

Donations Accepted Edition No. 164

qualifies for
November
ballot

The countywide initiative, funded by a ½-cent sales tax hike for five years, would raise an estimated \$23 million to develop the infrastructure for a mental health services center. It requires a two-thirds "yes" vote to pass.

Read the rest of
Initiative |
Over on Page 15

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The issue was proclaimed decided by board Chairman Dan Gjerde without benefit of a vote being taken. However, the only supervisor who expressed an interest in even considering whether to place the road tax measure on a ballot already crowded with tax initiatives was the Fifth District's Dan Hamburg.

Read the rest of
Road Tax |
Over on Page 13

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of
Transition |
Over on Page 13



Above, from left: Traffic is diverted around the construction. The west end of State Street was closed Monday. A backhoe moves a steel plate.

Willits residents and commuters can expect to experience the effects of Main Street water line replacement construction until roughly the end of August, according to Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore.

because the water line itself has been in poor shape for some years," Moore told Willits Weekly.

"This is a project that's been on our books [as a priority].

"It got to the point where we have to do this now, so we don't have to tear up what Caltrans does," Moore explained.

Caltrans is expected to work on the section of Main Street from the Highway 20 intersection to Casteel Lane, leaving the street in “a state of good repair.”

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



Below, from left: Ash Maki of Starchild Chocolate. Workers get ready to cut pavement. Traffic maneuvers around the construction zone.



The gorgeousness of summer weather is exemplified in this photo taken Monday evening in Willits, when the sun outlines the leaves and casts a warm glow over the land right before setting behind the hills.

Photo by Maureen Moore

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

To put a marijuana tax measure on the November ballot, a four-fifths vote of the board is needed. But Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg recused himself from discussing both the marijuana tax ordinance and the medical marijuana cultivation ordinance because he said he has family members involved in the industry. That means

Read the rest of
Overhaul |
Over on Page 13

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
forrest@willitsweekly.com

LLFD started Frontier Days off June 25 at Recreation Grove with its annual Little Lake Fire Association fundraiser, which included food, raffles, music, firefighter

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

Dan McKee
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The board has been renewing that declaration monthly since January 2014.

Due to “diligent conservation efforts” by residents, water levels at Brooktrails’ two reservoirs, Lake Emily and Lake Ada

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

'United Flying Octogenarians'

What do YOU think?

To the Editor:

Last Saturday evening at about 8:30 pm, a UFO was sighted in the Willits area. It was Jim Harden, receiving his membership in the elite "United Flying Octogenarians" at his 80th birthday party.

This honor is bestowed only upon pilots who are flying an aircraft as pilot in command at age 80 or older. Jim has been an active pilot and aircraft owner for decades, and a current member and past president of Willits EAA Chapter 1027.

Happy birthday, Jim, and congratulations on becoming a UFO.

Paul Trexel, president, EAA Chapter 1027

What happened?

To the Editor:

This is an open letter to city officials involved with the Willits Frontier Days and Parade. It's been more than a year, yet people are still talking about the perennial favorite, Black Bart Gunfighters, and what happened last year, when a parade spectator was hit with an "unidentified projectile." Why hasn't the public been given an official explanation of what happened?

No personal info or names, just an official report of the basic facts is all that was expected. Mentioning future preventative measures would've also been appropriate. This incident occurred at the biggest, most crowded event in our city. The commotion was witnessed by hundreds of people, including myself. It seems reasonable for the public to expect a conclusive explanation and assurances.

At the time it occurred, many people weren't sure it wasn't a random shot from an over-zealous spectator. As far as I know, no one has officially confirmed if it was caused by one of the Gunfighters or not. Many speculated that the "projectile" came from one of the Gunfighter's guns and that was certainly a better scenario than a random "nut" firing off a weapon in the crowd.

There have been several online discussions about this incident, which has continued with confusion and disappointment at not seeing the Gunfighters in the parade this year. A few people claim to know what happened, while stating that the public doesn't need to know. This has cast suspicion upon the incident and all involved. That is what prompted me to write this letter, to "clear the air" and dispel the rumors.

It seems the resistance towards those seeking the truth is unnecessary. We were told an investigation was happening and it would take several weeks. We waited for the results ... and a year later, we are still waiting.

Debbie Boone-Harry, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

Little Lake Fire Department would like to acknowledge and thank the community and those involved who made our fundraiser such a successful event. Thank you to Willits Frontier Days, Lions Club, Pine

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Mountain Fire Safety Council, American Red Cross Mendocino Chapter, Willits Police Department, PG&E, Mendocino County Search and Rescue, VeriHealth, Med Star, ServPro, REHIT 9555, Tova Scotia, TNT Auto and Willits Amateur Radio.

Your services and assistance were valuable, and we appreciate the time you dedicated to our fundraiser.

We also want to thank our volunteers and board members who dedicate countless hours to serve our community. The funds from our fundraisers will service our community with the purchases of much needed equipment.

Michelle Schnitzius, for Little Lake Fire Protection District

Thanks for your support

To the Editor:

Thank you all for your support towards becoming a charter county. The final tally of votes in Mendocino County has just been posted. Measure W got over 46 percent of the vote, a clear indication that increasing numbers of Mendonesians are determined to participate in the grassroots revolution and have a voice in how we're governed!

Change is erupting worldwide, with upheavals happening right now on the national, international and local levels. People are waking up to realize that governments and corporations are in bed together enacting policies that adversely affect our lives and serve only the rich. Real positive change happens only when a grassroots groundswell of citizens decides that things need to change and they empower each other to take action together. Real change never takes place from the top down or in the living rooms of wealthy industrialists. It always occurs from the bottom up when thousands of us say loud and clear, enough is enough, and then become involved.

In the best of worlds, this kind of action can also take place at the ballot box. In the campaign for Measure W some 150 volunteers donated their time collecting signatures, holding Town Halls, distributing information, raising and donating money, and urging their fellow citizens into action. With their help we waged a memorable campaign and gave it our best. We are also very grateful for the support given at the beginning of the campaign by Dr. Vandana Shiva, who helped us raise \$8,000 towards becoming a charter county!

Although W did not pass at this time, the advocates of becoming a charter county plan to keep our momentum going, actively looking for ways that "We the People" of Mendocino County can survive and thrive into an unknown future.

Again, thank you for voting Yes on Measure W. We really appreciated your support!

Mary Zellachild, Willits, for the Charter Project of Mendocino County

Art classes for kids and adults

To the Editor:

I am offering two different class offerings beginning in August. The first week of August I am holding my annual week-long Kid's Art Camp in the morning from 9 am to 12 pm. It is the first time scheduled art classes will be held at the Willits Center for the Arts.

Everyone at the Center is really excited about finally being able to offer children's classes.

The Kid's Art Camp will be devoted to experimenting with various art mediums. Besides paper mache, we will have fun with tissue paper collage, oil pastels, clay, watercolor, painting on silk, mixed media and more. All materials are provided. We will learn about famous artists and their work, and try new things with art materials. Everything the young artist creates is theirs to take home. Art Camp will give your children a chance to have a real arting experience, with plenty of time to try new materials and time to complete more involved projects that may be too messy for home.

Each day will begin with movement, and after the morning art project, we will have a healthy snack, which I will provide. Art Camp will be held at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street in Willits.

There is a discount for siblings from the same family. The ages are 6-12 years. Please contact me for more information about the cost of the camp, which includes the all the materials and snack. There is room for 15 students.

Classes for adults: Watercolor offers some of the most vibrant colors and is a very expressive medium. Why not consider taking a watercolor class this fall? I will be teaching watercolor at the Willits campus, beginning August 22, for Mendocino College. It is a combined level class: Beginning through Intermediate/Advanced. The classes are very reasonably priced. Start your week with art, let your creative side come out, and take some time for yourself. Get what you need to get done in the morning, and spend the afternoon painting. It is always a great class with lots of nice folks who quickly become friends.

The Beginning section will start with the basics; no experience in watercolor is necessary. Record your travels or the beauty around you in your sketchbook. Our studies will begin with the colors of fall. We will be in the large classroom at the Mendocino County Museum, just down the road from the Willits College campus. There are tables outside where we can paint, and beautiful surroundings to inspire us.

Here is all the info: Watercolor-Fall 2016: Art-222A (Beginning) section 2220, and Art-222B (Intermediate) Section 2221, Monday and Wednesday 2-5 pm. August 22-December 14. To sign up go to "Mendocino College" on the internet and then WebAdvisor. Or call: Ukiah: 468-3000, Willits 459-6224. I am looking forward to sharing watercolor with you. Please email me at greengables@wildblue.net if you have questions about with class offerings.

Ann Maglinte, Willits

2015-16 Grand Jury

To the Editor:

Dear Judge Jeanine Nadel: It is my privilege to present you with the 2015-16 Consolidated Mendocino County Grand Jury Report, in fulfillment of the grand jury's oath and charge. This report contains the results of investigations required by law, suggested by submitted complaints or generated by the jury itself. The topics included in this report are, by order of public release: Proposition 172 Budget Transparency, County Records Retention, Point Arena Code Enforcement, Marijuana Restitution, and County Policy 22 Use of Email.

The Bronzan-McCorquodale Act of 1991 specifically assigns the role of identifying problems with mental health services to

the Mendocino County Behavioral Health Board. The 2015-16 Mendocino County Grand Jury also closely monitored the events surrounding mental health delivery via the mental health services contracts let by the County of Mendocino during this term of service. Specifically the GJ examined the policies and procedures for delivery of 5150 services in the county Jail – a mental health service outside the scope of the recently contracted Kemper Report "Mental Health Services Analysis." GJ members attended board of supervisors' meetings, Behavioral Health Advisory Board meetings, and toured the Mendocino County jail facilities. Various county department heads and staff members, county supervisors, local physicians and nurses, the director of California Forensic Medical Group, and members of the public were interviewed. Although a report was not issued, the GJ will continue to monitor mental health services in Mendocino County.

