

Donations Accepted Edition No. 174

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The vote was 3-0, with supervisors John McCowen, Dan Gjerde and Carre Brown voting yes. Supervisor Tom Woodhouse was absent, and Supervisor Dan Hamburg recused himself from voting.

Read the rest of
Supes AF |
Over on Page 13

Damian Sebouhian
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Originally called the Mendocino Heritage Act, its authors are self-proclaimed members of the cannabis industry and are, according to the Yes on AF Committee, “asking to be regulated to protect Mendocino County’s future.”

Read more of
City AF |
Over on Page 13

Two men who became lost while deer hunting in the Covelo area have been found safe.

Their family reported them missing the following day.

Read the rest of
Hunters |
Over on Page 15



Above: The only new signage indicating Willits' location at the south end of the bypass. **At left:** The first sign just mentions the Fort Bragg/Highway 20 connection. **Center:** Then, just past the first sign and almost at the actual off-ramp, mention of Willits can be seen on this sign. **Right:** The only other "Willits" signage south of town, this sign is located just at the West Road overpass near Redwood Valley, 14 miles south of Willits. **Below:** The bypass viaduct as it crosses over East Commercial and heads to the northern interchange.



At bottom, left: The two signs for Willits at the northern end of the bypass, one reading "Willits Next 2 Exits," and the other, also very close to the actual off-ramp, showing "N Main Street," shown closer-up at bottom, right. There is no mention of Highway 20 on the new signage installed at the northern interchange.

Photos by Maureen Moore



When asked if additional signage was going to be installed further from the exits, offering motorists more warning that Willits exits were coming up, Caltrans Public Information Officer Phil Frisbee said: "I spoke with our sign coordinator, and she is aware of community concerns over the signage for the City of Willits being installed along U.S. Highway 101 for the bypass. After the bypass is completed, she will perform a drive-through to determine what additional signs, or modifications to existing signs, are appropriate."

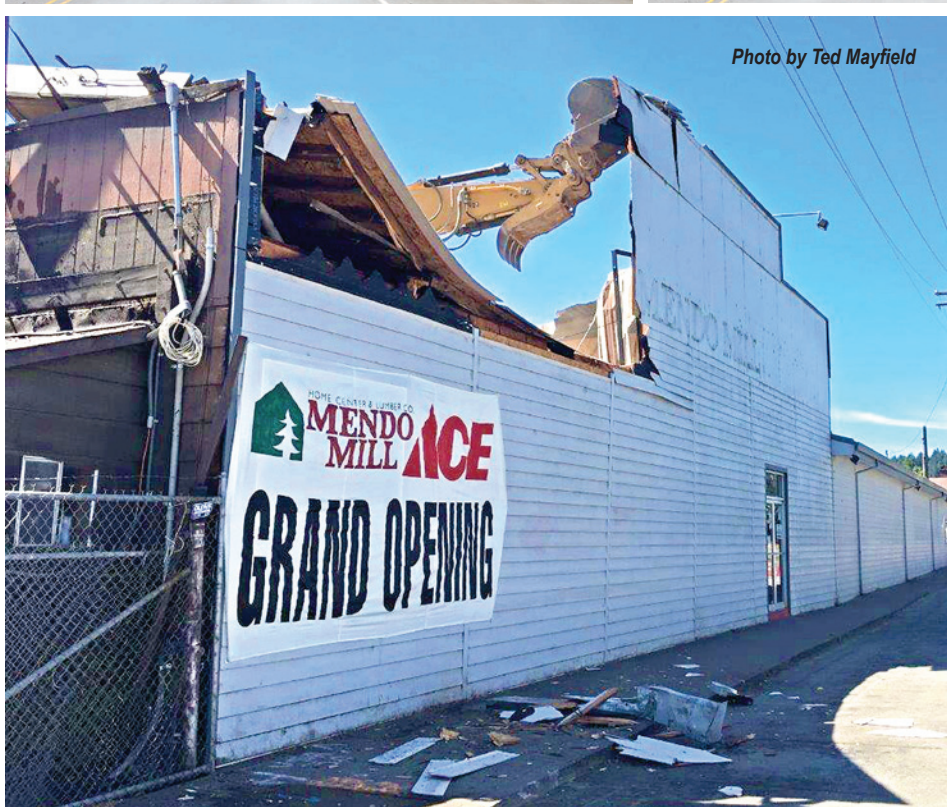


Photo by Ted Mayfield

Jennifer Poole
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Read the rest of
Mendo Mill |
Over on Page 15

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The approved design plans, tweaked in certain areas during a two-hour presentation and discussion between the public and the council, will be forwarded to Caltrans for further negotiations regarding relinquishment project construction, scheduled to begin in the summer 2017.

City Planner Dusty Duley

WUSD
financial
picture
brighter

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
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The Willits Unified School District budget is in better shape than previously thought, according to a board of trustees' assessment presented at their September 14 meeting.

The improved outlook was the result of an analysis of an “Unaudited Actuals Report” from the school year 2015/16, as well as other factors that improved projections for the current year.

The report, presented by Tanya Michel, district director of fiscal services, offers a summary of overall expenditures and revenue for the year and was

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

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A much-reduced board of supervisors heard a report from county staff on the status of the project description for the county's medical cannabis cultivation ordinance Tuesday afternoon.

Supervisors were down to a three-member board: Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse was absent, and Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg recused himself from the proceedings because one

Read the rest of
Ordinance |
Over on Page 15

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Cannabis tinctures

To the Editor:

A year ago I would have said that there wasn't a chance that I would write a letter in support of medical cannabis. I always perceived that medical marijuana was a joke and just an excuse for pot heads to get high.

I have been taking anti-inflammatories for 10 years because of severe joint pain. This medication is hard on your liver and your kidneys, and it is prudent to get both checked on a yearly basis to be sure no damage has been done.

About six months ago, Jude Thilman from the Dragonfly Dispensary in Fort Bragg spoke at our Rotary Club meeting about the benefits of medical cannabis. After I heard her very persuasive presentation as to the benefits, I decided that I really had nothing to lose if I tried it. I stopped taking my medication to see if I really still needed it, and within several days I could barely walk because of the pain and throbbing in my joints.

I was able to get a prescription for the cannabis which is required, and went over to Fort Bragg and bought the cannabis tincture. She told me that there might not be a noticeable benefit for a few weeks. Exactly eight days later I woke up in the morning, hopped out of bed, and suddenly realized there was no pain – no throbbing joints. I also convinced a friend who is suffering from Lyme disease to try it, and she says she hasn't felt this pain-free in years.

The thing that I was unaware of until I heard Jude's talk is that CBD tinctures are NOT psychoactive ... one will not get high from this form of medical cannabis, and I have been further educated lately to find that there is a group of women in Willits who are breeding a special plant that will be totally free of THC.

I see the emerging cannabis industry as something that can be a cutting-edge industry for our community as well as the county. Let there be labs so testing can be done.... Let there be dispensaries where people who are in pain can buy the product, but let it be legal and taxed and regulated like all other business and agricultural products, and let it bring legitimate jobs to our city.

Times change, and new information becomes available. It is important not to get stuck in the past with perceptions that we have carried over from childhood.

I believe we have an opportunity to create an industry that will benefit society in many ways. One thing is for sure ... if we don't, someone else is going to, and they will then reap the benefit of the jobs and sorely needed income to the city/county.

I want to make one thing very clear. I have never smoked pot or taken products that will make me high. I have no interest in that whatsoever. I think we should embrace medicinal cannabis and quit calling it medical marijuana. There is a difference.

Margie Handley, Willits

Fire chiefs say 'No on Measure AF'

To the Editor:

The members of the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association represent the 22 separate fire agencies within our county, and meet on a regular basis in an effort to network, share resources and stay current on local affairs.

Our association appreciates the well-meaning attempt to self-regulate the ballooning marijuana industry in our county, but finds that Measure AF is plagued with inconsistencies to current law, and does not directly address the effect of widespread cultivation and processing to our environment or the impact to local fire agencies. Additionally the actions of the writers of this initiative seemed to have purposely circumvented and bypassed environmental and/or public review, showing no regard or empathy to those that choose not to participate in the cultivation or processing of marijuana, but may be subjected or exposed to the unwanted effects caused by a neighbor's actions.

Our county fire agencies, many of which are fully staffed

by volunteers, have been directly affected by the cultivation and processing of marijuana, much of it identified as medicinal. These fire agencies have responded to assist county and state agencies with environmental cleanups at numerous grow sites, and have had to respond to various calls for service including medical assistance, structure and vegetative fires related to the cultivation and processing of marijuana.

Our association questions Measure AF's recognition and allowance of the use of volatile solvents such as liquefied petroleum gas, alcohol, and other flammable agents and asphyxiates. These products used in the process for concentrating THC to manufacture hash oil have the potential to produce many unwanted results. Our county fire agencies have well-documented accounts of the accidental explosions with fire, burn injuries, fatalities and fires into our wildland urban interface caused by these processes.

Our county fire agencies recognize that almost any human interface with our environment has the potential to trigger uncontrolled and unwanted results including accidental fires, impacting public and private lands, and put our firefighters at risk.

Please allow our elected officials and legislature to create and enforce the law, so that all of our county residents are represented fairly and equally.

Please join with our local fire agencies and support "No on Measure AF."

Carl Magann, president,
Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association

School contract negotiations

To the Editor:

The sky is falling! The sky is falling! Last spring, the Willits Unified School District finance department said that the district was deficit spending, going bankrupt, in qualified status, in danger of being taken over by the state, etc. This all came about during the middle of negotiations with the Willits Teachers Association. This week the district presented the unaudited actuals, which is the report about actual dollars received and spent last year. Contrary to what was said in the board meetings, the district received over \$20 million dollars and spent just over \$18 million. Instead of deficit spending, the district was banking almost \$2 million.

While most parties from both sides were trying to negotiate a comprehensive salary schedule restructuring deal, negotiations ended up with a one-year deal – which did little to solve some big issues such as attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers.

WTA was shocked, dismayed and confused by comments made by board members at the August 11 meeting. WTA was very interested in trying to increase new teacher pay, while it was the district's inability to negotiate due to continuously faulty numbers, lack of communication among their team members, lack of board direction to their bargaining team, and some other personnel issues. As I said at the September 7 board meeting, the board's responsibility is to oversee and direct negotiations with the bargaining units. Board members should know what is going on during the negotiation process.

WTA again applauds school board President Chris Neary for his letter to the Mendocino County Office of Education dated April 18, 2016. In his letter, Neary said that the county consistently encouraged these "the sky is falling" fiscal projections "which would have the effect of depressing the willingness of policy-makers to negotiate salary and benefit increases as a matter of policy." His prescient understanding of this issue has certainly proved correct. The board must do its due diligence in knowing what really is going on with district finances and not blame WTA for its failures.

Moving ahead, WTA hopes that negotiations can be straightforward in the future, with realistic and accurate fiscal information. Board members must know what the issues are and receive and understand the real financial picture of the district. In this manner, we can all try to solve issues so that we can provide the best education possible for the students of Willits.

John Haschak, president, WTA

We can't take the heat!

To the Editor:

I joined Willits High School my freshman year (2015). I noticed there were certain classes with air conditioning, the office, where the staff works, and classrooms in the back of the high school have air conditioning to keep the computer systems cool.

Our classrooms can come up to be 97 degrees and higher when it's around 91 degrees outside. There is a lot of dehydration through the school. Some kids can't afford to buy water bottles, so their only source is the fountain water. We are expected to learn and finish assignments in humid hot classes every day, but I can't work on my paper when it's wet from my face sweat dripping on it. This is a problem in our school that the staff are not taking consideration of; if the office can have air conditioning for the staff (seven people). I think the 400 and more students deserve it a whole lot more.

Trinity Watts, Willits High School

Robin Lelel, Willits

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101 Drive-In, Scoop's Deli, J.D. Redhouse, Willits Post Office, Village Market, Ardella's Downtown Diner, Buttercups Children's Boutique, Willits City Hall, Willits Library, Mariposa Market, the old Country Skillet, Old Mission Pizza, Gribaldo's Cafe, Brewed Awakening, and Ace Copy and Shipping. NEW BOXES at Mendo Mill, the senior center and Grocery Outlet in Willits, Geiger's in Laytonville, and the Post Office in Talmage.

