.

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 varn 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

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 HMH 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:

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

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





Winter Carnival

Farm education, family fun, food and a day of music at the Grange

The Winter Carnival at the Little Lake Grange on Saturday, March 11 was blessed with a warm and sunny day, making it also an early spring celebration. The inside of the Grange hosted a lively line-up of musicians, and outside in both

parking lots during the day people young and old enjoyed activities, food and beverage booths, and venders selling their wares. The event was a fundraiser for the School of Adaptive Agriculture.

Lyndsey Burns, the

event's creator, wanted to make the carnival "family friendly, festive, colorful and full of life" and came up with activities attractive to the entire family. In a large tent outside were presenters from around the county specializing in a variety of agricultural skills. Ruthie King from the SAA set the stage for the presentations talking about why the cutting edge of adaptive agriculture is important; Donna d'Terra discussed growing medicine from local plants; Gowan Batist shared the importance and experience of building healthy soils; Casey and Amber O'Neill presented practices around integrating cannabis with food production; and Dan Storm talked about ways to keep pollinators healthy and also about making mead – an alcoholic beverage made from fermented honey.

The children – and some adults – were treated to a variety of tried and true games like Balloon Pop, Crazy Cans and Stand the Bottle. In another area a project table was set up for children to paint birdhouses and to make ribbon dancers and flower crowns. Folks from around the county browsed the variety of vendors' wares, from Cindy Logan's fun and quirky jewelry to beautiful animal portraits made from wood using intarsia techniques by Barry

Many also treated themselves to Elevenzies' delicious BBQ pulled pork or BBQ tempeh sandwiches, each with a side of chipotle jicama slaw. There was a gluten-free option, and drinks ncluded their own lavender lemonade. A table with donated local wines, beer and kombucha (provided by The Big Chief of Laytonville) were available. In the evening the Zocalo Collective provided food during Charley Crockett's performance.

In the main hall the Wildfire Dancers, hula hoops in hand, interacted with folks as all danced and Ranch. It's set for Saturday, April 15 with lambs practiced the craft to the music of The Cult of Ours chicks, ducklings and goslings, other activities and and The Real Sarahs. During the late afternoon and refreshments. For more information, contact the evening, the House of Mary, Pick & Pull, Schindig, SAA at director@school-of-adaptive-agriculture. Photos by Ree Slocum and the headliner, Charley Crockett, performed org.

inside in front of an outstanding set designed by the

Carnival. Kerry Reynolds and her daughter Abby fun things to do together when planning their visit to Mendocino County and heard about the Winter Carnival online. Jini and Peter Reynolds from Redwood Valley brought their grandchildren to the Circus Mecca, the Wildfire Dancers, and Charlie Crockett drawing the late afternoon and dancing crowd from around the county.

has nearly 10 years of experience working on large music, festival and event productions nationally. She worked with many organizations like Another Planet Event Group out of the Bay Area and Bob and Susie Barsotti, producers of the Kate Wolf Festival and EarthDance, and she toured with Tina Turner in 2008. Burns tired of being on the road all the time and decided to settle down. When she was part of the Kate Wolf Festival production team at Black Oak Ranch in Laytonville, she met Ruthie King from the, then, Grange Farm School located on Ridgewood Ranch. Burns knew immediately that she wanted to work on the land with this community of like-minded people. The school's curriculum was

Mendonesian Art Collective with lighting by Scott Steuer. Outside Circus Mecca from Mendocino treated the audience to their dazzling aerial silks and rope dances, and when it was getting dark, the Wildfire Dancers performed their almost tribal Fire

People from near and far attended the Winter Cherney from Southern Humboldt were looking for festivities. Many locals attended during the day with

Producing events are nothing new to Burns who

After a year of classes, becoming a "Capstone Student," employed as student life coordinator and livestock manager at SAA, Barnes has a dream of owning her own farm and creating events on her land. She sees it as a great way to supplement farming income and to continue doing another of her passions. The Winter Carnival is her first production and, according to the SAA's King, the proceeds from the event and the school's full enrollment this spring will help keep the SAA in the

Look for Burns' next event, an Easter Egg Hunt at the Butler Community Orchard on Ridgewood



Above, left: Ruthie King and Lyndsey Burns take a moment to smile for the camera.

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 Bean

Bag Toss. Greeters and ticket sellers, Rebekah Allen, left, and Eva King, enjoy their

kombucha drink donated by Laytonville's The Big Chief.

Above, right: Rainya plays Stand the Bottle, a very difficult game. This was her







Redwood Meadows is an active independent senior community featuring 101 apartment homes, primarily a mix of one and two bedroom apartments which are single story 4-plex cottage-type set amongst seven acres of park like landscaping.

