



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## Remembering Al Robinson

To the Editor:

Thank you, Willits Weekly, for the great job you all did on the obituary for Al Robinson who passed on December 4, 2015. We are looking forward to seeing all our friends and family and sharing the good times that we remember about Al Robinson on Saturday, April 30 at 2 pm at the Willits Community Center at 111 East Commercial Street. For those who would like to, please bring a finger food to share. Thank you.

Elaine Robinson, Willits

## Earth Day Parade

To the Editor:

Please join Willits for Bernie Sanders supporters on Saturday, April 23 for a Bring Your Own Picnic and Parade in celebration of Earth Day. We'll meet at noon at Bud Snyder City Park across from the Willits Police Department station for a fun parade through town with lots of signs waving and folks doing on-the-spot voter registrations. We will end up back at City Park and enjoy our picnic lunches.

After lunch, we encourage you to head across the street to the Willits Center for the Arts for a wonderful afternoon of art projects for the entire family starting at 2 pm.

We're looking forward to a delightful day. See you there!

Carol Hughes, Willits

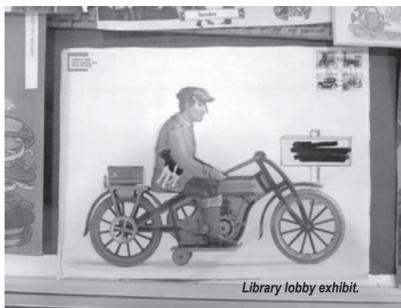
## Library exhibit is amazing

To the Editor:

I stopped by the Willits Library recently for a few minutes and was absolutely blown away by their lobby glass-case exhibit. I thought I'd share the information with Willits Weekly readers.

It's filled with 8-1/2" x 11" mailing envelopes. These are real envelopes addressed and mailed but not before they had been thoughtfully decorated. Hard to describe, but each carries a particular theme, and they remind you of the highly intricate paper cutting used for decoupage.

Seemingly covering a span of 10 years, this incredible artwork is the creation of a lady in Ukiah, 82-year-old Helen M. Wike. Postmarks on some are difficult to read,



Library lobby exhibit.

and of course the envelopes have suffered the rigors of postal processing, but still they are quite lovely and, in many instances, thought-provoking. One in particular had stamps featuring Tiffany stained glass. Surely, that provided the theme she was looking for, because the envelope is covered in cutouts of stained glass windows from what looks like the Art Deco era.

In an age where handwritten notes are becoming almost a quaint curiosity, the notion that someone would fashion a beautiful envelope is amazing to me. Perhaps more amazing is the fact that the recipient kept each one.

Gail Richards, Willits

## Prohibition vs. pot ban

To the Editor:

In response to April Tweddell's recent letter, "Bans don't work": Prohibition, known as the Volstead Act, began in 1920 through the 18th amendment and was repealed in 1933 through the 21st amendment. This was a federal law banning the sale, production, importation and transportation of alcoholic beverages. Consumption and possession of alcoholic beverages was *not* made illegal.

By contrast prohibition still exists on the state level in Kansas, Mississippi and Tennessee. Individual counties and cities in those states may enact laws allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages if they so desire. Of the remaining 47 states, 30 of them allow the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages but also allow individual counties and cities to enact more stringent laws regarding the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages, with California being one of them.

Under federal law, which supersedes any and all state laws, marijuana is prohibited from being sold, cultivated, possessed or consumed. It is understandable to see cities and counties entertaining rules and regulations or even the banning of the sale, cultivation and public use of marijuana.

These same entities have set down rules and regulations so that those of us living within their boundaries can rest assured that our neighbors will not interfere with our privacy, health and use of our property. The two reasons given most often for growing marijuana are for recreational and medical purposes, either of which can be a detriment to those living nearby.

Andy Zanardi, Willits

Based on current state and county regulations, a medical card holder may grow up to 25 plants. If those 25 plants were to yield a conservative 4 ounces of usable pot per year, you would have 100 ounces or 2,830 grams of pot. If it were rolled into a cigarette form, or joint, weighing a good-sized 1.5 grams each, the yield would be about 1,886 joints. That is more than enough to keep one person stoned 24 hours a day, seven days a week for a year.

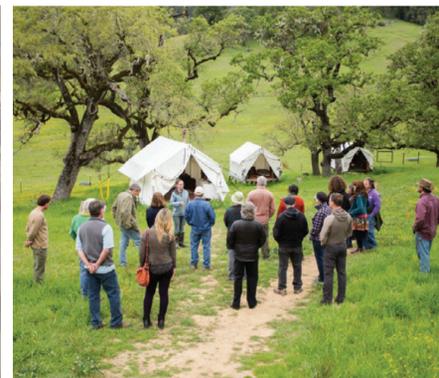
Realistically the average recreational user might go through just a few joints per week or about 150 per year. On the other hand the average person using pot for medical purposes, such as glaucoma or severe pain, might use a joint per day or about 365+ per year. Again these are averages, and there are those who will use twice that amount. Obviously those who have 25 plants are not stoned all the time so what happened to the pot that wasn't consumed by the grower? Was it thrown away, given away or used for mulch?

The bottom line is this. Marijuana has been cultivated, consumed and sold in this county for decades, with the majority of the revenue spent in this county. Unfortunately the underground grows have damaged the land, the streams and property values, not to mention the deaths and injuries. Personally I can't stand the sight or smell of marijuana or its purpose of getting one high, but there are those who prefer pot over a good 12-year-old Scotch, so who am I to say that they can't enjoy pot if it suits them?

We then come back to rules and regulations to protect all. Frankly I do not want my neighbor growing pot, just as I would not want my neighbor running a 24-hour-a-day distillery. So if you want to use pot, use tobacco, consume alcohol or use other drugs, that is your choice, but don't grow or manufacture the stuff nearby and degrade my way of life.

There isn't a perfect way to appease the old-school growers or those of us who don't use the product. The only viable solution is not with the local or state government, but with the federal government. It would be better for all those concerned if the feds would classify marijuana along with alcohol and tobacco which, for all practical purposes, are controlled substances.

If this were to happen, controlled quality, manufacturing and distributing would take over, allowing for the power of supply and demand to set reasonable prices. The other benefit would be the collection of income taxes and sales taxes at the state level as well as federal income taxes. With marijuana at the corporate business level, there would be no need for home grows or illicit grows, which would then eliminate home invasions and damage to our lands. Some may say no, but how many of you know of anyone who grows their own tobacco or distills their own liquor?



# Grange Farm School Open House

Visitors enjoy a tour, music and a farm-to-table meal

Last Saturday the gathered clouds didn't daunt the Grange Farm School from hosting an open farm event on their Ridgewood Ranch school and farm site. Over 40 people from around the county visited the fields, gardens, free-range sheep pen, paths bursting with wildflowers, schoolhouse, new heritage chicks, student kitchen and housing, and the outdoor gazebo used for meetings, hanging out and eating meals.

On the farm tour, Joshua Sternberg, Grange Farm School graduate and vegetable production manager, as well as Incubator farmer for the acre of garden beds, led tours in the field and garden. According to Sternberg, many of the current garden beds were tilled last year with an ethanol-fueled cub tractor. The ethanol was made locally from wine grape byproducts.

Sternberg said this year he has plans to experiment with "no till gardening," a method whereby a farmer/gardener doesn't disturb the deeper soil layers. Instead, layers of plant material and compost are added and land-friendly implements, that only lift or moderately break the soil, are used. Plants are then

planted in the loosened soil. Sternberg will be mentoring this year's new students in gardening methods and teaching them how to work with the produce and public at a few of the county's farmer's markets. Look for them at the Willits Farmers Market.

Further afield, in a moveable electric fence enclosure, a small herd of pregnant ewes and a new lamb were looking healthy and contented grazing on the cover crops of lava beans, grasses, and other green plants that sheep find delectable. On May 7, the Grange Farm School will host an "Ovine Appreciation Day" series of workshops celebrating the many ways sheep are beneficial to the farm (wool, meat, milk, grazing, and beautifying the farm by being mild-mannered and wonderfully cute!).

Up on the knoll, at the schoolhouse, Ruthie King, director of the farm school, gave tours of the heritage meat and egg layer chick enclosures. Many of the chicks were getting large enough to begin making their way outside into a small, penned-in yard. The next step will be their new, spacious and diversely edible home in the fields and orchard with a moveable

At top, from left: Farm School Director Ruthie King displays the new "Creamy Leg Bars" chicks bred for laying eggs to the gathered crowd. Visitors listen to King in front of the student housing tents. Kimbal Dodge and Stella Bonnet discuss vegetable starts.

At left, top: Rachel Britten finishes her Avogolemono soup with a little salt.

At left, bottom: From left: Pat and Bruce Yoxall, Earlene Gleisner, John McGee, Kimbal Dodge, and Greg Sieger listen to Joshua Sternberg, center, talk about "no till gardening."

Below: A ewe and a lamb enjoying a feast of fava beans, grasses, and other greens in their spacious pen.



Photos by Ree Sloum



## Willits Weekly's 3rd Anniversary Newspaper Subscription Drive

Love Willits Weekly? Help us celebrate our 3rd anniversary edition on May 5, 2016 by becoming a subscriber! We're offering a Home Delivery special of \$40 for a year's subscription in town, the valley or Brooktrails Newspaper comes early Friday morning. Willits Weekly also offers mail deliveries for \$75/year. Buy a subscription for your 2016 WHS graduate or anyone who wants to keep up with what's happening in Willits. New subscribers have a chance to win a Willits Weekly T-shirt! We love our "street subscribers" who pay for a subscription but pick up a paper in town! Send a check to Willits Weekly, PO Box 1698 in Willits, or contact us at willitsweekly@gmail.com or 459-2633.



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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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# Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate



## How To Sudoku:

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

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10				
11				12			13			14						
15							16			17						
	18				19		20			21						
					22	23				24						
25	26	27	28	29												
30							31									
32									33	34	35	36	37			
					38	39	40		41	42						
									43							
					45	46	47									
					48				49			50	51	52	53	54
55									56			57				58
59									60			61				
62									63						64	

## POETRY WORD SEARCH

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

## CLUES ACROSS

- Crooned
- Luck
- Cosecant function
- Rock bands play here
- Surrounds the earth
- Jessica \_\_\_
- A type of clique
- No seats available
- Greek sophist
- Stiff hair
- Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- Legal periodical
- Saloons
- He tricks you
- Closing over
- Man's best friend is one
- Distinguish oneself
- Immoralities
- Marsh elder
- Blasts
- A discerning judge
- Avenge for a wrong
- Doctors' group
- Jerry's friend
- Type of sword
- Swedish rock group

- Black tropical American cuckoo
- Blatted
- Cain and \_\_\_
- Strong liquor flavored with juniper berries
- Cocoa bean
- Get free of
- Cardiograph
- A cargo (abbr.)
- Voices
- Water in the solid state
- Superman's foe
- Chris Paul's team (abbr.)
- Employ
- Mineral
- Vessel
- Nigerian City
- Romania
- Sirius Satellite Radio (abbr.)
- Potential difference
- A class of synthetic detergents
- Drunkard
- Doesn't win or lose
- Appellative
- Spiritual leader
- Implant
- Language (Afrikaans)
- Basics
- A one-time Giants center
- Every one of two or more
- A way to gather
- Swiss river
- Small spot

## CLUES DOWN

- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Bird genus
- One point east of northeast
- A type of fly
- Man's best friend
- Lighter-than-air craft
- Ask to marry
- Thick rope made of wire
- Imposters
- Central nervous system
- Pie \_\_\_ mode
- Robert \_\_\_, poet
- Dwelt
- Firewood

ACCENT	CONSISTENCY	METRICAL
ALLEGORY	COUPLE	NARRATOR
ALLITERATION	DACTYL	OCTAVE
ANTITHESIS	DENOUEMENT	POETRY
APOSTROPHE	ELISION	REGULARITY
ASSONANCE	EPIC	RHYME
BALLAD	FICTION	SONNET
BALLADE	FOOT	SYMBOL
CAESURA	HYPERBOLE	SYNTAX
CHARACTER	IMAGE	STONE
CLIMAX	IRONY	VERSE
CONFLICT	METAPHOR	



At left: Firefighter Raymond Campbell adjusts his SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) mask before entering the burn trailer, left, and works to control water during a salvage training, right.