'Farm to Pavement' dinner

To the Editor:

I phoned the Willits Chamber of Commerce last week and left a message, hoping to talk to someone about the proposed "Farm to Table" dinner on the Willits overpass. This is a topic many of us are quite upset over. Here is what I need to say.

In the U.S. we have a long history of exterminating prior native people by taking their land, destroying their food sources, their livelihoods, their family bonds, language, culture, and sacred sites. We are familiar with the Cherokee Trail of Tears, the battle at Little Big Horn, the FBI shootout at Pine Ridge. The U.S. brought resistant native people to their knees by slaughter, of the people themselves and the buffalo they depended on. Even set against such sustained violence, the historical extermination of California native people is particularly brutal, with Mendocino, Lake and Humboldt counties at the epicenter.

The native people of Mendocino County were never missionized. Instead the gold rush beginning in 1846 brought men greedy for land and cattle. The native people north of Santa Rosa and the missions were enslaved, starved, whipped, hung and massacred. They were murdered for "stealing cattle" and the children rounded up in jails, until they could be placed in "good Christian homes." Men bragged of making more money selling "orphaned" Indian children than they could make from gold. We are only beginning to uncover and acknowledge the terrible history at places like Bloody Island and Bloody Run. "Extermination" was calculated: directed and rewarded by higher-ups, including Leland Stanford, governor of California during the Civil War.

Some brave souls spoke out against the systematic violence even then. Grace Hudson's mother, Mary Carpenter, a Quaker and an abolitionist, wrote many magazine accounts from Ukiah in the mid to late 1800s. Bret Harte had to leave town just ahead of the lynch mob for his truthful reporting in 1860 on the killing of 80 to 200 Wiyots at the village of Tuluwat. A good many Willits people wrote vigorously against the forced march that resulted in the massacre at Bloody Run. Their courage does not redeem the irredeemable. It does illustrate that, then as now, these policies were not inevitable. We could have chosen a different path. We still can.

This brings me to the bypass and the sobering history we continue to ignore. Prior to the coming of Euro-Americans, approximately 5,000 native people lived in a dozen or more villages along the shore of Little Lake and in the surrounding hills. Though the exact locations are kept confidential to prevent vandalism, the maps can easily be seen at the Mendocino County Museum right over there on Commercial Street. While you are there, plan at least an hour to immerse yourself in the beautiful displays documenting a rich culture of peace and abundance. A living testament to the resilience and energy of people who honor their culture and seek to pass it on to their children.

Federal law requires Caltrans to do an archeological survey before construction begins. Caltrans performed a purposeful sleight of hand, invoking confidentiality to downplay the existence of important sites. The largest of these sites, known as Yami village, somehow disappeared off their map just before it was bulldozed and buried. At the same time Caltrans was obliterating human village sites, they went to great lengths to accommodate the cattle grazing needs of local ranchers, giving more legitimacy to cows than to people's sacred sites.

The legacy of how whites treat natives is not just past history. We carry this ugly legacy forward unless we stop now, and listen. The future is shaped by the decisions we make today. What is happening way up north at Standing Rock is interwoven with what is happening here in Little Lake Valley. Whether or not we have a future, will be decided now by how quickly we can listen, really listen and change course.

Under the circumstances it is still a breach of confidentiality to say that what is left of the largest historically important site of our native Pomo heritage remains almost directly under the northern overpass? This is where the Chamber of Commerce proposes to hold a farm to table dinner, "surrounded by scenic vistas."

This is not progress. We could have had a bypass without the environmental destruction. If Caltrans had followed the law, we could have had a bypass without the cultural genocide.

This grievous assault has been very painful to witness and is still going on. Caltrans continues to discover and destroy native archeological sites in the 2,000+ acres of "mitigation lands," refuses to consult with descendants of original Pomo people, even as they try to force the tribes to sign papers OKing the destruction, past, present and future. Even now, the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo, with the full support of 15 local Pomo tribes, is in federal court against the ongoing assault on our heritage. The case has been stalled and delayed, by Caltrans, while they try to nullify federal law.

We do not have to be part of this. Surely knowing the history will discourage the Chamber of Commerce from their "Farm to Pavement" dinner atop the overpass. If not, I promise to lead the boycott of every local business that sanctions this insult.



Airport Day

Taking to the air Sunday over Little Lake Valley

The 24th annual Willits Airport Day took off this past Sunday at Ellis Field, providing participants with an array of activities, food and information.

Dave Everson of Air Shasta Rotor and Wing offered helicopter rides over Little Lake Valley and the 101 bypass, as well as flying over passenger's houses upon request.

Daryl Hudson of Ukiah Aviation offered the same ride on his Cessna 172 airplane.

A few lucky passengers were able to take a longer 45-minute flight, as Everson had to fly his helicopter to the Ukiah Airport at one point for refueling.

"It was awesome," exclaimed first-time flyer Liam Winter, who came up from Cloverdale with his family for the day.

REACH Air Medical Services hosted an open house of its copter base, as well as guided tours of its H125 helicopter. CalFire demonstrated an emergency helicopter lift operation.

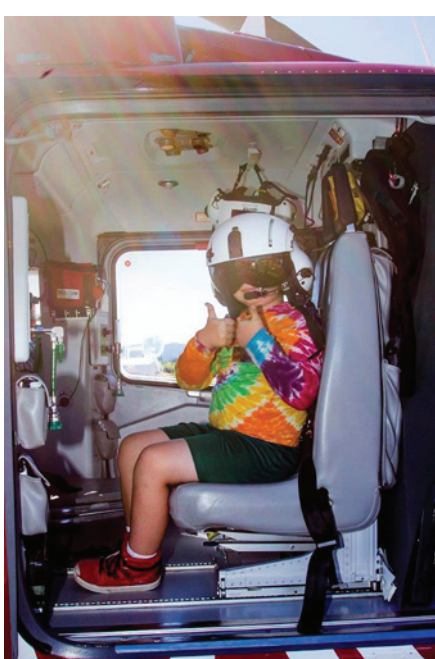
According to reports from REACH personnel, CALSTAR – also available for the event – was recently bought by REACH's company the Air Med Care Network, and the two companies will soon be operating under the same umbrella.

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

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Above, from left: Melody Winslow, a flight nurse with REACH Air Medical Services. Rose and Lili Michaels wait for takeoff. Getting ready to ride.

At left, top: Ukiah Aviation pilots Darryl Hudson, John Eisenzopf and Natalie Klier offered plane rides to the public at Airport Day at Ellis Field. At left, below: Andrea Sacchetti, a pilot with REACH Air Medical Services.



Above, left: Liam Winter, at left, Michael Greenley, center, and Cameron Deck wait to fly above Willits, with pilot Darryl Hudson of Ukiah Aviation. Above, right: Pilot Steve Grammar, with Westin and Crystal Kimball and their children. Below, left: Devin Collier gives a double thumbs-up while sitting in the chopper. Below, center: Members of the Willits Fire Department's fire rescue crew, from left: Mike Wilder, Kristen Colvig, Chad Leshar, Mike Cornwall, Brandon Jack and Colton Scarbery. Below, right: Tiffany Daily and Ken Burton looked sharp for their ride in the sky.



Ranch Rodeo next weekend

October 1 event offers cowboys and cowgirls a chance to showcase ranch skills

There's still time to enter the fifth annual Ranch Rodeo event: either as one of a three-member team competing in the rodeo, or as a competitor in the barbecue cook-off held concurrently at the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds.

The event will be held on Saturday, October 1. The rodeo will start at 10 am, just after the completion of the Calcutta auction where bidders can bet on which team will win the overall rodeo by "buying the team" by bidding with other spectators. If the "purchased" team wins, proceeds are split 30/70 between the "buyer" and Frontier Days. The rodeo events are a little different this year and will include horse calf branding, ranch doctoring, team sorting, dalli calf roping and trailer loading.

Entry fees to participate as a competitor are \$600 for a three-person ranch team and \$75 to enter as a cook in the barbecue cook-off. Spectators are welcome, and admission is free

for all ages. If spectators would like to help judge the cook-off, taster tickets can be purchased for \$10 each and will allow tasters to vote for several categories, including best ribs, best beans, best bread, and best decorated table. The barbecue begins at noon. A free kid's dummy roping event will be held at 2 pm.

A raffle for a redwood picnic bench donated by Parlin Forks Conservation Camp and a pallet of firewood donated by Willits Frontier Days will be held on the day of the event as well. Raffle tickets can be purchased on site or beforehand from Marcy Barry and at J.D. Redhouse; tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for six.

Ranch Rodeo entry forms are available online at <http://willitsfrontierdays.com/yearround.html>. Questions? Contact Marcy Barry at 272-5395 or Robbie Burgess at 489-0476.

– Maureen Moore



Photos by Maureen Moore

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Year Round Golf • Tee Times Suggested • Driving Nets • Putting Green • Practice Basket • Rentals
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SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women®

Soroptimist International of Willits would like to remind the public that since AT&T no longer prints residential numbers in their directory, we rely on residents to update us on any needed change to the Willits Community phone book.

This change could be your phone number (landline or cell) address (home or P.O.), addition of a new business, addition of a new listing, or removal of a listing for moving or death. We are happy to add or update your listing in our directory. You can email your information to willitsphonenumberbook@gmail.com or call Loraine Patton at 621-0173 and leave her a message.

All changes need to be made by December 1st of this year in order to make the NEW 2017 Directory.

Pg. 5

presented the revised designs based on feedback from the council during its June 7 meeting. The revisions were made available to the public on Sunday, September 11, when the full agenda packet was posted on the city council website.

Duley explained it was important to obtain approval soon "so we can continue our efforts to enter in cooperative agreement with Caltrans, getting a better understanding of what costs go with what party and what those costs are."

"Tonight is a very important step as we go about redesigning Main Street," he said.

Duley and the council emphasized that while striping designs could always be changed, it was the hardscaping – bulb-outs and elevated medians – that needed to be finalized for Caltrans' review.

"We have flexibility with the striping," Councilwoman Holly Madrigal said. "Paint is cheap. But for the hardscape, if we do want physical [raised] medians, that needs to be decided tonight."

Upon Mayor Bruce Burton's suggestion, Duley presented the plans in three separate sections, stopping between sections for input from both the council and the public.

The first section looked at the stretch of Main Street from the Highway 20 intersection north to Alameda Avenue.

Based on concerns raised by Carl Magann, chief of the Little Lake Fire Department, and Dave Watts of Sanhedrin Nursery, it was agreed there would be no trees planted in the median between Oak and Alameda, as shown in the plans.

As a matter of fact, the plan would be changed to include no trees in the median for the entire one-and-a-half mile of the Main Street corridor, as such trees were deemed to represent a significant barrier to emergency vehicle maneuvering as well as a detriment to visibility for large vehicles.

The rest of that section will be left as planned, including dedicated center-turn lanes at both intersections, a 116-foot-long raised median, and bike lanes on both sides of Main Street.

The second section, from the Alameda intersection to East San Francisco Avenue, particularly the 120-foot-long raised median near Mariposa Market and the Pepperwood Hotel, was also discussed at length. In the end, it was decided to break up the median to allow a left-hand turn in and out of the hotel.

As suggested by Tom Mann, owner of Brickhouse Coffee, the council agreed to change the planned east-west crosswalk at Monroe Street (directly across from Mariposa Market) to an offset crosswalk to improve pedestrian visibility. The planned pedestrian barrier in the middle of the crosswalk will be changed to, as Duley put it, "something that collapses rather than crushes" if a vehicle were to hit it.

It also was agreed the East San Francisco intersection needed only one Main Street crosswalk, and the one added in the plans would be removed.

Perhaps the most significant change to the Main Street plans is the reinstatement

of a left-turn lane at West Valley Road, which includes reducing the length of the raised median on Main Street at the intersection in front of the post office.