The GJ conducted inspections of the locked facilities in the county including the Mendocino County jail, Mendocino County Juvenile Hall, Willits Police Department holding cells, Parlin Fork Conservation Camp, and Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp. The GJ determined that all of the facilities are in adequate working condition and are able to achieve their stated goals and requirements. It should be noted, however, that the county jail is frequently at capacity, and occasionally must incorporate additional temporary beds to accommodate inmates. Additionally, a lack of corrections staff in the county jail forces officers to work mandatory overtime and extended shifts that may lead to personnel fatigue.

During the course of inspections the GJ learned that the Mendocino County Juvenile Hall was in the process of finalizing an agreement with Lake County to house the Lake County Juvenile Hall youths. The novelty of the merger did not allow the GJ to draw accurate conclusions about the impact of the merger on the county.

The financial aspect at the time of the investigation was unclear, because Mendocino County had not yet billed Lake County for costs and expenses for services as defined in the memorandum of understanding between the counties. The subsequent GJ may wish to examine the juvenile hall merger agreement and how it has impacted the county financially, as well as the impact on both Mendocino and Lake County youth housed in the facility.

The GJ studied the policies and procedures of the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District and the City of Ukiah Water District. It should be noted that UVSD has filed suit against the City of Ukiah, in Sonoma County Superior Court. Each party has set aside significant funds in their respective budgets for legal costs. Ultimately if this case is not resolved in an amicable manner, the Ukiah ratepayers will be responsible for the cost of the judgment regardless of which party prevails in court. No report was issued on this topic due to ongoing litigation.

In addition to Proposition 172 funding for county fire departments, the GJ studied the extra burdens placed on coastal fire departments, due to increased tourism. These small rural fire departments originally created to protect their neighbors in the community are now faced with a much larger responsibility for the welfare and safety of the coastal tourists. A future GJ may wish to explore additional county funding sources such as the promotional tourism funding and transient occupancy tax revenues to supplement coastal fire department budgets for these rescues.

State law requires K-12 schools to have comprehensive school safety plans for natural disasters and criminal activity. The plans include evacuation routes,



A vintage fix

Vaccaro family heirloom quilt gets repaired by Willits seamstress

Nothing is cozier than a heavy, handmade quilt; however, one made of flour-sack towels more than 40 years ago, that'd been loved for generations? Well ... it might just need some help to ensure its place on the bed for years to come.

Maureen Moore

Graphics & Photographress maureen@willitsweekly.com

Erin and Guy Vaccaro of Willits had a quilt just like that, and took it to Willits' Barbara Carlon, owner of Zibergirl Sews, local seamstress, quilter and sewing aficionado, for repairs.

The quilt was originally made by Henrietta Mitch, great-aunt to Guy, in Croton on Hudson, New York. Mitch enjoyed quilting and made quilts for her family and, after she passed away recently, the quilts were given away to friends and family. This one made its way to the Vaccaro's home in Willits. Mitch's niece – Guy's mother, Beverly Vaccaro – also lives here in Willits. The family heirloom has been enjoyed, and graced the family's beds in the winter. But, when Erin noticed it starting to tear, she decided to reach out and find a way to get it repaired.

"I found Barbara through her classified ad, and took the quilt right to her to repair," explained Vaccaro. "It's such a beautiful quilt with so much work put into it – it was something we wanted to ensure was around for generations to come!"

The quilts were constructed mainly of patterned flour sacks, stitched together in a star pattern and tied together over an old comforter, which created the



Photo by Barbara Carlon





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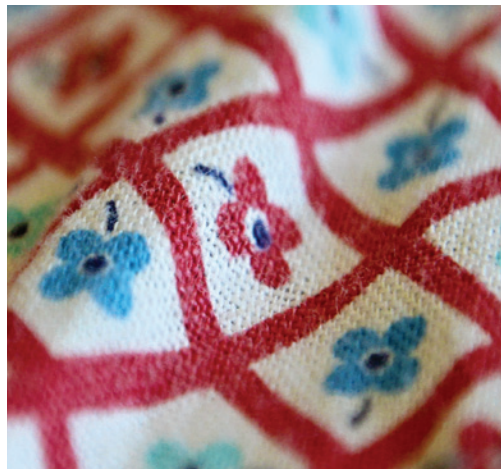
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Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

3x3 grid for Sudoku puzzle.

Level: Beginner

How To
Sudoku:

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

BACK TO BUSINESS WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ANNUAL

AVAILABILITY

BENEFITS

BOSS

CAREER

CASUAL

CONFERENCE

CUSTOMER

DEDUCTIONS

EMPLOYEE

GOALSETTING

GRIEVANCE

HIRE

HOURS

INTERNSHIP

JOB

LEAVE

LOSS

MANAGEMENT

MARGINS

MEETINGS

NETWORKING

NOTICE

OFFICE

OVERTIME

PAYCHECK

PROFIT

PROGRESS

PROMOTION

REFERENCES

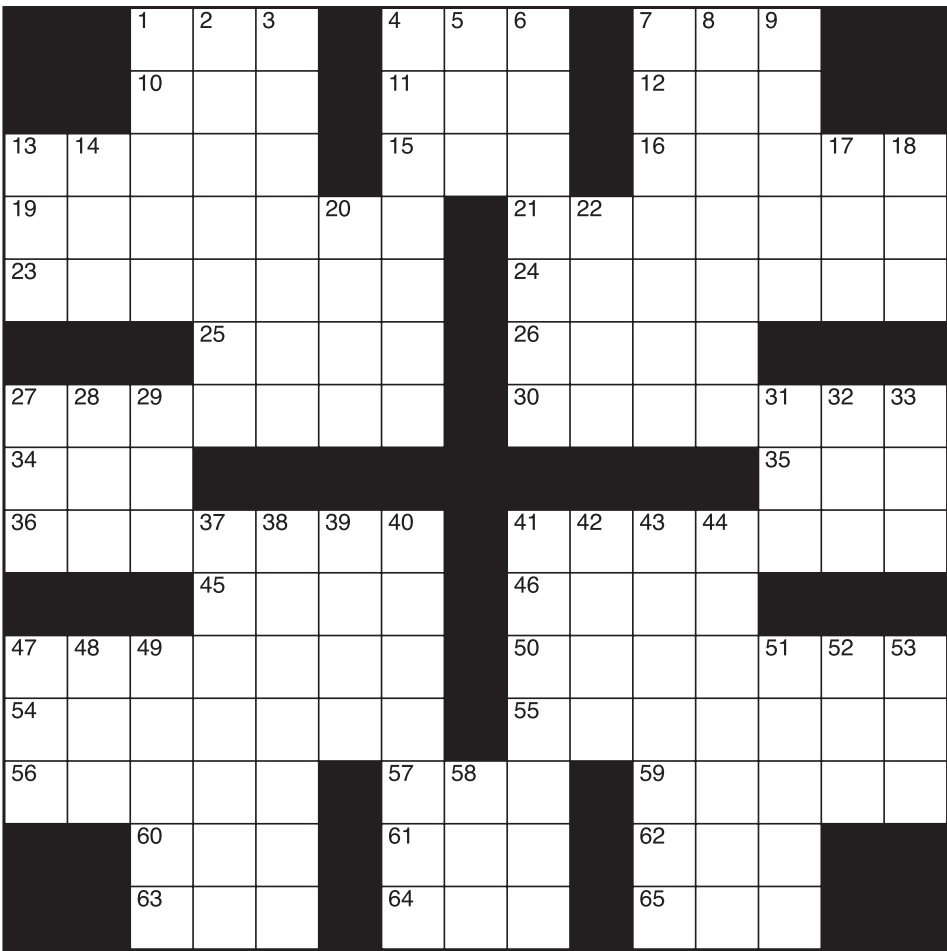
SERVICE

SUPERVISOR

UNION

WAGES

WORKERS



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Power measurement
- 4. Christian hip-hop duo
- 7. Licensed for Wall Street
- 10. Belonging to us
- 11. Anger
- 12. They ___
- 13. Ribonuclease
- 15. Former AC/DC singer Scott
- 16. Fate
- 19. Hall of Fame forward
- 21. Omission
- 23. American state
- 24. Not surprises
- 25. British school
- 26. The boundary of a surface
- 27. Young women
- 30. Sitting
- 34. Canadian cheese
- 35. Aussie TV station
- 36. Resembles rummy
- 41. Baked good
- 45. Gravy is a type of one
- 46. About aviation
- 47. Unit of data size
- 50. Rugged mountain ranges

CLUES DOWN

- 54. With three uneven sides
- 55. Cut or carve
- 57. One's mother (Brit.)
- 59. Conrad ___, American poet
- 60. Midway between northeast and east
- 61. Before
- 62. Originally called
- 63. Former broadcaster Barber
- 64. Not pale
- 65. Not even
- 18. Belgian municipality
- 20. Reactive structure
- 22. Methaqualone pill (slang)
- 27. Medical practitioner
- 28. Alias
- 29. Someone
- 31. 007's creator
- 32. Martial artists wear one
- 33. Midway between north and northeast
- 37. Edible mollusk
- 38. ___ up: quit a substance
- 39. Taiwanese city
- 40. Make an effort
- 41. Fielders
- 42. Restrain
- 43. Herb
- 44. Agonized
- 47. Time zone
- 48. Abandoned European money
- 49. Plays video games
- 51. Hit well in baseball (slang)
- 52. Expresses good wishes
- 53. Congressman (abbr.)
- 58. Small constellation



At top, from left: Customer Sharon Sasso, with her husband, Joe, says: 'It's amazing, very organized; we won't have to go to Ukiah, and there's somebody always ready to help you. We like supporting our community.' "It's great," says customer Colby Friend: "If I don't have to go to Home Depot, I'm happy." Ellie Patton, left, and Kayla Smith are new employees of Mendo Mill who love the new store and their job. Above, from left: The new storefront of Mendo Mill. Floor Manager T.K. Warner smiles. At right: Customer Nick Saarni says: "I'm glad they revamped the store; there's a lot of things we've been missing in Willits that aren't missing anymore."

Photos by Mathew Caine

New Mendo Mill
open for business

Official grand opening celebration
of expanded store set for July 22-24

It's out with the old and in with the new for Mendo Mill in Willits. Although the grand opening celebration doesn't start until July 22, the new building has been open for business since Sunday, and is nearly fully stocked.

