

Council wants additional 101 signage

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

During Monday's special meeting, the Willits City Council unanimously passed a resolution drafted by councilwoman Madge Strong requesting "that Caltrans immediately order and have installed at least one additional sign along Northbound 101, approximately two miles south of the Willits exit, saying 'Willits two miles: gas, food, lodging, hospital, other services.'"

Because the signage request was an emergency off-agenda item, presented late to the council and city staff, it required and received a four-fifths vote and was added to the agenda for discussion. Mayor Bruce Burton had

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

Enacting, advisory measures crowd ballot

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

For people in the Willits area, this November's general election ballot will offer three measures affecting the future of the county's mental health landscape and its approach to regulating marijuana.

In addition to these three fundamental measures – Measure AF (the Heritage Initiative), Measure AG (Revitalizing Mental Health Services) and Measure AI (Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance) – there are two auxiliary measures. One, Measure AH, is an enacting measure tied to Measure AG, the sales tax measure to fund mental health facilities; the other, Measure AJ, is an advisory measure

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

Willits man, woman held for credit card theft

Two area residents were arrested September 16 after they allegedly charged more than \$200 using credit cards belonging to a 39-year-old Willits woman.

The woman had contacted sheriff's deputies shortly before 9:30 am to report a lost wallet, according to a Sheriff's Office press release. She told deputies her credit cards had been used to purchase items at several different area stores.

"Deputies subsequently determined Lauren Wilburn, 32, and Thomas Duern, 35, were responsible for

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



At top, from left: Fiona the golden retriever, Bo the Maine coon cat, and Roxie the German shepherd meet priest and animal-blesser Betsy Bruneau at the St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church. Above: Bob the sun conure, held by Bruneau, wonders how many animals will attend the Saturday, October 8 event.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Above: Bob gives Courtney Figg-Hoblyn a little smooch. Below: Humans, including from left, Tom Schott, Elaine Figg-Hoblyn, Betsy Bruneau and Jessie Holland smile with pets, including, from left, Fiona, Bob on Bruneau's shoulder, Clover and Roxie. Special thanks to the Figg-Hoblyn family, owners of Tropic Tails Pet Shop.



Oil Well Hill Fire

By Jennifer Poole

Willits residents heard sirens and aircraft overhead for the second time late Wednesday afternoon, as firefighters headed out to a fire reported on the east side of Oil Well Hill on Highway 101, just a few miles north of Willits.

Helicopters and planes dropped retardant and water on the fire, as smoke was seen from all over Willits.

Progress was good from the beginning, according to scanner chatter, but the fire did grow from spot fires to just over 20 acres in a couple of hours, with power lines down, and Highway 101 closed for a while.

As of about 6:15 pm, the scanner



reported: "Everything's looking real good," although aircraft would still be putting "buckets" on hot spots as long as it stayed light.

CalFire's official word as of 6:30 pm Wednesday was that the "Oil Fire" had burned one residence, but "forward progress" had stopped, keeping it at 20 acres and 50 percent contained.

As per former Willits Weekly reporter Zack Cinek, the Oil Fire started roadside at the hilltop turnout east of 101 right where Caltrans cleared some trees for the "barrow pit" for the Willits bypass project back in 2014.



The first fire on Wednesday afternoon was 10 miles north of Willits on Shimmins Ridge Road. That fire started at a residence, which was destroyed, but was dealt with promptly, with crews "mopping up" about the same time firefighters were responding to the Oil Fire.

Little Lake Fire Chief Carl Magann was not available for comment Wednesday evening, but in a press release sent on September 21, Magann reminded residents that even though fall was here: "Historically late September into October presents our greatest level of fire danger, with low fuel moistures, prevailing winds, and careless people."

Cannabis causes council commotion

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

Using his authority as the city council's presiding officer, Mayor Bruce Burton on Monday refused to appoint a marijuana ad hoc committee, disregarding the request of his four council colleagues.

After nearly an hour of heated debate, with City Attorney Jim Lance acting as legal moderator, Councilwoman Madge Strong motioned for the "council to delegate responsibility to [Councilwoman] Holly Madrigal and [Councilman] Ron Orenstein to direct staff to assist them in coming up with specific options for proposals of cannabis

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

Brooktrails board opposes Heritage Initiative

Dan McKee
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Brooktrails directors have gone on record as opposing Measure AF, the marijuana Heritage Initiative, on the November 8 ballot. Their action came September 13 after discussing a lengthy memorandum by township counsel Chris Neary.

Neary castigated the initiative as a "take it or leave it" measure that "bypasses environmental review and the processes under California's Environmental Quality Act ... and local elected officials, specifically the board of supervisors."

If approved by voters, Neary claims, AF, as

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

Reynolds to stand trial in Fisher death

Charles Reynolds will be arraigned in Mendocino County Superior Court on October 6 in the killing of a 29-year-old man outside of Boomer's Bar in Laytonville on August 29.

Judge Ann Moorman ruled there was sufficient evidence to hold the 32-year-old Willits man for trial for felonious assault with force likely to cause great bodily harm following a preliminary hearing last Thursday, September 22.

Reynolds will be "arraigned on the information" at 9 am in Courtroom B, according to Mike Geniella, the District

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

Join KLLG Radio

To the Editor:

Citizens! More and more Willitsians are aware that KLLG Radio is on the air in "test mode"; this allows our technicians to fine-tune our signal and mark on a map our signal's reach. We are pleased to announce that our signal goes much farther than expected.

During this "test period," our programming is limited – basically easy-to-listen-to music separated by our important messages to you. These prerecorded shows are broadcast in a loop to maintain presence on the air while we complete the construction on a state-of-the-art broadcast studio. We should be able to broadcast live by the middle of October.

Go to our website to join: www.kllg.org. Or mail \$30 for adults, \$45 for a family or organization, or \$20 for seniors, students and Grange members.

To support KLLG by becoming an underwriter, contact me, 367-1812 or lanny@kllg.org. 100 percent of our local listeners are potential customers of local businesses. That's the beauty of a low-power radio station.

KLLG is also looking for some key people to become part of our core team:

- Music librarian (10,000 tunes in our library needs cataloging!).
- Automation software maven (controls the Starship-transmitter's scheduling).
- Underwriting co-director.
- Membership co-director.
- Fundraising events co-director.

These are the furiously fun founding years of KLLG, Willits Hometown Radio. Throw in with us now. Your grandchildren will be grateful. We'll all be grateful!

Lanny Cotler, Willits

A terrific show at WCT

To the Editor:

The one-woman show "Red Hot Patriot, the Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins" is absolutely terrific. The script is both funny and profoundly moving; Mary Burns is fabulous as Molly Ivins. It's only playing one more weekend (at Willits Community Theatre), and today's matinee was almost sold out, so I strongly recommend you get your tickets and go!

Madge Strong, Willits

'Socks and Undies' drive

To the Editor:

The Willits United Methodist Church is collecting new socks and undies for Willits school-age children in need, children ages 5 to 12 years old. We will also be gathering new socks and undies for foster children ages 12 to 17. We need men's and women's undies in medium, large and extra-large sizes. Socks for both women and men should be regular adult sizes, 9-11.

We open our doors to the community and invite people to help with our collection of underwear for these two groups of children. On Sunday, October 16, shortly after worship service ends at about noon, we invite the community to help us box up the socks and undies. Let's spread the word among our friends and neighbors. This is

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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P.O. Box 1698
Willits, CA 95490
willitsweekly@gmail.com
www.willitsweekly.com
707-459-2633; 707-972-7047

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / jennifer@willitsweekly.com / 707-459-2633
Maureen Moore, art director and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047
Mike A'Dair, reporter / mike@willitsweekly.com
Jenny Senter, features writer / jenny@willitsweekly.com
Damian Sebouhian, reporter / damian@willitsweekly.com
Forrest Glyer, reporter / forrest@willitsweekly.com
Ree Stocum, features writer / ree@willitsweekly.com
Rachel Belvin, assistant publisher and advertising / rachel@willitsweekly.com / 707-367-9319
Justin Stephens, webmaster

For advertising inquiries, please call 707-459-2633 or 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

an event that our community embraces. Call 459-2855 for more information.

Lynn Williams, Brooktrails

Proposition haiku

To the Editor:

My nephew, Damian Carroll, wrote these haiku to describe each of propositions on the California ballot this November. I find them useful and wanted to share.

Proposition 51

Nine billion dollars
Of bond funds for school buildings
Term: thirty-five years

Proposition 52

A hospital fee
Matched with federal dollars
Funds Medi-Cal boost

Proposition 53

Bonds for big projects
(Like high speed rail and Delta)
Would need people's vote

Proposition 54

Bills must be posted
On the web, for three days straight
Before they are passed

Proposition 55

For high-earning folks
An income tax that funds schools
Would remain in place

Proposition 56

The cigarette tax
Would go up, two bucks a pack
E-cigarettes, too

Proposition 57

Earlier parole
Of prisoners serving time
For non-violent crimes

Proposition 58

Kids learning English
Won't need a waiver to take
Bilingual classes

Proposition 59

Asks to overturn
Citizens' Union, but
Shucks, it's non-binding

Proposition 60

Adult film makers
Would have to require condoms
Or risk a lawsuit

Proposition 61

In theory, lowers
The cost of some state-bought drugs
(But it could backfire)

Proposition 62

Vote for this one if
You want to eliminate
The death penalty

Proposition 66

If you want the state

To execute more people
This one is for you

Proposition 63

Requires a permit
Issued by the DOJ
To purchase ammo

Proposition 64

Legalizes pot!
Also raises some tax funds

(Perhaps a billion?)

Proposition 65

Plastic bag makers
Put this one on the ballot
To punish grocers

Proposition 67

To ban plastic bags
Vote "yes" on 67
"No" on 65

Liam UiCearbhaill, Willits

No on Measure AF

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in hopes that the voters of Mendocino County will take a serious look at Measure AF, the so-called Mendocino Heritage Act, and realize what a very bad thing it would be for our county if Measure AF passes. Measure AF, 60 pages in length, was written by an out-of-county lawyer and signatures were gathered to qualify it for the ballot by paid signature gatherers.

Measure AF would:

1. Shield growers from neighbor's complaints about odor as marijuana grows would now be protected by the county "Right to Farm" ordinance. The same would apply also for the sound created by generators.
2. Remove the sheriff and other local law enforcement agencies from the marijuana enforcement process by the wording in Section 6.22.150(A)(1)), "No violations of this chapter shall be subject to criminal enforcement."
3. Reduce the setback requirement from schools and parks to 600 feet for marijuana grows and dispensaries, significantly increasing our children's exposure to marijuana, odor and the drug trade.
4. Greatly increase the size of marijuana grows and allow them in any zoning district.
5. Authorize the highly flammable butane processing of marijuana in any industrial zone.

