

Donations Accepted Edition No. 210

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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The fire, which started in

Read the rest of **Fire** |

Over on Page 13

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Croskey added she has reached out to someone to invite that person to accept the position, but is still waiting to hear back.

Read the rest of
Planning
Over on Page 13

Dan McKee
Reporter
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Read the rest of
Fees |
Over on Page 13



Above, from left: dogs and people work to get the Stay and Play Dog Care float ready. Stay and Play owner Donna Blake gets ready to take dogs on a pack walk. Blake and co-planners Linda and Larry Morris check out the split-rail fence Larry Morris made for the float.



Above: Parade planning party on the porch – everyone gets input! – including, from left: Caroline Yearian, holding Simon, Jessica Cronin, with Sherlock, Donna Blake, with Drake, and Larry and Linda Morris, with Penny.

Below: Larry obliges and laughs at Penny, who needed her own moment in the spotlight atop the planning table.



Below: Planners hold the new banner which will grace the Stay and Play float, including, from left: Larry Morris, Caroline Yearian, Donna Blake, Drake the dog, Linda Morris, Antonio Amador and Jessica Cronin.

Photos by Maureen Moore

After a great time last year, Stay and Play Dog Care owner Donna Blake is already hard at work planning this year's float to enter into the annual Willits Frontier Days Parade.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
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helping dogs achieve balance and socialization, with active play in her spacious dog yard and on multi-dog pack walks around the neighboring trails – all in a park-like setting. Her business' motto: "A bed and breakfast for dogs" gives owners reassurance that those getting to enjoy time at Stay and Play Dog Care will be happy pups for sure.

Last year was the first time Blake entered a float for her business into the parade. After seeing how excited people were to see the approximately 15 dogs, dressed for the “1920’s” theme last year, she knew she wanted to show them off this year, too.

"I think people were amazed to see so many dogs all happily riding the float together with their owners," said Blake. "And building the float is a fun project to do with my clients and workers." Read the rest of [this story](#) on the [Paw Print Post](#).

Two clients – owners of

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



Mike A'Dair

Reporter
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Why? Curry said there are multiple reasons. "Since it's a new program, we're kind of learning as we're going," she said. "It's just a lot more involved than we could have anticipated.

Read the rest of
Permits |
Over on Page 13

Joanne Moore

Reporter
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Retirees included teachers Betty Meinecke, Elizabeth Hughes, Gwen Rasmussen, Laura Herman, Dianne McNeal, Debra Doering, and David Smith; instructional assistants Naomi Ceratto, Denise McGee, and Donna Blake; bus driver/dispatcher

Read the rest of
Honored |
Over on Page 13

Dan McKee

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Water revenues will bring in about \$1.3 million and

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

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

The background features a collage of various words related to media and community, such as "community", "local", "coverage", "want", "contribute", "newspaper", "support local business", "page one", "editorial board", "advertising rates", "classified ads", "circulation statistics", "subscription information", "contact details", etc., arranged in different fonts and orientations behind the main title.

Willits Weekly

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

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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

7	3		5		2				
				9			4	5	
	2				1		6	8	
5		6						2	
3									
	5			2	7				
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PET WORD SEARCH

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

AQUARIUM	DOG	GUINEA PIG	PETS
BEDDING	FENCE	HAMSTER	RESPONSIBILITY
BIRD	FERRET	IMMUNIZATIONS	SEED
BOWLS	FILTER	INSURANCE	STORE
CAGE	FISH	KIBBLE	TAIL
CAT	FOOD	LEASH	TANK
COLLAR	FURRY	LICENSE	TOYS
COMPANION	GRAVEL	LITTER	VETERINARIAN
CRATE	GROOMING	PERCH	WATER

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10				
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49				50						51	52			
53			54							55				
56		57					58				59			
60						61	62				63			
											65			

CLUES ACROSS

- Monetary unit of Iran
- Soared the seas
- Ornamental box
- Involuntary
- German term for Prague
- Lethal dose
- Where rockers play
- Quality of being based on one's own feelings
- 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- People of Asia
- Uttered
- Unhappy
- British pop duo
- The Muse of history
- Greek cheese
- Semi-aquatic fish-eating mammal
- Horse racing list
- Add as an attachment
- Thinly scattered
- Northeastern American state
- Decorative design
- Sea eagle
- European river
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Pick on

- Easily manageable
- Ingratulating insincerely
- Commercial
- Combining radio waves
- Political divisions
- Football's biggest event (abbr.)
- Genus of true owls
- One to whom something is mailed
- It can sometimes be full
- Bird of prey
- Diarist Frank

CLUES DOWN

- Carpenter's saw
- Sudden arrival of something
- Peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf
- Impasse
- Pepper's partner
- Perceptible by the ear
- Stephen King's clown tale
- ___ and behold
- Related on the mother's side
- A fish worth finding
- Of I
- Convicts
- Having a tail
- ___ masse



How To Sudoku:

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

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

June 5 to June 11

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **162** incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

June 5

10:51 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.

12:05 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 500 block of South Main Street.

2:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unconscious subject behind the wheel of a vehicle near the intersection of South Main Street and Highway 20. Upon arriving at the location, officers contacted MARTINAZZI, Brian Anthony (35) of Willits. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence) and on charges of misdemeanor driving under the influence blood alcohol over .08, SA alcohol over .15%, and felony child endangerment.

4:01 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of Pearl Street.

6:28 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

8:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

11:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of Alder Court.

June 6

5:39 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of North Main Street.

3:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Nancy Lane and Bonnie Lane.

3:42 pm: Officers initiated a robbery investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

3:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

6:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:26 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 900 block of Highway 20.

10:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

11:57 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

June 7

2:12 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

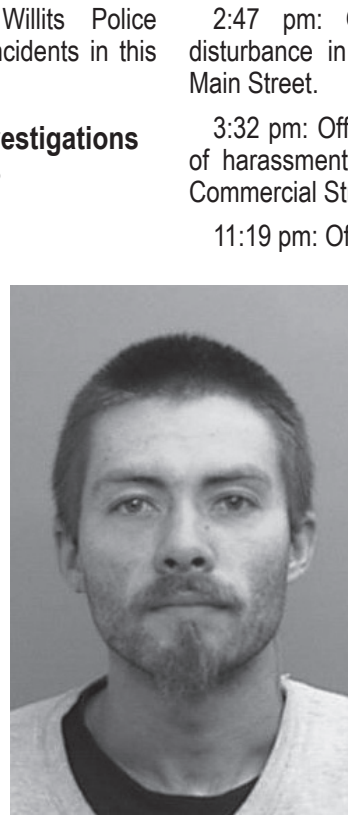
6:01 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

9:34 am: Officers responded to a report of panhandling in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:49 am: **CLELAND, Brandon Duane** (34) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on charges of receiving stolen property.

12:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

1:09 pm: **PATEREAU, Rickey Lee** (58) of Willits was contacted in the 500 block of Railroad Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) (Public Intoxication).



Ryan Joseph Oneal Young of Willits

2:47 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

11:19 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

June 8

7:10 am: **YOUNG, Ryan Joseph Oneal** (25) of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on charges of felony vehicle theft, misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

12:14 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

1:19 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

5:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

11:56 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

June 9

4:01 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious persons in the 100 block of East Barbara Lane and issued a warning.

8:55 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 500 block of East Commercial Street.

2:51 pm: Officers initiated a death investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

6:11 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of Shell Lane.

7:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of a fight in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

June 10

3:50 am: Officers responded to a report of a shooting in the area in the 300 block of Boscabelle Avenue.

10:31 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

12:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

1:48 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

6:13 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.

10:53 pm: **ADAMS, Curtis Benjamin** (32) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on charges of felony failure to appear.

June 11

3:56 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of East Oak Street.



Brandon Duane Cleland of Willits.

4:33 am: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 400 block of Della Avenue.

8:10 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

9:30 pm: **LINCOLN, Eric Roy** (55) of Covelo was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 602 PC (Trespassing) and on charges of misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance, under the influence of a controlled substance, and shoplifting.

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Story of Willits

Mendocino County Museum opens 'Main Street: Then and Now'

"Main Street: Then and Now," the new exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum, opened on Saturday and looks to be a hit. It is a wonderful re-creation of Willits' historic Main Street, focusing on some 28 separate buildings, and tracing the changes they have gone through throughout the years, until today.

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In addition, the exhibit touches lightly on the context of Willits' past. The exhibit contains panels that discuss Little Lake Valley's use by Native Americans as a home; its use by white settlers as an agricultural valley, its use as a base for the local timber industry, and then as a haven for back-to-the-landers who wanted to "get back to the garden."

Beyond that, the exhibit focuses on individual buildings that have survived on Main Street through as many as 10 decades.

According to one of the panels near the entrance to the exhibit, the foundation of this exhibit is the "Perkins Collection," which shows Main Street in Willits from 1914 to 1915. Also included are images from the "Early Collection," period postcards, other archives, and donations from community members.

The exhibit was the brainchild of museum director Alison Glassey. Local residents Kim Bancroft and Judi Berdis were the guest curators: researchers, artifact collectors, and interviewers for the project. Museum curator Neeka Aguirre and summer intern Anna Heckadon helped with

the demanding work of mounting the exhibit and adding those little touches that make it come alive, such as putting planters in the middle of the long corridor where the exhibit lives in order to calm museum traffic, and also adding a traffic light to make the corridor seem more like Main Street.

According to Aguirre, work on the project began 16 months ago. The design for the exhibit was finalized on May 1. The exhibit took one week to install.

At the opening, Bancroft gave a speech in which she said the exhibit touched on a deeper level than just the buildings, that is, that the exhibit portrayed something of the people who lived in Willits in the past, who gave of themselves to make the town what it was then, and what it has become now.

