

Revit-ED committee working on ‘civic billboard’

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City council members, city staff and community residents met Tuesday to discuss plans to place a city-owned civic billboard on Highway 101 to help advertise Willits to travelers.

The Willits Revitalization and Economic Development Committee meeting also involved discussions on ways to increase area tourism in general in light of the new bypass, including plans to create a tourism board for the city.

The goal of the billboard, as City Planner Dusty Duley put it, is “trying to get

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

Grand jury seeks changes in election process

Mike A’Dair
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A recently released Mendocino County grand jury report is calling for the county to update and upgrade vote counting equipment and expand staff at the county Elections Office.

The report, “Elections Redux,” also urges the county to provide weekly updates of election results as they are being tabulated.

Those were three of seven recommendations made by the grand jury in its latest report on Mendocino County elections (thus the “Redux” in the title).

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

Fake officers held in pot heist

Three north county men were arrested Sunday after they allegedly attempted to steal the pot crop of a Covelo man and kidnapped and threatened to shoot a second man unless he helped them in the heist.

The saga began at about 2:33 am when the Sheriff’s Office received a call from the property owner reporting that armed men had driven onto his remote, rural property in the 43000 block of Highway 162 in Round Valley claiming to be law enforcement officers, said sheriff’s Lt Greg Stefani.

“Based on their
Read the rest of **Heist** | Over on Page 13



Barry Had Three Little Lambs

New mental health measure approved for November ballot

Joanne Moore
Reporter
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Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved placing a new, improved measure on the November 7 ballot to address county services, treatment and facilities for the mentally ill.

If approved by a “super majority” (66.66 percent plus 1) of county voters, the ballot measure would impose a special one-half-cent sales and use tax on retail transactions for five years, and one-eighth cent thereafter in perpetuity, raising an estimated \$6.8 million annually for the first five years and \$1.7 million annually thereafter.

The ordinance would provide that, for the first five years, a maximum of 75 percent of raised revenues may be used for facilities, with not less than 25 percent dedicated to services and treatment. After the first five years, 100 percent of all revenue deposited into the fund would be used for improved operations, services and treatment.

The proposed ordinance, the “Mental Health

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

Supes continue potential changes to cannabis ordinance to August 8

Jennifer Poole
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After hearing presentations from staff and taking two hours of public comment Tuesday afternoon on problems with the implementation of Mendocino County’s new medical cannabis cultivation ordinance, supervisors agreed to take no action that day to change the ordinance.

At CEO Carmel Angelo’s suggestion, the board will “revisit cannabis issues” on August 8, setting aside the whole day, starting at 9 am.

Supervisors did approve 4-0 the creation of a standalone cannabis program unit and the creation of a cannabis manager position, as also suggested by CEO Angelo, in hopes of streamlining and coordinating the county’s permit processes. Fifth District Dan Hamburg has recused himself from cannabis votes due to a

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



Danielle Barry readies her flock for upcoming Redwood Empire Fair

As the end of July draws near, youth exhibitors from across the county are excitedly readying themselves, and their animals, for the upcoming Redwood Empire Fair, held the first weekend of August at the Ukiah Fairgrounds.

Willits 4-H’s Danielle Barry is just one such exhibitor.

2017 will be Barry’s second year at the fair. She will take three lambs with her to show in breeding, market and showmanship classes. She will also be showing her bulldog, Fiona, and her horse, Rebel. Fiona will be shown in obedience and showmanship classes at the fairgrounds, and Rebel will be shown in the horse show, which will be held at the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds this Sunday.

Barry’s sheep flock consists of her Hampshire cross wether market lamb, Chutes (of Chutes and Ladders, aptly named in the spirit of this year’s theme for fair: “Fun & Games”), her Hampshire cross breeding ewe, Candy, and a registered Suffolk ewe, Dandelion.

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



At top: Danielle Barry, member of the Willits 4-H sheep group, stands with her market lamb, Chutes. At left, top: Barry and her second sheep, Candy, who will be shown as a breeding ewe at the fair. At far left: Barry also will be showing Dandelion, a Suffolk ewe bred by Chuck Ream. At left: All three sheep join Barry for a run around the barn.



Photo by Jenny Senter



Photo by Danya Davis

Grade fire 90 percent contained

The 900-acre Grade fire, started by a vehicle fire that spread into the grass along the Highway 101 grade Sunday afternoon, was 90 percent contained, CalFire reported in its Wednesday evening update.

The fire – with a plume of white smoke visible from the northwest end of Willits

– started just before 3 pm on the east side of 101, at mile marker 37, about five miles northwest of Redwood Valley. With a reported 50 spot fires and the potential to burn 1,000 acres – and possibly to burn into Redwood Valley – the Grade fire drew a quick response from CalFire and area fire departments, including Little Lake Fire

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



Photos by Matt Holzhauser

Above, left: The beginning plume of smoke could easily be seen from Sherwood Road. Above, right: Traffic was stopped cold on the grade to give firefighters and emergency personnel access to the growing fire.

Below, left: The Grade fire burns a ridgetop not far from mile marker 37 on Highway 101. Below: CalFire OV10 Bronco air attack plane out of Santa Rosa drops retardant on the fire.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Wine tasting in Willits

To the Editor:

It would be wonderful to go wine tasting in Willits.

The location could be the empty Rexall store. My favorite location would be the for-lease "Goods Stamp Shoppe." It has a double-lot-size back yard with room for picnic tables and lots of shade trees.

Wine tasters could bring their picnic baskets with food purchased locally to enjoy while sipping, I mean tasting. Food and wine pairing discussions could be part of the wine tasting experience. Wines from only Mendocino County would be nice and appropriate.

So who is up for this? Maybe several wanta-be entrepreneurs could pool their funds for this venture. It could go a long way towards bringing in revenue to Willits.

Bob Wilkinson, Willits

Sponsors for community projects?

To the Editor:

Looking for sponsors for three community projects....

1. Willits Youth Soccer is in need of set of goals to be placed on the U-10 field. We had to remove them a few years ago due to safety concerns. WYS serves approximately 350 youth players active on 28 locally sponsored teams. The organization is volunteer-based. If you'd like to make a contribution to this fund, please send your check to: Willits Youth Soccer P.O. Box 1131 Willits, CA 95490.

2. Foster Youth Outfitters is a nonprofit-pending organization I recently started. We provide gently used clothing for youth in the foster care system and any youth in crisis or in need. Donations of gently used clothing and small luggage or duffle bags can be dropped off Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 6 pm at Imagination Station (11 North Marin Street).

The program also needs these new items in all sizes: shoes, pajamas, socks and underwear. We also accept monetary donations to purchase needed items, support our teen clothing crisis program, and educational outreach. If you're in need of our services or you'd like to donate, I can be reached at the address referenced or by calling 354-2539.

3. I'm renovating the Tom Tilton Gymnasium located at Baechtel Grove Middle School. This gym is used by many youth and adult groups in our community. The gym is in desperate need of aesthetic repairs. There's holes in the wall from balls, and the sheet rock is well-worn. One day while coaching indoor soccer, I decided that something needed to be done.

This is a community gym. I want my kids to feel proud. I organized a renovation project by coordinating with both the City of Willits and the Willits Unified School District. Willits Youth Soccer took on the project as the nonprofit responsible. The work began July 10. The project will be completed by August 4.

Like any project, it has gone over budget. However, it's still doable. I've contributed \$8,000 thus far to the project. I have two donors who've committed, and I'm awaiting confirmation. If you're interested in contributing, please send your payment in care of Willits Youth Soccer, P.O. Box 1131 Willits, CA 95490.

After phase one of gym repairs are completed by Josh Potter of Potter Construction (thank you!!), Dave Kline will be painting the interior. Malakai Schindel will be doing the artwork. When the project is done, it will be something we can all feel proud of!

Saprina Rodriguez,
Willits City Council

Supporting the smallest farms

To the Editor:

To the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors: I am writing to address the agenda items regarding reports from staff about the implementation of the medical cannabis permitting program. I want to express appreciation for the efforts that have been made to get this program up and running; it is a huge undertaking with many moving pieces.

I would like to commend staff at the Ag Department and at Planning & Building; both departments have dealt with a significant increase in interactions with the public and time spent working on issues either directly or tangentially related to the cannabis program.

I write this letter with a heavy heart for the changes facing our county. I have concerns regarding issues that are impeding implementation of the program and the ability of cultivators to make the transition:

Fees and Inspections: In speaking with many of the smallest farmers in the county, the current program runs a serious risk of wiping out the traditional, 25 plant farmer. The numbers do not pencil to cover all of the various costs, especially when attempting to factor the continuing price drop and potential Planning & Building upgrades. The cottage industry within the county desperately needs a restructuring of the program that would allow the "mom and pop" operations leniency in some of the requirements, and reductions in the fees and inspection requirements.

Perhaps some of the funds from the tax could be used to decrease the fees for the smallest operators, or to provide compliance assistance including inspection services. If we cannot figure out a way

to accomplish this, I fear we will see few cottage permits applied for, or issued.

Commercial Buildings: The requirement that cannabis drying sheds qualify for commercial buildings is a non-starter for the vast majority of the existing farms in Mendocino County, and flies in the face of the stated ordinance goal of avoiding further environmental impacts. Farms already have drying sheds; a requirement that they be commercially permitted is beyond the economic possibilities for small farms which already find themselves on the verge of not being viable.

It would be appropriate for the board to authorize drying sheds to be used by the owner-operator and permitted under a new building class similar to Class K. For instance, a Class D.S. (drying shed) would make sense. Owner-operators would have to sign an affidavit that states an awareness that employees are not allowed in Class D.S. structures.

Greenhouses and Hoophouses: As a vegetable farmer, I have grave concerns about the way that the Department of Planning and Building is interpreting rules regarding greenhouses and hoophouses. Farmers need these structures to produce crops, and we cannot afford exorbitant costs nor extensive permitting regulations. Onerous processes will threaten the resurgence of small producers at a crucial point; the county cannot afford this.

Extending the Permit Window: The community is trying to come to grips with the vast changes that are occurring. A hard deadline of December 31 means that many parcels must be permitted this year or never (those zoned Rangeland, Timber Production Zone or Forestland). This is creating havoc and threatens the bedrock of property values within the county. Many elders are struggling with trying to figure out the permitting requirements and are still trying to overcome the fear and stigma that has been created by prohibition. These folks need more time.

Our communities are reeling with the challenges that cannabis regulation presents. It is the most complex process that most farmers have ever had to deal with, and it is going to take significant time and effort to sort it out. We must do so in ways that honor and support the smallest farms, because that is what Mendocino County is known for! Thank you for your time and efforts.

