

A word cloud with words of varying sizes and orientations. The most prominent words are "Willits", "newspaper", "pages", "local", "interests", "want", "share", "help", "cover", "also", "show", "week", "letters", "wood", "small", "able", "Columists", "public", "future", "story", "classes", "features", "well", "today", "years", "quality", "organizations", "staff", "calendar", "web", "represent", "remember", "releases", "returned", "Co", "Mendocino", "information", "talk", "good", "support", "free", "plans", "forces", "group", "table", "integration", "veterans", "Recipes", "bills", "time", "grab", "part", "please", "willitsweekly@gmail.com", "see", "know", "looking", "need", "much", "still", "voting", "paper", "list", "advantageous", "contributions", "word", "Little", "editor", "bag", "write", "sports", "online", "events", "yet", "unnecessary", "join", "right", "accounting", "pay", "area", "man", "SUPPORT", "absolutely", "incorporation", "sign", "color", "activities", "possible", "hands", "nothing", "every", "something", "Another", "special", "advertisers", "wage", "high", "guest", "publication", "mo". The colors range from dark green to light yellow.

Donations Accepted Edition No. 156

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

For the urgency regulations, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office will resurrect its 9.31 program, with some modifications. Zip ties will be required, as before. The price will be \$25 per tie for people growing 25 plants or less, and \$50 per tie for those people participating in the "exemption portion" of the 9.31 program, which will allow cultivation of up to 99 plants.

Board wrestles with **budget needs**

As a result, the DOT is taking in about \$1.5 million less per year, relative to average HUTA revenues to the DOT over the past five years.

Read the rest of
Budget |
Over on Page 6

Dan McKee
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The rates will take effect June 1 following a scheduled May 24 public hearing, according to Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose.

Read the rest of
Garbage |
Over on Page 6



Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

It surprised many community members attending the meeting that the Skunk Train/California Western Railroad was no longer in the running for ownership of the site. However, negotiations

**Voter
registration
deadline**
is May 23

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

If you have not received these materials, it means you are not registered to vote at your current Mendocino County address. If you want to vote on June 7, there's still time to register: You can register online through the California Secretary

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

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

The Chessers have been looking for a temporary location for their business since a fire, caused by

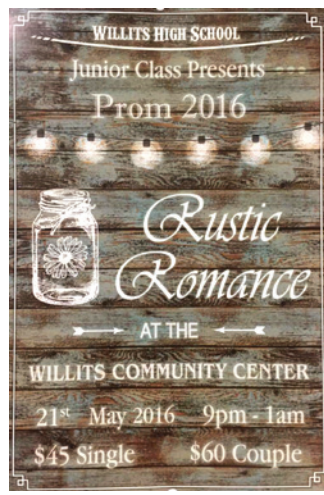
Read the rest of
John's Place |
Over on Page 13



Willits High School Prom 2016

Sequins, sparkles, tuxedos and ... baseball hats will surely fill the room Saturday for the annual Willits High School prom as students enjoy dancing the night away and celebrating the end of their school year. Three senior boys and three senior girls have been nominated for the title of prom king and prom queen, and the winners will be announced during the dance. The 2016 nominees include Garrett Vincent, Nick Rescina and Austin Heller for king, and Kelsey Butler, Anna Villegas and Hannah Friend for queen. The dance will be held at the Willits Community Center from 9 am to 1 am. This year's theme is "Rustic Romance." Good luck to the nominees, and Willits Weekly wishes everyone has a great prom!

– *Maureen Moore*



An illegal camper was arrested by deputies in the early morning hours of May 12 after sheriff's deputies found almost a pound of psilocybin mushrooms, a digital scale, and a small quantity of marijuana in his SUV.

Deputies were called notified of the illegal camp at the intersection of Poppy Drive and Bear Drive in Brooktrails at about 6:42 am, according to sheriff's Sgt. Mike Davis.

When they arrived, deputies found a man and woman camping illegally in a tent, Davis said. A Jeep Cherokee with Utah plates was parked nearby in which a 28-year-old male was sleeping.

While interviewing the man sleeping in the car, deputies detected the odor of marijuana drifting from inside the vehicle, Davis said. The man initially gave deputies a false name, but was later identified as Jonathon Wayne Fitzpatrick of Lake Elsinore.

Deputies discovered Fitzpatrick was wanted on a felony arrest warrant issued in Los Angeles.

A Round Valley man is being held on suspicion of attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon following a May 9 attack on a 62-year-old Covelo man in the 24000 block of Shady Lane.

Sheriff's deputies rushed to the location at about 4 pm, after learning that a shotgun had been brandished and shots fired during an argument between 48-year-old Anastacio Arturo Payan and his 62-year-old male neighbor.

Witnesses told deputies Payan and his neighbor had an ongoing dispute about property lines, according to sheriff's Sgt. Mike Davis. At the time of the altercation, Davis said, the neighbor was cutting brush on the disputed portion of land. When Payan demanded the cutting be curtailed, the neighbor refused.

As Payan grew angrier, the

neighbor retreated to his trailer and emerged armed with a shotgun, Davis said. But Payan reportedly wrestled the shotgun from the neighbor's hands after the older man fell to the ground, Davis said, then fired three shots into the ground near the man's face and struck him with the butt of the shotgun.

Witnesses told deputies Payan threatened to kill the older man, aimed the gun at his face and pulled the trigger, Davis said. The shotgun failed to fire.

Payan was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, and making criminal threats.

He was booked into county jail, where he was being held in lieu of \$250,000 bail.

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

A fresh look

To the Editor:

Has anyone noticed the beautiful, new facade on Diggers bar & restaurant? It's lovely. What a terrific example for us of helping our town look our best for "after the bypass."

April Tweddell, Willits

Thanks from Sober Grad

To the Editor:

The Sober Grad Committee is once again delighted with the success of their recent Annual Take Home Tri-Tip Dinner for 4. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and its success is dependent on the support of the individuals and businesses that make up this wonderful community. And how wonderful it is!

There are many, many volunteer hours that go into the ability to serve complete dinners for 820 people in two hours! The gathering of donations; the selling of tickets; the hanging of posters; the picking up of supplies and food; the making of the marinade; the poking, marinating and barbecuing of tri-tips; the scrubbing, poking, wrapping and baking of potatoes; the washing of lettuce and salad fixings and tossing them all together; the kneading, rolling, baking and packaging of rolls; the forming, baking and packaging of cookies; the filling of containers with condiments; and the stripping of thorns from the beautiful roses. (Yep! That happens too!!)

And there are many, many individuals and businesses who support this event and the overall endeavor to keep our grads safe on graduation night and to them we owe many thanks.

Without the "marinaters" and the barbecuers there would be no tri-tip, so we first wish to thank Dan and Annette Pinon, Doug and Kathy Goss, Art and Annette Cooley, Chuck and Jill Persico, Rick Crowder, Tom Sleeper, Bruce Smith, Bryan Tyler and Jack Drew. From the start of the marinating process to the finished product which we all enjoyed, this crew can be counted on.

Also kudos go out to: Rebecca Smith for organizing and gathering the rest of the food items and containers; Linda Matz and the Cat's Meow gals for tracking/selling all of the tickets; Rachel Cash for being the mistress of the salads; and Peter Smith for being the master potato scrubber and counter!

We also wish to thank the following businesses and individuals for their donations of goods and time which allow this event to be such a money-maker: Annette Pinon and Flowers by Annette; Tam Adams and Emandal; Jill Persico and Loose Caboose; John Frenzel and Cattlemen's Restaurant; Christy Wisdom and the WHS kitchen staff; Julie Vassar and Tina Cresswell; Lisa Reed; Gary and Diana Bollard and the Peg House; Rogelio and Gribaldo's; Linda Matz and Cat's Meow and Shannon Germann and the Monkey Wrench; and the Forks Ranch Market.

Another thank you goes out to the seniors of the Class of 2016 and their parents who were there filling, washing, scrubbing, poking, wrapping, baking, packaging and all of the other tasks.... You are a great group to work with!

And finally, words of gratitude to this wonderful community for supporting this event and all of the other events we have held throughout the year so we can offer our graduates a safe and sober party to celebrate their accomplishments! You are the best!

Joyce Waters, for the Willits Sober Grad Committee

No cronyism possible

To the Editor:

Three people have asked my take on the Remco/Burton deal. I did a bit of research and reported to them my opinion. My cv will be provided upon request.

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 Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

Volume 4, Number 156

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

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

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

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

Jenny Senter, features writer / jenny@willitsweekly.com

Damian Seibachian, reporter / damian@willitsweekly.com

Forrest Glycer, reporter / forrest@willitsweekly.com

Ree Slocum, features writer / ree@willitsweekly.com

Rachel Belvin, assistant publisher and advertising / rachel@willitsweekly.com / 707-367-9319

Justin Stephens, webmaster

For advertising inquiries, please call 707-459-2633 or 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

1. Was the Skunk Train X'd out?

No. They withdrew their offer. They refused to accept the requirement of continuous air and water monitoring. I came to this conclusion because the property has strict ongoing monitoring by direction of the federal circuit court. I imagine that the lubricants and solvents used in the day-to-day operations of a railroad are voluminous. Rain will certainly take some of that into the groundwater, which is being monitored. Goodbye, Skunk Train.

2. Was there cronyism between the Burton group and the City of Willits?

It was clear to me the court gave permission to WERT to sell the property, assuring that the buyer would be subject to the same conditions as PepsiCo with the addition of a financial requirement to guarantee the court order. As the Burton offer satisfies the court order, the deal is legal. As no one else is bidding for the property, cronyism is not possible.

If anyone wishes to provide me with information that contradicts my model, please let me know.

Dickey Weinkle, Willits

PS: Bruce will be looking twice to see that I have written this letter.

Another view on marijuana ban

To the Editor:

In the May 5 edition of Willits Weekly, there was an article about the April 27, 2016 Willits City Council meeting. The beginning of the meeting was dedicated for public comments. I believe two of the statements made were pertaining to alternative power options for Willits, and six or seven of the speakers made comments about the recently purposed ban on the cultivation and sales of marijuana within the City of Willits.

All but one of the statements given pertaining to the pot ban were against going in that direction. The arguments not to have the ban varied from financial to medical reasons.

One of the speakers however, pointed out that pot was flooding our schools and having a negative impact on our kids' health and their ability to learn, and also that quite a few of the pot growers were doing serious harm to the environment. This speaker asked the Willits City Council to please consider the protection of the kids and environment in its decision.

For some reason, Willits Weekly's article chose not to mention the opinion of the speaker who expressed his concern for the health of the kids and the environment. I know this because I was that speaker. I just wanted to speak for the safety and education of our children.

At a recent pot growers or "stakeholders" pow-wow, Sheriff Tom Allman stated that he had listened to pro-pot arguments for some 90 minutes and didn't hear anyone use the term "medical." He reminded the group that only conditional "medical" pot is legal in California.

Our kids and the environment are suffering and in harm's way because so many people in the pot industry refuse to obey standing laws. Laws don't make criminals out of people. People who break laws and hurt others make criminals of themselves.

The main reason our children, the forest, and wildlife are being trampled by the pot industry is because they don't vote, pay taxes or make campaign contributions. They all have one thing in common, though, they represent our future. Even if pot is someday legalized, the people in the pot industry need to learn to obey the laws.

The alcohol industry spends tens of millions per year to support regulations and laws that try to keep their product from minors. The pot industry profits tens of billions annually by intentionally making pot available in every school across the nation. Kids can't learn when they're stoned on 20 percent + THC marijuana.

I hope Willits Weekly prints my statement, and I hope that they add their voice to those of us who are concerned for the most important elements of all of our future, the children and the environment.

Marc Parsley, Willits

Correction

In his article, "Faulder, Pekin state their positions at forum," in the May 12 edition of Willits Weekly, reporter Mike A'Dair mis-reported the number of years that candidate for Superior Court judge Patrick Pekin has been living in Mendocino County. Pekin has been living in the county for eight years. Willits Weekly regrets the error.

Drug-free town

To the Editor:

This letter is to address the drug problem in Willits. I was born in Willits in 1950. There was a drug problem even back then. Growing up, here in the greater Little Lake Valley area, I watched my parents and my friends' parents use drugs on an almost daily basis. They would get together and party with drugs over some silly game, like bridge or poker, or perhaps take drugs and just sing and laugh a lot on any given evening. I went to church where I was offered a drug that was called a holy sacrament and made out to be the blood of Christ.

As I slowly matured, and I do mean slowly, the smoking of drugs proliferated. Under peer pressure I succumbed to the temptation of drugs everywhere, sold legally, and mimicked my elders. First I tried tobacco, a gateway drug, and became violently ill. Then I tried alcohol, another gateway drug, and did some very stupid things that did not feel like me doing them. Yes, both these were legal drugs. I decided that alcohol was not a good drug for me, and after reading the book, "Mind If I Smoke," in the late 1960s, I quit tobacco.

I occasionally drink a little legal alcohol, but I eschew cigarettes and can't stand the smell of stale cigarette tobacco. I made choices for me about these drugs. I experienced them, chose not to be ruled by them, and moved on.

Willits still has a drug problem. Alcohol is still legal and is available to all age groups, though of course not legally to minors. The police log in the papers is full of vehicle accident reports, spousal abuse, and various "abnormal human behaviors" caused by the drug, alcohol.

I am happy and fortunate to live in a country where I can make personal choices to use or not use the drugs that are available to everyone. The doctors and teachers we are trying to attract here, hopefully will have the fortitude to make their own good choices about which drugs, if any, they choose to use.

It seems hypocritical to say or try to convince anyone that Willits, without cannabis, would not be a drug town. Legal drugs as well as illegal drugs are available in any quantity or quality one might desire. After much study, cannabis is on the cusp of full legalization and acceptance as another drug to choose or not to choose to use.

We, as humans, with the infinite capacity to make good and bad choices for ourselves, must rely on sound leadership and honest, factual education to make the right choices.

John Wagenet, Willits

A Garden Party

To the Editor:

Our lives seem to be filled with events, and when they are presented time and time again, they become traditions we enjoy, look forward to, and become part of the community fabric.

I'm thinking now of the wonderful "A Garden Party" hosted by Phil and Kathy Shuster each summer. Disappointed that the traditional link might be broken when it wasn't held last year, I am very happy to report that members of the Willits Educational Foundation met recently, and the Shusters have agreed to host another lovely party in their garden Saturday, August 27, 2016. Life is back in sync.

