

Willits Weekly

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Thursday, April 19, 2018

City Council plans May 9 goal-setting meeting

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
forrest@willitsweekly.com

New City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra last week urged city councilmembers to create a list of goals and priorities for the city, something the council has not done since March 2015.

The council agreed, and has scheduled a special May 9 meeting to discuss and craft the list.

While the process for creating a prioritized goals list would normally be longer and include consultants and additional public input, Garrabrant-Sierra suggested the council move

Read the rest of **Meeting**
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Good news from Willits schools

Joanne Moore
Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

The April 11 Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees meeting, held at Blosser Lane Elementary School, was short and sweet – starting with student presentations of some of their academic and creative endeavors, and moving on to good news from the high school, reports of resolution of drinking water woes, and approval of a resolution calling for increased state funding of public schools.

Superintendent Mark Westerburg began with some impressive “data” from Willits High School, telling the board how the change to a trimester system has allowed students who are unsuccessful in a subject in the fall [think math] to “go

Read the rest of **Schools**
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Supes create museum program administrator position

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Supervisors on April 10 approved without comment a consent calendar item deleting the position of program specialist II for the county museum and creating in its place the position of program administrator.

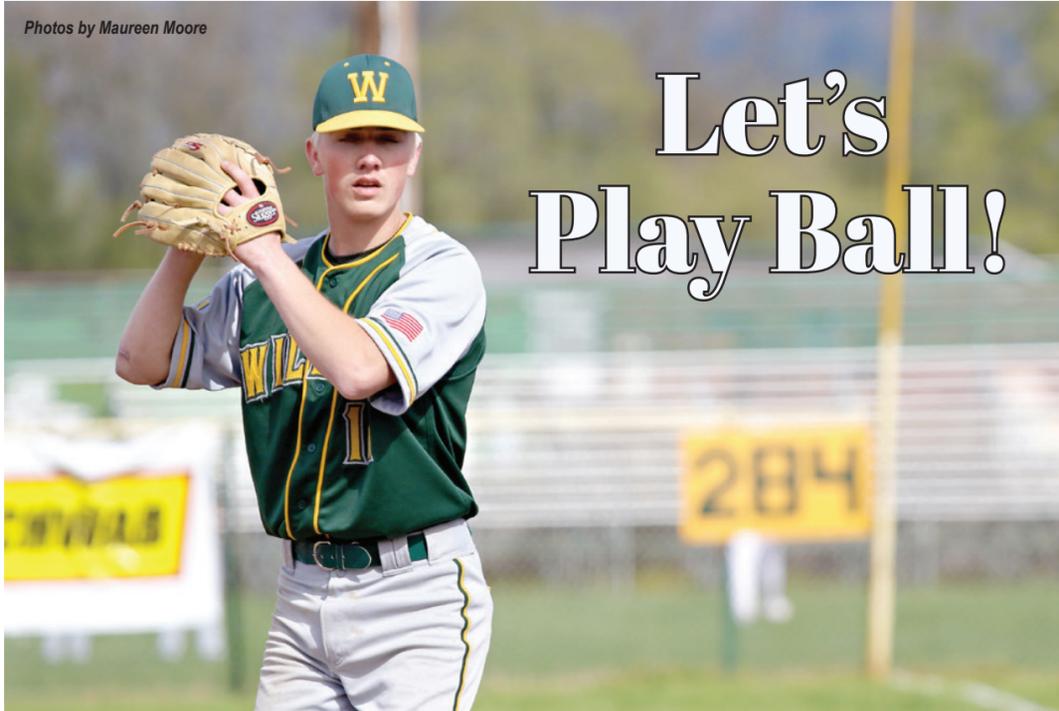
A program administrator has more responsibility than a program specialist II. According to the description of the position from the county's class specification catalogue, a program administrator “plans, directs, evaluates, participates in and supervises the work in the research, analysis

Read the rest of **Museum**
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Above, from left: A quick pre-pitch fist bump between #24 DJ Buzzard, #11 Colten Doak and #12 Steven Duran. Josh Betts, #21, bends down to scoop up the ball. At home plate, Ryan LaCount, #21, waits for the perfect pitch before swinging. Local referees and game umpires watch the teams warm up. Below: Colten Doak, #11, on the pitcher's mound.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Let's Play Ball!

Willits Wolverines at bat against the Middletown Mustangs on Dave Kline Field

The break in the dreary weather was welcome to the Willits High School baseball team, who plays a home game against the Middletown Mustangs on Tuesday. While the varsity team and the Lady Wolverine softball teams were able to play, the JV team, which plays on the fields on East Commercial Street, were unable to play due to the still-soggy ground.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

The varsity team came out strong in the first inning with Triston Martin, who managed to hit a double, sailing the ball out into the left field's back fence. He was able to score in Jacob Arms who was on second at the time. However, the forward motion fell a little flat after that for the Wolverines, and the team ended the game with a final score of 1 to 10. This loss puts the Wolverine team at a 3 and 3 in league standings at the halfway point in league play.

Assistant Athletic Director Aaron Branscomb attributed some of the difficulties for the team to limited outside practice because of the rainy weather.

“We've had to be practicing in the gym with all this rain and soggy ground,” explained Branscomb. “It's hard not to get the on-the-field practice time to work on fly balls and grounders, but the team is dealing with it the best they can.”

Read the rest of **Baseball**
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Below, from left: Triston Martin, #2, tries to get to first base before the ball is caught by the opposing team. Jacob Arms, #20, waits at second base for a chance to head to third. Ben Branscomb, #6, tosses the ball from the outfield to Triston Martin, #2. Josh Betts, #21, rounds first base and makes a mad dash towards second.



Supervisors adopt 2018 legislative 'wish list'

Supervisors have unanimously adopted an ambitious 2018 Legislative Platform, outlining the county's “legislative priorities” for California lawmakers during this year's legislative cycle.

Dan McKee
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The platform was the product of the board of supervisors' General Government Standing Committee: supervisors Carre Brown and Dan Gjerde, working with county department heads and Executive Office staff.

The 28-page “wish list” is heavy with funding requests as the result of the October 2017 wildfires that devastated parts of Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma and Napa counties.

The region “suffered tremendous loss on a scale that continues to be nearly incomprehensible,” the document argues, noting that in Mendocino County some “36,000 acres were burnt, homes were lost, agricultural land was damaged, and watersheds continue to be threatened.”

“The devastation of this event will live on for decades,” the platform notes, “and the support of state and federal governments in both appropriations and policy changes are vital as we begin to rebuild.”

To assist in the rebuilding process, the county is asking the state to backfill the loss of property taxes (to the 2017 assessment level before the fires), transient occupancy taxes and sales taxes. It also seeks state backfills on the amount lost homes would have contributed in property taxes to the debt service of local schools and districts at

their 2017 assessed values.

In addition, the county is urging the state to waive its fire debris cleanup costs and prioritize SB 2 funds – currently retained by the California Department of Housing and Community Development – for affordable housing investments in fire-impacted counties and cities.

The county also is seeking expedited payments for county-provided services from both the state and federal governments – using estimates rather than exact costs – to help address local cash-flow problems in providing mental health and social services.

It also advocates making bond funding available to fire-impacted local governments for watershed remediation, species protection and drinking water supply projects, as well as development of long-term (5 to 10-year) comprehensive regional recovery plans focusing on “fire prevention, sustainability and resiliency.”

The state Legislature is being urged to provide funding to “incentivize rebuilding that meets fire-resistant standards”, fund restoration work by volunteers and non-governmental organizations, and waive mandated local matches related to fire-related recovery projects.

The platform also advocates securing state funds for small California water districts that must rebuild fire-affected infrastructure, fund county watershed protection and road repair, as well as make monies available to fire-safe private

Read the rest of **Wish list**
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Caltrans, Granite Construction to start downtown sidewalk work April 23

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The California Department of Transportation and contractor Granite Construction plan to start work on the Willits Downtown Sidewalk Improvements project on Monday, April 23. Work hours are generally expected to be from 5 am to 2 pm, Monday through Friday. Project representatives will

Read the rest of **Sidewalk**
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\$100 million in SB1 funds for county roads

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Mendocino County roads are looking at a new infusion of state cash provided for by Senate Bill 1, which was approved by the California Senate last year.

According to an April 10 letter from county Department of Transportation Director Howard Dashiell to the board of supervisors, Mendocino County expects to receive \$100 million from the state over the next 18 years. That's enough money to rehabilitate and repair 335 miles of county roads, or about one-third of the county's road system, by 2036.

Dashiell's letter to
Read the rest of **Roads**
Over on Page 13

Supes review accessory dwelling units, vacation home rentals

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Supervisors on April 10 took a first look at drafts of two ordinance revisions having to do with the county's “accessory use” housing policy.

The first, Chapter 20.164, is a revision of the county's existing accessory use regulations, which adds rules about accessory dwelling units. It defines what kinds of structures are allowable as “accessory uses” and goes into some detail regarding accessory dwelling units.

The second proposed draft amendment to the

Read the rest of **Dwellings**
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3rd District Supervisor Candidate Q&A

The race for Third District supervisor has shifted into high gear, with candidate forums, campaign signs up on the roadsides, and now with Willits Weekly's questions and answers from the candidates hoping to represent Willits, Laytonville and Covelo on the county board of supervisors.

Willits Weekly's county reporter Mike A'Dair put together a list of nine questions about important county issues. We asked candidates to limit their answers to each question to about 100 words, and we also asked them to send in a

short bio and a campaign photo.

This edition of Willits Weekly features the first five questions, with answers from seven of the eight candidates: Susi Barsotti, John Haschak, Michael Horger, Shawna Jeavons, Cyndee Logan, John Pinches, and Tony Tucker. Pamela Elizondo did not send in answers to our questionnaire.

Answers to the last four questions will appear in next week's April 26 edition of Willits Weekly.

There's still plenty of time to register to vote in the June

5 election – the voter registration deadline is May 21. You can register to vote online at <https://registertovote.ca.gov>, find a voter registration form at your local library branch or any DMV office, or call the Mendocino County Elections Office at 707-234-6819 to request a form be mailed to you.

Elections for Third District supervisor are often close battles – with eight candidates in the race, every vote will count in the June primary. Good luck to all the candidates!

– Jennifer Poole,
editor and publisher, Willits Weekly

What do you think qualifies you to be Third District supervisor?

Susi Barsotti: I have been a member of a community of consensus for 43 years, and have developed communication skills essential to any longtime group endeavor. The ability to find common ground through compromise, and to accomplish goals together is very familiar territory. Furthermore, my work as a successful producer has honed me as a good manager, planner and organizer. I am also completely invested in Mendocino County, heart and soul, and it matters to me where we go from here. I would like to offer my services to the place that is such a good home to me and my family.

John Haschak: I was raised in Mendocino County and have taught in the Willits public schools for the past 28 years. During this time, I have been the president of the Willits Teachers Association for 15 years. I understand the challenges our communities face, and I will stand up and fight for the residents of our district. I have been on the California Teachers Association Budget Committee for 13 years and have been elected to chair the committee seven times. In that position, I have developed, balanced and passed an almost \$200 million budget. I know how to run a large budget, which is crucial to our county's success. I am hard-working and diligent.

Michael Horger: Pretty much everything I have done in my life has put me in the position to be qualified to be a supervisor. I grew up in the area and have seen the history and the present. I have worked as a business agent with a labor union, where I worked on labor contracts and representation of the workers. I have volunteered in many aspects of this community, from Frontier Days to coaching our youth. I spent 18 years on the volunteer fire department, and I was on the fire board of directors. I have spent the last nine years on school site councils I have raised a family here.

Shawna Jeavons: History, vision, experience and community. I have a lifetime history here – four generations. I am up to date on most of the issues and opportunities before us. Growing up on an off-the-grid sustainable mini-farm gave me a vision of what a healthy future looks like. My work with local, small businesses gave me insight into sound economic development, and overseeing contracts with Willits' public works and engineering department gave me nuts-and-bolts experience implementing good local government. As an educator I am learning how to pull together a classroom, a team, and a community that includes every one of us.

Cyndee Logan: I have shown throughout my service in this community myself as an innovator of projects, which actually have happened and benefit many different factions of our community. I have the long-standing experience, dedication and capacity to lead and ensure representation of our area. I have the multifaceted experience of everything from a planning commissioner, private business owner of 34 years, Leadership Mendocino, chairperson and board member of NCO, and leadership roles on numerous other boards and commissions. I offer my service as a team member toward creating the community we all not only survive in but thrive in.

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

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P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047
willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633

Maureen Moore, art director and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047

Mike A'Dair, reporter / mike@willitsweekly.com

Jenny Senter, features writer / jenny@willitsweekly.com

Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer / mathew@willitsweekly.com

Forrest Glyer, reporter / forrest@willitsweekly.com

Ree Slocum, features writer / ree@willitsweekly.com

Joanne Moore, reporter / features writer / joanne@willitsweekly.com

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com

Jenn Drew, ad sales / 707-354-1670 / advertising@willitsweekly.com

Jackie Cobbs, features copy editor

Justin Stephens, webmaster

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John Pinches: My experience, dedication and knowledge qualify me to be the Third District supervisor. As the Third District supervisor for 12 years I served on over 18 government agencies, boards, commissions, councils and districts. As a lifelong Mendocino County resident, I am dedicated to this county and the people of the Third District. I have a vast knowledge of the county, its people and the complex issues we all face. I believe together we can navigate through these complex times with resolve.

Tony Tucker: I have been involved in local government since 2002. I was first elected to serve as a board member of the Covelo Community Services District; during my tenure the board worked to resolve the Eel River, River Watch lawsuit, replacing sewer lines and upgrading the sewer plant itself. In June of 2013, I was appointed, and have since been reelected, to the Round Valley Unified School District's Board of Trustees, where we have worked to improve student successes, improve the district infrastructure, and improve the availability of childcare and housing.

Do you support the cannabis cultivation ordinance, as written? If not, how would you like to see it changed?

John Haschak: This is a time of great economic uncertainty for the cannabis farmers in our county. Overall, we need to help those small farmers come into compliance, be good neighbors, maintain sound environmental farming practices, and contribute as taxpayers to our county and economy. Streamline and simplify the application process for small farmers. I think that the ordinances should not be punitive in nature since this is a legal agricultural endeavor. At the same time, the county needs to treat this industry like other industries. The sheriff needs to enforce codes when applicable, especially with the use of volatiles in the manufacturing process.

Michael Horger: The cannabis ordinances are so confusing and expensive. I would like the process to be better streamlined. I would like to see one state, one county and/or city entity handle the process, instead of having to work with so many – with the ability to have the process completed in a timely manner. Maybe a private company contracted by the state to make this process be more user friendly. Transportation needs to be addressed also.

