

Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 256

Thursday, May 17, 2018



North county economy hurting, growers and businesses say

Mike A'Dair

Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

According to cannabis cultivators and businesses, the north county economy has taken a heavy hit from the "cannabis recession," and the situation is moving into the desperation zone. The failure of the county board of supervisors to create rules that encourage local small growers isn't helping, cannabis advocates say.

"Right now we have

Read the rest of
Economy |
Over on Page 13

Supes pause on latest cannabis changes

Mike A'Dair

Reporter
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Supervisors on May 8 agreed to postpone a presentation from the State Requirements Cannabis Working Group, and to reschedule the first reading of amendments to the cannabis business license ordinance and the cannabis facility ordinance.

Both issues had originally been scheduled to be heard on May 8. However, working group members were apparently moving too far afield to merit the confidence of Mendocino County Cannabis Manager Kelly Overton. In addition, the amendments to both the facilities ordinance and the business license ordinance

Read more of
Cannabis |
Over on Page 9

Forum: Candidates for assessor-clerk-recorder

Mike A'Dair

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Katrina Bartolomie, Jeanette Kroppman and Dirk Larson, the three candidates for the office of Mendocino County assessor-county clerk-recorder, were given an opportunity to do some campaigning during a candidates' forum held May 6 at Little Lake Grange.

The Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder's Office consists of three branches: assessor, elections and clerk-recorder. Bartolomie heads the elections branch as well as the clerk-recorder division. There is currently no specific head of the assessor's side of the

Read the rest of
Assessor |
Over on Page 13



Above: Chef Kyle Evans and Michael Medvin, MD, give the cucumber hummus appetizer a thumbs up. One of the 13 winning artworks for the 90th anniversary contest, made by Sophia Leinwetter from Willits Elementary Charter School. Carolyn Carr and Linda Prestly, both with 25 years of working at Howard Memorial Hospital under their belts – Carr from ER lead registration to accounts payable and Prestly as night shift ER and med surge supervisor. Carr also had three children at Howard: twins in 1963 and a son in 1969.



Photos by
Maureen
Moore



Above: Gerry Gonzalez, left, born at Howard Memorial Hospital on September 12, 1964, stands with Howard Foundation Director Arnie Mello and Adventist Health Howard Memorial CEO Jason Wells, who are all ready to celebrate the 90th anniversary of HMH this Friday.

Diamond Anniversary

Howard Hospital celebrates 90 years in Willits on Friday, May 18

Just a decade away from the centennial mark, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, now Adventist Health Howard Memorial, is planning a shindig to celebrate their 90 years in the Willits community.

Maureen Moore

Graphics & Photographress
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The festivities are set for Friday, May 18 at 5 pm at the new hospital located at 1 Marcela Drive, and the entire community is welcome to come and partake in the event – especially anyone who was actually born at Howard Hospital.

"There will be a short program, with remarks from key people from the hospital and the community, an exhibit by the Mendocino County Museum with artifacts and equipment from our past, including a weighing scale Dr. Babcock used for babies," explained Cici Winiger, marketing and communications manager at Adventist Health Howard Memorial.

The rest of the 13 art contest winners will also be revealed at the party, and the contest artwork displayed for all to see. At the end of the event, a new set of lions will be unveiled by members of the Howard Foundation, that will mimic the old lions "guarding" the entrance to the old Howard Memorial Hospital building.

Willits' own Gerry Gonzalez was one of those born at Howard Memorial Hospital, and he remembers playing on the old lions at the old hospital in his early years.

"I was born at Howard Memorial Hospital on September 12, 1964 to parents Ignacio and Joaquina Gonzalez," said Gonzalez. "I have good memories of coming to Howard over the years; playing on the lions, looking at the photos in the hallways – there were always the same doctors from the clinics who would do shifts at the hospital, and seeing their friendly faces was always reassuring."

Read the rest of
Anniversary | Over on Page 13

At left, from top: Another winning artwork by Cecily Potter of Blosser Lane Elementary School. Chef Kyle carefully pipes hummus. Kamryn Wilkes of Willits Charter School made another winning entry in the art contest. Hummus-topped cucumbers, complete with turmeric, chives and red bell pepper: One of the healthy appetizers that will be available to event attendees on Friday during the 90th anniversary celebration. A winning entry from Madison Winter of Brookside Elementary. Gerry Gonzalez, Arnie Mello and Jason Wells are ready to celebrate, complete with balloons, hats and honker horns. Another winning art contest entry by Georgia McGaw of Blosser Lane Elementary. Chef Kyle Evans works up some stir fry to incorporate into another appetizer for the upcoming party.



Council Report:

City to craft mental health facility ordinance

Forrest Glycer

Reporter
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The Willits City Council, responding to what it views as a lack of inclusion in the decision-making process, has directed City Attorney Jim Lance to craft an ordinance outlining the city's authority to permit and regulate a county psychiatric facility at the old Howard Hospital site.

The location has been discussed as a potential site for a county mental health facility since before the

Read the rest of
WCC |
Over on Page 9

County CEO to recommend closing juvenile hall

Mike A'Dair

Reporter
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Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo says she will propose to the board of supervisors that the county's juvenile hall be closed. Angelo will make that request during the first week in June, when supervisors review and approve the county's final budget.

However, Angelo told Willits Weekly the decision to close the hall "is not mine to make. That's a decision of the board of supervisors."

Angelo noted the county will be facing a "financial crunch" come June, as supervisors adopt the final budget for fiscal year 2018-

Read the rest of
Juvenile |
Over on Page 9

Forum: Candidates for county superintendent of schools

Joanne Moore

Reporter
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The two candidates for Mendocino County superintendent of schools – Bryan Barrett and Michelle Hutchins – squared off during a May 6 candidates forum at Little Lake Grange, answering questions about what the superintendent does, why they are running, who they are, and what their priorities are. Information for this article came from their answers to questions at the forum, from Barrett's website, and from both candidates' Facebook pages.

Bryan Barrett, who has

Read the rest of
MCOE |
Over on Page 10

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Meaningful dialogue essential

To the Editor:

Both while sitting on the Measure B committee and reading the newspaper, I have appreciated the discussion from the Willits community regarding concerns about the proposed psychiatric health facility at the old Howard Hospital.

Some have accused members of the committee of displaying impatience to move forward, disregard for your (the Willits community's) concerns, and failure to adequately involve you in the deliberation.

After my years of involvement and resulting sense of urgency in providing an adequate infrastructure for mental health treatment, certainly no one has been more impatient than I, and, for those who feel this way, it was never my intention to ignore you and your concerns. I would never want you to feel that something like this was being forced on you.

After careful reflection, I realize that slowing the process to allow time for meaningful dialogue from all sides on the issues is essential. In the future, I will try to be more cognizant of all aspects of the issues, seeking to engage all in dialogue. Thank you for your grace as we navigate this journey toward caring for these very vulnerable citizens in our community

Ace Barash, MD, Measure B
Citizens Oversight Committee

Haschak for supervisor

To the Editor:

I support John Haschak for Third District supervisor. I know John as a neighbor and as a teacher's union representative. He is honest and straightforward. Best of all, he is a good listener. He will bring fresh ideas and energy to the job as a supervisor. John Haschak will take bold action, whether it is in support of creating job opportunities, affordable housing or a sensible cannabis policy.

Vote early by mailing in your vote-by-mail ballot.

Marc Komer, Willits

Haschak the best choice

To the Editor:

In a field of eight candidates in the Third District supervisor race, there are a variety of personalities and strengths. But in my mind, John Haschak stands out as the best choice.

Haschak is a progressive and an environmentalist. He has integrity, stands firm for his beliefs, but also listens to constituents, and knows how to negotiate and reach consensus.

He has demonstrated these qualities and skills in decades of work as a teacher and local and statewide teachers' union leader, including managing complex organizations and budgets. This experience, combined with intelligence, honesty and compassion, make him uniquely qualified to serve as our representative to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

There are other important matters on the ballot, too. Don't forget to vote on (or send in your ballot before) June 5th!

Madge Strong, Willits

Puts his money where his mouth is

To the Editor:

We voters in Mendocino County's Third District have the daunting task ahead of us in the June 5th primary election of choosing between eight, count 'em, eight candidates running for county supervisor. How is a conscientious voter to choose just one among them to vote for?

I heard the candidates speak at the Laytonville candidate forum (except for John Pinches who was absent due to health issues) and have read all their ballot statements, and that helped me narrow the field down to four, but I still have to choose just one.

Aside from their positions on the issues facing our district and our county, one thing I look for in a candidate are signs of their integrity that they walk their talk. In this area, I think John Haschak stands above the other candidates.

Haschak is the only candidate to pledge in writing "not to take the almost 40 percent pay raise the supervisors recently voted themselves." When it comes to standing by his commitment to spend our tax dollars wisely, John Haschak puts his money where his mouth is. He's got my vote.

Jon Spitz, Laytonville

An effective representative

To the Editor:

I have known John Haschak for many years, and I support him for Third District supervisor. John is a tireless worker and cares passionately about improving the quality of life for people in Mendocino County. I've seen the way he advocates for children and teachers at school board meetings. I know he has the courage, intelligence, energy and experience to be an effective representative for our district. That's why I'm voting for John Haschak.

Robin Goldner, Willits

Vendors needed

To the Editor:

The Willits Chamber of Commerce still has vendor spots available that we are looking to fill for our 37th annual Community Festival Car and Motorcycle Show at the Rec Grove, on Sunday, May 27.

We would love to have you and your products and services there to represent all of the wonderful things Willits vendors have to offer. There will be over 1,500 people in and out of the event throughout the day who will see your booth. Booth spaces are 12x12 with plenty of room to display your products. Set up must happen before 7:30 am and breakdown will happen around 4:00-4:30 pm

If you are interested please visit <http://files.constantcontact.com/2e2a2a1c601/b8d14c64-90b7-4452-a6cb-fa57eb71287e.pdf> for an online application. Fill it out and get it back to the Chamber office – we have extended our deadline – or call 459-7910. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing what wonderful things you will bring to this festival!

Allison Findley,
Willits Chamber of Commerce

Ecology Action tour

To the Editor:

There is an extraordinary opportunity to see biointensive mini-farming in beautiful, enjoyable action at Ecology Action's Victory Gardens for Peace Mini-Farm Tour close to Mendocino, California, just a short distance from the coast.

Led by Matt Drenwo, mini-farm manager in his seventh year of growing more food and using less water in small areas while growing increasingly fertile soil, the tour will begin at 10 am and lasts until 4 pm on Sunday, May 27.

These tours give a good introduction to GROW BIOINTENSIVE® sustainable mini-farming, what our practical research site is accomplishing, and how our closed-loop sustainable method relates to localization in Mendocino and throughout the world.

Tours include participant introductions; a discussion of the overall world challenges that humankind faces in the areas of soil, food, and nutrition; an exploration of the connection

between thinking globally and acting locally; a tour of the garden and discussion of several crops in particular; and 30-minute mini-classes on double-digging, composting, seed propagation, sustainable home garden crops, and cooking with solar ovens given by staff, apprentices and interns.

The registration fee is \$25 per person and \$15 for members or those who join at registration or make a \$20 or more donation with registration.

Pre-reservations recommended, and carpooling encouraged. Parking is on the Comptche-Ukiah Road and also South Big River Road.

For full details and registration, visit www.growbiointensive.org, click the "Events & Opportunities" tab, then "Tours."

John Jeavons, Willits

Mendocino County joins national statewide fight against opioid epidemic

The County of Mendocino has taken an important step in the fight against the national and statewide opioid crisis. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has retained the national law firm of Baron & Budd and a joint venture of law firms to initiate litigation against manufacturers and distributors responsible for the opioid epidemic across the country and in Mendocino County.

Mendocino County joins a consortium of 30 California counties that are working together to take a stand for communities and counties that represent approximately 10.5 million California residents. The intended legal action will include a taxpayer and cost recovery action in addition to equitable relief to help mitigate and prevent current and future problems.

"The county seeks to recover taxpayer funds used to respond to the opioid epidemic," says Mendocino County Counsel Katharine Elliott. "Local government services have been subsidizing the impact of the opioid epidemic, created by irresponsible multi-billion dollar corporations, which have placed profits over public safety."

The California county consortium and its counsel have developed evidence that many of the nation's largest drug manufacturers pushed highly addictive, dangerous opioids – deliberately misinforming doctors by claiming that patients using the drugs rarely experience addiction.

The expected manufacturer defendants include Purdue Pharma; Teva Ltd. (which acquired pharmaceutical maker Cephalon, Inc. in 2011); Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson); Endo Health Solutions, Inc.; Allergan PLC; and Mallinckrodt.

Drugs manufactured by these companies include, but are not limited to: OxyContin, Actiq, Fentora, Duragesic, Nucynta, Nucynta ER, Opana/Opana ER, Percodan, Percocet, Zydane, Kadian and Norco.

The consortium will also seek recovery from three of the nation's largest drug distributors – Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen, and McKesson Corp. – which failed to monitor, identify and report suspicious activity in the size and frequency of opioid shipments to pharmacies, in violation of the federal Controlled Substances Act.

– submitted by the County of Mendocino

Tag us! We love seeing our community connect with #WillitsWeekly

Tag us in your posts and photos and show off how you enjoy your #willitsweekly!

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Experience Over Youth

Old Timers beat WHS varsity 12 to 10 in 4th Annual Alumni Baseball Game

"It's a lot of fun to see the alumni come out, have some fun, get some hacks in, and play some baseball," said Aaron Branscomb, co-organizer, along with his wife, Jessica, of the 4th Annual Alumni Baseball Game.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

"Some of them can still play pretty well, but we all get old. They need to get out here about an hour early and start stretching."

The "Old Timers," some as young as their 20s or as old as 60, played against the Willits High School varsity baseball team Saturday for bragging rights, jeering rights, and just a great time.

Branscomb's prognostication for the game? "I'm gonna go with the varsity by seven runs," he reckoned. One would think that the young players would run circles around the alumni, many of whom hadn't played in a long time. But, by the time of the final out, the alumni won the game by two points, although it ended up being close. They led by seven runs going into the bottom of the ninth inning. However, the varsity team came roaring back and scored five runs in the final inning. The final score: Old Timers, 12; WHS varsity, 10.

But the score was not the most consequential aspect of the hot afternoon. It was about having fun, embracing community, and raising money to help supply the varsity team with much-needed equipment such as pitching screens, bats, and catcher's gear. The Willits High School Booster Club helps out a lot with uniforms and emergency supplies, but other pieces

of necessary equipment are purchased thanks to this fundraiser, which this year raised \$3,494 through the sale of raffle tickets and refreshments.

