

Donations Accepted Edition No. 277

**Thursday, October 11, 2018**

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Read the rest of  
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Over on page 11

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Read the rest of **Fallis**  
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**Mike A'Dair**  
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Read the rest of  
**Angelo**  
*Over on page 11*



Above, from left: The exterior – and interior – of the current Little Lake Fire station on East Commercial Street is falling into serious disrepair. A 3-D model of the new firehouse hoped to be built after the passage of Measure J. Just above the receptionist desk and next to the fire chief's door, the vent in the ceiling is framed by water damage, peeling sheetrock and rot.



*Photos by  
Maureen  
Moore*

## Little Lake Fire Department hopes for new firehouse with 'Yes' vote for Measure J on November 6

This is a scary thought, but a real possibility if the

The current firehouse was an old city building from

Read the rest of  
**Measure J** | *Over on Page 4*



Members of the Visit Willits board of directors are looking forward to their big event – the first Willits Wild Fest – set for Saturday, October 20. The Wild Fest features a 5K walk/run and a 10K and half-marathon race the board hopes will draw out-of-town and local runners and walkers to enjoy the route along the gorgeous fall-time Little Lake Valley.

**Jennifer Poole**  
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Read the rest of **Fest** | *Over on page 9*



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**Debate**  
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**WUSD**  
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Read the rest of  
**Complaints** |  
*Over on page 4*

A delight to read  
To the Editor:  
Your frontpage article in the October 4 edition was a delight to read. Thank you for the word "petrichor," for the lovingly composed pictures of raindrops, and for making mundane news come to life in a memorable way.

After a week of reading the national newspapers with their depressing headlines and photographs, picking up the Willits Weekly reminded me that there is more to news than politics.

I live mostly in the Bay Area but we have also had a home here for over 40 years. "The First Rainfall" reminded me once again how much this place means to us. Please write more articles like this one!

Jo Bradley, Willits

Forum for school board candidates

To the Editor:  
Willits area residents, the November elections are upon us. This election cycle has four Willits Unified School District board member's seats on the ballot: three long-term positions and one short-term position.

These positions are very important to the students, staff and the public of the Willits area. Decisions by the school board affect a broad range of the public in our area. From student's current and future needs, employees and families of the district, district buildings and infrastructure, residents of Willits, as well as businesses in Willits.

There are seven candidates running for four seats on the school board. The CSEA (classified staff), WTA (certified staff), PTO, Blosser and Brookside (parent teacher organization), and the AAUW (American Association of University Women) have united to sponsor a school board candidates forum. The forum will ask questions to the candidates to help inform the public about the candidates and the issues within the Willits Unified School District.

The forum is on Thursday, October 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, or until finished. The forum will take place at the Alan Garcia Auditorium at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. The public is invited and encouraged to come and participate. Anyone wishing to ask questions can come to the forum or submit questions to dangreen@willitsunified.com.

Our goal is to have a productive and positive forum, and to help the public make informed decisions at the ballot box.

Dan Green, president, CSEA Chapter 261, Willits Unified School District

Support Measure J

To the Editor:  
Our Little Lake Fire Department is there for us. It is staffed by hardworking, dedicated personnel. When you have an emergency, they respond 24/7. The department has 40 volunteers and four paid staff. We depend

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

Volume 6, Number 277

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Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

on them to protect our lives and property.  
Little Lake Fire Department needs a safe and functional firehouse. Their plans call for a modest yet modern building with no frills. It is the most economical facility that conforms to code.

Measure J will not just pay for a new firehouse. It will let our firefighters and first responders know we are there for them. We are all on the same team.

Remember every time you hear a siren to think: Vote Yes on Measure J. Do it for our Little Lake Fire Department and for your own safety.

Marc Komer and Robin Goldner, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:  
The Willits Frontier Days Junior program would like to thank everyone that supported and made our first event a success. Thank you to the community for your support. Thank you to everyone that came and helped set up, put on, and take down our barrels and poles series. Especially a huge thank you to Billy and Shelly Rutler, Erinn and Earl Rambauth, Fred Barry, Maureen Scarbery, and Carrie Oliver.

We want to thank the riders and their parents for coming and supporting and, especially, competing. We can't wait for next year's barrel and poles series!

Hailey Riley, Willits

Haschak for supervisor

To the Editor:  
This is a critical time in Mendocino County. We are dealing with multiple challenges including finding ways to improve mental health services, bringing new jobs to our area, protecting and supporting small cannabis farmers and integrating them into the mainstream economy. We need innovative leadership in these and other areas.

We also need a person who is passionate about people and willing to reach out and listen to everyone. John Haschak has shown a willingness and an ability to lead and to listen, two qualities that are rare today.

Jed and Carlin Diamond, Willits

Haschak for supervisor

To the Editor:  
The Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group would like to endorse John Haschak for Third District supervisor of Mendocino County. He is the most qualified candidate to properly represent our district. With his continued involvement in our community, attending various meetings, farmers markets, and hosting meet and greets, he has shown that he really cares about the needs of our district.  
He also actively attends the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meetings to stay current with policies and issues affecting our county. He understands the obstacles that cannabis farmers are faced with and is determined to support sensible regulations.  
Our district needs proper representation and, with John Haschak as our district

supervisor, we are sure to see positive changes. We need a supervisor who will be a noble leader by listening to the people, staying honest and true, and ultimately representing the people.

John has an extensive background in education, working in the Peace Corps and also managing extensive budgets. He has great ideas for helping to boost the economy of our county and will be a great leader we can all be proud of. He has our vote and we hope he will have yours, too.

Monique Ramirez, for the Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group

Pinches for supervisor

To the Editor:  
Wake up Third District voters! The eyes of the nation are upon you. Don't think that the powers of corporate interest is not here, for it is and has raised its evil and corrupt head already. I just don't talk about the supervisors themselves but the ones really in control. I don't need to name names for anyone who is awake knows whom I talk of.  
Anyway in a normal candidate race I'm sure that John Haschak would be fine. Unfortunately these are not normal times.

We need a supervisor that cannot be bought and has the wherewithal to stand up and confront the forces that plan to pay off politicians to control the fledgling business of legal cannabis.

That person is John Pinches! Make no mistake, like Britain in the 1930s, we need the dogged determination of the bulldog to defend us from the forces that will do us harm!

The mom and pop business of marijuana has taken care of this county for a long time, and John Pinches has always done his best to protect us.

Make sure you vote and vote for John Pinches! That will be a vote for the Third District, Mendocino County, the State of California and, ultimately, a vote for our great nation, the United States of America!

Roy Leone, Laytonville

Haschak for supervisor

To the Editor:  
I attended an election forum for Third District supervisor last week. As I listened to the comments from candidates John Haschak and Johnny Pinches, I was struck by the contrast between these two men.

Haschak is well-organized, speaks to the point within the format of the dialog, and has clear positions on each topic.

Pinches offers homespun sound bites that wander off into personal anecdotes, consistently exceed the time constraints, and leave the listener wondering what the topic actually was.

For example: Haschak's stated support for the Brooktrails second access is both proper and timely, and his unanimous endorsement by the Brooktrails board is unmistakable proof of a strong alliance in favor of public safety.

On the other hand, the record shows Pinches ignored CEQA process on the second access as a supervisor, supporting a route twice rejected by impartial consultants. Having killed forward progress on the second access, he now claims that was his version of support!! Astonishing.

If you think long-winded re-hash of policy written on bar napkins is the way to go, your choice is clear.

But if you want a supervisor with the

capacity and energy to focus the complicated machinery of county government on real benefits for people, business and our environment, join me in voting for John Haschak on November 6.

Hal Wagenet, Willits

Haschak for supervisor

To the Editor:  
Voters have a very clear choice for our Third District representative to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. I strongly recommend John Haschak. He is not only well-qualified, well-informed, hard-working and intelligent, but he also listens with an open mind and heart to people's concerns. Here are just a few examples of his positions, in contrast to his opponent:

- He would not take the 40 percent pay raise the supervisors gave themselves earlier this year, instead (if that raise is not reversed), giving those extra funds to scholarships or other public benefits.
- He does not support the combining of library, museum and parks into a "cultural resources agency," which risks making all three departments less accountable and undermines their volunteer citizen advisory boards.
- He gives high priority to emergency preparedness, including short- and long-term solutions to Brooktrails emergency egress.