Casey O'Neill, HappyDay Farms,
Laytonville and vice-chair,
California Growers Association

Art Camp

To the Editor:

I would like to let everyone know about my 4th Annual Art Camp that is coming up next week. The camp – for ages 10 to 13 – will be held at the classroom and in the back patio of the Willits Center for the Arts on Commercial Street. Art Camp runs from July 24 through July 28, from 8:30 am to noon each day.

Donna d'Terra, Willits

We will have a week of fun with art as we immerse ourselves in all kinds of projects: papier-mache, tissue paper collage, oil and chalk pastels, watercolor in the Waldorf style, painting on silk, art journaling, mixed media, and more. Van Gogh will be one of the artists we will be studying.

A week gives us plenty of time to try new materials and time to complete more involved projects. Each day will begin with movement and fun songs, and after the morning art project, we will have a snack. Then we will work on our papier-mache projects.

I will have an assistant, so everyone has the attention they need. Everything the young artist creates is theirs to take home. All art materials and the healthy snack are included in the camp tuition.

There is a discount for siblings from the same family. Please call 984-6747 or email greengables@wildblue.net for more information. Class space is limited. Thank you.

Ann Maglinte, Willits

Not-So-Simple Living Fair

To the Editor:

Almost 40 years ago, a handful of new homesteaders in Mendocino County came together to create the Simple Living Fair, which took place annually for several years at the fairgrounds in Boonville. The weekend was full with classes on rural living: beekeeping, gardening, animal husbandry, alternative energy, etc.

As a new transplant fresh from the suburbs to Mendocino County, the Simple Living Fair was my introduction to homesteading skills and I learned a lot at these events.

Thirty-plus years later, some of the same organizers came together again to bring back the fair. Now, having had several decades of experience in rural living, they decided to call it the Not-So-Simple Living Fair. Although this lifestyle may be "not-so-simple," many would agree that it is a creative and worthwhile way to live. It is this spirit that is at the heart of the fair, which continues to inspire new and seasoned homesteaders alike.

Information and skills shared are time-honored and tested, as well as cutting-edge. Several Willits area residents will be adding their knowledge and experience to this mix.

The Not-So-Simple Living Fair, July 28 through 30, at the Mendocino County Fairgrounds in Boonville, includes children's activities, a Saturday evening potluck and dance, keynote speaker Brock Dolman from Occidental Arts and Ecology, and camping is available. Check out the website, notsosimple.info, for times, cost (very reasonable!), and lists of classes and workshops.

Everyone is invited to join this celebration of country life.



Above, from left: Rich "Pops" Venturi addresses the crowd, with Shelley "Sugar Shaker" at right. Saprina Rodriguez and Jenni Wyatt man the Foster Youth Outfitters booth. Neil Orr, the first Scavenger Hunt participant to finish the ride, and the Willits Shifters police car. At left: The Wild Bunch and the Foster Youth Outfitters worked together to plan the Scavenger Hunt Ride.



Scavenger Hunt

Willits Wild Bunch raises money for foster kids' needs

"It's all about the kids," stated Rich "Pops" Venturi of the Willits Wild Bunch, an altruistic motorcycle club that is a fixture at charity events, like their annual Toy Run, which benefits their Willits Kids Christmas Program.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
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"We took care of 450 kids from 199 families last year at the Christmas program," Venturi said, "and at least 100 of those kids were foster kids. So when we found out [Willits City Councilwoman Saprina Rodriguez] was doing this [the Foster

Youth Outfitters program], we thought it was right up our alley. I mean this is what we do. This is why the Wild Bunch exists. And so we got a hold of Saprina and said, 'If you don't mind being associated with a bunch of bikers, we'd be more than happy to help you out.'"

Thus, the Scavenger Hunt Ride, which took place Saturday, July 15, was born.

"We got some backing from the Old Buzzards," Venturi added, "which is a motorcycle club here in town. They're doing it for the kids. That's what we do. That's what bikers do. Bikers take care of their community and the kids in their community. That's what we're here for."

What this weekend's event lacked in numbers was more than made up for in enthusiasm and fun. The 14 participants, many from the Old Buzzards, had a great time driving north just past Leggett to Standish-Hickey and the Peg House, picking up clues and answering questions on the provided form in order to enter the drawing for the \$100 prize.

Questions ranged from "What is the name of the rest stop on Highway 101 just north of Highway 162?" to "What is the wood carving hanging above the stage on the house north of Leggett not made of pegs?"

Upon their return to the Rec Grove, the bikers were treated to music by DJ Mikey T – aka Mike Tobin – a barbecue, biker games like "grab the pickle" and a water balloon bike toss, and comradery and fun.

The Wild Bunch plans to hold the Scavenger Hunt Ride in years to come.

Read the rest of
Hunt

Over on Page 6

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Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

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

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!

ON THE FARM WORD SEARCH

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

ACRES DONKEY HORSE PROCESS
AGRICULTURE DUCK IRRIGATION ROOSTER
BARN FARMER LAMB SEASON
BLOOM FARMHOUSE LAND SILO
CAT FENCE MANURE STABLE
CORN FIELDS MULE TRACTOR
COW GRAIN PASTURE TROUGH
CROPS HARVEST PIG WEATHERVANE
DAIRY HAY PLOW WHEAT
DOG HEN POND WORKERS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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64					65					66				
67					68					69				

CLUES ACROSS

- Type of ion
- ___ N' Bake
- At all times
- ___ Triad: fictional cult
- Spiked revolving disk
- Swiss river
- Bleat
- Finnish lake
- Spanish cubist Juan
- Consumer
- No seats available
- Arrive
- Upstate NY city
- Team's best pitcher
- Follows sigma
- Consume
- Congressman
- Spider's territory
- Conclusion
- Female parent
- Instruments
- ___bo: exercise
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Oil cartel
- In support of
- More creepy
- Color of blood
- ___ death do us part
- Radio finder (abbr.)
- Promotions

- Songs
- Tony winner Daisy
- Not just 'play'
- Affected with rabies
- Formal group of like-minded people
- Hold valuables
- Male admirer
- Actress Lucy
- Prevents the fermentation of
- Furniture
- Long, winding ridge
- Cover with drops
- Major European river

CLUES DOWN

- Greek goddess of youth
- Early kingdom in Syria
- Fortifying ditch
- Walk into
- Island state ___ Lanka
- Japan's most populous island
- Mindful of
- Fuel
- NY Giants' Manning
- Very willing
- Linear unit
- Guitarist Clapton
- Semitic letter
- Habitual repetitions

- Soak
- Taxi
- Small amount
- A theatrical performer
- 2-door car
- ___ and flowed
- Arabic female name
- Implant within
- Groups of two
- College athletic conference
- Body part
- Disfigure
- Accept
- Allude to
- Type of tree
- Doctor of Education
- Pearl Jam's first album
- Flower cluster
- Heavy cavalry sword
- Arabian Peninsula desert
- Marten
- Type of sound
- Expression of grief
- Liberian tribal people
- Wizards' shooting guard Bradley
- Metrical foot
- Mislead knowingly
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Midway between south and southwest

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

July 10 to July 16

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **201** incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

July 10

12:26 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

8:21 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:12 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

2:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

4:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

4:19 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

6:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing near the intersection of West Commercial Street and South Main Street and issued a warning.

July 11

6:05 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

12:26 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 600 block of Coast Street.

1:21 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

2:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 300 block of Coast Street.

5:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of a fight near the intersection of South Main Street and East Valley Street.

10:08 pm: HOYT, Richard Larry (54) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 602 PC (Trespassing) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol) and failure to appear.

July 12

5:06 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

11:21 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

12:41 pm: Officers initiated a robbery investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

July 13

1:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:51 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

3:07 pm: DEARING, Joni Lorraine (55) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

3:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 700 block of South Main Street.

4:28 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

4:50 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

5:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

5:52 pm: Officers responded to a report

of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

8:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of unwanted subjects in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

July 14

12:24 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

8:07 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance near the intersection of Pineview Drive and Crest Drive.

9:10 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

12:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.

2:18 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:24 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 200 block of Sherwood Road.

July 15

3:14 am: Officers responded to a report of shots heard in the 2600 block of Mitomka Way.

6:57 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

11:57 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

12:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of North Main Street.

12:41 pm: WHITE, Carlos Angelo (31) of Ukiah was contacted near the intersection of Walnut Street and South Main Street. He was arrested on charges of violation of probation, being under the influence of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

5:34 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of Shell Lane.

6:26 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

8:31 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of School Street.

8:33 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of Shell Lane.

11:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

July 16

12:28 am: FILLION, Hazel Rochelle (36) of Ukiah and PALLEY, Mark Joseph (44) of Fort Bragg were contacted near the intersection of Hazel Street and Manzanita Avenue following a traffic stop. Fillion was arrested on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Palley was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

2:34 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 23000 block of Sherwood Road.

6:43 am: Officers responded to a report of a sexual assault in the 800 block of Coast Street.

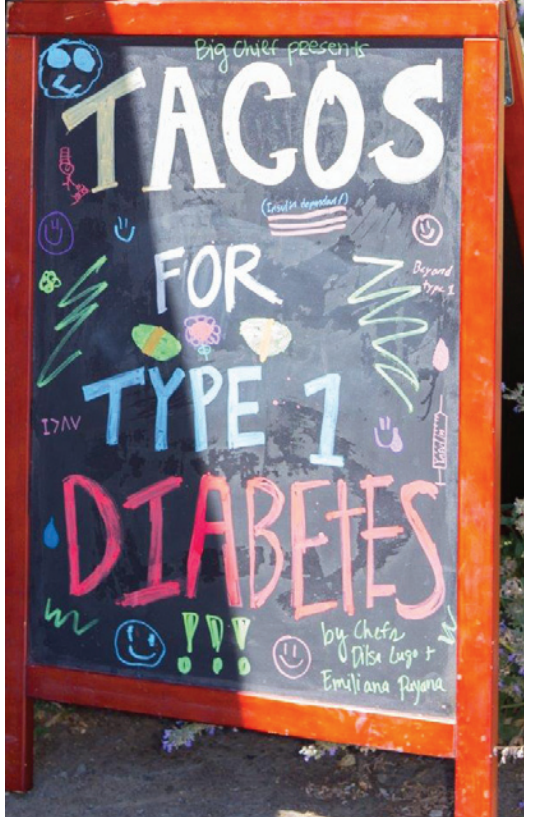
7:48 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

9:44 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

4:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of a vegetation fire in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

11:07 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

Below, left: The sign for the fundraiser, held at Big Chief in Laytonville. Below, right: The fundraiser tacos were made with handmade tortillas, loaded with beef, lamb or pork, topped with salsa and veggies, and served with black beans and salad. At right, from top: Sage and Blake Kutner, at left, Armando Lugo, Lugo's mother from Mexico, and a friend take a break in the shade. Lugo's mother-in-law prepares freshly made corn tortillas from masa donated by El Molino Central in Sonoma, while Mario, a friend of Lugo's, fries the tortillas. Chef Emiliana Puyana, left, works on the BBQ lamb for the tacos with Scott Dardenne, a friend and chef from New Orleans. Blake Kutner, left, culinary manager at the non-profit La Cocina in San Francisco, with Chef Dilsa Lugo, owner of Los Cilantros in Berkeley. Both are parents of children with type 1 diabetes.



