

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Thank You

To the Editor:

The "Let's get Stevan Adams back on his feet" committee would like to thank the generous people and merchants of Willits for supporting our Spaghetti Lunch and Auction held on March 2.

Stevan Adams is a corrections officer at the Mendocino County Jail, who had his leg amputated after a rare form of bone cancer was discovered last year.

We were able to raise \$18,000, and it is with grateful hearts that we thank the following wonderful Willits merchants and folks:

Ardella's, AccelaDry Carpet Cleaning, Body Works Gym, Buttercups, Goods' Shoppe, Mazahar, Moon Lady/Moon Man, Mendo Mill, Mpho-tog-ra-phress Maureen Moore, Little Lake/Napa Auto, Northwest Sporting Goods, Main Street Music, Sparetime Supply, The Book Juggler, Cat's Meow, 101 Clothing & More, Mike Tobin (MC extraordinaire), Chris Hansen, Ann Alumbaugh, Dorothy Roediger, Cathy Gott, Nettie & Charlie Holum, and Jennifer Montes.

Thanks also to Dr. Eric Dunbar and to Zohar Zied, who was co-chair of the event.

Judy Dunbar,
benefit co-chair, Willits

Raw Milk Safety Act

To the Editor:

After almost three years of work by many small home dairy farms across the state, a bill titled the "Home Dairy Raw Milk Safety Act" has been introduced into the California Assembly by member Marko Yamada.

If passed, this bill would provide relief from some of the restrictions of the Commercial Dairy Codes to very tiny family farm dairies such as Green Uprising Farm in Willits. In 2011, Green Uprising Farm, along with more than five other farms across the state of California, received a cease and desist order from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. At the present time the Commercial Dairy



The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters from area residents, focusing on Willits issues, activities, events and people, have priority. Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred.

Letters & Commentaries must have a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No anonymous letters will be published.

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Codes require somewhere between a quarter and a half a million dollars of investment in milking facilities in order to comply with all the regulations. This is not a cost-effective investment for a small family farm with only a few lactating animals.

For hundreds of years small family farms have kept a few cows or goats to milk for the family and shared the rest with friends, neighbors and the community. The time is long overdue to develop realistic regulations, such as AB 2505, to guide and support small home dairies. Small family dairies contribute to the local food economy, promote self-reliance, and preserve small farms and local food traditions.

The Now and Then Film Series will be showing the movie "Cease and Desist: The Story of Small Family Farms in the Age of Big Agriculture and Big Brother" to promote public support for AB 2505. The film tells the story of small family farms that have faced legal and regulatory harassment. The evening will include a panel discussion on raw milk and dairy-shares, and will be followed by letter writing to assembly members to support AB 2505. The film showing will take place Saturday, March 29, at 7 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Sara Grusky, Willits

Bike lockers

To the Editor:

Willits area residents, did you know that the City of Willits has bicycle lockers available? Do you live in the outer hills and would like to have the ability to keep a bicycle in town for use on flat ground? Did you know that you could have the use free for one year after making a refundable key deposit? There are currently two empty lockers, located in the Skunk Train parking lot on East Commercial Street. Each locker can hold two bicycles. Go in on a locker with a friend. Ride bikes around town during the beautiful spring months or summer evenings. Contact Willits City Hall at 459-4601.

Mike Aplet, Brooktrails

Madrigal Kick-Off Party

To the Editor:

The whole community is invited to our "Elect Holly Madrigal Campaign Kick-Off" party this Saturday, March 29, 7 to 10 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts. We are going to have food and dancing. Marjo Wilson from Covelo will be entertaining us solo, as well as Frankie J. rockin' the piano. We are asking for a \$10 contribution toward campaign expenses.

This will be a chance to stop by and see all the exciting things our campaign is doing. We have developed a grassroots volunteer group that has been busy tabling, calling voters, and putting up campaign signs. (Political



Vern Morninglight, cooking breakfast at the Grange Sunday morning.

Photos by Sandy Strong

From left to right, Cindy Morninglight, Joyce Diane Connors, and Sarah O'Brien, part of the Grange Pancake Breakfast crew of volunteers.

tidbit: campaign signs are not allowed inside Willits city limits until 60 days before the June 3 election, so you will be seeing Holly signs up soon!

I have been busy meeting with regional leaders, students and seniors to learn more about their priorities. Just last week I attended the Farm Bureau fundraiser, a Laytonville medical marijuana informational discussion, a strategic plan presentation about the Mendocino County Library, and Leadership Mendocino's law enforcement panel. I will be giving a talk at the Soroptimists meeting in April on "Women in Leadership." So lots to do! Please contact me at 459-0447 if you want to schedule a house party or candidate's event.

We will be registering people to vote Saturday night, so if you have moved or have turned 18 recently, take this opportunity to register. Every vote counts in our small county.

I hope to see you Saturday evening, even if you are undecided about your 3rd District vote. I will be available to talk about my vision for the Mendocino County and why you should elect me your next supervisor.

Holly Madrigal, Willits

Library survey

To the Editor:

We had a great turnout at the Community Meeting Sunday in Willits, with 50 library enthusiasts sharing their ideas. Thank you to everyone who attended and/or completed the Community Feedback Survey. The survey will be active through April, so please complete online or with the paper copy available at the library branches. Please also pass on to your friends who do not use the library – their feedback is important, too. Here is the link to the online survey: www.surveymonkey.com/s/mendolibrary

Friends of the Willits Library, FOWL

Breakfast at the Grange

To the Editor:

My husband, Tom, and I just got back from a wonderful breakfast at the Little Lake Grange. We totally enjoyed the sourdough pancakes, organic eggs made to order, bacon, juice and organic coffee.

The food was delicious, and the people serving and preparing the food were so nice! We had a great time visiting with old friends, eating a great meal, and meeting new people.

The Little Lake Grange does a pancake breakfast on the fourth Sunday of every month, from 8 to 11 am to raise funds for the grange: the next breakfast is Sunday, April 28. We thought you might enjoy a couple of pictures for the paper.

Sandy Strong, Willits

Congrats Column

Send us your congrats entries! Newborns, engagements, weddings, birthdays and more! It's FREE! email to willitsweekly@gmail.com

Brayden Alan Sylstra

Brayden Alan Sylstra was born February 26, 2014 at 7:13 pm – 8 pounds, 13.8 ounces, and 21.5 inches long – to parents Monica June Grossman and Anthony Warren Sylstra. He is welcomed by big sister Nicole Liliyanna Sylstra and grandparents Alan Grossman and Deborah Frank and Jeff and Lorie Sylstra. He is also welcomed by his aunt and uncle Samantha and Mike Ramsey and cousin Daniel Ramsey and many great-aunts, great-uncles, great-grandparents, and loving family friends! He brings joy to all who meet him!



In memory of Stella James

Sherwood School has vowed to keep Stella James' memory alive. (Stella James, a longtime Sherwood Valley resident, died on April 21, 2013, at the age of 97.) On March 12 (Stella's birthday), we honored Stella. We took a walk to her house, shared stories about her, and sang a song for her. We miss you Stella, but your memory lives on! We would like to thank Stella's nephew, Kevin Shulz, and his wife, Judy Shulz, for the continued support and use of "Stella's Field."

– Shauna Martin, Sherwood School



River Perry Handschug

Photo by Hollie Nass

She filled our hearts with joy and delight, our sweet little bundle of love at first sight. Cute and cuddly, and full of charm, and custom-made to fit in our arms! Shawna Handschug and Israel Perry welcomed River Perry Handschug on March 5, 2014 at 8:35 pm; she was 7 pounds, 3 ounces, and full of life!

Tom Woodhouse for 3rd District Supervisor

Open House

Friday, April 4th, 2014
4:00 - 7:00pm

Drop by and say hello. Enjoy some refreshments and pick up your yard sign!

Campaign Headquarters
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<http://www.tomwoodhouseforsupervisor.com>
Paid for by Tom Woodhouse for Supervisor Campaign Committee

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Joanne LaMonica, MD
Urology

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Dr. LaMonica specializes in caring for men and women suffering with conditions of the urinary system. She brings extensive skills in performing minimally invasive, advanced laparoscopic procedures. Here's what you will learn at this FREE event:

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April 10
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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In the Glenn Miller Conference Room, North Entrance of the Hospital right next to the Family Birth Center.

