

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
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Thursday, June 9, 2016



Election results:

Measure V, Faulder winning; Measure W losing

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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According to the Election Night report released by the Mendocino County Voter Office, Measure V, the anti-hack and squirt ballot initiative, is winning 59.97 percent to 40.03 percent, and Measure W, the charter county measure, is losing, with 56.11 percent voting "No" and 43.89 percent voting "Yes." In the race for Superior Court Judge, attorney Keith Faulder is winning, with 52.28 percent of the vote, to Patrick Pekin's 47.35 percent.

Sen. Bernie Sanders is winning Mendocino County's Democratic Party

Read the rest of **Results**
Over on Page 13

Baechtel field trip policy under review

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Baechtel Grove Middle School policy on how student disciplinary lapses can affect student eligibility to attend end-of-year field trips is under review, according to Baechtel Grove Principal Maria de los Angeles Munguia.

Contacted Wednesday morning, two days after she announced that eighth-graders who did not go on the May 23 San Francisco trip also would not be able to go on the end-of-year trip to the Willits KOA, Munguia declined an in-depth interview on the issue by Willits Weekly, saying the policy was under review.

She said she would be engaging in an assessment of the policy over the

Read the rest of **BGMS**
Over on Page 13

No 'unique' pot nuisance ordinances: Lance

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
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"There are no nuisance ordinances unique to marijuana," City Attorney Jim Lance told the Willits City Council during Tuesday's special meeting.

The council had asked Lance to investigate enforcement procedures of cities that ban or regulate marijuana cultivation during its May 25 meeting.

Currently Willits regards outdoor marijuana cultivation within the city limits as a nuisance

Read the rest of **Nuisance**
Over on Page 13



Above, from left: Willits High School seniors ready to receive their diplomas during the Wednesday night ceremony on Maize Field, including: Kris Novo, Courtney Humphries, Will Switzer, Colton Scarberry and Sierra Skinner.



The Class of 2016.
Photos by Maureen Moore



Student body president, Price Runberg, speaks as Principal Robert Chavez looks on.



Valedictorian Olivia Cooper and Salutatorian Anthony Sorace.

Congratulations Grads!

Willits High School celebrates Class of 2016 with 109th commencement ceremony

The weather was kind, Wednesday evening, keeping temperatures cooler for grads and attendees alike, who came to celebrate the Class of 2016's graduation at the annual ceremony at Willits High School.

To the live performance of "Pomp and Circumstance," the 96 graduates walked up the field and to the bleachers, and Principal Robert Chavez welcomed the crowd.

Several students gave speeches before the diplomas were awarded, including Brandon Johnson, the senior class president; Anthony Sorace,

the salutatorian; Olivia Cooper, the valedictorian; and student body president Price Runberg.

Graduate Kyle Martinez came to the podium to lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance, and graduate Loren Herz-O'Brien played a stylized version of the national anthem on his flute.

Post-ceremony, many graduates head to the Sober Grad party for 7 hours of free food and fun, and a chance to take home great prizes that will surely fill dorm rooms and help prepare grads for the years ahead.

— Maureen Moore

Below: WHS Grads, from left: Stetson Burgess, Dylan Tyler, Justin Mosher and Konner Reed.



Above: Grads Victor Rodriguez, left, and Oscar Nunez, right. Below: Loren Herz-O'Brien plays the national anthem on his flute for the gathered crowd.



Congrats to Baechtel Grove Grads

Eighth-grade promotion was held on Tuesday, June 7 at Maize Field



Photo by Ree Slocum

Council OKs \$1.5 million for Main Street plan

Damian Sebouhian
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During a special Tuesday evening meeting, the Willits City Council approved an initial funding commitment of \$1.5 million toward construction of Main Street improvements north of Highway 20, above and beyond what Caltrans accomplishes during its relinquishment project, scheduled to begin in fall 2017.

City staff had requested the council funding commitment to bring to the negotiation table with Caltrans. Councilwoman Holly Madrigal moved to propose the amount of \$1.5 million, to be taken from the half-cent sales tax

Read the rest of **Main Street**
Over on Page 15

County budget to contract slightly

Mike A'Dair
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Revenue and appropriation figures for the County of Mendocino will remain flat or contract slightly over the next fiscal year, according to budget documents presented Tuesday to the board of supervisors by Assistant CEO Alan Flora.

Revenue for all parts of the budget will move upward slightly from \$237.36 million in 2015-16 to \$237.84 million in 2016-17, while revenues for the general fund part of the budget will grow from \$177.4 million in 2015-16 to \$178.8 million in 2016-17.

Appropriations, however, are moving in the opposite

Read the rest of **Budget**
Over on Page 15

Board votes to disband marijuana ad hoc

Mike A'Dair
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On a 4-1 vote, the board of supervisors moved future supervisory work on the planned medical marijuana cultivation and nursery ordinance to the general government committee of the board.

The general government committee consists of Carre Brown (District 1 - Potter Valley) and Dan Gjerde (District 4 - Fort Bragg). Brown is chair of the committee.

Previous to the vote,

Read the rest of **Vote**
Over on Page 15

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Mold closes museum temporarily

To the Editor:

At the request of the museum director, the Mendocino County Executive Office, Risk Management division, hired an industrial hygienist to investigate claims of possible mold intrusion at the Mendocino County Museum facility in Willits. On June 7, 2016 testing conducted during the investigation confirmed the presence of sporadic mold intrusion in some portions of the museum.

Although the intrusion is largely limited to the ducting system and not the ambient air, the county has requested that the entire museum be closed to the public as a precaution. It is anticipated that some portions of the museum may be reopened outside of the affected area and will be able to resume normal services in a very short period of time.

During this temporary closure, all scheduled on-site museum activities will be postponed until a reopen date has been established. All activities occurring off museum property will continue as previously scheduled. For any questions regarding rescheduling an event or activity, please do not hesitate to contact Alison Glassey, museum director at 459-2736.

Preliminary remediation work is anticipated to begin as early as June 8, 2016, and every effort will be made to reopen the museum in a timely manner. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Alan Flora, assistant chief executive officer at 463-4441.

Carmel J. Angelo,
Mendocino County CEO

Thank you

To the Editor:

On behalf of the WCS Student Leadership class, I would like to thank all the parents and volunteers whose donations of time and effort helped make the Willits Charter School's third prom such a raging success! All who attended had a great time, and it was a nice end to the school year. Thanks again, we are looking forward to working with you all next year!

Your investment in our youth is a solid investment in the future!

Dylan Foley, Willits

‘Second Shift’

To the Editor:

The Mendocino County Museum would like to thank those community members that have supported our past exhibits by providing donations or loans of items to put on display, and we would like to ask the community to consider contributing to another upcoming exhibit!

The museum is currently working on an exhibit entitled “Second Shift,” which looks

at the history of housework in Mendocino County from 1880 to 1980, and is focused on cooking, sewing, ironing, and cleaning. The exhibit will feature some wonderful items from the museum's collection; however, we are looking for loans or donations of items that can help expand the exhibit. We are especially seeking:

- Hand mixer
- Washboard
- 1970s era Mr. Coffee pot
- An early coffee percolator
- Photos of women engaged in housework
- Childcare items from 1880s to 1970s: bottles, books about caring for children (Dr. Spock), bibs, etc.

“Second Shift” will be on display from August through November 2016. If you have one of the items above or another item which you think would complement our exhibit, please contact Neeka Aguirre at 459-7695 or aguirren@co.mendocino.ca.us. Thank you!

Neeka Aguirre, Mendocino
County Museum

Control burn at Coyote Valley Dam

To the Editor:

On Monday evening, June 13, 2016, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, will be conducting a control burn at the Coyote Valley Dam. The control burn will commence at 5 pm, and will last until 9 pm. The smoke will be visible throughout the entire Ukiah and Redwood Valley areas.

The purpose of the control burn is to assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in removing the vegetation from the face of the Coyote Valley Dam allowing access and visibility for a required inspection.

Coyote Dam and the fish hatchery area near the base of the dam will be closed to the public. The burn will be conducted under very tight restrictions for the personal safety of firefighters and area residents. CalFire reminds all residents that their safety is of the utmost concern.

Mike Maynard, battalion chief,
CalFire Mendocino Unit

Brown Act

To the Editor:

Willits Weekly is correct in reporting that the city council can legitimately go into closed session to negotiate a real estate purchase, sale, lease or exchange by or for the council. (Sec. 54956.8 of the Brown Act). But, the City of Willits is not purchasing, selling, leasing or exchanging real estate with regard to the former Remco property. The Willits Environmental Trust (WERT) owns the property and is the entity negotiating the real estate deal.

The city council's only role in this transaction was to approve, or not, any proposal that would leave the existing structures in place. If a potential buyer of the property had planned to remove the buildings and other structures, the city council would have had no role at all in the sale of the property. The council's deliberations on whether or not a project which leaves the existing structures in place is appropriate for

the well-being of the community are clearly the meat and potatoes of open meeting discourse between elected representatives and their constituents.

The council made a mistake and should rectify it by disclosing what was discussed in the closed sessions. We the public need to be better watchdogs of our rights.

Ellen Drell, Willits

TRAIL changes name

To the Editor:

The Ridgewood TRAIL Riders Association, also known as TRAIL, has made a name change.

Erin Holzhauser, the director and head instructor of TRAIL, has announced plans to change the therapeutic horseback riding program's name from TRAIL to the “Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center.”

“The name change is necessary for clarity,” Holzhauser said. “Many people assumed the name TRAIL referred to a group of casual riders that go on trail rides together. That is not at all what TRAIL stands for,” says Holzhauser. She explains: “TRAIL, an acronym for Teaching Riding as an Access to Independence and Learning, is a therapeutic riding program dedicated to providing therapeutic horsemanship lessons to improve the lives of those who are challenged physically, developmentally, socially and emotionally.”

TRAIL was started by a group of 4-H members in 1993 with the goal of helping

Mike Smith, Willits

individuals with special needs. With family, community and the financial assistance of the Willits Rotary Club, TRAIL became a very successful program that truly benefits individuals with special needs. The TRAIL program, now known as the “Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center,” is located on the historic Ridgewood Ranch (home of Seabiscuit), which is about five miles south of Willits. The newly named “Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center” serves around 25 to 30 individuals with special needs year round.

“We gave the new name a lot of thought,” says Holzhauser. “Using ‘Seabiscuit’ as part of our new name is very meaningful. Seabiscuit was a world-famous racehorse that had to overcome severe challenges to become a champion, and we feel our program shares that spirit. Our new name, ‘Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center,’ not only shares that spirit, we believe it helps make it clear what the goals and accomplishments of the program are,” Holzhauser said.

The Rotary Club of Willits wants to announce its continued support of the “Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center.” Willits Rotary is planning “Claws for a Cause 2016” and is asking you for your support of this important program. Please make room on your busy schedule and mark your calendar for the evening of Saturday, September 3. This fundraiser will be located at Ridgewood Ranch and will feature whole live Maine lobster, filet mignon, local wines and live music. If you would like to be a sponsor, donate auction items, volunteer or purchase tickets, contact Mike Smith (Willits Rotary Club event chairman) at 459-4224.