It may seem a tad premature to mark your calendar now, unless, like me, you were left to wonder what the heck happened to March and April? It goes without saying, life moves very quickly, and you wouldn't want to miss this incredibly worthwhile event sponsored by Willits Rotary Club and the Willits Educational Foundation to benefit several programs in our schools.

Gail Richards, Willits

Public Trust Doctrine

To the Editor:

The "Public Trust Doctrine" dates back 1,500 years. By the 6th century AD, Europe had reached such a high population density, it necessitated changes in the Roman laws that governed the use of natural resources. The Roman doctrine of "res communes" declared that some things are "common to mankind" – the air, running water, the sea, and consequently the shores of the sea – the right of fishing in a port, or in rivers – is "common to all men." By the doctrine of res communes, these natural resources held in common by the people were excluded from private control, and the sovereign state was entrusted with the duty of preserving

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

Counterclockwise from above: Ducky Derby 2016 participants including, back row, from left: students Rex Smith and Price Runberg, Sober Grad duck master Robin Leler, and students Krystina Hewitt and Flor Haschack. Front row, from left: Sober Grad's Sandy Young and students Anthony Sorace, Jessica Tyrrell and Vera Tyrrell.

Hewitt and Tyrrell wait for the first duck to cross the finish line. A duck pileup. Girls wait at the finish line for the second-place duck to cross the barrier. Sorace and Smith aid the ducks downstream. Hewitt holds up the first-place duck, #1283. Leler smiles with her hydrangea, a gift from the students for all her hard work with the derby. The first, second- and third-place ducks.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Ducky Derby Race 2016

The rainfall over the last year certainly showed in the creek at the Booktrails Golf Course last Sunday for Sober Grad's annual Ducky Derby; the 350 ducks actually were able to float down the stream most of the way, only requiring minimal assistance from the duck-wrangling crew.

Willits High School students Rex Smith, Price Runberg, Krystina Rose, Anthony Sorace, Vera Tyrrell, Jessica Tyrrell and Flor Haschack came to help herd ducks and scoop them up at the finish line.

Awards were given for the first-, second- and third-place ducks, as well as the last duck to cross the finish line. The first-place duck was purchased by Jan Meier, who won \$200.

"Jan very generously donated \$100 of her winnings back to Sober Grad!"

Read the rest of **Derby** | Over on Page 6

Your hospital. Home to some of medicine's most powerful technology.

When it comes to you and your family, you want nothing but the best healthcare has to offer.

From our state-of-the-art medical imaging services to the most advanced operating rooms in the region, we're bringing the best care possible closer to home.

MRI & CT Technology

Our new advanced MRI offers clearer, more precise images. Plus, both MRI and CT imaging are available at one convenient location.

State-of-the-Art Surgical Suites

Our four fully integrated state-of-the-art surgery suites are among the most advanced in the region. This is in addition to a dedicated endoscopy/urology procedure room.

Backed by a Team of Great People

Technology is only as powerful as the people behind it. Rest assured, our team of physicians, nurses and staff leverage technology each and every day so they can focus on you – from prevention, to diagnosis and treatment.

Visit Us at Our New Location

1 Marcela Drive in Willits

(On US 101, take Baechtel Rd., then East Hill Dr. & turn on Haehli Creek Dr.)

707.459.6801

www.howardhospital.org

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital

Adventist Health

Willits Weekly | May 19, 2016 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 2

Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

Table with 9 columns and 9 rows for a crossword puzzle grid. Some cells contain numbers indicating the start of words.

Level: Intermediate



How To
Sudoku:

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

Table with 17 columns and 17 rows for a crossword puzzle grid. Some cells contain numbers indicating the start of words.



Performance Art

Willits Center for the Arts will shine with a new coat of paint

The Willits Center for the Arts held its third and final "Let It Shine" event on Sunday, featuring an afternoon of "Movement, Monologues and Music" from performers around the county.

All three events were well-attended by the community, according to president of the WCA board, June Ruckman. Although the campaign to restore and paint the Art Center building fell roughly \$3,000 short of its \$10,000 goal, organizer and Sunday's MC Emmy Good posted on Facebook that the effort had raised enough funding to paint the building, and "work should begin in June."

Ruckman expressed her optimism regarding how well all three events were supported. "While we didn't meet our goal, the community goodwill has been fantastic," Ruckman said. "A lot of energy was brought to the Art Center. The goal of the whole campaign is to paint the building and create new signage, but I think it has done so much more. It's energized us in a way that we've never been energized before."

Ruckman credited Good with coming up with the plans for all three "Let It Shine" events, including organizing and acting as master of ceremonies. Sunday's entertainment was chock-full of talented performances, including movement from three different dance groups, monologues from five spoken-word artists, and music from three bands. Each artist donated his and her time and energy to support the WCA and its bright future.

Part of that brightness is literal, as the new color scheme has been picked out by the board to reflect the "Let It Shine" theme. The outside of the building will be a goldish color with a charcoal trim and the side doors will be red.

"The painting is really important because it's an outward manifestation of the really incredible changes that are going on inside the organization," Ruckman said. Such recent changes include hiring Holly Madrigal as manager and Mary Kelly as curator for the arts center.

"Holly has been amazing," Ruckman said. "Both she and Mary Kelly have jumped in and taken over and relieved [the board] of all of the day-to-day running of the art center."

The WCA board is planning a retreat in October at Emandal to strategize a five-year plan for the organization. "Our infrastructure is in place," said Ruckman. "Now it's time for us to step back and let Holly and Mary do what they do best, and [for the board] to start planning out the next five years."

Ruckman stressed the most important near-term goal for the WCA is establishing consistent business hours. To do this, WCA

Read the rest of Shine | Over on Page 15



At top, from left: Mystic Sol drummers. Melinda Clarke, center, and The River of Life Dancers. The audience at "Movement, Monologues and Music."

Above: Melanie Katz, left, and Tara Ford.

At left: Dancers from Eryn Schon-Brunner's Mendocino College class perform "Strings that Tether," choreographed by Schon-Brunner, with dancer Melissa Chapman, vocalist Lindsey Chapman, and guitarist Alexandro Welsh.

At left, below: MC Emmy Good in front of the "Let It Shine" logo.

At bottom, from left: Solo moments by dancer Melissa Chapman, dancer Jenna Byrne, and dancer Amelia Taylor.

Photos by Mathew Caine



LITERATURE WORD SEARCH

Table with 26 columns and 26 rows for a word search puzzle. The letters are arranged in a grid.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chinese mountain range
- 5. Adjust
- 10. Mad Men's Don
- 12. Mali capital
- 14. One who restores
- 16. ___ & J
- 18. Defunct PlayStation game
- 19. ___ King Cole, musician
- 20. Rock fragments
- 22. Breeze through
- 23. Languishes
- 25. German courtesy title
- 26. Bunko game
- 27. War film '___ Boot'
- 28. Title of respect
- 30. He 'sang' with Rob
- 31. Abba ___, Israeli politician
- 33. Erase
- 35. It's a wrap
- 37. Has required courage
- 38. Spoke
- 40. Monetary unit
- 41. Scatter
- 42. Pouch
- 44. Have already done

CLUES DOWN

- 11. Regrow
- 13. What a surgeon does
- 15. Cool!
- 17. Indigenous people of N. Africa
- 18. Goes great with cheese
- 21. Contains allusions
- 23. A supporter
- 24. ___ Caesar, comedian
- 27. Some are great
- 29. Interpreted
- 32. Hits a pitch
- 34. Local area network
- 35. Soaking
- 36. Stimulates
- 39. Dash
- 40. Female sibling
- 43. Annul
- 44. Scattered fragments
- 46. Chill on ___
- 47. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 49. Adult male
- 51. Not night
- 54. Starch
- 59. Zero
- 60. French coins
- 61. Ventilate
- 62. Greatest common divisor
- 64. Touchdown

Table with 3 columns and 10 rows for a word search puzzle. The letters are arranged in a grid.

Find a Willits Weekly distribution box at:

101 Drive In, JD Redhouse, Willits Post Office, Village Market, Ardella's Downtown Diner, Buttercup's Childrens' Boutique, Willits City Hall, Willits Library, Mariposa Market, the old Country Skillet, Old Mission Pizza, Gribaldo's Cafe, Brewed Awakening and Ace Copy and Shipping.

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 238 incidents this week.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 7

10 am: MONTALVO, Daniel, 30, of Ukiah was contacted during a traffic stop in the 600 block of Crest Drive and arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

11:30 am: Officers responded to a disturbance at a hotel in the 1400 block of South Main Street. When they arrived, they found WILSON, Sean, 44, of Willits inside of a hotel room with the victim. During their investigation, officers discovered Wilson was in possession of a prohibited weapon and was the subject of a court order which prohibited him from contacting the victim. Wilson was placed under arrest pursuant to

22210 PC (Weapon Possession) and 273.6 PC (Violation of a Domestic Violence Restraining Order)

12:30 am: LYNCH, Falon, 32, of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation for an active Mendocino County warrant,

May 8

6 am: Officers responded to a disturbance at a residence in the 21000 block of Baechtel Road. During their investigation it was alleged that during an argument, DAVIS, Carl, 37, of Willits threw a plastic cup at the victim's head, resulting in a laceration.

Davis was ultimately arrested pursuant to 273.5(a) PC (Domestic Violence w/Injury) and 1203.2(a) PC (Violation of Probation).

10:25 am: LANGI, Mosese, 34, of Sacramento was contacted during a traffic stop in the 200 block of South Humboldt Street and issued a citation pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

11:45 am: Officers contacted NIETO, Ramon, 45, of Willits in the 1200 block of South Main Street, who appeared to be drinking in public. After speaking with Nieto, officers determined he was too intoxicated to provide for his own care and, because of such he was in violation of the terms of

his probation. Nieto was arrested pursuant 647(f) PC and 1203.2(a) PC.

5:45 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance at a business in the 1500 block of South Main Street. When they arrived they contacted OOTHOUTDT, Clayton, 23, of Willits. After speaking with Oothoudt, officers determined he was under the influence of a controlled substance and placed him under arrest pursuant to 11550(a) HS.

May 9

10:30 pm: Officers initiated an investigation of a missing juvenile in the 1100 block of Magnolia Street. The juvenile was located shortly afterwards.

11:45 pm: Officers initiated an investigation of a missing juvenile in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue. The

Read the rest of WPD | Over on Page 11

Brookside Elementary School 20 Spruce Street. New Online Kindergarten Registration. Our Kindergarten program is for children 5 years old by September 1, 2016. Our 2-Year Transitional Kindergarten Program is for children turning 5 between September 2 and December 2, 2016. In order to register please login to the following link: https://abi.willitsunified.net/enrollment/. In order to complete enrollment, please bring the following documents to the Brookside Office: 1. The confirmation page 2. Birth certificate 3. Immunization records Your student will receive a FREE "Welcome" bag. See you then! If you have any questions, please call the Brookside office at (707) 459-5385 or visit our website at brks.willitsunified.com

Browns Corner Groceries Beer & Wine Pay at the Pump Gas & Diesel 459-4854 1799 So. Main St. P.O. Box 428 7 am to 11 pm 365 Days a Year. ALFRED F. KERR, D.D.S. FAMILY DENTISTRY OFFICE HOURS By Appointment 12 W. VALLEY STREET WILLITS, CA 95490

Restaurant El Mexicano Daily Lunch Specials! 166 So. Main St. Willits, CA 95490 459-5702 Visa & Mastercard Accepted Open Monday to Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Harrah Senior Center presents a BBQ CHICKEN DINNER FOR TWO (2) June 3, 2016 • 5 to 6:30 P.M. PRE-SALE TICKETS ONLY PURCHASED AT HARRAH SENIOR CENTER! \$25.00 Menu: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Garlic Bread and Brownie. Pick up Dinner at the Senior Center: 1501 Baechtel Road • 707-459-6826 BBQ Courtesy of the Willits Lions Club Thanks to our sponsors: Willits Lions Club, Brewed Awakening, Harrah Senior Center Thrift Store. Thank you also to our volunteers!!!

Well Mannered Mutts Dog Training INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION • PUPPY HEAD START • GROUP CLASSES BEHAVIOR CONSULTATION Sallie Palmer CERTIFIED DOG TRAINER 707.463.3647 CELL: 707.621.DOGS WELLMANNEREDMUTTS@GMAIL.COM WWW.WELLMANNEREDMUTTS.COM

T and T TOWING RADIO DISPATCHED 24 HR TOWING 707-459-9116 500 D. Pinoleville Dr. UKIAH, CA 277 N. Lenore Ave. WILLITS, CA

Mendo-Lake TERMITE Your Local Company Introducing Montana Miller-3rd generation termite inspector. Montana Miller, grandson to Wayne Miller and son of Matt Miller, is keeping up the family tradition. For more than 50 years, the Millers have been inspecting homes for real estate sales and for termite eradication. Wayne Miller has retired and sold Mendo Lake Termite Control to a party on the coast (and that company is not affiliated in any way with Matt or Montana). So when you think termites, or inspections for home sales, think Mendo Lake Termite - the local company, owned by Matt Miller and soon his son Montana. Keeping it in the family. Matt and Montana "The Bug Killer" Millers! Call for Appointment Today 485-7829 License #OPR9138 mendolaketermite.com

YOKUMS BODY SHOP Auto Collision Specialists We work with ALL Insurance Companies! Lifetime Warranty - All Makes and Models - Free Estimates! CAR WASH & COMPLETE DETAIL SERVICE 1619 S. Main St. Willits, Ca 707-459-9385 yokumsbodyshop.com

To perform minimum corrective maintenance on the county's decaying road system would cost another \$2 million, which would bring the amount of money the department needs from the county to \$4.4 million.

The department has a \$4.6 million fund balance to begin the 2016-17 fiscal year. But to keep its operations sufficiently primed to work on current projects, perform emergency and routine maintenance work on the county's road system, and undertake a modest level of corrective maintenance, the Department of Transportation needs an additional \$4.4 million, for a total budget of \$9 million.

Dashiell sought an additional \$2.4 million Monday. When asked about money for corrective maintenance, Dashiell said that would cost extra.

