

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
Donations Accepted Edition No. 167 Thursday, August 4, 2016

## Measures crowd November ballot

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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Supervisors on Tuesday added five ballot measures to the upcoming November 8 general election ballot.

The board accepted the certification of the Heritage Initiative, a citizen-written measure that regulates all aspects of the Mendocino County's cannabis industry.

In addition, the board approved the certification of the Mental Health Facilities Temporary Tax championed by Sheriff Tom Allman.

County Registrar of Voters Sue Ranochak certified that both measures had the necessary quantity of valid registered voters' signatures to appear on the November ballot.

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

## Meeting addresses Caltrans construction concerns

Damian Sebouhian  
Reporter  
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The Willits Chamber of Commerce hosted a "Main Street Work Strategy Meeting" Thursday evening at City Hall to identify and discuss a slew of concerns property and business owners have regarding Caltrans' relinquishment construction on Main Street, set to begin somewhere around the end of 2017 or the beginning of 2018.

Last month, property owners with buildings on Main Street north of the Highway 20 intersection received contracts from Caltrans, with notices asking owners to sign the

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

## Willits man's body found on Walker Lake Road

Sheriff's detectives are investigating the death of a 42-year-old Willits man, whose body was discovered Monday just before noon at his home in a remote area of Walker Lake Road.

Investigators are calling the death of Bryan Hammon "suspicious." Detectives from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Investigative Services Bureau are being assisted in their inquiries by criminalists from the California Department of Justice in processing the scene to help in determining the cause of Hammon's death.

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



At top, left: The Emerald City in the Junior Building showcases the Best in Show entries. At top, right: The Home Arts building really exemplifies the fair's theme, "Celebrating 80 Years of Reel Family Fun," with its film strips, awards and decorations. Above: The three turkey entries in the 2016 Junior Livestock Auction and their exhibitors, including, from left: Sophia Scott of Willits 4-H, Isaac Arnold of Fort Bragg FFA, and Aurora Belle David of Willits 4-H.



## Redwood Empire Fair 2016

Thursday is opening day for the Redwood Empire Fair at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. The fair runs through Sunday, August 7 and offers excitement for all ages and interests. The exhibit buildings are showing off everything from quilts and jam to photography and paintings, flowers and produce, Lego collections and place settings. Check out pages 8 and 9 of this edition for specifics on each day's events, entertainment, ticket prices, and more. Don't forget, the Junior Livestock Auction is Saturday, August 6 at noon! Come cheer on the youth exhibitors, or put in a bid for some locally raised meat. Info: 462-FAIR.

— Maureen Moore



Above: Clockwise from top left: Michele Briggs' produce character entry in the newly combined Floriculture, Agriculture and Horticulture Building. Pat Sprinkle of Willits won first place for her Triple Chocolate Chunk cookies. Onions grown by Wayne Ingle of Willits. Suzen Ingle, Wayne's wife, won first place for these canned green beans. Willits quilter Gretchen Moore won first place for this Maine Lighthouse wall hanging. Each goat was carefully assessed during the market classes. First-time market hog showman, Connor Basler of Long Valley 4-H, poses with his hog, O-Ring, for his buyer's card. This flower arrangement made by Willits' Josephine Lockner features a Wizard of Oz teapot.



Above: Just after Wednesday's market goat show, Grand Champion winners pose with judge Michael Ackley-Grady, center, including Morgan Riley of Willits FFA, left, with her Grand Champion Market Goat, and Mason Kelly of Long Valley 4-H, right, with her Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat.

## Big budget cut for WPD

Damian Sebouhian  
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The Willits Police Department is taking the biggest budgetary hit for fiscal year 2016/17, after city staff was tasked by the city council during its July 13 meeting with significantly reducing a projected \$462,318 general fund deficit.

In only two weeks, and with a slew of adjustments, city staff was able to reduce the deficit by nearly \$300,000.

During their July 27 meeting, the Willits City Council approved the revised budget 4-1, which still leaves the general fund with a \$163,873 deficit.

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

## Bypass opening set for mid-fall

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
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Caltrans is "looking at a mid-October or early November" date for opening the Willits bypass to traffic, Caltrans public information officer Phil Frisbie told Willits Weekly, and the agency plans to schedule the official opening ceremony at that time, too.

"We're trying to schedule the opening ceremony for the day of the actual opening or within a day," Frisbie said Wednesday morning.

Asked about rumors that Caltrans was working to get Gov. Jerry Brown to the opening ceremony, Frisbie said: "This is one of the

Read the rest of **Bypass** |  
Over on Page 4

## County moves forward with cultivation ordinance

Mike A'Dair  
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Without taking a vote, supervisors on Tuesday directed staff to begin an initial California Environmental Quality Act study on the county's draft cultivation ordinance.

The cultivation ordinance is a fluid document in some important aspects. It has not yet been determined whether each applicant for a cultivation permit will also need to secure a use permit from county Planning and Building Services. It seems

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



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## Who is Woodhouse supporting?

To the Editor:

In reading the past two issues of The Willits News, I ran across a direct contrast in how Supervisor Tom Woodhouse presents himself and what he has done. In the July 27 issue he is quoted as saying, "We really buckle down and commit ourselves to stopping the things that are ruining our county." Yet he continued to support the asphalt plant which was built and operated without proper review on Outlet Creek (July 22 issue). I knew this before reading The Willits News issues, but whenever I remember his relationship to this environmental disaster my disgust returns.

The Grist Creek asphalt plant pollutes our air, our water, and our appreciation of the river ... Its inhabitants and its potential. Who is Supervisor Woodhouse supporting? Caltrans, Grist Creek, or the people who live in his district?

Sandra Mullen, Covelo

## A love letter to Willits

To the Editor:

Though I have never before written a letter to the editor, a recent and rather traumatic experience has prompted me to write what I would like to consider a love letter of sorts to the town and people of Willits.

A week ago I went to the emergency room here at Howard Hospital with what I thought was severe indigestion or perhaps a muscle spasm in my back. I didn't particularly wish to seek medical intervention, but I was due at work that day and knew I needed some sort of relief if I was going to get through my shift.

The doctor on call, Dr. Hott, suggested it would most likely be a case of numbing my esophagus, but he wanted to make sure that everything was as it should be and so ordered an EKG and some blood work. Within a few hours I found myself in a helicopter on my way to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital for immediate intervention; turned out I had been in the early stages of a heart attack for more than a week.

Had it not been for the insistence of Dr. Hott that all of those tests be performed, it is likely that I would not be in any condition to be sitting here typing this letter. What makes his actions even more significant is that, societally, we tend to base our research and medical procedures on the biology of men, which means we just don't know as much about women's health.

I certainly didn't know that when a woman is suffering heart difficulties, it may manifest itself in almost any way except chest pain. In fact, I was convinced it wasn't my heart for that very reason. So though Dr. Hott listened to all of my supposedly unrelated-to-my-heart complaints, he nevertheless went ahead and checked every possible cause no matter how unlikely.

I was not treated as an overly emotional woman prone to the "hysteria of my sex," as I have often seen and experienced in the past, but rather as the most important person in that room. So, though I am obviously grateful to the science and technology that have allowed my heart to function better than it probably has in a while, what compels me to write this is the human factor of my experience.

No one likes to find themselves in a place of vulnerability, to discover that their body is functioning independently, with an agenda to which we are not privy. That being said, I don't mind admitting that I gave into the fear and uncertainty and became a pile of emotional goo. And in that terrible moment, there was Holli, the ER nurse who rubbed my back, held my hand, and who is able to produce a smile that makes you feel like no matter what, things are going to be OK.

It's impossible to feel adrift when you have someone who has thrown in their lot with you, who, by the very energy

they exude, makes you feel that you are now part of a team whose only purpose is to preserve you physically, emotionally and spiritually. I am singling out Holli because I spent the most time with her that day, but she was by no means the only person in the ER to whom I feel gratitude, from the woman at reception to the lab tech who drew my blood, the nurse who admitted me and all the folks there who just kept checking up on me.

And of course, Dr. Hott, who not only potentially saved my life, but who took time the following day to call the hospital in Santa Rosa in order to find out how I was doing. The latter is perhaps something that a doctor does when he has turned the care of a patient over to someone else, but they don't usually do it from the ER in order to report to the nurses and staff that the person they helped is doing well.

The cardiologist in Santa Rosa said he could hear a cheer in the background when he told Dr. Hott that I was well on my way to recovery. "I guess it's sort of provincial, there in Willits," was his comment.

Perhaps we are provincial here. Or perhaps we just choose to live in a way that connects us to the people with whom we share our space. I was hesitant to write this letter publicly because I'm not used to sharing my personal life with people in general; I don't even have a Facebook account. But I have come to realize that little happens in this town without everyone knowing about it within 24 hours anyway, and so at least this gives me an opportunity to acknowledge and thank so many at once.

Working at Main Street Music for the last year and a half has allowed me to interact with many of our community's members and to hear many tales of others' triumphs and woes that, to the outside observer, may seem like small-town gossip. In fact, I think it the manifestation of a town who claims each of us as its own, not by virtue of residency, but almost as a parent who takes on the successes and failures, joys and tragedies of the child, as their own.

I often overhear talk regarding another's particular difficulty, but it is not done out of glee or malice, but rather concern and empathy and the distinct impression that no one is exempt from life's curve balls. I have seen the way people rally when tragedy strikes, how quickly collection jars appear on the counters of retailers, the donations of goods that accumulate so quickly to help those in need, and the heart-felt memorials, not to mention the weekly articles in this newspaper that call attention to the overlooked and celebrate those small individual victories and good fortune.

