

[illegible]

Read the rest of
Cannabis |
Over on Page 15

10,000 Steps

To the Editor:
Everyday life seldom permits any sort of in-depth conversation with a total stranger. Instead we barely scratch the surface to learn who they are. Other times, however, we are thrown together and privileged to meet really interesting people. One 4th of July it was the barbecue at the Recreation Grove when a gentleman asked if we would mind sharing our picnic table. "Of course we don't mind," we both told him. From Elk, I would guess he was in his mid-'40s, unmarried. He had recently found a place in Ukiah because he got so tired of the cold and dampness on the coast. His mom lives in Ft. Bragg so that was the draw. Pleasant conversation continued, but it was an off-the-cuff remark that stopped me dead in my tracks when we asked, "What do you do?" He answered, "I'm a mariner aboard a ship in the Indian Ocean."

I said, "Whoa. Back up. We're not talking about San Francisco Bay. What you're doing is risky."

He laughed and told us: "My dad didn't want me in the woods driving dangerous heavy equipment like him. I've always enjoyed the ocean so I went to the Maritime Academy near Vallejo. Now I work for a company that has me on a schedule where I work 70 days, then I'm off 70 days. I'll be off for the summer. When I go back, I'll fly into Dubai to catch my ship, but I will have missed the worst of the monsoon season in the Indian Ocean."

Fast forward to last Saturday and the 10,000 Step Walk. It's a five-mile walk that takes me two hours to complete. Thankfully, I was able to team up with another couple about my speed. Again, polite conversation the entire route. Until we reached Lenore Street.

She asked, "How long have you lived in Willits?" "Since 1972. Why? How long have you lived here?" I asked her. "Oh, we're newcomers, just four years." she told me. "We spent 35 years atop Mount Hamilton where Keith operated one of their giant telescopes at the Lick Observatory."

Once again, I found myself saying, "Whoa. Back up. You were where, and he did what?!"

As you round the bend at the Recreation Grove, you are nearing the end of the 10,000 Step Walk, but as the remaining minutes sped by, I peppered her with questions, as she recalled their unique life, her job as a tour guide, the little one-room schoolhouse provided for the children being raised in such isolation.... I wish I had had more time with her.

When I last saw them, they were sitting on the long wooden bench on front of J.D. Redhouse, catching their breath and gathering their thoughts. Who knew when I set out that morning that I would share a walk with such a brilliant man and his devoted wife.

Thank you, Saprina and Martin Rodriguez, and your wonderful volunteers, for making the 10,000 Step Walk possible.

Gail Richards, Willits

Thanks from Sober Grad (volunteers needed, too)

To the Editor:
The Sober Grad Party Planning Committee recently held its annual Tri-Tip Dinner for 4 which would not have been so successful without the help of this community. Our community, both businesses and individuals, has been incredibly supportive of Sober Grad, for which the committee and the board is extremely thankful. It says something about the people of the Willits area that they recognize the importance of providing a place for our graduates to celebrate their achievements in a safe and sober environment.

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

EST. 2013

A Thriving & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Volume 5, Number 206

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What do YOU think?
Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

First of all we would like to thank Annette and Dan Pinon, Doug and Kathy Goss, and Art and Annette Cooley for their years of preparing and barbecuing those delicious tri-tips we all know and love! This year the torch was in the process of being passed to Jenn and Jack Drew, Kevin and Windi Kvasnicka, Stan Cooley, Bryan Tyler, Tom Sleeper and Tim King. Other meat prep/BBQers: Taylor and Tanner Drew, Melissa Goss, Andrew Hosford, Danny Mihelcic and Jeff Yokum. Thanks to you all for accepting the torch to continue to help make the tri-tip fundraisers so successful; not only for Sober Grad but also Willits Education Fund! Thanks also to Rachel Cash for organizing all of the rest of the dinner; from preparing the yummy potatoes and salads to making sure we had enough condiments and containers for all. And we can't forget to thank Peter Smith for once again taking on the role of "Potato Master" who oversees senior volunteers who scrub, poke, oil and wrap 800+ potatoes! More thanks to Tam and Kashaya Adams of Emandal for their delicious rolls. Another thank you to our cookie queens this year: Kay Moen, Kathleen Lewis and Rebecca Smith!

One of the most important tasks of this dinner for 800 is selling the tickets! Many thanks to Linda Matz and the Cat's Meow gals for selling and tracking all 200 tickets plus a waiting list!

We also wish to thank the following businesses and individuals for their contributions: Flowers by Annette, Marcy Barry and Willits Frontier Days, Cattlemen's Restaurant, Trillium Delights/The Peg House, Karen Thiel and Willits High School, Janelle Leal and San Hedrin High School, Rogelio Hernandez and Roni's BBQ, Jill Persico and Loose Caboose, La Siciliana, Forks Meat Market, Christy Wisdom and the WHS kitchen staff, Safeway, Art and Stan Cooley, Willits Redwood, Kari Rescina, Saprina Rodriguez and Tom Woodhouse.

A big thank you goes to all of the seniors and parents who sold tickets, helped with the preparations, and/or helped with the distribution of the dinners.

The Sober Grad Party will be held on June 8 at the Willits Community Center beginning at 9:30 pm and lasting until the wee hours of the morning on June 9! If you wish to help with a monetary donation, or if you can help chaperone at the party or help set up the day of, please contact me at 459-0439 or email us at: WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com. In regards to chaperones we need 25 adults at any given time from 9 pm on June 8 to 4 am on June 9! To name a few tasks, we need black jack and Texas Hold 'Em dealers, and someone to run the Roulette Wheel; help with the prizes; people to hang out at the Exits; help with the food table; and someone to hang out and watch them play basketball and climb the Climbing Wall provided by the U.S. Army Ukiah Recruiter's Office, a first for us this year. And then we need a cleanup crew at 4 am!!

We also need a lot of help with the set-up and decoration of the Willits Community Center. We need people to fill balloons with helium; organize the prizes; put up decorations; move ping pong tables, casino tables and set up; and on and on.... Beginning at 9 am and continuing on throughout the day we would love to have you join us and help for an hour or two or more! You don't need to be a parent or grandparent, you just need to love our kids! Thank you, Willits, for caring and helping.

Joyce Waters, Willits Sober Grad Party Planning Committee

Thank you

To the Editor:
On Thursday, the 4th of May, the NC Financial Group office hosted the Willits Chamber After-Hours Mixer. What a great time was had by all! NC Financial Group thanks the community for making it happen, and all those who attended for making it great.

The weather was spot on, and the provisions, delicious! Wines by Handley Cellars, tacos and margaritas by Scoops, drunken beans by Roland's Bakery & Bistro.

The smiles were in abundance, and Frankie J kept the vibe swinging!

There were lots of raffle prizes from: Noyo Theatre, J. Christopher Co., Lost Creek Etching, George's Geodes and Gems, and Roxanne Lemos-Neese.

Lisa Epstein took charge, and welcomed everyone with her big smile!

Holly and April worked the phones to "remind" everyone to stop by!

Thank you to all for the help making the May mixer a real kick in the pants!

Nick Casagrande, NC Financial, Willits

WHS Career Fair thanks

To the Editor:
Many thanks from the Willits High School Counseling Department to the Willits Chamber

of Commerce for their outreach and collaboration for the WHS Career Fair held on April 26 in WHS gymnasium.

Approximately 450 high school students attended this event, including students from the Willits Charter School, New Horizons, Sanhedrin, and all students from Willits High School. Students flooded the vendors with career questions regarding the expected education, training, skill set, licenses and salary range for their respective fields.

Thank you to the following community vendors and agencies for generously donating the time and personnel to support career exploration for our students:

State Farm Insurance, METALx, Dripworks, Family Tree Service, CalFire, RCS Redwood Community Service, Sparetime Supply, Howard Hospital, California Highway Patrol, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Yokum's Body Shop, UVAH - Ukiah Valley Association for Habitation, City of Willits, U.S. Forestry Service, Harrah Senior Center, Divora Stern Therapy, Aflac, Willits Police Department, California Department of Fish and Game, Willits Soroptimist, Little Lake Fire Department, U.S. Army, Leadership Mendocino, UTI, California Mentor Network, U.S. Marines, Kemmy's Pies, Coldwell Banker Realty, MPIC - Mendocino Private Industry Council, and Mendocino College. With appreciation,

Lucy Kyne, counselor, Willits High School

Spring Dance Recital

To the Editor:
As director and teacher of Willits Dance Academy, I'd like to invite the community to our 2nd Annual Spring Dance Recital this Friday, May 19 at 7 pm, held at Willits High School.

We are all very excited about this show, which gives the children of this community their time to shine while they perform on stage: all types of dancing from creative, ballet, contemporary, and jazz, to hip hop and belly dancing.

The show also includes special performances from Mendocino College and a special guest appearance by "Miss Mendocino." Raffles and concessions will be available, with proceeds contributed to our studio and scholarship fund.

Tara Ford, director, Willits Dance Academy

News from Laytonville Rodeo

To the Editor:
The Laytonville Rodeo Association regrets to announce that we will not be hosting a COPRA Rodeo this June. Unfortunately, we were not able to raise the necessary funds to do so. The association did not take this decision lightly but with serious consideration and with the future of Laytonville Rodeo in mind.

In the last few years there have been many changes in the Rodeo Association and in the town of Laytonville in general. Many of the people who have been involved in the planning, financing and general support of Laytonville Rodeo and its accompanying Gymkhanas, riding lessons and other events have moved on. Without that support, it has been difficult for the remaining members to continue to provide the necessary funds and energy to coordinate an event like this.

We look forward to our Junior Rodeo on August 26, the Hayburner 3000 Barrel Race on June 10, the ATV Rodeo events on June 17 and 18, and the many other events that are happening at the Laytonville Rodeo Grounds this summer, and hope that everyone who is interested in the continuation of the Laytonville Rodeo will turn out and support those events. We also look forward to being able to host a June Rodeo next year.

To our sponsors, thank you for years of support. Please expect to be contacted soon offering you the option of withdrawing your sponsorship. The decision to cancel the June Rodeo was made only last week, and we realize that some of you may choose to spend your donation money elsewhere. If you wish to continue your support of Laytonville Rodeo, please remember that we do have many events still happening at the Rodeo Grounds, and we will make your support as prominent and visible as possible.

Again, the decision to cancel our June Rodeo was not an easy one, and we have every confidence that it will not be a

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

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Mosaic of Creativity

Second-graders create wildlife mural at Brookside School

Second-grade teacher at Brookside Elementary School Lisa Bowles believes there are several reasons why art is important for children. One of her favorite reasons: It's a way to increase children's self-esteem.

"There's no right or wrong way. It's OK to make mistakes in art. The fun part of art is taking something you thought was a mistake and turning it into something else," she said. By doing this, Bowles believes children learn to be problem-solvers and to be flexible, which increases their confidence and self-esteem.

Bowles, an artist herself, teaches art almost weekly in her classroom. She creatively and attractively displays her student's impressive art on many walls in the classroom.

The children totally enjoy and look forward to their creative time. Bowles found that she wanted to do more – a larger project, something like public art, made by students at Brookside that can be viewed for generations of students and their families.