I want to continue living in Mendocino County. It has been my home for 35 years. Measure AF would turn Mendocino County over to the growers to use as they see fit. The needs of regular residents would not be considered. Mendocino County will then have a hard time finding qualified people to staff its hospitals, schools and government. Businesses not associated with the drug trade will leave our county.

The timber industry does not regulate itself. Nor does the wine industry. Nor the fishing industry. Why should marijuana growers be able to regulate themselves?

As of the writing of this letter, six civic agencies are recommending a No vote on Measure AF: Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association, Mendocino County Board of Education, Mendocino County Farm Bureau, Brooktrails Township, Peregrine Audubon Society and the Mendocino County Blacktail Association.

Please join me in voting No on Measure AF. Measure AF was written for growers. Marijuana growers would become self-regulating. It would effectively eliminate any restrictions.

Jeanne King, Willits

Yes on Measure AF

To the Editor:

The voters of Mendocino County have the opportunity to make their voices heard on the issue of cannabis regulation in the November election. For citizens to

make a clear choice, some misconceptions need to be addressed.

It has been claimed that the Heritage Act was written by and for cultivators and there has been little community input. Opposition voices suggest that Measure AF only reflects the narrow interests of a few people, rather than the long, civic process to gather many points of view that actually took place.

Starting over two years ago many elements of the community came together to claim a seat at the table for the creation of laws and ordinances regulating the cannabis industry. Numerous public meetings were held at the various Granges, at Harwood Hall, at Healing Harvest Farms and elsewhere in Boonville and on the coast. These meetings included farmers, nursery owners, dispensary owners, edible, tincture and concentrate manufacturers, distributors and transporters as well as stakeholders from the general agricultural, wine, tourism, and real estate communities, as well as the legal arena. These meetings were open to the public for anyone interested.

Within county and state government, there were many meetings with the Farm Bureau, various county supervisors, as well as county counsel, county CEO, the sheriff, the ag commissioner, the state Water Resources Board and state water discharge agents, Board of Equalization officers, and even the Blacktail Deer Association.

Members of the pro-Measure AF community have written letters to the board, to newspapers and appeared at public board meetings. We have been interviewed on numerous radio and television programs and have established a presence on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and other websites.

After years of work collecting feedback for the content of our Initiative, a team of people wrote the language, had it checked by legal experts, ran it by county counsel, and then gathered over 4,000 signatures from citizens who want to vote on this issue.

With Yes on Measure AF, community involvement is guaranteed. The other option is to allow only four supervisors (one recused himself) to make the decision for us. Four people who seem to be against protecting the very industry which brings in more than half of Mendocino County's annual revenue.

These same supervisors have had since January 2015 to craft a comprehensive cannabis regulation ordinance. So far they have come up with the same old 9.31 program, only even more restrictive. This, while surrounding counties are increasing cultivation limits in their regions. In our county, however, new proposed ordinances do not include any mention of the seven non-cultivating categories of the cannabis industry identified by state law.

The board was presented with copies of the Heritage Act in April as part of our outreach for dialogue and as a blueprint for going forward. They never responded. In American politics it is standard practice for an industry to work with legislative bodies, submitting legislative drafts, lobbying and making campaign contributions. Who better than industry experts to consult in writing regulation? What industry ever asks for regulation, as we are doing?

But let's talk about what Measure AF will do. It will bring all aspects of the cannabis industry into compliance with all the state-designated types of cannabis enterprise. Measure AF assigns each type of activity to its appropriate zone.

Measure AF defines cannabis cultivation as an agricultural crop, thus moving it out of the nuisance category in the county code. This means that cultivation will be confined to zones of the county where row and

Read the rest of Letters | Over on Page 15



Across top, from left: Fans at Friday night's game, from left: Taylor Quinliven, the Wolverine mascot Savannah Southwick, Troy Walters, and Emmalee Harmon. Junior varsity coach Billy Arms huddles with his team. Wolverine fans Hope Curtis, Jeanell Aldrich, Taylor Pardue, and Rachel Hageman pose for the camera in the stands.

Above: Senior quarterback Tyler Vesey (#2) leads his team onto the field for their first home game, with Colten Doak (#11) and Colten Horger (#57) following close behind.

At right, top: WHS cheerleaders and Wolverine mascot.

At right: WHS band teacher Chris Olds leads the band and the crowd in a rendition of the national anthem.

Below, from left: Triston Martin (#21) avoids a tackle, with Mitchell Hollingsworth (#77) looking to give him some help.

Jacob Arms, #20, runs to the right side for positive yardage.

Colten Doak (#11) looks for his block, to help give Tyler Vesey (#2) room to run.

Photos by Mathew Caine



WHS Wolverines

Willits football teams take losses at their first home games this year

The Willits High School Wolverines had their first home football games Friday night, and while both the varsity and junior varsity teams lost against Clearlake, the Willits players demonstrated "a lot of hard work and a lot of heart," said head coach Mike Colvig. There was a big crowd, with over 300 spectators at Maize Field.

"Overall, even though we lost the game, our team is not defeated," Colvig said. "They want to go out and play more football and play hard. It's really great to see the fire in their eyes is unquenched. I love their tenacity."

The Willits varsity team is small in number of players this year, compared to the other teams in the league. "We had probably nine to 10 players that played every single play," Colvig said. A larger team has offensive and defensive players, so team members can rest throughout the game. "Our kids are in great shape, but it's hard when the other team can put in new players," Colvig said. "We call it 'smash-mouth football,' when you play both sides of the ball. We're a small school, so we make do with what we have."

Colvig said his team "played an excellent first half" – the score was 22 to 33 at halftime, with the Wolverines behind by 11 points – "but during the second half, [Clearlake's] depth gave them a competitive edge. There was a point where we had only 11 players; the rest of the players were injured."

Some of the stand-outs Colvig mentioned: "On defense Colten Horger had probably the best game I've seen him play, tenacious on the defensive line, and he made the majority of tackles. On offense, Tristan Martin had a number of fantastic carries. He's our workhorse – we put a lot on his shoulders – and he did really well the first half, and in the second half, when he started to get tired, he still ran the ball incredibly well.

"Our senior starting quarterback, Tyler Vesey, made a number of key passes early in the game, resulting in big yardage. We're really excited about his throwing ability. He was quick out of the pocket and earned some rushing yards."

Colvig wanted to emphasize the WHS football program "truly appreciates all the support from parents and the community, supporting these kids as they play the game of football."

Colvig also reported a "catastrophic" injury – a broken leg – to Wolverine Noah Southwick, who had his leg broken on the field. "This is his first time playing football," Colvig said. "He's the kind of kid who wants to earn a starting role – really he's pushed everybody else to bring up their level of practice. He went into the game as one of our captains this time – he earned it in practice. It's

Read the rest of Football | Over on Page 11

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Mon-Thurs:
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Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 and a level indicator: Level: Beginner



How To
Sudoku:

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

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues

PET OWNERSHIP WORD SEARCH

Vertical word search grid containing pet-related terms like ADOPTION, BREED, CANINE, etc.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Essential floral oil
5. Boast
9. A way to travel on skis
11. Austrian capital
13. Sensationalist journalism
15. Taxidriver
16. Atomic mass unit
17. A rock-boring tool
19. Actress Farrow
20. The trunk of a tree
22. Satisfy to excess
23. Cleopatra's snake
24. Single-reed instrument
25. Volcanic mountain in Japan
26. Bon ____: witty remarks
28. Competitors
31. Republic of Ireland
32. Late Show host
34. Parrot nostril membrane
35. Moves into action
37. Back talk
38. A pointed end
39. British Air Aces
41. 1st weekday

CLUES DOWN

- 42. Sound in mind
43. Hypothetical original matter
45. Head covering
46. Classical musical dramas
49. God of war & sky (Germanic)
50. Beginnings
53. Coarse fabric used for bags
55. High legislative assembly
56. What a ghost does
57. Pats gently
58. Ceases to live
10. Russian space station
11. Rotates showing wind direction
12. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
14. Desalinate
15. Marcus Porcius
18. Perching bird order
21. Citizen rejects
26. Missing soldiers
27. Cantankerous
29. German river
30. Fed
31. Large Australian flightless bird
33. Lasso users
34. Spanish saloon
36. Common cracker
37. Glided high
38. Draws from
40. Deceptive tactics
41. Conductance units
42. Unit of loudness
44. Steins
47. Express pleasure
48. A large amount
51. Talk
52. Belonging to a thing
54. Language spoken by the Khonds

WPD Activity Report

September 17 to September 23
Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 204 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

September 17
9 am: VERVILLE, Robert (48) of Willits was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.
4:20 pm: Hit-and-run collision reported in the 10 block of Alameda Street.
September 18
11:40 am: Officers responded to a collision in the 200 block of South Main Street.
8:30 pm: Officers investigated a dog bite in the 1200 block of Locust Street.
September 19
8:40 am: Officers initiated an investigation of a theft from a business in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

9:10 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.
10:40 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive, where they contacted ACKERMAN, Leah (49) of Willits. Following an investigation, Ackerman was issued a citation pursuant to 415(1) PC (Challenges to a Fight).
1 pm: Officers responded to a traffic collision in the 800 block of South Main Street.
September 20
6:20 pm: Officers contacted BAILEY, Skyler (22) of Willits during a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street, and issued him a citation pursuant to 490.5 PC (Shoplifting).
8:10 pm: Officers responded to a hit-and-run collision in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
September 21
12:30 am: Officers contacted BETTEGA, Jeanie (21) of Covelo in the 800 block of South Main Street

and arrested her pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.
4:40 pm: Officers contacted BAILEY, Jerry (39) of Willits during a traffic stop on the grade and placed him under arrest pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.
September 22
8:35 am: Officers contacted BAILEY, Skyler (22) of Willits in the 300 block of South Main Street and arrested him pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.
5 pm: Officers contacted NESBITT, Jesse (39) of San Francisco in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and arrested him pursuant to an active California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation parole hold.
September 23
1:15 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.
4:55 pm: Officers contacted CAVINO, Richard (53) of Willits in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued him a citation pursuant to an active Sonoma County warrant.

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connected to Measure AI, the cannabis business tax written by the board of supervisors.

Several questions have arisen in connection with these measures. Why does AG need a two-thirds majority to pass, and why does it have an enacting measure accompanying it? Why does AI – which like AG is a tax measure – only need a simple majority to pass, and why does it have, not an enacting measure, but a non-binding advisory measure to accompany it?