I can't begin to count the number of phone calls and text messages that I and my partner, Damian, received, sending love and good thoughts. Some of them from people I only know peripherally, yet all of them genuine in a way that suggested they had known me all of my life. In truth, I could have written a similar version of this letter a year ago based purely on the small, yet daily kindnesses I have witnessed living and working in Willits.

Living can be overwhelming, especially if you attempt to go through life doing everything on your own. I know because I've tried it. I have an ingrained fear of appearing weak, and I'm sure many of you reading this often feel that way too. But my experience has reminded me that a community is no more than the sum of its individuals, which makes each individual necessary and important, and that being needed is probably just as significant as being in need.

So thank you, Willits, for being there when I needed you. For supporting Damian during a time of fear and uncertainty. Thank you, Holli and Dr. Hott and all those who dedicate themselves to the care of others, even when we aren't exactly cooperative in accepting that care.

Thank you, Pete and my co-workers who quickly rearranged their lives to cover for me. Thank you Shannon and Dan, who sacrificed their day off to hang out in the ER with me and convince me that I wasn't just being silly.

And thank you to those customers who took the time to learn my name and always ask how I'm doing in a manner that suggests you truly want to know (Susan, Reni, Sandy, Sara, Greg, Jason, Frankie ... the list goes on and on).

And thank you to every person who has made someone feel noticed, special, cared for, loved.... You contribute more to this world than you might realize. We are our town, and this town is us. May we always remain so provincial.

Andria Stone, Willits

## Cannabis industrial park

To the Editor:

To the Willits City Council: Thank you all for your time, dedication and foresight to run our community.

I am here to share this handout magazine which is given out throughout the country free in health food stores. This particular page of advertising is for CBD oils. And, to share that CBD oils and products are on sale in our town's stores. The future of the agricultural cannabis trade appears to be a major part of this country, state, county and city.

The semblance of a flow chart I have submitted to you shows the four major industries which want tons of – and probably will not be able to be supplied with enough of – oils and processed products.

I would ask this council to undertake the development of a secure Industrial zone, similar to the rules set forth by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission for such production. I recommend 15-foot-high full industrial park perimeter, video surveillance, etc.

A place where cannabis products can be developed, produced and distributed from. Within a closed secure environment. This central location gives an opportunity to require manufacturers to verify the legal status of their raw agricultural material.

Why should a New Hampshire business be importing European oils? They need enough to make their nationally distributed products. Tons!

This could be an important step for this council and our community. This secure industrial park, or further secured industrial buildings built and or rented to approved businesses.

Does the city put up the wall and sell parcels? Build and rent to industries? I am asking us to study how to be a part of a major emerging industry. Farmers need a place to bring their crops to market.

This town is in fact a gateway community. There are no communities to do this from Ukiah – Eureka – Sacramento. Sooner or later these parks will do what I am proposing. We can look at this – and do this – for this multi-county area of farmers.

I ask that the study process start here. Thank you.

David Pollin, Willits

## Thank you

To the Editor:

Please accept sincere thanks and gratitude for your announcements and articles for our Ham Radio 2016 Field Day held this last June 25-26.

Amateur radio operators stand ready to provide emergency communications for public safety officials in Mendocino County and elsewhere.

Jim Cline, W6JRC, for Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service and Willits Amateur Radio Society

## East Valley Street closed August 10-11

*The City of Willits has advised that East Valley Street, between Lenore Avenue and Bray Road, will be closed next Wednesday and Thursday, August 10 and 11, to replace an old culvert. Traffic will be detoured onto Lenore from Valley to Commercial. There will be limited access to residents.*

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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MONDAY

POINTS DAYS

5X POINTS

All Players Club members will earn 5X Points from 10A to 11P on the days of the promotion!

TUESDAY

POT O' GOLD PLINKO

Hot Seats

18 Random Hot Seat Drawings  
Approximate Times of Hot Seat Drawings  
12P – 3P (twice per hour = 6 Drawings)  
3P – 4P (three per hour = 3 Drawings)  
7P – 10P (twice per hour = 6 Drawings)  
10P – 11P (three per hour = 3 Drawings)

Winner will receive one Plinko Chip. The Winner will place the Plinko Chip in a slot of their choice on the top of the Plinko board. The plinko chip will slide down the board and will land in one of 8 prize slots. Prizes will be randomly placed at the bottom of the Plinko board.

The prizes are:  
"\$30 Free Play",  
"\$40 Free Play",  
"\$60 Free Play",  
"\$100 Free Play"

If a winning customer has less than 300 points earned (on the day of the promotion) when their name is drawn they will win the "Free Play" amount. If the winning customer has earned more than 300 points on the day of the promotion, they will earn a 50% bonus on the Free Play they won.

All Free Play won must be played by 2AM.

Customers may win up to twice each Tuesday.

THURSDAY

SUPER SENIOR DAY

50% discount food coupon issued (to be used for that day only) when the customer has earned minimally 50 points from 10A to 7P.

BINGO \$100 GAME 11AM, 12PM & 3500 FOR 1PM & 2PM  
\$200 GAME 7PM & 8PM  
\$250 GAME 9PM  
\$300 GAME 10PM

Progressive Drawing: PAYDAY!

7:00PM \$100  
8:00PM \$100  
9:00PM \$125  
10:00PM \$175  
11:00PM \$200  
20 POINTS ENTRY  
\$300

At each drawing (except the 10P drawing), an entry will be drawn from the Raffle Barrel. The winning customer will have 90 seconds, one minute to claim their prize. If the number is not claimed the money for the specific drawing will be forwarded to the next drawing for the night. For example, if the 7P drawing has no winner, the \$200 will be forwarded to the 8P drawing and will be worth \$220.

For the 10P drawing, if there is no claim on the drawing, there will be an additional drawing. This process will continue until a winner has claimed the cash prize.

Customers may win up to 2 times each week of this promotion.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Ticket Entry Drawings - 20 Points/Entry  
May start to receive points from 11A  
Each drawing time has a prize value to it

6 Pairs of San Francisco Giants tickets (Dougout Box) and a \$50 Food & Beverage Card. Game to be played on August 27!

Ticket Entries  
Entries for this promotion can be earned on:  
Tuesday July 19, 26, August 2, 2016 - 20 pts/entry  
Saturday July 23, 30, August 6 2016 - 20 pts/entry

On August 6, 2016, drawings will take place at approximately:  
8P (two winners)  
9P (two winners)  
10P (two winners)

Players Club members may only win ONE envelope

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

AUGUST 6, 2016

San Francisco Giants

Saturday Giveaway August 13

Starting at 1pm, Players Club members that earn 100 points on Saturday August 13, could redeem their points for a Plastic Cooler (While Supplies Last). Limited quantity

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

Saturday FUN, August 20 & 27

HOT SEATS (FREE PLAY)

Round #1:  
11 AM to 12 PM – 2 random winners per hour;  
12 PM to 1 PM – 2 random winners per hour;  
1 PM to 2 PM – 2 random winners per hour.  
Each winner will win \$50 in Free Play.  
Customers will have to play a minimum of \$20 to be eligible for Round #1.

Round #2:  
5 PM to 6 PM – 2 random winners per hour.  
6 PM to 7 PM – 2 random winners per hour.  
7 PM to 8 PM – 2 random winners per hour  
Each winner will win \$75 in Free Play.  
Customers will have to play a minimum of \$30 to be eligible for Round #2.

Round #3:  
9 PM to 10 PM – 3 random winners per hour.  
Each winner will win \$100 in Free Play.  
Customers will have to play a minimum of \$40 to be eligible for Round #3.

Round #4:  
10 PM to 11 PM – 3 random winners per hour  
Each winner will win \$150 in Free Play.  
Customers will have to play a minimum of \$50 to be eligible for Round #4.

All winner(s) must use their promotional "Free Play" by 2 AM the night they won, or the Free Play will be removed from their account.  
Customers may win up to two (2) times each Saturday of this promotion.

Sunday FUN DAY!!!

12PM - 8PM

Hot Seats

12:00 P to 2:00 P - 2 winners/hour @ \$30 Free Play each winner (4 total winners)  
3:00 P to 5:00 P - 2 winners/hour @ \$50 Free Play each winner (4 total winners)  
6:00 P to 8:00P - 3 winners/hour @ \$100 Free Play each winner (6 total winners)

Customers may win up to twice each Sunday for this promotion.  
All Free play that is won via the Hot Seat drawings must be used by 2A on the same gaming day, or the winnings (Free Play) will be removed from the customer's account

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

100 Kawi Place, Willits 707-459-7330 www.svrcasino.com

Management reserves all rights to cancel or alter any promotion with little or no notice.