At top, from left: Alumni player Cody Sizemore gets ready to hit the ball. Rick Yadon, the Willits High School varsity coach, pitches the ball towards home plate. Michael Lopez at bat.

At left: The full baseball crew Saturday at Willits High School's Dave Kline field.

Below: from left to right: Alumni game co-organizer Aaron Branscomb, varsity MVP Kyle Martinez, WHS varsity baseball coach Rick Yadon, alumni MVP Cody Sizemore, and assistant varsity coach Ray Van Pelt.

Photo by Forrest Glyer

Baseball Saturday

Willits High varsity team wins 2nd annual game against alumni team

Former Willits High School baseball players came to the Dave Klein Field on Saturday to take on the current varsity squad for the 2nd Annual WHS Alumni Baseball Game.

Ten graduates put on their gloves again for what turned out to be a very competitive and fun game, which the varsity team eked out 8-7. A few WHS JV players played for the alumni side as well to help fill out the roster.

They played the full nine innings, and the event raised \$2,400 for the WHS baseball program with a silent auction and a raffle, and a \$20 donation by each of the players. The prizes included a pair of tickets to a San Francisco Giants game, as well as several items donated by local businesses.

The game went very back and forth, with the varsity team jumping out to a 4-0 lead in the second inning, but the alumni bouncing back with a four-run fifth inning to tie it up. In the eighth inning it looked like varsity would run away with it, as they piled on four runs to take an 8-4 lead, but the alumni came back with three in the ninth to make it close before coming up just short. But really, as organizer Jessica Branscomb put it, the event was “all about having a good time.”

Jeremy Sneed, who graduated in 2001, was the starting pitcher for the alumni, and went several innings before giving way to a rotating cast of pitchers for the rest of the game. Junior Jackson Harris took the mound first for the high school team.

Senior Kyle Martinez was named MVP for the varsity team, while Cody Sizemore took the honors for the alumni team. Both were given commemorative shirts after the game for their wins.

The day was organized by Jessica and Aaron Branscomb, and WHS varsity baseball coach Rick Yadon, who also played on the alumni team. It was a family event for the Branscombs, with two of Jessica's brothers, graduates Cody and Tyler Sizemore, playing, and their son Ben, a current JV player, also on the alumni side. Aaron, who helps out with the WHS baseball and football teams, said they are definitely planning on continuing to have the event annually.

“I intend for this to be something we do every year if we get alumni to come,” he said. “Because we have to raise money for baseball. The school doesn't give us enough to stay afloat, so we have to raise

Read the rest of
Baseball | Over on Page 6

Laytonville Lady Warriors

Girls softball team wins division title, for the second year in a row

By Crystal Finnegan, contributing writer

The Laytonville High School Lady Warriors defended their NCS Division 6 title on Saturday, May 28, against the Rincon Valley Eagles, and came out winners, 5-4, after an exciting game of softball.

This was the second time in two years that the Lady Warriors went up against the Rincon Valley Eagles in the championship game, beating the Eagles 17-11 in 2015. The 2015 game was a history-making event for Laytonville High. It was the first time a Laytonville team hosted the Division 6 championship game, and it was the first time that a Laytonville High School girls team won a division title in the history of LHS. It was only the second time ever LHS has won a division title: the LHS boys basketball team won a division title in 1976.

The 2015 LHS varsity softball team was made up of all freshmen with the exception of one sophomore and one

Read the rest of
Softball | Over on Page 6

Above: The Laytonville Lady Warriors, with coach Michael Braught on the left and coach Jennifer Davis on the right, pose with their division championship plaque and pennant.

Below, left: Catcher/team captain Hailey Finnegan, left, and pitcher Cassie Homer hold their “First” pennant. Below, right: pitcher/team captain Lily Peterson, left, and Finnegan hold their championship plaque.

Photos by Crystal Finnegan



The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

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

Level: Beginner

SAUSAGE WORD SEARCH

F A O L R E V I L V S W I E N E R S K H
V I C R E P Y D R O P V I E N N A T A F C N G
Z N K E O P O Y B B A U N S C H W E I G E R D
R S K K U P O Y N H E Y I S B R A I D E D
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BLOOD	FRIZZIES	SAUSAGE
BOLOGNA	GROUND	SMOKED
BOTERHAMWORST	KIELBASA	SPICED
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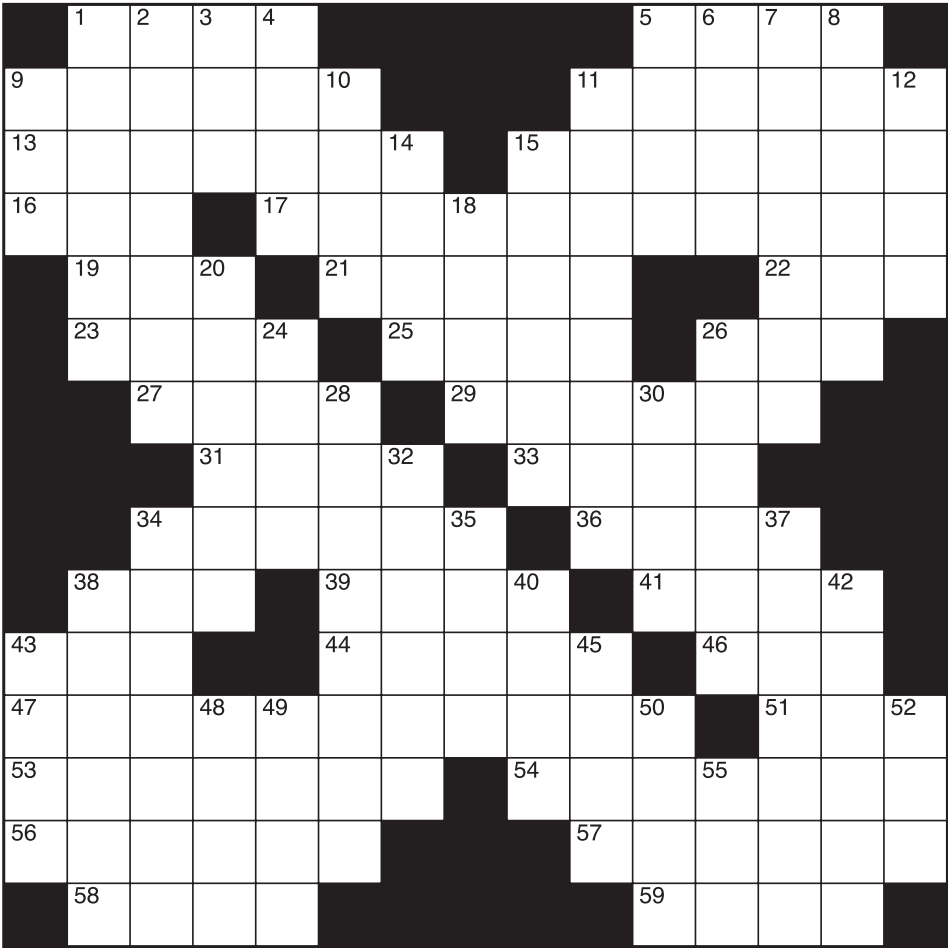
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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in 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!



CLUES ACROSS

- Marvin __, journalist
- Man
- A fast gait of a horse
- Streamlined
- Rope fastener
- They get you places
- Ma
- Filling sandwich
- Move away from land
- Sounds of boredom
- Tax collector
- Days (Spanish)
- Predatory reptile (abbr.)
- Hengyang
- Nanyue Airport
- AJA camera
- A computer language
- Blare
- Prevent from seeing
- Long-haired dog
- Turfs
- Villain
- At the peak

CLUES DOWN

- Knocked out
- Vessel that purifies
- Bachelor of Laws
- Loud noise
- __ Sagan, astronomer
- Mound
- Coming to light
- Extreme poverty
- Jewel
- Commoner
- Macadamias are some
- Chum
- Not slender
- Fido is one
- Acidify with this
- Before
- Guided
- Extended
- Units of weight
- Bedding
- Greek portico
- Descended
- Disasters
- Adult females
- Mineral
- Regards with disgust
- Waterproofed canvas
- Teased
- Carbon particles
- Delay
- Luminaries
- Boxing champ
- Spinks
- A set of four
- Most noticeable
- He played Milton Waddams
- __ Foster, composer
- Succulent plant
- Two
- Run naked
- El __, Texas town
- Female deer (pl.)
- Art __, around 1920
- Compound
- Breaks to sleep
- Doctor of Education
- Group of vineyards

Willits Otters Swim Team members, from left, Maddie Donahue, Gracie Bouthillier, Brody Perez Bowen, Hanna Bouthillier and Shelby Perez Bowen, hold raffle tickets for a week's stay in Mexico.

Willits Otters Raffle

Swim team raising funds for new pool boiler

The Willits Otters Swim Team is holding a raffle to help raise funds for a much-needed new boiler to heat the water at the Willits City Pool.

Recently, the swim team could not swim for two weeks, as the boiler, about 20 years old, was broken and the water temperature was too low to safely swim, swim team parent and raffle organizer Miranda Perez said. "As we know," Perez said, "the city constantly is challenged financially. The city has told us in the past, if the boiler breaks and cannot be repaired, they are not sure it would be replaced." Getting a new boiler installed will cost about \$23,000, but Perez said the group has "locked in grants" to help fund a new and more energy-efficient boiler (less expensive in the long run), and are holding the raffle to jump start the new boiler fund.

The raffle prize is a week-long stay at the Los Cabos

Father's Day "Foto Call"

The day to celebrate our Dads is just around the corner, falling this year on Sunday, June 19. Willits Weekly would like to encourage the community to not only try and track down that no-fail golf tie, or ... erm ... Concho bolero tie in these here parts, but also to submit in a photo of you and your dad for our upcoming June 16 edition.

Because really, what would be a better Father's Day gift than having your smiling faces published in the hometown newspaper for all to see and have something to be clipped and hung on the fridge for weeks to come?

Photos are preferred in high resolution and can be sent to willitsweekly@gmail.com, scanned at Ace Copy and Shipping, or texted to 972-7047.

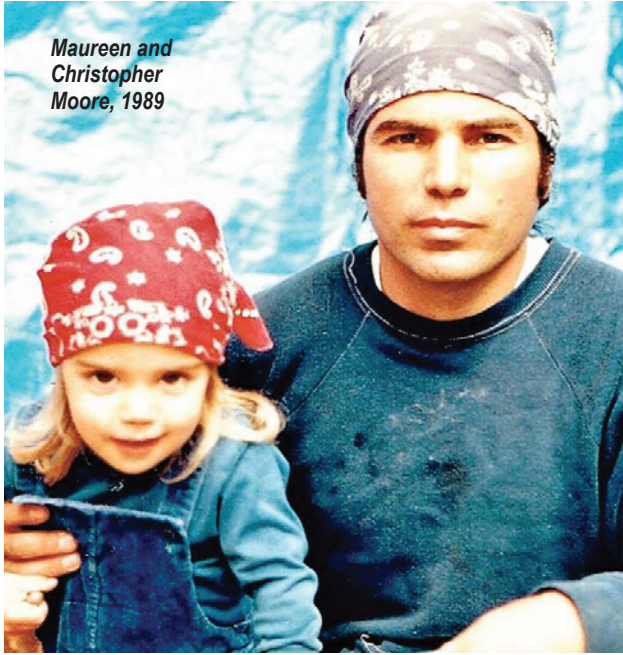


Marina Condo in Cabo San Lucas, Baja California Sur, Mexico, donated by local residents, with an estimated value of \$870. Visit www.airbnb.com/rooms/6145469# to check it out. Raffle tickets are \$10 each. Tickets can be purchased at the City Pool Monday through Friday from 6 to 7:30 pm, when the team practices, or by calling Perez at 367-0401 or Jamie Bouthillier at 272-2772.