"There's still some stuff over in the old store," said Ken Smith, marketing manager for all five Mendo Mill stores. "There's molding, and other odds and ends, but it's 95 percent cleared."

The old building, which was bought by the Mayfield family in 1975, has approximately 10,000 square feet of space, while the new building is over twice as big with 26,000 square feet to work with.

With more space, comes more products.

"We've added a bunch of new product categories like camping and RV equipment," said Smith. "We've expanded almost all our departments. In automotive, we've added towing equipment and car ramps. We've expanded housewares to include small appliances, coffee makers, kitchen utensils, laundry equipment."

They've even added a large pet aisle at the north end of the store.

Customers and employees alike expressed their enthusiasm for the new facility, citing the bright lighting and easy-to-navigate organization of the space as big improvements over the former building.

What's to happen to the old structure that was Mendo Mill's home for 41 years?

"It will be taken down and turned into a parking lot," said Mendo Mill owner, president and CEO Mike Mayfield, who was at the Willits store last Thursday. "The first thing we did, we took our outdoor lumber facility and moved it and placed it strategically at its new location, added more exterior storage around the perimeter of the property to accommodate the known fact that we're going to have a parking lot as opposed to before when we had maybe 10 places off street. Now we'll have a bunch."

Mayfield expects the parking lot to be finished and ready for use in less than 90 days.

Read the rest of Mendo Mill Over on Page 6

At right, above: Floor Manager T.K. Warner and Marketing Manager Ken Smith work on checking stock. At right: The construction and deconstruction of Mendo Mill in Willits. Below, from left: Marketing Manager Ken Smith. Ruth Mendoza, Housewares section manager, says she's really looking forward to working at the new store, where her section is three times as big as it was in the old Mendo Mill. Lumber racks in the new yard.



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NM

Howard Hospital
offers free
sports physicals

By Cecilia Winiger, for HMH

Summer is in full swing, and for many parents and kids that means outdoor activities, summer camps and everything else in between. But summer is also a good time for sports physicals if you-child is planning to participate in sports when school starts.

As part of its mission to improve the health of the community and encourage physical activity among children and youth, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is offering free sports physicals once again to all student athletes in Mendocino County.

Scheduled for Sunday, July 17 and Saturday, August 6, free sports physicals are open to students in elementary and high school participating in a sports program.

HMH has been offering free sports physicals for years. Rick Bockmann, president and CEO, recognizes the importance of keeping children active and giving them every chance to excel at sports. He explains: "As a father, I know the costs associated with participating in sports can add up. We certainly don't want the cost of a sports physical to be a barrier to anyone that wants to participate in athletics."

Michael Medvin, MD, one of many HMH physicians who conducts the exams, agrees: "We started offering free sports physicals four years ago because we know how important physical activity is for our kids. By providing free sports physicals, we are helping reduce the barriers to kids staying active and healthy in our community."

In California, sports physicals are required for all students participating in sports. Dr. Medvin underscores the importance of getting a sports physical not just to participate in sports, but also for overall health.

"It's important to get a physical done prior to involvement in sports because we are doing a physical exam to make sure children don't have any existing conditions that would create problems while they are playing sports. We also ask a lot of screening questions to help us identify potential health issues that may preclude kids from playing sports or make them more prone to accidents or injuries when they're playing. And sometimes we discover

Read the rest of HMH Over on Page 6

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Thursday, July 14

Summer Reading Program: The Willits Library Summer Reading Program offers a summertime of fun, with reading, special events and prizes, every Thursday, from 11 am to 12 noon, through August 11. July 14: Children's Drumming Program. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, 459-5908. Next week, July 21: Wool Felting and Sheep Stories.

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

WHS Booster Club Meeting: The monthly WHS Booster Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, July 14, at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS! Next meeting: August 11. The Booster Club has an upcoming golf tournament on September 17 at the Brooktrails Golf Course.

Friday July 15

Shanachie Pub: Steep Ravine, "soulful songs and fiery instrumentals take roots music in compelling new stylistic directions. Fusing elements of folk, bluegrass, jazz, rock and pop." AND Caitlin Jemma & The Goodness, "five piece string band from Eugene, Oregon ... original tunes that are influenced by tradition and delivered with soul." 8 pm. \$6 cover. Visit www.steepravineband.com and www.caitlinjemma.com. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, July 16

Shanachie Pub: Lantz Lazwell & The Vibe Tribe. "A powerhouse of talent and showmanship.... Lantz Lazwell & The Vibe Tribe bring the rock 'n' soul anthem back into your heart & rock you right." Visit <http://www.lantzlazwellmusic.com>. 9 pm. \$5 cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, July 17

Brooktrails Pancake Breakfast & Flea Market: The Prosperity Club and Brooktrails Lodge are hosting another "All You Can Eat" Pancake Breakfast (tickets are \$5) and flea market on Saturday, July 16 at the Brooktrails Lodge, 24675 Birch Street, 9 am to 2 pm. "A great family event offering a chance to socialize with members of our community, including local artisans and vendors." Plus biscuits & gravy, bacon, eggs, country potatoes, drinks and adult

What's Happening Around Town

beverages at additional cost. Jumperz Bounce House will also be there for the kids. Vendor space (outside and inside) is limited but may still be available, please call: 707-367-9737.

18th Annual Willits Rotary Phoenix Hospice Golf Tournament: Enjoy a day on the greens under the redwoods, Sunday, July 17. Willits Rotary sponsors this golf tournament to benefit Phoenix Hospice. Check-in at 8 pm; Shotgun Start at 9 pm. \$75 per player (\$55 for Brooktrails Golf member). Includes Barbecue, green fees, raffle, additional hole-in-one prizes; \$10,000 cash prize for hole-in-one on #9. RVSP: Tammy Long, 480-993-5755 or 456-3244; tammy.long@ah.org.

Free Sports Physicals: Howard Hospital is offering free sports physicals for local students 18 and under planning to participate in school sports programs this year. Scheduled for Sunday, July 17 and Saturday, August 6, from 10 am to 12 noon, at the Redwood Medical Clinic adjacent to the new hospital on Marcela Drive. Includes assessments by physicians and free health screenings and education, including Fit to Play Balance Test, Diabetes Screening (for parents, too), Concussion & Trauma Prevention, Stroke Signs & Symptoms. Appointments are encouraged, and walk-ins are also welcome. To register, please call 456-3185.

Dorian May Trio & Little Big Band: playing jazz classics July 17 at Willits Community Theatre at 7 pm. First set: Trio (Dorian May on piano, Dorothea May on bass, and Gabe Yanez on drums) with invited guests; second set: Little Big Band (Trio plus trumpeter Walter Kimmelman, saxophonist Sonny Cordell, and blues man Earl Oliver and The Real Sarahs' Sarah Ryan on vocals. "Look

for classic tunes from the 1930s and '40s including "Take the A Train," "I'm Beginning to See the Light," "Mack the Knife," "Slow Boat to China," "Cheek to Cheek" and the immortal zoot suit anthem, "Jump Jive and Wail." Tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).



Enjoy a day on the greens under the redwoods. Willits Rotary is sponsoring a golf tournament to benefit Phoenix Hospice. Help support hospice. This work is crucial to our community!

Free Sports Physicals: Howard Hospital is offering free sports physicals for local students 18 and under planning to participate in school sports programs this year. Scheduled for Sunday, July 17 and Saturday, August 6, from 10 am to 12 noon, at the Redwood Medical Clinic adjacent to the new hospital on Marcela Drive. Includes assessments by physicians and free health screenings and education, including Fit to Play Balance Test, Diabetes Screening (for parents, too), Concussion & Trauma Prevention, Stroke Signs & Symptoms. Appointments are encouraged, and walk-ins are also welcome. To register, please call 456-3185.

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Monday, July 18

KLLG Radio Action Group: meets Mondays at 5:30 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Learn about and participate in building Willits Hometown Radio. Volunteers needed. More information is available at KLLG.org or by calling Lanny Cotler at 367-1812.

Noyo Theatre Film Club: The Noyo Theatre's latest film club selection is "The Lobster," with Colin Ferrell and



Rachel Weiss. The film will show all week from Friday, July 15 thru Thursday, July 21 at 5:45 and 8:20 pm. The Film Club showing will be at 5:45 pm on Monday, July 18, but if you can't make that show, come to one over the weekend, and then join us at Al's Redwood Room in the backyard patio Monday night at 7:45 pm for snacks and conversation.

Willits Dances of Universal Peace: "Join us in multi-cultural circle dances that rejuvenate the spirit and awaken the heart to love's presence." Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 4. 7 to 9 pm.

Tuesday, July 19

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movie: "Secret Life of Pets" in 2D and "The Lobster." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Thursday, July 21

Summer Reading Program: The Willits Library Summer Reading Program offers a summertime of fun, with reading, special events and prizes, every Thursday, from 11 am to 12 noon, through August 11. July July 21: Wool Felting and Sheep Stories. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. 459-5908. Next week: July 28: "Rockin' Reading Time" - stories and songs.

"The Clean Bin Project": "A competition where less is more"; presented by Now and Then Film

Series. "Is it possible to live completely waste-free? In this multi-award-winning film, partners Jen and Grant go head to head in a competition to see who can swear off consumerism and produce the least garbage." With "laugh out loud moments, stop motion animations, and unforgettable imagery." Thursday, July 21 at 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. \$5 donation. Visit: www.cleانبinmovie.com/the-film. Trailers & short films start at 6:30 pm. Serving heirloom organic popcorn with real organic butter and Fair Trade chocolates.



10. Sides of organic fruit in season for \$2-\$3 extra and Amish maple syrup \$1 extra.

'Speakeasy III: An Evening of Original Monologues': 2 pm on Sunday, July 24; see Friday July 23 listing for more details.

Friday, July 22

'Speakeasy III: An Evening of Original Monologues': Two shows this year, at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, July 23 at 7 pm and Sunday, July 24 at 2 pm. The monologues are all original and delivered on stage by local people who wrote them. Participants this year include: Emmy Good, Peter Smith, Becky Button, Tara Logan, Ursula Schlichting, Damian Sebohian, Aileen Gaynor, Earlene Gleisner, Margie Handley, Devora Stern, and Don Samson. Advance tickets recommended: \$10 available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub). See article elsewhere in Calendar for more details.