A second area of budget concern for supervisors is the chronic understaffing of the county government's labor force. According to a staff report presented Monday, the county expects to have a fund balance of \$6.1 million at the end of the 2015/16 fiscal year. Much of that surplus comes from budgeting for employees the county doesn't hire. The county has 1,097 positions on the books. Of those, 309 are vacant; 254 are vacant and funded. The county is now actively recruiting for 138 of those positions.

According to Human Resources Director Heidi Dunham, the county's labor vacancy rate is 11.2 percent; its employee turnover rate for 2015 was 13.65 percent.

During discussions held Monday and Tuesday, Supervisor Tom Woodhouse said the county must do whatever it takes to fill positions in its labor force.

Chief Executive Officer Carmel Angelo reminded supervisors that labor contracts with all eight county bargaining units are up for re-negotiation next year. To that end, she requested an extra \$150,000 be added to the contract of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, which specializes in labor negotiations, and which the county has employed for the past three years.

Woodhouse balked at approving the request, arguing it would make more sense to take the \$150,000 and give it to employees.

But following a report by Dunham, in which she noted two of the current lawsuits in which the county is involved will cost \$155,000, Supervisor Carre Brown disagreed with Woodhouse.

"You have to look at the lawsuits we are involved in now, and we have to do it," Brown said, "or it's going to end up costing us more. We do need this expertise and, with all due respect, we don't have that right now."

the same as last year's.

Weekly pick-up rates remain \$25.13 per month for a 20-gallon cart, \$31.31 for a 35-gallon cart, \$47.83 for a 65-gallon cart, and \$61.46 for a 95-gallon cart. Weekly roll-out rates remain at \$32.69 per month for a 20-gallon cart, \$39.53 for a 35-gallon cart, \$54.24 for a 65-gallon cart, and \$68.81 for a 95-gallon cart.

Recycling services and carts are offered free to both residential and commercial customers. Yard waste pick-up is not offered "due to a lack of demand," however customers may dispose of up to one cubic meter of yard waste per month at the transfer station.

Township directors also agreed to enter into an agreement with SWOW for collection and disposal of garbage, recyclables, rubbish and other refuse at the Potrero Hills Landfill in Suisun City, where SWOW holds a "favorable long-term landfill agreement." In Mendocino County, SWOW owns and operates a commercial transfer station, a material processing facility for the separation of single-

The item approving the \$150,000 increase to the contract of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore was approved 4-1, with Supervisor John McCowen voting no.

Supervisors have directed the county give \$200,000 to local ambulance companies and \$400,000 to local fire departments. In addition, Woodhouse has persuaded fellow board members to provide funding to senior centers and family resource centers. Donations of \$10,000 will be given to seven senior centers around the county, including the Willits Senior Center. In addition, family resource centers and community centers will receive between \$15,000 and almost \$20,000 from the county.

Angelo reminded supervisors the county may not be able to dispense such largesse in the future. "As you begin to disseminate county dollars into the community – which is a very good thing – I think it has to be with the understanding that [we may not be able to] fund ongoing operations every single year," she said. "When we had our shortfall, and we had to take extreme measures to balance the budget, one of the first things that went were the services we paid for outside of the county, because we have to attend to our core services.

"I'm preaching to the choir here," Angelo continued. "I'm very concerned that as we continue to give money out to the community, it is with the understanding that it's one time, or it is not ongoing for their operations.

"I [believe] we are thinking about funding two winter shelters now. I think we have to be aware that next year we are going to be sitting down with all eight of our bargaining units – that's negotiating over salaries and benefits," she said. "We still have a pension obligation that is more than we can afford.

"I think if we run into a problem in the next two or three years, every dollar will count," she added. "I would just like us to be certain that if we are going to give money out – whether it's to the fire districts or the senior centers or whoever – that they understand if something happens, it's core services and staff first, and money [for other things] may not be there every year."

The discussions were held in preparation for the presentation of the county's final budget, which is slated to be discussed and adopted by supervisors June 7 and 8.

For years, the board adopted an interim budget in June and a final budget in September, but this year, in response to a request by Woodhouse, supervisors were given more input in the budgeting process. As part of that input, the board agreed to act more efficiently and adopt a final budget in June.

stream recyclable materials, and nine other operating units.

In addition to providing garbage and recycling services in Brooktrails, SWOW also provides services in Willits, Ukiah, Fort Bragg and unincorporated areas of Mendocino County.

"The agreement proposed a term from June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2031, with a 10-year extension at the township's discretion," Rose said.

A 7 percent franchise payment will continue to be paid on a quarterly basis, she added, due in large part "to the voluntary nature of the customer base as well as the geographic spread of [Brooktrails] customers."

"We just got a check for \$28,000," she added.

Brooktrails' agreement "closely mirrors recent agreements between SWOW and other local agencies," she noted.

"Someone in county government drove a hard bargain," township attorney Chris Neary crowed. "They put Solid Waste through the hoops. It's a very tight agreement."

county's Planning and Building Services staff will work to draft permanent regulations before presenting them to the Mendocino County Planning Commission for comment and review.

According to Chief Planner Andy Gustafson, the county will prepare a CEQA study for the permanent regulations, hoping to obtain a negative declaration of environmental impact or a mitigated negative declaration. Both supervisors and county staff want to avoid the necessity of undertaking a full environmental impact study of the regulations

If the EIR can be avoided, Gustafson said, permanent pot regulations should be ready for adoption by supervisors in February 2017. If the county must undertake an EIR, the permanent regs could be ready to adopt in May or June 2017.

According to Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, some community members opposed to expansion of the marijuana industry in Mendocino County have already sent letters to the board threatening possible litigation if the environmental impacts of expanded pot grows are not examined to the extent required by law.

Permanent regulations

Supervisors agreed to limit indoor cultivation to areas of not more than 2,000 square feet, a four-fold increase from the limit originally recommended by the board's ad hoc committee of 500 square feet. The board also agreed to allow indoor cultivation on lands zoned Agricultural, Rangeland, Upland Residential and Rural Residential. The board directed that indoor grows of between 500 and 2,000 square feet would require a minor use permit.

Nursery operations would be limited to 22,000 square feet and would be permitted in the above-mentioned zoning categories, with the addition of Industrial-zoned parcels.

The board remained unclear about whether to allow indoor operations or nurseries on Forestland or Timberland Production Zone lands. After some discussion, the board agreed to leave the question unresolved for now and – as Supervisor John McCowen put it – "kick it over to the planning commission."

The board offered a general rule that there should be only one permit per parcel and a limit of two permits per individual, but expressed a willingness to permit exceptions for properties with "tenants in common." However, the board said, in such cases the total number of plants allowed would be subject to the per parcel limit of 25.

Although the board agreed two permits per person would be allowed for individuals, it requested language be included requiring that Type I and Type II permits (for grows of up to 5,000 square feet and 10,000 square feet, respectively) be issued only for sites that are connected to a residence.

The board endorsed the ad hoc committee's recommendation requiring exclusionary fencing around all pot operations not already enclosed within a structure. The fencing must be at least 6 feet high and must extend into the ground at least 1 foot.

Several members of the public complained the condition was onerous and urged supervisors to dispense with the requirement. But the board held firm, arguing exclusionary fencing was not to protect the pot, but to protect animals from being killed.

The board affirmed its support for a countywide amnesty program for all residents, which would allow code issues to be resolved without the payment of penalty fees. Under the provisions of this program, applicants for cultivation permits who have outstanding code violations could be issued permits provided they were in the process of resolving those code issues.

Finally, the board discussed what kind of pot operations to allow on lands that have been zoned Forestland and Timberland Production Zone.

This was a difficult discussion to have due to the perhaps 150 people filling supervisors' chambers, all of whom appeared to be zealous supporters of cannabis and the cannabis industry.

No one who spoke to the supervisors identified

said Sober Grad's Joyce Waters.

Second place went to Bruce Burton, who won \$100, and third place went to M.Z. Smith, who won \$50.

The last-place duck was purchased by Kari Rescina. Rescina won a two-night stay at a beautiful guest house right on the coast in Caspar and dinner, compliments of Ruth and Mike Dell'Ara.

"Kari has been one of our active senior parents!" said Waters.

This year, Waters noted the majority of the ducks were bought by members of the local service clubs.

Waters said students went and made presentations to the Willits Rotary Club, the Willits Kiwanis club, the Willits Lions Club, the Soroptimist International of Willits club, the American Legion and to two women's sororities.

"Seniors make a presentation about Sober Grad and sell tickets at the meetings," said Waters. "It's

themselves as being representatives of the Mendocino County Farm Bureau, the timber industry, the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, the Mendocino County Fish and Game Commission, or from the county's environmental organizations.

Nevertheless, Supervisor McCowen said those interests still existed in Mendocino County, and supervisors should govern as if those interests still mattered.

McCowen said he was unclear whether timberland owners would feel threatened or impinged upon if large-scale cannabis production were permitted on TPZ lands.

"We haven't heard from them, but we will be hearing from them," McCowen said. "So I guess the question is: Do you come down in favor of producing timber for harvest in TPZ land, or do you give up on harvesting trees completely and shift it all to marijuana?"

Those present responded, "Yes! Yes!"

McCowen and Woodhouse, who are members of the board's Medical Marijuana Ad Hoc Committee, recommended cultivation in TPZ and Forestland zones be limited to 25 plants, or 2,500 square feet, unless the applicant was previously enrolled in the "exemption" portion of the sheriff's 9.31 program, which allowed cultivation of up to 99 plants with rigorous inspection and verification.

Supervisor Dan Hamburg said that was too restrictive for him and that he favored opening it up to 99 plants, period.

Supervisors Dan Gjerde and Carre Brown said they wanted to study the issue further. However, McCowen pressed them, noting marijuana regulation is a key policy issue and Planning and Building Services staff needed direction to proceed to draft regulations. Gjerde said he would support the 25-plant, 2,500-square-foot limit in Forestland or TPZ land for next year's regulations.

McCowen told Gustafson it appeared three supervisors supported the 25-plant, 2,500-square-foot limit, in Forestland and TPZ zones. However, no vote was taken on the matter.

Urgency ordinance

Supervisors worked on this year's urgency ordinance Monday and adopted it Tuesday afternoon. According to board Chair Gjerde, the ordinance took effect immediately.

The new version is based on Sheriff Tom Allman's 9.31 program, which allowed people to grow up to 25 plants per parcel, unless a grower applied for an exemption to the program. People who grew under the exemption program were allowed to grow up to 99 plants, after obtaining permits from other agencies. People who participated in the exemption program were subject to having their operations inspected by a third-party organization.

As modified by supervisors, the urgency regulations allow growers with up to 5 acres of property to grow up to 50 plants, and growers with up to 10 acres of property to grow up to 99 plants. If growers prefer, an area of 100 square feet will be considered the equivalent of one plant, so the 99-plant limit becomes 99 plants or 9,900 square feet.

Supervisors also agreed the plant-count/square-foot method could be used in combination, so a grower who owned a 10-acre parcel could grow 50 plants plus an unspecified number of plants in a 4,900-square-foot area.

The board also revised language requiring one zip tie be purchased for every plant. Under the new urgency ordinance, one zip tie must be purchased for every plant, or for every 100 square feet of cultivated land. For example, if a person is growing 50 plants, plus an unspecified number of plants in a 4,900-square-foot area, the grower must purchase zip ties on the 50 plants, plus have 49 zip ties posted in plain sight to represent plants growing in the 4,900-square-foot area.

When asked Wednesday afternoon how the public was responding to the new policy, Allman said, "We've run out of parking spaces in the parking area in front of my office."

such a win-win. The kids get a chance to practice public speaking, and the groups love to have the kids come in and talk to the group. The clubs – and the community! – are all so supportive of Sober Grad!"

Proceeds of around \$1,500 from the derby will go to support the graduation-night party aimed at providing a place for seniors to celebrate in an alcohol-free environment.

The event will be held on Wednesday, June 8 from 9:30 pm (doors close at 11 pm) to 4 am at the Willits Community Center. The event is free for all graduating seniors, and prizes, food, games, dancing and more are all provided to make the evening a fun experience.

Adult volunteers are still needed for the night of the Sober Grad party. Folks to set up, clean up, chaperone and do more tasks are all needed. Call 459-0439 or email willitssobergrad@gmail.com to sign up or for more information.



At top: Riedel describes the height a poison hemlock plant will reach to walker Robert Rosenbaum, who holds a frond from the unpleasant-smelling plant. Above, center, left: Diane Smalley takes notes about the figwort plant in the foreground. Above, center, right: Robert Rosenbaum discovers the rubber-band-like feel of the usnea lichen. When prepared properly, usnea is a strong antibiotic. Above: A marker on Little Darby trail illustrating a menu of food made from a variety of plants found nearby. At right: Riedel extols the properties of the bay laurel tree, also known as the pepperwood, on the left.

Photos by Ree Slocum



Above, left, top: The aromatic herb, mugwort, along the guard rail in the parking lot. Above, left: Beth Riedel shows the group characteristics of a native blackberry plant. Above, right: The yerba santa plant with white flowers and leathery, sticky leaves is found in the chaparral ecosystem and is used to clear the lungs, sinuses and bronchia of congestion.

Herb Walk in the Woods

Herbalist Beth Riedel shares her decades of plant knowledge

For participants of Beth Riedel's Herb Walk on Saturday, the appropriateness of her nicknaming these walks "herb crawls" became apparent right away. Without leaving the Little Darby park parking lot, but moving from plant to plant for the first half-hour, Riedel described details about five medicinal and/or edible plants that grew in the open and sunny area edging the gravel.

Because Riedel likes to visit various ecosystems in her Herb Walks, Little Darby Park, about six miles east of Willits on Canyon Road, is perfect. The trail starts in the open, south-facing parking lot, wends its way down into the damp Darby Creek canyon, and climbs through a forest of fir, madrone and manzanita to the more open chaparral. Our goal was to reach the chaparral, which is usually a half-hour hike, at most. We took more than two, fascinating, hours to get there.