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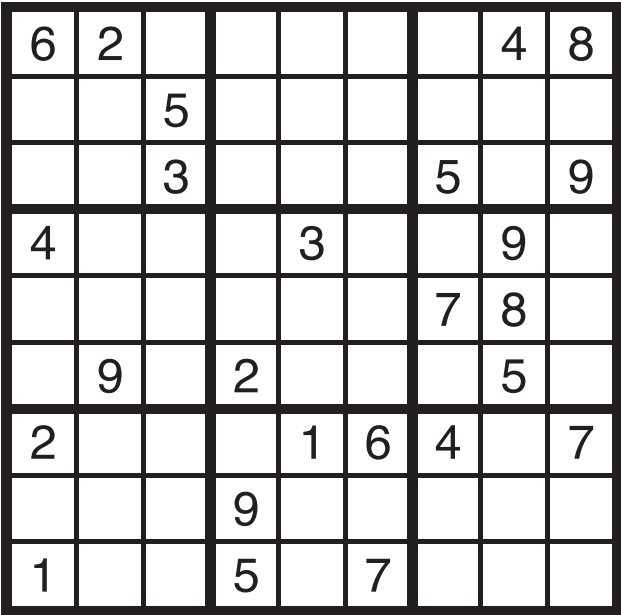
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Pg. 3



Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

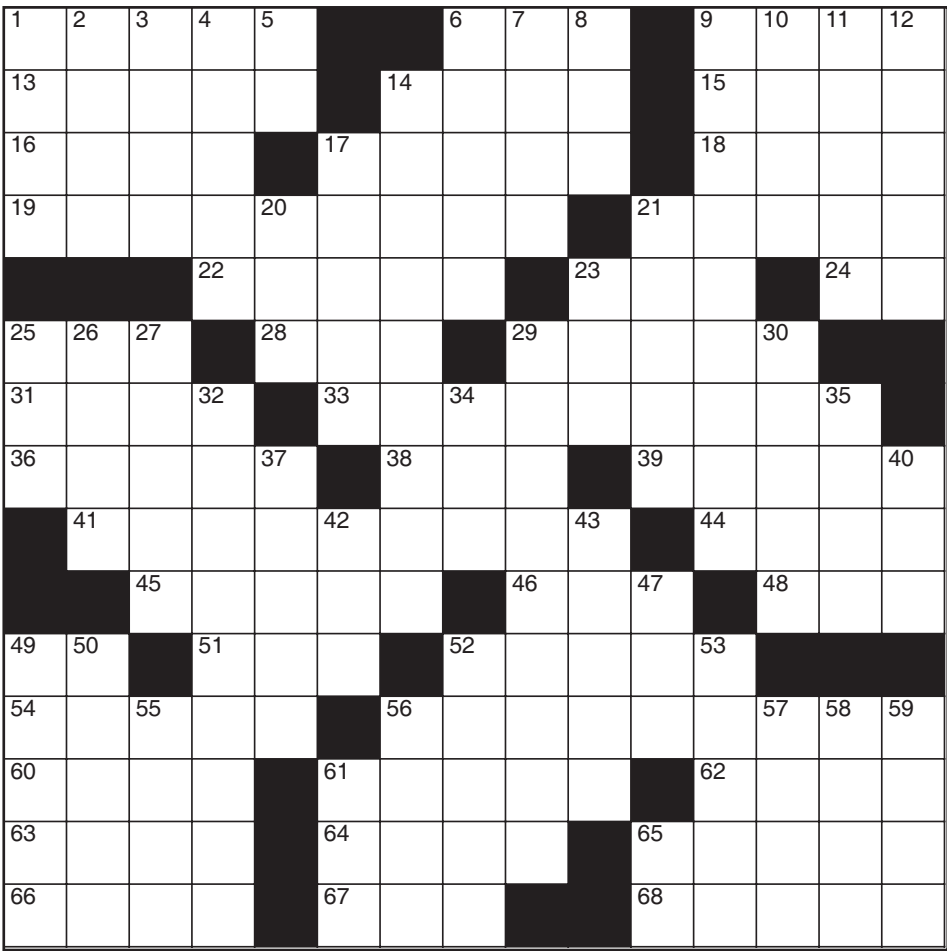


Level: Intermediate



How To
Sudoku:

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



COUNTY FAIR WORD SEARCH

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

ADMISSION COUNTRY LEMONADE
AMUSEMENT COUNTY LINES
BALLOONS CROWD LIVESTOCK
CARNIVAL DANCING MUSIC
CAROUSEL DISPLAY OUTDOORS
CHILDREN ENTERTAINMENT PRIZES
COASTER FAIR REFRESHMENTS
COMPETITION FERRIS WHEEL RIDES
CONTESTS FIELD STAGE
CORNDOG FUNHOUSE STUNTS
COTTON CANDY ICE CREAM SUNSET
TICKETS

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dried corn kernals (pl.)
6. A dog is one
9. Medieval feline
13. Appeal emotionally
14. Uncommon
15. Chinese currency
16. Gain as interest
17. Habitat
18. Ribosomal
ribonucleic acid
19. 2015 NL batting
champ
21. Makes wet
22. Discounts
23. Beavers build this
24. Between south
and east
25. Promotional materials
28. Arbitr
29. Ancient Greek ruler
31. Ruse
33. Where coaches spend
their time
36. LA landmark \_ House
38. Nothing
39. Chickpea plant
41. Revolutionary War
militia member
44. Civil rights
organization
45. Fathers
46. Carries things

CLUES DOWN

- 11. Levels
12. Enzyme
14. Explains again
17. City in South of France
20. Paddle
21. Sallian
23. Split pulses
25. Consumed
26. Small drink of spirits
27. Indigenous people
29. Elaborated
30. Painting technique
32. Repentance
34. Not bright
35. Kansas hoops coach
37. Koran chapters
40. Dead end
42. Foul-mouthed bear
43. Nostrils
47. Game Cache File
49. One who believes in a
supreme being
50. Carnival worker
52. Gnawing animals
53. German town
55. Conquer
56. Thai money
57. Taxis
58. \_ Clapton
59. A form of Persian
61. Pounds per square
inch
65. Nighttime



Above from left: Rene Torres, Hannah Friend and Moises Leon show their poses. At left: Torres, Friend and Leon hold their trophies. Below: In Sacramento, Torres, Leon and Senit Rojas-Ochoa pose together after the competition. At bottom: Team Body Works at Muscle Mayhem 2016.



Muscle Mayhem

Body Works Gym sends four to Sacramento competition

Three returning faces and a bright-eyed new entrant from Willits' Body Works Gym headed over to the California Natural Muscle Mayhem event in Sacramento on July 16, and brought home a few new trophies to add to the wall.

This was the first competition for Willits High School class of 2016 graduate Hannah Friend, 18, who competed in the Women's Novice Figure class. With 10 girls in the class, Friend didn't place into the announced top 5, but said she had a great experience and took notes for what she needed to work on in preparation for her next competition.

"I had a great time at the event," said Friend. "I was proud of my posing and endurance holding the poses, but I saw that I still need to work on more definition and less body fat before I compete again."

Friend started training about three months out at Willits Pulse Fitness, and then started classes with ACE Certified personal trainer and past body builder, Angela Noonan, at Body Works Gym in the four weeks prior to the competition.

Friend was taking classes five days a week, including body sculpt and abs classes, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Chances to compete and increased motivation to get even more fit will certainly be plentiful soon, as Friend left this week to head to Southern California where she will attend college at UC Santa Barbara. She plans to study film and media and hopes to continue to compete in the Southern California circuits.

"I would really encourage anyone who is interested in body building to give it a try," said Friend. "You have to train hard, and have a clean and consistent diet, but it was a great time. Remember to smile during those poses and keep it tight!"

Veteran bodybuilders Moises Leon and Rene Torres had another good turnout at the 2016 event; Leon competed in two classes, the Master Over 40 class, where he placed first, and in the Open Men's class. Torres, 15, who is Leon's son, placed third in the teenage 13 to 19 division and also competed in the Novice Men's Open class. He was proud that he gained 20 pounds of muscle since competing in the



same event last year. The open classes were usually divided into short and tall subcategories, but this year was the first that all competitors posed together, regardless of height. Noonan said this increased the competition significantly.

"We really want to thank Mike and Kathy Tobin, the owners of Body Works Gym," said Leon. "If anyone is interested in learning body building or working out, this is the right place to do it, and Angi is the right coach!"

Read the rest of Muscles Over on Page 13

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The rest of Bypass From Page 1
largest projects being completed in Northern California this year, and Gov. Brown is always welcome."
In other bypass news, on Tuesday, U.S. District Court Judge Jeffrey S. White granted a motion to dismiss federal agencies and their administrators from the lawsuit brought by the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and the Round Valley Indian Tribes against the federal defendants and Caltrans over the Willits bypass. Judge White did give leave to the plaintiffs to amend the suit in response to his ruling, with a deadline of August 23.

In his statement, Judge White said he was granting the federal defendants' motion to dismiss primarily because the plaintiffs' claims under both the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act are "barred" due to the federal agencies' 2007 memorandum of understanding with Caltrans that "assigned all responsibility and liability for the Willits bypass project to Caltrans."

The federal defendants dismissed include the U.S. Department of Transportation, Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, the Federal Highway Administration and the FHWA Administrator Gregory G. Nadeau.

When asked to comment on Tuesday's court action, Frisbie said he would be unable to do so, as the lawsuit was continuing against Caltrans itself.

Caltrans also announced a traffic advisory Tuesday that, starting Wednesday, all traffic along Highway 101 at the north end of Willits would be rerouted onto the new

northern interchange. "An access driveway to properties located on the old alignment [the new frontage road], the notice continued, "will be located north of the interchange [across from the Little Lake Trailer Park]. They will NOT be accessible from the undercrossing as they were previously."

At last week's Willits City Council meeting, a written report from Caltrans stated that as of July 22, 93 percent of the bypass construction work had been completed, with contractors "working on punchlist items to complete construction." The report also says "electrical facilities for street lighting, message boards and CCTV cameras are currently being installed." All signs—including roadway signs — striping, and delineation are expected to be completed in August.

"The floodway viaduct is complete except for final concrete finishing," the report continues. Concrete finish work is continuing and will be completed this summer.

The report notes two separate plantings of 54,000 plants and 287,340 plants have been completed; and installation of 350,000 plants in wetland creation areas and 147,645 plants in the mitigation area will start this fall.