Shawna Jeavons: Our current ordinance is based on yesterday's prices. We have developed some of the best herb in the country, with specialty strains grown sustainably (i.e. directly in the ground, from seed rather than clones, using natural sunlight), yet many dedicated small growers are choosing not to plant this year because of multiple, expensive permits. I would like to see the emphasis on growing a responsible cannabis economy by better marketing and promotion, as well as the development of infrastructure – testing facilities and discreet no-smoke dispensaries.

Cyndee Logan: I would like to ensure the initial promises made by the county to small, outdoor, sustainable growers happen. Currently, we are moving toward big business cannabis, which every other place in California is capable of doing. Small, boutique businesses, properly licensed to protect our environment, that actually work with the new businesses to protect and encourage participation. The money the county spent on vehicles for cannabis inspections alone would have gone a long way in fee breaks to get the new businesses up and going. Instead, we have years of unlicensed businesses, which encourages the black market economy.

John Pinches: I absolutely do not support the cannabis cultivation ordinance as it is written. Any ordinance should be simply written, reasonably enforceable, and not a budget buster. Keep in mind the job of the county government is to provide services not to manufacture laws.

Tony Tucker: I am not in support of the current county cannabis cultivation ordinances, and I do not think that the ordinances should be any stricter than the state regulations. I would like to see ordinances that actually reflect the reality of the cannabis industry and that are inclusive of small "mom and pop" cultivators. Cannabis ordinances should not negatively impact legitimate cultivators who want to get out of the black-market marijuana business. It is important to remember that most of the small cultivators are working

people – contributors to the community and patrons of local businesses.

Susi Barsotti: Commenting on the cannabis ordinance "as written" is tricky, as revisions and changes are happening so frequently. Generally, both state and county regulatory framework seems overwritten and overarching. I absolutely support regulations that protect resources, worker's rights, and fair business practices. However, the current model is lopsided to me – where is the promotional aspect? I don't think the regulating agencies did the research to show what the actual cannabis market looked like at the time they began crafting policy. There seems to be no cogent business plan overall. I would go so far as to suggest the county get out of the cannabis regulation business altogether.

Recently, Brooktrails Deputy Fire Chief Jon Moyer said at a forum that Brooktrails does not have a functional emergency evacuation plan. As supervisor, how will you work to rectify this? Do you support the Brooktrails Board of Directors' Boulevard District approach to securing a second access for Brooktrails?

Michael Horger: Brooktrails has an emergency plan in place. This plan needs to be updated and the emergency exits need to be maintained. With fire behavior, the seven emergency exits need to remain usable. We also need better communications for the use of the plan. Using reverse 911 and local radio stations to lead people to safety. We need a plan in place for people to evacuate to (rodeo grounds, high school, etc.) with a list of items needed for each location. I am against any type of plan to have landowners pay for more expenses that should be funded by the taxes already being collected.

Shawna Jeavons: Brooktrails residents are coming forward with good solutions. I would like to see an annual emergency drill, when roads are cleared, gates opened and everyone can drive, walk or bike multiple evacuation routes. The boulevard district is a great idea, though now county lawyers are advising that the process could take years, and they would like to look into quicker ways to gain access routes.

Cyndee Logan: Brooktrails is in the process of working on a plan. The dirt road part of Sherwood Road needs to be repaired to allow emergency personnel to guide people out in an evacuation. I support the boulevard district, which allows for spreading the cost of a very expensive solution to a very real problem. Homes in areas with just one way in or out are a reality here; we knew this when we moved here. The responsibility for "fixing" is also a county problem for allowing a vacation home subdivision to become a fulltime home to 5,000 people, many whom are children.

John Pinches: Brooktrails has numerous emergency exits; all have locked gates except the northerly exit on Sherwood Road, which needs major repairs. As supervisor it is vital to work with landowners, residents, emergency services and the Department of Transportation. We must make exits passable, post emergency exit routes, and have monthly safety checks. Widening of the first three miles from Highway 101 up Sherwood Road and making more turnouts for passing would greatly improve the flow of traffic. The Brooktrails board has talked about a boulevard district which is similar to a benefit assessment, which means Brooktrails landowners could pay the full cost. I support this financing plan only if other funding sources are not attainable.

Tony Tucker: I think that a functional emergency evacuation plan for Brooktrails is a priority for the residents of Brooktrails as well as for the county. I have talked to many people on both sides of the issue; some say it is not a county responsibility, but I feel that it is the county's responsibility to rectify the issue to some degree by upgrading existing egress plans, and/or utilizing plans for a paved bike/walking trail wide enough to accommodate emergency evacuation. This is an issue that I am currently educating myself on and I anticipate having more in-depth opinions at a later date.

Read the rest of **Q&A** | Over on Page 6

Willits Weekly

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Above, from left: Jeff Apodaca referees the match between Jose and Jacob (winners of the Best Round Award). Veterans present the colors.

From far left: Dylan and Nick trade punches, Diego and Jose fight as the crowd looks on. Jemma holds her own against Waylan.

Below: Luis Ramos is cheered on by his family.

At bottom: Matthew and Adam spar in the first match under the watchful eye of Coach Jeff Apodaca.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Fighting to Succeed

Young boxers display their training at 4th Annual Mike Tobin Invitational

Although it seems counterintuitive, fighting can be constructive, beneficial and social. Boxing requires instinct, training and determination. These skills were shown by the participants in the 4th Annual Mike Tobin Invitational boxing match as they weaved and parried and tried to score points by breaching their opponents' defenses. They attempted to master the sweet science of avoiding being hit while seeking their adversaries' weak spots. These were kids for the most part (5 to 18), with a demonstration at the end involving a young man sparring with his mentor, amidst catcalls and thunderous cheers.

There was an excess of energy in the Willits Community Center main room, which was filled to the brim with families, friends and fighters. Their verbal encouragement shook the building, echoing approval when their fighter landed a punch or deflected an attack. They even cheered for both participants, for what they really wanted to see was a good, well-fought bout with both fighters acquiring themselves bravely. The crowd loved it when the opponents stood toe-to-toe or danced around each other looking for a way in, trading punches and occasionally landing some blows that sounded powerful.

Above all, there was sportsmanship and respect for one's opponent. They could be friends outside the ring, but once the bell sounded, it was all business. For three one-minute rounds, they concentrated on the job at hand. After the final bell, they could be friends again, appreciating the art and athleticism of their opponent.

A couple of the more entertaining matches involved the

girls. In the fourth match, two lovely and muscular females, Brisa and Suzanne traded blows for three minutes. They were as determined as the boys and just as brave. After the first couple seconds, their gender was not an issue or even a consideration, as the crowd cheered them on wildly.

The third match pitted Jemma against Waylan. Jemma Apodaca is a sweet and seemingly typical 9-year-old. That is, until she gets in the ring. She was brought up in boxing, as her father, Jeff Apodaca, is the boxing coach and mentor for the Sheriff's Activity League. She is fierce and fearless in the ring. In the days of the #MeToo movement, it is refreshing and encouraging to see that young females have the ability to defend themselves in any situation.

Some of the kids were in boxing for the sheer joy of competition and the conditioning required to compete. Others like Dylan Miles, a stocky, muscular 18-year-old mixed martial art fighter, expressed a desire to continue on and to possibly turn pro.

The Mike Tobin Invitational boxing match was created by Coach Jeff Apodaca, a Junior Olympic and Golden Glove boxer, in honor of his friend, Mike Tobin, who had cancer. The idea was to raise money to help Tobin during trying times. However, Tobin refused the money and instead donated it to the Sheriff's Activity League which he co-founded with his friend and former county sheriff, Jim Tuso, in 1996.

Tobin beat the cancer and now, after his supposed

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



Below, from left: Jaxon (Jeff Apodaca's oldest son) spars with Christian.

Luis displays his fighting stance.



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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku



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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!

Level: Advanced

TEAM SPORTS WORD SEARCH

E G N O N P L B T S F A Q U A R T E R S
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BASES	FRANCHISE	PITCH	SPORTS
BASKETBALL	FUMBLE	PLAYERS	STADIUM
CATCH	GOLF	PRACTICE	STRIKE
CELEBRATE	GRASS	QUARTER	TEAM
CLOCK	GREEN	REFEREE	TENNIS
COURT	INNING	ROSTER	TRACK
FANS	LINEUP	RUGBY	WIN

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53				54			55				56		
57			58		59				60	61	62		
	63	64							65				
		66							67				

CLUES ACROSS

- Maintained possession of
- Drospy
- Type of music
- One who is deliberately cruel
- 411
- Rhode Island
- Follows sigma
- Baked dessert
- Craftsman
- Austrian river
- Distributed
- Close
- Midway between east and southeast
- Thunderstorm code
- Where wrestlers work
- Away from (prefix)
- Canadian law enforcers
- Shade
- Sir Samuel __, Brit. statesman
- Della __, singer
- Existing in fact
- Tennis matches have at least two
- Reunifying Chinese dynasty
- Not just 'play'

CLUES DOWN

- Kilogram force (abbr.)
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Score
- A way to modify
- Respect
- Midwife
- Region near the Dead Sea
- __ Gerais: gold-rich state of Brazil
- Equally
- Monetary units
- The mentioning of things

one by one

- Traveling entertainers
- Small island
- A way to sing
- __-bo: form of exercise
- 'The Bard'
- The best player
- Male parent
- Harm the reputation of
- Allow for the tare of
- Grand __: wine classification
- __ Francisco, California
- Touch gently
- Lithuanian given name
- Matched
- Stomach
- Mother of all gods in Scots' Celtic mythology
- Partner to cheese
- Fit of irritation
- Visit
- Suffragist Wells
- Swearing to the truth of a statement
- Old Red Sandstone
- Sacred Hindu syllable

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

April 9 to April 15

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 168 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

April 9

2:00 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:12 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.

2:48 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

2:50 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

4:42 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation near the intersection of East Hill Road and Haehl Creek Drive.

4:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

9:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 21000 block of Poplar Avenue.

10:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

April 10

2:23 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Blosser Lane.

9:15 am: Officers responded to a report of sexual assault in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

11:15 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

10:21 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

April 11

9:51 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

9:56 am: Officers responded to a report of rape in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

11:40 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Mill Street.

1:18 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 21000 block of Meadowbrook Drive.

1:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

2:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

2:50 pm: KIMBERLIN, Michael Landen (54) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication)

and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

6:31 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

April 12

1:59 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of South Main Street.

3:40 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 200 block of North Main Street.

4:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of East Commercial Street and North Lenore Avenue.

5:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

7:31 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

April 13

7:08 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

10:29 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

12:20 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation near the intersection of Primrose Drive and Sherwood Road.

1:17 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road.

1:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

8:26 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

10:21 pm: GUSTIN, Richard Lee (49) of Penn Valley was contacted near the intersection of Hazel Street and Locust Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol content over 0.08 percent.

April 14

2:48 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 500 block of South Main Street.

3:34 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

3:50 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

8:04 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Bush Street and issued a warning.

8:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:18 pm: PANIAGUAHERNANDEZ, Rene (25) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Holly Street and Locust Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

11:56 pm: Officers responded to a report

Read the rest of WPD | Over on Page 11

LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE CALLS

April 10 to April 17

by LLFD Training Chief Eric Alvarez

04-10-18 (Mill Street)

Medical: Little Lake Fire responded to a medical assist. Fire personnel and ambulance staff assisted the patient from the ambulance back into the residence. 8 firefighters responded for service.

04-10-18 (Leggett)

Water Search: Little Lake Fire responded to Leggett and assisted with a multiagency search of the Eel River for a reported missing family of four. Little Lake Fire provided personnel and equipment from April 10 through April 16.

04-15-18 (Highway 20, mile marker 20)

Traffic accident: Little Lake Fire responded to a reported traffic accident. Little Lake Fire was canceled while in route. 11 firefighters responded for service.

04-17-18 (Locust Street)

Medical assist: Little Lake Fire assisted the medic unit at scene transport a patient from the upstairs apartment to the ambulance. 9 firefighters responded for service.

04-17-18 (Highway 20 mile marker 25)

Traffic accident: Little Lake Fire responded to a reported traffic accident. Fire assisted the current medic unit at scene with patient care as well as loading the patient into the ambulance for transport. One firefighter assisted the ambulance crew during transport; other fire personnel provided traffic control and general clean-up. 15 firefighters responded for service.



Above: Tennis team members including, from left: Angel Jacinto, Daisy Barrett, Karen Hernandez, Gisele Nieto, Mercy Villegas, Aleen Hernandez, and Manuel Banuelos.

Amazing Athletes Willits High School Tennis Team

Willits High School Tennis Coach Tim Conrad decided to nominate all seven of his tennis players this week, after the team won their first overall match against Point Arena last week. "Everyone played great," Coach Conrad said. "It's hard to single out only two players. The whole team almost won in straight sets. It was great getting the first win out of the way. Now we can relax and really play some good tennis. The kids had a lot of fun."

WHS Tennis team players won as follows:

- Daisy Barrett won in 1st singles 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 (1st win)
- Angel Jacinto won in 2nd singles 6-2, 6-0 (1st win)
- Karen Hernandez won in 3rd singles 6-0, 6-0 (1st win)
- Gisele Nieto and Manuel Banuelos won in 1st doubles 6-2, 6-0 (2nd win)
- Aleen Hernandez and Mercy Villegas won 2nd doubles 7-5 (1st win)



Happy Birthday Danya Davis

Happy birthday to the one and only Danya Davis who celebrated her birthday on April 18! You're a fantastic, caring and unwaveringly dependable friend who will jump at the chance for renegade adventures, give intramuscular shots, get on gloves, and be down to help with no questions asked - and all in all, sticks with you through the thick and the thin. So glad to have you as a part of our lives! #farmfriendstheend #yestheporchlighttoo #doubledonthebeat

- Maureen & Roxie



JOIN HOWARD MEMORIAL'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY ART CONTEST

What does Adventist Health Howard Memorial mean to you?

Join us in celebrating our legacy of almost a century of caring for our community while also helping us create a healing and pleasant environment for our patients and staff. Show us your best and most creative art and tell us what the hospital means to you and our community. Winners in each category will receive \$500 for their classroom and prizes for themselves.

The contest is open to all students and schools in Willits. **BRAINSTORM:** Love, compassion, support, helping, healing, caring — these are all common themes around the hospital. So show us thru your art, what does the hospital mean to you?

DRAW, PAINT, CREATE: Use 8.5 by 11 or bigger; on paper or canvas to create your masterpiece. Be sure your artwork is flat/2-D, so it can be easily framed or displayed. Please include your entry form with your artwork. Students may submit

original artwork in various forms including acrylic, oil, pastel, pencil or mixed media.

SUBMIT: Complete the entry form and ask an adult to help you submit your artwork to the hospital's front desk. Or mail to:

Adventist Health Howard Memorial
1 Marcela Drive, Willits CA 95490
Attn: Cici Winiger, Communications

Entries must be postmarked or hand delivered to the hospital by May 1st.