Several people among the public as well as Mayor Burton complained about plans to prohibit turning left from West Valley, while others, including Pete Swanton of Main Street Music and Video, argued in favor of the plan.

"The two aspects of pedestrian safety are exposure to traffic at crosswalks, and much more than anything else, vehicle speed," Swanton argued. "If vehicles don't have a reason to slow down, then the pedestrians are definitely at risk."

Greta Kanne of The Book Juggler devised a solution that seemed to placate both sides.

"Instead of going with the big bulb-out on the north portion of West Valley, keep the width as it is," Kanne explained. The plan had called for nearly cutting in half the width of the street to incorporate the bulb-outs. "Add this little wedge [and] create a pedestrian refuge. You can still have a right-hand southbound turn and allow a left turn onto Main Street."

There was little complaint during the meeting about removal of the center lane between East Valley and Commercial Street, although Madrigal acknowledged she had heard a lot of concern from the public.

"A lot of people are very much against it," Madrigal said. "When I tried to describe what it was like, I mentioned Cloverdale. Cloverdale no longer has a middle lane. They said we're not going to have as great a drop-off of traffic as Cloverdale did."

"This is the issue where we may need to wait and see what is doable," she said. "We could approve a plan that has no middle lane, or approve a plan to keep it how it is and stripe it differently after we can see what traffic is like post-bypass."

Burton voiced his support for no center lane, citing a compelling personal reason.

"My mother got hit on Main Street," Burton recounted. "She walked past a car in the center turn lane, in the crosswalk, and a guy that was driving down Main Street ran into her. I think when you just have the one lane each way, yeah, you have to stop and wait, but it's a traffic-calming pedestrian enhancement in itself. I am not convinced we have to give preference to cars at every intersection."

Duley cited feedback from the charrette process conducted in April and an online survey conducted in March as among the reasons for eliminating the center lane.

"We asked the question: 'What would you rather see: Maintaining street parking for businesses or getting rid of the center turn lane?' What we heard was to get rid of the center turn lane and maintain the parking for local businesses. The bike lane does not remove the on-street parking. What the compromise is, is getting rid of the middle turn lane."

Duley reminded those in attendance that, although the lane itself would be removed: "You have a [left] turn pocket onto Valley

[and a left] turn pocket onto Commercial."

It was suggested that another turn pocket be added at the Mendocino Avenue intersection, which, according to Duley, would result in losing three to four parking spaces.

Losing on-street parking became a small point of contention, though Duley noted plans call for a small percentage of on-street parking reduction on Main Street itself.

"Under the current design concept, we're losing five parking spaces between Commercial and Wood and eight parking spaces between Wood and Valley," Duley said. "The consultants counted 160 public parking spaces within that stretch and we're losing 13."

Total parking loss in the downtown area, from the Main Street Plan as well as the associated but as-yet-unfunded Streets & Alleys Connectivity Study – which would lose parking on Commercial Street and from the city parking lot off Van Street – would be 20 percent, according to planner John Hykes, consultant for the Streets & Alleys study.

There seemed to be universal support for the expanded and elevated crosswalk connecting Van Lane, despite the fact it would remove Main Street access to the city parking lot next to Main Street Music.

Watts raised concerns about the number of new trees the plans call for planting, beginning his objections with a joke: "If you buy all the trees from the nursery, I'll sit down right now."

"You have over 128 trees drawn in this plan," Watts said, noting the first five years of a tree's life is critical and only trained professionals should maintain them during that period. He worried about how the city was planning to water the trees.

Watts also objected to the plan's call for using what is called structural soil in planting the trees.

Structural soil "is 20 percent earth/dirt and 80 percent aggregate," Watts explained. "It was developed to put under hardscaping to get compaction for tree roots to grow in. You do not put structural soil in planting holes. You use real earth, real dirt. Trees, in order to become established, need real dirt."

The council took Watt's advice into consideration, while noting the number of the trees marked in the plans don't necessarily represent the number of trees the city will be planting.

"The plan is to have irrigation running along the sidewalks to maintain any new landscaping we may plant," Duley said. "The goal is to look to establish as many trees as appropriate, and we'll be working with local experts to figure out what would be the most appropriate way to plant those trees and maintain them."

September 16

5:15 am: Officers responded to a reported vehicle theft in the 300 block of Mill Street.

9:30 am: Officers recovered a stolen vehicle from the 700 block of Railroad Avenue.

11 am: Officers responded to a reported theft from a business in the 800 block of South Main Street and, as a result, contacted MCALLISTER, Dale (56) of Willits. McAllister was arrested pursuant to 488 PC (Petty Theft) and 11550(a) HS (Drug Use).

11:55 am: Officers responded to a reported theft from a business in the 10 block of Marcela Drive and, as a result, contacted TAFFI, Brian (39) of Lakeport. Subsequent to their investigation, officers arrested Taffi pursuant to 487 PC (Grand Theft) and 594(b)(1) PC (Vandalism).

1:55 pm: Officers initiated an identity theft investigation from the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

8 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation from the 200 block of North Main Street.

September 15, the tree was brought down.

"Casey only confirmed what John had said before: The tree was very diseased and very dangerous to leave standing. We did what we had to do," said Bennett.

As the limbs were removed and the interior of the stump was visible, a scary sight became obvious: The entire center of the stump was hollow. Bennett noted the Johnsons were able to insert a 3-foot chainsaw bar directly down the center of the stump, down past the ground level, with no resistance.

Removing the southern tree has allowed a bit of hope for the northern tree, which is still standing. While it shows some small signs of problem areas, the Johnsons were able to help trim up the tree and allow sunlight and new growth to reach out, hopefully helping it to grow strong, survive and not succumb to the same problems.

The Bennetts hope to help keep the memory of the downed tree alive, however, as they saved about 10 healthy sprigs, which they plan to plant back on the property and to offer to the neighbors in hopes of re-growing some of the iconic trees for future generations to enjoy.

REACH Base No. 18 – located at the Willits Airport, is "the busiest base in the whole system," said Willits Airport Manager Dan Ramsey. Reach pilot Andrea Sacchetti, who got her pilot's training during her time with the Coast Guard, said: "We fly all the way from Oregon to San Francisco and out to Sacramento, depending on the needs of the patient. We typically cruise about 115 to 120 knots."

Ramsey helped organize the event and acted as MC for the day.

According to Ramsey, the original airport used to reside in the valley, before it was moved to its current location on Poppy Road in 1964.

"The original air strip was only 1,500 feet long," Ramsey said. "It was too short and it was in the fog, so they moved it up here and made it twice as long."

The American Legion Post 174 color guard opened the festivities with a flag ceremony.

Willits Lions Club provided burgers and hot dogs, and the Willits Senior Center sold root beer floats.

Little Lake Valley Fire Department, Brooktrails Fire Department and California Highway Patrol were also represented at the event.

For more information about the Willits Airport, call 841-6252.

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Congrats Column

Have well wishes to send? Want to recognize a milestone? Send us a photo and few sentences – it's free! Send to willitsweekly@gmail.com



Congrats | Birthday Girl

Emma Jones

We want to wish a very Happy 2nd Birthday to Miss Emma Nadine Jones. Mommy and Daddy love you, Baby Girl!



Congrats | Newlyweds

Jeremy & Genevieve

Jeremy Workman and Genevieve Bonnet entered into wedded bliss on September 10, 2016 in Laytonville. A good time was had by all, and they'll live happily ever after!



Congrats | Showman Skills

Morgan Riley

Congratulations to Willits High School junior and Willits FFA member Morgan Riley, who won Supreme Champion doe with her Boer goat Adrienne at the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show in Boonville last weekend. Riley is photographed here with judge Jaylene Scott. Morgan also received Supreme Champion Market Goat with her goat, Rocky, at the Redwood Empire Fair held at the Ukiah Fairgrounds last August.

Correction: Where to get tree collards

Willits Weekly regrets the error that left out the paragraph in last week's story, "Tree Collards: Tasty, tall and nutritious brassicas grow well in Willits," that was supposed to let readers know where they can get tree collards in Willits.

Plants are available in Willits at Sparetime Supply (208 East San Francisco Avenue; 459-6791) or Sanhedrin Nursery (1094 Locust Street; 459-9009) or from Richard Jeske at 459-5926.

Cuttings are available from Bountiful Gardens Seed Company. Cuttings can be shipped anywhere in the country, via priority mail and come with instructions for rooting them. Visit Bountiful Gardens' tree collar cuttings page to order, and for more information about the plant, including a video of Jeske talking about tree collards and how to grow them. www.bountifulgardens.org/products/VCO-3250.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Gentle Chance

Meet handsome Chance -- the timid, gentle 59.1 pound giant. Chance is a friendly fellow, though he can be quite shy and nervous when he first meets new people. Chance would do best in a home with no small children, and he must also do a meet and greet with any other dogs you have before being adopted -- something we always recommend. Chance is looking for a home where he can feel comfortable, and get the love he needs to gain confidence.

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.mendoanimalshelter.com or visit the shelter. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.



Spunky Debbie

Debbie is ready for adventure! This 5-month-old kitten is outgoing, incredibly friendly, and full of feline spunk. Debbie loves affection and, if you let her, will climb straight into your arms for cuddles and kisses. She's got plenty of kitten energy and could spend all day chasing and hunting her toys. If you're looking for a devoted kitty companion, you just may have found her in Debbie!

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 hsmco@pacific.net or visit www.mendohumanesociety.com.



Willits Junior Horsemen results

Final gymkhana in series and year-end totals

On September 10, the Willits Junior Horsemen held their final event in the 2016 series. It included the single stake race, California poles, cloverleaf barrels, skill barrels, figure eight and back, and keyhole events.

The day's winners of high point and reserve included Canella Coleman on Red winning high point and Hazel Cooke on Poppy winning reserve in the 10 and under age group; Danielle Barry on Rebel winning high point, and there was a tie between Sierra Mayfield on Zues and Samantha Arms on Callie for reserve in the 11 to 13 age group; Skylar Kendl on Summer winning high point in 14 to 17; Carmen Coleman on Cleo winning high point and Aura Johanson on Mesa winning reserve in 18 to 44, and Pamela Ivicevich on Shooter winning high point and Jennifer Irwin on Tess winning reserve in the 45 and over age group.

High point winners received leather roping reins, and reserve winners received a red saddle blanket with a leather emblem on the corners. Mary Anne Underhill of Underhill Western Craft made the awards.

Other competitors who participated in the day's festivities included Katelyn Germann on Cowboy, Alexandra Hundley on Makin, Lisa Arkelian on Grey, Hunter Kendl on Mariah, Callie Brown on Andy, Claire Case-Brackett on Evil, Lindsey Decker on Lola, June Richmond on Cash, Debbie Grinols on Bee, Julya Morganti on Taz, Lilly Unangst on Ellie, and Ashton Weeks.

Two young riders also competed in some of the lead line events: Champ Bolton and Tessa Klea were led along the course on their horse with the assistance of an adult helper.

A separate jackpot barrels event was also held, where competitors win cash prizes with a 50/30/20 split. First place went to Claire Case-Brackett on Evil, second to

Pamela Ivicevich on Shooter, and third to Danielle Barry on Rebel.

"Thank you to all of our wonderful helpers," said Willits Junior Horsemen's Kathryn Baechtel. "We couldn't have done it without you."

Adding this event's tallies to that of the other events over the summer, overall winners are as follows:

Champion Canella Coleman and Reserve Champion Hazel Cooke in 10 and under; Champion Danielle Barry and Reserve Champion Sierra Mayfield in 11 to 13; Champion Skylar Kendl in 14 to 17; Champion Carmen Coleman and Reserve Champion Aura Johanson in 18 to 44; and Champion Jennifer Irwin and Reserve Champion Bobbie Lippmann in 45 and over.

Champion awards were custom-made belt buckles, and Reserve Champion awards were custom-made bridle conchos.