Infrastructure to facilitate cattle grazing activities within the wetland/riparian mitigation project area has also been installed, including 132,000 feet of fencing, 50,000 feet of 2-inch underground water line, 150 gates, 65 stock tanks, and 25 cattle shades.



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Fri-Thurs: 12:00, 2:05, 4:10, 6:15 & 8:20pm
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Thursday, August 4

**Summer Reading Program:** The Willits Library Summer Reading Program offers a summertime of fun, with reading, special events and prizes, every Thursday, from 11 am to 12 noon, through August 11. August 4: Wild Things. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. 459-5908. Next week: August 11: Ending Party and One-Man Play.

**Redwood Empire Fair:** the 2016 Redwood Empire Fair opens today at 3 pm at the Ukiah Fairgrounds and closes at 12 midnight. Opening day for Redwood Empire Fair – “Celebrating 80 Years of Reel Family Fun”: grounds open from 3 pm to midnight. Kids 12 and under and seniors 65 and over are admitted free of charge from 3 pm to 6 pm. Admittance for adults is \$9, parking is \$7. Carnival wristbands are \$27 for unlimited rides. Swine show at 8 am at the Racine Pavilion. Sheep show at 8 am at the Junior Show Ring. Beef show at 5 pm at the Racine Pavilion. Motorsport Action at the Ukiah Speedway includes Motorcycles, Side-by-sides and ATV races at 7 pm. Musical entertainment at the Willow Tree Stage provided by Funkacillin. More info about exhibitions, including Home Arts, Fine Arts, Horticulture, Agriculture, Industrial and Livestock, available at [www.redwoodempirefair.com](http://www.redwoodempirefair.com).

**Shanachie Pub:** Aaron Ford, singer-songwriter who lives in San Francisco. His musical style is based in folk, Americana and blues. 8 pm. Visit: [www.cdbaby.com/Artist/AaronFord](http://www.cdbaby.com/Artist/AaronFord). 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Aaron Ford

Friday, August 5

**Redwood Empire Fair:** the 2016 Redwood Empire Fair continues today from 3 pm to midnight at the Ukiah Fairgrounds from 3 pm to midnight. Admittance for adults is \$9, children 6 to 12 and seniors 65 and over is \$7. Parking is \$7. Carnival wristbands are \$27 for unlimited rides. Swine showmanship at 8 am at the Racine Pavilion. Pygmy goat show at 2 pm at the Junior Show Ring. Large Animal Round Robin at 4 pm at the Racine Pavilion. Small Animal Round Robin at 7 pm at the Junior Show Ring. Motorsport Action at the Ukiah Speedway includes Mud Bogs at 7 pm. Musical entertainment at the Willow Tree Stage provided by The Johnny Young Band. More info about exhibitions, including Home Arts, Fine Arts, Horticulture, Agriculture, Industrial and Livestock, available at [www.redwoodempirefair.com](http://www.redwoodempirefair.com).

**Willits Homebrew Club:** monthly meeting Friday, August 5 at 7 pm in the meeting Hall of the Willits KOA, 1600 Highway 20 (just tell the people at the gate you are here for the homebrew meeting and drive straight back to the red meeting hall). “We will be sampling and discussing Hoppy Beers (IPA, IIPA, hoppy wheat, etc.) so come on out and get your homebrew on! Visit <http://willitshomebrew.weebly.com/> for more info.

**First Friday in Laytonville:** Laytonville’s next

# What's Happening Around Town

First Friday event will take place on Friday, August 5 from 4 to 8 pm, at Albert’s, 44851 North Highway 101. Featuring wine, food, art, crafts, music and fun! Come mingle with friends in the garden, grab a bite to eat, and cruise the art show! Everyone is welcome. “Lots of new pieces on display in the store, featuring artists and photographers out of Santa Barbara. Come meet and welcome our new management from Georgia! Haley and Jeshua – they have some beautiful unique art to share with you also.”

**Community Square Dance:** The Willits Frontier Twirlers square dance club is sponsoring a community square dance on Friday, August 5, from 7 to 9 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. An introduction to square dancing for dancers of all ages. \$5. Caller: Lawrence Johnstone. New beginner’s square dancing class starts August 15, and continues Mondays, 7 to 8 pm, with caller Lawrence Johnstone.

**Shanachie Pub:** Marshall House Project, “MHP delivers a mash-up of energetic funk and slinky soul with a psychedelic twist and a chili salt rim.” 9 pm. Visit [www.marshallhouseproject.com](http://www.marshallhouseproject.com). 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, August 6

**Free Sports Physicals:** Howard Hospital is offering free sports physicals for local students 18 and under planning to participate in school sports programs this year. Second of two clinics this year is set for Saturday, August 6, from 8 am to 12 noon, at the Redwood Medical Clinic adjacent to the new hospital on Marcela Drive. Includes assessments by physicians and free health screenings and education, including Fit to Play Balance Test, Diabetes Screening (for parents, too), Concussion & Trauma Prevention, Stroke Signs & Symptoms. Appointments are encouraged, and walk-ins are also welcome. To register, please call 456-3185.

**WHS Alumni Soccer Tournament:** “Help kick off the Willits High School Soccer season with this annual fundraiser at Willits High, beginning at 9 am. Each year the alumni of Willits High School get together to play soccer and raise money for the high school’s current soccer teams. This year will be a coed 7 v 7 tournament featuring alumni as well as current high school players. It is not too late to participate! If you are interested in playing, please arrive no later than 8:30 am on Saturday and you will be assigned a team. The cost to participate is \$10, and you must sign a waiver. It is free to come watch and cheer on your favorite team. We look forward to seeing you there!”



**Brooktrails Flea Market:** The Prosperity Club and Brooktrails Lodge are hosting a Brooktrails Flea Market on Saturday, August 6 at the Brooktrails Lodge, 24675 Birch Street, 9 am to 2 pm. “Come see new and exciting things happening and being sold by vendors at the Brooktrails Flea market. We will no longer be serving our pancake breakfast, but great food vendors will be available for you and the family. Jumpers will be hosting a free jump house for the kids.”

**Willits Healthy Action Club:** “Making Willits the Healthiest Little Town in America ... One Step at a Time.” Each meeting’s program features three steps to promoting health: A short action-oriented talk on an important aspect of health to put into practice between meetings; a regular walk for health and connection; and an option to eat good food together following the walk at a local restaurant or shared picnic. 10 am at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. All interested are invited to call club founder Jed Diamond at 459-5505 or [Jed@MenAlive.com](mailto:Jed@MenAlive.com).

**Redwood Empire Fair:** the 2016 Redwood Empire Fair continues today from noon to midnight at the Ukiah Fairgrounds from 12 noon to 12 am. Admittance for adults is \$9, children 6 to 12 and seniors 65 and over is \$7. Parking is \$7. Carnival wristbands are \$27 for unlimited rides. Motorsport Action at the Ukiah Speedway includes Truck and Tractor Pulls at 7 pm. Musical entertainment at the Willow Tree Stage provided by Il Big. The Junior Livestock Auction is at noon at the Racine Pavilion. Public is welcome to come watch, and anyone is encouraged to come be a buyer, too. Come early to sign up for a bidders card. More info about exhibitions, including Home Arts, Fine Arts, Horticulture, Agriculture, Industrial and Livestock, available at [www.redwoodempirefair.com](http://www.redwoodempirefair.com).



provided by Banda Pacifica. The Junior Awards are at 10 am at the Willow Tree Stage. Public is welcome. More info about exhibitions, including Home Arts, Fine Arts, Horticulture, Agriculture, Industrial and Livestock, available at [www.redwoodempirefair.com](http://www.redwoodempirefair.com).

Monday, August 8

**Parkinson’s Discussion & Support Group:** 2nd and 4th Mondays at Harrah Senior Center, Monday, August 8, 11 am to 12:15 pm. 1501 Baechtel Road. With Linda Posner as facilitator. Info: 459-1941.

Tuesday, August 9

**Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre:** All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week’s Tightwad movie: “Jason Bourne” and “Ice Age: Collision Course.” For showtimes: [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com). 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

**Shanachie Pub:** Pine Hearts Band, 7 pm. This Bluegrass/Nature Pop traveling band features Joey Capoccia: Guitar, Austin Cooper: Drums, Phil Post: Pedal Steel, Judd Wasserman: Electric Guitar, Kata Benak: Upright Bass, Danielle Westbrook: Horns. Check out this night of Original Cascade Mountain Music for the 3rd Millennium. Visit <http://thepinehearts.com> 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Wednesday, August 10

**Elder Circle:** Monthly meeting at St. Francis Church of the Redwoods, Main and Commercial. Confidential support and friendship. Wednesday, August 10 from 1 to 3 pm. Facilitated by Ruthanne Voiz, MA. More info: 707-354-3960.

Thursday, August 11

**WHS Booster Club Meeting:** The monthly WHS Booster Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, August 11, at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS! The Booster Club has its upcoming 4th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 17 at the Brooktrails Golf Course, and is looking for hole sponsors and tournament participants. For information call Donna at: 459-2752.