The youngest Bouthillier daughter on the swim team, Madison, says she likes the swim team because swimming is "fun!", and her older sister Hannah says: "We enjoy the competition. We are improving our swimming each year. We push hard, and it really shows in the meets. We've gotten better."

The Willits Otters are coached by Lou Meier, with help from assistant coach James Johnson. The Willits Swim Meet is coming up on Father's Day weekend, Saturday, June 18 and Sunday, June 19. Spectators are welcome, and you can buy raffle tickets at the meet. The drawing will be held at the end of the meet; you need not be present to win.

— Jennifer Poole



Please include names of those in the photo, from left to right. We will try and print as many as we can in our June 16 edition, and look forward to helping create a happy Father's Day for all.

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(uh-tog-rah-fress)
noun: Maureen Moore: a person who creates fabulous photo montages

707-972-7047 maureengetsmail@gmail.com

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Entry Fee: \$40 - 4 Person Scramble
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Your Hosts: Seventh Day Adventist School
Entry Fee: \$50 - 2 Person Scramble
Fri. • June 17th • 8am-2pm
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Mon.-Thurs. • June 20th-23rd
8:30am-11am
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Your Hosts: Brooktrails Golf Course
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Soroptimist International of Willits would like to remind the public that since AT&T no longer prints residential numbers in their directory, we rely on residents to update us on any needed change to the Willits Community phone book.

This change could be your phone number (landline or cell) address (home or P.O.), addition of a new business, addition of a new listing, or removal of a listing for moving or death.

We are happy to add or update your listing in our directory. You can email your information to willitsphonebook@gmail.com or call Loraine Patton at 621-0173 and leave her a message.

All changes need to be made by December 1st of this year in order to make the NEW 2017 Directory.

Eager Gus

Gus is a high-energy Lab/Shepherd mix around 10 months old. Being a high-energy dog, he is having a hard time adjusting to the shelter life. Our volunteers and staff are trying to make his stay here the best it can be, but he really needs a home of his own where he can get the exercise and training he needs. He gets along well with other dogs when properly introduced and is very smart and eager to please. We are working on his manners and basic obedience, but because he has so much energy and because of his size, we recommend Gus not go to a home with small children.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, where you can come visit, play with and/or adopt Gus 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.

Terrific Tonka

Meet Tonka, the playful loving pup! He is a 7-month-old male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 45 pounds. Both energetic and adventurous, Tonka is bound to keep both your hands and heart full as he navigates through the puppy phase. He is an easy-to-walk boy and will need active owners who are also willing to continue working with him on his training and socializing. If you have space in your growing family for sweet Tonka, please stop by the shelter and meet him today!

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 new website: www.mendoanimalshelter.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

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Willits High School Class of 2016 award recipients

Congratulations to all the Willits High School seniors who received a local scholarship, award or recognition at awards night, Wednesday, May 25. Fifty-one 2016 WHS seniors are honored in the list below, with a total of \$86,600 in scholarship monies and 17 different non-monetary awards, many with multiple awardees. Thanks to all the local organizations that fund these scholarships every year.

Scholarships

American Association of University Women Scholarship

In Memory of Helen Bell and Helen Williams: Gabriel Agenbroad (\$1,000); In Memory of Lorene Cave: Kelsey Butler (\$500); In Memory of Dorothy Quandt: Shanna Gayski (\$500)

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 174 Scholarship

Academic: Kelsey Butler (\$500); Vocational: Mitchell McKinley (\$300)

American Legion Post 174 Scholarship

Academic: Will Smith (\$500); Vocational: Kyle Martinez (\$500)

Black Bart Gun Fighters Scholarship

Sierra Skinner (\$500)

Brooktrails Property Owners Association Inc. Scholarship

Gabby Agenbroad (\$1,000); Stetson Burgess (\$1,000); Mitchell McKinley (\$1,000); Kyle Martinez (\$1,000)

Brooktrails Women's Club Scholarship

Kelsey Butler (\$1,000); Kristyna Hewitt (\$1,000); Shanna Gayski (\$6,000)

Deputy Sheriffs Association

Rex Smith (\$500)

Dr. Charles O. and Harriett C. Smith Memorial Scholarship

Hannah Friend (\$500)

Penserra Scholarship

Annalise Mendoza (\$2,500)

California Retired Teachers Hilmer Finne Scholarship

Loren Herz O'Brien (\$1,000)

E. A. Padula Scholarship

Anthony Sorace (\$500); Will Smith (\$500)

Soroptimist International of Willits Scholarship

Evelyn K. Kennedy Scholarship: Olivia Cooper (\$2,500)

Evelyn K. Kennedy Scholarship: Hillary VanBezooyen (\$2,500)

Kristyna Hewitt (\$1,000); Hannah Friend (\$1,000); Flor Haschak (\$1,000); Gabriel Agenbroad (\$1,000); Shanna Gayski (\$1,000)

Mendo Lake Credit Union Honorarium for Overall Achievement

Sylvia Friend (\$50); Shivam Patel (\$50)

Ralph J. Morgese Memorial Scholarship

Tristan Adams (\$1,000); Isaac Barber (\$1,000); Kris Novo (\$1,000); Flor Haschak

(\$1,000); Carlos Velarde Munoz (\$1,000); Nicholas Rescina (\$1,000); Shivam Patel (\$1,000); Hillary VanBezooyen (\$1,000); Kayla Pedersen (\$1,000); Alissa Ruiz (\$1,000); Jordan Gazzano (\$1,000); and Gabrielle Terrell (\$1,000)

Randy Clark Scholarship

Kristopher Novo (\$1,000); Sierra Skinner (\$500)

Ventura Perez Memorial Merit Award

Hannah Friend (\$150); Kristyna Hewitt (\$150); Blake Leslie (\$150); Kris Novo (\$150); Kayla Pedersen (\$150); Konner Reed (\$150); Kyle Reed (\$150); Elizabeth Rountree (\$150); William Switzer (\$150); Gabrielle Terrell (\$150); Samuel Gamez (\$250); Michael Knoell-Porter (\$250); Shivam Patel (\$250); Mitchell McKinley (\$250); Kyle Martinez (\$250); Shy Silverstein (\$250); Rex Smith (\$250); Will Smith (\$250); Anthony Sorace (\$250); Kristine Gonzalez (\$500) Siena Karp (\$500); Nick Rescina (\$500); Price Runberg (\$500); Jessica Tyrrell (\$500); Vera Tyrrell (\$500)

Willits Boosters Club Scholarship

Kyle Martinez (\$500); Price Runberg (\$500); Mitchell McKinley (\$500)

Willits Chapter P.E.O.

Kristyna Hewitt (\$750)

Willits Community Scholarship

Alia Duran (\$600); Brandon Johnson (\$600); Garrett Vincent (\$600); Brianne McBride (\$600)

Willits Frontier Days Scholarship

Anthony Sorace (\$1,000); Shanna Gayski (\$1,000); Kyle Martinez (\$1,000)

Willits Garden Club Scholarship

Anthony Sorace (\$1,000)

Willits Kiwanis Club Scholarship

Anthony Sorace (\$500); Kyle Martinez (\$500)

Willits Lions Club Scholarship

Shanna Gayski (\$750); Mitchell McKinley (\$750); Loren Herz O'Brien (\$750)

Willits Rotary Club Scholarship

In Honor of Ruth Rockefeller: Kristyna Hewitt (\$1,500)

Ankur Shah Scholarship: Olivia Cooper (\$1,500) Loren Herz O'Brien (\$1,500); Anthony Sorace (\$1,500); Sylvia Friend (\$1,500); Hillary VanBezooyen (\$1,500); Gabby Agenbroad (\$1,500); Annalise Mendoza (\$1,500); Nicholas Rescina (\$1,500); Jessica Tyrrell (\$1,500); Carlos Velarde Munoz (\$1,500); Shivam Patel (\$1,500)

In Honor of Bill Carrillo: Kyle Martinez (\$1,000)

Willits Teachers Association Scholarship

William Smith (\$400); Nick Rescina (\$400); Flor Haschak (\$500); Price Runberg (\$500)

Non-Monetary Awards

Press Democrat Scholar Athlete of the Year

Olivia Cooper and Anthony Sorace

California Scholarship Federation Life Member Award

Hannah Friend, Gwen Rasmussen, Sylvia Friend, Mitchell McKinley, Price Runberg, Anthony Sorace

California Scholarship Federation Charles and Marian H. Seymour Memorial Award

Mitchell McKinley & Price Runberg

California Mathematics Council Exemplary Mathematics Achievement

Olivia Cooper

FFA

Sierra Skinner, Elizabeth Rountree, Konner Reed, Kristopher Novo, Destiny Gamez, William Switzer, Justin Mosher, Michael Knoell-Porter, Jakob Bromaghim, Casey Hebel

United States Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award

Anthony Sorace and Olivia Cooper

United States Army G.I. Bill Presentation

Dylan Tyler

U.S. Marine Corps High School Award

"Semper Fidelis" Award: Jakob Bromaghim

Distinguished Athlete Award: Mitchell McKinley

Distinguished Athlete Award: Hannah Friend

Scholastic Excellence Award: Price Runberg

Scholastic Excellence Award: Sylvia Friend

WHS Art

Avant Garde Artist: Norea Israel

Most Dedicated Artist: Shanna Gayski

Best Beginning Artist: Casey Hebel

WHS Band

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award: Loren Herz O'Brien

John Philip Sousa Band Award: Justin Mosher

WPD Activity Report

May 28 to June 3

Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **194** incidents in this seven day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 28

10:20 am: A vehicle, reportedly driving erratically through town, was stopped in the 800 block of South Main Street. After an investigation, it was determined the driver HARDWICK, Mary (31) of Willits was driving while under the influence of drugs and placed under arrest pursuant to 23152(e) VC (DUI).

May 29

2:30 pm: Officers were dispatched to a fight in the 1600 block of South Main Street. Following an investigation, a 16-year-old female juvenile was placed under arrest for 242 PC (Battery).

5:10 pm: ELLINGWOOD, Emery (60) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to an outstanding Mendocino County warrant.

May 30

3 pm: Officers initiated an investigation of a reported missing juvenile from the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

7 pm: Officers initiated an investigation of a reported vandalism to a vehicle in the 10 block of Nancy Lane.

May 31

11:30 am: SMITH, Desmond (56) of Willits was contacted during a traffic stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and placed under arrest pursuant to an outstanding Mendocino County warrant.

2 pm: Officers responded to speak with a subject who was seen urinating on a business in the 200 block of South Main Street. When officers arrived they contacted CAUCKWELL, Richard (53) of Willits, determined he'd been drinking alcohol in violation of the terms of his probation, and placed him under arrest pursuant to 1203.2(a) PC (Violation of Probation).