Raffle prizes were donated by Parlin Fork Conservation Camp (redwood picnic table), YETI (two coolers), Nor-Cal Recycled Rock and Aggregates (gravel), Cooley Firewood (cord of wood), and Mark and Pat Howard (two Giants tickets).

Jeremy Sneed, 2001 alumnus, and Craig Stewart, first baseman of the varsity team, were chosen Most Valuable Players and received T-shirts for their efforts.

Rick Yadon, coach of the varsity baseball team, enjoys coaching and playing these alumni-varsity games. "We're doing our fourth year of my varsity playing the Willits alumni. We're here to have fun. I'm pitching for the varsity, so they should win by seven," Yadon said with an implied wink. "We beat them 9 to 1 last year. I'm pitching because we have a game going on Tuesday, and I want to rest my starting pitcher's arm. So they let the old guy throw."

Yadon was born and raised in Willits, played at Chico State, and played semi-pro with the Sonoma Crushers. He still loves to "get out there and compete," he said.

"I have a couple juniors coming up, like Christian Erickson and Eric Colvard, whose dad is going to play on the alumni team. You'll get to see Eric pitch against his dad today."

"We got some junior varsity who are

Read the rest of
Baseball | [Over on Page 13](#)



Above, left: The alumni, known as the "Old Timers," pose for a team photo after their win against the WHS varsity team on Saturday. Above: The WHS varsity team gathers for a group photo at the 4th Annual Alumni Baseball Game. At left: After the game, the teams congratulate each other on a good game. Below: Alumnus Mike Colvig, WHS principal, beats out a throw at first as Chris Stewart awaits the ball.



At left: Craig Stewart, varsity MVP, tries to throw an alumnus out. Below: Cooper Dawkins, Tanner Dudley and Deegan Dawkins support their brothers and fathers. At bottom, left: Jessica Branscomb and Melissa Coughlin sell raffle tickets as Lucas Branscomb looks on. At bottom, right: Bailey Schmid gets ready for his turn at bat.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Coach Yadon addresses the crowd and offers his condolences to the alumni who were probably going to have to spend the next couple days rehabilitating sore muscles, bruises and strains.

4th Annual Alumni Baseball Game Roster

WHS Varsity Team

Tristan Martin
Steven Duran
Ben Branscomb
Colton Doak
Bailey Schmid
Ryan LaCount
DJ Buzzard
Josh Betts
Cody Pederson
Craig Stewart

Coaches

Ray Van Pelt
Rick Yadon
Martin Duran

'Old Timers' Team

Chris Wilkes, 1993
Shane Freudenberg, 2008
Danny Byrd, 2003
David Coughlin, 1995
Josh Colvard, 1999
Tyler Sizemore, 2003
Cody Sizemore, 2001
Travis Dockins, 2002
Chris Doak, 1996
David Mucke, 2007
Mike Colvig, 1992
Jeff Donaldson, 1984
Justin Thom, 2016
Mike McKinnon, 2013
Phil Colvard, 1976
Mike Lopez, 2003
Stan Cooley, 1998
Jeremy Sneed, 2001

Spring & Summer Hours

Monday - Friday 8am - 7pm
Saturday 9am - 7pm
Sunday 9am - 5pm

SPARETIME
—GARDEN CENTER—

208 E. San Francisco Ave. Willits (707)459-6791

Class of 1978 Reunion

The Class of 1978 will be having their 40TH class reunion on Saturday, September 29, 2018

Provided at the Willits Harrah Senior Center with a Catered Meal, Live Band, No-Host Bar, Photo Booth, and, of course, your classmates!

Please save the date. All interested parties please contact Tim Stranske at: Stranske@willitsonline.com or 707-354-0580 with your email or snail mail address. Also check out our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/1978WHS40thREUNION/

See you there!

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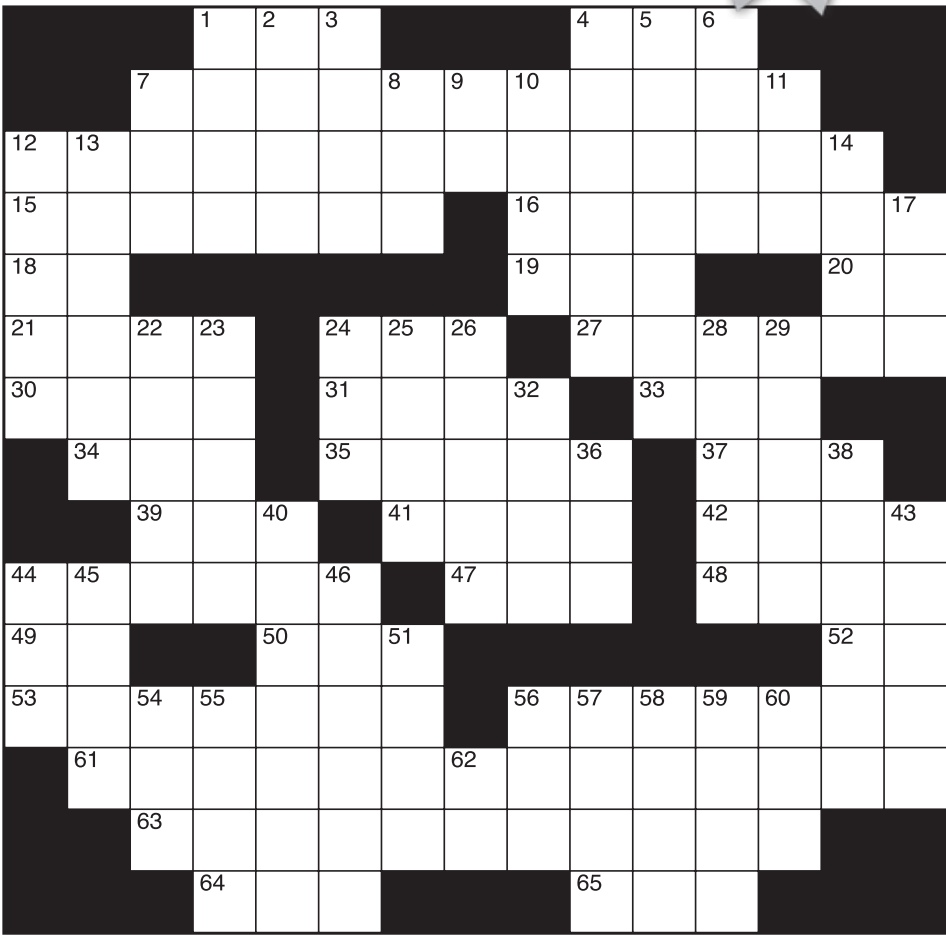
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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

PUZZLE
ANSWERS
ON
PAGE 11

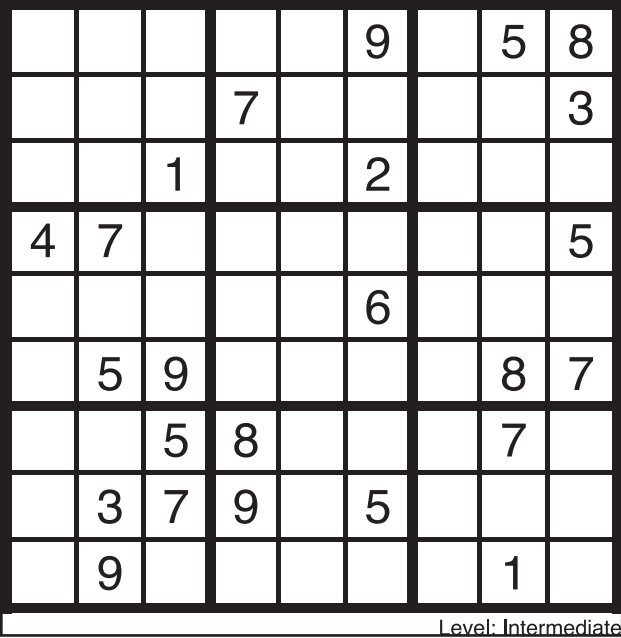


CLUES ACROSS

- Small lump
- Helps little firms
- A way of performing
- Lawyers
- Stirred up
- Believed in
- The Bay State (abbr.)
- Makes computers
- Sodium
- As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- Institute legal proceedings against
- More compact
- Ethiopian river
- Quantitative fact
- No (Scottish)
- A concession of no great value
- Tony-winning actress Daisy
- More (Spanish)
- Russian space station
- Helicopter
- At the peak
- Makes ecstatically happy
- Excellent
- Material body

CLUES DOWN

- Mentor
- Lytic poems
- A dry cold north wind in Switzerland
- Trapped
- Used for road surfacing
- Cuckoos
- Prefix 'away from'
- Seth McFarlane comedy
- Not out
- 'The Simpsons' bus driver
- Popular HBO drama (abbr.)
- Acclaimed Indian physicist
- Removes



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!

HEALTHY HEART WORD SEARCH

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

AEROBIC	CHECKUP	FLUTTER	LIPID
AORTA	CHOLESTEROL	HDL	MUSCLE
ARRHYTHMIA	CLOT	HEART	MYOCARDIUM
BLOOD PRESSURE	CYANOSIS	HIKE	PROLAPSE
CALORIES	DEFIBRILLATOR	HYPERTENSION	STENT
CAPILLARIES	DIASTOLE	HYPOTENSION	STRESS
CARDIAC	DYSPNEA	ISCHEMIA	STRETCH
CARDIOLOGIST	EPICARDIUM	JOGGING	VALVE
CARDIOVASCULAR	EXERCISE	LDL	VESSELS

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

May 6 to May 13

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **198** incidents in this eight-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 6

5:16 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

7:13 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue and issued a warning.

8:03 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Northbrook Way.

9:00 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

6:18 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

7:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

May 7

1:27 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

6:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Pearl Street.

7:03 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

9:57 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

11:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

May 8

8:32 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street.

2:23 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.

3:52 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

5:26 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

11:46 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of Mill Street.

May 9

9:22 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 400 block of Mill Street.

2:14 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

3:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

5:40 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

5:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 200 block of School Street.

6:15 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

9:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of North Lenore Street.

May 10

4:58 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.

7:02 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

8:47 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:47 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal dumping in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road.

10:05 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Main Street.

10:47 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:01 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of West San Francisco Avenue.

4:18 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

6:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 2000 block of North Highway 101.

7:30 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of West San Francisco Avenue.

8:40 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:43 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

May 11

1:05 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1800 block of Primrose Drive.

6:25 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 2500 block of Goose Road.

8:21 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Hill Road.

9:23 am: Officer initiated a burglary investigation in the 400 block of Mill Street.

1:04 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

1:40 pm: McCANN, Robert James (40) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road. He was arrested pursuant to 21310 PC (Carrying a Concealed Dirk or Dagger) and on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

1:52 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

2:12 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 21000 block of Baechtel Road.

3:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 21000 block of Baechtel Road.

3:24 pm: ELLER, Kenneth Wayne (51) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 484 PC (Petty Theft), on felony charges of violation of parole, and on misdemeanor charges of shoplifting.

5:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

6:40 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

10:05 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

10:34 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 700 block of Coast Street.

May 12

12:48 pm: JAMES, Michael Daniels (20) of Ukiah was contacted near the intersection of Crest Drive and Meadowbrook Drive. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation.

7:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.

9:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.

10:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:03 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Bittenbender Lane.

May 13

2:10 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.

3:58 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

11:29 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Center Valley Road and Bray Road.

12:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

4:25 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

4:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

6:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:34 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of Nancy Lane.

Mendocino County Public Health offers new home visiting program

Public Health Nursing announced the start of its new Healthy Families Mendocino County home visiting program, earlier this year. Healthy Families Mendocino County is an evidence-based model that has been proven to improve birth outcomes, child safety, parent-child bonding, school readiness, and family self-sufficiency.



- ensuring good nutrition
- self-care, newborn, and baby care
- understanding and responding to baby's needs
- forming a close bond between parent and baby
- healthy child development

- coping with life stress, such as finances and housing
- linking to health care and other community resources

Parents who receive a home visit are more likely to have children who enter kindergarten ready to learn, do not get sick as often, and state that they have a "happier family life" than those who do not participate.

For more information, call Public Health Nursing at 707-472-2600.

– **Submitted by the Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency**

Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency announces new county health officer

Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency announced in March that Gary Pace, MD, MPH, is the new Mendocino County health officer. Dr. Pace is a family physician who has practiced in community health centers in Mendocino and Sonoma counties for over 20 years, working in primary care and community medicine with underserved populations, as both provider and medical director.

Dr. Pace said he is "very excited to be taking on the role of Mendocino County health officer. I have a strong connection to the community and a keen interest in environmental issues and how human health is impacted."

Dr. Pace is an advocate for appropriate and compassionate treatments for substance use and mental health problems and finding ways for the health care system to more effectively address social disparities. A particular interest has been ensuring that all people have access to quality medical care.

Dr. Pace attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine and has training and experience integrating public health, medical care, behavioral health, and substance abuse treatment. In addition to working in community and tribal health centers, Dr. Pace recently served as the Interim health official for Lake County.



Dr. Gary Pace, new Mendocino County health officer.

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Public Health launches campaign
against flavored tobacco products
marketed to teens

Submitted by the California Department of Public Health, Sacramento

In an effort to combat the tobacco industry's latest marketing strategies aimed at getting youth hooked on nicotine, the California Department of Public Health has launched a new "Flavors Hook Kids" campaign.

The campaign warns parents and concerned adults about the increasing availability of flavored tobacco products targeted to teens. The campaign also highlights how easy it is for kids to purchase flavored tobacco products online.

"Flavors disguise the harshness of tobacco and make smoking seem harmless, when we know it's not," said CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith. "Innocent sounding e-cigarette flavors like Cherry Crush and Cotton Candy could lead to a lifetime of nicotine addiction."

More than 80 percent of youth who have tried tobacco products started with a flavored product – there are more than 15,500 e-cigarette flavors on the market.

Also increasing in popularity among teenagers are new e-cigarette devices called "pod mods." One in particular, JUUL, looks like a flash drive. It is easily hidden from parents and teachers because of its deceptive design. Each JUUL cartridge contains the same amount of nicotine as an entire pack of traditional cigarettes.

"We encourage parents to talk to their

kids about the significant risks of nicotine addiction and tobacco use – which can impact brain development and cause asthma and respiratory disease," said Dr. Smith. "There's simply no safe level of tobacco consumption, and it is far too easy for teens to get interested and hooked due to the tobacco industry's deceptive tactics."