"Your stories are here," Bancroft told the crowd of about some 200 people who were on hand to celebrate the opening of the exhibit. "Bruce Burton, your story is here. Priscilla Hunter, from the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, your story is over there. Richard Willoughby, with the Bank of Willits. I've got John Wagenet's story here. Edie Ceccarelli is here; and her story is at the Colonial, where she used to sing during the intermissions. Robin and Jim Tomes from Al's Redwood Room. Herb and Sherri Pruett, your stories are here. The back-to-the-landers – Cindy Morninglight, your story is here. Hugh Boone and

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



pho•tog•ra•phress

photography by maureen moore

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Far left: The long corridor in the Mendocino County Museum is set up to look like Main Street. At left: Edie Ceccarelli, 109, Willits' oldest resident, checks out the opening of the historical exhibit. Below: Kim Bancroft, co-curator of the exhibit, with members of the Black Bart Gunfighters Theatrical Group.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: The museum's Paloma Patterson welcomes visitors to the opening reception.

Below: Kim Bancroft, co-curator for the exhibit, with the current owners of Al's Redwood Room, Robin and Jim Tomes.

At bottom: Ken Wickstrom and Fred Fluke discuss Willits history.

At bottom, left: Some of the Willits luminaries whose stories are told in the "Main Street: Then and Now" exhibit. Left to right, sitting on the floor: Ann Maglinte, John Wagenet, and Nong Tomes. Sitting on the bench: Kim Bancroft, Edie Ceccarelli, Anita Sison, Robin Tomes, and Judi Berdis. Standing rear, left to right: Dusty Whitney, Jim King, Rick Hawley, Bill Barksdale, Bob Petty, Sherri Gregory-Pruett, Bruce Burton, Herb Pruett, Cindy Morninglight, Frank Howard, Priscilla Hunter, David West, Hugh Boone, Jim Tomes, Richard Willoughby, and Richard Jergenson.



Supervisor Croskey to hold coffee hours in Willits, Laytonville

Third District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey will host a weekly coffee hour at the Loose Caboose Cafe on Wednesday mornings, from 9 until 10:30 am, beginning June 21.

The Loose Caboose is located at 10 Wood Street in downtown Willits, just around the corner from The Book Juggler on Main Street.

Croskey said she is planning to hold

her coffee hours once a week throughout the summer. "Anyone who wants to talk to me in person can come down to the Loose Caboose, get some coffee and talk," Croskey said. Depending on public response, she will consider continuing the coffee hours as an ongoing part of her schedule.

Croskey will hold a similar ongoing confab in Laytonville at Pour Girls Coffee, 44950 Highway 101, from 3 to 4:30 pm on Thursday afternoons, beginning June 29.

Fish & Wildlife seeking proposals for Cannabis Restoration Grant Program

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is now accepting proposals for habitat restoration projects within the California watersheds most impacted by unregulated cannabis cultivation. Contingent on the budget for fiscal year 2017-2018, a total of \$1.5 million in Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration funds will be made available through CDFW's Cannabis Restoration Grant Program. The program will focus on the North Coast watersheds extending from Sonoma County to the Oregon state line, as they have been most heavily impacted by cannabis cultivation.

"Existing damage to our watersheds due to unregulated cannabis cultivation is at crisis levels in terms of threats to habitat for aquatic and wildlife species," said CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham. "While many grow sites have been abandoned or shuttered, the infrastructure and ongoing damage remains. We are poised to initiate this critical and missing step in the process of decommissioning unwanted grow sites."

California's fish and wildlife are severely impacted by unregulated cannabis cultivation practices including unlawful water diversions for irrigation, conversion of lands, and prohibited herbicides, rodenticides and other environmental contaminants. The most impacted areas

require immediate action.

Assembly Bill 243 (Assemblyman Jim Wood, Medical Marijuana) provides direction to CDFW to restore watersheds impacted by cannabis cultivation. "Our beautiful, pristine North Coast forests have become havens for these rogue grow sites," said Assemblyman Jim Wood, who represents five of the county areas eligible for these grants.

"These sites have been ravaged by lethal chemicals, often-banned rodenticides which are used to keep animals away, but remain in the ground and eventually run off into rivers and streams, destroying everything in their path, including endangered fish species such as Coho salmon. I am grateful that the governor and CDFW are making these funds available for this much-needed cleanup."

The FY 2017-2018 Proposal Solicitation Notice, application instructions and other information about the Restoration Grant Program are available at wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Cannabis-Restoration-Grant.

Proposals must be submitted online at soar.resources.ca.gov. The deadline to apply is Friday, June 30, 2017 at 4 pm.

— Submitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife



Start Healthy Dental Habits Early.



Photo by Charlotte Ballenger

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The rest of **Party** | From Page 3

Power blender & chopper.

There were 10 "Mega Prizes," including Igloo mini refrigerators, flat screen TVs, Sony XB30 portable bluetooth speakers, beats by Dr. Dre over-the-ear headphones and, the final prize, a beautiful La-Z-Boy recliner donated again this year by Mike and Margie Smith of Willits Furniture, won by an excited Ryann Hee.

"There were 38 'Special Helper Prizes' for grads who helped during the school year," explained Sober Grad's Ruth Dell'Ara. "If a grad helped at least three times, he/she was eligible for one ticket in the drawing. Happily, there were many grads who had several tickets in the drawing, and the Sober Grad Committee thanks these grads for all their good help!"

Special Helper gifts were similar to the Higher Value and Mega prizes and included a round-trip pass on the Skunk Train.

In addition to all the cash and gift prizes that were awarded to graduates – Dell'Ara said this year's spending totaled \$29,970, much of it earned from fundraisers during the year and from the very generous community members – there was also a casino prize table where graduates and their guests were able to exchange their "funny money" for prizes.

During the party, there was a great amount of food including pizza ("Thank you, Sparetime Supply!" said Dell'Ara) and lots of other food items donated by parents and friends of the grads. There was also a non-alcoholic beverage bar where the grads enjoyed designer Star Wars-themed drinks.

A climbing wall as well as two "corn hole" games, ping pong, and handmade henna tattoos – coupled with music from DJ Ken Steely – kept everyone busy and awake!

Finally, at approximately 4 am, the party came to an end, and each grad who stayed until the party ended was given a check for \$50. Some received an additional \$20 if the grad helped during the school year.

"The Sober Grad Committee members were also happy to present the Ventura

Perez Memorial Awards, totaling \$7,100 in increments of \$150, \$250, and \$500 to deserving grads who helped during the year," explained Dell'Ara.

These helpers included Jordan Solis, Izak Walker, Maxwell Pinelli, Chanel Alexander, Vanessa Camp, Viviana Cardona, Nayema Sisemore, Ryann Hee, Rebecca Mandeville, Kyleena Amador, Colten Horger, Wayne Waters, Tia Lynn Grant, Samantha Thomas, Veronica Vannorsdel, Nancy Villegas, Camryn Christensen, Kaylan Stone, Jenna Wells, Miranda Wilson, Tyler Austin, Rocky Boat, Julia Johnstone, Jamie Johnstone, Keely Ahders and Isabel Gutierrez.

"These awards were presented to the grads at Award Night on May 31," Dell'Ara continued. "The Sober Grad Committee members are thankful that Ventura Perez included Sober Grad in his bequests to non-profit groups in Willits."

Dell'Ara also said the Sober Grad Committee members thank the community at large for supporting the Sober Grad fundraisers and for their monetary gifts that the committee was able to present to the grads. "You are a great community, Willits!" said Dell'Ara. "And remember, we do this to remind everyone that our kids are our future, and we want them to be responsible young adults who will carry on the tradition of a drug- and alcohol-free sober graduation event."

The Sober Grad board members would gratefully welcome new board members. "It truly does 'take a village' to make this fantastic party happen," Dell'Ara said. "If you would like to learn more about what we do, please email Joyce Waters at WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com or call her at 459-0439. Joyce will let you know when the next meeting is for the Class of 2018!"

Special thanks to Ruth Dell'Ara for providing details about the Sober Grad event.



Above, left: The swag was overflowing on the prize table. Above, center: Miranda Wilson, left, and Tia Lynn Grant, right, sit with winner, Ryann Hee, center, who took home the La-Z-Boy recliner. Above, right: Francisco Acevedo was one of the winners of the Beats headphones. At right: Jonathan Lech won an Igloo mini-fridge.

The rest of **Willits** | From Page 5

David West, your stories are here. Martin Rodriguez, your story is here. Oh my gosh. There's a Bob Petty story from IOOF [the International Organization of Odd Fellows]. There are so many of you. I wanted to get everybody's story in. Some of them, we just couldn't get in, but the plan is to create narrative essays, to come back to you and get you to give permission, and we will have them in a binder, for posterity.

"I hope that in many ways you will continue to give back," Bancroft continued. "Our town needs our energy. But even if you don't come from Willits, whatever town you come from, this hopefully is an exhibit about how people have given of themselves to make this town what it is and that goes from the very first Pomo people, who gave us this land – who didn't actually give us this land – whose land was taken and from whom we are continuing to learn

such lessons, that we need to perpetuate, in terms of taking care of the land – that we have taken – and that we want to do right by all of the inhabitants who have lived here, from thousands of years ago, to the present and beyond.

"We are hoping that many of you will be inspired by this, to continue to find out the history of the place that you come from, the building that you have lived in, the land that you have occupied, and to be able to give back to the future through your efforts to know the past," Bancroft said.

"Main Street: Then and Now" will be open for viewing from now through November 26. The museum, located at 400 East Commercial Street, is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$1 for those aged 6-20, and free for children 5 and under. Info: 459-2736.

Below, left: Mason, Brian, Tory and Raven Henson make selling at the flea market a family affair. Below, right: Lynn Williams, at left, president of the Brooktrails Women's Club, with one of the flea market volunteers, center, and Arlane Adamson, flea market organizer.



Fun and finds at Saturday's Brooktrails Flea Market

The annual Brooktrails Flea Market, aside from being a great place to find bargains on funky, antique, artistic items and plants, raises money for scholarships for deserving Willits High School seniors. It is one of the many Willits area events where people can meet, get together and enjoy a sense of community.

"Once a year we have this Flea Market and Bake Sale," said Lynn Williams, president of the Brooktrails Women's Club. "All the proceeds that we earn go to the scholarship program which we offer to students who are graduating from either of the high schools in Willits. We have two \$1,000 scholarships that we give away each year. And we pick one student each year and we give them \$1,500 a year for

the four years that they are in college. We want to give back to the community. We love it here."

