

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Yes on Measure J

To the Editor:

Several months ago my family had a medical emergency which required a 911 call. One of my little dogs was barking by my wife's bed. I went in the bedroom and found my wife in a diabetic coma. I was unable to wake her so I called 911. Within minutes I had the fire chief, a fire truck with six big firemen, a police car, and an ambulance with EMT personnel. As it was 4 am when I made the call to 911, I was amazed how fast these first responders arrived at my house.

I am writing this letter to again thank all the first responders who helped save my wife. I also let my little dog know she was very special for her lifesaving barking.

This very serious emergency reinforced how lucky we are to have such great first responders as well as an outstanding hospital.

This brings up the other purpose of this – a reminder for everyone to vote Yes on Measure J. We need to keep these great first responders supplied with the best working conditions possible. Gratefully,

Charles and Arlene Davison
and hero dog Lacy, Willits

Neighbor helping neighbor

To the Editor:

Measure J – a ballot initiative that would establish a special fire tax to provide funding for a new firehouse. Signs are going up in strategic locations all around town, with a plea from Little Lake Fire Protection District that reads: We need your help!

So much more is accomplished when we all pull together. Togetherness, cohesiveness – regardless of what you want to call it, it's teamwork. We all witnessed it when major fires ravaged areas around us and came perilously close. Several different agencies working as one to keep us safe.

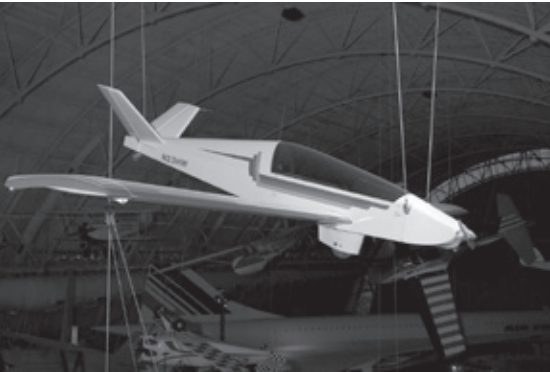
What I am asking for might seem a bit odd but I'm asking for your vote. You see I can't vote for Measure J. If I could, I surely would, but I live in Brooktrails, outside Little Lake Fire Protection District boundaries.

Under the mutual aid agreement, I enjoy the benefits of having Little Lake Fire personnel respond, but I can't vote to help them, and I wish more than anything to lend them a helping hand. Surely I'm not the only one in the outlying areas on tenterhooks praying this ballot measure will pass, especially when headlines such as this have become all-too-common: "Wildfire near Placerville jumps Highway 50, prompts evacuations."

Imagine for a moment a beautiful new firehouse at the corner of Humboldt and Commercial. We want our firefighters safe, and try our best to supply them with the best equipment available. Now we need to provide better housing for those same firefighters and their extensive equipment. All of us should want a well-equipped firehouse the community can be proud of versus one that has literally been condemned.

Please, dear people. We have been waiting so long for this. Now is our chance. The day has come. Vote "Yes" for Measure J.

Gail Richards, Brooktrails



Willits Airport and the Smithsonian

To the Editor:

Willits area residents might be interested to know that their airport, Ellis Field Willits Municipal Airport, has a connection to the world-renowned Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

Longtime Brooktrails resident, the late Harold Weston, has a plane that he built and flew at Willits airport decades ago displayed in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. The plane is a Monnett Moni motor glider with registration number N23HW.

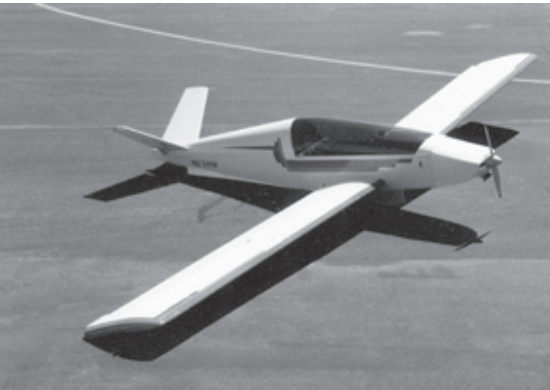
Visit <https://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/monnett-moni> to see the Monnett Moni that Weston donated to the Smithsonian.

Harold passed away recently, and was a founding member of Willits Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 1027 Inc. founded at the Willits airport 25 years ago this year. Willits EAA Chapter 1027 Inc. is one of more than 1,000 chapters of the Experimental Aircraft Association Inc. of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. EAA has more than 200,000 members worldwide, and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting aviation and education.

EAA has provided more than 2 million youngsters between the ages of 8 and 18 with free airplane rides and aircraft training flights and ground school programs as Young Eagles, and provides millions of dollars in aviation scholarships to advance aspiring young individuals in aviation. Willits EAA Chapter 1027 will be bringing the Young Eagles program to Willits next year.

Paul Trexel, president,
Willits EAA Chapter 1027 Inc.

Photos courtesy of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum



Grant funds available for Mendocino County non-profits

Submitted by the Community Foundation of Mendocino

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County is pleased to announce that the 2019 Community Enrichment and Field-of-Interest Grant guidelines and online applications are now available. Organizations in Mendocino County are invited to apply by December 20, 2018.

Up to \$197,500 in total funding is available this year, between these two programs. Individual grant awards range from \$3,000 to \$8,000 for Community Enrichment and \$500 to \$10,000 for Field-of-Interest grants. Guidelines and a link to the online applications can be found at www.communityfound.org.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of the Grant Information Workshops. Director of Grants and Programs Michelle Rich will offer an interactive opportunity to learn about the online platform and answer questions. Participants are encouraged to bring laptops.

Gov. Brown signs 'Great Redwood Trail' act into law

Submitted by the Office of State Sen. Mike McGuire

Sacramento – Sen. Mike McGuire's landmark legislation that seeks to turn the crumbling 300-mile North Coast railroad line into the Great Redwood Trail was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown on September 29. The trail would extend from the glistening shores of San Francisco Bay to the panoramic waters of Humboldt Bay and would run through some of the most dramatic landscapes on earth, including wine country, alongside the banks of the Russian and Eel rivers and into the stunning old growth redwood forests of the North Coast.

"We couldn't be more thrilled about the governor's action, which will launch one of the most significant positive transformations we've seen in a generation here on the North Coast – taking a crumbling rail line, managed by a functionally bankrupt public agency, and turning it into a world-wide wonder of a trail and economic driver for Northern California," said Sen. McGuire. "It's time for us to move beyond the old debates and begin the process of turning this 300-mile rail line into a world-class trail and destination that generations will enjoy."

The California State Transportation Agency, along with the California Natural Resources Agency, will begin the all-important master planning process for the Great Redwood Trail by examining potential trail alignment, trail construction, long-term management costs, terrain suitability, rail banking potential, property easements and the possible governance structure of the trail. The planning process could take two years to complete.

McGuire is thrilled to now have the Natural Resources Agency as part of the study, since they specialize in trails and park issues, and could potentially be part of the eventual ownership of the trail.

The California State Transportation Agency will also complete a study of Northern California Railroad Authority's significant debts and liabilities while developing a road map to closing the agency down. This process could also take up to two years to complete.

In the meantime, NCRA's freight rail mission is dramatically reduced. They are now simply charged with cooperating with state authorities on the study and creating an agency shut-down plan while preparing for the transitioning of the right of way for trails.

The Great Redwood Trail will become a significant economic driver for the rural North Coast communities it winds through. California outdoor recreation is one of the fastest-growing economic sectors of the Golden State's economy. It generates over \$92 billion a year here in California, is responsible for nearly 700,000 jobs with over \$30 billion in wages, and brings over \$6 billion in tax revenues back to state and local communities. Once completed, the trail could attract hundreds of thousands of locals and visitors alike to hike this spectacular landscape and inject needed funds into our small, rural economies.

The new law also gives the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit agency, SMART, the ability and funding to negotiate for the takeover of the complex, long-term freight contract that NCRA sold to Northwestern Pacific Company over a decade ago. This could provide SMART with full control of the rail line from Marin to Willits in Mendocino County. This will help SMART as they would now manage both passenger and freight operations, which would aid SMART's long-term scheduling and expansion needs. The state secretary of transportation and the director of the Department of Finance would have to approve any takeover plan of freight operations between Willits and Marin.

"An enormous amount of work has taken place over the past year on this legislation, meeting with hundreds of groups and residents from every corner of the North Coast. That said, we know that the real work is about to be kicked off – the initial master planning process for this spectacular trail," Sen. McGuire said. "This public process will be done right, not fast. It will be inclusive of all voices, detailed and data driven. We'll be hosting public meetings in early 2019 to inform the community on the planning process, receive critical input from neighbors and residents, and talk about how we can work together in the months and years to come on the development of the Great Redwood Trail."

Ukiah: Thursday, October 18, 12 to 1 pm (brown-bag lunches welcome), Community Foundation of Mendocino County Community Room, 204 South Oak Street, Ukiah.

North Coast: Friday, October 26, 12 to 1 pm (brown-bag lunches welcome) Mendocino Coast Clinics, 205 South Street, Fort Bragg.

Willits: Tuesday, October 30, 12 to 1 pm (brown-bag lunches welcome), Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, Willits.

Workshops are offered at no cost to participants. RSVP appreciated, but not required. Applicants may contact Michelle Rich, director of Grants and Programs, at michelle@communityfound.org or 707-468-9882 if they have remaining questions or would like feedback on their individual proposals after attending one of the grant

Read the rest of **Grants** | Over on page 13

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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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Peaceful Participation

Willits celebrates International Day of Peace along with other cities around the world

In 1981, the United Nations declared September 21 to be an International Day of Peace. On this day, the Peace Bell, cast from coins donated by children of the planet, is rung to provide a moment to reflect on the importance of peace.

The Willits celebration of the International Day of Peace at Recreation Grove on September 21 began with a moment of reflection as well. Wallace Clark, chief and chair of the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians, opened the ceremony with a prayer. He offered his words as his relative danced in traditional costume: "We thank you, Creator, that there is wind. We thank you that there is a sun and a moon and the stars above. We thank you for the Great Bear. And we ask that you help all of us help others. Be with us today as we talk about peace ... if the government will not give me peace, I will give it peace."

This year, the International Day of Peace Celebration was headed up by Don Willis, director of the Emandal Chorus. "We've really tried to be as inclusive as possible in our community, so that everybody feels acknowledged. I really think that's the basis of peace in the community, for everyone to have their voice."

"Having the celebration outdoors," he continued, "at the park this year, was Carolyn Bakewell's idea. She wanted the event to be accessible to everyone. This year, food was offered by Nuestra Alianza de Willits, in order to appeal to even more kids. We really wanted to involve the children. I think ongoing that's what we're going to aim for, more children participating."

The master of ceremonies, Jennifer Sookne, welcomed the crowd of about a hundred or so relaxed performers, relatives and people who wished to participate by their presence. Sookne introduced Mayor Madge Strong in English and in Spanish. Strong read a proclamation from the city declaring Willits to be a "Peace City" and our intent to join with "peace loving people all around the world."

Meghan Doorty, the new chorus and music teacher at Willits High School, directed her group of singers in a lovely song. Then "Tea For Two," a duo of tap dancers of Japanese and African-American heritage, danced two songs dedicated to their mothers and which honored "their courage as women of Japanese descent," for their experiences in the internment camps and Hiroshima.

Louis Rohlicek, spoke eloquently about the international Declaration of Human Rights, after which it was time for the Emandal Chorale to perform three songs, with solos by Clancy Rash and Fran Gardner. As they did last year, the Nuestra Alianza children dancers performed deftly in their colorful costumes. The Willits Interfaith Council offered prayers of peace. Richard Jeske and Don Willis sang three simple sing-alongs including John Lennon's "Give Peace a Chance."

To end the festivities, Megan Wolf and Jordan Uggle got everyone off their chairs for a couple delightful traditional dances. The last one was accompanied by a round that was sung by the participants as they danced in concentric circles. As Wolf explained, "folk dancers consider themselves dancers without borders."

