

Willits Weekly

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Online & Print

Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 172

Thursday, September 8, 2016

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cover also want newspaper organizations quality years

It's
Real Estate
Section
Thursday!

Draft vacancy ordinance moves forward

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
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If a draft ordinance regulating vacant commercial buildings is ever codified into law, building owners will have to pay an annual registration fee and be subject to further penalties if the vacancy isn't abated in a timely manner.

The ordinance was drafted by Willits City Planner Dusty Duley to eventually be included in Chapter 8.28 of the city's Health and Safety Code. It was reviewed by city staff, members of the Willits City Council's Revitalization and Economic Development Committee, and a number

Read the rest of
Vacancies
Over on Page 13

Rainforest Alliance calls for comments on MRC

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Rainforest Alliance will visit Mendocino Redwood Company in late September as part of its annual assessment of the company, and Alliance personnel are offering the public an opportunity to comment on MRC's forest practices.

Over the past two years, MRC has been in the center of a political firestorm focused on its "frill treatment" or "hack and squirt" practice, which involves poisoning tan oak and other hardwood trees with herbicides, and letting them die and eventually decompose in the forests.

The company, which has

Read the rest of
Rainforest
Over on Page 10

Talmage man held in brother's death

A 56-year-old Talmage man is in county jail after sheriff's investigators arrested him in the hit-and-run death of his 42-year-old brother.

The investigation began shortly before noon on August 1 when sheriff's deputies were summoned to a remote address in the 18500 block of Walker Lake Road, where they "found a deceased adult male subsequently identified as Bryan Hammon [of Willits] who resided at the location," according to sheriff's Sgt. Andrew Porter.

"The death was found to be suspicious in nature, and

Read the rest of
Death
Over on Page 10



At top, from left: Members of the Mendocino Council of Governments tour the intersection of the parking lot and alley between Main Street Music and the Noyo Theatre. City Councilmember Larry Stranske, Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez and Loose Caboose Owner Jill Persico look at the proposed maps. The group walks down Main Street in front of Ardella's and the restaurant's benches.

Above: Dusty Duley, planner for the City of Willits, talks about the Downtown Willits Streets & Alleys Connectivity Study.

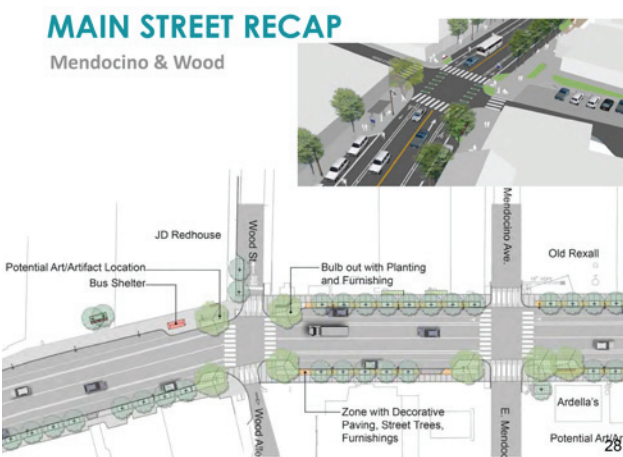
At left, top: Stranske and Supervisor Tom Woodhouse listen to Duley.

At left, bottom: Stranske and Persico look closely at the Wood Street section of the map.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Above: Wednesday afternoon's Main Street tour participants included, from left: Nephel Barrett, MCOG program manager; Doug Hammerstrom, MCOG vice chair/City of Fort Bragg councilmember; Tony Orth, Brooktrails Township board member; Ben Kageyama, Public Works staffer, City of Ukiah; Tom Varga, Public Works director, City of Fort Bragg; Janet Orth, MCOG deputy director; Phil Dow, MCOG executive director, Dusty Duley, planner for the City of Willits; Tom Woodhouse, MCOG board member/Third District supervisor; Larry Stranske, MCOG board member/City of Willits councilmember; Dan Gjerde, MCOG chair/Fourth District supervisor; and John Almeida, Mendocino County Department of Transportation (retired). Below: Maps with proposed changes for Main Street, Mendocino Avenue, Wood Street and Wood Alley that were presented to the event participants. At bottom, left: Duley, right, looks at the East Mendocino and Main Street intersection with the crowd. Below, right: Participants cross between the Noyo Theatre and It's Time to try to envision the proposals for "Schmidbauer Lane."



Streets & Alleys

Considering changes to the post-bypass Main Street

The members of the Mendocino Council of Governments came to Willits Wednesday to take a bus tour of the Willits bypass, hear a presentation on the MCOG-funded Downtown Willits Streets & Alleys Connectivity Study, and take a walking tour of downtown Willits.

Twice a year, MCOG takes a tour of a local community to learn about its transportation plans and projects, instead of having a regular meeting. MCOG is Mendocino County's regional transportation planning agency. With members from elected bodies around the county, MCOG also disburses state and federal funds for big transportation projects like the Willits bypass.

The Downtown Willits Streets & Alleys Connectivity Study is an in-progress plan to create "shovel-ready" projects eligible for

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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Read the rest of
Alleys
Over on Page 13

Council to OK no middle lane on Main Street?

Damian Sebouhian
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Residents of Willits and the surrounding areas have a limited window of time to voice their opinions and concerns about the proposed Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan designs, as the city is aiming to have the plans finalized by the beginning of October.

The latest draft version of the Main Street Plan will be reviewed by the Willits City Council at its next meeting, Wednesday, September 14, where it will be on the agenda for possible approval.

One of the proposed changes that is causing considerable comment

Read the rest of
Center lane
Over on Page 13

Eyster under fire in Laytonville killing case

Dan McKee
Reporter
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After being praised in a recent Mendocino County grand jury report for his innovative marijuana restitution program, District Attorney David Eyster finds himself the center of controversy after reducing charges against a Willits resident arrested in the death of a Laytonville man.

Charles Reynolds has been released from county jail after posting \$50,000 bail in the August 28 death of 29-year-old Kenneth Fisher.

Reynolds was originally arrested on suspicion of murder after he allegedly killed Fisher with a single

Read the rest of
Eyster
Over on Page 13

County offers building amnesty program

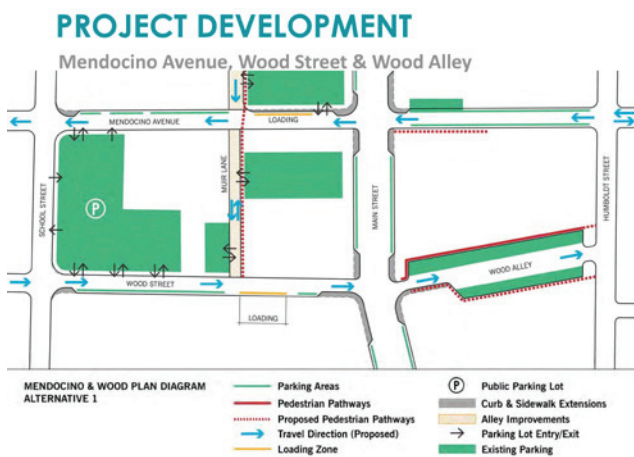
Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors recently authorized a building amnesty program waiving investigative fees on residential building permit applications for self-reported illegal construction projects.

According to county Department of Planning and Building Services Director Steve Dunncliff, investigative fees can be substantial and can sometimes amount to three times the building permit fee.

"This could mean

Read the rest of
Amnesty
Over on Page 10

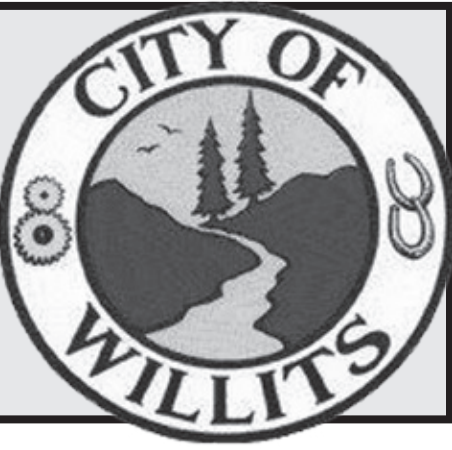




Call for election questions!

Willits Weekly will be asking all the candidates for Willits City Council in the November 8 election – Mayor Bruce Burton, City Councilwoman Madge Strong, and challengers Gerry Gonzalez and Saprina Rodriguez – to give us short answers to a series of questions.

Do you have any questions you'd like to ask the candidates? Please send us an email with your ideas, to willitsweekly@gmail.com, or call 459-2633, or feel free to write a letter to the editor about what questions you think candidates should answer (email preferred: willitsweekly@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 1698, Willits CA 95490).



What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Marijuana in Willits: Time to take control

To the Editor:

The Willits City Council has been addressing – or avoiding – the issue of marijuana in our town for a number of years. At the city council meeting on March 21, we did discuss a marijuana ordinance as it related to a new nuisance ordinance that we were considering. An ad hoc committee had been formed to look at the existing marijuana ordinance to determine if it needed to be changed or left the same.

The current ordinance, in place since 2007, stipulates: no outdoor growing; growing only inside secure buildings; a limit of six plants; no odor permitted to leave the building; and no dispensaries. The recommendation of the ad hoc committee was a total ban on marijuana!

At the time, the city council was evenly divided, with two council members supporting a total ban and two supporting a more permissive approach. The fifth council member – me – favored a middle position that would permit a limited number of marijuana operations that would be controlled by strict rules and regulations; much like the sale of alcohol and cigarettes is regulated.

To put things into perspective: my personal preference is to have no marijuana activity in our town – period! And the fact that I was the council member who introduced the first marijuana ordinance in 2006, reinforces that position.

But this isn't about me. I wasn't elected to the city council three times so my preferences could trump everyone else's. After 10 years of doing this, one very important lesson I learned is: because I represent the people, whenever my position conflicts with the opinion of the majority of the public, I need to put my desires aside and go with what the public wants, and what's best for the public.

But that's where it gets tricky!

As a practical matter, it's not as easy as it may seem to "know" what the public really wants. There are about 2,300 registered voters in Willits, and at its most crowded, we seldom see more than 50 people at any council meeting – about 2 percent of the registered voters. Hardly a true representation of the population. So anything that the council hears from the audience is not an accurate measure of public sentiment.

In addition to public input at the meetings, council members regularly speak with people around town and communicate through phone calls and emails, discussing their positions on various subjects. But even this is an imprecise measure of public sentiment because, at most, we can only communicate with a few hundred people. The only sure way to determine public opinion is to put it to a vote. And the last two times that Mendocino County voters had the opportunity to vote on marijuana issues was in 2000 – when they approved Measure G by 58 percent, and in 2008 – when they approved Measure B by 52 percent. (Measure G decriminalized recreational marijuana in the county, and Measure B rescinded Measure G).

The vote percentages for the two measures demonstrated that the county was pretty evenly divided on marijuana – pro and con.

But absent an actual election, council members must rely on many things in order to determine a correct course of

action, and these things include our knowledge, experience and intuition. As I speak with the public, and get their impressions and opinions, I also do research about what is happening elsewhere, and how it's working out for them. In order to make an informed decision on anything, I must consider everything that I have heard from both sides of the argument, combine it with any independent knowledge I have, and overlay it with the ultimate question: What's in the best interest of the general public?

However, just about everything I hear from the public is understandably biased. It's not the role or responsibility of individuals to be open-minded and considerate of the other side. I get that! That's my job! People just want what they want! And as I stated before, even though I will probably agree with some of the folks I speak with, ultimately I must put my personal bias aside and be true to my responsibility to do what's right for the general public. And that usually takes the form of some type of middle position that carries adequate protections and control.

Like it or not, our democratic form of government dictates that the majority rules and the rights of the minority are protected. And in the case of an evenly divided population, it's imperative that both sides reach a middle ground. To guide me in this, I have developed a personal mantra that states: "No one gets everything, everyone gets something, and no one gets nothing." Translated to the real world, if this philosophy isn't followed, and a majority of the city council votes to either ban or permit marijuana, it's for certain that as soon as the composition of the council changes – in two, four or more years – everything will be overturned. And the next council after that will more than likely change everything yet again.

All around the world, whenever there are regime changes, the people in power get their way, only to have everything overturned when the other side comes to power. And on and on and on!

I believe this is a wasteful way to do business. It's far better to recognize at the outset there are differences of opinion; that everyone has a right to their opinion; that all opinions deserve honest consideration; and that all parties need to find a common ground where "everyone gets their something."

At the city council meeting of August 24, I proposed that another ad hoc committee be formed to discuss, in depth, a middle-ground approach to permitting limited, strictly controlled marijuana activity in Willits. After the impasse at the March 21 council meeting, the mayor wrote a letter to the editor in which he asked the public to contact me in order to convince me to change my stance on the middle ground and to vote for a total ban. In that spirit, I am asking that the public contact our mayor to convince him to form an ad hoc committee that would do an in-depth analysis of the marijuana situation in Willits.

Ron Orenstein, Willits

Fall and healthy living

To the Editor:

Fall is one of my favorite seasons! The leaves turning color and the shift in the weather can signify a special time for reenergizing and focus.