Thanks to the Women's Club and Arlane Adamson, the organizer of the event, 53 outside spaces were rented out at Saturday's Brooktrails Flea Market. Additional spaces inside the Brooktrails Community Center offered a bake sale, books, gems and stones, and more.

There was also a cooperatively made quilt up for raffle. The queen-sized quilt will be raffled off in December, so there is plenty of time to purchase tickets: one for \$1, six for \$5, or 20 for \$15. Look for the quilt displayed around town, or contact Adamson at 456-0734 for ticket info.

— Mathew Caine



Above, left: Jessica Dass shows off one of her great finds.

Above, right: Some of the many vendors at this year's Brooktrails Flea Market.

At left: Cathy Evans sells jewelry and more.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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At left: Attendees Tina Tyler-O'Shea and Cathy Lawrence listen while Willits Chamber of Commerce board president Lisa Epstein updates the group on the Chamber.

Below: The June guest speaker at North County Women in Business was Heidi Cusick Dickerson, program manager of Leadership Mendocino.

Photos by Jenny Senter

North County Women in Business offers networking and support

Local businesswomen at the June meeting of the North County Women in Business group were excited to welcome Allison Findley, new coordinator of the Willits Chamber of Commerce. On hand to introduce Findley was Willits Chamber of Commerce board president Lisa Epstein.

Findley, who is currently working on her masters in non-profit management, was born and raised in Willits. Many know Findley from her time working at The Book Juggler. She left that position to move to Texas, but she and her husband found they missed Willits so much, they decided to move back. Findley said she is excited about her new position and looks forward to working with the chamber to promote her hometown.


Epstein also took the opportunity to share a bit of history of the North County Women in Business: In 2011, Epstein and then-chamber executive director Lynn Kennelly decided to ask a few other women to help create the group after hearing about the success of women in business groups around the nation and in Ukiah. Epstein and Kennelly decided this local group would

Read the rest of **Business** | Over on Page 11



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Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) is pleased to be the official electricity provider for Mendocino County. Starting in June, your electricity from SCP will be competitively priced, better for the environment, and locally controlled.

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Thursday, June 15

Cannabis Track and Trace Program: Community information workshops will take place around the county, including Ukiah and Laytonville on June 15, about the county program to track medical marijuana through the supply chain from grower, to tester, to retail sale. Thursday, June 15. 10 am to 12 pm. Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Also, Thursday, June 15. 4 to 6 pm. Ukiah Veterans Building, 293 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah.

Y'Art Sale Helpers Needed: The Willits Center for the Arts needs "some healthy volunteers" on Thursday, June 15 and Saturday, June 17 to help "schlep boxes of goodies" for the Y'Art Sale. Contact Holly Madrigal at 841-0612.

Now and Then Film Series: "Seed: the Untold Story" reveals the "harrowing and heartening" story of Seed Keepers as they wage a David vs. Goliath battle against chemical seed companies, defending a 12,000-year food legacy. Featuring Dr. Jane Goodall, Vandana Shiva, and Andrew Kimbrell. Local Seed savers and growers will be on hand to talk about how the concerned and informed public can help save our genetic plant diversity. Thursday, June 15. Doors open 6:30 pm; film starts 7 pm. \$5 donation requested. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Hot Topics in Diabetes: Howard Hospital's Clinical Nutrition Manager Annie Frassinello will speak about: "Top 10 Foods to Include this Summer, and Top 10 Foods to Avoid." Thursday, June 15. 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Seabiscuit Conference Room, Howard Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive. RSVP: Dietitian's Office: 456-3132.

"Grace and Glorie" at WCT: A spiritually powerful drama of unexpected connection by Tom Ziegler, featuring Kelly Kesey and Hafsa Stewart in the leading roles, at Willits Community Theatre. Thursday, June 15. 7 pm. Tickets \$15. Advance tickets available at Mazahar, 38 North Main Street, online at brownpapertickets.com, or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Shanachie Pub: TV Mike & The Scarecrows, a Cosmic Twang Stomp band from the West Coast via Indiana. Thursday, June 15. 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, June 16

Extreme Science Magic Show: Don O'Brian combines science, magic and humor. Friday, June

16. 10:30 am. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

"Grace and Glorie": A spiritually powerful drama of unexpected connection by Tom Ziegler continues at Willits Community Theatre. 8 pm. Tickets \$20. See Thursday, June 15 listing for more details.



Shanachie Pub: "Pint Night Party" sponsored by Eel River Brewing Company, its slogan "Be Natural Drink Naked." Free giveaways throughout the night. Friday June 16. 5 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Melvin Seals & JGB: Live and direct at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Friday, June 16. Doors open 6 pm; music starts at 7 pm. Cream of the Crop Productions. \$40 adults; \$10 kids club.

Shanachie Pub: Garner Sloan from West Texas brings "Americana Gothic" to Willits. Friday June 16. 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, June 17

6th Annual Jesse Pittman Memorial 5K Run/5K Walk: Jesse Pittman Fund sponsors a 5K run or 5K walk to raise monies to provide college scholarships for Mendocino schools. Registration/sign-in Saturday, June 17. 7:30 to 8:30 am. Fees vary by age. Kyen Recreation Area, Pomo 'C', 1250 Marina Drive, Ukiah. Register on race day, or online: <http://rдыsetgo.com/jesse-pittman-memorial-fund-5k-runwalk-6-17-17.html>.



Willits Otters Home Swim Meet: Willits Otters Swim Team hosts a home meet Father's Day weekend, Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18 at the Willits High School pool, 299 North Main. Meet starts at 9 am each day. The public is welcome; there is



no admittance charge. Programs for \$5, and snack bar will be available

Cheer Bake Sale: Willits High School Cheer team have produced a wide and colorful variety of tasty treats. No charge (but voluntary donations would be nice). Saturday, June 17. 9 am to 1 pm. In two locations: ER Energy, 851 South Main Street, and Grocery Outlet in Evergreen Shopping Center.

Y'Art Sale: Willits Center for the Arts is having a yard sale, all sorts of left-over art supplies from various shows and displays are to be sold. "Perfect for teachers, artists or supporters of the arts." Note: muscular volunteers needed to help. Saturday, June 17. 9 am to 4 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: Holly Madrigal 459-1726.

Forest Health Field Trip: Eel River Recovery Project is sponsoring a trip to the headwaters of the South Fork Eel River near Branscomb to investigate the question: "What has forest health got to do with Coho salmon?" Bring lunch, weather appropriate clothes. Transportation available with reservation. Trip departs June 17, 9 am from the Willits Hub, 630 South Main Street. Info: Robin 459-0155; or www.eelriverrecovery.org.

Little Lake Firefighters Fundraiser: "Bring the kids and come help us celebrate your 91st Little Lake Firefighters Association Fundraiser!" Food, raffles, "FUN" And fire engines, including rides up and down Main Street. Saturday, June 17. 10 am to 2 pm. Willits Fire Department, 74 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-6271.

Rascal's Rescue: The Humane Society of Inland Mendocino is sponsoring: "Mobile Adoption Event: adopt a pet and get a free 5 pound bag of food." Saturday, June 17. 11 am to 2 pm. Willits Power & Hardware, 1600 South Main Street.

Guided Meditations: Claudia Wenning, N.D. will facilitate an interactive workshop on guided meditation. Saturday, June 17. 11 am to 1 pm. Free admission. Cultivating Wellness Studio: Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Room #4. RSVP 354-3111.



Dads in the Library: All fathers with their families invited to sign up for the Summer Reading Program.

Saturday, June 17. 1 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Bunko at the Senior Center: "The game is a fun and social activity." It involves dice. No experience necessary. Snacks provided. Saturday, June 17. 1 to 3 pm. Fee: \$12. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Relicensing Eel River Dams: Friends of the Eel River and American Whitewater Association invite the public to participate in discussions, pro and con, on the advisability of relicensing the Eel River/

Potter Valley diversion, and the relicensing of the dams on fish populations and overall ecological health of the river. Saturday, June 17. 4 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Movies in the Grove: Brooktrails Neighborhood Association first movie in their film series will be the animated comedy "Sing." The movie will start at dusk, approximately 8:45 pm. "We welcome folks to come early (7:30 pm) and dance." Snacks and concessions available for purchase. Saturday, June 17. No charge. Ohl Grove Redwood Park.

"Grace and Glorie": A spiritually powerful drama of unexpected connection by Tom Ziegler continues at Willits Community

Theatre. 8 pm. Tickets \$20. See Thursday, June 15 listing for more details.

Shanachie Pub: Courtney Chambers Duo brings her melodic guitar and "powerful and soulful vocals." Saturday, June 17. 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, June 18

Happy Father's Day!

Willits Otters Home Swim Meet: Willits Otters Swim Team hosts a home meet Father's Day weekend, Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18 at the Willits High School pool, 299 North Main. Meet starts at 9 am each day. The public is welcome; there is no admittance charge.

Programs for \$5, and snack bar will be available

"Learn How to Live a Better Life": 5th session in a free 6-part series. Improve mental performance and increase emotional intelligence with this series by Dr. Neil Nedley. Use the practical tips and information presented to think clearly , manage emotions, improve creativity, and overall life satisfaction. Sunday, June 18. 6:30 pm. The Friendship House, 363 West Mendocino Avenue. See Sunday, June 18 listing for details.

"Grace and Glorie": The final performance of this spiritually powerful drama of unexpected connection by Tom Ziegler at Willits Community Theatre. 2 pm matinee. Tickets \$15. See Thursday, June 15 listing for more details.



slaw, garlic bread, cookies. Buy pre-sale tickets, dinner for two, \$25 at Harrah Senior Center. Friday, June 23. Pick up meals 5 to 6:30 pm. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Youth Poetry Night: "Behind the Mic" open mic poetry reading hosted by Tristen Cockrall. Friday, June 23. 7 pm. No Charge. Brickhouse Coffee, corner of Main Street and Commercial Street.

