

City dips into general fund reserves

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
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Budget amendments increasing projected general fund spending this fiscal year by about \$175,000 were approved last week by the Willits City Council.

A mid-year financial report showed the increased spending will force the city to dig deeper into its general reserve fund than previously thought, though reserves will remain well above the minimum required.

Due to projected expenditures over revenue, the city's general reserve fund is now projected to lose about \$389,000 by the

Read the rest of **Reserves** |
Over on Page 15

Feds must face claims over dozered sacred sites

By Nicholas Iovino
OAKLAND (Courthouse News) – The United States can't dodge claims over the destruction of sacred sites, artifacts and wetlands allegedly caused by a \$355 million highway project in Northern California, a federal judge ruled on March 10.

Two Native American tribes sued the U.S. Department of Transportation and its state counterpart, Caltrans, in October 2015, claiming the agencies failed to consult them before starting work on the controversial Willits bypass.

The project, completed

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

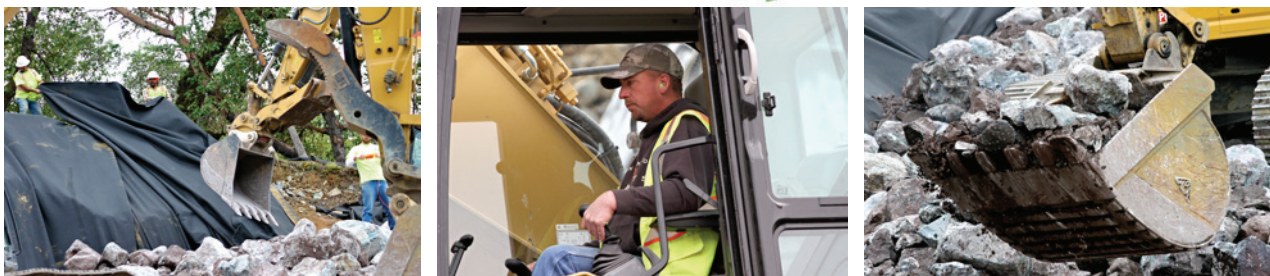
Reynolds trial likely drawing to quick close

Dan McKee
Reporter
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Testimony could wrap up as early as today in the trial of a Willits man accused of killing a 29-year-old Laytonville man with a single blow in the parking lot of Boomer's Bar in Laytonville last August.

Charles Reynolds, 32, is charged with felony assault and a "special allegation" of inflicting great bodily injury from the death of 29-year-old Kenneth Fisher of Laytonville. If convicted, he faces seven years in state prison.

Read the rest of **Trial** |
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Above, from left: Argonaut Constructors workers pull filter fabric up the slope to cover the dirt, helping prevent sediment from getting into the watershed when it rains. Argonaut Constructors excavator operator Brian Torri on one of the excavators that is shuttling and placing rocks on the slope. Using excavators makes moving the giant rocks a manageable task. Below: Excavator operator Tim Noble swings the excavator arm, full of huge rocks, up the hill.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Stopping the Slide

Caltrans and Argonaut Constructors work to fix slide at southern interchange

The crew from Argonaut Constructors working on the slide repair at the Willits bypass southern interchange will be taking full advantage of the good weather forecast for the next week, said Nash Munes, resident engineer for Caltrans District 1.

Jennifer Poole
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"As of yesterday," Munes told Willits Weekly on Wednesday morning, "I looked around and checked what's left to do, and our estimate is that we'll be done in three weeks. We may get it done before then, depending on the weather. When we get clear weather so we're able to work, we just jump in. But we have the weather on our side now, and we'll hit it hard and keep going. I don't anticipate we'll have storms like what we had before."

Munes spends three or four hours a day at the site, he said, working with the Santa Rosa-based Argonaut crew, Caltrans inspectors and traffic control workers.

Caltrans put out a request for proposals for emergency repairs after the rocks on the hillside started sliding down onto the highway after last year's heavy rains. There are two different slides, within about 600 feet, on that section.

Read the rest of **Slide** |
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At left: Excavators help to shuttle quarter-ton rocks from Harris Quarry up to the top of the slope.

Rail car fires: 'Extremely dangerous'

Jennifer Poole
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Sirens wailed at the north end of Willits Sunday afternoon, after multiple calls to Willits Police Department dispatch reported one of the abandoned rail cars east of the train tracks north of Commercial Street was on fire.

"WPD officers and Little Lake Fire Department firefighters arrived to find the train car fully engulfed," the WPD posted on its Facebook page at 3:46 pm on March 26. "The fire is contained at this time."

Two LLFD firefighters suffered minor injuries during the incident, according to LLFD Fire Chief Carl Magann.

Read the rest of **Fire** |
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Supes give direction on next pot ordinance

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Supervisors emphasized Tuesday that they want to limit the cultivation of personal use "recreational" marijuana under Proposition 64 to what can be grown within 100 square feet of plant canopy.

In most cases, they said, personal use cultivation will be limited to indoor grows, as no outdoor cultivation of personal use cannabis will be allowed on parcels less than 10 acres in size.

In addition, there will be no "stacking." A person growing cannabis in up to 100-square-foot plots for up to two medical cannabis patients, cannot in addition

Read the rest of **Ordinance** |
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City could get funds to offset bypass economic losses

Jennifer Poole
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North Coast Assemblyman Jim Wood has introduced a bill to the California Assembly that could mean some extra state funding for Willits to mitigate the economic effects of the Willits bypass.

Assembly Bill 1470 would amend state law to provide that "a city or county shall be eligible to receive funding from an unspecified account for the purposes of revitalizing a city or busi-

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

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Air safety and drones

To the Editor:

There are now more than 325,000 registered UAS (unmanned aircraft systems or drones) registered in the U.S. – more than there are general aviation aircraft! It's a growing hobby and business.

The Federal Aviation Administration issues rules to keep drones and aircraft safely apart. One of those rules is for drone operators to contact the airport manager if the drone is flown within 5 miles of an FAA-regulated airport, such as Willits Municipal Airport. Drones *are not allowed* to be operated on or within 1 mile of the airport for safety reasons.

Willits Airport, owned and operated by the City of Willits, is located 3 air miles north-northwest of Willits. Additional information about drones and the Willits Airport is available online at www.WillitsAirport.com.

Dan Ramsey, Willits Airport manager

Too long without representation

To the Editor:

Dear Mendocino Board of Supervisors and Governor Edmund G. Brown:

It is now eight months since we of the 3rd District have had any representation in our local county government – which is the only [local] government most of us have! It seems to me that this is illegal (or it should be), as well as ridiculous, in an age when communication is quick and reliable.

To keep refusing to deal with this issue is preventing those of us in this district from having any voice. You are making decisions about situations which affect us and for which we will be taxed while we have no representation. I believe this to be illegal in this country. At least that's a major reason why our country was initially created.

Your job is to select our representative (stop blithering, you could just choose the next runner-up from our previous votes). There is no ocean to be crossed in order for you to get this information,

Now is the time to appoint us a supervisor. We deserve to be represented like everyone else in this county and country!

Next, let's create a process where this never happens again. It is unjust for anyone to be unrepresented for more than three months. If someone is unable to do their job, there needs to be someone else designated to fill that position. This is important to the citizens of our country – we, the people, deserve to have representation in our government!

Please see this is corrected now.

Beth Riedel, 3rd District citizen

Economic assistance for Willits

To the Editor:

Assemblymember Jim Wood has introduced a bill, AB 1470, in an attempt to bring funding to Willits to assist businesses who have experienced losses due to the bypass. It may be a long shot, but he is going to try for it! Visit http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=20170180AB1470 for details of the bill.

He needs your help though. As a member of the business community, are you willing to write a letter of support? I have attached a download link to a draft that you can edit and sign. <https://chambermaster.blob.core.windows.net/userfiles/UserFiles/chambers/29011/File/AB1470DraftSupportLtr.docx>

We need your letter back by Monday, April 10, 2017.

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly
A Strategic & Willits Based, Community and Life in Willits Newspaper

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Please email your letter to me at Lisa@LisaEpstein.com, and I will forward all the letters to Jim Wood's office.

If you have any questions about the bill, give Wood's local district director, Ruth Valenzuela a call at 707-463-5770.

Thank you for your continued support of our community!

Lisa Epstein, president,
Willits Chamber of Commerce

Thank you

To the Editor:

The Willits Educational Foundation is proud to announce that we have a profit of \$7,853.38 from our annual Tri Tip Dinner fundraiser, which was held on March 3. These funds will be distributed in the Willits Unified School District this coming fall in the form of mini-grants for teachers, schools and programs to benefit students.

There are so many people to thank for our continuing success with this annual fundraiser. We could not begin to do it without the Pinon, Goss and Cooley families, who do everything from early preparation, clear through set-up at the crack of dawn, barbecuing all day, and cleanup at the end. Not to be forgotten is all that they donate in addition to their time! The community owes these three families a sincere, heartfelt thank you for all that they do for all of us!

Thank you to Willits Frontier Days for the loan of their grounds for the cooking and drive through! Special thanks to Loose Caboose for everything they did to help. To Tam Adams for her bread from Emandal – there's just no better loaf of bread anywhere! Forks Ranch Market gave us a great price on meat. Kathy Shuster made and donated all the salad dressing; Kathleen and Warren Lewis donated all of the cookies, which were lovingly made by other community members in addition to them; and Flowers by Annette donated all of the beautiful roses.

Anyone who drove through the rodeo grounds had to have noticed the huge amount of volunteers behind the lines. Special thanks to the Blosser Lane and Baechtel Grove students who helped so much. Thanks to Windi and Kevin Kvasnicka who are always there, every step of the way.

Willits Weekly, your coverage of our event, both before and after, was just spectacular. We are completely indebted to you, as you helped push our sales to capacity. This town is blessed to have such a caring, colorful, truly local newspaper.

Thank you.

To all who sold and bought our tickets – the Willits Unified School District and the Willits Educational Foundation are so grateful. This letter is sent from our hearts.

Jenn Drew, president,
Willits Educational Foundation

Hospital name change

To the Editor:

I am, I have always been, and I will continue to be a staunch supporter of the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital!

As a private citizen, I have joined countless others in supporting and actively working to realize the dream of building a new hospital in Willits. As an elected official, I have worked with my colleagues to secure \$4 million to build a new facility, later changed to provide funds to supply state-of-the-art medical equipment for the new hospital. Like many others in the community, I have always regarded Howard Hospital as "our hospital" – not just a place to go for medical attention, but an integral part of our local identity, staffed by locals who are our friends and neighbors, and who care for us.

Most are familiar with the story of Howard Hospital, beginning in the early 1920s, when community leaders recognized the need for a local hospital. In 1925, the Willits Development Association sponsored the first Frontier Days as a benefit to begin construction of a hospital. In 1926, Dr. Raymond Babcock convinced Charles Howard to finance the construction of a hospital in memory of his son Frank, who had died in an auto accident on the Ridgewood Ranch. Charles, as you know, was the owner of the legendary racehorse, Seabiscuit.

The Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital was born with groundbreaking ceremonies in 1927 followed by the opening of the hospital in 1928. At that time, the hospital was owned and operated under the direction and control of the Howard Family board of directors.

In 1967, Bob Harrah and Ed Burton were elected to the board as Willits representatives. As members of the Howard family found it more difficult to attend board meetings, board membership by Willits-based representatives increased until in the mid-1970s ownership and control of Howard Hospital was turned over to the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, comprised completely of Willits community members.

For 58 years, from 1928 to 1986, under the guidance, control and ownership of the Howard Hospital Board of Directors, the hospital grew: In 1955, a new surgical wing was built; X-ray department renovation in 1960, and receipt of the hospital's first accreditation by the Joint Commissions on Accreditation of Hospitals; a new patient wing was completed in 1970, as well as a new Critical Care Unit, nursery and emergency rooms; in 1973, a pathology and laboratory department was completed; the Smalley Medical Center was built in 1977; in 1980, another new surgical wing was added; in 1982, the entire inside of the hospital received a facelift, including the remodeling of the business office and data processing center to accommodate a new in-house computer system; in 1985, a wing of the hospital was converted into an Emergency Urgent Care facility that included state-of-the-art treatment facilities.

During the first 58 years of Howard Hospital, \$100,000 was donated by Bob and Jayne Harrah to pay for the renovation of the Intensive Care Unit, and a gift of stocks was donated by Charles Howard. Dr. Bill Bowen, upon seeing the need, and wanting to save the hospital a large amount of money, took the necessary instruction and required examinations to become a certified asbestos removal technician. With this expertise, he personally removed asbestos from the Little Lake Health Clinic as well as from the basement of the Howard Hospital building.

In 1986, after having created the hospital literally from nothing, and successfully operating and expanding it for over half a century, the hospital board of directors invited Adventist Health Systems to submit a proposal to take over the day-to-day operation of Howard Hospital. Subsequently, the Howard Foundation entered into a short-term agreement with Adventist Health Systems that was renewed every five or 10 years.

For the next 24 years, until 2010, Howard Hospital operated in a fairly cooperative joint venture as Adventist Health Systems, the Howard Foundation, physicians and hospital staff collaborated to provide quality health care for the community while assuring that the hospital was a financially profitable operation that added about \$30 million in profits to the Adventist bottom line. During this period, the hospital received top scores in employee satisfaction, patient satisfaction, physician satisfaction and "culture of teamwork and safety." The profitable bottom line that resulted from hospital operations and services made possible the acquisition of a state-of-the-art MRI, CAT scan, new Radiology and Fluoroscopy rooms, a and Mammogram Unit.