Towards that end, I would like to remind everyone that Avenues to Wellness is starting their fall lineup of Speaker Events the first Tuesday of each month. Topics address various methods to optimize your health and well-being, and are presented by local health practitioners.

These free events tend to be very lively and informative. The presentations are held at the Willits Center for the Arts on East Commercial Street at 5:30 pm. ATW is also gearing up for their September offering of Healthier Living Workshops. Please visit our website at www.avenuestowellness.org to learn more about our programs.

As autumn is reflected in the trees, it also is reflected in the bounty from our gardens. The Frank R. Howard Foundation's Commonwealth Garden continues to provide abundant produce to Howard Memorial Hospital and the community. Ananda and Keith Johnson should be acknowledged for establishing and managing this special resource which supports the health of our local area. Willits is definitely on the map for healthy living!

Doreen Blumenfeld, director,
Avenues to Wellness

'Farm-to-Freeway' dinner

To the Editor:

I have a few questions for the planners of the "Farm-to-Freeway" dinner scheduled for October 29 on the Willits bypass.

Are we celebrating the biggest loss of California wetlands in half a century, along with vast areas of woodlands and farmlands? Are we commemorating the flaunting of the rule of law by Caltrans and assorted local, state and federal agencies in nearly every step of the bypass construction, from destruction of fish and migratory bird habitat to the desecration of ancient Indian village and burial sites? Are we approving the precedent set when construction continued on the overpass after a section of it collapsed last year, seriously injuring several workers, without waiting for the results of an investigation into the cause of the failure, and which—surprise!—was determined to be due to faulty construction procedures?

Are we embracing unlimited industrial growth in the face of diminishing resources and accelerating environmental collapse? Are we accepting that local jobs and businesses must be sacrificed as more and more goods are hauled long distances on an ever-expanding freeway network? Are we trying to teach our youth that environmental stewardship, respect for native people's traditions, personal ethics and just plain common sense are old-fashioned ideas that are irrelevant in the 21st century?

Regardless of the intent of this event, the message is clear: The agenda of a rogue agency that appears to be answerable to no one trumps the legal mandates and contractual obligations established by We the People. One other thing is certain: In a flourishing economy most of the people in this small town that the bypass is somehow supposed to benefit can't afford tickets at \$100 a plate. Bon appetit, y'all.

Marilynn Boosinger, Willits

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

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From far left: Rachel Britten kept the auction lively with her excellent auctioneering skills. Willits Rotary Club president Denise Rose worked behind the scenes to make sure the approximately 350 guests were fed. WHS student Daisy Barrett displays the guitar signed by Bono of U2.

Below, far left: Alice McAlister, Carlie Borba, and Dave and Dana Lovett check their raffle tickets closely to see if they won one of the many raffle items donated to the event. Below, center: A basket of Kathy Shuster's homegrown vegetables was a popular silent auction item.

Below, right, from top down: Sean shows the audience the guitar signed by Sting.

Kathy and Phil Shuster finally get a chance to sit down and enjoy the beautiful evening at the Garden Party.

WHS graduate Rhonda Woodruff and her husband, Larry Gluckman, a retired teacher from the Mendocino County Office of Education, are happy to support the Willits Educational Foundation.

Roxanne Neese stops by to say hello to son Travis Shuster, Handley Cellars' director of sales and marketing, left, and Vern Costa, right, who served wine donated by Handley Cellars.

Photos by Jenny Senter



Sunday in the Shusters' garden

Benefit for art, music and library programs in the Willits schools raises \$18,000 from auctions alone

This year's "Garden Party" benefit for the Willits Educational Foundation was entirely sold out, after taking a hiatus last year. A big crowd enjoyed Phil and Kathy Shuster's beautiful garden on Saturday, August 27 – and a delicious selection of delicacies and drinks.

"The Garden Party was so well-supported by the community this year," said WEF president Annette Pinon. "It was great.

And all the money goes to the kids, to art, music and library programs in the schools. This community is so generous, it's unbelievable. We're very thankful that the Rotary Club partners with us to do it."

Although organizers do not know final numbers yet, they know they raised \$18,000-plus just from the silent and live auctions that took place at the event.

"That's the most we've ever done at the auctions," said WEF's Kathleen Lewis. "Jennifer Drew and Windi Kvasnicka worked so hard on getting the auction items. People kept coming out of the woodwork, offering more and more. Tom Allman was still at it at 8 pm, giving away raffle prizes! We think we sold, or gave away as sponsor tickets, a total of 380 tickets."

This was Drew's first year working on organizing the Garden Party. "I am super-excited to have been a part of bringing in those items that sold," she said. "The crowd was happy and ready to donate to our great cause."

The number of sponsors for this fundraising event for the schools this year was massive, too. "I do want to give a big

shout-out to all our sponsors," Drew said. "We had more this year than ever, 34 if I remember right, compared to 17 in the past years. A big, big thank you to everyone who donated. If it wasn't for our businesses that support us by being a sponsor or giving items to raffle off or auction, we wouldn't have been able to raise all that money at the party."

Drew also said she appreciated the fare for guests and volunteers at the party. "The food was amazing, between the tri-tip and the mini brownie bits, it was all so finger-licking good – and the lemon drops were very yummy as well."

Lewis agreed that "a good entertainment for the adults was the Cosmo and Lemon Drop bar," with the fancy cocktails being a big hit ... as were the renowned stuffed mushrooms. "Jerry and Sandy Turner, and their daughter and son-in-law, made, I think, 340 stuffed mushrooms," Lewis said. "They kept bringing in trays and trays of them. Everybody loves them. They do about six or eight different kinds."

Lewis, who spent much of the afternoon in the kitchen, praised her "dream team kitchen crew," including Tam Adams, Jill Persico, Kathy Goss, Annette Cooley, and Linda Buletti.

"All the kids [who volunteered at the party] were so outstanding," Lewis added. "We had seven from the high school and three from Baechtel Grove Middle School, and then Taylor and Tanner [Drew]. They helped so much. Tanner and his brother Taylor were 'the meat and oyster men.'"

Their mother, volunteer Jennifer Drew, said she'd "really been enjoying hearing from the new people that got to go this year about how next year they will be going with more friends – because it was the best Willits fundraiser of this year."



Olivia and Katrina were tireless helpers at the Garden Party.

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At top, from left: WCA board members, from left, Ann Maglente, Sandy Strong, Nancy Reed, June Ruckman, Barbara Willens, Lynne Whiting and Jenny Jergenson. Artist Morgan Rex with his work, on the pillar and in the corner behind. Peter Onstad's abstract paintings and a bouquet.

Above: Three generations of artists, from left: Peter Onstad, Rex Morgan and Tristen Santana Cockrall-Castro. Below: Barbara Willens and June Ruckman view work on display at WCA.

At bottom, from left: Artist Peter Onstad with two of his abstract paintings. Morgan Rex's "Weathering the Storm" water fountain in the form of a beautiful schooner. Tristen Santana Cockrall-Castro with two of his "galaxy art" paintings.



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At top, from left: Nancy Reed carves on a linoleum block before inking and printing her design. Roxie hangs out at the Roots of Motive Power yard during last year's steam-up. Many pieces of antique equipment can be seen in the Roots yard. Below, left: Roots volunteers in red shirts show how the antique machinery works. Below, right: Chad Johnson reveals a just-made print, hot off the steam roller press.

Roots is Getting Ready

Annual steam-up and street printing event this weekend

Photos by Maureen Moore



Roots of Motive Power will be having its annual Steam Festival event on Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11 from 9 am through 4 pm. Saturday's festivities will be followed at 5 pm at Recreation Grove Park with a Taco Feast (\$15 for adults; \$10 for kids under 12.), auction and raffle.

Start by riding the train pulled by our 100-year-old, 1916 Bluestone Heisler steam locomotive. Riding the rails is a special experience not to be missed by anyone, from grandparents to toddlers. We offer a full experience, starting at our original Train Master's Office, where you will pick up your free train tickets, then boarding from our train platform, and having the conductor punch each ticket that comes through.

Once you've enjoyed a train ride or two, you can wander through our yard and see some of the amazing pieces of logging and railroad machinery that we have acquired and lovingly restored. These historic pieces will make you catch your breath with their sheer size and power.

We've pulled out all the stops for the 2016 steam-up, and will be running our:

1926 Ohio steam locomotive crane; 1932 Bucyrus Erie 50 B steam shovel; 1940 Raymond FF400 steam crane; 1913 Willamette steam yarder; 1890 Mansfield portable steam engine; 1924 Buffalo Springfield steam roller, and more!

And don't forget to check out our steam roller printing. It's educational and fun for all.

Designs are carved into a special type of linoleum, which is then laid onto the sidewalk. The linoleum is inked, and a piece of paper is laid over that. Finally, both are rolled over with our impressive 1924 Buffalo Springfield Steam Roller. Once it's been pressed, you end up with a beautiful transfer of the carved picture onto your paper.

We hope that you will join us! The Roots facility is located at 420 East Commercial Street, here in Willits, next door to the Mendocino County Museum. Or, just follow the train whistle! For more information, call 707-354-1918.

— submitted by
Roots of Motive Power

At right, from top: The Buffalo Springfield steam roller presses a cut block under a thick sheet of carpeting. Chad Johnson inks a block that's ready for the roller. Members of the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association show off their antique wares at last year's steam-up. Below: Fire, water and steam: the ingredients for powering much of the Roots equipment.



Brooktrails
Golf Course & Grill

24860 Birch St. • Willits, CA 95490 • (707) 459-6761

A 9 hole golf course nestled in the redwoods offers both traditional & disc golf. Measuring 2574 yards from the longest tees & has a slope rating of 86 & a 55.7 USGA rating. The beautiful redwoods on this course make it a challenge for all skill levels. Stop by the clubhouse for lunch & beverages. Sandwiches, salads, burgers, fries & more.

Mondays & Fridays Senior Golf 8am
Wednesdays Open Golf 8am
Thursday Night Scramble 5pm
Saturday Open Sweeps 9am

Year Round Golf • Tee Times Suggested • Driving Nets • Putting Green • Practice Basket • Rentals
Ball Golf \$15 9 Holes - \$20 18 Holes - Disc Golf \$10

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1619 S. Main St. Willits, Ca 707-459-9385
yakumsbodyshop.com

Thursday, September 8

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: The Willits Senior Center hosts its Pancake Breakfast Sunday, September 8, from 8 to 11 am, 1501 Baechtel Road. Menu choices: Pancakes with eggs cooked your style, with choice of sausage, ham or bacon, or biscuits & gravy with eggs cooked your style, with meat sides: \$2 extra. Adults \$7; members \$6; children under 8, \$5. Info: 459-6826.

Friday, September 9

Healthy Harvest September Workshop: at the Little Lake Grange Kitchen in Willits, Friday, September 9 from 2 to 5 pm. "Summer produce is generally available from June through late October or early November here in Mendocino & Lake Counties, but it often really feels like an avalanche of everything being available all at once in September. Cook some of our favorite recipes which showcase the local bounty!" Including Apple Pie Jam, Zoodles (spaghetti noodles made from summer squash with a spiralizer tool) with Fresh Tomato Sauce, and Caponata (sauce with tomatoes and eggplant). \$20 covers produce. Sponsored by North Coast Opportunities. Space is limited, so register by contacting April Cunningham at acunningham@ncoinc.org or call 707-467-3212.

"Dinner & A Movie at Rec Grove": Willits Lions Club presents **Dinner & A Movie** at Recreation Grove, featuring "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?" Bring folding chair and/or blanket and come hungry: BBQ Hamburgers & Hot Dogs from 6 to 8 pm. Movie starts at 8:15 pm.

Shanachie Pub: French Oak, Gypsy band from SF Bay Area, plays Friday, September 9, 9 pm. \$5 cover. "French and American Jazz Standards in a Django Reinhardt-esque style with members of Dgjin. Members include Stella Heath (vocals), Gabriel Pirard (guitar and vocals) Chris Le Deiph (guitar and bass), Jimmy Inciardi (saxophone), and James Foster (drums). Visit <http://www.stellaheathmusic.com>. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, September 10

Brooktrails Flea Market: Brooktrails Lodge and Prosperity Club host this Brooktrails Flea Market, Saturday, September 10, from 9 am to 2 pm. "Come see new and exciting things happening and being sold by vendors at the market: We will no longer be serving our pancake breakfast, but great food vendors will be available for you and the family.

What's Happening Around Town

Jumperz hosts a free jump house for the kids."

Free Bridge Lessons at the Willits Library: Meet new friends and join the millions of people worldwide who enjoy the game of bridge. Free lessons available weekly at the Willits Library beginning Saturday, September 10 from 10 am to Noon. Come alone or bring a friend. No experience necessary! If you can't make the first meeting, that's fine: The lessons are ongoing on Saturday mornings, and late-comers are accepted. For info, call Donna at 459-9035.