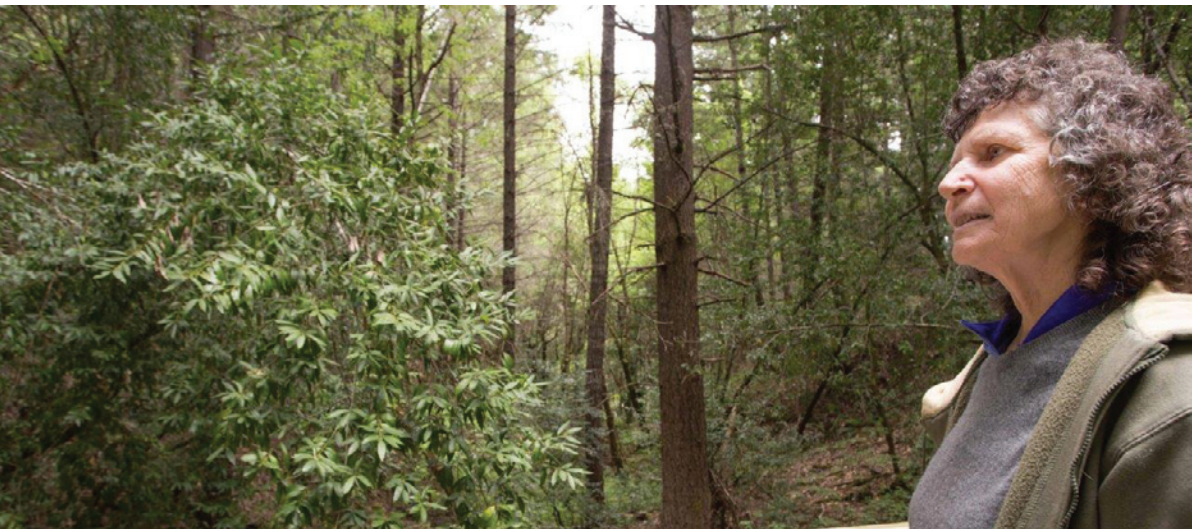
Riedel, a certified herbalist and licensed nutritional counselor for close to 40 years, introduced the group to about 30 plants and their importance to us. While it's

easy to take the plants and trees for granted, she was able to point out individuals and bring them to life for us.

Some plants had medicinal or edible properties, while others, like poison oak, are important sources of food for wildlife. Moving along the trail we learned about the aromatic herb mugwort, which is traditionally used for smudging. Its leaves are also used for increased dreaming when tucked under the pillow at night. Near the mugwort was a delicate wild rose bush, good for making a strong essential oil from the petals. Riedel explained how to make rose water used for moisturizing the skin, for drinking, and cooking.

Near the canyon she pointed out the common willow tree. It is used to make baskets and for stream-side erosion control, and the bark can be used like aspirin. In the forest the mighty madrone tree, besides being beautiful and a food source for other animals, has medicinal properties for bladder infections. When used with usnea, a tree lichen with antibacterial properties,

Read the rest of
Herb Walk | Over on Page 15



707.459.5193

JOHN FORD RANCH

RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

Room To Bloom Preschool

Where the love of learning grows

239 South Main Street - Willits

Morning & School Day Programs

8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Art • Circle Time • American Sign Language

Outside Play • Snacks • Group Activities

Inquiry Based Learning • Spanish • Infant Care

Call Today to Enroll Your Child!

RoomToBloomPreschool.com 707-456-9743

Preschool #233008715 & Infant #233008719

Do It Best WILLITS

POWER & HARDWARE

HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT

Lawn & Garden Equipment • Generators

Sales, Parts & Service • Pick-up & Delivery

1600 S. Main St. Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420

Willits, CA 95490 Service: 707 459-0596

willitspower@gmail.com Fax: 707 459-6369

CAPABILITY BROWN LANDSCAPING

(707) 459-2237

Stone Retaining Walls

Paver Walkways

Flagstone Patios

Stone Fireplaces

Plants and Irrigation

"Stonework a Specialty"

Louis Rohlicek

Licence #542202

Ca. Lic # 927007 Serving areas of Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties W.C. & G.I. insured

B.A.S. ROOFING, Inc

Roofing applications available to fit any roofing need

Residential & Commercial

Online: www.basroofing.com

Office: (707) 462-4514

Mobile: (707) 367-3786

Sonoma: (707) 541-6934

Email: basroofing@live.com

NC Financial Group

www.ncfinancialgroup.com

STAKCLINIC an NC Financial Group Company

Wealth Management

Taxes | Investments | Real Estate | Insurance | Annuities

Nicholas Casagrande, EA

CA DRE #01854336, Insurance #0H68496

Office: (415) 480-3669

Fax: (415) 480-3668

Mobile: (415) 717-0822

nicholas@ncfinancialgroup.com

nicholas.casagrande@ceterafs.com

Investment email

22 Battery Street, Suite 401, San Francisco, California 94111

5643 Paradise Drive, Suite 4, Corte Madera, California 94925

660 So. Main Street, Suite D, Willits, California 95490

Advisory services offered through Cetera Investment Advisers LLC. Securities offered through Cetera Financial Specialists LLC. Money insurance business in CA is CIG's Insurance Agency, member FINRA/SIPC. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity.

"Faster than fast food, and infinitely better!!"

Erik of Ukiah, CA

Nikos Gyro Shop

707-456-9293 42 S. Main Street

HOURS: M-W: 11-4 & Th/F: 11-7

BUD GARMAN

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC

707-459-5859

Environmental Restoration - Ponds

Septic & Water Systems - Site Development

Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery

24900 N. HWY 101 IN WILLITS GARMANCONST@GMAIL.COM

Thursday, May 19

Free Shredding at the Savings Bank: The Savings Bank of Mendocino County is hosting free shredding events to offer the public an opportunity to shred outdated confidential documents, to help prevent identity theft. The Willits branch event is set for Thursday, May 19 from 9 to 11 am at Savings Bank, 145 South Main Street. Bring up to three 35-pound boxes of documents for safe, secure on-site shredding. Hours and number of customers accommodated may be limited to truck capacity. Savings Bank representatives will be available at the shred events to supply information about preventing identity theft and what to do if your identity is stolen. Details are available at www.savingsbank.com.

“Main Street Sneak Preview”: a live demonstration project on Thursday, May 19, from 3 to 6:30 pm, on East Commercial Street between Main and Humboldt Streets, that will temporarily mock-up traffic calming and place-making treatments like bulb-outs, enhanced crosswalks, bike lanes, landscaping, and public art. This event showcases concepts generated by the community during the April 18-22 Main Street Corridor Planning Fair. Design concepts and traffic calming measures will be “tested” by pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. At 4 pm, Little Lake Fire Department will navigate the proposed changes with their largest fire truck. Concepts for the 3-mile stretch of the Main Street Corridor will be on display for public comment. East Commercial Street will be used to demonstrate proposed changes to Main Street because it is a city street with the same width as the downtown portion of Main Street. Info: visit www.willitsmainstreetplan.com, or contact City Hall at 707-459-4601.

“The Prowler” screenings: two free screenings of “The Prowler,” a film drama produced by the 1939 class of Willits High School, and set in historic downtown Willits. Part of the “Main Street Sneak Preview.” 3 pm and 5 pm at the Noyo Theatre, 57 East Commercial Street.

Willits Charter School Open House: WCS (6th through 8th grade) hosts an open house Thursday, May 19 at 6 pm, at the school, 1431 South Main Street. “For new and prospective families. Come join us to meet our teachers, check out the classrooms, get a sneak peak of our upcoming play, listen to our choir, and meet the school director. School spirit wear will be available for purchase.” More info: www.willitscharter.org and “Willits Charter: A Public School for the Arts & Sciences” on Facebook, or call Director Jennifer Lockwood, 459-5506.

“Annie, Jr.”: the second (and final) weekend for this musical production at the Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Opens Thursday, May 19 at 7 pm; Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21 at 8 pm, and Sunday, May 22 at 2 pm. Tickets \$10, \$5 students, available at Willits Charter School. Info: 459-5506. See article on page 12 for more details.

“Natural Building with Local Materials”: a specially curated evening of films, including discussion led by Matt Anderson and Renata Abbade. May 19 at 7 pm, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Presented by the Now and Then Film Series. “We will show clips from the documentaries ‘Home Movie’ and ‘Alone in the Wilderness,’ as well

as the history of the natural building movement, with clips of some of the grand wizards like SunRay Kelley, Ianto Evans, Robert Laporte and Carol Crews. To kick off “WALL to WALL Natural Building Workshop Series”; more info: Walltowallworkshop.com. \$5 - \$10 donations. Trailers & short films at 6:30 pm. Info: Matt Anderson at maderboots@gmail.com or 347-471-5897.

Gonzalo Bergara Recording at Shanachie: Thursday, May 19 at 8 pm and Friday, May 20 at 9 pm, the all-acoustic Gonzalo Bergara group – seven players in this incarnation – will record two nights of live music for a live album. “A modern variant of 1930s Django Reinhardt-inspired gypsy jazz.” Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Sponsored by Willits Chiropractic Clinic, Mark D. Anderson Construction and John Schadeck. Info: 459-9194.



Friday, May 20

KPFN Radio Blow-Out & Fundraiser: KPFN Radio in Laytonville, 105.1 FM, celebrates its 1 year anniversary with a concert May 20 at Harwood Hall in Laytonville. Featuring, from New Orleans, Johnny Sketch & The Dirty Notes, Sachene Littlefeather, Guenilla Takeover w/Mike Marshall, Dennis Hogan & The Laytonville High School Rock Band. Plus lasagna dinner. Doors open at 5 pm; dinner starts at 6 pm, music at 7 pm. \$20 at the door. Info: 984-4196 or www.kpfm.org.

Family Movie Night – Free Admission: Friday, May 20 from 7 to 10 pm at Grace Community Church, 25 Hazel Street. “It’s a great way to spend time with your family and friends. We will have hot dogs, popcorn and other goodies at an affordable price. So grab your low-back chairs and blankets and enjoy a movie outside on the BIG screen!” Info: Natalie 707-354-4829 or Grace Community Church at 459-3106.

“Annie, Jr.”: a musical production of the Willits Charter School. 8 pm. See Thursday, May 19 listing for details.

Gonzalo Bergara Recording at Shanachie: second night of live recording starts at 9 pm at the Shanachie Pub. See Thursday, May 19 listing for more details.

Saturday, May 21

Haehl Creek Cleanup: Volunteers needed for a cleanup of the Haehl Creek area, across from the Harrah Senior Center, on Saturday, May 21. If you can help, dress for the occasion and meet the crew at the City Hall parking lot, 111 East Commercial Street, at 8 am to receive the provided bags and gloves. Long-sleeved shirts, pants and boots are encouraged, as you will be working in the woods. Cleanup should be finished by noon. Info: City of Willits Code Enforcement Officer John Sherman, 459-4601.

WCA Free Docent Training: Willits Center for the Arts hosts its second free docent training program, Saturday, May 21, from 10 am to 12 noon. “Love Art? Want to support the Arts? Thinking about a career in the Arts? Come learn the skills to run a gallery, and earn credits or build your resume.” Held at the WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info or to RSVP, contact WCA manager Holly Madrigal at 459-1726 or wcarental@gmail.com or visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org.



In Remembrance of Dale Dingman
Sunday, June 5

In remembrance of Dale Wallace Dingman, a community celebration of his life at the Willits Center for the Arts is set for Saturday, June 5 from 1 to 3 pm. 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-1726 or wcarental@gmail.com



MENDOCINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S ACTIVITY LEAGUE

YOUTH DISC GOLF PROGRAM

June 9 thru August 25, 2016

- Thursdays 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.
- Brooktrails Disc Golf Course
- 24860 Birch Street, Willits
- \$25.00 per participant
- Includes 2 discs
- Ages: 10+ Unsupervised
- 5 and under with parent/guardian

For More Information Contact:
Michael Bennett
707-459-6122
Michael.bennett1980@gmail.com

Save the Date

Harrah Senior Center Drive-Through BBQ Dinner for 2, June 3

Brooktrails Women's Club Flea Market, June 4, Brooktrails Community Center

Seabiscuit Legacy Film Series, Noyo Theatre and Ridgewood Ranch, June 4 & 5

Willits Horseman's Association Beef BBQ & Rodeo, June 4 & 5

“Beside Yourself,” a comedy, opens at Willits Community Theatre, June 10

Drive-Through BBQ Chicken Dinner

Harrah Senior Center presents a Drive-Through BBQ Chicken Dinner for Two on Friday, June 3. Pick-up from 5 to 6:30 pm. Pre-sale tickets only! Available at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. \$25 for dinner for two: includes BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Garlic Bread and Brownie, BBQ Courtesy of the Willits Lions Club. Info: 459-6826.

Summer Arts & Music Festival

June 4 & 5 at Benbow Lake

The 40th annual Summer Arts & Music Festival is set for Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5 at Benbow Lake State Park in southern Humboldt County. “Equal parts community reunion, and open festival celebration of arts and music, the entertainment has expanded to include a broad spectrum of musical genres and dance forms from local to international in origin” as well as the Kid Zone, food, wine and micro-brews, vendor booths and more.

Headliners include the March Fourth! Marching Band on Saturday night, “a sonic explosion delivered by 20 musicians, dancers, and artisans who travel the world year-round, taking audience members on a joy-inducing, foot-stomping, booty-shaking, soul-stirring journey that defies categorization” plus John Popper with Object Heavy & DJ Logi; Dehli 2 Dublin; The Skints; Orgone; Koradub; Grace Love & The True Loves; La Misa Negra; Joe Craven & The Sometimers; Hillstomp; and Tempest, to name a few of the musical offerings.

Advance tickets for the weekend pass offer a discount and are available online only at mateel.org. Admission at the gate is \$25 per day or \$40 for the weekend pass. As always, kids 12 and under free. Gates open at 9:30 am and entertainment runs from 10 am to 10 pm both days. A free public shuttle is offered continuously from Redway, Garberville, Benbow, and Richardson Grove State Park. Check out the Summer Arts pages of www.mateel.org for full schedule.