Friday, August 12

**“The Nerd”:** Opening night at Willits Community Theatre for this “hilarious farce” by Larry Shue. 8 pm. “First premiered in 1981, ‘The Nerd’ has since been a Broadway hit and a top-grossing American play in London’s West End. It is a play for all ages, with its bright one-liners, indelible action, reliable pacing and hidden surprises.” Directed by Jason Edgington, with an all-star cast. Runs through August 28, with shows on Thursday at 7 pm for \$10, Friday and Saturday

at 8 pm for \$15, and Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$10 (August 21 and 28). Advance tickets are available at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com); or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets available at the door until sold out. An invitation-only Gala Reception for WCT donors will be held on Saturday, August 13 with a Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Kevin H.C. Moore. Tickets will be available to the public for the regular show that evening. Persons interested in donating to WCT and receiving a gala invitation can contact the office at 459-0895. A special benefit First Thursday performance will be hosted on August 18 by the Howard Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Tickets for the benefit performance are available only through Dianne Menzies at 707-354-1809.

**Shanachie Pub:** Wrongs Krew DJ Night moved to Friday night this month, with all forms of House Music from 1996 to the present concentrating on deep, funky & groovy tunes, with some Latin & Jazz undertones as well as Electro. Featuring guests artists from across the country and around the globe. Every first Saturday. 9 pm. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, August 13

**“The Nerd”:** 8 pm at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, August 12 listing for more details.

**Shanachie Pub:** House of Mary, 9 pm. 3-piece Indie rock band. Their style is fun, flirty, clever, sexy, and unique. The band features locals



Aubrie Arnoux - vocals, harmonica, and Blair Mullen - drums, with new transplant from Sacramento, Spencer Byrnes - guitar, backup vocals. Plus opening band from Sacramento. Visit [www.facebook.com/Houseofmarymusic](http://www.facebook.com/Houseofmarymusic). 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, August 14

**Men of Worth:** traditional Celtic folk duo, Men of Worth, perform at Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, August 14 at 2 pm. “The musicians each play a handful of instruments, among them mandolin, guitar, concertina and bodhran, a handheld drum. For a rare treat, their amazingly authentic performances provide an ancient yet fresh musical story.” Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com); or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. The WCT Playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

COLUMN | At the Movies

### ‘The Legend of Tarzan’

**The Story:** It’s the late 19th century. The legendary Lord Greystoke aka Tarzan (beautifully muscled Alexander Skarsgard) and his equally legendary wife, Jane (the redoubtable Margo Robbie), investigate rumors of slavery in King Leopold of Belgium’s colony in the Congo Basin – rumors of brutality and slavery which turn out to be true. Their efforts put them at cross purposes to King Leopold’s cunning main man in Africa, Leon Rom (Christoph Waltz), who has contracted with an army of mercenaries to invade the Congo and secure Leopold’s territory through genocidal terror. Lions, elephants, hippos and great apes make significant appearances.

**My Thoughts:** Bottom line, this flick tells a good story – a thrilling yarn. Call me sentimental, but I’m a sucker for Tarzan adventures. I like to watch him swing through trees and howl. It’s conservative; it’s traditional. “Me Tarzan, you Jane” is a model of romance that has maybe lost its original impact, but it still resonates. This movie honors another famous tradition. It ends with Tarzan and Jane kissing passionately, and then something funny interrupts their embrace.

**Parents:** Courage is celebrated. Loyalty is honored. Ignorant racist stereotypes are non-existent. Cruelty, violence and threats to mothers and fathers might upset some children – it’s the old-fashioned “law of the jungle.” Kids love Tarzan. 10 and up.

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



## Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Volleyball Open Gym:** at Baechtel Grove gym; Sundays and Tuesdays at 7 pm. Some experience desired, 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 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

## Willits Youth Football & Cheer

Still taking sign-ups for football and cheer! Practices are Monday through Friday from 5 to 7 pm at Baechtel Grove Middle School. Sign up there. “Be sure to like our Facebook page for the most up-to-date info. Go Cougars!”

### DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

#### Celebrating Dogs in Art

Artists Reception: August 6th - 4-8 pm at the opening from 4-8 pm of the Dog Days of Summer Art Reception

**Terese Robertson** - Photos - Drawings  
**Sandy Strong** - Paintings  
**Robert Permenter** - Paintings  
**Morgan Rex** - Metal Sculptures  
**Mikela Cameron** - Drawings  
**Margaret Moore** - Photography  
**Lisa Bowles** - Quilts  
**Karen Gridley** - Textiles  
**June Buckman** - Photography  
**Jacqueline Standley** - Jewelry  
**Gene Avery North** - Painting  
**Carolyn Carpenter** - Painting  
**Brian Bowles** - Wood Working  
more ...

Show Dates: August 6th - 28th  
Gallery Hours: Wed-Sun 11 am - 6 pm

Willits Center For The Arts  
71 E Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490

### LEARN TO SQUARE DANCE

### BEGINNER’S CLASS STARTS AUGUST 15 MONDAYS 7-8 PM

### WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

UPSTAIRS IN THE GREAT ROOM \$5 per dancer with Caller Lawrence Johnstone

### City of Willits

offices will close on Fridays

The City of Willits has announced new hours of operation, starting August 15. City offices will be closed Fridays, and all posted holidays, and open to the public Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 5:30 pm.



## Safe Banking for Seniors

Wednesday, August 17

Join us to learn more at this “Bank Safe-tee Social,” Wednesday, August 17 at 10:30 am. Identify and avoid scams. Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Did you know that older Americans lose

### Friends of the Library seeking more volunteers

Friends of the Willits Library is looking for more friends to sort and box book donations, move books for book sales, and participate in other outreach and fundraiser activities. If you’re looking for a way to contribute and connect, call Janey Mitchell, 707-354-0423.

## Senior Center Lunch

Week of August 8 through August 12

**Monday:** Taco Salad  
**Tuesday:** Swiss Steak  
**Wednesday:** Egg, Bacon, Potato Bake  
**Thursday:** Chicken Cacciatore/Noodles  
**Friday:** Meat Loaf

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

### COME JOIN ASSEMBLYMEMBER JIM WOOD FOR A COFFEE BREAK!

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO RSVP PLEASE CONTACT RUTH AT 707-463-3776 OR AT [RUTH.VALENZUELA@ASM.CA.GOV](mailto:RUTH.VALENZUELA@ASM.CA.GOV)

### TALK WITH ASSEMBLYMEMBER WOOD ABOUT ISSUES AFFECTING YOUR COMMUNITY

WHERE: **SCHAT'S COUTHOUSE BAKERY**

WHEN: **AUGUST 5**

TIME: **3:00**

LOCATION: **113 W. PERKINS UKIAH**

\$2.9 billion every year to fraud?

The American Bankers Association Foundation’s Safe Banking for Seniors campaign is a nationwide effort to help older customers and their financial caregivers understand the risks of fraud and financial abuse and how to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Financial abuse against older Americans can take many forms, from illegal debits, to

third-party scams, and even unauthorized withdrawals by an approved financial caregiver.

Join us to learn more! Savings Sponsored by Savings Bank of Mendocino County and Safe Banking for Seniors. For more information and other consumer resources,, visit [aba.com/seniors](http://aba.com/seniors).

– submitted by the Harrah Senior Center

### DEADLINE FOR WILLITS WEEKLY:

Monday prior to Thursday publication

## Willits Youth Soccer

Opening Day, August 20

Willits Youth Soccer Opening Day is Saturday, August 20! The parade starts at 9 am, and games will follow all throughout the day. With approximately 1,000 people expected to attend, parking will likely be a challenge. Allow yourself time to park. There’s additional parking at Recreation Grove. Concessions and restrooms will be open. Community groups that would like to set up a vendor or informational booth should contact us by sending a message via Facebook under “Willits Youth Soccer.”

– submitted by Dan the Radio Man, for KLLG



KLLG's radio-active core group meets in the framed studio at the Little Lake Grange.

## KLLG looks to Willits for ideas

Willits’ new radio station, KLLG-LP, is conducting a Town Hall and Open House next Wednesday, August 10, from 6 to 7:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 299 School Street, Room 10. General Manager Lanny Cotler reports that the broadcast studio will be nearly completed and ready to broadcast its first test shows. Local listeners will be asked to tune in to 97.9 FM and report their location and signal strength. For more information, attend next Wednesday’s Town Hall and Open House at the Grange, Room 10 or visit KLLG.org.





Above, from left: Relayers sign in Saturday morning at the Rec Grove. The crowd during the opening ceremony, with Virginia Jorge smiling, front and center. Clover Vanderheiden, left, and Keith Terrell, with his spirit stick, at the Body Works Gym booth. Below: Cancer survivors with the "Celebrating Life!" banner lead the first lap to start off the 24-hour Relay.



Photos by Mathew Caine



## Relay for Life

American Cancer Society fundraiser raises \$31,500+

"It was a wonderful Relay this year," said Jennifer Sookne, "people lead" for the annual benefit for the American Cancer Society in Willits. Fifteen teams and 125 participants raised \$31,498.81 for Relay for Life at the Rec Grove over the weekend, with a few more donations still to come in.

"And there will be a Relay next year," Sookne said, as several new people have expressed interest in stepping up so a number of the core organizers can

focus on other aspects of their involvement with Relay. "We definitely need more people to pick up things to make it easier for everybody."

Raising more than \$31,500 is no small feat for a small town like Willits. The Ukiah Relay at the end of June this year raised \$14,321.10 with 19 teams and 130 participants, and the Lake County Relay in May 19 raised \$27,143.74, with 19 teams and 214 participants.

The Relay events are designed to raise spirits, as well as funds, with cancer survivors and their caregivers honored and applauded throughout the day.

During the opening ceremony, after a color guard presented by Boy Scout Troop #42 and

an a capella rendition of the national anthem sung by Joey Kroh, 38-year cancer survivor Rich Venturi gave a heartfelt yet humorous account of his own experience cancer back in "the stone age" for cancer treatment.