Shanachie Pub: Compost Mountain Boys bring traditional bluegrass. Friday, June 23. 9 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, June 24

Shanachie Pub: Major Powers & The Lo-Fi Symphony is an "Adventure Rock power trio from Oakland. Saturday, June 24. 9 pm. \$5 Cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, June 25

Hospice Benefit Golf Tournament: Willits Rotary is sponsoring the 19th Annual Phoenix Hospice Golf Tournament to benefit hospice. Cost \$55 for Brooktrails Club members, \$75 for non-members. Sunday, June 25. Check-in 8 am. Shotgun start at 9 am. Brooktrails Golf Course 24860 Birch Street. Info: Tammy Long at 480-993-5755, or 456-3244.

Summer Residency Program at North Street Collective: Open house at the North Street Collective. Current resident artists Karina Faulstich and Seth Garcia are collaborating on "Water Cups," a project that integrates poetry and ceramics. Sunday, June 25. 2 to 5 pm. North Street Collective, 350 North Street. Info: www.northstreetcollective.org, or email natasha@northstreetcollective.org.

"Learn How to Live a Better Life": Final session in a free 6-part series. Improve mental performance and increase emotional intelligence with this series by Dr. Neil Nedley. Sunday, June 25. 6:30 pm. The Friendship House, 363 West Mendocino Avenue. See Sunday, June 18 listing for details.

COLUMN | At the Movies



'The Mummy'

The Story: Nick Morton (Tom Cruise) is a military scout in the Iraq desert who moonlights as a stealer and dealer in Mesopotamian antiquities emphasis on the "stealer." He and his best buddy Chris (Jake Johnson, a much better movie name than "Chris") unearth the ancient tomb of the evil Egyptian Princess Ahmanet (Sofia Boutella). There are two significant facts here: one, she is not a prissy lipped Disney princess, and two, she was Egyptian! Remember, Iraq is over 800 miles from Egypt! From this we can conclude that she was not just "bad evil" no she was "extra evilly evil." (But sexy.)

My Thoughts: I had a good time. T. Cruise knows how to give audiences their money's worth. We had plane crashes, car crashes, death kisses, enchanted daggers, more death kisses, zombie kisses, (lotta kisses!), flocks of crows (bad omens), and last but not least Russell Crowe as Dr. Henry Jeyll (really bad omen). Also, in the best Hollywood tradition, we had a sexy, dark-haired bad girl versus a somewhat sterile, blond-haired good girl. Eat some popcorn with your sweetie, this is a first-rate date movie.

Parents: Much too scary for little ones. Twelve and up. Let me confess, that when I was nine or ten, I would have loved this monster flick.

Important Note: One of the writers was David Koepp who wrote "Mission: Impossible," "Spider-Man," and "Jurassic Park." A second writer was Christopher McQuarrie who wrote "Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation," also "The Usual Suspects"!!!! And if you haven't seen "The Usual Suspects," run and get it at Main Street Video (keep it local) because that movie is an all-time seriously bitchin' monster of a movie.

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

Tibetan Master to teach in Willits

June 20 and 21

The Venerable Chungpo Gyalton Rinpoche, Vajra Master of Palpung Sherab Ling Monastery in northern India, will come to Willits June 20-21 to give teachings on Chenrezig, the Tibetan symbol of enlightened compassion.

Chungpo Gyalton Rinpoche is one of most accomplished dharma teachers of the Kagyu lineage of Tibetan Buddhism. In addition to university studies in science, languages and law, he has received the highest education and transmissions in the Kagyu sect. These teachings will be of interest to dharma students of all levels of experience, as well as those new to Buddhism.

The explanation of the Chenrezig practice will be given on June 20, 6:30-8 pm. The practice empowerment will be given on June 21, 6:30-8 pm. Both events will be held at the Muse, located at 34 E. San Francisco St. in Willits. The suggested donation is \$25 per evening, but no one will be turned away. Information: honemann@yahoo.com, or kdk.org.

- Maude Honemann

CARNIVAL WRISTBANDS

Willits FRONTIER DAYS

PRESALE PRICES!

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\$25 EACH

NOW THRU JUNE 23 AT 1 PM

\$30 AT CARNIVAL

Hospice Benefit Golf Tournament

Sunday, June 25

Willits Rotary is sponsoring the 19th Annual Phoenix Hospice Golf Tournament to benefit hospice on Sunday, June 25 at the Brooktrails Golf Course. Check-in is at 8 am, with a shotgun start at 9 am. "Come play and see if you can win one of the many prizes being offered at the event." Special "\$10,000 cash prize" for a hole-in-one on hole 9. Also, a "closest to the tee" contest along with 3 other hole-in-one prizes. The event also includes a raffle with many wonderful prizes. The Willits Lion's Club will be providing an amazing tri-tip barbecue at lunch time for the golfers. The cost is \$55 for Brooktrails Club members and \$75 for non-members. "Come help support Phoenix Hospice, their work is crucial to our community!"

Special note: we are currently looking for sponsors for the event. If you are interested in supporting hospice through becoming one of our sponsors or would like to play in the tournament. Contact Tammy Long: 480-993-5755 or 456-3244.

- Tammy Long, Phoenix Hospice

Senior Center Lunch

Week of June 19 through June 23

Monday: French Dip Sandwich
Tuesday: BBQ Spare Ribs
Wednesday: Pasta Florentine
Thursday: BBQ Chicken, Broccoli Mac & Cheese

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

Harrah Senior Center PRESENTS A DRIVE THRU DINNER FOR TWO (2)

JUNE 23, 2017
5 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.



Menu

**BBQ CHICKEN, BAKED BEANS
COLE SLAW, GARLIC BREAD
COOKIES**

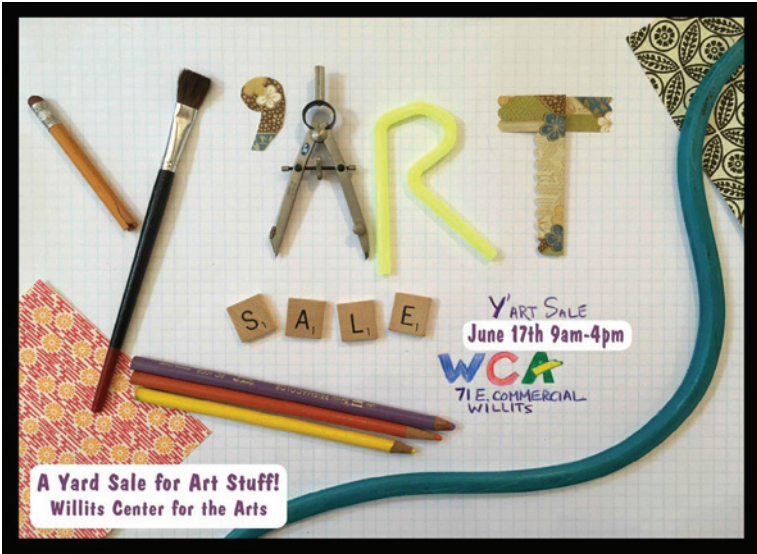
\$25.00

BBQ Courtesy of the Willits Lion's Club

Presale Tickets only purchased at Harrah Senior Center!

Pick up Dinner at the Senior Center 1501 Baechtel Road 707-459-6826

*Thanks to our sponsors!
Willits Lion's Club
Harrah Senior Center Thrift Store
We thank our Volunteers!!!!*



Vacation Bible School

Agape Bible Church 2017 Vacation Bible School, "Maker Fun Factory. Created by God. Built for a Purpose," will run from Monday, June 19 to Friday, June 23. Please reserve a spot for your child at: www.agapebiblechurch.com, or 459-1905.

Little Lake Fire Fundraiser

Saturday, June 17

On Saturday, June 17, from 10 am to 2 pm, the 91st Annual Little Lake Fire Fundraiser takes place at the Willits Fire Department, 74 East Commercial Street. All the bright red fire engines will be out and on display, as well as firefighting equipment, and our firefighters will be there to answer questions. There will food, raffles, and T-shirt sales at this fun family event which raises money to buy new and needed equipment. "We all count on our fire department to save lives and protect property. We urge all Willitsians to show up and join the party."

Rascal's Rescue
Mobile Adoption Event
For The Humane Society of Inland Mendocino
At Willits Power & Hardware
1600 South Main Street, Willits CA
June 17th, 2017 from 11:00am to 2:00pm
Adopt a pet and get a free 5 pound bag of food!



Library Fee Amnesty Ends Soon

Saturday, June 17

Running through Saturday, June 17, the Mendocino County Library is offering a Fee Amnesty Period as part of the Summer Reading Program kickoff. All items checked in during this time will be checked in fee exempt. Information: 234-2871.

Bunko

BUNKO BUNKO

Fee: \$12.00 Saturday June 17, 2017 Time: 1:00-3:30

Harrah Senior Center 1501 Baechtel Rd Willits - 459-6826

Raffle tickets: \$1.00 ea. or 6 for \$5.00

The game is a fun and social activity in which players roll dice and rotate tables at the end of each game.

No experience is necessary. All are welcome.

A wide variety of delicious snacks are provided. Each player receives a prize and there are additional door prizes available for lucky winners.

Tracing Your Past at the Willits Library

The Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, offers classes for genealogy beginners, using ancestry.com. Librarian and genealogist Benjamin MacBean will assist interested parties with their family tree and how to find birth, death, marriage, census records and much more. Classes are on Wednesdays, from 9 to 10 am (except the first Wednesday of the month) and are limited to five people per session. Participants must sign up at the Public Service Desk, and have basic computer skills. Instructor MacBean has been an amateur genealogist for 15 years, following in his grandfather's footsteps, tracing his own genealogy back to 17th century Scotland and Ireland. "There's nothing I enjoy better than helping others explore their past. History becomes a little more tangible, when an individual learns what role their family played, and knowing where they came from." For additional information: 459-5908.

Willits Weekly | June 15, 2017

Ongoing Events

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

"Made in Mendocino": The June show at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, runs through June 25; the show features quilts made by central Mendocino County quilters, including quilt-makers from Willits, Ukiah, and Laytonville. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. If you are interested in volunteering to be a docent, call the art center at 459-1726.

Twice-Monthly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group meets 2nd and 4th Thursday, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941.

Tibetan Buddhist meditation group meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or honemann@yahoo.com.