Summer Arts & Music Festival

Come vendors, come public to the annual Brooktrails Women's Club Flea Market held on Saturday, June 4 at the Brooktrails Community Center and parking lot. Come visit with your friends, do some shopping and support local organizations. 62 spaces are allotted for vendors on a first-come, first-serve basis. Indoor and outdoor spaces are both available for \$20 each. Monies will go to the Brooktrails Women's Club Scholarship Fund and donations are made to the Brooktrails Fire Department and CERT groups, too. The firefighters of Brooktrails will also be fundraising for the department by selling hot dogs, hamburgers, sodas and chips for lunch at the flea market. Come by rain or shine and get some great deals! Admittance to the market is free and everyone is encouraged to come attend from 8 am to 3 pm. Several handicapped parking spaces are also available. Vendors need to set up between 6 and 7:30 am and can contact Arlane at 456-0734 to reserve a space or for more information.

Brooktrails Flea Market

Saturday, June 4

Come vendors, come public to the annual Brooktrails Women's Club Flea Market held on Saturday, June 4 at the Brooktrails Community Center and parking lot. Come visit with your friends, do some shopping and support local organizations. 62 spaces are allotted for vendors on a first-come, first-serve basis. Indoor and outdoor spaces are both available for \$20 each. Monies will go to the Brooktrails Women's Club Scholarship Fund and donations are made to the Brooktrails Fire Department and CERT groups, too. The firefighters of Brooktrails will also be fundraising for the department by selling hot dogs, hamburgers, sodas and chips for lunch at the flea market. Come by rain or shine and get some great deals! Admittance to the market is free and everyone is encouraged to come attend from 8 am to 3 pm. Several handicapped parking spaces are also available. Vendors need to set up between 6 and 7:30 am and can contact Arlane at 456-0734 to reserve a space or for more information.

What's Happening Around Town

“Annie, Jr.”: a musical production of the Willits Charter School. 8 pm. See Thursday, May 19 listing for details.

Sunday, May 22

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: every fourth Sunday, this month Sunday, May 22, from 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. “Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast! With live music. \$8 buys you a plate of the best ‘scratch’ pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around.” Choose Sourdough Wholegrain or Gluten Free Pancakes or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, with Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs made to order with real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. Sides of organic fruit in season for \$2-\$3 (this week apple/pear sauce with optional yogurt) and Amish maple syrup \$1 extra. \$8; \$7 seniors; \$5 children under 10.

Free Monologue-Writing Workshops: For those interested in performing a personal monologue at Willits Community Theatre later this summer, WCT presents two free monologue-writing workshops at the Willits Library on Saturday, May 21 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm, and on Saturday, June 18 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. The workshops are intended as preparation for anyone hoping to participate in the “Speakeasy: An Evening of Original Monologues” at WCT on July 23 and 24. Organizer Annie Samson says she will conduct the workshops to help potential participants develop their original monologues of no more than five minutes in length. Info: Annie Samson at 459-9014 or joker@instawave.net.

Grand Opening Willits Seed Library: the Willits Branch Library hosts the grand opening of a new seed library plus a seed swap. Saturday, May 21, from 2 to 4 pm. “Come and choose some seeds to take, bring seeds to share and add to the library, and plant some seeds in a take-home container. Everyone is welcome!” More info: Willits Library at 459-5908.

Summer Feast Covelo: ~~Cancelled.~~ San Francisco's Dance Brigade's Saturday performance in Covelo cancelled due to threat of rain; Sunday workshops in Laytonville cancelled, too. San Francisco's Dance Brigade's Dance Mission Theater presents its annual event in Covelo. Info: 415-826-4441, dancemissiontheater@yahoo.com or www.dancemission.com.

Dead Winter Carpenters and The Real Sarahs Saturday, May 21st
Noyo Theatre 8pm, Music 9pm, 10:15
Little Lake Grange
Adults \$15.00 / Children \$5.00
\$20.00
Sponsor: Noyo Theatre, Little Lake Grange, Willits Charter School, and the Willits Community Center. Advance tickets available locally at J.D. Redhouse and online at eventbrite.

Dead Winter Carpenters and The Real Sarahs Saturday, May 21st
Noyo Theatre 8pm, Music 9pm, 10:15
Little Lake Grange
Adults \$15.00 / Children \$5.00
\$20.00
Sponsor: Noyo Theatre, Little Lake Grange, Willits Charter School, and the Willits Community Center. Advance tickets available locally at J.D. Redhouse and online at eventbrite.

Willits Food Fest Fundraiser: a fundraiser hosted by Mujeres Unidas de Willits, a local women's club, for 10-year-old Alondra Campuzano, a member of our Willits community, who is, at present, hospitalized at Stanford Medical Center in critical condition. As yet, she is undiagnosed, we are hoping for the best and would like to help her family with expenses, with this Raffle and Food Festival fundraiser on Sunday, May 22, at Blosser Lane Elementary School, 1275 Blosser Lane, from 10 am

Drive-Through BBQ Chicken Dinner

Harrah Senior Center presents a Drive-Through BBQ Chicken Dinner for Two on Friday, June 3. Pick-up from 5 to 6:30 pm. Pre-sale tickets only! Available at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. \$25 for dinner for two: includes BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Garlic Bread and Brownie, BBQ Courtesy of the Willits Lions Club. Info: 459-6826.

Summer Arts & Music Festival

June 4 & 5 at Benbow Lake

The 40th annual Summer Arts & Music Festival is set for Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5 at Benbow Lake State Park in southern Humboldt County. “Equal parts community reunion, and open festival celebration of arts and music, the entertainment has expanded to include a broad spectrum of musical genres and dance forms from local to international in origin” as well as the Kid Zone, food, wine and micro-brews, vendor booths and more.

Headliners include the March Fourth! Marching Band on Saturday night, “a sonic explosion delivered by 20 musicians, dancers, and artisans who travel the world year-round, taking audience members on a joy-inducing, foot-stomping, booty-shaking, soul-stirring journey that defies categorization” plus John Popper with Object Heavy & DJ Logi; Dehli 2 Dublin; The Skints; Orgone; Koradub; Grace Love & The True Loves; La Misa Negra; Joe Craven & The Sometimers; Hillstomp; and Tempest, to name a few of the musical offerings.

Advance tickets for the weekend pass offer a discount and are available online only at mateel.org. Admission at the gate is \$25 per day or \$40 for the weekend pass. As always, kids 12 and under free. Gates open at 9:30 am and entertainment runs from 10 am to 10 pm both days. A free public shuttle is offered continuously from Redway, Garberville, Benbow, and Richardson Grove State Park. Check out the Summer Arts pages of www.mateel.org for full schedule.

67th Annual Beef Barbecue & Rodeo
June 4 & 5

The 67th annual Willits Horseman's Association's Beef Barbecue & Rodeo is set for Saturday, June 4 (Gymkhana at 9 am) and Sunday, June 5 (Team Roping at 8:30 am, Jackpot Team Roping at 9 am, Beef BBQ at 11:30 am, and Rodeo Grand Entry at 1:30 pm. Rodeo events for all ages; free to spectators! BBQ tickets are \$15 and \$5 for children. For general info or info on Rodeo & Roping: Jim at 707-354-1624, or for Gymkhana info: Kathryn at 707-489-6565.

3rd annual Willits Unified All-District Band Concert: The community is invited to attend the 3rd annual Willits Unified All-District Band Concert, Tuesday, May 24 at 6 pm in the Willits High School Auditorium. This free program includes music from a variety of genres and time periods played by more than 200 band students from Willits High School and Baechtel Grove Middle School, featuring the WHS Jazz Ensemble, the WHS Concert Band and the high school's newest group, the Wolverine Jazz Combo; all under the direction of band director Jered Sherrill. Baechtel Grove Middle School's sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade bands will be performing as well, under the direction of veteran music teacher George Husaruk.

Friday, May 27

Memorial Weekend Book Sale: Friends of the Willits Library presents the annual Memorial Weekend Book Sale, at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. “Spring into Summer with a Book!” Friday, May 27 and Saturday, May 28 from 10 am to 4 pm; Sunday, May 29 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Saturday, May 28

Memorial Weekend Book Sale: Friends of the Willits Library presents the annual Memorial Weekend Book Sale, at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. See Friday, May 27 listing for details.

Classic Metal Mixer: Willits Chamber of Commerce presents the annual Memorial Day Weekend Classic Metal Mixer at Baechtel Creek Inn & Spa, 101 Gregory Lane, from 5:30 to 7 pm. Mingle with car and motorcycle owners and locals while admiring some of the cool cars and motorcycles that will be on display at the Rec Grove Sunday. Taste award-winning Mendocino County wines and local appetizers.

Sunday, May 29

35th annual Community Festival and Car & Motorcycle Show: This Willits Memorial Day tradition returns for its 35th year, featuring hot classic cars, antiques, and hot rod automobiles and motorcycles at the Rec Grove, 400 block of East Commercial Street, from 10 am to 4 pm. Get an early start (and a “front-row seat” with the Willits Lions Club's Pancake Breakfast at the Rec Grove from 7 to 10 am. Games of skill open to challengers, including an Arm Wrestling Contest, plus vendor booths with food, gift items, arts & crafts, and information. American Legion Post 174 will present the colors at noon at the main Rec Grove stage, followed by the singing of our country's National Anthem. The Mendocino County Museum and Roots of Motive Power will be open for the festivities, and Roots will be offering train rides around the loop track.

Memorial Weekend Book Sale: Friends of the Willits Library presents the annual Memorial Weekend Book

Sale, at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. See Friday, May 27 listing for details.

COLUMN | At the Movies



‘A Hologram for the King’

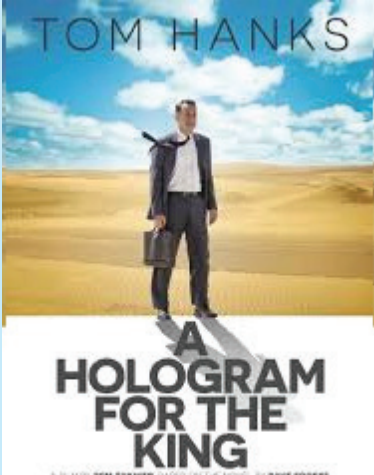
The Story: This is a romantic comedy for adults. Alan (Tom Hanks) is an American salesman of IT programs and equipment. He's stressed, he feels like a failure. Emotionally, he's heading downhill ... a slope which takes him and his computer team to Saudi Arabia to demonstrate and (hopefully) sell his software and hardware to the king.

My Thoughts: Alan is a decent man, an Everyman, who has made some seriously damaging decisions in his life. Still, he perseveres. That's a good thing to see in a movie: the modest triumphs of an imperfect, mostly ordinary guy. Also, though he's exposed rather inevitably to the marked cultural differences between America and Saudi Arabia, Alan is more thoughtful than he is shocked. His non-judgmental attitude is also a good thing to see.

I know that my summary of the flick sounds more serious and grim than amusing. But check that attitude. It's not “Death of a Salesman.” The good guy wins. I laughed a ton. The flick is kind and gently amusing, even heartwarming.

Parents: “Hologram” is pointless for children. This is a movie for adults.

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



Ongoing Events

Willits Summer Farmers Market: the Willits Farmers Market is now in Bud Snyder City Park, from 3 to 6:30 pm every Thursday afternoon (market will stay open a little bit later into the dinner hour this summer). Veggies, strawberries, cherries, green garlic, greens, artichokes, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Music on May 19: Richard Jeske on guitar and Loren Herz-O'Brien on flute.

Art Under 20: The 17th annual “Art Under 20” exhibit, presented by the Willits High School art department, continues through Sunday, May 29 the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Student artists from Willits High School; plus Willits Charter School, San Hedrin High School and Laytonville High School. “Please join us to celebrate the creativity of our Willits and Laytonville youth. Their artworks are impressive!” Gallery hours: Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 am to 3 pm; Thursday from 2 to 7 pm; Friday from 11 am to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 3 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shanachie Pub: Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday. 8 pm. No cover. “Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable.” Open Mic Night every Wednesday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7:30 pm; pre-signup list starts at 3 pm when the Pub opens. “An eclectic array of local musicians and even performers from around the world!” 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room: Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street. Info: 459-2444.

Piano Serenade

An early centennial for Shirley Duncan, 99, at Baechtel Creek Village

One of Willits' oldest citizens, Shirley Duncan, 99, got a special early birthday present Monday at Baechtel Creek Village.

Duncan, a lifelong music lover and piano player, plays the beautiful old piano every month in the village's community room, as residents and others gather for the monthly food distribution event.

It had been a while since that piano had been tuned, and Duncan's neighbors in the senior housing apartments decide to chip in enough money to get the piano tuned up.

Duncan doesn't turn 100 until January, but her friends figured they'd do an early birthday celebration, with cards, flowers and a crisp new sound.

"I'm going to cry; can I cry?" Duncan said, after she'd played a few flourishes on the piano. "Oh, it sounds so much better than it did." Flip Alpern of Willits' Alpern Piano Services did the job.

Duncan started out this month's songs with "On the Sunny Side of the Street" – "When you get old you can't sing," she said, "you have to talk it."

She continued with songs like "Roll Out the Barrel," "Ballin' the Jack," and "Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet" – including a quick rendition of "Happy Birthday to You," complete with a singalong by the audience. "Shirley, you are the bomb!" called out Norma Lowe. "I better be!"



From left: Duncan with the beautiful bouquet from her neighbors at Baechtel Creek Village. Duncan plays the newly tuned piano at Baechtel Creek Village. Duncan reads her early birthday card. Above: The beautiful old piano in the community room at Baechtel Creek Village.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Shirley Duncan, front and center, surrounded by friends, on her left, Cindy Christiansen, and on her right, Betty Walters. Center row, left, Frances Douglas and Norma Lowe. Back row, from left: Marcy, Rev. Khevan Lennon-Onaje and Gino Jacomella.

Duncan laughed. "You can't mess with me!"

Duncan said she'd been playing piano "forever," starting with 35 cent lessons her parents paid for during the depths of the Depression on their dry land farm in Nebraska. "Money was scarce," she said, "but we always made music. My dad played in a band. My family was Swiss, but I never could learn to yodel."

After her family lost the farm, they moved to Washington state, and Duncan then moved to Cordova, Alaska, where

she met her husband, Raymond, while working at a crab cannery. Duncan said the couple's favorite song was always "Sunrise Serenade."

Duncan spent many years playing piano for the Moose Club in Arnold, California, and also played at the Willits Senior Center for years.

Duncan said "thank you!" to her neighbors for arranging the piano tuning, and she's looking forward to turning 100 next year.