8 pm: Officers responded to a fight in the 700 block of South Main Street and subsequently initiated an investigation of an assault with a deadly weapon.

9:30 pm: Officers responded to a reported theft to a business in the 800 block of South Main Street. After an investigation, HULSEY, Shudra (23) of Willits was issued a citation for 459.5 PC (Shoplifting).

June 1

11:30 am: Officers responded to a traffic collision in the 300 block of East Valley Road.

4:20 pm: Officers investigated a fight in the 10 block of Hazel Street.

6 pm: Officers conducted a death investigation in the 21000 block of Baechtel Road.

June 2

5 am: Multiple callers reported a man walking naked in the 800 block of South Main Street. Officers contacted the subject and initiated a mental health detention.

8:30 am: Officers investigated a roll-over traffic collision in the 400 block of East Hill Road.

June 3

3:10 pm: SPAGGIARI, Ruben (25) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of Holly Street and placed under arrest pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

5 pm: Officers investigated a traffic collision in the 100 block of North Main Street.

6 pm: Officers investigated a reported dog bite in the 200 block of South Main Street.

10 pm: HAMILTON, Brandon (22) of Yreka was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. After determining he was under the influence of a controlled substance, officers placed Hamilton under arrest pursuant to 11550(a) HS (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance).



Above, from left: Michael Lopatecki explains his style to local artist and WCA board member Ann Maglinite. Doug Kell's bronze from the 1980s stands guard over the wide array of art on display. Local artists Laurie Howard, left, and Nancy New catch up at the art reception.

At left: Judy Chance Hope's "Nude with Bamboo."

Below, from left: Devi Doree Chase, Kat Emerson, Holly Madrigal, and Judy Chance Hope celebrate at Saturday's opening. "Hand" by Kat Emerson. Muralist Nimh, who recently moved to Willits, and her baby Circl Grace, enjoy the fresh strawberries.

Photos by Jenny Senter

Saturday Night Art

'Drawn from Life' opening reception at the Willits Art Center

The human form took center stage at the opening of the June exhibit at the Willits Center for the Arts, "Drawn from Life," on Saturday, June 4. Many of those in attendance were impressed with the varied interpretations of the same human model.

The variety of mediums on display also surprised some of the art patrons who stopped by for the show's opening. However, the talent exhibited by the artists was not a surprise. Many times over, people commented on the incredible talent of our community and Mendocino County as a whole. Linda McNiel came to the opening to support not only the "wonderful and prolific artists in the show" but also the Willits Center for the Arts and the vibrant arts community of Willits.

The artists "spirits come through their work" is how Henry Shebitz described the art on display. Shebitz is a longtime Willits arts supporter who was a member of the initial work crew that created the beautiful space of the current Willits Center for the Arts.

"Drawn from Life" artist Peter Onstad, a Willits resident for 16 years, was on hand to greet patrons. He got his art training at San Francisco Institute of Art. However, he said that working with artist Richard Diebenkorn, known

for his abstract expressionism, was pivotal in his development as an artist. Onstad also works in oils and will host a Willits Center for the Arts show in September 2016.

Sculptor Doug Kell has always been fascinated by the human figure. He has been an artist for over 40 years and has been in the Willits Drawing Club – artists from the Drawing Club are featured in this month's exhibit – for about 12 years. He focuses on "realistic traditional work to create strong faces to draw people into the art." He doesn't name his work, because he believes "all art should be open to the viewers' interpretation." He noted that the Willits Center for the Arts is a great venue to show in.

The Drawing Club meets every Thursday from 1 to 4 pm, and all levels of experience are welcomed. There is a fee, which covers the cost of the model's time. For more information about classes or becoming a live model, contact Devi Chase at 459-6284.

"Drawn from Life" runs through June 26, 2016, at the WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. New 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, or by appointment. Info: visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-1726.



The rest of
Baseball |
From Page 3

money to get uniforms, hats, belts, baseballs and pay for umpires."

Henry Luna and Martin Duran volunteered their time to umpire the game. Aaron said that both had coached some of the alumni in Little League, so they "get a big kick out of" being there and seeing them play again.

WHS principal Robert Chavez threw out the first pitch before the game, and Aaron had high praise for the principal's support of WHS sports.

"He's come to all the games, even some away games, and supported the team," he said. "I love the guy. He's helping us out in many different ways."

Chris Doak, a 1996 WHS graduate, played in the game for the second straight year, and said he had a blast.

"I had a great time," he said. "It worked out well, everyone got to play. It seems like everyone comes together for the alumni game.... I'll try and do it every year."

Local businesses and people that contributed to the event include Loose Caboose, Monkey Wrench, Cat's Meow, WHS Boosters, Willits Power, Parlin Fork Conservation Camp, Tango Willits, Safeway, Tiger Lily's, Grocery Outlet, Buttercups, Northwest Sporting Goods, Mark & Pat Howard, and Lisa Reed.

The rest of
Softball |
From Page 3

senior. They were tough competitors: Most have been playing together since they were 7 years old.

The 2016 softball team was made up of the same group of girls (now sophomores) with the addition of two freshmen and a junior, led by coaches Jennifer Davis and Michael Braught. Going into the Saturday home game at Laytonville High, the Warriors had a 10-0 league record and a 16-5 overall record. They were seeded 1st in the division against the Rincon Valley team (made up of a majority of seniors) who had a 3-7 league record and 8-10 overall. Rincon was seeded 2nd in the division.

The first at bats for Rincon Valley were non-scoring. Laytonville's pitcher Cassandra Homer struck one out, walked one, and the Warriors defense worked behind their pitcher and made the last outs.

The first at bats for Laytonville were key to the Warriors' win. First at bat was one of Laytonville's captains and catcher, Hailey Finnegan, who roped the second pitch past short stop. The third baseman, Gracie Silva, followed Finnegan, advancing her to second. Pitcher Cassandra Homer got on base with fielder's choice, which also put Silva out at second. Centerfielder Brownwyn Giffillian had the first big hit of the game with a home run that brought in Homer and Finnegan. Shortstop Lily Peterson and second baseman Kassandra Basler were the 2nd and 3rd outs. The score was 3-0 Laytonville.

The Lady Warriors defense was on top of their game. While the Warriors' hitting was less than aggressive, and they struggled to bring runs in, leaving runners on base each inning, the Warriors' defense made excellent plays against the Rincon Valley Eagles offense.

The Eagles got 8 hits, 4 walks, and 3 strikeouts off Homer. The Lady Warriors outfielders were able to make excellent plays, keeping the Eagles from scoring big. The infielders had quick hands and accurate throws.

The Lady Warriors got 7 hits, 3 walks and 2 strikeouts off of Eagles pitcher Maegan Segale.

The 7th inning is where it all came down to who was going to become the Division 6 champions.

At the top of the 7th, the score was 3-3. The Lady Eagles' batting and the Lady Warriors' defense got them to where each team was sitting.

The Lady Eagles' scored one with two outs, now leading it 4-3. Lady Warriors' defense was able to make the third out without any more damage. This was the final ups for our Lady Warriors. They knew that they had to leave it all out there if they were going to come from behind.

The Lady Warriors were at the bottom of their lineup. First up was rookie Taylor Felton, who hit a hot line drive past second for a single. Next rookie Melissa Adkisson hit a single, advancing Felton to second. Pitcher Homer was up and was hit by the pitch, advancing Felton and Adkisson. The Eagles pitcher was starting to show the pressure was on, with the bases loaded.

The Lady Warriors' dugout was going crazy, and the local crowd was cheering. Catcher Finnegan and third baseman Silva made 1 and 2 outs. It was looking pretty bleak for the Warriors. Centerfielder Giffillian was up, and the pressure increased on Segale as she walked. Giffillian, tying the score 4-4. Two outs and bases loaded.

Shortstop/pitcher Lily Peterson was up. The Warriors dugout chanted "Let's Go Warriors" and the crowd cheered excitedly. Peterson took two strikes. With two outs, the score tied, and the bases loaded, Peterson swung, connected, and the ball hung in the air right over second base.

A swarm of Eagles congregated on that yellow ball. The Warriors were heading home, and the crowd was silent. The ball missed the Eagles gloves and hit the grass as Adkisson crossed the plate, scoring the winning run. The crowd went wild, and the Lady Warriors rushed the field, coming together in another history-making victory.


Laytonville is proud of our young varsity team for their hard work and dedication. Along with winning the division pennant, the Lady Warriors took the league pennant and the scholastic team award for the highest cumulative GPA for Division 6. Way to go Lady Warriors!

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Thursday, June 9

'Come and Play': Grace Community Church at 25 Hazel Street is sponsoring a free play date every Thursday this summer starting June 9, from 11 am until noon, for kids through sixth grade. Children must be accompanied by a parent. An enclosed play yard for the little ones and various activities for older children. Call 459-3106 for additional information.

Power of Produce Club back at Willits Farmers Market: this free kids' farmers market program starts up again on Thursday, June 9, at City Park from 3 to 6:30 pm and runs for 6 weeks through July 14. "The POP Club empowers children ages 5 to 12 to make healthy food choices by offering educational activities, cooking demonstrations, and food sampling, plus \$4 in special market "Green Bucks" that they can do their own shopping for veggies and fruit at the market and a "passport" book to keep track of the new foods they have tried. A free program, thanks to local sponsors. Info: Tarney Sheldon at North Coast Opportunities: 707-462-1950 or sheldont@ncoinc.org.

WHS Booster Club Meeting: The monthly WHS Booster Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, June 9, at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS! Info: whsboosters123@yahoo.com.

Free lecture on Spotted Owls: Friends of the Willits Library sponsors this free lecture about the Spotted Owl by noted owl expert Mike Stevens on Thursday, June 9 at 7 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Stevens has been working with spotted owls for over 20 years. He will discuss spotted owl population trends in Mendocino County forests and the devastating effects of the recent arrival of barred owls, close relatives from the eastern U.S. His digital slide show features pictures, audio, and possibly some video.

'Beside Yourself': Opening night Friday, June 10 at 8 pm for the new production at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. "Beside Yourself," written by Nick Hall, is directed by Kevin H.C. Moore. This "family-friendly farce takes place at an annual genetic research convention held at a beach resort hotel. Four pairs of identical twins are in attendance. When one twin decides she feels like having a little fling to 'improve her marriage' — and her scheming husband gets involved — it sets off a hilarious chain reaction of farcical mix-ups." Featuring actors Jess Craighead, BarbaraLee Lilker, David Partch and Jennifer Dellett. "Beside Yourself" runs through Sunday, June 26 with shows on Thursdays at 7 pm, Friday and Saturdays at 8 pm, and a Sunday June 19 matinee at 2 pm and Sunday June 26 closing show at 7 pm. A special benefit performance sponsored by Willits Rotary Club will be held on the first Thursday, June 16. For benefit tickets, contact Brad Walton at 459-9082

Friday, June 10

'Beside Yourself': Opening night Friday, June 10 at 8 pm for the new production at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. "Beside Yourself," written by Nick Hall, is directed by Kevin H.C. Moore. This "family-friendly farce takes place at an annual genetic research convention held at a beach resort hotel. Four pairs of identical twins are in attendance. When one twin decides she feels like having a little fling to 'improve her marriage' — and her scheming husband gets involved — it sets off a hilarious chain reaction of farcical mix-ups." Featuring actors Jess Craighead, BarbaraLee Lilker, David Partch and Jennifer Dellett. "Beside Yourself" runs through Sunday, June 26 with shows on Thursdays at 7 pm, Friday and Saturdays at 8 pm, and a Sunday June 19 matinee at 2 pm and Sunday June 26 closing show at 7 pm. A special benefit performance sponsored by Willits Rotary Club will be held on the first Thursday, June 16. For benefit tickets, contact Brad Walton at 459-9082



Bill Barksdale and a pup.

or any Rotary Club member. Advance tickets for all regular shows are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also available at the door until sold out.