E-cigarettes are the most common tobacco product used by youth in the U.S. In 2016, 13.6 percent of California high school students reported using tobacco products, and more than half (8.6 percent) reported using e-cigarettes, including "pod mods." Research has shown minors can successfully buy e-cigarette products online 94 percent of the time.

The new "Flavors Hook Kids" campaign appears in seven languages including English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese and Tagalog. Learn more at www.flavorshookkids.org.

About the California Tobacco Control Program: The California Department of Public Health's Tobacco Control Program was established by the Tobacco Tax and Health Protection Act of 1988. California's comprehensive approach has changed social norms around tobacco-use and secondhand smoke. In November 2016, Californians passed Proposition 56 which funds tobacco-use prevention programs, a new state Oral Health Program and research on tobacco-related illnesses such as cancer and heart disease. For more information, visit www.cdph.ca.gov.

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

November 2016 election, when Measure AG, the "Mendocino County Mental Health Sales Tax," was placed on the ballot. That measure narrowly failed to gain the required two-thirds voter support.

A second attempt to raise sales taxes for mental health facilities and services in Mendocino County, Measure B, was overwhelmingly approved last November.

Measure B required establishment of a Citizens Oversight Committee to make recommendations to the board of supervisors on how to use monies raised by the measure. The committee has been discussing potential use of the old Howard Hospital since its first meeting in January.

Members of the city council last week expressed both frustration and anger at what they described as being left out of discussions regarding the proposal.

Councilman Ron Orenstein was particularly vocal in his displeasure, saying he was "highly disturbed" at what he'd been hearing about the project and the lack of city involvement.

"Our job is to protect the health, safety and welfare of this community," he said. "Whatever it is that someone wants to open in our town, we need to have the final say on what happens.

"I want to establish completely that we not only have the right, but the responsibility to be in the forefront – right smack dab in the middle of these discussions – to make sure the requirements that this city lays out for that facility are met."

Lance told the council that while most county projects are exempt from city regulations, his preliminary research indicated county psychiatric facilities would be subject to local city zoning and code enforcement due to a stipulation in the California Code of Regulations.

Orenstein also argued "public good" laws, which can give the county and state authority over local jurisdictions, may not apply because there are other more suitable locations in the county for a mental health facility than the old Howard Hospital.

"That gives us the opening to say, 'Well this is not the only place, and if you want to do it here, these are our conditions that we are imposing,'" he said. "There are concerns that have been expressed by citizens, and we're not getting any answers about that. I think these are concerns the city needs to quantify [which] need to be satisfied before this facility would be permitted to be open."

At its April 11 meeting, the council asked City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra and city staff to look into discussions about the new psychiatric facility. Garrabrant-Sierra returned last week with a summary of her findings.

The city manager said she had very informative talks with Margie Handley, a board member of the Howard Foundation, which owns the property, and Jed Diamond, the Third District representative on the oversight committee.

She reported an ongoing needs assessment regarding county mental health services by Lee Kemper Consulting (county supervisors approved an initial \$10,000 contract with Kemper last week, with a future \$30,000 contract in the works) could affect potential plans for the Willits site. However, there were indications it would be "an emergency facility for critical care for people who are a danger to themselves or others, or who are severely disabled."

"So that's what we believe is proposed for this site," she said.

In addition, Garrabrant-Sierra said out-of-county patients would likely be sent to the facility, too, since there is a "huge need" for such care that is not being met in other areas.

Garrabrant-Sierra and Councilman Gerry Gonzalez attended the Measure B committee's April 25 meeting and had urged its members to keep the city involved.

"I asked them to please give us a seat at the table," she said. "No one's reached out to us. We want to know what's going on.

"We haven't formed an opinion yet," she said. "We just want to know what's going on, because this was apparently happening very rapidly, and the city had not been contacted."

She said Diamond promised to update the council on the latest developments in discussions for the new facility at the council's fourth Wednesday meetings every month. The Measure B committee meets every fourth Wednesday from 1 to 3 pm at the county administration building in Ukiah.

In addition, the city planned to ask Sheriff Tom Allman, the chair of the oversight committee, and Ace Barash, MD, the vice-chair to attend the next council meeting and address what current plans are for the facility.

Vice Mayor Saprina Rodriguez and Councilman Larry Stranske agreed with much of what Orenstein said, saying a strong response by the city was appropriate.

"I'm not surprised at the county because they work that way quite a bit of time," Stranske said, "and I think it ought to come out that they made a mistake this time. I'm very upset about it."

Gonzalez said he was willing to listen to Allman, Diamond and others regarding plans for the facility before moving forward with the city resolution, but added he was concerned about the financial impact such a facility could have on the police force and other local agencies.

Garrabrant-Sierra said she had asked Diamond about whether there might be any

funding for the city to help with its costs in relation to the facility, but "it was his feeling, from looking at the legislation," she said, "that there is no money in Measure B for mitigation. Most of the money is for construction, and there's a small amount for staffing."

The language of the Measure B ballot measure projected that a total of \$38,019,000 would be raised in the first five years of the extra sales tax. In those first five years, the measure states: "A maximum of 75 percent of all revenue will be devoted to facilities, and not less than 25 percent will be dedicated to services and treatment."

After five years, the extra sales tax will be dropped to one-eighth cent, which the ballot measure reported would raise a projected \$1,972,000 per year, all of which revenue "will be used for ongoing operations, services and treatment."

Citizen concerns

Some Willits residents voiced their concern about having a psychiatric facility in the middle of town.

"A 32-bed psychiatric hospital is going to [have] a major impact in Willits," said longtime local physician Mills Matheson. "It's a big deal. You're going to have to have an impact study, and the needs assessment the county's talking about is not going to tell you what [that] impact is going to be."

Neighborhood resident Bear Kamoroff said he was "amazed" when a member of the Measure B committee at its March meeting said a potential Orchard Avenue location in Ukiah wouldn't work because there's a nearby school, while the old Howard Hospital is located near Baechtel Grove Middle School.

"I don't know why they have a double standard for Ukiah and Willits," he said.

Deborah Clark, who lives near the old Howard Hospital, said she was happy to see the city get involved, expressing her concern about statements by Allman that the oversight committee is going to be "fast-moving" and "making quick decisions."

"I'm very concerned about our business community as well," said Clark. "While Willits now has been dealing with the bypass – and while Willits tries to rebrand itself, and our business owners are trying to survive in this new culture they're having to deal with – I think having a 32-bed mental health facility in the middle of our community with a security fence around it is not very good imaging as people enter the 'Gateway of the Redwoods.'"

Vacancy ordinance

The council also voted unanimously to introduce a city vacancy ordinance urging owners of vacant commercial properties to rent, sell, or use their empty buildings more quickly.

Although no rates were set, City Planner Dusty Duley said he and staff recommended an initial registration fee of \$100 for properties vacant more than 90 days, followed by a \$500 penalty the second year, and penalties up to an amount of \$3,000 every six months after two years.

The fees and fines, however, would be assessed against property owners shown to not be actively pursuing selling or renting their building, or who are not meeting certain standards of maintenance and security upon inspection.

Duley said owners would not be required to hire a real estate agent, but would need to place the property in some sort of major real estate listing.

"You need to convince staff that you are truly seeking a tenant or a new owner for that building," he said. "For example simply putting up a 'for sale' sign would likely not qualify."

He added property owners could also use the building to house a nonprofit or an art studio to avoid penalties.

Some maintenance requirements of the draft ordinance include the property being "free of weeds, dry brush, dead vegetation, trash, junk, debris, excessive foliage growth ... building materials, discarded personal items ... graffiti, tagging or similar markings."

Orenstein suggested the rates should be higher, but the rest of the council seemed satisfied with the rates set by staff.

Positive audit

The council also heard a positive assessment for the City of Willits from an audit report by the firm Moss, Levy and Hartzheim regarding city finances for the fiscal year 2016-17.

Bin Zeng, a representative for the firm, said the city had received an "unmodified" rating, the highest given for financial statements – what you would call a "clean" opinion, according to Zeng.

For government-type activities, the city's assets exceeded liabilities by approximately \$2.2 million, an increase of \$632,000 over the prior fiscal year, not including prior period adjustments.

For business-type activities, assets exceeded liabilities by approximately \$24.5 million, an increase of \$625,000 from the prior year.

Meanwhile the general fund increased by \$75,000, and general fund reserves were sitting at 57 percent, which Zeng said was high compared to most cities, and well above the required amount.

"The city's definitely in a good position," said Zeng. "Compared to other cities, you guys are doing very well. The general fund reserves are very healthy and there are no major issues."

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

19. "What happened is, we over-estimated revenues and we under-estimated expenses," she said.

Staff reviewed the status of the county's finances during the mid-year budget review in March. At that time, staff told supervisors many elements of the economy remained strong. Property taxes were up, sales taxes were up, revenues from the transient occupancy taxes (also known as the bed tax) were up, and housing prices were approaching January 2007 levels.

At the same time, income from cannabis fees were \$800,000 below projected levels and revenue from the cannabis business tax was down about \$1 million from projections.

Another major element in the mix is that the county had decided to give its employees modest raises, finally back-filling the 10 percent pay cut employees took in 2010 and 2011.

As a result, the county will have to pay \$8.1 million in increased labor costs, including \$2.9 million county staff described in March as "unanticipated."

The March mid-year budget report also noted the county will likely have to pay some \$2.5 million in costs related to the Redwood fire.

"The county budgeted \$2.3 million in 2017-18 to run the hall," Angelo said. "This year the hall was about \$400,000 over budget, meaning the actual budget for the hall in 2017-18 will be \$2.7 million."

The main reason the hall is over budget is that Lake County cancelled a contract to send the residents of its juvenile hall to Mendocino County's juvenile hall in Ukiah. Asked in March why Lake County bailed on its agreement, then Acting-Probation Officer Kevin Kelley said, "They found a better deal somewhere else."

With the cancellation of the Lake County agreement, the average daily attendance inside the hall fell to 14 juveniles.

"So what that means is that it is costing us \$550 a day, per child, to keep that child in the hall," Angelo said. "In my opinion, what we're doing with the juvenile hall is not financially sustainable. We must find an alternative, and a good alternative. So what I am trying to do is, I am trying to come up with a good plan today."

Angelo said she will propose a \$1 million budget for juvenile hall and urge newly appointed Chief Probation Officer Izen Locatelli to make it work. Asked how Locatelli can run the hall in the face of a 63 percent budget cut, Angelo said Locatelli can contract with Sonoma County to provide juvenile hall services.

Locatelli, she said, does not support her plan. "He is a new chief probation officer. I am not going to force him to agree with my plan. In fact, I will encourage him to come up with his own option and present it to the board of supervisors."

"The choice is theirs, and I will be happy with whatever the board wants."

"But I will tell you this," Angelo continued, "in my opinion, we need to be forward-thinking. We shouldn't postpone this decision. If the board agrees with me that running our own juvenile hall is not financially viable over the long term, and if we see an option now with Sonoma County, we ought to move now to take that option. Because, if we wait a couple of years and then we say that we can't do it financially, and that option is no longer there, then where will we be?"

Willits Weekly attempted to reach Locatelli on deadline for comment, but the chief probation officer was not available.

Grand jury says no

On May 8, a Mendocino County Grand Jury report recommended keeping juvenile hall open.

"The closure of the facility would be a devastating loss to our juveniles and their families," the report found, pointing out that doing so would "result in the loss of experienced, dedicated and committed staff" and would mean Mendocino County would be treating "the youth of our county as commodities."

"Decisions for our children appear to be cost-driven and lacking in concern for their welfare, in terms of separation and isolation from family, school, and local support services that are essential to their successful rehabilitation," the report stated.

"The county's proposal to spend \$1.1 million for the juvenile hall budget forfeits the responsibility for our juveniles to a distant county."

The grand jury report noted that increasing the budget for the juvenile hall by \$1.2 million would enable the county to fully fund the facility. It noted the county is currently considering investing \$1.27 million into the information technology reserve and proposing to budget \$1.1 million for county facilities maintenance projects such as "parking lot maintenance, exterior and interior painting, hazardous tree mitigation, etc."

"A county decision to send its troubled youth to another county's facility is diametrically opposed to the state policy of community-based detention, that enables juveniles to better reintegrate into local support systems," the report found.

The grand jury report on Mendocino County Juvenile Hall can be read in full at: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/grand-jury/2017-2018-reports.

More of **Cannabis** |

From Page 1

were not ready for a first reading, and those two items were presented to the board for discussion only.

After a report on the status of the county's cannabis program, Overton told supervisors the State Requirements Working Group had taken on the task of discussing the transference of cultivation permits to new owners and had gone some distance towards drafting a county ordinance that would generally allow it.

Currently, the transfer of cultivation permits to new owners is generally not allowed. According to Section 20.242.040 (E) of the cultivation ordinance: "Permits issued pursuant to this section shall not be transferable to another person, except that the permittee may transfer the permit to a spouse/domestic partner, child, parent, or, for estate planning purposes, to a trust in which the permittee serves as a trustee, which shall not be deemed a change in ownership for purposes of this chapter."

Overton said he felt uncomfortable with the direction in which the working group was headed and questioned whether the board would welcome a presentation on that topic from a working group that was supposed to be focusing on the question of how best to influence shaping state cannabis regulations.

He asked the board to clarify its position relative to the working group. Specifically, Overton asked, should the working group be referred to as the State Requirements Working Group, or as the State Requirements-Local Ordinance Working Group?

He asked if the working group had board authorization to craft a local cannabis ordinance, including ordinance language that would change the county's policy on transferability and other issues? Overton also asked if supervisors wanted to agendize a discussion on transferability, and, if so, when did they want to discuss it?

Supervisors directed staff to come up with a calendar for several unresolved cannabis issues, including the progress of the working groups and the overlay ordinance.

The overlay ordinance is a major proposed amendment to the cultivation ordinance. The county hired consultant firm Michael Baker International to begin crafting an overlay amendment in October 2017.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gierde reminded colleagues he has asked many times for work to begin on drafting a cultivation ordinance applicable to the coastal zone, and asked staff to put that issue on the calendar as well.

The board and county CEO Carmel Angelo selected June 12 as the date for a special meeting for discussion of the issues.

Supervisors have one more meeting scheduled for this month, on May 22. During the first week of June, the board will review and adopt the final budget for 2018-19.