"There's a cure out there, and we're going to find it," Venturi said, "and one reason is the folks here doing Relay. Stand up and give yourself a round of applause!"

"Never ever give up," Venturi advised the audience. "Overcome, adapt – you have to get through it, and you will!"

Cancer survivors, many in purple T-shirts, were then called up to the Rec Grove stage and given a medallion and heartfelt hug by organizers. MC/DJ and cancer survivor Mike Tobin – who was given his medallion by his wife, Kathy Tobin, the "event lead" for the Willits Relay – then lined up the "Eye of Tiger" song by Survivor, and the group took the traditional first Survivors Lap around the track, carrying the purple Relay banner.

And from that moment, Relayers continued the 24-hour procession around the track – "We had people on the track all night," Sookne said, "and it wasn't just one or two, and they were young and old."

A number of guests took advantage of the cool of the night to come see the Luminaria ceremony at 9 pm, and walk a few laps on the track. There were 398 luminarias (paper bags decorated in honor of survivors or of those who have passed, lit with a candle) around the track. The ceremony included a performance by "the fabulous" Wild Fire Dancers, Sookne said. "They are phenomenal, and they do it for free," she said. This year's performance was dedicated to the

At left: Luminarias glowing around the track. A Relay runner grabs a bead to mark another lap around the track.

Below: Annie Frassinello, Julie Harris and Cici Winger at Howard Memorial Hospital's booth. At bottom: The Mendo 4 Life Relay Team in their Minions T-shirts.

memory of Kayla Chesser.

Relayers were lucky with the weather, because although it was definitely warm, Sunday was a bit cooler than the days before and after. Organizers placed stands with bulk water and paper cups all around the track, and provided a misting station tent and ice packs, too.

Teams set up booths with raffle prizes and fundraising items. Howard Memorial Hospital's "Everyday Heroes" team booth raffled off "purple produce," including beautiful purple peppers, carrots, potatoes and kale. Team Lady Bea's set up a "Hilary's Henna" station, and the Purple People Eaters sponsored a scavenger hunt.

The High Hopes team offered a special raffle for cancer survivors only: a beautiful park bench hand-crafted by Jerry Saunders. The lucky winner of that bench – a prize organized by Relay Survivors Chair Sharron Kidd – was Tanya Schilinsky, who came up from Sonoma County to participate in the Willits relay. Saunders also made two memory boxes as raffle prizes for the High Hopes team, and Kidd said those were won by Fay Mok and Cindy Rodriguez. Annie Frassinello, volunteer with the HMH team, won the High Hopes' raffle for a stay at the Anchor Lodge Motel in Fort Bragg – "She really wanted to win that," Kidd said, "she bought tickets Saturday night and again Sunday morning" – and Pam Terrell won the Skunk Train tickets.

"Relay was a little smaller this year," Kidd said, "but we had a lot of compliments. We try to make it positive and fun, and so everybody has a good time. And it's all to raise money

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



## Scoops Mixer

Food, fun and networking at chamber gathering

Owners Lisa Davis and John Kvasnicka hosted the monthly Willits Chamber of Commerce mixer at Scoops Frozen Yogurt and Deli on Thursday, July 21. New members of the chamber mingled with chamber stalwarts, and all enjoyed an impressive spread of delicious food and wine, including burgers fresh from the grill by Chef Kvasnicka.

It was a warm evening, but free scoops of Double Rainbow ice cream helped cool down the party, as did a shade awning over the tables on the west end of the parking lot.

The chamber added two new members that very night: the Purple Moose Thrift Shop and the Willits Wild Bunch motorcycle group.

The chamber is in the middle of a drive for new members, which has been quite successful so far, with close to 30 new members.

"If there has ever been a time to join the Willits Chamber of Commerce, this is it," said Holly Madrigal, who is helping organize the drive. "With the bypass opening up, Willits businesses need to pull together and

support each other. Other communities that have experienced a bypass have all listed a cohesive business group as being one of the keys to success."

"There's no better time than now to join," agreed Lynn Kennelly, executive director of the chamber. "We're going into another chapter of Willits life with the advent of the bypass."

Individuals are welcome to join the chamber, whether as sole proprietors, freelancers or just as supporters of local business. Individual memberships cost \$87 a year, and the set-up fee for all new memberships is being waived during the drive, which extends through August. Membership cost for businesses depends on how many employees the business has.

The next chamber mixer is set for August 31 at the Jann Lamprich Center at Howard Memorial Hospital. For more information about joining the chamber, check the "Membership" tab at the chamber's website, [www.willits.org](http://www.willits.org), or call 459-7910.

– Jennifer Poole

At top, from left: Tony Barthel of Nerds for Normals tech and marketing services and the Skunk Train's Jim Baskin strike a pose. A beautiful fruit plate. Jeff Spence and Barb Ivy of Kustoms by Spence with Jeff's '61 Plymouth.

Above, from left: Host John Kvasnicka grills burgers. Phil and Kathy Shuster. Hostess Lisa Davis, right, with her mother-in-law Nellie Larsen.

At right: Brenda Orenstein, left, and Laura Koch.

At right, below: Barb Ivy, left, and April Tweddell at the check-in table.

Below, from left: The chamber's Lynn Kennelly and Rich Venturi, representing the Willits Wild Bunch. Asser Yasser, left, and Tarek Taha, of SY International investment group.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



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## Garden Party benefit for the schools

There's another Garden Party at Phil and Kathy Shuster's place, 1660 Center Valley Road. Scheduled for Saturday, August 27, it begins at 4 pm, and the guest list is not limited to teachers and faculty. Sponsored by Willits Educational Foundation and Willits Rotary Club, the party is open to anyone and everyone who wishes to contribute in some way to keeping our schools vibrant and thriving.

Just \$20 for advance tickets, and you're welcome to enjoy some fantastic food prepared especially for this event, from barbecued tri-tip and oysters to homemade desserts. While dining, you will enjoy live music from The Basics. This in addition to touring the gardens that range

from long-standing fruit trees, flowers, and aquatic plants at the pond to a robust vegetable garden that supplies fresh vegetables to the food bank twice weekly at the height of harvest.

Not to be missed is the excitement of the live auction, whether watching or participating. The same excitement can be enjoyed with the ever-changing bids of the silent auction, right up to the final minute countdown and the auctioneer shouting "Bids closed!"

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

Another veteran bodybuilder, Senit Rojas-Ochoa, 25, worked out at Body Works last year and trains with Noonan. She moved to Santa Rosa last summer, but competed with team Body Works and showed alongside Friend in the Women's Novice Figure class. She also placed below the fifth-place announcement, but Noonan noted she did a great job, too.

"All the competitors did a great job this year," said Noonan. "Hannah did great posing – she practiced and practiced; Moises and Rene were up against big competition with the height mix in the open classes and still showed well; and Senit has committed herself to training harder and is determined to become a top-rated figure competitor in the years to come."

If you're interested in learning more about body building, contact Noonan at 972-1550 or Body Works Gym at 459-0594.

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

for a great cause, fighting cancer." Kidd wanted to give a special shout-out to Miss Mendocino 2016, Michelle Goodman of Ukiah, who came up to Willits and helped set up the Survivors Booth.

Sooke wanted to especially thank the Willits Lions Club "for the hot drinks all night long, and for breakfast," and also Chef Adam of Adam's Restaurant. "He made us a spinach, cucumber and tomato salad with a mild but tasty vinaigrette, and pasta with either a meat or vegetarian sauce. "Dinner was delicious," Sooke said. Although eaten in the park, "it had that really good delicate flavor of restaurant food, not picnic food." Dinner was free for participants.

The high-money team was "Just the Two of Us," Larry Olson and Susan Schmiri, who raised \$5,075. In second place was Body Works Gym, led by Mike Tobin, which raised \$3,433.47. In third place was "HMH Everyday Heroes," led by Annie Frassinello, which raised \$3,384.

Mike Tobin was the individual participant who raised the most money (\$2,000), and the team that walked the most miles was "Oldies But Goodies," with team leader Virginia Jorje.

Planning for next year's Relay starts in October. Watch Willits Weekly's Calendar for the date, or go to the Relay for Life site at <http://relay.acsevents.org>, and click on "Sign Up/Volunteer" in the "Get Involved" tab.

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

when I hate my work. Art saves my life." Carpenter said she is without a dog herself right now, for the first time. Her favorite definition of Heaven is "the place where, when you get there, all the dogs you have ever loved come running up to greet you!"

Robert Permenter, no stranger to the local art scene, will show his painting, "Friends Everlasting," a tribute to Dale Dingman. Dingman was, for years, a great driving force behind the Willits Center for the Arts. He sadly passed away this year. He loved dogs and would have been thrilled by this show.

Parmenter is originally from a small town in Mississippi and is proud to have made Mendocino County his home since 1995. He shared that, to him, art represents life. "Painting and art have brought me peace of mind, and it is the best form of therapy I can find."

Mikela Cameron is a signature member of the Colored Pencil Society of America. She has had her artwork chosen for the society's last four international exhibitions. For her, she says, using the pencils allows the images "to rise from the paper. I feel like I'm creating a sculpture with color. Working with colored pencils has opened my eyes to the wonderful and rich colors around us." Cameron's entry is a picture of her dog DooDah, who she describes as a model extraordinaire!

Come by for the opening reception and see the Willits Center for the Arts new paint job! The WCA exterior is looking grand in "Let It Shine" yellow, the result of the art center's fundraising campaign. Gallery hours are now Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm. More info: 459-1726 or [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org).