Results provided by Kathryn Baechtel / Willits Junior Horsemen

– Maureen Moore

Marc Komer

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Thursday, September 22

“Generations”: Last chance to see the Willits Center for the Arts September show this weekend: featuring three artists from three different generations: Tristen Santana Cockrall-Castro, Morgan Rex and Peter Onstad. Runs through Sunday, September 25. Gallery hours are now Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm. More info: 459-1726 or www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

Radio Debate on Measure AF: KZYX reporter Valerie Kim and “Cannabis Hour” host Jane Futchter present a pro/con debate on Measure AF, a voter initiative on the Mendocino County ballot, on Thursday, September 22, on the Cannabis Hour, on KZYX Radio, 90.7 and 91.5 FM. The show will be rebroadcast, without the call ins, on Wednesday, September 28 from 7 to 8 pm. “Formerly known as the Heritage Act, Measure AF seeks to regulate all aspects of the cannabis industry in unincorporated Mendocino County. Speaking in favor of Measure AF will be Hezekiah Allen of the California Growers Association and county activist Sarah Bodnar. Speaking against Measure AF will be Supervisor John McCowen and environmentalist Ellen Dreil.”

Mendo Wildlife Volunteers: New organization meets Thursday, September 22, 5 to 8 pm, at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville, with info about what’s happening to protect wildlife and rescue injured wild animals in Mendocino County. Please bring food to share. Call 707-357-5693 or visit www.mendowildlife.com for more info. Update: a new “Wildlife Hotline” is now open: Call with any wildlife emergencies: 984-MEND (6363).

Round Valley Indian Tribes California Indian Days Celebration: Come join in for the fun at this drug- and alcohol-free event. Thursday, September 22 activities include a pageant at Hidden Oaks Park and Texas Hold’em Tournament at the Buffalo Conference Room. Both events begin at 6 pm. More info: 983-6126

Friday, September 23

Round Valley Indian Tribes California Indian Days Celebration: Come join in for the fun at this drug- and alcohol-free event. Friday, September 23 activities include the Co-Ed Softball tournament at 4 pm at Hidden Oaks Park. They have 17 teams signed up so far. Visit the “California Indian Days Co-Ed Softball Tournament” page on Facebook for updates. Another big event is the Round Valley Indian Health Center’s 36th annual Health Fair. Enjoy free admission, everyone welcome! Friday, September 23 from 10 am to 3 pm at the health center, Highway 162 & Biggar Lane. Includes Walk/Run at 8 am, registration at 7:30 am. Opening prayer at 10 am. BBQ starts at 12 noon, \$1 plate includes steak, beans, salad, bread, corn on the cob, & dessert; veggie option available. (No take outs). Live music & entertainment. Free health screenings: blood pressure, BMI, blood sugar, flu vaccines, diabetic retinal screenings. Elder & disabled bingo (55+) in the morning, with great prizes. Booths

What's Happening Around Town

from various organizations and agencies. Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office K9 demonstration, face to face demo and fingerprints. Mud Bogs at Hidden Oaks Park at 7 pm and a dance at the Hidden Oaks stage from 9 pm to midnight will complete the night. Also, come enjoy carnival rides at Hidden Oaks Park from 2 pm to 10 pm. More info: 983-6126.



Lego-Palooza! 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.

Willits High School Football Games: at WHS home field against Clearlake on Friday, September 23. JV game, with coach Billy Arms, 5:30 pm; Varsity game, with coach Mike Colvig, 7:30 pm.

“Red Hot Patriot”: opening night is Friday, September 23 at 8 pm for “Red Hot Patriot – The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins” as presented by Mary Burns, for a two-week run at Willits Community Theatre. “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. Actress Mary 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.” 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.” Performances continue 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. \$10.

Shanachie Pub: Self Fulfilling Prophecies. 5-piece band featuring “Morgan Stocker (nacho the stockrocker) Buckminster West and Bodhi Idarius, who all grew up in Ukiah, formed a band, moved to Portland and came back to their hometown.” Elements of punk, folk and rock, all original compositions. 9 pm. No cover. Visit www.myspace.com/selffulfillingprophecies. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Self Fulfilling Prophecies



Saturday, September 24

Not Just Cowboy Poetry: Annual fundraiser for the Willits Library and Willits Daily Bread out at the beautiful Emandal-A Farm on a River. Headliner this year is the Queen of Boogie Woogie piano, Wendy

DeWitt plus a thought-provoking, whimsical cowboy poet, Dick Warwick, from the plains of eastern Washington, and Dust in My Coffee, a cowboy band



poet, Dick Warwick, from the plains of eastern Washington, and Dust in My Coffee, a cowboy band

“Red Hot Patriot”: 8 pm for “Red Hot Patriot – The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins” as presented by Mary Burns, 8 pm. Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, September 23 listing for more details. \$10.

Shanachie Pub: Jacob Green plays Saturday, September 24 at 9 pm. No cover. “An acoustic, multi-string player, and one man band, performing original songs of blues/folk/grass style covers, on guitar, dobro, banjo, ukulele & mandolin, while simultaneously playing harmonica, stomp box and foot tambourine.” Visit www.jacobgreenmusic.com. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Round Valley Indian Tribes California Indian Days Celebration: Come join in for the fun at this drug- and alcohol-free event. Saturday, September 24 activities include: Softball tourney

at 8 am at Hidden Oaks Park; the Indian Days parade at 11 am; a horseshoe tournament at Hidden Oaks Park at 3 pm and a blackberry pie contest at the Hidden Oaks Park barbecue area at 2 pm. Also, come enjoy carnival rides at Hidden Oaks Park from 1 pm to 9 pm. More info: 983-6126.

Sunday, September 25

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am, Sunday, September 25 (and every 4th Sunday). “Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast! \$8 buys you a plate of the best “scratch” pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods... Choose our Sourdough Wholegrain, Hank’s Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or Gluten-free, Beeler’s Quality Bacon, Organic Local Farm Fresh Eggs, Real Butter, Juice, Organic Coffee or Tea. Live music. \$8; \$7 seniors, \$5 children under 10. Extra sides of Organic Fruit and Amish Organic Maple Syrup. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of 101).

“Red Hot Patriot”: 2 pm matinee, Sunday, September 25, Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, September 23 listing for more details. \$10.

Round Valley Indian Tribes California Indian Days Celebration: Come join in for the fun at this

drug- and alcohol-free event. Sunday, September 25 activities include: Softball tourney at 8 am at Hidden Oaks Park; a breakfast at the Buffalo Conference Room at 9 am; gospel music at the Hidden Oaks Park stage at 9 am; a salsa cook-off at the Round Valley Senior Center at noon and a play day at the Hidden Oaks Park rodeo grounds at 2 pm. More info: 983-6126.

Monday, September 26

Free Pancakes for National Lumberjack Day: Lumberjacks Restaurant in Willits is celebrating National Lumberjack Day, Monday, September 26, with a free short stack of pancakes – “a lumberjack’s or lumberjill’s favorite food” – for everyone who says “I love lumberjacks!” inside the restaurant before 11 am. The restaurant, located at 1700 South Main Street, is also encouraging diners to dress like lumberjacks and lumberjills. Info: 456-0300.

Tuesday, September 27

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all

showings. This week’s Tightwad movie: “The Light Between Oceans.” For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Vegan Potluck in Willits: Tuesday, September 27 from 4 to 6 pm at Willits Grange, 291 School Street. “There’s an exciting new development in our expanding vegan potluck community: a vegan potluck group is starting up in Willits. With Willits joining Laytonville as a gathering spot for your vegan dining pleasure, there will now be more opportunities for plant-based dining and camaraderie than ever before in Mendocino County” – Jon Spitz, Laytonville.

Willits High School Volleyball Games: at WHS home court against Cloverdale on Tuesday, September 27. JV at 5 pm (coach Tim Miller), and varsity at 6 pm (coach Jill Walton)

Auditions for “A Christmas Carol”: Final two days of auditions for the Willits Community Theatre production of the classic Charles Dickens story. Tuesday, September 27 at 7 pm, and Saturday, October 1 at noon. Director Dawn Jacobs is seeking five men and two women, 20s to 60s, and two boys and a girl about 10 years old. Auditions are scheduled at the WCT Playhouse, 37 Van Lane. Call director Jacobs at 548-6225 for more info.

Shanachie Pub: Sista Otis, “Singer/Emcee/ Songwriter/Performer Extraordinaire whose sound was born in Detroit and raised in New Orleans” playing as a duo, joined by Skye Berns, harmonica player, 8 pm. No cover. Visit: www.reverbnation.com/sistaotis. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Wednesday, September 28

Radio Debate on Measure AF: KZYX re-broadcast of pro-con debate on Measure AF, formerly known as the Heritage Initiative. Wednesday, September 28 from 7 to 8 pm. See Thursday, September 22 listing for details.

Thursday, September 29

Willits High School Volleyball Games: at WHS home court against Fort Bragg on Thursday, September 29. JV at 5 pm (coach Tim Miller), and varsity at 6 pm (coach Jill Walton)

“Red Hot Patriot”: 7 pm for “Red Hot Patriot – The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins” as presented by Mary Burns, 8 pm. Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, September 23 listing for more details. \$10.

Shanachie Pub: Dennis Chrip & Friends play Thursday, September 29 at 8 pm. “The show will feature many local talented musicians coming together for a night of original, improvised, and rare

moments in acoustic music.” 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, September 30

Willits Photography Club at WCA: The 15th annual show featuring photographic artwork by members of the Willits Photography Club will open with a public reception Friday, September 30, from 7 to 9 pm, with music, snacks and wine. “Members Hour” from 6 to 7 pm, includes a talk by the artists. Show will run through October 30; gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. Info: 459-1726. Visit http://willitscenterforthearts.org/ for more info, including how to become a WCA member.

“Red Hot Patriot”: 8 pm for “Red Hot Patriot – The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins” as presented by Mary Burns, 8 pm. Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, September 23 listing for more details. \$10.

Shanachie Pub: John Underwood & Friends, “a multi-instrumentalist solo artist from Reno, NV with an unusual setup. He’s placed six instruments around him all running into a loop pedal, so he can create a full folk band sound live in front of the audience with banjo, acoustic guitar, trumpet, trombone, bass, and an acoustic style drum setup with cajon, washboard and some cymbals.” Plus several friends playing, too. Friday, September 30 at 9 pm. No cover. Visit www.reverbnation.com/banjohunderwood. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 1

5th annual Ranch Rodeo: set for Saturday, October 1 at the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds. Come watch real-life cowboys and cowgirls in teams of three show their skills in on-the-ranch tasks including horse calf branding, ranch doctoring, team sorting, dalli calf roping and trailer loading. Check-in will begin at 9 am and the event will start at 10 am. The Calcutta auction will be held at the beginning of the event; spectators can bid/bet on which team will win and enjoy a 30/70 split of the proceeds if their team wins. The barbecue cook-off will also be held during the event; tasting tickets are \$10 each; entry fee to compete in the cook-off is \$75. Admission to rodeo is free of charge. Fun Kids Dummy Roping Event at 2 pm. Ranch Rodeo and barbecue cook-off entry forms are available online at http://willitsfrontierdays.com/yearround.html and must be postmarked by September 23. Questions? Willits Frontier Days at 272-5395 or Robbie Burgess at 489- 0476.

Auditions for “A Christmas Carol”: last audition is set for Saturday, October 1 at noon at the WCT Playhouse, 37 Van Lane. See Tuesday, September 27 listing for details.

“Scare Yourself Silly”: October fun at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, starting Saturday, October 1, 2 to 4 pm in the community room for a showing of “Hotel Transylvania.” More scary movies Oct 15, 22 and 29.

Red Hot Patriot

The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins

Opens Friday, September 23

“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. “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.” Directed by long-time WCT veteran, Mike A’Dair, as a “second-stage” production with limited sets and props. 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 brownpaperickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also available at the door until sold out.