Roots of Motive Power Steam-Up: Roots hosts their big once-a-year steam-up weekend, starting on Saturday, September 10 at 10 am and ending on Sunday, September 11 at 4 pm. At the Roots facility, 420 East Commercial Street. "If you only come to one of our events, this is the one. We have everything that runs fired up for the weekend. Our big Bucyrus Erie steam shovel will be out back digging on the dirt pile along with the bulldozers. The Heisler locomotive will be pulling the riding cars along the Roots train loop, and giving rides to the public. Get your free tickets at the Train Master's Booth." Also, screen printing with the 1924 Buffalo Springfield Steam Roller and, on Saturday, starting at 5 pm, a Taco Feast at the Rec



Grove (\$15 adults, \$10 kids under 12) with auction and raffle. See article on page 5 for more details.

Sit N Sew: monthly drop-in sewing group meets at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Saturday, September 10 from 1 to 5 pm. Free to all and open to the public. "Just bring your sewing machine, tools, and a project to work on." Questions? Call Rachel at 354-0605.

Willits Junior Horsemen Gymkhana: the final gymkhana in the 2016 series is set for Saturday, September 10 at 3 pm at the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds. Refreshments and lunch will be available on the premises. Spectator attendance is free, and the public is welcome to come and watch the event. Riders vying for daily and over all high point awards are welcome to enter into one of six age groups: lead line, 10 and under, 11 to 13, 14

to 17, 18 to 44 and 45 and over and compete in the single stake race, California poles, cloverleaf barrels, skill barrels, crazy eight and back and keyhole classes. A 50/30/20 split jackpot barrels class will also be held. Info: Kathryn at 489-6565 or willitsjrhorsemen@gmail.com.

Shanachie Pub: Pick & Pull, "Old Time High Octane Acoustic Hillbilly Dance Music," returns on Saturday, Saturday 10. 9 pm. No cover. This band features Fred, upright bass fiddle; Keith, guitar, mandolin, banjo, vocals; and Scotty, harmonica, washboard, guitar, and vocals. Visit www.facebook.com/pickpullmusic. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, September 11

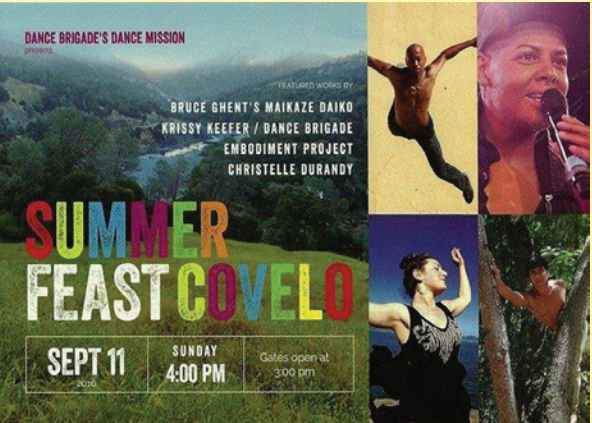
Roots of Motive Power Steam-Up: 10 am to 4 pm at the Roots facility, 420 East Commercial Street.

See Saturday, September 10 listing for details.

Summer Feast Covelo: San Francisco's Dance Brigade's Dance Mission Theatre presents its annual event in Covelo: "A magical afternoon of dance, music, drumming, and poetry." Sunday, September 11 at 4 pm (gates open at 3 pm) at Hidden Oaks Park, 76699 Covelo Road. Tickets: \$15; \$5 Round Valley Tribal Members ; free for youth 12 and under; at brownpapertickets.com. RSVP or more info: 415-826-4441, or visit www.dancemission.com.

Grange School Benefit Brunch: the Grange School of Adaptive Agriculture invites you to attend the Annual Benefit Brunch, a ranch-style classy affair. Ridgewood Ranch, Sunday, September 11 at 10:30 am. Brunch, entertainment and friends. Visit www.school-of-adaptive-agriculture.org for more information about the school.

2016 Patriot's Day Ceremony: Each year, American Legion Post 174 has conducted "A Day of Remembrance" ceremony honoring local firefighters, law enforcement and first responders, and commemorating the valiant efforts that occurred on 9-11-2001. This year, the American Legion, Willits Post 174 will conduct a brief (15 minutes maximum) ceremony





on Sunday, September 11 at 2 pm at the Ernest "Bud" Snider Memorial Park (City Park), East Commercial Street across from City Hall. "Please join us as we pay tribute to those who died and those who gave so much on that 'day of infamy' and the days that followed." Seating is not provided due to the brevity of the ceremony.

Monday, September 12

Willits Garden Club Meeting: Monthly meeting set for Monday, September 12. Features guest speaker Charlotte Smith, on "Harvesting pepper nuts from the laurel tree." Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse, 16100 North Highway 101, south of Ridgewood (Seabiscuit) Ranch. Social time starts at 12:30 pm with coffee and refreshment; presentation at 1 pm. "Guests are welcome to join us, learn more about the garden club, and meet our members. There is no charge. For more info, please contact Kitty McDill at 707-489-6203 or Fran Gardner at 459-8733."

See Saturday, September 10 listing for details.

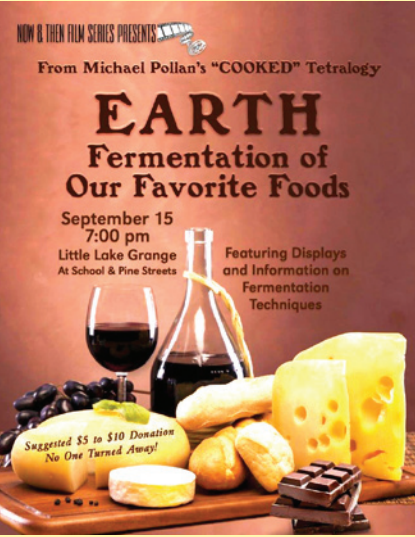
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Wednesday, September 14

Willits High School Cross Country match: in Willits against Fort Bragg at 3:30 pm on



"an enlightening and compelling look at the evolution of what food means to us through the history of food preparation and its universal ability to connect us." "Earth," the final episode in the series, looks at how fermentation preserves raw foods, including chocolate, wine, beer and cheese, and includes, as each episode does, a look at Pollan in his home kitchen in Berkeley. Thursday, September 15 at 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. \$5 donation supports the film series. Trailers & short films at 6:30; main attraction at 7 pm. Serving organic heirloom popcorn with organic butter and Fair Trade chocolate.

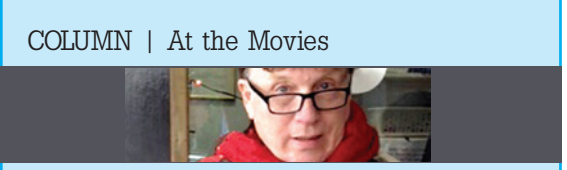
Auditions for "A Christmas Carol": First two days of auditions for the Willits Community Theatre production of the classic Charles Dickens story. 7 pm, Thursday, September 15 and noon on Saturday, September 17. Director Dawn Jacobs is seeking 5 men and 2 women, 20s to 60s, and two boys and a girl about 10 years old. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details and future audition dates. Call director Jacobs at 548-6225 for more info.

Shanachie Pub: Mamadou Sidibe, master kmale ngoni player, and Robert Usher, accompanist on West African instruments, play Thursday, Saturday 15. 8 pm. "Twenty-five years ago Mamadou played a groundbreaking role in transforming the music of this region from its origins in hunters' sacred melodies – played on six string donso ngoni (hunter's harps) – to a music of philosophical observations, politics and daily life. Mamadou was one of the first



Willits High School Soccer Games: at WHS home field against St. Helena on Tuesday, September 13. Boys game at 4 pm, Girls game at 5:30 pm.

COLUMN | At the Movies



‘Captain Fantastic’

The Story: Ben (Viggo Mortensen) raises his five offspring in a teepee and cabin in the forested mountains of the Pacific Northwest. He teaches hunting and survival skills. He tests his children physically and mentally. He insists they read, and read deeply. He engages them in dialogue – in political dialectics. They play music together and sing. Frankly, their life is beautiful, is idyllic but for the fact Ben's wife, the children's mama, is in the hospital and they all miss her terribly. This is the situation when the movie starts.

My Thoughts: This movie is a saga about and for back-to-the-landers in Northern California and probably alt-hippie Vermont (or Maine for that matter). It celebrates respect for the natural world, and it eviscerates consumer culture. There are a few cheap shots at fat people, and some nudity as an in-your-face sociopolitical statement. "Captain Fantastic" realizes as its premise that no life or lifestyle comes cheaply. Even with a happy ending, the flick is a bit of a tearjerker. Sex is talked about quite matter-of-factly. We see an honest and bloody deer hunt. Young teens and up will find the movie inspiring. Adults will reflect on their choices. I loved the movie.

Parents: Despite the active presence of several children, this flick is not really meant for children.

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



Senior Center Lunch

Week of September 12 through September 16

Monday: Pork Chops
Tuesday: Mandarin Chicken Salad
Wednesday: Lemon Tilapia
Thursday: Roast Pork
Friday: Chicken Fried Steak
Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Lego-Palooza!

September 23, 24 – Willits Library

A two-day festival of Lego fun at the Willits Library, Friday, September 23, 4 to 8 pm is Lego Movie Night: a back-to-back movie marathon of Lego movies! Saturday, September 24, from 11 am to 3 pm is "It Takes a Village": an afternoon of Lego creativity, as everyone gathers to help us build our village. The library has Legos, or you're free to bring your own as well. It's going to be a Lego-Palooza! Be there, or be "square!" Info: Benjamin MacBean, youth services librarian, 459-5908.

DEADLINE FOR WILLIT'S WEEKLY: Monday prior to Thursday publication

TRAIN SINGER & SON

Tickets \$10.00 at the Door

Available in Advance at Cat's Meow 29 S. Main St. Willits, CA



GREG SCHINDEL
MALAKAI SCHINDEL

Sunday, September 18, 2016
4:00 PM-6:00PM
A Fundraising Event

St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street
Willits, CA 95490
(707) 459-3066

Got fruit or veggies to donate?

The Grateful Gleaners are looking for gardeners who have more produce than they can use. We harvest your excess and deliver the bounty to Willits Community Services & Food Bank, Willits Daily Bread, the Kids Club, Nuestra Alianza and other local agencies that serve our community.

Please call 367-9759 and leave a message with your name, phone number, the types of fruit, vegetables or nuts you have, and when you think they will be ready (or if the produce needs to be picked right away). Please note that we only take produce that is not sprayed with pesticides or herbicides. Dormant oil sprays and other non-toxic pest and weed control substances are OK.

– submitted by the Grateful Gleaners

Save the Date

Not Just Cowboy Poetry,
September 24, Emandal

5th annual Ranch Rodeo, October 1,
Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds

"Supper on the Bypass – A Farm to Table Experience," October 29, Willits bypass

Auditions for "A Christmas Carol"


Open auditions will be held for the Willits Community Theatre production of the classic Charles Dickens story adapted for the stage by Michael Paller. Director Dawn Jacobs is seeking five men and two women, 20s to 60s, and two boys and a girl about 10 years old. This stage adaptation has a play within the play, challenging some of the actors to play up to six different roles!

Auditions are scheduled at the WCT Playhouse, 37 Van Lane, for Thursday, September 15 at 7 pm, Saturday, September 17 at noon, Tuesday, September 27 at 7 pm, and Saturday October 1 at noon. Rehearsals run October and November with performances December 2 through 18.

Auditions will consist of reading out loud from the script and any prepared pieces the actor wishes, lasting no longer than three minutes. Contact Dawn Jacobs at 548-6225 for more information.

Scripts are available at the front desk of the Willits Library.

WHAT'S COOLER THAN BEING COOL?
HAVING A LIBRARY CARD.
GET YOURS TODAY!



September is Library Card Sign-up Month!

ilovlibraries.org/library-card

ALA ILLA IFLA IFLA

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

A library card is the coolest.... September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, a time when the Mendocino County Library joins with the American Library Association and public libraries nationwide to make sure that every student has the most important school supply of all – a free library card.

Today's libraries are about more than books. They are creative and engaging community centers for learners from birth to high school and beyond. Community members of all ages can collaborate using new technologies, learn how to make a variety of things, or just relax with peers.

Our library also offers access to a variety of print and digital resources, including Explora research for Public Libraries (includes portals specifically for elementary school, middle school, and high school) and LearningExpress Library (includes programs such as the School Center, College Center and Career Center). Our online research databases provide students with reference resources to complete school assignments, apply to college, and prepare for exams in various career fields.

Our library provides access and programs for all ages. The library has regularly scheduled story time, a variety of craft programs, seed libraries, book clubs, a "1,000 books before kindergarten" program, and more. There's really something for everyone, and it's all free with a library card.

The library now offers online library card registration. Online library card users will have immediate temporary access to our databases, e-books, and entertainment such as Hoopla which offers audiobooks, e-books, and streaming of music and video. To convert your online card to a general card, visit your local branch and bring your ID and address verification.

For more information on how to sign up for a library card, visit the Mendocino County Library in person or visit the library online at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/library/librarycard.htm.

– submitted by the Mendocino County Library

Wednesday, September 14.

Thursday, September 15

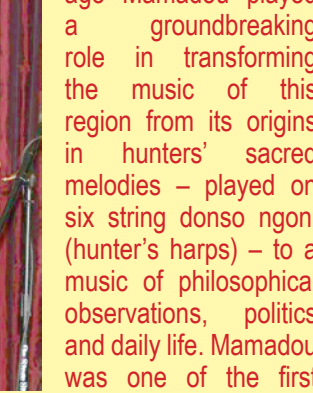
Willits High School Soccer Games: at WHS home field against Kelseyville on Thursday, September 15. Girls game at 4 pm; boys game at 5:30 pm.