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

NOVO THEATRE Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-NOVO (6696)
www.novoytheatre.com

Starts Friday, Oct 12: FIRST MAN

VENOM 2D

(PG13)
1 hr 52 mins
Fri: 4:10 & 6:50pm
Sat: 1:30, 4:10 & 6:50pm
Sun: 12:30, 3:10 & 5:50pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:50pm

VENOM 3D

(PG13)
1 hr 52 mins
Fri & Sat: 9:30pm
Sun-Thurs: 8:30pm

SMALLFOOT

(PG) 1 hr 36 mins
Fri: 3:20, 5:40 & 8:00pm
Sat: 1:00, 3:20, 5:40 & 8:00pm
Sun: 12:00, 2:20, 4:40 & 7:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:40 & 7:30pm

THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN IT'S WALLS

(PG) 1 hr 45 mins
Fri: 3:40, 6:05 & 8:30pm
Sat: 1:15, 3:40, 6:05 & 8:30pm
Sun: 12:15, 2:40, 5:05 & 7:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:05 & 7:30pm

Movie Times for 10/5 thru 10/11

This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Intermediate



HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

WATER SAFETY WORD SEARCH

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

ABSORPTION	BIOCIDE	DECOMPOSITION	LIME
ACIDITY	BRACKISH	DESALINATION	MINERAL
AERATION	BUFFER	DRINKING	NEUTRALIZER
ALGAE	CALCIUM	EFFLUENT	ORGANISM
ALKALINITY	CAPACITY	FEEDER	PIPING
AQUIFER	CARBON	FILTER	PRESSURE
BACKFLOW	CARCINOGEN	GALLON	TEMPERATURE
BACTERIA	CHLORINATOR	HARDNESS	WATER
BASE	CYCLE	INFLUENT	WELL

		1	2	3		4	5	6				
		7				8	9	10		11		
12	13									14		
15							16			17		
18							19			20		
21		22	23		24	25	26		27	28	29	
30					31			32		33		
	34				35			36		37	38	
		39		40		41				42		43
44	45				46		47			48		
49				50		51					52	
53		54	55				56	57	58	59	60	
	61					62						
		63										
			64					65				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Superhigh frequency
4. Sinatra's ex-wife
7. Unity
12. Not useful
15. One who mocks
16. Teachers
18. 'Pollock' actor Harris
19. Fifth note of a major scale
20. A type of coalition
21. Aircraft transmitters
24. Where golfers begin
27. We all have them
30. Monetary unit
31. Calendar month
33. Pouch-like structure
34. Winter sport tool
35. Minneapolis suburb
37. ___ student, learns healing
39. Keyboard key
41. Brief proposal
42. Gasteyer and Ivanovic are two
44. Lunatic
47. Cool!
48. Japanese musician
49. Successor to League of Nations

CLUES DOWN

50. Actor Diesel
52. The Constitution State
53. Go back over
56. One long or stressed syllable followed by unstressed syllable
61. All of it
63. Seriousness
64. Adds color
65. ___kosh, near Lake Winnebago
14. Goodwill (archaic)
17. Suspicion of having committed a crime
22. Signed one's name
23. Quake
24. Exercise system ___-bo
25. Round Dutch cheese
26. Ready to go
28. Khoikhoi peoples
29. Opera scene
32. Husband of Sita (Hindu)
36. A sign of assent
38. Cut a rug
40. An army unit mounted on horseback
43. Satisfies
44. Austrian river
45. In a more positive way
46. Religious creed
51. Brazilian NBA star
54. One and only
55. Street
56. Explosive
57. Gambling town
58. Public crier calls
59. Hard money
60. Prizes for victory (abbr.)
62. Exists

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

September 24 to September 30

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **243** incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

September 24

10:12 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

1:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

6:21 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 700 block of South Main Street.

6:52 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of East Valley Street.

9:32 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.



Bradley Dale Maxfield of Willits.

September 25

1:35 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

8:10 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

6:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of California Street.

9:49 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

10:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of Railroad Avenue.

September 26

10:15 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

2:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

2:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats near the intersection of Baechtel Road and South Main Street.

3:15 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Barbara Lane.

3:57 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

4:06 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

6:08 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

7:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of South Main Street.

9:38 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

10:00 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

10:08 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

11:55 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of McKinley Street and issued a warning.

September 27

2:54 am: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

7:45 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

7:59 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Laurel Street.

8:27 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

10:39 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of South Main Street.

12:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious persons in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

1:23 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

1:48 pm: MAXFIELD, Bradley Dale (24) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to felony charges of 10851 VC (Unlawful Taking or Driving of a Vehicle) and 496 (B) PC (Receiving Stolen Property).

2:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of Holly Street.

4:23 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

4:24 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:44 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

6:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault near the intersection of Coast Street and West Valley Street.

6:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

8:02 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

9:37 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

11:32 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Main Street.

1:47 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation near the intersection of South Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue.

3:47 pm: AULT, Richard James (50) of Leggett was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

4:49 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

5:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of unwanted subjects in the 200 block of North Main Street.

5:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of several suspicious vehicles in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

10:14 pm: TARBAH, Robert Karim (51) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

10:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

September 29

5:06 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious persons near the intersection of Margie Drive and Monica Lane.

1:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

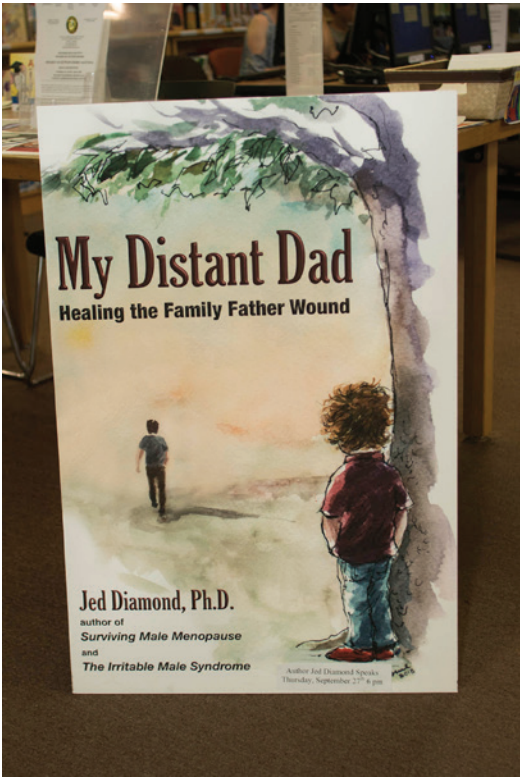
5:39 pm: COOK, Robert Ben (57) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of East Hill Road and Baechtel Road. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol) and violation of probation.

6:47 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of West San Francisco Avenue.

9:58 pm: Officers responded to several

Read the rest of WPD Over on page 11

At right: Willits author Jed Diamond's new book "My Distant Dad: Healing the Family Father Wound" is a memoir in which he explores his estranged relationship with his father. Far right: The attendees were encouraged to ask questions and talk about their own concerns.



At right, below: Two of the attendees look over Diamond's published work.

Photos by Mathew Caine

At far right, below: Willits author Jed Diamond.



Diamond and his Dad
Willits author launches memoir about his estranged relationship with his father

It is difficult to know what is below the surface of a human being. What factors have led to them being the person they are? After 70 some years, Jed Diamond is still on a journey to discover this in his own life and project those discoveries into others. It is an eternal journey. The more he finds out, the more he finds there is more to discover. Peeling away the layers of a person's psyche begins with their past.

This is the premise of Diamond's newest book, a memoir entitled "My Distant Dad: Healing the Family Father Wound," in which he explores his estranged relationship with his father.

The book follows Diamond's past from when he was 5 years old and his father was committed to the state mental facility at Camarillo, California, to his later attempts to reconnect with this mysterious person who was so large in his life, and to his eventual reawakening of his relationship many years further on in his life.

On September 27, Diamond hosted a

launch party and talk at the Willits Library, where he discussed his experiences and encouraged attendees to share theirs. The evening began with an introduction for the 20 or so attendees. Diamond gave a quick synopsis of the subject matter of the book: "The Father Wound is the physical, emotional, spiritual pain that people suffer who grew up with a father who was either distant, absent, rejecting, dysfunctional.

"Those early experiences," he continued, "leave lasting marks both on the child, then as you grow up into adolescence, even into adulthood, that often we don't recognize, or don't consciously come to understand what went on back then and how it impacts our adult relationships.

"Part of my journey," Diamond concluded, "and the workbook that goes with it, is to help people understand those connections, and then heal. A lot of it is wounds that we don't recognize that impact us."

In order to understand the needs of the attendees and to customize the evening

Read the rest of Diamond Over on Page 6

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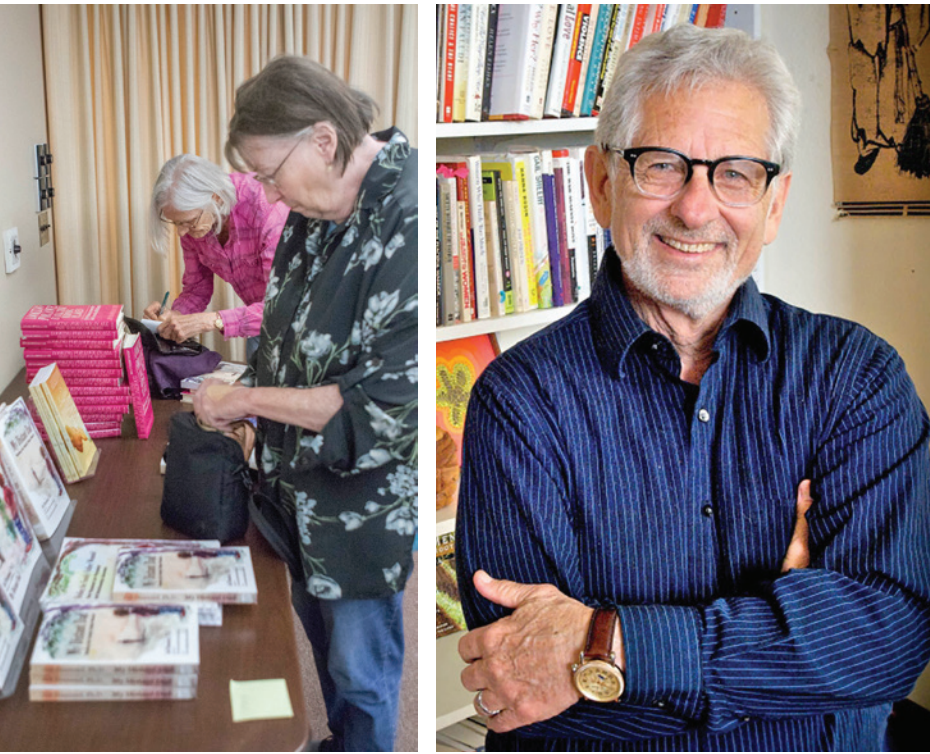
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Presented by: Alison Pernell

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Firehouse Open Forum

When: October 4th, 2018

Time: 5:30 PM

Where: 74 E Commercial Street

Please join the architect and consultant for an informational forum about your firehouse. This firehouse is your future!

More information: 707 459 6271

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The rest of
Diamond

From Page 5

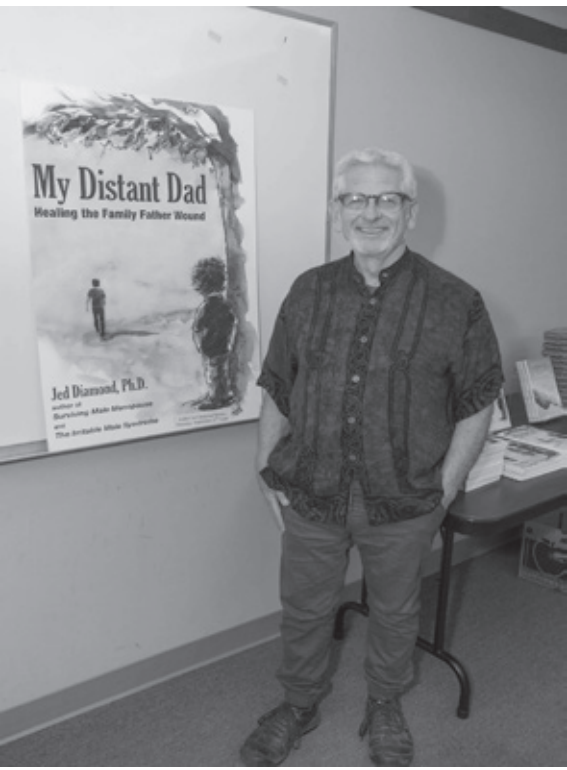
for them, Diamond opened the floor for comments and inquiries, to ascertain what these people were looking for in coming to his presentation.