A few years ago, Bowles attended "Grout Camp" with Elizabeth Raybee, a professional artist working with mosaics, to produce art pieces and murals. Bowles thoroughly enjoyed her time making art in the week-long class with other adults. Bowles also knew Raybee had worked with Willits High students on a mural at the school through the Arts Council of Mendocino County's GASP grant (Get Arts in the Schools

At top, left: Rian and Thomas work on their animals while Prisilla gets more glue.

At top, center: Selecting the correctly sized and colored tile is important. Karen Mattson, artist, assistant and mentee in the GASP program, helps students – from left, Georgia, Josh and Abby – in the process.

At top, right: Left to right: Josh and Carmine glue mosaic pieces to the mesh backing while Mattson, helps Georgia find a place for her tile. Abby works on completing the raccoon.

Above: Jonas holds up a clay bunny cut out by one of the second-graders. Next, he'll find a place to put it on the mural.

Below: Many busy hands get the sky filled in. Mosaic artist and instructor Elizabeth Raybee is hoping to have the mosaic pieces all glued down by Wednesday, May 17.

Photos by Ree Slocum

At left: On right is the drawing of a red-tailed hawk by Carmine. His classmates chose his art to represent their second-grade class on the mural. To the left of his painted drawing is Raybee's sketched-out rendering that has been filled in by students. Above: left to right: Georgia, Carmine and Josh show pieces for the mural that were cut out by one of the second-graders and glazed by another. They chose these to put on the mural. Things like this make it a group project they can all take pride in.

Celebrate Mom this Mother's Day

Remind her to get a Mammogram

She packed your lunch. Showed you how to tie your shoes. Helped you find your way in the world. Now it's your turn to look out for MOM. This Mother's Day, give her the gift of good health by reminding her to have her annual mammogram.

Many women put off having a mammogram each year for many reasons. But annual screening mammograms can help detect cancer in its earliest and most treatable stage. A reminder from you might make all the difference. So tell mom to take time for herself, so she can live her healthiest life.

Give Mom the gift of good health.

Tell her to schedule a mammogram today by calling 707.456.3090

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Pg.2 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | May 18, 2017 Willits Weekly | May 18, 2017 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 3

Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

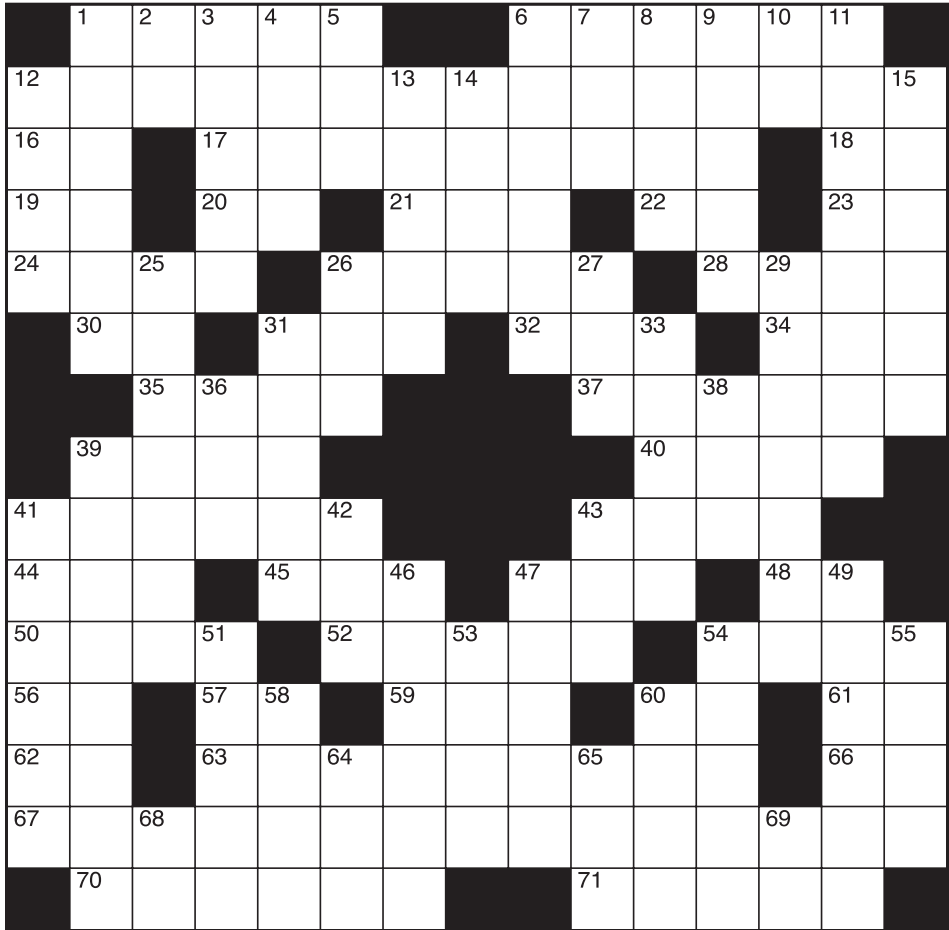
How To Sudoku:

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

OUTDOOR FUN WORD SEARCH

Z T N V H K D F D P W B F L Z G N R E H N I K
S R Y L B T N H E A N B I A M Y E R Y L T S C U E I W B O T C V
Y L B T N H E A N B I A M Y E R Y L T S C U E I W B O T C V
L B T N H E A N B I A M Y E R Y L T S C U E I W B O T C V
B T N H E A N B I A M Y E R Y L T S C U E I W B O T C V
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ADAPTATION CACHE KNOTS SCENT
ANCHOR CAIRN LAKE SCOUT
BAIT CAMP LAYOVER SHELTER
BEDDING CONIFER PITCH STERN
BIVOUAC CREEK PLOT SUPPLIES
BLAZE FIN RAMP TRAIL
BOAT FOLIAGE RATTLING WILDERNESS
BOW HOOK RECREATION WIND
BUCK KAYAK RUT WOODED



CLUES ACROSS

- Member of Jamaican religion
- Explodes
- 'Walter White' produced this
- Promo
- In a harmful way
- Aluminium
- Cerium
- Female title
- Singer DiFranco
- Beloved alien
- Free agent
- Tax
- Change
- Heaviness
- Third note of the solfege
- Printing speed measurement
- Pouch
- Brew
- Female of a horse
- Platforms
- Type of hemline
- 'Traffic' actor Guzman
- Counts on
- Inhabitant of Media
- Pitcher's statistic
- Beloved dish

- and cheese
47. An association of criminals
48. Samaritan
50. Describes an action
52. About oviduct
54. Holy fire
56. Audio frequency
57. Stephen King novel
59. Rocky peak
60. South Dakota
61. Gallium
62. Larry and Curly's buddy
63. One-dimensionality
66. Soldier
67. Act of foretelling future events
70. Envisaged
71. Establish by law

CLUES DOWN

- Regain possession of
- Indicates position
- Con games
- Checks
- Atomic mass unit
- Large groups
- Utah athlete
- Abnormal sound
- Scandal vocalist Patty
- Atlanta rapper
- Takes without permission
- Apple computers

- Hymn
- Clue
- Makes happy
- Close to
- Mimic
- Cool!
- Simplest
- Preface
- Represents the Tribe of Judah
- Boxing great
- Birth control means
- English cathedral city
- Refurbish
- Act for high schoolers
- 'Boardwalk Empire' actress Gretchen
- Most adorable
- Large Pakistani tribe
- Enemy to grass
- Along the outer surface of a hull
- Travels on water
- Innmost Greek temple sanctuaries
- Fire and
- Singer Turner
- '_ the Man' Musical
- de plume
- Frozen water
- An alternative
- Intensive care

POLICE LOG

May 8 to May 14

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 179 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 8

7:55 am: Officers initiated a vehicle collision investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

9:24 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

9:44 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:31 am: MITCHUM, Krista Marie (32) of Clearlake Oaks was contacted in the 100 block of West Valley Street. She was arrested pursuant to 11550 H&S (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance) and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

2:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of a sexual assault in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

3:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 800 block of South Main Street.

3:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 400 block of East Valley Street.

3:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of South Main Street.

5:42 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Pine Street.

7:39 pm: DANIELS, David Bernard (57) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 602 PC (Criminal Trespass).

May 9

8:37 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

10:04 am: Officers responded to a report of indecent exposure in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

3:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

4:41 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

5:59 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of East Oak Street and South Main Street.

11:05 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

May 10

12:18 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Madrone Street.

6:12 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

8:02 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

9:40 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of South Main Street.

10:41 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

11:39 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 200 block of North Main Street.

11:43 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

12:10 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

12:11 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of Spruce Street.

3:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of South Main Street.

6:19 pm: Officers initiated a kidnapping investigation in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

7:05 pm: STANSBERRY, Cody Lee (22) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Spruce Street. He was arrested on charges of felony lewd or lascivious acts upon a child under 14 years and felony contact with intent to commit lewd act with a minor.

May 11

4:58 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of South Main Street and Alameda Avenue.

7:33 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

9:10 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 500 block of East Commercial Street.

9:30 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

9:43 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

12:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 400 block of South Main Street.

1:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing near the intersection of Marin Street and State Street.

1:28 pm: DOAK JR., Billy Ray (44) of Willits was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on charges of misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

1:44 pm: OCONNOR, Virginia Louise (47) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on charges of misdemeanor failure to appear.

3:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of a fight in the 500 block of East Commercial Street.

5:41 pm: GOUBER, Jack Edward (49) of Redwood Valley was contacted during a disturbance in the 400 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of indecent exposure, assault, throwing a rock on the highway, violation of probation, and failure to appear.

7:02 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:19 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 700 block of South Main Street.

11:27 pm: SQUIRES, Travis Matthew (34) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

May 12

8:15 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Coast Street and West San Francisco Avenue.

9:50 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

7:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

7:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

May 13

12:03 am: GEURTS, Christopher Patrick (34) of Willits was contacted in the 23000 block of Sherwood Road. He was arrested on charges of misdemeanor violation of probation.

2:47 am: SMITH, Brandon Christopher (28) of Ukiah was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on charges of misdemeanor failure to appear.

3:10 am: POLEN JR., Douglas Walter (34) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Lenore Street. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E)(1) PC (Domestic Battery), 273 (B) PC (Child Endangerment), and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

7:11 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Margie Drive.



Cody Lee Stansberry of Willits.



Douglas Walter Polen Jr. of Willits.

Read the rest of WPD | Over on Page 6



Above, from left: All the models in the "Tea & Togs" show participated in the grand finale, "The Grand Luau," also featuring the "Big Kahuna," senior center director Richard Baker. Model Debi Holcomb in palm frond shirt and pedal pushers. Model Maggie Graham, ready for a stroll in a London park.

Below, from left: Mary James Roediger models a sparkly black dress suitable for an Oscar-watching party in the "Night at the Oscars" part of the presentation. Amy Elliott, second from right, a regular attendee at "Tea & Togs," at a table with friends. Model Kay Nord, pretty in pink.

At bottom: The Just for Fun Choir with director Nancy New, at right.

Fashion Show

'Tea & Togs' models
and Thrift Store getups shine
at the Willits Senior Center

"Tea & Togs," Harrah Senior Center's 6th annual Fashion Show & Afternoon Tea, turned out to be a big success this last Saturday. This event is held every year as a benefit for the Harrah Senior Center to support seniors in need. \$975 was raised this year!