It's time for the Third District (and the board majority) to be forward-thinking and responsive to our region's environmental, economic, and human needs. I hope you'll join me in voting for John Haschak.

Madge Strong, Willits

Yes on Measure J

To the Editor:  
As most of you know, I spent a long time on the Little Lake Fire Department. My brother, cousins, nephew, and grandfather also spent time volunteering. When I got on the fire department in 1992, there was already talk about replacing the current firehouse. The talk came about for many reasons and more have been added with every conversation.

A couple of the issues we have always dealt with is the condition of the firehouse. The construction method of the building, the ability to house the increasing size of the engines. Another of the many issues is the response of the volunteers. Being a volunteer department, we are never sure of who or how many people will be able to show up for calls. The concern has always been there: "What if nobody showed up?"

The answer we came up with was to start having at least an engineer or even a crew stay the night at the firehouse. Not for the reason of increasing the paid staff, but to make sure we had a response when someone was in need. We have always had a concern about ambulance availability in the area; with a crew in quarters we would be able to get aid to someone in need while we waited for an ambulance from another area.

We have always been pretty lucky that we have been able to have volunteers take on such a strenuous task. We have always had the best training available, and people willing to take time to train and learn new things. We have had needs for many different type of training for many type of situations here. Little Lake Fire District is responsible for 42 miles of highway traffic. Just for this reason alone, they are trained in hazmat, swift water rescue, vehicle extrication, rescue systems, and basic and advanced first aid. I am sure I have left out

Read the rest of Letters | Over on Page 11

Above, from left: Pick & Pull bandmates Keith Buck, Fred Beiberbach and Scotty Darda accept their second-place prize from KLLG's Michelle Cummins. Rossi Jensen, with help from the kids, gets ready to pull the winning raffle tickets. Elvia and Malakai Schindel, Forrest Glyer, and Josh and Joe Swearengin of Schindig accept their first-place prize.

## Battle of the Bands

Local musicians compete for supremacy and some great prizes at KLLG Radio anniversary party

Joey Duenas, aka DJ Joey D, knows how to throw a party: prizes, a taco truck, a belly dancer, shaved ice, dancing, and a battle for band supremacy. All this, plus money was raised to help buy a generator for the local low-power radio station, KLLG-LP, in whose honor the party was thrown on the occasion of KLLG's second birthday.

Duenas kept the vibes going between sets as he spun an eclectic mix of classics, hip hop and other genres which all seamlessly blended into a pleasing mix of sounds. The Battle of the Bands lasted eight hours, but with the ever-changing variety of sounds, it seemed much shorter. The day was hosted at the Little Lake Grange and produced by Duenas and KLLG.

The first two bands, R4id (yes, that is spelled correctly), is a desh metal band from Ukiah, consisting of young rockers from Ukiah. They were loud with pounding beats and an energy that could have blasted the roof off the old Grange building.

Next up was Scythe, another desh metal band of young musicians from Santa Rosa. Even with most of them being 18, they have been building a good resume of venues. They have played in Ukiah, Sacramento, Arcata, Petaluma and San Francisco, and are about to embark on a "mini-tour."

"We play old school thrash," explained vocalist Creighton King. "They call it desh metal. It's everything all at once."

After the metal sounds of the first two bands, local musicians of Easy Street provided a more mellow, eclectic sound of the '60s and '70s and some original songs as well. "We've played at the Ukiah Brewing Company and other local venues," said guitarist Dory Kramer. "We're somewhat folk with a feel and a groove and a vibe. We're really happy to be here supporting KLLG."

At 6:30 it was time for Dennis Chrisp and the Eclectic Coyotes from Laytonville, who put out a rich country sound with deft musicianship. Next up were the high-energy bluegrass fusion band Pick & Pull, with their creative covers and some originals, all done in their unique style with a dose of humor. This concert marked a reunion of the three original members.

Closing down the contesting bands was local favorite, Schindig, fronted by Forrest Glyer on guitar and vocals, with the multi-talented Malakai Schindel on a myriad of diverse instruments.

After the competing bands finished their sets, the audience members were able to vote on their favorites. Each band would get a prize just for competing. First place was won by Schindig, who already have plans for what they are going to do with their prize, a 10-hour recording session at one of

the best studios in Northern California, including the services of an engineer. They plan to power through, hopefully, nine songs they have written and produce a "live" album.

Second place was Pick & Pull, who won \$200 worth of graphics and logo work from EKG Studios and \$200 worth of printing from Printing Plus. Third-place winners were Scythe, who walked away with a \$250 gift certificate for Roadhouse Music. Fourth place was captured by Dennis Chrisp, who will receive an album cover photo session from StudioDigitrope. The last two placing bands, R4aid and Easy Street, won goods from 707 Apparel.

While the votes were being tabulated, local party band Tastes Like Chicken, featuring Paul Hailey, David Woodlee, Charlie Vally, Blair Rowland, Joe Swearengin and Kenny Fink, entertained with familiar covers of longtime favorites.

After announcing the band winners, the raffle prizes were awarded in a drawing run by Rossi Jensen and every child who had been in the Kids Zone play area throughout the party. Some of the generous gifts included Skunk Train tickets, one hour of DJ time from Joey D, a necklace from George's Geodes and Gems, various gift certificates from First Nails, Brickhouse Coffee, and others, an organic cotton dress and chakra crystal therapy sessions from Re-Evolution, and many others.

The entire evening was about supporting Willits' local low-power radio station, KLLG 97.9 FM, which is celebrating their two-year anniversary, broadcasting to the Little Lake Valley from the Grange. In their quest to be a reliable resource in the event of an emergency, the station is trying to raise enough money for a generator that will keep them on the air when the power goes out, so they can disseminate information and possibly save lives and property.

In the end, KLLG netted \$2,275 toward the purchase of their generator, but they have not reached their goal yet, and could use your help to put them over the top in their effort.

KLLG, as always, is looking for sponsors and underwriters and volunteers to help keep the radio station going. Interested parties can contact KLLG via their Facebook page or website, www.kllg.org, or 459-5554.

Michelle Cummins is the new event coordinator for KLLG Radio. She assures us there will be many more interesting and fun events coming up in the future, possibly one each month. Santa is going to visit again this Christmas to entertain and talk with kids on the air.

KLLG is still going strong after two years, and with the continued help of the community, will continue to grow and provide entertainment and services to the people of the Little Lake Valley.

Above: Scythe members Jackson Bailey, Aaron Johnson, Elias Snow and Tyler Groggin wait to play their set.

At left: Michelle Cummins and Joey D prepare to announce the winners.

Below: Tastes Like Chicken's Paul Hailey, David Woodlee, Charlie Vally, Blair Rowland, Joe Swearengin and Kenny Fink entertain with familiar covers of longtime favorites.

At bottom: David Field, Dory Kramer, Ken Engels (on drums), Estok Menton and Dave Baird of Easy Street play for the crowd.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Steep roof? We're not scared!

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PAULA NUNEZ

for the Willits Unified School Board

Our children deserve the best!

— PAID POLITICAL AD —

YES ON J

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Little Lake Fire Protection District

WILLITS FIRE DEPARTMENT

HELP LITTLE LAKE FIRE FIRE DEPARTMENT GET A MUCH-NEEDED NEW FIREHOUSE

the 1950s, including the old jail, which no longer meets the needs of the department, and is literally falling down around them.

The north station on East Commercial Street serves as the main location for the fire department and is situated in a good spot for volunteer personnel to arrive easily, usually being able to avoid Main Street traffic. Being located at the intersection of Commercial and Humboldt gives easy access to the northern side of town and quicker access to the north onramp of the bypass, as well as close access to Brooktrails where Little Lake Fire offers mutual aid, as Brooktrails Fire does for Willits.