– Steve Hellman, for WCT

12th annual Humboldt Hills Hoedown

Saturday, September 24 at the Mateel

On Saturday, September 24, the Humboldt Hills Hoedown is celebrating its 12th year of Bluegrass & Beyond with music on both the indoor and outdoor stages at the Mateel Community Center in Redway. Featured artists this year are the Indie Folk-pop band, The Shook Twins; country rockers, Curly Wolf; hard-driving California honkytonkers, Miss Lonely Hearts; hill country blues band, Hillstomp; Midnight North, The Pine Needles, Laura Benitez & The Heartache, Hot October, Jesse Daniel & The Slow Learners, Three Times Bad, Cliff Dallas & The Death Valley Troubadours, Way Out West, Hicktown Homeboys, April Moore & Ranch Party, The Real Sarahs, and more! The Humboldt Hills Hoedown will also feature a lively kid corral, mouthwatering BBQ dinners, a cakewalk, backwoods betting games, and a whole lotta country fun – including a bar for 21 and over. Great live bluegrass, country blues, folk and country rock all in an early fall day! Come enjoy! Doors open at high noon with music ‘til midnight. All ages. Advance tickets at www.eventbrite.com; info: visit www.mateel.org

COLUMN | At the Movies



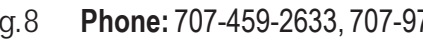
‘Hell or High Water’

The Story: Wide open, small-town, concealed-carry Texas. Folks are poor but mostly OK. The Howard brothers, Tanner and Toby (Ben Foster and Chris Pine), cruise the dusty cattle country and rob little banks. Texas Ranger Marcus Hamilton (Jeff Bridges) means to catch them. Like Jesse James who came before, the brothers want to save their ranch and what few skinny cattle they’ve got left. They need to pay off a sleazy, parasite bank which is doing what banks are good at and that is use contracts and cunning offers to cheat folks out of their land.

My Thoughts: I loved this movie. A solid story that’s mostly unpredictable. Great acting. Quirky and believable characters with no real bad guys, just two mostly decent brothers who’ve done a lotta losing and are just trying to even out the game ... and ... well ... it’s a genre of film that suits the times. This flick has action and violence, but it’s not action porn, nor is it violence porn.

Parents: Teens and up. It’s R-rated, so it’s not really for kids. One blurry sex scene which is not much. One particularly graphic shooting. Also, adults behaving unpredictably and violently which I believe confuses and frightens children.

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



WILLITS YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER 2016 Season Schedule		
DATE	EVENT/TIME	LOCATION
Saturday, SEP 24	GAME 4 Cougars vs. St. Helena Carpy Gang	ST. HELENA HIGH SCHOOL 1401 Grayson Ave. St. Helena 94574
Saturday, OCT 1	GAME 5 Cougars vs. Middletown Colts	HOME FIELD
TBA	MID-SEASON FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST TIME TBA	LOCATION TBA Sponsored by the Willits Lions Club
Saturday, OCT 8	GAME 6 Cougars vs. Lower Lake Trojans	HOME FIELD Willits High School
Sunday, OCT 16	GAME 7 (PM 12PM, JV 1:30PM, V 3:30PM) Cougars vs. Sonoma Co. Wildcats	EL MOLINO HIGH SCHOOL 7050 Covey Road, Forestville 95436
Saturday, OCT 22	GAME 8 Cougars vs. Kelseyville Chiefs	HOME FIELD Willits High School
Saturday, OCT 29	GAME 9 Cougars vs. Fort Bragg Cubs	FORT BRAGG HIGH SCHOOL 300 Dana Street, Fort Bragg 95437
Saturday, NOV 5	GAME 10 Cougars vs. West Shore Cardinals	CLEAR LAKE HIGH SCHOOL 250 Lange Street, Lakeport 95453
Saturday, NOV 12	CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES TIME TBA	FORT BRAGG HIGH SCHOOL 300 Dana Street, Fort Bragg 95437
Sunday, NOV 13	Gear Hand-in 2PM-3PM Board Member Election 2PM-3PM Awards Ceremony 3PM-5PM	AUDITORIUM Willits High School
Home Games in GREEN Away Games in RED		BEYOND ASTRONOL Please mail donation checks to: P.O. Box 1535, Willits CA 95490 Tax EIn: 48-0210254
Varsity Football Coach: Brad Coleman 707-354-2813 JV Football Coach: Rick Evans 707-354-1116 JV Football Coach: Matt Ruyterwe 707-841-7052		Varsity Cheer Coach: Shalyn Brewer 707-972-1669 JV Cheer Coach: Natalie Ramirez 707-972-8718 JV Cheer Coach: Melissa King 707-354-3362

Like our page on Facebook to get the most up-to-date info!

COUGAR PRIDE!

‘Chronic Pain: Beyond Pills & Potions’

Tuesday, October 4

The Avenues to Wellness series presents a talk on “Chronic Pain: Beyond Pills & Potions,” by Brenda Flynn Clark, LCSW on Tuesday, October 4 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Free to the public; donations appreciated.

“What can you do to help yourself? Communicating with your healthcare professionals. Understand the role that our body, mind and support systems play in how we experience pain. Becoming an expert on your healthcare.

“Over 100 million Americans have chronic pain, which is more than Cancer, Heart Disease,

and Diabetes combined! Yet suffering with chronic pain is often a frustrating, overwhelming and lonely experience. Besides seeing our doctors for medications, how else can we help ourselves? What resources can help us to achieve a meaningful life, despite our chronic pain?”

“Brenda is a Clinical Social Worker and Psychotherapist with over 20 years of experience working with people with a variety of chronic illnesses, disabilities, pain and life limiting conditions. She has a private practice in Ukiah. She also consults with local hospices, community resources, doctors and the Red Cross.” Info 456-9676 or visit avenuestowellness.org



Brenda Flynn Clark

DEADLINE FOR WILLITS WEEKLY:
Monday prior to Thursday publication

Senior Center Lunch

Week of September 26 through 30

Monday: Hot Dog/Bun
Tuesday: Tuna Sandwich
Wednesday: Chef Salad
Thursday: Hamburger/Bun
Friday: Turkey and Stuffing (Birthday Lunch)

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.



Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Concert

Sunday, October 2

Hawaiian slack key guitarist extraordinaire, Patrick Kahakauwila Kamaholelani Landeza, will perform at Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, October 2 at 2 pm. Winner of numerous awards, including the prestigious Na Hoku Hanohano Award, considered Hawaii’s equivalent to the Grammy, Landeza is widely recognized as a leading exponent of ki ho’alu, or the slack key style. This engaging style was developed by Hawaiian cowboys in the 19th century when they loosened – or “slacked” – their guitar strings for a lower, more resonant sound.

Born and raised in Berkeley to Hawaii-born parents, Landeza studied slack key from masters like Cyril Pahinui, Ray Kane, and Dennis Kamakahi. Not only is Landeza considered one of the top slack key performers around, he is also a musical bridge between Hawaii and California. He has released eight albums and tours widely.

Landeza has been producing Hawaiian concerts for more than 20 years, and teaches slack key guitar in music camps and classes around the country. He has become northern California’s – if not much of the West Coast’s – go-to man for all things related to Hawaiian music. In his own words, he plays, “Traditional Hawaiian music with a Berkeley twist.”

His show at WCT is sure to be an unusual treat. Advance tickets are \$15 tickets and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpaperickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006.

Tickets will also available at the door until sold out.

Willits Youth Football & Cheer Game 4: The WYF Cougars face the Middletown Colts at this home game at the Willits High School field, on Saturday, October 1. Game start times: Peeewe 4 pm; JV 5:30 pm; Varsity 7 pm. Visit “Willits Youth Football and Cheer” page on Facebook to keep up with Youth Football happenings.

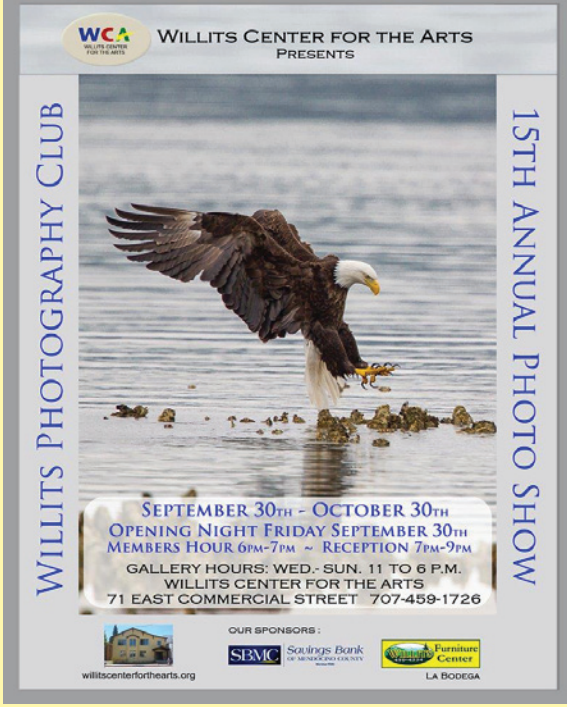
“Red Hot Patriot”: 8 pm for “Red Hot Patriot – The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins” as presented by Mary Burns, 8 pm. Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, September 23 listing for more details. \$10.

Sunday, October 2

Hawaiian Slack Key Guitarist: Willits Community Theatre presents Hawaiian slack key guitarist extraordinaire, Patrick Kahakauwila Kamaholelani Landeza, playing “traditional Hawaiian music with a Berkeley twist.” Sunday, October 2 at 2 pm at WCT Playhouse, 37 Van Lane. Advance tickets, \$15, are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpaperickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also available at the door until sold out. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.



Patrick Kahakauwila Kamaholelani Landeza



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4 5:30-6:30 PM. CHRONIC PAIN: BEYOND PILLS & POTIONS

By Brenda Flynn Clark, LCSW

Over 100 million Americans have chronic pain, which is more than Cancer, Heart Disease, and Diabetes combined! Yet suffering with chronic pain is often a frustrating, overwhelming and lonely experience. Besides seeing our doctors for medications, how else can we help ourselves? What resources can help us to achieve a meaningful life, despite our chronic pain?

Brenda is a Clinical Social Worker and Psychotherapist with over 20 years of experience working with people with a variety of chronic illnesses, disabilities, pain and life limiting conditions. She has a private practice in Ukiah. She also consults with local hospices, community resources, doctors and the Red Cross.

Call 456-9676 for more information. Email: beyondbeyond@gmail.com. Visit www.beyondbeyond.org for speaker series topics.

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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





Coastal Cleanup Day

Volunteers lend a hand to clean up the Willits area

Seven years ago John Sherman, building inspector and code enforcer for the City of Willits, was frustrated that the creek banks in Willits were being taken over and trashed by homeless encampments and Willits citizens dumping their trash. "The river banks are our beaches," he explained.

Sherman wanted to make a difference in his town and decided to join the California Coastal Cleanup Day – that usually takes place only on the coast – but do the cleanup in Willits, believing that a lot of the waste left along the creeks makes its way to the rivers, and then the ocean. Sherman did say he noticed that once the encampments were clean, they didn't get used and trashed as often, and that "community members took more pride in their town."

Volunteers have poured out each time a cleanup was announced. In late May of this year, the river banks were trashed more than usual, and Sherman organized an early 2016 cleanup day where 7.1 tons of trash were collected by 25 community members and taken to the Solid Waste transfer station. Wanting to mix it up and hit other areas that needed

attention, Sherman showed volunteers a map he created of the trash hot spots. Six dedicated people showed up at 8 am Saturday morning and, working in pairs, chose places along 101 and a few of the creek banks to clean up.

Bringing his first load, Jerry Albright had his truck and trailer already filled. He and his friend Ela Jaszczak had been to Tomki Road where it crosses Tomki Creek the day before, and they had filled his truck bed with 800 spent butane canisters. Trying to figure out where so many had come from and why they were just dumped, he was informed that butane is used to make a marijuana-based substance called "butane hash oil," "wax," or "honey oil." A lot of anger and frustration was expressed about the huge operation that cooked the butane hash oil, putting everyone at risk for fire this time of year. How much of that type of trash is lining other river banks in less accessible areas?

Four people took to Highway 101: Hollis Rose and Gary Owen on the south end, and Jerry Albright

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



Above: Some of the 800 spent butane canisters collected by Jerry Albright and Ela Jaszczak from Tomki Creek on Friday.