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

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

Willits Library Activities: Wednesdays: (except the first Wednesday of the month), 9 to 10 am, "Ancestry.com" (limited space, pls. sign up in advance), 11 to 11:30 am, "Play Group" and 3:30 to 5:30 pm, "Lego Day" (bring your imagination and start building); Thursdays: 11 to 11:30 am, "Crawlers and Walkers Story Time" (ages 0-3), 4 pm, "Farmers Market Story Time"; Fridays: 3:30 to 4:30 pm, "Therapeutic Art Coloring" (all ages); Fridays: 5 to 7 pm, "Youth Game Night" (ages 10 to 14). Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

The Willits Seed Lending Library: Offering information on seed saving and gardening. Seeds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables are free to seed library members, and seed donations are gladly accepted. "We look forward to seeing you at the Willits Library!"

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

Drop-in Knitting Circle: every Saturday of the month, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your own projects or your yarn and needles; we have people who should be able to help solve problems and/or help you learn to knit or crochet. Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in." Info: Lotus Baker at 456-9037, or lotusb3@earthlink.net.

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

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

Volleyball Open Gym: at Baechtel Grove gym; Sundays 7:30 pm and Tuesdays at 8:30 pm. Some experience desired, but not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

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

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5 pm to 6 pm; Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 pm to 7 pm; Twens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 pm to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Singer songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday. 8 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday. New time: 6 pm. No cover. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic Night every Wednesday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7:30 pm; pre-signup list starts at 3 pm when the Pub opens. "An eclectic array of local musicians and even performers from around the world!" 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Laytonville Farmers Market: Mondays, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Local fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan goat cheeses, ranch meats, eggs, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

Get included in our calendar:
willitsweekly@gmail.com



Arts Event

Willits Charter School's 'not so garden-variety' benefit

The future of the arts is alive and well in Willits. The young performers, writers, singers and dancers of the Willits Charter School, "A Public School for the Arts and Sciences," demonstrated a commitment to creativity in many different forms on Friday, June 2. The night was billed as the "Not So Garden Variety Show," and it lived up to its title. The event was a benefit for the arts at WCS, helping to raise funds for music, theater and culinary arts.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

The evening began with a delicious and healthy meal served under the trees next to the garden – many of the vegetables were grown by the students, under the direction of Gwyn Ware. In view was the new AstroTurf athletic field, which will enable the school to be involved in more athletics than in the past. The culinary arts at the school are easily on a par with the other art courses: visual, theater, dance and song. As the dinner was being consumed, the diners were entertained with vocal performances from Christopher Lockhart, Elijah Crane, Lacey Maxwell, Logan Porter, Amya and Lilly Michels, Hope Curtis, Willow Daun-Widner, and Chloe Breen, who also accompanied herself on ukulele.

After dinner, the guests were ushered into the main hall, where they were treated to a variety of performing arts with introductions by the instructors and administrators.

Jennifer Lockwood, director of the Willits Charter School, began by thanking the dinner providers, Charlie Widner, director of the culinary program, Leeann Maidrand and Stephanie Barbita. "This is a unique show for us," explained Lockwood, "because we combine a lot of different classes. As you know, we are a school for the arts and sciences, and we do a lot of performing arts. We do a lot of singing and music. We have brought in a new music teacher this year, named Darian. And so his music classes are performing. Of course, Billy Hetherington's classes are performing original skits. We have Erin Mendoza, our choir teacher, and her classes are performing. And we also have our dance club, so we really have a wide variety of performing arts. We thought, 'Why not put on a variety show?' I'm super excited about it. The kids are so ready to perform. Thank you for coming."

Read the rest of

Benefit

Over on Page 11



Photos by Mathew Caine



Far left: Erin Mendoza directs "Pure Imagination."

At left: WCS students perform an Israeli dance.



JOIN LOCAL MERCHANTS AND VENDORS IN KICKING OFF WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS!

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The rest of Benefit

From Page 10

Darian introduced his music ensemble, which consisted of two singers, Lacey Maxwell and Willow Daun-Widner, accompanied by Savannah Lewis on piano and Darius Moog on guitar. They sang "Can't Help Falling in Love" and did an admirable job of it.

Next up was the musical theater class, under the direction of Erin Mendoza, choir and singing teacher. "One of the things we've been working on this semester is songs from 'Hamilton.' They are going to be singing one of those songs for you called, 'Satisfied.' The character, Angelica, is singing this song at the wedding of Alexander Hamilton and her sister, Eliza." The song, which included intricate rhythms and harmonies, was performed beautifully by Elijah Crane, Hope Curtis, Lacey Maxwell, and Chloe Breen.

The Willits Charter School Choir was next with four songs. The first was "Venga Nel Nostro Coro," which was sung entirely in Italian, declaring, "Come join our choir. If you have troubles you will find happiness and peace." They nailed the performance despite the difficulty of singing in a language they do not understand. Next was "Pure Imagination" from "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," with solos from Lacey Maxwell and Christopher Lockhart. "For Good" featured soloists Willow Daun-Widner, Logan Porter and Chloe Breen. To top off their portion of the show, the choir, which included Bridgette Bjorklund, Chloe Breen, Willow Daun-Widner, Christopher Lockhart, Lacey Maxwell and Logan Porter, sang a rousing version of the rock anthem, "Bohemian Rhapsody," which had the audience rocking out.

After the singing portion, the Dance Club performed two Israeli dances, which they did well, despite the small stage.

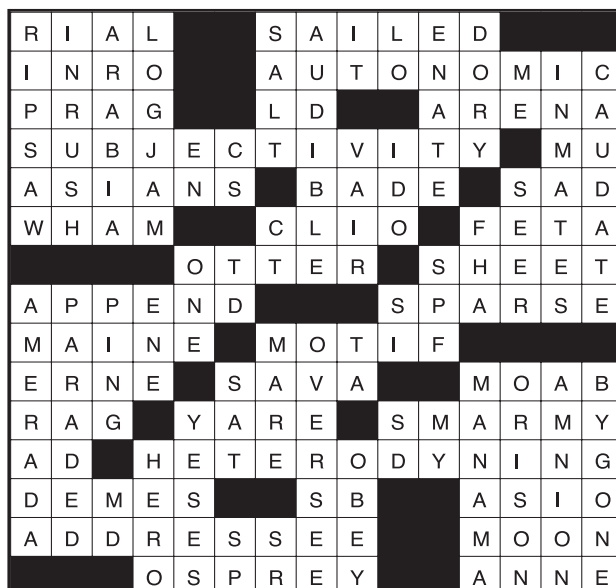
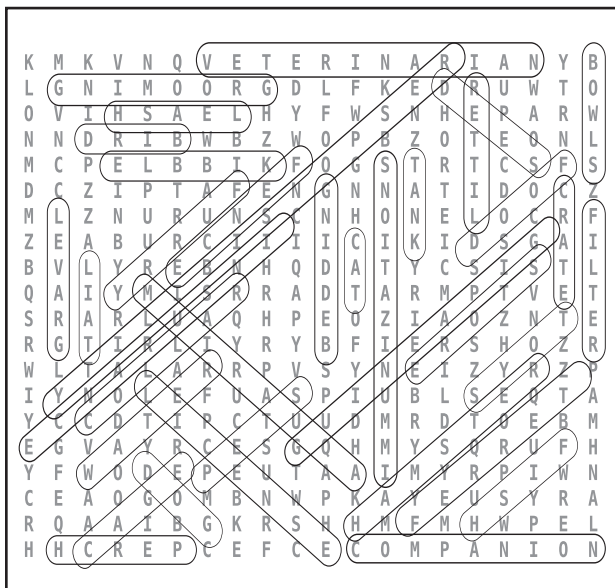
To close the show, the drama students, under the direction of Billy Hetherington, performed original sketches and "videos." "You'll see at the beginning and end of the pieces that we've got two 'music videos' that are fun and playful," Hetherington said as he introduced the performers. "As far as the skits go, I put a bunch of themes, ideas, locations, emotions on pieces of paper and put them into a hat and had the entire class pick pieces from the hat and that's how we built our scenes. These kids wrote them. I just guided them along the way, made a space, gave them my input. They did a really great job of building these pieces, working them, rehearsing them, refining them, and getting props and costumes together. We're really stoked to be able to present these skits."

First of the skits was a fun romp to "Little Red Wagon" by Miranda Lambert, performed by Carly Barbita and Ellemae Skinner. Following this was "Smells Delicious," created and performed by Emma Azevedo, Elijah Crane, Amya Michels and Aidan Bryant, which explored the concepts of comedy, war, frustration and customer service. "The Starving Games," a piece starring Hope Curtis, Sammie St. Pierre, Enzo Foster, Devon Difazio and Jeanell Aldrich, about three hikers lost in the woods who devise a competition to see who could last the longest without eating, explored the concepts of irony, pride and death. The final performance was "My Immortal," a "music video" based on a song from Evanescence. It featured Amya Michels, Emma Azevedo and Cloey Sierra in an exploration of friendship.

All of these unique performances proved to be a "Not So Garden Variety Show." The creativity of the students shone through and showed the benefits of supporting the performing arts in schools. What the Willits Charter School lacks in facilities and budget, they more than make up for with enthusiasm, love of the arts, hard work, creativity, and support from the staff and parents.

Below: Carly Barbita and Ellemae Skinner perform in "Little Red Wagon."

Photo by Mathew Caine



Willits Weekly | June 15, 2017

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Applicants Sought for School Board
Mark Westerburg, Superintendent of the Willits Unified School District, announced that applications for the interim open seat on the Governing Board will be available through Thursday, June 29, 2017 at the District Office, 1277 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA or online at willitsunified.com.

Persons wanting to submit questions for the existing Board members to consider during interviewing should do so by Thursday, June 29, 2017.

Interested persons who live within the boundaries of the Willits Unified School District and are registered voters are welcome to apply for the one existing interim vacancy. All applications are due to the district office by Thursday, July 13, 2017 and will become public records upon receipt by the District.

Candidates will be interviewed in open session by the current Governing Board members at the Regular Meeting scheduled for August 2, 2017.

Inquiries can be made by calling the District Office at (707) 459-5314 ext. 1101

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Hair Stations for Rent
Hair Stations for Rent. Full time \$350, Willits Salon & Spa, 91 So. Main St. 707-841-1100.