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Ukiah Valley Medical Center
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Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

THEATER WORD SEARCH

B U S R G A B L A C I S U M K I G P S W
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 L Z I E W E N A S N I B O T D N N P S L L N R T
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 Y O N T L O R M O C S Y O I C H U G I N T M K L A C R O
 G R E C T U R S L A I A T Y Z U Y P P S B N O
 N A W I T O H K W A Y W I Y Z G D C W B N O
 I G N I C N A H L T A Z S O R B E P Y G D E U A Y
 N E L S I A H L C H O R E W G R A D P H Y S
 I R L N B O I Z Y U D I R E C T I C O N D T Z S
 S L M R B I G Z Y U D I R E C T I C O N D T Z S
 H O B L E U A U K O M D L E N G T H K A H

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| ACTOR | LENGTH | SET |
| AISLE | LIGHTS | SINGING |
| AUDIENCE | LYRICS | SOLO |
| BALCONY | MEZZANINE | SOUND |
| BROADWAY | MUSICAL | SPOTLIGHT |
| CHOREOGRAPHY | ORCHESTRA | SWING |
| CONDUCTOR | OUTING | THEATER |
| DANCING | PLAY | TICKETS |
| DIRECTION | PLAYBILL | TOURING |
| HIT | PRODUCER | UNDERSTUDY |
| INTERMISSION | PUBLICITY | UPSTAGE |
| LEAD | SCORE | WING |

Sudoku

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

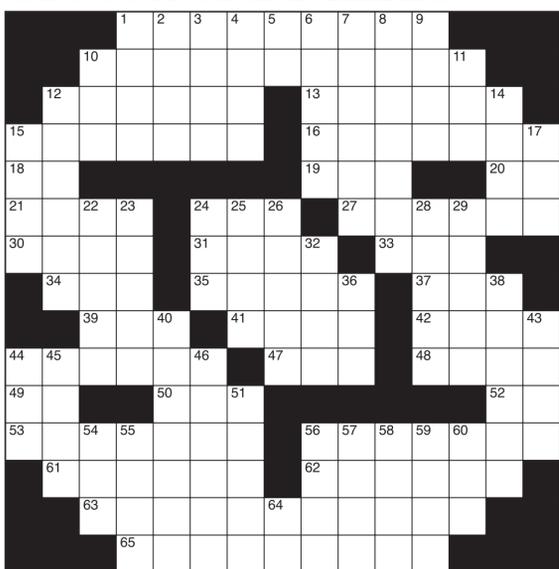
Level: Beginner

How To Sudoku:

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



Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Recapture the past
- "Tosh.0" and "South Park" are two
- Military greeting
- Passenger ships
- Can't move
- Any omission of a part
- 43rd state
- Compassionate nursing care
- Pa's partner
- Dutch cheese
- London radio station
- Perfumed powder bag
- Liquid body substances
- Expresses pleasure
- Escape from prison
- Long-wave hue
- Bleated
- Male swan
- Head cover
- Fewer calories
- Teal duck genus
- Inspire with love
- Grab

CLUES DOWN

- A player's part
- Ratites
- Distribute
- 15th day of March
- Empire State
- Small island
- Con or swindle accomplices
- Oasts kiln shape
- Female sheep
- Motor vehicle
- ___ Lanka
- More melancholy
- Not all
- Apple, pumpkin or a la mode
- ___ King Cole, musician
- Palms with egg shaped nuts
- Mistress of a household
- Founder of Babism
- Semitic fertility god
- Connected links
- Precede
- Greek and Turkish Sea
- Chocolate tree
- Miao-Yao is their language
- Moss capsule stalk
- Young society woman
- Bartenders
- Buried port city
- One point S of SE
- Cervid
- Inexperienced (var.)
- Exercises authority over
- Handles
- Neither
- Alumnus
- Sunrise
- Cease exertion
- Double curve
- Maneuver
- Not happy
- Old English

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Doggy Dental

Dr. Alfred Kerr helps K-9 Ruddick get his bite back

The teeth of our four-legged friends require attention and maintenance, too, and when 3-year-old Ruddick, one of Mendocino County's K-9 officers, was in need of a root canal, a Willits dentist was able to come to his rescue.

The nerve inside of the root of Ruddick's affected canine was much more sizeable than usual, and with Kerr's assistance, the staff at Yokayo Veterinary Hospital, including Dr. Frank Merritt, were able to get the procedure completed.

Dr. Alfred Kerr, D.D.S. not only has experience with root canals from his human practice, but also with German Shepherds. Kerr spent more than 20 years as a judge and breeder of German Shepherds, commonly used as police dogs. Kerr had experience performing root canals on his own dogs over the years, and calling in his expertise on the situation seemed like the obvious solution.

Patterson Dental, the company Dr. Kerr uses to order all the office's human dental supplies, graciously donated all additional supplies needed for the surgery, including drills large enough to handle the much-larger-than-human-sized root. Another Willits dentist, Dr. Henry Rued, D.D.S., also donated the use of a Obtura machine, which helped in completing the procedure.

"Most times, this can be done just as a veterinary procedure, but because of Ruddick's special circumstance, I was called in to help with the procedure," explained Kerr.

A week after the Monday, March 17 surgery, Ruddick took a trip up to Willits to have a quick checkup and pat on the head from Dr. Kerr.

"We were able to use some tried and true techniques of the past to help Ruddick during the surgery, and now, everything is looking good!" said Kerr.

Ruddick was donated to the Sheriff's Office by the late Morgan Ruddick of Ukiah. Ruddick has now happily returned to the back of Deputy Sheriff K-9 handler Joey DeMarco's truck and is excited to be back at work.

—Maureen Moore



Above: Dr. Alfred Kerr, Deputy Sheriff and K-9 Handler Joey DeMarco, and Phil Pineda of Patterson Dental, with K-9 Ruddick in front.

Right: Ruddick shows off his new smile.

Far right, below: Dr. Kerr works on Ruddick's teeth at the vet's office.

Photos by Maureen Moore

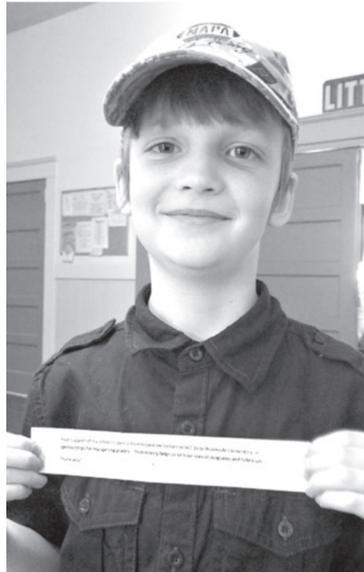
Far right, top: Dr. Kerr works on Ruddick's teeth at the vet's office.



Thanks for the Spell-a-Thon Support!

Jonah was able to raise \$62.16 during the Brookside Elementary School's Spell-a-Thon, earlier this year. "The money helps us have special programs and field trips" explains the slip he holds in the photo (right). The autographed slips were given out to those who donated money to his cause, as well as noting his resulting accomplishments and offering a note of thanks!

Great job, Jonah!



COLUMN | Intuitive Patterns

April 2014

Sometimes intelligence and cleverness is a detriment. What I mean is that when you are clever you can manipulate situations in such a way that you do not change. There are moments in which compromises actually cause confusion. Compromises can be a way for your ego to maintain a certain amount of control and not allow you to be fully in the moment. When you are clinging to something from the past and are not willing to let go, you may choose to take a half step and compromise. In such a case you are not happy and others are also not happy. This type of compromise can create a type of inner repression, and that can work against you.

Now, there are ways to compromise in which you are attempting to meet another person at the halfway mark in order to understand their point of view and the intent is to work towards harmony. That is a lovely way to compromise. But then there are moments in which that you are caring in and actually betraying your own truth. We do this for approval or to sometimes to avoid conflict. But this type of compromise will leave a bitter taste in your mouth.

This month is full of challenges. We are in a Mars retrograde in Libra so things feel as if we need to do a karmic rebalancing. We may feel as if we are waging a war, but that war is a psychic one. You will want to dig deep and make movements even though those movements seem challenging. Anything started now will work if your intent is clear and honorable. Think of it as if things are boiling below the surface and it would probably be best to stir that pot rather than let it explode when Mars goes direct in May.

As a result things will be coming to the surface for you to address. This is a time to take a look at your impulses and look before you leap. You might also feel more tired and slightly accident-prone so pay attention and stay present in the moment. Try to not live in the past and obsess about what is not fair in your life. A Mars retrograde in Libra is about getting honest with yourself and realizing where you have been accepting things on the surface but in actuality it has been creating deep divisiveness and conflict. Instead of being passive-aggressive, you need to find another way to address an old issue and actively move towards changing your behavior.

Sometimes it is only through discomfort and dissonance that we realize what is not working. Your choice from the past has been based on keeping the peace and minimizing conflict. But now you are the one in conflict, and you are recognizing that you are losing energy and it is time to do something else. This is going to require all your intuitive skills and seeking out new knowledge and ways to cope. The best way is to express your truth in an honest and authentic way. I know that is not always possible and, with April being full of lunar and solar eclipses, let's just say for some of

your life will be turned upside down. Anything that has been weighing you down in relationship is bound to surface. April will force you to change how you interact with others. Sometimes that means life takes on the form of some sort of loss. But that loss also is an opportunity for freedom in order for you to move forward.