Photos by Ree Slocum

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Round Valley Library begins ‘1,000 Books Before Kindergarten’

On September 21, the Mendocino County Library Round Valley Branch launched the "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" program, which sets children on the path to success ... one book at a time."

Round Valley families are invited to join the "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" program at the Round Valley Public Library in Covelo. The 1,000 Books program is a nationwide challenge that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. By reading just one book a night, families can reach the 1,000 book goal in three years and provide their children essential early literacy skills.

Research shows that the most reliable predictor of school success is being read to during early childhood. Reading to children from an early age can increase vocabulary and prepare children to enter kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed. Most importantly, sharing books with children promotes a lifelong love of books and reading.

The 1,000 Books program is available to all Round Valley families with children between the ages of birth and 5 years. Parents must be library cardholders to participate. For more information, visit the Round Valley Public Library or call the library at 983-6736. The library is open 10 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

Library cards and the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program are free of charge.

– submitted by Elizabeth Popowski, Mendocino County Library

CalFresh match up to \$30 at farmers markets

Submitted by Stephanie Logsdon, NCO

Community members receiving CalFresh/EBT, formally known as "Food Stamps," can now receive up to \$30 free in fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers markets in Mendocino and Lake counties. This is up from a previous \$15 match. This "Market Match" program is a win-win-win situation, because our neediest community members can access more fresh local food, our farmers are able to sell more produce, and our tax dollars return to the community.

Market Match increases food security in the community by providing a dollar for dollar match for CalFresh users at local farmers markets. For example, when you spend \$15 of CalFresh at the market on eligible food items, you can receive \$15 of Market Match to spend on fruits and vegetables. Up until now, the maximum match amount has been \$15 to \$20 depending on the market. However, just in time for the peak season at our local farmers markets, the maximum match has been increased to \$30 for the months of September and October.

"Mendocino and Lake county markets have over \$25,000 in fresh fruits and vegetable incentives to distribute to CalFresh customers before April 2017," says Stephanie Logsdon, Market Match coordinator at North Coast Opportunities. "This abundance of incentive money from a federal grant and local funds is giving new CalFresh shoppers the opportunity to come experience the farmers market and get twice as much healthy food for their family, as well as give a boost to those already using the program."

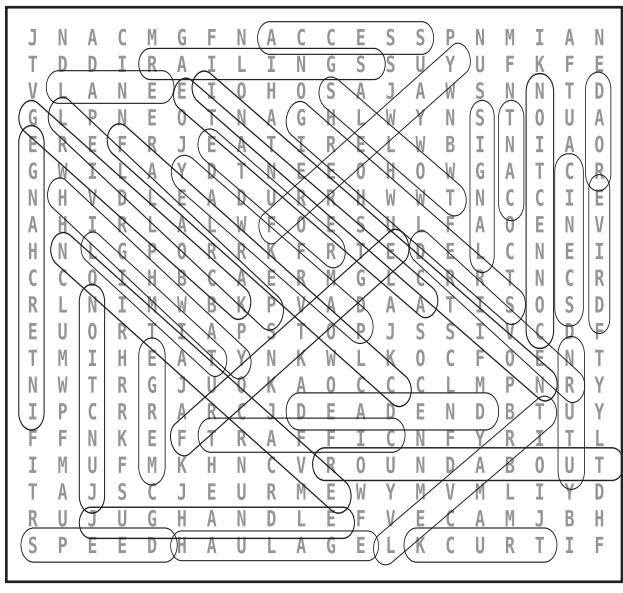
CalFresh customers are encouraged to take full advantage of the \$30 match by purchasing in bulk to preserve the bounty for the winter months. Canning classes for CalFresh recipients are being planned to teach the skills of food preservation with produce purchased with Market Match.

"The Market Match program at the farmers market has helped me make sure that I have enough food to feed my family," says Connie Suarez. "CalFresh only goes so far; the match allows me to breathe a little easier. And I love serving my family fresh fruits and vegetables."

The Willits Farmers Market is on Thursdays at City Park, through October, from 3 to 6:30 pm. The Laytonville Farmers Market is on Mondays at Harwood Hall from 2:30 to 5:30 pm.

For more information on Mendocino County farmers market locations and dates, visit <http://www.mcfarm.org>. For questions about the Market Match program or to express interest in the food preservation workshops, please call 462-1958 or email sloosdon@nccoinc.org.

NCO NORTH COAST OPPORTUNITIES



Frank Howard Memorial Hospital to open community pharmacy

By Cici Winiger, for HMH

In its continuing effort to address the community's health needs, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is opening a new retail pharmacy in early fall. Located at 3 Marcela Drive on the hospital campus, the new Howard Pharmacy will be open to the community Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

In the past, the hospital has only been certified to fill prescription medications for patients while they are being seen inside the hospital. With the new community pharmacy, HMH will now be licensed to fill prescriptions to the public as well. In addition to prescriptions, the pharmacy will also sell over-the-counter medications and medical supplies. They will accept all major insurance companies and plans, including Medicaid and Medicare Part D plans.

Customers will be happy to see a familiar face at the new pharmacy: Carrie Winter, whose family used to own the Willits Rexall pharmacy, will be the retail pharmacist. Winter earned her degree in 2000 from the University of the Pacific. She brings a long history of working in this community and hopes to use what she learned from the family business: to treat customers like family and do everything you can to give them the best service.

"I started working in Rexall when I was 7 years old, manning the cash register," she recalls. "That instilled in me a love for this profession and also a love for this community. I got to know so many different people," she explains. "Now with 16 years of experience as a pharmacist and having lived here for most of my life, I feel like this is home and I'm really helping my friends and neighbors."

For a small fee, the new pharmacy will also offer delivery service within Willits city limits. Winter says their goal is to make it as convenient as possible for customers. "We strive to deliver the same great care that HMH is known for. Our employees live here, so they will see familiar faces and still get that high level of customer service."

The pharmacy is also applying for a 340B Drug Pricing Program, which enables health care organizations that care for underserved people to purchase outpatient prescription drugs at discounted prices. Under this program, patients who are uninsured and qualify under HMH's financial assistance program may be eligible for prescription discounts.

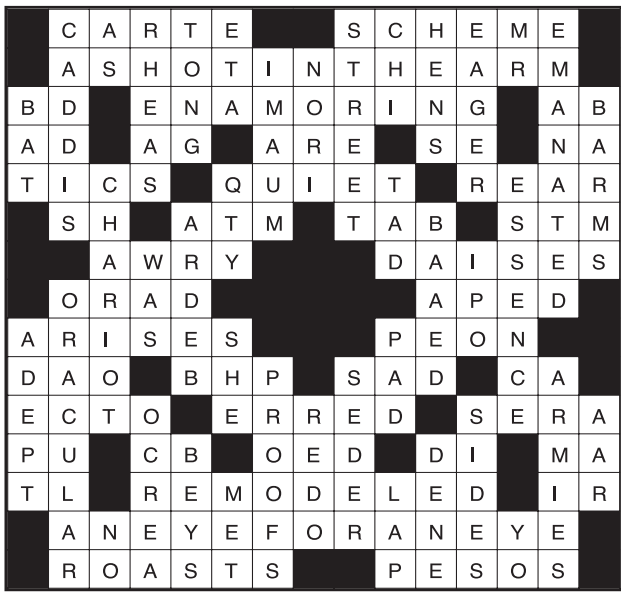
"This was one of the big reasons why adding a community pharmacy was such an attractive idea for the hospital," explains Winter. "We can qualify for certain federal drug discounts that no other pharmacy in town can qualify for."

Another benefit is that in the future, patient information will tie into HMH's electronic medical records system. This will allow the pharmacist to see all prescriptions that have been prescribed to a patient during their hospital stay and/or in any one of their affiliated clinics, so the pharmacist can take into consideration all prescribed medications prior to providing guidance to the patient.

"We are excited to provide this new service," says Rick Bockmann, HMH president and CEO. "With the opening of the retail pharmacy, the clinic and the new hospital, we are thrilled to be able to offer everything our community needs to be healthy and stay healthy all in one campus location," Bockmann concludes.

The new pharmacy is scheduled to open this fall. To establish with Howard Pharmacy and transfer your prescription(s), call 456-3005. For providers seeking to submit a prescription request for their patient, fax 459-1092.

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Community HU Song
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Back in Business

John's Place offers community a barstool at cozy Main Street location

After almost two years of silent shakers and motionless billiard balls, John's Place owners Jeanne and Dan Chesser are finally able to open the doors once again and to welcome the community back to their barstools – although they're now in a new location.

Since the fire of 2014 destroyed their original Commercial Street location, John's Place has been looking to reopen and finally found a suitable spot: a small space in the northwestern end of the Peter's Sushi building complex at the Main Street and East San Francisco Ave intersection.

Read the rest of **John's Place** | Over on Page 15



Beautiful Boonville





"The Key Is Within You"
"The Most Secret Part Of Yourself Is The Heart Of Love"
Harold Klemp, "Spiritual Wisdom on Prayer, Meditation and Contemplation", p. 33

You are invited to an Eckankar Worship Service on September 25, 2016, 11 a.m.-Noon
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At top, from left: John-Hans Mrad watches as Tawny Adams shoots pool. Jeanne Chesser holds the pastel sketch of the couple done by Suzanne Crocker. The beginning of the new collection of patron photographs hangs just below the fancy drinking pony paintings at "Little" John's Place. Above: "Little" John's Place owners Jeanne and Dan Chesser stand with assistant manager Julie Lynde and bartender Shellie Revling in the new bar. At left: Jeanne and Dan Chesser smile for the camera in front of the saved brass bell and new "Little" John's logo which adorn the bar back.



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More of **City AF** | From Page 1

the measure.

Drell told the council she has read the 60-page Measure AF and has concluded it does not "in any way provide the environmental protections for Mendocino County that I have worked long and hard fighting for."

Drell was also critical of the zoning changes she claims the measure proposes for cannabis cultivation.

Measure AF "opens up every single zoning category in the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County to commercial agriculture, which in this case includes the cultivation of medical marijuana," Drell said. "And it brings all the impacts of commercial agriculture to every single one of those zonings – from suburban residential to single-family residential parcels, all the way up to rangeland, even open spaces and public facilities."

Bernard Kamoroff, a Willits resident who said he favors cannabis legalization, agreed with Drell's assessments.

Measure AF, Kamoroff said, "has little or nothing to do with medical marijuana. It has everything to do with zoning and with changing marijuana into the category of agriculture, which puts it in the 'Right to Farm' law. And as I understand AF, it will enable people to expand greatly the area of the county where they can grow marijuana."

Kamoroff compared cannabis cultivation to the cattle industry.

"Raising cattle is legal in this county, but there's zoning laws that keep it out of areas that are populated, where the odors and the problems stay away from people," Kamoroff argued. "The same situation should be with marijuana. Whether you're for or against it, the point is, this measure will open it up to just about every area of the county. Although it won't be allowed in the city of Willits, [Measure AF] will allow it to be grown right up to one inch of the city limits."

Jude Thilman, owner of Dragonfly Wellness Center in Fort Bragg, and member of Yes on AF, resolutely defended the measure.

"Measure AF was two years in the making, contrary to some people's assertions," Thilman said. "I was part of the process. It involves stakeholders from the tourist industry, hospitality, construction, the wine industry. We met with county officials countlessly. We met with the county counsel. It is almost a mirror image to the medical cannabis regulatory safety act passed by the state."

Tim Blake, founder of the Emerald Cup, blamed the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors' failure to draft a fully comprehensive cannabis ordinance for the very existence of AF.

"If [the board of supervisors] were quick enough to get this done, we wouldn't have to draft Measure AF," Blake said. "We're not doing anything but trying to secure our rights from this county. Seventy-five percent of the income from this county comes from cannabis. Right now people are leaving this county; they're moving to Humboldt and Sonoma."

While Drell admitted the board of supervisors did

Read the rest of **City AF** | Over on page 15

The rest of **Supes AF** | From Page 1

a less-restrictive position on marijuana than that taken by the board of supervisors in a still-being-drafted medical marijuana cultivation ordinance.

The county's cultivation ordinance is being written to comply with California Environmental Quality Act guidelines.