However, the walls and ceiling leak inside the current structure, leading to a mold problem; the new ladder truck is too big to fit in the firehouse, and the other, smaller engines barely fit. The unreinforced masonry walls aren't earthquake-safe, and the old construction also means interior adjustment options for ADA-compliant ramps and doorways are not feasible.

There's no adequate sleeping quarters, minimal storage and proper ventilation, and actual chunks of the building have fallen off the exterior, and been re-glued back into place.

While there are a few who call the new fire station unnecessary and/or luxurious, ask yourself this: Does the crew of 40 or so volunteer firefighters and the staff who manage not only mass accident and

emergency responses, but who also assist with medical and rescue calls, illegal burn piles, traffic control, and mutual aid for other agencies not deserve a place to do their job with at least the bare minimum of ease?

Shouldn't they be able to have a space that meets standards and compliance rules and regulations, and is able to be open to the public, including those with disabilities? Shouldn't they be able to wash blood-soaked turnouts in a separate machine from where they wash everything else?

Shouldn't they be able to have more than a few inches of space to walk in front of the bayed engines? A comfortable place to sleep during fire and public safety emergencies like last year's Redwood fire?

All of this seems far from luxury, especially when most of the people using these facilities are doing so as *volunteers*. They're taking time out of their weekend day off, or clocking out of work during their day job, to come to the aid of a community member's mother? Son? Childhood home?

A "Yes" vote on Measure J on November 6, a \$79 annual payment (a lot less than your fire insurance might increase if response times increase), and a little understanding is all that's needed to help ensure Little Lake's volunteer crew can continue to provide essential services to the Willits area and have a safe, secure and bare-bones minimum of operational necessities that will allow for another 50-plus years of service to this community.

Willits Weekly encourages you to join us in voting "Yes" on Measure J!



Antonia Dulce Bautista Dalsen of Covelo.



Negie Tony Fallis IV of Covelo.

sentenced to four years in state prison on December 4.

During the same hearing, Fallis' girlfriend, Antonia Dulce Bautista Dalsen, also entered a no-contest plea to a being an accessory to a felony. Dalsen admitted assisting Fallis elude law enforcement officers and attempting to hide the firearms Fallis unlawfully possessed.

The 20-year-old Covelo woman will receive an "open" sentence on December 11, Geniella said. "She could be granted supervised probation with up to one year in the county jail or be sentenced to local prison for up to three years."

A no-contest plea to a felony charge is the same as a guilty plea, Geniella noted.

District Attorney David Eyster prosecuted the cases against Fallis and Dalsen.

Fallis was arrested on suspicion of kidnapping his former girlfriend, 23-year-old Khadijah Britton, at gunpoint from a Round Valley home in early February, less than a week after she told domestic violence counselors Fallis attacked her with a hammer.

In June, Eyster dropped that charge, citing a lack of evidence.

Britton remains missing and feared dead, but the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is continuing to search for her.

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

Jeanne King, Dianne McNeal, and Dany Laurent.

California School Employees Association President Dan Green told the board about an upcoming school board candidates' forum set for October 18 at 6:30 pm in the Alan Garcia Auditorium at Willits High School, which CSEA is helping organize.

CSEA, along with the Willits Teachers Association, the Blosser Lane and Brookside PTOs, and the Willits chapter of the American Association of University Women, are "going to be coming up with some grueling questions for the candidates, and we want everyone to come," Green said.

He invites anyone with a question for a candidate to submit it to him before the forum by emailing dangreen@willitsunified.com.

In the meantime, things appear to be running pretty well for the district.

Superintendent of Schools Mark Westerburg summed up the year thus far as "a good start. High school Homecoming was really good, and all the buildings are running really well."

He told trustees that bus drivers deserved congratulations, having sorted out the new runs. He also announced receipt of a grant for the purchase of a new diesel-hybrid bus, and announced the district is in the process of applying for a grant for a second bus.

"It's a great thing for the district," he said. "That's about \$370,000 out of fund balance we don't have to pay now."

Westerburg also asked trustees to approve another grant application "for the purchase of a number of new filtration stations ... [to] keep resolving drinking fountain issues."

Blosser Lane Elementary School already has four, and the grant would pay for 10 at Brookside Elementary School.

Noting that "we have a building from the 1950s," Westerburg assured the board: "There's no contamination at Brookside. But it has old metal pipes, and it's at the end of the city water run, which the city flushes every two to three weeks," making

others were related to other sections of the Mendocino County Code.

Of the 258 cannabis complaints, 168 were directed at 140 locations where property owners were not part of the county's cannabis program; 90 complaints were related to 44 locations where the property owner was involved in the cannabis program.

According to the county website, in response to action taken by the code enforcement division, offending property owners have removed 15,013 cannabis plants so far in 2018.

According to Code Enforcement Division Manager Trent Taylor, who spoke to the board of supervisors on September 11 of this year, law enforcement had removed 17,000 cannabis plants by September 11, for a total "plants removed" figure of 32,013. That figure is significantly less than the number of plants removed in the past. According to an archived newspaper article from October 2005, in that year law enforcement had removed 144,000 marijuana plants by October 1.

The code enforcement division also has issued 100 notices of violation and 47 administrative citations so far this year. Twenty citations were issued in relation to infractions of various parts of the county's cannabis cultivation code; another 27 were issued for other county code violations.

The county has collected \$42,046 in fines from code enforcement citations. Another \$160,000 in fines remain to be collected.

At the September 11 board meeting, Supervisor Dan Hamburg asked Taylor how his code enforcement officials deal with locked gates. "We leave a note," Taylor

the water look "muddy."

The stations filter and chill water for students to fill up water bottles; they cost about \$2,500 each and another \$900 to install.

"It's still the best resolution to the water system based on the age of the buildings," Westerburg said. "It would cost about \$2 million to just replumb Blosser."

He also provided an update on the district's decision to provide free lunches for all students, noting "whether it justifies the cost to the district remains to be seen."

He did report that "multiple parents are really glad" about the new program, adding it saves a family "who have a couple of kids at school about \$900 a year."

A number of routine changes to board policies and regulations, primarily as a consequence of changes in state laws, were approved unanimously by trustees, except for one concerning employee parental leave. That item was pulled from the agenda for further discussion at the next board meeting at the prior request of Trustee Chris Neary (who was absent).

Briefly, the change in regulation follows a new state law (Senate Bill 63), which grants parents up to 12 weeks leave during the first year to take care of a new child in the family by birth, adoption, or foster care.

Neary had said during the board's September 11 meeting that "he wanted to do a little homework on it."

He told trustees of having been in court in San Francisco, where "four or five law firms all had their young associates up there, and we couldn't find a trial date," he said. "Everybody's got their parental leave. I thought they were kidding at first."

Westerburg assured him they weren't, saying Neary was "not going to get an 'A' in gender equity."

The board also gave a warm welcome to its newest member, sophomore student representative Claire Case-Brackett, who plays volleyball and basketball, and is active in rodeo and Future Farmers of America.

said. "Almost everybody responds to us and we get on the property. If they refuse, then we refer the case to law enforcement. I am always surprised at the responsiveness we get."

The Code Enforcement Division of Planning and Building Services consists of five employees. Two inspectors work on cannabis-related complaints, and two work on complaints that are non-cannabis driven. Taylor is the division manager.

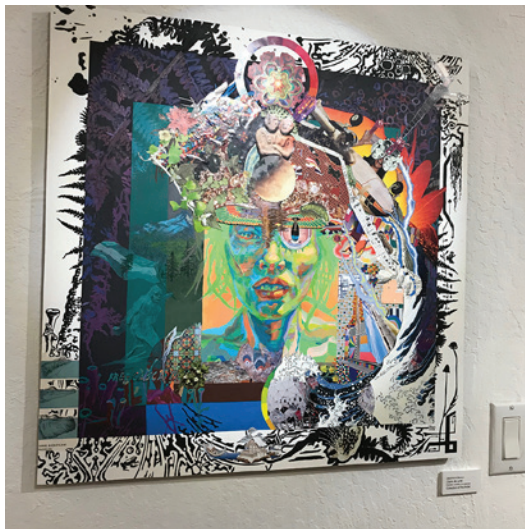
The county began placing code enforcement division activities online on October 1 on the "Code Enforcement News" page at [www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/code-enforcement/code-enforcement-news](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/code-enforcement/code-enforcement-news)

According to a press release announcing the new page, news releases will be published regularly under the following three categories: individual significant enforcement actions as they occur; statistical information for periods of time throughout the calendar year, and data related to cannabis abatement.