Photos by Ree Slocum



Big Chief

Independence Day fundraiser in Laytonville for type 1 diabetes

What happens when one of your best friends has a child with type 1 diabetes, has always risen to the call for volunteering at your own events, and asks for a favor for the first time? Blake Kutner, friend of the owners of the Big Chief in Laytonville, is just that person.

He's served as the main chef for all of the annual Crawfish Boil fundraising events at the restaurant. As Clay Carpenter, one of the Big Chief's owners put it: "If it's important to Blake, it's important to us!" speaking for fellow owners Matt Paradis and Troy Terrill, too.

On the 4th of July, the fundraiser, "Tacos for Type 1 Diabetes," was held in the beer garden adjacent to the Big Chief restaurant's dining room and bar. Chefs and other volunteers populated the small kitchen and outside-grilling area during the 4th's wee morning hours to prepare the meat.

A little over a year ago, Kutner and his wife discovered that their son, Rye, had the symptoms

of type 1 diabetes. Rye had begun having scary symptoms, like drinking water endlessly, excessive urination, and daytime sleepiness, while the Kutners were out of town on an anniversary trip. Kutner's wife, a doctor, was alerted, and they were able to catch the condition in time.

It's been a life-changing event for all of them. The regular monitoring of their son's blood sugar levels, making sure he gets timely insulin shots and plenty of hydration, and watching every carb that he eats, keeps everyone on their toes. The parents also work to help the 4-year-old understand what he needs to do to stay healthy. Rye has taken it like a champ and now runs around with his little insulin pump in a tiny, pink fanny pack checking his own blood sugar levels before every meal.

On the morning of the fundraiser, Kutner discovered

Read the rest of
Diabetes

Over on Page 6



Free
Sports
Physicals

FOR ALL STUDENTS 18 AND UNDER

Make sure your child is ready to play!
Schedule an appointment today!

Please bring any necessary paperwork required by your school. Appointments are encouraged since scheduled times are limited. Our physicians will provide assessments and other free health screenings and education will be offered for parents too, including:

- Diabetes Screening
- Blood Pressure Screening
- Inbody (Body Composition Testing)

Spots are limited! Call 707.456.3185 today!

Saturday, July 29
Sunday, August 6

8:00 a.m. to Noon

Scheduled times are limited.
Reserve your spot today!

Redwood Medical Clinic
3 Marcela Drive, Suite C in Willits

Call 707.456.3185

Frank R. Howard
Memorial Hospital

Will be known as:
Adventist Health
Frank R. Howard
Memorial

The two ewes, or young female sheep, will be shown in breeding classes; Steve and Sharon Short of Willits are the breeders of Candy and Chutes, and Chuck Ream is the breeder of Dandelion. Chutes will be assessed in the market classes for his readiness and finishing of the carcass, and will be sold at the Junior Livestock Auction on Saturday, August 5.

"I hope lots of people will get the chance to come down and see the animals at the fair," said Barry, age 13. "I really like being in 4-H and getting to show. It's really fun and something that other kids will get to do, too, hopefully. Being in the club helps build social skills, teaches you how to raise animals on your own, and after a while, if you decide to take an animal to the auction, you can get money and save up for college."

Dandelion, Candy, or Chutes can be shown as Barry's showmanship animal, and she's still trying to decide who will be the one to go in the ring for that particular task.

"Dandelion was much easier to train and bond with," said Barry. "The hardest part this year was getting all the sheep halter broke and used to being handled. I've learned a lot from Chuck, too, about how

There is room to grow. "And so, we'll do this again," Venturi said. "So we only had 14 participants.... Hey, it's a nice day in the park. We're having barbecue, and we have some of our friends together. It's a good day.

"First-time events are always a little sketchy. People kind of look at it and go: 'It's a first-time event. We don't know if it's going to be any good.' We'll get the publicity out there. We'll do it again. We're a little disappointed, but not discouraged. That's how we operate," Venturi concluded.

The recipient of the fundraising efforts was Foster Youth Outfitters, a new organization formed by Councilwoman Rodriguez, along with Oriana McGrew, with the mission to collect and distribute emergency clothing, hygiene products, backpacks and other goods that make foster children feel secure going from home to home as they wait to get placed more permanently.

"What really catapulted me into Foster Youth Outfitters," Rodriguez explained, "was when my school, Imagination Station, burned down November 14, 2014. I moved across the street, and people started bringing me items, more toys than I could possibly ever utilize at the school. I knew what a need there was for other families that were struggling.

"So when new items came in," she continued, "we set them all aside and it was right before Christmas, so we loaded up all the new items and gave them to the Willits Christmas program. People were pulling up by the carload. Kids were handing me their box of toys. I knew at that moment that this wasn't just about what was happening on

to show the Suffolk breed, how to hold the head differently, not put so much leg into them. Showing them is different than the other breeds."

Barry also noted her appreciation to parents Marcy and Fred Barry for all of their help with her second-year sheep project, as well as to club leader Chris Ceresa and her daughter, Briana Ramsey, to Melinda McAsey, Paul Riley and of course to the breeders of her sheep, Steve and Sharon Short, and Chuck Ream.

"I'm getting really excited to get to hang out with all the friends I made last year," said Barry. "I'm excited to spend time with the rest of the Willits sheep group, and have fun showing and spending time with the other exhibitors."

Between now and load-in day on August 2, Barry plans to be out and about, hand-delivering buyer's letters and fair schedule information to prospective bidders at the Junior Livestock Auction. This year, the auction will be starting at 10 am – two hours earlier than in years past. Anyone is welcome to come, sign up to be a bidder, and attend the buyer's breakfast held before the auction's start.

For more information: 462-FAIR.

that day, but that this was the beginning of something even more special.

"We started using a special room at the school as a distribution center to make things happen," Rodriguez continued. "Lots of people were following our Facebook page, so I knew I had to take advantage of it, so I started reaching out to people saying: 'If you know a family in crisis, I have excess. Please let me know.' We started matching up with all kinds of different families, and it wasn't just clothing and toys. It became 'I just got my four grandkids. I need a bunk bed.' Or I need this or I need that, and I would post it on the page, and people would bring it in and we would redistribute the needed goods."

Rodriguez says she gets about a carload of donations every week. On Fridays, she loads up the week's donations and takes them to a converted garage outfitted with shelves that serves as a distribution center.

Foster Youth Outfitters still needs socks, underwear, new shoes, pajamas, toiletries, backpacks, suitcases and cash. To contact Foster Youth Outfitters, to make donations, or to let the group know about a family's needs, send a message through their Facebook page.

Beyond the fun, games and laughs, there is a serious need which the Willits biker fellowship, once again, selflessly took on the task of raising money and awareness for. Hopefully, next year, more bikers will be aware of the event and participate. Aside from the great work they will be supporting, they can learn more about the local area and enjoy a day with some great Willits folks.



Clay Carpenter's niece, Ava Carpenter, at left, with Clay's parents, Elaine and Jerry Carpenter, and long-time friend from New Orleans, Selah, enjoy some refreshments and a game.

Photo by Ree Slocum

Rye's insulin pump had been off for a while sometime during the night and he wasn't getting his overnight dose of insulin. The boy woke up with very high blood sugar, which can become a life-threatening situation. He began throwing up and was frequently urinating.

Kutner acted quickly, giving him insulin and hydration. Kutner was scared, "You know ... kid wakes up throwing up and can't get outta bed!" He quickly called his wife, who was in San Francisco working, and they met that morning in Cloverdale. Rye, worn out and probably confused, just wanted his mother. The incident was a timely occurrence that emphasized the need for research and development to deliver life-changing therapies and, one day, find a cure.

Kutner, culinary manager at the non-profit kitchen "incubator," La Cocina in San Francisco, brought Rye and Rye's sister, Sage, to Laytonville to help with the fundraiser. He also brought along two coworkers – La Cocina chef graduates, Dilsa Lugo, now the owner of Los Cilantros on Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley, and Emiliana Puyana, now La Cocina's program director – and a group of amazing volunteers.

The traditional tacos were a collaboration between Lugo and Puyana. Lugo's husband, Armando, and their two children – one of whom also has type 1 diabetes – along with their grandmother from Mexico, and Marie, a friend and Los Cilantros coworker, joined in the festivities and helped prepare and serve the food.

The tacos were made with fresh,

handmade tortillas from masa generously donated by El Molino Central in Sonoma. They were loaded with locally raised beef and lamb from Laytonville and pork donated by Biagio Artisan Meats, salsa, and freshly picked vegetables. Delicious slow-cooked black beans and a crunchycactus, corn and green bean salad were served alongside each yummy taco, as well as Mexican wedding cookies and cinnamon cookies for dessert. The cookies were donated by another La Cocina graduate, Gabriela Guerrero from Delicioso Creperie.

Even though the day was slower than they had originally hoped, the fundraiser was still able to pull in close to \$3,000 – thanks in great part to the generosity of the Big Chief owners – to help the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to develop technologies for children and families dealing with type 1 diabetes.

Kutner and his friend and coworker, Jessica Mataka, will be riding their bikes 100 miles in the foundation's Ride to Cure Diabetes this November in Tucson. The fundraiser at the Chief was the first of a few events the team will be hosting to try to meet their \$10,000 donation goal for that ride.

To learn more about La Cocina, visit www.lacocinasf.org.



Rick Howell of the Old Buzzards at the Rec Grove.

Photo by Matthew Caine



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AD SALES PERSON NEEDED

Call for more info: 459-2633 or 972-7047



Above, from left: Kelsey of Kelsey's Creations paints a butterfly at the face painting station. Julie Garcia, back, stands next to Juanita Alvarez, left, and Sandy Robinson at one of the booths at the open house event. California Highway Patrol Officer Marin helps ensure a car seat is properly fitted in an attendee's car.