The event started off with the "Just for Fun" choir directed by Nancy New. Choir members Don Fiers, Nancy Smith and Janice Winters performed solos of classic songs like "Proud Mary" and "I Feel Good."

Guests enjoyed front-row seating to the runway and dining on a scrumptious assortment of lady finger-style sandwiches, mini gourmet desserts, fresh fruit, and tea poured in dainty tea cups brought in by each guest. Twelve fashion models, ranging from ages 6 to 92, playfully pranced the catwalk in a lovely and diverse range of outfits, which were all handpicked from the Harrah Senior Center's Thrift Store.

Coordinator of this year's "Tea & Togs," Kathy Neff, Senior Center board of directors member, commented: "It went quite well, the clothes were very beautiful this year. I thought the models did a great job." Neff also wanted to express her appreciation for the "terrific help from those who came in to help."

Kathleen Barry spent a morning helping to put the right jewelry with the right outfit. Emcee Virginia Jorge provided descriptions and commentary. Kathleen Barry, Sally Mrad and Martha Morgan set tables and helped out at the last minute Friday night in the kitchen, mixing spreads, slicing cucumbers, peeling eggs and chopping onions. Marlene Brown served

Read the rest of Fashion | Over on Page 6

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Thank you, Ardella's, for all the support!

Willits Weekly will miss the Ardella's crew, the hollandaise and, of course, the camaraderie!

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Redwood Meadows is an active independent senior community featuring 101 apartment homes, primarily a mix of one and two bedroom apartments which are single story 4-plex cottage-type set amongst seven acres of park like landscaping.

We are a smoke-free and pet friendly community. We boast a community center where activities are held like card games, Bingo, birthdays and socials. We also have a barbecue area for residents to get together for social functions.

Redwood Meadows is conveniently located adjacent to the William F. Harrah Senior Center with a thrift store, cafeteria and taxi service, and Howard Memorial Hospital is just blocks away.

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Program). She approached Raybee with the idea of doing a mural at Brookside with the five second-grade classes. Raybee, a veteran GASP instructor, loved the idea.

This is the first year the GASP grant has a mentorship program. Along with teaching the mural class for Bowles, Raybee is mentoring Karen Mattson, a technician at the Willits Library, in how the grant works. Raybee finds Mattson to be an indispensable asset while working with the second-graders. At the same time, Mattson is gathering invaluable experience working with Raybee, which will help her to apply for a GASP grant and teach her own classes in the future.

The second-grade mural is made up of five drawings – one from each second-grade class – of Mendocino County woodland wildlife. The students have been studying the local wildlife, researching and making reports, along with drawing the animal they've studied.

For the mural, students drew their animal, and each class voted on the animal they wanted to represent their class. Raybee took the five drawings and redrew them on mesh backing. "Each looks like the drawing the children did. I was so excited when I saw that!" Bowles said.

The students have been gluing cut and broken pieces of colored tile onto the mesh in the appropriate places for the animals, looking at the drawings for reference, and filling in the backgrounds of sky, trees, bushes and plants for about three weeks. When I visited, most of the animals were tiled in and very recognizable. Students were choosing colored tiles or tiles they'd made as a group with cookie cutters and clay. These were fired in Raybee's kiln. Children were told to choose a tile that wasn't theirs and decorate it with glazes to be refired.

Because the project is a group endeavor, both Raybee and Bowles emphasize that everyone is working together and it's something everyone can take pride in owning together. It was a pleasure to see children reaching in front of each other – no one grabbing something from someone else – and cooperating as to where tiles were going. The atmosphere in the classroom was peaceful, with children engaged in the process of creating a beautiful project together. The objective of group ownership has been pretty successful.

Raybee's plan is to have the finished 3.5-by-6-foot mosaic mural hanging on the wall opposite Malakai Schindel's painted mural of California woodland animals before school lets out in June.

To see more of Raybee's work visit www.eyarbeenmosaics.com.

as the fashion show's "starter" – the one who makes sure the models are lined up in the right outfits to go out the door.

In the kitchen on Saturday were Pat Wilson, Sandra Barrera, Pat Yoxall, Carol O'Farrell, Aura Whittaker, Jade Whittaker and Dorothy Roediger. Joyce Connor dressed the models, helping with buttons, zippers, bow tying and accessorizing. Gerrie Lassner served as hostess and ticket taker. Troy Walters, Jade Whittaker, Emmalee Harmon, and Samantha served refreshments.

This year's models, who donated their time for the event, which also included a fitting of about an hour and a dress rehearsal of three hours, were: Eva Earnest, Maggie Graham, Norma Hanson, Deb Holcomb, Elaine Houpe, Mary Reedier James, Diana Moore, Martha Morgan, Day Nord, Scarlet Providenza, Danielle Sherman, and Linda Wiley.

The twelve models displayed fashion themes including "Lady in Red," "Night at the Oscars," "Garden Party," and "Suiting Up." The event concluded with the raffling off of several baskets of goodies, put together by Diana Mann, and a Hawaiian-style grand finale parade of all the models, led by the "Big Kahuna" Richard Baker, executive director of the senior center.

Some spots
are cute.



Some
not so
much...

FREE SPOT CHECK CLINIC
Thurs., May 25th, from 9am-1pm
Appointments or walk-ins welcome

May is Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month. Join us in taking action to prevent skin cancer and reduce the risk of UV damage.

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11:12 am: BAILEY, Sklyer Amon (22) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 484 PC (Petty Theft/Shoplifting) and on charges of misdemeanor violation of probation.

11:34 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

4:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Northbrook Way.

6:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

11:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

May 14

12:47 am: Officers responded to a report of a person brandishing a weapon in the 200 block of South Main Street.

8:54 am: **SWINNEY, Justin Blue Sunshine** (47) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 594 PC (Vandalism), 459 PC (Felony Burglary), and on charges of misdemeanor possession of a dirk/dagger, and misdemeanor violation of probation.



Justin Blue Sunshine Swinney of Fort Bragg.

1:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of Madden Lane and East Mendocino Avenue.

3:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of South Main Street and Holly Street.

6:41 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

9:08 pm: **MALDONADO, Jose Guadalupe** (48) of Willits was contacted in the 1200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11550 H&S (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance) and 1203.2 (Violation of Probation).

Checkout charity

Donations at Safeway in May help local cancer resource center

During the month of May, customers at Northern California Safeway stores, including here in Willits, have the opportunity to give a dollar – or a few – at the checkout stand, for cancer treatment and research. The donations will support the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County, a local community nonprofit.

In addition to checkout-stand donations, the CRCMC has received a grant from the Safeway Foundation for 10 consecutive years, beginning in 2007, with funding totaling \$95,000 to date. "Our Safeway grant helps us provide innovative patient navigation to our breast cancer clients," says Karen Oslund, executive director of the Cancer Resource Center. The grant is well-needed with breast cancer being the most common cancer among women.

"One in eight women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime," Oslund points out.

The Cancer Resource Center has offices in Ukiah and Mendocino and provides services county-wide. "We work directly with clients and their families to help them

overcome barriers to treatment and get the care they need," explains Oslund.

CRCMC also provides outreach and education to help the public understand what they can do to reduce their personal risk of cancer.

Cancer Resource Center staff will be visiting Safeway stores in Willits, Ukiah and Fort Bragg during the month of May to talk with staff and customers about the importance of their support to the local nonprofit, as well as to provide brochures about cancer prevention and CRCMC services.

"We want to thank customers in advance for their generosity and to let them know that the money helps local people – their friends and neighbors," says Oslund.

The Cancer Resource Center of Mendocino County is located at 590 South Dora Street in Ukiah and can be reached at 707-467-3828.

– submitted by the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County



Eel River Recovery Project kicks off Outlet Creek monitoring



Above: ERRP volunteer Robin Leler on Baechtel Creek, at falls that block chinook salmon migration.

Photo by Patrick Higgins

The Eel River Recovery Project invites the interested public to the kickoff of the 2017 Outlet Creek monitoring on the morning of Saturday, May 20. Managing director and aquatic biologist Patrick Higgins will lead the session and explain how to assess the health of Outlet Creek. After designing the 2017 study plan, the group will begin monitoring in the creeks above Willits and visit other sites throughout the watershed over the next several weeks.

From its headwaters near Willits, Outlet Creek flows about 17 miles to the Eel River upstream of Dos Rios. Long Valley Creek is the largest tributary, but numerous others have historically been very important producers of salmon and steelhead, including Bloody Run, Cherry, Sherwood, Baechtel and Willits creeks among others.

Outlet Creek still has large numbers of chinook salmon and steelhead trout that return to spawn, but coho salmon, which were once dominant in the upper reaches, are rare. While studies since 2012 by ERRP have found that the formerly perennial lower Outlet Creek is often dewatered in late summer, tributaries may maintain cold flow and serve as refugia for salmon and steelhead.

ERRP will be assisting citizen monitors throughout the Outlet Creek basin to continuously monitor water temperature with automated water temperature sensors loaned to ERRP by the North

Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Other stream health criteria that will be assessed include aquatic macroinvertebrates, riparian conditions, fish habitat quality, pool frequency and depth, and particle size distribution.

Funding for this summer's work is being provided by Friends of Outlet Creek, a sponsored group of the Trees Foundation. Data collected by ERRP are always confidential in terms of assignment to specific parcels, but summary data are made available to the public and interested parties so that long-term trends of stream health can be gauged.

Coffee, bagels and fresh fruit will be served at the Willits Hub, located at 630 South Main Street, two blocks north of Highway 20, starting at 9:30 am. The planning session starts at 10 am. There is no charge for participation.

Visit www.EelRiverRecovery.org to learn more or follow ERRP on Facebook to know when you can join them in the field. Anyone wishing to participate in monitoring, or will allow access onto their property, should contact Patrick Higgins at 707-223-7200. Those interested in field trips may also call Willits ERRP volunteer coordinator Robin Leler at 459-0155.

– submitted by Patrick Higgins, ERRP



Lions Club donates to the American Legion

Roger Ham, left, the commander of the Willits American Legion Post #174, accepts a check from Lions Club Vice President Glenn Helton, at right. Ham gave a nice speech thanking the Lions for the donation. He also made an appeal for any veterans to join the local American Legion post.

The American Legion meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at the American Legion Hall, located next door to the high school. The Lions Club welcomes new members. The Lions meet the first and third Tuesdays at Old Mission Pizza at 6 pm.

– Submitted by Carol Deuel, Willits Lions Club

Helping at the Hospital

Howard Memorial recognizes volunteers' invaluable contributions

By Cici Winiger, for HMH

On a Tuesday morning, volunteer Robin Crone goes around to each room delivering flowers to every patient at Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. In every room, she's

greeted with a smile and sometimes a hug. It's a nice surprise, and to some patients who otherwise have no family to visit or send flowers, it's a most welcome gesture.

She's usually in the gift shop, but today she's filling in for another volunteer. But Crone says no matter what she does, volunteering always bring her joy, as it has for the last 11 years. "Being here brings me closer to the community, and it gives me a chance to do something nice for other people."