Win prizes for your school and class!

There are four categories and four ways for schools and students to win. Three winners will be chosen from each category.

- Group 1: Grades K-2 \$500 for their class and \$100 gift card for the student
- Group 2: Grades 3-6 \$500 for their class and \$100 gift card for the student
- Group 3: Grades 6-8 \$500 for their class and \$100 gift card for the student
- Group 4: High School \$500 for their class and \$200 gift card for the student

Join us for the Art Show in the hospital on May 15th at 7:00 a.m. where we will announce the winners!



Susi Barsotti: I do support the Brooktrails board's idea to create a boulevard district in order to raise seed money for the project. It is that kind of political will that can help move the project forward in partnership with the county and state. As supervisor, a top priority would be to explore any avenue to make the second access a reality in a timely fashion.

John Haschak: Every member of the Brooktrails Township board has endorsed my candidacy because of my commitment to working on the second access route out of Brooktrails. It has been a central part of my candidacy for supervisor. Our next supervisor has to be a tenacious supporter of this project. We haven't had that in the past. I applaud the Brooktrails board for looking at all options to get the process on track again. Together we can make it happen.

Do you support the county administration's plan to join the administrative functions of the library system, the county museum and the parks? Why or why not?

Shawna Jeavons: No. Thanks to an amazing public effort our libraries are fully funded and thriving. The proposed CSA would harm the library and do nothing to help the county museum or parks, which are already neglected. Full funding and promotion of the museum is an essential piece of effective economic development. Ditto for our parks, which are maintained on a current budget of \$18,000, just enough to empty garbage. Do we even know where our seven county parks are? I had to look them up and found there are none in the Third or Fourth Districts. I would very much like to change that.

Cyndee Logan: Typically a move such as this would come to a board with well-thought-out reasons and how it would be implemented to best serve the community, not as a reaction to a budget item. I have not seen any plans on how this would be implemented. I have however, experienced the county charging our Willits Library unfairly in the past, and would want to make sure this did not happen in the future. Combining the three functions will only work with solid planning, of which I see no evidence.

John Pinches: No. Our libraries are a special district, and funding cannot be used for other operations. I was a strong supporter of the sales tax measure that put our libraries on sound financial ground for many years. I will oppose any effort to degrade our library system or any attempt to take anything away from our county museum. Our library with its own funding, the museum with very little general fund funding, and the parks with their minimal funding is not the financial problem. With proper budgeting there will be no need to stop the progress of our libraries, museum and parks. If I am elected I will do my best to build up this county, not tear it down!

Tony Tucker: I do not support the county administration's

plan to create another county agency. I fear that there will be a co-mingling of funds that will negatively impact the library, museum and parks. I think that we need to review how funding for the museum and parks is budgeted and how we can improve funding and management of these services.

Susi Barsotti: I do not support the merging of the library, parks and museum. Funding recently granted to the library by the voters needs to stay in the library. Library staff who have been filling in at the museum since the loss of its director should be back at the library full-time, and the county should hire new management for the museum.

John Haschak: While I support the concept of consolidating administrative tasks, this plan is flawed. We voted to fund the libraries with Measure A. This was the right thing to do and our communities benefit from quality libraries. When the Library Advisory Board says that there are many serious concerns that would adversely affect the libraries, we need to listen. In talking with members of the Museum Advisory Board, similar concerns are expressed. We need to protect our libraries and museum from what could be detrimental decisions when the "efficiencies" haven't even been evaluated. The library and museum deserve full-time directors to achieve maximum potential for each department.

Michael Horgor: Finding ways to save money is always at the forefront of administrations, but trying to combine three different entities could cause one or all three to suffer. To expect one person to be able to put talents into three different areas is too much to expect, and all three could suffer. We need to work with tourism in city and counties to find reasons for people to come to the areas of the county and enjoy what we have to offer.

The lack of available housing is a major problem in this county right now. As supervisor, how would you work to address this problem?

Cyndee Logan: We have solutions available to us for increasing our housing stock. We have mandates in the General Plan to address housing, including area specific plans, which have associated action items. We need a board that will ensure the staff is following the county policies. When over 53 percent of our population is paying over what's affordable, it hurts all of us in lost sales tax and full participation in our community. The county tax relief for fire and property tax loss ends, and no homes built, anywhere means no taxes on houses, means less revenue for roads and programs.

John Pinches: In earlier interviews I have already proposed building three mobile home parks in this county. Mobile homes vary in price and meet affordability requirements for many families. We have a number of no-build-anything policies in this county. If I am elected I will bring these policies before the board and try to adapt these policies

to encourage folks to add second and third units to their properties. The industry housing ordinance needs to be changed or eliminated. With the support of my fellow supervisors, I feel we can make good progress.

Tony Tucker: I would work to explore the feasibility of acquiring campgrounds and trailer parks that are in tax arrears or abandoned. Many of these properties have sewage and electricity infrastructure already in place. The county could work to establish tiny home communities as temporary and permanent housing for families, veterans, and people with disabilities. The Round Valley Unified School District is currently developing land for rentals with a priority for housing teachers.

Susi Barsotti: The county needs to implement the state mandate for developing ADUs, or accessory dwelling units. These structures, also known as "granny units," are typically around 1,000 to 1,500 square feet, and serve multiple purposes with less restrictions to building. They provide co-housing for extended families, rental income to homeowners, and places for elders to age in place near their families. I'm also a proponent of co-housing solutions, and would support policy that would further this idea. I'm also keen to seek out and support innovative and alternative building models.

John Haschak: We need to encourage affordable and diverse housing through planning, zoning, and investment. When new teachers come to me saying that they never would have moved to Willits (or Mendocino County) had they known how hard it is to find affordable and appropriate housing, we need to do something about it. This is an issue affecting everyone. In this time of critical housing shortage, let's look at what is holding up the construction of all types of housing. We also need to preserve Class K housing, which promotes creative and innovative housing solutions.

Michael Horgor: Affordable housing is a concern in most all areas. The cost of building has gotten out of hand. With new laws, fees and taxes, I am not sure who could afford to build a house. With the costs being passed down at every level, this pattern seems to be escalating. We need to go back and look at the building trends to see why some of the policies for building were introduced. One expense is sprinkler systems in single family dwellings. Are they needed? If a sprinkler does go off in the event of a fire, what other damage will it cause?

Shawna Jeavons: We need more housing at all levels: trailer parks, granny units, family neighborhoods for professional and working parents, and safe living spaces for our homeless, many of whom have jobs and still can't afford rent. I'd like to see more incentives for good design. Cluster housing that preserves green spaces, co-housing to facilitate shared resources, and passive solar designs to cut heating and cooling costs. Covelo needs more housing to attract teachers. Willits needs housing for staff at our wonderful new hospital.

Mendocino County Science Fair winners prepare for state competition

Submitted by the Mendocino County Office of Education

On March 10, the Mendocino County Office of Education sponsored the 32nd annual Mendocino County Science Fair, where 250 students submitted 183 projects, representing 23 local schools. The top 10 submissions advance to the California State Science Fair, scheduled for April 23 and 24 at the California Science Center, Exposition Park in Los Angeles. Organizers there expect about 900 participants from 400 schools throughout the state to compete for more than \$50,000 in awards.

Kimberly Barden, MCOE student events manager, thanked the team of dedicated educators, parents and community members who worked together to make the event possible. She said, "The Mendocino County Office of Education really appreciates the teachers, science fair coordinators and parents who support the curiosity and commitment of these students in the field of science. We also deeply appreciate the 54 judges and other volunteers who made this event go so smoothly."

Mendocino County students in grades three through 12 submitted science fair projects in several ways: as part of class projects, as teams (with two or three members), or as individuals. They entered projects in a wide variety of categories, including behavioral / health / social sciences, biological sciences, earth sciences, ecology / environmental sciences, engineering / technology (Earth / space), mathematics as it relates to physical sciences, and physical sciences.

The winners are listed below. Ten projects and five alternate projects are eligible to advance to the California State Science Fair. The Mendocino County Science Fair state judges selected the following students in grades six through 12 with Class A Projects to compete at the state level (in no particular order).

California State Science Fair qualifiers: Francisco Muniz, grade 6-8 division, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "Coiled and Ready: The Effects of Copper Coils on Steamboats"; Adrian Guo, grade 6-8 division, from Instilling Goodness Elementary Boys School, for "Electrolytes & Gatorade"; Tyler Simreson, grade 6-8 division, from St. Mary's Ukiah, for "Heavy Metal Breakfast"; and Stephany Brundage, grade 9-12 division, from Willits Charter School, for "Using the C Locus Color Alleles to Prove that Oryctolagus coniculus Ovulates Extra Eggs with a Subsequent Covering (The Rabbit Maury Show)."

John Michael Kale, grade 6-8 division, from Baechtel Grove Middle School, for "Magnet Powers"; Mariah Cox, grade 9-12 division, from Laytonville High School, for "A plentiful and Inexpensive fertilizer Alternative: Human Urine"; Jessica Cronin, grade 9-12 division, from Willits Charter School, for "The Effectiveness of a Homemade vs. Professionally Used Density Gradients"; Audrey Sherf, grade 6-8 division, from Willits Charter School, for "Save Our Soil"; Cole Fowler and Carson Galletti, grade 6-8 division, from St. Mary's Ukiah, for "Up in Flames"; and Kessler Dyche, grade 6-8 division, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "Are Perpetual Motion Machines Possible?"

California State Science Fair alternates: Jack Buckingham and Jadyrn Arnold, grade 6-8 division, from Baechtel Grove Middle School, for "The Amazing Adventures of the Hovercraft"; Madeline Armstrong, grade 6-8 division, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "From Garbage to Gorgeous"; Alana Richert, Kellie Crisman and Chantel Alarcon, grade 6-8 division, from Anderson Valley Elementary School, for "Testing 1, 2, 3"; Willow Daun-Widner, grade 6-8 division, from Willits Charter School, for "Sugar on the Brain"; and Ingrid Mendoza and Vanessa Mercado, grade 6-8 division, from Baechtel Grove Middle School, for "Detecting Bacteria."

Logo contest winners: Hailey Dausman, grade 3-5 division, from Calpella Elementary School; Ashlynn Johnson, grade 6-8 division, from Three Rivers Charter School.

Elementary division - Class A Projects: Earth Science, grade 3-4: Gold - Allie Grace Southwick and



California State Science Fair qualifiers and alternates smile for the camera. From left, top: Francisco Muniz, Jessica Cronin, Mariah Cox, Stephany Brundage, John Michael Kale and Willow Daun-Widner. Middle: Alana Richert, Madeline Armstrong, Ingrid Mendoza and Vanessa Mercado. Bottom: Adrian Guo, Kessler Dyche, Cole Fowler, Carson Galletti, Tyler Simreson and Audrey Sherf. Not pictured: Jack Buckingham, Jadyrn Arnold, Kellie Crisman and Chantel Alarcon.

Sofia Vaccaro, from Sherwood School, for "The Project That Glows"; silver - Izabella Sims, from Willits Elementary Charter School, for "Water Cycle"; and bronze - Mason Stornetta, from Manchester Union Elementary School, for "Comparing Soils."

Life Science, grade 3-4: Gold - Rudra Knoles, from Instilling Goodness Elementary Boys School, for "Caffeine vs. Plant Growth"; Abigail Sherf, from Willits Elementary Charter School, for "Light Lovin' Leaves"; and bronze - Caitlin Richert, Alan Mendoza and Samuel, from Anderson Valley Elementary School, for "Mummification Science."

Physical Science, grade 3-4: Gold - Matthew Posey, from Willits Elementary Charter School, for "Got Milk?"; silver - Nadia Jacobs, from Blosser Lane Elementary School, for "Pollution Solution"; and bronze - Nova Knodle, from Willits Elementary Charter School, for "Fire vs. Ice."

Earth Science, grade 5: Gold - Kendahl Potter, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "pHat Water"; silver - Kaylie Reeser, from Instilling Goodness Elementary Girls School, for "Wave Energy Generator"; and bronze - Alexander Miya, from Sherwood School, for "Floating Water."

Life Science, grade 5: Gold - Jade L'Heureux, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "Squirmy Wormy"; silver - Tristan Lawder, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "Rare Wonders, Can We Keep Them Alive?"; and bronze - Caleb Whitehurst, from Willits Elementary Charter School, for "A Goat's Favorite Color."

Physical Science, grade 5: Gold - Paige Allenbaugh and Vivian Cannon, from Oak Manor Elementary School, for "Energy From Colors"; silver - Melia Mendoza, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "Building Up The Fizz"; and bronze - Spencer Wood, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "Testing Particulate Filter."

Junior divisions - Class A Projects: Earth Science, grade 6-8: Gold - Cole Fowler and Carson Galletti, from Willits Charter School, for "Save Our Soil"; silver - Alana Richert, Kellie Crisman and Chantel Alarcon, from Anderson Valley Elementary School, for "Testing 1, 2, 3"; and bronze - Katherine Wood, from Willits Charter School, for "Tidepool Timer."

Life Science A, grade 6-8: Gold - Audrey Sherf, from St. Mary of the Angels Catholic School, for "Bristly Clean Bristles"; silver - John Michael Kale, from Baechtel

Grove Middle School, for "Magnet Powers"; and bronze - Madeline Armstrong, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "From Garbage to Gorgeous."

Life Science B, grade 6-8: Gold - Ingrid Mendoza and Vanessa Mercado, from Baechtel Grove Middle School, for "Detecting Bacteria"; silver - Tyler Simreson, from St. Mary's Ukiah, for "Heavy Metal Breakfast"; and bronze - Willow Daun-Widner, from Willits Charter School, for "Sugar on the Brain."

Physical Science, grade 6-8: Gold - Francisco Muniz, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "Coiled and Ready: The Effects of Copper Coils on Steamboats"; silver - Adrian Guo, from Instilling Goodness Elementary Boys School, for "Electrolytes & Gatorade"; and bronze - Daniel Castro, from Manchester Union Elementary School, for "Cars & Energy."

Senior divisions, Class A Projects: Earth Science, grade 9-12: Gold - Mariah Cox, from Laytonville High School, for "A plentiful and Inexpensive fertilizer Alternative: Human Urine."

Life Science A, grade 9-12: Gold - Stephany Brundage, from Willits Charter School, for "Using the C Locus Color Alleles to Prove that Oryctolagus coniculus Ovulates Extra Eggs with a Subsequent Covering (The Rabbit Maury Show)"; and silver - Heaven Siderakis and Josh Redding, from Willits Charter School, for "Myth-Busters: The 5 Second Rule."

Life Science B, grade 9-12: Gold - Elaine Wu, from Developing Virtue Secondary School (Girls Division), for "Methods of Memorization"; and silver - Emily Barbita and Lauren Van Pelt, from Willits Charter School, for "Stereotypes."