Business and facilities

The Planning Division of the Department of Planning and Building Services presented a draft of new amendments to the county's cannabis business license ordinance, Section 6.36, and the county's cannabis facilities ordinance, Section 20.243.

Planners included language

Read the rest of **Cannabis** |
Over on Page 10

lived in Mendocino County for over 50 years, graduated from Ukiah High School in 1979, earned a bachelor's degree from Sonoma State, teaching credential from Dominican University, master's degree from Grand Canyon University, and administrative credential from St. Mary's College.

With more than 25 years' experience in education, he has taught at the elementary level and been a principal at Redwood Valley, Ukiah, and Kelseyville elementary schools and Pomolita Middle School. He held the position of assistant superintendent of curriculum and assistant superintendent of personnel and student services for the Ukiah Unified School District, and has "made time throughout [his] career to coach youth sports."

Barrett says he is running for superintendent "because I was asked to run and supported by mentors and people I respect, and I have the desire to serve my community."

Michelle Hutchins, who graduated from Humboldt State and has 24 years' experience in education, is currently superintendent for the Anderson Valley Unified School District and has worked for Eureka city schools as an art and technology teacher and as an assistant principal, principal, and director of adult and alternative programs in Eureka. She was also superintendent/principal at Mountain Valley Unified School District in Trinity County.

In Anderson Valley, Hutchins has been involved organizing the fermentation fair, goat festival, and wildflower show, and she is secretary of the chamber of commerce, and an active member of the Anderson Valley Unity Club and Community Action Coalition.

"As a current Mendocino County school district superintendent," she says, "I was driven to take on the risks of running a campaign ... to provide a fluid transition for the county office [the Mendocino County Office of Education]."

"After talking with the other superintendents – and realizing none of them desired to run for this office – I decided to run."

So ... what does the county school superintendent do? Most people don't know.

"As I meet people around the county, it's interesting how many do not understand the role of the county office," Hutchins says. "The first question I receive usually is if I'm going to be replacing Deb Kubin [Ukiah Unified superintendent] or Mark Westerburg [Willits Unified superintendent]. I quickly explain that I'm not. The second question I get is 'Will I be their boss?' Again, when the answer is no, the person is very confused as to what it is I am actually running for.

"The functions [of MCOE] include educating special education students and disenfranchised youth, monitoring and oversight of the school districts' academic environment and fiscal stability, direct services to small school districts, and academic support and assistance," she explained.

Barrett agreed with that description, adding that MCOE also monitors "the local accountability plan that each district has ..." and is in charge of creating an alternative education plan."

Despite similarities in length of experience and their description of the scope of the job's responsibilities, there is a distinct difference between the candidates when it comes to describing their leadership style.

"My style is very collaborative. I am not a top-down person," said Barrett. "I work with people ... leading from the middle where you're getting information from the people that are actually working with folks ... [and] ... including them in the process, and then making sure that process is collaborative..." I believe in giving employees the support to be successful ... to make sure they're included in goals and improvements."

Hutchins' style is more top-down. "Leading from the middle," in her opinion, is not the best approach for a county school superintendent.

In a Facebook post, she cited the conclusion of a nonprofit organization – RP Group – that "leading from the middle ... [is appropriate] ... for practitioners with middle organizational responsibilities."

She points out, "Observant readers will note the position of school superintendent or CEO is not a middle leader. As I stated in all forums, the transition from principal to superintendent is significant. Principals manage the day-to-day operations of the school, staff, and student body and report to the superintendent. The superintendent is the CEO of the district, implements the board's vision for education by making day-to-day decisions about programs, spending, staff, and facilities, and reports to a board elected by the people the superintendent leads."

She told the forum audience: "School superintendent is a position of wide influence, ever-changing, demanding, and key to the success of a district. When I was promoted to superintendent, I learned there was much more complexity to the position. The job requires the courage to make and enforce unpopular decisions," and "in a "small town you can become the subject of personal agendas," she said.

"When I moved into being a school district superintendent, I realized there are times when you have to be courageous enough to make unpopular decisions. Oftentimes those unpopular decisions are keeping the best interests of the students and the taxpayer in mind.

"It's not easy to convince people that change is necessary when 'good enough' is institutionalized," she says.

"What I do with my employees is that I work with the evaluative process. We set and establish goals at the beginning of the year, and we work together toward meeting those goals by the end of the year."

Priorities once in office, both candidates agree, include

the need to deal with absenteeism.

Hutchins says she will "confront chronic absenteeism by forming a countywide attendance board and teen courts."

Barrett's to-do list also includes "improved attendance.... We need to get kids in seats," he said.

Hutchins says she would also "decentralize services to overcome Mendocino's geographic challenges, assist local school boards in developing efficient governance structure, and inspire a culture of innovation for effective problem-solving in all districts."

Barrett wants to "improve the academic performance in reading and math.... Our countywide test scores show over half of our students are below grade level."

And school safety is important to him. "Kids and parents deserve to know that they ... are in a safe place to learn," he says.

"Improving teacher credentialing" is important as well, Barrett says. "We need programs to get local people credentialed."

Apropos of that goal, the candidates were specifically questioned on the problem of retaining and recruiting teachers. Both believe the geographical challenge presented by Sonoma County as the closest place aspiring teachers can get a teaching credential is an issue.

Hutchins notes MCOE was "partnering with the Sonoma County Office of Education ... and so obviously we would want to increase to develop that path." She also believes in "bringing new teachers on" by securing state funding to help classified employees access education to become teachers.

"We need to grow our own," she says, adding that, in Anderson Valley, they have "tiered support for ... teachers, so our teachers most at risk of leaving the profession get the most support.... We also have developed programs that allow teachers that live far away to have a place to stay in town."

Barrett acknowledges "it's hard to get people to teach in Mendocino County" due to low salaries and expensive rent. It's also hard to provide "quality vocational education opportunities" to students in "our most rural communities."

Barrett acknowledges the problem and importance of vocational education: "I'm a CTE [career technical education] guy. I went to high school, and I took auto mechanics. I took welding. It was part of what helped me get through school. I really enjoyed it.

"So, am I a believer in CTE? Yes. It's something we have to have, because not everybody is going to go to college, but everybody needs to be employable and be able to get a job when they get out of school. That is really important."

He suggests working with places like Mendocino Community College "to get classes into some of these smaller areas Then they get college credit and high school credit at the same time."

Hutchins also acknowledges the problem and suggests "the way ... to spread the access [to vocational education] is to use more electronic resources to be able to [use the resources of] the larger schools that have CTE."

Both candidates acknowledge the positive role of charter schools in the county.

Barrett says he believes charter schools "fill a need in the community. I think ... they are successful because there's a need to have them there, and I think charter schools make public schools better schools."

Hutchins says: "They are necessary.... Our current school districts struggle – especially the smaller ones – in providing a broad array of services to meet all of the community members that need the services." She stresses, however, her belief that, "as our schools transition to more student-led and personalized learning, the need to rely on charter schools will lessen."

She also says she has "an articulated plan" to work with local school districts to "broaden [the provision of] those services by personalized learning," which gives students "relevance to what they're learning."

Both candidates believe MCOE should support and help train local school boards.

Barrett acknowledges being on a school board is "a really tough job," and it is important to provide workshops, so school board members know "their role and responsibility."

Hutchins sees the role of the county office as "assisting superintendents in training their school boards." She says: "The training needs to happen after the person is elected [and] before they take the seat. Currently our county office of education provides training that starts in January, which is a month and a half after the person takes the seat. Training needs to happen right after that election in November."

She also believes the training should be provided by the California School Boards Association and not just retired school board members. It's imperative, she says, that "school board members receive quality training to learn their role to avoid special interests and other things that can happen to a local school board."

Barrett has been endorsed by the Mendocino Federation of School Employees, the Ukiah Teachers Association, the California School Employees Association and the Anderson Valley Teachers Association and the Ukiah Daily Journal.

Hutchins has won the endorsements of the Mendocino County Democratic Central Committee, the Inland Mendocino Democratic Club, Willits Unified School District Superintendent Mark Westerburg, Leggett Schools District Superintendent Tony Loumena, and the Anderson Valley Advertiser.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW151

CITY OF WILLITS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Willits City Council, at its regular meeting on May 23, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., to be held in Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

PROJECT TITLE: City of Willits Vacant Commercial Building Ordinance.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Adoption of ordinance of the City of Willits adding chapter 8.28 to the Willits Municipal Code entitled Vacant Commercial Property Registration and Property Maintenance relating to the required registration and maintenance of vacant commercial buildings.

PROJECT OVERVIEW: The City of Willits proposes a comprehensive Commercial Medical Cannabis Ordinance amending the City's Zoning Code to regulate medical cannabis land uses consistent with California State law. The Ordinance will establish specific land use zoning and development standards for medical cannabis land uses.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Vacant Commercial Building Ordinance would apply to all vacant commercial buildings as defined in the ordinance and located in the Community Commercial (C1), General Commercial (C2), and Administrative Office (CO) zoned lands within the incorporated area of the City of Willits.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Adoption of this ordinance and the implementation of the regulatory programs of this ordinance are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301

Your comments regarding the proposed project are invited. Written comments should be submitted to the Willits Community Development Department, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California 95490, no later than 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, May 22, 2018.

Additional information regarding the above noted item may be obtained by calling Willits City Hall at (707) 459-4601, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Oral comments may be presented to the Willits City Council during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits Community Development Department or the Willits City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

/s/ Dusty Duley, City Planner for the City of Willits
Publication Date: May 17, 2018

The rest of Cannabis | From Page 9

WW152

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2018-F0275

The following persons are doing business as: Coast Hardware / Coast Hardware Appliance & Service, 101 E. Barbara Lane, Willits CA 95490; Botolotawork Inc., 101 E. Barbara Lane, Willits, CA 95490. This business is conducted by a corporation.

The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on: 05/04/2018.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on May 4, 2018.

s/ Wendy J. Morgan, CEO
Pub dates: 05/17, 05/24, 05/31, and 6/7/2018

LEGAL NOTICES

WW150

BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Brooktrails Township Community Services District will conduct public hearings concerning revisions to the following rates and fees, to be effective July 1, 2018:

Monthly Water Base Rate, Water Usage Rate, Monthly Sewer Base Rate, Planning and Architectural and Golf Fees.

The public hearings will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 12, 2018 and Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at the Brooktrails Community Center, 24850 Birch Street, Willits, CA. At said time and place, any person interested, including all people owning property in Brooktrails Township Community Services District, may appear personally or submit a written presentation on any matter relating to the proposed revisions.

The General Manager has submitted a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 that recommends revisions which include the following increased or new rates, fees and charges:

Effective July 1, 2018:

Water monthly base rate from \$48.84 to \$49.16
Water usage rate from \$0.0293 to \$0.02961
Sewer monthly base rate from \$68.45 to \$68.78

Planning/Architectural Review Fees:

Lot Merger (two lots to one lot) from \$500.00 to \$750.00
Each Additional Lot from \$80.00 to \$85.00

Adult Green Fees - Daily - 9 holes 18 holes/baskets	Ball Golf from \$15.00 to \$17.00 from \$20.00 to \$22.00	Disc Golf from \$10.00 to \$12.00
Youth Green Fees Daily - 9 holes 18 holes/baskets	Ball Golf from \$8.00 to \$10.00 from \$10.00 to \$12.00	Disc Golf from \$5.00 to \$7.00
Greens Fees Annual	Ball Golf from \$600.00 to \$650.00 from \$900.00 to \$950.00	Disc Golf from \$400.00 to \$450.00 from \$600.00 to \$650.00
Single membership Couple Family (five)	from \$1,150.00 to \$1,200.00 from \$45.00 to \$50.00/each	from \$850.00 to \$850.00 from \$20.00 to \$25.00/each
Additional family member		

A copy of the proposed budget is available for review during normal business hours at the Township Office, 24860 Birch Street, Willits, California or on-line at www.btcasd.org

/s/ Denise Rose, Secretary to the Board of Directors
Publication Dates: May 17 and May 24, 2018

WW149

CITY OF WILLITS

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLITS ADDING CHAPTER 8.28 TO THE WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED VACANT COMMERCIAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE RELATING TO THE REQUIRED REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF VACANT COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

The City Council of the City of Willits shall convene at a duly noticed council meeting on May 23, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Willits City Hall Council Chambers, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, to consider the adoption of a new City ordinance adding chapter 8.28 to the Willits Municipal Code entitled Vacant Commercial Property Registration and Property Maintenance relating to the required registration and maintenance of vacant commercial buildings.

The following summary of the proposed ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code section 36933 which provides that a city council may publish a summary of a proposed ordinance in a newspaper of general circulation at least five days prior to the city council meeting at which the proposed ordinance is to be adopted. The full text of the proposed ordinance shall also be posted in the office of the Willits City Clerk for at least five (5) days prior to the City Council meeting of May 23, 2018.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NEW ORDINANCE:

The proposed ordinance contains findings and declarations including the following:

- Abandoned and vacant buildings contribute to blight in the City, discourage economic development and diminish appreciation of property values, endanger public health and safety, attract criminal activity, and create fire hazards.
- It is the responsibility of property owners to prevent buildings from becoming a burden to the neighborhood and community and a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare.
- The City has an obligation to preserve the health, safety and welfare of residents and the community, and to the extent possible, protect commercial areas from declining property values, aesthetic decay, and loss of character.
- The amendments being considered will create registration, maintenance, and security requirements for Vacant Commercial Buildings in the City. The purpose of these amendments is to ensure that Vacant Commercial Buildings are maintained and secured, preventing them from becoming health or safety hazards and public nuisances.
- The owner(s) of a Vacant Commercial Building shall within 90 days after it has become vacant, register the Commercial Building with the Community Development Department on a form provided by the Department along with the annual registration fee.
- The City shall maintain a registry of Vacant Commercial Buildings to ensure that owners are properly maintaining their buildings as well as assist owners in selling or renting their buildings.

/s/ Cathy Moorhead, City Clerk
Publication Date: May 17, 2018

WW148

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2018-F0232

The following persons are doing business as: Hatchel Mountain Construction, 26260 East Lane, Covelo CA 95428; Tyler Swearingner, 25245 Highway 162, Covelo, CA 95428, and Tyler Kappl, 26260 East Lane, Covelo, CA 95428. This business is conducted by a general partnership .

The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on: 03/12/2012.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on April 12, 2018.

s/Tyler Kappl
Pub dates: 05/10, 05/17, 05/24 and 05/31/2018

LEGAL NOTICES

WW147

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2018-F0259

The following persons are doing business as: GreenStone Landscapes, 6301 Ridgewood Road, Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by a married couple.