We are a smoke-free and pet friendly community. We boast a community center where activities are held like card games, Bingo, birthdays and socials. We also have a barbecue area for residents to get together for social functions. Redwood Meadows is conveniently located adjacent to the William F. Harrah Senior Center with a thrift store, cafeteria and taxi service, and

Howard Memorial Hospital is just blocks away.



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Cannabis

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.

Gierde 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 wav 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, Mc-Cowen 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 ad-

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board of supervisors is April 4. If the to her request. 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

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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

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

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 appli-

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

Contacted on Wednesday, McCower 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

"Besides, I want there to be room for oth-

Divora Stern

er, 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."

Vehicle

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 Ser-

liquor and convenience store would conflict with

Attorneys for Dollar General told supervisors

their client had submitted its application properly;

the proposed use was allowed in the commercia

zoning of the neighborhood; and the issuance

of the permit was ministerial, not discretionary

and the county could not refuse to issue the per-

meaning it had to be issued as a matter of course

County attorneys agreed with company at-

torneys, and the permit was issued, although to

date, a year and six months later, no construction

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 Gen-

eral debacle did not happen again. As it stood in

September 2015, the county had no way to regu-

late 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

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

A resolution that's part of the ordinance states

"Whereas, Mendocino County contains many

rural communities with a small-town environment

and unique character, each of which attracts resi-

dents and visitors because of their eclectic and di-

verse mix of businesses, and each of which must

be protected and enhanced so the unique charac-

ter of the rural communities of Mendocino County

"And whereas, the Mendocino County Board of

Supervisors desires to protect the unique charac-

ter of the rural communities of the county and cre-

ate a supportive environment for new and unique

"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 empha-

sizing 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 unique-

"And whereas, income earned by independent

small businesses is more likely to circulate within

the local economy than the money earned by for-

mula businesses, which often have corporate of-

fices and vendors located outside of Mendocino

County, resulting in less local economic benefit

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 pro-

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

The ordinance states that site layout, open

space and topography, orientation and location

of buildings "shall be designed to integrate with

Ordinance | Over on Page 11

Furniture, collector dolls,

paintings, prints and books.

. The Thrift Store has anything

from china to silverware and

formal dresses.

Read the rest of

and vitality, adversely affecting the county."

ness and character prized by county residents;

can flourish without inappropriate changes;

small businesses; ...

some reasons why the county thinks the formula

eight-page "formula business" ordinance.

business ordinance is a good idea.

structure blend in with community standards.

has begun at the site.

the community character of Redwood Valley.

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 vaca-

The only time a vehicle should be allowed to leave the district, Trexel said,

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 oncall 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

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."

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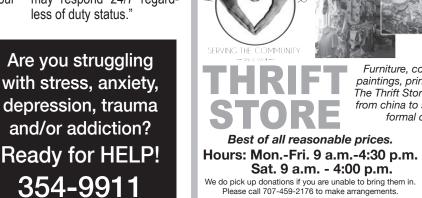
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Bird Stories

Willits Garden Club hosts talk by 'Birdman of Mendocino County'

oak woodland. You hear the distinctive "boom boom boom boom" of Mr. Sooty Grouse searching for a mate. You look towards where

coming

but this master

ventriloguy

Joanne Moore

is nowhere to be seen. He's walking on a big oak limb, blending in with the tree and sending his call elsewhere. Another gent looking for a lady, Mr. Western Grebe, might be doing a breeding dance on Clear Lake or Lake Mendocino, using his wings and feet to skitter across the water. If you ever see a group of birds gorging on pyracantha berries, you have found Cedar

These are a few of the great, short bird stories shared by guest speaker Ollie Kolkmann at the March 13 meeting of the Willits Garden Club, at the Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse on Ridgewood Ranch. Introduced as "The Birdman of Mendocino County" by Garden Club president Kitty McDill, Kolkmann's presentation reflected a vast knowledge of and love for birds.

Look for a hovering White-tailed Kite searching for dinner next to the freeway north of town or on your way to Santa Rosa. Beware of walking too close to a Snipe. It will fly off, making enough noise to "stop your heart." Killdeer will distract you with a "broken wing act" to keep you away from their eggs, camouflaged to near invisibility in creek gravel. Turkey Vulture chicks live in odiferous nests, and Great Blue Heron chicks look mad.

If you're looking for birds close by,

It's spring, and you are out walking in the Kolkmann recommended the wastewater treatment plant at 300 Plant Road off South State Street in Ukiah as a great place to see them. Lake Mendocino and Clear Lake are also good for birding. Look for the Piedbilled Grebe on the water or the elegant Common Egret with its yellow bill near the

> Great Blue Herons can be seen in the Willits valley wetlands. A hunched-over hawk on a power line is a Red-shouldered Hawk. If it's upright with a distinctive banded tail, it's a Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagles can be seen fishing in Tomki Creek, an "unthinkable sight" in 1970 due to the effects of DDT, Kolkmann said. You can't see a ring on the necks of Ring-necked Ducks, but you can see a ring on their bills, so Kolkmann calls them Ring-billed Ducks. They like small ponds, and he sees them in winter on Pine Mountain.