Shanachie Pub: Peter Jon Chang, visiting the West Coast: "instrumental rock/jazz fusion, all original compositions and masterful guitar virtuosity." 9 pm. No cover. Visit <http://peterjongchang.com>. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Shanachie Pub: Peter Jon Chang, visiting the West Coast: "instrumental rock/jazz fusion, all original compositions and masterful guitar virtuosity." 9 pm. No cover. Visit <http://peterjongchang.com>. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, July 23

Shanachie Pub: Sarah Rose & Friends: "A singer-songwriter event, featuring many local talented musicians coming together for a night of original, improvised, and rare moments in music." 8:30 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, July 24

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: every fourth Sunday, this month Sunday, July 24, from 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast! With live music. \$8 buys you a plate of the best

COLUMN | At the Movies



'The Secret Life of Pets'

The Story: Max the friendly, medium-size, brown and white dog (apparently a terrier – I guess he's a terrier – he looks more generic bowser than terrier), has his perfect life interrupted by the arrival of Duke, an oversize furry bear

of a dog. They fight. That's the beginning. They get captured by dogcatchers. They get chased by a psycho bunny who has a gang – an aggressive cohort of mixed vertebrates, including an alligator and a tattooed pig. Finally, Max and Duke are rescued by other animals after a series of calamitous car chases seasoned with slapstick sight gags.

My Thoughts: This is a fine animated comedy where every cliché about dogs and cats and their relationships with Homo sapiens is milked for jokes. Each animal has his or her peculiarity

appropriately lampooned. Laughter is had by all, and that means I, too, had a good old laughing time at the movies.

Parents: Kids will love all the assorted funny stuff.

Note: There is a Minions cartoon accompanying the feature. It's very funny.

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



'The Lobster'

Noyo Theatre Film Club movie

The Noyo Theatre's latest film club selection will be "The Lobster," with Colin Ferrell and Rachel Weiss. The film will show all week from Friday, July 15 thru Thursday, July 21 at 5:45 and 8:20 pm. The Film Club showing will be at 5:45 pm on Monday, July 18, but if you can't make that show, come to one over the weekend, and then join us at Al's Redwood

Auditions for one-act plays

The Willits Community Theatre is seeking seven men and six women, aged 20 to 60, to act in four locally written one-act plays to be performed over two weekends in October.

Auditions will be held on Thursday July 28 at 6 pm at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane, just behind Shanachie Pub in Willits.

The production, called "To Couple or Not to Couple," will consist of four one-act plays on the theme of couples, a theme said to be more mystifying than quantum entanglement. Two are written by Don Samson, and two by Damian Sebohian. Both Sebohian and Samson will be directing one of their respective plays. David Parth and Mitchell Robertson will each be directing one of the other two plays.

According to Samson, being an actor in a one-act play is a good way to get involved in theater. "Ready to do a little acting?" said Samson. "Ready to put your toe into the theatrical waters? Ready to star in a world premiere? Get into the mix. Fun and fame await you."

Advance scripts will be available electronically. For scripts, or for more information about the production, call Don Samson at 459-9014 or David Parth at 459-7054.

– Mike A'Dair, for WCT

'Speakeasy III'

Popular evening of original monologues returns to WCT

"Speakeasy III – An Evening of Original Monologues" will be presented in two shows at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, July 23 at 7 pm and Sunday, July 24 at 2 pm. Coordinator Annie Samson says that two shows are being offered this year because of the complete sell-outs at monologue events the past two years.

The monologues are all original and delivered on stage by local people who wrote them. Participants this year include: Emmy Good, Peter Smith, Becky Button, Tara Logan, Ursula Schlichting, Damian Sebohian, Aileen Gaynor, Earlene Gleisner, Margie Handley, Devora Stern, and Don Samson.

"Prepare yourself for a blast of original entertainment," says Samson. "Anything can happen. This is risk-taking stuff where people put themselves out there for all the world to see." The stories are as ordinary as someone growing up one of seven children, or as daring as a soldier being stationed overseas in a war zone, or as simple as someone with a car broken down in Willits and then liking it so much they decided to stay here.

"All of the performances are real people talking about real situations," Samson says. "With the daring of these people to reveal themselves, the audience can't help but be drawn in. These are local people, friends and neighbors, coming together in a group and getting the validation and encouragement to share what they have experienced."

It's fascinating."

Due to the overwhelming popular ticket demand at shows the past two years, advance tickets are recommended. Tickets for each show are \$10 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

– Steve Hellman, for WCT

Ongoing Events

Willits Farmers Market: the Willits Farmers Market is now in Bud Snyder City Park, from 3 to 6:30 pm every Thursday afternoon. Veggies, strawberries, cherries, flowers, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

"Americana, Sweet Land of Liberty" – July exhibit at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. This show, curated by Mary Kelly, features a wide variety of art mediums, including sculptures by Loraine Toth, quilts by Nancy Simpson, paintings by Marjo Wilson, willow furniture by Tom Boek, handmade saddles by Jeff Daniels, and works by other craftspeople. Runs through July 31. New regular gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm, to allow greater access for the public. More info: 459-1726 or www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

KLLG Radio Action Group: meets Mondays at 5:30 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Learn about and participate in building Willits Hometown Radio. Volunteers needed. More information is available at KLLG.org or by calling Lanny Cotler at 367-1812.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation: every Tuesday, 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 30-A San Francisco Avenue. More info: 456-9425.

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.

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

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

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

Willits Library Public Events: "Stories for Crawlers

and Walkers," Thursdays at 11 am. Technology group for help with hand-held devices, Fridays at 1 pm. Youth Game Night, 3 to 6:30 pm every Thursday afternoon. Veggies, strawberries, cherries, flowers, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

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

Volleyball Open Gym: at Baechtel Grove gym; Sundays and Tuesdays at 7 pm. Some experience desired, 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 HMH Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

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

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

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

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

Laytonville Summer Farmers Market: Mondays, June through October, 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, garden bouquets, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

SUMMER FIRECRACKER Cat & Kitten Special!
Now thru July, adoption fees for the shelter's cats and kittens will be only \$40 total!
Call the Shelter's Adoption Coordinator at 707-467-4453 or visit us at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah.
Bookmark us at www.mendocinoshelter.com

NOT SO SIMPLE LIVING FAIR
CELEBRATING RURAL LIVING SKILLS IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

Saturday night local food potluck followed at 8pm by music & dancing with 2 bands	workshops & demonstrations begin at 10am Sat & Sun
PRIMA VIDA (a salsa/fundulella dance troupe)	WATER & MARKETPLACE
Sunday Keynote Panel with JOHN JAVONIS, DENNIS DI DORA, TIM BAYNE & MARK MAGNITEN	WATER & MARKETPLACE

Rates open at 3pm Friday
Friday Night Campout Cabaret
July 20th 30th & 31st
BOONVILLE FAIRGROUNDS
\$33/day • \$50/weekend
PREPARED DISCOUNTS ONLINE
CONCERT DANCE \$15
CAMPING PER. & SAT. \$10/NIGHT PER CAR
PLEASE NO DOGS

NAME YOUR ADOPTION FEE! Senior Dog Event
through July 16!



Participants in "Speakeasy III," from left: Damian Sebohian, Margie Handley, Annie Samson, Emma Good, Earlene Gleisner and Don Samson. Photo by Neil Richardson

Auditions for one-act plays

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The production, called "To Couple or Not to Couple," will consist of four one-act plays on the theme of couples, a theme said to be more mystifying than quantum entanglement. Two are written by Don Samson, and two by Damian Sebohian. Both Sebohian and Samson will be directing one of their respective plays. David Parth and Mitchell Robertson will each be directing one of the other two plays.

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Advance scripts will be available electronically. For scripts, or for more information about the production, call Don Samson at 459-9014 or David Parth at 459-7054.

– Mike A'Dair, for WCT

Rep. Huffman: District Landscape Photography Competition

Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) announced Tuesday that he will hold a district-wide landscape photography competition starting Wednesday, July 6. Constituents who live in California's second congressional district should email their original landscape photograph to rephuffmanphotocontest@gmail.com and include their name, hometown, and the location of the photo in the body of the email with "photo submission" as the subject of the email. Submissions will be accepted until Wednesday, July 20, 2016.

"This photography competition will showcase what is without a doubt the most beautiful Congressional District in the nation," Congressman Huffman said. "I look forward to seeing what Northern Californians submit, from the Golden Gate Bridge striding sentinel at the San Francisco Bay to the remote beauty of the Lost Coast, to the ancient redwood forests."

During the contest, submissions will be posted in real time, and constituents will vote on photos by "liking them" on Facebook.com/RepHuffman and Instagram.com/rephuffman/. The two winning photographs, as determined by most likes combined between Instagram and Facebook, will be announced on Thursday, July 21. Each photograph will be published as Congressman Huffman's official Twitter header photo, Facebook cover photo, and Instagram profile photo for one month apiece.

Vacation Bible School

July 25 to 29

Grace Community Church will hold a Vacation Bible School from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, Monday, July 25 through Friday, July 29. There will be a free nutritious meal to begin, and then school activities will start at 6 pm. Kindergartners through sixth grade are welcome, and the entire week of festivities is free of charge.

"The theme for the week is 'submerged' looking at stunning marine creatures and their vivid colors, learning that what we see on the outside often hides wonderful things on the inside. The Bible lesson that will be taught through this theme is that God sees all of us completely, not just what is on the outside. Come join us! All you have to do is dive in."

The week will end with a parent night on Sunday, July 31. Grace Community Church is located at 25 Hazel Street (next to the old hospital). For questions, and to preregister for the VBS, please call the church office at 459-3106.

DRIVE-THRU

Harrah Senior Center BBQ PULLED PORK DINNER

Friday • Aug. 19, 2016 5 to 6:30 P.M.

\$10.00 for one Dinner PRE-SALE TICKETS ONLY
(Purchase at the Center's Front Desk.)
Menu: BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, and Cookie.