April is so action-packed, because of the Grande Cardinal Cross activating again, that you will probably feel yanked around quite a bit. You are going to feel stretched. If you have been unwilling to change, then big surprises will probably happen. It is time to put the cards on the table and ante up to what is your responsibility. If you have been playing with a false handful of cards, and you have been bluffing your way through life, that play is no longer going to fool anybody.

April has a strong water element in the cards, and this would be a great time to do a juice cleanse or to do any type of detox that your body is asking for. It will also tend to bring in water – and there are places in the U.S. where we really need a lot of water! So I am hopeful about the cleansing and healing element of rain supporting your process this month.

Get ready, brace yourself for big shifts, and listen to your intuition, because you will feel as if you are going into an abyss, either inside or outside. Keep as playful of an attitude as possible. Let go of judgment and old conflict. Use your mind and find alternative methods to handle old situations. It is time to discover how to become the master of your own awareness. April clears out the old in a storm of change which will allow the new to spring forward.

Suzanne Wagner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of the books: "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology." Her books and CDs can be found on Amazon.com. She also is the creator of a free app: "Wild Women Series," that is available for iPad and iPhone. She also gives a once-a-month Psychic Fair at Mazahar in Willits; April date is Thursday, April 10; donations appreciated. You can reserve your space in advance at the store, 38 South Main Street. For more information about Suzanne, visit www.suzwagner.com or call her at 707-354-1019.

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This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

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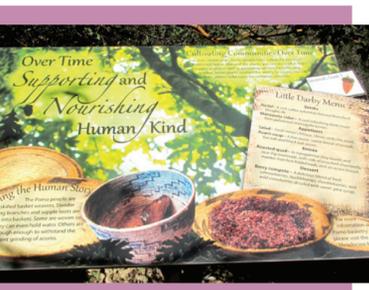


Drinks
Nu fal – a rich coffee substitute brewed from fresh Douglas fir
Manzanita cider – a cool refreshing drink made from pulverized manzanita berries

Appetizers
Salad – fresh miner's lettuce, clover and chia seeds
Acorn soup – a fine puree, subtle blend of tanoak, live oak and black oak acorn

Entrée
Roasted quail – in a peppernut (bay laurel) and rose-hip marinade, with side of poached chanerelle, maiden-hair fern fiddleheads, and an acorn biscuit

Dessert
Berry compote – a delicious blend of fresh salmonberries, huckleberries, thimbleberries and wild strawberries drizzled with sweet pine syrup.



Little Darby Menu
 From one of the interpretive signs along the Little Darby Nature Trail

At left: the March meeting had two visiting guests from the SIW: Kris Chorb, District Director of District V, and Donna Gaddis-Wolf, Founder Region Governor.

Ruby Award Winner: Aurelie Clivaz

Aurelie Clivaz works as a youth care worker in the Willits Unified School District. She provides services for any youth, age 12 to 18, and their families. Clivaz provides prevention-education groups and class presentations at all the junior highs and high schools in the Willits area, on topics such as alcohol and other drug harm reduction, self-esteem, unhealthy and healthy relationships, mental health de-stigmatization, and much more. She provides short-term crisis counseling to any youth in the Willits area, to develop coping skills and deal with current challenges. Clivaz also works with youth and their families to help connect them to resources in the community.

pho-tog-ra-phress
 (fun-tog-uh-ress)
 www: Maureen Moore: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

707-972-7047 maureengetmail@gmail.com

Above: Jane McCabe and award-winner Aurelie Clivaz.
 Photos by Maureen Moore

Being the Key That Unlocks Dreams

Each year, the Soroptimist International of Willits president has a theme for her term. This is Elizabeth Sinofsky's theme for 2013/2014, and she gave the following speech at a SIW meeting this month

In our world today, it's vital to become part of solutions that will not only foster a better life but also create a ripple effect that will help foster someone else's life. We all have this irresistible, charismatic, powerful spirit within us, which longs to unlock the mysteries of happiness and joy. For me, happiness and joy are a creation of self-awareness. A hodgepodge of giving, love, my dog, helping, tea, books, rainy days, sunny days, muses and amuses of the world. It's a journey we all are here taking together, so it only makes sense to DO it together. Becoming one with the cosmic intelligence and timeless magnificence of all that is may sound like a hard ticket to fill. I assure you it's not.

Some of the key components of unlocking our dreams are simply ... simple.

1. SURRENDER to the fact there are NO guarantees in life. Life is change. Flowers bloom, die and bloom again. The tides are forever flowing, shifting and moving. MOVE with it. Dance, skip, crawl, and tippy toe if you have to. NEVER STOP. You can whine while you do it, but it's much more attractive if you do it with a smile.

2. LISTEN. When you truly listen, you become instantly attractive. TO EVERYONE. True conversation is magical and authentic. You will not only learn something when you listen, but you're teaching someone else how to be present. Becoming a masterful listener is an art I highly recommend.

3. BREAK THE RULES. Free yourself from the bondage rules. Forget what people say you can and can't do. Forget your brain when it tells you can't do something. Breaking rules opens endless possibilities and the odds are in your favor. The inner critic should be gagged and slapped. BREAK the rules of your own mind. When you do so, you will inspire yourself and someone else. RADICAL RULEBREAKING ... very satisfying.

4. You are PERFECTLY AWESOME. Don't live in quiet terror that you're making mistakes. Your defense is to focus on what you do right! A growing body of research suggests that self-compassion, rather than self-esteem, may be the key to unlocking your true potential for greatness. Self-compassion is a willingness to look at your own mistakes and shortcomings with kindness and understanding — it's embracing the fact that to err is indeed human. When you are self-compassionate in the face of difficulty, you neither judge yourself harshly, nor feel the need to defensively focus on all your awesome qualities to protect your ego.

There you have it: Four key elements to unlock dreams for yourself and others. We all lead and inspire by example. Working for yourself works for others, AND that's a fact.

Now go unlock some doors

— Elizabeth Sinofsky, SIW President



Little Darby Nature Trail
 A fun, close-to-home outing for the family

Top: Indian Warrior in bloom.
 Below: Artwork by Willits Charter School students on one of the interpretive signs

Photos by Jennifer Poole
 Photo by Debbie Boone-Harry

Above: Calypso orchid.

Asia, Grade 8
 Miranda, Grade 12

The Little Darby Nature Trail is a great quick hike, less than 15 minutes from downtown Willits. It's a pretty drive, too, passing by ranches and barns with green fields, livestock, and old valley oaks. Take East Commercial Street, which turns into Hearst-Willits Road, and then continues straight as Canyon Road.

On Canyon Road, you'll pass the old Willits dump and the sign for the Wente Scout Reservation on your right, and then, on your left, you'll see the sign for Little Darby with its small parking lot.

The Little Darby trail has two main loops: you can spend a leisurely hour hiking both the Forestland and the Brushland loops, or a half-hour hiking the Forestland loop alone.

The paths wind up and down the hill, but they are not steep: the path from the parking lot down to the end of the new footbridge over the creek is the steepest grade on the walk. The paths are well-maintained and, if you stay on them, you can avoid the poison oak, although watch for new sprigs of the noxious weed, with leaves just unfurling, reaching into the paths at this time of year.

The educational aspects of the hiking trail – attractive and informative signs along the way, describing the habitats and inhabitants of the preserve – make it a great hike for kids. The signs were made by students from Humboldt State University – it is the Arcata office of the Bureau of Land Management which manages Little Darby. The signs also include paintings of wildlife made by students at the Willits Charter School, which has adopted Little Darby as an outdoor educational area.

You can take your dog, too: off-leash is OK, but only if your dog is "under your control at all times."

Hiking early in the morning would be the best time to hear the bird songs, but a solitary woodpecker was heard hammering during a late afternoon hike last week.

You will pass through three separate habitats if you hike the full

loop: first, the riparian habitat at the bottom, featuring the rippling sounds of Little Creek and, this time of year, trilliums in bloom in the damper areas. Last week, ranging up the hill, there were a few Indian warriors blooming, and leaves of irises, wild strawberries and forest violets, promising to flower soon.