The first woman who responded had a father who lived to be 93. "I realized my dad has been hidden from me for most of my life," she shared. "Now that he's really gone, a lot of memories of him come flooding back in. I want to learn how to have a relationship with his memory."

Another man wanted to understand his son better. "I was drawn simply by the title," he said. "I have very few memories. And now surprisingly to me, I'm having that relationship with my son. I try really hard, but he's just totally turned off. He's just 20."

A woman rued the fact that she waited so long to actually read one of Diamond's books, "I think that's a situation that probably happens a lot," she commented. "The prophet goes unsung in his own land. And then I read 'Men Alive' and I realized how pertinent it was to me. My husband died a few years ago, and I realized we could have had a much better relationship if I had read that book earlier."

There were several more inquiries and comments which Diamond answered in conjunction with his 40 years in the field of psychotherapy and relating to the knowledge in his book.



He then told a little more about "My Distant Dad" and his journey to reconnect with his estranged father, which he finally did many years later after finding him on the streets of San Francisco, where he had become a rather well-known street performing puppeteer. Diamond was just 5 when his uncle took him to see his father in the mental institution. This was very confusing to such a young person to see his father distant and cold, and not wanting to be with him.

Diamond stressed that many people have stories that are similar, not necessarily in the same circumstances, but similar in that their fathers (or in some cases, mothers) are distant or unapproachable. In discovering why they are the way they are can be found the path to healing the "father wound" and being able to create a healthy relationship with others, especially one's children.

Diamond has written 15 previous titles, beginning

in 1983 with his first published book, "Inside Out: Becoming My Own Man." Diamond's books have been printed internationally, in several languages including French, Chinese, German, Slovak and Turkish.

"My Distant Dad" is available as an eBook, as well as a softcover book. There's also a hardcover version, which is exquisitely printed both on the book jacket and on the book cover itself. It sells for \$100, with the proceeds "going towards a special project," he explained, "that I've been working with for some years, helping men that are angry and depressed and in danger of suicide."

There's also a "playbook" companion book which poses 38 questions to be worked through. The playbook is called "Healing the Family Father Wound: Your Playbook for Personal and Relationship Success."

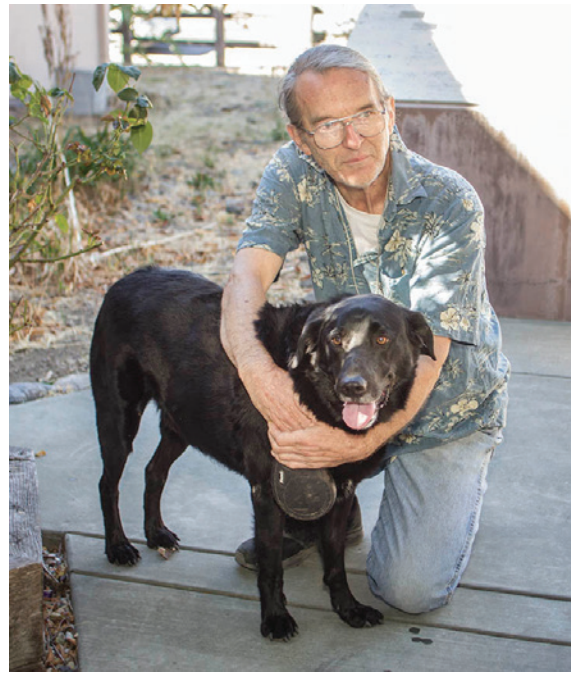
For more information, visit Jed Diamond's website: www.menalive.com.

Above, from left: Earlier works by Jed Diamond were available for attendees.

Jed Diamond poses with his book cover.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Jed Diamond's dad, as a street puppeteer in San Francisco.



Far left: Judy Reubens and Maggie come to the blessing every year.

At left: Bill Bruneau gives his buddy a hug.

At left, below: Canines and their owners gather to be blessed by Betsy Bruneau at the 2017 "Blessing of the Animals" at the St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church.

Photos by Mathew Caine

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
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Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
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Grace Community Church
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Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service & Children's Church - 11 a.m.
Mid-week Bible studies
Potluck every 2nd Sunday
Alan Klier, Lead Pastor
459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
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Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass - 9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
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St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-459-3066
Church Services / Communion & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Healing Prayer 3rd Sunday
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

St. John Lutheran Church
Karl Bliese, Pastor
Church Service:
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
Bible Study / Sunday School following the service.
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
399 W. Mendocino Avenue
707-459-5714
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
1st Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school.
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Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor
Worship Celebration
Sundays - 11:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com

If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Annual Blessing of the Animals

this weekend at
St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church

On Saturday, October 6, 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!

Though the animal congregation usually includes many dogs, there are also cats who attend, and there have been spiders, lizards, birds, frogs, horses and goats in past years. For their safety, 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 stuffy.

October 4 is the traditional Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, who loved all creation because he saw it as a sign of God's love for all. He called the animals, and all humans also, his brothers and sisters. Francis's faithful life of poverty, service and joy has made him one of the most beloved saints in history.

For more information: stfranciswillits@hotmail.com

— Submitted by the Rev. Betsy Bruneau, St. Francis Church



At right: Debi Vau waits with Dexter for Betsy Bruneau to make her rounds. At far right: Richard and Victoria Davis brought their dog, Lucas, to the 2017 blessing.

Below: Ginny Love brought along her pal, Lite Lite, to receive blessings. Below, right: Little Holly receives a blessing.



The rest of
Peace

From Page 3

On this day, all over the world, in thousands of small and large communities, the concept and desire for peace is celebrated and prayed for.

In Willits, the day is a chance for the community to get together and show love for one another, to offer prayers, to sing songs of hope, to dance, to share divergent but mutually respected cultures.

It is a day of rejoicing for the world we wish to see, a chance to send out a small ripple of peace that will join with all the other communities to create a wave that will create a force toward the goal of everyone living in harmony and respect.



Above: Carolyn Bakewell, art instructor, and Meghan Doorty, choir director and music teacher at Willits High School, smile for the camera. Above, right: Fifth grade teacher at Blosser Lane Elementary School, shows off some of her students' peace art. At right: The duo "Tea For Two," Sandy Wake and Leslie Hines, dances for world peace and understanding.



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Thursday, October 4

“The Cannabis Hour”: Host Jane Futcher’s guests are “cannabis cultivator Ed Rosenthal and his co-author Greg Zeman, who will offer tips and insights from their new book, ‘Beyond Buds, Next Generation: Marijuana Concentrates and Cannabis Infusions.” New time: 11 am, Thursday, October 4, on KZYX Radio, 91.5 FM. Find the archived show at <http://jukebox.kzyx.org/>.

Willits Farmers Market: At the City Parking Lot, just north of Main Street Music, Thursday, October 4, 3 to 6 pm. Summer veggies, including heirloom tomatoes, fresh salad greens, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, fresh fish from Fort Bragg, strawberries from Redwood Valley, and savory and sweet baked goods, including handcrafted bread. More: gift items, dog treats, flowers, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roastediced coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Empowerment Event Open Studio: Speaker Series: Cultivate Wellness Studio. EFT or Tapping. Repeat Intro and Practice. Thursday, October 4, 6 to 7:30 pm. Little Lake Grange, room #4. RSVP Michelle 707-972-1601, Claudia 707-354-3111. Free.

Music in the Park in Willits: Rescheduled – see Friday, October 5 listing for details.

Community Firehouse Forum: Little Lake Fire Protection District is hosting a firehouse forum, Thursday, October 4. Voters are invited to come get their questions answered: Consultant Lorie Adams, of the Adams Ashby Group, will be available to answer questions about the USDA loan which Measure J will help pay back, and project architect Dennis Dong, of Calpo Hom and Dong Architects, out of Sacramento, can answer questions about the firehouse design. Starts at 6 pm, at the firehouse, 74 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-6271 or the “Yes on Measure J 2018” page on Facebook.

Willits Candidates Forum: Candidates for Third District supervisor (John Haschak and John Pinches) and candidates for Willits City Council (Jeremy Hershman, Greta Kanne and Larry Stranske) will be featured. Thursday, October 4, from 6:30 to 9 pm, at Willits City Hall. Sponsored by American Association of University Women, Willits Environmental Center, Mendocino Women’s Political Coalition, Willits Economic Localization. Info: Judi at 459-4444 or Ellen at 459-2643. The forum will be recorded by independent producers Al Rosen and Andy Wright, and put on line for viewing at the Willits Community TV channel on YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/WillitsCommunityTV.

North Street Collective Open House: Monthly public events at the North Street Collective, 350 North Street, to show off the work of the collective’s current artist residents. “Savor the delicious culinary concoctions by super-talented chef, Ashleigh Nahreini.” Thursday, October 4, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Info: info@northstreetcollective.org, 415-370-0552, www.northstreetcollective.org.

Friday, October 5

Willits Chamber of Commerce Mixer: This month’s Chamber mixer will be hosted by the North County Friends of Mendocino College at the college’s North County Center in Willits. Music, appetizers, and adult beverages. “A great opportunity to come and check out all the wonderful new things happening at Mendocino College and have the opportunity to be a part of what they’re doing.” Free. Mendocino College Willits Campus, 372 East Commercial Street. Friday, October 5, 5:30 to 7 pm.

Party at Willits Hub: 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: The Eel River Recovery Project is celebrating 50 years of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on the evening of Friday, October 5 at the Willits Hub with a BBQ and presentations. On Saturday, October 6 there will be a walk and work day at the Little Darby Recreation Area. Info: eelriverrecovery.org, ERRP on Facebook, 707-223-7200, or rivers.gov/wsr50/index.php.

Music in the Park in Willits: The “Falling Out of Summer” free concert series, presented by the City of Willits, continues tonight, Friday, October 5, from 5 to 7 pm at the Rec Grove. The concert was rescheduled from Thursday due to the weather and the candidate forums. Levi Lloyd and Friends, blues, soul and jazz from Sonoma County plays Friday, October 5: “They have quite a following in Sonoma County, and we are really thrilled that they agreed to come to Willits,” says Stephane Garrabrant-Sierra, of the City of Willits, which organized the series. “Take a listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQ2CC0xayOc>” Funkacillin plays originals and old school funk, rock and soul on Thursday, October 11. Bring your own chairs, sweaters and blankets! Hamburgers and hot dogs served by the Willits Lions Club, plus the Taco Ramirez Mexican Food Truck.

“Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church”: This hilarious and unpredictable country comedy by Texas playwright Linda LaRoque opens Friday, October 5 at the Willits Community Theatre. The play features two down-on-their-luck comen who try conning the Lord in his own house with much-unexpected consequences. Runs through October 21. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$20; Sunday matinees on October 14 and October 21 at 2 pm for \$15; and Thursdays at 7 pm for \$15. A special benefit performance sponsored by the

What’s Happening Around Town

Emandal Chorale is set for Thursday, October 11. Tickets for the benefit are \$20 and available by calling Tamara Adams at 459-9252. Advance tickets for all regular shows are available at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Shanachie Pub: Tracy Hui & Clay Hawkins Exchange: Tracy Hui is an eclectic creative banjo player. Clay Hawkins plays boot stomping road music from the heart. Visit facebook.com/tracyhuimusic and facebook.com/clayhawkinsmusic. Friday, October 5, 8 pm. 50B South Main Street.

Boomer’s Friday Night Karaoke: 1st, 3rd & 5th Fridays of every month, including Friday, October 5, Boomer’s Saloon, 45020 Highway 101, Laytonville. 9 pm to 1 am. No cover. 21+ Please bring I.D. Hosted by DJ-Ken Steely Entertainment with KJ/DJ-Ken Steely & Anna. “Scaryoke” Friday, November 2: Come in costume. “Ginormous music library with new songs added weekly! Come for dinner, stay for the fun! Prime rib & clam chowder served Friday nights until 9 pm.