Let's start with mental health. Measure AG was proposed by and put on the ballot through the initiative of county Sheriff Tom Allman, who told the board of supervisors he coordinated drafting the measure because he was tired of hearing county administrators tell him there was no money to build a county mental health facility.

Measure AG would add a half-cent sales tax to all purchases – both in the unincorporated areas of the county and in the incorporated cities – for a period of five years, to develop a “one-stop shop” mental health facility at an as-yet-unknown location in the county.

Because Measure AG is for a special, definite purpose, it is a special tax and requires a two-thirds affirmative vote to pass.

The companion ballot measure, Measure AH, is an “enacting measure” that became a stand-alone ballot measure due to an oversight by Mendocino County Counsel Katharine Elliott.

At the August 2 board of supervisors meeting, Elliott explained how Measure AH came about.

“When we were reviewing this, the thing that we reviewed for was only whether there were any illegalities about the item,” Elliott told supervisors. “This was coming from outside of our office, and we didn't look at implementation or anything along that line. It was brought to my attention that, if it were to be passed by the voters, this was unusual – a people's initiative voting in a sales tax. In order to implement what the voters would approve, the [state of California] board of equalization requires the board of supervisors to take an action. So we brought forward a companion item to the item that is going on the ballot. [i.e., Measure AG]. If the voters were to vote in the mental health initiative, this would allow the county to actually implement that tax.”

Because Measure AH enacts a special tax, it also requires a two-thirds majority to pass. If Measure AG passes with two-thirds of the vote, and Measure AH fails to pass, then Measure AG cannot be enacted and, in effect, would fail too.

The cannabis ordinances

Three other county measures, each having to do with marijuana, are also on the ballot. They are Measure AF (the Heritage Initiative), Measure AI (the county's Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance), and Measure AJ, an advisory measure connected to Measure AI.

Measure AF is a citizen-written initiative that regulates all aspects of the local medical marijuana industry, including cultivation, processing, testing, distribution, transportation, delivery, dispensing and taxation. It applies to all the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County, but not the four incorporated cities: Willits, Ukiah, Fort Bragg or Point Arena. It does not contain enacting language or an enacting subsection and does not have an associated ballot measure containing enacting language.

At a board meeting in early August, Elliott told the board of supervisors Measure AF does not need enacting language. Because it is an initiative that came from the people, she explained, AF is held to a lower

standard than a ballot measure that comes from government.

This seems contradictory, since Measure AG also came from the people and yet needed enacting language.

On August 16, Elliott told supervisors measures AF and AI could be combined by a court order. “When you have two competing measures, one wins and the other loses,” Elliott said. “When one gets knocked out, it would go to the court to determine what part of the losing measure remains, because both have severability clauses.

“So, it could be, for example, if the Heritage Initiative were to pass, and ours not, but we have some language on how those taxes were to be gathered, and we have some minimums [i.e., minimum taxes] and the Heritage Initiative does not, it could be the court could decide those two elements could stand together. That's for a court to decide, and I wouldn't make that determination, but that's how it could occur,” Elliott said.

Contacted on Wednesday, Elliott added a fresh explanation as to why Measure AF doesn't need enacting language.

“Most taxes don't have an enacting clause, except for a sales tax. There is nothing that mandates exacting language, except for a sales tax,” Elliott said.

Measure AF proposes that people who cultivate medical marijuana pay 2.5 percent of their gross receipts in taxes to Mendocino County. The measure also has language providing for a 5 percent tax to Mendocino County for cultivation of non-medical marijuana. Measure AF provides that any future tax hike needs to win the approval of the electorate in an election.

Because Measure AF does provide for the assessment of taxes from various sectors of the marijuana industry, and because it does not specify what those taxes are to be used for, AF is considered to be a general taxation measure and therefore does not need to win a two-thirds majority to be approved. All it needs for approval is a simple majority, 50 percent plus one vote.

Being offered in competition with Measure AF is Measure AI, the Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance, drafted, approved and submitted for the ballot by the board of supervisors. Like Measure AF, Measure AI proposes to tax medical cannabis cultivators at the rate of 2.5 percent of their gross receipts. However, Measure AI explicitly states the 2.5 percent tax rate will only obtain for the first three years. After January 1, 2020, the tax rate may be increased in increments of 2.5 percent by a vote of the board of supervisors. The ballot measure limits the rate of taxation to no higher than 10 percent.

Like Measure AF, Measure AI applies only to the unincorporated portions of the county.

The board of supervisors also drafted and approved Measure AJ, which advises the public the board of supervisors intends to spend a majority of revenues derived from the taxation of medical pot on four areas of county responsibility: enforcement of marijuana regulations; repair of county roads; enhanced mental health services; and increased fire and emergency medical services.

The ballot measure analysis written by Elliott states Measure AJ is advisory only and does not control the actions of the board of supervisors, either now or in the future. Since it doesn't specifically say what all the money will be spent on, and since it is advisory only, it is considered a general taxation measure and therefore, like Measure AF and Measure AI, it only needs a simple majority to pass.

cast the lone “no” vote for considering the item, arguing it did not meet the urgency requirements.

However once the item was brought up for discussion and action, Burton joined the rest of the council in supporting the resolution, albeit with doubts Caltrans would comply.

“They're not going to do anything,” Burton said, adding: “We're probably the last generation that's going to use highway signs to get where we're going.”

“Unless your cell phone doesn't work,” Councilwoman Holly Madrigal quipped.

City Planner Dusty Duley, who recently spoke to Caltrans staff, echoed Burton's skepticism.

“Essentially Caltrans has established all the signage they're required to install by law,” Duley explained. “In talking to their staff about these other types of sign requests, their staff will consider them after the bypass is open and all the established signs have been completed.”

Strong argued the service signs currently located on 101 south of Willits are “inadequate” – only a generic sign 14 miles south of Willits and then one saying “Willits” right at the northbound off-ramp.

Strong reasoned it was vital to urge Caltrans to install at least one more sign before the bypass opens in November, and that an official resolution signed by the Willits City Council just might serve to “get a fire lit under them. It doesn't hurt to have the word of the council telling Caltrans this is the least they can do.”

Councilman Larry Stranske was harsher in his criticism of Caltrans.

“If we need to stand in the middle of the road, we need to do that,” Stranske nearly shouted. “We've got to get their freakin' attention. I'm tired of Caltrans doggin' it. You can tell them from me that I'm tired of them doggin' it.”

The original resolution did not include the hospital in its signage request, until after Bill Barksdale made the suggestion.

“People who are on the highway and having medical issues, that's important information to know,” Barksdale said.

While the resolution represents a request to Caltrans to install a specific sign, Duley explained he and other city staff are engaged in ongoing negotiations for Caltrans to install more signs post-bypass.

“We're looking to establish other signage that relates to letting folks know that the museum is off the exit as well as the Vietnam Memorial,” Duley said. “We're also looking to establish signage that says ‘Willits x-miles ahead,’ not only on 101 but on Highway 20, letting people know that when you come into town, downtown Willits is to the left.”

Sonoma Clean Power Authority

The council approved two agenda items related to implementing aggregate energy programs offered by the Sonoma Clean Power Authority, or SCPA, within

the city of Willits. Both resolutions passed 4-1, with Burton voting “no.”

Although Vice Mayor Orenstein ultimately voted for approval of the proposals, he questioned the “opt-out” nature of public participation.

“It says customers who do not wish to receive power purchased or generated by Sonoma Clean Power, may opt out and continue to receive power by PG&E,” Orenstein reported. “This opting out clause troubles me. What that means is you will be signed up with Sonoma Clean Power unless you make the effort to opt out. I think a lot of people are going to miss the opt out clause, and they may not want Sonoma Clean Power.”

Burton agreed, adding: “That's very clearly part of their strategy. If it's an opt-in situation, they don't get near the participation.”

Moore assured councilmembers the public will “absolutely be notified” if they want to opt out.

Orenstein asked Strong, who had brought the resolutions to the council as part of the urgent off-agenda items, what the benefit was in Sonoma Clean Power.

“The Sonoma Clean Power Authority is generally and consistently less expensive by a small amount than PG&E, and it gives you more local control over where you source your energy,” Strong said. “Sonoma and Mendocino counties are trying to encourage more local or regional production of energy, so we don't have to buy all our power from PG&E.”

Madrigal concurred. “I generally support more options for our citizens. When it's opt-out time, we can have [representatives of SCPA] come in front of the city council and do another presentation so that people are clear on whether they want to be a part of it.”

Burton voiced his suspicion that SCPA was a shady organization.

“I think this is a bunch of suede-shoed guys getting access to a bunch of customers through this process where you have to opt out,” Burton argued. “If you want choice, the choice is to opt in, not opt out. Choice is wanting to buy your product. I think it's based on a little game of smoke and mirrors.”

Burton compared SCPA with the city's water plant, which is run on solar power.

“How much money have we saved?” he asked, almost rhetorically.

Orenstein answered immediately: “Three percent.”

Madrigal corroborated. “It's a set rate.”

“I don't believe it,” Burton insisted.

Perpetual Energy Systems designed and built the solar system for the Willits water treatment plant, turning it on in November of 2008.

“As a city, if we could save money for two years [with SCPA], that makes good business sense,” Madrigal said.

To find out more about SCPA, go to <https://sonomacleanpower.org>.



Above, from left: Douglas holds up a red carrot harvested out of the garden. Garden coordinator Jessica Ruff works in one of the raised beds. Lindsey offers up some orange tomatoes, and Jed hugs his carrots.

Above, right: Ruff and a fellow garden-lover get their hands dirty in the garden this spring.

Photo by Thomas Delgado

Garden lessons

Parents and kids help get the Willits Preschool Garden ready for fall

School gardens have become a welcome addition to many local school campuses – and there's plenty of good reasons why gardens are useful in academic curriculums. But for preschoolers, said Jessica Ruff, school garden coordinator with North Coast Opportunities:

“The most important thing with preschoolers in the garden is that there's a lot of opportunity for self-directed learning on their own, just to allow them to explore and observe the garden. At that age, that's how they are learning. The garden is a fun and educational natural space where they can observe all of the cycles and see where their food comes from.”

Kids also “just love watering the garden,” Ruff laughed, “and they love finding bugs! But watering is their favorite activity.”

Ruff coordinates preschool gardens at four different sites in Mendocino County, including the Willits Preschool Garden behind Brookside School, for Willits Head Start and the Willits State Preschool.