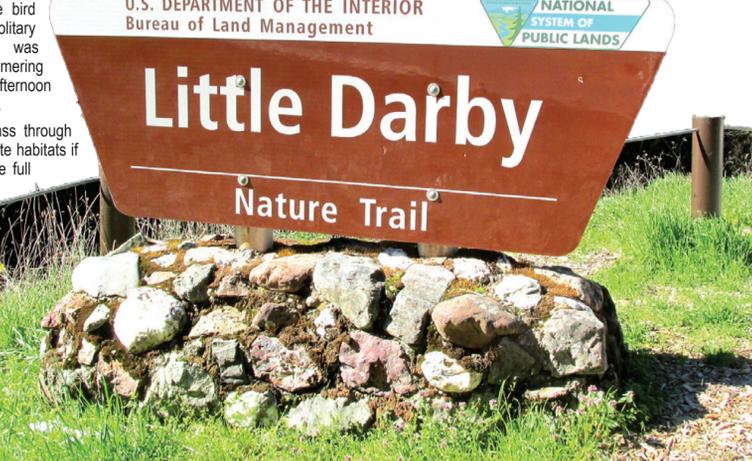
As you pass into Douglas fir forest habitat, there are many beautiful Calypso orchids (also known as fairy slippers) in bloom in the shade. These tiny orchids grow in slightly variant shades of magenta pink and purple, with a red/purple spotted lip. They are fragrant if you can get down low enough to smell them – watch for poison oak!

The Douglas firs – some of them pretty big ones – have "witchy" looking limbs: not symmetrical, with many empty branches lower down. The Doug fir cones fallen along the trail are beautiful, with three-forked bracts that look almost like, some say, the back legs and tail of mice hiding under the cones' scales.

As you get close to the top, you enter a chaparral habitat: there's more sun, the temperature rises, and everything is drier. Chamise plants, which look a bit like rosemary but with smaller leaves in clusters – line the path. Chaparral also features madrone trees with their reddish-brown bark peeling off the smooth lighter-colored wood, and manzanita bushes, some of them still adorned with winter blossoms.

At the top, there's lovely views of surrounding hills and mountains to the east. You'll cool off again as you descend the trail back into the Doug fir forest, and you'll be back down to the bottom – or to the picnic tables for lunch – more quickly than you ascended.

For more information about Little Darby check the BLM page here: www.blm.gov/ca/sen/fo/arcata/little_darby.html. BLM has posted a set of photos of Little Darby on Flickr here: www.flickr.com/photos/blmcalifornia/sets/72157628854290717/ with/6690771503. Another website, "Exploring Northern California," has a short video clip of Little Darby, an account of a hike, and a Google map with directions: www.exploringnorcal.com/2013/04/little-darby-environmental-education.html.



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What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Gaminitti's Family Dining & Lounge at the Brooktrails Lodge

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Thursday, March 27

Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly Jazz Night, featuring vocalist Sarah Ryan, Michael Cantwell on piano and keyboards, Aaron Bellomo on guitar, and Jesse Bessoni on drums. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. Every 2nd and 4th Thursday. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, March 28

Fourth Friday Fun Night: 6 to 8 pm at the Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. This month's event is a Mexican themed potluck, with a free-will donation for the dinner. All monies will go to the Willits American Legion - Wounded Warriors Fund. There will also be door prizes and entertainment.

Chakras and Bija Mantras: presented by Swami Chaitanya, 7 pm at The Muse, 30 East San Francisco Avenue. \$10 donation; no one turned away for lack of funds. "Swami Chaitanya is an American Janai Yogi and Sri Vidya teacher, initiated into the Jnana Yoga Shankara Parampara sect. Honored wisdom keeper and elder of our Earth Dance Community as well as resident Yogi and Sri Vidya teacher at the Turtle Creek Ranch in Laytonville, Swami has touched the lives of many with his colorful and exciting talks on dharma and daily life. The Sri Vidya teaching is that the universe is created out of primal sounds or bija Mantras. The structure of the universe is mirrored in the chakras. Consciousness descends into matter through the nine stages as mirrored in our chakras. Swami Chaitanya will speak on this and more, with discussion to follow." Info: call the Muse at 707-354-2475

Shanachie Pub: House of Love DJ Night w/ Hodge Podge Productions, 9 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, March 29

The Medicine Chest Garden, an herbal class taught by Donna d'Terra, to benefit the Cultivate Wellness Studio. 10 am to 12:30 pm, Room 4, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Suggested donation \$15 to \$25, sliding scale. (No one turned

away because of lack of funds). Info: 459-5030.

Master Class in Theatre Tech: "Exploring Set Design and Construction," by professional theatre technicians, Joe Dowling and Kevin Moore, who will describe using hand and CAD drafting techniques, exploring realistic and abstract design concepts, developing a production schedule, and techniques of building a set; plus tour an existing set. 10 am to 1 pm at WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. \$25 adults/\$15 students. Enrollment and scholarship forms available at the door. More info: call 459-9035 or visit www.willitscentre.org.

Madrigal for Supervisor Kickoff Party: Holly Madrigal's campaign for 3rd District Supervisor kicks off with a party Saturday, March 29, 6:30 to 10 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Dinner, wine and live music by Marjo Wilson, piano by Frankie J., and more. \$10. Info: visit www.voteholly.com or www.facebook.com/votehollymadrigal.

"Cease and Desist" film: "The Story of Small Family Farms & Raw Milk in the Age of Big Agriculture and Big Brother." Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, 7 pm. "The film tells the story of small dairy farmers who provide raw milk to their friends, neighbors, and community. Many of these small family farmers have had to face persecution by public health authorities and government regulators.... The film interviews families, children and everyday drinkers of raw milk talking about why they have made this choice." Panel discussion after the movie and a letter-writing party to state assembly members, to help pass Assembly Bill 2505, the Home Dairy Farm Raw Milk Safety Act. Suggested donation \$5 to \$10. Visit www.ceasesdesist.weebly.com.

Mac Dre Tribute Tour: "The Mac Dre Tribute Tour is presented by Thizz 535 with the intent to honor and pay respect to Andre 'Mac Dre' Hicks." Sleep Dank Presents; starring Big Regg, Duna, Campy Doo, Lil' Joe, All American Mob, T-Dopes Tha Mac, OneSixTwo Studios, Cheddaman, and Red Run. Sleep Dank Video Shoot. Brooktrails Lodge, 24675 Birch Street. \$20 cover. All ages; full bar 21+. Visit: www.facebook.com/Macdretributetour.

Hookah Stew: celebrating 20 years with an Arizona/Nevada/California tour, including a free admission concert tonight at 9 pm, at John's Place, 255 E Commercial Street. Hookah Stew's CD

"Dynamite!" Is available now. Visit www.hookahstew.com for info.

Shanachie Pub: Marty O'Reilly & The Old Soul Orchestra, 9 pm. Original pieces and renditions of old American classics and blues. O'Reilly is backed by Jeff Kissell on the Double Bass and Chris Lynch on the fiddle. Visit: www.martyoreilly.com. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Richard Kourik

"Growing from the Roots": Gardening expert Robert Kourik shares his insight into survival strategies for gardening in dry times. Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street, 1 to 3 pm. Sponsored by the Friends of Willits Library. Kourik has authored numerous books and articles, with emphasis on edible landscaping and drip irrigation. He has been called the "drip guru" by Organic Gardening magazine. His most recent book is "Roots Demystified." Visit: www.robertkourik.com. Donations welcome. Info: 459-5908.

Monday, March 31

Mend Mendocino Coalition Meeting: 6 to 8 pm at the Willits City Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street. Mend Mendocino is a coalition of Mendocino County workers, residents, community advocates and businesses fighting for social and economic justice; improving access to good, sustainable jobs; quality services, education, and affordable food and housing. "We are looking for true leadership from the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and a government that works for all, not just a few. Our elected officials have distanced themselves from the real needs of Mendocino County. It is time to demand accountability and to recommit to bringing in jobs, programs and services that keep our community strong." More info, including a pledge to sign and clips of cable ads filmed (party) in Willits at www.mendmendocino.org.

Tuesday, April 1

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Divergent" and "Mr. Peabody & Sherman." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

"Addiction . . . Treatment . . . Recovery 101": the next "Avenues to Wellness" talk.

Leslie Kirkpatrick, CACS, will share her insights about who gets addicted to substances and why, the process of change, and hope for the future. This talk is appropriate for anyone contemplating changes in their own behavior, concerned about friends, family or a loved one, or wishing to gain some knowledge about substance abuse and making healthy changes. Willits Senior Center Lakeside Room, 1501 Baechtel Road, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The talk is free, and donations are accepted. Light refreshments will be served. ATW is a program of the Howard Foundation. Visit the new ATW website, www.avenuestowellness.org, for more information about the program, and wellness activities in Willits, including recipes, a calendar of events, and discounts at local health and fitness providers and local restaurants. Info: 459-2777 or email atwforhealth@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 3

HMH Pink Party: "Join us for a Pink Party, Thursday, April 3, 4 to 7 pm, where you can enjoy a massage and refreshments, all while getting your mammogram." Presented by Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Space is limited, so sign up early: call 456-3095 to reserve a space.