> Goldeneve ducks have round dots on their faces and can be seen diving in Clear Lake and Lake Mendocino. Wood ducks nest in rotten holes in trees 15 to 20 feet off the ground. The water near Reynolds Highway north of Willits is a good place to see these

> According to Kolkmann, there are more than 420 species of birds in our county, and you can get up close and learn more about our local inland Mendocino feathered friends by taking advantage of one of the Peregrine Audubon Society's field trips. In fact, there's a "Beginners' Birdwalk" this Saturday, March 25 at Riverside Park in Ukiah, an "excellent birding location" according to the society's website. For details on this weekend's walk,



go to www.peregrinaudubon.org.

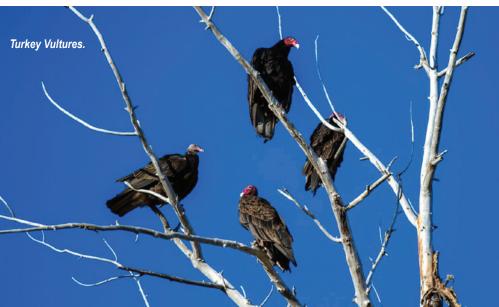
more information on the Willits Garden Club. Associated with a much larger network of garden clubs, the Willits club was established in 1951 and meets once a month. New members are welcome, but you don't have to be a member to attend one of their excellent presentations. Upcoming speakers include Ruthie King, director of operations at the School of Adaptive Agriculture, on April 10 and Julie Bawcom, who will enlighten you with a talk on "Iceland," on May 8.

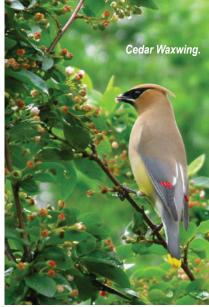
And go to www.willitsgardenclub.org for

Above: Guest speaker Ollie Kolkmann, left, stands with Willits Garden Club members Julene Casler, behind, Fran Gardner (secretary), and Gary Bodensteiner (vice president).

At right: Birder Ollie Kolkmann holds a copy of his 1973 book, "Birds of Mendocino County, California," which contained the first bird list compiled for the county.











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Salary | From Page 1

employees now, than at any time over as some MCERA board members have the past four years," Chandler said. "The board should be thinking about new contracts, and this needs to be a priority.

"HHSA employees in Sonoma County are now making 10 percent more than they made before the recession. Our employees are not even up to that pre-recession salary rate," she said.

The county's 755 Service Employees International Union workers have still not fully recovered from the 10 percent pay cut they agreed to in 2011; they are still 5 percent down. In 2015, they accepted a 5 percent bump up (from the previous 10 percent knockdown) spread over two vears. In addition, each SEIU member received payment of an additional \$1,200 in 2015 and another payment of \$1,000 in

A report by Human Resources Director Heidi Dunham showed government employees in Mendocino County were leaving their jobs more quickly than in other places. Dunham noted county government had a vacancy rate of 18.8 percent, compared to 18.1 percent for the nation and 16.8 percent for California. The vacancy rate for the county government for 2016 is two points higher than it was in 2015, when it was 16.8 percent.

Dunham also noted the turnover rate inside Mendocino County government was 14.71 percent – the highest rate among 12 counties Dunham surveyed.

Almost 20 percent of current county employees are first-year employees, Dunham added.

Her department hired 218 people in 2016, but 210 employees resigned, retired or were terminated. The total number of full-time regular employees stands at 1,115, up from 1,106 at the end of 2015, she said.

"Our goal as a department is to get people to stop resigning," Dunham said.

Beyond the salary question, several other areas of concern regarding the budget were mentioned by Flora, including roads, which are continuing to deteriorate.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gierde reminded board members the county would have to spend \$6 to \$7 million a vear on corrective maintenance just to keep the road system from getting worse. Second District Supervisor John McCowen agreed with Gierde, but said he could support spending only \$2 million on corrective maintenance in the next budget.

Flora told the board about two transportation bills currently moving though the California Legislature. They are Assembly Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1. Both, according to Flora, if they became law, would provide Mendocino County with approximately rective maintenance if the supervisors chose to spend the funds that way.

But Flora noted other needs are thronging about the county's coffers, including pension costs, payable by the county, that will occur if the Mendocino County Employees Retirement Association decides to lower its expected rate of return.

return from 7.25 percent to 6.25 percent.