Saturday, October 6

Color Me Green 5K Walk/Run: A learning opportunity for improving health through a fun event. Hosted by Long Valley 4-H. Participants will run 5 kilometers and will be showered with green dye as they pass. Harwood Hall/Healthy Start, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Saturday, October 6. Registration 8 am, Race 9 am. Cost to register \$15, \$20, \$25, \$30, \$35 \$40 depending on date. To pre-register: <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=23868>. Info: Andrea Firks, aduna1@gmail.com or 707-354-1531 or Tannis Boyd at tboyd@ucanr.edu or 707-463-4495.

Walk and Work Day at Little Darby: part of the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Little Darby Recreation Area is located 5 miles east of Willits on Canyon Road: “The intact understorey of this old forest is rare in the region, and the site is rich in biodiversity, including old growth Douglas fir, and diverse mosses. On Saturday, October 6 the Willits Goes Wild van will leave the Willits Hub at 9:30 am. If you drive to the site, plan to convene at Little Darby at 10 am. A walk will be led by ERRP managing director and fish biologist Pat Higgins. The trail is somewhat steep, so wear appropriate shoes. Those wishing to get some more exercise can help with trail maintenance, which will include restoring small side trails and shortcuts that can cause erosion. Equipment will be provided.” See Friday, October 5 listing for more details on the anniversary.

Annual Blessing of the Animals: St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church will host the annual blessing. Saturday, October 6, 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. 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, and stuffed animals for children without a live pet.

The New Book Festival: The Round Valley Public Library, 23925 Howard Street, Covelo. Saturday, October 6, 1 to 4 pm. An opportunity to check out copies of brand-new library books. Books for all ages including chapter books and graphic novels for kids, bestsellers, audiobooks and more. Kids music by Marjo Wilson & Cotton Dandee, crafts, snacks and fun giveaways. A fabulous book bag will be available for every library patron who checks out material with their card.

Big Read Kick-Off: Join the Willits Library as they celebrate the Kick-Off of their Big Read program, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Saturday, October 6, 1:30 to 3 pm. They will be giving away copies of the Big Read book “Pretty Monsters” by Kelly Link, while supplies last, doing spooky crafts and making monster madlibs. All ages. 390 East Commercial Street.

Bake Sale for Victoria: To help raise funds for memorial expenses for Victoria Stewart, eighth-grade student at Baechtel Grove Middle School and Willits Youth Football cheerleader, who passed away September 29 in an automobile accident. Saturday, October 6, Willits High School Football Field, 3:30 pm until supplies run out or until the end of the Varsity Youth League Football game. Donations of baked goods can be dropped off at the field between 9 am and 12 pm or after 3 pm. 299 North Main Street.

Battle of the Bands: KLLG 97.9 FM’s two-year anniversary fundraiser is set for Saturday October 6, 3 to 11 pm, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Raffles, beer, food. All ages welcome, kids zone. Bands: 3:30 pm: R4id, 4:30 pm: Scythe, 5:30 pm: Easy Street, 6:30 pm: Dennis Chrisp and the Eclectic Coyotes; 7:30 pm: Schindig, 8:30 pm: Pick ‘n Pull, 9:30 pm: Taste Like Chicken, DJ Cosmo and DJ Papa Joe. Prize announcements at 10:20 pm.

Covelo Third District Supervisor Forum: candidates for Third District supervisor John Pinches and John Haschak are featured at this forum, Saturday, October 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, at Round Valley Library Community Room. Sponsored by KYBU Round Valley Community Radio, Willits Environmental Center.

WCA October Exhibit: Willits Center for the Arts hosts opening night for the October exhibit, featuring “About Face,” works by Jazzminh Moore, and “Natural Splendor,” featuring works by Bonnie Belt. Saturday, October 6, 6 pm (members preview), 7 pm (open to the

public). WCA is located at 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. Info: <https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/> or 459-1726.

“Art from Ashes”: Opening reception for this exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum is set for Saturday, October 6, 6 to 9 pm. “This exhibit is in partnership with the Out of the Ashes Community Project and is in recognition of the anniversary of the 2017 fire, featuring more than 30 pieces by local artists.” With the Mystic Sol drummers, and the Poi Twirlers. The Mendocino County Museum is open 10 am to 4:30 pm, Wednesday through Sunday. Info: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/museum or 459-2736. 400 East Commercial Street. Free museum admission with your Mendocino County Library card!

“Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church”: Saturday, October 6, 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, October 5 listing for details.

Sunday, October 7

Chili Fundraiser Dinner: To help raise funds for memorial expenses for Victoria Stewart, eighth-grade student at Baechtel Grove Middle School and Willits Youth Football cheerleader, who passed away September 29 in an automobile accident. Sunday, October 7, Willits Senior Center, 4:30 to 8:30 pm. Dinner tickets: \$10, available at the door. Raffle tickets \$20, available at J.D. Redhouse, Willits Power or from Shailyn Brewer or Tabatha Hulsey.

Potluck for Dave and Jenny Watts: Dave and Jenny Watts, former owners of Sanhedrin Nursery, are moving out of the county. Help celebrate all they have done for Willits over the past many years with a potluck lunch and money tree on Sunday October 7 at Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, at 12:15 pm. All are welcome.

Monday, October 8

Shanachie Pub: Five Letter Word & Sarah Ryan: “Mix three singer-songwriters, several stringed instruments, and a variety of percussive techniques, and you get Five Letter Word.” Sarah Ryan is from The Real Sarahs. Visit www.fiveletterwordband.com and www.thealsarahs.com. Monday, October 8, 7 pm. 50B South Main Street.

Tuesday, October 9

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All

2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week’s Tightwad movies, “House with a Clock in its Walls” and “Smallfoot.” For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Willits High School Soccer: Willits vs. Clear Lake: Boys 4 pm, Girls 5:30 pm. Willits High School Soccer Field, 299 North Main Street. (Boys Coach Martin Rodriguez, Girls Coach Tatiana Cantrell)

Willits High School Lady Wolverines Volleyball: Willits vs. Clear Lake: JV 5 pm, Varsity 6 pm. Willits High School Gym, 299 North Main Street. (JV Coach Julie Goyke, Varsity Coach Jon Jessup).

Sara Reith Book Talk: Local author Sarah Reith will read from and discuss her new book, “A Schedule of Drugs in the Valley of Death,” part of the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read Program. Tuesday, October 9, 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Wednesday, October 10

Lego Monster Houses: A spooky take on the Willits Library regular Lego Club. Every monster should have a home, whether it’s the Wolfman, zombie or Dracula. Wednesday, October 10. 390 East Commercial Street.

Thursday, October 11

Willits Farmers Market: At the City Parking Lot, just north of Main Street Music, Thursday, October 11, 3 to 6 pm. See Thursday, October 4 listing for details.

Music in the Park in Willits: The final concert in the “Falling Out of Summer” free concert series, presented by the City of Willits, is set for Thursday, October 11 from 5 to 7 pm, in the Rec Grove. Featuring Funkacillin plays originals and old school funk, rock and soul on October 11. “This is Willits’ first Music in the Park series. Bring your own chairs, sweaters and blankets!” Hamburgers and hot dogs served by the Willits Lions Club, plus the Taco Ramirez Mexican Food Truck.

Brooktrails Firewise Committee: Meeting at the Brooktrails Community Center, 24860 Birch Street. Thursday, October 11, 7 pm.

“Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church”: A special benefit performance sponsored by the Emandal Chorale is set for Thursday, October 11 at 7 pm. Tickets for the benefit are \$20 and available by calling Tamara Adams at 459-9252. See Friday, October 5 listing for details about the show. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Friday, October 12

“Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church”: Friday, October 12, 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, October 5 listing for details.

Saturday, October 13

WFD Ranch Rodeo: 7th annual Willits Frontier Days event showcasing horse skills needed by real life cowboys on the ranch: Horse

Calf Branding, Ranch Doctoring, Team Sorting, Dalli Calf Roping and Trailer Loading. New this year: All-girls team buckle to be awarded. \$600 per three-person team. Working Ranch Horse Class \$70. Calcutta auction and BBQ cookoff. Saturday, October 13, 10 am, at the WFD Rodeo Grounds on East Commercial Street. Rider check-in 9 am. The public is invited; free admission to spectators; BBQ 12 pm, \$10 tastars tickets. Auction 1 pm. Fun kids dummy roping event 2 pm. Info: WillitsFrontierDays.com, Marcy Barry 707-272-5395, or Robbie Burgess 707-489-0476.


American Legion Oktoberfest Dinner: American Legion, Post 174’s annual fundraising Oktoberfest Dinner is set for Saturday, October 13, from 5 to 7 pm, Veteran’s Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street. \$18 per adult, \$9 children under 12, under 5 free. Menu: Schweinebraten (Marinated Roast Pork), Rot Kohl (Sweet Red Cabbage), Kartoffeln mit Petersile (White Potatoes with Parsley), Grune Bohlen (Green Beans), Dessert, Apfelwein (Apple Cider).

“Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church”: Saturday, October 13, 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, October 5 listing for details.

Sunday, October 14

“Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church”: Sunday, October 14, 2 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, October 5 listing for details.

AT THE MOVIES



‘Smallfoot’

The Story: An animated comedy with song, featuring a jaunty Yeti (i.e. Bigfoot) society on an icy snowy mountain above the clouds. A happy, high-stepping Yeti named Migo (voiced by Channing Tatum) lives in a vibrant Yeti town that is blissfully ignorant of the existence of human beings. The Yeti do have a legend that there is a diminutive humanoid creature wandering the world known as Smallfoot, but clearly, that’s a legend believed only by children, morons and malcontents. Meanwhile, songs are sung and dances are done, and apparently everyone in Yeti town is happy, happy, happy. Then Migo sees a human. And omigawd, the human has small feet! Migo’s world is turned upside down.

My Thoughts: I entered the theater with trepidation, I left moderately charmed and moderately amused. And I liked the songs. The flick is centered around the dangers of two civilizations in collision, cultures which don’t speak the same language, nor carry the same social expectations. But kindness is found, and humane behavior triumphs. It’s a good message. Also, children will like the mainly slapstick comedy and unthreatening Yeti. Bottom line: It’s a nice movie.

Parents: I think “Smallfoot” would be fine for children 8 and up. There are some adult dilemmas about becoming popular in television, but kids will most probably ignore them. There’s slapstick violence and heads getting bonked, but no one gets hurt.

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

You are invited to the Blue & Gold

Willits FFA Alumni Fundraiser Dinner

Saturday, October 20, 2018

Mix & Mingle at 4:00pm

Dinner at 5:00pm

Tickets: \$25 per Plate

Little Lake Grange

For tickets call 707-459-6588

Dessert Auction, Live Auction & Silent Auction

Auditions for WCT Christmas Show

October 6, 8 and 13

The Willits Community Theatre will hold auditions for “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,” a Christmas show featuring roles for children and adults, over the next two weeks. Auditions will be held Saturday, October 6 at 1 pm, Monday, October 8 at 7 pm. and Saturday, October 13 at 1 pm. This delightful Christmas classic, written by Barbara Robinson, features roles for eight boys, nine girls, six women and four men. It tells the story of what happens when a family of “bad kids,” the Herdman clan, hijacks a Christmas pageant. What happens is not what you would expect. The show will rehearse from late October through November and will open on Friday, November 30. It will play for 10 performances and will close on Sunday, December 16. For more information about the show call the director, Robert Ford, at 354-3231.

Willits School Board Candidates Forum

October 18

The Willits Unified School District will hold a Candidates Forum for prospective school board candidates Thursday, October 18, 6:30 pm, at the Willits High School Alan Garcia Auditorium, 299 North Main Street. Long-term candidates: Robert Chavez, Jeanne King, Dianne McNeal, Christopher Neary, Paula Nunez. Short-term candidates: Bob Colvig and Dany Laurent. Sponsored by Willits Teachers Association, California Schools Employees Association, American Association of University Women, Willits Branch. Info: Judi Berdis, AAUW 707-972-7070.

St. Anthony’s Fall Fiesta

October 27

St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, 61 West San Francisco Avenue, will hold it Fall Fiesta on Saturday, October 27, 11 am to 5 pm (food served 12 to 4 pm). Pre-sale tickets only; adults \$12. Children \$6, available at El Mexicano, Loose Caboose and Adri’s Salon. A chicken or beef fajita barbecue, marinated in Mexican spices and served with rice, beans, tortillas and a dessert. Hot dogs for the kids. Mariachi band, bounce house, raffles and games for the children.