Willits Community Theatre Auditions: for "See How They Run," a British farce set in a rural English parsonage. 6:30 to 8 pm at WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. Parts to be cast: female maid, late teens to age 30; female nosy neighbor, 30s/40s; male parson, 30s/40s; female parson's wife, 20s to age 40; male American soldier, 30s/40s; male escaped convict, 20s/40s; male bishop, 50s/60s; male visiting parson, 30s/50s; male policeman, age 20 to 40. The show is set for three weekends, mid-June to early July; rehearsals during May and June. Directed by Joe Dowling. Info: call Dowling at 459-1200.

Shanachie Pub: Dorian May Trio plus two, 8 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, April 4

Baked Potato Bar: 5:30 to 7 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. "Enjoy a baked potato with all your favorite toppings. Decorate a potato at home for a chance to win our Best Dressed Potato Contest. Great food, great people, and a great time!" \$9, \$8 members, \$5 kids. Info: 459.6826.

Saturday, April 5

Shanachie Pub: Tichya Amet, 8 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Ask a Physical Therapist: Free informal question-and-answer session with local physical therapist Odessa McHart. Ask any questions you want: Topics may include Pain, Training Routine, Pregnancy, Wellness, Sitting Posture, etc. Noon to 2 pm, at Our Yoga Center, next to Goodwill in the Evergreen Plaza. Any donations will benefit Willits Youth Soccer. Info: 456-1144.

"Contemporary Mendocino": Opening reception for the April show at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial tonight, from 7 to 9 pm. "Contemporary Mendocino" features the latest art works from YowYez aka James Hagami and his wife, Sonoko. The show runs through April 27. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1726. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details.



Sunday, April 6

Sunday Bingo: at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Doors open at 10:30 am; Snack Bar opens at 11 am. Bingo Buy-In \$10. This month's lunch special: reuben sandwiches & hot dogs. Info: 459.6826.

Localights: Malakai and New Blu Trio are featured in this second of a series of fundraiser concerts for the Willits Community. 7 pm at the Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane (just behind Shanachie Pub). Malakai first performed in front of a large audience at the age of 7, singing in a duet with his father, Greg Schindel. He has been expanding his repertoire ever since, playing the trumpet, the flute, the pan flute, the guitar, the didgeridoo, the dulcimer, the recorder and perhaps a few other instruments. Malakai has performed as a member of Schindig, The Dirt Floor Band, and on the Skunk Train excursions. New Blu Trio is fast becoming a local favorite, featuring Nancy New on acoustic guitar, Don Fiers on bass, and Anita Blu, singing a fun line-up of music and polished three-part vocal harmonies. New Blu Trio has performed

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throughout Mendocino and Lake counties serenading audiences with easy listening tunes ranging from the Beatles to jazz standards to The Kinks, Phoebe Snow, KD Lang, old hop-a-long cowboy songs, and anything in between. Tickets are \$10; \$15 for front-row seats; and \$5 for last-row seats; on sale at Goods' Shoppe. Info: call producer David Partho at 459-7054.

Save the Date

Brooktrails Firefighters Association Spaghetti Feed, April 12, Brooktrails Community Center
Ridgewood T.R.A.I.L. Riders Arena Dedication and Open House, April 19, Ridgewood Ranch
Sober Grad Take Home Tri-Tip Dinner, April 25, tickets at Cat's Meow
Willits Frontier Days Equine Educational Clinic, May 17

'Contemporary Mendocino' April show at the WCA

YowYez, aka James Hagami, and his wife, Sonoko, are showing their latest art works at the Willits Center for the Arts from April 5 to 27. The exhibit is titled "Contemporary Mendocino".

It was 19 years ago, in 1995, that the two artists last exhibited their work locally, at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits.

James creates the landscapes of his own universe in abstract form. He uses simple elements like circles, triangles, and squares in free formation. His art is like jazz improvisation with structured colors in new dimension. James studied art in Dayton, Ohio.

Sonoko was educated in Tokyo, Japan. She uses her experiences to create her fantasy world, with vivid colors and dynamic layouts. She makes powerful images that children love to experience.

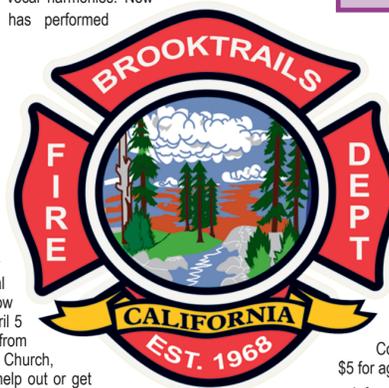
Their exhibition almost two decades ago at the museum in Willits was titled "Country Living." Today the two artists reimagine their vision of rural life as "Contemporary Mendocino."

The opening party is Saturday, April 5, from 7 to 9 pm: "We are celebrating 101 years of Marcel Duchamps' 'ready-mades.' Bring your friends."



Auditions for 'Willits On Stage 2'

Willits Community Services is holding auditions for its 2nd annual Variety Show, "Willits On Stage 2": the show is set for Saturday, April 26 at 7 pm at the Willits High School Auditorium. "A marvelous variety show, featuring friends, neighbors and special guests." Remaining audition dates for the show - any talents are wanted! - are Saturday, April 5 from noon to 3 pm, and Wednesday, April 16 from 6 to 8 pm. Auditions at the Willits Methodist Church, School and Pine streets. "Want to perform, help out or get involved? More info: 456-9429."



Brooktrails Firefighters Spaghetti Feed

The Brooktrails Firefighters Association will be holding its annual Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser on Saturday, April 12, from 5 to 8 pm at the Brooktrails Community Center, 24850 Birch Street. \$10 for adults; \$5 for age 12 and under.

Info: please call the fire station at 459-4441.

WCT sold-out concert

Navaho flute-player R. Carlos Nakai and percussionist Will Clipman performed to a wildly appreciative, sold-out audience at the Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, March 23. During their two-hour show, they offered unique improvisations along with numerous selections from their Grammy-nominated album, "Awakening The Fire." Nakai's haunting and reverential repertoire on nearly a dozen flutes included sounds from an eagle-bone whistle that he wore around his neck. He told the story of his travel with Clipman to the Island of Orkney in Scotland to visit the ancient standing stones and play for locals who presented them with their own version of the eagle-bone whistle. With their Willits show as a stopover on their current national tour, Nakai said his message for the evening was about the commonalities of human culture across the planet and the essence of growth. He invited the audience to recall the first song all

humans ever sing, the cries of the newborn right out of the mother's womb. In one mesmerizing performance, Nakai was backed by Clipman playing the gourd drum of Hawaii, the Pahuipu, for a rendition of their album song, "Caldera," an homage to the immense regenerative power of the living lava mountain Mauna Kea which, at more than 40,000 feet elevation from the sea bottom, dwarfs Mt. Everest in size. Clipman also played rhythms on the traditional drum of the Sami people of the Arctic Circle and the Hang steel drum of Switzerland. In their closing encore for the evening, Nakai and Clipman called on the audience to join with them in sounding out a song together, and the little theatre filled with the resonating human voices humming to the flute and drum. Afterward in the lobby, Nakai presented the eagle-bone whistle to a young boy who had been in the audience, with the words, "Go, have a good life and enjoy all that you are here for."

- Steve Hellman, WTC

'More Than Honey'

Now and Then Film Series presents a documentary about honey bees, Thursday, April 17, 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "Honey bees give us much more than honey. More than 30 percent of our foods require bees to pollinate, we need them to eat! Over the past 15 years, most colonies of bees have been decimated throughout the world, but the causes of this disaster remain unknown. Depending on the world region, 50 percent to 90 percent of all local bees have disappeared,

and this epidemic is still spreading from beehive to beehive. Fifty years ago, Einstein had already insisted on the symbiotic relationship binding these pollen gatherers to mankind: "If bees were to disappear from the globe," he predicted, "mankind would only have four years left to live." Visit: www.morethanhoneyfilm.com. Suggested donation of \$5 to \$10 benefits the Now and Then Film Series project. Info: 459-6362.



Willits Weekly wants to list your event or special meeting for free in our Calendar! Email details (date, time, location, contact info, cost if any) to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Send us your digital photos or graphics as well (higher resolution photos are best). There is no charge for promoting Willits, Laytonville or Covelo events in Willits Weekly's calendar.

Ongoing Events:

Willits Farmers Market: Winter market at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Winter produce, hot house tomatoes, local meats, dinner, crafts, live music and more.