Lamprich Center

Open House and Health Fair draws a crowd on a hot Sunday

By Cici Winiger, for HMH

Over 200 community members braved the sweltering heat to attend the Lamprich Center's Open House and Health Fair on Sunday, July 16. Providers and staff from Redwood Medical Clinic, Howard Pharmacy, and Outpatient Rehab, which all provide services at the Lamprich Center, gave tours and answered questions from attendees. Redwood Medical Clinic physicians and providers John Glyer, MD, Andrea McCullough, MD, and family nurse practitioners Kim Sievert and Bev Draudt were on hand to talk to guests and discuss services offered.

Outpatient Rehab director and physical therapist Julie Garcia gave tours and performed balance assessments to help educate the community about fall prevention, especially for the elderly. Garcia says the open house was a great venue to emphasize to the community that they don't have to go elsewhere to get physical or speech therapy.

"We have this great facility and highly trained staff right here at home," she said. "Patients are always so grateful to know they don't have to drive far, especially because they are already suffering from pain when they just had surgery or they are recovering from an injury. Being able to

Read the rest of Lamprich | Over on Page 11



Counter-clockwise, from above: Medstar ambulance crew members give Howard Foundation's Margie Handley a lesson in hands-only CPR.

Nancy Moilanen, left, and Kirsten Myers Shipp were ready to talk with the public about the speech therapy department.

Tom Buske, a Howard Memorial Hospital Auxiliary volunteer, offers slices of pizza in the breezeway of the Lamprich Center during Sunday's open house.

Attendees stop by several booths at the open house where they learned about everything from how to properly fit bicycle helmets to what their blood pressure measured.

Howard Foundation's Arnie Mello gave the California Highway Patrol "drunk goggles" test a try – trying to walk a line and follow instructions from the officers while wearing special goggles that simulated an over-the-limit blood alcohol level.

Rory Pitchford – a clear dinosaur fan – not only received a balloon dinosaur from Fill-Up the Clown, but a dinosaur face painting from Kelsey of Kelsey's Creations, too.

At left: Pat Richardson was one star shy of completing her Passport to Health card. Attendees were asked to visit nine booths, and receive a sticker from each. After filling the nine squares, completed cards were then placed into the basket in front of the gift basket the card holder was interested in winning. Winners were drawn from the completed cards.

Photos by Maureen Moore

REDWOOD EMPIRE FAIR

AUGUST 3-6

FUN & GAMES AT THE REDWOOD EMPIRE FAIR

Opens Thursday & Friday • 3pm
Sat & Sun • Noon

THURSDAY
Children & Seniors
FREE ADMISSION
and all rides
\$100 each
from 10am to 5pm



NIGHTLY MOTORIZED SPORTS ACTION

THURS 6:30PM Motorcycles, Side-by-Sides, ATV
FRI 6:30PM Mudd Boggs
SAT 6PM Truck & Tractor Pulls
SUN 6PM Dirt Nationals, Jalopies & Boat Races

Pig Races • Dog Races
CircusMecca
Fire Juggler
Brads World of Reptiles
Entertainment on Willow Tree Stage
NEW California Carnival Company
Fabulous Fair Food & MORE!

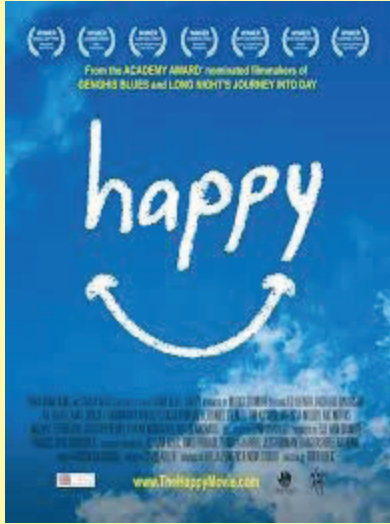
Visit redwoodempirefair.com for details!

Thursday, July 20

Willits Reads: Every Thursday, the Willits Library invites special guests to find out what they are reading. The guest(s) also kick off Story Hour by reading the first book. This week's guest is James Bording from the School of Adaptive Agriculture. Thursday, July 20. 10:30 to 11 am. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Hot Topics in Diabetes: Howard Hospital Director of Physical Therapy Julie Garcia will speak on "Exercise and Diabetes." Thursday, July 20. 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Seabiscuit Conference Room, Howard Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive. RSVP: Dietitian's Office: 456-3132.

Now and Then Film Series at the Grange: "Happy." Does money make you "Happy?" Kids and family? Your work? Do you live in a world that values and promotes happiness and well-being? Are we in the midst of a happiness revolution? "Happy" is a highly touted documentary film that sets out to answer these questions and more. Goodies available: heirloom organic popcorn, fair trade chocolate. Thursday, July 20. Trailers and short films at 6:30, feature starts at 7 pm. \$5 donation (or more). Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.



Friday, July 21

New at the Noyo: Starts today, much-anticipated Luc Besson flick "Valerian and the City of 1,000 Planets." Info at the Noyo: 459-6696.

Saturday, July 22

Monologue Show at WCT: "Speakeasy IV – An Evening of Original Monologues" written & performed by local Willitsians. Saturday, July 22 at 8 pm, Sunday, July 23 at 2 pm. Willits Community Theater, 37 West Van Lane. Tickets: \$10, available in person at Mazahar; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets available at the door until sold out. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

Sunday, July 23

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am, Sunday, July 23. "Join your friends at the Grange breakfast! \$8 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods..." Choose soughrough wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or gluten-free, Beeler's Quality Bacon,

organic eggs, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$8; \$7 seniors, \$5 children under 10. Extra: sides of organic fruit and Amish organic maple syrup. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of 101). Info: 459-9716.

Monologue Show at WCT: "Speakeasy IV – An Evening of Original Monologues" written and performed by local Willitsians. Sunday, July 23. 2 pm. See Saturday, July 22 listing for details.

Tuesday, July 25

Discovery Day at the Library: Battery Powered Dancers. Tuesday, July 25. 1 to 2:30 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre, for all ages/all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "War for the Planet of the Apes" and "Spider-man: Homecoming." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-6696.

Tuesday Potluck Bingo: Doors open 5 pm, Games begin 5:30 pm. Minimum Bingo buy-in \$5. "Includes Bingo and light supper. Potluck dishes are encouraged." Tuesday, July 25. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

BINGO

TUESDAY NITE POTLUCK BINGO

July 25, 2017

WILLITS HARRAH SENIOR CENTER
1501 BAECHELTEL ROAD
707-459-6826

Doors open @ 5 PM
Games begin @ 5:30 PM
Minimum Bingo buy-in \$5
Includes Bingo and lite supper
Potluck dishes are encouraged.

Wednesday, July 26

Safe Routes to School Workshop: the Willits Safe Route to School Program, hosted by the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, offers an active workshop on ways to make walking/rolling to and from school safer, more convenient and fun. Wednesday, July 26, 1 to 5 pm, at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Community members, parents, students, city representatives and school staff will identify barriers to walking and rolling and opportunities for improvements, and will leave the workshop ready to work with community partners in the local Safe Routes to School

Monologue Show at WCT

Saturday, July 22 and Sunday, July 23

By popular demand, "Speakeasy IV – An Evening of Original Monologues" will be presented in two shows at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, July 22 at 8 pm and Sunday, July 23 at 2 pm. The original monologues are written and performed on stage by local people, and coordinated by Don Samson.

The monologues this year are funny, touching, honest, playful, engaging and often moving. Jane Camp has the most hilarious python story. Peter Smith is offering up a bucket list trip to Nepal he took with his aging father. Divora Stern returns to age 16 and escaping from Cleveland in a series of untrustworthy used cars. Steve Hellman recalls his deceased, crazy-sweet younger brother. Bruce Andich ruins Jim Carrey's acting career. Emma Jean Good wants you to have a piece of her mind, if you don't mind. Peter Winslow looks back through the eyes of a child at the inconsistencies in adult thinking. Maria Gilarin chases a story for radio across Nevada in a beat up old RV – when the story turns and starts chasing her. Also appearing: Mary Burns, William Walls, Don Samson, and Jed Diamond.

Due to the overwhelming ticket demand for shows the past three years, advance tickets are recommended. Tickets are \$10 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, Willits; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also available at the door until sold out.

– Steve Hellman for WCT

Vacation Bible School

July 24 to 28

Running from Monday, July 24 through Friday, July 28, Grace Community Church's summer Vacation Bible School's theme this year is Galactic Starvoyers. "Tap into God's promise to always be with you and that he is in charge." Each evening from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, the week-long "Adventure at the Clubhouse will include Bible stories, crafts, motivating music, dances and games." And note that dinner will be served. For more info, pre-registration and church bus service, call 459-3106, Monday through Friday, 10 am to 3 pm.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of July 24 through July 28

- Monday: Rib Sandwich
- Tuesday: Baked Ham
- Wednesday: Teriyaki Chicken Stir Fry
- Thursday: Carnitas Burrito
- Friday: Birthday Turkey Dinner

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

What's Happening Around Town

program. Language interpretation available upon request. Please wear comfortable shoes. Register here: bit.ly/WillitsSRTS

Thursday, July 27

"The Cannabis Hour": With host Jane Fletcher on KZYY. Thursday, July 27 program: "Medical uses of high-CBD cannabis." Guest Martin Lee, is author of "Smoke Signals: A Social History of Cannabis," and the founder of non-profit Project CBD, an educational organization on the body's endocannabinoid system. Lee will discuss current research on endocannabinoid signaling in autism, cannabis in pediatrics, and endocannabinoids and female infertility. He will answer callers' questions at 9:40 am. 895-2448. am, on KZYY 91.5 FM.

Willits Reads: Every Thursday, the Willits Library invites special guests to find out what they are reading. The guest(s) will also kick off Story Hour by reading the first book. This week's guests are the Drop-in Knitters from the Saturday Drop-in Knitting Circle. Thursday, July 27. 10:30 to 11 am. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.



Relay for Life: This annual 24-hour fundraising event to raise funds for the American Cancer Society starts at 10 am on Saturday, July 29 at the Rec Grove Park and ends at 10 am on Sunday. Support your local Relay for Life teams who will be doing laps around the park to raise money for cancer prevention and research. Ukiah Relayers are coming up to Willits this year for a joint "Mendocino County" Relay event. Learn about how different types of cancers can be prevented, and honor cancer survivors – Relay always starts with the "Survivors Lap" and includes a Survivors Brunch on Sunday morning. Enjoy carnival activities such as pie eating contests, a dunk tank, carnival games, food, prizes, a live DJ, lap contests, a photo booth, and much more! The luminaria ceremony, Saturday evening as it's getting dark, features lit-up decorated paper bags around the lap, honoring those who have cancer and remembering those who have passed. Info: Amanda 972-4038, or amandainman89@gmail.com.