To sign up for Code Enforcement News e-notifications, visit [www.mendocinocounty.org/community/enotification](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/enotification).

The code enforcement division handles "all cannabis and general code violations complaints in the unincorporated areas" of Mendocino County. Complaints may be made in person at the Planning and Building Services Department or at [www.mendocinocounty.org/codeenforcement](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/codeenforcement).

Cannabis-specific complaints also may be filed by calling the Cannabis Complaint Hotline at 844-421-9333.



Above, from left: One of Jazzminh Moore's mixed media collages on display as a part of her "About Face" series at the Willits Center for the Arts. Bonnie Belt, the other artist featured in the October show, displays a dinnerware set on a moss-topped table in her exhibit "Natural Splendor." A collection of vintage buses creates this vintage diorama by artist Jazzminh Moore.

## Captivating and Uplifting

Arts Center October show features Bonnie Belt's 'Natural Splendor' and Jazzminh Moore's 'About Face'

A terrific evening was had by all attendees at Willits Center for the Arts on Saturday, October 6. The opening of Bonnie Belt's "Natural Splendor" exhibit and Jazzminh Moore's "About Face" series drew a wonderful crowd. Guests mingled with the artists while enjoying light refreshments prepared by Chef Adam Celaya, of the former Adam's Restaurant.

Danya Davis  
Features Writer  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Jazzminh Moore has been painting professionally for nearly 20 years. She grew up on the west coast and was determined to show her art in a New York City gallery, which she accomplished. After reaching her lofty goal, Moore felt the pull of nature and wanted to return to green spaces and gardens. A meandering path lead her to Willits, where she was welcomed by the community of artists and gardeners.

Bonnie Belt is a ceramic sculptor who combines natural subjects and vessels to create exquisite pieces. While in grade school, Belt was mesmerized by a film of someone throwing a clay pot and decided she'd like to one day try it. As a sophomore in college, she attended her first ceramics class and has been working with the medium ever since.

In 1992, Belt made the move to Northern California to pursue her full-time art career. Her works have been displayed at numerous galleries and art fairs. Belt is interested in reflecting the attitude of the subject in her creations. She often projects the personality of the subject within the silhouette, shadows, and highlights. Each unique piece evolves through several stages and fine tuning before the sculpture is complete. Belt has mastered incorporating lifelike details into her art while simultaneously projecting a fanciful quality.

Reception guest Peter Moore admired one of Belt's teapots, mentioning that he likes "the uplifting way it combines functionality and art."



Above: Bonnie Belt poses with her pieces on display at the Willits Center for the Arts in her "Natural Splendor" exhibit. At right: One of Belt's pieces features a windswept woman and branches.



At left, above: Jazzminh Moore stands with one of her pieces on display at the Willits Center for the Arts in her "About Face" series. At left: Show attendees gather to talk about art and more in one of the Art Center's gallery rooms.

Photos by Danya Davis

Above: A spread of hors d'oeuvre prepared by Chef Adam Celaya for WCA opening attendees.

Photo by Mathew Caine

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# VOTE PINCHES

Thursday, October 11

**"The Cannabis Hour":** Host Jane Futcher's guest is David Downs, California bureau chief for Leafly.com. "Downs has written for WIREd, Rolling Stone and Billboard. He is the former cannabis editor of the San Francisco Chronicle as well as the author of several cannabis books, including "Marijuana Harvest with Ed Rosenthal." New time: 11 am, Thursday, October 11, 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 1, 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-roasted iced coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**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, playing originals and old school funk, rock and soul. "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.

**Poetry Reading Night:** "Out of the Ashes: Community Rebuilding Through Art." Thursday, October 11, 6 to 8 pm. Featuring poetry reading in response to Mendocino County's fires. Theresa Whitehill, Michael Reidel, Linda Noel, Georgina Guardado, Dot Broumeyer, Yvonne Krammer. At the Mendocino County Museum, in conjunction with their current Out of the Ashes exhibit. 400 East Commercial Street. 459-2736. [www.mendocinocounty.org/government/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/museum).

**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. Tickets for the benefit are \$20 and available by calling Tamara Adams at 459-9252. This hilarious and unpredictable country comedy by Texas playwright Linda LaRoque plays at the Willits Community Theatre. The play features two down-on-their-luck common 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. Advance tickets for all regular shows are available at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at [brownpaperickets.com](http://brownpaperickets.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).

Senior Center Lunch

Week of October 15 through October 19

Monday: Ortega Chicken

Tuesday: Stuffed Bell Peppers

Wednesday: Chicken & Noodles

Thursday: Philly Cheese Steak

Friday: Ham

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.

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](mailto: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.

Friday, October 12

**"Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church":** this "hilarious and unpredictable country comedy, plays Friday, October 12, 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, October 11 listing for details.



David Downs

**Shanachie Pub:** Podge and Schindig -- Libra Party: DJ Night presented by Podge, featuring all forms of House Music. Schindig is a band of homegrown Mendocino County boys playing a unique eclectic blend of folk, rock, country, blues with a jolt of world music. Visit [www.facebook.com/schindig/](http://www.facebook.com/schindig/). Friday, October 12, 8 pm. 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, October 13

**Rummage Sale:** Sherwood School is having a flea market/rummage sale on Saturday, October 13, from 9 am to 3 pm behind Brown's Corner, 1799 South Main Street.

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



**Sit n Sew:** "Please bring a project to work on, sewing machine and tools." Free monthly group. Saturday, October 13, 1 to 5 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: Rachel: 707-354-0605.

**Auditions for Christmas Show:** The Willits Community Theatre will hold auditions for "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," a Christmas show featuring roles for children and adults, Saturday October 13 at 1 pm. This delightful Christmas classic, written by Barbara Robinson, features roles for 8 boys, 9 girls, 6 women and 4 men. It tells the story of what happens when a family of "bad kids," the Herdman clan, hijacks a Christmas pageant. Info: call director Robert Ford, at 707-354-3231.

**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),



Ongoing Events

preserves, balsamic vinegars, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**Emandal Chorale:** The Chorale is open to all who wish to sing a cappella songs of peace and justice. Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: 367-1573.

**Friday Potluck Bingo:** Harrah Senior Center presents Potluck Bingo on Friday nights. Doors open at 5 pm; games begin at 5:30 pm. Minimum bingo buy-in \$5. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

**Weekly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group:** Every Thursday, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941.

**German Conversation Class:** Ongoing non-denominational German conversation/book reading class is open to new members (middle to advanced German speakers). No charge, but donations gladly accepted. St. John Lutheran Church, 24 Mill Creek Drive. Mondays from 7 to 8:30 pm. Info: Doris Wier, 456-9246.

**Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group:** Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or [honemam@yahoo.com](mailto:honemam@yahoo.com).

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

**Willits Library Activities:** Wednesdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Play Group," and 3:30 to 5:30 pm "Lego Day" (bring your imagination and start building); Thursdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Story Time." Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

**Willits Seed Lending Library:** Offering information on seed saving and gardening. Seeds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables are free to seed library members, and seed donations are gladly accepted.

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

that changed attitudes can aid recovery. **Drop-In Knitting Circle:** Every Saturday of the month, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your own projects or your yarn and needles; we have people who should be able to help solve problems and/or help you learn to knit or crochet. Sign-ups are not necessary -- everyone is welcome to drop in." Info: Lotus Baker at 456-9037, or [lotus3@earthlink.net](mailto:lotus3@earthlink.net).