"By Hook or By Crook": Sewing, Knitting & Crochet Circle at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street. 3 to 5:30 pm, Room 10, during the Winter Farmers Market, through April. Sponsored by the Little Lake Grange Women's Association. Info: 459-6362.

"Members Art Show": the March show at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Features art work by WCA members. March 1 through March 30. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1726.

Willits Community Drum Circle: 7 to 10 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Fridays. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932

Smoking Cessation Program: Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the HMH Conference Room, 1 Madrone

Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Big Screen video games: Fridays from 4 to 5:30 pm at the Noyo Theatre. Arcade-style games, multi-player, with both casual and cartoony fighting games. Everyone gets a chance at the controller. Moderated by assistant manager Steve Thornton: "Gamemaster Steve." \$5 (no gift certificates or passes accepted). 57 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-6660.

Willits Frontier Twirlers: Beginner's classes in basic and mainstream square dance, Monday nights at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, from 6:45 to 8 pm, then dancing until 9 pm, with professional caller Lawrence Johnstone, who will teach and call. Info: 459-9526.

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

www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Just For Fun Choir: directed and accompanied by Nancy New. Meets Mondays at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, from 1 to 2:30 pm. Accepting new members of all ages and abilities. Info: call Nancy New at 459-1276.

Brooktrails Lodge Winter Schedule: every Thursday night at 8 pm: "Dream Capsule Entertainment," featuring local musicians and talent; Happy Hour, and Ladies' Night specials. Every Friday night: Open Mic, with drink specials and prizes. Every Saturday night: "Electro-Dance" at 7 pm. Info: Shawntee Wirth at dreamcapsuleindustries@gmail.com or 459-6792.

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 at the Laytonville Grange, 1620 Branscomb Road. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, jewelry, aprons, children's clothing, knife sharpening and more.



Left: Aurelie Clivaz holds dresses available at the Teen Closet.

Below: Racks of clothes are free to those in need.

Photos by Jocelyn De Jung



Teen Closet

Free clothes project needs volunteers, donations

Planning on downsizing your wardrobe to make room for spring outfits? In need of just about any type of apparel for your teenager or yourself, if you're 12 to 18 years old? Swing by the Teen Closet, a place that gladly accepts clothing donations - in all sizes - to provide for those in need in inland Mendocino County. The Teen Closet gives free clothes to teenagers - boys and girls - and free baby clothes to teenage moms.

The Teen Closet in Willits is run by Aurelie Clivaz, youth crisis counselor with the Mendocino County Youth Project. After receiving her bachelor of arts in education, Clivaz moved to Mendocino County, and has been working with local at-risk youth for seven years. The Teen Closet is one

of her many projects.

Since the Teen Closet was established in 2011, Clivaz estimates that she has given away more than 3,000 items of clothing. The Teen Closet is located in the old weight room at Willits High School. Clothing donations can be dropped off at the high school or at Willits Charter School.

Those who help her sift through the piles are generally students, including peer counselors, and parents. Willits Soroptomists generously gave \$200 to provide racks and hangers.

The project is advertised through word of mouth, with flyers posted around town, and by notices in high school newsletters. The Teen Closet offers jeans, sweaters, shoes, coats, skirts, and even baby clothing and accessories for teenage parents.

services Clivaz provides to Willits youth. She's also a counselor at Willits Charter School. She specializes in working with youth aged 12 to 18, providing them with one-on-one counseling. In addition, she gives group presentations, partners with the Probation Department, and connects teens with specific services to help them with drug and alcohol addiction, pregnancy prevention, and STD testing. She's also taken students on a variety of field trips, and has organized alcohol- and drug-free youth dances at the Willits Grange.

Clivaz' favorite part of working with youth is "being able to go into schools to discuss 'real' subjects with kids" who normally wouldn't get the chance to express their feelings so candidly. She particularly enjoys working with special needs kids, and it's very important to her to remove the stigma that often accompanies mental illness and emotional disorders. Clivaz helps ensure that children are accurately diagnosed. She believes in getting to the root of every individual's dilemma, and is a champion of suicide prevention.

On top of all this, she teaches hip-hop, break dancing, and Capoeira at Willits Charter, Willits High, and Sanhedrin High. It's not difficult to picture Clivaz leading a group of students in demanding dance routines, as her energy seems boundless. It's extraordinarily apparent that she adores working with children, and gets great satisfaction from her many jobs. The Teen Closet would greatly benefit from help from the community, as there are not nearly enough volunteers. To contact Clivaz about the Teen Closet or her other services, call 707-489-1258.



\$20 Each - Buy now or order today!

However, since the grant for the program was recently cut, Teen Closet is in dire need of more volunteers. Clivaz has thrown a few work parties, but needs more help. She works tirelessly, and is open to the notion of a volunteer organization stepping in to help, or even taking over the project.

Certain items are in high demand. New socks, underwear, and shoes are primary needs. A prom dress drive is currently underway, through April 24. The goal is to provide every girl the chance to attend prom, without worrying about spending hundreds of dollars on an outfit.

The Teen Closet is just one of many



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The rest of Business | From Page 1

Wellness Group signed up in recent months. New this year, City Hall is reporting new business licenses during city council meetings. The lists can be found on the internet at the City of Willits webpage.

The year's first report detailed licenses from July 2013, and included out-of-town contractors or local operations that are not headquartered within city limits but conduct business in town.

For building and construction affairs, City Hall granted permits for access ramps to be built at Grace Community Church classrooms.

Work for re-roofing projects on Spruce Street, Nancy Lane and Camp Lane also were granted by the city.

Completed projects from Building Inspector John Sherman's last report included the expansion of a solar array in the 330 block of Boscabelle Avenue, a 600-square-foot kitchen and office addition in the 500 block of South Main Street, and a 2,000-square-foot conversion of a warehouse to an office on San Francisco Avenue.

A remodeling job of an entire home at 135 West Commercial Street also was completed.

Since the city's 2013-2014 fiscal year began in July, the value of construction work in the city stands at about \$4.1 million.

Fees collected by the city during the fiscal year total \$73,634, for 227 permits issued by City Hall.

The report also shows projects for the 2012-2013 fiscal year added up to an estimated \$1.7 million, and fees collected that fiscal year were just over \$34,000, from 78 building permits.

A foundation for a log debarking machine on Casteel Lane was issued in January, as was a permit for a 144-square-foot storage building in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

Electrical distribution to a Blosser Lane Machine Shop also was approved.

City Hall reports an alcoholic beverage license is being transferred from the Yum Yum Tree restaurant to a new Lucky Star restaurant at the same location. A number of businesses along Main Street closed last year, but the Vassar's Pizza building has sold and a new restaurant will be moving in there.

Kapila Benz at Gavel Down Sales is taking over the old House of Pizza location next door to his shop.

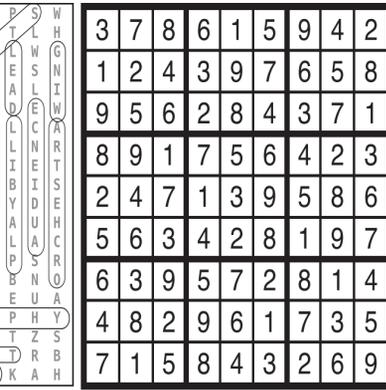
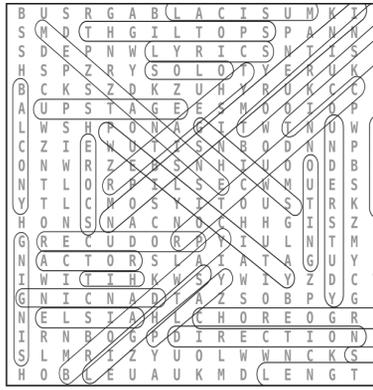
Some work is already being done to the old pizza place that, when re-opened as Lo Coco's Restaurant, will serve authentic Sicilian cuisine. Lo Coco's will start with pizzas and salads, and will transition into serving pastas and desserts, too.

Home Delivery now available for Willits Weekly!
Willits Weekly is now offering Home Delivery! If you live in Willits, Brooktrails or Little Lake Valley, you're inside our home delivery area. Home delivery subscriptions are \$30/six months and \$50/year. (Mail subscriptions sent by first-class mail are still \$40/six months and \$75/year.) Your Willits Weekly will be delivered (in a plastic bag) to your home or driveway in the wee hours of Friday morning. To place an order, or for more information, call 459-2633, email willitsweekly@gmail.com, or send a check to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits CA 95490.