Spiritual Experiences Fair: Presented by Eckankar. Workshops include: guidance from dreams; exploring past lives to understand and resolve current life situations; help from Spiritual Masters, and more. Saturday, July 29. 2 to 5 pm. Free. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 456-9934. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

"The Trial of the Wicked Witch": Poor Hansel. Poor Gretel. Did the infamous "Wicked Witch" really do all those dastardly things? Witness the legal proceedings in this children's play directed by Shawna Jeavons. Saturday, July 29, 7 pm. Tickets \$15; \$10 Sundays; \$5 for 14 and under. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Advance tickets available at Mazahar; online at brownpapertickets.com; or phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets at the door until sold out.

Friday, July 28

Harry Potter Night at the Library: Choose your Hogwarts House, make wands, make potions, costume contest, pose for "Have You Seen This Wizard" mugshots, make and wear your Hogwarts pin, more. Friday, July 28. 6 to 9 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Saturday, July 29

Free Sports Physicals: Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is offering "Free Sports Physicals" for all student athletes in Mendocino County. Saturday, July 29, and also, Saturday, August 6. Howard Memorial Hospital, 3 Marcela Drive. Appointments encouraged, but walk-ins welcome. For appointments and info: 456-3185.

Free Sports Physicals

FOR ALL STUDENTS 18 AND UNDER

Make sure your child is ready to play! Schedule an appointment today!

Please bring any necessary paperwork required by your school. Appointments are encouraged since scheduled times are limited. Our physicians will provide assessments and other free health screenings and education will be offered for parents too, including:

- Diabetes Screening
- Blood Pressure Screening
- Inbody (Body Composition Testing)

Spots are limited! Call 707.456.3185 today!

Saturday, July 29 Sunday, August 6

8:00 a.m. to Noon

Scheduled times are limited. Reserve your spot today!

Redwood Medical Clinic
3 Marcella Drive, Suite C-100
Call 707.456.3185

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital

AdventHealth

Celtic and World Music Concert

Tuesday, August 1

Musicians Christy Martin & Aodh Og O'Tuama, wife and husband duo of Four Shillings Short return to Mendocino County with a series of free performances, both on the coast and inland. O'Tuama makes music from tinwhistles, Medieval and Renaissance woodwinds, recorder, Moroccan doumbek, bowed psaltery, and sings in English, Gaelic and French. Martin studied Indian sitar for 10 years, five of those years with sitar master Ravi Shankar, and also plays mandolin, mandola, bouzouki, banjo, guitar, bodhran (Irish frame drum), charango, and bowed psaltery, and sings in English, Irish, Spanish, and Sanscrit. In Willits: Tuesday, August 1, from 1 to 2 pm at Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street; info: 459-5908. In Covelo: from 6 to 7:30 pm at Round Valley Library, 23925 Howard Street; info: 983-6736.

'Fun and Games' at the 2017 Redwood Empire Fair

August 3 to 6

A jam-packed weekend filled with food, fun and entertainment at the Redwood Empire Fair. The fairgrounds, 1055 North State Street, open at 3 pm Thursday and Friday and at noon on Saturday and Sunday.

General admission: adults \$9; children (6-12 years) \$7; children (5 years and under) admitted free; seniors (65 & older) \$7. Parking \$7. On Thursday from 3 to 6 pm, free admission for children and seniors, plus Thursday is "Dollar Day" – with a special price of \$1 for all carnival rides for everyone! On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, carnival ride enthusiasts can save by purchasing unlimited-ride wristbands: \$23 in advance, or \$28 at fair entrance. (Available in Willits at J.D. Redhouse, and in Laytonville at Geiger's Long Valley Market.)

Free Activities: All entertainment at the Fair is free of charge, with music, activities and entertainment designed to be fun for the whole family, including: Brad's

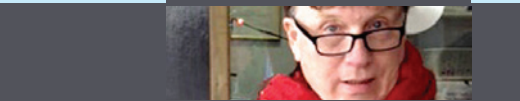
Sunday, July 30

"The Trial of the Wicked Witch": Sunday, July 30, 2 pm. Tickets \$10, 14 and under \$5. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. See Saturday, July 29 listing for more details.

Sitar master at WCT: Classical sitar master Pandit Deobrat Mishra plays at Willits Community Theatre, Sunday, July 30 at 7 pm. "Considered one of the most innovative sitar artists of India, Mishra features a lively playing style that includes selective melodic and rhythmic complexities and represents the 11th generation of the Benares Gharana music tradition. He commenced sitar study at the early age of six. Among his many projects, Pandit Deobrat Mishra has performed and recorded with the Western Symphony Orchestra of Italy in 2005, and served as visiting professor at the Vienna Conservatory, Milano Conservatory, the University of Sussex, and at the University of Chichester." Mishra will be joined by his nephew Prashant Mishra on tabla. Tickets are \$20, available in advance at Mazahar; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006, or at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane.



COLUMN | At the Movies



'War for the Planet of the Apes'

The Story: This is a great action flick. The latest violent chapter in the epic inter-species saga of the mutated apes versus homo sapiens. Caesar (Andy Serkis), the humane, highly intelligent Ape who speaks English is being hunted by the cunning and sadistic, kill-crazy Colonel

(Woody Harrelson). But the kill-crazy Colonel is not mindlessly homicidal. He has plans for the extermination of all ape-kind, a primate "final solution."

My Thoughts: Director Matt Reeves deserves five out of five "High hotchas!" for his movie. "War for the Planet of the Apes" inspires deep feelings for the completely believable CGI ape-people; their faces present ranges of emotion that are rarely seen in

action flicks. We see fear, despair, compassion, rage, gentility. Also (highest praise coming), the plotting is totally not stupid! The action and events all make sense without being predictable. What struck me the most, was just how classical, in a motion picture sense, this movie is. There are camera shots, close-ups and emotional set-pieces and interactions that come straight out of movies of the '30s and '40s. Writer/director Reeves has insisted that his characters' passions fill the screen and drive the story. Oh yes, one more thing: the scenery is stunning, as are the sets. Go see it. Five out of five! Everyone in the film industry business loves this flick ... even, and especially me!

Parents: Noisy and violent. Major characters are brutalized. Even though the good apes win, I think this movie is too sad and terrifying and cruel for little children. 12 and up.

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



Spiritual Experiences Fair

Saturday, July 29

On Saturday, July 29 from 2 to 5 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, the community is invited to the Spiritual Experiences Fair to discover and share in an innovative way to explore past lives, gain a closer connection with Divine Spirit and learn key spiritual exercises for a happier, healthier life. Note: an interactive workshop on the "Spiritual World of Dreams" is featured from 3 to 4 pm. This entire event is free. "People are invited to come and share their own experiences," said April Tweddell, a member of the Eck clergy. "Everyone is free to visit any table topic in any order, engage in the activities and share in open discussions ... and can come and go any time during the three hours of the fair." Info: www.ECK-ca.org, or call 456-9934.

33rd annual Reggae on the River

August 3 to August 6

Tickets on sale now for 2017 Reggae on the River, August 4 to 6, at French's Camp in Garberville. This year's lineup features: Slightly Stoopid, Assassin aka Agent Sasco, Sly & Robbie with Marcia Griffiths, Judy Mowatt & Cherine Anderson, Walshy Fire w/ Kabaka Pyramid, J Boog, Stick Figure, Lutan Fyah & Riddem Rebel Band, Junior Kelly, Kabaka Pyramid & The Bebble Rockers, Ibibio Sound Machine, Dezarie, Culture featuring Kenyatta Hill, Ken Boothe, Perfect Giddimani, Warrior King & The Rootz Warriors, Nkulee Dube, Nattali Rize, Winston "Flames" Jarrett, Marla Brown, Prestige, Keida, Ojo de Buey, Sensimilla Dub, Mighty Mystic & The Hard Roots Movement, Yogoman Burning Band, Tatanka, Mystic Roots Band, Irie Rockers, Altar Tones, additional DJs sound systems, special guest artists and more. Plus more than 60 arts and crafts vendors, non-profit booths, a wide choice of food options, a lively children's KidLandia, and the camping, community, and irie vibes that make "Reggae" famous." Three-day ticket: \$200 (includes camping); Four-day ticket (includes camping): \$250; Ambassador pass: \$500 (includes camping, parking, special access and more. In Willits, tickets are available at Main Street Music, and in Laytonville, at Mendo Trim Tools, and online at www.reggaeontheriver.com.



Above: Brad's World Reptiles. At right: Dollar Day at the Redwood Empire Fair will be Thursday, August 3.



from previous years – followed by the Junior Livestock Auction at 10. The Livestock Awards Ceremony takes place on Sunday at 10 am.

Live music, 6 and 9 pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Thursday: Indiana Slim and the Rebel Rousers play classic country; Friday: Il Big, plus special guest Blue Luke Andrews play "Brand New Classic Rock." Saturday: Mike Furlong's "Tribute to Tom Petty. Sunday, starting at 5 pm: El Nuevo Plan, Banda Pacifica, and Los Nuevos Aventureros. All music performances included with Fair admission ticket.

Motorized events at the Raceway: Four nights of hair-raising, down-and-dirty motorized fun! Thursday (6:30 pm): motorcycles, side-by-sides and ATVs. Friday (6:30 pm): Mud Bog off-road racing. Saturday (6 pm): Truck and Tractor Pulls. Sunday (6 pm): Dirt Nationals, jalopies and boat races. For information: 462-3884, or www.redwoodemprefair.com/august-fair.

Ongoing Events

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

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

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

Center for the Arts July Exhibit: The July show at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, features Crystal Kamoroff's works, "Mud Pie and The Obsessive Curiosity," Also featuring: "Changed by Fire," the ceramic sculptures by Evan Hobart, Ceramics Program manager at the Mendocino Art Center. Summer gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday 11 am to 6 pm. If you are interested in volunteering to be a docent, call the art center at 459-1726.

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

Willits Library Activities: Wednesdays: 11-11:30 am "Play Group," and 3:30 to 5:30 pm "Lego Day" (bring your imagination and start building); Thursdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Story Time," 4 pm "Farmers Market Story Time"; Fridays: 3:30 to 4:30 pm "Therapeutic Art Coloring" (all ages); Fridays: 5 to 7 pm "Youth Game Night" (ages 10 to 14). Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

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

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

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

Soroptimists International of Willits: (On summer break until September 12). Women's service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets second and third Tuesdays of every month, noon to 1 pm, at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street, in the back room. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

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

Volleyball Open Gym: at new location for the summer: Willits High School, Sundays 7 to 9 pm, and Tuesdays at 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Some experience desired, but not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

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

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

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

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

Do you have an event to include in our calendar?