Of course kids love to harvest and eat from the garden, too, Ruff said. “One of the other goals of the preschool garden is to really encourage healthy eating habits from a young age. Their taste buds are just really open to new foods, and if they are eating veggies at a young age, they'll develop a good taste for them. If they grow it, they'll eat it! Or they'll at least taste it. They're really proud of what they grow! And they'll eat [a vegetable] outside of the garden, if they've seen it grow. That's one of the best things about the garden.”

Ruff said preschool teachers are encouraged to use the garden as an outdoor classroom with more structured lessons, too: “however they feel it fits into their curriculum,” including teaching science and math or doing art projects or reading stories in the garden.

The Willits Preschool Garden had a

Saturday morning “Family Day” at the garden recently, inviting parent volunteers to come help harvest and to plant winter crops in the beds. Carrots – in a rainbow of colors – and tomatoes were abundant, and many were seen rapidly disappearing into little kids' mouths.

Pumpkins and acorn squash filled some beds, along with collard greens and watermelons, a couple of which were ready to harvest, too.

New winter garden starts the kids helped plant that Saturday included cabbage and broccoli, and Ruff said they were planning to add snap peas and lettuce from seed, “and maybe more kale.”

“It's been great having Jessie,” said Willits Head Start teacher Josh Swarengin, who's been helping maintain the garden as well use it with his lesson plans. “She's been a good spearhead for the garden and has pulled together a lot of resources for our garden, like weed cloth and wood chips.”

Other preschool gardens Ruff coordinates are at the Mendocino College Child Development Center at the Ukiah campus, where they have “a great little garden,” and South Ukiah Head Start and Peachtree Head Start both in Ukiah. Her position is funded by SNAP, the USDA's Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, through SNAP's education and obesity prevention branch program. SNAP, formerly “food stamps,” is now known as CalFresh in California.

One of the benefits for parents who volunteer their labor at the preschool gardens is gift certificates that they can exchange for tokens to spend at the county's farmers markets. Ruff says having parents involved in their kids' preschool gardens “is a really positive community connection with the schools.” Children whose parents are more involved with activities at their kids' school tend to have higher success later in life, she said.



Above: Volunteers at the Willits Preschool Garden, from left, back row: Josh Swarengin, Sarah Coon, garden coordinator Jessica Ruff, and Rosie; front row: Jed, Jonas, Douglas and Lindsey.

Photo by Jennifer Poole

Below: Students walk into the Willits Preschool Garden earlier this year.


Photo by Thomas Delgado



To keep up with activities and information about school gardens – and other garden projects – in Mendocino County, check the “NCO Gardens Project” page on Facebook or visit www.gardensproject.org.

Below, from left: New broccoli starts join pumpkins in one of the raised beds at the Willits Preschool Garden. A gift certificate to the Willits Farmers Market, earned by volunteers at the preschool garden. A bucket full of colorful carrots. Collard greens and white cosmos in one of the raised beds.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



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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).

“How to Produce a Radio Music Show: KLLG- LP, Willits’ new low-power radio station, 97.9 FM, offers a free class on “How to Produce a Radio Music Show,” Thursday, September 29, from 6 to 7:30 pm in Room 4 of the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. “Experienced radio programmer Dan Ramsey will cover how to design and build a unique digital music program using free tools including Audacity, Windows Media Player, LAME mp3 encoder, and others to produce a professional-level radio program, focusing on pre-recording all or parts of the program. Also covered are basics of broadcasting including definitions of common terms and information on working cooperatively with the Federal Communications Commission.” The free class also will feature Michelle Cummins, KLLG’s program coordinator, answering questions on developing local programming. Info: visit [www. KLLG.org](http://www.KLLG.org).

‘Red Hot Patriot’: “Red Hot Patriot – The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins” as presented by Mary Burns, 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 ADair, 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 Thursday, September 29 at 7 pm, Friday, September 30 at 8 pm, and Saturday, October 1 at 8 pm. \$10.

Shanachie Pub: Dennis Chrisp & 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/](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 Thursday, September 29 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

What's Happening Around Town

several friends playing, too. Friday, September 30 at 9 pm. No cover. Visit [www.reverbnation.com/ banjohunderwood](http://www.reverbnation.com/banjohunderwood). 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 1

Fit-n-Fabulous Fitness Grand Opening: New Fit-n-Fabulous, formerly Curves, holds a grand opening Saturday, October 1 from 7 am to noon. Regular hours: Monday through Friday, 7 am to 7 pm, and Saturday, 7 am to noon. 726 South Main Street, Evergreen Shopping Center. Info: 456-0751.

Girl Scout Yard Sale: Yard sale to benefit Willits Girl Scout, Saturday, October 1 from 9 am to 5 pm at the dirt parking lot next to Flyers on Highway 101, to raise money for a June 2018 trip to Japan. Unwanted sellable donations can be dropped off the day of the event or pick-up can be arranged by contacting Sarah 367-7594 (Willits) or Emily 489-3222 (Laytonville).

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 and must be postmarked by September 23. Questions? visit <http://willitsfrontierdays.com/yearround.html> or call Willits Frontier Days at 272-5395 or Robbie Burgess at 489- 0476.

St. Francis Church Blessing of the Animals: Annual Blessing of the Animals at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Saturday, October 1, at 11 am. “All animals large and small are invited to come to the garden at the church, at the corner of Main and Commercial streets in Willits. The garden and parking lot are just north of the church. There will be a brief service of prayer and thanksgiving for our animal friends, and each animal will receive a blessing. All animals and their humans are welcome! All animals must be restrained in a carrier or cage or on a leash. Children who do not have a live animal in their family are invited to bring a favorite stuffed animal.

Auditions for “A Christmas Carol”: Last day of auditions for the Willits Community Theatre production of the classic Charles Dickens story. 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.

“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.

“Freedom from Stress Forever”: Inner Resources Institute presents this fifth class in the Spiritual Boot Camp 101 series, Saturday, October 1 from 2 to 4 pm at 1500 Hearst Road (at Valley Road). “In this free class we teach simple practical spiritual technologies which dissolve stress at its source and support you in living a balanced and peaceful life This course is taught by Chinmayan, who has trained intensely with some of the great, living, spiritual masters of our time and who has practiced meditation for more than 50 years.” All classes include meditation training and practice in a supportive group setting. Preregister by calling 707-357-4676 or emailing info@innerresourceinstitute.org

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. Closing performance tonight. 8 pm. Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, September 29 listing for more details. \$10.

Shanachie Pub: House of Mary, 3-piece Indie rock band. “Their style is fun, flirty, clever, sexy, and unique. The band features locals Aubrie Amoux - vocals, harmonica, and Blair Mullen - drums, with new transplant from Sacramento, Spencer Byrnes - guitar, back up vocals.” Saturday, October 1 at 9 pm. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/Houseofmarymusic>. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

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 brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

Monday, October 3

Measure AF Town Hall Meeting in Willits: The Yes on Measure AF (the Heritage Initiative) presents one of a series of Town Hall Meetings around the county on Monday, October 3 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 6 to 8 pm. “Measure AF is a citizens initiative to regulate cannabis that is on the ballot for Mendocino County voters this November. Find

out more about this grassroots initiative drafted to protect community safety, natural resources, family farms and local businesses. Town Hall meeting will feature presenters and audience Q & A.” For more info, visit www.yesonaf.com or the “Yes on Measure AF: The Mendocino Heritage Act” page on Facebook or contact mendocinoheritageinitiative@gmail.com or 707-200-8239.

Shanachie Pub: seasonal World Music Monday is back starting, Monday, October 3. “Open Mic event catered to our world travelers who bring with them an eclectic and diverse cultural experience through music!” Starts at 8 pm, through November. Sign up throughout the day for a 7-30 pm sharp raffle for 20-minute time slots for musicians or any other live performance. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Tuesday, October 4

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 Magnificent Seven” and “Storks.” For

showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Twining Time at Brickhouse Coffee: Join Twining Time (John Wagenet and Anita Blu) for lunch or afternoon coffee on the first Tuesday of every month, October 4 this month, at Brickhouse Coffee at the corner of Highway 101 and East Commercial Street. Enjoy live easy listening Folk/ Americana music from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Menu includes espresso drinks and freshly brewed coffee, tea, ice cold drinks, real fruit smoothies, soups and salads, sandwiches, flat bread wraps, and fresh baked goodies. 3 South Main Street, 459-1598. Visit Twining Time on Facebook or www.reverbnation.com/johnwagenet.

Willits High School Soccer Games: at WHS home field against Lower Lake on Tuesday, October 4. Boys game at 4 pm (coach Noel Woodhouse); girls game at 5:30 pm (coach Tatiana Cantrell).

‘Chronic Pain: Beyond Pills & Potions’: Avenues to Wellness series October talk 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. “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? Clark 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

Shanachie Pub: Tracy Hui, genre-defying itinerant folk artist/songster/composer/improviser, formerly of Them Travelin’ Birds “breathes fresh invigorating air into traditional Jazz, Appalachian, Folk, Rock and original compositions.” Tuesdays, October 4 and October 25 at 8 pm. No cover. Visit [https:// www.facebook.com/tracyhuimusic](https://www.facebook.com/tracyhuimusic). 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Wednesday, October 5

International Walk to School Day: Brookside Elementary School’s K-2 students, parents, and staff members will be participating in International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 5. Meet at 8 am at Mendocino and School streets in the parking lot, at the north/west end. We will walk together from there. All walkers must be with a parent/guardian for safety reasons – no dropping off students at parking lot, please. Leaders in orange vests will lead and follow the group, and cross the walkers at intersections. Info: [www. walkbiketoschool.org/ ready/about-the-events/ walk-to-school-day](http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/ready/about-the-events/walk-to-school-day) or call the Brookside School office at 459-5385.

Willits High School Cross Country Match: in Willits against Cloverdale, Kelseyville and Clearlake on Wednesday, October 5 at 3:30 pm. Coach Michelle Kluskiewicz.

Thursday, October 6

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

Measure AF Town Hall Meeting in Laytonville: The Yes on Measure AF (the Heritage Initiative) presents one of a series of Town Hall Meetings around the county on Thursday, October 6 at Harwood Hall in Laytonville, from 6 to 8 pm. “Measure AF is a citizens initiative to regulate cannabis that is on the ballot for Mendocino County voters this November. Find out more about this grassroots initiative drafted to protect community safety, natural resources, family farms and local businesses. Town Hall meeting will feature presenters and audience Q & A.” For more info, visit www.yesonaf.com or the “Yes on Measure AF: The Mendocino Heritage Act” page on Facebook or contact mendocinoheritageinitiative@gmail.com



Brenda Flynn Clark

Hometown Celebration promises amusement for all ages.