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Willits Weekly's Athletes of the Week

Willits Weekly is proud to showcase some of Willits High School's Amazing Athletes. Athletes are nominated by their coaches and with the help of coach and project facilitator, Dave Smith. Willits Weekly plans to highlight two athletes each week, one young man and one young woman, and share their achievements with the community.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Track | **Gabby Agenbroad, Sophomore, 16**
Breakfast of Champions: Apple



Track | **Will Smith, Sophomore, 16**
Breakfast of Champions: Bowl of Frosted Flakes

In his first track meet of the season, Will dominated the throwing events, winning both the shot put and discus. With six schools competing at the home meet, Will won the shot put at 42' 10". His winning throw of 30' 7 1/2" was five feet ahead of the 2nd place St. Helena girl.

In his first track meet of the season, Will dominated the throwing events, winning both the shot put and discus. With six schools competing at the home meet, Will won the shot put at 42' 10". His winning throw of 124' 11" in the discus was more than 20 feet better than the 2nd place throw.



Young Niko

Photo by Rod Coats

Hoping for a Home Furry Friends

Meet Niko, a very affectionate and playful four-month-old male pup! Niko and his siblings were born at the shelter last November, and their mom Brownie, a Pitbull Terrier, is one of the sweetest dogs we have ever met. The father of these puppies was a very handsome Siberian Husky. Brownie and her babies went, right after her delivery, to our most wonderful foster home. And during the eight weeks they lived there they had extensive contact with people of all ages, they played with other adult dogs, and they also got a lot of exercise every day - so they came back to the shelter as well-balanced, happy and socialized pups. All but Niko have since found homes, so now it's time for him. Niko is already neutered, so he's ready to go home with you the same day you meet and adopt him. Please know that having a puppy can be a little more work at the outset, as far as patience, guidance and training go - but we believe he is well worth the extra work, and he will reward you with a lifetime of loyalty and love!

We also have several unusual pets here right now awaiting new homes, including Rex the hamster, Snowball the rabbit, and the three roosters Larry, Curly & Moe! Rex the hamster came to us from a

local veterinarian's office, after someone had abandoned him at their front counter. He is a shy hamster who will do well with older children over 12 and adults. He comes with his own hamster enclosure and a bag of food. Snowball is a very sweet and affectionate male rabbit who is litter-box trained and great with children. He was surrendered by his previous owner as their landlord did not allow rabbits so they could not keep him. Then there's Larry, Curly & Moe, the three friendly and handsome roosters! These three roosters were found wandering along the side of the road and were not claimed by their owner, so they are now available for adoption as pets. They appear healthy and get along well with each other.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. The shelter has a new website: www.mendocoshelterpets.com, to view our adoptable cats, please visit www.adoptapet.com/shelter71965-cats. For more info, contact Adoption Coordinator Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453 or houghtbyk@co.mendocino.ca.us, or come in during shelter hours.

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Soroptimist International of Willits welcomes two new members to local chapter

During the March meeting, two new members were added to the Willits Chapter roster, Kitty Norris and Laurie Ludeman. Welcome ladies! Are YOU interested in becoming a Soroptimist? See www.si-willits.org or check the "Soroptimist International of Willits" page on Facebook.



Two women were honored by the Soroptimist International of Willits at the March meeting: Junia Ikeh of Laytonville and Amanda Norton of Willits.

Junia received the Violet Richardson Award and \$400 and was recognized for her volunteer work with the Healthy Start organization in Laytonville.

Amanda received the Women's Opportunity Award and \$750 for her to continue her education in the Environmental Resources Engineering Program at Humboldt State University.

Above: SIW members Jan Lambert and Lisa Epstein pose with Junia Ikeh.
Right: Amanda Norton poses with Elizabeth Sinofsky and Amanda's daughter, Skyla, who helps to hold the check.



Women's Opportunity and Violet Richardson Award Winners

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Left: A bee enjoying the grape hyacinths, with pink spring primroses in the mix.

Above: "Two for the price of one, or maybe it's just love"; Strong's title for this portrait of two garter snakes on her patio.

Below: A yellow swallowtail butterfly, one of the biggest and most beautiful butterflies seen in Willits.

At bottom: "It was a foggy morning in Willits, mist in the air, and I walked out to my back gate and found this bejeweled spider web. What beauty and adventure we find in our own little town." - Sandy Strong

Photos by Sandy Strong

Nature In Willits

Photographer Sandy Strong captures beautiful flowers and creatures in her garden in town

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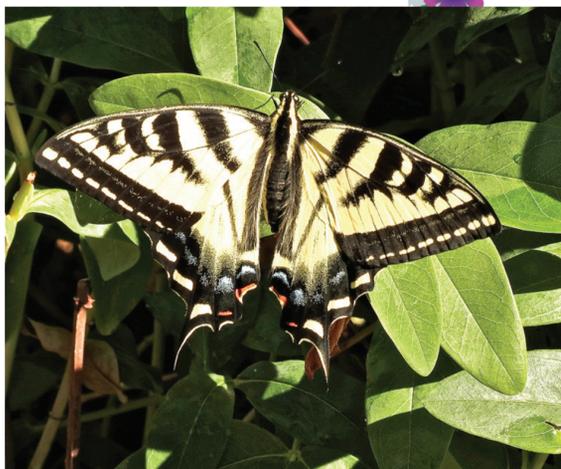
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The rest of Bypass | From Page 1

trucked and dumped onto the ground at the site of the northern interchange.

Eighteen members of the public addressed the board on the issue. Sixteen of them urged supervisors not to issue the permit. In general, opponents of the permit said there were many reasons not to move forward, ranging from the failure of MFP to perform adequate wildlife and botanical studies to the inappropriate size of the bypass's northern interchange, the construction of which would be facilitated with fill from the excavation.

Hal Wagenet and Randy Covin spoke in favor of issuing the permit.

Retiring Supervisor John Pinches took credit for coming up with the idea. "I guess I come up with the idea," he said. "I thought it was a good idea then, and I still think it's a good idea."

Pinches noted Caltrans had previously determined to excavate a portion of Oil Well Hill, some four miles north of Willits, to get the dirt. Pinches thought it might be better to get the dirt from the forested hills surrounding an old mill site rather than from the fairly untouched forested hillside adjacent to the highway at Oil Well Hill. He approached MFP with the idea, and the company liked it.

Pinches praised Mendocino Forest Products, which not only supported his idea but spent a lot of money undertaking studies and preparing a report on the project.

Beth Bosk, an opponent of the bypass and the MFP excavation project, urged Pinches to recuse himself from voting because it had been his idea, but Pinches declined to do so. "Havin' an idea don't calculate to a conflict," Pinches said.

Wagenet, a candidate for Third District supervisor, told board members to "apply some common sense" and approve the staff recommendation to grant the permit. The environmental and transportation costs of using fill material from the MFP site will be much lower than taking fill from Oil Well Hill, Wagenet said. "The mill site will be enhanced, bypass costs reduced, and thousands of gallons of truck fuel, time and money will be saved."

Ellen Drell compared the new project with Harris Quarry, putting the proposed 900,000 cubic yard take into perspective. "Harris Quarry has been operating for years on a permit to take 75,000 cubic yards a year," she said. "This is 900,000 cubic yards in six months. So it's 12 times as much as Harris Quarry. Actually, because this permit is for six months, it's actually 24 times as big. And you are being asked to approve this on a negative declaration."

Drell said MFP had not done a traffic study on the impact 600 truck trips a day would have on traffic on the highway, which has been characterized by some as being very light.

Drell added no study has been done on how the project will affect local air quality or impact greenhouse gas emissions.

"This project is too big to approve with a negative declaration," she said. "I urge you to not approve this plan."

In further discussion with representatives from MFP, the company indicated it had undertaken adequate wildlife and botanical studies, and had come up with a plan to address concerns that might arise if botanists encounter the Sonoma variety of the canescens manzanita, a sensitive species of manzanita botanists suspect may be growing in the forests on the excavation site. In addition, Mark Cheney, a consulting engineer with SHN of Arcata and Willits, said the company had done searches for the northern spotted owl.

"We did field investigations last year," Cheney said. "We have done and met all protocols for spotted owl."

Before the vote was taken, Hamburg told the board he would cast his vote against issuing the permit because of its obvious connection with the northern interchange of the Willits bypass. Late last year, Hamburg wrote a letter to California Gov. Jerry Brown, urging him to use his influence to get Caltrans to downsize the northern interchange. Hamburg noted a March 18 letter to Caltrans from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board suggested downsizing the interchange might help Caltrans meet its obligations under the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, which the water agency has not yet approved.

Before voting on the motion, Ukiah Supervisor John McCowen criticized what he termed "the environmental community" for failing to support the MFP proposal.

"This is the one opportunity for bypass opponents to work together with bypass proponents to reach a positive outcome," he said. "It is not surprising, but perhaps it is a little bit disheartening, that the environmental community - or at least a part of it - when given an opportunity to work cooperatively on the Willits bypass, finds it appropriate to oppose an alternative that is actually better for the environment."