We cover Willits, Laytonville and Covelo community events for free! Email us a photo, poster and copy-and-paste text to: willitsweekly@gmail.com End-of-day Monday deadline for Thursday publication



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OBITUARY | Earlene Whittaker

Earlene Annette Whittaker, 93, of Willits, California passed away peacefully on the ranch July 4, 2017. Earlene was born in her parents' home in Willits on December 8, 1923. She represented Willits High School as a drum majorette and graduated in 1941. She continued her education at San Francisco State University studying to be a kindergarten teacher and was a member of the Phi Lambda Chi Sorority.

Earlene married her high school sweetheart, Robert A. Whittaker, on December 26, 1943 in her parents' Pine Street home. They celebrated 63 years of marriage. Together they raised a son and daughter and in 1967 they moved from town to the family ranch, continuing in the cattle business.

Earlene was a full-time homemaker, sewing, cooking and providing love and care for her family. She enjoyed reading and delighted many with her piano-playing! She was famous for her apple pies, biscuits and gravy, and preparing buck meat dinners. She was actively involved in the Willits Methodist Young





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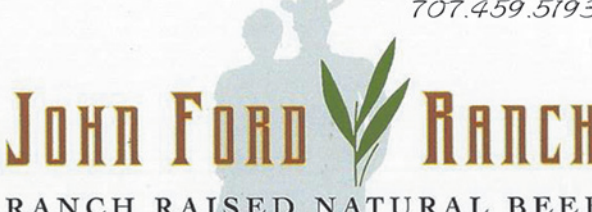
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Sculpture Raffle

Art donation by Nancy McHone to benefit Cancer Resource Centers

Willits artist and cancer survivor Nancy McHone has donated two of her artworks to be raffled, with the proceeds to benefit the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County.

"Paisley II Leaves" and "Paisley III Flowers," each valued at \$500, can be seen in the upcoming show, "Maintaining Inner Light – A Seven-Year Journey," at Willits Center for the Arts, September 2 through 30. Raffle tickets are available now for \$5 each at the offices of Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County, and can be purchased at the WCA during the show.

The artworks are multi-media wall-hung sculptures constructed with canvas, foam core, wire and paper, then painted with layers of acrylic. The two works to be raffled are part of a series of 12 pieces that cover the period of time just prior to and during McHone's treatment for cancer. "While I placed my physical well-being in professional hands, an intuitive understanding of the process of my disease revealed itself through my artwork. In gratitude for the support of the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County, I decided to raffle off two pieces from this series, with proceeds going to the center."

Tickets may be purchased at the Cancer Resource Centers' Ukiah office, 590 South Dora Street, or the Mendocino office, 45040 Calpella Street in Mendocino village. McHone's show at Willits Center for the Arts opens September 2. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm. The winning tickets will be drawn September 30 at the close of the show, and the winner need not be present. For more information, artist Nancy McHone can be reached at 459-6371.

The Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County is a community-based grassroots nonprofit that assists anyone in Mendocino County faced with cancer, with the vision that "no one will face cancer alone."

– Submitted by the
Cancer Resource Centers of
Mendocino County



Levita, and Dorothy, and brothers Leo, Kenneth, Herb, Glen and Merl.

Mabel is survived by brother Marvin Scott, daughter Kaye Snelling of Concord, son Rich Gordon (Chris) of Ukiah, daughter Joni Wilburn (Rod) of Covelo, daughter Susan Gordon of San Diego. She is also survived by her grandchildren Scott Knapp (Helen), Sheila Brummet (Mike), Beth Knapp (John), Doug Knapp, Andy Knapp (Gina), Keith Gordon (Kim), Angie Weaver, Brian Gordon, Rod Wilburn, Jr. (Olivia), Jessica Wilburn (Aaron), Casey Wilburn (Heather), Kenneth Newby, Paul Newby (Sandra), Lilia Galvez and Marco Galvez; great-grandchildren Brandon Knapp, Cassey McKenny, Sydney Brummett, Anthony Knapp, Raymond Knapp, Samantha Knapp, Bethany Knapp, Kayla Knapp, Kori Newby, Mandy Newby, Chase Gordon, Courtney Gordon, Jacob Weaver, Callie Weaver, Trinit Alvarez and Chance Wilburn; and great-great-grandchildren Jacob, Averie, Caden, and Dominic.



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The celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, July 22 at 1 pm at the Willits Methodist Church.



Artworks up for raffle, created by Nancy McHone. Above: "Paisley II Leaves," 2011. Below: "Paisley III Flowers," 2011.



OBITUARY |

Mabel Gordon

Mabel Bernice Gordon, "Grandma Mabel," 97, of Willits, California passed away May 3, 2017 in Willits. She was born November 16, 1919 to Herbert and Ava Scott in Deerfield, Missouri.

She married Arch Gordon on July 22, 1936. She worked as a teacher's aide at Brookside Elementary School and retired in 1983. In 1988, she became a Foster Grandma at Blosser Lane Elementary School.

Mabel enjoyed watching Giants games, playing games, Thursday afternoons having fun at Sherwood Valley Casino, and most of all spending time with her family.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Ava and Herbert Scott, husband, Arch Gordon, son Gary Gordon, daughter Deanna Gordon, sisters Leota, Levita, and Dorothy, and brothers Leo, Kenneth, Herb, Glen and Merl.

Mabel is survived by brother Marvin Scott, daughter Kaye Snelling of Concord, son Rich Gordon (Chris) of Ukiah, daughter Joni Wilburn (Rod) of Covelo, daughter Susan Gordon of San Diego. She is also survived by her grandchildren Scott Knapp (Helen), Sheila Brummet (Mike), Beth Knapp (John), Doug Knapp, Andy Knapp (Gina), Keith Gordon (Kim), Angie Weaver, Brian Gordon, Rod Wilburn, Jr. (Olivia), Jessica Wilburn (Aaron), Casey Wilburn (Heather), Kenneth Newby, Paul Newby (Sandra), Lilia Galvez and Marco Galvez; great-grandchildren Brandon Knapp, Cassey McKenny, Sydney Brummett, Anthony Knapp, Raymond Knapp, Samantha Knapp, Bethany Knapp, Kayla Knapp, Kori Newby, Mandy Newby, Chase Gordon, Courtney Gordon, Jacob Weaver, Callie Weaver, Trinit Alvarez and Chance Wilburn; and great-great-grandchildren Jacob, Averie, Caden, and Dominic.

She is also survived by all her friends at Redwood Meadows, special friend Kris Pierce, Bobbie, Danielle, and all the rest of the swim group.

The rest of
Ballot |
From Page 1

Treatment Act," differs from the initiative that narrowly failed to win the required two-thirds of voter approval last year in several key areas. It will provide funding for staffing and training in addition to the acquisition of a facility; funding will not end after five years; there will be a politically independent 11-member citizens oversight committee to provide recommendations to supervisors on implementation; and an annual independent audit will be required.

And, also unlike last year's failed attempt, the writing of the proposed ordinance was a collaborative effort, which included representatives from the county's Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Advisory Board, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and an ad hoc committee made up of Supervisors Dan Hamburg and John McCowen, in addition to Sheriff Tom Allman.

In his statements to the board, Allman said: "Mendocino County has led with [anti-] GMO voting, something no other county at that point in our nation had done, and now we're venturing into a territory where no county in the state has gone – to say we are prioritizing the improvement of mental health services for the overall safety of everyone."

Passage of the ordinance will ensure that, instead of a trip to the emergency room followed by transfer to a mental health facility far from home and family support, Mendocino County will be able provide quality local treatment for its citizens.

"This is a big deal," Allman said. "If there's mental illness we understand it's a medical situation not a criminal situation. Move weekend and night treatment of mental health victims from law enforcement to the mental health professionals. If your home is on fire, don't call a plumber, call the fire department. If someone is having a mental health crisis, we don't need to send a law enforcement officer with a badge and a gun, we need to get mental health professionals there to de-escalate the situation so our county is not on the front page of the paper for killing someone who is mentally ill."

Behavioral Health Advisory Board member Kate Gaston, speaking on her own behalf, said she had worked with Sheriff Allman last year and was proud of the county for its strong support of that effort (missing the required two-thirds majority vote by less than one-half of 1 percent).

"It's important when the community says, 'We're responsible for what happens in the community to people irregardless of what the federal government is giving us as far as money,'" Gaston said. "This is a burden the community will take up when it is passed, because we all will be paying sales tax. But it's a burden the community is taking for their fellow citizens. That's saying this is a quality place to live."

The rest of
Ordinance |
From Page 1

conflict of interest.

Ag Department staffer Jennifer Krauss announced "a little bit of good news" early on in the staff presentation. "We had one permit approved this morning," she said, "so we've increased our permit issuance by 100 percent – almost. The applicant has not been informed yet, but he's been approved and we're moving forward.... We have five that are ready to be permitted pending a property profile completion with Planning and Building, and we have five more that are in compliance except for the Class K greenhouse/hoophouse issues."

Krauss added the department was "up to 606 applications to date. In the last week we've only taken in 26, which is about a third of our normal for a week, so that's really opening up a lot of time for us to go out and do pre-site inspections and move further along in the process a little bit quicker."

Much of the public comment was from cannabis growers – many of them self-described small farmers – about the difficulties they were having complying with what many described as rules that kept on changing and too-extensive paperwork. A number of speakers asked for a one-page application for a "cottage industry" level cannabis farmer. Many commented that it was the smaller growers who had kept the county's economy "thriving" and given the county the reputation for quality cannabis it now has who were being left behind by the county's permitting process.

Greenhouses, drying sheds and other structures – mainly the requirement that these structures, as commercial buildings, need to have full Americans with Disability Act compliant bathrooms and an accessible path to the structures – were the topic of many comments.

Growers talked about the cost of these bathrooms, the environmental effects and practical difficulties of building concrete paths and putting in ADA bathrooms in the Mendocino County hills, and the impossibility of finding builders to get these structures built by the end-of-year deadline. Others asked why small cannabis cultivators were being required to build commercially permitted buildings to dry their product "when no other outdoor agricultural crop has to do so."