Every year hospital volunteers perform different roles vital to the hospital's day-to-day operations. Sheila Gray, a long-time resident of Willits and also a long-time volunteer, says donating her time at the hospital is one of the many things that she looks forward to every week. "My mother, Madeline Murphy, used to volunteer here in the 1970s and she volunteered at HMH and other community organizations until she was 90!"

Gray says she hopes to follow in her mother's footsteps, and wears her mother's volunteer pin alongside hers to honor her memory. On Mondays, Gray is at the gift shop, helping employees and visitors find a gift to cheer up somebody. Aside from the social interaction, Gray says it's a way of giving back to the community.

The hospital auxiliary also holds fundraisers for the hospital, and the gift shop's proceeds go toward buying hospital equipment. Gray, who's been volunteering for the hospital for 12 years, says she hopes to volunteer for as long as her mother did. "I love everyone here. I've watched employees

grow up, get married and have kids. It feels like they're my own family."

Rene Rodriguez got started as a volunteer after his wife had a knee replacement at the hospital and had a great experience.

"I thought it was a wonderful way to give back to the community. I contribute my time so another patient can have the same great experience as I did." Rodriguez helps organize weekly lunches for knee and hip replacement patients and also the monthly reunion lunch for previous patients.

Volunteer coordinator Becky Hope says the 51

volunteers who spend their time helping at the hospital are invaluable to the care patients receive. "We have volunteers helping in almost all our departments across the hospital," Hope says. "Our volunteers are extraordinary people providing the exceptional experience our patients deserve: from being a friendly face they recognize when they come through the doors, to doing tasks for staff so providers can devote more time to our patients."

"Our exceptional volunteers donated time valued at over \$200,000 in 2016 alone, yet the true impact they have on the lives of our patients and staff is priceless," said Jason Wells, HMH CEO. Last year, volunteers donated over 8,300 hours to the hospital; some of those hours were spent on providing spiritual comfort to patients and their families during their difficult times as part of the volunteer chaplain program.

Volunteer chaplain brings spiritual comfort

Every Wednesday night, right after his day job, David Sims makes rounds on

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



Robin Crone, long-time volunteer at Howard Hospital, brings cheer to patients with a flower delivery.

Mateel Community Center Presents The 41st Annual

Summer Arts & Music Festival

2017

SAT & SUN JUNE 3 & 4

\$30 DAY PASS
\$50 WEEKEND PASS

9:30am - 10pm
BOTH DAYS

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Garberville, Humboldt County, Ca

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THE BROTHERS COMATOSE • CAROLYN WONDERLAND - JAH9 & THE DUB TREATMENT - LA INEDITA
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Thursday, May 18

Willits Farmers Market: Weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, at a new location: Rec Grove Park on East Commercial Street. 3 to 6 pm. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, live music. the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Hot Topics in Diabetes: "Howard Hospital Commonwealth Garden Tour" led by Ananda Johnson. Short outdoor lecture, then tour of garden. Bring weather-appropriate clothes. Free to attend. Reservations preferred. Thursday, May 18, 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Howard Hospital Garden and Greenhouse, across from the Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive. Call to reserve space: 456-3132.

Friday, May 19

Annual FOWL Spring Weekend Book Sale: Friends of the Willits Library (FOWL) holds their yearly three-day (May 19, 20, 21) book sale in the conference room of the Willits Library. This means money for the library. Boxes of books in the most popular categories including mystery, how-to, nature, science, and more will be ready for purchase starting Friday, May 19. 10 am to 5 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. (Also, Sit N Sew quilt raffle tickets will be available for purchase all three days of the Book Sale; all raffle proceeds will go to the Willits Library.)

Family Magic Show: The Mendocino County Sheriff's Activities League (SAL) presents a free magic show for the family. "We invite you and your friends and extended families to come to this free event. It's our way of saying Thank You for helping us grow." Friday, May 19, 6 pm. Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street.

Free Art Talk: Gary Martin, the curator at Willits Center for the Arts, will speak on Pre-Historic Art, and deliver a visual tour through the historic roots of the arts. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Friday, May 19, 6:30 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-1726.



Art Talk

2nd Annual Spring Dance Recital: Willits Dance Academy, under the direction of Tara Ford, presents their student dance recital. All types of dance, from creative, ballet, contemporary, and jazz, to hip hop and belly dancing. The show also includes special performances from Mendocino College and a guest appearance by "Miss Mendocino." Raffles

Summer Arts & Music Festival

June 3 & 4
The Mateel Community Center presents the 41st annual Summer Arts & Music Festival, June 3 & 4 at Benbow Lake State Recreation Area in Garberville. The event features over 100 performances including more than 70 of the best local and regional bands, dance troupes and children's entertainers on four stages. Advance tickets are on sale now through the mateel.org website. This 41st edition, named the "the best music festival in Humboldt," is a fundraiser for the non-profit Mateel Community Center. Advance pricing is available online only for 2-day passes, single-day tickets are available at the gate only.

Visit <http://mateel.org/summer-arts-and-music-festival> for links to the full schedule and the downloadable program guide, that includes information about the music offerings, stage schedules, the Kid Zone children's activities, the Fine Arts Showcase, and vendors as well as dance and interactive light and sound experiences in the Belly Dance Temple, SummerTronica Tent and Generation Green Dome.

The Summer Arts and Music festival features more than 150 handmade craft, food, and non-profit vendor booths, with a wide variety of artisans selling their creations. Come be a part of the fun of the Mateel Community Center's 41st Summer Arts & Music Festival on June 3 & 4 at Benbow Lake State Recreation area in Garberville. Don't miss your chance to join the Summer Arts volunteer team! The online application is available by visiting the Mateel website volunteer page: mateel.org/volunteers. For questions please email, Anne Sachs, Mateel volunteer coordinator at volunteers@mateel.org or call her in the office at 707-923-3368.

What's Happening Around Town

and concessions will be available, with proceeds contributed to the studio and scholarship fund. Friday, May 19. 7 pm. \$8 for adults, \$5 students and seniors. Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Info: 978-8154.

Shanachie Pub: Take Two, with opening act Billie Kerr. Friday, May 19, 9 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, May 20

Willits High School Golf Tournament: Brooktrails Golf Course. Saturday, May 20. 9 am to 2 pm. 24860 Birch Street. Info: 459-6761.

Outlet Creek Monitoring: Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP) Managing Director-aquatic biologist Patrick Higgins will explain how to assess the health of Outlet Creek. Citizen monitors wanted! Doors open 9:30 am, educational session and field trip planning starts at 10 am. Coffee, bagels will be served. No charge. Saturday, May 20. Starts 9:30 am. Willits Hub, 630 South Main Street. Info: Pat Higgins 223-7200, and ERRP volunteer coordinator Robin Leler 459-0155.

Mendocino County Central Committee: "Meet and Greet" at Brickhouse at 9 am. At 10 am sharp, all interested citizens are invited to hear Sheriff Tom Allman speak on the pros and cons of the sanctuary city and state.

Allman will answer questions after the short talk. The regular MCRCC meeting begins at 10:30 am. Saturday, May 20. Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. Info: Evelyn Hayman 948-6467, or mendocountygop.net.

Corporate Personhood?: Willits Economic Localization (WELL) and Move to Amend Mendocino co-sponsor a half-day workshop which features the "Timeline of Personhood Rights and Powers." This timeline is a graphic presentation of the Supreme Court rulings which have granted national and international corporations increasing "rights," empowering those corporations and reducing the strength of We the People. Free, but a suggested donation of \$20 to support political resistance. Saturday, May 20. 9 am to 1 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: Margaret Koster at mkoster@pacific.net, or 459-5970.

Annual FOWL Spring Weekend Book Sale: Day two of the three-day book sale in the conference

Willits Dance Academy's 2nd Annual Spring Dance Recital 2017
Willits High School
Friday May 19th
7:00PM
Doors open at 6:30PM
\$8 Adults
\$5 Students and Seniors
Willits Dance Academy
291 School St. 299N
Director Tara Ford
707-978-8154
Artist: Ayla Decaire

36th annual Community Festival Car & Motorcycle Show

Memorial Day Weekend

"Join us May 27 and May 28 for two days of hot rods, sizzling music, amazing food and good old-fashioned Willits hospitality." On Saturday, May 27, enjoy the Classic Metal Mixer from 5:30 to 7 pm at Rec Grove Park on East Commercial Street. On Sunday, May 28, it's the 36th Annual Community Festival Car & Motorcycle Show, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Rec Grove Park. Fun for the whole family: classic cars, motorcycles, trophies games, arm wrestling contest, food, vendors, train rides at Roots of Motive Power and more. Start the day with the Lions Club Breakfast from 7 to 10 am at the Rec Grove: a deluxe pancake breakfast with ham, scrambled eggs, pancakes, biscuits and gravy. Breakfast: adults \$9; children \$6. Also, the Skunk Train will be running to Wolf Creek Turn, a little under two-hour ride, leaving at 9:45 am, so get your tickets at the Skunk Train station, 299 East Commercial Street.

room of the Willits Library. See Friday, May 19 listing for details.

Gut Flora Lecture: The Mendocino County Juice Plus Association is sponsoring Dr. Veronica Wizes, MSN, FNP, DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practices) who will deliver a free lecture entitled, "The Gut

Microbiome-What's it to us?" Attendees may also stay on after the lecture for a Vertical Tower Gardening talk, and gluten-free, dairy-free luncheon (reservations necessary). Saturday, May 20. 10:15 am. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2655 Margie Drive. Info and lunch reservation: call or text Janae Stephens 456-7035.

Learn to Be a DJ: Free radio DJ/ Programmer training class for those wanting to do a show on Willits Hometown Radio, KLLG. Saturday, May 20. 12 to 5 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Bunko at the Senior Center: For \$12 play the dice game "Bunko," then win prizes. Fun and social activity. Snacks provided. All are welcome. Saturday, May 20. 1 to 3:30 pm. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6828.

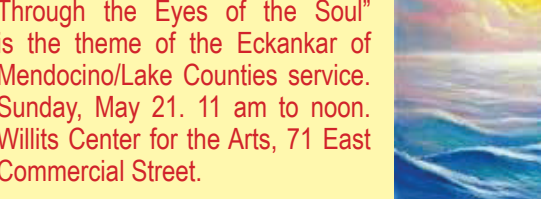
Shanachie Pub: Emerald City is three local musicians who play original music, contemporary rock with hints of r&b, gospel, folk and reggae. Saturday, May 20. 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, May 21

Grateful Gleaners Annual Plant Sale: Fundraiser for local organic agriculture projects. Sale features drought-resistant plants, heritage and heirloom plants, vegetable seedlings, annual and perennial flowers, medicinal and culinary herbs, ground covers. Plus: handouts and gardening advice. Sunday, May 21. 10 am to 3 pm. 130 Tuttle Lane (just off Humboldt Street, 1 block north of the post office). Info: 367-9759.

KLLG 97.9 Garage Sale: Willits Hometown Radio garage sale fundraiser. Sunday, May 21. 10 am to 6 pm. Peter's Sushi parking lot, 383 South Main Street. Info or to donate "stuff" – can also drop off the day of the sale – call Rossi at 354-8100.

Light and Sound Service: "Seeing Through the Eyes of the Soul" is the theme of the Eckankar of Mendocino/Lake Counties service. Sunday, May 21. 11 am to noon. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.