Earl Ford

Earl D. Ford passed away March 1, 2016 in Boise (Nampa), Idaho. Born August 3, 1929 in Berkeley, California, he moved to Willits when he was 6 years old. He lived here until he moved to Nampa, Idaho.

While living here in Willits he worked for the Coca-Cola bottling plant and Willits Redwood Products, which became Harwood Products, as an edgerman. He retired when Harwood Products closed their doors. He was an avid hunter and fisherman (he especially loved clam digging), and loved to mine for gold in his later days.

Ford was a wonderful husband,

father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great grandfather, and will be tremendously missed by all who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Barney and Georgia Ford, and son Kenneth Ford.

He leaves his wife of 66 years, Shirley Ford; his sons Steve Ford and wife, Irma, and Ronald Ford and wife, BJ; his daughters Janet Murray and husband, Ken, and Betty Stranske and husband, Tim; 19 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held June 10 at Brooktrails Community Center at 2 pm. Dinner to follow. Please contact Janet at 459-2426 for more information.

OBITUARY |

Luther Fryman, Jr.

Luther (Luke) Marion Fryman, Jr. passed away March 16, 2016 at the age of 54. He was born in Willits on October 5, 1961 to Luther and Lucina "Waters" Fryman. Luke and Christine Smith were married October 6, 1979 in Willits. Luke was a truck driver in the lumber industry for 38 years. He enjoyed building and racing his hot rods, and deer hunting.

He is survived by his wife, Christine Fryman; sons Steven and Jason; grandson Jack Fryman; and two sisters, Donna and Luetta.

His services were at Little Lake Cemetery on March 23, 2016 at 1 pm.

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

The rest of WPD | From Page 4

juvenile was located shortly afterwards

May 10

11:20 am: Officers initiated an investigation of reported criminal threats to toward the victim.

7:10 pm: Officers contacted BOLTON, John, 39, of Willits at a business in the 800 block of South Main Street. During that contact, they determined Bolton was unable to provide for his own care due to his level of intoxication and that he was in violation of the terms of his probation. Bolton was arrested pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication) and 1203.2(a) PC (Violation of Probation).

7:30 pm: Officers responded to an unwanted subject at a business in the 800 block of South Main Street. Upon arriving, they contacted SAULTER, Michael, 41, of Willits. During that contact, officers determined Sautler was unable to provide for his own care due to his level of intoxication and placed him under arrest pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication), and for an active Mendocino County warrant.

9:20 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in front of a residence in the 200 block of Alice Drive, where they contacted ETHERTON, Ryan, 35, of Willits. During their contact, officers determined Etherton was under the influence of a controlled substance and placed him under arrest pursuant to 11550(a) HS (Drug Influence), and for 1203.2(a) PC (Violation of Probation)

May 11

7 am: Officers were dispatched to a reported vehicle theft at a business in the 1500 block of South Main Street. During their investigation, it was alleged that as the victim parked her vehicle (with her two dogs inside) and began to exit it, VASSAR, Rusti, 24, of Willits suddenly approached, pushed her away from the vehicle, sat in the driver's seat, and drove away. Officers from the California Highway Patrol stopped the vehicle near Redwood Valley. Vassar was arrested pursuant to 215 PC (Carjacking), 10851 VC (Vehicle Theft), and 487(f) PC (Theft of Dogs).

9:40 am: Officers responded to a disturbance at a business in the 200 block of South Main Street, where they contacted SCROGGINS, Melody, 39, of Willits. Officers discovered Scroggins had an active Mendocino County warrant and released her with a citation.

2:30 pm: Officers contacted BRADSHAW, Ryan, 34, of Willits, in the 800 block of Coast Street and arrested him pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

10:30 pm: Officers found ELLIOTT, Jonathan, 38, of Willits unconscious in the parking lot of a business in the 600 block of South Main Street. Upon waking him, officers determined Elliott was unable to provide for his own care due to his level of intoxication. He was also the subject of an outstanding Mendocino County warrant. In addition to the warrant, Elliott was arrested pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication).

May 12

2:30 am: PEREZ, Jaime, 30, of Monterey was contacted during a traffic stop in the 100 block of North Main Street. During the contact officers determined Perez was under the influence of a controlled substance and placed him under arrest pursuant to 11550(a) HS.

May 13

5:30 am: Officers initiated an investigation of vandalism to a vehicle in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:30 pm: CARRIGG, Sono, 51, of Willits was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to an active Sonoma County warrant.

Find a Willits Weekly distribution box at any of the below locations:

101 Drive In, JD Redhouse, Willits Post Office, Village Market, Ardella's Downtown Diner, Buttercup's Childrens' Boutique, Willits City Hall, Willits Library, Mariposa Market, the old Country Skillet, Old Mission Pizza, Gribaldo's Cafe, Brewed Awakening and Ace Copy and Shipping.

OBITUARY |

Micheal Cornwall

Micheal Howard Cornwall, 63, of Willits died on May 6, 2016 in Saint Helena, California.

He was born on February 22, 1953 to Robert and Sara Cornwall in Willits. He married Hazel Provins on May 11, 1973 in Willits.



Micheal was a resaw operator at Louisiana Pacific for 23 years, then retired in 1995. He was a member of the Black Bart Gunfighters and was the corral director for 15 years at the Boy Scouts of America at Camp Wentle.

He enjoyed breaking horses. His favorite was Fancy, our wild mustang he got in 1979. He enjoyed hunting and camping with his family.

Micheal was preceded in death by his father Robert Cornwall, mother Sara Cornwall, sister Donna Cornwall Miner, uncle Albert Lagrassa, and nephew Jeffery Miner.

He is survived by his wife, Hazel Cornwall; children Angela Cornwall McKinnon and Mike Cornwall, Jr.; grandchildren Caelie Wilkes, Cooper Wilkes, Brindal Cornwall, and Karissa Cornwall; and brother Greg Cornwall. He is also survived by his nieces Cimberly Case, Tracie Case Porter, Kelley Case-Brackett, Tina Rinne, Georgetowne Hollingsworth, Melynda Benefield Hunt, Ellen Benefield Brackett, and Tina Cornwall and nephews Shelby Miner, Robert Cornwall, and Robert Benefield.

A barbecue pot luck and celebration of Micheal's life will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 4 pm at 1537 East Hill Road in Willits.

24 Hour 7 Days a Week
Emergency Service • Call Anytime
Tom Wake - Plumbing
Serving in Mendocino and Lake Counties
Full Service Residential, Commercial
•Faucets & Tubs •Garbage Disposals 20+ YEARS
•Toilets •Pipe Repairs EXPERIENCE
•Gas Lines •Fixture Replacement

For Fast Service Call
707-391-4343
Lic: #884811

CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

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

The Fruit Group
It's apricot season! Taking orders now. We need coordinators for Brooktrails, Covelo and Garberville. For info, call Brenda at 459-9335 or email thefruitgroup95490@yahoo.com

Algebra, Geometry Tutoring, Test Prep

Mac Smith 459-MATH

Brooktrails Flea Market Vendors Needed
2016 Market is Saturday, June 4. 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.

Room for Rent
Beautiful, quiet, \$450. Located 10 miles out Sherwood. No pets, tobacco, extra storage, visitors on property. You must have full time employment. \$1100 to move in. vendorme198@gmail.com

Community HU Song

In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, May 26, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. 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: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

Computer Help

Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$40/hr. Tutoring \$20/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email liamcargin@yahoo.com.

Duplex for Rent

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

For Rent

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

Get your ad included next week by sending an email to: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Candace Lee
Naturopath, Kinesiologist
707-459-0757

Nutritional Consultations
Custom Homeopathic Remedies
Efficient and Gentle Heavy Metal Detoxification
Liver, Kidney and Lung Cleanses
Pinhole Glasses for Impaired Eyesight
Arterial Plaque Removal
Flower Essences
Essential Oils and Much More

Pine Ridge Health

316 S. Main Street Willits, CA 95490
We're open:
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 10 am to 5 pm

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

Pg. 10 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | May 19, 2016



‘Annie, Jr.’

Comic strip heroine stars in Willits Charter School musical

“The sun will come out...” – and so should you – for one of the four remaining shows of “Annie, Jr.,” a condensed version of the classic original Broadway hit, performed by students from the Willits Charter School.

Held in the WCS building at 1431 South Main Street, the show opened last Thursday and ran through the weekend to enthusiastic response from the community.

Director Billy Hetherington, in need of a performance space for the show, helped to transform the big room in the charter school into a stage.

“We’ve taken the big room and turned it into a cityscape,” Hetherington said. “It really works, and it amps up what

we’ve got as far as a theater program at the charter school.”

Coming off of last year’s success with “The Little Shop of Horrors,” Hetherington exclaims that “Annie, Jr.” is even better.

“A lot of the feedback I’ve been getting [from audience members] is that it’s emotional,” Hetherington said, adding that some people have gotten “misty-eyed and even teared up.”

Much of that emotion radiates from lead actress Bella Karg, who Hetherington calls “a powerhouse and a wonderful leader.”

Bella, who has been acting on stage since she was 2 years old, encourages kids to get involved with theater arts, saying, “I would not be the same person I am today if

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



Mateel Community Center Presents

40th Anniversary

Summer Arts & Music Festival

Open: 9:30am to 10:00pm (both days)

\$25 per day

\$40 weekend pass

2016

June 4 & 5

Benbow Lake State Recreation Area

2 miles south of Garberville in Southern Humboldt County

John Popper with Object Heavy & DJ Logic-March Fourth! Marching Band Delhi 2 Dublin-The Skints-Orgone-Joe Craven & The Sometimers-Koradub Grace Love & The True Loves-La Misa Negra-Tempest-The Blackberry Bushes Hillstomp-Candelaria-Midnight North-Alice DiMichele-Pete Clutti Trio-Salt Petal-Joanne Rand

over 70 of the best local bands, dance troupes and children's entertainers!

~Featuring~

Over 100 diverse performances on 4+ stages

150+ handmade craft, food and non-profit booths

Outrageous Kid Zone - Belly Dance Temple - SummerTronica Tent

Fine Arts Showcase - The Generation Green Dome & more!

707-923-3368

Advance tickets available online only at www.mateel.org

No dogs. No glass or outside alcohol. No on-site camping. Parking is limited. Free shuttle provided.

Above, left: Annie, played by Bella Karg, surrounded by the orphans, clockwise from Annie's left: Alexis Blower, Cloey Sierra, Kaylee Anderson, Zoe Jordan, Lauren Van Pelt, and Jasmine Wear. At top, right: Oliver Warbucks (Dylan Foley), Annie, Grace Farrell (Chloe Breen), and Lily St. Regis (Amarah Potter) sing "NYC." Above, right: Orphan (Courtney Potter), Molly (Alexis Blower), Annie, Oliver Warbucks, and Grace Farrell sing "Tomorrow." At left, Annie writes a letter to her orphan friends telling them of her good fortune. Below, left: Oliver Warbucks and Annie envision a life of father and daughter. Below, right: Annie and Grace Farrell sing "I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here." At bottom, left: Annie and the orphans sing "It's a Hard Knock Life."

Willits Weekly's 3rd Anniversary

Subscription Drive

Get the newspaper you love, delivered directly to you!

At Home

\$40/year

Special Anniversary Rate (Regular price \$50)

For homes and businesses! Newspaper delivered early Friday morning

In the Mail

\$75/year

For homes or businesses located locally or across the country. Newspapers sent via first-class mail.

Street Subscriber

Become a "street subscriber" – Buy a subscription, but pick up your newspaper in town!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

☐ 1 year - \$75

☐ 1 year - \$40

☐ Street Subscriber \$ _____

Additional donation included \$ _____

Special anniversary price - regular \$50

Home Delivery available available in Willits, the valley or Brooklands - call with any questions

Please make checks payable to Willits Weekly | P.O. Box 3088 in Willits, CA 95460

QUESTIONS: 707-459-2633 | 707-972-7047

Web: www.willitsweekly.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/willitsweekly Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

pho•tog•ra•phress

Family | Children | Couples | Seniors | Portraiture | Maternity

Photography by Maureen Moore

[fuh-tuh-roh-friss] noun: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

707-972-7047 | maureengetsmail@gmail.com

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

between Skunk Train general manager Robert Pinoli, present at last week’s meeting, and the Willits Environmental Remediation Trust ended after Pinoli failed to renew his initial contract, which expired at the end of August last year.

That left the proposal by a group headed up by developer Ed Mitchell and Mayor Bruce Burton as the only one on the table for the city to review for its approval, so that WERT, which owns the Remco property, could move forward with the sale.

Mayor Bruce Burton recused himself from the debate, as he has done at all meetings dealing with the sale of the former Remco site.

“Anytime we discussed [the redevelopment of Remco] either in public or in closed session, Burton was not involved in those discussions,” Councilwoman Holly Madrigal assured the public. “I’ve heard lots of rumors, and I want to emphatically state we have done everything by the book.”

WERT, which owns the property now, has wanted to sell the site to a development group that could show the city it planned to reuse the onsite buildings effectively. Without such approval, WERT would be responsible for demolition of the buildings at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million.

Since 1997, according to WERT’s records, more than \$60 million has been spent to clean up the old Remco site.

According to WERT attorney Philip C. Hunsucker: “As a result of these efforts, the hexavalent chromium in the groundwater has been fully remediated and the chlorinated solvents in the groundwater have been reduced significantly. Nearly all of the cleanup activities have been funded by successors to prior owners and operators of Remco, including Pepsi-Cola Metropolitan Bottling Company, Inc.”

Although the site has been approved for commercial use, it is estimated another five years will be required to complete remediation, and environmental restrictions will be placed on the property indefinitely.

As a condition for withdrawing from the Remco insurance coverage lawsuit, on January 13, 2016, the Willits City Council required assurances from WERT, backed by Pepsi, that remediation be continued at no expense to the city and continue until the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board issues a “no further action” letter.

This condition, among others, was part of a legal motion to modify the amended federal consent decree in the Remco action, which was just approved by the court on May 6.

For more details about the amended consent decree, read Willits Weekly’s January 16 article, “Remco site ready to move forward,” at www.willitsweekly.com.

The Burton/Mitchell plan

Speaking on behalf of the Burton/Mitchell group, Ernie Burton, the mayor’s son, offered a brief presentation of the group’s development plan. According to a report provided by Ernie Burton, developing the nearly 10-acre site will encompass a four-phase project lasting approximately 6.5 years, at an estimated cost of \$10.58 million. The project will create somewhere between 73 and 88 jobs.