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

Meet the Candidates for 3rd District Supervisor



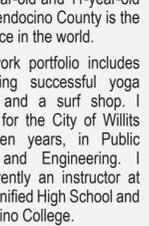
Susi Barsotti
No bio submitted.



Mike Horgor
No bio submitted.



John Pinches
My grandchildren are sixth-generation Mendocino County residents, so my heart and interests are totally invested in the county's future. If my family and I didn't have a positive vision of Mendocino County's future, we would have left 100 years ago.



Shawna Jeavons
I grew up in Willits. I've lived here since 1982, except when I attended Humboldt State and UC Berkeley. The people I grew up with are now parents in their 40s. They are nurses and pharmacists, police officers, teachers and administrators, firemen, builders, business owners, farmers and artists. My 9-year-old and 11-year-old think Mendocino County is the best place in the world.



John Haschak
John Haschak was raised in Willits. Haschak and his wife, Janice, both teachers, raised their two kids in Willits. Haschak has taught for 28 years in the Willits schools. As president of the Willits Teachers Association, he has been an advocate for public education and the children and families of Willits.



Cyndee Logan
No bio or photo submitted.

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BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TK-Kindergarten Registration

Date: April 26 & 27, 2018
Time: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Location: Brookside Library

Our Kindergarten program is for children 5 years old by **September 1, 2018**. Our 2 Year Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Program is for children turning 5 between **September 2 and December 2, 2018**. Our TK Program is half-day; beginning at 8:25 am, ending at 11:35 am, with the option of staying for lunch ending at 11:50 am.

If you have any questions please call the Brookside office at (707) 459-5385 or visit our Website at brks.willitsunified.com

To pre-register please login to the following link: <https://abi.willitsunified.net/enrollment>

THE SUPER RACE IS ON!!!
for
Mendocino County 3rd District Supervisor
who will YOU support?

Local organizations are sponsoring
3rd DISTRICT CANDIDATES FORUMS

#1 **WILLITS, Thursday, April 19th, 6:30pm**
Willits Community Center
Sponsored by Willits Economic Localization & Willits Environmental Center

#2 **LAYTONVILLE, Saturday, April 28th, 2:00pm**
Harwood Hall
Sponsored by Mendocino Wildlife Association, Willits Environmental Center, Mendocino County Observer, KPFM Radio and Others

Get to know the candidates. Bring your questions.
Refreshments and a chance to meet and greet your community will "kick off" each forum.

3rd DISTRICT CANDIDATE FORUM
SUNDAY • MAY 6th, 2018 • 2 - 5 PM
LITTLE LAKE GRANGE, 291 School Street, Willits

Your Voice **Your Vote**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 972-7070

SPONSORED BY:
Little Lake Grange #670
Mendocino Women's Political Coalition - WWPCC
American Association of University Women - AAUW Willits Branch

2 - 3 PM ASSESSOR CLERK RECORDER: 1 Seat
Dik Larson, Katrina Bartolomeo, Jeannette Kroppmann

2 - 3 PM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: 1 Seat
Bryan Barrett, Michelle Hutchins

3 - 5 PM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: 1 Seat
Susi Barsotti, Michael Horgor, Pamela Elizondo, John Pinches, Cyndee Logan, Tony Tucker, Shawna Jeavons, John Haschak

Written questions from the audience

LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER
45 Hazel Street, Willits
(707) 456-9600
littlelakehealthcenter.org
Se habla español

Baseball fever is incurable. For everything else, see us.
No matter what your sport is, our goal is to make sure you enjoy it in good health.

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MEHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Thursday, April 19

The Cannabis Hour: Host Jane Futcher's guests, Pomona College Professor of Environmental Analysis Char Miller, editor of "Where There's Smoke," and contributor and cannabis policy expert Amanda Reiman, will discuss "The Environmental Science, Public Policy, and Politics of Marijuana," Thursday, April 19, 9 am, on KZYX Radio, 91.5-FM. Stream the show live at kzyx.org or listen to an archived version at jukebox.kzyx.org.

Willits Forum for Third District Supervisor Candidates: This Willits forum, Thursday, April 19 at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial at 6:30 pm, is co-sponsored by Willits Economic Localization and the Willits Environmental Center. Questions will be taken from the audience. "Topics can cover any issue with which the supervisors will be dealing. Starts with refreshments and socializing. Candidates are: Susan Barsotti, Pamela Elizondo, John Haschak, Michael Horger, Shawna Jeavons, Cyndee Logan, John Pinches, and Tony Tucker.

Shanachie Pub: Evan Lanam & The Wild Oaks, "a rowdy folk rock and roll outfit from the San Francisco Bay Area." with Tommy Alexander and Long Gone John, Thursday, April 19, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street behind Adams Restaurant. Donations accepted.

Hot Topics in Diabetes: ongoing educational series from Adventist Health, every third Thursday, from 6:30 to 7 pm at the Seabiscuit Conference Room, Howard Memorial. This month's presentation, Thursday, April 19, features guest speaker Matthew D'Anis, Adventist Health Howard Memorial pharmacy director, on the topic of "Diabetes Medications – What You Need to Know." Everyone is welcome, free, no referral required, and refreshments are served.

Friday, April 20

Willits Library closed: All Mendocino County libraries branches are closed on April 20 for Staff Training Day.

Mendocino Cannabis Resource 2018 Conference and 420 Celebration: Friday, April 20. Doors open at 9 am. At the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Information, Music, Food, Community, Sharing. Morning Session: Environmental, Mendocino County and State Regulations with emcee Kerry Reynolds. Afternoon: Cannabusiness Development and Marketing. Evening: Dinner and dance with DJ Green B. Tickets available at HeadChange, 215 South Main Street or online at MendocinoCannabisResource.com. 707-223-4367 for more information, to sponsor, or exhibit. Must be 21 years or older.

HazMobile in Willits: The HazMobile household hazardous waste collection team will be at the Willits Corporation Yard, 380 East Commercial Street, on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, from 9 am

to 1 pm. HazMobile accepts toxic materials like paint, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, gasoline, solvents, acids, bases, toxic cleaners, auto and household batteries, mercury and fluorescent light tubes, that can't go in the trash, for recycling or special disposal. Not accepted: explosives, ammunition, radioactive wastes, medical waste and compressed gas cylinders larger than 5 gallons. Free to households; 15 gallon limit/per day. Larger amounts from households as well as small business waste is also welcome at the collection, but an appointment must be made and a fee will be applied per gallon of waste. When bringing materials to the HazMobile, the public should be careful that items are kept in their original containers (except motor oil which can be consolidated), that nothing is leaking, and that all containers are tied down. Info and schedule, call the Recycling Hotline, 468-9704, or visit mendoRecycle.org.



by Miss Rossi. "Take home a beautiful creation of your own." \$25 for a small canvas, \$35 for a 16x20 two-person canvas pour. Ticket includes 2x paint pouring: 1-trial, 1-12x12" or 16x20" canvast! Juice spritzer, aprons and gloves provided; please bring your own box to take your paintings home. Reserve space at 707-354-8100.

"The Last of the Red Hot Lovers": Opening night Friday, April 20, at 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre for Neil Simon's award-winning Broadway comedy hit, which runs through May 6. Directed by WCT veteran Don Samson, the play features two popular and talented local actors, Kelly Kesey and Rod Grainger, who in real life are happily married. Thursdays at 7 pm for \$15, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$20, and some Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$15. Advance tickets for all other shows are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 247/1-800-838-3006. For students with an ID, \$5 discount tickets will be available at the door, subject to seat availability; not recommended for under 13. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Shanachie Pub: Congo Sanchez. Friday, April 20, 8 pm. "He continues to explore the downtempo, reggae mezcza, with an obvious hip-hop overtone." No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street (behind Adams Restaurant).

Saturday, April 21

Sparetime Garden Center Anniversary Sale/Vendor Day: 35th anniversary event. Saturday, April 21, 9 am to

What's Happening Around Town



7 pm. Meet the vendors 9 am to 4 pm. Over 25 vendors expected to attend. Sparetime Supply, 208 East San Francisco Avenue.

Hazmobile in Willits: The HazMobile household hazardous waste collection team will be at the Willits Corporation Yard, 380 East Commercial Street, on Saturday, April 21, from 9 am to 1 pm. See April 20 listing for details.

Earth Day Celebration: Saturday, April 21, 10 am to 5 pm, at Mariposa Market, 500 South Main Street. Features environmental education, live music, eco-basket raffles, fresh organic produce, delicious bites from the deli, planting workshops, face painting and kids activities. 495-9630 for more information. Bring used alkaline batteries and lightbulbs for recycling.

Last Day for Flag Retirement Drop-off: The American Legion Post 174 will conduct its annual flag retirement ceremony on April 23 (not open to the public). If you have a flag(s) that is no longer serviceable (tattered, torn or faded) and need to be disposed of, a representative will be available to receive your flag for the ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Building, 190 North Main Street on Friday, April 20.

Registration for the Children's Theatre Summer Camp: Will be held for one day only – Saturday, April 21 from 1 to 5:30 pm at the WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub). According to Camp Director Mana Yung, space will be available for 20 students ages 8 to 17. The camp runs from July 9 to August 19, with classes meeting Mondays through Thursdays from 2 to 5 pm. The cost is \$200 for the five-week camp, which includes a culminating five-show performance of Norton Juster's "The Phantom Toll Booth," performed and co-produced by the students.

WHS Booster Club Dinner & Quarter Auction: Saturday, April 21 at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Dinner at 6 pm. The auction starts at 7 pm. \$20 dinner and paddle, \$5 paddle only. No host bar. Tickets may be purchased at the event, or by emailing whsbooster123@yahoo.com or calling 707-272-6262.

"The Last of the Red Hot Lovers": Neil Simon's award-winning Broadway comedy hit, directed by Don Samson. Saturday, April 21, at 8 pm, at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, April 20 listing for more details.

Shanachie Pub: Fat Chance Truckin' Band. Saturday, April 21, 9 pm at Shanachie Pub. Rock, Blues and a little bit of Country tossed in. No cover. 50B South Main Street, behind Adams Restaurant.

Sunday, April 22

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: "Join your friends at the Little Lake Grange pancake breakfast, 8 to 11 am, Sunday, April 22 (and every fourth Sunday through October). \$8 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods": Choose sourdough wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or Gluten-Free, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$8; \$7 seniors, \$5 children under 10. Extra: sides of organic fruit and Amish organic maple syrup. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial Street; 1 block west of Main Street)

Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital CPR Classes: Openings still available for Sunday, April 22, for a free Heartsaver CPR/AED class, 1 to 4 pm in the Seabiscuit Conference Room, in the hospital. This typically costs \$75 but it is being provided free as a service to the community! Due to limited slots, pre-registration is required. Call 456-3165. Class includes Adult, Pediatric and Infant CPR.

Vegan Potluck: The Long Valley Garden Club and Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience (L.O.V.E.) present their first Vegan Potluck of the year from 4 to 6 pm, Sunday, April 22, at the Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road in Laytonville. Please bring a dish that contains no meat, dairy, eggs, gelatin bone broth, or honey and label if containing gluten nuts or soy. "What better way to celebrate the explosion of plant growth that Springtime joyously announces than a plant-based vegan banquet."

Tuesday, April 24

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: "A Quiet Place" and "Ready Player One." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Willits High School Varsity Baseball: Willits vs. Lower Lake: 4 pm. Willits High School Baseball Field, 299 North Main Street. (Coach Rick Yadon).

Willits High School Softball: Willits vs. Lower Lake: 4 pm. Willits High School Softball Field, 299 North Main Street. (Coach Miranda Powers).

Shanachie Pub: Samm Bones and The Pickin' Pear. Saturday, April 24, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub. Samm Bones: "Her music sings tales of ragged travel." The Pickin' Pear, Tia Martini and Leon Elam "take the banjo and ukulele down the road of folk, rock and bluegrass." No cover. 50B South Main Street behind Adams Restaurant.

Thursday, April 26

Willits High School Softball: Willits vs. Cloverdale: 4 pm. Willits High School Softball Field, 299 North Main Street. (Coach Miranda Powers).

Diabetes Management Classes: A series of 4 classes on Thursday nights from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Thursday, April 26, Annie Frassinello, RD, CDE and Henrietta Simonsen, RN, CDE will speak on "Nutrition." Everyone is welcome, free, no referral required, and refreshments are served. In the Seabiscuit Conference Room at Howard Hospital.

"The Last of the Red Hot Lovers": A special benefit performance for the Willits Senior Center of Neil Simon's award-winning Broadway comedy hit, directed by Don Samson. Thursday, April 26, at 7 pm, at Willits Community Theatre. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Special benefit tickets: \$20, available at the Senior Center, or call Pat Collins at 459-4594, or see Friday, April 20 listing for general info.

Friday, April 27

Willits High School Varsity Baseball: Willits vs. Cloverdale: 4 pm. Willits High School Baseball Field, 299 North Main Street. (Coach Rick Yadon).

Willits High School Junior Varsity Baseball: Willits vs. Cloverdale: 4 pm. Willits High School Baseball Field, 299 North Main Street. (Coach Travis Dockins).

Sober Grad Take Home Tri Tip Dinner: Friday, April 27. Dinner for four includes a whole marinated and BBQ'd tri tip, baked potatoes, salad, rolls, cookies and a rose donated by Flowers by Annette, \$50. Proceeds go to support the Class of 2018 Seniors Sober Grad Night. Dinners can be picked up at the Rodeo Grounds 4 to 6 pm. Pre-sale tickets only! Tickets are available at Willits High School, through members of the WHS Senior Class, and Cat's Meow, 29 South Main Street, or call Linda at 459-6201 or Karen Thiel at WHS, 459-7700, ext. 1504.

Behind the Mic Youth Poetry Night: The next bi-monthly edition of the Behind the Mic Youth Poetry Night is set for Friday, April 27, at 7 pm, at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. This free event is hosted by Tristen Cockrill. "Come share your words, the words of those who inspire you, poetry, sing a song acappella, beatbox, rap, spoken word, choose your verbal medium. We want to hear what you have to say." Speak your mind.



"The Last of the Red Hot Lovers": Neil Simon's award-winning Broadway comedy hit, directed by Don Samson. Friday, April 27, at 8 pm, at Willits Community Theatre.

Shanachie Pub: Peter Jong Chang. Friday, April 27, 9 pm at Shanachie Pub. All original fusion and instrumental rock, jazz, funk, soul and reggae. No cover. 50B South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant.

Saturday, April 28

Free Bridge Lessons: First of series starts Saturday, April 28, 10 am to noon, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room, 51 Alder Court. Lessons will continue Saturday mornings through June 23. ACBL-certified bridge teacher Donna Vaiano shares that studies have shown that bridge measurably strengthens the immune system, improves short-term memory and has even been proven to push back the symptoms of Alzheimer's. All levels are welcome. Info: Donna at 459-9035.