Send us information on your community event in Willits, Laytonville or Covelo via email:

willitsweekly@gmail.com

Posters, photos and a few sentences are all great info to send!

Grow Biointensive® Workshop

November 2 – 4

Learn “How to Grow More Vegetables and other crops than you ever thought possible, on less land and with less water than you thought imaginable.” Ecology Action would like to invite you for a three-day Grow Biointensive® Sustainable Mini-Farming Workshop. You will learn techniques that use up to 66 percent less water, saving up to 94 percent in energy, growing soil up to 60 times faster than in nature, and getting high yields – and more. Bestselling author and Ecology Action Executive Director John Jeavons and staff will share with you what they have learned in 46 years of experience in developing, using and teaching the Grow Biointensive® method. Complete information and registration (Registration closes November 1): www.growbiointensive.org/workshop.html. At Golden Rule Community. 459-0150.

PS...WE LOVE YOU!

NEW ANNUAL OBSERVATION IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT SANCTUARY

In “The Barn” at NELSON FAMILY VINEYARDS

Sunday, October 7, 2018 • 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Join us for this fun celebration to bring and witness in our community!

Special treat concert with **Spencer Brewer - Wendy DeWitt!**

Auction center donation to **Black Dog Farm** - Rescuing 1500+ abused dogs - rescued by Sheriff Elmore and rescuers. Retail donation

Proceeds will help pay for the adoption fees of ALL cats, kittens & dogs over 4 months old! CALL THE SHELTER FOR MORE INFORMATION: 707-461-6463 or visit our website

Consistent donations by the following:

PC PROJECT SANCTUARY

The mission of Project Sanctuary is to provide a safe haven for animals in need and to promote responsible pet ownership.

PS...WE LOVE YOU

You’re invited to ...

St. Anthony’s FALL FIESTA!

Where: St. Anthony’s Catholic Church 61 W San Francisco Avenue Willits

When: Saturday, October 27th, 2018 1:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Food served 12-4 p.m.)

Pre-sale tickets only: Adults - \$12, Children - \$6

Come join St. Anthony’s Parish Community for a fun-filled afternoon of food and fun for the whole Family!

A full-blown fajita Barbecue will be prepared and served, consisting of Chicken and Beef, marinated in delicious Mexican spices served with rice, beans, tortillas, and a dessert, and hot dogs for the kids!

There will also be: Mariachi Band Bounce House Raffles Childrens Games

Tickets Are Available at the Following Businesses: El Mexicano, Loose Caboose, Adri’s Salon

BISSELL PET FOUNDATION’S

ADOPTIONS 12-4 PM

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Saturday, October 6

mendoanimalshelter.com

BISSELL will cover the adoption fees of ALL cats, kittens & dogs over 4 months old! CALL THE SHELTER FOR MORE INFORMATION: 707-461-6463 or visit our website

Willits Frontier Days Ranch Rodeo

October 13

7th annual Willits Frontier Days event showcasing horse skills needed by real life cowboys on the ranch: Horse Calf Branding, Ranch Doctoring, Team Sorting, Dalli Calf Roping and Trailer Loading. New this year: All-girls team buckle to be awarded. \$600 per three-person team. Working Ranch Horse Class \$70. Calcutta auction and BBQ cookoff. Saturday, October 13, 10 am, at the WFD Rodeo Grounds on East Commercial Street. Rider check-in 9 am. The public is invited; free admission to spectators; BBQ 12 pm, \$10 tastars tickets. Auction 1 pm. Fun kids dummy roping event 2 pm. Info: WillitsFrontierDays.com, Marcy Barry 707-272-5395, or Robbie Burgess 707-489-0476.

Oktoberfest Dinner

October 13

American Legion, Post 174. Fundraiser for the American Legion. Saturday, October 13, 5 to 7 pm, Veteran’s Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street. \$18 per adult, \$9 children under 12, under 5 free. Menu: Schweinebraten (Marinated Roast Pork), Rot Kohl (Sweet Red Cabbage), Kartoffeln mit Petersile White Potatoes with parsley), Grune Bohlen (Green Beans), Desert, Apfelwein (Apple Cider).

FFA Alumni Dinner

October 20

The Blue and Gold Willits FFA Alumni Fundraiser Dinner is Saturday, October 20. Mix and Mingle 4 pm; Dinner 5 pm. Tickets \$25 per plate. There will be a Dessert Auction, Live Auction and Silent Auction. At the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Call 459-6588 for tickets.

This Week at KLLG

Battle of the Bands: KLLG’s two-year anniversary fundraiser is set for Saturday, October 6 from 3 to 11 pm at the Little Lake Grange. Live music, raffles, food and beer. See October 6 listing for more details!

“Talk About It” talk show: Live on Wednesdays at 4 pm. This week, October 10, Papa Joe will interview Willits Police Chief Scott Warnock.

Chili Fundraiser Dinner

Chili Dinner Fundraiser Willits Senior Center Thursday October 12th Raffle At Fundraiser Dinner Tickets \$25 in 4 of the door

J.D. Redhouse / Willits Power Equipment Shailyn Brewer / Tabatha Hulsey

Call for Artists/ Crafters

Willits Center for the Arts is still accepting entries for the 32nd Annual Holiday Craft Fair, December 7, 8 and 9 to be held at the Willits Community Center and the Willits Center for the Arts- Upstairs Gallery. All interested artists, hand crafters, and specialty foods entrepreneurs, who hand-make their own products, should request application forms by e-mail to: Bonnie Belt at belt.bonnie@gmail.com or by mail: Willits Holiday Craft Fair c/o Bonnie Belt, 2291 Buckeye Dr. Willits, CA 95490 and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Please note: acceptance is subject to quality of work and postmark date.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of October 8 through October 12

Monday: Grilled Cheese Sandwich & Tomato Soup

Tuesday: Ground Beef Tacos

Wednesday: Chicken Casserole

Thursday: Sloppy Joes

Friday: Pork Roast

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. \$6.50 for those 55 and older; \$8 for those under 55. Includes soup, salad, entrée, vegetable, dessert, and drink. Salad Bar available all year. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

HORSE Calf Branding - Ranch Doctoring - Team Sorting - Dalli Calf Roping - Trailer Loading

RANCH RODEO

WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS 7TH ANNUAL EVENT

Now this year All-girls team buckle will also be awarded

OCTOBER 13, 2018

STARTS AT 10 AM

ENTER

Entries due in by 10/1/18

Ranch Rodeo: \$600 per 3 person team Working Ranch Horse Class: \$70 Entries & Info: www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

CALCUTTA AUCTION & BBQ COOKOFF

RIDER CHECK-IN 9 AM / BBQ 12 PM / \$10 TASTERS / AUCTION 1 PM

WATCH

Free admission to event spectators Fun Kids Dummy Roping event at 2 pm

MORE INFO: MARCY BARRY- 272-5395 OR ROBBIE BURGESS - 489-0476



Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, from left: The WHS varsity football team takes the field at Maize Field for the 2018 Homecoming game. The four WHS class floats in the 2018 Homecoming parade. Members of the JV team display sportsmanship after the game with St. Helena. Below: WHS varsity team senior standout Jacob Arms carries the ball.

WHS Homecoming

Wolverines play St. Helena, introduce king and queen, showcase floats and more at Friday celebration

Despite losses in both the varsity and junior varsity homecoming games Friday evening at Maize Field, the festivities – including floats, music by the WHS band, and a tribute to Willits athletic legend Jim Schroeder – delighted the crowd.

Prior to the game, spirits and hopes were high. The teams have had many challenges this year, not the least of which is that they are a small school with a small population from which to field a full team of offensive and defensive players.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathe@willitsweekly.com

The varsity team has “only four or five seniors,” explained district Superintendent Mark Westerburg. “A lot of our talent is in the younger grades. At small schools you kind of cycle through up and down the talent. We have some really good kids who are seniors, just not enough of them.”

“We’ve got our work cut out for us today,” continued Westerburg, “but it’s homecoming, we’re at our place ... who knows? Couple lucky breaks, a couple turnovers. It could all be good.” Unfortunately, it was not to be. The teams were outmatched and failed to play up to their strengths.

The varsity team lost their fifth consecutive game of the year 43 to 15. The junior varsity team lost their game as well, 48 to 7, but have a record of two wins and three losses for their efforts so far this year. The next game for both Willits teams will be on October 5 at Lower Lake.

“We have a larger program than last year,” said Michael Colvig, Willits High School principal. “We have more kids participating in the sport. Our junior varsity

team is doing really well. The varsity team is working on jump-starting their offense and making sure their defense is sound.

“The St. Helena team we’re competing against is a tough team. It should be a really good contest tonight,” concluded Colvig.

Josh Husarek, head coach of the junior varsity team, expressed his frustration at the team’s lack of depth: “We had no starting backfield tonight. We were playing subs in the backfield. But we finally woke up our passing game. Next game we’ll try to combine both of those and get a win.”

Optimism seems to be a hallmark of Willits High School athletics. It keeps them going against incredible odds and makes sure that they know what they are really there for. “It’s just fun,” Westerburg reminded. “The kids are pumped up. We had a great week of school. We did homecoming stuff all week long. It’s all about fun and memories. It’s not always about winning or losing. Wins are good, but we’ll take what we can get and enjoy the other ones too.”

Some of the fun and memories were definitely due to the homecoming floats. What they lacked in professionalism, they made up for in whimsy and good humor. The theme this year was “Flashback to the 80s,” notable for the fact that none of the students were even alive back then; in fact, neither were several of the teachers.

The senior float was an homage to the movie “E.T. The Extraterrestrial,” with the school Wolverine mascot riding his bike across the moon. The junior class offered

Read the rest of **Homecoming** [Over on Page 11](#)



Above, left: Super fan, Torron Henderson. Above, right: Cheerleaders Emma Crowe, McKenna McNelly, Elizabeth Henning, Lillian Turner, and Jessica Brown pose before the games.

Far left: Varsity quarterback DJ Buzzard goes back for a pass. At left: Santa Ramirez, left, with Bonnie Riley, president, and Shailyn Brewer, vice-president, of the Willits High School Booster Club run the kitchen.

Below, from left: Grand Marshal Karen Thiel and former WHS coach Jim Schroeder lead the parade. Katie Spackman and Jelly the goat. Jelly shared a kiss with Coach Chris Carr as part of a raffle contest. The WHS cheerleader squad entertains at halftime in “Flashdance” outfits. Lisa Reed sells raffle tickets for a prize basket to help fund the senior class trip.



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LEGAL NOTICES

WW186 Fictitious Business Name Statement

2018-F0552

The following person is doing business as Good Dog Daycare & Social Club, 56 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490: Christopher Todd Zeigler, 29400 Pincrest Road, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on September 6, 2018.

/s/ Christopher Todd Zeigler

Pub dates: 09/20, 09/27, 10/04, 10/11/2018

Willits Weekly can run your legal notices. Email us for more info: Willits Weekly@gmail.com

WW187

CITY OF WILLITS SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE ORDINANCE NO. 2018-03

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 26, 2018 regular noticed meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2018-03.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLITS AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF TITLE 17 OF THE WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE BY MODIFYING CHAPTERS 17.04, 17.06, 17.10, 17.12, 17.14, 17.16, 17.18, 17.20, 17.22, 17.24, 17.26 AND 17.28, AND ADDING CHAPTER 17.61 ENTITLED ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 17.63 ENTITLED EMERGENCY SHELTER REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 17.65 ENTITLED REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES AND CHAPTER 17.67 ENTITLED DENSITY BONUS.

The City Council adopted an Ordinance amending the City’s Municipal Code to achieve various housing goals identified in the City Housing Element and to conform with changes to State law. The Ordinance reduces regulatory barriers for the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU’s) by streamlining the permitting process and reducing the overall cost of ADU’s. The Ordinance establishes specific land use zoning and development standards for emergency shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing, farmworker housing and single-room occupancy units. The Ordinance also provides incentives for the production of affordable housing and other revisions to address a variety of housing needs in the community.

A certified copy of the full text of Ordinance No. 2018-03 is posted and may be read at the City Clerk’s office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California.

The foregoing Ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting, held on the 26th day of September, 2018 by the following vote:

AYES: Stranske, Orenstein, Strong, Rodriguez and Gonzalez
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

This summary of the adopted Ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code Section 36933.