Below: Firefighter Kristen Colvig gets trained in ventilating a roof.

At bottom: Willits firefighters train in smoky conditions inside the trailer.

Photos by Peter Armstrong

## The rest of Burn | From Page 1



all the basic skills and give them the certifications needed in a relatively short amount of time.

Inside a large fire-simulation trailer brought from the Kelseyville department, teams of three firefighters rotated through in full gear with fire hoses in tow, battling propane-produced flames coming at them from different directions. These included rolling flames on the ceiling that would get as hot as 1200 degrees Fahrenheit. The fire was managed from a control booth by an operator who could see the firefighters and flames in action from behind a window.

At the same time, another team would be on the roof above them practicing a ventilation drill, using rotary saws and chainsaws to cut through a makeshift roof – an important step in a structure-fire response to reduce smoke and heat and provide relief for the "attack" team below.

LLFD Fire Chief Carl Magann said the trailer is a much safer and more environmentally friendly way to train firefighters than using "improvised structure fires", which used to be more common.

Greg Smith, a 17-year veteran of the Laytonville Volunteer Fire Department, was on hand as part of the command staff, and has helped run the live burn day for several years. He agreed that the trailer is a very effective training method.

"It's about as real as you can get while keeping it safe," he said. "For most of [the firefighters], this is their first time into a burning structure, so it's perfect. It's a controlled atmosphere to let them go in and just see what's really going on."

Magann called it a "graduation day" of sorts for the trainees. "With the four months they've been working at the academy, they kind of put everything together today."

The academy is sponsored and run by the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association, with chiefs from all over the county involved. The students travel to various departments around the county to learn different skills, putting in about 180 hours of study.

"I know on the fire chief side of it that when the students come out of the academy they are just really trained to an excellent level," said Magann.

There were a few other training stations that the students rotated through during the live burn day, including one where they operated a thermal imaging camera. Magann said this was "a hit" for the day, since some of the departments previously didn't have access to trying out the device.

There was also a "rapid intervention team

station," where they would prepare to move into a fire in the event that the initial attack team gets into trouble, and a rehabilitation area where they would regroup and get their vitals checked after exiting the fire area. All seven teams got to rotate through each station twice throughout the day.

Each team had a proctor, generally a veteran company officer, with them at all times. The proctor would make sure that all the safety procedures were being followed, and also assess and critique the team members. Several of the officers were from the LLFD.

Chris Wilkes, who's been the training chief at LLFD for six years, was the coordinator for the event, and he said afterwards that overall it went great.

"It went really smooth," he said. "It helps when you have a good solid group of people, a cohesive group."

Three of the "graduates" were from the LLFD – Kristen Colvig, Raymond Campbell and Derek McCain. The others represented volunteer departments from all around the county including Brooktrails, Ukiah, Hopland, Laytonville, Fort Bragg, Comptche, and Westport.

Colvig said that being in the burn simulation trailer was "really awesome. It was hot in there, that's for sure."

She didn't plan on becoming a firefighter, but she was inspired when she saw the LLFD in action while working as an EMT on an emergency call out Highway 162.

"Watching them repel over the edge, I thought, 'I want to do that,'" she said.

It was the second time in three years the live burn drill was held at the LLFD station, and the department is hoping to work out a way to have their own burn trailer by next year. For this day, the California State Firefighters Association helped offset some of the costs through a grant.

Several local businesses also contributed to the day being a success through various donations. Mendo Mill gave the roof construction material for the ventilation drill; Amerigas donated all the propane; Sparetime Supply provided a tractor and a driver for transporting the trailer; and El Mexicano gave free lunch to all the firefighters. All the donors were thanked at the last LLFD board of directors meeting, as was Wilkes for running the event so well.



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**WPD Activity Report**  
 April 10 to April 16  
 Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 212 incidents this week

**Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests**  
 April 10

2:10 am: Officers were dispatched to a reported trespassing at a residence in the 200 block of South Humboldt Street. When they arrived, they located LOUWAERT, Michael, 50, of Ukiah unconscious in front of the residence. Officers were able to wake Louwaert and ultimately determined he was too intoxicated to provide for his own care. Louwaert was arrested pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication).

9 am: Officers were dispatched to a reported trespassing at a business in the 200 block of Shell Lane. They arrived and contacted NORTON,

James, 35, of Willits, who'd entered the vacant building without permission. Norton had received multiple prior warnings and citations for trespassing at that location. He was arrested pursuant to 602 PC (Trespassing).

12:30 pm: Officers initiated an investigation of a theft from a business

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in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

2:50 pm: An officer on patrol saw a fight in progress in the intersection of East Valley Road and South Humboldt Street. Upon both of the involved parties, he determined JOHNSON, Brandon, 33, of Willits was too intoxicated to care for his own safety, and placed him under arrest pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication).

4:30 pm: Officers were dispatched to a reported shoplifting at a business in the 1700 block of South Main Street and as a result contacted HANER, Christina, 31, of Ukiah. Haner was the subject of an outstanding Sonoma County warrant and was placed under arrest.

Read the rest of WPD | Over on Page 11

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From Page 1

driven by 44-year-old Kenneth Walters of Eureka, was southbound in the left-hand lane at about 11:20 am on April 14, overtaking a slower-moving bus in the right-hand lane, when the Mazda tried to squeeze between the two vehicles. As the Mazda tried to slip around the bus, it struck the right front of Walters' Ford. The impact sent the Mazda spinning counterclockwise across the road into northbound traffic, where it was struck by 2013 Ford pickup driven by 36-year-old Joseph Aldridge of Lakeport.

As the two vehicles were coming to rest, officers said, Walters' pickup was struck by a northbound 2014 Freightliner driven by 57-year-old Jeffrey Smith of Citrus Heights. The impact caused Walters' Ford and the Mazda to both catch fire.

A 2011 Chevy driven by 18-year-old Michael Dillwood of Windsor struck the northbound guardrail as its driver tried to avoid the pileup, officers said.

Walters, Smith and Dillwood escaped with minor injuries. Aldridge was taken to Howard Memorial Hospital with "moderate to major injuries."

The Mazda's driver died at the scene.

The pileup closed Highway 101 for several hours, backing up traffic in both directions.

Investigation into the accident is continuing.

It was the second accident on the same section of Highway 101 in two days. On Wednesday, April 13, state traffic officers reported a head-on collision halfway between CalFire headquarters at Howard Forest and the reservoir.

At 10:30 am, a pickup truck driven by Jerry McFadden, 67, of Willits apparently had some kind of medical episode, relatives said. McFadden, who was traveling northbound, went out of control and hit the bank, flipping over twice, and striking another vehicle in the southbound lane.

Two of his grandchildren, Aidyn, 10, and Owen, 15, were riding in the pickup at the time of the accident, and were taken to Howard Memorial Hospital for evaluation. Willits resident Roni McFadden said her niece and nephew "are OK."

McFadden also noted: "The driver of the vehicle that Jerry hit, pulled Aidyn out of the truck. That same man came upon Thursday's wreck and pulled a woman out of that one, too. We don't even know his name."

McFadden was airlifted to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, where doctors told relatives he was suffering from a "small brain bleed, and a cut arm and beat-up face from the pickup's airbag deployment and broken glass."

McFadden told Willits Weekly on Wednesday afternoon her brother-in-law was still in the hospital being evaluated with further testing, "but will probably be released this week."

Southbound traffic on Highway 101 after the April 13 accident was backed up for more than a mile, the CHP reported, but the lane was reopened around 11:03 am, while northbound traffic was moving at 11:05 am.

From Page 1

(except for the sheriff, district attorney and assessor who must be elected), compensation, terms and removal of all county officers; for the powers and duties of all officers; and for the consolidation and segregation of all county offices.

"A charter does not give a county official extra authority over local regulations, revenue-raising abilities, budgetary decisions or intergovernmental relations."

The summary's language is based on Article XI of the California Constitution.

"The main power of the charter is to control the structure and operation of county government," Neill told supervisors.

Neill acknowledged he is not an attorney. However, his credentials give some weight to his opinion. According to a website link, Neill has worked on revenue, tax and general government issues for CSAC for nearly 10 years. He is a policy wonk, and recently helped staff CSAC's Realignment Allocation committee.

According to the website, Neill "got his start in local government policy with the California Special Districts Association, where he landed after completing his studies in philosophy at the University of California at San Diego."

Albion resident Linda Perkins, a proponent of Measure W, which will appear on the June 7 county ballot, explained the political theory underlying Measure W to supervisors.

"I've heard a model or an explanation that the federal government sets the floor, the state government can raise that floor on things like minimum wage and other issues, and that county and city governments, local governments, can also raise the floor — that the state and feds set a minimum, and that we are empowered to increase that minimum," Perkins said.

But later in his presentation, Neill said Perkins' underlying theory was incorrect. "Whether Mendocino can set a higher standard under a charter than you get in a general law county, I think that's outside the scope of a charter," he said.

Neill's comments came as the Charter Project of Mendocino County is hosting town hall meetings in Mendocino County communities, including a meeting held last weekend in Willits, to support the passage of Measure W.

Judging from the town hall meeting held in Willits, and from language on the group's website, the group seeks to impact the political scene in Mendocino County in a much more fundamental way than changing how the board of supervisors is elected, or how a vacant seat on the board can be filled.

A brochure distributed by the Charter Project of Mendocino County at the Willits town hall meeting states a county charter "can provide more autonomy and greater control over county finances," "can level the playing field against the incursion of corporate rights," and "can protect natural and financial resources from exploitation by Wall Street or transnational corporations."

Measure W proponent Robin Sunbeam frequently refers to counties that operate under a charter as "Home Rule counties,"

a phrase that evokes the struggle of Ireland and India to break free from English colonial domination.

John Sakowicz, a board member of the Mendocino County Employees Retirement Association, told supervisors that one of the strongest reasons he has heard for supporting a county charter is that doing so would enable the county to form a public bank. Sakowicz said having a public bank would be beneficial to the community. "We need to invest in our own people," Sakowicz said.

However, Mendocino County Treasurer Shari Schampire told supervisors the funds that she controls — currently some \$245 million — could not be used to capitalize a public bank. Schampire added funds that are part of the investment portfolio of the retirement association also could not be used in that way. "If the county wanted to capitalize a public bank, the money would have to come out of the general fund," Schampire said.

"There is no legislation in place that would allow any county in California to create a public bank," Schampire explained. "The legislation that would let counties do that doesn't exist.

"So, one, it's illegal, and two, it's risky. You know, with a start-up, community-focused bank, there's risk there. So I couldn't do that for that reason, too."

#### How much will it cost?

The board voted 4-1 to direct county CEO Carmel Angelo to conduct an "in-house" study to determine how much it would cost to put a county charter in place. Supervisor Dan Hamburg (District 5) said it would be very difficult to assess how much doing so would cost, since the charter hasn't been written yet and no one knows what will be in it. Doug McKenty of the Charter Project of Mendocino County told supervisors the charter commission would need very little county support, perhaps an empty room once a month where it could meet, and perhaps access to the county's website.

County Counsel Katherine Elliott told the board any responsible assessment would have to include costs for attorney fees from the lawsuits that would result if a county charter is adopted.

Elliott's advice seems to be supported by a statement made at the Willits town hall meeting by political activist Paul Cienfuegos, a proponent of what he calls "community rights" and an advisor to the Charter Project of Mendocino County. Cienfuegos told the audience his organization views the courts as a tool in the struggle to assert community rights.

"Within the community rights movement, we are not afraid of being sued," he said. "Of the 200 communities that have adopted community rights over the past 16 years, 95 percent have never been legally challenged."

Hamburg said he would vote against any motion that would direct Angelo to undertake a cost analysis. Hamburg, who cast the lone dissenting vote on the matter, said he wanted to support the peoples' right to engage in what he called "a big civics lesson."

## Man's body found northwest of Willits

The body of a 60-year-old Willits man was found Sunday shortly after 7:30 pm in a field in the 35500 block of Eureka Stagecoach Road, about 15 miles northwest of Willits.

The death of longtime Willits-area resident Mark Terry II "is being investigated as a potential homicide," Mendocino County Sheriff's Lt. Shannon Barney said Wednesday, due to the "suspicious" location in which Terry's body was found and its condition.