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

WILLITS RELAY FOR LIFE
JULY 30TH-31ST, 10 A.M.-10 A.M.
RECREATION GROVE

www.relayforlife.org/willitsca

For More Information
Jennifer Sookne at 707-354-4219
Kathy Tobin at 707-272-2718
Karissa Gutierrez at 707-545-6728

Sweet Land of Liberty Americana

Loraine Toth Sculpture	Tom Boek Willow Furniture
Nancy Simpson Quilts	Jeff Daniels Finest Hand-made Saddles
Marjo Wilson Paintings	Plus Works by Other Craftspersons

Willits Center for the Arts
71 East Commercial
WCA

Artists' Reception 1 July 2016
Serving Beer & Wine 7pm – 9pm
Show Runs to July 31

New Gallery Hours: Wednesday thru Sunday 11:00-6:00

Senior Center Lunch

Week of July 18 through July 22

Monday: Pork Chops over Stuffing
Tuesday: Fruit Salad Plate w/Cottage Cheese
Wednesday: Spinach Lasagna
Thursday: Baked Sole
Friday: Chicken Fried Steak

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, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

DEADLINE FOR WILLITS WEEKLY: Monday prior to Thursday publication



Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: The Mystic Sol drum ensemble.

At left, from far left: Kathleen Kirkpatrick shows off her dog Chi Chi to some fans. Ashley Hendry, left, and Dr. Chana Eisenstein from East Hill Veterinary Clinic both volunteered at the "Animal Party." Animal lover Charlie Lacey cuts a rug with a friend.

Below: Dancers enjoy the music.

At bottom, from left: bass player Nick Ford from Funkacillin; bass player Fred Bieberbach from Pick & Pull; and guitar player Lex Krauss of Funkacillin.

'Animal Party'

Humane Society fundraiser in Willits raises awareness, too

Animal lovers from Willits and surrounding areas came to the Little Lake Grange Saturday evening to drink, dine, dance, and show their support for the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County.

The fundraiser for the nonprofit pet adoption center located in Redwood Valley included performances from three local bands, a raffle drawing, and food provided by HSIMC volunteers.

Holly Bennett, Humane Society board member, praised all those people who donated their time, including the band members.

"All three bands either donated their time or agreed to play at such a reduced rate that they didn't make a profit," Bennett said. "It's a Saturday night in the summer, and they could have made a lot of money somewhere else, but they agreed to do this."

Mystic Sol, the seven-piece, all-woman drum ensemble, started off the evening with highly danceable tribal and samba beats.

Pick & Pull, with their newest band mate Scotty Darda, brought some good-time bluegrass, foot-stompin' energy to the crowd, including a performance of the apropos, original tune, "Walking the Dog."

Funkacillin headlined the

evening, performing old school and original funk songs, led by Willits' own Cherie Sheraque. Influenced by '70s powerhouse funk musicians like Chaka Khan, Cold Blood, and Johnny Guitar Watson, the six-piece band got the house rocking and the bodies dancing.

Sheraque explained it was a no-brainer to decide to help support the Humane Society.

"It's a great organization," Sheraque said. "Everybody in the band is an animal lover. They asked us to do it, and we're not going to turn down a great opportunity to be involved with this really, really, nice organization."

According to Bennett, HSIMC is led by a 15-member board of directors

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



Above: Singer Cherie Sheraque of Funkacillin at Saturday's "Animal Party" benefit for the Humane Society. Raffle prizes line the hall at Little Lake Grange.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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Talk of the Town



It's not too late!
If you missed our Hearing Expo we are offering another event on July 20th in Lakeport and 21st in Ukiah. During this event we will be presenting the new Opn, with groundbreaking technology to experience clear speech, less interference from background noise, and easier listening to the phone, music, and television.

Lakeport
Wednesday July 20
200 Lakeport Blvd.
Lakeport, CA
263-9428

Ukiah
Thursday July 21
756 South Dora St.
Ukiah, CA
463-2966

This is what people are saying about the Opn.
"...because of my new devices I feel like I can do anything... Big box stores could never have given me the satisfaction that I received by going to a local hearing professional..."
-Steve J.



Call to reserve your spot.

Mendocino-Lake Audiology

The rest of **Letters** | From Page 6

More on the Brown Act

To the Editor:

Willits Weekly, in the June 30 edition, reported:"Remco vote did not violate the Brown Act, attorney says." In the article, the city attorney invokes the pending litigation exemption to the Brown Act public meetings law, and the city's interest in the matter, to justify the council's closed session meetings regarding the sale of the REMCO property.

The Brown Act very narrowly defines the "pending litigation" exemption to apply only to agencies considering legal action or which are themselves the object of pending litigation. The act further authorizes the closed session exemption for the exclusive expression of attorney-client privilege to protect the well-established principle of confidentiality between an attorney and his/her client when public discussion between attorney and client could compromise the interests of the client.

The framers of the act were well aware of the tendency of agencies and public bodies to prefer to discuss sensitive or uncomfortable issues privately rather than in the public arena. For this reason, the act makes it very clear under what conditions and by what procedures a public body can discuss in closed session matters of concern to the public. It is not enough, as the city attorney implies, that "the city was very much an interested party in that threat of litigation."

[Skunk Train manager Robert] Pinoli apparently threatened to file a lawsuit to acquire the Remco property under the claim of eminent domain, but he was threatening to sue the Willits Environmental Trust (the Trust), not the City of Willits. The fact that the city's consent decree gave the city the right to approve a sale did not make the city a target of Pinoli's alleged threats.

Was the City of Willits an interested party? Yes, in the same way that the public is an interested party in the outcome of such a lawsuit or in the final disposition or development of the Remco property. Of course the city, like the public, wanted to know the substance of the threat, if it was real, how this affected the city's rights vis a vis the consent decree and to consider the best course of action, if any, for the city to take. But there was no need in this circumstance for attorney/client confidentiality to shield the city from legal liability.

It appears that what was discussed in closed session included reports from the Trust regarding Mr. Pinoli's legal threats to the Trust and his supposed refusals to agree to certain stipulations regarding the management of the property – all information that, if it was being shared with the council at all, should have been discussed in an open public meeting. This was not a situation where the council had to consult its attorney in secret in order to protect the

city from legal liability. The city council was essentially being given information in secret that it then used to make a land use decision.

To invoke the "pending litigation" exemption was clearly inappropriate in this situation and a violation of the Brown Act. (It should also be noted that the Brown Act never "requires" closed session. It only allows it under certain circumstances.) This casual and irresponsible use of closed session undermines the principles of representative democracy and hence the strength and good governance that comes from serious, open, respectful conversations and deliberations, even on difficult and sensitive matters, between elected officials and their constituents.

Ellen Drell, Willits

Local First thanks

To the Editor:

The Willits Chamber's Local First Committee would like to reach out and thank the community for turning out and supporting the Hometown Celebration! We had an amazing event this year – great weather, good food, fabulous music and fun things to do.

This event wouldn't happen if it wasn't for the generous support of our sponsors, participants, musicians, entertainers, and the dedication of the core planning committee volunteers.

A huge thank you goes out to our sponsors: Buster's Burgers & Brew, Buttercups Children's Boutique, Cat's Meow, George's Geodes & Gems, J.D. Redhouse & Co. Lisa Epstein State Farm Insurance, Monkey Wrench, Galen Hathaway, City of Willits, Loose Caboose Café, Moon Lady Moon Man, Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli, The Coast KOZT-FM, Tri Counties Bank, Off the Cuff, Re-Evolution, Tango Willits, The Willits News, Sweet Things, Willits Weekly, Willits Online and Willits Frontier Days Association.

We were so pleased to have the Willits Farmers Market join us this year; what a great addition. It was a cooperative effort, and we would like to acknowledge the efforts of Michael Foley, market manager, Ian Fitzpatrick, and Carlin Diamond for making this a reality! What a joy it was to work with these folks!

We encourage you to continue supporting our local businesses and farmers!

Remember to Think Local – Buy Local – Be Local!

Lynn Kennelly, for the
Local First Committee,
Willits Chamber of Commerce

The rest of **Party** | From Page 10

and anywhere from 80 to 100 volunteers from around Mendocino County. They chose the Little Lake Grange for this particular fundraiser in part to create more visibility to Willits residents.

"We wanted to do something in Willits, because most of what we do is now based in Ukiah and Redwood Valley," Bennett explained. "There's a big Laytonville support group, too. We're just trying to get Willits a little bit more involved."

According to Bennett, in 2015 over 650 animals came through the Redwood Valley shelter, and so the organization is always in need of volunteers and funds to handle the high volume of homeless cats and dogs.

"We're 100 percent donation run," said Bennett. "We receive no funding from the county or state. It's all community run. With events like this, we're just trying to keep the doors open and keep the animals happy and finding homes."

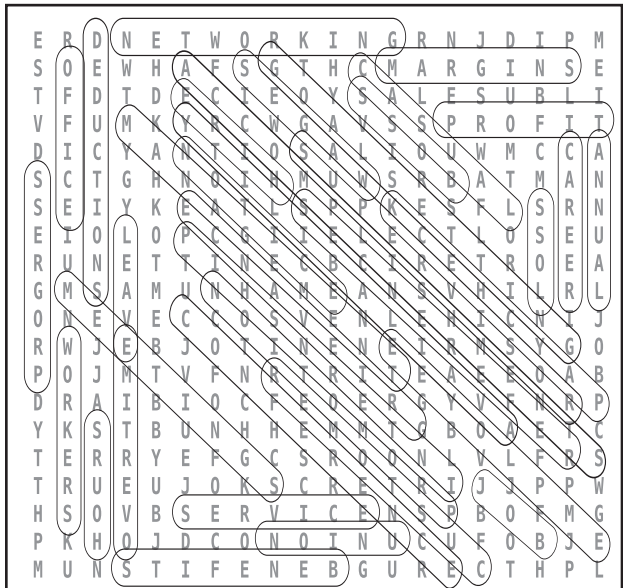
Bennett encourages anyone who is thinking about getting a cat or dog, to first check out the shelter, before going to a breeder.

"These are animals that have no other home, they have nowhere to go, so the beauty of it is, you can give an animal a wonderful life," said Bennett.

While there is an adoption fee for getting an animal from the shelter, that animal will have been spayed or neutered, with its shots up to date. A newly adopted pet will also receive five pounds of free food and a free veterinarian checkup.