Sherwood Fire Planning Meeting: All Sherwood residents are invited to attend the Sherwood Communities Firewise Planning meeting, Saturday, April 28, from 9 am to 4 pm at the Brooktrails Community Center, 24860 Birch Street. "Join your neighbors working with local, county and state emergency services." Bring food to share at noon. Afternoon exhibits and groups. Emergency preparedness, communications and transportation will be discussed.

Don't Forget your Rubber Ducky: Saturday, April 28 at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, 1 to 3 pm. You can't have a bathtime (or storietime) without your rubber ducky. Come to the library and join the staff in stories, craft and songs regarding your little yellow friends. A surprise awaits all. All ages. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Ducks Unlimited Banquet: The Willits Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, a national nonprofit conservation group that preserves wetlands and waterfowl habitat across North America,

presents a banquet dinner, catered by Scoops, live auction and raffle at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, on Saturday, April 28, from 6 to 10 pm. Tickets are \$75, \$115 for couples, \$50 for "Greenwings" plus other options like the "Save an Acre" ticket for couples, \$465. Drink tickets available for cocktails, beer, and/or non-alcoholic drinks. For tickets or more info, call Jenn Drew, 707-345-1670, Andrew Hosford at 707-489-1218 or get your tickets at Yokum's Body Shop or Monkey Wrench; tickets also available at the door.

Willits On Stage 5: "A marvelous variety show with friends, neighbors and special guests" – to benefit Willits Community Services and Food Bank. Saturday, April 28 at 7 pm at the Willits High School Auditorium. Tickets \$15; children 12 and under are free with adults. Tickets available at J.D. Redhouse, Main Street Music and Mazahar, and at the door. Kids tickets at the door. Info: 459-3333 or 456-9429



"The Last of the Red Hot Lovers": Neil Simon's award-winning Broadway comedy hit, directed by Don Samson. Saturday, April 28, at 8 pm, at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, April 20 listing for more details.

Shanachie Pub: Staggerwing. Saturday April 28, 9 pm: Roots, funky and upbeat Americana. No cover. 50B South Main Street, behind Adams Restaurant.

Sunday, April 29

"The Last of the Red Hot Lovers": Neil Simon's award-winning Broadway comedy hit, directed by Don Samson. Sunday, April 29, at 2 pm, at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, April 20 listing for more details.



'Rampage'
The Story: A science fiction (more or less) big-action thriller starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. A genetically modified albino ape grows giant. A genetically modified wolf grows giant, grows porcupine quills and also grows wings. A Louisiana gator gets awfully big too, for the same reason. Then the three GMO monsters attack Chicago. Generalized destruction occurs. Very bad, but we can all agree that Chicago is an improvement over poor Tokyo which, god knows, has suffered enough. Then Dwayne Johnson flies a helicopter and saves the day.

My Thoughts: A couple nights ago, I dreamed that Tom Titchitt my pussy cat smoked some Mendocino Devil Weed and grew huge and was playing with a giant ball of yarn. He wrecked the house. It was a ridiculous dream, but kinda fun. Then yesterday I saw "Rampage," and I realized, "Omigod! Dreams really do predict the future." So yes, this flick is ridiculous. Yes, it is one more flick with monstrous creatures saving a major city. But still, I enjoyed it. The pacing was skillful, not too fast, not too slow. Dwayne Johnson is always fun to watch. He never takes himself too seriously, and we the audience always find him likable. I highly recommend this silly and unpretentious monster flick. I watched it, didn't believe any of it, and still enjoyed it immensely.



Parents: Big monsters, explosions, moments of tension and terror, and graphic violence. I enjoyed this movie, and if I were 10 years old, I would have enjoyed it even more. So, I think it is OK for older kids, teenagers, and up. Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.



The Caring Kitchen
TEEN SUMMER CREW 2018
STARTING: Join us for a summer of cooking, service, and fun in Willits! We know that teens are intelligent, responsible, creative and caring - and have the power to make a huge difference in the world!
JUNE 15 training on June 15 and 18
• 14-19 years old
• Commit 25-3 hours/week on Tue or Wed
• Shifts start at 11:30am to beat the heat
• Ukiah carpool signup available
To apply contact Teel at North Coast Opportunities tgdordon@ncoinc.org 707-467-3226

Long Valley Garden Club PRESENTS
Spring LOVE Fest VEGAN POTLUCK
Sunday, April 22nd 4:00 to 6:00 pm
375 Harwood Rd. Laytonville, CA
Please bring a dish that contains no meat, dairy, eggs, gelatin, bone broth or honey and label if containing gluten, nuts or soy
A labor of L.O.V.E. (Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience)

Support P.E.O. Local Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner at El Mexicano
Sunday, May 20th, 2018
Serving from 3-7pm
Menu: Choice of 2 Tacos or Enchiladas with rice, beans, & fountain drink.
Advance tickets available at J.D. Redhouse Walk-ins welcome day of event
Dinners to go available! Call El Mex at 459-5702
Dinner Tickets \$15
Special Thanks to El Mexicano & Staff for donating their time and labor for our fundraiser!

Senior Center Lunch
Week of April 23 through April 27
Monday: Spinach Lasagna
Tuesday: Chicken Tenders
Wednesday: Pork Stew with Dumplings
Thursday: Country Fried Chicken
Friday: Turkey Birthday Dinner
Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. \$6.50 for those 55 and older, \$8 for those under 55. Includes soup, salad, entree, vegetable, dessert, and drink. Salad Bar available all year. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Navigating the Challenges of Aging
Tuesday, May 1, 5:30-6:30 PM
Carlin Diamond & "Perks of Aging" Group Members
Carlin Diamond, along with "Perks of Aging" group members in the audience, will share insights gathered over seven years, including in-depth explorations of: • "Eyes" - end-of-life preparations - care giving for elderly parents and friends - finances, and - networks for help in one's community.
Carlin Diamond has degrees in music, psychology and education. She taught in public and private schools in three states for 20 years and created personal growth workshops and retreats for an additional 20 years. For 8 years Carlin taught elders in retirement living groups and yoga, and she currently practices as a private counselor.
Call 456-9676 for more information. Email: carlin@carlindiamond.com Visit: ovenslowellness.org for more speaker topics.
WILLITS Center for the Arts 71 E Commercial St. FREE to the public. Donations appreciated. Wheelchair accessible.

Mendocino Cannabis Conference
April 20
Mendocino Cannabis Resource 2018 Conference and 420 Celebration. Friday, April 20. Doors open at 9 am. At the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Information, Music, Food, Community, Sharing. Morning Session: Cannabis Regulations Panels; Environmental Regulations - Chantal Simonpietri, Harvest Logic; Mendocino County Regulations - Kelly Overton, Mendocino Cannabis Program manager, Hannah Nelson, Casey O'Neill, Mendocino County Growers Alliance, and Genine Coleman, Mendocino Appellations Project; State Regulations - E.D Lerman, Esq., Monique Ramirez, Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group, and Casey O'Neill, California Growers Association.
Afternoon Session: Cannabusiness Development Panels; Overview of License Types: Sourcing to Sales - Omar Figueroa, Esq. and Lauren Mendelsohn, Esq.; Cannabusiness Models - Nurse: Ron Edwards, CKA Nursery, Distribution: Amanda Reiman, Flow Kana; Manufacturing: Tim Blake, Emerald Cup Products; Testing: Emily Richardson, CW Analytical; Direct Marketing and Farmers Markets: Karen Byars, MCR & Events, and Brooke Horowitz, The Emerald Exchange.
Followed by an evening 420 Celebration food, networking, music with DJ Green B, and dancing. Tickets at HeadChange, 215 South Main Street or online at MendocinoCannabisResource.com. Info: 707-223-4367. Must be 21 years or older.

Candidates Forum
May 6
This Candidates Forum for the June 5 election is sponsored by the Little Lake Grange, the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, and the American Association of University Women. Willits branch will include candidates for Mendocino County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder (3), County Superintendent of Schools (2) and the Board of Supervisors (8). May 6, 2 to 5 pm, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 Pine Street. A timed panel of candidates for county assessor-clerk-recorder and county school superintendent will speak and answer written questions from the audience from 2 to 3 pm, and supervisors candidates will do the same between 3 and 5 pm. Candidate signs and flyers will be available at the back of the room. The video of this forum, which will be taped by Willits Public Access TV Channel 3, will be available after the event online at Vimeo (vimeo.com/user12621308) and YouTube (youtube.com/user/WillitsCommunityTV). Info: 707-972-7070.

Willits High School Boosters Club
A Fundraiser For
WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL BOOSTERS CLUB
Dinner & Quarter Auction
Saturday, April 21, 2018
6:00 PM Dinner • 7:00 PM Auction
Willits Community Center
111 E. Commercial St. • Willits, California
\$20 Dinner & Paddle • \$5 Paddle Only
No Host Bar
Tickets May Be Purchased at Event, by emailing whsboosters123@yahoo.com or by calling (707)272-6262

Willits Senior Center Board Seeks Directors
Deadline to apply: April 23
The Harrah Senior Center has an upcoming election for two "member directors" (active members of the center) and two "community directors" on their board of directors. The center needs board members who will commit to volunteering their time and have the energy required to support fundraising efforts and activities. If you want to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others, positively impact your community, and serve selflessly, the center invites you to submit a brief biography. Please drop your bio off at the senior center or email it to wsdirector@willitscenter.com by Monday, April 23. The bios will be placed on the board ballot and inserted into the center's monthly newsletter, which is mailed to members. The membership will vote to determine who will be elected to serve as member directors; votes will be counted on June 18 at 1:30 pm in the dining room of the senior center; and new board members will be officially announced at the annual membership meeting on July 23.

Sober Grad Tri Tip Dinner
April 27
The annual fundraising Willits Sober Grad Drive-Through Dinner is set for Friday, April 27. Dinner for four includes a whole marinated and BBQ'd tri tip, baked potatoes, salad, rolls, cookies and a rose donated by Flowers by Annette. Proceeds go to support the Class of 2018 Seniors Sober Grad Night. Pre-sale tickets only! Tickets are available at Willits High School, through members of the WHS Senior Class, and Cat's Meow, 29 South Main Street, or call Linda at 459-6201 or Karen Thiel at WHS, 459-7700, ext. 1504.
Do you have an Willits, Laytonville or Covelo event to include in our calendar?
Email us! We are happy to receive photos, posters and copy-and-paste text!
willitsweekly@gmail.com
Deadline is Monday for Thursday publication!



Above, from left: Cheryl Abney puts down her umbrella and picks up a bullhorn. Willits Police Chief Scott Warnock reminds the protesters not to block the sidewalk. The entrance to Wagon Wheel Mobile Home Park.

Below: Raul Garcia of SEIU Local 2015 attended the rally to support the caregivers he represents – and the people they care for – who live at Wagon Wheel.

At bottom: Pat Rainey, left, and Cheryl Abney are in good spirits as they protest in the rain.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Cheryl Abney is mad as hell, and she's not going to take it anymore. The rain waited until Abney and her intrepid co-protesters pulled out their plastic-wrapped signs and lined up on the sidewalk across from Willits City Hall to really start pouring down in earnest.

It only took seconds to get totally drenched, yet this determined group, mostly tenants of the Wagon Wheel Mobile Home Park, were not to be phased by nature's little joke. They intended that the Willits City Council be reminded that there were townspeople who needed their help.

The group, all seven of them said last week, intends to rally at City Park the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month (when the Willits City Council meetings are scheduled) until their purpose is achieved: a rent stabilization ordinance for mobile home parks in the city.

Abney has lived in Wagon Wheel for the last 10 years. It is a pleasant, family-oriented place with well-tended yards, little bits of art and icons, quiet and safe places for the 150 children to play, and a feeling of community.

The 113 units are home to approximately 500 people, mostly of lower income, who have made this iconic park their home, some for over 20 years. It was a place where people could live decently without government-assisted housing. All they wanted was an affordable and safe place



At right, from left: One 23-year resident of Wagon Wheel braves the rain to save his home. Protesters rally at City Park on April 11 in the driving rain.

At right: The quiet, peaceful, safe community at Wagon Wheel has been home for some residents for more than 20 years.



Rent Protest

Wagon Wheel tenants picket before Willits City Council meeting

to raise their families.

Last year, the park was purchased by a group, BoaVida ("good life") Communities, out of San Clemente. Almost immediately, the residents were apprised that their rent was going to be raised by \$110 per month. For many residents who had lived there for years, this was a substantial increase in their cost of living, especially for seniors and others on fixed incomes.

According to Abney and the other protesters, BoaVida attempted, and is still attempting, to get the residents to sign extremely long-term leases, by what was described as threats and intimidation, hoping to accomplish this before the city council can enact the rent stabilization ordinance for mobile home parks that the protesters would like to see approved.

Abney sees this as a problem that can ultimately affect all renters in the city, "I've lived at Wagon Wheel for 10 years," she said. "I'm the one who started this movement, and I'm proud that I started it, because I'm trying to help all these people. They raised our lot rent \$110 per month.

"By them getting away with it, that's just a green light for all the greedy people that have renters to go ahead and raise the rent," Abney said. "Since there's no rent control, they can just go ahead and do whatever they want."

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



The rest of **Boxing** | From Page 3

retirement, he still owns and operates the Bodyworks Gym and Martial Arts Center on South Main Street. "Boxing is activity, flexibility, strength-training, goal-setting, discipline, a place to be, off the couch, eating right, exercise, getting a little aggression out," said Tobin. "Nobody gets hurt. It's got rules to it."

Apodaca is a man with a six-pack that would be the envy of any 50-year-old. He believes in athletics, especially boxing, as a way to give kids purpose. "The value of boxing for kids is that it gives them a purpose. This is a stepping stone. You can accomplish any goal in life, once you start boxing, you get that self-confidence; you can become anything and everything. I've had numerous amounts of kids who just didn't start out to be the greatest kids in the world, but they turned out to be some great adults."

The Sheriff's Activity League provides programs involving boxing, karate, wrestling, running (Kids on the Run), youth football (Junior Giants), basketball and soccer. There is a sister-program on the coast as well, which provides running programs, fishing clinics, and a bicycle rodeo. Additionally, they have a bicycle-repair program which enlists the help of bicycle shops, inmates and trustees to repair bikes for young riders. Funding comes from the community and county asset forfeiture programs via Sheriff Tom Allman.

The Mike Tobin Invitational also included ample refreshments and food provided by Lisa Davis of Scoops and a silent auction as well as a bake sale. And admission was free.

Whether today's combatants go on to bigger things in boxing, or whether they are simply taking advantage of the physical activity, discipline and camaraderie, it was obvious that they all had a good chance of becoming better adults through the training and purpose inherent in their participation.

For more information, visit: www.mendocinosheriff.com/patrol/sal.html or for the SAL Facebook page, search for: "Mendocino County Sheriff's Activities League."