Help Wanted
The Skunk Train is looking for energetic folks to work in a quick-paced and fun environment. We have openings for Track Maintenance Workers – working outdoors all day making repairs to track; equipment operators preferred. Applications can be obtained at the Skunk Train Depot in Willits 9am – 3pm daily. Or via email SkunkTrain@gmail.com. Applicant must be willing to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screen, physical, and background check, and have a valid driver's license. EOE.

willitsweekly@gmail.com

The rest of Business

From Page 7

be a benefit of membership in the Willits chamber. Non-members would pay \$5 per meeting after their first meeting, which is always free.

A steering committee was formed, and all agreed this would be a group that offered a space for women in any kind of business to share the joys and problems of work. The promise at that time was that under no circumstances would this active group of women need to add any fundraisers through this program. Networking is the only goal of this group.

In the last five years, Epstein said, what she has observed is not only a great support network, but also numerous informal mentorships. Meetings are held for July, from 8:15 to 9:30 am, at the Willits Center for the Arts in the upstairs gallery. Visit the "North County Women in Business Network" page on Facebook for more info.

Guest speaker Heidi Cusick Dickerson, program manager of Leadership

Mendocino, a program sponsored in part by North Coast Opportunities, gave a presentation on the benefits of the 10-month Leadership Mendocino program. Leadership Mendocino brings together a group of people from all walks of life and all parts of Mendocino County in order to foster an understanding of the county's diverse communities, its challenges and its gifts. It also encourages leadership and networking opportunities for county leaders. Over 500 people, representing 100 different organizations and businesses, have graduated from the program in the past 24 years.

The 2017-18 Leadership Mendocino class has 40 applicants for the 30 positions. This is great news, but will mean some hard choices, as Dickerson said each and every applicant would be a great member of this 25th class of Leadership Mendocino. For more information on Leadership Mendocino, go to www.ncoinc.org and click on "Leadership Mendocino" under the category "Our Programs."

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Willits Mini Storage
MASSIVE YARD SALE (Flea Market Style), Harrah Senior Center will be cooking up hot dogs and serving drinks! Saturday July 8th, 9am-4pm, 261 Franklin Ave., Willits.

YARD/YARD SALE
at the WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS. Saturday, June 17th, 9 am to 4 pm. Art, art supplies galore, and cool stuff at ridiculously low prices. This is a fundraiser for the Willits Center for the Arts. 71 East Commercial (next door to the Noyo Theater). 707-459-1726.

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News from the Willits Lions Club

The June donations made by the Willits Lions Club this month went to the Willits Senior Center, which received \$500, and to Willits Community Services and Food Bank, which received \$250.

Both Jim Marill, director of Willits Community Services, and Richard Baker, director of the Willits Senior Center, said that without the support of the community, they could not stay in business.

Both directors were thankful for the financial donations, and also the time that Lions Club members donate to their organizations.

The Willits Lions Club meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 6

pm at Old Mission Pizza in the Evergreen Shopping Center. New members and guests are always welcome.

– submitted by Carol Deuel, Willits Lions Club

At left: Lions Club members and grateful donation recipients, from left: Glen Helton, incoming Lions Club president, Dean Bauman, Lions Club treasurer and also a longtime volunteer at Willits Community Services, Jim Marill, director of Willits Community Services, Verd VanBezooeyn, outgoing Lions Club president, and Richard Baker, director of the Willits Senior Center.

Photo by Carol Deuel

Children’s ‘heart art’ will warm hearts at Howard Hospital’s ER lobby

By Cici Winiger, for HMH

Last week, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital received a very special piece of art from Redwood Children’s Services, won during an auction at the RCS Kentucky Derby fundraiser last month at Ridgewood Ranch in Willits.

While the art stands out for its vibrant colors and creativity, what makes it so special is that it was made by foster children and youth that are part of RCS, and for HMH CEO Jason Wells, it tugged at his heart.

“One of the things HMH is known for is our beautiful hospital filled with professional artwork from across Mendocino County. When this powerful piece of 84 hearts was unveiled, created by kids whose lives have been touched by the team at Redwood Children’s Services, I felt the most deserving place to display this creation was in a prominent location at Howard Memorial Hospital,” he said.

The stunning piece of art features hand-drawn hearts –each one is unique and has a story to tell. RCS Executive Director Camille Schraeder explained: “For these kids, RCS is not just a place they get services. It is often home, a family, a place where they’ve found refuge and that feeling of being wanted, a safe place, and so much more.”

The collaborative art piece was made by youth, staff, foster parents and even a few little ones (see the wee hand and foot prints!) at the RCS Arbor and Harbor Youth Resource Centers in Ukiah and Lower Lake.

RCS has provided services to youth, families and the community across Mendocino and Lake counties since 1995. One of the artists exclaimed while the group was making this one-of-a-kind piece of art: “I hope it raises a lot for RCS!” And it did – after quite a bidding war. “Working together to create this,” Schraeder said, “was a way for the youth to contribute to the agency that supports them, giving them a feeling of pride, belonging and significance. They may need RCS, but RCS needs the youth, staff and community in order to do the work.”

“As a father of three,” Wells says, “I can only imagine what these children have gone through. Our region is so blessed to have RCS to help turn things around. RCS gives our youth and children a chance at a fresh start. We work closely with RCS and feel privileged to be able to help these kids in our own way when they show up in our clinic or at the hospital.”

More than a piece of art, the piece is a symbol of hope and how the community comes together for children and youth.

“Howard Hospital is the perfect home for this piece,” Schraeder said. “They are at the heart of caring for our community, and they are very much involved and committed to improving people’s lives beyond just healthcare.”

And the hospital has found the perfect spot for their new art acquisition – in the lobby of the emergency department.

Read the rest of **Heart art** | Over on Page 15



At top: Howard Hospital administrators receive the one-of-a-kind “heart art” from Redwood Children’s Services. From left to right: Darcy de Leon, HMH assistant vice-president; Karen Scott, HMH chief nursing officer; Camille Schraeder, RCS executive director; Sage Wolf, RCS quality assurance analyst; and Jason Wells, HMH chief executive officer.

Above: Each of the 84 hearts in the art piece made by foster children and youth at Redwood Children’s Services is unique and has a story to tell.



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Get tickets!



Now’s the time to start thinking about getting your tickets for all of the upcoming Willits Frontier Days events! This year’s two contestants, Hailey Riley and Keely Ahders, are out selling now through the end of June! Call Riley at 707-272-1139 and Ahders at 707-391-0092.

At left: Hailey Riley, left, and Keely Ahders, right, stand with WFD president, Fred Barry.

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

Debra Bean; health coordinator Gaye Orvis; site secretary Janelle Leal; workability technician Terri Cader; and high school principal Robert Chavez.

Newly appointed Third District supervisor and outgoing school board trustee Georgeanne Croskey was also presented with a plaque for her work since her appointment in October 2015.

The board also held two brief public hearings, to receive input from the public with respect to adoption of the Local Control and Accountability Plan, or LCAP, and the 2017-18 district budget.

There was no comment from the public.

Westerburg said the district’s budget reflected about \$900,000 in expenditures over revenues. This shortfall, he assured trustees, was not a matter of concern since the district had a “fund balance” on which it could draw, and state and federal revenue was anticipated, although a decrease in federal revenue was expected.

The superintendent said the district was still “in good shape,” the high school was fully staffed for next year, and kindergarten enrollment was expected to rise so a new kindergarten teacher was going to be hired.

Other than kindergarten, he said, enrollment was not expected to increase.

Deadlines for those wishing to fill the vacant school board position were recapped: Applications are available until June 29 at the WUSD Office at 1277 Blosser Lane or online at willitsunified.net. The deadline for submission is July 13.

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

a laundry room, caused about \$10,000 in smoke damage and \$5,000 in damage to personal belongings. The family was alerted to the fire by their smoke detectors, Wilkes said.

The Little Lake Fire Association’s 91st annual fundraiser is set for this Saturday, June 17, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Little Lake Fire Station on Commercial Street. Residents have been returning the raffle tickets received in the mail, with nearly \$8,000 in donations processed so far, and more checks to count. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the firehouse or during the event – no need to be present to win.

Chief Wilkes also said the fire department’s weed abatement efforts were “in full effect.” Letters have been sent out to lot owners with overgrown grasses needing tending. After the letters were sent, Wilkes said: “It rained again. It’s going to be an interesting year.”

Wilkes also briefed board members on the June 2 wildland fire on East Hill Road. The fire was on the side of East Hill Road in the “state responsibility area,” covered by CalFire. Burn permits are still valid in the SRA, even though permits in the city and in the local responsibility area outside the city covered by Little Lake Fire were suspended on May 31. The wildland fire was, as suspected, caused by an old burn pile. “We’ve taken a lot of heat in the office” over the burn permit suspension, Wilkes said, but he felt strongly the burn suspension was justified.

In May, the Little Lake Fire Department

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

There’s a lot of information that either we’re not getting up front – because every permit has to go over to Planning and Building, and they have to sign off on it before it comes back to us – and sometimes they need more information from the cultivator and sometimes the cultivator doesn’t have that information with them.”

Curry said she is hopeful the first cultivation permits will be issued at the beginning of next week.

The following numbers, provided by the Department of Agriculture, are current through June 8.

According to the department, 166 applications have been received for a Type 2B cannabis operation (up to 10,000 square feet, using mixed light), and 108 applications have been received for a Type 2 (up to 10,000 square feet, outdoors).

The permit type which has received the next largest number of applications is Type 1B (up to 5,000 square feet, using mixed light), with 22 applications. Behind that is Type 1 (up to 5,000 square feet, using only natural sunlight), with 20 applications.

Local cultivators have submitted 33 applications for a Type 4 permit, for nurseries.

Only three applications for permit Type 1A have been received. That would be for grows of up to 5,000 square feet, using all artificial light (i.e., indoor growing). Only one application has been received for a Type 2A permit: that is, for indoor cultivation up to 10,000 square feet.

Looking at the numbers, the pace at which applications are being submitted to the ag department hasn’t slowed down noticeably since the second week of the program. After the first mad run on the Department of Agriculture counters, which saw 98 applications received over a two-day period, the pace has remained steady at about 40 applications most weeks.