"There are people on staff [at the shelter] who can talk to you all about the animal [you're interested in]," Bennett explained. "They check into what your lifestyle is and what animal would or would not be good for you."

Businesses that donated food, money and raffle prizes included: Ardella's, Cat's Meow, Mazahar, J.D. Redhouse,



Unique Boutique, DBI Beverage, Sanhedrin Nursery, and East Hill Veterinary Clinic.

"A lot of local people donated money to make this happen," Bennett said.

For more information about volunteering at HSIMC or adopting a pet, go to www.mendocinohumanesociety.com, or call 485-0123.

The shelter is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley.

Both Pick & Pull and Funkacillin can be found on Facebook and ReverbNation.com.

Current Job Openings:

Health and Human Services Agency
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Environmental Health Specialist I & II – Extra Help
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Supervising Mental Health Clinician

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr EOE.

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

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Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, July 28, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

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

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Wood Splitter
Person wanted to split wood. \$20-plus per hour. In Brooktrails. Walter: 459-9573.

Help Wanted
Adventist Health Homecare & Hospice Services - Mendocino County. F/T & P/T & Per Diem. RN's and PT's needed. Call Trudy H/R 456-3230.

Yard Sale
21455 Locust. Saturday, July 23, 2016. 8 am to 6 pm. 30-inch gas range & hood. 11 foot boat & motor.. Dresser. Household goods. Tools. Garden compostor. Much more. 707-472-8386.

Not So Simple Living Pair
Rural Living Skills Workshops, July 29-31, Boonville Fairgrounds. **Friday Night Open Mic:** call Rainbow, 895-3807. **Saturday Local Food Potluck & Dance:** Pura Vida & Self Fulfilling Prophecies. **Sunday Speakers:** Donna D'Terra, John Jeavons, Mac Magruder. **Cost:** \$30/day, \$40/weekend until July 28. At the gate: \$35/day, \$50/ weekend. Under 16 free. **Camping:** \$10/car. **No Dogs.** **Volunteer:** 895-3354, sagejade@gmail.com. **Workshop Schedule:** <http://notsosimple.info>. **Tickets:** JD Redhouse: www.brownapartickets.com/event/2544823

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Vendors Needed
Brooktrails Flea Market and Pancake Breakfast is coming. Saturday, July 16, 9 am to 2 pm. \$20 /space, and vendor spaces are limited! Call (707) 489-4726 to reserve your spot.

Volunteers Wanted
Frank Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in various departments of the hospital. Hours: flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

Volunteer Opportunities
The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our team, call Deb at 707-459-6826.

Get your ad included next week – just email your ad to: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Come Jump In!

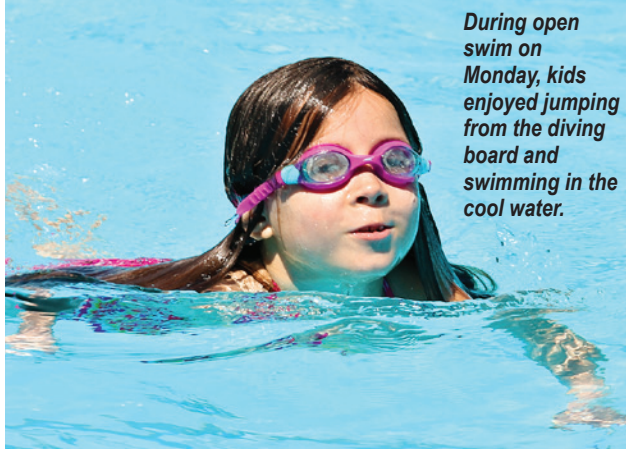
Willits City Pool open for summer swimmers

Until August 19, swimmers are welcome to come to the open public hours at the Willits City Pool.

Monday through Friday, there's lap swim, swim lessons, water aerobics and open swim.

Public swim is \$4 per person, and 20 swim passes are available for \$70.

For a complete schedule, see www.facebook.com/willitscitypool or call 459-5778 for more information.



During open swim on Monday, kids enjoyed jumping from the diving board and swimming in the cool water.

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The rest of Water

From Page 1

Rose, remain “stable,” with an estimated 300-day water supply, but township General Manager Denise Rose reminded directors the district is required to release water from Lake Emily during spring and summer months to protect steelhead trout and Coho salmon runs, leaving the district’s water department staff “concerned about the [township’s] long-term water supply.”

Between 2013 and 2015, Rose noted in a report to directors, the district has reduced water sales by almost 23 percent, but “staff is of the opinion the township should work to maintain or increase its conservation levels to ensure adequate water supplies are available through the 2017 rainy season.”

Brooktrails’ renewed declaration also asks residents to “limit the use of potable water for such things as washing vehicles, watering landscaping, or operating ornamental fountains.”

While the state water board has loosened emergency water restrictions for 2016, California remains in a drought that is predicted to persist. Despite last winter’s rainfall, as of July 7, drought conditions in Mendocino County remain “moderate” to “abnormally dry,” according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Drought Monitor.

And according to Climate Central, “Several months after storms fueled by a fierce El Niño exploded over the northern Sierra Nevada, California’s mountain snowpack has nearly disappeared,” pushing the state into another year of a drought “that has already cost California billions of dollars and thousands of farm-related jobs,” and forced “water officials to rethink how they store and distribute water in a state prone to prolonged droughts.”

In June, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced the past year’s El Niño was no more. The declaration came a few weeks after Australia’s Bureau of Meteorology, the other big El Niño monitoring group, also declared it dead and gone.

That means ocean temperatures in the eastern tropical Pacific are now near normal. “But they might not stay that way for long,” Climate Central believes. “Odds are pointing to a cooling in the region that could herald the arrival of a La Niña event later this fall, including higher chances of a dry winter” in California.

El Niño and La Niña are part of a cycle that runs over the course of three to seven years. While El Niño features warmer-than-normal ocean waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific — much warmer in the case of this exceptional El Niño — La Niña features colder-than-normal waters in the same region.

“This El Niño reached a peak in ocean temperatures in November and those waters have been cooling off ever since, following the normal progression,” Climate Central says. That decline means “it’s almost a certainty [the tropical Pacific Ocean is] going to go back to neutral,” Anthony Barnston, chief forecaster at Columbia University’s International Research Institute for Climate and Society, said.

“The phenomenal ongoing water conservation by state residents as we enter the hottest summer months clearly shows Californians understand we remain in stubborn drought conditions statewide and that saving water is just the smart thing to do,” Water Board Chairwoman Felicia Marcus told the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday.

Despite near average rainfall in much of Northern California this last winter, 60 percent of the state remains in severe or extreme drought, the board said.

The rest of Overhaul

From Page 1

the four supervisors able to discuss and vote on issues affecting marijuana — Woodhouse, Brown, Gjerde and McCowen — will need to approve the prospective tax measure unanimously before it can be placed before county voters.

Currently, McCowen is unhappy with both the tax measure and the cultivation ordinance. Which means McCowen is back in the cat-bird seat.

The tax ordinance

Cannabis tax consultant David McPherson on Tuesday unveiled the framework for a proposed cannabis business license taxation ordinance. The ordinance calls for the county to tax medical marijuana growers at a rate roughly half that proposed by McPherson at his May presentation to the board.

McPherson recommended taxing pot growers on a square-foot basis. He described three sections of taxation for cultivation. Within each section are four tiers.

The first section is outdoor growing, using natural light. In this section, McPherson proposed taxing those growing on less than 2,500 square feet at the rate of 75 cents per square foot of cultivated space. People growing on between 2,501 square feet and 5,000 square feet would be taxed at \$1 per square foot. Those growing on between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet would pay up at the rate of \$1.50 per square foot, and people growing on more than 10,000 square feet would pay \$2.50 per square foot.

There are also taxation rates for mixed-light growing and for indoor growing using all-artificial light. The section tiers are similar to outdoor grows, and rates range from \$1.50 per square foot for smaller areas, to \$3.50 per square foot for grows of more than 10,000 square feet.

These tax rates are tied to the Consumer Price Index and would change annually as the CPI changes.

During Tuesday’s discussions on the tax issue, several members of the public expressed opposition to the ordinance as proposed, preferring cannabis producers be taxed on a yield basis.

Mike Adams, who identified himself as a cannabis grower from the Willits area, said he didn’t like the square-foot approach. “Any time you’re putting a tax, based on how much space you’re growing ... that never resonated very well with me. Things can happen. If I have 100 square feet that I’m growing in, and then my crop gets wiped out by hail, theft, or bugs, then paying a tax on something I didn’t even produce doesn’t sound very wise.”

Cannabis activist Casey O’Neill, Laytonville attorney Hannah Nelson, and Cannabis Heritage Initiative spokesperson Justin Calvino all said they also preferred a yield-type tax rather than the square-foot method.

McCowen faulted the square-foot approach, too, agreeing marijuana should be taxed on a yield basis.

The county’s proposed tax strategy would likely deter cannabis growers from becoming legal, tax-paying citizens, he said. “I’d like to get them into the system, get them regulated. I think that’s, in the long run, more important than seeking to maximize the tax revenue.

“I’m not opposed to imposing some tax initially,” McCowen said. “I like the idea it would be graduated, would start at one level and would increase in the future. But there seems to be a presumption this is going to be a very profitable thing.

“The way this is written, we are saying that, on July 1, 2020, the rate is would go to 5 percent, plus a 2.5 percent CPI would kick in at that time.

“But we don’t know what market conditions are going to be four years from now,” McCowen noted. “I’m concerned about the automatic build-in, I’m concerned we’re starting it out too high. I also think the yield tax makes more sense, for the cultivators.”

Recognizing McCowen’s adamant opposition to the tax ordinance as proposed — and that Supervisor Carre Brown had said she also prefers a yield-type approach to pot taxation — board Chairman Dan Gjerde asked McCowen to come up with language of his own.

McCowen said he would try to do that.

Deputy CEO Alan Flora told supervisors the last day the county could submit a tax ordinance to the County Election Office for inclusion on the November 8 general election ballot is August 12.