The rest of **Protest** | From Page 10

The city council considered the question of whether to proceed with a rent stabilization ordinance for mobile home parks at their February 28 meeting, but ended up voting to form an ad hoc committee to hold mediation between tenants and BoaVida representatives, with a stipulation that if there is no agreement between the two sides by the council's June 20 meeting, then council members will reassess whether action on rent stabilization is necessary.

Pat Rainey, protester and resident, commented on the techniques being used by BoaVida. "I live in Wagon Wheel," she said. "They as much as told me that if I sign the lease, they won't harass me. I refused to sign it

and that is why they're still harassing me."

"That lease is a license to steal," Abney adds. "If you sign the lease, you're screwed. They will be able to pass the costs of anything they want onto the resident of the park if they sign the lease; any improvements will be borne by the residents."

"They told me if I sign the lease," said Rainey, "they're only going to raise the rent \$35 (on top of the previous \$110 raise). If I don't sign, they are going to raise me \$60. They want to raise it every year."

Raul Garcia of the Service Employees International Union, Local 2015, which represents in-home supportive service workers in

Mendocino County, also attended last week's rally. "Dozens of these caregivers, and the people that they care for, live in the mobile park," Garcia said. "Housing justice for our members is one of our priorities."

"The people who live here are our workforce," Abney said. "They are the people who work at the fast food places, hotels and service jobs. If these people don't have a place to live, it's going to further destroy the economy in our area."

"If I lose my home," added Abney, "I'll camp out in the parking lot of City Hall in a tent. I'll say: 'If you don't help us keep our homes, I'll be living in your streets.' There are no other places to go."

Willits Redwood Little League holds opening day ceremonies on Saturday, April 14

Spring is here, and that means it's time for Little League! The 2018 season started with opening ceremonies at 11 am on Saturday, April 14 at the Gallups, Seaton and Loflin ballfields complex off of East Commercial Street.

The Saturday game schedule included 9 am games between the Hot Rods (T-ball) Riverbandits (T-ball) at the Gallups field and between the Giants (Minors) and Cubs (Minors) at the Loflin field. At 10 am, the Knights (T-ball) went against the Scappers (T-Ball) at the Gallups field and at noon, the Mud Cats (T-Ball) played the Thunders (T-Ball) at the Gallups field and the Yankees (Minors) played the Red Sox (T-ball) at the Loflin field.

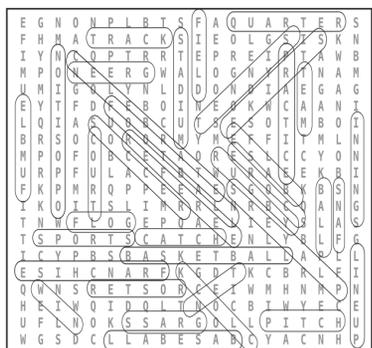
At 1 pm, the Raptors (T-ball) played the Timber Rattlers (T-B) at the Gallups field, and at 2 pm, the Hooks (Machine Pitch) played the Emeralds (Machine Pitch) at the Gallups field, and the Giants (Majors) played the D-Backs (Majors) at the Loflin field. The last two games were at 4 pm where the Rock Hounds (Machine Pitch) played the River Dogs (Machine Pitch) at the Gallups field, and the Braves (Majors) played the A's (Majors) at the Loflin field.

A raffle raised \$888 for the Willits Redwood Little League organization, and five lucky winners were named, including Brett Frasier, who won six 6-inch Subway sandwiches; Henry Luna, who won a 50-inch television and a Fox duffie bag; Kristina Wear, who won a \$50 gift card; Randy Huss, who won a youth .22 caliber rifle and hunter safety course for a family; and Clint Jewell, who won a cord of firewood. Several generous local businesses donated to the raffle including Cooley Logging, Monkey Wrench Men's and Women's Wear, Moon Lady, Coast Hardware, California Hunter Education and Subway of Willits.

Come cheer on the Little League teams during their many upcoming home games, running now through June. For a complete schedule, log on to: <http://wrlr.sjplay.com/site/ClientSite/schedule> or follow the group on Facebook: Find them under "Willits Redwood Little League."

More information: 459-7700.

—Maureen Moore



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Volunteers Needed
Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in the gift shop, information/greeting desk, hospitality cart and the garden. Hours are flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

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

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WANTED: Sweetheart Candidates
Do you want to try for the title of Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart? Girls aged 16 to 21 are welcome to apply before April 28. Call Liz Day 707-354-0933 Kathy Graves 707-489-0442

Get your classified included here!
\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

The rest of **WPD** | From Page 4

of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street.

April 15
12:16 am: Officers responded to a report of arson in the 100 block of North Main Street.

2:06 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

4:22 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

7:16 am: Officers initiated

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

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April 27th:
AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

RAMPAGE

(PG13) 1 hr 47 mins

Fri: 6:00 & 8:30pm
Sat: 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm
Sun: 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30pm

I FEEL PRETTY

(PG13) 1 hr 50 mins

Fri: 5:45 & 8:15pm
Sat: 3:15, 5:45 & 8:15pm
Sun: 2:15, 5:00 & 7:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:45 & 7:15pm

A QUIET PLACE

(PG13) 1 hr 30 mins

Fri: 5:30 & 7:45pm
Sat: 3:15, 5:30 & 7:45pm
Sun: 2:15, 4:30 & 6:45pm
Mon-Wed: 4:30 & 6:45pm
Thurs: 4:30pm only

AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

SPECIAL PREVIEW
Thursday April 26 7:00pm

(PG13) 2 hrs 36 mins

Advanced Tickets Available Now

April: Real spring is here

Jamie Chevalier
Columnist

After all of the false springs, real spring is finally here. How do I know? Not by the calendar. I know by the oaks. If you look up at the branches now, you'll see a haze of green on the valley oaks, and a haze of – could that really be hot pink? – on the black oaks.

Days can get warm in February and March, but they are still short. Now that the days are getting longer as well as warmer, the soil

temperatures are finally warm enough for root growth. And the roots are what drive plant growth.

This is the perfect time to plant peas, which love the cool temperatures and sunshine of spring. There is research showing that peas planted extra-early make the first pods, but peas planted once the oaks start leafing out give a larger, healthier total crop. They don't wear themselves out fighting the elements – they just grow.

Same with lettuce. This is the time when lettuce, peas and Asian greens do best. If you want something really quick and juicy, but don't particularly like radishes, give salad turnips a try. "Tokyo Market" is a good one, sweeter and smoother than a radish. Other root crops like carrots, beets and parsnips are easier now than they will be later when the soil is dry.

Speaking of roots, now is the last chance to plant roots of perennial crops like raspberries, rhubarb, artichokes and asparagus. (Or, if you grow herbs, the roots of goldenseal, osha and acorus.) You have until midsummer to start seeds, but roots must go into the ground now. All of these crops prefer soil that is moist, cool and well-drained. Choose a site with afternoon shade, like the east side of a building or tree.

Garlic, trees, roses, kale, and anything else that has gone through the winter is poised for a growth spurt. A layer of compost, or some fish emulsion, will make a big difference now.

Speaking of nutrients, cover crops are the cheapest, most natural way to add nutrients to the soil. If you planted some last fall, you will have an easy time this spring. If you have a bunch of weeds instead – then they are your cover crops. Turn them under now.

They will need some time to break down in the soil before you plant there, and right now they are succulent enough to be full of nitrogen. (And not yet full of seeds to plague you next year.)

Any green leafy matter you turn over into the soil – with rototiller, fork or shovel – will need at least three weeks to break down enough so that you can plant seeds there. If you get past the three-week margin until planting, cut the tops and compost them separately before tilling.

No matter what and when you plant, think about supporting your local small seed companies. Big corporations are increasingly dominating the seed industry, and even heirlooms from nationally advertised companies are often better adapted to the Midwest than to the Little Lake Valley.

We are blessed with three local seed companies: www.opencircleseeds.com in Potter Valley, www.sundialseed.com in Willits, and my own www.quailseeds.com in Willits. All are small, family endeavors with plenty of choices for spring.

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



Above: Quinoa is a gluten-free grain that loves the Willits climate. Now is a great time to plant it. Below: Calendula blooms almost every month of the year, and isn't fussy. If you have moist soil under a pot or tub, press a few calendula seeds into the soil to use the water that comes out of the drain holes. Spring is the perfect time to plant peas, including this dwarf grey sugar pea, Taisoi, like other Asian greens, grows fast, mild, and tasty in spring weather.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier



The rest of Science | From Page 7

Physical Science, grade 9-12: Gold – Jessica Cronin, from Willits Charter School, for "The Effectiveness of a Homemade vs. Professionally Used Density Gradients"; silver – Caleb Christman, from Willits Charter School, for "Rust-eze"; and bronze – Sammie St. Pierre, from Willits Charter School, for "M & M Math."

Junior division engineering, Class C Projects: Grade 6-8: Gold – Jack Buckingham and Jady Arnold, from Baechtel Grove Middle School, for "The Amazing Adventures of the Hovercraft"; silver – Kessler Dyche, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "Are Perpetual Motion Machines Possible?"; and bronze – Tokyo Jordan, from Willits Charter School, for "Hover Car."

Senior division engineering, Class C Projects: Grade 9-12: Gold – Hanna Bouthillier, from Willits High School, for "Measuring Wind Speed."

Displays / demonstrations, Class B Projects: Grade 3-5: Gold – Tristan Ireland, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "Why we need bimetallic coils"; silver – Nicole Muniz, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "Cata - Pull and Fire"; and bronze – Bryceton Woodruff, from River Oak Charter School, for "Do Magnets and Copper Create Energy?"

Grade 6-12: Gold – Audrey Chan and Haiqi Long, from Developing Virtue Secondary School (Girls Division), for "Eco-friendly Calligraphy"; silver – Talan Kreck, from Arena Union Elementary School, for "Whaaa...that's in my water?"; and bronze – Alex Breier and Talan Terlouw, from Arena Union Elementary School, for "What cigarettes do to your lungs."

Classroom, Class D Projects: Grade 3-5: Gold – Elijah Kirkley, from Eagle Peak Middle School, for "Video Games vs. Reading"; silver – Mrs. Bauer's Class, from Blosser Lane Elementary School, for "Which hand?"; and bronze – Mrs. Grooms' Class, from Blosser Lane Elementary School, for "Rethink Your Drink."

Special Awards: Kendahl Potter from Eagle Peak Middle School, Ingrid Mendoza and Vanessa Mercado from Baechtel Grove Middle School, and Jessica Cronin from Willits Charter received the Evelyn Smith Excellence in Science Awards, an award established by MCOE in memory of Evelyn Smith who enthusiastically supported science education. Her efforts on behalf of the science fair benefited students, instructors and the community.

Mariah Cox from Laytonville High School received the California Association of Professional Scientists Award. This award recognizes students' scientific study and encourages them to continue developing their scientific interests. Students eligible for this award must be in grades seven through 11 and meet certain criteria by CAPS.

Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic in Willits sponsored two Outstanding Junior Science Awards for a project done by an individual student in grades three or four, and in grade five. Micha Caceres from Tree of Life Charter and Spencer Wood from Eagle Peak Middle School received a Certificate of Achievement and a check in the amount of \$50 from Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic, representative Erin Vaccaro.

Eagle Peak Middle School student Julian Maldonado received the UC ANR Hopland Research and Extension Center Award for Excellence in Environmental Science / Ecology. This award goes to a science project that demonstrates a strong understanding and awareness of the complexities of our ecosystems and a novel method of addressing the challenges to these systems. The winning project receives a certificate, a wildlife trail camera, and the opportunity to spend half a day at the Hopland Research and Extension Center learning about the research projects conducted there with lunch provided (for up to six students / parents).

Stephany Brundage from Willits Charter received the Paul Joens-Poulton Avantgarde Award. This award honors Joens-Poulton's efforts in spearheading the county science fair and his promotion of scientific education for students within the county. This award recognizes a project that would be characterized as advanced, unorthodox and / or experimental.

The rest of Dwellings | From Page 1

county code creates a new section, Section 20.165, dealing with short-term vacation rentals.

The two new ordinances were being shown to the supervisors for their review. The supervisors made only one addition to the ordinances. At the recommendation of Supervisor Dan Gjerde, the board added language detailing when an accessory dwelling unit could be rented out on a short-term basis – under 30 days.

Gjerde read from the minutes of the May 16, 2017 board meeting, which states, "The county shall limit [new] short-term rental business licenses to one per person for properties located in residential zoning districts."

"Existing short-term rental business licenses with more than one [license] issued to a person, or more than one to a parcel, or where only one residential unit exists shall be "grandfathered in" [to the permit process] as legal non-conforming," the minutes from the May 6, 2017 meeting state.

Gjerde asked if the other supervisors agreed with those provisions, and the other members said that they did agree. Gjerde then explained why these provisions would help allay the housing crisis in this county.

"The thought here is to create more housing for long-term rentals, while at the same time requiring that there would at least need to be two accessory dwelling units on a property, for one of those to be considered a vacation rental."

The new Section 20.164, revising the existing ordinance, deals with general regulations governing accessory dwelling units. It provides that accessory dwelling units need to have adequate water and sewer and also need to meet county building standards, including building height, setback, lot coverage, architectural review, site plan review, off street parking standards, and other zoning requirements.

Accessory dwelling units may be either attached to the existing dwelling or they may be detached, separate structures. They may not be sold separately from the other real estate on the parcel, but they may be rented.

The new subsection K of Section 20.164 – which applies to parcels of 5 acres or less – includes some limitations on when accessory dwelling units may not be permitted. According to the draft ordinance, "An accessory dwelling unit shall not be allowed if more than one dwelling unit (including farm employee housing, farm labor housing, or temporary family care unit) is located on the parcel, or if there currently exists two accessory residential units (any combination of guest cottages and detached bedrooms) on the parcel."

Section 20.164 also describes a new form of housing called a "junior accessory dwelling unit" that can be used for long-term rentals. This is "a living space not to exceed 500 square feet in size and entirely contained within an already permitted single family dwelling." JADUs must contain an efficiency kitchen, a separate entrance, and may contain either their own bathroom, or they may share a bathroom with the main residence.

Where there is a JADU, the single family dwelling must be owner-occupied. The owner may reside in either the JADU, or in the remaining portion of the single family dwelling. Only one JADU is permitted per residential lot.

Section 20.165 outlines the county's general approach to short-term rentals. The ordinance states that people who wish to rent out their second homes or accessory dwelling units must obtain a business license from Mendocino County. The property owner who is seeking to rent out a vacation home shall not "allow any conferences, retreats, weddings, fundraisers, or similar gatherings at the short-term rental dwelling unit, unless specifically permitted."

"No permittee shall, for compensation, provide lodging for more than eight people at any property operating as a short-term rental business," the draft ordinance states.