In the second week, the department received 40 applications, 43 in the third week, 38 in the fourth week, 84 in the fifth week (the first week of June) and 49 in the sixth week.

Data for the number of applications submitted in the sixth week is incomplete, as June 8, the end date for the information, fell on a Thursday. Any applications submitted on Friday, June 9, are not part of this data.

Willits Weekly | June 15, 2017 **Phone:** 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047



Photos by Joanne Moore



Willits Superintendent of Schools Mark Westerburg gives certificates of recognition to, at top left: Gaye Orvis, Brookside school nurse; at top right: Naomi Ceratto, special education instructional assistant at Blosser Lane; at bottom left: Betty Meinecke, teacher at Baechtel Grove; and at bottom right, Elizabeth Hughes, teacher at New Horizons Independent Study. Middle: The group of happy retiring teachers and employees holds their certificates.

had 41 calls for service, including 14 traffic collisions, seven fires, four medical aid calls, 14 “non-alarms,” and two other calls. “We’ve been busy,” Wilkes said. “And our response has been incredible. I can’t thank the folks enough. They are on top of their game.”

One interesting story Wilkes told board members was that the department had a visit from a high-up official in the state Fire Marshal’s Office, who was heading up Highway 101 to check on fire safety at area music festivals. As part of the fallout from two deadly fires in Oakland, including the Ghost Ship fire, the state office is encouraging local agencies to step up inspections of facilities like schools, motels and hotels, and all care facilities.

Any volunteer fire department that has at least one paid staffer is required to do these inspections, Wilkes said. And if the local fire agencies don’t do the inspections, the state office will, and then bill the local departments for the service. “I would rather have our local motels/hotels being inspected by our local fire departments,” Wilkes said. He, Deputy Chief John Thomen and Training Chief Eric Alvarez are working on a plan to get the inspections done, and Wilkes said he hoped to start making personal visits to facilities in August.

Board member Tom Herman asked about the possibility of developing a “fee for service” to cover the costs for these inspections, which is possible under Proposition 218 guidelines, if

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

expenditures run an estimated \$1.25 million, an estimated increase \$79,000 revenue increase over last year’s figures. Expenditures will rise by about \$34,500.

Sewer department revenues are expected to increase by about \$97,600 over last year’s \$1,338,000, with expenditures climbing by about \$73,000. Wages, salaries and benefits will increase by an estimated \$44,000 over last year’s expenditures, while supplies and services will nose up by about \$38,000.

Fire department revenues are expected to rise to \$523,500, a \$16,000 increase over the waning 2016-17 fiscal year’s numbers, with expenditures rising by about \$28,400, mostly for salaries, wages and fringe benefits.

The district’s parks division expenditures will be cut almost in half, to \$64,122, while golf course expenditures will take a \$27,600 hit over the next fiscal year.

The district’s general government budget will remain static.

Some 10 Brooktrails residents attended the public hearing that took place before the budget vote, according to Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose. No one spoke during the hearing, and the district received no written comments regarding the proposed budget prior to the hearing, Rose said.

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

concerning the issue held Tuesday night, says Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose. Neither did the township receive any written comments on the measures.

The rate hikes will help defray the costs of maintaining the township’s aging water and sewer infrastructure, Rose told the Brooktrails board of directors in written comments before the hearing, including “a more robust [water] leak detection system,” and increasing the energy efficiency of various facilities.

The township also plans to line one redwood water tank, rebuild several water pumps, and set aside funds to replace the Primrose lift station and the Poppy Drive sewer line.

The township, however, is proposing the fee charged for notice of service termination “door-hangers” will drop from \$15 to \$10.59. The door hangers will be mailed to delinquent Brooktrails customers rather than hand-delivered, Rose said.

No increases are being sought for water reconnection fees, water service reconnections outside normal business hours, or water meter testing.

The fee the district charges for architectural reviews also will remain unchanged at \$280 for development reviews, \$100 for remodeling (except decks), \$75 for preliminary site reviews (including decks and private water tanks), and \$25 for minor site reviews and non-hazardous tree removals.

Residents who want to merge between two and four lots, however, will pay an extra \$50 to merge two lots into one (from \$450 to \$500), with an additional \$80 (unchanged) for each additional lot and a \$14 recording fee (also unchanged).

The increases will continue over the next few years until the township’s fee schedule is roughly 50 percent of what the county charges, Rose said.

A final public hearing on the proposed fee changes will be held at the June 27 meeting, after which the board of directors is expected to adopt the increases.

The rest of **Planning** |

From Page 1

“Some people have reached out to me, and I don’t feel it would be fair to appoint someone until I have had a chance to speak to everyone who has expressed an interest in the position,” Croskey said. “That’s going to take some time, so I doubt I will be ready to recommend someone in time for the June 20 meeting.”

Nicole French, deputy clerk of the board of supervisors, told Willits Weekly the position of Third District planning commissioner would remain open until filled and that, as of Tuesday morning, she was not aware that any applications to fill the post had been filed with the county.

Under law, French said, supervisors cannot appoint a person to the position until 10 working days have elapsed since the vacancy was publicly noticed. The position was noticed as vacant on June 2. Ten working days will have elapsed at 5 pm on Friday, June 16. That means the earliest a new planning commissioner could be appointed would be Monday, June 19. The next meeting of the board of supervisors is June 20.

The initial notice of the planning commission vacancy on the monthly vacancy notice form stated the deadline to apply was June 13, or until filled. June 13 is 10 days after the vacancy was publicly noticed, but not 10 working days.

Until late morning on June 13, the online “Boards & Commissions” application form on the county’s website would not accept applications for the planning commission position. The application form has a box asking: “Which boards would you like to apply for?”

When Willits Weekly tested the box, and clicked on “Mendocino County Planning Commission,” the box burped back. “This board does not have a vacancy.” As a result, a potential commissioner would be unable to submit his or her application.

After being made aware of the online glitch, county staff remedied the situation.

The planning commission is the principal advisory body to the board of supervisors on planning and land use matters. The position is unpaid.

There are seven people on the commission: one from each of the five supervisorial districts, plus two at-large members representing the timber industry and agricultural interests. The commission generally meets once a month.

People interested in applying for the position of planning commissioner for the Third District are asked to do so online at <http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors/boards-and-commissions>. Paper applications may be obtained by calling the county’s executive office at 463-4441.





Rodeo Weekend

Willits Horsemen's Association holds annual Play Day weekend

The first weekend in June marks the weekend for the Willits Horsemen Associations' annual Play Day and BBQ, and this year, several cowboys and cowgirls came out on top, earning awards and bragging rights for their efforts.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Saturday was the day for the gymkhana, and Sunday was the day for the beef barbecue and rodeo, all held at the Willits Horsemen's grounds on East Commercial.

The rodeo included events for both male and female riders: in girls Breakaway Roping, first place went to Shanna Gayski and second to Christina Darger. In girls Steer Daubing, first place went to Shanna Gayski, second to Lori Niesen, and third to Amanda Hyatt. In girls Barrel Racing, first place went to Brianna Jenney, second to Canyon Darger, and third to Christina Darger. In Team Roping, first place went to Shanna Gayski, second to Amanda Hyatt, and third to Christina Darger. In girls Goat Tying, first place went to Christina Darger, who also won first place in Ribbon Roping.

For the boys steer stopping event, Walt Niesen took first place, and second place went to Mark Lucchetti. In boys Team Roping, first place went to Joe Dennis, and both second and third place to Brian White. Mark Lucchetti also won first place in boy's Ribbon Roping.

Those with the highest overall total scores were awarded special prizes. Mark Lucchetti won the title of All-Around

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



Clockwise from bottom left: High Money Heeler Wayne Hyatt, left, stands with Rodeo Chairman Jim Bean, center, and High Money Heeler Fred Niesen, right. Shanna Gayski leads the grand entry with the American flag. The tables were full for the barbecue. Team ropers try to catch a steer. A roper almost gets the heels. Jeff Yokum, Taylor Drew and Danny Mihelcic at the BBQ station. A rider throws her loop, hoping for a heel catch.

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COLUMN | WUSD Report Card

Middle school changes at WUSD

By Mark Westerburg, superintendent

Welcome to the Report Card, a new column where I'll share Willits Unified School District goals and challenges, and respond to community questions about education. At the moment, while most students are celebrating the start of summer vacation, I'm already working on exciting changes for the next school year.

I've been thinking about our middle schoolers, and what a transitional time of life that is. Students in middle school are often in the process of gaining self-awareness and struggling to figure out where they fit in, which can feel like a full-time job for some of them. Add to that the academic demands of middle school, and it can feel overwhelming.

That's why it's so important that we address three main areas as we plan for next year:

1. Providing academic opportunities for students of all abilities.
2. Helping students make graceful transitions at each grade level.
3. Creating a safe, supportive culture where students can explore new ideas.

Middle schoolers are a squirrely bunch, but with the right teachers and in the right environment, they can grow and learn in ways that even they wouldn't have thought possible.

The fact is, different kids thrive in different environments. That's why we have several options for middle schoolers: Baechtel Grove Middle School, Sherwood School, and Independent Study.

Baechtel Grove is a traditional setting that will run on a trimester system. Core classes like math and language arts will be taught in 60-minute periods and electives will be taught in 40-minute periods.

Sixth-graders will have the same two teachers for core classes all year. Seventh-graders will have four core teachers, a math-science teaching pair and a language arts-social teaching pair. Eighth-graders will have unique single-subject teachers for each core class to prepare them for high school.

In addition to core classes, we're pleased to offer art, music, band, computers, and physical education. Each grade level will have its own passing period and lunch period, and all students will have a bonus period at the end of the day to focus on their areas of interest - Advancement Via Individual

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

Penny, a Dogue de Bordeaux - Linda and Larry Morris, are two of Blake's biggest co-planners. Larry Morris is fabricating a split-rail fence to go around the float, and Linda Morris is helping select decorations and festivities that range from hay hooks, saddles and ropes to American flags and neck handkerchiefs and feathers for the dogs.