But County Counsel Katharine Elliott said the county could hold a special election for a marijuana business license tax ordinance, if the board could not meet the August 12 deadline.

The rest of Road Tax

From Page 1

½-cent sales tax measure to build a county mental health facility. A second tax measure to tax medical marijuana cultivation is under discussion, and several supervisors have expressed interest in placing a ballot measure on that issue before voters.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen said running a third tax measure on the November ballot would be ill-advised. “Not only will we be undercutting the other measures, we would also be undercutting this measure,” he said.

Gjerde said there was nothing to prohibit the board from placing the road tax on the ballot in the future.

In 2014, on a range of 0 to 100, the county’s 600 miles of paved road were found to be at a pavement condition index (PCI) value of 42. Because the category of “poor” on that index ranges from 25 to 49, that means that, on average, the county’s road system is officially “poor.”

That’s another way of saying the 2014 pavement condition study found 33 percent of county roads were in poor condition, while 30 percent were in failed condition. Thus, 63 percent of the roads in the county’s unincorporated areas — not counting city streets or state and federal highways — are in either poor or failed condition.

And, the study points out, it will cost a mint to turn the situation around. If the county were to spend \$5 million a year on corrective maintenance, the PCI would go up initially, to 46, but would then decline to 40 in 2024.

If the county were to spend \$9 million a year on corrective maintenance, the PCI would go up to 48 the first year, then essentially hold steady, finishing in 2024 at a PCI of 50.

Mendocino Council of Governments analyst Nephelie Barrett said she did not know how much the county would have to spend annually to get the PCI to improve. Barrett said the ½-cent sales tax measure — if it had been approved by voters — would have raised \$2.7 million annually.

Barrett added she does not expect the funding situation at the state or federal level will change any time soon. “The state gets its funding for road improvement from an excise tax on gasoline,” she said. “The amount collected per gallon is very low. Last year, the California Legislature floated a couple of proposals to increase that tax, and neither of them passed.”

In the 2016-17 budget year, the county plans to spend only \$411,000 on corrective maintenance for roads.

The rest of Transition

From Page 1

Health Recovery Services; and Camille Schraeder, operations officer of RQMC.

The roughest water was encountered in the form of deficient information supplied by Ortner just prior to the transition to RQMC. Ortner subsidiary Integrated Care Management Systems has supplied RQMC with data on all of its patients over the past three years; however that information did not identify which patients were current, which were treated and recovered, and which patients had only indicated they wanted services.

As of July 12, RQMC had spent the past 10 days sorting through the data and putting each patient into the proper category.

Schraeder told supervisors that approximately 425 adult outpatient clients were served during the first five months of 2016. As of July 5, 214 of those clients have been referred to providers. Between 20 and 30 additional clients were currently being assessed, and those who merit referrals for treatment will be given those referrals. According to the staff report, “RQMC has been working with providers ... to outreach to those clients who have ‘disconnected.’”

Redwood Community Services Crisis Coordinator Chandra Gonzales told the board RGS has treated 52 new adult crisis patients in the first 10 days of the transition. Gonzales noted only eight of those people had to be hospitalized.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director Jenine Miller said she was especially proud of the work that had taken place thus far. “Overall, I think it’s been an amazing transition,” Miller said. “It took the county two years to do it. We’ve done it in three months.”

Schraeder added nine previous employees of OMG/ICMS have joined the new delivery team. They have gone to work for either Redwood Community Services, Manzanita Services, the Mendocino County AIDS Volunteer Network, or Hospitality House in Fort Bragg.

Miller told supervisors that, for her, one incident summed what the transition has been so far. “On July 5 we had an individual show up at our offices, needing medicine services and needing mental health services. This person told us: ‘Well, I’m here. I’ve waited for three years and I haven’t gotten services for three years. Now, I’m back and I’m so happy.’”

Miller said, “It was heartwarming to me. I’m glad that people are feeling they can outreach with the new system.”



At top, from left: Carrie and Alycia Hardman of the Lady Bea's at the 2015 Relay. One of the homemade "Relay" banners displayed at the Relay For Life booth at this year's Hometown Celebration. Janine Holliman, at left, Sharron Kidd, sitting, and Katie Gage at the 2015 High Hopes booth

Photos by Jennifer Poole and Karissa Gutierrez

Above: Relay For Life volunteers at the 2016 Hometown Celebration in June.

Photo by Karissa Gutierrez

At right, top: A happy Relayer holding a "raffle tickets" sign for the Miracles in Motion team.

At right, bottom: "Platinum" Relay team at the 2015 event.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

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"All survivors, all cancers, all ages, are welcome to come," Kidd said. "This is a time when you can be celebrated and honored; we'd love to have you there!"

To sign up for relay or to learn more, visit www.relayforlife.org/willitsca or call 1-800-227-2345. Local cancer survivors with questions can also call Kidd at 459-9285.

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Mendocino County holds Job Fair on Friday

On Friday, July 15, the County of Mendocino will hold a Job Fair at the County Administration Center, located at 501 Low Gap Road in Ukiah. This free event is open to the public from noon to 7 pm. Over 125 county positions are currently open and available.

The Mendocino County Job Fair will provide attendees with the opportunity to learn about the county's recruitment and hiring process, explore the diverse selection of careers within the County of Mendocino, interact with county representatives, and apply onsite for one of the county's many job openings.

There will be breakout sessions highlighting individual county departments, and hands-on assistance with the county's web-based application process. Attendees can visit with community education partners from Mendocino College and Marymount University, obtain information regarding the volunteer program from North Coast Opportunities, and acquire job search resources from the Mendocino Private Industry Council. Information will also be available on becoming a member of one of the many county-affiliated boards or commissions and the county intern program.

The county encourages job seekers and interested parties to stop by the Job Fair on Friday, July 15, 2016. Bring your resume and don't miss this unique opportunity!

For more information about participating departments, workshop schedules, what to bring, directions, or participating food vendors, visit the Job Fair webpage at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr/jobfair.htm or contact Human Resources at 707-234-6600.

Submitted by the County of Mendocino Executive Office

Covelo man hurt in bicycle vs. SUV crash

A Covelo man was airlifted to a Chico hospital for treatment of major injuries he suffered on Friday evening, July 1, when the bicycle he was riding collided with a 2003 Ford Ranger on Highway 162.

According to a California Highway Patrol press release, at 5:30 pm, Jeremiah Ray, 31, of Covelo, was riding his bicycle east on Highway 162 south of Mina Road, when the driver of the Ranger, 29-year-old Tyler Berg Roberson, also of Covelo, attempted to pass Ray on the left, state traffic officers said.

For unknown reasons, Ray allegedly turned his bicycle to the left directly in front of the Ford as it was about to pass. The bicycle collided with the right front of the Ford, and Ray was thrown onto the roadway.

Immediately after the collision, Roberson contacted emergency services to report the collision, officers said. "Ray was helped into the bed of a truck that belonged a friend, who happened to be driving by and was taken to the CalFire Station in Covelo," officers say.

He was treated at the station, then taken by Covelo Volunteer Fire Department Ambulance to the Round Valley airport and airlifted to Enloe Medical Center in Chico.

"Alcohol does appear to be a factor in this collision," officers said. The case is currently under investigation by the Garberville CHP Office.

Bicyclists on the roadway have all the rights and responsibilities of a vehicle driver, and are responsible for complying with the law, officers remind riders and drivers.

Riders must obey the laws of the road, such as stopping at stop signs and stop lights, and yielding to pedestrians.

"Riders can increase their safety by wearing reflective clothing, wearing a helmet, watching for parked cars, staying alert at all times, looking before turning, and riding with the flow of traffic," they noted.

"Riding a bicycle under the influence of an alcoholic beverage is just as dangerous, and just as much as a crime, as driving a motor vehicle while under the influence," officers said.

The rest of Initiative From Page 1

Tuesday press release announcing the news.

The initiative calls for the development of a psychiatric health facility, or PHF, which has not existed in Mendocino County since 1999, as well as a crisis residential unit, a drop-in clinic and improved services for drug and alcohol addiction.

It specifically excludes any revenue from being spent on personnel. All revenue raised can only be used for "brick and mortar."

The initiative also requires an 11-person committee to review all expenditures before being presented to the board of supervisors, and mandates that 10 percent of the funds raised be used to develop a training center for public safety personnel and mental health professionals.

Members of Revive Mental Health Services spent several months gathering more than 4,300 signatures to place the measure before voters. At least 2,502 valid signatures from registered voters in Mendocino County were required to qualify the measure for the ballot.

"Improving the basic services [offered] mental health patients will improve the overall health of Mendocino County," said former county Public Health Officer Doctor Marvin Trotter. "This initiative will allow emergency room doctors and nurses the ability to quickly get care to some of our most fragile citizens."

Currently, patients who have been determined to be in need of emergency mental health services are transported to other counties for 72-hour observation and treatment.

Initiative supporter Dr. Ace Barash said he "looks forward to the day that local mental health patients can be treated locally. Having a treatment facility in Mendocino County will allow families to get involved with the treatment of their family member and will reduce the need to transport our patients several hundred miles to get basic mental health services."

Allman thanked Ranochak and her team at the county voter office "for qualifying the initiative at the same time the primary ballots were being counted."

For more information, visit the "Revive Mental Health Services" page on Facebook.

This report was based on a press release from Revive Mental Health Services.

The rest of Traffic From Page 1

As indicated by an agenda report authored by Moore and made available at the June 29 city council meeting, "The [Main Street Relinquishment] Project will now be funded in fiscal year 2017-18, with construction commencing in 2018."

According to Moore the water replacement project began in 2007, targeting the oldest and most problematic lines in the system.

"We're replacing six-inch water mains with a new 12-inch water main," Moore said. "One of the important things this is going to do is increase fire flow to the high school and the north side of town. If there was a fire and fire response was needed, [the new water line] gives them the flow they need to fight a fire."

According to Moore, due to a leak in the water main last year, a section of Main Street that had been slated for the final stage of the project needed to be completed last year.

"That was the section between Commercial and State Street, right there by [Saint Francis] church," Moore said. "It got so bad it was leaking like a sieve, and our guys couldn't repair it fast enough. That's the type of problems we're having. We're losing water and experiencing more leaks, and that's not good, on a number of fronts."