The sheriff's office is asking anyone who may have seen Terry's older model red pickup truck in or around the Willits area, or observed anyone in or around the vehicle while it was parked near the intersection of Coast and Mill streets between April 7 and April 17, to contact the Sheriff's Investigative Unit.

Anyone with information concerning the case is asked to contact the sheriff's tip line at 234-2100.

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

## Charter county town hall draws small crowd in Willits

Advocates of making Mendocino County the state's 15th charter county pitched their case to about 20 people last Sunday afternoon at the Little Lake Grange.

At issue is the question: "Shall a Charter Commission be elected to propose a Mendocino County Charter?" on the June 7 ballot, appearing as Measure W.

If approved by voters, 15 elected commissioners will be charged with drafting a county charter, which will appear on a future ballot when it is completed. The draft charter must be approved by voters before it can become law.

Charter Project of Mendocino County campaign organizer Robin Sunbeam gave a Power Point presentation about what a county charter is and what it is not. She also explained why adopting a county charter is important.

Doing so would "give more control over the issues to the people that live here, so the people over in Sacramento will have a little less input," Sunbeam said. She characterized the board of supervisors, as they function under the county's current framework as a general law county, as being "reactionary," but said that would change under a county charter.

"Instead of the board of supervisors being reactionary, they will be visionary," Sunbeam said.

Sunbeam noted some of the provisions that have become law in some other counties that have adopted charters. San Francisco has adopted the "precautionary principle." Santa Clara County has adopted instant runoff voting and has ruled there will be no charge to candidates for publishing candidates statements in that county's voter pamphlet.

Sunbeam reassured the audience that the charter commission would not replace the board of supervisors and would not become a review board for supervisors' actions. "Our charge would be to write a charter for the county. Once ratified by the voters, the charter commission would be disbanded," Sunbeam said.

Willits City Councilwoman Madge Strong, who attended the meeting, asked event host Doug McKenty what would the future of the charter commission be if voters approve Measure W in June, but fail to approve the proposed charter at a future election.

McKenty said Measure W proponents

From Page 1

businesses came about as a result of a decision by the board of supervisors to allow Dollar General to set up a store in downtown Redwood Valley, despite massive opposition by the local residents.

The people in Redwood Valley were told the county was powerless to impose additional restrictions on Dollar General because the lot had been zoned commercial and the applicant had a right to develop it according to general zoning guidelines. Dollar General store opponents were told zoning guidelines would be sufficient to address their concerns.

Dunncliff told the board he and his staff had come up with three approaches to the problem, and were recommending the third.

The first approach was to prohibit formula businesses in Mendocino County, except in certain already heavily commercialized neighborhoods, such as the Brush Street Triangle and North State Street areas in Ukiah.

The second approach was to require a conditional use permit for requests by formula businesses to operate a business here, except when the business wanted to operate in the industrial areas noted above.

The third approach was to require a conditional use permit for all development requests, not just from formula businesses, for properties zoned C-1 or C-2. Dunncliff said he favored that approach, because the second approach wasn't restrictive enough.

"We thought if you limited it only to

did not know the answer to that question.

Willits resident Mike Burgess, a candidate for the charter commission, spoke briefly about the impact he expects a county charter will have. "Charter counties can make many more choices than a general law county can. I like that, because I don't like being told what to do," he said.

Burgess also clarified the relationship between the charter commission and the board of supervisors. "We don't replace the board of supervisors," he said. "We just give them a new playbook. It will have some new plays in it."

Political organizer Paul Cienfuegos, an advisor to the Charter Project of Mendocino County, said one of the most important benefits of approving Measure W would be to enable the people of Mendocino County to advance the cause of community rights.

Cienfuegos said currently the United States is operating under what could be termed a self-contradictory political system. "We have a bizarre situation today," Cienfuegos said, "where the California Constitution, the United States Constitution, in fact the state constitutions in every one of our 50 states, all say that political power and sovereignty resides with the people, and that the people have the right to abolish the government if we find it necessary to protect and preserve our health, safety and welfare.

"But yet, in the United States and in California, it is illegal for local governments to pass laws that would protect our health, safety and welfare."

Cienfuegos blamed the situation on three political structures that have become embedded in our system of laws.

The first is the idea that state law preempts the powers of local governments. The second is "Dillon's Rule," which reinforces the concept of state preemption. "Basically, Dillon's Rule says the proper relationship between the state and local government is that between a parent and a child," Cienfuegos said.

The third political structure Cienfuegos blamed is the concept of corporate constitutional rights. "The result is that local governments have almost no authority."

Voting for Measure W on June 7 would strike a small blow for community rights, he said. "If you gain approval for Measure W, then one of the things you can do in phase two, you could start the process of returning political power back to the local communities."

formula businesses, there still might be a threat to community character that would be coming into a community from a business that was not a formula business," Dunncliff said.

Supervisor John McCowen told Dunncliff he preferred the second approach. The other supervisors agreed with McCowen.

Dunncliff noted requiring a conditional use permit would slow the permitting process dramatically and impose costs on prospective developers not currently incurred. Under the current arrangement, he said, when development is allowed by right, the permitting process can take about three weeks and permitting costs are minimal.

Conditional use permits would require an additional six to nine months and would cost developers a bundle. "The fees would be over \$5,000," Dunncliff said.

John Mayfield, a Ukiah businessman and former county supervisor who has long been active in county politics, warned supervisors the costs of the permit process would be "between \$5,000 and \$50,000."

"On the plus side, though, it would give the community a chance to weigh in on some of these projects," Dunncliff said.

Supervisor Tom Woodhouse told Dunncliff to try to shorten the time frame and reduce the costs associated with securing a conditional use permit.

Dunncliff was directed to come back with a resolution for future board consideration.



# 'Speak Your Mind'

## Slam poetry night at Brickhouse draws a crowd

Poets of all ages participated in a stimulating evening of open mic poetry at Brickhouse Coffee, hosted by the Mendocino County Youth Project and MC Radioactive. More than 15 poets, most under the age of 20, shared a wide range of spoken word styles, from hip-hop slam, to free style, to un-rhymed free form.

— **Damian Sebouhian**

#### Victimized by Wandering Eyes

We are all victims of society  
We are judged by scanning eyes, how  
ghastly,  
It eats at our soul, the anxiety,

To hide we have to be oh so crafty  
The buzzing of the scouring scanning  
eyes,  
Consciously avoiding dagger-like looks,  
We all assume that we're here as allies,  
The past and present determines our  
fate

Whether we like it or not. We can't say  
If we are the prey or the predator.  
Society governs if we will stay,  
Is it in our minds or is it our soul?

— **Camryn Christensen, WHS junior**

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



Poets read at Brickhouse Coffee, clockwise from top left: Casey Jones, Autumn C. Long, Riley Hsieh, MC Radioactive, Tom Fristoe, Forrest Lancaster, Michael Jaguar and Dylan Foley.

Photo by  
Mathew Caine



## Amazing Clarity. Superior Comfort. And a Beautiful View.

With twice the imaging power of our previous MRI technology, the new GE Optima MRI can see details that have never been seen before. This gives physicians unprecedented clarity when making a diagnosis. Plus, its wider, more comfortable bore means you can breathe easy and feel more comfortable. It's the next generation in diagnostic imaging — and another advancement in technology brought to life by the friends and neighbors you trust.

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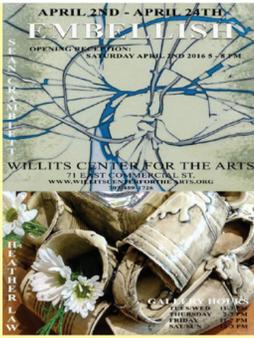
**Thursday, April 21**

**"Embellish":** Last chance this weekend to see the Willits Center for the Arts' April show, featuring Mendocino County artists Heather Law, ceramics, and Sean Cramblett, glass. Through April 24 at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Regular gallery hours: Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 am to 3 pm; Thursday from 2 to 7 pm; Friday from 11 am to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 3 pm.

**Willits Main Street Corridor Planning Fair:** The Main Street Corridor Planning Fair, April 18 through 22, will gather community input for the Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan, which will address safety, walking, biking, landscaping, lighting, street beautification, natural drainage, and economic development along the three-mile stretch of Main Street with City of Willits limits. Info: Visit [mainstreetplan.com](http://mainstreetplan.com) or call City Hall at 459-4601. All events are held at the old Rexall Building at the corner of Main Street and West Mendocino. Thursday, April 21: Open House, 5:30 to 6:30 pm; Drop by and share ideas about the designs in progress.

**Democratic Central Committee Meets in Willits:** the Mendocino County Democratic Central Committee holds their regular April meeting in Willits, at the Willits City Council Chamber. 6:30 pm with dinner at Lumberjack's starting at 5:15 pm. For more info, visit [www.mendocidems.org](http://www.mendocidems.org) or [www.facebook.com/Mendocidems](http://www.facebook.com/Mendocidems)

**Soroptimist Night at 'Blithe Spirit':** Willits Soroptimist Club is sponsoring a special evening performance of "Blithe Spirit, at the Willits Community Theatre, on Thursday, April 21. "This production, a comedy written by Noel Coward and directed by Bill Barksdale, promises to be a fun and enjoyable evening. Tickets are \$15, including snacks and a wine reception starting at 6:15 pm,



prior to the play at 7 pm. The proceeds from our sponsorship will provide much-needed funds to support local high school scholarships as well as monetary awards to deserving women and girls." For tickets, call Marilyn Harden at 459-5649.

**Now and Then Films:** "Watermark immerses the viewer in a magnificent force of nature that we all too often take for granted – until it's gone: Bringing together diverse stories from around the globe about our relationship with water: how we are drawn to it, what we learn from it, how we use it and the consequences of that use." 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Come early for trailers & short films. Your donation of \$5 to \$10 helps keep the film series funded. Serving heirloom organic popcorn with real organic butter, garlic and Fair Trade chocolate. Info: 459-6362.

**Shanachie Pub:** Harley Donley, solo show of mostly world folk and classical by "lead guitarist in his former band Shotgun Jesus." 8 pm. No cover. Visit <https://www.reverbnation.com/rootrot>. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Shanachie Pub: Max's Midnight Kitchen, string band out of Portland, Oregon. 9 pm. \$5. Visit https://www.reverbnation.com/rootrot. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.**

**Friday, April 22**

**Willits Main Street Corridor Planning Fair:** The Main Street Corridor Planning Fair, April 18 through 22, will gather community input for the Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan, which will address safety, walking, biking, landscaping, lighting, street beautification, natural drainage, and economic development along the three-mile stretch of Main Street with City of Willits limits. Info: Visit [mainstreetplan.com](http://mainstreetplan.com) or call City Hall at 459-4601. All events are held at the old Rexall Building at the corner of Main Street and West Mendocino. Friday, April 22: Community Bike Ride, 5 to 6:30 pm, led by Walk and Bike Mendocino; and presentation of preliminary Main Street Designs, 5:30 to 7 pm: Free refreshments by Scoops Catering.

# What's Happening Around Town

**"Blithe Spirit":** Noel Coward's comedic gem "Blithe Spirit" at Willits Community Theatre. Coward's unabashed send-up of clairvoyants and jealous, squabbling ghosts arrives on stage under the veteran directorship of Bill Barksdale guiding a cast of accomplished local comic actors. Performances of "Blithe Spirit" will run through May 1, with shows on Thursday at 7 pm for \$10, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm for \$15, and some Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$10. Tickets are available in person at Mazahar, online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com); or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006.

**Saturday, April 23 Happy Earth Day!**

**Relay for Life Flea Market:** "Come on out and join us this Saturday, April 23, at the Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. 8 am to 2 pm. 100 percent of the proceeds go to Relay for Life of Willits." If you want to donate items for the flea market, call Kathy Tobin at 707-272-2718.

**Earth Day at Mariposa Market:** "Come join us for food and fun! Festivities include produce demos, live music, Kid Zone, and storewide sales." 11 am to 3 pm, 500 South Main Street. Earth-friendly products and selected bulk items are 20 percent off. "If you have not visited Mariposa, Earth Day is a great opportunity to experience what our market is all about! Ask a staff member for a tour! See you there!"

**"An Afternoon of Art for All Ages":** The Willits Center for the Arts "welcomes friends young and old for an afternoon of art making. 2 to 4:30 pm. This free event is the second in the 'Let it Shine' campaign to repaint the historic Willits Center for the Arts. Face-painting, Stamping, Print making, Collage and more. This will be a family-friendly afternoon of creativity. Come let your light shine!" WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: contact

manager Holly Madrigal at 459-1726 or visit [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org).