According to Hunsucker’s letter, “the trust and the Skunk Train agreed on the form of a contract that was set to expire on its own terms on July 28, 2015.”

Both development proposals had the same expiration date on their initial contracts, which were both extended 30 days after last year’s July 22, 2015 council meeting, during which the city asked both development groups for financial assurances and detailed plans. Pinoli did not renew his contract after it expired in late August.

Included in the language of the initial 2013 contract with the Skunk Train, according to Hunsucker, was the agreement that WERT would continue to investigate, monitor and remediate the site after purchase.

From the March 4 letter: “The trust would not sell the property unless it had unfettered access to the property necessary for the trust to perform the work required ... to complete the cleanup, which would continue for some years.”

Phase two will take another 30 months and includes creation of a public safety training facility, space for a new fire department facility, and a market place.

Willits Weekly | May 19, 2016

manufacturing activities.

In addressing current limited access to the site, Burton explained the development group is considering creating a new Highway 20 access road.

“That would require some cooperation with different entities and property owners,” Burton said.

When asked by the council about the fire department moving from its current location, Burton said he had talked with Fire Chief Carl Magann, who was enthusiastic about the proposition.

“My understanding is the fire chief is very comfortable with that location as being a feasible place for a fire department,” Burton explained. “The current fire department [facility] is in such disrepair, there wouldn’t be interest in continuing to use it.”

Madrigal reminded the public that even after the property is sold by WERT, the city will be required to negotiate zoning ordinances to accommodate specific building plans.

When asked by Councilwoman Madge Strong if the Burton/Mitchell group would consider working with the Skunk Train, Burton said: “Absolutely. Our drawing shows a ramp for the Skunk Train to load and unload. We have every interest in doing that.”

What About the Skunk Train?

Based on comments by members of the public, most everybody had assumed there was a continuing two-way competition for the Remco site between Burton/Mitchell and the Skunk Train.

Not even the Willits City Council agenda posted on Friday, May 6 explained otherwise, with the Remco agenda item reading simply: “Presentation, discussion and possible action to approve a proposed plan to use and develop the former main Remco Hydraulics site (tentative).”

The information that Pinoli’s proposal was no longer on the table didn’t become public knowledge until City Manager Adrienne Moore emailed the staff report and supporting materials concerning the Remco matter to the press and others on Tuesday afternoon, May 10. “Please note that at press time last Friday, details were still being worked out between the city and the trust, and were not finalized until this day,” Moore’s Tuesday email read.

That staff report included a May 6 letter from WERT to City Attorney James Lance which read: “The trust will not enter into a contract with the Skunk Train for the sale of the trust-owned property. Among other reasons, the trust will not enter into a new contract with the Skunk Train because it has refused [to] enter into a declaration of environmental restriction that would make conditions necessary to protect human health and the environment run with the land, requiring any subsequent owners to adhere to the conditions. The trust previously wrote in detail of its reasons the trust would not agree to sell the trust-owned property to the Skunk Train in its letter to the Skunk Train dated March 4, 2016, a copy of which was provided to you.”

According to that March 4, 2016 letter from WERT attorney Philip C. Hunsucker, Pinoli had been conducting negotiations with WERT since 2011, initially to consider leasing the old Remco site, then in 2013, to discuss possible purchase of the property.

According to Hunsucker’s letter, “the trust and the Skunk Train agreed on the form of a contract that was set to expire on its own terms on July 28, 2015.”

Both development proposals had the same expiration date on their initial contracts, which were both extended 30 days after last year’s July 22, 2015 council meeting, during which the city asked both development groups for financial assurances and detailed plans. Pinoli did not renew his contract after it expired in late August.

Included in the language of the initial 2013 contract with the Skunk Train, according to Hunsucker, was the agreement that WERT would continue to investigate, monitor and remediate the site after purchase.

From the March 4 letter: “The trust would not sell the property unless it had unfettered access to the property necessary for the trust to perform the work required ... to complete the cleanup, which would continue for some years.”

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

The Burton/Mitchell group became involved with WERT last summer as a competing backup development project to the Skunk Train’s proposal, and on July 22, 2015, both parties presented their plans to Willits City Council.

During that meeting, WCC voted 3-1 to adopt certain conditions, and rejected approval of any development plans “until advised by the trust that such conditions appear to be satisfied.”

Pinoli told the council at last week’s meeting “those conditions ... imposed upon us, were not imposed upon the other contracted party.”

Farr refuted Pinoli, saying the Skunk Train owner would not agree to the contract term ensuring that, no matter the owner of the property, the environmental restrictions would remain with the land, and that WERT would have “unfettered access” to it.

“So, effectively, if we were to sell the property to either of the two parties, those environmental restrictions – if they chose to sell [the property] down the road – would stay with the property,” Farr told the council. “At that time Mr. Mitchell agreed to those terms, and Mendocino Railroad did not agree.”

The March 4 Hunsucker letter also addresses a February 1, 2016 letter submitted to WERT by Pinoli, in which he claimed the Skunk Train is a public utility, and therefore could use the power of eminent domain to take possession of the Remco property.

Hunsucker rejected that claim, stating: “The Skunk Train points to Sections 230 and 611 of the California Public Utilities Code to prove it is a railroad. But the question of whether the Skunk Train is a railroad is not important. The Napa Valley Wine Train is a railroad, but it is not a public utility.”

Furthermore, Hunsucker explained – citing a 1988 application of California Western Railroad to the California Public Utility Commission – “the Skunk Train obtained deregulation of its excursion passenger services by arguing they were not a ‘public utility’ function.”

The CPUC agreed the Skunk Train “is not functioning as a public utility.”

“It is difficult to understand,” Hunsucker wrote, “how the Skunk Train could claim it is not a public utility in its dealings with the CPUC, but is a public utility with respect to its claim it can take the property by eminent domain.”

The vote

At last week’s city council meeting, when it came down to voting to approve the Burton/Mitchell proposal, Councilwoman Strong moved to delay approval until the next council meeting, arguing the public had just found out that only one proposal was on the table and the Skunk Train’s was not.

Madrigal seconded the motion, but because the vote ended in a 2-2 tie – with Councilmember Larry Stranske and Vice Mayor Orenstein voting against delaying accepting the proposal – the motion didn’t pass.

Madrigal then moved to accept the redevelopment proposal, Orenstein seconded, and the motion passed 3-1, with Strong opposing and Burton recused.

Willits Weekly has not confirmed the price of the Remco property. Media reports and letters from parties involved have mentioned \$250,000 or \$200,000 as the price for the seven-acre parcel, but Farr declined to comment on the purchase price.

According to City Attorney Lance, the work to modify the federal consent decree has cost the city more than \$30,000 in attorney fees.

Lance explained WERT’s sale of the Remco site to Burton/Mitchell Enterprises would be conditional “upon Pepsi reimbursing the city for its out-of-pocket costs.”

Lance assured the council and the Mitchell group this would not be an obstacle to moving forward.

“If the majority of the voting council members approves the sale subject to this condition, then Pepsi is notified,” Lance said. “[This sale] benefits the trust, Pepsi, and the city, so I would anticipate [Pepsi] would be happy to pay [the attorney fees].”

Willits city staff will present a resolution ratifying the Burton/Mitchell redevelopment proposal at the May 25 council meeting.

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Eureka woman dies in crash north of Willits

A young Eureka woman was killed May 13 when the pickup truck she was driving left Highway 101 at Underpass Road, about 12 miles north of Willits, and struck several trees.

State traffic officers have identified the dead woman as 18-year-old Marriah Woodruff.

Woodruff was driving south in her 2004 Chevrolet pickup truck shortly after 2:10 pm when for reason still unclear the truck left the right shoulder of the road, rolled onto a grassy embankment, and struck several trees.

Woodruff was pronounced dead at the scene, the California Highway Patrol said in a press release.

“It is not known at this time if alcohol or drugs were a factor in the cause of this collision,” according to the report.

Investigation into the crash continues.

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

A search of the vehicle revealed the cache of mushrooms and pot, as well as the scales.

Fitzpatrick was arrested on the felony warrant, on suspicion of possessing a controlled substance, possessing a controlled substance for sale, and for obstructing or resisting an officer in the performance of his duties, Davis said.

Fitzpatrick was booked into county jail where he is being held without bail.

This report was based on a press release from the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office.

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

of State’s website at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration, or you can fill out a paper voter registration form and – to ensure delivery by 5 pm on Monday – bring it to the county offices, at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020, in Ukiah.

If you have gotten your sample ballot or mail-in ballot, check them to make sure all the information is correct, including your party registration, and for instructions on mailing in your ballot or for information about where your polling place is.

If you want to vote in the Republican Party primary, you must register to vote as a member of the Republican Party, as California Republicans hold closed Presidential primaries. The Democratic Party in California is again this year allowing “no party preference” or independent voters to vote in its Presidential primary.

If you’re a “no party preference” voter who wants to vote in the Democratic Party Presidential primary, you must request a Democratic Party Presidential ballot at the polling place or through the mail, if you’re a mail-in voter.

Voter Registrar Sue Ranochak said the deadline to request that a partisan Presidential primary ballot be sent to you through the mail is 5 pm on May 31. The Peace & Freedom Party and the American Independent Party also allow “no party preference” voters to vote in their Presidential primaries on request.

Ranochak also said that mail-in “no party preference” voters dropping off their ballots at the polls on Election Day could also request a partisan Presidential ballot at their local polling place.

In addition to the Presidential primary, Mendocino County voters will find candidates for U.S. Senate (longtime California Senator Barbara Boxer is retiring), U.S. House of Representatives (2nd Congressional District representative Jared Huffman is running for reelection), state Assembly (North Coast representative Jim Wood is running for reelection) and Mendocino County Superior Court judge (attorneys Keith Faulder and Patrick Pekin are vying for that position).

There are two Mendocino County ballot measures on the June 7 ballot, Measure V (“Shall the people of Mendocino County declare intentionally killed and left standing trees a public nuisance?” and Measure W (“Shall a charter commission be elected to propose a Mendocino County charter?”). Voters are also asked to vote for 15 charter commissioners tasked with writing a Mendocino County charter if Measure W passes.

Ranochak said she was looking forward to a busy Election Day this year: “It’s great to have a Presidential primary election where California’s votes matter,” she said.

The Mendocino County Voter Office can be reached at 707-234-6819.

The rest of **John’s Place** | From Page 1

an act of vandalism, destroyed the long-standing establishment on East Commercial Street in November 2014.

Although the council had approved a use permit in November 2015 for a different property located at 151 North Main Street, the Chessers decided to pursue this new location, situated between the laundromat and Peter’s Sushi and Chinese House.

“We hope to be open within a month or so,” at the new location, Jeanne Chesser told Willits Weekly.

The city council, acting in its role as Willits’ planning commission, deemed the

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Pg. 12 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | May 19, 2016



Peer Education Summit

Eighth-graders get answers about what high school will really be like

Eighth-grade students from Baechtel Grove Middle School got a real treat at last month's Peer Education Summit – the chance to ask high school student leaders real questions about what things are really like at Willits High School.

The Peer Education Summit and Freshman Orientation, held at the Willits Community Center and the Willits Center for the Arts on April 22, also included a tour of the high school and lunch at the school cafeteria.

Organizer Aurelie Clivaz from the Mendocino

County Youth Project works with second- and third-year members of the Peer Counseling program at WHS to develop content for the day-long workshop, including lesson plans for small break-out group discussion of topics like alcohol and other drugs, self-esteem and body image, and peer relationships. The high school counselors are trained in how to lead small groups, how to develop a conference from beginning to start, how to practice healthy communication, and how to be role models for the incoming class.

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



Above, left: Willits High School peer counselors answer questions from incoming eighth-grade students.

At top: Baechtel Grove Middle School boys get ready for the "Fishbowl" question-and-answer session.

Above: BGMS girls listen to WHS peer counselors' answers to their questions.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



3rd annual Willits Unified All-District Band Concert

set for Tuesday, May 24

The community is invited to attend the 3rd annual Willits Unified All-District Band Concert, Tuesday, May 24 at 6 pm in the Willits High School Auditorium.

This free program includes music from a variety of genres and time periods played by more than 200 band students from Willits High School and Baechtel Grove Middle School. "All of the bands in the district have made incredible strides over this school year," said WHS music director Jered Sherrill.

The May 24 concert features the WHS Jazz Ensemble, the WHS Concert Band

and the high school's newest group, the Wolverine Jazz Combo. Baechtel Grove Middle School's sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade bands will be performing as well. The BGMS music program is under the direction of veteran music teacher George Husaruk.

"Having all the bands in the school district perform together is a way for me to recruit into my program," director Sherrill told Willits Weekly after his WHS students' Spring Concert back at the end of March. "I

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



Ian Watson, right, plays jazz guitar at Willits High School's Spring Concert in March.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Above, far left: Jeremiah Potter, standing, plays saxophone solo during the WHS Spring Concert as, from left, Loren Herz-O'Brien, flute, Alexis Martinez, tenor saxophone, and Orion Hernandez, alto saxophone, listen. Above, left: Flute player Kaylan Stone, center, being helpful during rehearsal. Right: Performers Melody Leon, in front, on bass, and Justin Mosher, on trumpet during rehearsal for the Spring Concert.



Get your Frontier Days tickets from the Sweethearts!