**Soroptimists International of Willits:** Women's service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets second and third Tuesdays of every month, noon to 1 pm, at Old Mission Pizza in reserved room, 1708 South Main Street, in the back room. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time. **Life Changes:** Discussion and support group with Linda Posner, Wednesdays from 10 to 11 am. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Smoking Cessation Program:** Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by Adventist Health Howard Memorial. Every Wednesday at AHM's Roots Restaurant, 1 Marcela Drive, 6 to 7 pm. Register today: 540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

**Free Sheriff's Activity League programs:** at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 5 pm. Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5:15 to 6 pm. Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 to 7 pm; Teens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: [www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague](http://www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague) or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

**Shanachie Pub:** Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday at 7:30 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday. 8 pm. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic Night every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

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

and their parents, guardian, grandparents are encouraged to attend but the meeting is open to anyone who has an interest in supporting Sober Grad." The Sober Grad Committee plans the graduation night drug- and alcohol-free party every year. Information: 459-0439 or [jlaw46@gmail.com](mailto:jlaw46@gmail.com).

**Willits High School Soccer:** Willits vs. Fort Bragg: 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. Fort Bragg, JV 5 pm, Varsity 6 pm. Willits High School Gym, 299 North Main Street. (JV Coach Julie Goyke, Varsity Coach Jon Jessup).

**Willits School Board Candidates Forum:** The Willits Unified School District will hold a Candidates Forum for prospective school board candidates Thursday, October 18, 6:30 to 8:30 pm or until finished, 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. Submit questions in advance to [dangreen@willitsunified.com](mailto:dangreen@willitsunified.com).

**"Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church":** this "hilarious and unpredictable country comedy" plays Thursday, October 18, 7 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, October 11 listing for details.

**Shanachie Pub:** FlyLite Gemini: "FlyLiteGemini is one man stomping his way through original folk, rock, and blues tunes." Visit [flylitegemini.com/](http://flylitegemini.com/). Thursday, October 18, 8 pm. 50B South Main Street.

Friday, October 19

**Fall Book Sale at the Library:** The annual Fall Book Sale at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 19 to 21. The Community Room at the library will be brimming with books and bargains. The sale runs 10 am to 6 pm Friday, 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, and Sunday 10 am to 3 pm. Books are only \$5 a bag all



**Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration:** A celebration of local business in downtown Willits. Several events from the merchants on Main Street at various locations: Hathaway Parking Lot, West Mendocino Street, Mazahar and others. Events include sales, face painting, music, dancing, activities for kids, photography and much more. Friday, October 19, 3 to 8 pm.

**Jody Gerhman Author Visit:** Ukiah author Gerhman leads a discussion of the story "The Faery Handbag" from the NEA Big Read Book, "Pretty Monsters" by Kelly Link. Friday, October 19, 4 to 5 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. 459-5908.

**Willits High School Football:** Willits vs. Kelseyville: JV 5:30 pm, Varsity 7 pm. Willits High School's Maize Field, 299 North Main Street. (JV Coach Josh Husarek, Varsity Coach Chris Bickford)

**"Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church":** this "hilarious and unpredictable country comedy" plays Friday, October 19, 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, October 11 listing for details.

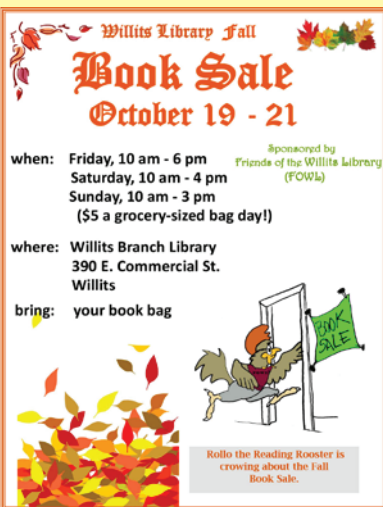
**Shanachie Pub:** Lantz Lazwell & The Vibe Tribe: "Lantz Lazwell services the deep, melodic desires that drive us to dance." Visit [www.lantzlazwellmusic.com](http://www.lantzlazwellmusic.com). Friday, October 19, 9 pm. 50B South Main Street.



Lantz Lazwell & The Vibe Tribe

Saturday, October 20

**"Wild Willits Fest: Explore Our Roots":** On Saturday, October 20, Visit Willits will host the inaugural "Wild Willits Fest: Explore Our Roots" event. "The event is unlike any other. It embodies all that Northern California is about: small town vibes with great food, music, and activities for every age. The event will include a 5k walk/run, 10k and a half-marathon race, live music, local food vendors,



**Fall Book Sale at the Library:** Saturday, October 20, 10 am to 4 pm. See Friday, October 19 listing for details.

**FFA Alumni Dinner:** 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.

**"Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church":** this "hilarious and unpredictable country comedy" plays Saturday, October 20, 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, October 11 listing for details.

Sunday, October 21

**Fall Book Sale at the Library:** Sunday, October 21, 10 am to 3 pm. \$5/bag day! See listing Friday, October 19 for details.

**Sock and Undie Sunday:** The Willits United Methodist Church, 266 School Street, is collecting socks and undies for the clients of Manzanita Services. The community is invited to attend a special service on Sunday, October 21 at 11 am and stay for refreshments. Donations of socks and undies will be gladly accepted at the service or on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am to 12 pm at the church office. Underwear (no T-shirts) sizes M-XL for women and L-XL for men. Women's and men's sizes adult. Information: 459-2855.

**"Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church":** Closing performance of this "hilarious and unpredictable country comedy," Sunday, October 21, 2 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, October 11 listing for details.

**Wild Willits Fest**



**K-Rail and Fire Hydrant Painting Party**

**October 14**

"Yes it's another painting party. We have made substantial progress during the last two gatherings and are now ready to launch into new endeavors. During the last party we cleaned and primed the last remaining k-rails, worked on designs, and prepped a fire hydrant. (Now we just need a couple more artist designs). This weekend we'll continue to help with k-rails where we can, and start to prep and primer fire hydrants. Five more have been spoken for, in addition to four others already begun. Show up at k-rail corner (Commercial and Main streets) Sunday, October 14 around 11 am, and we'll set you up with a hydrant and get it primed. We still need trash bin designs and designers." This is a project of Willits Economic Localization (WELL). Info: Paul at [4paull@gmail.com](mailto:4paull@gmail.com) or Madge at [mstrng@willitsonline.com](mailto:mstrng@willitsonline.com) or 459-1493. To contribute to expenses, send tax-deductible donations to WELL, PO Box 42, Willits 95490 with "Paint the Town" in the memo line.

Daniel Essman Book Reading

Willits Weekly movie columnist Dan Essman is reading from his collection of original horror stories, "An Apostle at the Kit Kat," from 5:45 to 7 pm, on Wednesday, October 17 at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Daniel Essman is a Northern California fiction writer and poet who has written four screenplays, and many poems. "An Apostle at the Kit Kat" is his first book of short stories. They are supernatural stories in the tradition of American horror: post-Goth with such modern traditions as Hank Williams, desert atom bomb experiments, thinly veiled newspaper articles, good bourbon "n" cigarettes and a long promenade of ghost-like figures who haunt our nameless main character, "An Apostle at the Kit Kat." He will be selling copies at the reading. The book is also available at The Book Juggler in Willits, and at Amazon, or on Kindle.



**Dan Essman**  
Columnist

a lot, and fight a seemingly endless passel of shaved-head thugs and mercenary killers. Of course, there are more aliens and time is running out for Brock, Ann and the whole world.

**My Thoughts:** I loved this flick! Movies thrive on good guys versus bad guys. This flick both honors the premise, and subverts the premise. Venom, the alien symbiont (not just the name of the flick), is the anti-hero who bites off (and swallows for nourishment) the heads of bad guys. This kind of puts him somewhat south of good. Eddie Brock is a good guy, a crusading journalist, but he and Venom

sure slaughter a ton of folks, and not all of them fall in the villain category. But, o' well, it's a movie. We, the audience, can live with, even enjoy such ambiguities. A special shout-out to Michelle Williams and Tom Hardy, they are great actors.

**Parents:** This story is morally peculiar. As noted above, it features bad guys who are also good guys. It is not for children. 13 and up.