The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on: 07/30/2008.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on April 24, 2018.

s/Johan Henckell
Pub dates: 05/10, 05/17, 05/24 and 05/31/2018

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Enrolling Now

Enrolling now for Fall 2018: Preschool, Kindergarten, Grades 1-4, Home School. Deep Valley Christian School (15 minutes from south Willits). Call Sandy Peters at (707) 367-5748 for more information.

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Estate Sale

Estate Sale: Whitney's Babcock House Museum. 96 S. Humboldt Street in Willits. Saturday, May 19th, 9am-5pm. *First 50 purchases over \$15 receive a free antique Leeks Soda Bottle from Willits*

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Divora Stern LCSW, Energy Psychology, (707) 354-9911. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, EFT, Alternative Modalities Available Somatic/TRE, Art As Therapy. Seeking Help As A Strength. 716 S. Main Willits. Partnership & Medicare Accepted

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Seamstress and Sewing Teacher Barbara Carlon Visit my webpage: Seamqueen.blog 707-367-6182, Willits

Volunteers Needed

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

Email us and get included here next week!



Current Job Openings:

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Program Specialist I/II

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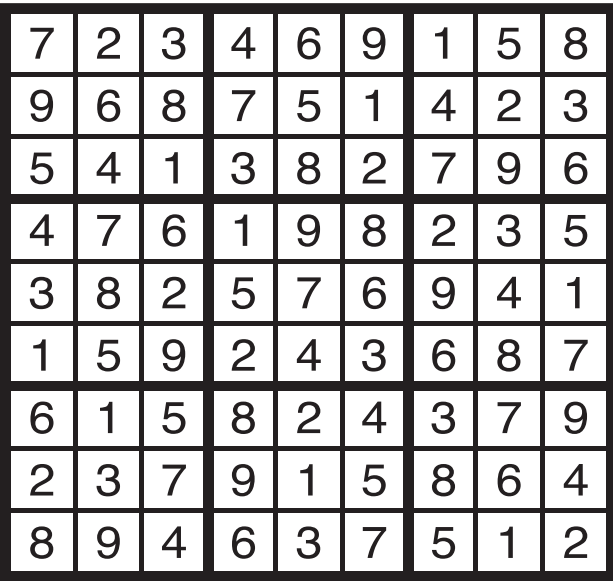
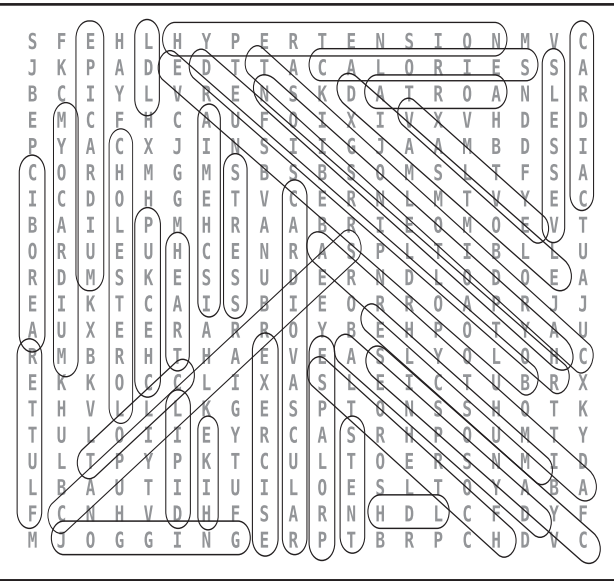
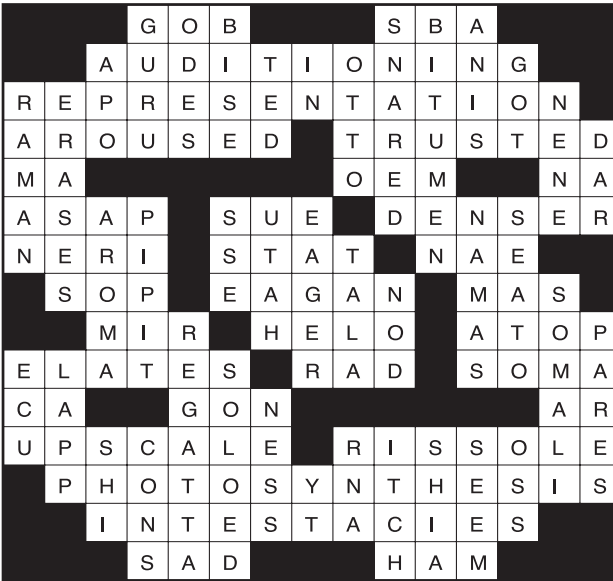
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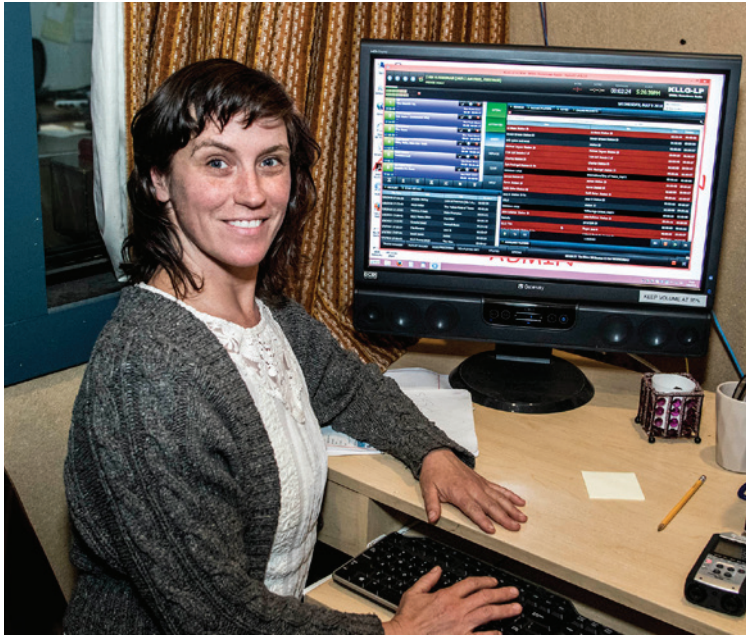
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Above, left: Liam UICearbhall, Michelle Cummins, Mike Burgess and Jocelyn De Jung, who is working on creating a new show, get together for a management meeting.

Above, right: Pat Collins, new general manager of KLLG, brings years of management expertise to the station.

At right: Michelle Cummins, co-program director, works on the automated playlist.



Above, left: The programming board waits to be filled with local talent. Above, right: Liam UICearbhall, assistant engineer and programmer, speaks into the microphone. Below, right: Rossi Jensen, known as "Miss Rossi," poses outside the KLLG studio at the Grange.

KLLG 97.9 Willits Hometown Radio's

Help keep KLLG On The Air by donating your gently used items to our Garage Sale! Drop of is from 8-9:30 am on May 20th @ The Peters Sushi Parking Lot.

Also Looking For Vendors!! Come shop with your favorite radio station and Rock Out with DJ Joey D! For info call 707-354-8100

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The rest of Baseball

From Page 3

going to be some pretty legit players," Yadon said about his up-and-coming WHS players, "and some good freshmen. We have some hope for the future of our team. The next four years should be pretty good with this program, even though I'm losing eight seniors this year – eight out of the 10 guys I've got."

Coach Yadon then took the field to welcome everybody to the game and to thank them for their generosity. He also offered his condolences to the alumni who were probably going to have to spend the next couple days rehabilitating sore muscles, bruises and strains.

The jive talk was rampant. "Yeah. That was a rule 30 years ago ... when you played." "He was safe by a country mile for all you hick folk on the other bench." "Hey, I resemble that remark." "I was talkin' to you then." "It ain't fair us old guys gotta run." "Let's get this game goin' – I can feel myself getting older." "Last year he hit a ball that hasn't landed yet." "Way to stretch that into a nothing." "Adios pelotai!!"

Coach Yadon was playing catcher for the varsity when a ball was fouled high in the air. As he was trying to find it in the sun, someone from the alumni yelled, "It's out of play," causing Yadon to give up on the ball. When it came down, it almost beamed him. Such was the comradery and humor in evidence for the nine innings.

Everybody left with a smile and a desire to do it again next year. The alumni went home to nurse their sore muscles.

The rest of KLLG

From Page 12

those." "Like fundraisers and programmer trainings," Cummins interjected.

"Right now we have 62.5 hours of original programming per week," Cummins continued. "Fifty-two shows a week with 22 programmers. We are looking to fill more time. I'm looking into doing some show shares in which we trade shows with other local stations. I've already brought on the 'Farm and Reeler Report' from KPFN in Laytonville with Casey O'Neill. I'm also going to bring on 'Heroes and Patriots,' a show about politics involving interviews with people involved in different aspects of government on a larger scale, which is produced in Ukiah.

"Shortwave Report' and 'Youth Speaks Out' are produced in a little cabin in the woods by Dan Roberts," Cummins said. "Radio Curious' is a half-hour interview show on curious topics with [Ukiah attorney] Barry Vogel. It's a nationally syndicated show. We also have 'For the Wild' with Ayana Young. She has several mitigation and tree planting projects. We also have 'Live from the Blue Wing,' which is music from the Blue Wing Café in Upper Lake."

Cummins expressed her wish list for the future: "I would like to have shows that enhance our community. I would love to have someone do a spotlight on local businesses, someone to do a community calendar, more talk shows. I would love to have more music shows that highlight all the weirdos we have here in Willits, kind of a 'Keep Willits Weird' show. There are some unique people here, and I want the schedule to reflect our community."

With renewed energy and a more coherent vision for the future, KLLG-LP 97.9 FM has a good chance of making an impact on the community and providing emergency services that are currently in planning. They need a generator and a way to stream their shows on the internet, both of which take money and energy.

For more information on KLLG's programs, please go to their "KLLG 97.9 Willits Hometown Radio" Facebook Page or www.kllg.org. The station's studio, reachable by phone at 707-459-5554, is located at the Little Lake Grange.

The rest of Economy

From Page 1

people coming up here from Southern California and from Eastern Europe," said Laytonville resident Susan Tibbon at the May 8 board of supervisors meeting. "They are coming up to some of these smaller growers and offering \$300 a pound for their cannabis.

"Those people are taking that offer because months and months and months have gone by and people are at the end of their ropes. They don't know what to do.

"If you can move forward more expeditiously," Tibbon suggested to supervisors, "because, we're seeing a lot of damage happening now and, with the price crashing, it's looking more and more bleak."

Paul Hansbury also addressed supervisors during the public comment portion of the May 8 board meeting. Along with Tibbon, Hansbury has been one of the most involved members of the public present at the interface between supervisors and the cannabis community. Since April 2016, when the county began working on its cultivation ordinance, Tibbon and Hansbury have missed only a handful of board meetings.

"I did a private poll of some of the local businesses in Laytonville," Hansbury said. "I stopped by Boomer's Restaurant and Bar. They were doing some refinishing of their floors. I stopped by and asked the owner: 'How's business?' She said that two weeks ago we just had our eight-year anniversary, from where we had taken over ownership of Boomer's. April was the worst month ever, in eight years.

"I went over to Gravier's," Hansbury continued. "Gravier's is a gas station. They also have a convenience store. They sell snacks and food, things like that. I spoke with the owner of Gravier's. Now, keep in mind, Gravier's was one business that stood to gain the most from the Willits bypass, because they're the next gas station [north of Willits]. He said, year to date, we're down 11 percent.

"I talked to Michael Brought, who's the owner of Geiger's Market and Hardware store. He said they've having the same amount of people coming in, but they are down about \$100,000 a month since January.

"I spoke to Lorraine Cassidy," he said. "She's the owner of Weatherport Nursery. She said she's down 75 percent. She shared with me her checks that she paid to the state Board of Equalization. In April 2017, the [sales] taxes she paid to the state were \$47,361. In April 2018: '\$16,511,'" Hansbury said.

"Every single one of these owners" attributed the decline in business to a decline in the cannabis industry, including the cost of buying cannabis licenses," he said.

Heidi Wordhouse, who owns 600 acres of ranch land north of Laytonville, gave an account of what she's seen in the trenches. Wordhouse said she rents a small part of her 600 acres to small organic farmers, who grow cannabis legally on her land.

"What I've seen in their process going legal is, they've had trouble finding distributors who are willing to take their flower," Wordhouse said. "This might not sound important, but when it comes to microbusiness it's very important.

"Distributors are not taking their flower – the vast majority of them, at this point. People are sitting with work in their hands.

"If they can't get their stuff to distributors, they are unable to retail their work. If they are unable to retail their work, they are unable to pay me. Those who do find distributors frequently pay, as you heard, up to 30 percent in fees. It's usurious. It's really hard. Some of the ones who dropped off their work in January still haven't been paid. If they don't get paid, I don't get paid. And I have to pay you guys my property taxes, so I'd really like to get paid.

"I think what I really want to emphasize to you is that farmers need a way to self-distribute," she said. "They need to be able to go to dispensaries and sell wholesale their own work. They need to be able to go retail and sell delivery-only, to their own clients, to start a website, to be able to sell their goods, so they can pay their taxes, to pay you your fees, to pay me my rental," Wordhouse said.

Ron Edwards, a cannabis nursery owner who operates in Willits, played off something Tibbon had said earlier in the meeting. "You heard earlier that the street price is \$300 a pound. But that's the black-market price. For those who are trying to do it legally, the price is zero, because you can't move the product," Edwards said.

The rest of Anniversary

From Page 1

Gonzalez had a short stay in HMH when he was in the fourth grade, after getting blood poisoning from a cut on his hand after he fell off his bike. Gonzalez remembers how relatively enjoyable it was to be a patient at HMH.

"I remember that when I had to stay at the hospital, it was great!" laughed Gonzalez. "They had these nice televisions, they brought me fun new foods; I remember when they suggested ice cream with dinner – sounded good to me!"

Gonzalez' two sisters, Frances Erwin of Willits and Elena Erwin of Reno, and his brother, Nash Gonzales of Ukiah, were also born at Howard over the years.

In addition to the items on display, appetizers, desserts and refreshments will be provided by the hospital's kitchen staff and executive chef, Kyle Evans, of their Roots restaurant.

"This event is truly meant to be a celebration not just of our employees, and the hospital, but also our community, because without their support the hospital would not be here," said Winger.

The rest of Assessor

From Page 1

department, although the assessor-clerk-recorder directs the activities of all three divisions within the department. Current Assessor/Clerk-Recorder Sue Ranochak has decided not seek re-election.