(Note: the information reported above was the result of firsthand knowledge that Jann Lamprich of the Howard Foundation shared with me.)

After the Northridge earthquake in 1994, California seismic requirements for hospitals were increased because it was determined that many hospitals were insufficiently constructed to withstand future earthquakes, and a timeline was established for hospitals to complete the necessary retrofitting: In 2003, Jayne Harrah donated 33 acres of prime industrial land – valued at \$936,000 – for the site of a new medical campus, because it was decided that building a new hospital was more cost-effective than retrofitting the 77-year-old existing building.

In 2005, the Howard Community Healthcare Foundation was established as a 501(c)3, in order to receive funds donated for the purpose of building a new hospital and medical campus. After five years of fundraising efforts, with the projected cost of a new hospital outpacing fundraising, in 2010 the Howard Foundation signed a new 50-year agreement with Adventist Health in which Adventist Health would assume responsibility for the construction and financing of the new hospital building, in addition to running the hospital under the existing agreement. The medical campus was to be built and financed by the Howard Foundation.

There is no argument about the value of the Adventist investment to our community. If they hadn't stepped up to finance the building of the new hospital, it is doubtful it would have been built!

I had always believed that, despite the occasional wrangling between Adventist Health management and our local doctors and medical staff, they were pretty much working well together to bring the best in medical care to the community – the reason, in fact, for their existence. So imagine the shock, when reading the local newspapers, to discover that Adventist Health had unilaterally renamed the hospital and redefined the mission statement!

According to the press release, the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital will now be known as Adventist Health Frank R. Howard Memorial.

As if Adventist Health had anything to do with actually creating the hospital.

Never forget, Adventist Health was hired to run the hospital – and they have apparently done an excellent job of doing so, as evidenced by the millions of dollars of profit that they enjoyed! And we must also remember, and honor, the local people who had the vision, provided the financial support, and the energy to create and build the hospital that Adventist was hired to run, making one wonder where they get the chutzpah to try to remake the hospital in their image!

And while I'm at it, their new mission statement: "Living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope" has to raise a few eyebrows. I'm not pro- or anti-religion, but I have always held a strong belief that religion is a personal thing, and there are places and times for people to celebrate and observe their religious beliefs. And even though it is well understood that Adventist Health is part of a religious organization, a hospital is a place for healing, not proselytizing!

Ron Orenstein, Willits

Literacy tutors needed

To the Editor:

Literacy Volunteers of Willits tutors are needed: If you can read, then you can teach someone else to read, write and speak English. We'll train you and furnish you with all the tools you'll need. Come and see if this program will fit your volunteer commitment to improve the quality of life in our community.

Tutor Training Orientation: 5 to 7 pm, Wednesday, April 19 at the Willits Library conference room. Basic Tutor Training Workshop: 9 am to 3 pm, Saturday, April 22 at the library.

Read the rest of
Letters | Over on Page 13



Across the top, from left: Volunteer Hana Haas shows an entry into the children's coloring contest, "Name the Book Worm." Henry, grade 3, suggested "Mr. Read." Speakers who talked about the Dakota Pipeline Resistance during the event: Emily Harris from the East Coast Pucumtuc Tribe, left, and Atta Stevenson from the Kiiyaahaang (Káhto) Tribe in Laytonville, right, with Susan Bradley, Friends volunteer, center. Emily Harris, water resister and warrior, gives a rare smile during her talk about her experiences in the Dakota Pipeline Resistance.



Above: At left, Marci Miller, volunteer selling raffle tickets, listens to Kitty McDill, center, talk with Carolyn Brown about the free milkweed seed for monarch butterflies she was giving away. Carolyn Carpenter, at right, brings books in for sale and gets some milkweed seeds to plant.



At right, top: Darlene Marsh shows off her sweatshirt from the Laytonville radio station, KPFN ("the Puffin"), found at 105.1 FM. At right: Shawn Harris, inspiration for the Book Room and future library, with Carolyn Brown checking details.

Below, from left: Sharon Pallin, a Friends of the Library member and volunteer at the event, dressed as the Cat in the Hat and helped people find books, raffle items and food. Jayma Spence and Jeff Baikie fill out raffle tickets at the First Year Celebration. There were more than 20 raffle prizes, some worth hundreds of dollars. Volunteers and library staff, from left to right: Friends of the Long Valley Library's Susan Bradley and Carolyn Brown take a moment with Karen Horner, director of the Mendocino County Library, and Liz Popowski, administrative services manager, who both came to Laytonville to celebrate with the Friends.



Laytonville books

Friends of the Long Valley Library celebrate the Book Room's first year

A steady flow of people walked through the old high school doors in Laytonville on Saturday, March 19 to join the Friends of the Long Valley Public Library in celebrating the Book Room's first year in existence. The Book Room houses well over 3,000 donated books, all for sale, in the retired high school's office, halls, and in some of the surrounding rooms.

The book sales are in support of the Friends' vision to have a Mendocino County Library building in Laytonville. According to Sharon Pallin, volunteer, board member, and shaker and mover for the project, the town of Laytonville has to buy and site a compliant building to house the library. The county will then bring in their "gifts" of a librarian, furniture, books, computers, and paying the utilities. The Friends are exploring different avenues that will house the library.

In 2015 the Friends had their kickoff book sale at the Art Walk in Laytonville. It was a success yet, a huge number of books were left over. The Laytonville Unified School District heard about the storage problem and offered the Friends use of some space in the abandoned high school building for a Book Room that would be open to the public certain days per week. The 20-plus volunteers began moving boxes and bags of books into the vacant high school front office, halls and some of the adjoining rooms. Soon they were painting and building shelves, and the new Book Room opened its doors in March of 2016.

The Book Room's "First Anniversary" event included free books for kids, raffle items, door prizes, a contest to rename the Book Room, and tables full of yummy plates of homemade savory tidbits as well as something for everyone's sweet tooth.

In one of the other buildings – a portable classroom – was a line-up of amazing speakers. Two of the speakers were women fresh from the Dakota Pipeline, Atta Stevenson from the Kiiyaahaang (Káhto)Tribe in Laytonville and Emily Harris from the Pucumtuc Tribe, that inhabits land from Springfield, Massachusetts to Canada.

Both women were part of the water defenders in the Dakota Pipeline Resistance. Stevenson created a safe house for resisters who were injured, without food or proper clothing, or who were experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder from being on the front lines of the resistance. She said she found her calling in creating safety, warmth and food.

Harris, a veteran of two wars (now three, as she experiences it), told of her experiences on the front lines being shot with fist-sized frozen rubber bullets (she couldn't breathe properly for months), sprayed with water in freezing temperatures, sprayed with what she said has been tested as rat poison, to name just a few.

Both women spoke with humor and tears as they relayed to the audience some of what they were reliving as they spoke. Their message to us is that the resistance is still alive and resisters (called "warriors" to many) are scattered across the U.S. Some are joining forces at other pipelines to resist the possible water contamination that can happen in communities with a pipeline running through it.

The Friends of the Long Valley Public Library group has plans for other fundraisers to raise the more than \$200,000 needed to purchase a home for the much-needed and wanted library. Their next event will be this fall.

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BEAUTY & THE BEAST

(PG) 2 hrs 9 mins
Fri:
5:20 & 8:15pm
Sat/Sun:
11:30am, 2:25, 5:20 & 8:15pm
Mon-Thurs:
4:20 & 7:15pm

POWER RANGERS

(PG13) 2 hrs 4 mins
Fri:
5:45 & 8:30pm
Sat/Sun:
12:00, 2:45, 5:45 & 8:30pm
Mon-Thurs:
4:45 & 7:30pm

GHOST IN THE SHELL

(PG13) 2 hrs
Fri:
6:00 & 8:45pm
Sat/Sun:
12:30, 3:15, 6:00 & 8:45pm
Mon-Thurs:
5:00 & 7:45pm

Movie Times for 3/31 thru 4/6

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

Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

PUZZLE
ANSWERS
ON
PAGE 11

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

DIY WORD SEARCH

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

ARCHITECT
BATHROOM
CARPETING
CIRCUIT
CLEANUP
CONCRETE
CONSTRUCTION
CONTRACTOR
DECK
DECORATE
DEMOLITION
DESIGNER
ELECTRICIAN

EXTERIOR
FINANCING
FRAMING
HARDWOOD
HOME
HOUSE
IDEAS
IMPROVEMENT
INSULATION
INTERIOR
KITCHEN
LANDSCAPING
MARKET

MATERIALS
PAINT
PAVE
PERMITS
PLANS
PLASTER
PLUMBER
PROJECT
REAL ESTATE
RENOVATION
ROOFING
SIDING

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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52	53	54					55			56	57	58
59				60	61	62	63		64			
65				66					67			
68				69						70		

CLUES ACROSS

- Br. University town river
- Wasting of a bodily organ
- London radio station
- Olive family plants
- 24th Greek letter
- A bottle that contains a drug
- A fused explosive device
- Polish air show city
- Swedish rock group
- Next to
- Spiny pasture wire
- Apulian capital city
- Oahu lookout
- Nuauu _____
- Cathode-ray tube
- Woodbine vine
- Bigger than rabbits
- Sailor
- Equalled 15 rupees
- Object worshipped as a god
- Point midway between E and SE
- Indonesian islands
- Afflicted
- A way to soak
- Stitch closed a falcon's eyes
- Capacity to resolve a riddle
- The Science Guy Bill

- Polite interruption sound
- Visual receptor cell sensitive to color
- Armed fighting
- Member of U.S. Navy
- Dull sustained pain
- Gives birth to horse
- Coke or Pepsi
- Its ancient name was Araxes
- Former US gold coin worth \$10
- UC Berkeley School of Business
- 3rd largest whale
- Negligible amounts
- Explosive

CLUES DOWN

- Ty, "The Georgia Peach"
- Am. century plant
- Microelectromechanical systems (abbr.)
- Matador
- Doctors' group
- Supporting a road
- Consciousness of your identity
- Brazilian ballroom dance
- Supports trestletree
- Baseball's Ruth
- Sheathed or covered

- First month of ancient Hebrew calendar
- Swollen or knotty veins
- Dashes
- Styptic
- Performing services temporarily
- Affected by fever
- Sprouting figurine pets
- NY's _____ City Music Hall
- Trail a bait line
- Tripod
- Best-known Kadai language
- Louis XIV court composer Jean Baptiste
- Wipe out information
- Moves to a higher place
- Author Roald
- Auld lang _____, good old days
- Made stronger: _____ up
- Throws lightly
- Components considered individually
- Bleats
- A unit of area
- Citizen of Bangkok
- Water travel vessel
- Ardu
- Earth's rotation direction
- Paddle
- Honorable title (Turkish)
- Bachelor of Laws

POLICE LOG

March 19 to March 26

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **157** incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

March 19

12:10 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

12:16 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Maple Street and issued a warning.

1:07 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of East Hill Road and Haehl Creek Drive and issued a warning.

3:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:21 pm: RANDOLPH, Justin Arthur (24) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 415 PC (Disturbing the Peace – fighting) and on charges of public intoxication.

March 20

12:41 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.

10:43 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Muir Lane.

12:38 pm: HODGES, Jodi Eileen (29) of Ukiah was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 211 PC (Robbery).

12:48 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

1:15 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of East Valley Street.

1:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

3:34 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

3:45 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

March 21

9:12 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of South Main Street.

12:22 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.

1:33 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Pine Street.

4:44 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

March 22

7:50 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Creekside Drive and East Valley Street.

9:32 pm: HORN, Shawn Michael (32) of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 530.5 (A) PC (Identity Theft) and on charges of felony possession of marijuana for sale.

9:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of South Main Street.

March 23

12:06 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious subject in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

12:09 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

12:47 am: MADSON, Tate Edward (21) of Willits was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation) and 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication).

2:05 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of West Commercial Street and School Street.

10:58 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of North Lenore Avenue.

12:42 pm: BAILEY, Skyler Amon (22) of Willits was contacted in the 1100 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on charges of felony possession of a dirk or dagger.

1:08 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

2:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Baechtel Road.

3:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of North Main Street.

4:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious object in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

5:12 pm: EATON, Billy Melvin (57) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of West Van Lane and South Main Street. He was arrested on charges of riding a bicycle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

6:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

6:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

7:26 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of Holly Street.

9:59 pm: SPECIEDAY, Cheyenne Eileen (23) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 21000 block of Meadowbrook Drive. She was arrested on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia.

11:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of Coast Street.

March 24

1:46 am: GILSTRAP, Jason Garth (53) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on charges of felony burglary, felony possession of tear gas, and violation of probation.

9:47 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street.

3:33 pm: RAYMOND, Sean Charles of San Francisco was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication).

4:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1600 block of Baechtel Road.

7:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

10:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

March 25

1:25 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

March 26

4:27 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Alder Court.

5:03 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of South Main Street.

11:32 am: PICKETT, Jason Edward (39) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of Coast Street. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order) and 11364 HS (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia).

4:11 pm: Officers initiated an arson investigation in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.



Above, from left: Barbara Dryden, left, and her mom, Margaret Judy, wait in the cold to cheer the swimmers on. Mychaela Nowlin swims a race. Swimmer Taylor Pardue.



Below: Willits High School competed against Mendocino and Fort Bragg at a home meet last Thursday. At bottom: Wolverine swimmers Taylor Pardue, Jessica Brown, Delaina Corts, and Sierra Corts.