Crews from the construction company that won the bid to complete the replacement project, Rapid Contracting of Carson City, Nevada, will be making their way north on Main Street, finishing up at Casteel Lane, just past the tennis courts.

Although the construction notification called for the final phase to last two months, Moore told Willits Weekly: "Usually they get the work done sooner than what the notification calls for."

Originally, according to Moore the construction was supposed to start in June.

"There was a delay, so at that point we decided to wait until after the 4th of

July," Moore explained.

Business concerns

Most business owners in the vicinity of the construction project have reported losses in sales due to the changes in traffic flow and the dramatic drop in customer parking.

101 Burger reported only a drop of 5 percent, as most of its business comes from local call-in orders. April Mays Drive Thru Espresso, Scoops, and Starchild Chocolate all reported at least a 50 percent drop in sales since construction began.

Annie Boe, owner of Willits Outlet, said she hasn't recorded a single sale, and is currently paying her employees from her own pocket.

The owners of Scoops and Starchild Chocolate both said they received no notice from the city about the timing of the construction.

"We had a pretty clear understanding that they'd be doing a lot of work [on North Main Street], but our biggest issue is that there was absolutely no forewarning," said Ash Maki, owner of Starchild Chocolate.

"The day they first started construction was the worst day we've had since we opened," Maki continued. "About 75 percent of our business comes from out-of-towners, and with the entire 101 front street blocked off, we basically have no option but to shut down."

While Maki understands the city's project is a necessity and he said he has never had a complaint against the city before, he voiced his frustration with the lack of communication between the city and the businesses.

"It's the lack of respect I'm upset about," Maki said. "The nice fancy sidewalk that's sitting out here, that was paid for by us when we invested into the building. The asphalt by the curve, we paid for that. It's common courtesy. You made me pay for the improvements to the sidewalk and street, let me know that you're coming over here to shut us down, or [that

crews will be parking] across the street in all the other parking spots."

Lisa Davis, owner of Scoops, echoed Maki about the lack of communication from the city.

"I talked to the supervisor of the job [Randy Selmi] last night," Davis said. "He said he was under the impression the city should have notified us 60 days ago and then followed it up 30 days ago just to remind us this is happening. We didn't receive anything."

While Moore said there is no such legal requirement, she acknowledged the city should have sent out courtesy notices well in advance of the project.

"Even though the project was talked about in depth for some time, there was no formal notification to each business owner other than the water shut-off notification," Moore said. "We definitely dropped the ball. It was a perfect storm of covering way too many bases, and some things, unfortunately, fell through the cracks."

Tom Summers, owner of House Doctor Paints, told Willits Weekly he knew about the project and, while sales might be down for a short while, he said: "They have a job to do. If we don't cooperate, progress won't happen."

While the entire project is slated to last for two months, construction is continuously moving north and should be out of range of those businesses currently experiencing a slowdown in the next week or two.

"I wish we would have done a better job on our end of communicating with the businesses," Moore said. "Unfortunately construction season hits right in the middle of our heavy summer traffic. But, in the end, we're going to have a very significant and long-needed improvement through our water line. That's our responsibility, to keep up with our infrastructure needs. Eventually that road is going to be rehabbed, and that's going to be a benefit to those businesses and the entire community."



Little Lake Fire Department engines drive down Main Street in this year's Willits Frontier Days parade.

Photos by Maureen Moore



The rest of LLFD From Page 1

demonstrations and fun activities for kids.

"I thought it turned out really good," director Tony Madrigal said. "We had a lot of people there. I think we had 23 or 24 firefighters there, which is great. I just want to thank the board for their support, and all the firefighters."

The fire association raised about \$1,500 that day from the raffles, \$900 on food, and \$150 in T-shirt sales. Totals for mail-in donations and raffle tickets have yet to be tallied.

For the July 4th parade, Little Lake had nine different vehicles rolling through town, including a water tender and the ladder truck fire engine.

"Everything went well," said Deputy Chief John Thomen. "The [firefighters] love doing that. The public loves to see the rigs rolling down the street."

The fire department also provided standby EMTs for the rodeos on July 3 and 4, so if the ambulance there had to leave, the rodeo wouldn't have to shut down temporarily. Thomen said this was greatly appreciated by Frontier Days organizers.

Also at the meeting, Thomen showed the board LLFD's new Honeywell self-contained breathing apparatus — a significant equipment upgrade the department received recently.

SCBAs is the apparatus with oxygen tank, mask, pressure regulator, and related accessories attached to a carrying frame that firefighters use when needed. The new Honeywells are much lighter, feature an improved communication system in the mask, and have a face piece that offers almost twice as much heat protection than the current ones. Almost all LLFD engines will now be carrying these.

"We're sitting on 20 new packs," said Thomen. "That's more than we've ever had at any one time, and it's covering everything."

The department also hopes to upgrade some vehicles soon. They're looking to get a new engine through the Office of Emergency Services, and sell one of their older ones. They'd also like to get a 4-wheel drive "tactical"

water tender able to carry up to 2,000 gallons. According to Thomen, this would prove useful in accessing the more difficult terrains in the area, and more drivers would be able to legally operate it than the larger two-axle water tender the department has currently.

Training chief Chris Wilkes told directors LLFD firefighters had finished up their yearly "wildland refreshers" and all firefighters are now certified to go out on the engines to state fires and big wildland fires.

He also expressed his hope that some of the newer firefighters would get to practice drills that have been off limits recently because of water issues.

"We have newer folks on the department that have never pulled large-diameter hoses," he said, "and they haven't had the chance to work with our master streams, shooting big water out there. So it's a goal of mine to get that done as soon as possible. We need it."

There also was a brief discussion about strategies regarding rescues on the new bypass once it's in use. Thomen explained the ladder truck would be able to reach the overpasses should that be necessary in case congestion blocks the highway after an accident. However, there's only a few spots where they will be able to access the largely above-ground bypass that way: Commercial Street, Center Valley, and East Hill Road.

"It's going to be interesting," said Thomen. "We fought a couple times to try and get additional fire access through [somewhere like] Shell Lane, but the state wouldn't let it happen."

The department has answered 38 more calls so far this year than at the same time last year, Thomen said. They had 27 calls in June, including one in which a Jeep with six people inside went off of East Hill Road and overturned in the creek. A team of Little Lake firefighters used a winch and a boom to extricate the patients from the car and get them to waiting ambulances and then to Howard Memorial Hospital.

Four of the six injured ended up being airlifted to different hospitals.



Congratulations to Gymkhana winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Willits Junior Horseman and Willits Frontier Days gymkhana series, held on Saturday, July 9 at the Willits Frontier Days grounds. This was second in the series, which also includes horse shows. The next horse show will be August 24 at the rodeo grounds.

This event's winners included: high point went to Canella

Coleman, and reserve to Hazel Cooke in 10 and under; in 13 to 18, there was a tie for high point between Danielle Barry and Samantha Arms, and reserve went to Sierra Mayfield. In 18 to 44, high point went to Carmen Coleman and reserve to Aura Johansen, and in 45 and over, high point went to Jennifer Irwin and reserve to Bobbi Lippmann.

Local leatherworker and owner of Underhill's Western Crafts, Mary Ann Underhill, customized the prizes again this event with tooled leather patches. High point winners received custom bridle bags, and reserve winners received custom hay bags.



Birthday Girl Tina

Happy 40th birthday, Tina Gutierrez. We love you very much! Love, the family.



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Black Curry

Curry is a 1-year-old female mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 50 pounds. She is a black beauty looking for love and a forever home. Curry is a mellow, affectionate pup who has so many good qualities! She has very good kennel behavior and walks great on a leash. Curry loves kids and would be a wonderful family dog. She isn't as keen on other pups, so ideally she'd be an only dog, but definitely needs a meet and greet with any potential canine roommates prior to adoption. Curry is super sweet, smart and very eager to please, so we think she'll make a quick transition into her forever home and be a loving and loyal family member!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and 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 more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit: www.mendoanimalshelter.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453. Please join us every 2nd Saturday of the month for our "Empty the Shelter" dog as we get all the dogs out of the shelter for a bit of exercise!

Stuffed burgers can star at your barbecue

No backyard barbecue is complete without burgers. But just because burgers are a staple of such gatherings does not mean grillmasters cannot experiment with their burger recipes. Stuffed burgers are growing in popularity at restaurants across the country, but such delectable dishes can be enjoyed right in the comforts of your own backyard. Those who want to give burgers some new life at their next barbecue can use the following recipe for “Herb Cheese-Stuffed Garlic Burgers” from Andrew Schloss and David Joachim’s “Mastering the Grill” (Chronicle Books).

Herb Cheese-Stuffed Garlic Burgers

Makes 6 servings

- 2 pounds ground beef chuck, 85% lean
- 2 tablespoons chopped garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons herbed garlic cream cheese, such as Boursin
- 6 hamburger buns, split
- Oil for coating grill grate

The Grill

Gas: Direct heat, medium-high 425 F to 450 F; clean, oiled grate
Charcoal: Direct heat, light ash; 12-by-12-inch charcoal bed (about 3

dozen coals); clean, oiled grate on lowest setting

Wood: Direct heat, light ash; 12-by-12-inch bed, 3 to 4 inches deep; clean, oiled grate set 2 inches above the fire

Instructions

Heat the grill as directed. Using your hands, mix the beef, garlic, salt, and pepper in a bowl until well blended; do not overmix. Using a light touch, form into 12 patties no more than 1/2-inch thick.

Make 12 small patties. Put a portion (about 1-1/2

teaspoons) of cream cheese in the center of 6 patties; top with the remaining patties and press each together, taking care to seal the edges well. Refrigerate the burgers until the grill is ready. Brush the grill grate and coat it with oil. Put the burgers on the grill, cover and cook for 9 minutes, flipping after 5 minutes, for medium-done (150 F, slightly pink). Add a minute per side for well-done (160 F).

To toast the buns, put them cut-sides down directly over the fire for the last minute of cooking. If serving the burgers directly from the grill, serve on the buns. If the burgers will sit, even for a few minutes, keep the buns and burgers separate until just before eating.



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