As the forum began, each of the candidates told the audience a little about their work history. Bartolomie was hired by the county in 2004 and worked as an exemptions clerk in the assessor's office. Six months after being hired, she was promoted to the position of supervisor of the clerical division of the assessor's office. She became assistant registrar of voters in 2006 and assistant clerk-recorder in 2009.

Larson has worked on the assessor's side of the assessor-clerk-recorder's office since 1993. He has risen to what he called a "top-tier position" in the assessor's division, Appraiser III.

Larson said he understands all aspects of property assessment, including residential, commercial, farm, ranch, and timberland, and has "extensive working knowledge of the Williamson Act, the program that helps maintain and preserve our open space and ag land, countywide."

He added the assessor's wing of the department is very important, since property tax revenue generates about \$30 million a year for Mendocino County government.

Kroppman was hired in the assessor's office in 1989, and that since that time she has held many jobs within the office, including Proposition 13 change of ownership clerk, property tax exclusions clerk, real property clerical staff supervisor. She is currently a real property Appraiser II.

Kroppman added she is also a small business owner, a property owner who rents out two properties, a mother of five daughters, and a grandmother of 16 grandchildren.

Although most of the department's employees work in the assessor's side of the office, most of the questions at the May 6 forum were about the elections side of the office.

Larson said he would resist any move to go totally paperless.

"I think its important to maintain a paper trail," he said. "There's a suggestion of digitalizing everything, of making everything electronic. I think there's too much room for error, and I think with paper ballots, there is a better way of following, and confirming and checking how someone voted."

"Yes, we do have some voting/tabulation machines," Kroppman said. "They are not used very often, but they are required by the state and federal government for state and federal elections. They are a touchscreen with an SD-type card that goes into the monitor. They have a back-up tape similar to a cash register tape or a clerical adding machine tape.

"These machines are independent and are not hooked up to the internet," she said. "I believe these machines are safe and secure. Unfortunately, few voters choose to use these machines due to a lack of knowledge, not only how they work but even how to vote on them in general."

"The reliability and security of the voting equipment is of the utmost importance," Bartolomie said. "When we program our machines and our memory cards, there is no internet access in that secure room. The paper backup is law in California, so there has to be some sort of paper backup that the voter can actually go to and check and make sure that what they voted is what they intended to vote. The paper ballots are just that. Mendocino County people like their paper ballots. We like to provide those paper ballots."

Asked what could be done to speed up the issuing of the final vote count, Bartolomie felt the goal could be reached by a combination of technology and people power.

"We have some equipment I am looking at that will help eliminate one of the processes we do manually, [so] we can do [it] on the computer screen, [and it] will be attached to our tabulation system. That will help get the results out better. It will help us update our results, from the election night

final report until the vote is certified.

"We have eight people working now," she added. "I think we have a pretty efficient crew. Most of the people have been with us now for several years. I really think this piece of equipment and the people we have will help get everything out a whole lot quicker."

Kroppman said she would buy a new tabulation machine. "The machine we have now is extremely sensitive and you can't feed a ballot through it if it has a slight tear or a bend or a crease or anything of that nature – so getting a new tabulation machine is a part of speeding that up.

"I would [also] reach out to the newspapers, the radios and the colleges. We have to, as a department, become more friendly with the public and communicate with the residents of Mendocino County," she said. "Between that and stepping up our communication, I believe we could get more volunteers to come and be willing to work both at the polls and in our office to help us count those vote-by-mail ballots."

"It would just require including more people in the processing of the ballots of the county," Larson said. "The assessors' office has a large staff. They are paid, committed employees. I don't see any issue with pulling them off their responsibilities for a week or two during these election cycles and getting these ballots done and processed.

"A lot of people are turning their [mail-in] ballots on the day of the election, and that's the hold-up," he added. "I don't see anything wrong with declaring to the public: 'Look at the progress we're making.' We're not going to sit there and tally and tell you what the vote is, but I think surely we can report to you the progress we're making. 'We've got 15,000 absentee ballots, and a week after the election we've got 50 percent of those counted.'"

"Let the public know the progress we're making," Larson said.

When asked what the biggest challenge is facing the department, each of the candidates had a different answer.

"Our department, combined, has 26 employees," Kroppman said. "Nineteen of the 26 employees work in the assessor's department. So that is a really important department, not to have a department head."

"Currently, we have no assistant assessor. The position of assistant assessor, the funding has been lost, because the current administration has not decided to fill that position for whatever reason," she said. "I believe that's a position we need to fill."

"The challenges we have are getting the results out on the vote, and we need to really improve on that," Bartolomie opined. "The assessor's office also needs some help. They need to redefine their duties, and who gets what, and streamline things so it will flow a lot better."

"We're short-handed, and we need to be able to hire people who will stay with us," she added. "We need to pay our people, so they don't go someplace else within the county, for a couple dollars more an hour."

"We're moving to an all-mail-vote system," said Larson. "The [California] Secretary of State is really pushing it. That's going to be a cost to the counties. That's going to be a big challenge. How are we going to make that transition?"

"From the assessor's standpoint, as I mentioned, we are short-staffed. But a big challenge for us is generating the revenue," he said. "And part of that is, getting out there and picking all the stuff out there, that is not being taxed and assessed."

"My biggest point is, you gotta be fair and equal with everybody," he added. "That includes getting out there and doing the job, to canvass these areas, to pick up on these structures and non-permitted buildings that are out there."

"I think there's a lot of potential revenue that could be obtained by the county, and staffing is required to do that. Someone needs to approach the board [of supervisors] and fight for the department, and that's what I propose to do," Larson said.

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Far left: The "Picasso dog" recreated by eighth-grade art student Stormmie. At left: Art teacher Laurie Burghardt, in front of the poster about artist Pablo Picasso she created. Below: BGMS eighth-grade student Mara, at left, holds her newly framed still life painting. Senior Center Thrift Shop Director Kelli Gordon, BGMS art teacher Laurie Burghardt, and eighth-grade student Amber Lynn, at right, are loaded up with a generous selection of frames donated by the Thrift Shop. "I'm thrilled that I can give back to my community in this way," said Gordon.



Above, left: Eighth-grade art student, Amber Lynn, proudly displays her painting of "Van Gogh's Chair," one of Vincent van Gogh's famous paintings. The beautiful painting has an attractive frame complementing the art that was donated by the Harrah Senior Center Thrift Store.

Photo by Laurie Burghardt

Above, right: Stormmie chooses to recreate a drawing of a dog by cubist artist Pablo Picasso. She's using watercolor pens, to which she will later apply water. "I didn't really like how his people looked with their eyes in different places than they should be, so I chose one of the animals," she said.

Below, left: A composite of a Frida Kahlo portrait, created by students who chose which part of the copied painting they wanted to color using oil pastels. This stunning result will be on display in the classroom.

Below, right: One of three bifold screens in the cafeteria which greet students, staff and visitors with a changing selection of student art.

Photos by Ree Slocum



Mimicking the Masters

Baechtel Grove students learn about world-famous artists by recreating their styles

When Baechtel Grove Middle School decided they wanted a full-time art instructor, Laurie Burghardt, who'd been teaching eighth-grade and one art class at the school last year, eagerly applied and was hired. She's a veteran art teacher who draws upon 30 years of experience teaching art in various California schools.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
ree@willitsweekly.com

One of her fondest ways to teach includes using art and art history to illustrate or expand upon what's being taught in core classes like BGMS's social studies. Burghardt often collaborates with teachers and tailors her lessons to what's being taught. Her classroom, the bifold display screens in the cafeteria, and the bulletin board in the entryway to the school's office greet people daily with the creations of sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students taking elective art classes.

Currently the students in each grade are learning a different era of world history in social studies. The eighth-grade has been learning about world history from 1800 to the present. It was a rich time in art history when abstract art and cubism were born.

Burghardt chose a variety of cutting-edge artists like Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet, Frida Kahlo, and Pablo Picasso, who grew in popularity through the years. She teaches a bit of what was going on in the arts at the time and what techniques or styles were important or transformative.

When Willits Weekly visited the classroom filled with color and creative projects, the eighth-grade art students were engrossed in hand-drawing and painting Picasso paintings they'd chosen, or were finishing Mexican-style vases for Mother's Day.

"When I introduce a project, I show them a bunch of samples, but then they're free to do what they want," Burghardt said. There aren't just crayons, felt markers, and tempera paints with which to embellish their work. Through a generous Willits Educational Foundation grant, Burghardt has been able to purchase a variety of media and materials.

One project included acrylic paints and stretched canvases for Paul Cézanne-inspired still life paintings. She's also introduced her students to how using oil pastels will produce one effect and feeling, while using

chalk pastels produces another. These experiences help students expand their abilities to more accurately express their ideas and feelings when creating art.

The art teacher also uses recyclable materials: "I try to do a lot with recycling because it cuts down our costs. If there's 30 of something, it becomes a project!" Burghardt laughed. Parents, friends and businesses contribute to the wealth of materials for the art classes. She also posts requests online asking for specific materials.

The Harrah Senior Center Thrift Store has given her well over 200 picture frames this year. "I have about 200 kids, and each has been able to frame a piece of their art," she said. It's a wonderful way to honor a student's creative expression. Many students took their framed paintings home as gifts for Mother's Day.

The students have been studying Picasso, and their next project is to make three-dimensional sculptures in Picasso's cubism style. They will incorporate wire hangers, also donated by the Senior Center Thrift Store, and repurposed nylon stockings and wood.

Then the year's grand finale will be learning about artist Andy Goldsworthy, a British sculptor known for his natural installations. The artist uses site-specific materials. He's a perfect choice for the warm and sunny days at the end of the school year when students can create pieces of art outside.

A final note from Laurie Burghardt: "I just love how the Willits community, the Thrift Store, and the Willits Educational Foundation support the arts and how generous they have been for the arts at BGMS. I am very thankful!"

To learn more about the Willits Educational Foundation and become a member, visit their "Willits Educational Foundation" Facebook page. WEF's Summer Gala, formerly known as the Garden Party, is set for August 25 this year.

To become a member of the Willits Harrah Senior Center, call 459-6826. The Senior Center Thrift Shop, 459-2176, located at 1501 Baechtel Road, is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4:30 pm, and Saturdays from 9 am to 4 pm.

To make donations of art materials or other appropriate recyclables, contact Laurie Burghardt at BGMS at 459-2417 or laurieburghardt@willitsunified.com.

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Above: Soroptimist International of Willits members present awards and scholarships to, from left: winner Sabrina Garcia and Soroptimist Loraine Patton; Soroptimist Fran Schatz and winner Yuseli Campuzano; Soroptimist Susan Soss and winner Nicole Karkar; winner Stephanie Webb and Soroptimist Heidi Ahders; winner Sara Strickland and Soroptimist Loraine Patton; and Soroptimist Heidi Ahders and winner Morgan Riley.

Below: All the recipients of scholarships and awards pose together including, back row, from left: Yuseli Campuzano, winner of the \$500 Lorraine Padula scholarship; Sara Strickland, winner of a \$2,500 Evelyn K. Kennedy scholarship; Stephanie Webb, winner of a \$1,000 scholarship; Jasmine Crumrine, winner of a \$500 scholarship; Jalline Gonzalez, winner of a \$1,000 scholarship; Leslie Campuzano, winner of a \$500 scholarship; Sabrina Garcia, winner of a \$500 scholarship; and Lasara Firefox Allen, winner of the \$1,000 Live Your Dream award. Front row, from left: Morgan Riley, winner of the \$350 Violet Richardson award; Naomi Strickland, winner of a \$2,500 Evelyn K. Kennedy scholarship; Nicole Karkar, winner of a \$1,000 scholarship; and Mychaela Nowlin, winner of a \$500 scholarship.



Soroptimist Scholarships

A dozen women honored with awards at annual luncheon

Amazingly, it's almost time for graduation again, and the Soroptimist International of Willits members have already selected a dozen women to be recipients of their annual scholarships and awards. The women were honored at the club's luncheon at Old Mission Pizza Tuesday, where they were introduced, presented with their awards, and treated to a pizza and salad lunch, courtesy of the Soroptimists.

The Live Your Dream award was presented to Lasara Firefox Allen, who took home \$1,000 and was honored as "a woman who provides the primary source of finances for her family while improving her life through education." Morgan

Read the rest of **Awards** | Over on Page B2

Below: Soroptimist International of Willits members present awards and scholarships to lucky Willits winners, including from left: winner Naomi Strickland and Soroptimist Susan Soss; winner Mychaela Nowlin and Soroptimist Loraine Patton; winner Jalline Gonzalez and Soroptimist Susan Soss; winner Leslie Campuzano and Soroptimist Heidi Ahders; winner Lasara Firefox Allen and Soroptimist Loraine Patton; and Soroptimist Susan Soss and winner Jasmine Crumrine.



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Above: The roster of current Soroptimist International of Willits members, including, from back row, at left: Fran Schatz, Loraine Patton, Susan Soss and Vicki Ham. Front row, from left: Barbara O'Rear, Heidi Anders and Marilyn Harden. Above, right: Nothing like having a little fun and getting silly at the photo booth after receiving a scholarship! From left: Morgan Riley, Stephanie Webb, Naomi Strickland, Nicole Karkar and Sara Strickland. Below: Soroptimist Susan Soss addresses the gathered group at Old Mission Pizza on Tuesday, May 15 for the annual awards luncheon.



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The rest of Awards | From Page B1

Riley received the Violet Richardson Award and \$350 and was honored as a woman who "had significant accomplishments as a volunteer."

Scholarships were given in \$500, \$1,000 and \$2,500 amounts to the other 10 attendees.

\$500 scholarship winners included Mychaela Nowlin, who plans to study international business; Sabrina Garcia, who plans to study medical assisting and licensed vocational nursing; Jasmine Crumrine, who plans to study psychology and kinesiology; and Leslie Campuzano, who plans to study criminal justice.

\$1,000 scholarship winners included Jailine Gonzalez who plans to study in the medical field and forensic science; Nicole Karkar, who plans to study physical therapy; and Stephanie Webb, who plans to study radiology.

The final two \$2,500 scholarships, known

as the Evelyn K. Kennedy scholarships, are given over the course of two years to students who will be entering the medical or education fields. This year, twin sisters Sara and Naomi Strickland both received one of the Evelyn K. Kennedy scholarships. Both plan on studying to become registered nurses.