Swimming in the rain

Wolverines win against Mendocino, Fort Bragg

The brave and hearty Willits High School Wolverine swimmers took their places on the blocks, waiting for the starting beep. The weather was cold and threatening rain, but they were undaunted, having practiced in all conditions, including rain and hail in the outdoor pool.

This March 23 meet was the Wolverines' fourth swim meet of the year. It was a "Double Duet" meet wherein three teams (Willits, Mendocino and Fort Bragg) all raced against each other, but the results were tabulated as three separate meets, each team competing against each other team separately although they all raced in the same heats. There were 18 races, both individual and relay, some with multiple heats.

The Wolverine varsity boys scored seven first-place wins against Mendocino for a final score of 81 to 29. The girls scored 11 first-place wins against Mendocino for a final of 121 to 9.

Against Fort Bragg, the boys scored six first-place wins for a final of 80 to 48. The girls had five first-place wins for a final of 90 to 71.

The rain started to pour down about halfway through the meet, but no one complained, concentrating on doing the best race they could.

"This is a great group of kids," said fifth year Head Coach Mattie Pinon. "No matter the weather, they always show up for practice – even in the hail we had in the second week." Pinon said the team consists of only three seniors, one of which is out with a bad knee. Several team members are beginners, but always give 100 percent effort, she said, even when they are far behind. Yet, the team is doing rather well and the swimmers are looking forward to the championships, April 29 in Fort Bragg – thankfully, in an indoor pool.



At left: Willits High School swimmer Matt Colvig. Below: Assistant Wolverines Coach Michael Colvig



Photos by Mathew Caine



At top: Swimmers plunge into the pool at the start of their heat. Above: Braving the oncoming storm at Thursday's swim meet at the WHS pool. Above, left: Swimmers Lucas Branscomb and Jaden Doak try to stay warm before the race. Above, right: The timers for the meet, sitting along the side of the pool.

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La Bodega Store Closing Clearance Sale

Dear Friends and Valued Customers

Due to issues out of our control, we regretfully have decided to close our pilot store, **La Bodega**. We would like to announce an amazing opportunity to purchase items from our inventory at drastically reduced prices. Everything is marked down with savings **up to 70% off**.

Anything that isn't sold from La Bodega will have to be consolidated into Willits Furniture Center's inventory and we simply do not have the room. So, we're very motivated to move as much inventory as possible from **both stores**. If you need a new mattress, a bunk bed, sofa, recliner, or are looking for gift items, yard art or accessories, this is your opportunity to save HUGE. Hurry in for best selection, because all items will be sold first come first serve.

Please keep in mind that many items can not be reordered and are subject to stock on hand. We are still receiving and unboxing new merchandise daily so be sure to visit La Bodega often during this closing sale. Do not miss this huge inventory sell off. You will never see prices this low again on quality merchandise.

Important note: Our main store, Willits Furniture Center, (located next to Safeway) will also be reducing inventory to make room for unsold merchandise from La Bodega. Look for tremendous values at our main store as well.

La Bodega's store hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Phone (707) 459-4223

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Mike and Margie Smith



LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER

45 Hazel Street, Willits
(707) 456-9600
littlelakehealthcenter.org

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Monte Lieberfarb, M.D. (707) 459-6861

Carla Longchamp, M.D. FAX (707) 459-3057

Angus Matheson, M.D.

Elizabeth Whipkey-Olsen, M.D.

Kate Black, P.A.

Candice Dolbier D.O.

To My Patients At Baechtel Creek Clinic,

It is with great sadness that after 23 years providing medical services in Mendocino County I am being called to relocate elsewhere and will be leaving my practice as of July 1, 2017. Many times over the last two plus decades I have considered myself incredibly lucky to have found my way to this beautiful place and amazing practice of medicine. To be able to care for up to five generations in one family and see infants grow up and become parents themselves has been a breathtaking privilege. Family Medicine does not get better than this! I thank you all for enabling me to practice medicine here and for your trust in me and my medical partners for your care.

I will be leaving you in the kind and compassionate care of my partners who I am confident will be able to provide you with continued medical services.

I am hoping that many of you will be able to make an appointment with me in the next few months so that we can enable a very smooth transition of care and say our goodbyes!

— — —

Para mis pacientes de la Clínica Baechtel Creek,

Con gran tristeza quiero anunciar que después de 23 años de prestar servicios médicos en el Condado Mendocino, he sido transferida y dejaré a partir de Julio 1o. del 2017. En éstas más de dos décadas me he considerado increíblemente afortunada de haber llegado a este hermoso lugar, y poder practicar la medicina en su mejor expresión. Ha tenido el privilegio sin igual de haber podido cuidar a cinco generaciones en una misma familia y de ver a los niños crecer y convertirse en padres ellos mismos. ¡No hay nada mejor en la medicina familiar!

Les agradezco a todos los que me permitieron practicar la medicina aquí y me confiaron a mi y a mis socios médicos su cuidado. Los dejó en el cuidado amoroso y compasivo de mis socios, de quienes tengo la confianza que continuarán prestándoles los servicios médicos.

Espero que con muchos de ustedes en los próximos meses podamos tener una cita médica que nos permita hacer una transición sin tropiezos y despedirnos.

With gratitude and best wishes,
Con todo mi agradecimiento y mis mejores deseos,

Carla Longchamp M.D.

Carla Longchamp M.D.

Sign up now for six FREE 2-1/2 hour sessions

HEALTHIER LIVING WORKSHOPS (CDSMP)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Adults interested in becoming more physically active or are a caregiver of others
- Adults with on-going health conditions (arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic pain, anxiety, etc.

REGISTER TODAY:

Willits
Starts Tues April 4, 1-3:30

Laytonville
Starts Wed April 19, 10-12:30

Redwood Valley
Starts Tues May 2, 9:30-12

INFORMATION AND/OR REGISTRATION:

Doreen Blumenfeld (707) 456-9676
doreen@avenuestowellness.org

Sponsored by Avenues to Wellness, a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation




Above: Argonaut Constructors laborers Tino Reynoso and Jose Marquez get ready to place the filter fabric onto the slide area.

Operator Tom Tusi, center, uses a string line to check the grade of the slope.

Photos by Maureen Moore

The rest of **Slide** | *From Page 1*

Despite these repairs qualifying as “emergency” work, Munes said, the repair should be permanent.

“We don’t anticipate any additional work after this,” he said. “We are confident this will be the permanent repair, that’s what the stabilization program calculations we based the design on show, that’s what the science tells us. It’s going to look the same as it was, but with a different design by our geologist.”

Munes said the repair work involved first removing and hauling away some of the loose material in the “slip plane,” the mud and other material that actually slid. “This side of the mountain is full of springs,” he said. “It’s very wet. This is very challenging. We call a ‘sugar slide’ – think about what happens if you have some sugar, and you add a little water to it, it’s not melting, but it’s slippery.”


The project is also building “what’s called a rock slope protection buttress,” Munes said. The buttress consists of a layer of rock that varies in height between 6 and 11 feet. The buttress is thicker at “the toe,” the bottom of the slope, so the buttress can hold the weight of the slope above it, and is built with half-ton rocks. Once the bottom of the buttress is built, the top part is built with quarter-ton rocks.

“We are harvesting 99 percent of the existing rocks to re-use,” Munes said, but all the new rock is coming in from Harris Quarry, on the grade.


There’s an average of 15 to 20 people working at the site each working day.

Munes said recent traffic delays at the slide area have been minimal. “During the work, you may encounter a 10 minute delay now and then, as we move equipment.” But, he said, “I would encourage everybody to use the bypass for now,” by using the northern interchange even if you are heading south, to avoid any potential delays.


“This is a temporary cover with straw bale dams that will help prevent sediment discharging into the waterways during rain events,” explained Caltrans Field Inspector Alexis England.



At right: Caltrans Resident Engineer Nash Munes takes a photo of the progress of the slope repair while his field inspector, Alexis England, watches.



Excavators shuttle rock up the side of the slide at the south end of the southern interchange.



Photos by Maureen Moore

Furry Friends
Hoping for a Home

Mastiff puppies

These darling mastiff puppies are about 13 weeks old and are ready for their forever homes! They came in as a litter of 10 puppies, and we have seven still available for adoption. There are both males and females available in various colors (tan, black and brindle). They are all very cute, but will be large when grown, and prospective families should be familiar with the breed for a successful match. As with all large dogs, a large well-fenced yard will be necessary for adequate exercise and training. Come meet these bundles of fun and see for yourself!

For more information on the mastiff puppies or other adoptable animals, call 707-485-0123, check www.mendohumanesociety.com, or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday.




Loyal Jimmy

Jimmy is a 1-year-old neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 60 pounds. He is a stunning dog with a playful temperament who enjoys fetch, squeaky/stuffy toys and the company of people. Jimmy knows sit, and we think he will learn the rules of his new house quickly. Jimmy has the sweetest, most loyal, attentive disposition, so we are certain he is going to be a beloved and wonderful addition to his forever home.

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.mendonanimalshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.



Photo by Rod Coots

Pretty Mya

Mya was found as a stray by a kind soul who tamed her and brought her to the shelter. A beautiful 1-year-old calico, Mya is as sweet and docile as can be, and ready to find her forever home! She’s a sucker for cuddles and likes people of all ages, and is happy to share a home with another cat.

For more information on Mya or other adoptable animals, call 707-485-0123, check www.mendohumanesociety.com, or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday.



OBITUARY |

Margie Neal

Margie Ann Neal of Willits passed away in Napa County, California, March 16, 2017 at the age of 74. She was born January 26, 1943 to Joseph and Vada Sieber Gaynell in Llano, Texas. A businesswoman, Margie owned the Lions Den for 20 years. She enjoyed her family greatly, and also enjoyed dancing.

Margie is survived by William Hackworth of Dallas, Texas; Ricky Wayne Estes of Willits; Tracy D’Ann Estes Thomen of Willits; and nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents, Joe and Vada Sieber, and her daughter, Terri Ann Thomen.

Services will be private. Those wishing to may make a memorial contribution to the Willits Food Bank in the name of Margie Ann Neal.

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



on April 8, 2017, followed by a potluck time of fellowship.

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

OBITUARY |

Edward Morgan

Edward “Eddie” Ketner Morgan, who was born October 16, 1956, died peacefully in his Willits home on March 14, 2017. Eddie lived most of his life in Dayton, Tennessee. He worked for 16 years at Morgan Insurance Agency with his parents. In 2011, he moved to California to be close to his son. It was there he found a new lease on life.

His family is daughter, Christal Caraway; son, Luke Morgan; mother, Betty Jo Morgan; sister, Marcia Morgan Hart (Stan); and three grandchildren and two nieces. His father, Edward Lewis Morgan, is deceased. Services will be scheduled at a later date.

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



OBITUARY |

Gayle Doty

Gayle H. Doty, born September 10, 1934, died on March 13, 2017, after a long battle with multiple health issues.

Gayle served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War aboard aircraft carrier USS Bon Homme Richard.

Gayle lived in Willits for many years before moving to Florida to be near his oldest son. He later moved to Arizona due to poor health.

At his request, no services are planned. Donations in his name may be made to the American Legion.



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WALK-INS WELCOME

Thursday March 30

Healthier Living Workshop: Avenues to Wellness presents the first of a free six-week workshop on goal-setting, problem solving, strategizing ways to reduce pain and stress, and healthy diet information. Thursday, March 30. 1 to 3:30 pm. Howard Foundation Office, 3 Marcela Drive. Info: 456-9676, or avenuestowellness.org.

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

New Hospital CEO “Meet and Greet”: Jason Wells, Howard Hospital's new CEO, is excited to get to know the community. Wells and his family come from Asheville, North Carolina where he served as chief operating officer at Physician Enterprise and vice president at Park Ridge Health. The reception is free, open to everyone. Appetizers and refreshments will be served. Thursday, March 30. 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Main Lobby, Howard 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, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, and Chris Bartow, project manager, Willits Offsite Mitigation Lands Project, will deliver a presentation: “Plans for 2,000 Acres of Little Lake Valley,” plans 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. Thursday, March 30. 7 pm. Sponsored by WELL (Willits Economic Localization). The Willits Hub, 630 South Main Street. Info: Madge Strong 459-1493, or mstrong@willitsonline.com.

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

Friday, March 31

Cupcake Wars Deadline: Bakers, last day to get your entry form for the **Willits Boosters Club cupcake competition**. Cupcake Wars will take place April 15, from 2 to 4 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial. Info: Christy Wisdom or Jennifer Barrett at 459-7700.

Willits High School Tennis Home Tournament: Willits vs. Fort Bragg. Friday, March 31. 4 pm. WHS tennis courts, 299 North Main Street. (coach Dave Smith).

Willits High School Varsity Softball: Willits vs. Clear Lake. Friday, March 31. 4 pm. WHS softball field, 299 North Main Street. (Coach Magnum Forkner).

Willits High School Varsity Baseball: Willits vs. Clear Lake. Friday, March 31. 4 pm. WHS baseball field, 299 North Main Street. (Coach Rick Yadon).

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

What's Happening Around Town

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, 11 am to 5 pm. Info: Carolyn Bakewell 459-7700 ext. 1533 (WHS), or 459-6769.

Wilderness Night at The Hub: Presentations and discussion about protecting the Eel River federal wilderness area. Before the talk, rock fish barbecue and “bring a dish” pot luck at 5 pm. Friday, March 31. 6 to 9 pm. Willits Hub, 630 South Main Street. Info: 459-0155.