Now and Then Films: "Earth": Now & Then Films presents Michael Pollan's "Earth," from the Netflix documentary series "Cooked," based on Pollan's 2013 book of the same name. "Cooked" is

"an enlightening and compelling look at the evolution of what food means to us through the history of food preparation and its universal ability to connect us." "Earth," the final episode in the series, looks at how fermentation preserves raw foods, including chocolate, wine, beer and cheese, and includes, as each episode does, a look at Pollan in his home kitchen in Berkeley. Thursday, September 15 at 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. \$5 donation supports the film series. Trailers & short films at 6:30; main attraction at 7 pm. Serving organic heirloom popcorn with organic butter and Fair Trade chocolate.

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to expand the instrument's range with two extra strings, creating the popular kamale ngoni." 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, September 16

Shanachie Pub: Peter Jong Chang plays Friday, Saturday 16. 9 pm. No cover. "Showcasing last year's releases of Emerge/Sunset Coast, Blue Ruby/Rainy Life, and Deep Orchid/As Long As You're Around, as well as the reissue of Emerge (self-titled), on CD, Peter Jong Chang returns to the West Coast for live performances, along with Jenn August (Blue Ruby) and Dan Meyer." Visit <http://peterjongchang.com>. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



inspired and embrace the beauty of our unique little town! Just a few examples of projects that Art Walk proceeds help fund are the awesome fabric arts projects like the high schoolers' flag project and the salmon banner (in last year's parade!) and the annual students' production with the Missoula Children's Theater."

Shanachie Pub: Dirty Cello plays Saturday, September 17 at 9 pm. \$5 cover. "A high-energy and unique spin on blues and bluegrass. Led by vivacious cross-over cellist, Rebecca Roudman.... From down home blues with a wailing cello to virtuosic stompin' bluegrass, Dirty Cello is a band that gets your heart thumping and your toes tapping." Visit www.dirtycello.com. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, September 18

"Fathers, Families and The Art of Relationships": Sunday, September 18 from 1 to 3 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Inside the heart and soul of two longtime artistic visionaries: writer Jed Diamond and painter Cynda Valle, with musical interlude by Just Enough."

Train Singer & Son Benefit: St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church is hosting a Benefit Concert on Sunday, September 18, from 4 to 6 pm, featuring Train Singer Greg Schindel and his son, Malakai Schindel. The Schindels are regular entertainers on the California Western Railroad's Skunk Train and will be performing traditional train songs as well as original compositions. Proceeds from this event will be used to support local organizations Willits Daily Bread, Willits Kids Club, Willits Community Services, and Ecology Action. 1 North Main Street; 459-3066. Tickets, \$10, are available at the door or at Cat's Meow, 29 South Main Street.



Greg Schindel and his son, Malakai Schindel.

WHS Senior Class Rummage Sale : "Come support the Willits High School Senior Class of 2017! We will be holding a Rummage Sale on September 17, beginning at 9 am and ending around 3 pm. The sale will be held at Les Schwab, 1565 South Main Street. With various items for sale, including: clothing, trinkets, furniture, etc. All funds will be put towards the Senior Class trip at the end of the school year. Please come support your local students, and help us raise the funds we need! Questions or concerns can be brought to WHS leadership at Willits High School, main number: 459-6589."

Laytonville Art Walk: the 5th Annual Laytonville Art Walk is set for Saturday, September 17. "Come have a full day of family fun on the 101 and support the youth art programs of Laytonville! As always, there will be live music, the spectacular kids zone, and dozens of amazing local artists to excite and stimulate our minds, bodies and spirit. Dance, be

thrilled its audience last year at WCT, and its lineup now includes Southwest rap artist Def-i. Navajo horn player Delbert Anderson is joined by Mike McCluhan on stand-up bass and drummer Nicholas Lucero to make up the core trio, formed in the deserts of the Southwest, which has performed at concerts throughout the United States. "The three jazzmen serve up a spectacular cutting edge form of modern funk and jazz combined with ancient indigenous melodies, along with the new layering of Def-i's rhymes." Advance tickets, \$15, available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets also available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).



MENDOCINO COUNTY FAIR & APPLE SHOW
SEPT. 16TH - 18TH, 2016

Annual Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show

September 16 to 18, Boonville

The annual Mendocino County Fair and Apple show is set for Friday, September 16 through Sunday, September 18 at the Boonville Fairgrounds in Anderson Valley. "Started in 1924. In Mendocino County's historic and picturesque Anderson Valley, the County Fair and Apple Show has remained an old-time harvest festival." 9 am to midnight daily.

Ag, floral and home arts and fine arts displays; 4-H and FFA livestock; food and drink; strolling entertainers, Annual California Wool & Fiber Festival, and more. "Wander over to the Ag Building to find amazing displays of Anderson Valley apples and other award-winning produce, to include the giant pumpkins. This where you can taste locally-produced cider and wines, to accompany a piece of freshly-baked apple pie."

Event schedule: Jr. Swine Show at 3 pm; Lamb Palace Wine Tasting at 5 pm; Apple Bowl Varsity Football at 7 pm. Saturday: Singer Andrea Pearson at 12:30 and 3:30 pm; CCPRA Rodeo at 8 pm; Rodeo Dance in the Apple Hall, featuring McKenna Faith at 9:30 pm. Sunday: Church Service at 8 am; Sheep Dog Trials at 10 am; Classic Car Show at 10 am; Parade at 12 Noon; CCPRA Rodeo at 2 pm. Admission: \$9 adults; \$7 age 13 to 18; \$6 age 7 to 12; free for kids 6 and under. Special promotion on Friday: Seniors 65+ over, \$3, and children 12 and under, free. Carnival admission: \$30 for daily unlimited rides before 6 pm. Visit <http://mendocountyfair.com/> for full details.

Free Bridge Lessons start September 10 at the library

Free bridge lessons at the Willits Library will again be available weekly, beginning Saturday mornings 10 am to noon, from September 10 through November 5. Studies by the University of California at Berkeley and others have shown that bridge measurably strengthens the immune system and that bridge, as a "brain game," improves short-term memory and has even been proven to push back the symptoms of Alzheimer's.

If you have considered playing bridge, but have felt it was too complicated or confusing; if you played bridge in college and have forgotten everything you knew about it; or if you want to meet new people and learn a lifetime skill, then these classes are for you.

Come alone or come with a friend. If you can't make the first meeting, that's fine: The lessons are ongoing, and late-comers are accepted. For more information call Donna, 459-9035.



At top, from left: Kathy Graves poses with Ananda and Keith Johnson at the 2016 Claws for a Cause event. Laurin and Andrew Hosford sit with their sons Daniel and Wade, who excitedly wait to bid on the auction items. Chuck and Jill Persico and Dan and Annette Pinon wait for their lobster. At left: Paddles were raised by excited bidders during the dollar auction. Below: Servers and Willits High School seniors Camryn Christensen, Jamie Johnstone and Julia Johnstone carry baskets of bread out to the attendees.



At right, from top: One of the dinner items on the Claws for a Cause menu: the beef filet kebobs with harvest seasonal vegetables and twice-baked potatoes, prepared by Chef Adam Celaya of Adam's Restaurant. Jerry and Sandy Turner count and prepare lobsters for the pot.



Mike Tobin and Lucas King carry cooked lobsters from the boil pot on the lawn to the kitchen for service.



Tom Herman and Bud Garman drop Susan B. Anthony dollar coins into the bucket, making them eligible to bid on items during the dollar auction.

Many members of the serving crew pose together in the kitchen for a quick photo.



See more images at: <http://photography.zenfolio.com/clawscouse>

Photos by Maureen Moore



Claws for a Cause

Annual fundraiser earns over \$25,000 for therapeutic riding center

What better place than the front lawn of the historic Howard House at Ridgewood Ranch to hold a fundraiser for a therapeutic riding program? The twinkling lights, live music, wine, food and mingling all mixed together to create a wonderful and successful event to help support the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center, to the tune of \$25,000-plus.

"We were blown away last year with how well the event went, and this year we were even more amazed at how well it went – even compared to last year," noted Michael Smith, Willits Rotary Club member, event coordinator and owner of Willits Furniture. "We sold 165 tickets in 2015 and could have done more, so this year, we sold 235 tickets and we still could have sold more. So next year, I guess we're on for even more. I was getting calls the day after the event from sponsors who wanted to pre-confirm their participation for next year and from people who wanted to be sure to get tickets. It was amazing!"

The evening started out with check-in, appetizers and previewing of the items that will be offered for auction and raffle. Music by the Ed Reinhart Quartet wafted through the air. Guests were seated when the surf-and-turf dinner, prepared by Chef Adam Celaya, was ready. Trays of rolls, spring mix salad and freshly cooked Maine lobster were brought around to the tables by the volunteer servers, and a second round of beef filet kebobs, grilled vegetables and twice-baked potatoes followed. Willits Rotary Club's Mike Tobin even gave the gathered crowd a demonstration on how to break down a whole lobster.

While the evening was hosted by the Willits Rotary Club, many other groups stepped up to help make the evening a success, including the Willits High School volleyball team, the Willits High School soccer team, the Redwood Empire Lions Club, members and friends

of the South Ukiah Rotary Club, members of the Church of the Golden Rule, residents of Ridgewood Ranch, volunteers with the Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation, and members of the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center.

STRC is a non-profit program that serves the needs of youth throughout Mendocino County with the goal to teach the skill of riding to children with special needs using the benefits of horse movement, coordination and personal awareness to help develop skills and strengths in their daily lives.

The center is headed up by Erin Holzhauser, who made a presentation to the gathered crowd about the program, its past, present and future, the latter of which will include additional assistance and support through Lydia Senter Leser and Kirsten Myers Shipp, who not only also have special education teaching and training experience, but are also high school friends and classmates of Holzhauser.

As the meal finished up, the live dollar auction began. At check-in, attendees were offered the chance to purchase \$25 of Susan B. Anthony dollar coins. Holly Madrigal emceed the dollar auction and explained how bidding would work.

Bidders can either place all 25 dollar coins into the bucket at the center of the table, making them eligible to win all the 25 prizes, or they can add one dollar coin at a time, depending on whether or not they would like to be eligible to win that one item. The pace of the auction was quick: An item was presented, anyone wishing to be eligible on that item placed a dollar in the bucket, and raised their paddle. A winning number was then drawn from a bin containing all the numbers. If a paddle number was called and its owner had placed a dollar in the bucket, they won that item. If a paddle

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



Above, left: Just a few of the many items available for the live auction. Above, right: The Ed Reinhart Quartet plays for the crowd, lobster bibles and all. Below, left: Dennis Long holds up a rustic painted rooster donated by Willits Furniture and La Bodega for the dollar auction. Below, right: Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center Director Erin Holzhauser, makes a presentation to the crowd about the riding program.



Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku



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!

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

Level: Beginner

KITCHEN & BATH WORD SEARCH

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

ACCENT
ACCESSORIES
ACCLIMATION
ALCOVE
AMBIENT
ANTIMICROBIAL
APPLIANCES
AROMATHERAPY
BACKERBOARD
BACKSPLASH
BANQUETTE
BATHROOM

BEAMS
BIDET
BLUEPRINT
BOILER
CABINETS
CLEARANCE
CONDENSATION
CONDUCTION
DAYLIGHTING
DIMENSIONS
FINISH
FIXTURES

FLOORING
HUMIDITY
KITCHEN
LIGHTING
SEATING
SINK
SOFFIT
SPA
STORAGE
TECHNOLOGY
TUB
VENTILATION

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 190 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

August 27

7 am: CASEY, Johnathan (25) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

9:45 am: DUMAN, Rocky (24) of Ukiah was contacted during a traffic stop in the 300 block of North Main Street and arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation parole hold.

August 28

12:05 am: Officers patrolling the 10 block of 10 Holly Street discovered DELBELLO, Jonathan (25) of Willits lying naked, and bleeding, in the roadway. As they approached, Delbello stood up, began incoherently screaming, and jumped onto the hood of a nearby vehicle. During a subsequent investigation, it was reported that Delbello had been smashing the windows of vehicles parked along Holly Street. Officers ultimately placed Delbello under arrest pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication) and 594(b)(2)(A) PC (Vandalism). When they seated him in the back seat of the patrol vehicle, he began to attempt to kick out of the vehicle's rear windows.

6:15 pm: Officers contacted

Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue

BOLTON, John (40) of Willits in the 10 block of South Main Street while investigating a possible camping violation. During that contact, officers determined Bolton had been drinking, in violation of the terms of his probation, and placed him under arrest pursuant to 1203.2(a) PC (Violation of Probation).

August 29

12:15 pm: Officers initiated an investigation into a possible restraining order violation that was occurring in the 10 block of North Street.

9:10 pm: Officers contacted WILBURN, Anthony (30) of Willits in the 1400 block of South Main Street and arrested him pursuant to an active post-release community supervision hold.