Measure AF will be on the November 8 ballot in competition with Measure AI, the county's medical cannabis business tax ordinance drafted by the board of supervisors. Both AF and AI need a simple majority to pass. If they both get a majority of votes, then the measure that gets the highest vote total becomes law, and the other does not.

If Measure AF loses, it is probable that the county's medical cannabis cultivation ordinance, which the county has been working on since April of this year, will be adopted by the board of supervisors. County staff has estimated the county's cultivation ordinance should become operational by around February 1, 2017. However, any lawsuit leveled against the county's cultivation ordinance would likely delay implementation of the ordinance.

A statement approved by supervisors explained why the board feels a "no" vote on Measure AF is warranted. According to the statement:

"1.) Measure AF is not needed because the county is already drafting comprehensive regulations that provide all state-approved cannabis license types while balancing the needs of our local communities, the natural environment and our local economy;

"2.) If Measure AF passes, there will be no public review process to identify or mitigate significant environmental impacts;

"3. Measure AF reduces or eliminates setbacks from neighbors that have been in place since 2010;

"4. Measure AF eliminates the requirement for wildlife exclusionary fencing and eliminates all fencing requirements unless the garden is visible from the public right of way;

"5. Measure AF makes up to an acre of cannabis cultivation a principle permitted use in almost every zoning district;

"6. Measure AF allows thousands of new cannabis cultivators on new cultivation sites."

According to a September 20 press release from the "No on AF Committee," so far, seven other community groups, organizations and businesses have also announced opposition to Measure AF.

The organizations include the Willits Environmental Center, the Brooktrails Township Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees of the Mendocino County Office of Education; the Peregrine Audubon Society, the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association, the Ukiah Daily Journal and the Mendocino County Blacktail Association.

During Tuesday discussions by supervisors, 13 people rose to address the issue. Of those, 12 either supported Measure AF, or urged the board to remain neutral on the question.

Crystal Ray, who described herself as a Covelo teacher and environmentalist, said: "I welcome AF because I believe it is comprehensive legislation. When I read the initiative, I actually cried. I believe, with every cell in my body that this will separate the good players from the bad players."

Jeanine Coleman, a cannabis advocate who has lived in Mendocino County for 12 years, disparaged the movement in opposition to Measure AF, "I am concerned that much of this meaningful dialog has now degraded into a political spectacle, that a small group of people have captured the minds of many community organizations, prompting them to use their leadership to influence their community's choices, and votes, based on inaccurate information, taken out of context, and without doing their due diligence to understand the issues in a comprehensive way.

"State cannabis regulation is complex," Coleman argued. "Measure AF cannot be taken out of context. This policy is written to be in accord and implemented with MMRSA [the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act, passed by the state Legislature in September 2015] and the water board's cannabis cultivation and waste discharge program, which mandates rigorous environmental protection.

"Our county needs education and dialog on this topic, not rhetoric and misinformation," Coleman said.

Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg, who recused himself from the dais but who watched the proceedings from the audience, also addressed his colleagues and urged them to remain neutral on the issue.

"I think initiatives are a time-honored tradition in California," Hamburg said. "In this case, 4,000 people got together to put this on the ballot. I just think this would be a case for the board of supervisors to really let the people speak. In this process, you should just let them decide which way they want to go."

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

discussed at length by trustees.

According to board President Christopher Neary, the "income was higher than we thought, and the expenses were less than we thought," resulting in a larger surplus than expected.

"I'm pleased with this," said Neary. "This looks like we're in a lot better shape than this district's been in the last 15 years, maybe 20 years."

WUSD Superintendent Mark Westerberg said there are several reasons why the state of the budget has improved, including eliminating unfilled positions from expenditure projections; improved energy costs from repairing solar panel setups; and focusing on "need-to-do" rather than "nice-to-do" items first, to stabilize the budget.

"This reflects closing out last year very tight, starting this year tight, and figuring out where we want to go," said Westerberg. "We pulled back on contracts, and we made sure we cleaned up all our line items."

The new budget outlook is a turnaround from assessments made during spring of the last school year. At a March 16 school board meeting where the interim budget was discussed, it was feared the district might be operating at so deep a deficit over the next two years that it risked falling from "qualified status" and into "negative status" and be taken over by the state.

Westerberg said the new budget will take the district out of and above the qualified status as well.

While the board was happy about the improvement in the budget picture, Neary and others did voice concern about the discrepancy between what was expected and the end results in the actuals report.

"I think it's important ... that we make every effort to try and pay a little more attention to make sure we've got [an] accurate picture at that particular point in time," he said. "We were worried last year, and we were in much better shape than we thought.... That's all good for starting anew and going off in a new direction. But I think it's important the public has faith in the accuracy [of the information]."

Willits Teachers Association President John Haschak had particularly strong words about the budget discrepancies (see a letter to the editor from Haschak, on page 2), demanding an explanation as to why the overall surplus ended up at almost \$2 million according to the actuals report – 134 percent larger than the \$880,000 surplus projected in the third interim of the last school year, and also much greater than the 3 percent minimum the district is required to have in reserve, which he estimated at around \$600,000.

He claimed the previous "doom-and-gloom" assessment of the budget in the spring had "lanked" contract negotiations between the WTA and the district.

"When did someone know that the ending balance was going to be so high?" he asked. "You know you don't get like a million dollars extra above what you think you're going to get in the last two months of the fiscal year. If you don't know you're a million dollars over, there's a real problem with it, with what's going on.... When we're not able to get toner, and we're not able to get things for the classroom for our students, it's a crisis out there."

Neary agreed the board needed to "tighten up the numbers," but offered some explanations for the discrepancies. For one thing, he said, trustees had eliminated purchasing two new school buses when budget projections were more bleak last spring, which added over \$700,000 to the reserves.

Westerberg, who officially began as superintendent in June, said one of his primary objectives from the beginning has been to clarify where the district stands with the budget.

"A lot of things have come together, but my biggest goal is to get our financial picture to where we know where we're at," he said. "My goal as superintendent is to help you prioritize how we spend the funding. But we have to get to a base to know where we're at."

Westerberg and Neary said the first interim budget report, which will be assessed in early November, should offer a clearer picture about the budget for the current school year.

Blosser Lane report

Three teachers from Blosser Lane who attended the meeting agreed with Haschak that teachers at the school were frustrated with equipment malfunction problems, slow responses to tech problems, lack of supplies, and communication issues, among other things.

"It's just one problem after another, and the teachers are not being consulted about this at all," said Haschak.

"We started this year off really positive and with a lot of hope," said Marian Lohne, who teaches fifth grade at Blosser, "and over the past two weeks, the energy at our school has dropped because of certain things that have been happening. And that is really disheartening."

Westerberg said he was not aware of some of the tech problems at Blosser Lane, but said that, overall, "tech's been pretty stretched, and let's just say they've had a rough start to the year. That's something I've got to help them get through."

He said he would work on improving communication between principals, teachers and other departments to help things go more smoothly.

"A lot of this can be resolved fairly simply," he added.

Attendance up

In more good financial news reported at the meeting, a rise in attendance this year could also improve the trajectory of budget projections. While the district had budgeted for 1,470 students, the current count was 1,539 students in attendance in the district, up about 50 from last year.

Kindergarten attendance rose from 118 to 154 to start the school year, a trend that bodes well for the future. Higher attendance in the district leads to more funding from the state.

Endorsements

Also discussed at the meeting was the possibility of the board taking positions on county Measure AF, and the state Proposition 55, both on the ballot in November.

Neary urged the board to endorse a "no" position on AF, the voter-based Heritage Initiative, which puts in place a permit and tax structure for all aspects of the cannabis industry in the county. He felt the measure's regulations and restrictions were too loose and permissive, which could impact schools and students negatively.

The board seemed to be leaning towards endorsing a "yes" vote on Proposition 55, which would extend current tax increases on those making \$250,000 or more put in place by 2012's Proposition 30. That money is used to fund schools and health care.

Official endorsements were delayed on both issues until the next school board meeting in October so trustees can review the language in the initiatives.





Senior Class Fundraising

Willits High School earns over \$800 for 2017 class trip

The Willits High School senior class is \$811 closer to their goal of \$20,000 to fund their 2017 end-of-the-year school trip.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

"We just had a meeting to discuss ideas about where we'd like to go on the trip," said student body president Camryn Christensen. "We're hoping to vote on Friday, but some of the ideas that were being passed around included a Giants game in San Francisco, heading to Santa Cruz, doing the 'Day in the Bay' trip and bay cruise many have taken in the past; there was

talk about Tahoe, a water park, maybe even Great America? We'll see!"

Several students came to the side yard of Les Schwab Tire Center on Saturday to hold a rummage sale with donated goods galore.

"We had some new faces show up to help with this fundraiser," explained Christensen. "It's great that we had a lot of participation from members of our senior class."

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



At top, left: Maria Sanchez, Miranda Wilson, Tia Lynn Grant, Isabel Gutierrez, Jamie Johnstone, Rocky Boat, d'Artagnan Meek, and Camryn Christensen invite customers to the sale. At top, center: Wilson showcases a pineapple pillow that was for sale at the event. At top, right: David Hennings, Boat, Meek show how fun shopping can be! Above: Lots of goods were available to buy at the rummage sale. Below, left: Christensen poses in a sea of Christmas baubles. Below, right: WHS seniors Meek, Grant, Wilson, Gutierrez, Christensen and Boat pose on a couch that ended up being donated to the senior center.



Photos by Jessie Rees

Cleaning up WHS

Special Day Class members spiff up the campus

Jessie Rees' Special Day Class at Willits High School spent the day last Friday cleaning the trash from the campus. "We spent the whole day cleaning the trash," Rees said, "from the football field to the 'Welcome' sign in front of the school.

"We noticed the campus was looking a little trashed, so my class wanted to clean it up," Rees said. "The kids loved it, and we've decided to make it a monthly event, to hold a campus beautification day around the 15th of each month."

Rees said several staff members students took notice of the cleanup right away, and thanked the group. "The fortune we found while cleaning – 'Opportunities surround you if you know where to look!' was so fitting!" Rees concluded.

At top: Cleanup crew members, from left, Jeff Behrens, Hanna Rodriguez, River Ramsing, Carl Shockley, Jenna Wells and Martin Bravo. Left: Instructional assistant Adrienne Schafer, at left, "foreman" of the cleanup crew, and teacher and department head Jessie Rees.



Willits High School Athlete of the Week



Girls Soccer | Kiley Butler, 15, Sophomore

Position: Forward

Breakfast of Champions: Cereal

Love for the Sport: "I love the intensity of the sport."

How Long Playing the Sport: Since kindergarten

Sophomore Kiley Butler was WHS girls varsity soccer player of the week this past week. Kiley is our starting striker this season and helped the team cinch a 7-1 victory against Kelseyville on Thursday night with an impressive three goals!

– Coach Tatiana Cantrell

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The rest of John's Place

From Page 12

While small and cozy inside, the same spirit is felt – bartenders laughing with customers and serving drinks across the new bar, and patrons laughing, clinking glasses and racking and cracking at the pool table.

"We're calling it 'Little' John's Place now," laughed Dan Chesser, bar owner. "We're excited to pick up where we left off."

Continuing the tradition of the original location, Dan has started rebuilding his collection of framed photographs of loyal customers that once lined the walls of the old bar.

"We lost so many of the original photos and pastel sketches in the fire," explained Chesser. "We had them all the way back to the early 1980s, but we had, thankfully, just taken several recent photos that were still on the camera, so we were able to reprint those and have already hung them on the walls of Little John's."

The Chessers were able to save one of the pastel sketches, thankfully: one done some 30 years ago by then-local artist Suzanne Crocker. The image is of Jeanne and Dan. They were also able to save a large metal bell that hangs proudly behind the new bar today, even with a large warp as a result of the heat of the fire.

Additional artwork of some fancy ponies, glasses in hand, also hangs on the front wall over the bar. The Chessers noted the paintings were donated by Willits' Mary Smith who thought they would be a perfect addition to the new space.