Award recipients and their guests filled the tables at the graduation-themed luncheon, and were joined by Willits High School principal Michael Colvig, WHS counselors Lucy Kyne and Nicole Burke, and Sanhedrin High School principal Jeff Ritchley.

Soroptimists encouraged each of the winners to stay in contact with the club, let them know how they're doing, and to think about joining the Soroptimists, too. If you're interested in learning more, or in joining the club, come to a meeting on the second and third Tuesdays at noon at Old Mission Pizza.



Stephanie Webb holds one of the graduation-themed straws provided at the luncheon.

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At top, from left: Sandy Strong stands beside her nature photographs and watercolors. "These endeavors have taught me how to 'really' look at an object as I try to understand its uniqueness and express the essence and beauty I see on watercolor paper or through my photography," she comments about her work.

"Wild Azaleas" demonstrates Sandy Strong's talent for watercolors. Strong also has several photographs on display. Photographer John Glycer, who is also a local family physician, poses in front of his captivating photos on display at Brickhouse Coffee.

Above: John Glycer's "Sierras Alpenglow at Lone Pine" captures the extraordinary optical phenomenon of an alpenglow.

'Images of Nature'

Brickhouse Coffee hosts art show by local artists John Glycer and Sandy Strong

Brickhouse Coffee, at 3 South Main Street, isn't just a place to get an amazing cup of coffee. It's also a place to view incredible artwork by local artists. Presently, the exhibit "Images of Nature" is on display. The thought-provoking nature photography of John Glycer and beautifully serene photos and watercolors of Sandy Strong are hanging on the brick walls of this local hot spot until the end of June.

Both Glycer and Strong are members of the Willits Photography Club. Glycer took up photography in his late 60s. He is constantly looking for scenes and lighting that "extend the ordinary to the extraordinary, the real to the

Read the rest of Nature | Over on Page B7



At top: The opening of "Images of Nature," an exhibit at Brickhouse Coffee featuring the artwork of Sandy Strong and John Glycer, brought in many visitors on May 5. Above, left: "Eel River Rocks at Dos Rios" by John Glycer. Above, right: "Day Lily" by Sandy Strong.



Far left: Sarah Rose of The Real Sarahs and Forrest Glycer of Shindig perform for visitors at the art opening of "Images of Nature," hosted by Brickhouse Coffee on May 5. At left: Anne Maglinte talks with photographer John Glycer about his works.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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At top: Colleen Nowlin takes payment from a spaghetti feed attendee. At top, right: Servers Jesse Christensen, Amber Lynn Nowlin and Jon Arrington head up the sauce, noodle and salad stations. Above: Sherri Queen holds one of the Brooktrails Fire Department tank tops available for sale. Above, right: Noodleman Scott Bowman checks on the strands in the big steam pot out back.

At right: Fire Chief Darryl Schoeppner and Ashes the Arson K-9 demonstrate her sniffing skills for the gathered crowd. Below: Attendees eat at the Brooktrails Community Center.



Above: Members of the Brooktrails Fire Department take a quick break from cooking and serving for a quick photo in front of Engine 5281 including, from left: Peter Johnston, Miguel Gutierrez, Chief Darryl Schoeppner and Ashes the Arson K-9. Jon Noyer, David Edgar, Robert Nowlin, Amber Lynn Nowlin, Jon Arrington, Emily Smith, Guy Walter, Damian Angell, Jim Kessler, Tim Goss, Scott Bowman, Jesse Christensen and Albert Hinkle and a little honorary fireman, up on the bumper. At right: Brooktrails Fire Chief Darryl Schoeppner and Ashes the Arson K-9 demonstrate her detection skills for the gathered crowd. Ashes notifies Schoeppner which box carries the scent of an accelerant.

Ooodles of Noodles

Brooktrails Fire Department holds annual spaghetti feed fundraiser

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

and some smaller years, but the weather was great, and we still managed to go through quite a bit of food."

Noyer noted that some 45 pounds of pasta were cooked, 35 loaves of garlic bread were toasted to perfection, and 35 gallons of sauce were carefully handcrafted to the specifics of the department's secret recipes.

"We have worked hard to develop the meat sauce we use," said Noyer. "We make it in-house and have tweaked it over the years – now it's locked in just how we like it. The vegetarian sauce is actually from a recipe by Lynn Couch, she developed it for us many years ago. Lynn has since passed. We still like to make it in her honor, by her recipe."

The Willits Lions Club was on hand again

and helped serve at the no-host bar, pouring wine, soda and other drinks for attendees.

Desserts were available for an after-meal treat and were provided by the Brooktrails Property Owners Association's Women's Club. The club and the fire department have made an annual reciprocation deal that since the gals provide desserts for the spaghetti feed fundraiser, the firefighters will cook for the women's club's flea market.

This year, the deal is still in place, and the firefighters plan to cook their well-received pulled pork, which sold out last year in part to the brilliant idea of piling pulled pork atop the hot dogs and hamburgers being sold

Read the rest of Noodles Over on Page B7



Above, from left: Just a small number of Ducky Derby ducks were used to create this cute tribute to the class of 2017 who benefitted from last year's plastic duck fundraiser. Ducks are released by the basketful into the creek by senior class students each year at the start line of the race.

Ducks and a party

Sober Grad holds last fundraiser before June 7 event

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Hundreds of plastic ducks are almost ready to head down the creek by the Brooktrails Golf course during their annual Ducky Derby run. This year's fundraiser is set for Sunday, May 20, starting at 2 pm, and monies raised will go to support Sober Grad, the annual graduation-night celebration.

"We have 500 rubber duckies which are numbered 1 through 500," explained Sober Grad's Joyce Waters. "Our goal is to find sponsors for each of the duckies. Sponsorship cost is \$5 per duck or \$20 to sponsor five ducks. The first duck to cross the finish line wins its sponsor \$200; the second-place duck wins \$100; the third-place duck wins \$50; and the last duck to cross the finish line wins its sponsor a two-night stay at Ruth and Mike Dell'Ara's beautiful guest house in Caspar on the Mendocino coast, along with a dinner! Tickets are available from

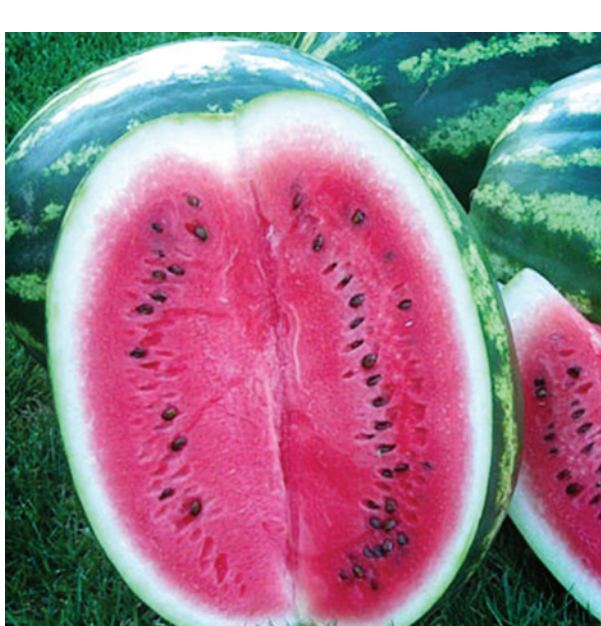
Karen Thiel at the Willits High School office or by calling Angi Edgar at 459-2260.

The Ducky Derby is the last fundraiser before the Sober Grad event on June 7. All graduating seniors in Willits are welcome to attend Sober Grad. Attendees are asked to stay the entire night at the Willits Community Center before being let out at 4 am, when the event concludes. All students who stay will win tons of prizes, enjoy free food, games and more. Sober Grad was started as a way to help prevent drunk driving accidents on graduation night, allowing all the new grads a chance to make it to their futures.

Sober Grad relies heavily on volunteer efforts, including chaperones in shifts throughout the night.

Waters reconfirmed the need for additional

Read the rest of Ducks Over on Page B7



Garden Tip of the Month |

May: Planting summer treats

We are finally approaching the date of the last annual frost in Willits, and it's time to plant those summer vegetables we look forward to, like corn, tomatoes and watermelon.

Jamie Chevalier
Columnist

Summer favorites differ from spring and fall crops in more ways than their temperature range. They actually come from different parts of the world, with different kinds of soil and growing patterns. If you understand those differences, it will help you to grow them with more success and less effort.

Think of the vegetables of spring and fall – lettuce, peas, fava beans, cabbage, broccoli, kale, radishes, spinach – even wheat, barley and rye grains. Every single one comes from Europe, which has a lot of coastline and very temperate weather. Livestock like cattle, sheep and pigs were integral to farming. Permanent fields were plowed with heavy doses of animal manure.

In contrast, most of our hot-weather vegetables – beans, corn, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, winter squash, okra, sunflowers and watermelon, as well as grains such as sorghum, amaranth, and quinoa, all come from North America, South America, or Africa. The hoe, digging stick, and fire were the primary tools used to prepare the ground. The fields were carved out of jungle or brush, used for a few seasons, and then allowed to return to the wild. The primary source of nutrients was the burned or decomposed forest vegetation from clearing the land.

What does this mean for our backyard gardens? Well, it doesn't mean we should trade in our rototiller for a digging stick. It does mean that:

- Summer vegetables don't need the fine tilth (soil texture) that, say, cabbage needs. If you are going to do a hurried job of soil prep, or try no-till gardening, crops like tomatoes and squash are the best candidates for success. They need neither deep soil preparation nor fine texture. They will themselves help prepare the soil for a winter crop that is pickier.
- It is not uncommon to see squash or tomatoes growing out of a

Read the rest of Summer Over on Page B7

At left, from top: Forcita amaranth is an easy-to-grow, gluten-free grain that was bred right here in Willits. Dragon tongue is an eye-catching heirloom snap bean that has a strong local following for its juicy texture and great flavor. Like all of the pictured vegetables, it is available from Quail Seeds here in Willits. Watermelons originated in the dry-lands of southern Africa and mature to perfection in our climate of hot days and cool nights. Crimson sweet is a particularly rich-flavored and sweet one.

At right, from top: Lower Salmon River squash is a drought-tolerant Idaho heirloom that matures early and keeps for up to a year at room temperature. It's wonderful in pies and soups, or just roasted. Peppers like a light soil or potting mix, and have fairly small root systems, making them ideal for container gardens. Anasazi sweet corn is probably the oldest sweet corn still in existence. It is believed to come from the now-extinct Anasazi people of the American Southwest.



Brookside 'Perfect Attendance' winner for April

Congratulations to Brookside kindergarten student Jedediah Swearengin and his family, who won a \$50 gift card to El Mexicano Restaurant, thanks to Jedediah's perfect attendance during April. Jed is a student in Ms. Donna Allen's class. He and his family ensured that he arrived on time and that he came to school every day.

The "Perfect Attendance" award is part of Brookside PTO's mission to raise awareness for the importance of good attendance and arriving to school on time. The Brookside PTO awards a gift certificate from a local business each month to recognize perfect attendance. Local businesses are encouraged to donate a gift certificate for Brookside's big Attendance Awareness Campaign in September! Call the school at 459-5385 to find out more.



Above: Brookside kindergarten student Jedediah Swearengin holds the \$50 gift card to El Mexicano Restaurant he and his family won for his "Perfect Attendance" in April.



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Memorial Day at the Rec Grove

This beautiful red 1940 Ford 2-door coupe, at left, owned by Dick & Barb Walkley of the Russian River Rods & Coupes car club was awarded "2017 Best of Show" at last year's Willits Community Festival Car & Bike Show. Registration is still open to display your vintage or special vehicle at this year's event, Sunday, May 27 at the Rec Grove. Register online for \$20 (\$5 off) at willitsca.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/1984 or call the Willits Chamber of Commerce at 459-7910.

Admission to the Community Festival, 10 am to 4 pm, is free. Come down to the Rec Grove early, 7 to 10 am, or a hot breakfast offered by the Willits Lions Club. Enjoy games of skill, including an arm wrestling contest, food and vendor booths throughout the day, and train rides at Roots of Motive Power from 10 am to 2 pm. The Mendocino County Museum will be open, and the American Legion Post 174 presents the colors at noon at the Memorial Day ceremony.



Prana Roberts prepares plants for the upcoming Gleaners' Plant Sale. One of her favorites is the white Alpine strawberry, a tiny berry with complex flavors.



Grateful Gleaners Annual Plant Sale

Browse our wide selection of plants, including:

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- Vegetable and Flower Starts
- Fruit and Berry Plants
- Heritage Perennials

Handouts and advice available on gardening techniques for low water use

Sunday, May 20
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

From Willits Main St, turn onto East Valley at the Post Office, then left onto Humboldt Street. Follow the plant sale sign to 130 Tuttle Lane

Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale on Sunday

The Grateful Gleaners' annual Plant Sale fundraiser is happening this weekend! Over a dozen local gardeners have generously donated plants, providing a wide variety of offerings to diversify your garden.

Expect to find tons of tomatoes, some squash, cucumbers, and other annual vegetables; Shasta daisies and other drought-tolerant and deer-resistant landscape plants; medicinal herbs, perennial berries and flowers; and other wonders of the world of flora.

Proceeds from the Plant Sale will enable the Grateful Gleaners to continue in their mission of harvesting fruit from abundant trees in our neighbors' backyards and distributing the fruit to Willits' schools, the Senior Center, the Food Bank, the Caring Kitchen, and other local organizations. Any leftover monies are contributed to local farmers to further support a vibrant foodscape in our community.

Arrive early for the best selection of plants! Look for signs at the post office pointing one block north, to 130 Tuttle Lane. The plant sale is one day only, from 10 am to 3 pm on Sunday, May 20.

– Submitted by the Grateful Gleaners



At top: Shoppers peruse last year's Grateful Gleaners plant sale.

Above: Volunteer Prana Roberts answers questions.

Far left: Swayze contemplates a future in horticulture.

At left: Wolfgang Ronnefeldt offers up advice on planting.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Furry Friends Looking for a Home



Chatty Juno

Juno is the mother to a litter of puppies who have all been adopted. She is a 3-year-old spayed female mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 69 pounds. Folks at the shelter are in **love** with this snuffling, snorting dog! Juno was so easy to leash up and walk, and she loves treats (hey, what dog doesn't?!). Juno is

adorable, sweet and goofy – and a real talker.

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

Friendly Roger Rabbit

Meet Roger Rabbit! He is a great companion. He loves to go on walks and is a dream to leash up. This friendly and polite dog loves to give high-fives and gets along with others dogs. Roger Rabbit would make a wonderful family dog! He is about 2 to 3 years old and is fixed, chipped and vaccinated. See him soon!