The rest of Watershed

The rest of

Ordinance

ings and properties.

they are affixed."

From Page 4

From Page 9

adjoining properties and provide a desirable environment

The architectural design of the building, lighting, colors,

and type of building materials used must "have been incor-

porated into the formula business's design concept ... to

ensure its compatibility with the character of adjacent build-

Signage "shall be designed to be compatible with the

architecture and design of buildings/structures on-site, and

shall incorporate similar and compatible building materials

and colors as utilized by the buildings/structures on which

The ordinance also requires these projects to include a plan for landscape design that will "ensure visual relief,

complement buildings and structures, and provide an attrac-

The ordinance takes an open attitude toward potential

formula businesses. As Gonzalez explained to the supervi-

sors: "It doesn't prohibit the use. It just must conform to the

existing character of the surrounding community."

compatible with existing development in the area."

project to help landowners with construction costs. The ultimate goal is to enhance creek flows while creating a more secure dry season water supply for people.

Trout Unlimited is the nation's oldest and largest coldwater fisheries conservation organization, dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring North America's trout

The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District was established in 1945. The mission of MCRCD is to assist communities to voluntarily conserve, protect and restore wild and working landscapes in Mendocino County. MCRCD provides technical assistance, education and outreach programs, monitoring and assessment services, and funding opportunities to help land managers improve the long-term stewardship of the

> - Submitted by Trout Unlimited and the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

advocated, it will cost the county another \$6.77 million annually. Currently, the county is paying \$19.6 million to MCERA each year, but that amount has been in-

creasing with each passing year. Flora also pointed to the cost of enforcing the county's Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance, which currently is an

Most people agree that for the cultivation ordinance to mean anything, it must be enforced, and led by CEO Carmel Angelo, county officials have met once to discuss enforcement strategies.

During the board meeting, Angelo said she and her staff will be meeting with representatives from county government to talk about enforcement of the ordinance in more detail on March 29.

Angelo and Flora also hinted it would be a good idea to increase the amount of funds currently in the general reserve. Currently that amount stands at \$11.6 million, which is 6.35 percent of the county's general fund of \$185.6 million. Angelo reminded the board that \$11.6 million is only enough money to keep the county government functioning for one month. She said Fitch Ratings had recently suggested the main obstacle keeping Fitch from raising the county's credit rating higher than what it is currently is that the county has only a modest amount in its general reserve

A press release dated November 29, 2016 and signed by Angelo announced that Fitch recently affirmed the county's general obligation debt rating as A+ and its pension obligation bond rating as A. In the press release, Fitch personnel are quoted as saying the ratings reflect the "county's solid spending flexibility and moderate long-term liability burden in the face of a limited revenue framework.... The county's gap-closing capacity is only adequate. Future revenue volatility can be mitigated by the accumulation of larger

The county's general reserve fund has increased dramatically over the past five years. Prior to that, it had been kept at a level of \$1 or \$2 million. With the 2009 hiring of Angelo as CEO and also with the election of John Pinches as Third District supervisor in 2006, the board found the determination to increase the reserve fund to what is now, relative to the past, a high

In 2014, after the general reserve fund was increased to \$10 million for the first time in county history, Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg congratulated the board on its willpower but also told the board he now looked forward to a time that amount, \$6 or \$7 million a year, in when the board would not have to sock transportation funds, to be used for cor- away additional millions of dollars a year

At the budget workshop that took place on Monday, board members did not signal whether they intended to further fatten the general reserve fund, or not. Generally, board members agreed with the overall picture of the current political and economic landscape as presented by Flora If MCERA lowers the expected rate of and others and directed staff to proceed with drafting a budget for 2017-2018.

and salmon and their watersheds.

county's natural resource base.

Immigration

Heather Gurewitz, Mendocino County field representative and immigration specialist for 2nd District Congressman Jared Huffman; Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman; Willits Mayor Gerry Gonzalez; and Willits City Council Member Saprina Rodriguez. An emailed response from Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster to questions submitted earlier by the group also was read.

Allman quickly dispelled rumors that local immigration enforcement was changing due to federal policy.

"You have my word that, as sheriff, I will make sure that deputy sheriffs enforce [only] state and local laws," he said, "Our Constitution is very clear on this – the only person that can enforce a federal law is a federal law enforcement officer.

Allman, Gonzalez and Eyster all emphasized that local agencies such as the Sheriff's Office, the Willits Police Department and the DA's Office were not involved in investigating or prosecuting anyone for violations of immigration status, because that was not in the legal parameters of their jobs, due to the way local, state and federal laws are designed.

Eyster stated: "By definition my office does not prosecute federal violations of law or status." In his nearly 20 years of being a state prosecutor, he added, "I have never prosecuted a federal violation of law or status ever. and I don't expect that reality to change during

Gonzalez talked of his experience during his 13 years as Willits police chief, saying: "It wasn't that we were not enforcing immigration rules, it just wasn't our job.'