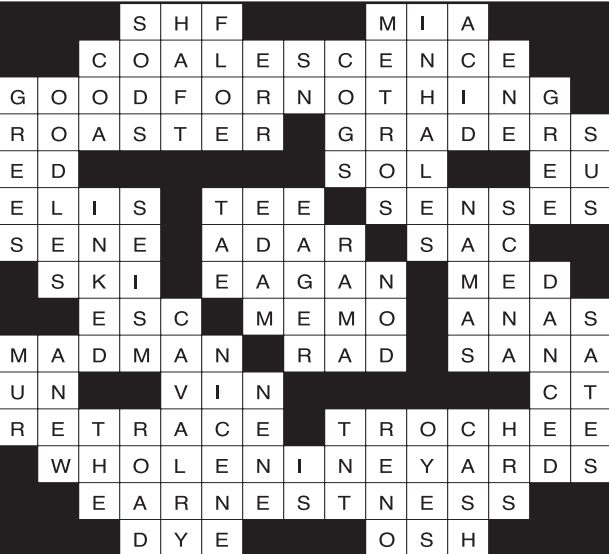
/s/ Cathy Moorhead, City Clerk
Publication Date: October 4, 2018



Current Job Openings:

Agricultural Measurement Standards Specialist I - Extra-help
Code Enforcement Officer I
Custodian
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner In Training - Extra-help
Eligibility Specialist I/II/III
Equipment Superintendent - Ukiah
Senior Public Health Nurse
Social Worker IV-A/B/C/D
Social Worker Supervisor I
Social Worker Supervisor II-A/B/C
Welfare Investigator I/II

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources
EOE



The rest of **WPD** [From Page 4](#)

reports of shots fired in the 2200 block of Center Valley Road.

10:46 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Willow Lane and Baechtel Road.

11:05 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 500 block of Railroad Avenue.

11:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 800 block of South Main Street.

September 30

2:42 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

4:40 am: DECASTRO, Benhur Spessato (33) of Willits was contacted in the 1200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

5:31 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

11:25 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

12:20 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Holly Street and Locust Street.

4:34 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:55 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:11 pm: CHAVAN, David Benjamin Jr. (38) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Creekside Court following a domestic disturbance. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of domestic battery.

The rest of **Homecoming** [From Page 10](#)

a scene from the film “Footloose” complete with hay bales. “Back to the Future” was the film chosen by the sophomore class, so of course they had the DeLorean, Marty McFly and “Doc” Brown. Finally, the freshman class had a float with a city scene and the logo from the movie “Ghostbusters.”

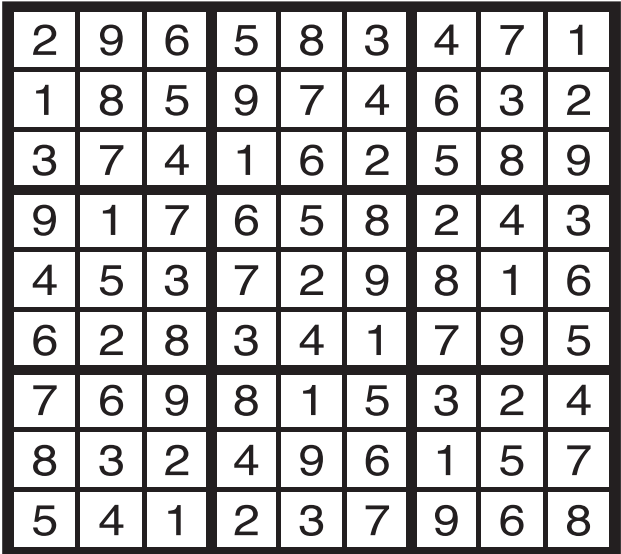
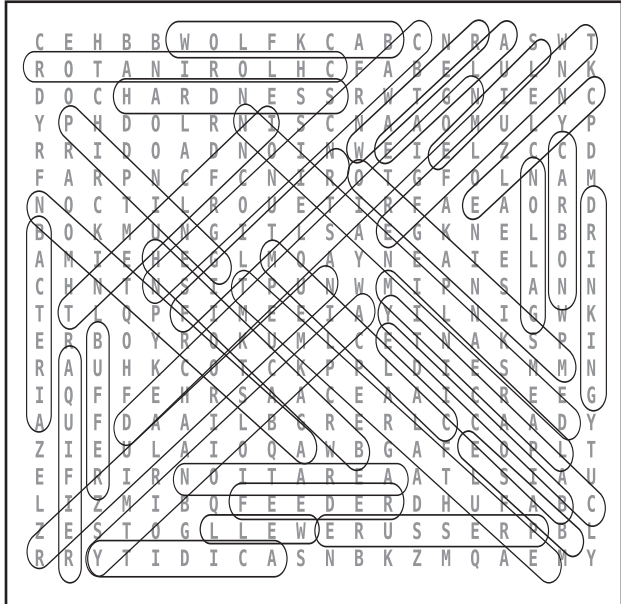
The floats followed Grand Marshal Karen Thiel, school attendance secretary, and Athlete’s Choice Jim Schroeder, who led the homecoming parade. Schroeder, a Willits High School athletic legend, coached and taught at the school for 30 years. In his tenure he brought home two football championships, five girls basketball championships, and 10 track and field championships.

Behind the grand marshal’s Ford Mustang came the various kings, queens, princes and princesses of each of the classes, led by the senior class king and queen, football player Keegan Reed and Daisy Barrett. Barrett had the queenly wave down like a professional.

The kitchen, run by the Willits High School Boosters with Santa Ramirez, Bonnie Riley and Shailyn Brewer, offered the usual array of cheeseburgers, hot dogs, Polish dogs, French fries, nachos, candy and drinks among other tasty treats. This is one of the club’s methods of raising funds to help supply the athletic teams with uniforms and other equipment. There were several other groups raising funds through raffles, including prize baskets to benefit the graduation night Sober Grad party and the senior class trip to the Winchester Mystery House and Great America, with prize items generously donated by local businesses.

Of course, there were the WHS cheerleaders, who worked both games with their indefatigable spirit. At halftime during the varsity game, they took the field for an intricate routine, dressed up in colorful “Flashdance” attire. Their dances, some of which were created by last year’s seniors and by their director, Megan Freudenberg, were greeted with applause from the crowd.

The Willits High School Band, under the direction of first-year teacher Meghan Doorty, also created excitement in the stands. Band members were accompanied by Chris Olds, Baechtel Grove music teacher, on drums, as well as some of his students.



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Help Wanted

Massage Therapist needed at Willits Chiropractic Clinic, please call for details and interview. (707) 459-4689

Help Wanted

Professional Dog Groomer Wanted. 2 years' experience; full time; able to work alone; has tools; friendly and calm attitude; all sizes and breeds. Please call 707-972-7911.

Help Wanted

Shuster's Transportation, Inc seeks Class A Drivers for Full-Time Chip Truck position. Benefit package includes medical, dental, and holiday pay. Min 1 year experience and current DMV report required: 707-459-4131.

Help Wanted

AH-Home Health & Hospice is looking to fill the following positions: RN, PT- OT- ST & HHA F/T, P/T & Per Diem available. Call HR Trudy at 707-456-3230 or apply online at adventisthealth.org.

Office Space for Rent

1 large space 3400'. Several small offices 100' & 270'. Call Megan 972-8776 or Margie 459-6874.

Rob-n-Hoe Backhoe Service

Non-contractor – 45 years experience. Fire clearing, lot cleaning, road work, septic system repair, trenching, footings, etc. Small jobs OK, great rates. Call Rob Decker at 707-354-3920

Room for Rent

Room for rent, in city. \$500/month including utilities. No pets. Plus \$100 deposit. Available now. 459-0547.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 354-1848. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/p>

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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home



Sweet Boulder

Boulder was surrendered to us when his family moved to a no-pets-allowed housing. They reported he was house-trained and was friendly with other animals and people. Boulder is having a hard time adjusting to life in the shelter – he is worried about meeting new people and new situations. It is especially challenging for dogs who've been part of a family to get used to being here, and we would like to find him his true forever home ASAP! He will need a gentle and patient guardian who will expose him slowly to his new home and life in general. We think that once he knows he is safe and loved he'll be back to his sweet self in no time. Boulder is a 3-year-old neutered

male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 60 pounds.

The Ukiah Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453. Help get every dog at the Ukiah shelter out for some exercise at the "Empty the Shelter" pack walk every second Saturday of the month, coming up on October 13.

Jaunty Bandit

Bandit is a jaunty little Jack Russell Terrier who will steal your heart!

He was a stray that was taken in by a kind soul who tried for three weeks to find his owner, but was finally forced to bring him to the shelter. He's a little timid at first, but before long he has you smiling at his antics as he scampers around. With all the recent changes in his life, he is still trying to see the bright side – that there are many wonderful people looking for a special canine companion like him. Are you that person? Come meet him soon!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is located at 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Please give us a call at 707-485-0123 if you have questions. You can view all our adoptable dogs and cats on Peffinder or through our website: mendohumanesociety.com. To volunteer or help take the dogs for a walk, please join HSIMC on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.



Willits High School's

Amazing Athletes

Soccer | Emily Acevedo, 17, Senior

How long playing the sport: 13 years

Breakfast of Champions: Yogurt and fruit

Love of the sport: "I love the intensity of the sport and constant movement."

Other sports played: None right now.

Emily Acevedo is a senior and one of our team captains. She is a strong presence on the field and is able to play anywhere we need her. This season she has mostly been playing in the midfield and wing positions. She is currently 8th in league for most goals scored this season.

– Submitted by Coach Tatiana Cantrell

Football | Darrell Buzzard Jr., 17, Senior

How long playing the sport: "My whole life – started when I was six – this is my 10th or 11th season."

Breakfast of Champions: A nice bowl of cereal – Life cereal.

Love of the sport: "It's fun to play. I like the family aspect of it – my friends become brothers."

Other sports played: Basketball and baseball.

DJ is a true captain's captain. He has been our captain for the past four years (JV and varsity) and has led us both on and off the field. When times are tough, everyone looks to DJ. He shows up and works each day in practice, and it shows in his play on Friday nights.

– Submitted by Coach Chris Bickford



The rest of
Arson | From Page 1

"I am very proud of our law enforcement officers, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office for working together on this case," said CalFire Mendocino Unit Chief George Gonzalez. "Our communities are much safer after this arrest."

Kirk was taken to county jail, where bail was set at \$150,000.

Gonzalez noted "fire danger remains high" across the state, and wildfires "pose a major threat to life property and our state's natural resources."

He urges north county residents to remain vigilant and "aware of suspicious activity when a fire does start."

If individuals are seen engaging

in suspicious behavior, Gonzalez said, he warns citizens "not to approach the individual," but to note the suspect's location, gender, weight, height, hair color, clothing, and other distinguishing marks, such as tattoos."

A description of a subject's vehicle, such as make or model, color, license plate number (even partial), bumper stickers or other markings, and the number of occupants in the vehicle can be extremely helpful, he added.

Noting the time the suspect was seen "can be one of the most important pieces of information for investigators," Gonzalez said.

This report was based on a press release from CalFire's Mendocino Unit.

The rest of
Accident | From Page 1

Highway Patrol's Garberville office.

Investigation into the accident continues.

Maffia, according to CHP reports, took evasive action, but could not avoid colliding with the driver's side of the pickup. The Ram spun off the highway, coming to rest on the west shoulder of the roadway and bursting into flame, while the Peterbilt came to rest in the northbound lane, spilling its load of lumber, which blocked both lanes of Highway 101.

Both Martin and her niece, Victoria NeVaeh Eileen Stewart, an eighth-grader at Baechtel Grove Middle School and Willits Youth Football cheerleader, were pronounced dead at the scene, the CHP reported. Maffia escaped with minor injuries.

Highway 101 was closed for about two hours following the accident, then reopened to one-way controlled traffic while investigation into the accident continued.

The CHP was not able to say whether recent light rain contributed to the accident.

Supes adopt new accessory dwelling unit regs

Amendments to the county code affecting the regulation of accessory dwelling units were approved unanimously 4-0 Tuesday by the board of supervisors. First District Supervisor Carre Brown was absent.

The amendments were added to help allay the county's housing crisis.