ClosEnuf at Brooktrails Lodge: "Come listen and jam with seasoned musicians who love to entertain. If you like to listen to good classic rock'n'roll, come up to the Brooktrails Lodge, 24675 Birch Street, and check it out." Every second Friday; June 10 this month. Sign-ups at 7:30 pm for open mic jam. Music starts at 8 pm.

Shanachie Pub: Margo Cilker, on acoustic guitar, harmonica and vocals. Opener Forrest Glyer of Schindig and "more of your favorite local musicians." 8 pm. No cover. Visit <http://www.margocilker.com>. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, June 11

Willits Pet Adoption Day: Find the friend that's just right for you at this summer's first Willits Pet Adoption Day, set for Saturday, June 11 from 11 am to 2 pm in the parking lot of Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, 1460 South Main Street. Sponsored by the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County and hosted by Bill Barksdale. "This is your opportunity to meet and adopt the wonderful pets available to good homes. Complete adoption assistance will be available." For more information on adoptions or how to help with the Humane Society's work please call 485-0123 or visit <http://mendohumaneociety.com>

Sit N Sew: new monthly drop-in sewing group meets at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Saturday, June 11 from 1 to 5 pm. Free to all. "Anyone who wants to sew is welcome. Just bring your sewing machine, and a project to work on." Info: Rachel at 354-0605.

'Beside Yourself': 8 pm at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. See Friday, June 10 listing for details.

Free Movies in the Grove: Brooktrails Neighborhood Association sponsors free community movies at Ohl Grove Park in Brooktrails on select Saturdays in June, July and August. First screening on Saturday, June 11 at 8:30 pm (or dusk). Family fun, concessions; service dogs only. Visit "Brooktrails Neighborhood Association — BPOA" page on Facebook.

Shanachie Pub: Taluna Duo, featuring Gaia Mobilij on Calabrian lyre and accordian, and Peppino Leone on percussion and traditional Southern Italian frame drums. 9 pm. No cover. Visit www.taluna.it. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



DEADLINE FOR
WILLITS WEEKLY:
Monday prior to
Thursday Publication

Senior Center Lunch

Week of June 13
through June 17

Monday: Creamed Chicken on Noodles
Tuesday: Turkey Reuben Sandwich
Wednesday: Meat Loaf
Thursday: Chicken Pasta Salad
Friday: Baked Cod

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$.50 per meal; under 55: \$.7 per meal. Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Free workshop: 'Tools with Takashi'

Saturday, June 11

From homesteading to farming and ranching, nearly all of us use mechanized equipment to help us get the job done. Weed whackers, chainsaws, lawn mowers, generators, just to name a few motorized tools, are so heavily relied upon that when they break, it can be devastating!

In the classroom and the shop, participants will learn the basics of internal combustion engines — what are the parts and pieces?, common failures that can be repaired at home, and how to provide basic maintenance that keep these tools running longer and better. Learn the theory behind 2 stroke and 4 stroke engines, and how to troubleshoot and disassemble the components.

From 11:30 am to 1 pm, we will be joined by Michael Hackleman, who will discuss and demonstrate electric vehicles and equipment, how to troubleshoot and repair, and what considerations must be taken when substituting electric to gas-powered! Admission is free.

Grange School of Adaptive Agriculture, Ridgewood Ranch, 16200 North Highway 101, Willits.

www.Small Engine Maintenance and Repair / Electric Equipment Workshop
— submitted by Grange School of Adaptive Agriculture

Senior Class Graduates

Willits Charter School

Eighth-Grade Class

Not pictured: Riley Lessner, Cheyanne Paulson, Shannon Sharkey, and Esmerelda Sosa.

Michael Azevedo

Jeannell Aldrich

Emily Barbitta

Lucas Branscomb

Allen Carlson

Spencer Copperfield

Hope Curtis

John Foucault

Zoe Grimm

Rachel Hageman

Layton Hoagland

Michael Lawson

Thomas Leinwetter

Skylar Luedemann

Taylor Quinliven

Sammie St. Pierre

Luna Tumilowicz

Lauren Van Pelt

Jasmine Wear

2016
Willits Charter School
graduation
and promotion ceremonies

Willits Charter School: Eighth-grade promotion, Thursday, June 9 at the Willits Community Center at 5:30 pm
Willits Charter School: Senior graduation, Friday, June 10 at 6 pm

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For more information: www.mendocinotransit.org or call 800-696-4MTA / 462-1422
Tickets: Mendocino Transit Authority, 241 Plant Road, Ukiah CA 95482
Available on board an MTA bus or at the MTA office in Ukiah or Fort Bragg. This pass not valid on MTA Dial-A-Ride.

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Starting at \$89.99
All-Season Tire Economically Priced
Back Country SQ-4

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• Visual Inspection of Brake Components (Calipers, Brake Rotors/Drums, Brake Pads/Shoes, including braking material measurement using a brake gauge, Brake Hose and Hardware, Master Cylinder, including check of Brake Fluid
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Above from left: A cowboy tries to flip a steer. Danielle Barry goes to secure the legs of a goat in the girls' goat tying event. Shanna Gayski rounds a barrel in the barrel racing event.

Below: The All-Around winners stand with Jim Bean, center, including Kelly Fonsen, left, and Shanna Gayski, right, who hold their breast collar prizes.

At bottom: The High Money jackpot roping winners pose with Jim Bean, right, including Joe Dennis, left and Fred Niesen, center. They're holding their prizes, engraved stirrups noting their 2016 titles.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographs
maureen@willitsweekly.com

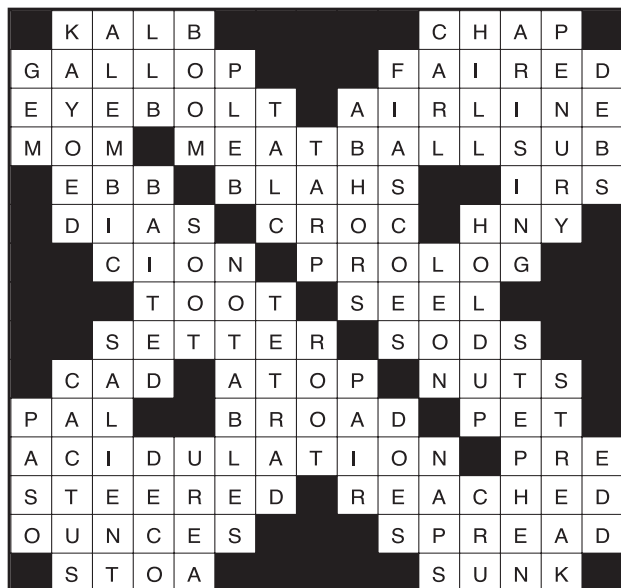
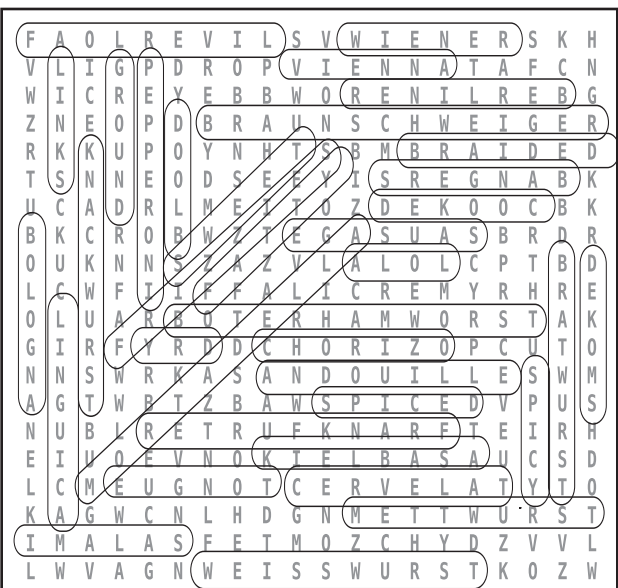
It wasn't just the beef that was getting roasty and toasty last weekend at the Willits Horseman's annual playday weekend. The hot temperatures were certainly felt by horses, riders and attendees alike, but that didn't keep anyone from having a great time.



Photos by Rachel Belvin, Bobbi Belvin, Olivia Grupp and Matthew D'Anis.



Above: Patrons enjoy the barbecue in the shade. Below, left: The mystery scramble is a fun event for kids on foot where they get to keep what they catch – chicken, rooster or other! Below, right: Kelly Fonsen and his roping partner hope for a clean catch in the team roping event.



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Beach Ultimate Frisbee
2nd annual Mendocino Beach Ultimate Frisbee Tournament and Beach Dance Party. Saturday, June 11 at Big River Beach, River Side, 1066 N Hwy 1. Tournament: 11am-6pm (all levels welcome); Dance Party by Co-Nectar Productions with 4 DJs: 2-9pm (\$5 donation). "Ultimate Frisbee" is a self-officiated, non-contact sport that combines soccer, football, and basketball together, but with a frisbee! Local pick-up games have been played every Sunday afternoon at Big River Beach. This tournament is "hat" style, meaning draw names from a hat and create teams. Spectators welcome! Info: http://mendocinoultime.com/.

Help Wanted
Shusters Transportation hiring Chip Truck Driver, Class A, 1 year minimum. Application may be picked up at 750 East Valley Street, Willits, 459-4131. Please bring current DMV. Great Medical-Dental.

Beginner Voyager Tarot
Free introductory meeting - reservation necessary. Monday June 20, 6:30 pm, 5 person limit 456-9204. Synchronistic deck of full-color photo/collage pasteboards. Instructions book with concepts clearly defined for instant interpretation.

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 macamerigin@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.

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

Retired Contractor's Wife Sale
Alongside my husband, I will have a full 10-place setting of Corelle dishes, an assortment of picture frames, wine glasses, an iron twin bed frame circa 1930, an assortment of Christmas-related items, a Lang calendar frame, framework cat wall clock, digital alarm clock, cat coasters, cat figurines, other similar cat items, some Tupperware, foot warming pad, ceramic platter, assorted ceramic bowls and many other household items. No clothing for sale. Saturday, June 11, 9 - 4 @ 3540 Primrose Drive/ Brooktrails.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers \$390 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at "http://www.oakvline.net/tp"

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 thefruitgroup9549@gmail.com

Help Wanted
Ardella's Diner: Full-time line cook, full- and part-time dishwashers, and part-time wait staff. Will train right candidates. Perfect summer job for student. Apply in person. No phone calls.