Shanachie Pub: Blue Lotus returns, featuring original songs that create a high-energy, fun and danceable vibe. Friday, March 31. 9 pm. \$5 cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, April 1

Willits Goes Wild Field Trip: Excursion to explore/ understand the South Fork of the Eel River watershed at the edges of Elkhorn and Red Mountain Wilderness Area. Assemble in appropriate clothes for the weather, bring bag lunch. Travel by van and carpool. Assemble at 9 am. Saturday, April 1. Leave at 9:15 am. The Hub, 630 South Main Street. Info: 459-0155.

Draw ‘til You Drop: annual marathon art event fundraiser for the Arts Council of Mendocino County and the Willits Center for the Arts, starting at 10 am on Saturday, April 1. Artists from around the county will occupy the upstairs of the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street, and make art until they “drop” – drawing, painting, collage, mosaics, jewelry making, weaving and maybe more happening for at least 24 hours straight. Last year nine artists lasted 24 hours, and the winner made art for 29 hours. The county record is 36 hours! Prizes for all artists who last 24 hours and for the top 3 in hours and in funds raised. The public is invited to drop by watch, watch and cheer the artists on – or to choose an individual artist to sponsor! Donated food is provided to the artists, along with plenty of coffee from Black Oak Coffee Roasters, and entertainment by musicians and writers. Participating artists include: Louisa Aronow, Carolyn Bakewell, Colette Crutcher, Adriana Daikin, Susie Dean, Laura Fogg, Keith Hendricks, Willow Jackson, Rachelle Martinez, LaRae Mercer, Elizabeth Raybee, Dina Riggi, Danna Rosenheimer, Ursula Schlichting, Divora Stern, Esther Siegel, Janae Stephens, and Alyssum Wier. Info: 743-1437.

Phoenix Rising Garden Class: Soil preparation, weeding and cultivation, and setting up a cold frame for early crops, plus a discussion of the role of greenhouses. Saturday, April 1. 1 to 5 pm. No charge, but donations appreciated. West side of North Street, between Redwood and Pine streets. Info: Ron Woolsey 489-5408, please leave a message. Next class: May 6.

Willits FFA Alumni Dinner: Fundraiser dinner to help support the local Future Farmers of America chapter, featuring ribs, veggies, vegetarian entree, bread, green salad, ice cream, and a dessert auction. Tickets \$25. There will be a silent auction, and a live auction. Saturday, April 1. 5 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info and tickets: 459-6588.

LuLaRoe Pop-up Boutique: Enjoy a fun night of drinks, food and shopping for skirts, dresses, leggings. Sizes XXS-3XL, kid sizes too. Saturday, April 1. 7 pm. Little John's Bar, 377 South Main Street.

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

Sunday, April 2

New Book Festival at Willits Library: The first-ever New Book Festival – 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. Also, tour the Mendocino County Bookmobile, visiting for the occasion. Sunday, April 2, 1 to 4 pm. Willits Public Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Tuesday, April 4

Twining Time at Brickhouse Coffee: John Wagenet and Anita Blu of Twining Time play the first Tuesday of every month at Brickhouse Coffee. Enjoy live, easy listening Folk/Americana music. Tuesday, April 4. 12:30 to 2:30 pm. No charge. 3 South Main Street. Info: 459-1598.

Willits High School Varsity Softball: Willits versus St Helena. Tuesday, April 4. 4 pm. WHS Softball Field, 299 North Main Street. (Coach Magnum Forkner).

Willits High School Jr. Varsity Baseball: Willits vs. St. Helena. Tuesday, April 4. 4 pm. City baseball field, East Commercial Street. (Coach Darren Wisdom).

Willits High School Varsity Baseball: Willits vs. St. Helena. Tuesday, April 4. 4 pm. WHS baseball field, 299 North Main Street. (Coach Rick Yadon).

“Exercise as a New Habit,” a presentation as part of the Avenues to Wellness monthly speaker series, by Neil Davis, a Public Health nurse and community advocate, director of Ukiah Valley Trail Group and Walk & Bike Mendocino. Learn how to make exercise fun and enjoyable. Tuesday, April 4. 5:30 to 6:30 pm. No charge. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 456-9676, or avenuestowellness.org.

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: “Beauty and the Beast” and “Power Rangers.” For

showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Shanachie Pub: KLLG Fundraiser Campaign Party featuring Bug Guts, and Pick & Pull. Tuesday, April 4. 8:30 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Wednesday, April 5

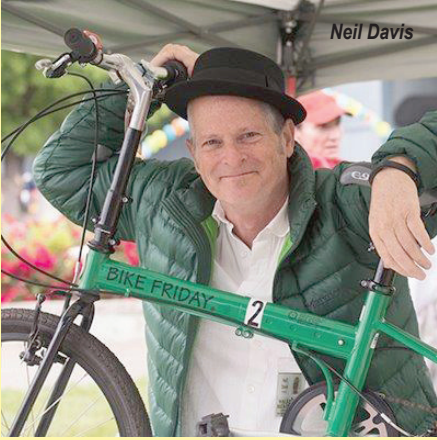
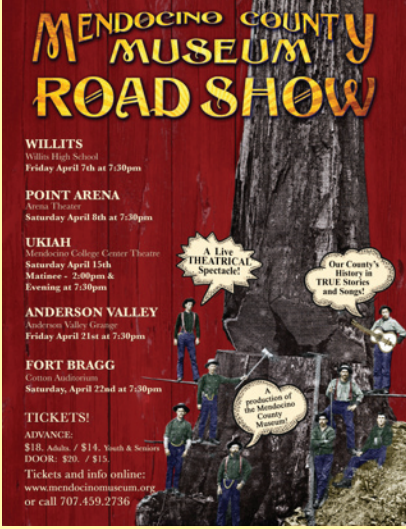
Foster Kinship Care Education Program: Educational workshop to stop sexual exploitation of children. Instructor Deena Graves is former executive director of Traffic911, an organization to end human trafficking, and provide rescue of victims of abuse. Wednesday, April 5. 5 to 9 pm. Room one, Mendocino College-North County Center, 372 East Commercial Street.

Sports Talk with Steve Kovner: Tune in and call in sports talk radio, Wednesday evenings on KLLG, Wednesday, April 5. 7:30 pm. 459-KLLG (459-5554).

Friday, April 7

Willits High School Tennis Home Tournament: Willits vs. Pt. Arena. Friday, April 7. WHS tennis courts, 299 North Main Street. (coach Dave Smith).

4th annual Museum Road Show: Opening night in Willits for this year's production of the Mendocino County Museum “Road Show,” featuring true local stories of historical Mendocino County brought to life through stories, song and a backdrop of vintage photographs. Featuring all new materials, and drawing solely on transcribed archives of recorded oral histories and other primary source materials. Seven actors will portray more than 50 characters accompanied by a brand-new Road Show band, Poonkinney Antique. This year's stories include the pivotal Frolic shipwreck, and the birth of the lumber industry; schooners and stagecoach lines – the only way in the early days to transport goods or people; the truth about the Mendocino Indian “Wars”; Grace Hudson, her paintings and her love for the Pomo; and the scandalous and comical tale of the Cattle King of Round Valley and the Fraud Queen of Spiritualism. The Museum Road Show opens in Willits Friday, April 7 at 7:30 pm at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street, and will go on to play at other venues around the county. Doors open 7 pm. Advance tickets \$18 for adults, \$14 for seniors (65 and over) and youth (20 and under). At the door, tickets are \$20 and \$15 for seniors/ youth. 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.



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.



“God of Carnage”

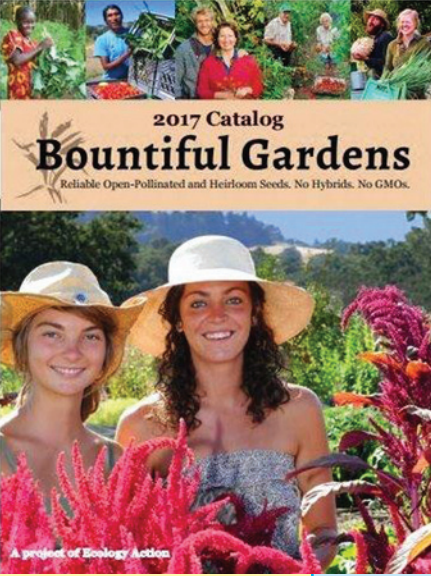
“God of Carnage” at WCT: the French satirical comedy, “God of Carnage,” by Yasmina Reza, opens Friday, April 7 at the Willits Community for a three-week run. This award-winning play, translated from the French by Christopher Hampton, is directed by poet, actor and musician David Partch. It features an 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 New York Times has termed the play, “A study in the tension between civilized surface and savage instinct ... a satisfyingly primitive entertainment.” “God of Carnage” runs at WCT through 23, with shows on Thursdays at 7 pm for \$15, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$20, and some Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$15. The play contains adult language and situations. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpaperickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also available at the door until sold out. The Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Saturday, April 8

Bountiful Gardens Open House: Bountiful Gardens hosts an Open House on Saturday, October 8 to kick off its new Saturday hours and retail area for local walk-in customers. See over 600 kinds of seeds (displayed on locally built wooden seed racks): vegetable seeds, herbs, grains, flowers, plus trees and berries, and also quality garden tools. Vegetable starts for sale, and some to be given away. Local gardeners will be on hand to answer garden questions. Also, cookie sampling! Saturday, April 8. 12 to 5 pm. Bountiful Gardens in the Evergreen Shopping Center, 1712 D South Main Street.

Annual Red Balloon Release: Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.) will release one red balloon skyward for every 10 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Mendocino County. “B.A.C.A. is here to help.” Saturday, April 8. Noon. City baseball field, East Commercial Street. Info: www.bacaworld.org.

“God of Carnage”: award-winning French satirical comedy at Willits Community Theatre. 8 pm tonight. See Friday, April 7 listing for more details.



Sunday, April 9

“God of Carnage”: award-winning French satirical comedy at Willits Community Theatre. 2 pm matinee today. See Friday, April 7 listing for more details.

Celtic Harps at WCT: Internationally famous Celtic harp duo of Lisa Lynne and Aryeh Frankfurter will perform. It's a night of stories and virtuosic music. Sunday, April 9. 7 pm. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Tickets \$15, available at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; at brownpaperickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets available at the door until sold out.



COLUMN | At the Movies



“The Power Rangers”

The Story: Three teen boys and two teen girls, all misfits at high school, find an alien space ship, develop super powers, and fight an Evil Female Alien (hereafter: the EFA) in order to save the Earth from complete destruction. The EFA eats stinky raw fish and sucks the gold fillings from out of the mouths of her human victims.

My Thoughts: I did not want to see this movie. But truth be told, I enjoyed it. Attractive teenage boys, attractive teenage girls, a “Breakfast Club” situation, then the fabulous Elizabeth Banks as the EFA screeches “You’re weak!” and “I will crush you!” All perfectly acceptable clichés. I went along for the ride, knowing that the “Mighty Morphin Power Rangers” filled up hundreds of hours of kids’ programming in the 1990s, and that somewhere in Willits there are grown-ups who remember that long-running, cheese-a-thon TV show with affection. So good on ya’.

Parents: The EFA (remember? Evil ... Female ... Alien) may very well frighten little ones; she’s very

much a “Wicked Witch” type. Scary violence. Ages 9 or 10 and up. The movie celebrates courage and the force for good in honest emotional connection and the willingness to sacrifice for one’s brothers and sisters.

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



2nd Annual Career Fair

Local businesses encouraged to sign up

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.com.

Easter Bunny Photos

Friday, April 14

The Easter Bunny himself will be making an appearance at J.D. Redhouse & Company on Friday, April 14 from 5 to 7 pm. And yes, his live furry friends will be there again, too, for the 2017 round of bunny pix by Mphotographress – Photos by Maureen Moore!

No appointments – just drop in and smile for the camera! Just like always, digital photos are \$5 per group, and will be available to download from the gallery site: <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/easterbunnyphotos> Questions? 707-972-7047 or maureengetsmail@gmail.com.



Literacy Volunteer Tutors Needed

If you can read, then you can teach someone else to read, write and speak English. The Literacy Volunteers of Willits will train you and furnish you with all the tools you will need. Come see if the program will fit your volunteer commitment to improve the quality of life in our community. “Tutor Training Orientation”: 5 to 7 pm, Wednesday, April 19, Willits Library Conference Room. “Basic Tutor Training Workshop”: 9 am to 3 pm, Saturday, April 22, Willits Library Conference Room. Reservations and information: Pam Shilling 459-1586, or leave a message 459-5098. Email: lw@willitsonline.com

Senior Center Lunch

Week of April 3 through April 7

Monday: Beef Tips/Noodles
Tuesday: Egg Salad Sandwich
Wednesday: Pork Loaf
Thursday: Chicken Cacciatore
Friday: Baked Cod/Wild Rice
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 Baechtlet Road. Info: 459-6826.

Art Under 20 at WCT

Friday, March 31

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 gallery debut.

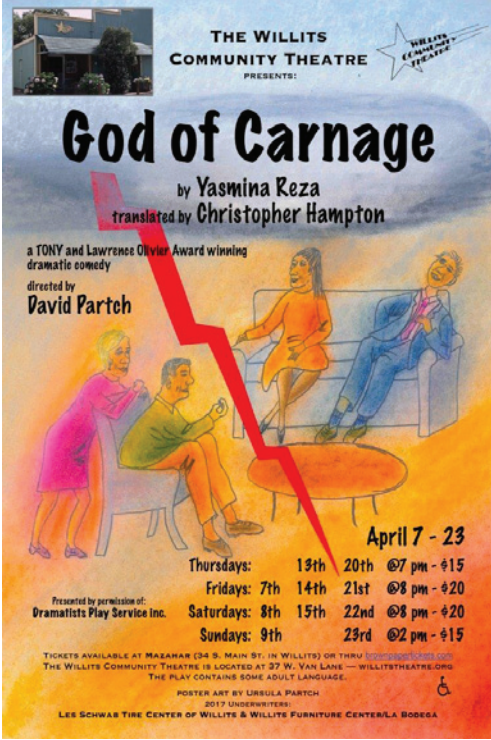
“This year’s show will be a wonderful experience for the artists who are exhibiting their work!” Art Under 20 has become one of the most popular shows at the Willits Center for the Arts. Last year’s show was visited by over 1,000 people. “Please join us to celebrate the creativity, imagination and artistic 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.