New this year! The Future Farmers of America will take over the parking lot between Tiger Lily’s Boutique and Moon Lady and showcase the talents of our future farming leaders. For the first time ever there will be a Petting Zoo! And lots of activities for kids of all ages! Plus demonstrations on canning, etc.! Don’t miss out on fun activities ... Bounce House, Pumpkin Decorating, Face Painting, and more. Plus Harvest Moon Fall Photos with Willits Weekly’s Maureen Moore in front of J.D. Redhouse. The audible pleasures of the local musicians are sure to bring smiles to all as you stroll throughout the event. Remember, Shop Local! Be Local! Think Local! ... and Party Local!

– Willits Chamber of Commerce Local First Committee

With a wide range of activities, this

Help with ‘Socks and Undies’ Drive

The Willits United Methodist Church is collecting new socks and undies for Willits school-age children in need, children ages 5 to 12 years old. We will also be gathering new socks and undies for foster children ages 12 to 17. We need men’s and women’s undies in medium, large and extra-large sizes. Socks for both women and men should be regular adult sizes, 9-11. We open our doors to the community and invite people to help with our collection of underwear for these two groups of children. On Sunday, October 16, shortly after worship service ends at about noon, we invite the community to help us box up the socks and undies. Let’s spread the word among our friends and neighbors. This is an event that our community embraces. Info: 459-2855.

– Lynn Williams, Willits United Methodist Church

Harvest Moon Celebration

Saturday, October 8

The Local First Program of the Willits Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the 10th Annual Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration to be held in downtown Willits on Saturday, October 8 from noon to 4 pm.

Come celebrate the bounty of our county! Glorious food and family fun! Bring your family, friends and neighbors for a plethora of fun-filled activities, including live music, fresh food, and Willits Future Farmers of America exhibits. Local participating businesses and restaurants along Main Street in the downtown corridor will have special sales for the event.

With a wide range of activities, this

Senior Center Lunch

Week of October 3 through October 7

Monday: Salisbury Steak
Tuesday: Roast Pork
Wednesday: Chicken Salad
Thursday: Tamale Pie Casserole
Friday: Baked Cod
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.

Above: Zach and Sandy Mireles at the farmers market.

Skunk Train’s Pumpkin Express

Saturdays in October

Celebrate fall by climbing aboard the Skunk Train’s Pumpkin Express! A beautiful round trip to an autumnal wonderland and pumpkin patch at Northspur Station. Once there, kids will be able to choose their own pumpkin and enjoy tasty fall treats. 9:45 am from the Willits Depot, 299 East Commercial Street, every Saturday morning in October, starting October 2. \$59 age 13 and up; \$34 kids 2-12; \$10 for dogs; free for kids under 2. Visit <https://www.skunktrain.com/experiences/pumpkin-express/> for tickets and info.

Pura Vida Harvest Dance Party
Saturday, October 15

The Willits Grange presents Pura Vida Harvest Dance Party, a live music event with food and activities, featuring live dance music by Pura Vida. Doors open at 6 pm for dinner: Empanandas with organic Caribbean Rice & Beans plus mixed salad \$10. Take-out available. Music, 7:30 to 10:30 pm. Children’s Activities include costume making 6 to 7 pm, and a movie at 9 pm. Halloween costume sale, live auction/raffle and more. 291 School Street. Advance tickets \$20 at J.D. Redhouse; tickets at the door \$25, all to benefit the Grange. Children under 12 free (donations welcome at kids’ activity room to support the Grange Youth). Info: 459-9716.

COLUMN | At the Movies



“The Light Between Oceans”

The Story: A taciturn veteran of the Great War (Michael Fassbender) lives with no small measure of survivor’s guilt. He becomes a lighthouse keeper on a small island off the coast of western Australia. He meets a passionate and willful young woman (Alicia Vikander). She restores in

Daniel Essman him a joy for living. They marry and move to the island where they have goats and chickens and driftwood fires on the beach. Their life is idyllic, sad and romantic.

My Thoughts: Somehow “chick flick” doesn’t do justice to this two-and-a-quarter hour tale of romantic love and sacrifice. In the 1930s and ‘40s this would have been called “a woman’s picture.” Old-fashioned women’s pictures were rated (somewhat mean-spiritedly) by how many hankies were needed to sop up the weepies. This love story is a true 10 hankie tear-jerker. I think most guys won’t get it. But some will. So, ladies, there’s hope.

Parents: Children will be bored. Don’t bring ‘em.

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



Willits Farmers Market

October in City Park

The Willits Farmers Market is in City Park on Commercial Street for one more month, Thursdays starting at 3 pm through October 27. The market will close at 6 pm in October. More info: check the “Friends of Willits Farmer’s Market” page on Facebook.

Worship Time Change:

As of Sunday, October 2, the time of worship service for the Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, will change back to 11 am.

Ongoing Events

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

Grateful Glens: Do you have more orchard or garden produce than you can use? You can help feed hungry families in our community. Call the Grateful Glens at 367-9759 to harvest and deliver your unsprayed fruit, nuts and vegetables to local agencies such as Willits Community Services & Food Bank, Willits Daily Bread, the Kids Club, Nuestra Alianza, etc.

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

Artist Nancy Adair at Re-Evolution: Nancy Adair is showing her paintings at the Re-Evolution gallery/shop through September. Re-Evolution is a gallery and fair trade clothing and accessories emporium located at 15 West Mendocino, 11 am to 6 pm. Tuesday through Saturday. Call Re-Evolution at 234-0607 or Nancy Adair at 459-5239 for more information or to set a special time to meet the artist at the gallery.

Free Bridge Lessons at the Library: Saturdays, 10 am to noon, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, continuing through November 5. Come alone or come with a friend. If you didn’t make the first meeting or two, that’s fine. The lessons are ongoing, and late-comers are accepted. For more information call Donna, 459-9035.

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

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

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

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

Library Coloring Club: Want a little color in your life? Then by all means, come to the library! The Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, is hosting a Library Coloring Club, every Tuesday at 6:30 pm for ages 14 and up. “We’ve got the crayons and the paper – you bring the imagination.”

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

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

Volleyball Open Gym: at Baechtel Grove gym; Sundays and Tuesdays at 7 pm. Some experience desired, but not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

Smoking Cessation Program: Free “Freedom from Smoking” class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the HHM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

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

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

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

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

– The Mendocino College Agriculture Department and Horticulture Club –

Fall Plant Sale

Friday, October 7
9 am - 5 pm Saturday, October 8
9 am - 3 pm

Featuring:
Drought tolerant perennial color
Fall Vegetables
California natives
Shrubs and trees
Heldrums and hard to find plants

Did you know that fall is the very best time to plant trees, shrubs and California natives?

MENDOCINO COLLEGE
Department of Agriculture Greenhouse • 1000 Henley Creek Road, Ukiah, CA 95482

JV Football | Freshman
Austin Andrade, 14

Position:
Defensive tackle

Breakfast of Champions:
Eggs, orange juice

Love for the Sport: "I love the contact and hitting, and also the 'family' of the football team."

How Long Playing the Sport: For five years

My nomination for player of the week is Austin Andrade. Austin is a freshman on the JV football team. He was placed as a starter at the beginning of Friday's game as a defensive lineman. The first play of the game he made a tackle; after that he made nine more, including a quarterback sack, a fumble recovery, and 2 blocked extra points. Austin set the tempo for the Willits defense in that game. Without Austin's play, we would not have been able to maintain the attack we had.



– Coach Billy Arms

Girls Soccer | Freshman
Nayeli Rodriguez, 14

Position: Left back (defense)

Breakfast of Champions:
Oatmeal

Love for the Sport: "Playing soccer makes me happy, and I enjoy the running."

How Long Playing the Sport: Since she was 6 years old

WHS Varsity Girls Soccer's "Amazing Athlete" this week is freshman Nayeli Rodriguez. Nayeli plays left back (defense) and has done an amazing job so far this season. She also brings great sportsmanship and a positive attitude to the field, and always gives 100 percent to the team.



– Coach Tatiana Cantrell

Cheerleading | Sophomore
Ramneet Mann, 14

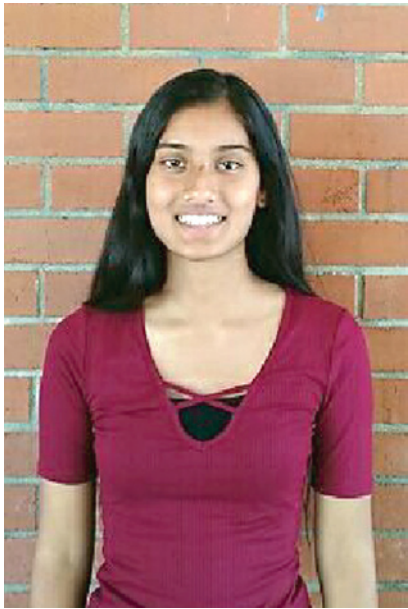
Position:
Backspot

Breakfast of Champions:
French toast

Love for the Sport: "I love halftime and the stunts."

How Long Playing the Sport: 5 years

I want to nominate Ramneet Mann for Amazing Athlete this week. She shows excellent leadership skills and compassion towards others. She learns fast, works hard, and stays out of trouble and drama. You can tell she has school pride and is passionate about cheerleading.



– Coach Sarah Humphries

Congrats | Newlyweds

Jake & Sheryl McFadden

Congratulations to Jake and Sheryl McFadden, who were married Sunday, September 11, 2016. It was a perfect ceremony at a beautiful ranch in Willits, surrounded by friends and family. The ceremony was filled with love and laughter.

The couple wanted to give a special thanks to Ginger Fosen, Ronnie Miner, Dana and Cody Lewis, Steve Legris, Billy Hetherington, Corey and Brooke McFadden, Adam Sherf, the Hoagland family, Roni McFadden, Kareen James, the Swoboda family, the Stanley family, Preci and Skyler, Liz Carrillo, Melissa Cramer, Michael Tobin, Colby, Mike, and everyone who helped make this day possible.



California Mentor
Area program seeks supportive homes for adults with special needs

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

"I love my job," Cathy Lawrence, recruiter for California Mentor's

Family Home Agency program, avows proudly. Lawrence works out of Lakeport and serves both Lake and Mendocino counties. Her job: seeking mentor homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Currently there are 30 mentor homes in the area serving clients, but more are actively being sought.

"We desperately need mentor homes, especially in Willits and Ukiah," Lawrence said. "The nice thing about Willits is it's close enough to Ukiah without being in Ukiah. A lot of clients really like that, because it's got a lot more of a rural, close-knit feeling."