Supervisor Carre Brown brought up the possibility of allowing port-a-potties to fulfil the requirements, saying it was OK with other agriculture operations. Planning and Building senior building inspector Mike Oliphant said port-potties were OK for field work, but not for structures. Brown replied that she was talking about seasonal structures like packing or drying sheds.

Oliphant emphasized in response to questions from the board that Planning & Building's decisions about what was required for "commercial" buildings were based on state law, not on anything in the county's ordinance.

Board chair John McCowen said, since "greenhouses, drying sheds and other structures really fall into the realm of code violations," which Oliphant confirmed, "therefore depending upon board direction and comments by county counsel, potentially all of these types of issues relating to buildings and their usage, would fall into the code violation for which we have said we would like to see amnesty, and give people a year to come in and come up to approval providing they're diligently working to do so."

McCowen suggested staff should come back with comments about that issue at the August 8 meeting.

In the Executive Office staff report on the standalone cannabis unit the board approved Tuesday afternoon, CEO Angelo wrote: "The county's cannabis program was implemented and effective as of May 4, 2017. Since that time, the county has been discussing various operational issues associated with program administration, as well as receiving public comment that has illustrated the need to consider alternate means of program administration."

The report goes on to say the Executive Office has researched how other municipalities are working with cannabis program management, and the recommendations to form a new cannabis unit and hire a new cannabis manager is based on that research as well as "the feedback received from the community."

"The proposed role of the unit," the report explains, "would be to serve as a countywide coordinating body, under the direction of the board and with county departments to implement the board's cannabis policy priorities and departmental procedures.

"Under the direction of Board of Supervisors and along with departments, the proposed intent of the unit is described [as]:

- Coordinate county departments to better implement the board's ordinances, policies and direction regarding the Mendocino County Cannabis Program;
 - Work with county departments to streamline the county's processes to effectively implement the cannabis program and support cannabis code enforcement;
 - Serve as a central "hub" for the county's cannabis program, including administering the track and trace program and managing the cannabis program 800 number (844-421-WEED);
 - Develop a sustainable framework to institutionalize the program into county government;
 - Advocate for legislation at the state and federal levels that advance the county's cannabis policies and priorities; and
 - Establish a county infrastructure that evolves with changes in the developing cannabis market.
- "The stand-alone Cannabis Management Unit Manager would have reporting responsibilities to the County Chief Executive Officer."
- Angelo told the board at the end of Tuesday's meeting: "Some of the points that were brought up today by staff and by the program and the industry could be dealt with by that unit."

The rest of
Heist |
From Page 1

appearance and demeanor," however, the [property owner] recognized that the men were not law enforcement officers, but "were there with the intent to steal his marijuana crop." The fake cops reportedly fired at him as he fled to call police. He told police he believed there was a second resident hiding from the intruders on the property, too.

Nearby sheriff's deputies drove to the property, where they found a truck matching one of several vehicles described by the victim, Stefani said.

When they saw deputies approaching, they attempted to flee, "driving just out of sight and stopping," before the occupants ran away. "Deputies subsequently searched the vehicle, locating firearms and stolen property, but no suspects," he said.

The other property resident was later found unharmed. He told deputies he had been accosted at a house on the property by anywhere from five to eight armed men wearing ski masks, who claimed to be law enforcement officers.

The men questioned the victim at gunpoint about the location of valuable items

The rest of
Billboard | From Page 1

folks to get off the highway and to spend some time in Willits." It would "promote the city overall" rather than advertise individual businesses.

Duley said the current plan is to place the sign on the Sparetime Supply property between the two off-ramps for Willits. Sparetime, he noted, is willing to donate the billboard space to the city.

The sign would be two 288-square-foot sides in a V-shape to maximize visibility for cars traveling from either direction. The city has no other specifics in place yet; Duley explained they are waiting to secure funding before going further on the design.

Duley said city building official John Sherman estimated the billboard would cost around \$35,000. Several ideas were suggested on ways to fund the sign, including grants, fundraisers, donations from local businesses, and coordinating with local groups such as the Willits Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club and the Lions Club.

Chamber President Lisa Epstein said she felt businesses would be more likely to donate if the city would match their contributions and split the cost.

Though the city is already looking at deficit spending this fiscal year, Mayor Gerry Gonzalez and Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez, both members of the Revit-ED committee, thought it was appropriate to bring the cost-splitting idea to the council.

"We've talked about investing in our future in order to have a future, so it's reasonable it should come before the council as an option," said Rodriguez.

Rodriguez and Epstein also suggested offering free or discounted advertising to local businesses who donate to the cause on the "Visit Willits" website, www.visitwillits.com. They also led a discussion about the planned tourism board and a Visit Willits magazine to go along with the website to help promote the city.

Epstein said the board would be a "joint collaborative effort between the chamber and the city."

"Right now we have a lot of different players trying to figure out, 'How are we

and people on the property, then allegedly forced him into a truck, threatening to shoot him if he did not comply.

The man was "robbed of his personal belongings and forced to assist the suspects as they stole marijuana plants," Stefani said. He was released when the suspects drove away.

Mendocino County's Special Weapons and Tactics team was called in to help search the remote, wooded area for the suspects. They found three men at about 11 am: 31-year-old Matthew Sturges and 24-year-old Alejandro Nunez, both of Willits, and 24-year-old Daniel Hernandezsanchez, a transient.

The three men were arrested and taken to county jail on suspicion of armed robbery, kidnapping, and conspiracy to commit a crime. Bail was set at \$150,000 each.

The incident remains under investigation; anyone with information is urged to call 234-2100 or email crimetip@mendocinosheriff.org.

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



Matthew Sturges of Willits.



Alejandro Nunez of Willits.



Daniel Hernandezsanchez, a transient.

going to market Willits?" she said. "Why don't we just form a tourism board? That board is tasked with marketing and tourism, and creating a plan, and doing it right and doing it well."

"The vision is there would be 13 members of that board," said Rodriguez, elaborating on the idea. "And then that board would set their goals and their plans in place, and then they would branch out."

She said committees from the board would then focus on certain segments of tourism and draw people in from the community to help.

City Manager Adrienne Moore said she also has been involved with the planning and creation of the tourism board, and expects to report to the city council on the topic at its July 26 meeting.

"We did lay out what the board composition should look like in terms of different segments of our community being represented on that board, along with the city and the chamber," she said.

Duley said he has also been talking with Caltrans regarding the Willits Main Street corridor being designated an official Highway 101 Business Loop to help guide travelers into the city, a process which will involve approval from Caltrans and the county.

Rodriguez thanked Duley, noting the long, concerted effort made by the city to improve signage on Highway 101 since the bypass opened.

"I think there is a misconception about how much work this city is doing to ensure the signage both from the beginning to what's still ongoing," said Rodriguez. "And it's unfortunate that not everybody knows how much work has gone on in Dusty's office.... I know you're in there working really hard, and Adrienne's supporting you to make sure that's happening."

The next official meeting for the committee will be October 17 at City Hall.

Mayor Gonzalez said the city also welcomes input and suggestions regarding the billboard and tourism via email, which can be sent to Duley.at.planning@cityofwillits.org.

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Soroptimists donate to Project Sanctuary

Soroptimist International of Willits gave \$500 to Project Sanctuary of Ukiah on July 11 to support the organization's work with women and children. The mission of Project Sanctuary is to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault in Mendocino County through advocacy, crisis response, community collaboration, education, and shelter. Pictured, from left, are Linda Davidson, Project Sanctuary Executive Director Dina Polkinghorne, Travis Weeks, Marcos Perada, Mary Tindall, SI Founder Region Treasurer Vicki Ham, and Ashlee Milenewicz. Milenewicz was the 2017 "Live Your Dream" award winner from SI Willits, and now works as a counselor for Project Sanctuary.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Donna's Barney

My name is Barney. I'm a 4-year-old mix, rescued by the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County, and I've been bunking at Stay and Play Dog Care in Willits. I've received basic training and am ready for my forever home!

I'm not too keen on cats but could enjoy a dog sibling that is mellow. I'm so special that Donna of Stay and Play will donate an hour of training for my new human family. Please call Monica at the Humane Society at 485-0123 or Donna at 459-1377.



Smart Melanie

This very sweet dog is a 2-year-old spayed female who weighs 50 pounds. She loves playing with squeaky toys and tennis balls! Melanie is very smart; she comes when called and will sit on verbal command. Melanie is unsure about having other dogs in her space right now; she will need time to gain some confidence and learn about other canines. Come down and go for a stroll or play a game of fetch with this lovely dog.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful dogs and cats here, please visit online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.



Playful Whitey

Whitey is a sweet, active 8-month-old Chihuahua mix who was surrendered with his littermate when their owner became ill. He is very cute and loves to be held and played with – definitely a potential lapdog. He plays well with small dogs and loves his toys. He is ready to find a forever home as soon as possible!

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



The rest of Elections | From Page 1

In the report, issued on June 22, the grand jury praised Registrar of Voters Sue Ranochak and her staff, while also criticizing them.

The report said the Elections Office does a fine job of making sure that votes are counted and accurately reported. "Mendocino County voters can be relieved to know that every possible attempt is made to count their votes," the report states. "The registrar of voters does an excellent job in the accuracy of reporting certified results."

However, it adds, "lack of timely results frustrates candidates and voters." This is because, as things now stand, it can often take three weeks or more before the final results of a local election are known.

"It is clear to the grand jury that election counting procedures need to change," the grand jury concludes in the summary section of the report. "This will either be forced on the county by public opinion or the implementation of state law."

Prior to 2008, it was the county Elections Office policy to announce polling results early in the morning on the day following the election, minus a few uncounted late-incoming mail ballots or provisional ballots. However, in 2002, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act, otherwise known as "HAVA," mandating that elections offices update their voting procedures and equipment – including "requiring that all polling places be accessible to and have specialized equipment for the disabled to vote independently and privately."

To decrease the cost of implementing HAVA, California updated its elections law to permit elections offices to declare precincts with fewer than 250 registered voters as "mail-in ballot only" precincts. On January 1, 2006, former Registrar of Voters Marsha Wharrf "implemented changes to many of [the] county's voting procedures" to conform to the updated state election law.

According to the report: "Precincts with more than one special district were reorganized, increasing the number of precincts from 274 to 388." Many of these new, smaller precincts – now with fewer than 250 voters – became mail-in-ballot-only, eliminating 28 polling places.

"Mail-in ballots were preferred for decreased cost," the report continues, "and difficulty in finding polling place workers and locations accessible to disabled voters."

"Currently, there are 250 precincts, 69 of which can vote at 24 polling places located throughout the county," according to the report. "Each polling place can accommodate more than one precinct, with each precinct having its own polling place workers and ballot."