Send us your ad to be included!
Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

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

Carl Gallups

Worden "Carl" Gallups of Willits, 76, passed away June 1, 2016. He was born March 11, 1940 to Thomas Benjamin Gallups and Opal Cowles Gallups in Ft. Benning, Georgia. Carl graduated from Willits High School in 1959 and married Eleanor Elaine Dunlap in Willits on May 20, 1961. He owned and operated Carl's Barber Shop for 53 years, so that it seemed he had cut the hair of everyone in the community at one time or another, frequently multiple generations in families. His legacy continues through grandson, Thomas Gallup, Jr. as "Carl's Classics."

Carl was a "people" person who loved the friendship and comradery of being with others, sharing stories, lives and community interests. This love of life and people is obvious in his community involvement: a highlight of his life was as a member of Willits High School's undefeated football team. He belonged to Key Club branch of Kiwanis, lifetime member, and in 1961 served as lieutenant governor of Northern California; 1968-1970, he started Pop Warner Football; Willits Jaycees, 1961-1970; Bowling Association; president of 4th of July Frontier Days Parade 1961-1971 and also served as chairman, at 4th BBQs and in rodeo booths; Willits Oddfellows Committee, member for many years; recreation commissioner for City of Willits, 1968; WHS Booster Club; and ran "chains" at football games for 50 years. His greatest passion was supporting Little League for 50 years as coach and referee, for which one of the fields is named in honor of Carl. He gave an annual award for the best improved football player in the Pee Wee League.

Carl was predeceased by his parents, Thomas and Opal Gallups. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 romantic years, Eleanora Gallups; sons, Tom and Paul; grandchildren: Ben, Alicia, Thomas, Jr., Jeremiah, Sheridan, and Anna Arnold, Justin Arnold; great-grandchildren: Vincent, Vannessa, Amara, Zoeanna, Thomas III, Alithia, Christoff; numerous nieces and nephews; siblings: Dean Gallups, Sr. and Liz Shipp; and long-time friend, Fred Page.

A "potluck" and Celebration of Life will be held at the Rec Grove Saturday, June 11, 2016, 11 am-2 pm.

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



Jim Yokum

James A. "Jim" Yokum passed away suddenly on May 30, 2016 at the age of 66 years.

He was born in Willits to Glenn and Roberta Yokum, and lived his entire life here.

Jim graduated from Willits High School, Class of '67, and attended Santa Rosa Junior College, where he met his wife, Bobbie, of 46 years.

He worked as an auto body repairman for the local Chevrolet dealer for 27 years. He later became owner/operator of Yokum's Body Shop, where he touched the lives of many people in the area.

Jim was a very skilled fisherman as well as an avid hunter. He traveled far and wide with family and friends throughout his life.

Jim was a charter member with Roots of Motive Power, as well as a lifetime member of Willits Horseman's Association. He also was a member of Shifters Car Club, Railroad Motorcar Operators West, and Willits 4-Wheelers.

Jim was preceded in death by his father, Glenn, in 2008, who was his team roping partner for many years. Jim and Glenn were well-known for preparing and cooking the meat for the Annual Horseman's BBQ.

Jim is survived by his mother, Roberta; his loving wife, Bobbie; son Jeff (Lisa) Yokum; granddaughters Maci and Kylie; brother Chris (Debbie) Yokum; aunt Betty Grider, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

There will be a private graveside service. Friends and family are invited to gather for a Celebration of Life on June 9, 2016, from 4 to 6 pm at the Willits Harrah Senior Center on Baechtel Road.

Memorial donations may be made to: Roots of Motive Power, P.O. Box 1540, Willits, CA 95490; Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits, CA 95490; or Willits Kids Club, 1265 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490.

Kurt Schiessl

Kurt Frank Schiessl, 78, passed away on May 27, 2016. He was born March 20, 1938 in San Francisco to Frank Schiessl and Charlotte "Lottie" Schiessl. When Kurt was 5 they moved to Willits, where Kurt lived for the remainder of his life.

He graduated from Willits High School in 1956 and then went to Santa Rosa Junior College before marrying the love of his life, Phyllis Rawles, in Ukiah in 1958. They went on to have a son and two daughters. Kurt was very active in his children's sports and activities, coaching Pop Warner football and baseball in the '60s and '70s. He was president of the Willits Shifters Car Club in his teens and early 20s, and participated in drag racing. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and sportsman. He also enjoyed snow skiing and dancing.

Kurt's early work ventures include working on the ambulance through the Shifters Car Club, explosives engineer for Morrison-Knudsen, working on the Skunk Line Railroad, and working as a machinist at Remco Hydraulics.

In 1971 he took over his mother's business, Luna's Market, and added a Sporting Goods section. He owned and operated the business for over 30 years before retiring in 2002. He made many friends there and was well-loved by the community. Kurt was a loving father, husband, grandfather and friend to all.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis Schiessl. Kurt is survived by son Keith Schiessl and daughters Laurie Weis and Megan Keltner; grandchildren Shawn Schiessl, Amber Valente, Rachel Wagoner, Alexandra Weis, Parker Weis, and Emily Keltner; and four great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, June 11 at 1 pm at the Brooktrails Community Center. Memorial donations may be made to Phoenix Hospice of Mendocino County, whose assistance was invaluable.

DEATH NOTICE | Audrey Spangle-McSweyn

Audrey Ardell Spangle-McSweyn of Fresno passed away on June 3, 2016 at the age of 90. Graveside services will be held at 11 am on Saturday, June 11 at the Willits Cemetery, Highway 20. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

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Body of Covelo murder victim identified

Dan McKee

Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

A 30-year-old South Lake Tahoe man remains in a New Hampshire jail, fighting extradition to Mendocino County, where he is suspected of murdering a Rohnert Park man last month.

Meanwhile, a body discovered in a shallow grave last Thursday near a home in the 23500 block of Charlie Hurt Highway in Covelo has been identified as Timothy William Sweeting, "based upon observations of tattoos noted during a forensic autopsy last Friday," according to sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten.

"A cause of death remains under investigation pending the result of blood analysis and toxicology [reports]," Van Patten said.

The alleged murder occurred May 17 in house where Sweeting, Joshua Richard Ruoff, and at least three other people were living as paid laborers growing marijuana, the Santa Rosa Press Democrat quoted Van Patten as saying. At least one person reportedly witnessed Ruoff attack Sweeting with a blunt object. The two men did not get along, investigators said.

Deputies reported finding about 400 plants at the property. Van Patten told the Press Democrat the pot operation did not appear legal because of the number of plants and a lack of paperwork for medical marijuana patients.

Ruoff fled the area in a rented U-Haul the day after the alleged killing, headed for New Hampshire, where he had once lived.

The case was initially treated as a missing person's investigation because Sweeting, his 1999 Chevrolet Tahoe and his dog had disappeared, Van Patten said. But on May 19, deputies discovered the vehicle – with blood inside – parked against some bushes on the side of Mendocino Pass Road, a narrow two-lane road about a mile from the property, the Press Democrat reported. His dog was in the SUV, unharmed, Van Patten said.

Then about 6:30 am last Thursday, the owner of the Round Valley property, who had returned to California from New Hampshire, called the Sheriff's Office after a pet dog reportedly dug up body parts from a concealed grave not far from the house where Sweeting was attacked.

"Due to the nature of the grave, and the condition of the remains, anthropologists from the California State University at Chico were called in to assist in excavating the remains," Van Patten said.

Even before the body was discovered, Mendocino County detectives had contacted the New Hampshire State Police Major Crimes Unit, requesting assistance. Ruoff was arrested on May 23 after a surveillance team spotted him near the U-Haul in Concord.

That same day, sheriff's detectives traveled to New Hampshire, and multiple search warrants were served by New Hampshire State Police at the request of Mendocino County detectives.

Over a two-day period, sheriff's Detective Sergeant Andrew Porter said, "additional evidence was gathered" against Ruoff.

From his cell in Merrimack County Jail in Concord, where he is being held without bail, Ruoff continues to challenge extradition to Mendocino County. The DA's Office "is working on getting him extradited," Porter said.

This report was based in part on press releases from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

School board says farewell to Johnson

The Willits Unified Board of Trustees bade farewell to outgoing Superintendent Patricia Johnson at their June 1 meeting.

Johnson was superintendent for three full school years, from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016. Her term was marked with both successes and failures

On the plus side, Johnson provided stability to the school district, after the district went through three superintendents in two years. Also during her administration, the district's budget grew to its highest amount ever, reaching \$20 million in 2015/16.

After years of belt-tightening, under Johnson's leadership the number of district employees rose from 203 when she took over to approximately 235 when she left.

On the negative side, Johnson was enmeshed in controversy and crisis almost from day one. An early decision on her part to move popular high school counselor Tanya Ramming from Willits High School to Baechtel Grove Middle School at the beginning of the 2013-14 school year backfired in multiple ways when Ramming resigned a few months later, followed by the resignation of veteran Willits High School counselor David Hulse-Stephens in April 2014, which led the Western Association of Schools and Colleges to threaten to revoke WHS's accreditation in April 2014.

A change in leadership at Willits High School, in which Jeffrey Ritchley was hired to replace longtime Willits High Principal Gordon Oslund, happened at the same time Johnson was hired as superintendent and proved to be unpopular with many Willits High teachers. A group of teachers told the school board in May 2014 that Ritchley was ignoring longstanding protocols at Willits High, and the school's leadership team resigned en masse that same month.

The 2014-15 school year was smoother than the previous year, but controversy was kindled again in summer 2015 when Johnson implemented a plan to convert five partially used modular classrooms on the Blosser Lane Elementary School campus into a new district office. The school board had authorized Johnson to spend up to \$60,000 to pave a new driveway from Blosser Lane Road on the west side of the campus to the cluster of modulars that would become the new district office complex.

Johnson spent \$35,600 on the paving, and then another \$115,000 on remodeling and furnishing the new office complex. The board never authorized that second expenditure; Johnson claimed it was within her authority to spend the money because the board

Results

From Page 1

Presidential primary with 62.09 percent (4,654 votes) to Sec'y Hillary Clinton's 35.89 percent (2,690 votes). Donald Trump has won 73.25 percent of the vote in the Republican Presidential primary in Mendocino so far, with 1,769 votes.

These initial results – 11,320 ballots, or 24.19 percent of the electorate – are not the final results. This final Election Night report doesn't include the mail-in ballots dropped off at the polls, or provisional ballots, or ballots postmarked on Election Day and received at the voter office by this Friday.

Voter Registrar Sue Ranochak said they were very busy at the voter office in Ukiah, with lines of people dropping off ballots in the office. "There wasn't much sitting for us between 6 am when we started, until after the polling places closed at 8 pm," she said.

Ranochak said reports from polling places around the county indicated that Redwood Valley was busy, the middle coast and Fort Bragg were busy, but polling places in other areas didn't seem much busier than usual. The Willits polling place in the Willits Community Center was definitely livelier than during last November's very quiet election in Willits, but not too much busier than a fairly normal Presidential

BGMS

From Page 1

next few days, and that the assessment would be continued at the start of the next school year.

When told the school's policy was igniting a controversy among parents of some Baechtel Grove students, Munguia replied: "I don't understand. This is a school policy. So where is the controversy?"