11 pm: Officers were dispatched to a disturbance in the 10 block of Franklin Avenue and subsequently contacted RODRIGUEZ, Orlando (49) of Fresno, California. Officers determined Rodriguez was under the influence of a controlled substance and placed him under arrest pursuant to 11550(a) HS (Drug Use).

August 30

4 pm: Officers were dispatched

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12		13			14		
15						16			17		
	18				19	20			21		
					22	23			24		
25	26	27	28	29							
30							31				
32								33	34	35	36
47	48							50	51	52	53
55						56			57		58
59						60			61		
62						63			64		

CLUES ACROSS

- Kiln
- American time
- Female sibling
- Fencing sword
- Spoken in Laos
- Swiss river
- Fictional Middle-earth
- 'The Real World' (abbr.)
- Replacement worker
- Form after cuts
- Frozen water
- Irritates
- Type of bread
- Female peace officers
- Where to put things
- Commercial
- Hard drinker
- Take in
- Copy
- Volume of published materials
- Used to be called 'skim'
- Organizes
- Parts of worms
- ___ Khan: hereditary title
- A cravat with wide square ends
- Central China mountain range
- Longing
- Elephant's name

CLUES DOWN

- Former CIA
- Ooohs and ___
- Invests in little enterprises
- Spanish river
- In the preceding month
- Malignant tumor
- Dried off
- Via ___: main street of Ancient Rome
- Asian country (alt. sp.)
- One point south of southeast
- Confederate soldier
- Popular Bollywood actress Thottumkal
- Small scale embedded generation (abbr.)

- British children's author Blyton
- Of unsound mind
- Pacific Time
- Iowa town 51044
- Trim
- Wrath
- Used to serve wine Republic (abbr.)
- A very large body of water
- Protestant, Ulster, Loyalist
- Expression of disappointment
- Tropical fruits
- Furniture with open shelves
- Metal can be extracted from it
- Flat tableland with steep edges
- Lingua ___
- Chadic language
- Peruse
- Yemenese port city
- Lean
- Helps little firms
- Blackjack players need this
- Be obedient to
- Source of the Nile River
- Cool

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thousands of dollars of savings on a typical illegal single-family residence," Dunicliff said.

During the amnesty period, building permit fees will still be collected and county and state building and zoning codes will be upheld. Therefore, not every building project will be waved through, even if it is self-reported.

According to Dunicliff, applicants

since 1998 treated some 100,000 acres of its forestland in this manner, claims it is the most economical method to suppress hardwoods, thereby allowing softwoods, including redwood trees, to grow more quickly.

MRC claims to be practicing high-quality, conscientious and sustainable forestry and has been certified by Rainforest Alliance and Scientific Certification Systems some 24 times over the past 15 years as having met or exceeded North American standards of the Forest Stewardship Council.

Rainforest Alliance has certified MRC as meeting the FSC standards 14 times since 2000. Scientific Certification System has certified MRC as meeting FSC standards six times from 2000 to 2006, and four times from 2008 to 2012.

MRC claims to have planted 10 million redwood trees since 1998. Also, according to information found on the company's website, since acquiring the timberlands and industrial plant from Louisiana Pacific in 1998, it has increased its softwood timber inventory by 1.4 billion board feet, moving from 2.1 billion board feet at the date of purchase to 3.5 billion board feet at the end of 2015.

Despite this track record, the company has fallen afoul of many local environmentalists and forest activists unhappy with the company's hack-and-squirt practice.

Opponents of hack and squirt claim it creates an additional fire danger, as well as posing a danger to firefighters and adjacent property. In 2016, opponents to the practice championed Measure V, a Mendocino County ballot initiative which declared the practice a public nuisance. Measure V was approved by 62.28 percent of county voters in June.

Recently MRC personnel have asserted California's Civil Code prevents forestry practices, like

must provide similar levels of information and submit to similar levels of review as projects built legally. Also, the amnesty program does not apply to any structure that has already received a notice of violation from the Department of Planning and Building's code enforcement wing.

The amnesty period is in effect from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Building projects eligible for reduced fees during the amnesty period include houses, guest cottages, detached

agricultural practices, from being declared a public nuisance. The county has declined to adopt an ordinance encoding Measure V into the county code and, to date, the supervisors have not made an official statement on the county's attitude toward Measure V.

Contacted by Willits Weekly, the Rainforest Alliance's Jamie Overton, in charge of coordinating the recertification process of MRC, was asked if the company's failure to abide by Measure V would mitigate against MRC in its annual bid to gain recertification.

Overton declined to comment.

Overton has requested members of the public who have concerns or opinions about MRC's forest practices to provide comments to her as part of the recertification process.

Comments may be delivered three ways. They may be delivered in person, by meeting with the audit team during or shortly after the field work, scheduled to be conducted on MRC property on September 27 and 28.

People may call Overton by telephone and deliver comments verbally. Overton's number is 802-953-3765.

Or people may submit written comments by email to joverton@ra.org, or by mail to Jamie Overton, Rainforest Alliance, 65 Millet Street, Suite 201, Richmond, VT 05477.

All comments should be received by October 5, 2016. The final determination on MRC's status is due no later than November 28.

Asked to comment on whether it would be helpful for Measure V supporters to let the Rainforest Alliance know how they feel, Albion-Little River Fire Protection District Fire Chief and Measure V proponent Ted Williams said he was not involved in the certification renewal process, and choose instead to express his feelings

bedrooms, garages, carports, studios, workshops, storage barns and other similar buildings, septic tanks, leach fields and wells.

People who are interested in taking advantage of the amnesty period should contact the Department of Planning and Building at 707-234-6650 for unpermitted structures and the Department of Environmental Health at 707-234-6625 for unpermitted septic systems, leach fields and wells.

about MRC's dismissal of the passage of Measure V.

"Before the election, MRC representatives were clear on how Measure V would impact their business. Now that it has passed, they claim they are exempt," wrote Williams in a September 7 email to Willits Weekly. "It's a business decision on their part, whether to tarnish goodwill by fighting the people for directly passing an ordinance while simultaneously assuming the risk of an unfavorable court decision.

"I can't read their intent," Williams said. "The letter [i.e. the July 6 letter from MRC to County CEO Carmel Angelo, in which the company claimed it was exempt from the provisions of Measure V] and recent statements might simply be posturing.

"You could ask MRC, when there is a fire in their 'hack and squirt' zone near a residential subdivision, would they prefer we stand back and let it burn or send firefighters below the dead trees to fight it? Which is it? [For MRC to say,] 'We'll cross that bridge when we come to it' is not an acceptable answer, but it is rather a method to dodge reality," Williams wrote.

Williams said he had no complaint against Mendocino County and its legal counsel, Katharine Elliott. "I have no complaint against County Counsel Katharine Elliott. She is processing it mindfully, precisely as I would expect."

Williams also speculated on the possibility Measure V proponents might bring a lawsuit against the county to ensure the measure is enforced. "It's too early to speak about litigation," Williams said. "The county has an obligation to reasonably defend the ordinance."

Measure V was approved by 62.28 percent of Mendocino County voters on June 7. In the Third Supervisorial District (which includes Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville, Covelo, Round Valley and points north) it was approved by 63 percent. Willits voters approved Measure V by the same percentage as voters in the Third District.

detectives from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Investigative Services Bureau were summoned to the scene," Porter said.

Later that night, following investigation leads, the victim's brother, Sean Bradley Hammon, was contacted at his home in the 2500 block of Old River Road in Talmage, Porter said.

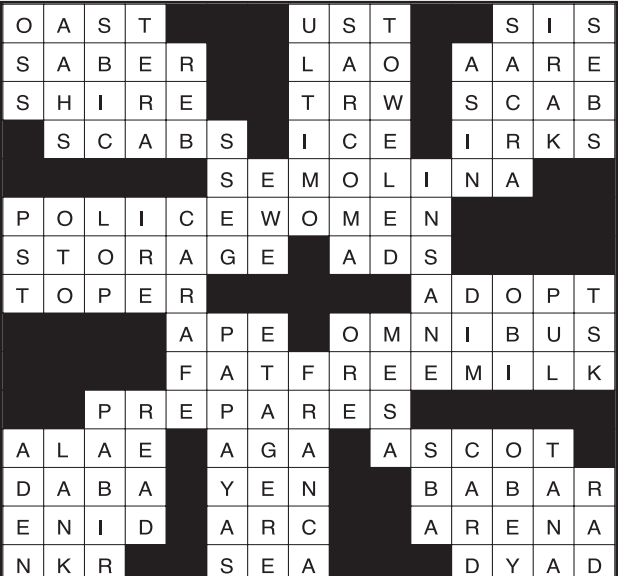
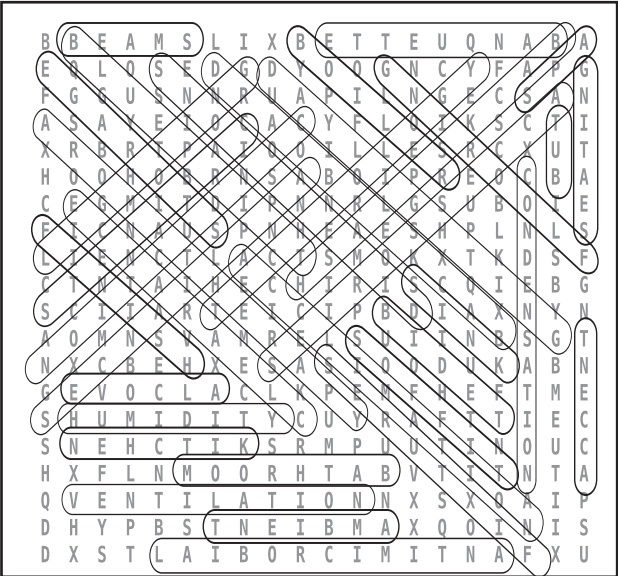
"During that contact an incident of domestic violence was reported by Hammon's girlfriend," he noted, and "Hammon barricaded himself inside his residence."

An eight-hour standoff between Hammon and the Mendocino County SWAT team and Crisis Negotiation Team followed, with Hammond ultimately surrendering to police and being incarcerated in county jail.

Over the next few days, Hammon was interviewed several times concerning the death of his brother, Porter said, and on August 17 the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office filed criminal charges against Hammon for felonious hit-and-run causing death.

Anyone who may have additional information that would assist detectives in this investigation is urged to contact the Sheriff's Office tip-line at 234-2100.

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



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Mendocino Front Runners, a social LGBT running club, has weekly fun runs in Ukiah and Willits for gay and lesbian runners and walkers and their friends. All levels welcome. Email mendo.front.runners@gmail.com for times and locations, or see our schedule of events by entering the same email address in Google Calendar.

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Dogs at the Ukiah Shelter play together.
Photo by Rod Coats

'Dogs Playing for Life'

Free training for dog lovers at the Ukiah shelter

Aimee Sadler, nationally known dog trainer and founder of "Dogs Playing for Life - A Training Program for Shelter Dogs," will be making a repeat visit to the Mendocino Animal Care Services Ukiah Shelter September 17, 18 and 19. The dog-loving public is invited, and the three-day workshop is free.

Sadler's previous training at the Ukiah Shelter was a tremendous success. With Sadler's information and advice, the shelter has been able to hold multi-dog play groups for the past year and a half. These play groups give the shelter's dogs exercise, simulation and socialization - activities which help the shelter's

guests immeasurably.

If you love dogs and are interested in learning about matching dogs for safe and rewarding play, you will not want to miss this great opportunity. If you wish to be part of making life better for homeless dog in our community, please join us. Pre-registration is required. Those interested please email curullae@co.mendocino.ca.us or call 707-467-6453. To find out more about the Dogs Playing for Life program, visit Sadler's website at www.dogsplayingforlife.com.

- submitted by Sage Mountainfire, shelter supervisor, Animal Care Services, Ukiah



Above, left: The real Molly Ivins.



Above, right: Willits actor Mary Burns plays Molly Ivins in "Red Hot Patriot."

'Red Hot Patriot'

One-woman show on columnist Molly Ivins at Willits Community Theatre

"Red Hot Patriot - The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins" as presented by Mary Burns opens for its two-week run at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, September 23. The one-person show celebrates the amazing wit and power of the famed Texas political satirist who for nearly four decades poked fun at American foibles. Written by twin sisters and journalists Margaret and Allison Engel, the play is an authentic rendition of Ivins' life, drawn in part from her incisive and often funny opinion columns, and performed on stage in the form of incoming AP News bulletins, along with multi-media photos, sound and music.

Burns brings her considerable talents to portraying the wit of Molly Ivins after appearing on the WCT stage in numerous acting roles over the years. She says she was drawn to the Ivins material mainly out of her love for the columnist's brilliant use of humor in writing about the outrages of her times, from racism to cynicism, and inequality. "The issues she wrote about are so close to my heart, and many are yet to be resolved," says Burns. She points out that Ivins belongs to the enduring American tradition that includes Mark Twain to Jon Stewart and

Garry Trudeau when it comes to poking fun at the hypocrisies and inanities of government officials.

Ivins, who died in 2007, certainly loomed larger than life as someone who was sharp, devastatingly honest, very brave - and hilarious. She was known for having a huge heart, a generous spirit, and a true patriotic love of America and her home state of Texas.