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

clear three supervisors – John McCowen, Tom Woodhouse and Dan Gjerde – don't favor a use permit requirement. It also is apparent the two main staff people working on the ordinance – Planning and Building Chief Planner Andy Gustafson and Commissioner of Agriculture Chuck Morse – favor requiring a use permit.

That's one of the questions likely to be resolved in the initial CEQA study.

As it is shaping up, the ordinance appears to be attempting to bring established cannabis growers into "the system," which means they will secure a permit or permits, will meet zoning and environmental standards, and will pay taxes.

The emphasis seems to be that, under the cultivation ordinance, new growers will be discouraged from coming in.

McCowen sent a letter to his colleagues on the board of supervisors Tuesday morning, making certain recommendations concerning the general direction and tenor of the draft cultivation ordinance. In his letter, McCowen stated what he believes the intention of the board of supervisors is.

"I believe our intent is to reduce or eliminate negative community and environmental impacts while also creating a legal, regulatory framework for those cultivators who are currently legally compliant or who are able to become legally compliant. The regulatory framework can be likened to a box," McCowen wrote.

"In order to isolate illegal growers who have no intention of complying with the law, the 'box' needs to be big enough to accommodate as many legal cultivators as possible."

McCowen offered five points, which he wanted to be woven into the draft ordinance. They were:

1. No permits for new cultivators until 2020, and then only within irrigated agricultural lands, or with a watershed assessment that proves sufficient water.
2. Increased enforcement that targets trespass grows and environmentally damaging grows.
3. Increased setbacks and acreage limitations on all new permits.
4. Use permits for only limited categories.
5. A program that encourages relocation for currently legal cultivators found to be creating neighborhood impacts that cannot otherwise be resolved.

In a rare display of political influence, McCowen convinced board members to go along with each of his recommendations.

McCowen made several more "off the cuff" recommendations. The board assented to these also, and directed county staff to work them into the draft ordinance. According to a timeline presented by county staff several months ago, the CEQA study is expected to commence this month.

In September, staff will prepare the final draft of the initial study and its determination of environmental impacts.

That will start a 35-day public review and comment period.

In October, the draft cultivation ordinance will be available for public review.

On November 8, county voters will consider the Heritage Initiative, an ordinance written by members of the local cannabis industry, to regulate all aspects of the marijuana industry. If it passes and the initiative becomes law, it will supersede the cultivation ordinance.

If the Heritage Initiative does not pass, then work on the county ordinance can continue. The county planning commission is scheduled to hold meetings on the cultivation ordinance in November. Supervisors will discuss the first reading of the ordinance in December, and hold discussions surrounding a second reading of the ordinance in January 2017.

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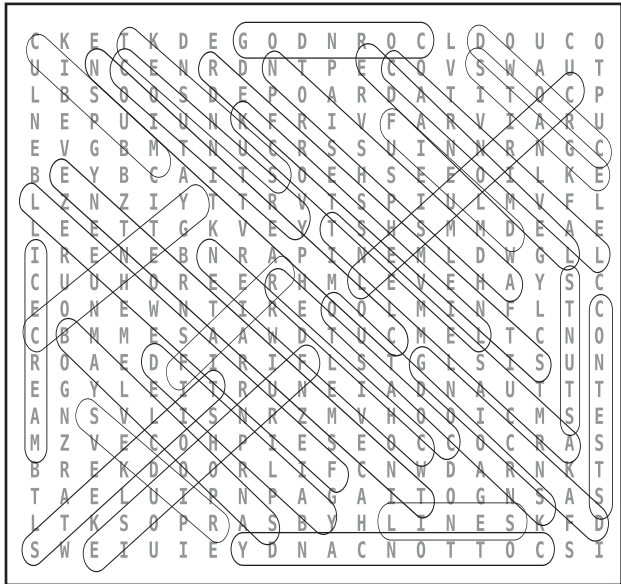
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Willits Center for the Arts on East Commercial Street has a beautiful new exterior paint job. The crew from Dunn Right Painting spent about a week power washing, priming and applying the final coat of Ginger Peachy, a warm delicious yellow, with artistic accent colors Mystery Sound on the window frames and Terracotta on the railings.

Funds for the paint job were raised by the "Let It Shine" campaign, spearheaded by WCA board member Emmy Good, and also given by the City of Willits, which owns the WCA building.

"All of us are like kids at Christmas right now," said June Ruckman, president of the WCA board. "The whole board couldn't be more excited. The new look is an outward manifestation of all the work we've all been putting in."

New landscaping will be put in this fall, Ruckman said, including new meandering brick paths made from recycled bricks from the huge fireplace that used to be in the front room of the original WCA building.

"None of this would be possible without our members and the community that loves and supports their art center," Ruckman said.

The WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, is now open from 11 am to 6 pm, Wednesday through Sunday. The public is cordially invited to stop by and tour the center, or to attend opening night of the August show, "Dog Days," this Saturday, August 6 from 4 to 8 pm.

Above, left: The newly painted Willits Center for the Arts. Above, right: Celebrating the new in-progress paint job: WCA manager Holly Madrigal, City of Willits manager Adrienne Moore, and WCA board members Barbara Willens, June Ruckman and Nancy Reed.

Far left: WCA board member Emmy Good, with the "Let It Shine" sign. At left: The Dunn Right Painting truck in front of the art center last week.

Remembering Dick Graham

Many thanks to all the Beloveds who turned out for the "Remembering Dick" event for Dick on Sunday, July 31 at the Grange, bringing your warmth, great food, bountiful flowers and generous words to share about Dick. If you left your favorite pitcher or vase, I may have it: Maggie, 459-2305.

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The rest of WPD

From Page 1

Mayor Bruce Burton voted "no," after it was already clear the motion to approve the budget would pass.

"I'm not comfortable with this deficit," Burton said.

Such a drastic change to the deficit led to a reorganization of the Willits Police Department, with a total savings to the city of \$169,870. Those changes to the department include the following:

1. Changing the hire date for a new community service officer to September 1, which staff says will save the city \$28,917.

2. Removing a full-time employee position from dispatch services, which would decrease personnel expenditures by \$81,504.

3. Removing an administrative supervisor position by September 30, saving the city \$59,450.

No employees are being let go as part of the budget slimming process, City Manager Adrienne Moore explained.

Rather, vacant positions the city had previously budgeted to fill are going to be removed from the budget altogether.

"We have had two vacancies for some time and have tried to get those positions filled," Moore said. "We're going to eliminate the admin supervisor position, and that person then can become the fourth dispatcher [position] that's currently vacant. The two goals were to maintain our dispatch center rather than contract it out, and to not displace any employees."

Willits Finance Director Susan Holmes explained to the council some of the challenges of balancing the budget this fiscal year.

"The budget is very lean," Holmes said. "It's important to recognize that, last year, when we started our budget process we ended up with a \$38,000 deficit after each department took a 5 percent cut. This year we're having [sales tax] revenues reduced by \$185,000. Every department has cut spending."

The second most significant adjustments to the budget occurred in the Public Works Department, including adding an estimated \$60,000 in revenue from the truck-fill station, located near the ballparks on East Commercial Street.

The facility provides non-potable water which is used for irrigation, dust control, and contract work.

"Contractor trucks can fill up and take that water to their job sites and use it," Moore explained.

Other departments and their respective adjusted savings include: Legal services, \$15,000; council/clerk, \$15,000; human resources, \$7,800; building maintenance, \$5,500; and swimming pool operations, \$3,325.

Councilman Larry Stranske asked Moore if removing a dispatch position from the police department would mean a reduction to the service

itself.

"We will maintain a 24-hour dispatch center," Moore responded. "There will be someone on duty 24/7."

Councilwoman Holly Madrigal praised city staff for their deficit reduction efforts, while lamenting the need to do so.

"I do get a sense that it's a bitter pill to swallow, but we might be able to take it," Madrigal said. "We need to work on the revenue side. It can't just be lip service. We should commit to pursuing a strategy for revenue development. [Whether it's with the] cannabis field, or [with new] taxes, or some other revenue strategy. We have to work on the revenue part."

Moore agreed, adding, "There's a lot of grant money, but we don't have anyone in house that can research those opportunities." Moore suggested creating a grant writing position for the city. "[We should] look at it as a position that would pay for itself."

## Police vehicle purchased

The city council unanimously approved purchase of a used police vehicle from Auto-Mart of Willits, at a total cost of \$22,000, with an additional set-up cost estimated at \$3,271.

The total cost, according to Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez, would come from the department's asset forfeiture fund, which has a balance of approximately \$225,000.

"Purchasing this vehicle at this time would not affect the current general fund, as these funds would be spent from the [separate forfeiture fund]," Gonzalez explained.

According to Gonzalez: "This vehicle is an all-wheel drive vehicle and would be used as a mobile command post during emergency situations. The vehicle also qualifies as an on-duty emergency vehicle, once it's equipped with emergency lighting and a siren."

## City offices to close Fridays

By a 3-2 vote, council members approved changing hours of operation at Willits City Hall and other city offices, to begin Monday, August 15.

New public hours will be from 9 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Thursday, with offices closed to the public on Fridays. Currently, city hall is open 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

Moore explained the reasoning behind the change in a report to the council: "[The change in hours] would allow city staff to concentrate on all of the behind-the-scenes tasks required for the city to function effectively. This proposed schedule would provide a full day of uninterrupted work time every other week to better manage demanding workloads, as well as provide opportunities for staff in-services. Employees would still work 80 hours every two-week pay period, yet have a three-day weekend on the alternating weeks."