Soroptomist Fundraiser at WCT

Thursday, June 8

The Willits Soroptomists are hosting a special fundraising evening of "Grace and Gloria," a heart-warming drama on aging by Tom Ziegler, at the Willits Community Theatre on Thursday, June 8. Snacks and drinks will start at 6:15 pm. with the performance of the play beginning at 7 pm. Proceeds from the play will go towards local scholarships and awards. "A fun evening!" Tickets are \$15 each. To purchase tickets, contact Marilyn Harden, 459-5649.

Register for Kids Club Day Camp

June 19 to August 11

Willits Kids Club is offering eight weeks of summer day camp this year for children who are entering kindergarten through the seventh grade. The first day of camp is June 19. Summer day will run through August 11. Full and half day schedules are available. Camp starts at 7:30 am and ends at 5:30 pm.

According to Day Camp Director Diane Heath, camp will be held in varied locations in order to expose the kids to the rich resources and environments in their home town. Day camp at Kids Club on Blosser Lane (weeks 1, 2, 7 and 8) allows kids to play in the Discovery Park, enjoy all of the activities and games available at Kids Club, including arts and crafts, cooking and gardening. During weeks 3 and 4, the camp will move to Willits Elementary Charter School across from Recreation Grove Park to allow for exploration and field trips to the Mendocino County Museum, the Willits Library, and Recreation Grove, with swimming in the afternoons at the City Pool. Weeks 5 and 6 will have an outdoor education focus, with base camp at Brooktrails Community Center. These weeks will get kids hiking and exploring the redwood groves and trails and learning about nature in our unique and beautiful outdoor environment.

Fees for camp vary depending on the schedule chosen. One week of full days is \$135, while one week of half days is \$75. Some partial scholarships are available, and there are options for attending just two or three days each week, also a discount for paying in advance. Camp registration forms can be downloaded from the Kids Club website at Willitskidsclub.org or obtained at any of the after-school sites weekday afternoons until 6 pm. More information is available by calling Diane at 841-8012.

– Karen Oslund, Willits Kids Club

Green Party Resurgence: Green voters and others are invited to a meeting to discuss/take action on reactivating the Green Party of Mendocino County. David Cobb (past Green Party presidential candidate and Jill Stein campaign manager), and Erik Rydberg (Jill Stein campaign outreach coordinator for California) will join attendees. Sunday, May 21. 2 to 5 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5970, or mkoster@pacific.net; also, Cynthia Raiser Jeavons 650-888-9781.

Annual FOWL Spring Weekend Book Sale: Final day of the three-day book sale in the conference room of the Willits Library. Sunday is \$3/bag day: "Bring your book bag because for \$3 you can fill it up from a cornucopia of books." See Friday, May 19 listing for details.

Learn How to Live a Better Life Today: Improve mental performance and increase emotional intelligence, a series by Dr. Neil Nedley.

Manage emotions, improve creativity, and over-all life satisfaction. Sunday, May 21. 6:30 pm. The Friendship House, 363 West Mendocino Avenue.

P.E.O. Fundraiser Dinner: "P.E.O. celebrates the advancement of women through scholarships, grants, awards and loans to achieve their highest aspirations." The Fundraiser Dinner is at El Mexicano. 166 South Main Street, on Sunday, May 21. 3 to 7 pm. Dinner tickets are \$15. Advance tickets at J.D. Redhouse. Walk-ins welcome the day of the event. Dinners to-go will also be available. Info and orders: El Mex @ 459-5702.

"Special thanks to El Mexicano & staff for donating their time and labor."

Monday, May 22

Shanachie Pub: Dan Walsh, touted as one of the best banjo players in the United Kingdom. Monday, May 22. 8 pm. No Cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Tuesday, May 23

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Guardians of the Galaxy 2," "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Shanachie Pub: Tracy Hui, a genre-

defying itinerant folk artist/song writer/composer/improviser. Think spontaneous Jazz, Appalachian, Folk, Rock and original compositions. Tuesday, May 22. 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Thursday, May 25

Willits Farmers Market: Weekly farmers market is outdoors for the season, at a new location: Rec Grove Park on East Commercial Street. 3 to 6 pm. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, live music. the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Friday, May 26

Shanachie Pub: The Real Sarahs, "well-known, well-loved local vocalists will once again charm our town with their amazing harmonies." Friday, May 26. 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, May 27

Senior Center Memorial Day Flea Market: The Memorial Day Flea Market will take place on May 27, 8 am to 1 pm, at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. \$2 hot dogs and root beer floats. If interested in being a vendor, please call Lucy Stanley at 459-5826 ext. 113.

Willits Flea Market: Opening day of the new Willits Flea Market is Saturday, May 27. Next to Auto Mart repair shop, 101 Lenore Avenue. Will run Saturdays and Sundays, every weekend, 9 am to 4 pm. Info and to reserve space: 972-8242.

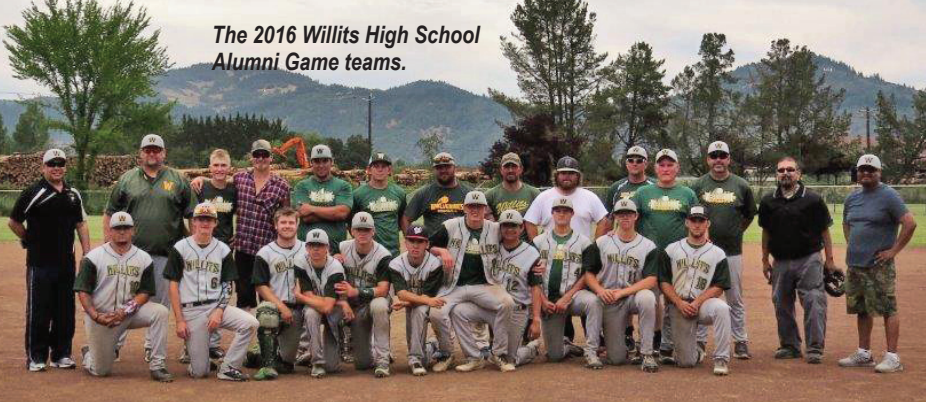
Classic Metal Mixer: the annual Willits Chamber of Commerce "Classic Metal Mixer," part of the 36th annual Community Festival Car & Motorcycle Show. Saturday, May 27, 5:30 to 7 pm at Rec Grove Park, Commercial Street (across from the Willits Library).

Shanachie Pub: Peter Jong Chang instrumental rock/jazz fusion and guitar virtuosity. Saturday, May 27. 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, May 28

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am, Sunday, May 28, and every 4th Sunday through October. "Join your friends at the Grange breakfast! \$8 buys you a plate of the

6th Annual Jesse Pittman Memorial 5K Run / 5K Walk
Lake Mendocino, Ukiah, Calif
Kyan Recreation Area, Pomo 'C'
1250 Marina Drive, Ukiah, Ca
Saturday June 17, 2017
Race Day - Register / Sign In 07:30 - 08:30 am at site
Register Early - discounts for early registration ends April 30th
Run Signup and additional information @ :
www.rdsjgo.com/jesse-pittman-memorial-5k-run-walk-6-17-17.html
Come in full pavement heat kit gear, there are a few small hills - strollers are welcome as long as they can handle dirt and gravel terrain.
Join us to honor Jesse and celebrate this year's scholarship winner! Enjoy the annual Jesse Pittman Memorial Fund 5K Run/Walk around part of beautiful Lake Mendocino. Honor Jesse's sacrifice and support our local youth.
The Jesse Pittman Fund offers a college scholarship for Mendocino County high school students in honor of Jesse Pittman, a Navy Seal, who died on August 6, 2011 while serving in Afghanistan.
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> Silent Auction
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www.facebook.com/TheJessePittmanFund



The 2016 Willits High School Alumni Game teams.

best 'scratch' pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods...." Choose sourdough wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or gluten-free, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. Live Music! \$8; \$7 seniors, \$5 children under 10. Extra: sides of organic fruit and Amish organic maple syrup. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of Main Street).

Willits Flea Market: Opening weekend of new flea market. Sunday, May 28. 9 am to 4 pm. Next to Auto Mart repair shop, 101 Lenore Avenue. Info and to reserve space: 972-8242.

36th Annual Community Festival Car & Motorcycle Show: Lions Club "deluxe pancake breakfast at the Rec Grove: ham, scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy. Adults \$9; children \$6. Served from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission to festival and show is free and open to the public. "Fun for the whole family" featuring classic cars, motorcycles, trophies, games, arm wrestling contest, food, vendors, train rides at Roots of Motive Power. As part of the Memorial Day celebration, the historic Skunk Train will be running to Wolf Creek Turn. It departs the station at 9:45 am.

St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble: Award-winning St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble will be performing masterpieces of Russian classic choral and sacred music." Come join us for a spectacular evening of wonderful music from Russia." Sunday, May 28. 7 pm. Free will donation. United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. Light refreshments will be served after the concert.

Flag Donations

Boy Scouts looking to fund flag program with donations from businesses

On Saturday, May 20, Boy Scouts from Troops 42 and 88 will be out visiting local businesses to accept donations for their American Flag Program, which they do in conjunction with the American Legion Post 174. Scouts help purchase, display, remove, repair and maintain the flags that line the sidewalks on Main and Commercial streets on national holidays. This year's donations should allow the group to continue this program for another year to come. "Troops 42 and 88 and the local American Legion Post wish to thank local businesses for past support and look forward to continued support from both new and existing businesses in the current year," said Troop 42 Scoutmaster Kara Watson. For more info: Scoutmaster Troop 88, Leon Anderson, at 459-4031 or Scoutmaster Watson, at 245-2755.



Troop 42's Ryan Watson, Korvin Swinney and Ryan Miltimore with the flags.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of May 22 through May 26

Monday: Hamburger w/Potato Salad
Tuesday: Cabbage Rolls
Wednesday: Pulled Pork
Thursday: Salisbury Steak
Friday: Turkey w/Stuffing Birthday Lunch

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entree, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.



Free Memorial BBQ

Monday, May 29

The Willits Calvary Chapel first Memorial Day event will take place from noon to 3 pm, on Monday, May 29, at Willits City Park on Commercial Street. There will be free food, games, music and a message. Everyone is welcome. Information contact Aura Whittaker, 337-3615.

COLUMN | At the Movies



'King Arthur: Legend of the Sword'

The Story: Arthur, the rightful king, is hiding from his treacherous Uncle Vortigern, the unrightful king. Vortigern commands thousands of armored,

thoughtless goons. Arthur has fun-loving, rollicking friends. The odds are not good. But Arthur

also has Excalibur, the Sword, and it's magical. If you read, or heard, or know the story of Arthur Pendragon with Merlin and Mordred, this is not the story you will see on the screen. Still, a tale of murder and betrayal, black magic and white magic, swords, arrows, plots and counterplots, a mage and her large eagle, all tossed together semi-coherently well that works.

My Thoughts: From the outset, I was not inclined to like this movie because I'm attached to the traditional Arthurian legend. But actually, legend should be writ in the plural "legends," because there are, in fact, many versions. Still, the many versions do not veer as far from the central story as this one does. I recommend enjoying this "Arthur" sword-and-sorcery flick as drawn from the myths ... but not The Myth. And a confession: I entered the movie palace with my stomach twisted by the current poop show in Washington DC, and I left, at the end of "King Arthur," cleansed of stinky politics. That's very inexpensive therapy. So, enjoy!