This Week At KLLG

Thanks to all who have supported the station's fundraiser campaign! We have raised 16 percent of our fundraiser goal of \$15,000. We are celebrating our fundraising efforts at Shanachie Pub, Saturday, April 4 at 8:30 pm, with a free show featuring Bug Guts and Pick & Pull. We are hard at work getting our next show on the air: “Hoppy Pop!” beer brewing with Jeff Skaggs – Michelle Cummings



Open House at Bountiful Gardens

Saturday, April 8

On Saturday, April 8, from 12 to 5 pm, Bountiful Gardens in the Evergreen Shopping Center is having an open house to kick off its new Saturday hours. The public is invited to sample cookies, check out over 600 kinds of seeds: vegetable seeds, herbs, grains, flowers, and even trees and berries. Bountiful Gardens offers garden supplies and high-quality tools meant to last a lifetime. Also available, starts for perennial vegetables, both for sale and to give away. Local gardeners will be on hand to answer garden questions.

EXERCISE AS A NEW HABIT!

By Neil Davis, RN
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 5:30-6:30 PM

It's never too late to start moving your body more! Do you want to exercise regularly but are challenged by making it a routine in your life? Learn how to adopt strategies to make exercise a new and enjoyable habit. Discover the ways community design and support can help your health.

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

www.bacaworld.org

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HOW DOES YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AFFECT YOUR EXERCISE HABITS?

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
71 East Commercial St.
Free to the public. Donations appreciated! Wheelchair accessible.

Lions Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 16

Willits Lions Club's 88th annual Easter Egg Hunt is set for Easter Sunday, April 16, starting at noon at Willits High School, 299 North Main. The Lions hand-dye 2,000 eggs every year. Free to attend; hunt is for children 12 and under. Kids are grouped by age, so even the littlest hunters are assured a chance to find an egg. Rain or shine: traditional egg hunt in the WHS baseball fields if the weather allows; otherwise the Lions will host a “drive-up” hunt. Info: 354-8262.

Get your event in our calendar
willitsweekly@gmail.com



Make-Many-A-Wish

Johnstone sisters' event skyrockets past goal, raising over \$19,000

All the planning, scheduling, promoting and worrying paid off big time for the Johnstone sisters, who decided to hold a fundraising dinner as their co-senior project. Willits High School seniors Jamie and Julia wanted to be able to raise enough money to give the gift of a wish to another family, after Julia was a Make-A-Wish recipient last June, when the family traveled to Bora Bora. The original goal was to raise \$5,000 of the \$7,500 needed

to help make a wish come true. As of Tuesday evening, the sisters report that between tickets, donations, auction items and raffle tickets, \$19,000 – and counting! – was made at the Saturday, March 25 event.

“We would like to thank our family, friends and community for your generous donations and support for our Make-A-Wish fundraiser,” said the sisters. “All of our money will be going directly to Make-

A-Wish Greater Bay Area, and they will be able to help children with life-threatening illnesses achieve their wish. Thanks to everyone who donated and attended our event!”

With so much money raised, the sisters hope that the funds will provide several wishes, helping many different families in their time of need.

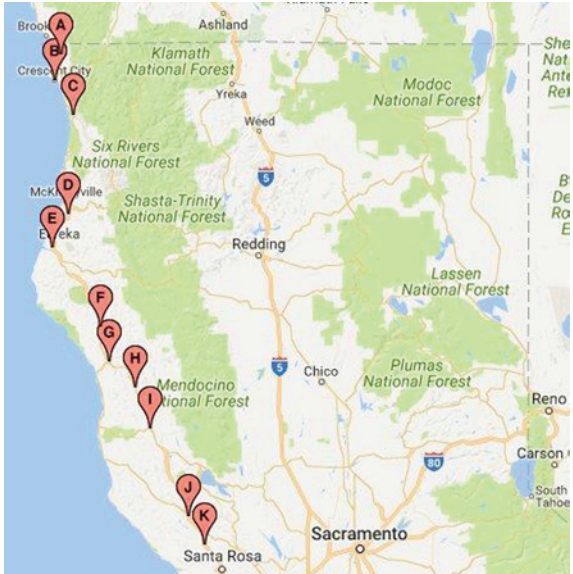
— Maureen Moore



Counterclockwise from top right: Raffle item winner Jenn Drew, left, and the Johnstone sisters' mom, Johnnieann, pose together. Raffle tickets could be purchased by height: Jamie and Camryn Christensen measure tickets on Dino and Katie. Casey Collicott plays “Vanna White” with a GoPro during the live auction. Johnnieann and Jamie showcase one of the highly anticipated auction items, a Yeti cooler. Jeff Yokum wins an El Mex sweatshirt and smiles next to Jack Drew. Julia and Jamie Johnstone, event organizers. Seats were filled at the Make-A-Wish fundraising event.



Electric vehicle fast chargers coming to the North Coast



Electric vehicle drivers will soon have access to fast chargers for travel on Highway 101 throughout the North Coast to the Oregon border. Funded by grants from the California Energy Commission, the new charging sites will expand the infrastructure network and extend the range of EVs.

ChargePoint has partnered with Mendocino Council of Governments and the Redwood Coast Energy Authority, the regional agencies that have been advancing plans for EV readiness, to win two of the statewide grants for the North Coast. ChargePoint brings with them eminent partners such as Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Grant Farm. The total of grants with cash and in-kind match contributions brings more than \$2.7 million of investment into the regions.

The network will include a total of six locations in Humboldt and Del Norte counties, three of which are in Mendocino County and two in northern Sonoma County, with the longest gap at 57 miles. Potential sites were evaluated and ranked based on convenience, accessibility, proximity to services, and distance from other planned sites. Currently planned locations include Smith River, Crescent City, Klamath, Arcata, Loleta, Garberville, Leggett, Laytonville, Willits, Cloverdale and Healdsburg. Station installation is expected to start in 2017 and be completed in late 2018.

Each site will initially include up to two 62.5-kilowatt DC Fast Charging Stations, providing an 80 percent charge in 20 to 30 minutes for most electric vehicles. Sites will also provide Level-2 ports for EVs that are not DC compatible. Each fast charger will be equipped with the two most common fast-charging connectors, compatible with the

vast majority of EVs. Tesla cars can use an adapter to access the new stations.

“We are delighted to join ChargePoint and RCEA in creating this network,” said Janet Orth, MCOG deputy director, who led MCOG’s EV planning effort. “This investment will go a long way toward realizing our community’s vision and plans for a public network of plug-in electric vehicle chargers serving Mendocino County locals and visitors. We thank the California Energy Commission and our partners for their leadership and a great opportunity.”

“Fast chargers are a much-anticipated step in our growing network of electric vehicle charging stations,” said Dana Boudreau, RCEA operations director. “While our initial installations focused on the daily requirements of local drivers, fast chargers allow locals to travel farther and refuel faster. They also support electric vehicle drivers who are visiting or just passing through our region. Once the fast chargers are in place, electric vehicles with quick-charge ports can feasibly travel the north coast region from San Francisco into Oregon.”

“Our mission is to help get every driver behind the wheel of an EV by providing a seamless charging experience wherever they need to charge – at home, work, in town and on the road,” said Rich Quattrini, senior

director, Business Development, ChargePoint, Inc. “These new fast charge locations, combined with our growing network in California and around the country, are yet another step in helping to make driving electric a reality for more residents throughout Northern California.”

MCOG, as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, produced a Mendocino County Zero Emission Vehicle Regional Readiness Plan in 2012, followed by a feasibility study in 2015, that engaged stakeholders and the general public in identifying locations for a potential countywide public network of electric vehicle charging stations. In 1996, MCOG began testing and demonstrating plug-in EVs in the rural environment, building on work in the community to advance renewable energy.

RCEA is a leading regional supporter of sustainable and alternative transportation, supporting EV charging infrastructure and EV readiness planning, as well as alternative fuels, zero-emission vehicles, and fuel-cell vehicles, through advanced planning, research and infrastructure deployment. RCEA operates a network of 14 public charging stations throughout Humboldt County, providing a locally controlled, affordable and economically sustainable network of charging stations in the region.

— Submitted by the Mendocino Council of Governments

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www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr EOE.

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW108
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2017-F0221
The following person is doing business as: **Butternut Squish / Guccis Grizzlies**, 2471 Bear Place, Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual: Jordan Scott, 2471 Bear Place, Willits CA 95490.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A.
Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on March 9, 2017.
s/Jordan Scott
Pub dates 03/16, 03/23, 03/30 and 04/06/2017

WW112
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2017-F0229
The following person is doing business as: **Moore Zamora Inc. DBA ComfortAir Heating Cooling**, 530 Orr Springs Road, Ukiah CA 95482. This business is conducted by a corporation: **Moore Zamora Inc.**, 530 Orr Springs Road, Ukiah CA 95482.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A.
Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on March 13, 2017.
s/David Moore, President
Pub dates 03/23, 03/30, 04/06 and 04/13/2017

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

WW109
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Christopher Peter LoPinto
CASE NO. SCUC-CVPB -17-26797
1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Christopher Peter LoPinto, Christopher P. LoPinto.
2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by Brad Walton in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino.
3. The Petition for Probate requests that Brad Walton be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
4. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
5. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: April 7, 2017 Time: 9 AM Dept.: E Address of court: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. Branch Name: Ukiah
7. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
8. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
9. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
10. Attorney for Petitioner: Jennifer M. O'Brien: 110 South Main Street, Suite C, Willits CA 95490; 707-459-5551.
Pub dates: 03/16, 03/23, 03/30/2017

WW110
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF
Elizabeth Ferguson, aka Elizabeth Delores Ferguson
CASE NO. SCUC-CVPB -17-26791
Notice is hereby given to the creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named decedent, that all persons having claims against the decedent are required to file them with the Superior Court of the County of Mendocino, at 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482, and mail or deliver a copy to Patricia Gene Bandenbrook and Bette Jo Miller, as Co-Trustees of the Elizabeth Ferguson 2009 Revocable Trust, dated April 28, 2009, wherein the decedent was the settlor, c/o Jennifer M. O'Brien, Esq., Neary and O'Brien, 110 South Main Street, Suite C, Willits CA 95490, within the later of four months after March 16, 2017, or, if notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, 60 days after the date this notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, or you must petition to file a late claim as provided in Section 9103 of the Probate Code. A claim form may be obtained from the court clerk. For your protection, you are encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, with return receipt requested.
Dated: January 31, 2017
Signed: Jennifer M. O'Brien, Neary and O'Brien, 110 South Main Street, Suite C, Willits CA 95490
Pub dates: 03/16, 03/23, 03/30/2017

Willits Weekly

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Easter Bunny Photos
The Easter Bunny will be back on Friday, April 14 for photos with Maureen Moore! Come to J.D. Red-house between 5 and 7 pm and meet the bunny and his live furry friends! Digital images are just \$5. No appointment needed! Kids, pets and families welcome! Info: 972-7047

For Rent
Professional Office Space for rent; various sized offices. \$100 per foot. Madrone Professional Group. Call Margie at 459-6874 or Megan at 972-8776.

For Sale
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PELLET STOVE: Many replacement parts. Works well. Includes stovepipe and spare parts. 20 years young. \$250. Call: 459-0344.

Help Wanted
OFFICE MANAGER OPENING, Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority. Ukiah. QB, payroll, OM skills, customer service, team player sought for full-time position. \$20/hr, good benefits; bilingual a plus. To apply, go to www.mendocycle.org or contact mswma@pacific.net. Applications due April 14, 2017.

Help Wanted
Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic is looking for a full time receptionist. Bilingual required. Please send resume to 1245 S. Main St. or fax to 459-3057. No phone calls please.

Help Wanted
Yard person, man or woman, 459-2976.

Help Wanted
Adventist Health Home-care & Hospice Services – Mendocino County. Part Time or Per Diem Speech Therapist needed. Call H/R Trudy #456-3230.

Now Hiring
Executive Director for Community Care Management Corporation in Ukiah; 36-40 hours per week; \$57,000 - \$75,000 per year DOE; Excellent Benefits; visit www.communitycare707.com for more information. EOE.