Two such clients are Nancy Hoon and Jeffrey Cameron, who both share a home with husband-and-wife mentors Joy and Roger Frink.

The Frinks, who live off of Sherwood Road in Willits, have been mentors for 12 years and have served "quite a few clients [over those years]," Joy told Willits Weekly. Both Cameron and Hoon have been living with the Frinks for the past two years.

"It's a great program for the special needs community," Joy said. "Each client has their own needs and skill levels. Nancy pretty much is a free spirit. She comes and goes as she wants. She's on a little bit of a curfew, but that's about all."

Hoon currently works part-time as a preschool

teacher's aide at Room to Bloom, and is engaged to be married. When asked if her engagement means she'll be moving out to be with her fiancé at some point, Nancy said: "We're going to take things one step at a time."

"They can stay as long as they want," Joy said. "The longest a person stayed with us was for seven years."

While the home setting provides a family feel, the mentor acts more as a friend and coach than a parental figure. The mentors work with program counselors and the clients to come up with a set of goals that clients pursue.

"Every single client, no matter what level of ability they are, has goals," Lawrence said. "[The program] is about helping clients to realize their fullest potential in their lives to the best of their abilities."

Some of Hoon's goals involve maintaining a job and taking control of her finances.

"The goals are there, and if I meet them, I meet them; if I don't, I don't," Hoon explained. "They're not set in stone."

"Once she meets a goal, we take it off the list and add another one," Joy said. "Nancy keeps the bathroom sink and the shower clean in her own bathroom. She keeps her room clean and neat, and she does the dishes. Those are her responsibilities as being part of a family group."

Cameron, who is confined to a wheelchair

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



Mentors Roger and Joy Frink, in rear, with Jeffrey Cameron and Nancy Hoon, in front of their home off Sherwood Road.

Photo by Damian Sebouhian

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Redwood Meadows is an active independent senior community featuring 101 apartment homes, primarily a mix of one and two bedroom apartments which are single story 4-plex cottage-type set amongst seven acres of park like landscaping.

We are a smoke-free and pet friendly community. We boast a community center where activities are held like card games, Bingo, birthdays and socials. We also have a barbecue area for residents to get together for social functions.

Redwood Meadows is conveniently located adjacent to the William F. Harrah Senior Center with a thrift store, cafeteria and taxi service, and Howard Memorial Hospital is just blocks away.

1475 BAECHTEL ROAD
WILLITS, CA 95490
707-459-1616
MON-FRI 10:00-4:00

REDWOOD MEADOWS
Senior Apartment Community

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

regulations within the city limits."

Orenstein seconded the motion, and after more debate and comments from the public, the council approved it 4-1, with Burton voting no.

While Lance stressed that only the mayor has the right to form or not form an ad hoc committee, he said: "I don't see anything in the municipal code that would preclude a majority of the city council members from making a motion and directing staff to conduct research on something."

Burton explained his objections to forming the ad hoc committee do not reflect an unwillingness to address the possibility of creating new marijuana ordinances; rather, he communicated his belief that going the ad hoc committee route was flawed.

In fact, Burton brought the agenda item to the council "to establish a structured process to allow all councilmembers and the public to provide input regarding marijuana cultivation within the City of Willits, in lieu of an ad hoc committee."

Burton proposed the council schedule "30-minute discussions on upcoming council meeting agendas, as necessary," so the entire council would be involved, as well as the public.

Later, when it was suggested that 30 minutes was not an adequate length of time for such a complex and controversial subject to be discussed, Burton said it was merely a recommendation and he would be open to dedicating up to a full hour per meeting.

"I suggest we do this in a series of meetings," Burton said. "Have the city attorney bring back some sample ordinances, dissect them here for a period of time. When our time period is up, we go onto other business and reconvene a discussion at the next meeting. That's what I'm proposing, in undertaking to create a new ordinance to replace what we have in existence."

Orenstein, who originally suggested forming a marijuana ad hoc committee during the council's August 24 meeting, voiced his concern that without a specialized committee, the process would drag on and not be thoroughly addressed.

"Ad hoc committees can be and should be open to the public, anyway," Orenstein said, arguing there aren't enough scheduled council meetings in the near future to tackle marijuana ordinances in an effective manner.

"Basically from tonight on we have two meetings to discuss this thing over a two-month period. That takes too much time. We need to do this with a committee that can meet between council meetings."

Tempers flared after it became clear Burton was not going to be persuaded by the other councilmembers.

"I don't get angry very often," Strong said, her voice rising as she continued. "But this really is not fair to the majority of the council, or to the public who have been coming to our meetings and weighing in. And yes, it's a controversial issue, and yes we know that. Let's not drag our feet. When we come to making a decision, let's have the public fully involved, and not put their feet in concrete because of your reluctance. I don't think it's fair."

Burton and Councilman Larry Stranske had both been on a previous marijuana ad hoc committee, which was disbanded earlier this year after it became clear their recommendation to ban all cannabis-related activity in the city limits was not going to win council support.

Strong accused Burton of denying public access to those meetings.

"I was extremely disappointed when the ad hoc committee met six months ago and no public was allowed to come to their meeting," Strong said. "[The committee] came to the council with only one scenario. They did not evaluate any other options and present them at that time."

Burton conceded he had learned from that ad hoc experience. "I think I'm being totally responsive to the fact that we did it and brought back a recommendation that met with quite a fair amount of criticism. So this is my response to that. Let's make it completely open; let's not repeat that process."

Stranske, who has since changed his position from favoring prohibition towards a more open approach regarding cannabis cultivation in Willits, argued for forming a new ad hoc committee in light of a recent investor who is waiting on the city to form its ordinances.

"[The company] is called SWS, and it's at 300 East Hill Road," Stranske said. "This person has been trying to get on the agenda to get his [industrial cannabis cultivation] project heard in front of the council. He hasn't been able to do that."

Stranske then made a motion that the man in question, Kevin Shi, present his full report to the council at its October 26 meeting.

No one seconded the motion, which wasn't on the evening's agenda and, according to Strong: "In order for us to legally review a project, it has to be consistent with our ordinances, and right now the project is not. The whole point of this ad hoc committee is to look at the ordinance so we can consider the project to be legal. If we don't have the ordinance that allows it, it doesn't mean we have to approve it, it just means the ordinance

might allow us to. Right now we are completely stymied by one person – our mayor."

Strong then asked Lance if it was within the council's power to delegate Madrigal and Orenstein to meet and give direction to staff.

Lance consented, although he argued going such a route would be inefficient.

"If you're going to give us direction to take hours and hours [to do] research, that direction ought to be given by the full council members as opposed to two," Lance argued.

Orenstein disagreed.

"In a committee meeting you can really get into the details and hash them out," Orenstein said. "By definition, no decisions are made in an ad hoc meeting. All the information is laid out, and a package is brought back to the council. It's not a complete package. Then the council and the public have something to chew on. That's a starting point."

Burton interrupted Orenstein, earning a rebuke. "See, this is the example of what I'm talking about," Orenstein complained. "Inevitably when we have it in a public session, and it seems like it's going on a little too long, the conversation is going to be cut off."

Burton countered: "Well when it starts to repeat itself for the third time, I think we are ready to hear somebody else."

Madrigal suggested Lance double-check that the council is indeed within its rights to form, for the lack of a better phrase, a non-committee committee. Until then, it's unclear how Orenstein and Strong will organize their meetings, or where they will meet.

Public weighs in

Four members of the public weighed in on the cannabis ordinance controversy, including Kevin Shi of SWS Consulting, which, as Shi explained, "is the investment group that recently purchased the East Hill Road building," the old AM&D site on East Hill Road.

Shi urged the council to act swiftly in formulating its new cannabis ordinances, stressing the importance of allowing cultivation in industrially zoned areas. Shi highlighted the economic benefits of allowing such activity on the property.

"Our plans are to invest more than \$30 million into the city," Shi said. "This will create more than 150 jobs, of which 80 percent will be local. Where else can you find more talent in this resource than right here?"

Shi told the council all the construction that has taken place on the property has been completed by local contractors, and promised all future construction jobs will also be locally sourced.

"Our plans are to contribute \$5 for every operational square footage into the general fund of the city," Shi claimed. "With our current building alone, we would be contributing over 200k per year. If you give us the chance to expand together, we can possibly contribute more than \$1.2 million dollars to the city per year by 2018."

Shi assured the council the building is "secure, OSHA compliant, and more importantly, environmentally friendly," adding: "We even have a plan for combatting 'trimmigrants,' if the city can work with us."

Shi explained SWS chose Willits specifically because of its "location, human resources, and cultural advantages. You have the rare and precious opportunity to become the hub for this booming industry. Like Champagne of France, or Napa Valley of California."

Shi said the time to act is now.

"I want to remind you, the industry is not waiting for any city," Shi said. "You see Santa Rosa, you see Fort Bragg, you see Oakland: all jumping in."

Cannabis activist Troy McConnell voiced his concern that by allowing only industrial indoor cultivation, the city could be contributing to rising levels of greenhouse gases and therefore increasing the harm caused by global climate change.

"[Allow for] a medical marijuana cultivation ordinance that creates a legal permitting process for medical marijuana patients in the city of Willits," McConnell said. "Where people can grow a few plants outside in the sunlight, not using electricity, and in accordance with their doctor's recommendation."

McConnell seemed leery of Shi's business proposal, coining a new term in his criticism.

"Rather than creating special zoning for out-of-town 'cannapreneurs' wanting to grow under high-carbon-producing lights, we should be looking at ways to create marijuana cafes and dispensaries, as well as co-ops that represent our unique marijuana culture."

Local contractor Wayne Bashore criticized the city for not jumping on cannabis cultivation sooner.

"Based on what Mr. Shi said, \$200,000 to the city general fund – that's one building," Bashore said. "There are more buildings. With that specific project, we can wait a long time, but I just did the math; it's only costing the council \$4,000 a week to not have an approved project; \$4,000 dollars a week, \$200,000 a year. I suggest you don't take all the time in the world."

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

the fraudulent charges onto the credit cards," the press release said.

At about 2 pm, deputies located Wilburn and Duerner driving in their vehicle, and made a traffic stop at the intersection of Main Street and Baechtel Road.

They found the two Willits residents "to still be in possession of the victim's credit card," according to sheriff's Capt. Gregory Van Patten.

Wilburn was arrested on suspicion of forgery, burglary, conspiracy, obtaining services or goods under false pretenses, misappropriation of

found property, possession of stolen property, and violating probation.

Duerner was arrested for conspiracy, obtaining goods or services under false pretenses, misappropriation of found property, and possession of stolen property.