The draft ordinance goes on to state that people who are renting out their Accessory Dwelling Units as short-term rentals shall not make use of the following buildings or structures for the purposes of short-term rental: family care units, travel trailers or campers, farm employee housing, private garages or storage structures, Class K owner-built homes (within one year of the issuance of the certificate of occupancy) and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units.

"Rentals for more than 30 consecutive nights (by the same visitors) are not subject to short-term rental regulations or subject to transient occupancy taxes. Vacation home rentals are required to obtain a Minor Use Permit if the residence is to be utilized for more than 120 days per year," Section 20.165 states.

The new section, Chapter 20.165, contains language by which the county will seek to consider the rights of neighbors. "Upon issuance of a short-term rental permit, the county will notify all owners of property within 300 feet of the permitted property, as well as any lot owners' association or other association responsible for the maintenance of private road access, if appropriate. The notice will be in writing and will contain the location of the short-term rental dwelling unit and full contact information of the permittee or designated on-site manager."

As it is currently written, the new chapter does not contain any provisions for how neighbors might challenge the issuance of a short-term rental permit, except in the case where a property owner wishes to rent out his or her property for more than 120 days. In that case, a minor use permit will be required. The minor use permit process includes a public hearing before a zoning administrator.

Gonzalez told the supervisors that he and his staff will make a few minor corrections to the ordinances, and then send them to the planning commission. The planning commission will review the ordinances and send them back to the supervisors with recommendations. The supervisors then will have an opportunity to approve and adopt the ordinance revisions into the county code.

The rest of Roads | From Page 1

supervisors goes on to state that the county's present Pavement Condition Index is 47.

Although Dashiell did not mention this in his letter, four years ago, the county's PCI was 42 – a higher score means better roads. In 2014, yielding to the stubborn leadership of Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde, the board voted to put \$2 million into the Department of Transportation's budget for corrective maintenance.

Supervisors have put in \$2 million in every year over the past four years. That \$8 million helped raise the county's road condition score from 42 to 47.

Dashiell wrote that using the projected \$100 million over the next 18 years – an average infusion of \$5.5 million a year – should be enough "to bring those roads up to an average pavement condition index of 60 to 70."

According to an information pamphlet provided to supervisors by the Department of Transportation in August 2014, a pavement condition index of 50 to 69 is judged to be "fair," while an index of 70 to 100 is judged to be "good to excellent." So what Dashiell is saying

The rest of Sidewalk | From Page 1

be going door-to-door downtown Friday to hand out information and answer questions about the project.

Work will include repair of sidewalks to Americans with Disabilities Act standards, signal upgrades, bridge repairs, a slurry seal, and striping. A "planter strip" between the sidewalk and the road, with soil for planting landscaping and buried conduits for irrigation and electricity is also part of the plan. The work will be done between the Highway 20 intersection on the south end and Sherwood Road on the north end.

At an open house Tuesday night at the Willits Community Center, representatives from Caltrans and from Granite Construction said they hoped the sidewalk improvements would be finished before Thanksgiving weekend next fall. A "frequently asked questions" document handed out at the open house noted: "However, construction projects are highly volatile and do change daily depending on the weather, unexpected field conditions, and utility relocation delays just to name a few."

Downtown business owners who attended the open house reiterated their concerns about the potential of downtown construction impacting sales during the most important quarter of the year, the fourth quarter – October, November and December.

Graphics and maps showed the anticipated timeline of the project, laying out conditions that Caltrans expects will help with customer access. First, work will be limited to active construction on only two of 10 identified "segments" of the project at a time, and work will not be done on both sides of the street on the same segment at the same time. Each segment, the FAQ document says, "will be disrupted for up to 1.5 months from demolition through completion of the sidewalk, not including saw cutting, slurry and striping."

Main Street is expected to remain open, southbound and northbound, throughout the construction period. Lanes may be shifted east or west, and occasionally flaggers will be utilized, but traffic flow is not expected to be slowed significantly.

The rest of Museum | From Page 1

and development of recommendations related to a variety of departmental programs; conducts administrative studies related to program policies, procedures and methods; coordinates the development and implementation of programs or operational changes; [and] monitors program contracts, grants, progress, budget and budget compliance.:

The description continues: "Positions allocated to this classification are the highest working level responsible for unusually difficult and complex assignments or are the first-level supervisors with responsibility for a complex program area. Positions allocated to this class ... work at the highest level, requiring the ability to work with a high degree of independence on problems, issues and subjects that have a wide programmatic impact."

According to the class specification sheet, a program administrator is a higher position than a program manager because the program manager "performs second-level management duties with responsibility for a major program."

The creation of the position of museum program administrator appears to be part of the county's newly kindled campaign to enhance its support of the county museum. In November, it hired Karen Mattson as curator, a position which had long been vacant. At the February 12 meeting of the Museum Advisory Board, Mattson said she thought the county should hire a full-time archivist and either a program specialist or a program manager.

Acting-Museum Director Karen Horner has often said she trusts the judgment and expertise of Mattson and wants to give her all the support she can.

Mendocino County Human Resources Director Heidi Dunham said she will likely be putting out the notice that the museum program administrator position is available within the next week.

is that, with the help of SB 1 money over the next 18 years, the county's road system can be brought from its current condition of "poor" to "fair" or even as high as the low end of "good."

"SB1 gives Mendocino County an opportunity to catch up on years of unfunded maintenance needs that have plagued our roadways and have been costly to drivers for years," Dashiell wrote.

He noted SB 1 funds have been slow to kick in, and that the Mendocino County Department of Transportation has only received \$700,000 of those funds for this year.

"I still have a hole in my budget for 2018-19," Dashiell said, "and given the fires and so forth, I don't expect that the supervisors will be able to give me that \$2 million for corrective maintenance this June."

"I could have a skinny year, but the way this law is structured, that hole will be made whole by 2019-2020. This will at least give us a chance to do a little more than we've been able to do," Dashiell added.

Parking adjacent to the segments under construction will not be available. "To the extent feasible," the FAQ document states, "the contractor is working to minimize parking impacts by providing workers with transport from the staging areas to the worksite."

Temporary pedestrian access to businesses, while open, will be provided, the FAQ says. A "Temporary Pedestrian Access Plan" is being developed that will "generally provide pedestrian access routes around construction via a temporary route in the parking area." However, "due to unexpected circumstances there may be brief periods of inconvenience to allow the construction to proceed."

Caltrans is also working with the City of Willits and Granite Construction "to provide notification signs on either end of the sidewalk detours indicating that businesses are open during construction."

The FAQ also promises "the work will not impede the parade route during Frontier Days," and "the current schedule shows that sidewalk demolition in the downtown area (segments 5, 6, 7 and 8) would not take place until after July 5."

Phase 2 of the relinquishment project will include pavement restoration, an asphalt overlay and then restriping on Main Street itself. That project is expected to start next summer.

For more information, Willits residents are encouraged to check the project website, willitsbypass.wordpress.com, follow @WillitsMainSt on Twitter, check the Caltrans District 1 page on Facebook, or, to get construction updates sent via text to your cell phone, text "follow WillitsMainSt" to 40404.

Project contacts via phone are Granite Construction Project Engineer Robert Garbacci (707-513-7651), Caltrans Construction Engineer Nash Munes (707-223-0791) or Caltrans Project Manager Cathy McKeon (707-502-7628), and City of Willits Construction Liaison Jeremy Dunco (459-7154) or City Planner Dusty Ronca (459-7154).

APRIL 2018

WEDNESDAYS

Roosters and OWLS

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HOT SEAT DRAWINGS 9AM-1PM (2X PER HOUR ENDING BEFORE 1PM) \$50 CASH

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12PM \$100 CASH 1PM \$125 CASH 2PM \$150 CASH 3PM \$175 CASH (2ND CHANCE 500 CASH) 7PM \$125 CASH 8PM \$150 CASH 9PM \$175 CASH 10PM \$200 CASH (2ND CHANCE \$100 CASH)

Players Club members must have earned minimum 50 points to receive a bingo card for the 12P, 1P, 2P & 3P bingo games. Bingo at 12P for \$100 Cash, 1P for \$125 Cash and 2P for \$150 Cash, 3P for \$175 Cash for each game winner. Up to 3 Cards per game per player.

Players Club members must have earned minimum 100 points throughout the day to receive a bingo card for the 7P, 8P, 9P & 10P bingo games. Bingo at 7P for \$125 Cash and 8P for \$150 Cash and 9P for \$175 Cash and 10P for \$200 Cash for each game winner. Up to 3 Cards per game per player.

Bingo Cards can start being issued at 11A for the 12P game, and 6P for the 7P game. The 1P, 2P, 3P, 8P & 10P cards will be issued after the earlier game has ended. If two customer's claim the win together, the prize amount is split between the two winners.

For the 9P and 10P there will be a "Second Chance Win". After a confirmed bingo for these three games (and the winning customer has been processed), the game will continue until a second "Bingo" is won, and the "Second Chance Win" customer will win \$50 Cash for the 9P game and \$100 cash for the 10P game. The "Second Chance Win" opportunity will be announced before each of the specific games.

At each drawing (except the 10:30 & 11P drawing), an entry will be drawn from the Raffle Barrel. The winning customer will have approx. one minute to claim their prize. If the number is not claimed the money for the specific drawing will be forwarded to the next drawing for the night. For example if the 9P drawing has no winner, the \$100 will be forwarded to the 9P drawing and will be worth \$250.

For the 11P drawing, if there is no claim on the drawing, there will be an additional drawing. This process will continue until a winner has claimed the cash prize. Customers may win up to 2 times each week of this promotion.

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



Wonderful Pam

Pam is a sweet and easygoing dog. She loves tennis balls. She plays fetch and is an excellent retriever! Pam is a 3-year-old spayed, female mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 52 pounds. Pam is athletic and muscular, and perhaps would be a great jogging or walking partner. She's got a lot of focus and might be the star in a canine-training class. Pam is a really great-looking dog with her adorable chest spots and wonderful markings.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit online at: www.mendociniansshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.



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Sober Grad holds Redwood Picnic Table Raffle

Now's the chance to support Sober Grad – and get the chance to win a redwood picnic table, handcrafted out of clear heart redwood by Chris Baldo of Willits Redwood Company. The 10-foot by 6-foot table was purchased by Paul Riley who decided to donate the table to Sober Grad to use as a raffle item.

"Paul and Chris seem to be in the habit of donating one of these beautiful tables to local non-profit organizations as a fundraiser," said Joyce Waters of Sober Grad. "This year Sober Grad is the lucky organization!"

The table is currently on display at Willits Rental Center and will be moved around town by the table's transportation manager, Mike Horger.

Tickets are available now from Georgette Hollingsworth at Tri Counties Bank, Shawna Collicott at Phoenix Home Health and Hospice, and from Mike Horger at Willits Rental Center. The drawing is planned for May, and tickets are only \$1 each, six for \$5, and \$20 for your height!

Above: Friends and volunteers of Willits Sober Grad pose with the table being raffled off including, from left: table builder Chris Baldo with Heister the dog, table donor Paul Riley, WHS alumni Hailey Riley, WHS senior Grace Horger, WHS senior Morgan Riley, and Sober Grad's Joyce Waters.

Below: Tickets are already being sold for the table raffle.

Photo by Maureen Moore

– Maureen Moore



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The rest of Wish list | From Page 1

bridges, road retrofitting and "improve critical emergency exit routes."

The platform urges the Legislature to "appropriate any available State Responsibility Area funding to fire-ravaged areas," and seeks state funding to pay for removal of burned trees along creek beds that may present future fire hazards and are "a hindrance to recovery and future economic growth of fire-ravaged communities [because of] the massive destruction visible from many roadways and other public areas."

Mendocino County also is recommending the state extend currently established burn-zone California Environmental Quality Act exemptions to fire-impacted counties for the next seven years, or until 200 percent of housing units identified in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment have been built.

In addition, the county is asking the state to "streamline or fast-track public assistance payments for various county-run programs."

It also recommends the state "provide additional assistance in communicating with the federal government, especially in areas that have suffered multiple disasters over the last several years," and "create a state ombudsperson to assist local governments and individuals with disaster and recovery questions and needs."

In addition, the county is urging the state to provide increased technical assistance with disaster preparedness (including hazard mitigation), response, and recovery training, and provide technical assistance with community planning, "including innovative rebuilding ideas," and ease housing element regulations for fire-impacted jurisdictions when applying for community development block grants.

It also hopes the state will coordinate with the University of California Cooperative Extension and CalFire to conduct an assessment and create recommendations for fire-safe vegetation management on private and public land and provide competitive grants for counties to implement those recommendations.

The document also urges change to current state law that would mandate insurance companies "to provide housing assistance payments for a minimum of three years," and secure state support for changes to the Federal Emergency Management Act to enable fire victims who have not rebuilt within two years of insurance coverage to receive Federal Emergency Management housing assistance to cover the gap.

The county also supports state legislation to address insurance coverage in California wildfire-risk areas.

Water

"The scarcity of water in the West makes it a crucial resource for the communities, industries,

habitats, and farms it supports," the platform states, adding "clean, reliable water supplies are essential to maintain and improve the quality of life in Mendocino County."

The county will "support legislation and advocacy efforts that protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources," and advocate for legislation that will allow and streamline the process for water district consolidation.

It also will advocate for Proposition 1 water bond funding distribution to ensure that regional and

disadvantaged communities have an opportunity "to draw down grant funding for local

projects," and pursue grants to assist with drought mitigation infrastructure projects, water supply planning efforts, storm water programs and other water board mandates.

Mendocino County also will support local control in the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and in the development and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), as well as advocate for "locally beneficial legislation related to SGMA that may be introduced in the 2018 legislative session."

The county also will support increased federal funding to continue work on the feasibility study to raise Coyote Valley Dam and supports full federal environmental restoration funding to allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to mitigate water-quality impacts identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service Jeopardy findings contained in the Russian River Biological Opinion.

In addition, the county will advocate to revise the operations manual passed by Congress in 1958 for Coyote Valley Dam water releases to address year-to-year carryover supply issues in Lake Mendocino and protect listed fish, and "engage in the operating re-licensing process for the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project."

The rest of Schools | From Page 1

right back in" and make the credit up.

"Eighteen kids were unsuccessful, and 84 percent made the math credit up," he said. "That's 16 kids not going to summer school."

The high school also has a new honor roll. It's called the "progressive honor roll," and will be published along with the traditional honor roll from now on.

Students get on the progressive one by increasing their GPA by .5 or more; 62 students were included on the last one.

"It means you're doing better," said Westerburg. "That's called catching them doing the right thing."

He went on to inform the board of the boys' varsity baseball team's Tuesday win over Kelseyville, ending Kelseyville's undefeated three-year stretch, "31 and 0, to 31 and 1. It was a great game," he said.