This year's theme "Willits Western, Small Town America" got the Stay and Play crew thinking about incorporating a "Black Bart" concept into the float, too, and a "Black Barker Gang" banner is planned to grace the front of the truck and trailer donated by Paul and Diana Hosford and Mike and Christine Griggs.

The group thinks that even more dogs will be on board the float this year, and they also plan to add some old-time country music to the float to really bring home the small-town feeling.

Blake also was recently selected as

Determination, Read 180, English Language Development, Study Island, Odyssey of the Mind, and more.

Our music and art teachers are veteran teachers who are incredibly enthusiastic about teaching their favorite subjects to their favorite age group. The band teacher was offered the high school band director position, but said he'd rather help ignite a love of music in as many middle-school students as possible.

Baechtel's dean of instruction will move to Sanhedrin Alternative High School to implement the new Career Technology Education program, and we'll bring in a Teacher On Special Assignment to Baechtel to support teachers per their requests to provide professional development in areas like classroom management.

Although Baechtel has a lot to offer, some students prefer a smaller, less-structured environment. At Sherwood, that's what we offer. Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, we're expanding to make it a K-8 school. It feels totally different from Baechtel, and would be great for students who want a personalized,

close-knit learning community. If this sounds like the right choice for your student, contact the school as soon as possible to register your student; space is limited, and we often have a waiting list. Contact School Secretary Shauna Martin at 984-6769 or shaunamartin@willitsunified.com.

Sherwood is a three-classroom school where students learn in a multi-age classroom environment - K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Students who excel at academics can take on more challenging work, and those who are struggling can slow down and review challenging material - all within the same classroom. Parents are highly engaged and work with community members to offer programs like hip-hop dance and other great enrichment opportunities. There is no set bell schedule. Teachers pay attention to the flow of the day and their students' need for a break, and respond accordingly. If Sherwood students enjoy sports, they can participate in sports at Baechtel, if they choose to.

To make Sherwood accessible to more students next year, we're providing bus transportation from Baechtel Grove Middle School and the Brooktrails Golf Course.

For students who want or need even more flexibility, we offer Independent Study, which will be managed out of Sherwood School.

I feel confident that at WUSD, we can provide a school environment that meets the needs of local middle-school students. I've worked exhaustively with site councils, boosters, parents, teachers, support staff, board members and community members to restructure our offerings, and I'm excited about next year. For a summary of changes for all grade levels, you can visit www.willitsunified.com and click on the left sidebar item called "WUSD School Improvement Plan."

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

a guest to speak at one of the weekly Willits Rotary Club's luncheons.

"It was really nice to present what I do to the Rotary Club," said Blake. "I talked a lot about the importance of socialization, training and building a relationship with your dog."

Blake noted that she spoke about the different training tools used and how consistency in training is one of the most important factors.

"Dogs have always meant a lot to me," said Blake. "They have been there a lot for me in the past decade, through a lot of hard times, and they're so important in my life. I really do my job because of how much I love dogs, and it's great to get to be able to share that passion with others."

For more information about Stay and Play Dog Care, call Blake at 459-1377.

There's still time to enter your business, club or self in the parade; entry forms are available online at



Members of the Willits Charter School peer counseling program.

Willits Charter School peer counseling program marks three years

The Willits Charter School's peer counseling program has been going strong for three years. The first year, the Soroptimists donated \$500 towards our program so that we could have our intensive programs. Over the last two years we have hosted seven fundraisers, including bake sales and garage sales.

We decided as a group that we would donate 40 percent of our funds to a local cause. Last year we were able to donate \$350 to the Highland Senior Center in Lake County for the Lake County Fire Victims fund. This year we were able to donate \$200 to the local Planned Parenthood in Ukiah. The students wanted to donate to the local Planned Parenthood, since funding is being taken away, and the group supports their cause and work. With the other 60 percent of funds raised by the group, we paid for peer counseling shirts, guest speakers, and four peer counseling skills-building intensives.

"This program has opened many doors in my mind that are now leading me down a more positive path," said Lily O'Malley, one of the students in the WCS peer counseling class.

— submitted by Aurelie Clivaz, peer counseling instructor, Willits Charter School

The rest of **Heart art** | From Page 12

"It breaks our hearts when these children come to us, and we can only heal their physical pains," said Amy Buckingham, MMH emergency services director. "But RCS helps them with the emotional pains and much more. This will be a great reminder to us, of why we do what we do every day - that in some small way, we're making a difference in these kids' lives."

The new vibrant piece of art will be a great addition to the 200-plus pieces of

art already on display at the hospital. "It couldn't have been more perfect," CEO Wells said. "I have heard our volunteers comment as they tour guests around the hospital that Howard is the only art gallery open 24 hours a day, seven days a week in our region. Patients, guests and Howard team members love looking at all these art pieces done by local Mendocino artists on our walls. Now there's a piece from our children and youth. I'm sure it will touch our staff and patients' hearts just as it did mine."

The rest of **Rodeo** | From Page 14

Cowboy, and Shanna Gayski won the title of All-Around Cowgirl.

Two other riders were honored for winning the Jackpot roping event; Wayne Hyatt was the High Money Header and Fred Niesen was the High Money Heeler.

Both All-Around and High Money winners received custom-made breast collars, engraved with their achievements.

The rodeo was overseen by chairman Jim Bean and arena announcer Kathy Goss.

Results provided by Willits Horsemen's Association and Cindy Mihelcic.

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The School of Adaptive Agriculture

Support for local food projects is taking off. Much of this energy is being generated by a growing population of younger people determined to find their way into the world of farming. In response, local organizations, agencies and segments of the farming community are combining forces to help this dream come true. In the process, a whole new vision of farming is starting to come together.

The School of Adaptive Agriculture (formerly the Grange Farm School) is a living example of these burgeoning energies. About 10 years ago the California State Grange started actively supporting a greener and more local agriculture. At the Grange's annual convention in 2011, Grangers voted to fund a farm school in Willits. Local farmer Michael Foley helped get the school off the ground and in 2014 North Coast Opportunities became its umbrella organization.

In 2013 the school leased a beautiful land base through the generosity of the Golden Rule community, owners of the 5,000-acre Ridgewood Ranch just south of Willits. Organizers spent 2014 rehabilitating an old house on the land plus adding other needed structures, and in 2015 the first students arrived.

Ruthie King has been the director since 2015, and her background in farming and systems design, combined with a deep commitment to sustainability and thinking outside the box, have resulted in a unique type of training for potential farmers. Two school programs during the year last 14 weeks each and are crammed with learning opportunities.

There are a huge variety of hands-on and classroom trainings including sustainable ag, animal husbandry, crop production, tool repair, and business management. Although the school's staff is small, many volunteers teach classes.

Each week there's a field trip to diverse types of farms and ranches in Mendocino County, to help students discover which particular type of food production resonates for them. After this

happens, a student will start to focus the remainder of the program on his or her specialty. The school's goal at the end of the term is for students to have a trajectory for the course they've decided to pursue.

Requirements for admission to the school are that the applicant be over 18, have the intention of growing food for a local community, and have an open mind towards living with a group. Intelligence and creative thinking are also pluses for potential students. Since interviews are mostly conducted by phone, applicants are asked questions such as what type of personal conflicts they've experienced in the past and how they've helped resolve them. King believes success in human relationships is the most important thing that can be learned in almost any endeavor and is the basis for all other successes.

In 2015 the school had 11 students during its two terms; there were eight during one term in 2016 and there are eight more beginning students and three grads during 2017's first term. Nine of the grads have since moved to Mendocino County. One is managing ranchland in Anderson Valley while starting a lamb operation; others are growing brussels sprouts and assorted veggies for wholesale, interning at the Golden Rule Garden; and three others have started businesses at Ridgewood Ranch.

The farm school has built many connections with local organizations, and together they've started farmer support projects like the Food Hub, Grown Local and the Farmers Guild. The newly organized Farm Education and Resource Network, FERN, is looking for a clearer pathway to connect farmers with land. They are starting to rethink our traditional concept of agriculture, to make better use of resources that already exist. For example, the group is exploring ways to establish more creative partnerships, like the one at Parducci Winery, which has devoted 10 of its acres to growing produce.

We're fortunate to have the Farm School in our area, attracting and teaching a new generation of farmers, helping smooth the way for a more sustainable local food system. The school also gives occasional workshops for the local community. For more info: www.adaptiveagriculture.org.

Mary Zellachild is a longtime resident of Willits, who has a passion for the local food movement. Contact her at maryzel@willitsonline.com or 459-3963.



Above: School of Adaptive Agriculture Director Ruthie King displays the new "Creamy Leg Bars" chicks bred for laying eggs to the gathered crowd at last year's spring open house. Below: A ewe and a lamb enjoying a feast of fava beans, grasses, and other greens in their spacious pen.

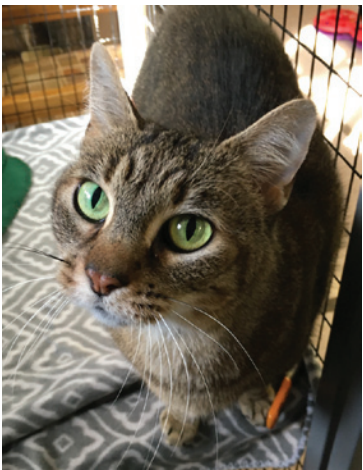
Photos by Ree Slocum



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Lady Ruth

Ruth is an older lady who was found as a stray. She is a sweet gal who wouldn't mind a quiet house to live in where she can get all the love and attention she wants. She would not be good for someone who has small children. She loves attention and is never ready to leave your lap when you are done holding her. She loves her hugs. She likes things to go her way, and she will tell you what she thinks. Come meet Ruth!



For more information on Ruth or other adoptable animals, call Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County at 485-0123, check www.mendohumanesociety.com, or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday.

Stunning Gypsy

Gypsy is a 2-year-old spayed female, who currently weighs 58 pounds and looks like she might be part Great Dane. She's a very beautiful dog with those fabulous ears – one up, one down. Gypsy likes to sniff around, and would love an active family to take her out in the world for adventures. In the coming days, as we take her out on walks and into the play yard, we will update her bio with more information.



The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am

to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful dogs and cats here, please visit online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.

Photo by Rod Coots

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