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step-grandchildren ages 6 and 3; his parents and his siblings.

Allman said Del Fiorentino must be remembered as a hero: "Not just for March 19, but for who Ricky was."

Del Fiorentino served his community beyond his regular job, Allman said, working to keep the Police Activity League going there and teaching Fort Bragg kids to fish and swim.

"You name it - if Ricky could do it, from wrestling to football, he wanted to teach us," said Allman.

The career law enforcement officer worked 10 years with the Fort Bragg Police Department and 16 years with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

At the Savings Bank of Mendocino a memorial fund has been established for Del Fiorentino. Anyone wishing to make donations to the fund can do so by contacting or visiting any of the Savings Bank of Mendocino County locations or by mail to P.O. Box 3600, Ukiah, CA 95482. Donations also may be made electronically by going to the Mendocino County Deputy Sheriff's Association page on Facebook.

A convoy of law enforcement and public safety vehicles stretching about five miles drove through Willits on a rainy Wednesday morning bound for Del Fiorentino's memorial ceremony in Fort Bragg. Willits Boy Scouts from troops 42 and 88 put up flags, and residents lined Main Street to see the procession through town.

The convoy included police vehicles from Cotati, Eugene, Oregon, Solano County, Sonoma County, California State Parks, Orland, Glenn County, Roseville, and Clearlake. Fire departments, including Brooktrails and Little Lake Fire, CalFire, Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire Department and Hopland Fire Department, sent vehicles to the coast for the memorial service.

Governor Jerry Brown and Attorney General Kamala Harris, who had planned to attend Del Fiorentino's service in Fort Bragg, were unable to make the trip to the North Coast due to the weather, Sacramento news station KCRA reported. Brown and Harris were scheduled to fly from Oakland to Fort Bragg in a small Department of Justice airplane, but Wednesday morning's storm made the trip unsafe, representatives for the official said.

Willits resident Roni McFadden recorded a video of vehicles traveling on Highway 101; McFadden's documentation of the emotional event can be seen on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10152074705908002&set=vb.564423001&type=2&th eater.

Reporter's note: Quotes from Del Fiorentino's memorial service were reported from a radio broadcast on area public radio broadcaster KZXY.

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ordinance, any protected or special status tree within the Brooktrails Redwood Park shall be permanently protected.

The ordinance first defines which species of native trees will be protected, including Redwood, Douglas Fir, Black Oak, Live Oak, Tan Oak, White Oak, Pacific Madrone, Ponderosa Pine, Incense Cedar, California Nutmeg, Big Leaf Maple, Red Alder, California Bay Laurel, Chinquapin, Pacific Dogwood, Oregon Ash, California Buckeye and White Alder.

It then declares there are two categories of such trees: protected trees and special status trees.

A protected tree is a tree, the trunk of which is at least 6 inches in diameter as measured at 54 inches above existing grade.

A second section of the definition of a protected tree includes trees that have historical or cultural significance. These include trees which have been planted as a commemorative tree or mark a spot of historic or cultural significance, which are visually distinctive, distinctive in size or structure, prominent, very old, or associated with "the character of the Township."

Beyond the protected category, there is a second category: special status trees.

These are trees belonging to the above-mentioned 18 species or varieties, which are distinctive for a variety of reasons. They may possess exceptional size, or form, or rarity, or age, or they may be associated with a historic structure or district, or even a person who lived or lives in Brooktrails; or they may be a landmark tree, or have exceptional ecological attributes beneficial to wildlife. Special status trees also may belong to a group or grove of trees deemed to be notable, or growing in a notable location.

According to the ordinance, special status trees are different from protected trees: they must be nominated for protection.

Nominations for special status native trees may be made by any Brooktrails resident or property owner by completing a form and turning it into the Brooktrails Redwood Park superintendent, defined in the ordinance as being the township's general manager, or his or her designee. Currently, Denise Rose is Brooktrails general manager.

The ordinance also provides that work on a special status tree, such as pruning of branches or roots, may only be done in accordance with strict guidelines, and by permission of the Brooktrails Redwood Park superintendent.

In making the motion to approve the ordinance, Brooktrails Director Tim Ramming said, "I think it's important to have this on public land." The board then approved it with little discussion. A public hearing on the ordinance had been held earlier in the meeting.

Other Brooktrails news

The board of directors also unanimously directed Rose to attend meetings of the Mendocino County Council of Governments, the joint powers authority responsible for allocating certain state and federal monies for transportation projects within Mendocino County.

In addition, the board directed Rose to study the feasibility of installing solar-powered generating equipment in Brooktrails. A presentation by local solar proponent Keith Rutledge had made Rose and the Brooktrails board aware the potential exists to obtain grants and/or financing for solar installation, and that doing so could significantly reduce Brooktrails' long-term energy expenditures.

Rose was directed to research all aspects of the topic and report back to the board in six months.



Little Lake Fire Department extended the ladder with an American flag above the arch. Personnel and Willits residents came to show their support for the procession.

Photo by Maureen Moore

Affordable Care Act Deadline Monday, March 31

Those starting an online application by the deadline will get two more weeks to complete it

Monday, March 31 is the deadline to sign up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. Although news headlines Wednesday said the Obama administration had "extended deadlines" to enroll, the deadline hasn't really been extended in California.

What is true, according to Covered California, the health insurance marketplace in California, is that anyone starting an application at the www.coveredca.com website by the deadline - 11:59 pm on March 31 - will be afforded a couple of extra weeks - until 11:59 p.m. on April 15 - to complete it.

Jennifer Poole
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"Covered California is not extending its deadline for applying for a health plan," Covered California Executive Director Peter V. Lee said. "However, we're committed to helping all those who started an online application to cross the finish line."

Those who don't start the enrollment process by the March 31 deadline won't be able to enroll again until the next open enrollment period in October, and may face a tax penalty.

"If you haven't applied yet, do it now," Lee said.

The Affordable Care Act also allowed "a huge expansion" of California's Medi-Cal program, said Kristina Grogan, communication coordinator for the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency. Income eligibility for Medi-Cal has been raised to 138 percent of the federal poverty level - in 2013, \$15,856 or less for a single individual.

In Mendocino County, projections estimated 5,000 residents would be newly eligible for subsidized health insurance under Covered California or under Medi-Cal.

Mendocino County, like other counties throughout the state, Grogan said, has not been able to keep up with processing the large numbers of new applications for Medi-Cal. Many applicants were referred to the county from Covered California website, if income levels they reported looked like they'd be eligible for Medi-Cal.

"The whole state is just backlogged," Grogan said. Mendocino County is at least a couple months behind in processing new applications. The county has been "staffing up," she said, and allowing overtime to try to address the backlog "as much as we can within our scope."

Those awaiting a response from Mendocino County about the status of their Medi-Cal application should know that there is no "open enrollment" period for Medi-Cal; applications for the state's free or low-cost health-care program are processed all year round.

Anyone in an emergency situation - including but not limited to those in need of medication, surgery or care for emergencies such as a high fever - should call Mendocino Health and Human Services at 463-7773 to request their application be expedited.

Also, the beginning date of Medi-Cal coverage is the first day of the month in which clients apply, Grogan said: if they are found to be eligible. "For example if someone applies for Medi-Cal on February 3, and they are approved on March 15, their coverage would go back to February 1 and cover any medical bills dated thereafter if there no other insurances are in place," she said.

Those with questions about the Medi-Cal coverage in Mendocino County can leave a message with Health & Human Services at 463-7773 or get information about Affordable Care Act enrollment counselors by calling 463-5437. The Covered California website is: www.coveredca.com.

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and Brooktrails Township.

Neary told Willits Weekly the seeds for the mediation offer came in January, when the Governor's Office sent three representatives to Willits to discuss options on how Brooktrails and Willits might deal with the severe drought then gripping California.

Neary said Robertson, who will be remembered by locally by her maiden name, Holly Wagenet, was part of the delegation.

During discussions that included Hal Wagenet, it was suggested Willits and Brooktrails could work together to share surplus water. According to Neary, Wagenet then said before that happened, someone would have to find a way to resolve the lawsuit between the two entities.

According to Neary, Robertson assiduously pursued that idea, and convinced Governor Jerry Brown to direct his staff to offer to mediate the differences between the parties.

Neary said the Brooktrails board of directors has agreed to participate in the proposed mediation, but the Willits City Council had not yet reached a decision on the matter.

Neary said the council was scheduled to discuss the offer in closed session on Wednesday.

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Thank you for the incredible work you do on behalf of the Willits community each day.

Thank you for sharing your gift of medicine and your compassion for helping others, for that we are truly grateful.

Thank you for continually looking toward the future of health care in Mendocino county and to your dedication and support of the new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital.

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