Directed by long-time WCT veteran, Mike A'Dair, the show is a second-stage production with limited sets and props, while the focus draws on the work of one amazing human being. As such, it is sure to be a pertinent pleaser during the current political election season. Performances are on Friday, September 23 at 8 pm, Saturday, September 24 at 8 pm, Sunday, September 25 at 2 pm, Thursday, September 29 at 7 pm, Friday, September 30 at 8 pm, and Saturday, October 1 at 8 pm. Advance tickets are \$10 for all shows and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.

- Steve Hellman, for WCT

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Above: 2016 GASP Artist Ada B. Fine shows off student work.

September 30 deadline for GASP grants for artists and schools

The Arts Council of Mendocino County is pleased to announce the 12th year of funding for the Get Arts in the Schools Program: GASP. GASP is a public/private arts education partnership that funds professional artist workshops and live performances in Mendocino County schools during the school year.

The goal of the program is to infuse the arts in the core curriculum and to deliver quality, educational, curriculum-based artistic enrichment in K-12 classrooms throughout Mendocino County. Core program funding is made possible by the Mendocino County Office of Education with generous support from the Hudson Family Fund and the Arts in the Schools Endowment of the Community Foundation of Mendocino County.

Artists: To be eligible to receive a GASP grant, an artist must: be a professional in their art field, have prior experience presenting an art program or project in a classroom setting, reside in Mendocino County, and be a current member of Arts Council of Mendocino County.

Artists who meet all four of the qualifying criteria should submit an application packet to the Arts Council of Mendocino County by the application deadline of September 30, 2016. Grant guidelines and application materials are available at www.ArtsMendocino.org or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Arts Council of Mendocino County, Attn: GASP - Artist Application Request, 309 E Perkins St, Ukiah, CA 95482. New artists are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposed projects with Arts Council staff prior to applying. A limited amount of funding is available to support mentorships for artists who lack experience teaching in the schools and yet meet all other eligibility requirements. Funding is also available for school-wide residencies at Redwood Elementary School and Dana Gray Elementary School. Interested artists are encouraged to inquire at the Arts Council.

Schools: In order to be eligible for a GASP grant, a school or after-school program must be serviced by MCOE (private schools are currently ineligible) and be able to present a GASP program during the regular school day or in an arts and education after-school program. Schools and after-school programs apply to receive a GASP artist workshop or performance by submitting a request form to the Arts Council of Mendocino County by September 30, 2016. Request forms are available online at ArtsMendocino.org.

Artist/classroom matches will be made by the Arts Council of Mendocino County according to the school requests and the pool of qualified GASP artists. Artists and schools will be notified of their awards by December 2016. Funding for this program will be available starting in January 2017. The total amount available for grants is \$24,000.

For more information, call the Arts Council at 707-463-2727 or visit www.ArtsMendocino.org.

- submitted by the Arts Council of Mendocino County

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Above: Willits High School boys soccer team members Mariano Tomas Mendoza, Angel Jacinto, Lalo Escobedo, Jairo Carrillo, and Aiden Bertonlino-Haley pose in front of the Mendo Mill bucket display with Willits High School volleyball player Daisy Barrett and boys soccer co-coach Dan Haley.

Below: The Wolverine-themed "Bucket Challenge" display at the Willits Mendo Mill store.

Photos by Jennifer Barrett



Wellington "Mac" McClellan

December 3, 1916 - August 2, 2016

Wellington "Mac" McClellan, aged 99, passed away peacefully August 2nd at Holy Spirit Residential Care Home in Willits. Mac was born December 3, 1916 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, to Vest and Gladys (Canning) McClellan.

He met his wife and lifetime companion, Dorothy (Drummond) McClellan, at Montebello High School in Los Angeles. They were married nearly 70 years from December 7, 1941 until Dorothy's death in 2011, the two only separating when Mac shipped out for battle during World War II.

Mac was a Navy Veteran who proudly served our country for over seven years (7/9/38-9/25/45) during the war in the Pacific Theater. He worked as Aviation Chief Machinist Mate on the USS Steamer Bay. During his service he participated in the invasion of the Japanese-held Philippines, as well as Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Mac received a citation in recognition for saving a pilot's life, as well as his own life, and preventing an aircraft from going down when the pilot lost consciousness. When the aircraft went into a steep dive, Mac was able to pull the aircraft up and land it on the carrier. As a result of his service, Mac sustained significant hearing loss.

After the war, in the 1950s Mac managed the Living Arts Foundation in Escondido. Other jobs included creative mechanics for Disneyland and a job in research, design and development for a Philippine company in San Francisco.

Mac and Dorothy moved to Willits in the early 1980s from San Francisco. Mac loved teaching boys and girls the art of woodworking using wood making tools to make toys such as stilts, cars, tractors, airplanes, ships, and dinosaur skeletons; and they were all intricate in detail. He could often be seen in his front yard on Franklin Avenue teaching children how to use their hands and imaginations making dioramas from simple household items that would otherwise be discarded. He and Dorothy had no children but he treated these children as his own.

Mac also had a heart for animals, volunteering with the Milo Foundation. He loved his dog, "the Duke of Wellington," and had a following of many stray cats as well. Mac's love of children and dogs continued to the very end – his face would light up when he would see them at play.

Both Mac and Dorothy were active in the Willits Public Safety Auxiliary in the 1990s. Mac was a member of the American Legion and was the oldest member of the Willits Stamp Club (above photo taken at the February 2016 meeting). He enjoyed going out daily to dine, visit the Casino or eat an ice cream with his good buddy of many years, Ken Wickstrom.

He never complained and had a happy-go-lucky attitude towards Life, which continued until his last few months on this earth. His smile and twinkle in his eyes will be missed.

Special thanks to Perla, Genaro, Victor and to all the wonderful staff at Holy Spirit Care Home, who provided exceptional and loving care for Mac, including throwing a Birthday Party for him last December when he turned 99.

There will be a private memorial where Mac's ashes will be scattered out to sea.



A fundraiser for Willits High School sports was held at the Willits Mendo Mill store on September 3 and 4 offering shoppers a chance to buy a \$5 bucket and receive 20 percent off all items inside.

For each bucket purchased, Mendo Mill donated \$10 to the high school sports program.

256 buckets were purchased, and another extra \$127 came in through cash donations, making the total for the fundraiser \$2,687.

"The kids made it a lot of fun coming up with their little sales pitches," said boys soccer coach Noel Woodhouse. "A vast majority of the customers that came in Saturday morning ended up buying a bucket! Mendo Mill staff was really helpful and worked well with

the kids."

"We were really pleased with how well the Willits store did with the fundraiser," said Bob Doty, manager at Mendo Mill. "I also really wanted to thank Bridgett Summers and Dave Barrett of the Willits Boosters Club for helping gather sports equipment for our in-store display and coordinating with the coaches to make the event such a success!"

Mendo Mill does its "Bucket Challenge" fundraiser each year at each of their stores in Mendocino and Lake counties.

A check will be presented to the Willits Boosters Club, and monies will go to help the sports teams.

—Maureen Moore



Friendly Sammy

Playful, affectionate and intelligent, Sammy's got it all! This big black boy has made it his job to personally welcome each and every visitor to our cat room. He takes payment for this service in the form of cuddles and ear-scratches. Sammy loves other cats and people of all ages, and could even live with a cat-friendly dog! Call or visit to learn more about Sammy or his many cat friends!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, where you can come visit, play with and/or adopt Sammy or other dogs and cats, is open to prospective adopters from 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday, and from 11 am to 3 pm, on Saturday and Sunday. 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley (right down the street from the Broiler). Info: 707-485-0123 or hsmc@pacific.net or visit www.mendohumanesociety.com.

Sweet Pickles

Handsome little Pickles is a sweet, curious kitten who is searching for his "purr-fect" home. This adorable boy is a joy to have around. Pickles loves to play, especially with cat toys, and would be a great cat for a growing family. He also does well around other cats, as he came into the shelter with another feline friend who is also available for adoption. If you think Pickles sounds like the right kitty for you, please stop by our shelter and meet him today – he's right up front in the lobby!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of more of the wonderful adoptable animals, please visit www.mendoanimalsshelter.com or visit the shelter. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

Please join us the 2nd Saturday of every month, September 10 this month, for our "Empty the Shelter" pack walk, and help us get every dog out for some exercise!



Photo by Sage Mountainfire



Congratulations | Happy Birthday Lou Schnitzler

Happy 90th Birthday to Louis "The Honey Guy" Schnitzler of Schnitzler Apiaries in Willits, who turned 90 years old on Sunday, September 4, noting the occasion with a cuppa morning joe at Ardella's. Find Lou selling his luscious honey at the Willits Farmers Market on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 6:30 pm at City Park across from City Hall.



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The rest of Center lane | From Page 1

among the general public is the plan to remove the center lane in the core downtown area north of East Valley Street up to Commercial Street in order to accommodate bike lanes on both sides of Main Street.

Although the last time the Main Street Plan was reviewed publicly was during the June 7 city council meeting, there was little, if any discussion about the removal of the center lane at that meeting.

However, it was confirmed at an August 27 meeting of an associated, but separate planning effort, the Downtown Willits Streets & Alleys Connectivity Study, that the new draft of the Main Street Plan does include the removal of the center lane downtown.

City Planner Dusty Dooley told attendees at the August 27 Streets & Alleys meeting that the latest draft of the Main Street Plan had come out that week, but the plan will not be made available for public review until the agenda packet for the Willits City Council meeting on September 14 is released.

The plan also proposes putting dedicated left turn lanes in at Commercial and Valley streets. Commercial delivery trucks that now unload in the middle lane will be asked to use loading zones on Wood Street and East Mendocino.

Parking would also be reduced downtown: between the Main Street Plan and the Streets and Alleys Plan (which is as-yet unfunded), parking would be reduced by 13 percent.

The Main Street Plan is designed to be given to the California Department of Transportation in the hopes of positively influencing the agency's own construction plans for the relinquishment of Main Street back to the City of Willits. Caltrans is required to return the street to local jurisdiction "in a state of good repair," and the city has been in negotiations with the transportation agency about what that will entail.

While councilmembers appeared to be in favor of the changes Main Street is likely to undergo in the following decade when the plan was last reviewed in June, there were concerns raised about a couple of issues, mainly, the designs planned around the Willits Post Office, which call for a significant width reduction to both East Valley and West Valley streets, as well as a right-turn-only designation for West Valley Street.

At the June meeting, John Gibbs of Wallace Roberts & Todd, part of the Main Street Plan design team, said the Willits Police Department and the Little Lake Fire Department had been consulted about the center lane removal and were "comfortable" with it, but Fire Chief Carl Magann told Willits Weekly soon after that week's meeting he was still in conversation with the design team to "finalize a plan that's suitable for everyone."

"We're trying to minimize the impact to emergency response," Magann said at the time. "We're concerned about the safety of the public and our drivers."

If the council finds no significant objections to the new draft designs, it could vote to approve them at the September 14 or 28 council meeting. Once finalized the plans will be brought to the negotiating table with Caltrans to determine the breadth and scope of Caltrans' relinquishment construction, scheduled to start by the summer of next year.

The version of the Main Street Plan presented to the city council in June can be viewed at the Willits library or as part of the meeting agenda packet at <http://thecityofwillits.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/06-07-16-Agenda-Packet-Council-Special-Mtg.pdf>, starting on page 10.

The rest of Eyster | From Page 1

blow during a Sunday evening incident in the parking lot of a Laytonville bar.

A motive has yet to be established for the assault leading to Fisher's death, according to sheriff's Lt. Shannon Barney.

According to witnesses, after dealing the fatal blow Reynolds walked to a nearby café, where he was detained and later arrested.

Eyster later reduced the booking charge of murder to felony assault; Reynolds posted bail and was set free pending a September 14 preliminary hearing.

The DA defended his decision in a response to a commenter on the Anderson Valley Advertiser's "Mendocino County Today" blog, explaining his office "requested the max bail for the charges filed and the defendant ultimately posted a bond in that amount."

"Bail is intended to secure attendance in court," Eyster noted, "not as a veiled form of punishment."

"Based on statements and evidence available to us at the time of charging," Eyster said, Reynolds was charged with "felony assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury and a sentencing enhancement of actual infliction of GBI."

"We believe this a state prison case," he added.

DA Public Information Officer Mike Geniella said Reynolds faces up to seven years in prison, if convicted.

Eyster's move, however, has resulted in Fisher's "friends, relatives and concerned community members" launching an online petition drive urging the DA to reinstate murder charges against Reynolds and reject any plea bargain in the case. "If premeditation cannot be proven," they say, "the charge should be nothing short of manslaughter."

"We petition the County of Mendocino's justice system to endorse a fair and thorough trial for Charles Wallace Reynolds, the alleged murderer of Kenneth 'Kenny' Wayne Fisher, Jr.," the petition reads. "We want the truth surrounding Kenny's death to come out, for better or worse, and for justice to prevail."

Petition supporters claim Reynolds "has a been a public safety risk to the community for years and has never been properly held accountable," adding Reynolds has "a history of violence."