An "accessory dwelling unit" is a residential dwelling which may either be attached or detached to the main dwelling unit on a parcel, and which provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons.

According to the chapter amendments, ADUs contain "separate, permanent provisions for entry, living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation on the same parcel as a single-family dwelling."

The units will be permitted in all zoning districts which allow single-family dwellings and must have access to an adequate water system and adequate sewage disposal system as approved by the Department of Environmental Health.

For a detached ADU, floor space may not exceed 1,200 square feet. For an attached ADU, floor space may not exceed 50 percent of the existing house, or more than 1,200 square feet. If fire sprinklers are not required in the main house, they won't be required in the ADU.

ADUs, however, will not be allowed if more than one dwelling unit – including farm employee housing, farm labor housing, or temporary family care unit – already exists on the parcel, or if two accessory residential units already exist on the parcel.

An accessory residential unit is defined as "any combination of guest cottages and detached bedrooms."

The code amendments also include a new definition of and regulations for "junior accessory dwelling units," which are defined as a living space not to exceed 500 square feet which must be built within an existing single-family dwelling.

AJADU may include separate sanitation facilities, or it may share sanitation facilities with the existing structure. Only one JADU is permitted per residential lot,

and the owner of the lot must reside on-site.

JADUs may not be sold separately, and rentals for terms shorter than 30 days are prohibited. They must include an "efficiency kitchen" – defined as a cooking facility that does not require the use of natural or propane gas, or of electrical appliances that require more than 120 volts to operate. Efficiency kitchens must have "a food preparation counter and storage cabinets ... of reasonable size in relation to the size of the junior accessory dwelling unit."

Although the language contained in the ordinance amendments is pretty boilerplate, one topic of dispute did arise after Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde said he was unhappy with the provision that a JADU needed to be constructed within an existing single-family residence.

According to a strict interpretation of the ordinance, it would be illegal for a property owner to build a JADU as an addition to an existing house; a JADU could only be built within an existing house.

Gjerde urged staff to alter the amendment language into allowing a JADU to be built either as an add-on or an add-in.

Gjerde and county staff met during lunch, and staff convinced Gjerde the benefits of requiring that JADUs be built within an existing dwelling were consistent with state accessory dwelling regulations, while facilitating county overview of the construction and permitting process.

Deputy County Counsel Matthew Kiedrowski later explained to supervisors why the language was left the way it was.

"The primary concern was thinking about water and sewer or septic capacity," Kiedrowski said. "By allowing a one-step process [which is what Gjerde wanted], our concern was, would any water district or our own Department of Environmental Health lose any access to [an inspection which would allow county inspectors to ask] should there be more septic capacity? Or is this extra bedroom under a water moratorium, so that extra bedroom would have an impact on their water district?"

Slow change coming in county cannabis unit

Despite an issued-and-approved rate that continues to hover around 23 percent, there are signs the county's cannabis unit administrative team is working hard to increase efficiency.

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

On Tuesday, Cannabis Unit Program Administrator Chevon Holmes told supervisors she had facilitated a meeting of county staff from the various governmental departments that are part of the permitting and code enforcement functions. Holmes termed this group a "micro-team" and said getting together to talk about the cannabis program was helpful.

The purpose of the micro-team meeting was so "people who work in separate departments [could] better collaborate together to come up with final determinations regarding applications," Holmes continued. "One of the things I've found over about the past six months – there was a bit of a disconnect between some of the key components of the process, and we have been trying to identify where the system breaks down and restructure the relationships so more communication can happen across departments that isn't so laborious."

Holmes said she plans on having monthly micro-team meetings.

She said she recently attended a meeting of representatives from several key state agencies involved in cannabis licensing and regulation, including the Department of Food and Agriculture, the Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Water Resources, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The meeting focused on how Mendocino County cannabis cultivators get state licenses.

"In addition to realizing our departments need to communicate better, state agency cross-communication is also rather difficult," Holmes said. "We're trying to coordinate with Fish and Wildlife, because we want to know if Fish and Wildlife has issued a notice of violation on the property long before we look at issuing a permit there. So, one of the things we talked about was: how do we communicate better? And what are the lenses other agencies are using to evaluate our sites?"

Holmes described the meeting as "quite productive."

"They also gave us some interesting feedback regarding the requirements for the water board, water rights, and Fish and Wildlife," she noted. "That information is going to be key in us finalizing the direction we will take."

Holmes told supervisors she was surprised by the turnout at the cannabis permit application workshop on September 28 at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits – both by the number of people who

attended the workshop and by the relative state of cannabis program innocence of those who attended.

"We saw an extremely large amount of traffic for a satellite office," Holmes said, "and I learned a very good lesson. It's 2018. Proof of prior is before January 1, 2016. Folks need an education. That's going to be another one of my priorities right now – making sure folks understand what eligibility for cannabis cultivation in this county means. Out of all that traffic, only two people were already in our process. [All the others] were brand-new applicants who were just coming to the table and interested in earning permits."

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde asked why people were applying for permits now, during or after the presumed 2018 cannabis harvest season. "Do you hear any reasons why people are coming in now, as opposed to a year ago, or six months ago? Are people responding to code enforcement, and realizing they are either going to be shut down or get a permit? Or are they looking at the legal market and realizing that's their path forward? Or is it some other reason?"

"My shock is about the newness of people who are inquiring," Holmes said. "For someone to take a seat at the table at this stage of the game is sort of interesting. There were quite a few people who were clearly not of the historical Mendocino County cultivation community. They were definitely newer than a lot of our applicants."

"If you were in the 9.31 program or if you were a standing cultivator, you applied early, because it was a priority to you," she said. "So, I couldn't exactly tell you why people have taken so long [to apply, or to inquire about possibly applying in the future]. But rather, I can understand wanting to know exactly what things were going to look like before making the final decision."

"I think it's mixed. I honestly believe people don't know if they want to move forward, and making that decision requires more information. And it may very well be that simple," Holmes said.

According to the most recent information on application and permit numbers, as of September 24, the Department of Agriculture had received 1,031 applications for a cultivation permit, had issued 189, and had approved 44, for an "issued-and-approved" total of 233. That's four more than had been issued and approved on August 27. Possibly the biggest numerical change in the cannabis program report was a decision by the department to shift nearly 200 applications from the "in queue" column to the "under review" column.

As of August 27, the cannabis unit had 513 applications under review and 192 in queue. As of September 24, the unit had 710 applications under review and just 10 applications in queue.

The rest of
Grants | From Page 2

workshops and/or carefully reading the grant guidelines.

The Community Enrichment Grant program is made possible through the Community Foundation's "Community Endowment Fund." The Community Endowment has been built by contributions that vary from a check for \$25 to an estate gift valued at several hundred thousand dollars. Donors who give to the Community Endowment fund know their gifts will be used for long-term benefit, here in Mendocino County.

Field-of-Interest Funds are established to make grants in specified areas of interest (e.g., the environment or human services), or specified geographical areas, or both. In 2016, the Community Foundation began offering a separate competitive grant program for select Field-of-Interest funds. Not every Field-of-Interest fund is offered through the competitive grant program every year. The 2019 grant program is made possible thanks to the following Field-of-Interest Funds: Blood Bank of the Redwoods Legacy Fund; Charles F. Flinn and Walker B. Tilley Fund for Sustainable Forestry; Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund; Environmental Education & Conservation Fund; Environmental Education & Conservation Fund; Releaf Tree Planting; Fraeda Dubin & Pat Denny Endowment Funds; Fund for Trails and Open Space; Haigh-Scatena Youth Leadership, Empowerment, and Advocacy Fund; Jane Anderson Developmental Disability Fund; John and Sandra Mayfield Family Economic Development Fund; Judy Pruden Historical Preservation Fund; Textile and Fiber Arts Endowment Fund; and Ukiah Saturday Afternoon Club Endowment Fund

For more information about applying to the Community Enrichment or Field-of-Interest Grant program or about how you can make a gift to the Community Endowment Fund, visit www.communityfound.org.





50th Birthday

Celebrate the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act at the Willits Hub, Little Darby Recreation Area

The Eel River Recovery Project is celebrating 50 years of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on the evening of Friday, October 5 at the Willits Hub with a BBQ and presentations. On Saturday, October 6 there will be a walk and work day at the Little Darby Recreation Area east of Willits.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed by Congress on October 2, 1968 and was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. A total of 394 miles of the Eel River has been designated "Wild and Scenic," which means no additional dams can be built.

EERP's celebration includes an albacore BBQ on Friday, October 5 at 5 pm, followed by presentations. The featured speaker, Greg Israel, operates Rubicon Adventures and will present a slide show entitled "Rafting the Wild and Scenic Eel River." EERP Wilderness Coordinator Phill Hosking will be on hand to talk about volunteer opportunities that include trail improvement and clean-up of trespass grows in wilderness areas.

The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The agency's Arcata office manages tracts in the Eel River watershed, including the Little Darby Recreation Area where Saturday's walk and trail project will take place.

The Little Darby Recreation Area is located 5 miles east of Willits on Canyon Road and has outstanding natural values that include old growth Douglas fir. The intact understory of this old forest is rare in the region, and the site is rich in biodiversity, including diverse mosses and bryophytes.

On Saturday, October 6 the Willits Goes Wild van will leave the Willits Hub at 9:30 am. If you drive to the site, plan to convene at Little Darby at 10 am. A walk will be led by EERP managing director and fish biologist Pat Higgins. The trail is somewhat steep, so wear appropriate shoes. Those wishing to get some more exercise can help with trail maintenance, which will include restoring small side trails and shortcuts that can cause erosion. Equipment will be provided.

For more information on the Wild and Scenic celebration and field day, please see the EERP website at www.eelriverrecovery.org, follow EERP on Facebook, or call 707 223-7200. There is no charge for the BBQ or the event, but donations will be accepted. More information on the national Wild and Scenic Celebration is at <https://rivers.gov/wsr50/index.php>.



At top, left: A beautiful shot of the Eel River from September 15.

At top, right: The North Fork of the Eel River.

Above: The mighty Eel River near Alderpoint in December 2017.

At left: The Middle Fork of the Eel River.



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The rest of Measure B

From Page 1

presented to the Measure B committee on August 29.

The report detailed a variety of shortcomings Kemper found in the county mental health system and included a long list of suggestions on how to use Measure B funds. The half-cent sales tax was passed by voters last year to pay for construction and operation of a new mental health facility.

According to Diamond, no official recommendations have yet been made to the county board of supervisors, and no timeline has been set to do so. However, he indicated some members of the 11-person committee agreed with Kemper's assessment that an approach utilizing multiple facility types would be the most successful, rather than focusing efforts on creating a new lockdown psychiatric health facility. (PHF units house "5150" inpatients who have been deemed a danger to themselves or others, as well as voluntary patients in need of high-level care).

"The services ... need to be comprehensive, it has to look at everything," said Diamond. "An inpatient psychiatric facility of whatever kind is the most expensive. It's the most difficult to build, to fund and so on, and so we need to look carefully at anything we would do in that area."

Diamond explained one of the suggestions which had gained support was to create a multi-use mental health headquarters at the Orchard Avenue location of Redwood Quality Management in Ukiah. This would follow through on a project that had previously stalled due to lack of funding.

If this approach were approved, Measure B money would be used to create a crisis stabilization unit on the first floor of the building for those who need emergency psychiatric care over a 24-hour period, and a crisis residential facility would be located on the second floor for those who needed longer-term care.

Diamond said this would be a good starting point for improving mental health services in the community.

"Pretty much everyone who is conversant with mental health services believes this would be a good first step, including (the Kemper Group)," said Diamond. "There's some real need to have a facility for longterm people because this won't solve all the problem for the need for longterm care, but it would help, and it seems like a good place to start."

However, Measure B Committee Chairman Tom Allman, who helped lead the effort to get the proposition passed, has been that the focus should be on opening a new PHF facility.

At the September 26 Measure B meeting just prior to the council meeting, Allman explained how he believes a local PHF unit would help law enforcement officers and others who are currently overburdened in handling those with mental health problems, and also would be beneficial for local patients and their families who end up having to seek such services out of the county.

"I've been in law enforcement for 34 years. What prompted me to push for Measure AG and AH, and then Measure B, was the lack of a PHF unit in this county," Allman said.