**Earth Day Parade:** Willits for Bernie friends and families invite you to celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 23, with a Day of Action Parade and Bring-Your-Own Picnic. "Join in on the fun starting at noon at Bud Snyder City Park. We will parade through town with signs and voter registrations. Then at 1 pm, we will gather back at the park for Do It Yourself Picnic. We'll see you there!"

**"Blithe Spirit":** Noel Coward's comedic gem; 8 pm; see Friday, April 22 listing for details.

**WHS Booster Club Tri-Tip Dinner & Quarter Auction:** Willits High School Booster Club hosts a Tri-Tip Dinner and Quarter Auction Fundraiser on Saturday, April 23 at 6 pm, with auction at 7 pm. Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. \$25 per ticket, \$5 paddle. "All In" paddles available at the door. Tickets at the House Doctor, or call Donna at 459-2752 or Bridgett at 972-2164.

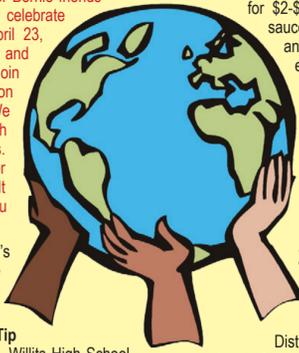
**Shanachie Pub: Them Travelin' Birds.** 8 pm. No cover. Visit <http://themtravelinbirds.com>. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Sunday, April 24**

**Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast:** every fourth Sunday, this month Sunday, April 24, from 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast! With live music, \$8 buys you a plate of the best "scratch" pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around." Choose Sourdough Wholegrain or Gluten Free Pancakes or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, with Beeler's



Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs made to order with real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. Sides of organic fruit in season for \$2-\$3 (this week apple/pear sauce with optional yogurt) and Amish maple syrup \$1 extra. \$8; \$7 seniors; \$5 children under 10.



**Monday, April 25**

**School District hearing:** Willits Unified School District meeting "to receive input from the public on matters pertaining to the Local Control Accountability Plan and 2016/17 Budget." Monday, April 25, at 5:30 pm at the Willits High School Media Center. Info: 459-5314.

**Tuesday, April 26**

**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: "Jungle Book," 2D and "Hello, My Name Is Doris." For showtimes: [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com). 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

**Measure V Forum:** a forum on the pros and cons of Measure V on the June ballot, "a citizens initiative ballot measure which asks the voters 'Shall the people of Mendocino County declare intentionally killed but left standing trees a public nuisance?" Tuesday, April 26 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 6:30 to 9 pm. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more info.

**Thursday, April 28**

**"Blithe Spirit":** Noel Coward's comedic gem; 7 pm; see Friday, April 22 listing for details.

**Friday, April 29**

**"Blithe Spirit":** Noel Coward's comedic gem; 8 pm; see Friday, April 22 listing for details.

**Saturday April 30**

**2nd annual Mother's Day Boutique:** "Energize Willits, a group of Zumba instructors with a dance studio at the Willits Charter High School, has partnered with the school to invite you to join us on our Second Annual Mother's Day Boutique and Inaugural Student Art Show." Saturday, April 30 from 11 am to 3 pm, Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. "We will be hosting a variety of vendors offering goods such as jewelry, cooking utensils, body lotions, make up, clothing – gifts geared for moms – because we love mom and want to give Willits the opportunity to shop for her without leaving Willits. Because we want to pamper every mom that shows up. And because while doing this we can raise funds for the school."

**WHS Softball Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser:** This Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the Willits High School softball team is set for Saturday, April 30, from 5 to 7 pm at the Willits High School cafeteria. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$6 for under 6.

**"Blithe Spirit":** Noel Coward's comedic gem; 8 pm; see Friday, April 22 listing for details.

**Sunday, May 1**

**"Blithe Spirit":** Last performance of Noel Coward's comedic gem; 2 pm matinee. see Friday, April 22 listing for details.



Reception: Friday, April 29, 4-7 pm  
Open: April 29 through May 29  
Thursdays & Fridays 4-7 pm  
Saturdays & Sundays 12-3 pm

[www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org)

A Benefit Dinner for high school scholarships  
**Willits 2016 Graduating Seniors**  
Hosted by the Willits Rotary Club  
Surf & Turf Dinner/Dollar Auction/Live Auction  
**Saturday, May 7th, 2016**  
"An evening before Mother's Day Dream"  
**Willits Community Center**  
  
Dinner prepared by Adam's Restaurant  
Live music by "The Basics"  
Tickets \$100  
Available @ Willits Furniture and J.D. Redhouse

**Forum on Measure W**  
Tuesday, April 26  
A forum on the pros and cons of Measure V, which will be on the June 2016 ballot in Mendocino County. Measure W is "a citizens initiative ballot measure which asks the voters 'Shall the people of Mendocino County declare intentionally killed but left standing trees a public nuisance?'" Tuesday, April 26 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 6:30 to 9 pm.  
"Proponents and opponents of the Measure V will discuss the practice of hack & squirt, which leaves millions of tan oaks poisoned and standing in the forest, creating increased hazard for our firefighters and rural residents in the ongoing drought and climate change." The audience will have an opportunity to ask questions. Ann Waters of the Little Lake Grange will be the moderator.



**WHS Softball Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**

This Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the Willits High School softball team is set for Saturday, April 30, from 5 to 7 pm at the Willits High School cafeteria featuring vegetarian and meat sauces and 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$6 for under 6.

**CALENDAR DEADLINE:**  
Get your item included in the calendar!  
Send artwork and info to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)  
by end of day Monday for each Thursday's edition.

**Cinco de Mayo**  
at the Library  
Thursday, May 5  
• 11 am Bilingual Story Time for kids  
• 12 to 3 pm Crafts  
• 3:30 pm Bilingual Story Time for kids  
• 4 to 5 pm Traditional Snacks

Everyone is invited! All library events are free and open to the public.  
**Willits On Stage 4**  
Saturday, May 7  
A benefit event for Willits Community Services and Food Bank. Saturday, May 7 at 7 pm at Willits High School. "A marvelous variety show with friends, neighbors and special guests!"  
Tickets: \$15 (available in advance at J.D. Redhouse, Main St. Music and Mazahar); 12 and under tickets, \$5 at the door. Info: 456-9429 or 459-3333.

**Understanding Dementia**  
Tuesday, May 3, 2016  
The May Avenues Wellness Speaker Series features "Understanding Dementia," a talk by Alexis Gidewell, Licensed Clinical Social Worker. "Learn how to modify troublesome dementia-related behavior. Gidewell has been working with older adults and families affected by neurocognitive disorders for over 20 years. Her career in this field started at an adult day program, where she provided direct care to, and helped structure individualized care plans for people with various types of dementia."  
Topics included are: common causes of dementia symptoms, what dementia is and what it is not, ways to communicate and remain "connected" with loved ones affected with dementia, and common triggers for dementia patients. Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Free to the public; donations appreciated. Refreshments will be served! Info: [Visit.avenueswellness.org](mailto:Visit.avenueswellness.org), email [atforhealth@gmail.com](mailto:atforhealth@gmail.com) or call 456-9676.

**Willits HomeBREW Club**  
May 6 meeting; May 7 demo  
The Willits HomeBREW Club will meet Friday, May 6 starting at 7 pm at the Willits KOA in their meeting hall (pull up to the gate, tell them you are here for the homebrew meeting, and then drive straight back to the meeting hall). The beer style of the month is Red Ales. "Come and learn about all things fermentable!" The club also hosts a brewing demo and membership opportunity the following day, Saturday, May 7, starting at 10 am at the Coast Hardware parking lot in Willits. "The club will be demonstrating how to brew a simple beer and discussing all things fermentable." Visit <http://willitshomebrew.weebly.com> for more info.

**THE JUNGLE BOOK 2D/3D**  
(PG) 1 hr 45 mins  
Fri: (2D) 4:15 & 5:30pm  
(3D) 8:00pm  
Sat/Sun: (2D) 12:30, 4:15 & 5:30 pm  
(3D) 3:00 & 8:00pm  
Mon-Thurs: (2D) 4:30pm  
(3D) 7:00pm

**THE HUNTSMAN: WINTER'S WAR**  
(PG13) 1 hr 54 mins  
Fri: 6:00 & 8:30pm  
Sat/Sun: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm  
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30pm

**HELLO, MY NAME IS DORIS**  
(R) 1 hr 35 mins  
Fri: 6:30 & 8:40pm  
Sat/Sun: 12:00, 2:10, 6:30 & 8:40pm  
Mon-Thurs: 5:30 & 7:40pm

**Mother's Day photo submission time!**

Mother's Day is just around the corner (Sunday, May 8!), and Willits Weekly is ready to honor moms in the community with our annual photo collage feature.

This is something we do FOR FREE for the community, and everyone is encouraged to participate!

You can tag "Willits Weekly" on Facebook in your images or text them to Maureen at 972-7047, but emailing digital photos to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com) is best.

However, if you only have a print photo, it can be brought to Ace Copy and Shipping and scanned and sent to us easily. Make sure to include a caption naming the people in the photograph from left to right.

We need to have all images in by end of day Monday, April 25.

The photo collages will appear in one of our two next editions of Willits Weekly, Thursday, April 28 or Thursday, May 5.

Questions? Call 972-7047 or email [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). We will try and print as many as we can, so get yours in early and get included with this fun way to honor all our mothers!

**COLUMN | At the Movies**



**'The Jungle Book'**

**The Story:** For years the human boy Mowgli was happy in the jungle with his animal friends but, then, his joy-filled idyll is threatened by the sadistic tiger named Shere Khan who wants to murder him. Fortunately, Mowgli has a host of loyal friends to protect him who are pretty tough themselves, Baloo the bear, Bagheera the black panther, Raksha the she-wolf and Akela the leader of the wolf pack.

**My Thoughts:** I have a strong sentimental attachment to "The Jungle Book." When I was a little boy, my dad used to make up adventure stories about Mowgli and tell them to me and my brother at bedtime. Thus, I approach any version of these yarns with some care lest my memories be trampled by cheesiness, or the lack of respect and deference that Hollywood sometimes shows to the classics.

I am happy to say that this newest iteration of "The Jungle Book" is visually brilliant, appropriately sentimental, funny, scary and thrilling. The computer-generated beasts are amazing, perfectly rendered and real; the interaction between living boy and computer-generated animal is flawless. The plot respects both Rudyard Kipling's vision and my fond childhood memories.

**Parents:** Great for children, a movie where inventiveness, loyalty and courage triumph. There are some scary scenes which might be too much for the very young.

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

**Ongoing Events**

**Willits Winter Farmers Market:** from 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Winter produce, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**Ridgewood Ranch Spring Nature Walks:** Docent-led walks on Saturdays at Ridgewood "Seabiscuit" Ranch, 16200 North Highway 101, 5.5 miles south of Willits. 10 am (rain cancels). Free to the public. Meet at the Ridgewood Ranch Oak Woodlands Conservation Trailhead (conservancy shed). Follow directions to the Golden Ride RV Park for ranch access. Visit [www.seabiscuitheritage.org/conservancy.html](http://www.seabiscuitheritage.org/conservancy.html) for info or call 707-391-3872.

**Free to All Creative Writing Class:** Thursdays in the Sunshine Room at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, at 1:30 pm. "Join us to find your inner writer." Class continues on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

**The Emmand Choral:** ongoing rehearsals on Wednesdays, 5 to 6:30 pm, for the Choral's 21st season, at the Little Lake Grange great hall, 291 School Street. No auditions: Open to all who love to sing.

**Inner Resources Institute:** three free programs at the new Inner Resource Institute, 1500 Hearst Road (at Hearst and Valley roads in the old Grace Baptist Church building). • Morning Meditation: Every morning at 6 am. • Kirtan: Every Thursday at 7:30 pm. Devotional singing and chanting led by Chinmayan. • Sunday Morning Service: 10:30 am. Satsang and fellowship consisting of a short talk on practical spirituality; meditation; Kirtan and worship; and a prayer service in which we pray for individual, family and humanity's needs. Info: 707-357-4676 or [innerresourceinstitute@yahoo.com](mailto:innerresourceinstitute@yahoo.com).