He also pointed to 2013's California Trust Act, which, he said, "spelled out" rules against racial profiling. "It basically codified what we were already practicing in Mendocino County. which was that we weren't going to use racebased ways to identify people when it came to crimes and looking at immigration."

Gonzalez said he was surprised how much anxiety there is currently in the local Hispanic

"I honestly didn't see that we had a problem," he said. "I've asked a lot of folks, 'Are Mexican people scared?' And, apparently,

"It's all this rhetoric that's out there." he said. "I cannot do anything more than just show up at something like this and just say that's not what we're about.

Gonzalez and Allman agreed that, with limited resources, local agencies have their hands full protecting citizens against violent and other significant crime, regardless of the ethnicity of the criminals, and said it would be wise to continue to focus on that.

"Believe it or not we've got better things to do," said Allman of enforcing immigration

He did say fingerprints and information for anyone arrested are always sent to the federal government, at which point Immigration Customs Enforcement can make "a determination on what they're going to do with that

However, Allman said he didn't see any evidence of significantly more federal enforcement in this area recently.

"We see things happen on TV back east, Southern California, and elsewhere," said Allman. "But there's a reason we're not seeing things happen in Mendocino County – I would like to think that our law enforcement officers get it, that they understand."

Allman also squashed rumors spread on Facebook that a large bus was seen in Ukiah picking up undocumented immigrants. It was actually a bus from the Department of Corrections that had been running in the area for years, he said.

Gonzalez added he had heard similar false rumors about ICE agents "coming out of the woodwork everywhere.'

"Emotions can either cause fear, or emotions can cause calm, and I'm trying to cause calm right now," said Allman. "That's exactly why I'm glad we're having this today. I appreciate the town hall committee doing this because it needs to be discussed, but it needs to be discussed in a rational way, where there's Allman and Councilwoman Rodriguez both

said they opposed the idea of Willits becoming on April 23.

a "sanctuary city," or Mendocino a "sanctuary county," with Rodriguez arguing it would have no real legal authority, and Allman believing it would bring unnecessary and potentially dangerous attention to the town and place it "on the tip of the spear" regarding immigration.

As the immigration caseworker for Huffman, Gurewitz said, she'd had "many, many conversations" with ICE officials in the last month in particular, and they claim the agency's policy of "going after felons, not families" remained the same, at least in the 2nd District (which goes roughly from Marin County to Trinity and Del Norte counties)

She also said the capacity for sweeping changes was not available for ICE in the district due to a lack of resources and the time it would take to enact changes, such as breaking the current federal hiring freeze on the

Gurewitz said ICE officials from the area told her they have no plans to target nonviolent criminals because they have to prioritize violent and gang crime with their limited

"So, are we going to see something tomorrow? No. Is there some possibility that things could change in the future? Yes. But when we're talking about the future, what I've been told by the agencies is it's at least a year out,"

Allman said while his department did not have control over federal authorities coming in, he would do his best to have a sheriff's deputy accompany them when they did, for accountability purposes.

"Local law enforcement will do everything we can to make sure that the right thing is done," he said. He also noted his department would not hold anyone longer than their sentence for questioning by ICE or others without a signature from a magistrate telling him to do so, which he said had only happened once in the last 20 years.

Rodriguez talked about her personal experiences in the community in recent months, including certain alarming changes she's no-

"There is a level of fear about what the future holds and how that impacts our local community," she said. "And on a larger scale, there seems to be a cultural shift that I've experienced personally – and I know others feel [the same] - from last year. People feel like when they're unhappy with something they can just shout from the rooftops without taking into account how that impacts others, which could be creating more fear among those who

Rodriguez and her husband, Martin Rodriguez, both said many north county residents were unaware just how difficult it was for immigrants to obtain legal status. An application for a family member of Martin's was submitted in 1990, and it has still not been accepted, and despite the family's efforts, they were not able to get a visitor's visa for her in time last year to see his father, who passed away.

"To all my friends who think that it's so easy to become legal, it is not," said Martin, who spoke during the open public comment time.

He and others who spoke during the public comment period expressed relief at the clarity they received from local officials, and the importance of sticking together as a community.

"I feel so blessed to live in Mendocino, California." said local resident and attorney Randi Covin. "There are crazy, scary things going on in this country, but not here in Mendocino. I really hear you loud and clear - over and over again - that you see your job as protecting the rights and safety of everybody here.... It's up to the rest of us to let our neighbors know that we do have their backs, and we won't allow our community to be torn apart."

Jim Marill, a founding member of the 95490 Community Town Hall Planning Group, said Sunday's crowd was likely the largest yet at a town hall event, and the group plans to continue organizing town halls.