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



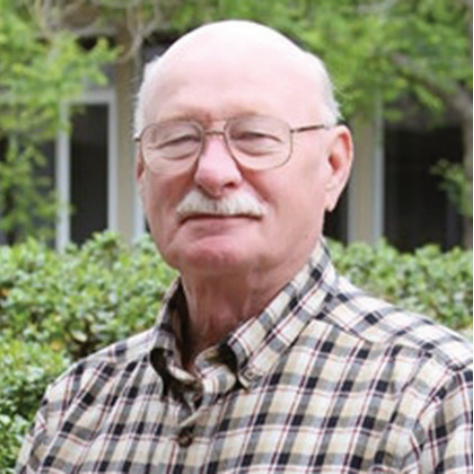
October 17

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# Questions for the Candidates

## Willits City Council

Here are seven questions on Willits issues for the three candidates for Willits City Council in the November 6 election, incumbent Larry Stranske and challengers Jeremy Hershman and Greta Kanne. Questions are by Willits Weekly's city reporter, Forrest Glycer, and Willits Weekly editor Jennifer Poole.



Larry Stranske.



Greta Kanne.



Jeremy Hershman.

### Summarize your background and tell Willits voters about yourself.

**Jeremy Hershman:** My name is Jeremy Hershman, and I have lived in Willits for over nine years. I am a veteran of the U.S. Army, and worked for the first 15 years of my career as a heavy equipment mechanic. Currently I am both studying and teaching math at Mendocino College while I pursue a degree in Engineering. I think I am right for the job due to my experience bringing large maintenance and repair projects to completion on time in the construction industry, a process that required effective budgeting and personnel management.

**Greta Kanne:** I grew up as a Willits summer kid visiting my dad and stepmom each year and always considered Willits home. My husband, Chris, and I moved to Willits for good in 2001 and purchased The Book Juggler from my old boss in 2005. I've been on the city's Revitalization & Economic Development Committee for the past few years, was a founding member of the Willits Dog Park committee, regularly participate in trash cleanup days, and previously served on the Willits Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

**Larry Stranske:** I moved to Willits in 1964 to teach high school woodshop, which I did for 35 years while working at a saw mill during the summer. We purchased what was to become Kimberly's Jewelry in 1979 and I became a jeweler, along with teaching woodshop and jewelry. I was elected head negotiator for Willits Unified Teachers Association, and I was a teacher for Mendocino College as woodshop instructor and work experience coordinator. I am married with grown children and four grandchildren. I am a member of the Willits City Council.

**What ideas do you have for what the City of Willits can do to help revitalize downtown, boost revenue to the city in general, or help Willits become more of a "destination" city?**

**Greta Kanne:** We need to make sure the Main Street Plan

is brought to life. After Caltrans completes their Main Street and Sherwood Road intersection construction, they'll relinquish the stretch from Highway 20 to the northern interchange, and our Main Street will finally become our own. The plan calls for enhanced safe crosswalks, trees, improved lighting, benches, public art, continuous bike lanes, and the filling in of the wood chip "planting strips" with brick or concrete pavers. All of these improvements will make Main Street more welcoming to residents and visitors alike, and will show the city's willingness to invest in our future.

**Larry Stranske:** The cleaning up of the sidewalks, curbs and gutters, the repairing of Main Street, and adding brick and planting trees to the planters area. With all these improvements, the downtown plan is a real beginning to making Willits a destination. I also feel optimistic about the California Senate Bill 1029 on the North Coast Railroad Authority right-of-way, which would produce the Great Redwood Trail, and the Sonoma and Marin Transit Districts would take over the railroad. The Redwood Trail would start at Commercial Street going north to Eureka.

**Jeremy Hershman:** I want the city to take a more active role in the economic future of our town. I believe that being proactive about making adjustments in city strategy, due to policy and legislation changes at the state and county level, is critical for a sustainable future. One of the biggest levers in our city is our proximity to the best cannabis produced anywhere, and I think we should be using that lever to help move towards our goal of a sustainable future by encouraging canna-tourism and local producers, and embracing what has become a part of our legacy as a town.

**One issue in Willits is scarcity of housing. Another is scarcity of affordable housing. What do you believe the Willits City Council could do to help with the housing shortage in Willits? The current council did not support a proposed rent stabilization ordinance for mobile home parks in the city. Would you support such an ordinance if it came before the council again?**

**Larry Stranske:** It is not for the city council to set rent. This is private enterprise. We as individuals may suggest, but this is left to the property owner and person renting. The charge of the city council is to set policy and hire a city manager. It is the responsibility of these

elected council members to listen to all of the citizens, and make their vote on the issues brought before them

**Jeremy Hershman:** Housing is critical in a small community like ours, and any decision is bound to be met with resistance. I don't know if a rent stabilization ordinance is the right answer, but I have been educating myself on the many ways we can combat this concern. There are many studies done after 2016 by California universities on this issue that can help lead the way towards new policies and ideas.

**Greta Kanne:** The city is looking at community development block grants, a state program helping qualified property owners to refurbish their properties. Some grants could be given to landlords who agree to keep rents reasonable for a certain period. We also need to look into annexing city adjacent lands and open them to housing developments, including low-income housing. The more units available, the greater pressures are on landlords to keep rental rates affordable. I think the city should actively court development of new housing before considering a rent stabilization ordinance. The jury is still out on whether rent control really works.

### Do you support the use of the old Howard Hospital as a mental health facility?

**Jeremy Hershman:** In short, no. The long answer is pretty complicated and involves a lot more than just any one person's opinion. According to the latest from the Measure B committee, there are several proposals now being vetted, and the old Howard Hospital is a less than ideal solution.

**Greta Kanne:** We need a psychiatric health facility in the county, and the Measure B committee is looking at a number of options. The use of the old hospital has not been formally proposed so I'm waiting to pass judgment until we hear what's actually being considered by the board of supervisors. Whatever happens I appreciate the Howard Foundation's desire to maintain the ownership of that property in order to retain local control of how the facility is used. I believe the foundation wants what's best for the town of Willits.

**Larry Stranske:** I do recognize the mental health needs, but do not see the old Howard Hospital as the location. I have been attending the meetings on Measure B and have learned there could be a better location for the price. We need a facility that can recognize a person's needs and work with the problem as early as possible. There may be a need for as many as four to six locations for the different diagnoses. There is also the consideration for the funds to staff this facility.

Read the rest of Questions | Over on Page 9

## YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



### VOTE OUR IDEALS! VOTE DEMOCRAT!

#### California Democratic Party Endorsed Candidates

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**Alex Padilla: Secretary of State**  
**Betty T. Yee: Controller**  
**Fiona Ma: Treasurer**  
**Xavier Becerra: Attorney General**  
**Ricardo Lara: Insurance Commissioner**  
**Tony K. Thurmond: Superintendent of Public Instruction**  
**Malia Cohen: Board of Equalization**  
**Mike McGuire: State Senator**  
**Jim Wood: State Assemblyman**

### SAVE OUR ROADS! VOTE NO ON PROP 6

#### California Democratic Party Endorsed Propositions

**A "YES" vote for Propositions 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 12**  
**A "NO" vote for Propositions 5, 6, 11**

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The rest of Questions | From Page 8

**Pick one of the challenges facing the City of Willits today that you're most interested in, and tell us about a solution.**

**Greta Kanne:** Revitalization of Main Street is the issue I've been following most closely for the past five years. We need to bring the Main Street Plan to life. It was vetted by our community, our public safety officials, and unanimously approved by the past city council. I'm excited to see a Main Street that reflects the beauty of our community. But Main Street isn't the only challenge by a long shot, and I've really enjoyed getting a deeper understanding of all the issues we're facing. I look forward to learning more and helping shape the future of our town.

**Larry Stranske:** The challenge for the City of Willits is to have businesses move here – unfortunately I do not have that answer. I do feel there is a place for cannabis, but I do not feel it is the silver bullet to solve all our financial problems.