**The Mentoring Program:** Free classes for girls in grades 6 through 10 in the Willits school system. Friday afternoons from 4 to 5 pm. Class subjects rotate: Herbs, Crafts, Yoga & Movement, Life Skills, and Cooking and Home Arts. Room 4 in the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, the Cultivate Wellness Studio. Call Michelle Cummins for info: 972-1601.

**Tuesday Wii Bowling:** Every Tuesday at the Harrah Senior Center Dining Room, 1501 Baechtel Road. 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Info: 459-6826.

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

**Willits Frontier Twirlers Square Dance Club:** Monday night workshops at the Willits Center for the Arts, upstairs in the great room. Newer dancers from 7 to 8 pm; plus dancing from 8 to 9 pm. Lawrence Johnstone, caller. Guests always welcome! Info: Jenny Watts, 459-9526.

**Al-Anon Meeting:** Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. Saturdays at 10 am at St. Francis Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 66 East Commercial Street. "Al-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."

**Drop-in Knitting Circle:** Due to popular demand, the Willits Library is holding the drop-in knitting circle every Saturday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on hand who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects – we'll supply the coffee! Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in."

**Willits Library Public Events:** "Stories for Crawlers and Walkers," Thursdays at 11 am. Technology group for help with hand-held devices, Fridays at 1 pm. Youth Game Night, ages 10-14, Fridays from 5 to 7:30 pm. 390 East Commercial Street. More info: 459-5908.

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

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

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

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

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

**Kids on the Run!** club for kids kindergarten through 12th grade, sponsored by the Sheriff's Activity League. Started March 12, Saturdays at 10 am at the ball fields between the Dog Park and the Mendocino County Museum. Cost for 2016: \$10, includes a T-shirt and free race entries. Questions? Contact: Michelle Kluskiewicz at 267-608-6262 or Gina Henebury at 707-485-1794.

**Free Sheriff's Activity League programs:** at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 10 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: [www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySherrifsYouthActivitiesLeague](http://www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySherrifsYouthActivitiesLeague) or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

**Shanachie Pub:** World Music Mondays: Sign ups start at 7:30 pm sharp. Music starts at 8 pm.  
**Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday.** 8 pm. No cover. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic every Wednesday, 6 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday, 8:00 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.  
**Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room:** Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street. Info: 459-2444.  
**Laytonville Winter Farmers Market:** Mondays, November to May, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville.



**Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner**  
Friday, April 29  
Sober Grad's biggest fundraiser of the year, the Tri-Tip Dinner, is set for Friday, April 29 this year, and tickets are now on sale for this drive-through take-home dinner for four, including a full tri-tip marinated overnight in Cathy Goss' secret marinade, grilled to perfection by Dan Pinon, Doug Goss, Art Cooley and crew, four baked potatoes with sour cream and butter, salad for four and dressing from Trillium Delights, four of Tam Adams' yummy rolls, four cookies, and a rose from Flowers by Annette, which is all bagged up and delivered to the ticket holder at the Rodeo Grounds as they drive through. Tickets, \$50 for dinner for 4, are available – pre-sale only – at Cat's Meow and Willits High School office, from members of the Class of 2016, or by emailing [willitssobergrad@gmail.com](mailto:willitssobergrad@gmail.com).

**'Art Under 20'**  
Opens April 19 at WCA

The 17th annual "Art Under 20" show will open Friday, April 29, with a reception from 4 to 7 pm, at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Art Under 20" is presented by the Willits High School art department. Artists from Willits Charter School, San Hedrin High School and Laytonville High School have been invited to participate as well. "We are presenting our young-adult artists to the community: It will be their gallery debut for some!"

Their artworks are impressive. This year's show is sure to be a wonderful experience for the students who are exhibiting their work, and for the family and friends who will visit the show. Over 1,000 visitors attended the show in 2015. Please join us to celebrate the creativity of our Willits and Laytonville youth.

The 2016 show runs through Sunday, May 29. Info: Carolyn Bakewell at 459-7700 ext. 1533 (WHS).

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57 East Commercial Street - Willits  
707-459-NOVO (6696)  
[www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com)  
Starts Friday, May 6:  
**CAPTAIN AMERICA**  
Movie Times for 4/22 thru 4/28

**THE JUNGLE BOOK 2D/3D**  
(PG) 1 hr 45 mins  
Fri: (2D) 4:15 & 5:30pm  
(3D) 8:00pm  
Sat/Sun: (2D) 12:30, 4:15 & 5:30 pm  
(3D) 3:00 & 8:00pm  
Mon-Thurs: (2D) 4:30pm  
(3D) 7:00pm

**THE HUNTSMAN: WINTER'S WAR**  
(PG13) 1 hr 54 mins  
Fri: 6:00 & 8:30pm  
Sat/Sun: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm  
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30pm

**HELLO, MY NAME IS DORIS**  
(R) 1 hr 35 mins  
Fri: 6:30 & 8:40pm  
Sat/Sun: 12:00, 2:10, 6:30 & 8:40pm  
Mon-Thurs: 5:30 & 7:40pm

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



Volunteer services manager Becky Hope, center, surrounded by HMH volunteers.

# Helping Hands

Celebrating National Volunteer Month at Howard Hospital

By Cecilia Winiger, for HMH

At Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, there's a group of caring individuals who don't get paid for what they do, yet they play an important role in the day-to-day operations of the hospital. And there's no better time to celebrate them than during National Volunteer Month.

"Members of the Howard Hospital Auxiliary volunteers are often the first and then the last impression patients get when they come to HMH," said Becky Hope, volunteer services manager.

In addition to greeting visitors, helping patients find

their way around, and helping at the newly opened gift shop, members of the auxiliary have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for equipment and supplies. "Our volunteers allow our clinical staff to focus on patient care by relieving them of various administrative tasks," Hope explained.

"More importantly, volunteers spend time sitting with patients, playing games, reading books or sometimes just talking to patients. It's those little things that make a big impact on our patients and their families. I don't know what we'd do without our volunteers," she said.

When it comes to donating time and talent to the hospital, Sandra Barrera is at the top of the list. Barrera has been volunteering at HMH since January 1999, contributing a record 5,000 hours to HMH.

After retiring from her career as an administrative assistant for a fence company, she moved with her husband from the Bay Area to Willits in 1998, where they intended to spend their golden years enjoying the outdoors.

Barrera quickly discovered, however, that she wasn't cut out for a life of idle pleasure. "I was bored. I had too much time on my hands. I was looking for something to do when I met this lady at the park one day. She was a long-time volunteer at HMH, and she told me about volunteering at the hospital."

Many years later, Barrera says she still loves what she does at HMH. On Tuesdays, she spends her time at the newly opened auxiliary-run gift shop. On other days, she is asked to help out for events such as lunches for hip and knee replacement patients.

"There's no other place in Willits that carries the items we sell at the gift shop," Barrera said. "We get a lot of people from the community coming in just to shop and to

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

A Benefit Event for Willits Community Services and Food Bank

## "Willits On Stage 4"

Willits High School  
Saturday, May 7, 2016 7 pm

A Marvelous Variety Show with Friends, Neighbors and Special Guests!

# SATURDAY GIVEAWAY

## APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>

(PRIZES SUPPLIES LAST)

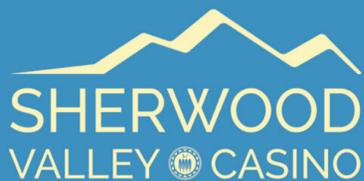
### SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO LOGO BEACH TOWEL

Players Club members that earn **70 points on April 23** will receive a Beach Towel (While Supplies Last) Towels can start being redeemed for **starting at 12:30PM**

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

100 Kawi Place, Willits 707-459-7330 www.svrcasino.com

Management reserves all rights to cancel or alter any promotion with little or no notice.



100 Kawi Place, Willits 707-459-7330 www.svrcasino.com

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

April 11

11:45 pm: Officers contacted NEAGLE, Richard, 35, of Willits in the 100 block of East Valley Road after observing him standing next to an open container of alcohol. Neagle was found to be under the influence of alcohol, in violation of the terms of his pre-trial release, and was issued a citation.

April 12

12:15 am: HALE, Tammy, 29, of Covelo was contacted during a traffic stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street. Hale initially provided a false name to the officers, who subsequently determined her actual identity. Hale was the subject of several outstanding Mendocino County warrants and was placed under arrest.

3:30 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance at a residence in the 200 block of Holly Street. During their investigation, officers learned that during an argument LOCKETT, William, 45, of Willits punched the victim and stole her cell phone. In addition, there was an active restraining order, of which he was in violation. Lockett was arrested pursuant to 273.5(a) PC (Domestic Violence w/ Injury), 273.6(a) PC

(Violation of a Domestic Violence Restraining Order), and 212.5 PC (Robbery).

8 pm: HEID, Karen, 54, of Willits was contacted during a traffic stop in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue and issued a citation for an active Mendocino County warrant.

9 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance at a business in the 200 block of South Main Street. During their investigation it was reported NORTON, Robert, 28, of Ukiah was acting unusually bizarrely and yelling at random people. When officers attempted to contact Norton, he refused to follow any commands, and claimed he was armed with a taser. Officers could also see what was determined to be an expandable baton protruding from his pocket. Officers attempted to remove the weapons from Norton, but he struggled against them. He was ultimately subdued, and placed under arrest pursuant to 22210 PC (Possession of an Illegal Weapon) and 148(a)(1) PC (Resisting/Delaying/Obstructing).

April 13

6:30 pm: Officers responded to a three-vehicle collision in the 200 block of North Main Street.

7 pm: Officers initiated an investigation of an assault in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

April 16

12:20 am: Officers responded to a reported reckless driving situation on School Street and, subsequently, contacted BOLTON, Joshua, 19, of Willits. Officers determined Bolton was driving while under the influence of alcohol and placed him under arrest pursuant to 23152(a) VC (DUI).

6:50 am: Officers contacted ADLUM, Zane, 28, of Willits in the 300 block of East Commercial Street after observing him illegally camping. Adlum was the subject of an active Mendocino County warrant for which he received a citation.

9:45 am: Officers were dispatched to a reported trespassing in the 200 block of South Main Street and contacted CARON, Robert, 58, of Willits. Officers determined Caron was too intoxicated to provide for his own care and arrested him pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication).

10 pm: RINGLER, Cody, 24, of Willits was contacted in the 10 block of Holly Street and arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

## The rest of Farm School

From Page 3

chicken coop. The farm school is committed to producing organic and free-range chickens and other meat animals, as well as vegetables and fruits. King also showed guests the student facilities: communal kitchen, bathrooms and showers, and tent cabins. She gave a very eloquent description of life and learning at the farm school and answered questions.

Guests were served a variety of "Tres Bien" soft goat cheeses from Ridgewood Ranch and a family-style, gourmet, farm-to-table lunch prepared by Rachel Britten, also part of the farm school teaching team. Chef Britten made Avgolemono soup with chicken broth, eggs, parsley, and a variety of herbs from the farm school's garden and chickens. A fresh kale salad topped with sunflower seeds and baked butternut squash drizzled with a spicy sauce were also prepared and served by Britten with the school's ingredients.

Exquisitely topped off lunch was Britten's applesauce cake made with heritage wheat from Ecology Action's farm and apples from the Ridgewood Ranch orchard, with a topping made with the school's walnuts. Delicious!

During lunch many visitors sat at the picnic tables in the gazebo and were treated to music by the Farmers Market Band du jour, comprised of band members Richard Jeske and Jacqui Morninglight with Samuel on the conga (Samuel, from Kenya, is an intern at Ecology Action) and Loren Herz-O'Brien on flute. A great way to end a day at the community-minded school and farm event.

## Spring TIRE SALE

LES SCHWAB

Passenger Car Tires: GREAT BUY! Starting at \$39.99. ECLIPSE Starting at \$64.99. PROXES 4 PLUS Starting at \$138.42.

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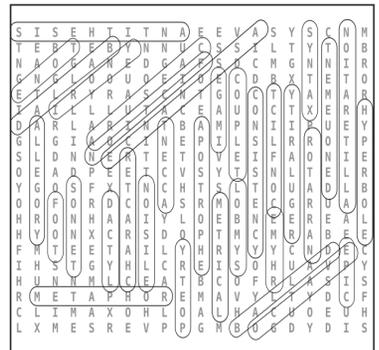
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7	1	2	8	3	5	6	4	9
6	9	4	1	2	7	3	8	5

# CLASSIFIEDS

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**Affordable Tutoring**  
English, Math, Test Prep, Homework Support, Study Skills. Maddie Armstrong ... 707 841-3106. Call to arrange free consultation and grade availability.