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

The rest of Summer

compost pile. They don't mind compost that is less finished – not raw and stinky, but still a bit chunky.

• These crops love mulch. They are used to growing out of forest duff, and appreciate the way mulch keeps the top layer of soil moist and biologically active. They also appreciate the light but continuous stream of nutrients as the mulch decomposes.

• These crops prefer cool fungal-dominant compost to traditional hot bacterial-dominant compost. That means that slow compost piles with large amounts of wood chips, straw, leaves, or other carbon will work very well. They need a good dose of potassium and calcium – which they would have gotten from burning the brush before planting.

• Because they do not come from a tradition of intensive cultivation, they need a bit more space, both for root room and for air circulation. A single row of well-spaced tomatoes will often out-produce a thickly planted bed for that reason.

Peppers are an exception – they come from riverside thickets and do best growing in a crowd on light, fine-textured soil. The top canopy should get full sun, but not the sides of the plants, where too much sun would scald the fruits. I like to plant basil or other herbs around the edge of a pepper bed.

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



It is incredibly easy to grow dry beans for winter food. This orca bean, also known as calypso, is high-yielding and loves the soil and weather here.

Photo by Jamie Chevalier

OBITUARY |

Bessie Crane

Bessie Louise Crane of Branscomb passed away May 3, 2018 at the age of 76. She was born in Calhoun, Oklahoma, on December 13, 1941, to John Henry Deaton and Audie Frances "Barnes" Deaton. She married Norris Ronald (Ron) Crane May 19, 1959 in Laytonville, California.

A gracious and loving homemaker for 59 years, Bessie greatly enjoyed her family, music and traveling. She is survived by her loving husband, "Ron" Crane; daughter Freda Smith and son Ron Crane, Jr.; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A "Celebration of Life" will be held at the Laytonville Garden Club on Harwood Road, May 19, 2018 at 1 pm. The family suggests you may make a memorial donation in Bessie's name to the America Cancer Society if you wish.

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

The rest of Ducks

volunteers to sign up: "Regarding chaperones, we need 25 adults at any given time from 9 pm on June 7 to 4 am on June 8. Tasks include anything from dealing at the blackjack and Texas Hold 'Em tables, running the roulette wheel, helping with the prizes; supervising the exits, helping with the food and specialty drinks table; supervising the outdoor basketball court and climbing wall (provided by the U.S. Army Ukiah Recruiter's Office."

A large task, too, is to organize enough capable hands to help with the clean-up efforts that start at 4 am after the party.

"We also need lot of help with the set-up and decoration of the Community Center," continued Waters. "We need people to fill balloons with helium, organize the prizes, put up decorations, move ping pong tables and casino tables, help set up, and on and on. The decoration efforts will begin at 9 am and continue throughout the day. We would love to have you join us and help for an hour or two or more!"

Anyone with a culinary talent can help by providing finger foods to go along with the purchased pizza from Pizza to Go – made possible with a donation from Sparetime Supply.

"You don't need to be a parent or grandparent of a grad to volunteer; you just need to love our kids," said Waters.

For more information call Joyce Waters at 459-0439 or email jljaw46@gmail.com.



The rest of Nature

surreal," as Glycer said in his biography.

Strong has been painting watercolors for 30 years and started photography in the late '80s when working for The Willits News using only black-and-white 35mm film. "I am always looking for something new to photograph, and then use these photos for my watercolors," Strong shared. "I feel that almost any subject makes a great photo depending on the lighting and the artistic composition," she added. "It's really about dramatic and unusual lighting that makes a photo 'pop.'"

Brickhouse Coffee hosted an opening reception for the art show on the evening of Saturday, May 5, with live music by Forrest Glycer of Shindig and Sarah McMahon of The Real Sarahs. Treats and coffee were provided by Brickhouse owner Tom Mann. Visitors perused the artwork and enjoyed the live entertainment while chatting with friends, demonstrating that art and culture are existent even in this rural community.

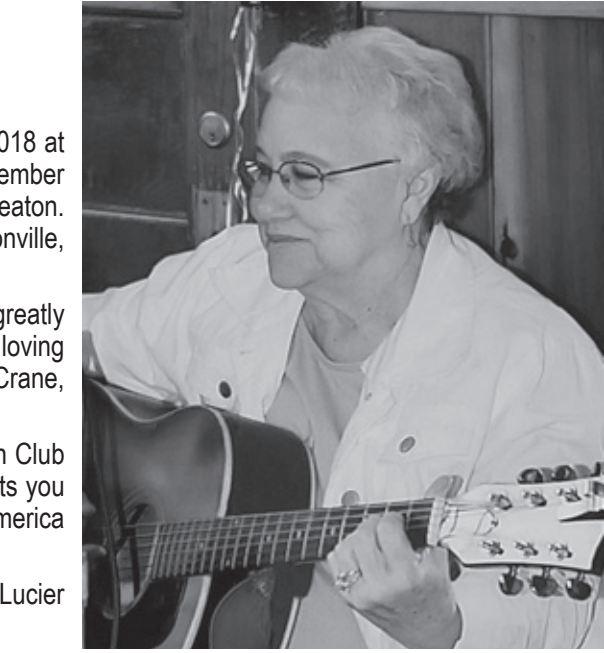
Visit the "Brickhouse Coffee" Facebook page for updates on upcoming events. More information on the Willits Photography Club can be found on their website: www.flickr.com/groups/willitsphotoclub/.

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The rest of Noodles

alongside. This year's flea market will be on June 2 in the parking lot of the Brooktrails Community Center. The fire department will also have T-shirts and BFD swag available for sale, and they will be selling raffle tickets for a picnic table and TV trays as an additional moneymaker for the department. The picnic table's raffle winner won't be drawn until late summer, after Airport Day, Noyer noted.

The feed is run not only as a fundraiser, but also as a fun, practical test for the crew to learn and practice the department's incident command system.

"We run the feed like we do when we're out in the field," said Noyer. "Everyone reports to someone, and we have various commanders of each station. Damian Angell was our main commander this year. The nice thing about running the feed this way is that it gives some of our firefighters a chance to step up and be in a higher leadership position than they usually are and see what it's like to lead team members under their guidance. It's a nice way for everyone to train at various skills, and still get a task accomplished."

Monies raised from the feed will go to help purchase items and equipment that fall outside of their normal budget, as well as for trainings and other special projects.

Some of the monies also go back to the community, including the fire department's participation in the "Every 15 Minutes" anti-drunk-driving reenactment held every four years at Willits High School, college scholarships, and donations to those in need, like the Lake County fire victims.

"We'd like to thank everyone who came out and ate, all those who helped make the event happen, and everyone who donated, including the Willits Wild Bunch and Grocery Outlet, who donated towards covering the cost of the food for the event. See you all next year!" said Noyer.



At top, left: "Brooktrails Falls" by photographer John Glycer. At top: "Young Girl of Embera Tribe" by Glycer. Above: Brickhouse owner Tom Mann chats with a customer over the counter. Below: Sandy Strong smiles for the camera during the opening of "Images of Nature."

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Peace Mural

WHS students help make mosaic for school Peace Garden

Guest artist Elizabeth Raybee, a mosaic and mural artist from Ukiah, Willits High School instructor Carolyn Bakewell, and a team of WHS students have created a mosaic mural for the WHS Peace Garden.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
ree@willitsweekly.com

Students in Bakewell's ceramics class, as well as other students at Willits High, have been involved in the two-month project. Funding was provided through a Arts Council of Mendocino County's "Get Arts in the Schools Program" grant. Raybee's mosaic art also graces the big pedestal at the Willits Skate Park on East Commercial Street.

The "Peace Garden" mural is a part of a larger project which began last September when the Rotary Club donated an International Peace Pole to WHS. The tall black-and-white pole has the sentiment "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in eight languages. It was decided to make a home for the Peace Pole by creating a beautiful garden setting on the school grounds.

For the project the ceramics students were asked to make tiles of different colors to be used for the central mosaic scene designed by Bakewell and Raybee. And for the first time, students also got to design and create their own 10 inch by 10 inch tiles using mosaic to create images and words to illustrate what "peace" meant to them.

Bakewell had her ceramics students make all the tiles for the project. To make the slab, they took clay and rolled it through a slab roller, then cut it to size. If it was for the central design, they chose glaze colors and fired the tile. When it was for their personal tile, they made a rough draft of their drawing and learned how to transfer it to the tile. The tiles went through two firings, the last one being the glaze firing. Because of the more involved process, it took longer to finish the mural than expected, but the results are stunning.

Students glued the mosaic tiles, creating the bucolic

6 foot by 10 foot scene onto a backing. The awkward and heavy piece of art was transferred to a frame base made by Brian Bowles from the school's construction department, along with his assistant and former student, Noah Southwick, and his current students, Nicholas, Elijah and Alton.

Bowles' crew and others took turns using caulking and screws to hold the two pieces together. Later the individual student mosaics were also caulked and screwed down to the frame base. Students enjoyed taking part in these activities. It seemed like there was something to do for everyone.

The Peace Garden is being constructed between the back door to the art classroom, the media center's back wall, and the parking lot. Currently the almost barren, triangular piece of ground is framed by walkways, walls, and the parking lot.

In a conversation with art teacher Bakewell, she revealed her unfolding vision of the new garden: "It'll be a peace garden / sculpture garden / reading garden. The mosaic will go on the media center's first wall. We plan to put painted murals on other walls. There'll be a meandering path with a beautiful fountain to welcome birds and butterflies. We might put up a lattice wall covered with flowering plants to block out the cars and parking lot."

This appealing vision will be developed and coordinated with Becky Bowlds from the agriculture department, Bowles from the construction department, and Bakewell from the art department. "We all want a better place for kids to hang out," said Bakewell.

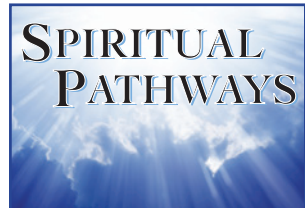
Students will learn invaluable skills while working to make the garden a reality. Many are already taking pride in being a part of the mural project. Some are enjoying the fact that they'll return in the future to see the mural and their own square, and will reminisce about being part of a project to bring beauty and peace to their high school.



Above: A group of students and instructors who worked on the mural stand proudly behind the creation. At right: A series of students' individual mosaic tiles depicting what peace means to them. These mosaic tiles, along with others, will border the central mural. Below: As this tile reads, the Peace Garden mosaic was funded by a "Get Art In Schools Program" grant from the Arts Council of Mendocino County.



Below, from left: Grouting is the last part of the process and has to happen quickly since grout dries fast. Helping, from left, are Zandria, Elijah, instructor and mosaic muralist Elizabeth Raybee, Zanna, and Nichole. Nicholas, at left, and Alton from Brian Bowles' construction class, along with muralist Elizabeth Raybee, Bowles' assistant Noah Southwick, and Brian Bowles, carefully slide the heavy central mosaic piece onto the frame backing. Brian Bowles instructs art student Samantha on how to use a caulking gun. She later used the screw gun to screw the border mosaics in place. "I like using it. It's not just the guys who can use power tools!" she declared.



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Potluck every 2ND Sunday
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St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
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Father Aaron Presiding
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Photos by Ree Slocum



Sign up now for Willits Kids Club's Summer Day Camps

Willits Kids Club is offering seven week-long camps this summer. Sign up for one, two ... or all seven. All camps are offered at a new low price of \$75 per week for full days and full weeks. Camp hours are 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, five days a week. Note: half days or partial weeks are no longer offered.

Camps are available to kids starting kindergarten through seventh grade. Space is limited to 50 kids per week, so register early!

Download a registration form at www.willitskidsclub.org. Forms are also available after school until 6 pm every weekday at the clubhouse at 1265 Blosser Lane and at Baechtel Grove

Middle School, in room 15. Contact Diane Heath, camp director, at 707-841-8012 for more information.

Fitness & Fun Camp: Offered June 18 through 22 and July 23 through 27 at Willits Elementary Charter School and the Willits City Pool. The Fitness & Fun Camp will include games, sports, nature activities, walks to nearby attractions, arts and crafts, and afternoons at the pool. This camp will be great fun for kids who love to be active.

Red, White & Blue Camp: Offered June 25 through 29 and July 2,3,5 and 6 at Willits Elementary Charter School and the Willits City Pool. The Red, White and Blue Camp will focus on Willits Frontier Days, Willits history and attractions, U.S. history, and geography, and the kids will be preparing to march in the parade. There will also be a chance to do arts and crafts, play games and sports, and swim each afternoon at the pool. This camp is great for active and creative kids.

Wonders of the Wilderness Camp: Offered July 9 through 13 and July

16 through 20 in Brooktrails. The Wonders of the Wilderness Camp will include lots of hiking in beautiful Brooktrails, games, sports, nature activities, nature arts and crafts, archery, and a BBQ. This camp will be great fun for kids who love to explore and be active. Expect to get dirty!

Superhero Camp: Offered July 30 through August 3 at Willits Elementary Charter School and the Willits City Pool. The Superhero Camp will feature a puppet show production designed and performed by the campers. It will also include games, sports, nature activities, walks to nearby attractions, arts and crafts, and afternoons at the pool. This camp will be great fun for kids who love to be creative.

– Submitted by Willits Kids Club

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"The Little Store That Has So Much More"
1637 South Main St. • Willits, CA 95490
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Memorial Day FLEA MARKET
Saturday • May 26, 2018
Times: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Hot Dogs or Root Beer Floats \$3.00
We are still looking for vendors for this flea market.
Space rent is \$25.00
See Deb Holcomb to register
1501 Baechtel Road Willits 707-459-6826

Still deciding how to vote in the June 5 election?
Watch the May 6 candidates forum at the Little Lake Grange!

Visit Willits Community TV's YouTube channel here:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/WillitsCommunityTV>

The links are also up on the "Willits Community Television Inc" page on Facebook

These videos — of the candidates for Third District supervisor, assessor-county clerk-recorder, and superintendent of schools — were recorded at the Little Lake Grange, Sunday, May 6, at the forum sponsored by the American Association of University Women, the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, and the Little Lake Grange. These videos, produced by independent producer Al Rosen, are also in rotation on Channels 3 and 64 on Comcast in Willits.

Thanks to Willits Community TV for providing these videos!

The WCTV studio, station manager Andy Wright, is located at 85 East Commercial Street in Willits; contact 459-2528 or info@willitstv.org