The next one, called "Action, Not Despair," will feature several different topics of discussion, and will be held at the Little Lake Grange

REGISTER TODAY:

Starts Tues April 4, 1-3:30

Starts Wed April 19, 10-12:30

Starts Tues May 2, 9:30-12

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Redwood Valley

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Louis Rohlicek

Willits Weekly | March 23, 2017

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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

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.

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

and Show etors, actor, eyers a, a factor her 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

Having fun on stage during the 2016 Museum Road Show, from left: actors

Nichole Phillips, Linda Pack, Billy Hetheringon and Ricci Dedola.

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



Photos by Mathew Caine

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.





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

Pg. 12

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









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



THOUSE BY MEAN CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF THE P

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



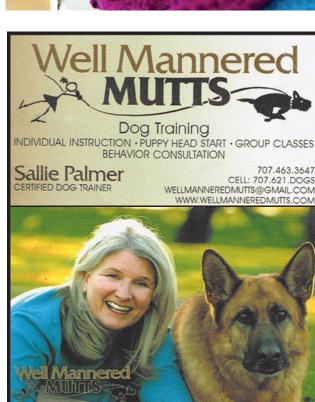


Above, left: Representatives from Sonoma Clean Power, Mendocino County's new default electricity provider as of June, explain how their services will work. Above, right: Lotus, Toni and Sheri, who gather to spin at the market each week, show off photos and the story about the knitting club they were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





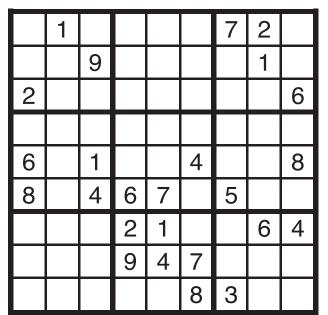








Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku



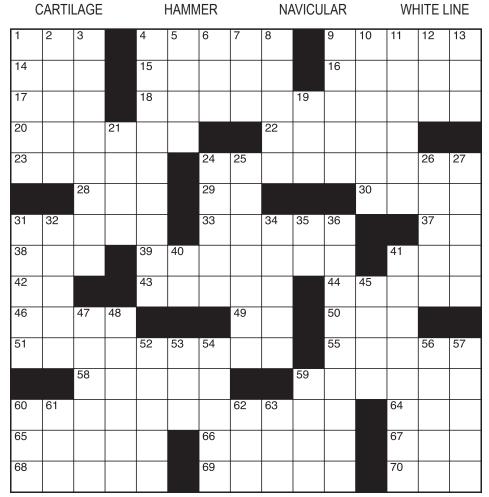
How To

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

Sudoku:

Sudoku puzzles are

AGING CORONET **HEELS ANATOMY** CRACKED **HOOVES PATHOLOGICAL** HORN **PINCERS** BAR **EQUINE BOOTS FARRIER HORSE RASP** BOXY FEET **INJURIES** SHOE **BRUSHING FETLOCK LAMENESS** SOLE **THRUSH** CANNON **FLOUNDER** LAMINAE LAMINITIS UNSHOD CANTER FROG



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Thick flat pad
- 4. Green regions of desert
- 9. Fill with dismay 14. Boxing legend
- 15. Soup
- 16. Your sibling's daughter
- 17. A long thin implement 18. Late ESPN anchor
- 20. Motives 22. Astronumerology term
- 23. Semitic Sun god
- 24. Small cigar
- 28. Promotions
- 29. Not off 30. Line or plaster the roof
- 31. African Indian people of Alberta, Canada
- 33. Rituals
- 37. Chlorine 38. Red deer
- 39. Offers a good view
- 41. Post-indictment arrangement
- 42. Blood group 43. Razor clams
- 44. Fleshes of animals
- 46. Nipple 49. Indicates position
- 50. Electrocardiogram

69. Entryways 70. __ and cheese

51. Can be disconnected

55. Tall military cap

60. Creative

65. Stacked

67. Not he

64. Suffix

58. Cape Verde capital

59. Not written in any key

66. One who consumes

68. Whiskey and milk are two

CLUES DOWN

1. Marketplaces 2. Hawaiian greeting 3. Mark left by the sea 4. Strongly affected by

6. Small coin (French)

8. A gesture involving the

7. Letter of the Greek

something

alphabet

shoulders

10. Meal in the park

12. What thespians do

19. Third-party access

11. Human beings

9. Grey geese

13. Allow

- 47. Greatly horrify 48. Prey
- 52. Forays 53. River in eastern France 5. Music and painting are two 54. Bleated
 - 56. Soft food cooked from
 - buckwheat 57. Pre-Mayan civilization 59. Assert to be the case