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3 bedroom, 1 bath home. Fenced yard, garage, beautiful country setting. No smoking \$1,400/month, \$2,800 deposit. 707-984-6479.

**Algebra, Geometry Tutoring, Test Prep**  
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**Brooktrails Flea Market Vendors Needed**  
2016 Market is Saturday, June 4. Outdoor spaces and indoors tables: \$20 each. Vendors check in: 6 am to 3 pm. Call to reserve a space: Ariane 456-0734.

**Community HU Song**  
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, April 28, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hoo) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit [miraclesinyourlife.org](http://miraclesinyourlife.org).

**Help Wanted**  
Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic is looking for a full-time medical records clerk. Physically demanding job. Will train. Bilingual preferred. Send resume to 1245 S. Main St. or fax to 459-3057. No phone calls, please.

**Help Wanted**  
Mariposa Market is now accepting applications for the grocery department. You may pick up an application at the store or download from the website at [www.mariposamarket.com](http://www.mariposamarket.com).

**Help Wanted**  
Adventist Health Homecare & Hospice Services - Mendocino County, FT & PT & Per Diem. RN's and PT's needed. Call Trudy H/R 456-3230.

**Computer Help**  
Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$40/hr. Tutoring \$20/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email [macamargin@yahoo.com](mailto:macamargin@yahoo.com).

**Duplex for Rent**  
Deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex in Brooktrails. All appliances. Laundry room, central heat & air, garage. Incredibly nice. No smoking, no pets. \$900/month plus \$1,800 deposit. Call 984-6479.

**For Rent**  
West side of Willits. Exceptionally nice house on 1 acre with large decks & views of the valley & sunrise! 3 big bedrooms, 2 baths. Large kitchen w/ central island. Bike/walk to town, hospital, schools. No S, No D. Proof of income & local references required. \$1,600/month plus \$2,000 security deposit. Contact [redostrander@gmail.com](mailto:redostrander@gmail.com) for more info.

**Volunteer Opportunities**  
The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our Team. Call Mariya at 707-459-6826.

**Volunteers Wanted**  
Frank Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in various departments of the hospital. Hours: flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

Get your classified included here next week!  
Email: [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

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# Leadership Mendocino

North County Women in Business hear about 'life-changing' program

**Above:** Attendees at the April 6 North County Women in Business meeting at Willits City Hall.

**At right:** Leadership Mendocino Director Heidi Dickerson talks about the commitment necessary to complete the Leadership Mendocino program.

**Below, left:** Dickerson and Cynthia Lamont discuss the benefits of Leadership Mendocino.

**Below, right:** Dickerson poses with Willits Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lynn Kennelly.

Photos by Jenny Senter

Heidi Dickerson, program director of Leadership Mendocino, shared her enthusiasm about the countywide program at the April 6 North County Women in Business meeting at Willits City Hall.

Dickerson's talk focused on information about the benefits to graduates and to the community of the 10-month immersion leadership program.

Leadership Mendocino has had 565 people graduate since its founding in 1992. Dickerson also reminded those present that Willits has not had a Leadership Mendocino class member for two years now.

Among those present for the talk were Adrienne Moore, Holly Madrigal, and Sandra Arellano, three alums of the Leadership Mendocino program, who each said their experiences in the program were life-changing.

Adrienne Moore, Willits city manager, who was in the "Class of IVV (19)," said she had trouble making the commitment to the time involved because of her busy schedule. She still counts the year spent with Leadership

Mendocino as pivotal in her understanding of the county. Reflecting on her year with Leadership Mendocino, Moore said: "Covelo stands out as a special memory. It's a beautiful community with beautiful and talented people." She stressed that people interested in the program should carve out the time for it in their busy schedules because: "You don't want to miss any of the incredible opportunities to learn more about your county." You do not need to be a politician or have goals to become a participant, Moore stressed, because "leaders are everyone."

Holly Madrigal, Willits City Council member, told the group her time in Leadership Mendocino helped her to get a better understanding of the industries located in Mendocino County. "Everyone is busy," Madrigal said, "but there are amazing networking opportunities available through Leadership Mendocino."

West Company's Sandra Arellano, inland program coordinator, was 18 years old when she was accepted to the Leadership Mendocino program. She agreed with the other alums that

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



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**Willits Unified School District**  
 1277 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490  
 (707) 459-5314  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the 2016/17 Budget  
*The Willits Unified School District will be holding a meeting to receive input from the public on matters pertaining to the LCAP and 2016/17 Budget.*  
**DATE: Open Meeting Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.**  
**LOCATION: Willits High School Media Center 299 North Main Street Willits, California**

**Come Join Us!**  
  
**CALVARY CHAPEL**  
 WILLITS  
**Afternoon Bible Study**  
 Sunday's @ 3pm  
 The Grange Hall  
 291 School St. Willits, CA 95490  
 707-354-2771  
 Free childcare will be available.

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# Willits High School's Athletes of the Week

Coach-nominated players who stood out recently for a personal or team best. Willits Weekly tries to include at least two athletes and encourages all the coaches to submit nominations for their teams.



## Swimming | Delayna Corts, 16, Junior

**Events:** 200 freestyle, 500 freestyle

**Breakfast of Champions:** "Nothing before, but after the meets, we go out for a 'Victory Meal,' something bad like pizza or In-N-Out Burger."

**Love for the Sport:** "I love swimming: the adrenaline and that it's a team sport, but you compete against yourself, you make your own mistakes."

**Years Playing the Sport:** 8.5 years

I would like to nominate Delayna Corts for Amazing Athlete this week. Delayna swims the 200 free and 500 free events. She has been to all the practices, and she is one of our most dedicated swimmers. Delayna is a joy to have on the team!

— Coach Mattie Pinon



## Baseball | Layne Wright, 17, Senior

**Position:** Pitcher, short stop, 2nd base

**Breakfast of Champions:** Mom's pancakes

**Love for the Sport:** "I love being in the game; it's my favorite sport."

**Years Playing the Sport:** 13 years

Layne pitched 5 innings and only gave up 2 runs in Saturday's game against El Molino. He had a double and a single, and started the rally that led to the team's win. Teammates Justin Thom and Konner Reed also had the final hits which gave WHS the win.

— Coach Rick Yador

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

one price, will automatically enter the bidder to be eligible for each item. The cost for the "all in" paddle will be determined by the value of the prizes and will be announced at the door. Bidders are welcome to bring their own quarters, or the Willits High School Boosters and volunteers will have quarters — \$1,000 worth! — available at the ticket table.

Usually, around 60 items are offered, and this year, a huge number of donations have already rolled in; however, if anyone would like to donate something more, there's still time. Items can be dropped off at House Doctor Paints, or can be collected by calling Booster volunteers Bridgett at 972-2164 or Donna at 459-2572.

Donations of all kinds of goodies are already in hand from local businesses including Earth's Treasures, Mazahar, Yokum's Body Shop, Flowers by Annette, Les Schwab Tire Center, House Doctor Paints, Ken's Auto, Willits Furniture, Salon 707, Tiger Lily's, Buttercups, Off the Cuff, Tango, Misty Made, Willits Power, the Brooktrails Golf Course, Mphotographress and the Skunk Train. Word on the street is that Willits High School's Athletic Director Cari Stiles will be making some of her famous chocolate chip cookies, too.

Students will be walking around the tables, answering questions, collecting quarters, and serving food.

The meal will consist of tri-tip, barbequed by the Boosters members, and salad (donated by Howard Memorial Hospital), a baked potato (donated by Mariposa Market) and roll. Dessert will also be available to finish the meal.

The Willits Lions Club will be on site serving beer and alcohol through the back bar at the Willits Community Center, too.

Monies raised from the event will go to help the Booster Club continue to support the school's athletics and extracurricular programs. The club helps purchase sports equipment and uniforms, as well as fund items needed by the band, arts, music and drama clubs.

Another way to help is to be a volunteer. There are three of 10 seats open for board members for those who are interested in doing even more, but just being available to help with individual events is something certainly needed.

The Willits High School Booster Club meets at 6 pm at the Willits High School food center on the second Thursday of the month. Anyone interested in learning more about how to help is welcome to come and attend the next meeting, Thursday, May 12.

The rest of **Dickerson** | From Page 12

she thought she knew a lot about her county and its people before the program, but found out just how much more there was to know. She said she is very thankful to have had the opportunity, and she believes the networking opportunities in Leadership Mendocino have been invaluable in her career.

Applications are currently being accepted (through June 15) for the 2016-17 "Class of XXIV" of Leadership Mendocino from anyone over 18 who lives or works in Mendocino County. Each participant is responsible for a \$1,000 tuition, which in the past has been paid for by employers or individual students.

Dickerson said that the \$1,000 is in reality only about half of the actual per-student cost of the program, which is supported by a myriad of community partners, local businesses and private donors. Dickerson stressed those interested but concerned about the tuition cost should contact her for

more information about scholarships and/or payment programs.

The classes will be held monthly from August 16, 2016 through graduation day, June 1, 2017. Each class day is focused on a single topic, such as natural resources, government, agriculture, tourism, the arts, education and business. This provides the participants a chance to learn, explore, discuss and interact, with the goal of providing them with insights they would never have gotten from the everyday information available to most. With this broader perspective, Leadership Mendocino participants are then challenged to give back to the county through board service or a specific project.

For more information about Leadership Mendocino — or its next fundraising event, "The Black Bart Treasure Hunt, Brunch & Auction," in Hopland on Saturday, April 30, go to www.leadershipmendocino.org or call 467-3230.

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

eat at the restaurant."

Sheila Gray is another local who finds joy in her "after-retirement job." Also a volunteer in the hospital's gift shop, Gray says she loves helping people find the perfect gift.

"It's a great place to find gifts whether it's for holidays, birthdays or just to cheer someone up who's in the hospital," Gray said. "We have a bit of everything in here — unique jewelry, pottery, purses, scarves — you name it."

Gray says the gift shop is stocked with items from local businesses, too, and that's by design. "We have such great connection to the community. We have great talent here, and we want to encourage people to shop local and to expose them to great products they never thought are available locally," she said.

Money raised by the gift shop is used at the hospital to fill unmet needs. Last year, they raised \$10,000 for the purchase of a gram stainer, a vital piece of equipment for the laboratory.

Gwen Markson, one of the newer members of the auxiliary, is tasked with bringing comfort to patients and employees with her cart filled with tea, biscotti and other goodies. "Our employees spend their day caring for others, and this is our way of caring for them. They look forward to it and truly appreciate it."

Beyond the time she spends at the hospital, Barrera says being a member of the auxiliary has brought other rewards. "I have met the most wonderful people here that have become great friends over the years. After 17 years, everyone here feels like they're my family," Barrera said. "I can't imagine my life if I wasn't volunteering

here. It keeps me young physically and mentally."

Gray agrees. "The best part about volunteering here is knowing that we are making a difference in the community. They come here during their time of need, and it helps a lot when they see someone they know," Gray said.

Hope says volunteers are a vital part of the hospital especially when it comes to delivering patient-centered care. "We pride ourselves in providing a family atmosphere, and our volunteers are so important in helping us achieve that goal. It makes a difference when they see a familiar face the moment they come through our doors," Hope said. "It's great when someone they know can comfort them when they are anxious. Our volunteers truly add to that healing experience."

HMH has about 50 auxiliary volunteers who perform a variety of tasks in the hospital. This year, they contributed a total of 6,400 hours to the hospital. To celebrate their contributions, HMH volunteers will be celebrated at a National Volunteer Month luncheon. To join the auxiliary, contact Hope at 456-3245.

The hospital gift shop, located at 1 Marcela Drive, is open from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday and 12 to 4 pm on Sunday.

The rest of **Poetry** | From Page 7

**The Lighthouse**  
 The light from the tower is bright tonight  
 She shines with an unearthly golden glow  
 Far beyond reach, I observe from afar  
 The luminous light that brightens my night.