Parents: Too bloody-violent for little ones. A mother is murdered, (the whole movie is about how cruel and untrustworthy families can be). I'd go 12 and up.

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



Above, from left: Madge Strong fills out her progress card. Melody Sorace hands out carnations in memory of Lynn Kennelly. Tawny, Lisa Hudson and Pam Jimenez resting at J.D. Redhouse. At right: Martin Rodriguez displays the route map. Below: Participants arrive at the 3,000 step station.



Walking for Lynn

Annual Walk for Health and Community Wellness in memory of Lynn Kennelly

Saturday's Walk for Health and Community Wellness was called "Walk for Lynn," but maybe a more appropriate title would've been "Walk with Lynn." The memory of Lynn Kennelly, former executive director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, was on the minds of participants as they walked approximately 10,000 steps (5k) through the neighborhoods of Willits while wearing red carnations in her memory.

The loss of Kennelly's ebullient good nature, indefatigable energy, and encompassing love for her friends, which included almost everyone who knew her, was felt by participants. She would have appreciated the joy and sense of health and well-being that permeated the event.

This was the 21st Willits Walk for Health and Community Wellness, put on by WHAT (Willits Healthy Action Team). The first walk was in 2008, and there have been two each year since – in May and October. Willits' oldest citizen, Edie Ceccarelli, did the entire route when she was 101 years old.

The route began at J.D. Redhouse at 9:30 am. Walkers looped through neighborhoods on the north side of town, then crossed Highway 20 to head down Blosser Lane. They circled around Baechtel Grove Middle School and then walked north again, zigzagging along side streets

up to the Rec Grove Park and dog park, before finally returning to J.D. Redhouse.

The event was organized by Jed Diamond until this year when he passed the torch to Martin and Saprina Rodriguez, who were more than willing to take on the responsibility. There were no calls for money for a cause at the walk, no speeches, and no expectations of having to finish the entire course. Instead, the overall theme of the event was to provide a sense of community wellness and comradeship – a space in which people of the town could come together with the common cause of health, while touring much of the city on foot.

After leading and organizing 20 Willits Walks, Jed and Carlin Diamond passed along the planning to the Rodriguez family. Jed Diamond commented, "We figured [20 walks] were enough for us and wanted to share with some other people. Martin and Saprina said they wanted to see this happen and keep it going. It just seemed like a good time to try something new and get some new people involved."

Martin and Saprina Rodriguez took over the responsibilities of planning the walk as an extension of their involvement in Leadership Mendocino, an organization which promotes interaction with other communities in the county. The walk was a way for the Rodriguezes to pursue



At top, from left: Saprina Rodriguez and daughter, Mariah, prepare to man the 10,000 steps station. Ronnie and Janis Wood bring along their dogs, Lillian and Annie, for the walk through Willits. Above: Martin Rodriguez and Carlin and Jed Diamond show off their red carnations. Below, from left: Participants arrive at the 2,000 step station. Gabe and Holly Madrigal prepare to "Walk for Lynn."

Read the rest of **Walk** Over on Page 11



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The rest of **Walk** From Page 10

their interest in bringing people together for the common good of the community.

"We are not raising money for anything," explained Martin Rodriguez, "but rather to raise awareness of health and wellness and have a fun walk.... Just come here with your neighbors and your friends and enjoy walking the boundaries of our community. Feel the connection between the north part of our community and the south, and the east side of Main Street and the west side. It's about drawing people together – a way of bringing the whole community together."

"Martin and I have been participants for many years," shared Saprina Rodriguez. "We love the idea of promoting a healthy lifestyle in Willits. I think, as leaders, it is our responsibility to promote and encourage anything that leads to a healthy lifestyle. We are so fortunate to live in such a healthy environment. There are so many things to do here outside that don't cost money, such as hiking, biking and exploring. Those are the gems of the Willits community. We need to help highlight Willits' healthy lifestyle and what we have to offer in this community."

April Tweddell commented on why she participated in the Willits Walk: "I have to walk anyway. I have to walk every single day. So this way, I get to walk with people. I usually walk by myself, but it is more fulfilling to walk with a group. I think it gets the community talking to each other. It's also really good for our bodies to walk."

"I'm really looking forward to this walk," said Holly Madrigal, publisher of Word of Mouth magazine and manager of the Willits Center for the Arts, "because it's a really great free, healthy event for our community, especially this year as it is in remembrance of Lynn. Her passing left a big hole in our community that we're never going to be able to fill. It's good to remember her."

By most measures, the "Walk for Lynn" was a success. The energy and interaction were high despite the lower number of participants (40 to 50). The sense of a shared purpose, which is really what the event is all about, was very evident with people talking, laughing and walking.

This event was a perfect way to honor Lynn Kennelly. Her legacy will live on in the many community events of which she was such an integral part. She has become the standard by which community involvement is modeled. She will not be forgotten by anyone who knew her.

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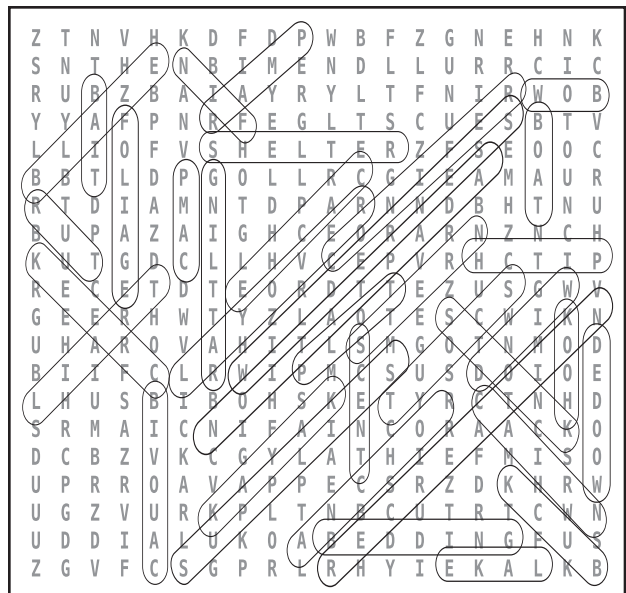
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LEGAL NOTICES

WW114

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Governing Board of the Willits Unified School District ("District"), of the County of Mendocino, State of California, will receive sealed bids for the **Willits Unified School District - Sherwood Elementary 2017 Modular Classroom** ("Project") up to, but not later than, **2:00 pm., on June 13, 2017**, and will there-after publicly open and read aloud the bids. All bids shall be received at the **Willits Unified School District Office, 1277 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490**.

2. Each bid shall be completed on the Bid Proposal Form included in the Contract Documents, and must conform and be fully responsive to this invitation, the plans and specifications and all other Contract Documents. Copies of the Contract Documents are available for examination at the office of the Architect, Almeida Architecture, 555 S. Main Street, Suite 2, Sebastopol CA, County of Sonoma, California, and may be obtained by licensed contractors upon payment of a nonrefundable deposit of one hundred and seventy five dollars (\$175) per set.

3. Each bid shall be accompanied by cash, a cashier's or certified check, or a bidder's bond executed by a surety licensed to do business in the State of California as a surety, made payable to the District, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the maximum amount of the bid. The check or bid bond shall be given as a guarantee that the bidder to whom the contract is awarded will execute the Contract Documents and will provide the required payment and performance bonds and insurance certificates within ten (10) days after the notification of the award of the contract.

4. The successful bidder shall comply with the provisions of the Labor Code pertaining to payment of the generally prevailing rate of wages and apprenticeships or other training programs. The Department of Industrial Relations has made available the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the locality in which the work is to be performed for each craft, classification or type of worker needed to execute the contract, including employer payments for health and welfare, pension, vacation, apprenticeship and similar purposes. Copies of these prevailing rates are available to any interested party upon request and are online at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR>. The Contractor and all Subcontractors shall pay not less than the specified rates to all workers employed by them in the execution of the Contract. It is the Contractor's responsibility to determine any rate change.

5. The schedule of per diem wages is based upon a working day of eight hours. The rate for holiday and overtime work shall be at least time and one half.

6. The substitution of appropriate securities in lieu of retention amounts from progress payments in accordance with Public Contract Code §22300 is permitted.

7. Pursuant to Public Contract Code §4104, each bid shall include the name and location of the place of business of each subcontractor who shall perform work or service or fabricate or install work for the contractor in excess of one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) of the bid price. The bid shall describe the type of the work to be performed by each listed subcontractor.

8. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening for bids except as provided by Public Contract Code §55100 et seq. THE DISTRICT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITIES OR IRREGULARITIES IN THE BIDDING.

9. Minority, women, and disabled veteran contractors are encouraged to submit bids. This bid is not subject to Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise requirements.

10. The project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the California Department of Industrial Relations. In accordance with SB 854, all bidders, contractors and subcontractors working at the site shall be duly registered with the Department of Industrial Relations at time of bid opening and at all relevant times. Proof of registration shall be provided as to all such contractors prior to the commencement of any work.

11. Each bidder shall possess at the time the bid is awarded the following classification(s) of California State Contractor's license: B- General Contractor.

12. A mandatory bidders' conference will be held at **Sherwood Elementary School, 32600 Sherwood Rd., Willits CA on May 23, 2017 at 3:00 pm**, for the purpose of acquainting all prospective bidders with the Contract Documents and the Project site. Failure to attend the conference may result in the disqualification of the bid of the non-attending bidder.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sherwood Elementary 2017 Modular Classroom
Publication Dates: 1) May 11, 2017 and 2) May 18, 2017

Current Job Openings:

Air Quality Specialist
Animal Control Officer
Animal Control Officer-in-Training – Extra-Help
Building Maintenance Mechanic I-II (Includes Immediate Openings for Temporary Extra-Help Work)
Social Worker I-V (Includes Immediate Openings for Temporary Extra-Help Work)
Social Worker Supervisor I-II
Substance Abuse Counselor II
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Apartment Needed
Active wheelchair person needs studio apartment June 1st. Not low income. 456-9204.

Brooktrails Flea Market
Vendors Needed
2017 Market is Saturday, June 3. Outdoor spaces and indoors tables: \$20 each. Vendors check in: 6 to 7:30 am. Market open: 8 am to 3 pm. Call to reserve a space: Arlane 456-0734.

Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song: Wednesday, May 24, at 6 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Ancient Wisdom for Today. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

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Flea Market
Starting May 27 & 28 and every weekend this summer, in the yard next to Auto Mart repair, 101 Lenore Ave, 9 am to 4 pm. To rent a space: 972-8242.

For Rent
Office for rent: 410 sq ft, centrally located, off-street parking. Air conditioning. Waiting room. Utilities included. \$400 / mo. 354-2473.

For Rent
Executive office - 2 large offices, 1 small; kitchen, bath and reception. 1,240 square feet. An additional 370 square feet could be added if needed. Call Margie, 459-6874 or Megan, 972-8776.

Help Wanted
HAZARDOUS WASTE TECHNICIAN JOB OPENING, Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority, Ukiah. Hard-working, dedicated team player sought for FT position. \$15/hr. good benefits; bilingual a plus. To apply, go to www.mendocycle.org or contact mwmna@pacific.net. Applications due June 1, 2017.