Poetry Lovers
Poets and poetry lovers, check out Bill Knott's life-work, "I Am Flying Into Myself: Selected Poems from 1960 to 2014," available for \$28 from Amazon.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers \$390 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tp>

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Docent training

Volunteer, learn, enjoy and create at the Arts Center

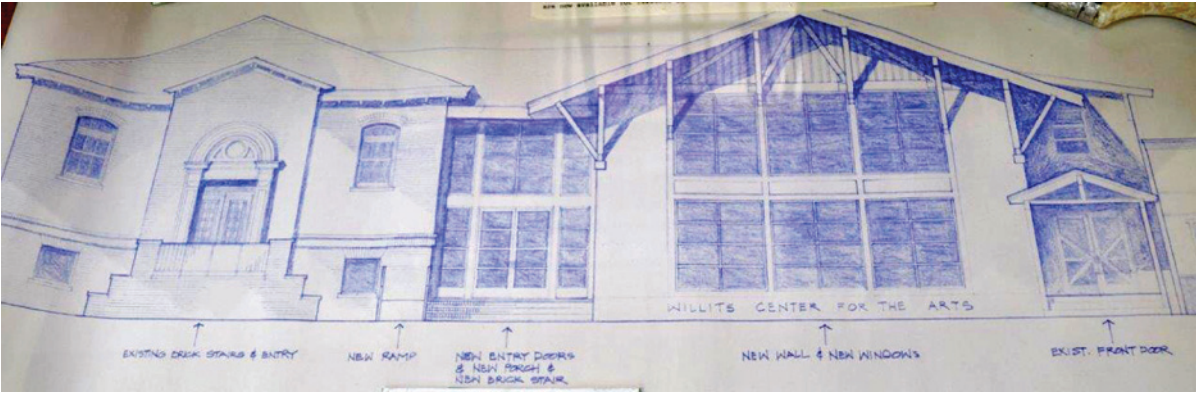
There are only two towns in America with populations under 5,000 that have independent art centers. Willits is one of them, according to art historian and Willits Center for the Arts curator Gary Martin. This unique and remarkable accomplishment is almost entirely the product of the work and tenacity of numerous dedicated volunteer art lovers and artists over the past 22 years.

The volunteer energy and momentum that created Willits' jewel of an art center shows no signs of waning. As board member Jane Ruckman said, the "support people that revolve around this center are fantastic. We wouldn't be able to do it without volunteers."

One of the fun ways to volunteer is to be a WCA docent, or guide. How to do this and why you might want to was the subject of a gathering of would-be docents at the center on March 26. The WCA is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm, and a commitment of only one three-hour shift a month is all that is required to be a docent.

You, as a docent, "sit the gallery." You open or close the doors of the WCA, make everything run smoothly, create a welcoming experience for visitors, offer to answer questions about the artwork, and make sales. When not busy with these tasks, you have quiet time of your own in a beautiful space to read, make your own art, listen to music, use the center's Wi-Fi, or enjoy the current show.

You don't have to be an artist to be a docent, but you will learn about art. After six sessions, you will receive a complementary membership and be able to enjoy champagne and hors d'oeuvres while listening to the one-hour talks for members only given by each artist at the opening of their shows. The excellent monthly talks given by art historian and curator Martin will also be free to you.



At top: Attendees at the training. Front row, from left: Rose Smith, Holly Madrigal and Janae Stephens and back row, from left: board member Jennie Jergenson, board member Lynne Whiting Robertson, Sarah Bailey, board member June Ruckman, Cindy Morninglight, James Whittaker, Aura Whittaker and Stacey Rohrbaugh. Above: Dreaming the future: a blueprint of the WCA's vision to expand into the Carnegie Library building next door. Below: A historic photo of the WCA building in the 1920s, when it was the Women's Improvement Club, or WIC, building. At right: Board members Cindy Morninglight and Lynne Whiting Robertson in the main gallery.



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Goodbye to Damian Sebouhian

Willits Weekly reporter and local creative force moves to western NY

Willits Weekly reporter Damian Sebouhian has left Willits to move back to Fredonia, Chautauqua County, in western New York, where he spent his early years and where much of his family still resides. After the death of his father last summer, Sebouhian realized how finite the time was that we are allowed to be with family and the other people in our lives. It was not an easy decision.

Sebouhian had grown to love Willits and its collection of colorful characters and beautiful surroundings.

Soon after arriving back East, Sebouhian was hired as a correspondent for the Dunkirk Observer, where he'd had his first job as a paperboy, from age 11 to 17. He was also pleased to realize that his father, Dr. George Sebouhian, had been a valued contributor to the editorial page of the 135-year-old newspaper.

He also is hoping to teach at Fredonia State University, where his father taught for 30 years, and where he received his master's in English. And perhaps work on his "Great American Novel," the same pursuit that led him to teach English in Cambodia during the reign of the Khmer Rouge in 1996 with Vietnam war munitions that continued to explode and bars with names like "The Heart of Darkness."

Sebouhian arrived in Willits in 2001 – by chance – in a converted school bus with his pregnant wife, Heidi and their 3-year-old daughter, Sianna. They were on their way to live in Arcata and ended up in Quail Meadows RV Park just north of Willits. He ventured into town one evening and met Billy Hetherington, who was directing "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Willits Shakespeare Company. "I always wanted to try acting," Sebouhian told Hetherington, who convinced him to try out for the play. He was given a small role, which turned into a much larger part when the original actor decided to follow other pursuits. Since then, he has appeared in over 20 productions as an actor and has written and directed several plays himself.

After deciding to stay in Willits, Sebouhian found a job teaching at a charter school in Ukiah and on September 4, 2001 his wife gave birth to their second daughter, Miara, in a horse trough under an oak tree.

Sebouhian moved briefly to Santa Cruz in 2005 to be near his daughters who were living there with their mother. However, due to the difficulty of finding work, he moved back to Willits and began teaching at La Vida Charter School and tutoring for several years.

Sebouhian was recruited as a features writer for Willits Weekly by fellow townsman and reporter Mike A'Dair, and wrote his first story about a high school football game in September 2015. About a year later, he began to cover the Willits City Council beat, which he credits for further integrating him into the Willits life. "Working for Willits Weekly was the best job I've ever had," Sebouhian said, providing him with freedom and the ability to learn about all the ins and outs and inner workings and personalities of the community. Willits Weekly helped Sebouhian "become a better, more confident writer," he said.

Sebouhian's love for Willits as a community runs deep and made his decision to leave extremely difficult. "I wish New York and California were neighbors instead of thousands of miles apart," Sebouhian said. He believes there is a vortex in Willits that pulls people back in when they try to leave. Willits may, on the surface, look a bit like a nothing drive-through town, but beneath the surface is a community of extremely talented, multicultural and warm, supportive people who exist in various social strata but who seem to accept each other with few qualifications.

Sebouhian is one of those people who, by their leaving, create a vacuum in the town of Willits. Willits Weekly wishes him well in his further pursuits in western New York, but wouldn't be surprised if the "Willits vortex" brought him back to town sometime in the future.



Photos by Joanne Moore



Above: Damian Sebouhian with his daughters Miara, left, and Sianna at the Lewis and Clark campus in Portland, Oregon, where Sianna is a freshman on a full scholarship.

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The rest of Sites | From Page 1

in November 2016, rerouted 6 miles of Highway 101 around the notoriously congested town center of Willits in Mendocino County. The four-lane bypass became a target for environmental protests when construction began in the spring of 2013.

The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and Round Valley Indian Tribes say the government refused to stop bulldozers when historic artifacts were found or properly review archeological finds uncovered during construction.

U.S. District Judge Jeffery White dismissed the tribes' lawsuit with leave to amend in August 2016, finding only Caltrans, and not the federal government, was liable for violating environmental laws under a 2007 agreement.

But White reached a different conclusion in his March 10 ruling. He found the federal government could be liable for failing to retake control of the project on February 18, 2015. That is the date the tribes asked the federal government to resolve alleged violations of environmental and historical preservation laws, which they say Caltrans failed to address.

A 2007 memorandum of understanding between the U.S. government and Caltrans states that the Federal Highway Administration shall reassume responsibilities for the project if the federal government or a registered Indian tribe finds Caltrans has failed to satisfactorily resolve an environmental concern.

Because no request to reassume control was made before a February 2015 meeting, White found the tribes may pursue claims against the federal government based on its alleged inaction starting on February 18, 2015.

The judge also refused to dismiss claims that the federal government failed to engage in consultation with the tribes to protect their ancestral lands and artifacts, as required by the National Historic Preservation Act.

Traffic surveys conducted after the bypass was completed in November showed a 25 to 30 percent

The rest of Ordinance | From Page 1

grow another 100 square feet for personal use cannabis.

That was the opinion of Supervisor John McCowen, and board members Dan Gjerde, Carre Brown, and Dan Hamburg agreed.

Those points were brought out during board discussion of two cannabis ordinances currently under construction.

The first is a 9.30 ordinance, which will create a framework of regulation for cannabis cultivation that became legal following statewide passage of Proposition 64 last November.

The second is the county's 9.31 medical marijuana ordinance. The county program was suspended on March 3, and if the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance is adopted by the board next week, as is anticipated, the 9.31 ordinance will be superseded by the new ordinance throughout most of the county.

However, state law forbids Mendocino County from passing land use regulations that affect the coastal zone without approval of the California Coastal Commission. So, the county ordinance will not apply there. Instead, the 9.31 program – which allows cultivation of up to 25 plants per parcel – will remain operative on the coast.

Deputy County Counsel Matt Kiedrowski told supervisors his intention was to make sure the new 9.30 ordinance would harmonize both with the cannabis cultivation ordinance and the 9.31 ordinance. That means some passages in the 9.31 ordinance might have to be revised.

The coastal zone is a thin strip of land, between 2 and 3 miles wide in most places, that runs along the coast from the Sonoma County line in the south to Humboldt County line in the north.

Willits Weekly asked Undersheriff Randy Johnson why – if the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance could not extend into the coastal zone – does the 9.31 ordinance apply there? "Let me know when you find out," Johnson replied, "because I don't know the answer to that one."

Supervisors have confirmed numerous times over the past month that, in the future, they intend to draft cannabis regulations specific to the coastal zone. However, both board members and county staff acknowledge that adoption of those regulations is likely to be a slow process. Drafting a modest revision to the Mendocino Town Plan and persuading the California Coastal Commission to approve it has taken five years and, according

to an estimate by McCowen, cost the county more than a quarter of a million dollars. The new Mendocino Town plan has yet to be approved by the coastal commission.

Kiedrowski, the County Counsel Office's point man on cannabis regulation, told supervisors the general guidelines of Proposition 64 remain unclear.

"Proposition 64 uses the word 'reasonable' twice in one sentence," Kiedrowski said. "It says local jurisdictions can come up with 'reasonable regulations to reasonably regulate' the cultivation of cannabis for personal use. But it doesn't define 'reasonable.'"

"My question is, can we reasonably prohibit growing six personal plus 200 square feet for a caregiver?"

When supervisors told Kiedrowski they could, and that they did, he appeared to balk. "We'll research it to see if that conforms with Proposition 64," he said. "All I would ask is that counsel be given the opportunity to explore and confirm this will fly within Proposition 64 and [the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act]."

"One hundred square feet is a reasonable number," McCowen argued. "The concern to me is not that it will go to a dispensary. My concern is that it will go to the black market."

Several board members expressed concern over the increased fire danger that will likely result from their decision to drive personal use cultivation indoors. McCowen pointed out that several fire chiefs have said between 50 and 80 percent of the house fires to which their departments respond are a result of indoor cannabis grows.

Hamburg agreed. "I have a real concern about indoor growing, about not having sufficient electrical service. Most people are not going to call their electrician. Most people are just going to hook up and see what happens."

The board discussed how to disseminate information about the dangers associated with indoor growing. McCowen thought requiring that people who wish to grow for personal use must register with the county would be a good idea, because it would provide the county with an opportunity to hand out information.

Brown said she thought registration was "overkill." She asked Kiedrowski to consult with other counties to determine their attitudes toward registration.

Undersheriff Randy Johnson told supervisors the new ordinance needed to state there can be no cultivation on rented property without a letter from the property owner granting

reduction in congestion, according to Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie.

Frisbie said ongoing environmental mitigation includes planting nearly 800,000 shrubs and trees; removing invasive, non-native plants; improvements to fish passage at Ryan Creek; restoration of riparian areas and stream banks damaged by cattle grazing; and new fencing to ensure grazing will no longer affect sensitive wetlands.

To address concerns raised by the tribes, Frisbie said, the state will post interpretive signs at Pomo cultural sites, fund a Pomo exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum, and help create materials for the tribes to educate youth about their history and culture.

But plaintiffs' attorney Philip Gregory said "putting up a sign" utterly falls short of meeting Caltrans' obligation to the tribes.

"Caltrans continues to hold onto sacred relics that it found rather than turn them over to the tribes, even though Caltrans acknowledges that these relics are tribal relics," Gregory said. "Further, Caltrans continues to bulldoze first, look for historic properties later."

Gregory said his clients want to sit down with the federal government to make progress on these "fundamental points," which it has been unable to resolve with Caltrans.

He said the tribes want their sacred sites protected from the destructive construction and mitigation work, and for the federal government to allow the tribes access to those sacred sites for religious ceremonies and historic activities.

Gregory said the tribes will file a second amended complaint seeking a court order requiring the Federal Highway Administration to reassume responsibility for the project and sit down in consultation with the tribes.

This article reprinted courtesy of Courthouse News Service, www.courthousenews.com, a nationwide news service for lawyers and the news media based in Pasadena.

The rest of Letters | From Page 2

For reservations call Pam at 459-1586, leave a message on our office answering machine, 459-5098, or email us at lwv@willitsonline.com.

We have learners patiently waiting for a tutor. Thank you.

Pam Shilling, tutor trainer, Literacy Volunteers of Willits

Let's talk sports

To the Editor:

My name is Steve Kovner, and I am now doing a sports talk show on KLLG, 97.9 FM on Wednesday evenings at 7:30.

We have the ability to take calls to the audience, and I would love to have people call in and talk sports with me. The number is 459-KLLG (5554).

Love to hear from you all. Come on, let's get some dialogue going. Thanks.