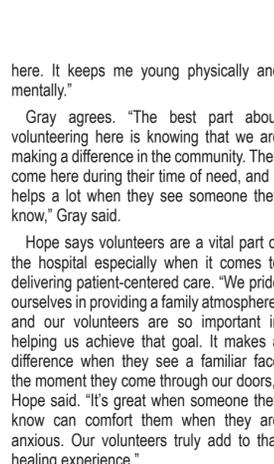
She harbors the sailors, keeping them safe  
 From demonic rocks, and treacherous wakes  
 O! Beautiful faces, singing sweet songs  
 Obviously pleasure, commonly wrong.

Harpoons tear the heart; hooks stick in the soul  
 But there her light stays, ever so faithful.  
 Starlight cannot compare with her glimmer  
 Her rays that stretch over the sea shimmer.

Her light is clarity; her height is strength  
 Pure from promiscuity; loving brace  
 The luminous light that brightens my night.  
 — **Nayema Sisemore, WHS junior**

**Empty**  
 what is the war to you?  
 the real question is who?  
 for who is affected?  
 and who is neglected?  
 the war rips lives  
 stinging families like hives  
 death is frowning and distant  
 his demeanor is quite consistent  
 BANG  
 another lost soul  
 his memory leaves quite a hole  
 A useless soldier and a lost war  
 ah, and now nevermore  
 — **Riley Hsieh, WHS junior**

**Work**  
 I work,  
 Because I see what life has in the works  
 I focus,  
 Because there is so much that exists only  
 to distract  
 I am confident  
 because that's what drives me  
 But I struggle,  
 Because there is much negativity around  
 me I fight it  
 Because there is always hope  
 But I hurt.  
 I hurt because I'm impacted by what's  
 around me, and I feel hurt.  
 I don't only feel personal hurt,  
 I feel the hurt seeping from my  
 surroundings, from my peers to my  
 family, from our environment to its  
 natives.  
 I keep my flame lit because I see my path  
 But it can be hard,  
 Because in a cold world like this,  
 A flame is often challenged by darkness,  
 Rocked by ever-changing winds, even  
 repressed by the elements.  
 So I work,  
 To overcome the darkness  
 And I focus  
 To not be extinguished by the winds  
 And I am confident  
 To illuminate myself, my surroundings, and  
 beyond them  
 — **Dylan Foley, WCS student**



Top HMH volunteer Saundra Barrera arranges a gift shop display.



Top HMH volunteer Saundra Barrera arranges a gift shop display.

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OBITUARY | **Edward Smith**  
February 29, 1920 - April 9, 2016

Edward Smith died on April 9, 2016. Ed was born in North Bend, Oregon on leap day, February 29, 1920. He was 96. Ed worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s and joined the Army-Air Corps a few months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. He served during World War II in the little-known north Pacific theater in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. He came to Hamilton Field near Novato, California at the end of the war, where he met and married Ruth in 1945.

Ed moved with his family to Willits in 1954 to work as a timber faller for Willits Redwood Products. Smitty, as the loggers called him, worked for WRP and later Harwood Products until his retirement in 1985. After retirement Ed became a chainsaw sculpture artist. He and Ruth traveled a craft fair circuit for 16 years until Ruth's death in 2001. Ed was well-known for his bear sculptures and continued with commissioned work around Willits until 2011.

Ed is preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, and daughter Gail Nunes. He is survived by his loving family, sons Walter Smith and Gary Pallavicini and their families and Gail Nunes' family. He is also survived by his "second family," the caregivers of Northbrook Healthcare Center, who loved and took care of him the last two years of his life.

Ed was well-liked and loved by many. He was kind and gentle man having a big heart and great sense of humor. He was a wonderful patriarch of a multi-generational family. He will be missed by all those who have been part of his life.

There will be no services. In lieu of flowers or cards, please contribute to a local charity.



Photo by S. Coffman Photography



Photo by Rod Coats

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home  
**Mrs. Pepper**

Pepper is a wonderful senior kitty that needs a lap to warm. She is almost 9 years old but doesn't act like it. Pepper loves attention and will sit with you for hours on end. She is also playful and gets along with other cats. Pepper has a condition that make her sound like she has a cold, but rest assured, she is perfectly healthy, and her snorts and sneezes just add to her wonderful personality. When you see her, you know she is a happy cat who craves love. Pepper needs to be an indoor-only cat, but for a senior who needs a friend, she is perfect companion. Come meet Pepper and take home your new lap cat.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, where you can come visit, play with and/or adopt dogs and cats, is open to prospective adopters from 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday, and from 11 am to 3 pm, on Saturday and Sunday, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley (right down the street from the Broiler). Info: 707-485-0123 or hsmco@pacific.net or visit www.mendohumanesociety.com.

**Big Luke**

Luke is a 2.5-year-old male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 74 pounds. Luke is happiest when he is out exploring the world! This big boy loves walks and roaming in the yard. He needs an active family who will include him in outings and adventures and make sure he gets daily exercise as well as oodles of love.

Luke is smart and friendly and will make a loving and loyal family member. He would do great with another friendly dog or older kids. He is a big boy and needs room inside and outside to stretch his legs!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

Huegel told trustees that Willits Unified has received three unsatisfactory ratings in the past six months. Two of the unsatisfactory ratings were for relatively minor procedural infractions in which employees of the district's transportation department failed to appear at regularly scheduled CHP reviews.

However, one of the unsatisfactory ratings was for a more significant failure: operating an uncertified bus.

When asked by Bowlds what the unsatisfactory ratings meant in terms of consequences for the district, Huegel replied that if the district gets another unsatisfactory rating, he will have to turn the issue over to the state Attorney General's Office.

"If this was a private company, you would be shut down for a 30-day period," Huegel said.

Huegel said in October a district employee scheduled to be reviewed in what Huegel called a "pull notice" failed to appear for the review. (The California Department of Motor Vehicles says its Employer Pull Notice program was established "to provide employers and regulatory agencies with a means of promoting driver safety through the ongoing review of driver records.")

For that, the district received an unsatisfactory review for the month of October.

In February, another driver, scheduled to take a drug and alcohol test, failed to appear. For that failure, Willits Unified received its second unsatisfactory rating.

After the February review, the CHP received a tip from an anonymous source that the WUSD Transportation Department was operating outside of regulations in a number of areas.

"We received six allegations from an anonymous source," Huegel said. "We checked it out and found two of the claims were substantiated. We found the district was operating one bus for several weeks without that bus being certified."

Huegel said the second substantiated claim was related to the first: Because the district was found to have been operating an uncertified bus, it was operating a bus in violation of the law.

**Bus flap ignites call for probe**

The announcement that the district has received a series of unsatisfactory ratings from the CHP came after Trustee Bowlds grilled Director of Maintenance and Transportation Terry McEntee concerning his department's recommendation that the district spend almost \$400,000 to buy two new buses.

The intention to buy the new buses and scrap five older vehicles was announced by Superintendent Patricia Johnson in December; trustees subsequently learned an after-market diesel engine filter was available at no cost to the district which would render the old buses serviceable and legal to drive.

At Wednesday's meeting, Bowlds asked McEntee when he knew the filter was available. McEntee replied he learned about it in November.

"When the solution did become available, why wasn't the board advised of that?" Bowlds asked.

"I wasn't aware the board wanted to know when the solution became known. That was not part of my criteria anyway," McEntee said.

Johnson said the need for two new buses had been known by the board for a long time.

"As long as I have been in this district, I've been told we needed two buses. I was told that by the lead mechanic. I was told that by the other mechanic. I was told that by the prior director of transportation. The day I arrived here, I was told, 'You better be ready. We are buying the buses in 2016,'" Johnson said.

"What I don't understand is why we were not informed that all six of

these buses could be retrofitted?" Bowlds said. "That we could put off the purchase of these new buses, and save the district \$400,000."

McEntee told Bowlds he regarded the filter and whether to buy or scrap the buses as separate issues. "You are assuming that putting in this particulate filter is an upgrade," McEntee said. "A lot of the districts I talked to, they have a negative impact. Some of the districts I talked to, they blamed the filter for destroying the engine of one of their buses. These filters are an unknown."

Bowlds said he felt McEntee's failure – and the failure of others perhaps who were knowledgeable – to fully inform the board about the retrofit was a major mistake. "This rises to the level of misconduct," Bowlds said. "I think we ought to turn this over to our investigator and have her investigate it."

But Neary told Bowlds it was not the responsibility of the board of trustees to conduct investigations of staff actions. Several months ago the district did hire an investigator to look at claims McEntee had mismanaged his department. Despite this, Neary said the superintendent was the person responsible for looking into the matter and reporting back to the board.

Bowlds did not appear entirely satisfied with Neary's reasoning, but after Neary repeated it several times, Bowlds acquiesced.

"If you want, you can bring up the issue as an agenda item, and we can discuss it," Neary offered. Bowlds nodded.

When CHP's Huegel addressed the board following the discussion about buying new buses, Bowlds' smoldering dissatisfaction burst into open flame, and he once again called for an investigation.

"I'd like to know who knew we were driving a bus that was not certified, and I'd like to know why it wasn't dealt with," Bowlds said.

Trustee Georgeanne Croskey asked Johnson to look into the matter and to determine how to fix what she termed a persistent failure of communication between the transportation department and the district.

Johnson said she would look into the situation.

**Other business**

The board also dealt with several other items, including appointing, by unanimous vote, Mark Westerberg of New Buffalo, Michigan, as the new superintendent of Willits Unified. The board also voted unanimously to approve his \$155,000 contract.

Westerberg will start work July 1, 2016. Superintendent Johnson's last day of work will be June 30.

Willits Teachers Association President John Haschak asked Neary what Johnson's salary was. Neary said Johnson was earning \$145,000 a year. Haschak wanted to know why Westerberg would be getting \$10,000 a year more than Johnson, and Neary replied it was because Westerberg had considerable experience as a superintendent, whereas Johnson had had no experience in the position before coming to Willits.

The board also received a budget report by Johnson and Financial Officer Tanya Michel. At the last board meeting, Michel told the board the district needed to change its habit of operating at a deficit, and her fiscal analysis indicated the district would not be able to meet its reserve account requirements for fiscal 2017-18.

Johnson told the board she and Michel were recommending the \$750,000 the district had received from the state – and which was to be used to purchase the two buses, new textbooks and to pave the Willits High School parking lot – be swept into that reserve account. This would put district reserves at \$1.37 million, making the reserve account 6.9 percent of its total budget, well over the state requirement of 3 percent. Johnson told the board she would bring this proposed fiscal move back to the board at its May meeting for a vote.

a ride to assess Highway 101 south of Highway 20.

The point of the walkabout was for people to gain a more accurate perspective of various traffic and pedestrian issues they would later address by marking up a 28-foot-long map of the entire Main Street corridor.

After the groups returned, North Coast Opportunities hosted a local food culinary showcase featuring samples of fresh dishes from local chefs that employed ingredients from local farms. Participants included Nikos Gyro Shop, Brickhouse Coffee, NCO Healthy Harvest Project, Zocalo Collective, Good Earth Kitchen, Mendocino Fermented Foods, J.D. Redhouse and Kemmy's Pies.

Miles Gordon of NCO explained the importance of supporting local food systems as a part of economic development in Willits.

"Look for that logo that says 'Grown Local Mendocino County,'" Gordon said. "We've got a campaign going to help identify that. We're also working on making sure local farmers can get their produce to our stores and restaurants and our schools."

There were several activities the more-than-200 attendees throughout the evening were encouraged to participate in during the event. On the south-facing wall, butcher paper was hung with themes to be commented on with colored markers regarding what people most wanted the corridor plan to address. These included: pedestrian safety, how to enhance the local economy, public space, transit, parking, and street greening.

People marked up the 28-foot-map of Main Street to indicate desired features such as crosswalks, bulb-outs, parking lanes, roundabouts, and trees.

Before presenting a slide show, Paul Zykofsky, associate director of the nonprofit Local Government Commission, which is helping manage the Main Street planning process, directed audience members to write down on index cards what each person envisioned as the ideal Willits of the future. Each person was also provided five sticky notes to write down a single word per note about what they felt were priorities in creating a vibrant community. The notes were later organized by theme and hung on the wall for all to see.

Alison Pernel of LGC, who is project manager for the Main Street plan, told the crowd: "The studies are showing that after the bypass is opened [planned for sometime this fall], there will be a 20 to 25 percent reduction in traffic. A lot of that is going to be the truck traffic, so the noise and the speed and type of vehicular behavior on Main Street might change quite a bit in the next six to 12 months."