Sierra Skinner 841-6669
Calayan Knight 485-2316
Halee Reed 354-3154
Cheyenne Walters 354-4484

BROOKTRAILS GOLF COURSE and GRILL
24860 Birch Street
Willits, CA 95490
(707) 459-6761
brooktrailsgolfcourse@gmail.com

Golf Course Hours:
8am-7pm
Grill Hours:
9am-5pm
Weekly Schedule:
8am Mondays & Fridays
Senior League
8am Wednesdays
18 Holes Golf —
Fun Day All Welcome
5pm Thursdays
Bordo Scramble
10am Sundays
Disc Golf Club

BROOKTRAILS GOLF COURSE and GRILL
24860 Birch Street
Willits, CA 95490
brooktrailsgolfcourse@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:
Sat. • May 28th • 8am-2pm
Your Hosts: WHS Golf Team
Entry Fee: \$40 • 2 Person Scramble
Sun. • June 4th • 8am-2pm
Your Hosts: Laytonville Lions
Entry Fee: \$40 • 4 Person Scramble
Sun. • June 12th • 8am-2pm
Your Hosts: Seventh Day Adventist School
Entry Fee: \$50 • 2 Person Scramble
Fri. • June 17th • 8am-2pm
Brooktrails Senior League
2 Person Best Ball, Blind Draw
Entry Fee: \$5
Mon.-Thurs. • June 20th-23rd
8:30am-11am
Junior Golf Week
Your Hosts: Brooktrails Golf Course
Fee: \$20
Sun. • July 17th • 8am-2pm
Your Hosts: Willits Rotary/Phoenix Hospice
Entry Fee: \$10 • 4 Person Scramble
For more information:
Call: 707-459-6761
Facebook: Brooktrails Golf Course

FARMERS CANTUA INSURANCE AGENCY
16 W. Valley Street • Willits, CA 95490
Bus: (707) 459-3276 • Fax: (707) 459-3298
Lic. #OC67822 www.NorCalQuote.com • rcantua@farmersagent.com
Auto • Home • Life • Health • Business

Randy Cantua
Insurance Agent
Lic. #OC67822

DOG STAR GROOMING
1762 S. Main St.
Willits, CA
707-841-3003
Monday-Saturday
By Appointment Only
www.DogStarGrooming.net

MEMORIAL WEEKEND BOOK SALE

SPRING INTO SUMMER WITH A BOOK!

Friday, May 27TH - 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday, May 28TH - 10 am to 4 pm
Sunday, May 29TH - 10 am to 2 pm
at
Willits Branch Library
390 East Commercial St.
Sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library

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

it were not for theater."

"[As Annie] Bella has been essential in keeping this ragtag group of orphan girls in shape for the show," Hetherington said. "They've all put in lots and lots of work."

With a cast of 27 actors, Hetherington received much-needed support from producer Matthew Browning, assistant producer Sage Miller-Martin, and assistant director/stage manager Jessica Cronin.

Other actors central to the musical include Kaylee Anderson as Tessie; Alyssa Bacon

as Miss Hannigan; Aiden Karg as Rooster; Spencer Copperfield as Bert Healy; and Dylan Foley as Oliver Warbucks.

The big room theater seats 70. No advance purchase tickets are available, but tickets can be reserved over the phone: 459-5506.

Showtimes for the second (and final) weekend of "Annie, Jr." are Thursday, May 19 at 7 pm; Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21 at 8 pm; and Sunday, May 22 at 2 pm.

At right: Annie.



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

needs more docents to help sit the gallery and support art events.

"A big initiative for us is our docent training," Ruckman explained. "We want to keep the center open from 11 am to 6 pm Wednesday through Sunday. Come out, learn to be a docent, and support the art center."

WCA held its first free docent training day on Wednesday. There will be a second opportunity this Saturday, May 21 from 10 am to noon. For more information on the training program or to RSVP, contact Madrigal at 459-1726 or warental@gmail.com. WCA is also offering a number of summer art classes. To sign up, go to the center's website at www.willitscenterforhearts.org or call 459-1726.

The rest of **Letters** | From Page 2

the resources in a manner that made them available for public purposes.

The doctrine of res communes was reaffirmed by the English Magna Carta in the 13th century and redefined by English common law in the 17th century. English common law granted ownership of common property to the king, though not for his private use, but as a trustee for the benefit of the people. In practice, however, this arrangement resulted in the doling out of special privileges to the nobility. English common law was applied to the American colonies, but after U.S. independence, American courts abolished the English system of royal prerogatives and reestablished the full public trust concept closer to the Roman model.

Early public trust laws protected navigation of waterways, commerce and fishing, but in the 1971 legal case of Marks v. Whitney, the California Supreme Court held that considering the changing needs of the public, a state is not bound to protect just the traditional interests addressed by early case law and that ecological protection was a public interest covered under the Public Trust Doctrine.

Since the 1970s, courts in the U.S. have markedly expanded the application of the Public Trust Doctrine to include such diverse subjects as wildlife and their habitat, environmental protection from development, pollution and invasive species, recreational activities such as swimming, parks and historic monuments, public health, bathing, flood prevention, aesthetic values such as open space and scenic beauty, water diversions for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes, religious and cultural interests, and even the electromagnetic spectrum.

In 1970, California Gov. Ronald Reagan signed the California Environmental Quality Act which basically codified the Public Trust Doctrine into California state law. CEQA established an environmental review process for any government or private "project" that could have an adverse impact on the environment. CEQA requires that five different options for a project be identified and studied, and the least environmentally destructive option must be preferred.

Protecting the public trust interest is a primary duty of every elected official in the state of California, and yet the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors seems more intent on pandering to the interests of private business rather than upholding the public trust mandates of CEQA. This proclivity has been particularly glaring with regards to the supervisors protecting the interests of ranchers while neglecting the public trust interest in the county's wildlife.

In the 1970s, Mendocino County was put on notice by the California Attorney General to consider non-lethal alternatives to the county's lethal wildlife management program, yet in the over 40 years since, the county did nothing to comply with this order.

In 2014, a coalition of wildlife protection organizations including Project Coyote, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund, sued the county over non-compliance with the CEQA provision that requires environmental review of the county's lethal wildlife management program.

The county's current board of supervisors reacted to this lawsuit by hiring an expensive private law firm out of Sacramento to defend the county's lethal wildlife management program. These high-priced lawyers advised the county to claim an exemption from CEQA instead of complying with the law.

In April 2016, after several months of pre-trial legal wrangling, the supervisors finally capitulated and agreed to follow CEQA's dictates by suspending the county's contract with the federal Wildlife Services program that administered the lethal wildlife management program pending an environmental review.

If the supervisors had just taken their public trust duties seriously in the first place, it would have saved the county an enormous amount of wasted time and money. Unfortunately, it appears that the only way to hold our county supervisors accountable for protecting the public trust is to sue them. What a sorry state of affairs in our county's governance.

Jon Spitz, Laytonville

Some spots are cute.



Some not so much...

FREE SPOT CHECK CLINIC
Wed, May 25th, from 9-noon
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.

Follow-up appointments will be scheduled as needed.

MCHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER
45 Hazel Street, Willits
(707) 456-9600
littl lakehealthcenter.org

Spring TIRE SALE
Passenger Car Tires
All Les Schwab tires come with free installation, air checks, rotations, equal value replacement & flat repair!
GREAT BUY! Starting at **\$39.99** PER TIRE
✓ All-season traction
✓ Affordable pricing
ECLIPSE Starting at **\$64.99** PER TIRE
✓ All-season traction
✓ Advanced design tread
PROXES 4 PLUS Starting at **\$138.42** PER TIRE
✓ All-season performance
✓ Modern dual tread design

Pickup/SUV Tires
All Les Schwab tires come with free installation, air checks, rotations, equal value replacement & flat repair!
GREAT BUY! Starting at **\$89.99** PER TIRE
✓ All-season tread
✓ Economy pricing
OPEN COUNTRY H/T Starting at **\$150.90** PER TIRE
✓ All-season design
✓ Superior handling
PROXES S/T II Starting at **\$169.45** PER TIRE
✓ All-season traction
✓ Superior handling

Introducing ROAD CONTROL
BACK COUNTRY ALL TERRAIN
Passenger Car Tire
✓ Specially designed grooves & new S-3 siping that reduces hydroplaning in wet conditions.
✓ Reduced weight improves rolling resistance, for better fuel efficiency.
✓ Tread ride & all-weather confidence, all in one.
Starting at **\$88.00** PER TIRE
Pickup/SUV Tire
✓ Exceptional all-season performance.
✓ Aggressive siping & extra tread channels to evacuate water, mud & snow.
✓ Wide, underbarrier ribs, great trucks & road grip, all in one.
Starting at **\$150.99** PER TIRE

Best Tire Value PROMISE
BETWEEN PROXES 4 PLUS AND BACK COUNTRY ALL TERRAIN
Les Schwab has been providing brake service to our customers for over 35 years. We are one of the West's largest brake providers & can do more brake jobs the same day, without an appointment. We are proud to offer:
• PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED TECHNICIANS
• FREE BRAKE INSPECTIONS & ESTIMATES
• PREMIUM QUALITY PARTS
• THE BRAKE INDUSTRY'S BEST WARRANTY
✓ Peace of Mind ✓ Lifetime Tire
Tire Protection & Mileage Care

BEST BRAKE VALUE PROMISE
Les Schwab has been providing brake service to our customers for over 35 years. We are one of the West's largest brake providers & can do more brake jobs the same day, without an appointment. We are proud to offer:
• PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED TECHNICIANS
• FREE BRAKE INSPECTIONS & ESTIMATES
• PREMIUM QUALITY PARTS
• THE BRAKE INDUSTRY'S BEST WARRANTY

PRICES GOOD THROUGH APRIL 30, 2016 LES SCHWAB TIRE CENTER OF WILLITS 1565 S. MAIN STREET 707-459-5838 www.LesSchwab.com

Memorial Day weekend Community Festival and Car & Motorcycle Show

Ready set ... Let's rock & roll, and kick off a summer of fun at the 35th Annual Willits Community Festival and Car & Motorcycle Show!

Oh, those cars and motorcycles! The hot classics, antiques and hot rod automobiles and motorcycles that flock to "The Heart of Mendocino County" make Willits the "cool" place to be this Memorial Day weekend May 28 and 29.

Festivities begin on Saturday, May 28, the world-famous Skunk Train rolls out of the Willits depot at 9:45 am for a ride through the majestic redwoods. You'll be back in time to take a stroll through Willits' historic downtown: Take in a movie matinee or visit the unique shops and eateries lining Main Street.

Get ready to "gear up" for the Classic Metal Mixer at Baechtel Creek Inn & Spa, 101 Gregory Lane, from 5:30 to 7 pm. Mingle with car and motorcycle owners and locals while admiring some of the cool cars and motorcycles that will be on display Sunday. Taste award-winning Mendocino County wines and local appetizers at this Willits Chamber of Commerce mixer.

Sunday morning, May 29, the action shifts to Recreation Grove Park, in the 400 block of East Commercial Street, for the Community Festival & Car Show.

The Willits Lions Club serves a hot affordable pancake breakfast from 7 to 10 am. Locals and visitors alike are welcome; join them for a great breakfast

with a front row seat, as the parade of cars and motorcycles rumble to their show positions.

The festivities at the Rec Grove run from 10 am to 4 pm.

After a satisfying breakfast, take a stroll down memory lane and enjoy the beautiful cars and motorcycles on display. You wanna have some fun? Show off your talents, and compete against car and motorcycle participants in some games of skill. Speaking of skill, you can also try your hand at the Arm Wrestling Contest this year!

While you're cruising through the classic vehicles and motorcycles, be sure to get a bite to eat and visit the vendor booths. There you'll find a wide array of interesting and fun gift items, arts & crafts, and information.

One of the highlights of the day is the Memorial Day Ceremony. The American Legion Post 174's color guard will present the colors at noon at the main stage. The procession stops at Center Stage, as we sing our National Anthem to honor those who have served our nation and in remembrance of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

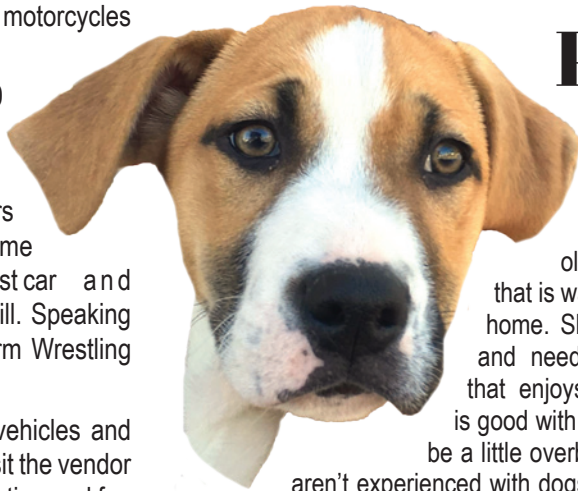
Visit the Mendocino County Museum and Roots of Motive Power across the street from the festival. The museum is one of the best small-town museums in the country. While you're there check out the Roots of Motive Power display of carefully maintained and preserved historic steam- and diesel-powered equipment. Pile "On Board" the Roots train for a ride around the loop track!

Thanks to generous support from our sponsors - Little Lake Auto Parts, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, State Farm Insurance (Lisa Epstein, agent), Creekside Inn Super 8 Motel, Pacific Gas & Electric, The Willits News and Willits Weekly - this year's Memorial Day weekend festivities in Willits are not to be missed.

— Lynn Kennelly, for the Willits Chamber of Commerce



The 2015 Car Show.



Pretty Lucy

Lucy is a fun, loving, 5-month-old hound-mix puppy that is waiting for her forever home. She is easily excited and needs an active family that enjoys long walks. Lucy is good with other dogs, but can be a little overbearing for cats that aren't experienced with dogs. She loves people and will never let you have a boring moment!

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

Photo by S. Coffman Photography



Sweet Ellie

Ellie loves to play! Ellie is a 6-year-old female mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 94 pounds. Ellie is a friendly and energetic girl who loves to play. Her favorite activities include: playing, playing, playing fetch, chasing balls and exploring her surroundings. Never, in a million years, would you guess she was 6 years old! We can hardly imagine how energetic she must have been as a puppy!

Ellie needs a home where she not only gets lots of love and attention, but also exercise and mental stimulation. She is great with other dogs and would love a playmate, either canine or human. At the end of the day, and beneath her active exterior, Ellis has one of the sweetest souls around.

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

Photo by Rod Coots



Get a Mammogram Today!

Now Located
at 1 Marcela
Drive

Every day, we learn more and more about breast cancer and how to win the fight. The one thing for certain is that we know early detection can save lives. This Mother's day, take time to take care of yourself, so that you can celebrate with your family for years to come. Give yourself the gift of good health and schedule a mammogram today!

Give Yourself the
Gift of Good Health.

**Schedule a
Mammogram today.
707.456.3090**

**Frank R. Howard
Memorial Hospital**
 Adventist Health

1ST FLOOR, 1 MARCELA DRIVE | WILLITS, CA 95490 | 707.456.3090