Working as a local business owner continues the tradition of the Chessers' lineage of involvement with the Willits community. Jeanne Chesser's grandmother's side of the family, the Elliots, can date their history back in town to 1910. Her relatives worked at the Sanhedrin Market (where George's Geodes and Gems is located today) and at the Chuckwagon Café (where Coldwell Banker is located now), and her parents owned the Pepperwood Motel and the Terrace Motel.

Family members also worked in the same building where 'Little' John's Place is located now, back when it was Leak's Ice and Soda Works. The family helped make ice cream and worked the bottling and syrup production lines.

Dan Chesser owned a trucking business, DWC Trucking, where he hauled logs and such until deciding to purchase John's Place in 1982.

"I've been in business here all my life," said Chesser, "and have always been dedicated to the city of Willits and doing business here. We look forward to continuing to be supported by the community and to be a proud member of the businesses located in our hometown."

After running the bar for several decades, the Chessers decided to sell the business in 2004. However, in 2012, Dan decided he wanted back in the bar scene and leased the business back from the new owners. The 2014 fire left the Chessers with the need for a new location, but they hope that within their 10-year-lease timeframe, the owners might choose to rebuild the Commercial Street location, and that John's Place could return to its original location.

For now, though, the owners and staff encourage everyone to come check out the new space on Main Street and wish Dan a belated Happy Birthday – Chesser turned 89 on August 31!

The bar is open from 9 am to 2 am every day of the week, and 365 days a year. Though the bar opened its doors on Thursday, September 15, there is also an official grand reopening event scheduled for Saturday, September 24, when the public is welcome to come see the new bar and enjoy light refreshments from 11 am to 6 pm.

The rest of Cleanup

From Page 10

and another volunteer on the north end by Sherwood Road. Greta Kanne and Chris Harper combed the river banks and cleaned up the rubbish left behind at an abandoned homeless camp, including shopping carts, food and trash.

Willits resident Dan Lowden was walking his dog, Roxanne, along Mendocino Avenue, and picking up garbage along the street. When asked if he was part of Coastal Cleanup Day, Lowden said he didn't realize it was a special day. "I've been doing this weekly for years while I walk the dogs, ever since Handsome [one of his and Theresa Robertson's prized bull terriers] swallowed some cellophane and became very ill." Hundreds of dollars later, Lowden decided to dedicate time to cleaning up where he and the dogs walk, to keep them safe and healthy and his neighborhood looking good.

For more information on the next Willits Cleanup Day, which may be sooner than next year's Coastal Cleanup on the third Saturday in September, contact John Sherman at 459-4601 and check the Willits Weekly Calendar for notice of the event.



The rest of Rummage

From Page 14

This is the second sale the class has held; last year as juniors, the students held a similar rummage sale as one of their fundraisers. After several different fundraisers throughout their junior year, and the few this year already, the students have about \$12,000 saved towards their \$20,000 goal.

Some of the items that didn't sell the last time came out this year and were mingled with new items from donors around the community.

"We had lots of variety," explained Christensen. "One of the fastest sellers were packages of fake dog poop. I had no idea there was such a market, but at 25 cents each, they went fast. We also sold lots of clothing. Our \$5 per bag offer was a hit. We also had tons of glassware, candlesticks, candles, kitchenware and holiday items."

With the soaring temperatures, the group packed up about an hour early than their 9 am to 3 pm time frame, but Christensen noted the success of the sale overall was great.

"We really want to thank everyone who came out and supported us," said Christensen. "We took everything that was left over and donated it to the Willits Senior Center."

Additional fundraising events on the horizon include selling donuts at the home football games, holding a 50/50 raffle, and having a Yankee Candle sale.

If anyone is interested in helping out the senior class, stop by the Willits High School to drop off donations with Julie Orr in the main office. Donations should be marked for "The WHS Class of 2017" to make sure they get deposited correctly. More info: 459-7700.

The rest of City AF

From Page 13

against Measure AF can be found on the City of Willits website at: <http://thecityofwillits.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/09-14-16-Agenda-Council-Packet.pdf>.

To read Measure AF in its entirety, go to http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/pdf/Measure_AF_-_FULL_TEXT.pdf.

To listen to further debates on Measure AF, listen to the KZYX rebroadcast of Jane Fletcher's "Cannabis Hour" this Wednesday, September 28 from 7 to 8 pm.

According to Fletcher's post on Facebook: "Speaking in favor of Measure AF will be Hezekiah Allen of the California Growers Association and county activist Sarah Bodnar. Speaking against Measure AF will be Supervisor John McCowen and environmentalist Ellen Drell."

The rest of Hunters

From Page 1

Rescue, Napa County Search and Rescue, Contra Costa Search and Rescue Team, and the Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit trekked into the area to begin the search. The California National Guard joined the hunt, providing both a helicopter and ground searchers.

Just before noon, searchers learned the two missing men, who remain unidentified, crossed the Eel River near Indian Dick Road and were able to contact help using their cell phones, and had been returned to their camp.

"They are alive and well, although dehydrated and hungry," said Sheriff Tom Allman.

"Thank you to all those that made this happy ending a reality," Allman said.

This report was based on a post on the "Mendocino Sheriff" Facebook page.

The rest of Mendo Mill

From Page 1

12:30 pm Monday.

Mayfield said the debris would be trucked to the Ukiah Transfer Station, where he expected more than 50 percent of the materials would be recycled.

The oldest part of the old Mendo Mill building was once a lumber mill, and the large timber beams that formed the trusses of that building will be donated to Roots of Motive Power, Roots President Chris Baldo said.

"We're going to set up an antique sawmill at Roots from the Parlin Forks Conservation Camp, and the Mayfields [owners of Mendo Mill] are going to donate the old trusses for the roof." Baldo wasn't sure whether the old timber was redwood or Douglas fir. "The big old timbers are painted grey," he said.

The rest of Finishing

From Page 1

explained Phil Frisbie, public information officer for Caltrans in District 1. "These items are checked and reworked until signed off."

While the structural work and overall shape of the bypass is now complete, punch list and to-do list items still include final paving, trash and debris cleanup from Caltrans projects, electrical finish work for lighting at the interchanges, and other final finishing details.

New signage at the north and south exits is also in place, although according to Frisbie, the Caltrans sign coordinator is "aware of community concerns over signage" and is planning to do a drive-through after the bypass is complete, "to determine what additional signs, or modifications to existing signs, are appropriate."

The biggest project still to be completed, and one that will wait until just before the completion ceremony, Frisbee said, is striping, lining the center lane and the road/shoulder divide. "That will be one of the last things that we do," explained Frisbee. "Maybe about a week or so before the ceremony."

Caltrans announced the date and time – November 3 at 11 am – of the completion ceremony in August, but since then, Frisbie said, the location has been changed to the south end of the viaduct. The public ceremony will include dedicating the 1.1-mile-long viaduct bridge to fallen U. S. Navy Seal Jesse Pittman. Frisbie said more details will be announced a couple of weeks before the November 3 date. Caltrans expects the bypass to be actually opened to traffic later in the day on November 3 or on November 4.

The Willits Chamber of Commerce's "Supper on the Bypass – A Farm to Table Experience" event planned for Saturday, October 29 from 1:30 to 6 pm on the bypass viaduct has been sold out, but the chamber is continuing to take names for the waiting list at 459-7910.

Frisbie confirmed Tuesday that another pre-opening fundraising event being planned, the "Walk, Ride & Run the Bypass" event sponsored by the Willits Kids Club, for Sunday, October 30 "will be accommodated" by Caltrans. The event is also co-sponsored by Mendocino County Public Health and Nuestra Alianza.

Information for how to participate will be released on September 26; check the Willits Kids Club "events" page at www.willitskidsclub.org/index.php#events for more info at that time.

Additional reporting on this story done by Jennifer Poole.

The rest of Ordinance

From Page 1

of his family members is participating in the county's 9.31 medical marijuana program and Hamburg felt he had a conflict of interest.

County Chief Planner Andy Gustavson told supervisors how he and Commissioner of Agriculture Chuck Morse had interpreted the board's direction from the previous week, when Supervisor John McCowen found numerous flaws in the project description to accompany the county's medical cannabis cultivation ordinance as it wends its way through the environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Prominent among the changes suggested by McCowen and incorporated by Gustavson and Morse was language in the "Prior Effects of Cannabis Cultivation" section of the project description.

In the September 1 draft of the description, the text reads: "The lead agency assumes that existing operations which qualify for permits under the proposed ordinance are generally physically indistinguishable from those that do not qualify."

During the September 13 meeting, McCowen said he found this language misleading and running counter to what he thought needed to be done. In response, county staff is proposing to combine sections 3 and 4 of the old project description, so in the new section 3.1, there will be a general description of the county's geography, and in the new section 3.2, there will be some description of the environmental impacts of unregulated growing of marijuana.

According to the draft additions, "While the types of environmental impacts associated with marijuana cultivation are substantially unchanged since the adoption of the general plan update environmental impact report in 2009 and the Ukiah Valley Area Plan EIR in 2011), a large body of anecdotal information and the observation of credible observers support the observation that the intensity of impacts described in Table 2, and the numbers of locations subject to those impacts has increased on an annual basis."

Gustavson told supervisors he thought this approach would fly within the parameters of CEQA. "We're making broad assumptions, but we're expecting that our candidate cultivator sites will be in better shape than a trespass or illegal grow," Gustavson said.

Gustavson also reviewed changes McCowen had pointed out last week, and had incorporated those changes into the project description.

These changes corrected assumptions the consultant had made that phases 2 and 3 of the ordinance would be adopted throughout all county zoning districts, and therefore may logically have been assumed to have delivered a significant future impact on the county's environment.

Gustavson and Morse wrote: "The Phase 2 list will be replaced with a statement that new cultivation sites in Phase 2 will be restricted to medium and large indoor artificial light operations located on industrially zoned properties and that developments and impacts associated with these new cultivation sites are substantially the same as other manufacturing uses associated with these zoning districts."

The same principle prevailed in correcting language describing Phase 3, which the author, a consultant with LACO, the company retained to help county staff to meet CEQA requirements in the cultivation ordinance, had assumed would be broadly implemented.

Last week McCowen had clarified, and this week Gustavson and Morse demonstrated, that this section of the project description would be rewritten to indicate Phase 3 provisions – in which cultivation permits are granted to new growers – would apply only to applications for cultivation sites located in agriculturally zoned land or "in the other zoning districts located in Table 2 of the zoning ordinance, when a watershed assessment establishes a new cultivation site will not take water needed to fulfill demand by existing and projected land use development and natural resource protection, e.g., fishery "in-stream" water demand, riparian protection, rare and endangered species, etc."

Gjerde suggested the revised project description be sent to all the resource agencies, but Gustavson balked, arguing that doing so would create more confusion than it allayed.

McCowen then suggested Gustavson send out the memo he and Morse were using as a basis for the discussion then occurring. Gustavson said he would do that.

Morse clarified two important points. He said he saw a problem with limiting square footage for cannabis nursery production to 22,000 square feet, as he had previously suggested, because once the seeds are collected there would be a huge amount of cannabis sitting around unused and unsold. Someone might be tempted to sell that cannabis, which would in effect be double-dipping. Morse suggested a cap of 5,000 square feet for nursery seed production. Supervisors agreed with that recommendation.

Morse also said he was considering drafting language that would call for a two-year phase-in to alternative sources of energy for cannabis production. At the end of the first year, cannabis growers would have to have 50 percent of their energy needs being met with alternative sources of energy. By the end of the second year, growers would have to meet 100 percent of their energy needs with alternative energy systems.

McCowen suggested an exemption would have to be included in that section of the ordinance that would allow use of gasoline-powered generators during periods of inclement weather. Morse agreed with that idea.

County Deputy Executive Officer Sarah Dukett told supervisors county staff is continuing to work on other aspects of the comprehensive array of ordinances, including the zoning ordinance and the distribution ordinance. A general outline for the proposed licensing for other areas of cannabis regulation would be brought to the board on October 17.

Gustavson said the cannabis cultivation ordinance would be brought before the Mendocino County Planning Commission on November 3 and again on November 17.

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