Today, 181 of the county's 250 precincts are vote-by-mail-only. As a result, the county Elections Office is inundated with mail-in ballots – many of them dropped off at the polls on Election Day.

According to the grand jury report, 38,730 ballots were cast during last November's general election. Of those, 31,729 (81 percent of all ballots cast) were mail-in ballots; 21,700 were received before Election Day and 10,029 were received on Election Day.

As result of moving from polling place to mail-in balloting, the grand jury claims, the "reporting of election results is delayed. Ballots completed on voting machines at polling places must be counted by the end of Election Day, making those results available for posting by the end of that day or the next day." Due to the more complicated, time-consuming procedures required for "mailed provisional ballots, mail-in ballots and mail-in ballots dropped off at polling places," counts for those ballots are not available "for up to 30 days" – the legal deadline for certifying final election results.

Of the total number of ballots cast both prior to and on Election Day in November 2016, only 31 percent of votes cast were counted by the end of the day. The other 69 percent were counted after Election Day. This included approximately 900 provisional ballots that had to be reviewed and counted manually.

Provisional ballots are issued – among other reasons – if a mail-in-only voter shows up at a

polling place without their mail-in ballot in hand.

This has resulted in a lengthy and unacceptable interval between Election Day and the date when the candidates and the public can know the final results of the election, the report finds.

"In 2006, the former registrar announced election results on election night; in 2016, final certified results were posted late in the evening of December 1, 2016, 24 days after the election," the report states.

The grand jury also was critical of the Elections Office policy not to release interim vote counts between the final elections night report and the final certified results, as many other jurisdictions do. The method of tabulating votes "requires the use of antiquated memory cards. Each election result current requires the use of 26-50 cards. The grand jury was informed that these cards cost \$100 each. That means each update count would cost up to \$5,000."

According to the registrar of voters," the report continues, "there are currently no state-approved replacement tabulating machines."

SB 450

Last year, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 450 last year, which will allow California counties to switch to all mail-in balloting, eliminating "precinct polling places as we currently know them," the grand jury report notes.

Individual counties, however, may opt out of the bill's provisions. If the county does not opt out, SB 450 would require Mendocino County to have six "voting centers," two of which would be open for 10 days before the election, as well as on Election Day. The other four centers would be open three days prior to the election and on Election Day.

"Each voting center would be required to have computers that generate a ballot for each precinct in the county, regardless of which special district, school district or supervisory district in which the voter resides. The county would have to purchase these machines and the needed software. The county would also need to hire and train staff to use and operate these specialized machines."

Adopting the procedures "will be expensive to low-population counties like Mendocino County," the report concludes.

Recommendations

The grand jury made six recommendations to the board of supervisors and the registrar of voters in its "Elections Redux" report:

1. The board of supervisors and the registrar of voters should review SB 450 and either adopt the provisions of SB 450 or change the current ballot counting procedures for more timely results.
2. Regardless of the adoption of the provisions of SB 450, the registrar of voters should request updated and more efficient equipment and software.
3. The registrar of voters should hire and train more workers to provide more timely results.
4. The registrar of voters should update election results weekly before the issuance of the state-required certified election results.
5. The registrar of voters should provide outreach and education, instructing voters on how to correctly cast a vote, to reduce the number of spoiled and provisional ballots.
6. The registrar of voters should install microphones in the ballot counting area, so observers can hear the counting proceedings between staff, and implement a procedure to allow observers to view signature comparisons.

Willits Weekly contacted Ranochak, who declined to comment for now, saying she is required by law to respond to the recommendations within 60 days and will do so. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is also required to respond to some of the findings in the grand jury report within 90 days.

Additional reporting on this story was done by Jennifer Poole.



Photo by Matt Holzhauser

The rest of Fire | From Page 1

Department.

Dramatic photos of the burned truck and trailer appeared on Facebook, taken by people stuck in traffic when the highway was closed, or proceeding past the burned area when the highway was reopened to controlled traffic. The cause of the vehicle fire is still being investigated, according to CalFire.

The calls for additional resources kept on coming Sunday afternoon as the fire spread, with a reported 50 spot fires. "If it keeps spotting the way it is, it has the potential for 1,000 acres, and possibly could burn up to Laughlin [Peak]," was the word around 3:40 pm from the scanner.

No structures were burned – although structures off Heart Arrow Road were threatened and at least one household was unable to evacuate immediately due to being surrounded by fire. Although an ambulance was called for a firefighter with chest pains just after 6 pm Sunday, CalFire's Tricia Austin told Willits Weekly Monday morning the firefighter had been taken to the hospital, evaluated and immediately released, and was already back on duty.

Air attack included CalFire helicopter 101 from Howard Forest and CalFire helicopter 104 from the Lake/Napa unit, fixed wing aircraft dropping retardant and a VLAT – very large air tanker – a converted DC-10 flown in from McLellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, which dropped 5,000 gallons of retardant around the perimeter of the fire sometime around 7 pm.

As air attack wound up for the night and darkness fell, scanner chatter sounded optimistic with comments like "Everything is looking real good" and "We've gotten out of that north wind, and it's making life a lot easier" – but ground crews spent the night hiking the steep slopes to work the fire.

Ground crews initially staged at a highway turnout near Reeves Canyon Road, but as the fire expanded, resources coming in from out of the area were directed to access the fire off Loughlin Way in Redwood Valley. Evacuations were ordered for the Baker Creek subdivision, and evacuation warnings were issued for everything west of West Road out to Highway 101 in Redwood Valley.

CalFire reports 433 personnel fought the fire, with a total of 25 fire crews, 40 fire engines, 16 dozers, and six water tenders. Crews from Parlin Forks and Chamberlain Creek camps were brought in, too.

Little Lake Fire Chief Chris Wilkes said Little Lake resources, including engine 5468 and Deputy Fire Chief John Thomen, who led the local government strike team, were still committed to the fire as of late Wednesday afternoon.

"We responded through our auto aid agreement," Wilkes said. "That fire was actually in Redwood Valley's district, but we all respond to those areas together – we don't know which side of the road the fire is on right away."

Wilkes wanted to thank Brooktrails Fire Department for making their resources available to cover the City of Willits if needed during the Grade fire. "They were our go-to resource to help us get through. That needs to be recognized. It's just as important, if not more important" than fighting the fire itself.

"I'm proud of our response," Wilkes said. "For our volunteer agency to end up with a strike team leader, a staging area manager, and three engines out on that call is impressive for a small department."

Wilkes also wanted to remind residents that it's still early in fire season: "We had a lot of wind driving this fire, and it makes people realize that all it takes is a simple mistake, and you could easily start a fire like this. We live in a very sensitive area, and we need to pay close attention. I'm not faulting anybody – this was a total accident – but anything could happen."



Photo by Danya Davis

At top: Smoke from the Grade fire seen from the West Road overcrossing in Redwood Valley, looking north. Above: A CalFire inmate crew arrives on scene.

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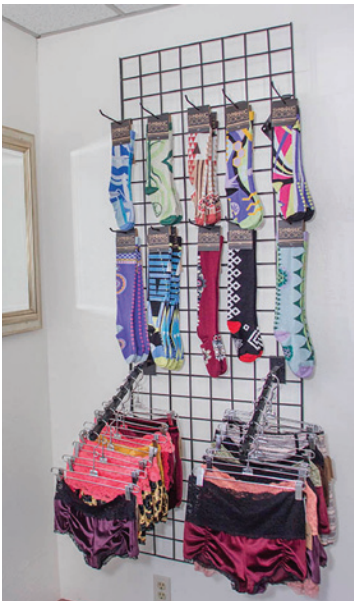
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At top: A hand-built counter/display case made of reclaimed wood separates Owner Coral Jameson's workspace from the rest of the store. Above: Jameson stands outside her new store at 525 South Main Street. Below: Copper Thimble sells, as Jameson describes it, "a little bit of everything."



Above, left: A selection of undies and socks for sale at Copper Thimble. Above, right: Owner Coral Jameson stands outside Copper Thimble next to a mannequin adorned with a summer skirt and top she made.

Copper Thimble

New shop offers handcrafted goods, plus expert repairs and alterations

There are wallets and backpacks and booties and purses. And artwork and earrings and lipsticks and salves. And dresses and skirts and baby clothes and bandanas. And belt buckles and jewelry and hats and socks. And pillows and planters and candles and cards. And that's not all.

Next time you drive by Mariposa Market, look to the other side of the street and you'll see Copper Thimble, Willits' new one-stop shop for handmade perfect gifts, absolute must-haves, and – this is big – a place to go and get those pants shortened, that favorite old dress repaired, that zipper replaced, or even to collaborate on the creation of something new made just for you.

Copper Thimble is the creation of a talented, imaginative, artistic and hardworking young woman-with-a-vision named Coral Jameson.

"Thimble because I sew," she said. And "Copper" because it's a high-quality metal, symbolic of fine handcrafting by artisans for centuries.

Jameson grew up in a small town in southeastern Alaska and has been "sewing since I could walk. I started out with doll clothes."

She remembers passing through the arch on then-Highway 101 heralding, "The Gateway to the Redwoods," on road trips with her parents as a child. Now, she's here to stay and feels like Willits is home. Her parents are still in Alaska but "might come to Willits for the winter." Imagine

that, coming to Willits for the climate in winter.

Jameson sees her store as a "hub for artisan-made goods" of the highest quality. And it's a plus if they're made of repurposed or recycled materials. "I stand behind what I sell," she says.

For her own creations, she is "always on the hunt" at flea markets and antique stores. One-of-a-kind remnants from the LA fabric district often find their way into her clothing, maybe as a border on a hand-dyed bamboo spandex dress.

And, she is always on the lookout for local artists and artisans who she can support by offering their goods for sale at Copper Thimble.

The store décor also reflects Jameson's commitment to the local, the beautiful and the sustainable. Wood for the long counter/display case, built by Jameson's friend, Kyle Greenhalgh, came from Ocino (as in Mendocino), a Ukiah business selling reclaimed wood. The sides used to be an old water tank, and the top was part of the floor in an old lumber mill in Oregon.

Behind the counter is Jameson's workspace and tools, including a variety of sewing machines that "can do it all." Coming soon, there will also be displays of fabric and leather to choose from for your custom creation.

Copper Thimble is at 525 South Main Street and is open from 11 am to 6 pm Tuesday through Saturday; 707-513-0499. It's also an online Etsy store, so Willits customers can be online and local at the same time. See Jameson's work and learn more about her from the comfort of your own computer at www.etsy.com/shop/CopperThimbleCo.

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