Help Wanted
Office help needed Saturdays and Sundays, possibly Fridays. Must have great customer service experience and phone etiquette. Call 707-485-0123 for an interview.

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

Moving Sale
Moving Sale, Friday 5/19, 9 am to 3 pm. 362 Creekside Dr. Stearns Foster Queen Mattress, Super-Sac LoveSac, Schwinn BioDyne Exercise Bike, Diamond Pacific Genie Grinder, Clothes, Shoes, Books, Housewares.

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Volunteers Wanted
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Weight Watchers
Join us! New location: Willits Center for the Arts - 71 E. Commercial St., 4:30 pm every Monday. Feel better. Look better. Have fun. More information? Call 707-841-7758.

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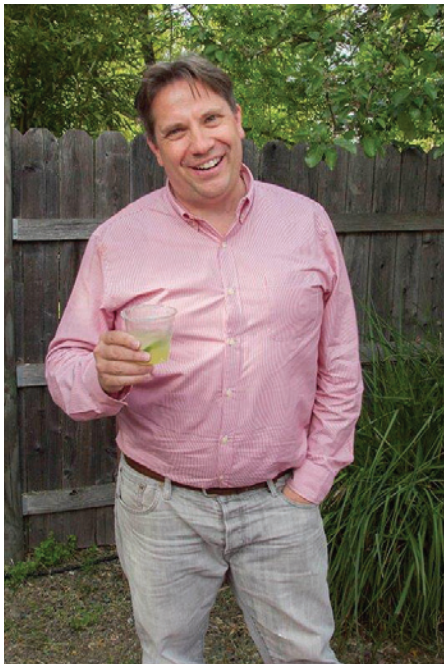
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At top, from left: The Savings Bank crew, from left: Jason Rader, J.C. Flugger and Raymond Habel. Mixer host Nick Casagrande of NC Financial Group. Councilwoman Madge Strong at NC Financial's chamber mixer.

Above: Suzanne Roulsont, Leda, and Ray Roland of Roland's Bakery & Bistro.

Below: Fruit for the warm Cinco de Mayo eve party.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, from left: Mixer guests Lou Celaya of Adam's Restaurant and Jeff and Lois Hoover of the Noyo Theatre.

The backyard crowd at the May Willits Chamber of Commerce mixer at NC Financial on Main Street.

From far left: Caterers Ray Roland from Roland's Bistro, and Nellie Larsen and Lisa Davis from Scoops.

Frankie J plays keyboards on the back porch.

Willits Frontier Days candidate Keely Ahders stopped by the mixer, with mom Heidi Ahders and Raymond Habel of the Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Willits branch.

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Mon-Thurs: 4:45 & 7:30pm

KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD

(PG13) 2 hrs 6 mins

Fri: 3:45, 6:30 & 9:15pm

Sat/Sun: 1:00, 3:45, 6:30 & 9:15pm

Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:15pm

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY: VOL. 2

(PG13) 2 hrs 17 mins

Fri: 3:20, 6:10 & 9:00pm

Sat/Sun: 12:30, 3:20, 6:10 & 9:00pm

Mon-Thurs: 4:10 & 7:00pm

Movie Times for 5/19 thru 5/25

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

The rest of Rates

From Page 1

mended changes that would increase the city's water revenue by 2.5 percent each year starting in fiscal year 2017-18 and continue until 2021-22. Wastewater charges would increase each of those five years, too: by 7 percent in 2017-18, and with increases going down to 4.5 percent by the fifth year.

The council deferred mailing out the proposed rate changes to customers for a state-mandated review until after its May 24 meeting, when council members could further consider some options regarding the increases, but it appeared the plan would survive largely intact.

Bartle Wells President Douglas Dove said putting off the rate hikes or infrastructure projects spending could lead to the need for more drastic action in the future.

"You can defer maintenance, but it'll catch up to you," he said. "And I've seen cities where they kept putting it off until they were having a main break in their city every day ... and then they had to have these massive rate increases."

The plan includes taking on two big loans in fiscal year 2018-19 designed to help keep the cost increases for Willits customers down – an \$800,000 loan as part of the water plan, and \$2.4 million for wastewater.

Councilman Ron Orenstein said he was concerned about the loans and the interest that would accrue for the city, and asked whether the \$800,000 loan could be dropped and water rates increased a bit more instead.

After quickly crunching some numbers at the meeting, it was estimated the city would need to increase rates by around 4 percent per year instead of 2.5 percent, but could save somewhere from \$200,000 to \$400,000 in interest.

The council was interested in hearing more specifics on the numbers regarding the option to skip the \$800,000 loan, and decided to hold off on sending out review notices. Council members did request a "preparation" of the plan be ready for their next meeting so they could get moving on it quickly thereafter.

Proposition 218 requires municipalities in California to send out a notice regarding any water rate increases to all customers, who will then have 45 days to review and comment on proposed changes.

The plan would also significantly alter the tiered rate structure to the benefit of higher-volume water-users, a move instigated by a recent legal ruling by the California Supreme Court.

The number of tiers would be reduced from four to two, with the top tier capped off at a rate of \$7.86 per 100 cubic feet (or CCF, equal to 748 gallons) for any monthly use of water over six CCFs. Currently, those using 11 to 19 CCFs a month pay \$9.36 per CCF for that water (tier 3), and those using over 19 CCFs are charged \$11.76 (tier 4).

Dove said changes in the tier system were necessary given recent legal actions regarding the interpretation of Proposition 218, and its statement that rates "must not generate revenues in excess of the cost of service for which the fee is charged." In essence, cities must be cautious of charging heavy water users too much, even if they are passing on the revenues as cost savings to those using less water.

Dove cited a case in 2015 involving the City of San Juan Capistrano, in which the California Supreme Court upheld a lower court decision that the city's tiered water rates violated Proposition 218. The city eventually had to pay over \$4 million to customers in refunds.

Orenstein asked if encouraging residents to use less water, especially in the face of drought, had any legal bearing, but Dove said that would be a difficult case to make, and a "cost basis" had to be used.

"In the judgement [of the courts], they found that each tier has to be cost-justified," he said. "So if you can't justify that high tier you can't levy it."

Councilwoman Madge Strong expressed concern regarding the financial impact on low-volume water users of the plan, but Dove said they had done what they could to mitigate that, including decreasing fixed costs (the minimum amount paid regardless of use) for all meter sizes.

Under the proposed plan, the fixed cost for the smallest meter size (5/8 inch) will decrease from \$26.46 to \$23.46 per month this year, and then creep up to \$25.92 by 2021.

"We tried to keep these increases as low as reasonably possible, so that it doesn't impact people more than it has to," said Dove.

City Manager Adrienne Moore approved of the plan, saying "essentially what we're talking about here is taking a very prudent approach to these rate increases."

The proposed rate hikes would be the first for the city since 2014, when increases implemented in 2010 were completed.

A public hearing for discussion will be scheduled for some time after review notices are sent. The city has until August 1 to officially submit its rate plan to the county.

Congratulating Croskey

The city council opened the meeting by congratulating Georgeanne Croskey, who was present, for her recent appointment as Third District Supervisor. Croskey was appointed to the vacant seat last week by California Gov. Jerry Brown.

"We just want to say congratulations to you and wish you the best," said Moore, "and we are looking forward to being strong partners with you."

"Thank you, I really appreciate that," responded Croskey. "I'm very excited. Really what I'm trying to focus on first is learning the job and hearing what people have to say. So I'll be scheduling as many meet-and-greets and sessions for people to come and talk to me, and tell me some of their concerns of things they've felt have been overlooked."

Councilwoman Saprina Rodriguez said she was "really excited" to have Croskey as the new supervisor.

"I think that she really represents good family values," she said.

Planning award

City Planner Dusty Duley told the council the City of Willits has received the "Hard Won Victories" award from the American Planning Association, Northern California chapter, for its Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan. The plan was adopted unanimously by the Willits City Council last year.

Duley said awards from the APA don't generally go to such small jurisdictions, and the whole community should be proud.

"This was a plan that hundreds of community members came out and helped shape," he said, "and nearly every city employee touched in one way or another."

Moore was also excited for Willits and for Duley regarding the award.

"I just want to say how proud I am for the city and for the community and certainly for Dusty who shepherded this whole process," she said. "Well

done."

City officials will receive the award at an awards gala in Oakland on June 2.

Cannabis ad hoc

The city's cannabis ad hoc committee has been meeting frequently, Duley said, and members currently are "reviewing an administrative draft of the comprehensive cannabis ordinance."

The committee plans to have a public forum on the cannabis draft on Thursday, May 25, and to have something for the full city council to look at in June.

Gonzalez agreed the cannabis committee has been "going like gangbusters."

"We've got some good progress going there," he said.

The Medical Cannabis Ordinance Community Meeting is set for Thursday, May 25, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. The meeting will consist of a brief presentation on the city's medical cannabis ordinance public draft, which will cover requirements related to location, operation and permitting. A Q&A session will follow.

The public draft of the city's medical cannabis ordinance will be posted at the city's website, <http://www.cityofwillits.org>. A copy of the draft ordinance will also be available at the Willits Library.

Immigration

Rodriguez said she had been working with members of Nuestra Alianza, Community United, and others in the community who have drafted a resolution regarding immigration to bring before the council. A copy of the resolution has been given to City Attorney Jim Lance for evaluation, and will be placed on the council's agenda soon.

Rodriguez has come out in support of the pro-immigrant rights California Values Act, and had asked the council to endorse it last year.

Gonzalez said he had been talking and working with some of the same groups as Rodriguez regarding an immigration resolution, and hoped to have something to show the council by the next meeting.

He said he also has been talking to Chief of Police Scott Warnock and wanted to make sure the resolution was something the police department and the city would support.

Funding and billboard

Vice Mayor Larry Stranske said, based on what he's heard in recent meetings, the City of Willits should expect the funding they get from the county to increase dramatically over the next three to four years, possibly doubling.

"With the new taxes that are going to happen, all of Mendocino County's in for some good money," said Stranske.

He didn't specify which taxes, but Measure AI which passed in November will levy a 2.5 percent county tax on cannabis growers to start, with the option for the board of supervisors to raise it to as much as 10 percent in upcoming years.

Stranske recommended councilmembers show a presence at county meetings to vie for funding as it becomes available.

"I can't stress enough that we need someone down at these meetings to say this is what we want, and don't let anyone else get it," he said. "Because there are people out there who will snap it up."

Duley said any community members interested in joining a subcommittee to help design and implement a civic billboard and other signage on the Highway 101 bypass to help attract drivers to stop in Willits should contact him at dduley@cityofwillits.org or 459-4601.

The rest of Resigns

From Page 1

Wilbanks, the situation underlying Stephens' desire to fully vet the rate of return, is that MCERA's two main outside financial analysts have differing views on what the assumed rate of return should be. One of those experts is the actuary, and the other is the investment consultant. The numbers put forward by the two firms for what the assumed rate of return should be do not agree.

Wilbanks told Willits Weekly that what Stephens wanted is not possible, because the numbers means different things to each of the two firms. "The numbers are generated by different methodologies, and they are for very different purposes," Wilbanks said. "When Stephens said that he wanted a full vetting of the rate differential, what he wanted was a reconciliation of what the actuary recommended, and what the investment consultant advised."