His final bit of good news was to "gleefully report" the elimination of the "small trace of lead, which was well within the acceptable range" in drinking water at Brookside Elementary School fountains. Noting "no amount is acceptable," he told the board the source of the contamination was "coming from an old metal piece used in the fountains."

Classroom water fountains should be fixed by the end of this week, and a "filtered chilled dispenser" for water bottles was installed in the Brookside cafeteria with the help of the PTO. A dispenser is also scheduled to be installed at Blosser.

The meeting ended with the board's consideration of a resolution proposed by the California School Boards Association, for adoption by local boards. The "Full and Fair Funding of California's Public Schools" resolution calls for "the state Legislature to fund California public schools at the national average or higher by the year 2020, and at a level equal to or above the average of the top 10 states nationally by 2025, and to maintain, at a minimum, this level of funding until otherwise decreed."

According to the CSBA, despite California having the sixth largest economy in the world and the highest gross domestic product of any state, it ranks at or near the bottom nationally in nearly every measure of school funding and staffing.

Revenue for K-12 schools only recently returned to 2007 levels, so funding has not substantially increased on an inflation-adjusted basis, for more than a decade.

California funds schools at roughly \$1,961 per student less than the national average, which translates to approximately \$3,462 less per student when adjusted for California being a high-cost state.

In the 1970s, California ranked in the top five nationally in school funding. Currently it is 41st in per-pupil funding, trailing the average of the top 10 states by almost \$7,000 per pupil; 45th in pupil-teacher ratios; and 48th in pupil-staff ratios.

Fifty-eight percent of California's public school students are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch (13 percent above the national average), and 23 percent are English learners (more than twice the national average).

The three board members present unanimously approved adoption of the resolution. Board President Alex Bowlds was absent, and there is an open board seat left by the resignation of Trustee Laurie Harris last December.

The deadline for applying for the open seat is closed, and a new trustee will be selected at the board's May 2 meeting at Brookside School. District residents who applied for the seat will be questioned by board members, and each trustee will privately score the answers. The winner will be the one with the highest score.

Reflecting on the process, Trustee Chris Neary remarked there "had been too many questions last time," and the meeting was adjourned.

The rest of Meeting | From Page 1

quickly since budget meetings are on the horizon, along with several other important items.

"We really need to look at our immediate goals because we have so many things on our plate," she said.

In a memo to the council, Garrabrant-Sierra compiled a lengthy list of suggestions of areas requiring urgent attention, drawing from items noted by former Interim City Manager Robert Perrault, as well as topics brought up by councilmembers.

This list included minimizing impacts from upcoming Caltrans relinquishment work (see below); ensuring an excise cannabis tax measure is completed in time to be placed on the November ballot; mitigating hazardous trees near the Brooktrails Airport runway; continuing improvement of access to city facilities to comply with the American Disabilities Act; updating the Emergency Operations Plan and Emergency Operations Center; upgrading security at city facilities; finishing recruitment and hiring of an assistant planner/code compliance officer and finance director; and modernizing and expanding city buildings.

Garrabrant-Sierra said staffing issues were particularly important since they slowed down the city's abilities to complete tasks in general.

"We are extremely short-staffed and have been working without permanent or long-term staff in key positions for some time," the memo stated.

Other general goals she championed included targeted economic development to recruit new businesses and support current ones, more recreation area development, "tightening up" risk management, and creating cultural arts opportunities by finding partners and sponsors for more cultural events.

"Willits is a town rich in cultural diversity in arts and music, and it is something that we are known for," Garrabrant-Sierra told the council at the meeting.

Councilman Ron Orenstein suggested the list be trimmed down so the city could complete the goals they set out in a more timely manner.

"There's a lot of stuff on this list, and every one of these things is important," he said. "It seems to me our time would be better spent, and we might be a little more effective, if we hone this down to maybe half a dozen [very] important items and do them."

"I've been through several of these planning sessions, and it gets frustrating after a while.... I think we'd be smarter to get the list small and manageable, something we can actually do. Quality not quantity."

Orenstein estimated that out of the 20 or so goals on the 2015 list, only three or four had been completed.

Garrabrant-Sierra did note some of those accomplishments – such as the Main Street waterline and street paving projects – and some that are still being pursued or are in the process of being completed, like the excise cannabis tax, the rail trail and the new city website.

One long-term goal she believes should be a priority is revising the city's general plan and city zoning, something she estimates will take about three years to complete and will likely cost more than \$300,000.

She noted the city has not completely updated its general plan in almost 30 years – although parts, such as the housing element, have been revised. She said the lack of a new plan could be hindering some developers from building in the city.

"We need to make sure that we are ready for future development, and we do so in a smart way and a sustainable way," Garrabrant-Sierra said.

City Building Official John Sherman confirmed this was a legitimate concern, noting the president of Danco Development recently told him the company had to abandon plans to build subsidized low-income housing in Willits, because it couldn't obtain grant money due to the city's out-of-date general plan.

"I was kind of stunned that we don't qualify for their help," said Sherman.

Relinquishment project

Garrabrant-Sierra also informed the council of the updated construction timeline Caltrans has established for the relinquishment project, which will reshape many downtown sidewalk areas this year.

Construction is now set to begin on April 23 and, barring setbacks, the core downtown work will take place from the end of July to October 31.

Caltrans has suggested the work takes place between 5 am and 2 pm to limit disruption to city businesses. Garrabrant-Sierra said a resolution would be presented at the council's next meeting to allow this. She noted the trade-off for starting so early would be a lot of morning noise in construction areas.

As previously planned, all sidewalks under construction will have temporary walkways into city businesses so they can all remain open during regular hours, though Councilman Larry Stranske said he had talked with some business owners who would be willing to have customers use side and back entrances temporarily if it would speed up construction.

Garrabrant-Sierra said employees from Caltrans and Granite Construction, the contractor hired for the project, will visit affected businesses to keep them informed about construction

progress, and will work with them in whatever ways they can. There will also be updates on Twitter and Nixle.

"They are going to do everything they can to alleviate construction disruptions," she said.

Chamber seminar

Willits Chamber of Commerce Director Allison Findley announced a May 3 seminar and consultation is planned to aid local retail and restaurant businesses. The event is being co-sponsored by city and the chamber.

The West Company's Marc Wilson will be in Willits to make a presentation and consult with business owners about ways to succeed in the face of challenges such as the recently installed bypass and planned relinquishment project construction.

Findley said Wilson has a background in small business development, and has traveled all over the country "helping small businesses to not just survive, but to thrive."

According to a report by Garrabrant-Sierra, Wilson's 35 years of experience includes being a co-owner and executive of several businesses, as well as presenting more than 70 seminars and assisting over 300 retailers.

The seminar, open to everybody, will take place from 8 to 9:30 am on May 3, and will be followed by a series of one-on-one consultations geared towards business owners who are chamber members. In addition, Findley said Wilson will also do a "drive through" of the town with city staff members to analyze and give suggestions of how to better draw traffic and attention to local businesses.

The \$800 cost for the day of service will be paid by the city.

Museum Advisory Board

Vice Mayor Saprina Rodriguez had harsh words for the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors at the meeting regarding the county's lack of communication with the Museum Advisory Board. Rodriguez is the council's representative to the MAB.

She expressed similar sentiments at a recent BOS meeting.

Rodriguez said supervisors and acting-Museum Director Karen Horger have not been providing budget updates and cash accounting reports to MAB in a timely manner, even going so far as to inform the museum board that such reports were not available, but subsequently placing them in agenda packets for supervisors' meetings.

In addition, she said supervisors are looking at significantly restructuring the museum program – including potentially replacing the director with a "program administrator," and folding the museum and county libraries into one department [a new "Cultural Services Agency"] – without seeking input from the Museum Advisory Board regarding the changes.

"So as you can imagine I am very, very frustrated," said Rodriguez. "I'm very angry and vocal at the advisory board meetings, and there's a sense of growing mistrust among the advisory board that the board of supervisors is not providing us with the information that we need to advise."

"Can you imagine if we were sitting here and expected to make decisions for the city, and our city manager gave us no information about staffing, gave us no budget, and we hadn't seen anything for a year and didn't know how we were spending our money?"

"It's a sad situation for the advisory board." Orenstein suggested the entire advisory board consider resigning in protest, but Rodriguez doubted that would have the desired effect since supervisors probably prefer elimination of all museum oversight.

She said while she personally opposes creation of a Cultural Services Agency, the advisory board has taken no official stance due to a lack of information about the proposal.

Wagon Wheel mediation

Rodriguez also spoke of her frustrations in recent attempts to help mediate between tenants and owners of the Wagon Wheel and Valley Oaks Mobile Home Parks. She and Councilman Gerry Gonzalez were appointed to an ad hoc committee assigned to spearhead mediation efforts.

After planning a meeting between the two groups three weeks in advance, Rodriguez said, tenant representatives cancelled the day before the meeting was to be held, choosing instead to stage a protest across the street from City Hall just before the council meeting.

Mobile home park residents have been asking the council for several months to enact a rent control ordinance to prevent what they view as unfair tactics and steep rent increases by the owners, who bought the property last year. On February 28, however, the council voted to attempt mediation before considering legislation.

"I think we've done our due diligence to try and meet with the [tenant] group," said Rodriguez. "And I was disappointed to find out they were going to have a civil protest across the street because they felt like we hadn't done our part to try and move things along. It's hard to move things along if the tenant group isn't following through with the plan we've put in place."

Rodriguez said she and Gonzalez had proposed new dates for a mediation meeting, but had yet to hear back from tenants' representatives.

At right: Yokum's veteran painter James Dawson, right, shows WHS student Erin Colvig the proper way to apply paint to the steel uprights. Far right: WHS students from the Ag Mechanics and Construction classes who learned how to spray-paint large steel supports at Yokum's Collision Center Friday morning pose for a group photo. In rear: Jeff Yokum and James Dawson (in the white suit).

Below: Ag Mechanics teacher Becky Bowlds sits with the painted uprights for the new goat barn on the WHS campus.

At bottom: A good example of T-welds in the corner of a newly painted upright made by students in the Ag Mechanics class.



Higher Stakes

WHS students spray-paint supports at Yokum's for the ag farm's new goat barn

Friday morning started chilly and early at the Willits High School's welding shop where students loaded 12 welded steel supports onto a trailer headed to Yokum's Collision Center. The supports – technically, “uprights with gusseted braces” – were welded by students in Becky Bowlds' Ag Mechanics class. Her students along with those from Brian Bowles' Construction class met at Yokum's to gain experience spray-painting large constructions. The steel uprights will be used to hold up trusses and a roof made by the Construction class students for the WHS Ag Department's new goat barn.

The uprights were unloaded into a large, contained, spray paint “booth” in the back of Yokum's shop. The students were looking forward to the new experience since most had never tried their hand at spray-painting large items. Once the uprights were unloaded, owner Jim Yokum gave the students a tour of the shop while talking about the ins and outs of the collision industry. It was a great way for students to learn more about that business, too, giving them ideas for possible career options in the future.

When it was time to begin spray-painting, one of Yokum's veteran painters, James Dawson, discussed the logistics, safety measures, and methods used to paint the steel. Each student was given an OSA-approved respirator to use as they sprayed the paint in the closed and well-vented

room. They were shown how to apply a fine, even mist to the metal and were given a simple warning by Dawson and Yokum: “If you smell paint, get out of the booth!”

Once the uprights were sprayed, the booth was heated and became a quick-drying room which sped the processes from spraying an undercoat to the final top coats of paint. Several top coats were applied, giving each of the 22 students an opportunity to get a feel for making a smoothly painted surface.

The welds on the steel supports were fashioned by the students learning how to make T-welds and butt welds during one portion of the in-depth welding class. Because the uprights were being used for a “real” project, the goat shed, it was a higher-stakes learning experience.

“Welding is one of my favorite classes,” said student Dylan Dijon. “The welds were kind of hard at first,” Dijon said. “We had to grind down some of them because people messed up. They had to re-do a lot of them. Now they're better.” Instructor Mr. Bowles chimed in: “And there was a quality check on those welds!”

Becky Bowlds is passionate about the Ag Mechanics curriculum. “Ag mechanics covers all the different disciplines in construction having to do with agriculture: welding, masonry, electric, sheet metal, pipe bending. [They learn] everything,” she explained. She sees the

classes as stepping stones of experiences that may lead to future careers.

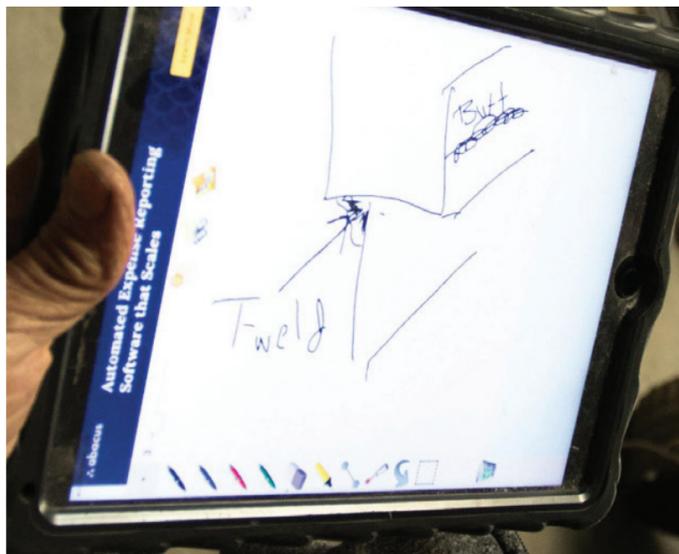
According to Bowlds, when students start in the program as freshmen they think: “I want to do this! I'm not exactly certain what aspect I want to go into, but I like this.” Then down the line, maybe when they're seniors, they think: “This is cool. It's what I've been trained to do. I have these skills, and this is what I'm looking for, for further education.”

It's important to Bowlds that students have a place to go to get skills beyond high school, be it college, a trade school, or an apprenticeship. Yokum agrees training in non-academic skills is important, and he enjoys providing these opportunities for students, including his business's space, equipment, and materials when he can.

He's currently employing Ben Dapson, a 2017 WHS graduate who worked at Yokum's in the WHS work-study program when he was a student. Dapson knew this was the type of work he wanted to do after the work-study experience.

Last Friday's workshop was the fifth experience Yokum's has had with the high school Ag Mechanics classes. “I really enjoy this! They're always a good group of kids,” Yokum said. Bowlds and her students are continually grateful for Yokum's generosity, and also grateful for the paint that was donated by Little Lake Auto Parts for this activity.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
ree@willitsweekly.com



At left: A quick digital drawing shows the difference between the T-welds and the butt welds were used in constructing the steel uprights.

At left, below: Students Taylor Drew, left, and Erin Colvig, right, spray the first coat of primer on the uprights, with James Dawson supervising.

Photos by Ree Slocum

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