Munguia confirmed it was also school policy that teachers tell students about their eligibility or ineligibility to attend the field trips in advance. "At the very least they would know usually five and sometimes three days before," Munguia said. "What we do is we make a final list, with an eligibility list and an ineligibility list, and depending on what field trip it is, teachers get that list, and they tell the students.

"Some students don't go home and tell their parents," she said. "As much as we can, we don't call parents on grades. Maybe we need to do that a little bit differently."

Current policy states students may attend end-of-year field trips only if they meet a set of criteria. Among the criteria are that a student cannot have any failing grades during the current semester, can have not more than four demerits and not more than two suspensions.

This year, about half the eighth-grade students at

had approved creation of a district office at Blosser Lane and that was what it cost to do it. She reasoned she had acted appropriately because the entire job could be broken down into four component parts, each of which cost less than \$50,000, her ceiling for spending without board approval.

Some board members were prepared to let the issue go, others were not.

During the June 1 meeting, board President Chris Neary said a few words about Johnson's tenure at Willits Unified:

"When she came here, the district was in the middle of a severe financial crisis as a result of the bonds, just emerging from that. Under her leadership, she brought that under control. And that included managing the lawsuit against our consultant, that recommended the bonds to us. Managing a lawsuit, that's not easy. I watched Pat do that. We successfully emerged out of that process, without a default, or having to borrow money from the county Office of Education. This was Pat's first superintendency, and I'm sure she learned a lot, in three years.

"The next district she goes to work for will get a well-seasoned superintendent.

"As your tenure rolled on, I think the buy-in now is probably higher than it ever has been, and that's a testament to a successful working relationship with your staff. So, I wish you the best.

"We've got a long ways to go, but we've come a long ways in the time you've been here."

"I'd like to thank my administrative team for a job well done," Johnson said. "I could not have worked with better people ... highly professional, but also very caring about their community and their students. I'd like to thank the students and staff and all school sites. We have really dedicated people here. And the community support – I've always been overwhelmed by that.

"The day I got here, I was told, 'All you need to do is ask and the community will come forward.' It's wonderful. I want to thank everybody for their dedication and support for the work that Willits Unified does. Thank you very much."

Neary announced Johnson's last day will be June 15, and she will not be at the June 22 board meeting.

With new superintendent Mark Westerberg scheduled to begin work on July 1, that means the district was looking at life without a superintendent for the period between June 15 and June 30. The trustees voted 5-0 to appoint Willits High Principal Robert Chavez and Baechtel Grove Middle School Principal Maria Munguia to act as co-superintendents during the interregnum.

Results

From Page 1

primary. "We usually get a turnout of 40 to 45 percent for a Presidential primary," she said.

Ranochak noted the success of the new "drive up, don't have to get out of your car, drop-off box" for ballots at the county offices on Low Gap Road, which will definitely be used again in future elections. "That was very successful," she said. "We're very pleased with it. It looks sharp out there, in the new garden with the Al Beltrami Memorial Bench."

Ranochak said her office did not yet have a count of ballots still to be counted. "We are making every effort to get a preliminary count of the vote-by-mail ballots and the provisional ballots that we received on Election Day," she said. "There is a lot to do before we can release a count. We are in the process of scanning and checking signatures now; we still have to sort them into precinct order before we can get a preliminary count."

Ranochak says the public is always welcome to come watch the canvass at the voter office, 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020, in Ukiah, 459-6819.

California voter offices are required to release a final, certified count of ballots cast in any election by 30 days after Election Day.

Baechtel Grove were not permitted to join either the May 23 field trip to the Museum of Natural History in San Francisco, or the picnic and celebration at Willits KOA.

Some parents believe the current policy is too severe, especially since both they and their children spend quite a bit of volunteer time and effort raising money to pay for the trips.

Munguia believes the right place to affect a reconsideration of that policy lies with the school's site council, which she described as consisting, ideally, of three parents and three school staff members. She added the Baechtel Grove site council quickly fell apart during the early part of the 2015-16 school year.

"We started out with three parents and three staff," Munguia said. "After one or two meetings, it was down to one parent and me. The council meets once a month and has to consider the school as a whole. We look at things like dress code, but also how our policies and the things we do at the school comply with state and federal programs. It's a lot of work."

Munguia said the process of selecting a new site council will begin at Back to School night. Back to School nights usually take place in late August or early September of the new school year.

Nuisance

From Page 1

violation, subjecting the violator to fines meant to abate the nuisance.

However, due to two major flaws in the current nuisance abatement process – not limited to marijuana cultivation – Lance was tasked by council in March to coordinate with Code Enforcement Officer John Sherman to make improvements. Those improvements included establishing a hearing body to relieve City Manager Adrienne Moore of the burdensome role of hearing appeals, and streamlining the appeals process.

Although Lance had come to the council on May 25 with concrete measures addressing those two areas of concern, Councilmembers Larry Stranske, Ron Orenstein and Mayor Bruce Burton expressed disappointment that marijuana cultivators could still play the wait-it-out game and beat the system through the appeals process. Thus, Burton suggested Lance "take a look at cities that have banned cultivation to see what their ordinances are."

Lance reviewed 12 sample city ordinances posted on the League of California website that ban or regulate cultivation. Those cities include Sacramento, Capitola, Lodi, San Jose and Cloverdale.

According to Lance: "Those listed remedies are limited to the typical procedures found in any code enforcement ordinance: filing of a civil action for injunctive relief, damages, and order of abatement and recovery of attorney fees. There are no innovative, streamlined remedies unique to cultivation."

Lance cited Cloverdale as a city that handles marijuana cultivation more liberally than the others.

"The Cloverdale ordinance uses a combination of licensing for non-commercial cultivation that is confined within an approved structure, and a separate category for personal cultivation of up to three plants that is exempt from the license requirement," Lance said.

In a public comment on the discussion, Willits resident Bill Barksdale appeared to express support of ordinances like Cloverdale's.

"I know many people who use cannabis in a medical way," Barksdale said. "How do municipalities deal with some amount of tolerance?" Barksdale suggested Lance seek answers to that question, suggesting the city move away from a total ban.

Sherman, who said he handles eight to 10 marijuana nuisance cases a year, told the council he recently was successful in abating a 100-plant outdoor grow in a timely manner. Because it was a large grow, Sherman dealt the violator the maximum fine allowable.

"I went with the \$500 a day fine," Sherman said. "In three days, the nuisance had been abated."

Sherman expressed support for the proposed revisions to the nuisance ordinance.

"The most productive change we could make is rearranging the hearing body and getting me access to that hearing schedule," Sherman said. "When I schedule an administrative hearing, I need to do it now. We have inordinately long appeal periods. They don't need to be that long."

No action was taken by the council. Lance's suggestion of forming a hearing body from a pool of local attorneys will be further pursued.

Included in Lance's report are copies of various city ordinances regarding marijuana cultivation which can be found in the staff report packet: <http://thecityofwillits.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/06-07-16-Agenda-Packet-Council-Special-Mtg.pdf>.



Above, left: Hannah Friend, in white, leads the parade of Willits High School graduates along the Blosser Lane Elementary sidewalks. Above, right: WHS graduates shake hands with Brookside Elementary students.

Below: Brookside students gathered on the playground to meet the graduates. At bottom: Blosser students extend their hands to the oncoming parade of graduates.

Photos by Mathew Caine

March of the 2016 Class

Elementary school students cheer on Willits High graduates



Graduating students from Willits High School took part in the school district's first Senior March this past Monday. Organized by counselor Kelly Mace, approximately 45 members of the WHS graduating class donned their robes and marched through the campuses of Blosser Lane and Brookside Elementary schools on Monday morning.

"Other schools in other cities have done this, and it's been shown that it improves attendance and graduation rates," Mace said of the march. "It helps the little kids in showing what they're working for. This is the goal of going to school every day. To graduate."

While the seniors marched to "Pomp and Circumstance," the elementary students cheered them on and gave high fives while holding signs of encouragement for the graduates' futures.

"All the teachers were very supportive of it," Mace said. "It's supposed to be inspirational for the elementary students."

The WHS seniors arrived by school bus and were chaperoned by Mace, counselor Nicole Burke and WHS principal Robert Chavez.



Above: Blosser Lane Elementary School principal Nancy Runberg, left, and Willits High School principal Robert Chavez, right, who helped make the march a success. Below: Excited Blosser Lane students smile for the camera.



The rest of
Vote | From Page 1

which occurred during the June 7 board meeting, work on the cannabis ordinance was being conducted by the marijuana ad hoc committee, which consisted of John McCowen (District 2 - Ukiah) and Tom Woodhouse (District 3 - Willits, Laytonville and Covelo).

McCowen cast the lone vote against moving the pot ordinance to the general government committee. Just before that vote was taken, the board voted 5-0 to disband the marijuana ad hoc committee.

The ad hoc committee was created at the beginning of 2015 and charged with evaluating the economic impacts to the county of the legalization of marijuana. However, it never issued a definitive report, because it was virtually impossible to collect reliable data on the size of Mendocino County's marijuana economy, or to confidently predict what will happen to the local industry after legalization occurs. Instead, the ad hoc committee collaborated with other leaders from northern California jurisdictions to draft a list of recommendations concerning regulation of medical marijuana, which was submitted to legislators in Sacramento.

After the passage of the Medical Marijuana Safety and Regulation Act by the California Legislature in October 2015, the ad hoc committee was charged with drafting an ordinance for the regulation of medical marijuana in Mendocino County. Committee members put in long hours of work on that task; McCowen, especially, worked diligently to craft ordinance language. However, in March 2016, county staff told McCowen and Woodhouse any ordinance designed to regulate medical marijuana would have to comply with California's Environmental Quality Act, which would require a number of legally noticed public meetings, with public input. The draft ordinance would then have to be reviewed by the county Planning Commission.

All this meant the timeframe for adopting the ordinance was expanded from two or three months to a year or more. An urgency ordinance was quickly slammed into place, while a date for adoption of the permanent ordinance was moved back to February 2017.

The move to disband the ad hoc committee and shift responsibility for handling work on the medical marijuana ordinance was made by Brown. When asked why she requested the change, Brown said she was frustrated with the slow pace of the process.

"We're 10 months behind the curve," Brown said. "And now we're coming up against state deadlines. I'm getting phone calls. The public is asking me what's going on. I just feel the board needs to do the job that the people elected it to do."

The move by supervisors brought mixed comments from committee members. Woodhouse said he was relieved.

"It's a huge subject, and working with the groups that we worked with was not fun. It wasn't like working with people in mental health or people in public safety, who are trying to accomplish something for others. This was about people serving their own needs, and I find that very offensive," Woodhouse said.

"So I'm proud the work was done. I apologize for the toll it's taken on all of us. I think we were trying to take a subject that is illegal, toxic, and mixed with greed and selfishness, and bring it out in the open.

"It's not odd that I have uncomfortable feelings at this point. I did my very best, and I'm glad to be moving on."

McCowen took a different point of view. "I consider this a slap in the face to the ad hoc," he said. "And I would expect no one will be surprised when I resign from all of the other board committees I am on."

When asked how much more input the general government committee will be having into the cannabis ordinance, Deputy County CEO Sarah Dukett told the board the committee would need to hold one or two more meetings.