Both were booked into county jail, where Wilburn was being held in lieu of \$20,000 bail and Duerner in lieu of \$15,000 bail.

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



Far left: Lauren Wilburn and Thomas Duerner, left.

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

Attorney's Office public information officer.

Arraignment on information includes not only information in the original complaint filed by DA David Eyster's office, but any facts proved during the preliminary hearing by the probable cause standard.

According to a September 22 Santa Rosa Press Democrat report, Kenneth Fisher and Reynolds were "walking side by side outside Boomer's Saloon in Laytonville when Reynolds sucker punched Fisher in the head, causing his death."

Reynolds' attorney Macci Baldock had argued "a single blow didn't warrant the charges," according to the

Press Democrat report of Reynolds' preliminary hearing.

On the other hand, Fisher's family and friends had petitioned the district attorney's office to reinstate the murder charge under which Reynolds was originally arrested.

Eyster later determined there was insufficient evidence to try Reynolds for murder. He defended his decision to reduce the charge against Reynolds, pointing out: "prosecution is only as viable as the credible evidence available for us to present in court."

If convicted in Fisher's death, Reynolds faces up to seven years in state prison, Geniella said.

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

an initiative measure, "becomes enshrined in law that is virtually unassailable by amendment should the implementation of the regulatory program reveal flaws."

Many "specific flaws" in the measure already have been identified, Neary argues, so "the likelihood this complicated regulatory program is perfect is nil."

If problems are identified, he says in his memorandum, AF cannot be amended until mid-2018, and then only in accordance with the initiative's intention, which is to permit the "cultivation, manufacturing, testing, distribution, delivery and dispensing" of marijuana and to "enshrine the regulatory process as a citizen-initiative effort."

Any attempted amendment by the board of supervisors, he adds, would be met by the threat of "an expensive lawsuit by a well-funded industry."

AF also would derail the effort by supervisors to write and pass their own cannabis regulation ordinance, Measure AI, Neary claims.

Brooktrails Township, he told the five-member board of directors, has "a unique stake" in the issue. "It has been reported recently that land in Brooktrails is being marketed by real estate agents as a place to farm marijuana."

The district office has received "numerous ... inquiries by those desiring to clear-cut their lots to farm marijuana" after being told "this was permissible and the lots are desirable for that reason."

Over recent months, Brooktrails Fire Department officials also have encountered owners in the process of clearcutting their lots, Neary says.

Under Brooktrails Specific Plan regulations, he noted, such clearcutting is illegal, but passage of Measure AF "will ... legalize clearcutting and cultivation of marijuana on residential lots."

While conceding that issue may be "an unintended consequence" by AF's authors, Neary argues those consequences "are likely to occur when there is no systematic environmental review."

Measure AF, he claims, will amend the county's current zoning code and Brooktrails' Specific Plan to allow marijuana cultivation. Brooktrails, as

a township, has an elected board of directors, but is not a legally incorporated city, so Measure AF – if passed – would take effect in Brooktrails.

Neary said the district would be forced to sue to avoid turning Brooktrails into "a cultivation community authorized by the initiative."

Neary also fears the district's water supply could be viewed as "an irrigation system rather than a domestic supply system" if AF passes, and "it is unclear [if] existing prohibitions on the use of water in quantities to support agricultural production would be sustainable under the initiative."

The Brooktrails board of directors, he argues in his report, "should take the lead by opposing the initiative."

Neary admits he is not unbiased in his views concerning AF. He is an officer of the Vote No on Measure AF campaign, and represented the Mendocino County Blacktail Association in a successful lawsuit to annul the county's urgency ordinance on cannabis cultivation.

The board adopted that urgency ordinance in May of this year. Under the county ordinance, growers granted an exemption by the Sheriff's Office could legally cultivate 99 plants on 10 acres, or 50 plants on five acres, though a 25-plant per parcel limit remained for growers not granted an exemption.

Under the settlement reached with the Blacktail Association, the county agreed to stop accepting new medical marijuana growing permit applications, but continued to process ones submitted before 5 pm on June 21.

In its June 8 lawsuit, the association, comprised of hunters and conservationists, argued the county should have undertaken a full environmental impact report before increasing pot plant limits established under the "temporary urgency" ordinance.

That temporary ordinance would have remained in effect until the county adopted a permanent ordinance, a process slowed by the necessity of an environmental study. That EIR is expected to be completed in October.

OCTOBER 2016 CALENDAR

MONDAY Except 10-31

POINTS DAYS 5X POINTS

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

TUESDAY

SLOT TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 4, 11, 18 & 25

Early Session will start at 1pm
(Registration starts at 11:30A for 50 points)
Tournament #1 (early Session): 1P
1st Prize - \$100 cash / 2nd Prize - \$75 cash
3rd Prize - \$50 cash
4th - 6th Prize - \$25 Free Play Each.

Tournament #2
(Evening Session #1): 7:00 PM
Buy In - 70 Points (Separate from Tournament #1)
1st Prize - \$150 Cash
2nd Prize - \$100 Cash
3rd Prize - \$75 Cash
4th - 6th Prize - \$50 Free Play Each.

Tournament #3
(Evening Session#2): 10:00 PM
Buy In - 100 Points (If played in Evening Session #1,
30 additional points needed, if not,
100 Points needed to buy in)
1st Prize - \$250 Cash / 2nd Prize - \$150 Cash
3rd Prize - \$100 Cash
4th - 6th Prize - \$75 Free Play Each.
3P - 4P (three per hour = 3 Drawings)
7P - 10P (three per hour = 6 Drawings)
10P - 11P (three per hour = 3 Drawings)