They point to a 2013 incident that, they say, "resulted in grave injury, requiring Mr. Reynolds' victim to endure three months of hospitalization."

According to an article in the September 1 edition of the Mendocino County Observer in Laytonville, Eyster told Reynold's mother that charge was later dismissed due to insufficient evidence.

The petitioners urge concerned citizens to write or call Eyster or DA Chief Investigator Kevin Bailey to make their feelings concerning the case known.

Eyster has defended his decision to reduce the charge against Reynolds, pointing out "prosecution is only as viable as the credible evidence available for us to present in court."

"Lots of people were in the bar or around it when this went down," the DA noted in his response to the AVA commenter, "but very few have stepped forward to share what they may have seen or heard that night."

Anyone with information about Fisher's death is urged to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Detectives Unit at 707-234-2100.

A celebration of Fisher's life will be held Sunday, September 11, at 2 pm at Harwood Hall in Laytonville.

The petition can be viewed at www.ipetitions.com/petition/justice-for-the-death-of-kenneth-w-fisher-jr

The rest of Alleys | From Page 1

future transportation grant funding. It's being designed with the goal of working in conjunction with Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan, but it is a separate plan, being designed by a different design firm, Berkeley's Placeworks, with City of Willits planner Dusty Duley as project manager.

The Streets & Alleys plan had its second community meeting on August 26, led by Placeworks' senior associate John Hykes, to present the results of community input from its first meeting, on June 16 – and to gather more feedback. Hykes said getting consensus from the community on planning goals and ideas was a way "to move forward to get additional funding."

Planner Duley introduced the plan as a way to "review, improve and enhance livability in the

downtown area, to improve safety, and [make] downtown a fun place to hang out."

The plan identified bulb-outs and traffic calming schemes for improved pedestrian safety, better lighting and signage, bike lanes, and an improved "streetscape landscape," consisting of raingardens in the bulb-outs, curb cuts for stormwater, permeable pavers, and street trees in the alleys. Pavement resurfacing and Americans with Disability Act ramps are also mentioned in the plan.

An attentive crowd at the August 26 meeting at the Willits Community Center offered comments, suggestions, and some criticism of some of the plan's ideas. The plan has come up with several prioritized potential improvement projects in downtown Willits, including a one-way "couplet" on Mendocino and Wood streets, which would make Wood Street one way heading east,

The rest of Claws | From Page 8

number was called and its owner hadn't placed a dollar in the bucket, a new number was drawn – or a dollar was frantically tossed into the bucket.

A variety of items were available for the dollar auction, including gift certificates to local businesses like Loose Caboose, House Doctor Paints and El Mexicano, bottles of wine from Vin De Tevis and olive oil from Golden Vineyards, metal animal sculptures from Willits Furniture and La Bodega, gift baskets, tools, jewelry and even a certificate for 18 holes of golf at the Little River Golf Course.

A silent auction and live auction were also available for eager bidders; there was a Seabiscuit print from the private collection of Michael C. Howard, a pie-a-month for a year from Kemmy's Pies, a hand-crafted wooden cabinet made by Gerry Cupp, and vacations to the Benbow Inn, a beach house in Baja, and the Polo Towers in Las Vegas. A magnum bottle of 2009 Antica Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, paintings from Rebekka Jackson and Donna Stropes, different metal animal sculptures from Willits Furniture and La Bodega, dinner for eight at Ridgewood Ranch, and dinner for four at the county jail were also up for grabs. A Ridgewood Ranch bell, donning the sign "School Bell (allegedly used to train Seabiscuit)" was donated by Tracy Livingston and

The rest of Vacancies | From Page 1

of concerned residents and business owners at a meeting last week.

The Revit-ED Committee was re-formed earlier this year with the mission of mitigating three identified areas of priority for the city in light of the many changes likely to occur once the 101 bypass is opened.

Establishing a sphere of influence, regulating highway signage, and vacant commercial building abatement are priority issues the Revit-Ed Committee has been tasked with researching, discussing, and then hammering out concrete recommendations for city council approval.

Last week's meeting was almost exclusively spent discussing Duley's draft ordinance.

The need to establish such an ordinance came about because of chronically vacant commercial buildings in city limits, and the failure of some owners to abate those vacancies.

The goal of the ordinance, according to the committee, is to establish a database of vacant buildings that can be made available to prospective business owners looking for a space, while incentivizing uncooperative owners to renovate and rent their buildings.

The committee asked Duley to draft a measure based on ordinances in place in other municipalities around the state and nation that "prevent buildings from becoming a burden to the neighborhood and community and a threat to the public health, safety and welfare."

After two hours of discussing the draft ordinance, Duley had received enough feedback from the committee to return to the drawing room and craft a more complete measure for the group's October 11 meeting.

According to Duley's draft ordinance, "a commercial building shall be [deemed] vacant if [more] than 50 percent of the commercial units within the building have been unoccupied for over 45 days."

After hearing from Tony Madrigal, a commercial property owner himself, the group agreed to expand the number of unoccupied days from 45 to 90.

"It gives you enough time to get the place fixed up [and] on the market and try to rent it," Madrigal said.

If after 90 days the building remains vacant, the owner will be required to register it with the city. The registration form requires the owner to include such information as square footage and occupancy rating, the building's most recent use, and "the period of time the building is expected to remain vacant," as well as "a plan and timetable [for] returning the vacant building or property to appropriate occupancy."

Exceptions to vacancy registration will include buildings where "a valid building permit for alterations or rehabilitation, excluding standard maintenance and repairs" has been issued, or the owner "has filed an application for, and is actively seeking to obtain authorization, permits or a license ... permitting the lawful use and occupancy of the commercial building."

Owners living outside the area for at least six months each year "must provide the information for a local property manager with authority to act with respect to the property." The ordinance defines a property manager as a person who "maintains a current city business license for all periods of time during which [he] is in charge of a vacant commercial building located within the city."

Duley did not include a registration fee amount in the ordinance, but the group agreed the initial cost to the

caused an excited bidding round, ending up selling for around \$4,000. Rachel Britten acted as auctioneer for the live auction.

With the huge success and many compliments received on everything from the food to the venue to the cause itself, Smith is already planning on how to make the 2017 event even better.

"If there was one thing that I could have changed, it would have been to provide a little heating for the evening as the temperatures got a little chilly towards the end of the night," explained Smith. "We're hoping to get some heaters next year to help keep everyone warm! I've also given the ranch a little wish list for next year, and assuming that we'll have even more attendance, getting the lawn a little flatter and more stable would help make seating easier."

Smith noted his great appreciation to all those who helped make the event such a success again this year. "I really want to thank the community and the businesses who donated, attended and supported Claws for a Cause 2016," said Smith. "Even with the Garden Party last weekend, everyone was so generous and willing to help out with this great cause. What else can you say but just a big, heartfelt thank you to all!"

commercial building owner registering a vacancy will be \$100. That fee would increase cumulatively each year the building remains vacant.

Any owner failing to register "for a period of 90 calendar days beyond the required registration or re-registration date" will be subject to a fine. Duley suggested \$100 as the penalty fee "for each 90 calendar-day period the building continues to be unregistered." However, "at no time may the amount of the assessment exceed \$400 ... beyond the required registration fee."

Commercial buildings remaining vacant a year after registration, "shall be classified as [chronically vacant] and shall be subject to a fee, in an amount established by city council resolution."

A chronically vacant building would also be subject to annual inspection by both the city's code enforcement officer – currently John Sherman – and the Little Lake Valley Fire Department.

The group agreed such inspections will only occur for buildings designated "chronically vacant" rather than temporarily vacant.

"The majority of [owners] are going to have a building that is temporarily vacant while they're actively looking for a tenant," said Greta Kanne, owner of The Book Juggler. "You don't want to waste time inspecting the building when they're [taking care of it]."

Funds collected from registration and penalty fees will "be used to offset the city's cost of inspection, administration and enforcement."

If a vacant commercial building owner fails to pay fees and fines, the city could pursue civil actions, suits, and "abatement of nuisances maintained in violation of this ordinance."

Vacant building owners would be required to maintain their properties, and "keep such properties free of weeds, dry brush, dead vegetation, trash, junk, debris and building materials ... to prevent giving the appearance that the property is unmaintained," which "diminishes the value of surrounding properties."

Duley is expected to bring his revised draft to the October 11 meeting. If the committee approves the measure, it will be brought to the city council for discussion and public input.

According to City Manager Adrienne Moore, the earliest the ordinance could become law is January 2017.

"It's a two-meeting process," Moore explained. "To introduce [the ordinance], and then adopt it."

Because the council will meet only once in both November and December, "the adoption [of the ordinance] would theoretically happen during the first meeting in January."

Councilwoman Holly Madrigal said she expects adoption of the vacancy ordinance to be a hot-button issue.

"Any time we're infringing on people's property, there's going to be some folks unhappy about it," she said. "It's important they understand why we're doing it. It's because these buildings have been vacant for ages, and we would like to see a full and vibrant downtown."

Revit-Ed Committee members include Holly Madrigal, Councilman Larry Stranske, Bill Barksdale, Danny Shaw, and Supervisor Tom Woodhouse. All meetings are open to the public, and the committee has a history of taking into account the feedback it receives.



Ag teacher Tom Bowles remembered

By Bob Dempel, contributing writer

Shirley and I had the honor and privilege of handing out the Showmanship Awards a couple of Sundays ago at the close of the 2016 Ukiah Redwood Empire Fair. Showmanship is a special class exhibitors enter to show their own species; they are judged mostly on how they can handle the animal. The winners of the species contest then continue on to participate in another contest called the Round Robin Showmanship contest. In this contest you will have five or six contestants each with their own animal species competing against each other. These contests are divided into small animal (chickens, covies, etc.) and large animals (goats, sheep, etc.) Contests are held for both 4-H and FFA.

The winners of those contests win a nice Carhartt embroidered jacket. We have been donating those jackets in memory of my mother for over 20 years. Mom worked at the fair for 40 years as entry supervisor.

Two years ago we were fortunate to have a co-sponsor help with the cost of the two FFA Showmanship jackets: T.J. Nelson donated the FFA jackets in memory of Tom Bowles. Tom was an Agriculture/FFA instructor for many years in

Covelo and Willits. He was also instrumental in starting the Junior Livestock Auction at the Ukiah fair. Upon retirement he became a real estate agent for T.J. Nelson's firm. T.J. tells me he received more complimentary letters about Tom Bowles for all of his other agents combined. Unfortunately Tom's life was cut short in a crosswalk accident several years ago.

Maureen Moore from Willits Weekly took pictures of all of the showmanship winners this year, and recently sent them to me. I took them by T.J.'s office to show them to him, especially the pictures of the two FFA members who had won the jackets he had donated. T.J. still has a soft heart for Tom Bowles and asked me if there was something more he could do at the Ukiah fair in memory of Tom. We discussed a few things and then T.J. came up with an idea. The two FFA Showmanship winners in 2017 would not only get a jacket, but would receive a \$250 check. Again in memory of Tom Bowles and given by T.J.

A week later I received in the mail a check for \$500 from T.J. Nelson. This was something I did not do a hard sell on. This gift came from his heart. I know that next year's fair is a long way off. But knowing about this extra cash award may just stimulate some young student to continue to be an FFA member and show at the fair just for the chance to win a jacket and \$250.

Above: Winners of the 2016 Round Robin showmanship contests.

Bob Dempel shows the crowd and Round Robin contestants a sample jacket showing what the first-place winners will receive.