Before Caltrans "relinquishes" the north end of Main Street to the City of Willits, Pernel said, "Caltrans needs to hand that piece of road over to the city in a state of good repair. This means new sidewalks, new paving, access for those who are disabled. Currently the plans are [for Caltrans] to put about \$3.4 million into Main Street, starting in late 2017. These are all things that are factual and happening."

Addressing a public survey conducted in February, Pernel said two-thirds of the 348 respondents identified three priorities for Main Street: pedestrian safety, intersection safety and supporting Main Street businesses.

"Residents want a Main Street that is safe for walking, bicycling [and] driving, and good for local businesses," he said.

In his slide show presentation, LGC's Zykofsky showcased examples of communities around the country that have transformed their downtowns using "complete street" and "green street" concepts.

"We have over 800 communities that have adopted complete streets policies," Zykofsky informed the crowd. "These are streets that are safe, comfortable and convenient for travel by car, foot, bicycle and transit."

One such community held up as a successful example is in Hamburg, New York, next to Buffalo. The state Department of Transportation, addressing traffic congestion, had planned to add two more lanes to the highway that ran through downtown. The community convinced the DOT to take an alternative measure.

"The alternative was to narrow the lanes a bit and slow public traffic," Zykofsky said. "They put in a buffer lane. They also added four roundabouts in intersections, which is what solved the problem of congestion, because the roundabouts were moving the traffic efficiently and smoothly. Crashes went significantly down as well. Businesses came back and started investing more on that street, and building permits went up from 15 to 105 in 2010."

You can find a New York Times story on Hamburg's Main Street transformation at [www.nytimes.com/2013/08/17/nyregion/widen-main-st-community-had-other-ideas-and-thrived.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/17/nyregion/widen-main-st-community-had-other-ideas-and-thrived.html).

Zykofsky explained that complete streets can succeed where speed limit signs alone fail to slow down motorists. "People respond to the look of the street more than the speed limit sign," Zykofsky said, adding statistics showing how such designs add to traffic safety.

"At 20 miles per hour, most people will survive being hit by a car," he said. "Double that speed to 40 mph, and only one out of 10 pedestrians will survive."

The public will have another chance to add their input to the Main Street Corridor planning process today, Thursday, April 21, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the old Rexall building, "to look at the designs in progress and to talk with the design team."

On Friday, the public is encouraged to come take a look at the preliminary Main Street designs, which will be presented from 5:30 to 7 pm at the old Rexall building, and to enjoy an array of free appetizers provided by Scoops Catering.

City Manager Adrienne Moore praised the old Rexall building's owner, Al Campa, on opening night of the Main Street Planning Fair on Monday. "He was so gracious in letting us use this space this week. He does not live in this area any longer, but he was very involved with this community for many, many years and still cares about it very much."

Prior to the design presentation on Friday, Walk & Bike Mendocino will lead a community bike ride in honor of Earth Day from 5 to 5:30 pm, starting at the old Rexall building.

put on hold during the winter months, but has started again, and will be in full swing by May 1.

"The viaduct work on the whole project is nearing completion," said construction engineer Geoffrey Wright. "The bridge work is probably in the 98 to 99 percent completion stage. We just have some cosmetic work to finish and a bicycle rail to install on the bridges."

Wright said to expect changes in the traffic flow on the current Highway 101 in the near future.

"We're going to have phases where we push the traffic to the very west part of the road to accommodate building the new easterly side," Wright explained. "We'll do some traffic splits, where we actually put traffic onto the new northern interchange to divert part of that traffic. We'll work in the middle of the two traffic lanes, and we'll shift the southbound traffic onto the new middle section and finish building the extreme west section."

"We're anticipating somewhere in the neighborhood of six to eight weeks of total staging time."

When asked by council members if there was going to be more mass hauling of dirt from offsite during the last phase of construction, Wright said the amount of onsite dirt should be ample.

"We may need a few cleanup loads," he said, "but I think we have enough excess dirt around the job site to finish everything."

Regarding slope treatment, Wright explained: "The majority of the slopes are already built and vegetated. The hope is we won't have any need for any additional treatment other than what's been scheduled."

When asked by a member of the public about the Native American artifacts found at various construction locations, Wright said ongoing negotiations continue between the tribes and the environmental branch of Caltrans.

"There's a confidentiality agreement that limits the amount of information that's shared with people not directly involved in that discussion," Wright added.

Melvin said Caltrans has done everything it can to ensure artifacts will be protected and handled properly, when discovered. "We have the three Native American tribes represented onsite during earth-disturbing activities," he said. "We have hired an archeologist through Pacific Legacy who is onsite full-time during earth-disturbing activities. We have environmentally sensitive areas that have been segmented off, and they're being reviewed."

Wright told the council there are plans are being made to build parking for an interpretive center at the northern interchange of the bypass.

"We're working with the tribes and the archeologist to come up with what that interpretive center will look like," Wright said.

As for the wetlands and riparian mitigation project, Wright explained that before any wetland plants were seeded, the invasive century-old grasses had to be removed, and the land flattened.

"We removed 3 inches [deep] of the existing grass and vegetation to create successful wetlands without competition from those heartier pasture grasses," said Wright. "We have areas of uplands that were graded down so they will retain water to help create the seasonal wetlands. There will be no bare areas. Everything will be vegetated."

"We have a very specific seed palate to develop the plant species that were desired that mimics more of what nature would have created," he added.

According to Caltrans, no herbicides have been used in the mitigation process, and no herbicide use planned in the future.

The two mitigation contracts currently enacted call for a total of roughly 350,000 plants in an 85-acre area of the valley. The project includes three years of plant establishment with an estimated completion date of June 2020.

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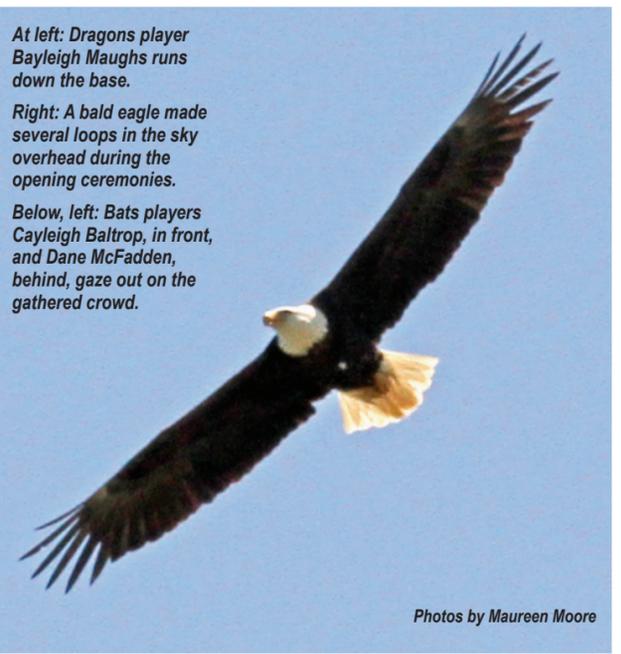
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At left: Dragons player Bayleigh Maughs runs down the base.

Right: A bald eagle made several loops in the sky overhead during the opening ceremonies.

Below, left: Bats players Cayleigh Baltrop, in front, and Dane McFadden, behind, gaze out on the gathered crowd.



Photos by Maureen Moore



# Opening Day at Lofling Field

Willits Redwood Little League opens for 2016 season

It was a warm sunny day Saturday for Opening Day for Willits Redwood Little League, and kids and parents enjoyed the festivities held at Lofling Field. The teams were presented on the field, and each player was named out loud as they ran down the baselines to home plate. Two players also helped lead pledges: Kaleb Whitehurst led the "Little League Pledge," Jasper Cleek led the Pledge of Allegiance, and coach Brianna Hoteling led the "Parent Pledge."

In T-Ball, teams include Room to Bloom Bats, Brown's Corner Blue Wahoos, O'Kelley's Hardwood Flooring & Construction Dragons, Nor-Crawl Mets, El Mexicano Owlz, and Geiger's Long Valley Market Tin Caps. In Machine Pitch,

teams include Weather Top Nursery Muck Dogs, Little Lake Auto Parts River Cats, Dr. Rued Dentistry Nuts, and S&S Transmission and Spas Thunder. In Minors, teams include J.D. Redhouse Angels, Laytonville Chevron Athletics, Les Schwab Braves, Mobile Equine Veterinary Giants, Potter's Construction Marlins, and Sparetime Supply Pirates. In Majors, teams include the Willits Power and Hardware A's, NOR CAL Red-Mix Diamondbacks, Old Mission Pizza Giants, Garman Construction Padres, and Red Fox Yankees.

Parents, players, friends and family all were able to enjoy a BBQ chicken lunch on Opening Day, which raised \$3,000 through ticket sales for the league.

"Terry Guerrero and his crew of meat men including Randy Vann, Kenny Elliott, Phil Gravier and George Dudley, helped man the meal and cooked all the chicken, which was donated by the Forks Market," said board member Clint Jewell. "We really want to thank them for all of their help. We had a great turnout for the ceremonies, barbecue and games; thanks to everyone who came."

Come cheer on the kids at any of the upcoming home games, which will be played on the fields at 480 East Commercial Street. A complete calendar is available online at <http://wrlrli.siplay.com>.

— Maureen Moore



At left: Kaleb Whitehurst leads the crowd in the "Little League Pledge."

Above, left: BBQ men tend the chicken.

Above, right: Little League held a silent auction for this picnic table, which was won by Marion Lohne. The auction raised \$650 for the league. The "Welcome" sign was raffled off as a prize for one of the BBQ ticket buyers, and Greg Smith took home the prize. Another prizewinner, Will Hinton, took home a cord of firewood.

Deegan Hoteling of the Muck Dog team is introduced as he runs down the baseline.



Photos by Maureen Moore





**Nadine West**  
September 27, 1927 - March 6, 2016

Nadine West, our loving mom, grandma and friend, passed away after a short illness at her home in Willits with her loved ones by her side. Nadine was born in Scottsdale, Arizona to her parents, Ralph and Edna Nichols, on September 3, 1927. Her family moved to Kansas, then to Boulder, Colorado, where she met her future husband, Stan West. Both families moved to Redlands, California. When Stan was discharged from the Navy in May 1945, they were married.

Together they raised five sons, an amazing accomplishment. Nadine lived life to the fullest, receiving her pilot's license at the age of 18. She had many talents, winning many awards for her artistic abilities. Her beautiful paintings adorn the walls of all her loved ones as well as others.

Moving to Willits in 1970, Nadine designed and helped Stan build five beautiful homes in Pine Mountain. She was a librarian for several years at Brookside School; then she became a successful real estate agent. In 1984 she won the contest for the Willits City Seal, which was displayed on our city cars for years. For her son David and daughter-in-law Roxanne's wedding, she made a three-tiered cake from scratch, including 100 edible roses. The cake topper she sculpted to exactly match the bride and groom.

Through the years Nadine and Stan traveled to Alaska, Hawaii, Venezuela, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and around the United States, painting memories as she toured the world.

Nadine never had a dull moment; she always kept herself busy, having wonderful family dinners, camping with her family, fossil collecting, mushroom hunting, fishing, and gold panning — searching for the giant gold nugget. She spent many hours teaching her grandchildren all about flowers, trees and wildlife.

The way she lived is an inspiration to all. She lived life to the fullest, always on the go — enjoying even the small things. Nadine, you will forever be in our hearts, never forgotten and remembered with love.

Nadine was predeceased by Stan, her loving husband of 53 years, son Mark, grandson Kenneth, brother Ralph ("Red"), and her parents.

She is survived by her four sons: Jim, Jack (Yenny), Dave (Roxanne), and Richard (Sheila); nine wonderful grandchildren: Johnny, Davie (Stefanie), Misty, Katie (Gary), Jason (Jamie), Steve (Amy), Yonathon (Rebecca), Jackie, and Stan (Ana); 12 great-grandchildren: Kyren, Kaylee, Kali, Destiny, Brayden, Anastasia, Jasmine, Carter, Pierson, Jason, Jr., Jordan and Yisabella; her niece Joanne, and her sister-in-law Ethel Nichols.

Nadine was laid to rest at Little Lake Cemetery on March 26, 2016. No services were held, per her wishes.

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