BIG WIN

HOT WEDNESDAYS

HOT SEATS

EARLY SESSION: 12P ENDING AT 3P
2 RANDOM WINNERS/HOUR
(6 TOTAL WINNERS)
EACH WINNER WILL WIN \$30 IN FREE PLAY

EVENING SESSION:
7P ENDING AT 10P
3 RANDOM WINNERS/HOUR (9 TOTAL WINNERS)
EACH WINNER WILL WIN \$60 IN FREE PLAY

10P TO 11P
3 RANDOM WINNERS/HOUR (3 WINNERS)
EACH WINNER WILL WIN \$100 IN FREE PLAY

THURSDAY

SUPER SENIOR DAY

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

BINGO

\$100 GAME
11AM, 12PM & 3:50 FOR 1PM & 2PM

\$200 GAME
7PM & 9PM

\$250 GAME
10PM

\$300 GAME
10PM

Players Club members that have earned minimally 10 points to receive a 50% cash credit for the 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, 1280, 1290, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1380, 1390, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090, 2100, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 2200, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2290, 2300, 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2350, 2360, 2370, 2380, 2390, 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460, 2470, 2480, 2490, 2500, 2510, 2520, 2530, 2540, 2550, 2560, 2570, 2580, 2590, 2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2650, 2660, 2670, 2680, 2690, 2700, 2710, 2720, 2730, 2740, 2750, 2760, 2770, 2780, 2790, 2800, 2810, 2820, 2830, 2840, 2850, 2860, 2870, 2880, 2890, 2900, 2910, 2920, 2930, 2940, 2950, 2960, 2970, 2980, 2990, 3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3390, 3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, 3450, 3460, 3470, 3480, 3490, 3500, 3510, 3520, 3530, 3540, 3550, 3560, 3570, 3580, 3590, 3600, 3610, 3620, 3630, 3640, 3650, 3660, 3670, 3680, 3690, 3700, 3710, 3720, 3730, 3740, 3750, 3760, 3770, 3780, 3790, 3800, 3810, 3820, 3830, 3840, 3850, 3860, 3870, 3880, 3890, 3900, 3910, 3920, 3930, 3940, 3950, 3960, 3970, 3980, 3990, 4000, 4010, 4020, 4030, 4040, 4050, 4060, 4070, 4080, 4090, 4100, 4110, 4120, 4130, 4140, 4150, 4160, 4170, 4180, 4190, 4200, 4210, 4220, 4230, 4240, 4250, 4260, 4270, 4280, 4290, 4300, 4310, 4320, 4330, 4340, 4350, 4360, 4370, 4380, 4390, 4400, 4410, 4420, 4430, 4440, 4450, 4460, 4470, 4480, 4490, 4500, 4510, 4520, 4530, 4540, 4550, 4560, 4570, 4580, 4590, 4600, 4610, 4620, 4630, 4640, 4650, 4660, 4670, 4680, 4690, 4700, 4710, 4720, 4730, 4740, 4750, 4760, 4770, 4780, 4790, 4800, 4810, 4820, 4830, 4840, 4850, 4860, 4870, 4880, 4890, 4900, 4910, 4920, 4930, 4940, 4950, 4960, 4970, 4980, 4990, 5000, 5010, 5020, 5030, 5040, 5050, 5060, 5070, 5080, 5090, 5100, 5110, 5120, 5130, 5140, 5150, 5160, 5170, 5180, 5190, 5200, 5210, 5220, 5230, 5240, 5250, 5260, 5270, 5280, 5290, 5300, 5310, 5320, 5330, 5340, 5350, 5360, 5370, 5380, 5390, 5400, 5410, 5420, 5430, 5440, 5450, 5460, 5470, 5480, 5490, 5500, 5510, 5520, 5530, 5540, 5550, 5560, 5570, 5580, 5590, 5600, 5610, 5620, 5630, 5640, 5650, 5660, 5670, 5680, 5690, 5700, 5710, 5720, 5730, 5740, 5750, 5760, 5770, 5780, 5790, 5800, 5810, 5820, 5830, 5840, 5850, 5860, 5870, 5880, 5890, 5900, 5910, 5920, 5930, 5940, 5950, 5960, 5970, 5980, 5990, 6000, 6010, 6020, 6030, 6040, 6050, 6060, 6070, 6080, 6090, 6100, 6110, 6120, 6130, 6140, 6150, 6160, 6170, 6180, 6190, 6200, 6210, 6220, 6230, 6240, 6250, 6260, 6270, 6280, 6290, 6300, 6310, 6320, 6330, 6340, 6350, 6360, 6370, 6380, 6390, 6400, 6410, 6420, 6430, 6440, 6450, 6460, 6470, 6480, 6490, 6500, 6510, 6520, 6530, 6540, 6550, 6560, 6570, 6580, 6590, 6600, 6610, 6620, 6630, 6640, 6650, 6660, 6670, 6680, 6690, 6700, 6710, 6720, 6730, 6740, 6750, 6760, 6770, 6780, 6790, 6800, 6810, 6820, 6830, 6840, 6850, 6860, 6870, 6880, 6890, 6900, 6910, 6920, 6930, 6940, 6950, 6960, 6970, 6980, 6990, 7000, 7010, 7020, 7030, 7040, 7050, 7060, 7070, 7080, 7090, 7100, 7110, 7120, 7130, 7140, 7150, 7160, 7170, 7180, 7190, 7200, 7210, 7220, 7230, 7240, 7250, 7260, 7270, 7280, 7290, 7300, 7310, 7320, 7330, 7340, 7350, 7360, 7370, 7380, 7390, 7400, 7410, 7420, 7430, 7440, 7450, 7460, 7470, 7480, 7490, 7500, 7510, 7520, 7530, 7540, 7550, 7560, 7570, 7580, 7590, 7600, 7610, 7620, 7630, 7640, 7650, 7660, 7670, 7680, 7690, 7700, 7710, 7720, 7730, 7740, 7750, 7760, 7770, 7780, 7790, 7800, 7810, 7820, 7830, 7840, 7850, 7860, 7870, 7880, 7890, 7900, 7910, 7920, 7930, 7940, 7950, 7960, 7970, 7980, 7990, 8000, 8010, 8020, 8030, 8040, 8050, 8060, 8070, 8080, 8090, 8100, 8110, 8120, 8130, 8140, 8150, 8160, 8170, 8180, 8190, 8200, 8210, 8220, 8230, 8240, 8250, 8260, 8270, 8280, 8290, 8300, 8310, 8320, 8330, 8340, 8350, 8360, 8370, 8380, 8390, 8400, 8410, 8420, 8430, 8440, 8450, 8460, 8470, 8480, 8490, 8500, 8510, 8520, 8530, 8540, 8550, 8560, 8570, 8580, 8590, 8600, 8610, 8620, 8630, 8640, 8650, 8660, 8670, 8680, 8690, 8700, 8710, 8720, 8730, 8740, 8750, 8760, 8770, 8780, 8790, 8800, 8810, 8820, 8830, 8840, 8850, 8860, 8870, 8880, 8890, 8900, 8910, 8920, 8930, 8940, 8950, 8960, 8970, 8980, 8990, 9000, 9010, 9020, 9030, 9040, 9050, 9060, 9070, 9080, 9090, 9100, 9110, 9120, 9130, 9140, 9150, 9160, 9170, 9180, 9190, 9200, 9210, 9220, 9230, 9240, 9250, 9260, 9270, 9280, 9290, 9300, 9310, 9320, 9330, 9340, 9350, 9360, 9370, 9380, 9390, 9400, 9410, 9420, 9430, 9440, 9450, 9460, 9470, 9480, 9490, 9500, 9510, 9520, 9530, 9540, 9550, 9560, 9570, 9580, 9590, 9600, 9610, 9620, 9630, 9640, 9650, 9660, 9670, 9680, 9690, 9700, 9710, 9720, 9730, 9740, 9750, 9760, 9770, 9780, 9790, 9800, 9810, 9820, 9830, 9840, 9850, 9860, 9870, 9880, 9890, 9900, 9910, 9920, 9930, 9940, 9950, 9960, 9970, 9980, 9990, 10000, 10001, 10002, 10003, 10004, 10005, 10006, 10007, 10008, 10009, 10010, 10011, 10012, 10013, 10014, 10015, 10016, 10017, 10018, 10019, 10020, 10021, 10022, 10023, 10024, 10025, 10026, 10027, 10028, 10029, 10030, 10031, 10032, 10033, 10034, 10035, 10036, 10037, 10038, 10039, 10040, 10041, 10042, 10043, 10044, 10045, 10046, 10047, 10048, 10049, 10050, 10051, 10052, 10053, 10054, 10055, 10056, 10057, 10058, 10059, 10060, 10061, 10062, 10063, 10064, 10065, 10066, 10067, 10068, 10069, 10070, 10071, 10072, 10073, 10074, 10075, 10076, 10077, 10078, 10079, 10080, 10081, 10082, 10083, 10084, 10085, 10086, 10087, 10088, 10089, 10090, 10091, 10092, 10093, 10094, 10095, 10096, 10097, 10098, 10099, 10100, 10101, 10102, 10103, 10104, 10105, 10106, 10107, 10108, 10109, 10110, 10111, 10112, 10113, 10114, 10115, 10116, 10117, 10118, 10119, 10120, 10121, 10122, 10123, 10124, 10125, 10126, 10127, 10128, 10129, 10130, 10131, 10132, 10133, 10134, 10135, 10136, 10137, 10138, 10139, 10140, 10141, 10142, 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10429, 10430, 10431, 10432, 10433, 10434, 10435, 10436, 10437, 10438, 10439, 10440, 10441, 10442, 10443, 10444, 10445, 10446, 10447, 10448, 10449, 10450, 10451, 10452, 10453, 10454, 10455, 10456, 10457, 10458, 10459, 10460, 10461, 10462, 10463, 10464, 10465, 10466, 10467, 10468, 10469, 10470, 10471, 10472, 10473, 10474, 10475, 10476, 10477, 10478, 10479, 10480, 10481, 10482, 10483, 10484, 10485, 10486, 10487, 10488, 10489, 10490, 10491, 10492, 10493, 10494, 10495, 10496, 10497, 10498, 10499, 10500, 10501, 10502, 10503, 10504, 10505, 10506, 10507, 10508, 10509, 10510, 10511, 10512, 10513, 10514, 10515, 10516, 10517, 10518, 10519, 10520, 10521, 10522, 10523, 10524, 10525, 10526, 10527, 10528, 10529, 10530, 10531, 10532, 10533, 10534, 10535, 10536, 10537, 10538, 10539, 10540, 10541, 10542, 10543, 10544, 10545, 10546, 10547, 10548, 10549, 10550, 10551, 10552, 10553, 10554, 10555, 10556, 10557, 10558, 10559, 10560, 10561, 10562, 10563, 10564, 10565, 10566, 10567, 10568, 10569, 10570, 10571, 10572, 10573, 10574, 10575, 10576, 10577, 10578, 10579, 10580, 10581, 10582, 10583, 10584, 10585, 10586, 10587, 10588, 10589, 10590, 10591, 10592, 10593, 10594, 10595, 10596, 10597, 10598, 10599, 10600, 10601, 10602, 10603, 10604, 10605, 10606, 10607, 10608, 10609, 10610, 10611, 10612, 10613, 10614, 10615, 10616, 10617, 10618, 10619, 10620, 10621, 10622, 10623, 10624, 10625, 10626, 10627, 10628, 10629, 10630, 10631, 10632, 10633, 10634, 10635, 10636, 10637, 10638, 10639, 10640, 10641, 10642, 10643, 10644, 10645, 10646, 10647, 10648, 10649, 10650, 10651, 10652, 10653, 10654, 10655, 10656, 10657, 10658, 10659, 10660, 10661, 10662, 10663, 10664, 10665, 10666, 10667, 10668, 10669, 10670, 10671, 10672, 10673, 10674, 10675, 10676, 10677, 10678, 10679, 10680, 10681, 10682, 10683, 10684, 10685, 10686, 10687, 10688, 10689, 10690, 10691, 10692, 10693, 10694, 10695, 10696, 10697, 10698, 10699, 10700, 10701, 10702, 10703, 10704, 10705, 10706, 10707, 10708, 10709, 10710, 10711, 10712, 10713, 10714, 10715, 10716, 10717, 10718, 10719, 10720, 10721, 10722, 10723, 10724, 10725, 10726, 10727, 10728, 10729, 10730, 10731, 10732, 10733, 10734, 10735, 10736, 10737, 10738, 10739, 10740, 10741, 10742, 10743, 10744, 10745, 10746, 10747, 10748, 10749, 10750, 10751, 10752, 10753, 10754, 10755, 10756, 10757, 10758, 10759, 10760, 10761, 10762, 10763, 10764, 10765, 10766, 10767, 10768, 10769, 10770, 10771, 10772, 10773, 10774, 10775, 10776, 1



Above, left: Amanda Senseman holds farm-grown tomatoes. Above, right: Louis Schnitzler holds his Willits honey. At left: Nicholas Rocha, Allegra Foley and Michael Foley of Green Uprising Farm.

Market in the park

Willits Farmers Market still outside at City Park through October

The Willits Farmers Market is in City Park on Commercial Street for one more month, Thursdays starting at 3 pm through October 27.

If you haven't been by lately, now is the time. Tables are overflowing with peak-season veggies. Staples like eggs and honey are also available, as are tasty eat-there or take-to-go meals and treats.

The market will close at 6 pm in October. More info: check the "Friends of Willits Farmer's Market" page on Facebook.

At left: Sue Clark and Don Willis at the John Ford Ranch booth. Below, left: Robert Goleman of Bolliwer's Fine Foods & Confections holds up a container of his dark caramel sauce. Below, right: Whitney Eads of Buckeye Ridge Ranch sells eggs to Ellen Drell at the market.



Fall Photo Fundraiser

It's that time again! Maureen Moore will be setting up in front of J.D. Redhouse & Company for fall family photos during the 2016 Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration on Saturday, October 8.

Feel free to bring your kids, pets, significant others ... everyone is welcome to drop in from 12 to 4 pm. The lines forms fast, but we will try and get through everyone as fast as we can.

Digital images will be available for just \$5 and can be downloaded right from the Mphotographress.com gallery site directly to your computer or cell phone. Prints and products can also be purchased from the site, if desired.

As always, these photo events will be held as a 50/50 fundraiser for a group or organization in the community. This time, the Mendocino County Care-A-Van was selected to be the recipient of the fundraising efforts.

The Care-A-Van is a division of the Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency and offers low-cost mobile spay/neuter and healthy pets services around the county.

See photos from 2014: <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/harvestmoonphotos> Also, keep in mind that Santa photos will also be right around the corner! Mark your calendars for December 9, 10 and 11 at J.D. Redhouse.

Above: Aybrie, Ashtan, Jake and Kaleb smile for the camera at last fall's photo fundraiser at J.D. Redhouse. Below: The mobile Care-A-Van provides low-cost spay and neuter services.



Photos by Maureen Moore

Photos by Maureen Moore

9TH ANNIVERSARY SALE

EXCLUSIONS APPLY, LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

BOUNCE HOUSE | FACE PAINTING | FALL PHOTOS | PIE EATING CONTEST - WIN A \$25 GIFT CARD!

20% OFF
PET SUPPLIES

30% OFF
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

10% OFF
ALL PET FOOD
TAKE UP TO \$6.50 OFF
PER BAG

J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY
212 S.MAIN ST 459-1214
DOWNTOWN WILLITS

10% OFF
FEED

20% OFF
TOYS, GIFTS & GAMES