Agricultural Commissioner Chuck Morse told supervisors that county staff still needed board help on a number of key points. "We still have a very aggressive timeline on this," Morse said. "I think we can make it, but everything has to fall into place to make it happen."

Deputy Clerk of the Board Nicole French confirmed Wednesday that McCowen has resigned from two standing committees of the board and four ad hoc committees. McCowen has resigned from the Health and Human Services committee, which he chaired; the Criminal Justice Committee; the tax sharing ad hoc committee, where the county was trying to work out a tax sharing agreement with the City of Ukiah; the Little River Airport ad hoc committee; the ad hoc committee trying to settle a legal dispute with Solid Waste Systems; and an ad hoc committee attempting to negotiate rate adjustments with Solid Wastes of Willits.

The rest of
Budget | From Page 1

direction. In 2015-16, all appropriations totaled \$256.2 million; in 2016-17, they are pegged at \$250.6 million. Appropriations for general fund departments and programs will shrink from \$184.9 million to \$182.9 million, a decrease of about \$2 million.

A good portion of this change is due to the different way the county is handling so-called Proposition 172 funds, which come to the county from the state and are to be used to support public safety functions. This year, in response to a concerted political campaign by the county's 22 various fire districts, supervisors directed that Proposition 172 funds shall no longer reside in county coffers before being distributed to the sheriff's office, the district attorney's office, county jail and county probation department. Instead, the funds will go directly to the departments, with \$564,874 being given directly to the fire departments.

As a result, the total budget for discretionary income for the board of supervisors, (Budget Unit 1000), is approximately \$6.5 million dollars lower than it was during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, when it was \$65.1 million. This year it is projected to be approximately \$58.6 million.

Including the money from the Proposition 172 switch, the total amount of dollars going to the sheriff's office and the jail will increase in the upcoming fiscal year. The sheriff will get \$1 million more (to a total of \$13.7 million) and the jail will get \$200,000 more, bringing its total financial support from the county to \$9.8 million.

Because of the average age and experience of the county workforce increasing by one year, the amount of money the county pays for salaries and benefits will increase by nearly 2 percent, moving upwards to \$115.5 million.

On May 16, County CEO Carmel Angelo warned supervisors that all eight county bargaining units will be up for renegotiated labor contracts in the coming year. In a side conversation with this reporter, Angelo said she now thinks it is time to give county employees a raise. However, that raise is not included in the budget projections for 2016-17.

What's new

Despite projected budget constraints, the county is managing to push forward in some areas. It is planning to spend more than a million dollars to fund projects that promote economic growth and an expanded role for government.

Of that \$1 million, the administration has proposed spending \$55,000 to support broadband expansion; giving Planning and Building Services \$50,000 to backfill revenue loss from a fee waiver program supervisors have directed the division to undertake; \$75,000 for an economic and housing analysis; and \$100,000 to fund a grant writer, who will write grant applications for numerous departments within the county.

In addition, the county will spend \$545,000 on employee stipends and another \$200,000 on a retention pay program, which has helped the county retain people in difficult-to-fill and difficult-to-retain positions.

In spite of stern counseling by CEO Carmel Angelo, the county has decided to continue last year's Community Benefit Fund. This year the county will donate \$70,000 to seven senior centers in the county, and another \$142,000 for eight county family resource centers. In addition, supervisors are kicking in another \$90,000 in mental health enhancement dollars, bringing the total of the board's community benefit fund support to \$302,318.

Supervisor Tom Woodhouse was instrumental in convincing his fellow board members to reauthorize the Community Benefit Fund.

Perhaps the most negative aspect of the proposed 2016-2017 budget is what the county is giving for roads. While the Department of Transportation budget remains mammoth (\$18.7 million), the lion's share comes from state and federal dollars. Supervisors have added \$2.4 million to bolster the department's budget. Of that, \$1 million will go to offset revenue losses to the department from declining revenues due to low gas prices, while \$1.3 million will help fund current projects. Only \$411,685 is being allotted for corrective maintenance.

Supervisor Dan Gjerde said recently the department needs to spend a minimum of \$5 million a year on corrective maintenance just to keep the county's system of 600 miles of paved roads from declining further, so the \$411,000 is less than one-tenth of what the county should be spending to repair and reconstruct its road system. It could well be less than one-twentieth of what needs to be spent to actually restore the road system to good condition within a human lifetime.

The rest of
Main Street | From Page 1

fund, currently containing \$2.6 million. Councilwoman Madge Strong seconded the motion. Madrigal, Strong and Vice Mayor Ron Orenstein voted in favor, while Councilman Larry Stranske and Mayor Bruce Burton voted against. Burton claimed the figure was too high, saying he had wanted to go with a flat \$1 million.

Further funding possibilities for Main Street construction, if needed, include state transportation D1 funds of approximately \$228,000, grant opportunities and long-term financing options.

The city and Caltrans remain in negotiations regarding how much Caltrans is willing to help the city reach its enhancement plan goals.

The design plans

John Gibbs of Wallace Roberts & Todd presented conceptual designs for the council's review, comments and direction. Alison Pernell of the Local Government Commission was on hand to answer questions. Along with the plans, Gibbs provided a draft technical memorandum and an opinion of probable construction costs.

Starting just north of the Highway 20 intersection and ending at the Mill Creek bridge, the plans, broken into nine detailed panels, call for significant changes along the Main Street corridor.

The general design layout indicates continuous bicycle lanes on both sides of the street, added enhanced crosswalks, curb extensions, bulb-outs and furnishings along the sidewalks, all meant to "connect residents to downtown and students to the high school," according to Gibbs.

Between Oak Street and Alameda Avenue, the design plans include curb extensions, an approximately 60-foot-long stretch of trees planted in the median, and painted crosswalks and green bike markers at the Oak Street intersection.

Between Monroe Street and East San Francisco Avenue, street designs include painted crosswalks at both intersections with rapid flashing beacons, and a planted median connecting the two streets. Mariposa Market will have clearly marked entrance- and exit-only designations on the north and south ends, respectively.

There was a lot of discussion centered on design plans near the post office, which affect East Valley and West Valley streets. The current designs call for a significant reduction to the width of West Valley Street, including a right-turn-only designation.

While Madrigal applauded the change, Burton argued too many people make the left-hand turn from West Valley onto Main Street, and it shouldn't be changed. Burton also raised concerns that the curb extensions on East Valley Road could impede the movement of trucks and emergency vehicles.

Gibbs replied Caltrans had reviewed the designs for the changes at the post office intersection and approved them.

"Caltrans found those designs as a savings to them," Gibbs said. "We heard a lot of discussion about this intersection from the public. It does represent a lot of change, but we feel this is the best solution."

Other significant transformations shown in the designs include the complete removal of the center lane in the core downtown area north of East Valley Street up to Commercial, and a single large elevated crosswalk connecting the Van Lane alleyways. This single crosswalk would replace the two current ones in that section of Main Street.

Gibbs said he consulted with the Little Lake Fire Department and Willits Police Department about these changes. "They reviewed [the design plan] and said they were comfortable with it."

Fire Chief Carl Magann told Willits Weekly he is still in conversation with the members of WRT to "finalize a plan that's suitable for everyone."

"We're trying to minimize the impact to emergency response," Magann said.

The rest of
Horsemen | From Page 11

Supply, 101 Trailer and RV, Cooley Logging, Les Schwab Tires, Mihelcic Construction, Garman Construction, Northern Aggregates, Inc., SHN Consulting Engineers, Nor-Cal Recycled Rock & Aggregates, J.D. Redhouse, Mobile Equine Veterinary Services - Sheri Cronin, DVM, John Ford Ranch, MonkeyWrench Men's & Women's Wear, and Peterson Tractor."

Congratulations to all the winners, and

"We're concerned about the safety of the public and our drivers."

Magann was out of town and missed Tuesday's presentation, so he wasn't able to identify specific areas of concern.

To see the complete Main Street conceptual design plans, go to www.willitsmainstreetplan.com or to the Willits City Council's website under staff reports: <http://thecityofwillits.com/category/agendas>.

The division of labor/costs

According to an "Opinion of Probable Construction Costs" report conducted by GHD consultants and provided by Gibbs, total construction costs of the relinquished section of Main Street, from the Highway 20 intersection to the northern project limits near State Street, will be just over \$9 million.

The report divides the labor between what Caltrans is expected to complete - identified as the "Base Project" - versus the construction responsibilities of the City of Willits - identified as "Main Street Add." Also included is a third construction/expense category identified as "Options."

Divided this way, Caltrans' base project work has a subtotal of approximately \$5.3 million; the City of Willits Main Street add-ons have a subtotal of approximately \$3.5 million, and the options subtotal would be approximately \$306,000.

The base project work Caltrans is expected to complete includes repairing curbs and gutters, concrete work, sidewalk extensions, striping, creating irrigation lines, raised intersections, bulb outs, and providing lighting.

The City of Willits is responsible for work such as planting street trees, creating street furniture, art features such as gateway markers, plant medians, and decorative paving.

Burton expressed skepticism Caltrans will agree to do so much street construction, especially since the language Caltrans has used for the relinquishment project is the vague phrase "leaving Main Street in a state of good repair."

"Is a 'state of good repair' a 'complete street' or a 1950s street?" Burton asked Gibbs.

While Gibbs admitted he didn't know the answer for certain, he was confident, based on Caltrans' history of working with 'complete street' designs, the agency would cooperate.

"There's lots of really good stuff that Caltrans has produced," Gibbs said. "It's reflected in these plans."

Another possible roadblock towards Caltrans committing to cooperate with the city's plans, is the fact that, thus far, the agency has set its budget at no more than \$3.4 million.

"They've been very clear that is a fixed amount," Pernell said. "They haven't given any indication the dollar amount is flexible at all."

The next step, according to Gibbs, is to submit the design plans and the probable construction cost report to Caltrans in the hopes of positively influencing the agency's own construction plans, scheduled to be submitted to the California Transportation Commission in September.

Editor's Note: This week's special City Council meeting was held on Tuesday in lieu of the regular Wednesday night meeting, due to Willits High School graduation being scheduled for Wednesday this year, so that City Hall was busy with the Sober Grad graduation night party on Wednesday night. Next week, Wednesday, June 15, there is also a special city council meeting scheduled to review the proposed 2016/17 budget. The regular Wednesday, June 22 meeting has been cancelled, and a special city council meeting is set for Wednesday, June 29 for the city council to adopt the budget. Willits City Council meetings are regularly scheduled for the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

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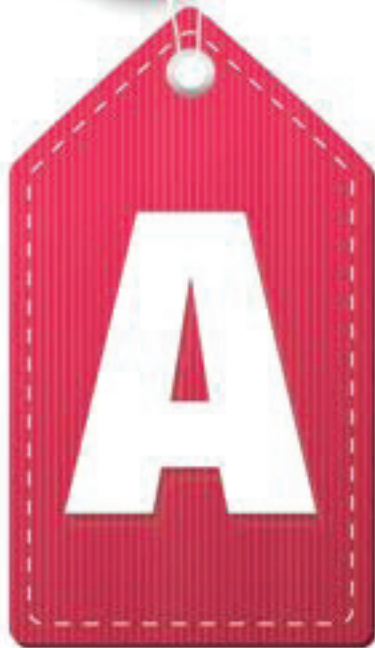
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