I would like to see more people in the area come forward to open businesses and provide services. The City of Willits by definition is all of the citizens, not just the five people who serve on your city council, and I invite any and all suggestions.

**Jeremy Hershman:** The biggest challenge facing our city is creating a sustainable economic future, so that our town can continue to provide its unique atmosphere of vibrance and compassion to generations down the line. This includes inclusionary housing policies and a smart approach to recreational cannabis, while continuing to maximize our ability to draw folks looking for something different to a very special destination that we all love to call home.

**Do you think the city has taken the right direction regarding cannabis by allowing permitted operations for all business types except outdoor cultivation? Do you support Measure I, the city's excise cannabis tax measure on the November ballot?**

**Larry Stranske:** People in the city limits do have the right to grow cannabis (six plants) but grown inside an enclosed area, with proper vents. This is for the benefit of the surrounding neighboring properties. I do support Measure I, the city's excise tax on cannabis measure on the November ballot.

**Jeremy Hershman:** I think that the city should welcome any business that operates within the laws of our state. As a city, I don't think we're in a position to turn away any business that wants to participate in our economic growth. I am on the fence about some of the language in Measure I, and I don't know if I agree with the idea of taxing canopy space in general. My hope is that through careful consultation with members of the community and the cannabis industry, this town can come up with a viable longterm solution.

**Greta Kanne:** Yes. The current ordinance was a good first step. Obviously Mendocino County has done outdoor cultivation exceptionally well for decades, but I don't believe it needs to be done in city limits. We have an abundance of land surrounding our community where folks can (and do) any number of activities without impacting their neighbors. As for Measure I, I will vote yes. But it will be imperative that if passed by the voters we find the rate that doesn't discourage legitimate businesses from wanting to invest here while providing a reasonable revenue stream for the city.

### What do you feel is the most important role of a city councilmember?

**Jeremy Hershman:** I feel one of the most important roles for a city council member is to be an advocate for the community as a whole. None of us got here alone, and we're going to need everyone's participation to get where we want to go. We have to put aside our fears of the unknown and the grudges of our past, while we move quickly and with purpose towards this bold new horizon; only this way will we secure our future.

**Greta Kanne:** The most important role of any member on the city council is to help steer the ship. Council members should be practical and careful with public funds, but should also have vision in order to find creative ways to help our community thrive and to allow our city staff to successfully do their jobs.

**Larry Stranske:** My major concerns are supplying good water and improving infrastructure.

The rest of Debate | From Page 1

Jeremy Hershman are both running for the first time. (For more on the candidates' backgrounds, see the "Q&A" article on page 8.)

There's a seat open because Councilman Ron Ornstein is retiring this year after serving for 12 years over a 16-year span.

The candidates were given one minute to answer each question asked by moderator Rachel Britten, and two minutes for opening and closing statements.

Half of the questions came from the four event sponsors – the American Association of University Women, Willits Environmental Center, Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, and Willits Economic Localization – and half from audience members who had submitted their questions on cue cards.

The three contenders engaged in friendly debate throughout. There were plenty of laughs with one another, and with Britten and the audience as well.

Candidates were first asked what their highest priorities would be if elected. Kanne stated hers would include updating the General Plan, investing in Main Street and working towards improving and creating housing. Stranske listed helping business owners, making Willits a destination town, and housing as areas of focus. Hershman cited "economic sustainability" as his top priority.

"We're entering into a really stark transition period here," said Hershman, "and I think it's going to be vitally important that we encourage the entrepreneurial spirit we have here in Willits. We have a lot of talented individuals that I think, if given an opportunity, could really help us build this town."

On the subject of a possible new mental health facility in Willits, Kanne and Hershman both agreed they were waiting to see more of the proposals from the Measure B committee before staking a position on the matter.

Kanne did say: "The concerns I have about a psychiatric health facility in Willits include how that will impact our neighborhoods, our schools, and our police department if they are the responsible party dealing with residents of the facility who have been released."

Stranske favored a policy that would increase mental health services throughout the county.

"What happens with mental health in Covelo is not the same thing that happens in Ukiah or Willits or Fort Bragg or Point Arena," he noted. "Each one of these places has an individual concept and population that's different than the others. And to make it work, we're going to have to have a facility in each one of these places."

While all three candidates supported Willits' medical cannabis ordinance, Hershman was the most enthusiastic about the city fully embracing the newly legal recreational market.

"I really feel any business that's willing to operate within the confines of the law should be almost welcomed with open arms in Willits – to a point. I think it's time.... I think it's important we take our place and use that opportunity to help generate a new tax base for the community."

"I don't see why in a few years we couldn't be looking at expanding the extension at Mendocino College to provide training for some of the testing and the science that's going on with cannabis," he continued. "I think that it is one of the biggest tools we can use to leverage Willits as a tourist destination."

Kanne supported expanding the ordinance to allow adult use, so long as the limits and restrictions of the current ordinance were maintained, such as allowing only three dispensaries in town.

"I know cannabis is a huge part of our community and has been the backbone of our economy for a long time," she said. "I also know there's a lot of split feeling in our community about cannabis."

"I don't think it's a great idea to put all of our eggs in one basket and label ourselves as the pot town. Becoming a tourist destination needs to be a little bit broader than one crop."

Stranske, who voted for the ordinance last year, said he stood by that decision but had some misgivings about the city allowing recreational use permits.

"I voted for medical marijuana, and I think there's some real assets to the medical part of it. I'm not totally convinced [about] recreational [use]. I also think it won't be the magic bullet everybody thinks it is."

He agreed with Kanne that there were other tourism possibilities for Willits to focus on, such as the Great Redwood Trail, a massive railroad and trail project in the works in Northern California with Willits as a pivotal point. Stranske spoke excitedly about it a few times during the evening.

"I think [cannabis] is part of what will make Willits a destination, but I also think the one thing that's going to do it more is the [Great

Redwood Trail]," he said. "People from Marin and Sonoma [counties] are going to take over the railroad, and it's going to come to Willits [and] stop in Willits. People will get out, and then they will take this trail up to Eureka."

"This is going to be something we, as a community, need to stand behind and be able to have the facilities and everything to do what we need to do."

When asked whether the City of Willits should be contributing to California's carbon emission reduction targets, all three agreed the city should continue to pursue alternative energy sources when possible, as well as other methods.

"I think the city should be doing everything it can to reduce its carbon footprint," said Kanne. "I would encourage us that when we need to replace vehicles for the city's fleet we get vehicles that get the highest possible mileage. I think we should look into solar power. I think the city should do everything it can to make sure we are responsible and are setting a tone in our town for how we use energy."

Other items all three agreed on were maintaining setback laws for building near Willits creeks, and making sure to follow through on tree planting along the Main Street corridor and elsewhere.

Candidates were a bit taken aback when asked: "Considering you will be asked to uphold the Constitution of the United States, how do you view the current dismantling of the Constitution by Trump, the Republicans and the oligarchy?"

"Wow," Kanne said, as the audience laughed. "I think it starts at home. We do what we can here to uphold the Constitution, to respect our community members whether they have the same ideas as we do or not."

Hershman, a U.S. Army veteran, responded: "When I joined the Army, I swore to uphold the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. It's an oath I take seriously and still am committed to today. I don't agree with any of those policies personally, and I agree with you that it's a travesty. Other than that, I'm voting," he said. "That's the best I can do; do your part as well."

The final question probed which decisions the council has made in recent years that the candidates agreed or disagreed with.

Stranske pointed to the bypass and its related projects as something that stood out to him as a positive.

"I think the freeway was really a good thing for the community," he said. "I notice from where I am [at Kimberly's Jewelry] that it doesn't seem to affect the traffic that goes through town as much as everybody thought it would."

"I think when we get the landscaping and all the things done that we're doing down Main Street it will be definitely an asset to the community – and I think everybody will buy into it."

Hershman and Kanne both said they strongly agreed with the council's unanimous decision to pass the Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan last year.

"I think it was a great plan, and I love the way the city council and the community kind of came together to make that happen," said Hershman.

During their closing statements, all three candidates spoke of their affection for Willits, and shared some of their personal experiences with the town.