"Our society has, either intentionally or unintentionally, changed the paradigm from having mental health workers taking care of mental health patients and victims, to putting law enforcement officers as initial responders," he continued.

"When we see tragedies on

TV of law enforcement using lethal force against someone who is mentally ill, it certainly is a reason for the community to say: 'We can do better.' And I think we can do better.

"And while the Kemper Report urges us to look at the preventative [side of things] – and when you have an auditor talking about preventative services being the most important – that rings true, and I agree with that.

"However, the reality of a crisis happening at any time in this county with a person who's never experienced any kind of trauma exists – and it happens every day. And law enforcement responds, law enforcement uses hours and hours to respond, and we transport to emergency departments.

"That was the catalyst for me," Allman said, "hoping to improve the mental health services in Mendocino County. So if this county says crisis residential and crisis stabilization is the way to go, without prioritizing a psychiatric health facility then, in my opinion, we are going against the voters' intent.

"When I was collecting signatures, voters were very strong on that, asking why do our mental health victims have to be transported to Yuba County, or Sacramento, or Redding, or Vallejo, to receive treatment – where their families can't even see them, where they can't wear their own clothes. And when they are released, they're not even going to see the doctors who were initially treating them?"

Diamond said the Redwood Quality Management site could potentially add a third facility which would be a 16-bed PHF unit, and the committee was still exploring other inpatient facility options as well.

These options include adding psychiatric wings to the main hospitals in Willits and/or Ukiah, and the controversial idea of using the old Howard Hospital building – which has not been ruled out. Adventist Health Howard Memorial CEO Jason Wells told the committee that due to the extensive regulation requirements, building and opening a PHF wing at the Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital would likely be a six-year process.

Diamond explained to the council why the county would be wise to pursue a full array of mental health services, including a PHF unit.

"We are already spending a huge amount of money outside what we think of as the community mental health system," he said. "People are going with mental health problems to [emergency rooms], which is a very high level of care, very expensive and not very effective for dealing with psychiatric emergencies."

"The other place, as you know, where people end up who are not in the mental health system is law enforcement.... That's also a very expensive way to provide services, and it's not very effective."

While there was no timeline set for the Measure B committee to make its recommendations, Diamond acknowledged Allman is pushing for decisions to be made more quickly.

"There are 11 people on the board, we all vote, and nothing gets passed unless a majority agrees with it," he said. "No one member dominates and says: 'Here's how this is going to be.'"

"Certainly the sheriff was hoping we would make some recommendations right away, and I think the consensus of the committee was: 'We'll take whatever time it takes to make good recommendations.'"

Additional reporting on this story was done by Mike A'Dair.

The rest of Forums

From Page 1

interested in getting their questions answered about Measure J has been set for Thursday, October 4, at 5:30 pm at the firehouse, 74 East Commercial Street. Consultant Lorie Adams of the Adams Ashby Group will be available to answer questions about the USDA loan to build the new firehouse, which the property assessment established by Measure J – \$78 per year for a single-family residence – will help pay back. Project architect Dennis Dong, of Calpo Hom and Dong Architects, out of Sacramento, will answer questions about the firehouse design.

Also on Thursday, October 4, from 6:30 to 9 pm, candidates for Third District supervisor John Haschak and John Pinches and candidates for Willits City Council Jeremy Hershman, Greta Kanne and Larry Stranske will face off at a forum at Willits City Hall, 71 East Commercial Street. This forum is sponsored by the American Association of University Women, Willits Environmental Center, Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, and Willits Economic Localization. For those who can't make it, the forum will be recorded by independent producers Al Rosen and Andy Wright, and put online for viewing at the Willits Community TV channel on YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/WillitsCommunityTV.

A forum for candidates for the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees has been set for Thursday, October 18, 6:30 pm, at the Willits High School Alan Garcia Auditorium, 299 North Main Street. The forum features candidates Robert Chavez, Jeanne King, Dianne McNeal, Christopher Neary, and Paula Nunez, who are running for three longterm seats on the school board, and candidates Bob Colvig and Dany Laurent, who are running for one short-term seat.

This forum is sponsored by the Willits Teachers Association, the California Schools Employees Association, and American Association of University Women.

Voter registration deadline for the November 6 election is October 22 – your application must be postmarked or submitted online (<https://registertovote.ca.gov>) by that date. However, under California's new "conditional voter registration," eligible citizens who missed the October 22 deadline to register or update their voter registration information can visit their county elections office – 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020 in Mendocino County – to register and vote conditionally all the way through Election Day.

Conditional ballots will be processed once the elections office has verified the voter's registration information. For more information about voting in Mendocino County, visit <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections> or call 707-234-6819.

The rest of Caltrans

From Page 1

Duley said the work to be completed by the end of October will include new striping of the roads as laid out in the Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan.

That plan was designed by the city with a lot of input from the community in late 2016, and won the "Hard Won Victories" Award from the Northern California chapter of the American Planning Association last year.

The new striping will create buffered bike lanes through the town on both sides of the road, and while eliminating the central turn lane in some places, will keep all downtown street parking north of the Willits Post Office.

Duley added that the Sherwood Road construction project will not be completed until early summer 2019. That will be the final phase of the relinquishment project, at which point Caltrans will officially return ownership of the Main Street corridor to the city.

The rest of Raise

From Page 1

agreement, Angelo's annual salary will remain at \$220,000 through October 6, 2022.

The salary deal was approved by all four supervisors present at the meeting. First District Supervisor Carre Brown was absent by pre-arrangement.

The salary hike was defended by Second District Supervisor John McCowen and Third District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey.

McCowen said Angelo has brought "significant economic advantages to the county," and named Angelo's work in orchestrating fire recovery efforts in Redwood Valley as one of her most laudable endeavors.

He noted Angelo played a key role in getting the state Office of Emergency Services to step in after companies working under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had badly over-excavated dozens of properties in Redwood Valley.

The OES worked with Mendocino County and with private contractors to add fill to those properties to return the level of the ground to what it was before the fire.

McCowen also lauded the leadership role Angelo played in securing grants to rebuild the portion of the county devastated by the Redwood fire of October 2017.

According to a report provided by Division of Disaster Recovery Financial Officer Darcie Antle, the county has secured grants totaling \$1.9 million to rebuild the water delivery system of the Redwood Valley County Water District, \$4 million to help rebuild and restore the fire area, has applied for another \$7.5 million to help rebuild Redwood Valley's water system, and applied for a total of \$13 million in grants.

According to Antle, the county will apply for another \$5 million in grants this month.

McCowen also noted the original financial sacrifice made by Angelo when she went to work for the county as CEO. The salary of Thomas Mitchell – the county's CEO before Angelo was hired – was set at \$180,296 in January 2009. Mitchell continued to work at that salary until he left his position in late March 2010.

When Angelo was hired on March 10, 2010, her salary was set at \$150,000 a year, \$30,000 a year less than Mitchell's. She retained that level of pay for four years and eight months, until November 2014.

"This raise, although very significant, is frankly a bit of 'catch-up' for, in some ways, almost being insulted for being hired at 17 percent less than her immediate predecessor, and a bit of 'catch-up' for being frozen at the same salary for many years," McCowen said. "I don't think there's anyone else working for the county that is in a position that, finally, for the first time after eight and a half years, finally is being paid more than

New city code enforcement officer

The council was introduced to newly hired City Building Official and Code Enforcement Officer Christopher Morgan.

Morgan is taking over for longtime Willits Building Official John Sherman, who is retiring and currently helping Morgan transition into the job.

"I'm excited to begin to serve the needs of the city of Willits," said Morgan. "I appreciate what [John Sherman's] doing for me. Typically, you're just thrown into these situations, and it's sink or swim. So, I have a unique opportunity... I'm happy to be here."

Duley said the city picked the right person for the job.

"Willits, I think, is lucky to get Mr. Morgan to come work for us," he said. "Not only does he have the skillset, but ... he has the right attitude to be a good fit for Willits.

"I was really nervous for the city to fill that position, but meeting Mr. Morgan has really put me at ease."

what their predecessor got."

Third District Supervisor Croskey also praised Angelo. "I think we are very lucky to have Ms. Angelo as our CEO," she said. "This is evidenced by her recent awards, and by really putting the county first. I think it would cost us a lot more than what we see here on the paper before us [that is, the proposed pay increases] to really replace her with a CEO of similar caliber.

"While it is nice to receive awards at RCRC and CSAC [the Rural Counties Representatives of California and the State Supervisors Association of California, two statewide political groups], I do think monetary compensation at some point goes a long way to show our appreciation for her hard work and dedication to this county."

The move to approve Angelo's salary increase was criticized by representatives from Service Employees International Union Local 1021. According to an October 1 press release from SEIU 1021, the union has "called on the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to put a hold on any increases in management salaries until the county has completed its long-delayed Classification and Compensation Study."

The SEIU letter referenced last week's report to the board of supervisors from Katie Kaneko, project manager for Koff and Associates, which is directing the Classification and Compensation Study of Mendocino County government employees.

Kaneko told supervisors the study would be completed by June 30, 2019. According to the SEIU letter, tacit acceptance of this statement by the board of supervisors amounted to a delay in the study.

"The delay in the Classification and Compensation Study has fueled anger among county employees already troubled by the board's controversial vote to raise their own salaries by 39 percent earlier this year. County staff has also watched as most department heads and managers received 20 to 30 percent increases over the last year while the review of their wage rates has stalled," the SEIU letter said.

The letter also referenced salary increases for three other county employees: a 9 percent increase for the public defender and a 21.5 percent increase for the assistant commissioner of agriculture.

"Approving these large increases just a week after delaying yet again the review of county employee wages sends the absolute wrong message," said Mendocino County social worker and SEIU 1021 President Kort Pettersen. "At last week's board of supervisors meeting, I gave each member an abbreviated version of 'Leaders Eat Last,' by Simon Sinek, which promotes a more inclusive and egalitarian leadership style. I believe it is something Mendocino County really needs to take to heart."

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Above: Sober Grad's 2018 Fall Raffle basket includes three tickets to Disneyland.

Sober Grad fall raffle basket

Drawing to be held November 14

Tickets for Sober Grad's Fall Raffle Basket are now on sale. Basket prizes, valued at \$800, include three Disneyland tickets. Look for the basket around town, including this week at Brookside School, on October 6 at Mariposa Market from 10 am to 2 pm, October 7 at Safeway, from 1 to 4 pm, and at the Harvest Moon festival in downtown Willits on October 19.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing will be held on Wednesday, November 14.

Willits Sober Grad is a nonprofit organization that raises funds each year to provide a safe and sober party for graduating seniors of high schools in the Willits community. Since the inception of the Sober Grad party in 1987, no lives of graduates have been lost on graduation night.

For more information, contact Trey Grant at 707-459-5385, ext. 1470.

'Why We Support Measure J'

Willits City Councilmember
Gerry Gonzalez

This "Why We Support Measure J" feature is a series of quick interviews by Willits Weekly reporter Alyson Bailey, featuring area residents talking about why they are voting "Yes" on Measure J.

My name is Gerry Gonzalez, and I was born at Howard Hospital and raised in Willits. I spent over 32 years working for the City of Willits as a dispatcher, volunteer reserve police officer, police officer and the last 13 years as the chief of police. I continue my service to the community as a member of the Willits City Council.

The Willits Police Department was moved 30 years ago to its current location because [its former location] the firehouse building was outdated along with having structural issues. The current firehouse needs much work and may not survive in the event of a major earthquake.

A new firehouse would be built to hopefully withstand any serious earthquake damage and can be used as an alternative emergency operations and dispatch center. The people who will help you in the event of a major fire or other natural disaster cannot reach you if their equipment does not make it out of the firehouse. This past October taught us that we are not immune from wildfire dangers.

Like many of you who grew up in town, I have had a firefighter respond to help me at a fire, with a gas line issue, or medical emergency at some point during my life. As a police officer, I depended on our volunteer firefighters



Above: Willits City Councilmember and former Willits police chief, Gerry Gonzalez.

to respond to accidents and medical aid calls. Sometimes the difference between someone living or not was because of the fire response, as we sometimes do not have enough ambulance coverage.

We have a dedicated group of men and women who volunteer their time and lives to help us. Let's help them by giving them a place to keep us safe. Join me in voting Yes on "J."

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