60. Inches per minute (abbr.)

21. 'Casino Royale' villain

24. Painful foot problems

32. 'Virginia Woolf' author

41. Religious belief outside

the mainstream

45. Sound caused by

reflection

Mikkelsen

25. The very first

27. Ceramic jars

31. Hind ends

35. For instance

36. Academic terms

26. Lawful

34. Try

40. Article

- 61. 'Rosemary's Baby' actress Farrow 62. Chinese philosophical
- principle 63. Simpson trial judge

POLICE LOG

March 13 to March 18

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

Department handled 130 incidents in this South Main Street. 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

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

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

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 March 17 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 He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC 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

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

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 March 18 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

The officers of the Willits Police of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of

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

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

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 Baechtel Road. (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 of trespassing in the 100 block of East 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

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

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

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

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'

was arrested Tuesday afternoon following that Joaquin was holed up at a home in the an exchange of gunfire earlier that day with 25300 Block of Barnes Lane.

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 "Witnesses yelled

at Joaquin to drop the

firearm," Barney said, Jeffery A. Joaquin 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

A shotgun-toting 22-year-old Covelo man Tribal Police received an anonymous tip

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

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.

February 7, On had been Joaquin 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

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.

Willits Weekly | March 23, 2017



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.

Willits FFA



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

planned to support Willits chapter

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

- DJ Buzzard, secretary, Willits High School FFA







Young Willits grapplers fare well at Twin Cities Invitational in Sutter

By Wayne Shull, coach

Saturday morning came early for the Baechtel 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 tool place Read the rest of 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.

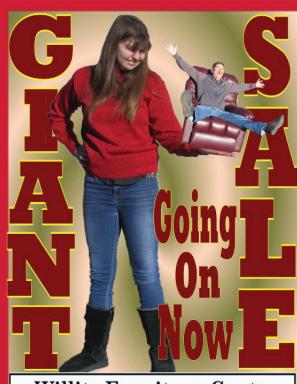
The K-3 age competition took place in the north gym, and grades 4 to 8 wrestled in the south gym. Willits Sheriffs Activities League grapplers who brought home

Gold Medals (1st place): Vladimir Over on Page B6 Wrestle

At left: Youth wrestlers from the Baechtel Grove Cougars wrestling team and Willits Sheriffs Activities League outh Wrestling team pose with Coach Wayne Shull, left, and Head Coach Matt Moratti, right. At bottom: Coach Wayne Shull with Willits Sheriffs Activities League Youth Wrestling team medalwinners at the 2017 Twin Cities Invitational Wrestling Tournament.

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459-2855 acebook: www.facebook.com **Amazing Grace**

ssembly of God Churcl 803 Coast Street P.O. Box 489, Willits Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m Pastor, Bill Nobles Information: 456-9668

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EVERYBODY IS WELCOM

459-6390 Stan Caylor, Pastor Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m. Worship Serivice - 10:45 a.m 1st Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school. 22751 Bray Road, Willits

this column please call: April Tweddell (707) 972-2475

you want to be included in

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 **Email:** willitsweekly@gmail.com **Mail:** P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | March 23, 2017







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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

all the amazing





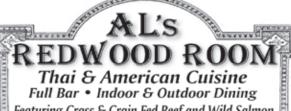
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Live Your Dream 2017

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

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





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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 Maureen Moore into the club during the March 21 meeting. Graphics & Photographress The new members received their official Soroptimist ribbons, and their sponsoring

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 Read the rest of SIW

members received a star-shaped pin.





Over on Page B7

tonysorace@pacific.net

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New members pose with their sponsoring members. At top: Susan Soss and Divora Stern. Above: Jane McCabe and Elaine Hope. Below: Tanya Musgrave and Becky King.



At left, top: The new roster of Willits Soroptimists including, back row, from left: Tanya Musgrave, Vicki Ham, Becky King, Susan Soss and Fran Schatz. Front row, from left: Jane McCabe, Tanya Ramming, Divora Stern, Marilyn Harden, Barbara O'Rear, Loraine Patton and Elaine Hope.

At left, center: The newest SIW members Susan Soss (who was also celebrating her birthday on Tuesday), Becky King and Elaine Hope. At left below, from far left: Hope receives her ribbon from McCabe. Soss receives her ribbon from Patton, King receives her ribbon from Schatz.