The rest of Caltrans

From Page 1

contracts and return them to Caltrans within 60 days.

Caltrans is obligated to fix all the sidewalks along Main Street north of Highway 20 up to the city limits to make them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Caltrans estimates construction will take about 35 months. The contracts essentially give Caltrans full temporary ownership over those properties during the construction period.

Caltrans would likely pursue eminent domain to acquire control the property of owners who refuse to sign the contracts.

However, not all property owners received the same contract. Some owners were offered compensation from Caltrans; others were not.

Greta Kanne and Chris Harper, owners of The Book Juggler, received their contracts more than two weeks ago. Their contract included monetary compensation.

"They offered the value of the property plus a \$1,000 dollar incentive to sign within 60 days," Kanne said. "We haven't signed it yet."

Kanne's brother-in-law, a real estate attorney who deals with eminent domain and Caltrans on a regular basis, read over the contract.

"He assured us we're in good hands," Kanne said. "There's an indemnity clause in it so if anyone hurts themselves on the sidewalk, we're not liable while the construction is happening."

Tony Madrigal, who owns two properties on Main Street – El Mexicano and an apartment complex with Main Street frontage – was not surprised by the different contracts.

"The contracts are probably [customized] to suit each individual property," Madrigal said. "There are

The rest of Ballot

From Page 1

In addition, the board voted 5-0 to approve a "companion measure" to the Allman mental health facilities tax proposal. That measure states the State Board of Equalization will actually collect the taxes raised by the mental health facilities tax, and return the funds to Mendocino County for the purposes described in the tax measure.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen said if voters want to vote for the mental health facilities tax, and wish to see it enacted into law, it is also necessary for them to vote for the companion measure as well.

Late in the day, supervisors approved the second reading of the county's Cannabis Business License Tax, which proposes a framework for taxation of many aspects of the medical marijuana industry. With approval of the second reading of the ordinance, the pot tax ordinance will be placed on the November 8 ballot.

The county's cannabis tax would require that growers shall be taxed at 2.5 percent of gross receipts per fiscal year, between the dates of January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2020.

After July 1, 2020, the tax rate may be increased once per fiscal year (subject to board approval) in increments of 2.5 percent. The ordinance states the tax shall not exceed 10 percent of gross receipts, per fiscal year.

Taxes are also proposed for other aspects of the cannabis industry. People who are engaged in business as a cannabis distributor, delivery service, manufacturer, nursery producer, testing laboratory or transporter in the unincorporated portion of the county shall pay a tax of \$2,500 per fiscal year. This amount is subject to increase according to the Consumer Price Index; however, no reduction in this tax is possible.

In addition, the board also approved a ballot measure that is both advisory in nature and intended to be a "companion piece" to the medical pot tax measure. The advisory measure asks: "Shall a majority of funds raised by the cannabis business license tax be spent on the enforcement of the county's marijuana regulations, on providing enhanced mental health services, on supporting the county's fire districts and emergency

The rest of Death

From Page 1

"The investigation is [continuing]," says sheriff's Sgt. Andrew Porter. "An autopsy was conducted on August 2, but results are pending [blood] and toxicology analysis."

Anyone with information that could assist detectives in this investigation is urged to contact the Sheriff's Office tip-line at 707-234-2100.

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

different issues [for Caltrans] with each property."

Madrigal said he is prepared to sign the contracts in the next week or two.

"Everything I've looked at with my contract looks fine," Madrigal said. "My only concern and the concern of the other merchants is accessibility to the businesses and to parking. That should be something we can work out with Caltrans."

Lynn Kennelly, chamber executive director, said the main purposes of last Thursday's meeting were to explain to business and property owners about the Caltrans contracts and to "develop some type of strategy for interaction with Caltrans."

The group of about 40 attendees workshopped a list of high-priority topics they intend to bring to the table at the next meeting, when a Caltrans representative is expected to be present.

The list of topics includes, in no particular order of importance:

Caltrans is to give business owners at least a two-week notice regarding the start of construction in front of any specific set of properties.

Construction workers are to leave a clean and clear line of ingress and egress to and from the business so customers can safely enter and exit the property.

There should be clearly marked parking spaces.

Parking needs to be made available for customers, and not be used by construction workers.

There should be a firm commitment from workers about construction start and end dates for each work location.

Caltrans should use local contractors.

There should be a commitment to cease work during key holidays and weekends, including no work during the month of December.

There should always be an onsite

Caltrans employee present during construction to field questions and concerns of business owners and the public in general.

"[The meeting] was a good first step in getting something that would be workable for everyone," Kennelly said. "Not everyone is going to get everything they want, but now, at least, we have the ability to have a dialogue."

Unlike Kanne and Harper, who own both the business and the property it's on, there are many business owners who rent from a landlord, and therefore did not receive – or in some cases, even know about – the contracts.

"I haven't seen the contract," said Evelyn Fisher, owner of Nikos Gyro Shop. Fisher also didn't know if the owner of the building had signed and returned it.

"My biggest concern is knowing if we're going to have to be totally shut down part of the time," Fisher said, "or if they are going to be able to make accommodations for businesses to continue to be open."

Fisher echoed the suggestions of some other business owners by saying Caltrans should conduct the majority of the construction at night, after hours.

Kanne believes there will probably be some night work, but noted there are residential areas of Main Street that could be impacted negatively at night.

She expressed her gratitude for the presence of elected officials and city staff at the meeting, including City Manager Adrienne Moore, Code Enforcement Officer John Sherman, City Planner Dusty Duley, and city councilmembers Larry Stranske (who owns a business on Main Street), Holly Madrigal and Ron Orenstein.

"It definitely helps to know the city is taking an active role in this and doing what they can to support the businesses," Kanne said.

medical service providers, and on restoring and repairing the county's road system?

## Heritage Initiative raises concerns

The Heritage Initiative fueled criticism from different quarters Tuesday. Early in the day, while the board was considering an item on the consent calendar that accepted the certification of the Heritage Initiative as qualifying for the November ballot, former Mendocino County Third District Supervisor Hal Wagenet told supervisors they should delay accepting Ranochak's certification of the measure.

Wagenet was speaking as a representative of the Mendocino County Blacktail Association, which earlier this year sued the county on its failure to follow the California Environmental Quality Act when supervisors passed its 9.31 urgency ordinance, regulating the cultivation of medical marijuana for 2016.

"The major problem with the ordinance is that it substantially amends the zoning code to permit cultivation [of cannabis] in every single zoning classification and [that it is inconsistent] with the general plan," Wagenet said. "We believe that even you, the board of supervisors, could not amend the zoning code inconsistently with our general plan, and certainly not without environmental review."

Wagenet urged the board to "refer the measure to the appropriate county agencies, to evaluate the effect of the ordinance in eight different categories, including the effect of the Heritage Initiative on the county's general and specific plans."

Wagenet hinted that failure to do so could result in a lawsuit. "You are operating on the assumption [the Heritage Initiative] is exempt from CEQA. We disagree with that. But even if it is exempt, that is even more reason to prepare a 9111 report to review the environmental effects of this ordinance. Your failure to do so would be viewed as reckless."

Section 9111 of the California Elections Code allows a board to refer a proposed initiative measure to "any county agency or agencies for a report" on a long list of potential impacts to the county, including fiscal impacts and impacts on planning,

## Willits man held after Brooktrails fight

A 32-year-old Willits man was arrested July 28 following a fight at a 26000 block of Maize Drive home the night before. According to sheriff's Sgt. Quincy Cromer, a 40-year-old man visiting his family in the Brooktrails area was struck in the face after he attempted to intervene in an argument between Bryan Stencil and a woman at a home shortly before 1 am.

The Modesto man suffered significant injuries to his face and required medical treatment at Frank R. Howard Memorial

land use, traffic congestion, ag lands, open space, funding for infrastructure, the county's ability to attract business, and "any other matters supervisors request."

Mendocino County Counsel Katharine Elliott said supervisors needed to accept the certification of the Heritage Initiative without delay. "The board cannot piecemeal it. It has to move it before the voters, as written."

The board voted to do so, unanimously.

Later in the day, Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority General Manager Mike Sweeney, a longtime political observer, addressed the board on the Heritage Initiative. He termed it the "Marijuana Takeover Act" and called it "an existential threat to our community."

He named seven elements of the initiative he believes would change the character of the county for the worse, including legalizing commercial marijuana production in every residential neighborhood, abolishing the right of people to complain about marijuana odors, allowing the cultivation and sales of marijuana within 100 feet of schools and parks (that is, 400 feet closer than current law requires); weakening enforcement by "replacing the sheriff with a civil procedure that would be so weak and slow as to be non-existent"; allowing an unlimited number of dispensaries in any commercial zoning; and making butane processing of cannabis a permitted use in all industrial zones.

Sweeney urged supervisors to suspend work on the county's cultivation ordinance "until we know the results of the November election. If the Marijuana Takeover Act wins, you will have saved a lot of wasted time and money. But if it loses, you will then be on stronger ground to make essential choices about how much commercial canopy to allow – and where – how well should it be isolated from neighbors, and what permit conditions you should require."

Sarah Bodner, campaign manager for the Heritage Initiative, told supervisors "what this initiative does is allow voters to vote on this important public issue. Please allow the Heritage Initiative to appear on the ballot this November."

Supervisors agreed.

Hospital, Cromer said.

Deputies were unable to locate Stencil at the time, but the following day they were called back to the house after Stencil returned to the home, and placed him under arrest on suspicion of battery with serious bodily injury. Stencil was taken to county jail, where he was held in lieu of \$30,000 bail.

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

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