Photos by Maureen Moore



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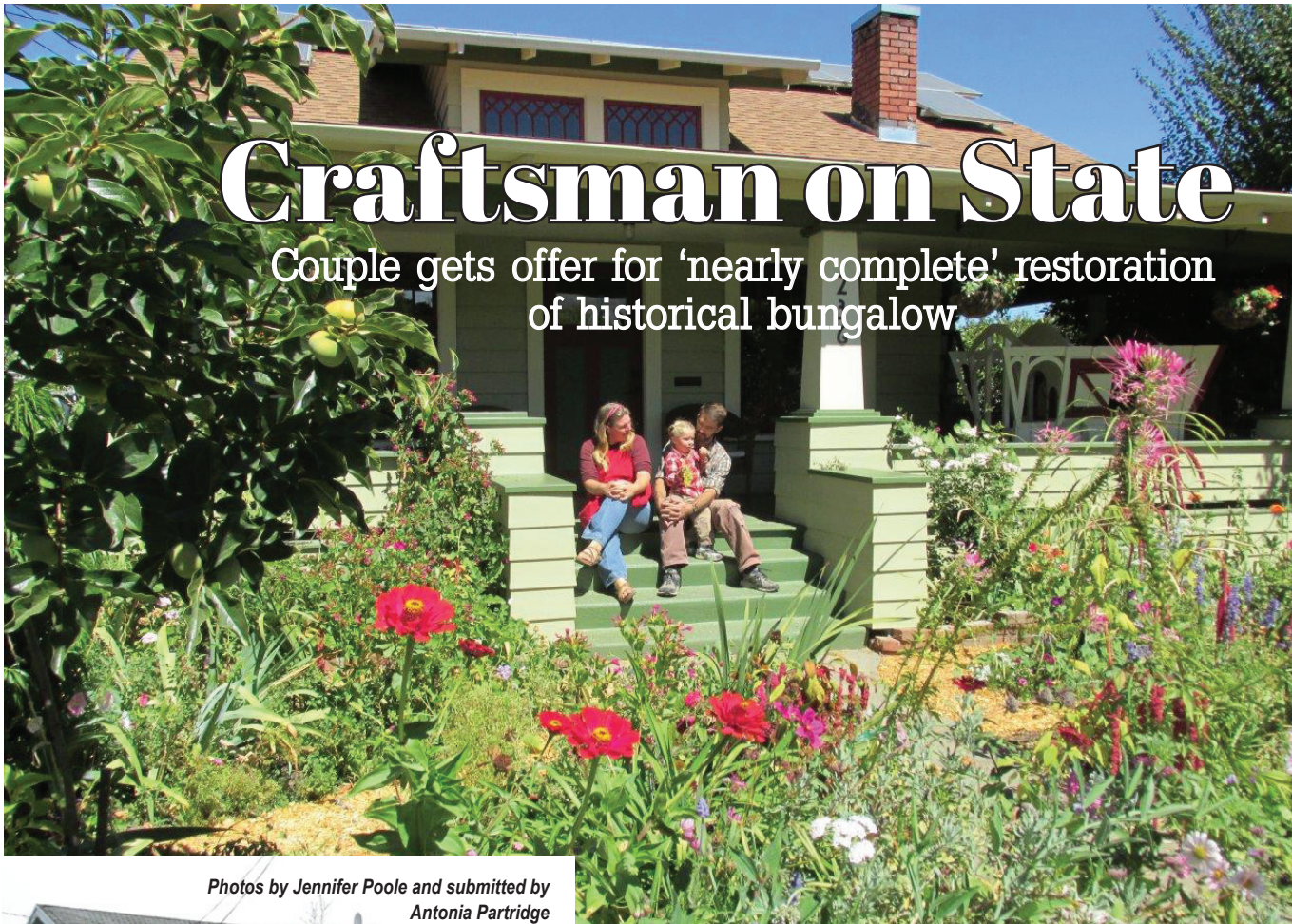
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Craftsman on State

Couple gets offer for 'nearly complete' restoration of historical bungalow



Photos by Jennifer Poole and submitted by
Antonia Partridge



At top: Antonia, Flora and Josh on the front porch of the State Street bungalow. Above: A "before" picture from 2009. Below: The restored gem at 236 State Street, as it was in June 2016.



A Willits couple's "nearly complete" restoration of a historical Craftsman bungalow on State Street off City Park is going through escrow a month after it was put on the market for \$349,000. The attention to historical detail and aesthetic during the restoration – and the creation of a beautiful permaculture landscaping – encouraged 40 potential buyers to tour the home after it was put up for sale in early August, said owner Antonia Partridge.

Antonia, her husband, Josh, and their daughter, Flora, are heading to New Zealand, as she has been offered an opportunity to study at the University of Otago in New Zealand, and to work researching New Zealand's progressive agricultural policies and how they might be applied to encourage young farmers to start farms in the United States. So they decided to try to explore their market options before the restoration was totally finished.

The family was willing to complete the finishing touches on the house for the buyer – mostly the used-to-be-an-attic second floor – or to sell it "as is" for new buyers to put their own stamp on the interior design.

"This is not a fixer," the home's "for sale" website, www.craftsmanforsale.com, emphasizes. "The sellers find the home comfortable to live in as is," but it is "an opportunity for a

Read the rest of
Craftsman | Over on Page B5

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COLUMN | Selzer on Real Estate

How's the market?

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Getting pre-approved increases the chances of having your offer accepted, and it puts you ahead of your competition (the other buyers looking for a

home just like the one you want). Because loans are so much more difficult to get than they used to be, a buyer who is pre-approved gives sellers piece of mind. Sellers won't have to go through the frustrating experience of starting an escrow, only to have it fall through because the buyer can't get a loan.

Dick Selzer is a real estate broker who has been in the business for more than 40 years.

A list of local real estate agents

7-841-7778 Lic#1971901

Read the rest of **Agents** | Over on Page B4

Adam Lawrence
of Ponderosa & Sun Realty
707-357-2778
Lic#1824539

Pg.B2 Willits Weekly's Real Estate Section - Edition #2 - Publishes on the second Thursday of the month Willits Weekly | September 8, 2016

the second Thursday of the month **Willits Weekly** | September 8, 2016


A potential buyer and seller are always invited to

What will the inspector do?

The inspector will also make a venture under the house to check the support structure, exposed plumbing and its condition and type and for water leaks. Next the inspector will move to the attic to check for proper insulation, signs of roof leaks, proper ventilation, and signs of condensation, and to check the actual structure or frame for potential structural issues.

Next the inspector will check the condition of the roof for signs of wear and whether it needs to be replaced. The inspector will examine the perimeter of the home for proper drainage, and will check to make sure that water drains away from the house, otherwise water can infiltrate beneath the foundation and water can accumulate under the house, resulting in dampness, which could lead to dry rot and even mold in the underfloor of the home.

Read the rest of
Inspections | Over on Page B4



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n - Edition #2 - Publishes on the second Thursday of the month Pg. B3

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The rest of
Inspections | From Page B3

Can a home fail a home inspection?

Another question that is typically asked is whether a house can fail a home inspection. The answer is no. A professional home inspection is an examination of the current condition of your prospective home. It is not an appraisal, which determines the market value, or a municipal inspection, which verifies local building code compliance.

A home inspector will not pass or fail a house, but merely describes its physical condition and indicates what may need repair or replacement. In essence the home inspection will allow you to make an informed decision about the potential purchase of the home.

Another important question is finding a qualified home inspector. Did you know that in California there is no state license requirement to be a home inspector? You need a license to sell real estate, but no license is required to inspect homes. However, state law in California prohibits unethical home inspections practices, including repairing properties that home inspectors have inspected in the previous 12 months.

So how do you find a qualified, ethical inspector? First you can start by talking to friends and family members who have recently purchased a home and had their homes inspected and ask their feedback on the process and overall inspection.

Next, look for professional home inspectors certified by the American Society of Home Inspectors or ASHI or the California Real Estate Inspection Association or CREIA. Both ASHI and CREIA require educational and ethical standards that must be met as part of their memberships. Both of these organizations issue standards of practice and codes of ethics for their members. Once a client is provided with the standards of practice, a home inspector will provide a description and type of property, such as age, size, location, and condition; inspection methods to be used such as probing, visual, measurement and research; description of reportable deficiencies, even if the evidence is not conclusive; unsafe conditions that exist and need third-party evaluation; and description of potential consequences of reportable deficiencies in the home.

What a home inspection does not include

A home inspection will not include the following: Underground storage tanks, systems or components not installed, decorative items, detached structures other than garages and carports, dismantle any system or component, except as explicitly required by the standards of practice, move suspended ceilings tiles, personal property, furniture, equipment, plants, soil, snow, ice, or debris; and finally perform any procedure or operation which in the opinion of the inspector, is likely be dangerous to the inspector or other persons or damage the property or its contents.

Further, a home inspection will not encompass environmental hazards or conditions that include toxins, corrosive contaminants, geologic or flood issues; examinations related to animals, including rodents, insects, wood-destroying insects, organisms, mold and mildew. It is best to consult with a licensed geologist, pest control professional, and/or an environmental assessor for these types of investigations.

Because we see many homes on hillsides, near faults, it's best to consult a licensed geologist. In cases where an individual is curious about the condition of their well, it is best to consult a licensed hydrologist. And where termites and other wood-destroying insects may be present, consult a licensed pest control professional.

The next time you are considering purchasing a home, you may want to contact a professional certified home inspector, which would most likely lead to you making an informed decision about your potential home purchase and will give you peace of mind about the home you are considering purchasing.

Nash Gonzalez is a real estate instructor at Mendocino Community College and has been teaching real estate for over 25 years. He holds a California real estate broker license and is also the author of California Real Estate Economics. He is a consulting land use planner and recently retired from Santa Clara County, where he oversaw the Planning and Development Services Department, including the county's building department.

The rest of
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Pg.B4 Willits Weekly's Real Estate Section - Edition #2 - Publishes on the second Thursday of the month Willits Weekly | September 8, 2016

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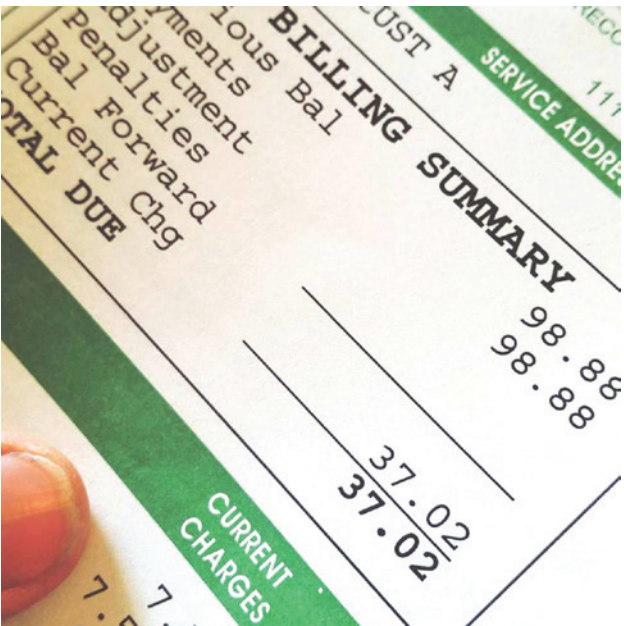
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Fix that leak!

At left, from top: My bill was reduced dramatically after fixing a slow leak. A meter showing the "blue triangle" and another meter, at bottom, with a indicator that looks more like a squiggly turtle.

Were your water bills higher than you anticipated in July and August? There's an easy test you can do to make sure your household isn't wasting water to leaks and drips.

Start checking for leaks in your water system by looking at your water meter.

Drippy taps and leaky hoses aside, less obvious leaks may still be active, in underground pipes, under sinks, in unchecked garden faucets, or other places, wasting water and boosting up your bill.

Water meters are usually near the sidewalk in front of your home. They are usually submerged in the cement or buried in the edge of the yard, with a visible cement rectangle and metal lever door.

Carefully pull open the metal door, and inside you will see the meter with dials and numbers and a valve where all the water coming from the meter can be easily shut off in the case of a large leak or emergency.

Take a moment and look at the dial; there should be a gauge, where numbers flip to register cumulative usage, and, in many meters, a little blue triangle.

The little blue triangle and the gauge are the keys to seeing if there are leaks.

Make sure that all the faucets, hoses, ice makers and anything else that use water in your house are turned off, and check what the triangle is doing. Nothing? Good. That's a good sign, but you're not totally in the clear. Many small, slow leaks may not really be active enough for you to see the triangle "moving" at a quick glance or even see the numbers on the gauge flip.

Take a picture or mental note of where the triangle is pointing – or make a dot with a marker where one of the points of the triangle is pointing – then stand there and watch it for about one minute. Has it changed position? Or what if when you look initially it IS moving? Rotating quickly – or slowly – around in a circle? Uh-oh.... You have a leak.

If you're still not sure, take a picture of the gauge that registers cumulative usage. Then come back 15 minutes

later and compare the numbers in the picture to what the gauge shows now: if they've changed, and nobody has used any water intentionally, you have a leak.

How fast the triangle moves indicates how fast the water is running. To see what a wild leak would look like, have someone turn the faucet on inside and watch the triangle spin. The same would be true if you had a large leak.

So what do you do?

First, shut off the water.

The customer shut-off valve inside the water meter box will shut off all water to the house from the street. Go ahead and turn that off so water isn't being wasted while you decide what to do next.

Determining where the leak is can also be tricky if it isn't in an obvious location. Narrowing it down some is achievable by turning off the water valve right outside your home. The location of this valve is something to research now if you don't already know its location, but it can usually be found on the street side of the house. Usually water pipes don't run underneath a house, although they can. Have your landlord or another educated member of the household show everyone where the valve is and how to completely shut off the water.

Turn the main water valve at the meter back on, after turning the house valve to the off position. Go back and look at the meter. Is the triangle still moving? Then the leak is most likely between the street and the house.

Did it stop? It's probably on the other side of the house valve, then.

The next step is to find the leak. Check faucets and hoses, indoors and out, for drips – often a drippy faucet can be fixed just by replacing a rubber washer. Check for a silent leak in your toilet by putting a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. Wait a half-hour and see if any of the color has come through to the bowl. If so, you have a leak, which can often be fixed just by replacing the old, worn rubber flapper in the toilet tank.

Check the cabinets under sinks and behind and around all water-using appliances for signs of leaks. Inspect exposed pipes in basements or crawl spaces. Examine floors, walls and ceilings for signs of moisture or water damage. Consider calling a local plumber to help you find – and then fix – the leak if you can't find it yourself.

If your meter looks different than the one described here, and you are still unsure how to check for leaks, call the city at 459-4601 to ask for help.

– Maureen Moore



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Above, from left: The meter can be seen by lifting up the metal cover on the cement box. At right: Stumpy the cat knows where the water meter box is at his Willits home.

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