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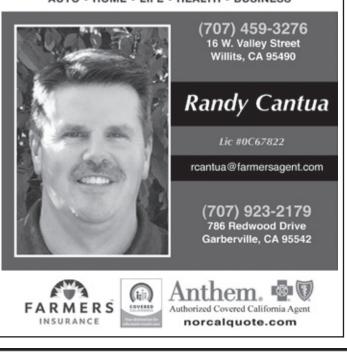


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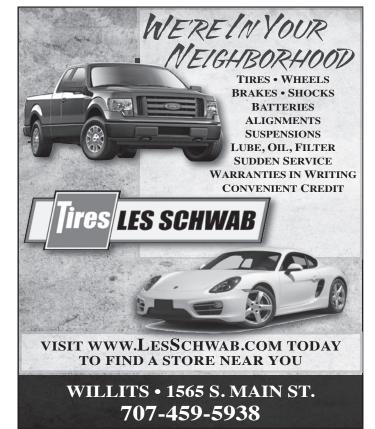


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From Page B3

Bertolino, 40-pound (kindergarten) and Jordon 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 fourththrough 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 traveling 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.



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 your "Google Jenny Senter

My Business" Features Writer listing,

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 homebased 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

Google. Now if a prospective customer does want their address appearing on the Google 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."

a search for their business, it will show on the map. These business owners were happy to learn they could opt out of having their address

> 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. Home-based business owners often don't westcompany.org

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.



the



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.



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 Carillo, 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, - Maureen Moore Taylor Drew and Danielle Barry.







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The rest of

From Page B5

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 onemindbody@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.

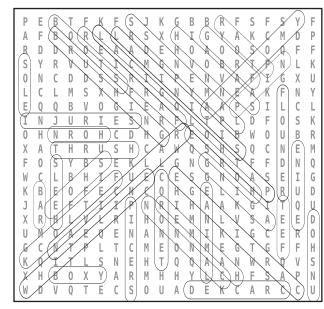
Businesses wishing to purchase advertisements to support the book can do so at any time throughout the year; there's no need to wait! Either clip out and mail in the advertising form found on page 88 of the current book. or call 972-7047 or email willitsphonebook@gmail.com то more information.

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 Willlits Weeklv.



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s/Jordan Scot s/David Moore, President Pub dates 03/16, 03/23, 03/30 and Pub dates 03/23, 03/30, 04/06 and 04/13/2017

LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2017-F0147

Fictitious Business Name

Statement

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

transact business under the fictitious

business name or names listed above

Statement filed with the Mendocino

County Clerk on March 9, 2017.

The registrant commenced to

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

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Fictitious Business Name

Statement

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.

transact business under the fictitious

business name or names listed above

County Clerk on March 13, 2017.

The registrant commenced to

Statement filed with the Mendocino

Email willitsweekly @gmail.com or call 459-2633 for info

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Christopher Pete CASE NO. SCUK-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 Supe rior Court of California, County of Mendocino.

3. The Petition for Probate requests that Brad Walton be appointed 4. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for exami nation in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the ndependent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow he personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, howev the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented the proposed action.) The independent administration authority wi be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the peti ion and shows good cause why the court should not grant the au

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

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 persona 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 58(b) of the California robate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal elivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Pro-

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your right as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledge

You may examine the file kept by the court. If yo 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 apprais of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Pro pate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is availa ble 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

CASE NO. SCUK-CVPB -16-26718

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 Mendo cino to determine estate's ownership of real property and for instruc tions. The real property described in the petition consists of approxi mately 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 Estate of Daria Rae Bennett, deceased testate and intestate successors of THOMAS A. BENTON, deceased the testate and intestate successors of EDWARD BENTON, FLOYE BENTON, ELMER BENTON, and EUNICE RAYWINKLE, all deceased NORMA RAMIREZ; and ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN claiming any legal o 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.

. Attorney for Petitioner: James F. King, Mannon, King & Johnson, .O. Box 419, Ukiah CA 95482; 707-468-9151. Pub dates: 03/23, 03/30, 04/06 and 04/13/2017

WW110

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF

izabeth Ferguson, aka Elizabeth Delores Ferguson ASE No. SCUK-CVPB-17-26791

lotice is hereby given to the creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named decedent, that all persons having claims agains the decedent are required to file them with the Superior Court of th ounty of Mendocino, at 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482 and mail or deliver a copy to Patricia Gene Bandenbroek 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/c 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 day fter the date this notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, o you must petition to file a late claim as provided in Section 19103 o he Probate Code. A claim form may be obtained from the cour

ated: January 31, 2017 Signed: Jennifer M. O'Brien, Neary and O'Brien, 110 South Main

ertified mail, with return receipt requested

clerk. For your protection, you are encouraged to file your claim by

reet, Suite C, Willits CA 95490 Pub dates: 03/16, 03/23, 03/30/2017

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Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 **Email:** willitsweekly@gmail.com **Mail:** P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490





Howard Memorial Hospital

unveils new name and mission at employee event

By Cici Winiger, for HMH

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 HMH 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 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 HMH.

In addition to the expanded mission and new name, HMH 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: HMH 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 HMH swag.



event.

Pg.B8

At right: Erich







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