Steve Kovner, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

We would like to thank our family, friends and community for your generous donations and support for our Make-A-Wish fundraiser. We are excited to announce, with all of your help, we profited over \$19,000 with donations still coming in.

All of our money will be going directly to Make-A-Wish Greater Bay Area, and they will be able to help children with life-threatening illnesses achieve their wish.

Thanks to everyone who donated and attended our event – you are sincerely appreciated.

Julia and Jamie Johnstone, WHS "Make-A-Wish" Senior High School Project

The rest of Funding | From Page 1

ness district due to the loss of tourism business resulting from the highway relocation." If passed, the new funding would be available for areas with bypasses that were completed on or after January 1, 2014.

"This is something the city has been working on with Jim's office for the last couple of months," said Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore. "We were first approached by Ruth [Wood's] district director, Ruth Valenzuela who is based in Ukiah] with this idea. The funding is a long shot, but certainly we want to give it all the support we can."

"Last week I talked to Jim's legislative director, and provided him with information about what we're seeing since the bypass opened; I called several businesses and all of the gas stations myself, as we don't have any official numbers yet."

The city does not expect to receive the first quarter 2017 sales tax report – the first report that will show a full quarter's worth of data since the bypass opened – until June. "So that report will be an important one to look at," Moore said.

Although the city won't get that report in time for budget deliberations, "in this year's current budget," she said, "we did factor in a 35 percent reduction" in sales and gas tax revenues.

The city is planning to send representatives down to Sacramento when the bill is heard in committee, which is currently scheduled for the week of April 16, Moore said, including Mayor Gerry Gonzalez and City Planner Dusty Duley.

Moore said she is expecting a representative from the Willits Chamber of Commerce board of directors and a local business owner will participate, too.

Lisa Epstein, president of the Willits chamber, sent out an email blast to chamber members Monday evening, asking them to write a letter of support for AB 1470. Epstein included a download link to a draft letter, at <https://chambermaster.blob.core.windows.net/userfiles/UserFiles/chambers/2901/File/AB1470DraftSupportLtr.docx>.

That draft letter cites "a significant loss in sales revenue ranging from 20 to 50 percent" experienced by various local businesses since the bypass opened. "The bypass has served its intended purpose of reducing traffic congestion," the letter reads, "but has also resulted in an adverse [effect on] the local economy."

"We need your letter back by Monday, April 10," Epstein wrote. "Please email your letter to me at Lisa@LisaEpstein.com, and I will forward all the letters to Jim Wood's office."

Moore said several ideas about what to do with any extra state funding had been discussed, some with "more traction" than others, including an electronic billboard, creating free municipal broadband throughout the city, making improvements to the ballfields – "Every time we've had a tournament here, it fills up our hotels, and visitors shop and dine," she said – or to the Rec Grove stage area, so it would be better set up for musical performances that could draw in visitors. "We're also talking about a fund for businesses to apply for grants, to do façade or other improvements," Moore said.

"It's the long view we need to take," she concluded.

Those with questions about AB 1470 can contact Wood's aide Ruth Valenzuela at 463-5770.

Willits Weekly
The locals' community newspaper



Above: Hayden Hayes, Nathan Hayes and Jonathan Hunt, who earned their Green Belts, 2nd Kyu, in the Sheriff's Activities League Karate Program this month, with Kyoshi Michael Tobin, center, at the Body Works Gym Dojo. Below: Some action moves during the four-hour test for Green Belt, 2nd, Kyu.

Sheriff's Activities League

Karate Program advancements

Congratulations to Hayden Hayes, Nathan Hayes and Jonathan Hunt, who earned their Green Belts, 2nd Kyu, in our Sheriff's Activities League Karate Program on Sunday, March 19 at the Willits Body Works Gym Dojo. The four-hour testing included: written exam, understanding and performing all Matsubayashi-ryu Kihon, five Katas, Yakosuko Kumite, self-defense, bag work for endurance, and breaking to show power. Good job, men!

– Kyoshi Michael Tobin



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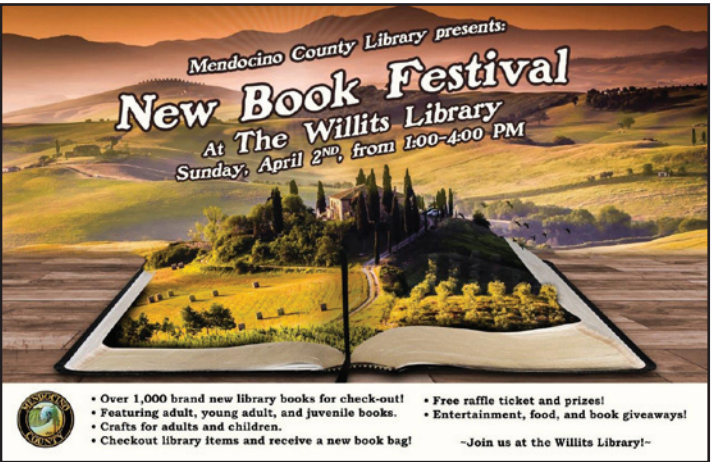
Willits Library's 'New Book Festival' on April 2

Have you been waiting forever for the latest book to be available for checkout? Well, here is your chance to pick up the newest must-read book from the library. Mendocino County Library is proud to announce the first-ever New Book Festival, to be held at the Willits Library, Sunday, April 2 from 1 to 4 pm. More than 1,000 new and popular books will be available to check out with your library card. The library will have the latest adult fiction and non-fiction, along with some popular young adult and children's books, DVDs and audiobooks available for checkout.

Along with the hottest titles, the New Book Festival will offer entertainment, crafts, snacks, a library card sign-up table, and fun giveaways. A fabulous book bag will be available

for every library patron who checks out library items with their card.

Have you ever been inside the Mendocino County Bookmobile? If not, this is a perfect opportunity to see what's inside. The bookmobile will be making a special stop at the Willits Library Branch on Sunday and will be parked for the duration of the New Book Festival.



Mark it on your calendar and plan to visit the Willits Library Branch, Sunday, April 2 from 1 to 4 pm, for the first-ever Mendocino County Library New Book Festival.

Lots of fun and tons of books for everyone!!

– Mendocino County Library



Colorful license plate supports

California's state parks

The deadline for pre-ordering California's special "ParksPLATE," license plate, created to help fund the restoration and preservation of the state parks system, is coming up. The Department of Motor Vehicles needs 7,500 prepaid orders by May 18.

The colorful design of the plate features California's official tree, the California redwood. Proceeds from the sale and annual renewal of the license plates are designed to provide an ongoing funding source for California's 280 state parks. Funds are placed in a Specialized Plate Fund "that shall be allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation for expenditure for the exclusive trust purposes of preservation and restoration of California State Parks."

The plates cost an addition \$50 over regular fees to order the first year (or \$98 for a personalized plate), and \$40 each year after that (or \$78 for a personalized plate).

To order the plates, or for more information, visit www.parksplate.parks.ca.gov. If not enough orders for the "ParksPlate" are received, pre-orders are fully refundable.

This report was based on information at www.parksplate.parks.ca.gov.

The rest of
Trial | From Page 1

Reynolds was originally charged with murder and assault with a deadly weapon, but District Attorney David Eyster later determined the evidence did not support those charges.

After Fisher was killed, state traffic officers located Reynolds at a nearby business and arrested him, sheriff's officials said. They said there did not appear to be have been an altercation between the two men before the assault.

Testimony in the trial began Monday, and it remains unclear if the superior court jury trying Reynolds will hear final arguments from Deputy DA Luke Oakley and defense attorney Justin Petersen today, says Mike Geniella, the DA Office's public information officer.

"Friday is a court holiday," Geniella added. "So, the case will likely to go to jury the following Monday."

Reynolds was originally represented by Ukiah defense attorney Macci Morse-Baldock, but appeared in court earlier this month with attorney Petersen.

County Planning and Building fee hikes approved

Supervisors on March 20 unanimously approved fee increases for the planning section of the Department of Planning and Building Services. The increases become effective on July 1.

Changes include increasing the fee for a general plan amendment from

\$4,464 to \$6,023; rezoning from \$2,720 to \$4,324; a modified development agreement from \$2,980 to \$4,756; a development agreement from \$5,402 to \$5,406 (a \$4 increase); a categorical exclusion from \$250 to \$366; a minor administrative coastal development permit from \$690 to \$1,707; and a standard coastal development permit from \$2,290 to \$5,306.

A minor use permit rises from \$1,601 to \$2,289; a major use permit, from \$3,050 to \$4,630; a cottage industry use permit from \$980 to \$1,830; an ag preserve contract from \$2,408 to \$2,996; a business license review from \$130 to \$168; a development review from \$1,530 to \$2,140; and a flood hazard development fee from \$140 to \$465.

A Surface Mining Reclamation Act fee increases from \$4,950 to \$7,120; a renewal of a minor modification use permit, from \$906

to \$2,366; document imaging from \$40 to \$111; general plan maintenance fee from \$50 to \$116; an environmental review from \$588 to \$735; a determination of vested right from \$1,620 to \$3,564 (which does not include legal costs); the fee to call and hold a special meeting of the county planning commission, from \$870 to \$1,619; and the fee to appeal a planning decision to the board of supervisors from \$910 to \$955.

Administrative appeals rise from \$1,420 to \$1,490; application updates increase from \$160 to \$436; per parcel fees from \$190 to \$403; a zoning letter from \$112 to \$204; and a property profile from \$190 to \$444.

Administrative permit fees for events remain the same at \$1,507.

According to County Assistant CEO Alan Flora, Planning and Building fees have not changed appreciably since 2007.

Before supervisors approved the packet of changes, Flora pointed out that the county was subsidizing the cost of providing planning services to the public to the tune of \$360,000 per year.

Supervisor John McCowen reminded the board that, since about 2010, board policy has embraced a policy that departmental fees should recover the full cost of providing services.

Planning and Building administrator

The rest of
Reserves | From Page 1

June 30 end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year, which would drop it from about 53 percent to 47 percent, or about \$2,145,382. The loss in total "working capital" for the fiscal year is now projected at more than \$600,000, or about \$9,027,521.

City Manager Adrienne Moore noted that at 47 percent the reserve fund would still be significantly higher than the current minimum of 35 percent, and many cities regularly drop even much lower than that, some even into "single digits."

The high minimum reserve amount was chosen by city staff because of the unpredictability of the effects of the bypass going forward, she explained.

"We don't know what exactly is going to happen, so we set it in anticipation of that. And we're still much higher than [35 percent]. We are in good shape."

Of the \$175,000 increase in spending – much of which came from one-time expenditures – the biggest chunk was about \$73,500 for removal of dead and diseased trees in city parks that posed "significant public safety concerns."

Other projects approved included resurfacing the high school tennis courts, updating the City Hall parking lot to comply with the American Disabilities Act, upgrading the city's website, which has a new domain (www.cityofwillits.org), filling allocated staff positions, and some storm-related emergency spending for which the city is hoping to be reimbursed through "disaster funding sources," Moore said.

Councilman Ron Orenstein expressed surprise at how much the amendment items totaled, but added that with such a large reserve available it made sense to spend the funds on needs for the community.

"Obviously, we don't want to run out of money – but on the other hand, if we have money sitting in the general fund reserve, it's not doing its job. The reason we exist is to provide services to the city. And the more money we keep in the general fund reserve, that represents money that's not being spent in services in some way or another. I think that's something we need to be constantly aware of."

Like Moore, Orenstein acknowledged the uncertainty the bypass's effect brought to budget discussions, and the importance of accounting for that.

"Of course, we're in a new world right now, and there's a whole lot of mystery," he said. "We don't know what's going to happen with this bypass. The next six months will tell us something different, and I may have to revise my thinking on [spending reserve money]."

Vice Mayor Larry Stranske cast the lone dissenting vote on the proposed amendments, which passed 4-1.

"The bottom line is the money's coming out of the reserves," Stranske said before the vote. "So I think we need to be aware that every time we go and spend money that isn't in the budget, or is more than is in the budget, that it's coming from someplace."

City Financial Director Susie Holmes presented a largely positive assessment of the budget to the council, saying "the general funds pretty much as a whole are on target. If you take our total revenues based on what we budgeted, we're at exactly 50 percent."

She said those projections did include a predicted decrease in sales tax revenue caused by the bypass, which was partly based on research from Cloverdale's post-bypass experience several years ago.

The mid-year review numbers went through December 2016 (the bypass opened November 4), and didn't show any significant reduction in sales tax through that point.

Wayne Bashore, a former Willits City Council member and facilities director for the Willits Unified School District, warned the council needed to use more foresight in spending reserve money. If the council continued to cut into the fund at this year's rate, it could place the city in dire financial circumstances in a few years, he said.

"When it comes to the general fund, it's a situation where you try to control the expenditures, you try to anticipate what's happening, but you have almost no control over the revenue source," said Bashore. "I really am concerned about the reduction in general fund reserve.... What redevelopment projects has the city undertaken or approved that have made this community healthier? I don't see it, and to me that seems somewhat frustrating."

Councilwoman Madge Strong countered that the budget this year included a lot of one-time expenditures that likely wouldn't continue in future years.

"This includes some capital improvement kind of things that are going to last five, 10, 15 or 20 years, so they show up as an expense in this year, but hopefully we don't have the same expenses next year or the following year. I think it's really important to identify which parts of the annual spending are long-term investments."

Mayor Gerry Gonzalez and Orenstein acknowledged the difficulties that can come with balancing the current and future needs of the city.