At the May 10 meeting (which can be seen by the public on the county YouTube channel; go to www.youtube.com and search for "Mendocino County video"), Stephens can be seen explaining why he was so unhappy. "You have told me for the last two years, 'Wait, Stephens, the time to address the target rate is in the triennial report.' Every time I've tried to bring up the fact that we have a target rate that is not sustainable, that it's not anything that we've been able to meet in the past, and it's not anything our investment professionals say we can meet in the next 10 years – we can, but we can't do it with a 50 percent confidence level – you said, 'Got to wait till the triennial experience.'"

"We got the triennial experience report on Good Friday of Easter weekend [April 14]. On Wednesday [April 19, the date of the April MCERA board meeting], it was pretty clear that it had not been read by this board," Stephens said.

"When I tried to vet the difference between what the actuary said and the investment counselor said, you wouldn't have any of it," he added. "There was a move to rubber stamp that report without even vetting it. I brought it to your attention. I said, you haven't even looked at the demographics. But you were in such a hurry to approve that, and close the door for the next three years, so that anytime I want to bring the question up in the future you will say, 'Oh, you have to wait for the triennial study to be done.'"

After Stephens finished speaking, board Chairman Dan Gjerde asked if any board member who had voted on April 19 to accept the triennial experience study wished to move to reconsider the April 19 vote.

No one did, so Stephens immediately resigned.

Stephens' resignation throws into dramatic relief the controversies that have surrounded the MCERA board over the past decade, as its debt load has grown heavier. Over the past 10 years, MCERA has lowered its assumed rate of return three times: from 8 to 7.75 percent in 2011, and then to 7.25 percent in 2014. It lowered it again to 7 percent just a month ago.

Over the past 17 years, the "unfunded actuarial accrued liability" of the MCERA retirement fund has increased from

\$35.3 million in 2000 to \$207 million today. At the same time, to pay down that ballooning UAAL and keep MCERA afloat, Mendocino County's annual contribution to MCERA has increased from \$3.78 million in 2000 to \$19.6 million.

At the board of supervisors' meeting on Monday, James Wilbanks, administrator of the retirement association, told supervisors the MCERA board lowered the assumed rate of return to 7 percent on April 19, and outlined some of the repercussions that move will have for the county. One is that the county's annual contribution to the retirement fund will increase again, this time by \$1.5 million, rising it to \$22.1 million in 2018-19. The other is that the MCERA UAAL will increase automatically by \$27.2 million, rising to \$207.8 million.

During the Monday board meeting, both board Chairman John McCowen and Wilbanks attempted to rebut Stephens' repeated claim that MCERA fund is being poorly managed and, unless the direction is changed, the fund is heading toward bankruptcy.

Wilbanks pointed out that "cash in" to the MCERA fund, not counting any revenues derived from investments, totaled \$24.8 million in 2016. For the same year, "cash out" totaled \$32.2 million, a net simplified cash flow of negative \$7.35 million. That sounds bad, until one realizes retirement fund assets total \$426 million. At that rate, if the fund lost \$7.35 million a year, and if it never made another dime from investment returns, it would still take 58 years for the fund to run out of money, according to Wilbanks.

"It's pretty hard to go bankrupt when you have always paid every one of your bills on time, and when you're capable of paying your bills for decades into the future," McCowen agreed. Warning the public that the county is heading for bankruptcy "is pretty irresponsible, and the end game is, if they can convince us [the board of supervisors] that the county is at risk of bankruptcy, they hope then to be able to stiff the retirees for the pensions that they are due. I don't see any other purpose," he said.

"If you think back to 2010, we had about \$100 million of liability," Wilbanks told supervisors. "Since then we've had three rounds of discount rate reductions that have added to that UAAL by over \$100 million now. There are those who are saying, 'Our previous assumptions were wrong.'"

"I would say, our previous assumptions were not wrong, but the world in which we are operating has changed, dramatically. Ten years ago, an inflation rate below 2 percent was unheard of. An inflation rate is a very key component of your nominal investment returns. We've been in an environment now for eight years, I would say, where we are in a very low inflation environment, a managed economy where we're not seeing the economic growth that is the driver of the real investment returns that we need to see.

"I don't believe that will continue forever," Wilbanks continued. "Eventually, inflation will come back. I am hopeful that we will move away from the managed economy, and that we will move back into a world where higher investment returns are not only capable of being attained, but very, very feasible."

The rest of Cannabis

From Page 1

serve on the committee. The primary goal of the committee is to work with staff to establish a comprehensive set of medical cannabis policies consistent with new state laws that preserve our environmental resources, protect the health and safety of our communities, and ensure that the industry contributes positively to the economic vitality of our city. The committee has worked diligently to produce the first public draft of the medical cannabis ordinance and is looking forward to receiving community feedback.

The community meeting will consist of a brief presentation on the city's medical cannabis ordinance public draft, which will cover requirements related to location, operation and permitting. Following the presentation, attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and get clarification on the draft ordinance.

All community members are encouraged to provide comments and suggestions on the recommended policies for the Willits City Council to take under consideration. The public draft of the city's medical cannabis ordinance will be posted on the city website at <http://www.cityofwillits.org>. A copy of the draft ordinance will also be available at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Questions and comments about the draft ordinance can be emailed to City Planner Dusty Duley at dduley@cityofwillits.org.

– Submitted by the City Clerk's Office, City of Willits

The rest of Trustee

From Page 1

is open to the public, and a candidate will be selected and sworn in on that date as well.

Those interested in applying can call the school district office at 459-5314 with any questions or to get an application.

The school board also took action to change the date of its June 21 board meeting to June 14 because neither board President Chris Neary or Trustee Laurie Harris can attend on June 21, leaving the board without a quorum. A quorum at the June meeting is required because budget approval is on the agenda.





Adorable puppies

A litter of beautiful boxer/Catahoula-mix puppies are ready and waiting at the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County for adoption into their forever homes. There are two females and four males to choose from, and they are all very cute! Their calm demeanor makes them particularly charming. Come meet them soon!

For more information on the puppies or other adoptable animals, call HSMC at 707-485-0123, check www.mendohumaneociety.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.



One of six puppies available

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Pastor, Bill Nobles
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22751 Bray Road, Willits

If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Lovely Daffodil

Daffodil, at left, is a 1-year-old spayed female mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 38 pounds. Daffodil is lovely, smart and active. She's a tennis ball aficionado and generally active and focused. She seems to be a herding dog mix and would make a great exercise buddy. Daffodil will need to meet any potential dog housemates. Because she is so active, we suggest that any children in Daffodil's new home be 12 years and older.

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. Many wonderful dogs and cats await their forever homes here. To view photos and bios, please visit online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.



Gateway Gymnastics students plan to raise money to help build a new firehouse for Little Lake Fire. Also pictured, firefighter Mike Wilder, at left, Little Lake training chief Eric Alvarez, second from left, and firefighter Tim Caldwell, at right.

Gateway Gymnastics to raise funds for new firehouse

Students at Gateway Gymnastics will be performing forward rolls, cartwheels and handsprings as part of a "Flips for the Firehouse" gym-a-thon in order to raise money to build the new firehouse for Little Lake Fire Department. Students will be asking for donors to sponsor their gymnastic endeavors.

"Sponsor your local gymnasts!" urges Cathy Warren, owner of Gateway Gymnastics. "We are excited to help with our new firehouse."

Gateway Gymnastics, located at 275 Franklin Avenue, hopes to raise \$1,000. "We challenge all other local youth groups to fundraise for the firehouse," Warren says. "Let's get it built!"

Gym-a-thon dates are May 23 through 26 during class time. For more information, call the gym at (707) 459-3855.



Call for quilts for Long Valley Quilters show

Even though we still have rain clouds overhead, it is time to begin thinking about the 2017 Long Valley Quilters free outdoor quilt show in August, when it is *always* sunny. Dates for the show this year are Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, August 27.

Quilters, start your machines and begin sewing to have your entries ready for display. Keep an eye on the thefatquail.com website for more announcements, application forms and deadlines or stop by The Fat Quail in Laytonville when passing through. Questions? Call 707-984-6966.

Pictured above is our 2017 Raffle Quilt. A beautiful, king-size quilt that is sure to blend with any decor. Tickets are now on sale, and if you don't happen to see us selling tickets at a community event you can always stop by The Fat Quail or come to the August show and purchase them then

Mark your calendars and we will see you at the show in August!

— Jody McGeen for Long Valley Quilters



Sit N Sew raises funds for Willits Library with quilt raffle

The members of the Willits Sit N Sew will be showing and selling tickets for the drawing of their quilt, "Tropical Breeze," shown above, during the Willits Library Book sale, coming up May 19, 20 and 21. The book sale will be held during the hours the Library is open:

Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5, and the winning ticket will be drawn December 9, 2017. All proceeds go to the Willits Library. The Sit N Sew group is a drop-in sewing group that meets at the library on the second Saturday of the month from 1 to 5 pm. The next meeting will be June 10th. Anyone is welcome. For tickets for the quilt or questions about the group, contact Lani Nagy, 459-0574, or Rachel Cash, 354-0605.

— Lani Nagy for Sit N Sew



Above: Manager Chris Nowlin and Angie Torres from Willits New Trend Wireless U.S. Cellular drop off the first-quarter donation of \$1,300 to Cindy Savage, at left, director of Willits Daily Bread.

New Trend Wireless raises \$1,300 – so far – for Willits Daily Bread

New Trend Wireless, the authorized US Cellular agent in the Evergreen Shopping Center, raised \$1,300 in donations from its customers for Willits Daily Bread during the first quarter of 2017.

Manager Chris Nowlin explained that each of the six branches of New Trend Wireless in Mendocino, Lake and Humboldt counties were asked to pick a local charity to raise funds for during 2017.

"It's 100 percent from the community," Nowlin said, "from in-store donations." Nowlin said when customers come in to pay their phone charges or activate an account or buy a phone, employees ask them about donating.

"We ask them if they've ever heard of Willits Daily Bread. We explain to them what it is, what they do, how long they've been around, and we ask them if they want to make a contribution."

Nowlin said customers are donating their change or more: "We've had some customers do \$40, \$50 and \$60 donations," he said. "We love it."

One of the great things, he said, is to hear customers' personal stories about how they've benefitted from Willits Daily

Bread in the past, and are happy to give back to an organization that helped them make it through hard times.

"We are very appreciative of their generosity and their efforts to raise money for Willits Daily Bread by asking their customers to donate to our mission to feed the hungry," said Cindy Savage, director of Willits Daily Bread.

Those wishing to donate to Willits Daily Bread, currently giving out meals to the hungry out of the Episcopal Church's Fellowship Hall on East Commercial Street, can send donations to P.O. Box 1826, Willits CA 95490.

New Trend Wireless will continue to collect donations for Willits Daily Bread all year. The store, located at 1706 South Main Street, next to Subway, is open Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm, and Sundays from noon to 5 pm.

Nowlin invites the community to check out the free classes on "how to better use your smart phone" that New Trend Wireless offers on the second Thursday of each month, from 6 to 7 pm. For more information, call 459-2454.

— Jennifer Poole

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