"Thank you for the reality check," Gonzales told Bashore. "I'm the new guy here, so I'd like to thank the council members that came before us, and that you had good stewardship so we have that reserve. It's kind of like why you have money in the bank, so when things happen, like your car blows up, you have money to spend on it. But you're always cognizant of the fact that you have to keep putting money in the bank."

Other notes

City Planner Dusty Duley said the council should expect the first draft of the city's cannabis ordinance to be placed before them in April.

Duley and the cannabis ad hoc committee had a "field trip" last week to Santa Rosa area cannabis-permitted businesses to get ideas for what could work best in Willits.

Duley also said that in addition to more Caltrans signage, the city was looking to install a "civic billboard" on the highway that would "advertise Willits as a whole" (as opposed to individual businesses), which the city would own and maintain. "Local talent" is being sought to help with designs.

"This is something that would hopefully benefit everyone in the city by capturing folks driving on the highway and bring them into town to experience Willits," he said.

Councilwoman Saprina Rodriguez suggested the council place on the agenda a discussion about adopting a resolution formally supporting Senate Bill 54, the California Values Act, a state measure addressing immigration issues.

Rodriguez said she had heard from several constituents who wanted the council to consider a resolution and allow the public to speak on the matter.

The rest of
Fire | From Page 1

The rail cars are on the right of way owned by the North Coast Railroad Authority, the agency created in 1989 to "ensure continuation of railroad service on the Northwestern Pacific rail line," the railroad that used to run nearly 300 miles from Marin County to Eureka.

The rail cars have been a bone of contention between the City of Willits, the Little Lake Fire Department and the NCRA in the past. In 2008, the City of Willits declared the cars a public nuisance, after experiencing "an average of three fires a month," city Code Enforcement Officer John Sherman said, caused by fires set inside the cars by trespassers and transients seeking a place to sleep.

Part of an agreement reached between the city and the NCRA in 2008 provided that the cars would be fenced off, and NCRA would hire a security company to keep an eye on the right of way.

According to a March 28 letter from Chief Magann to NCRA directors and staff, "the current lack of interest by NCRA is evident, with the security fencing being damaged [and] all doors on all rolling stock forced open.... The current level of security provided is non-existent, as the camping of transients last night within the fenced enclosure shows."

In his letter, Chief Magann emphasized the difficulties of fighting fires inside these rail cars, which are "extremely dangerous for suppression personnel due to the limited access, the amount of items (seats, tables, garbage, stored equipment, human offal, hazardous materials including asbestos) found in these units, the extreme buildup of heat, the limited visibility due to the extreme smoky conditions caused by the various fuel loading, and unfamiliarity with the layouts of these cars.

"Besides the difficulty of getting fire suppression equipment to these fires, we have the additional task of entering into a very dangerous environment in order to ensure no one is trapped by the fire, and searching the debris after suppression is completed, hoping not to find the remains of some poor deceased individual[s]."

In addition, Magann wrote, "due to the engines and passenger cars not being secured, opportunists are taking advantage by removing any items of value, or salvageable. Currently there are several large lead acid batteries that have been removed from the cars and engines [and are still sitting on the tracks], exposing our environment to sulfuric acid, and lead. Additionally, there are approximately 100 containers of Freon left in one of the enclosed cars creating additional environmental hazards."

NCRA Executive Director Mitch Stogner told Willits Weekly: "We agree with Chief Magann that health and safety are priority No. 1. We attacked this problem in 2008, as he points out in his letter.... We've got to regroup and see what we need to do in terms of securing the rail cars that are still there, that the fencing is appropriate, and to talk to our security – Paul Trouette and Lear Asset Management – and see what we need to do to tighten things up."

But, Stogner emphasized, funding is a problem. "The state provides no funding to NCRA," he said. "We are a self-help agency, and we have no budget for maintenance emergencies such as this.

Adrienne Thompson provided supervisors with a sophisticated breakdown of the staff time involved in providing each service. That breakdown determined how much time would be involved by each staff member, as well as what each staff member is currently being paid. In every instance, the proposed fee from Planning and Building came within a dollar or two of the actual cost of providing the service.

Nevertheless, passage of the changes was not a slam dunk. Supervisor Dan Gjerde balked at approving the new fees, and championed proposals which would have reduced charges for planning services linked to the coast. One such proposal directed staff to determine the average hike in services to the inland area, then to limit changes in coastal fees to that percentage of change. But that proposal received no second.

Gjerde then proposed approving the entire package of changes, with a modification to the fee increase proposed for a minor administrative Coastal Development permit from \$690 to \$2,768; which Gjerde pointed out was nearly a four-fold hike. He suggested the increase be limited to \$1,480, a doubling of the current fee. McCowen countered with a proposed increase to \$1,708, still a reduction of \$1,060 from that proposed by staff.

Gjerde agreed, and the package was approved unanimously.

Our only revenue sources are property encroachment fees and the leases we have along the line, a very limited pool of funds."

Stogner said NCRA has twice succeeded in getting legislation through the California Legislature, in 2005 and again in 2007, that would have granted \$5.5 million to the agency "to address emergency health and safety issues along the right of way," but then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the bills each time.

Stogner said it wasn't just Willits where problems with trespassers and vagrants were occurring along the NCRA right of way. "We've got a huge homeless and vagrant issue in the city of Ukiah – we've got a depot with 15 tents sitting in it right now, and we're dealing with the Ukiah police about that – and the city of Fortuna and throughout Humboldt County. This is going to be a long hot summer, and there are going to be a lot of homeless issues. We've been grappling with this for years, but the fires really get people's attention – and they should. There are real life-threatening issues here."

The old Amtrack rail car that burned, Stogner said, is actually owned by a private party in Sacramento. "In 2011 we did a request for proposals to purchase all of the excess equipment we had – we sold anything of any value, including the Amtrack cars that were of interest to collectors. What we agreed to do is to store a couple of the cars until the buyer had a plan for removal. We don't own the cars; we are storing the cars."

In his letter, Magann wrote that he had repeatedly asked NCRA to remove or secure all the rolling stock in the Little Lake Fire District, with "some limited success."

"I am once again asking for NCRA to limit their liability by once again securing these railcars, engines and box cars, or remove them from your right of way within my district," he wrote.

Removing the cars is no easy task. The cars are "dry docked" where they're at as far as using the railroad tracks to move them out of the district, as neither the tracks north or south of Willits are functional. Hauling them out by truck is "a very expensive proposition," Stogner said. "We've been around and around about how one removes rail cars; it's an expensive process, involves a large truck and a crane, and so forth. We've managed to move several of them out of there. We're going to have to revisit this and talk about what we can do."

Dismantling and salvaging the rail cars in place is also a problem, due to safety issues, including asbestos.

City Manager Adrienne Moore and Code Enforcement Officer Sherman both said they were 100 percent behind the fire chief's letter and his request that NCRA secure or remove the rail cars serving as an "attractive nuisance." Sherman also echoed Magann's point in his letter that although the NCRA does not pay local taxes for fire protection, as chief, Magann has "the sworn obligation to protect the lives and property of the taxpayers of Willits," and also the "ethical duty to protect transients traveling through my fire district."

The NCRA "needs to maintain a responsible position as the owners [of the right of way]," Sherman said, "and not put the fire department in that kind of situation."



At far left: South Fork Eel River below Big Bend Lodge, taken on February 2, 2017.

At left: Cedar Creek plunges over the remnants of an old hatchery dam, taken on February 14, 2017.

Below: Willits residents enjoy the first "Willits Goes Wild" field trip to upper Eel River on March 18, 2017.

Willits Wilderness Weekend

The Eel River Recovery Project is hosting a Wilderness Night of presentations and discussion about protecting and expanding Eel River federal wilderness areas on March 31 from 6 to 9 pm at the Willits Hub, 630 South Main Street just north of Highway 20 in Willits. On Saturday, April 1 the second "Willits Goes Wild" field trip will be departing from the same location at 9 am.

ERRP is a non-profit grassroots group that has been in existence since 2011 and has had an active Wilderness Committee since 2013. Volunteers organized by ERRP have cleaned up 10 cartel marijuana trespass grows on Bureau of Land Management lands in or adjacent to the Red Mountain Wilderness Area in the South Fork Eel River watershed.

In 2016, ERRP cooperated with the Cahto Tribe and BLM by recruiting volunteers to help with trail maintenance in the Cahto Peak Wilderness compartment near Laytonville. ERRP has also been working to arrange purchase and donation of large tracts of wildlands with high conservation value in the East Branch South Fork Eel River basin to BLM for eventual inclusion in wilderness areas. On Friday evening, March 31, at the Hub, Wilderness Co-Chairs Bruce Hilbach-Barger and Jeff Hedin will make presentations about ERRP projects past and future.

ERRP also works with the California Wilderness Coalition to promote designation of the East Branch South Fork Eel as Wild and Scenic and to expand wilderness areas elsewhere in the watershed. Ryan Henson, a key staff person for CWC and a Mendocino County native, will be a guest speaker at Wilderness Night at the Hub.

Ryan has been successful in helping shape and pass legislation that expanded wilderness areas, including the 2006 North Coast Wilderness Bill, HR 233. He will discuss

the current "Mountains & Rivers Campaign" that focuses on legislation for wilderness augmentation in the northwestern counties of California, including the Eel River watershed.

Presentations and a panel discussion will run from 6 to 9 pm, and will be preceded by a rock fish BBQ and potluck at 5 pm to which the public is invited. There is no charge for admission, but donations will be accepted.

On Saturday, April 1, people wanting to go on a field trip should assemble at the Willits Hub at 9 am. The trip will explore the South Fork Eel River watershed at the edges of the Elkhorn and Red Mountain Wilderness areas. ERRP has a "Willits Goes Wild" van that can accommodate nine passengers, and ride sharing for the day will be arranged on site, with the trip departing at 9:15 am.

The first stop will be Big Bend Lodge south of Leggett near the downstream extent of the Elkhorn Wilderness Area. ERRP managing director and fish biologist Pat Higgins will host the trip and will describe fish use and watershed conditions, while attendees explore the South Fork Eel River bend for which the lodge was named. The second major stop on the trip will be at the mouth of Cedar Creek on the property of the Gomde Monastery, a Buddhist retreat center. Cedar Creek flows from the Red Mountain Wilderness and is a vital source of clean water for the South Fork Eel River. Ample time will be allowed to fully explore the mouth of the creek as it meets the South Fork and the ruins of an old hatchery just up the creek. There

Eel River Recovery Project hosts Hub event and river field trip

is no charge for Wilderness Field Trip participation, but donations will be accepted.

These events are part of a crowdfunding campaign to raise a year's rent for the Willits Hub, formerly the Willits Environmental Center. Visit EverRibbon.com and type "Go Wild" to find the page for more information and to donate. If successful, the campaign will allow ERRP to establish an office in Willits and also provide space for the Willits Economic Localization (WELL) group, the Mendocino Wildlife Association and the Willits Environmental Center. The hope is to establish a hub and information center for sustainable living in Willits and the Eel River watershed. Donations to crowdfunding and ERRP are tax-deductible.

Additional events in this series will include a Forest Health weekend on April 8 and 9 and a culminating event on April 15 on best practices for growing cannabis that will promote bringing the industry into harmony with nature. Visit ERRP on Facebook, see www.eelriverrecovery.org, or call Robin at 459-0155 for more information.

– Patrick Higgins, managing director, Eel River Recovery Project



Solar update

Mills College students on spring break came to Willits to help install solar panels on the roof of the Little Lake Grange last week – but the rainy weather prevented much work from being done. Justin Fricker, North Coast outreach and development coordinator for Grid Alternatives, which sponsored the project, said the installation of about 45 panels, which will provide 80 percent of the Grange's electricity, will be done by another volunteer crew, though a new date is not yet set.

– Jennifer Poole



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Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor, Bill Nobles
Information: 456-9668
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

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

If you want to be included in this column please call:
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MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM ROAD SHOW

WILLITS
Willits High School
Friday April 7th at 7:30pm

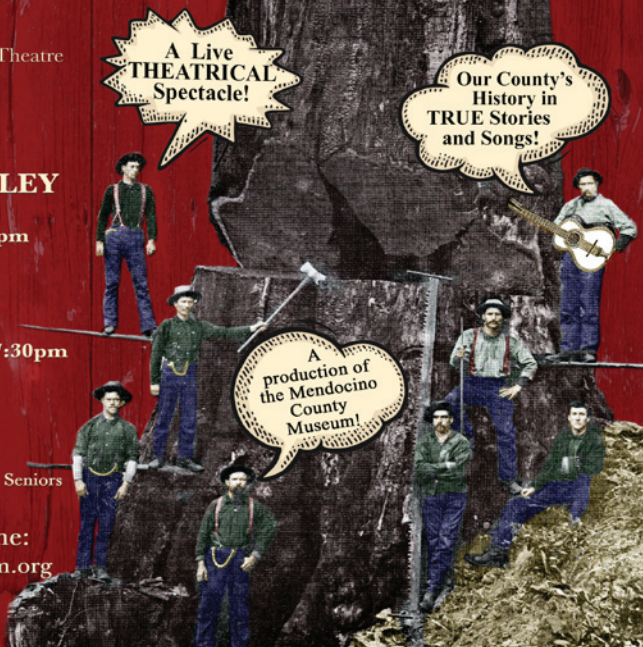
POINT ARENA
Arena Theater
Saturday April 8th at 7:30pm

UKIAH
Mendocino College Center Theatre
Saturday April 15th
Matinee - 2:00pm & Evening at 7:30pm

ANDERSON VALLEY
Anderson Valley Grange
Friday April 21st at 7:30pm

FORT BRAGG
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