Stranske: "I think Willits is really a nice place to be; that's why I'm living here, along with my wife, and why I raised my family here. The number one thing for me [is] the people. I think they're the most giving people of any place I've ever been. When I look at the years I taught school and all the scholarships given to kids, to young people, to go on to school.... It's just a really giving community."

Hershman: "I love this town. It welcomed me with open arms and has treated me like family the whole time I've been here. The sense of community is phenomenal, the level of involvement of community members is the best, bar none, of any place I've ever lived. I just want you folks to know I'm committed to doing the right thing, whatever that may be. I don't claim to know what that is, but I want to listen and I want to hear what all you folks in the community have to say."

Kanne: "I, too, love Willits. I think Willits really is a fantastic place.... I think the last couple of years have been rough. I wouldn't totally agree with Larry that the freeway has been great for our town. Our business [The Book Juggler] has suffered pretty painfully. But I think that happens in life. Sometimes we have some dark days and sometimes those days last awhile. The trick is seeing through to the other side, and I think that's what Willits is doing right now. We're looking towards our future, we're looking at how to make this a place the next generation can love as much as we have."

The rest of Fest | From Page 1

Race-day registration for the half-marathon, the 10K and the 5K races starts at 8:30 am at Rec Grove, and runners will be off at 10 am. Other activities at Rec Grove – including a kids' corner, food and other vendors, and live music – kick off at 11 am, with awards for race finishers at 12:30 pm, and the Taste the Harvest competition from 1 to 4 pm.

Rec Grove events are free, except for Taste the Harvest, which will take place in a pavilion with VIP seating with a great view of the stage, and with local beer and wine booths, too.

Tasting tickets for Taste the Harvest are \$25. Registered runners will receive \$5 off their Taste the Harvest tickets.

To register for the races in advance, visit <https://raceroster.com/events/2018/19208/wild-willits-fest>

Advance tickets for Taste the Harvest are available at Baechtel Creek Inn, Old West Inn, and Mazahar, and at the Visit Willits table at the October 19 Hometown Celebration in front of Mirror, Mirror on Main just south of Commercial Street.

### Other Visit Willits news

The Visit Willits board meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 4 pm at City Hall. The public is always welcome.

The September meeting featured a presentation from Visit Mendocino, the countywide tourism board, explaining how the organization promotes the whole county, and how it has launched a re-branding campaign for Visit Mendocino.

The tourism board has a new slogan – "Find Your Happy" – chosen "because Mendocino County is so diverse," Rodriguez said, "whether you're looking for the coast, adventure, or nature."

Visit Mendocino also reported on campaigns underway in the Bay Area, including "four city busses wrapped with redwood trees" in the Bay Area, and 10 electronic billboards promoting Mendocino County, placed from San Francisco to San Jose.

Data shows, Rodriguez said, that tourists who visit Mendocino County are primarily from the Bay Area, but many also come from Sacramento.

Visit Mendocino's Executive Director Travis Scott presented the Visit Willits board with a check for \$7,480 at the September meeting, to help create and promote new events in Willits that will draw out-of-county visitors.

"We can't use it on past events or events in progress," Rodriguez said. "We have all kinds of ideas; this is going to help us get another project off the ground."

The \$7,480 is a share of the countywide "transient occupancy tax," better known as the "bed tax," that local inns and motels charge visitors. "This is the first time Willits has received a check," Rodriguez noted.

One future project Rodriguez mentioned is a magazine-type Willits visitors guide, planned to be put together by the end of 2019. The guide will include restaurants, motels, hiking trails, other local attractions and photos.

The board also is working on putting together a Willits brochure, creating a Willits logo, and getting art and history storyboards already donated from the Mendocino County Museum's "Main Street: Then & Now" exhibit enclosed in protective casings and mounting them on businesses throughout town.

"Once we get that done, we'd like to put together an audio tour that would show visitors the history boards and Paint the Town projects, the murals, and other different points of interest," Rodriguez said. A local historian has expressed interest in narrating the audio tour.

A third project on the drawing board is downtown lighting, including partnering with the Willits Chamber of Commerce to put Christmas lights up along all of Commercial Street and down Main Street. This project will have to wait until Caltrans relinquishes Main Street to the City of Willits after all construction work has been completed.

Rodriguez feels optimistic about future possibilities. "I just feel like the atmosphere for promoting Willits – both for tourism and the local experience – is just contagious right now. So many people are enthusiastic about giving up their time and wanting to benefit their community."

For more information, check out the www.visitwillits.com website or "Visit Willits" page on Facebook, or email [visitwillits@gmail.com](mailto:visitwillits@gmail.com). Those interested in joining the board can find member applications at the bottom of the Visit Willits website.



Above, from left: Mendocino College's new Dean of Centers Amanda Xu does a little panorama of the attendees at the Willits Chamber of Commerce and Friends of the North County Center mixer. Claudia Wenning, left, and Jenny Senter chat and enjoy appetizers at Friday's mixer. Sweets and savories were available to enjoy during the mixer. The newest project for the Friends of the North County Center: a solar-lighted bulletin board to be placed outside in the college's courtyard. At right: Several of the attendees who came to the North County Center mixer pose together for a group photo.

## Mix and Mingle

Willits Chamber and Friends of North County Center co-host mixer at college

Even on an evening full of activities, there was a fine turnout last Friday for the October Willits Chamber of Commerce mixer at the Mendocino College's North County Center. The mixer was co-hosted by the Friends of the North County Center.

Attendees checked in at the front desk with Alison Findley and Pam Baskin, got their raffle tickets, and then enjoyed mingling with the other attendees in the North County Center's learning commons Great Room while listening to the gentle notes of Majide, with band members Bear Kamoroff, Paul Kemp and Machiko Shimada, who performed live for the group.

Veteran appetizer chefs Ann Alumbaugh and Dorothy Roediger put on a spread of tasty treats including basil-adorned cheese platters, buttery toast-wrapped mushrooms and heirloom crudites platters. Sweet treats including chocolate-topped puffs and fresh fruit were also enjoyed.

Raffles for various prizes were drawn towards the end of the evening: Steve Hellman won a lap desk; Madge Strong won a cordless wine opener; Cathy Lawrence won a gift basket; Linda Posner won a printer; and Tom Herman not only won \$56 in the 50/50 raffle, but was also the winner of the special Adopt a Book basket.

At last year's mixer, the Friends of the North County Center, whose mission is to spread awareness about the center's existence and benefits, and also to assist the college in acquiring necessities, held a fundraiser for textbooks. All of the people who helped donate to the Adopt a Book fundraiser had their names entered into a special drawing, where Herman was selected.

The Friends of the North County Center's next project will be to finance an outdoor bulletin board for the center. During the Friday event, a board was placed with small notes itemizing all the donations needed to purchase all the materials

on the project list.

"\$30 for one bundle of shingles," read one note; "\$20 for four bags of concrete," said another. The materials will be used by Brian Bowles of the Willits High School construction class who will build the sign. Keith Rutledge also donated solar for lighting.

"Thank you so much to everyone who came out to our chamber mixer with North County Friends of Mendocino College," Findley said. "It was, all in all, a beautiful evening of delightful music, amazing food, fun prize giveaways, and good company. Thank you to all of you who came out and supported the Willits Chamber and the North County Friends. The college is such an integral piece of our community, and it was an honor working with the committee to schedule this mixer."

—Maureen Moore

Photo by Mathew Caine



Above, from left: Tom Herman won \$56 in the 50/50 raffle. Cathy Lawrence won a gift basket. Photos by Mathew Caine

Margie and Mike Smith pose behind Pam Baskin, left, and Allison Findley at the check-in table. Jan Rodriguez works the beer and wine table at the mixer. Majide played for the attendees. Below, from left: Cheese and cracker platters were among the food options. Mathew Caine and Jim Harden show off their raffle tickets. Linda Posner's business is "Joy" according to her nametag.



Photos by Maureen Moore

<b>NOVO THEATRE</b> Willits, CA 57 East Commercial Street - Willits 707-459-NOVO (6696) www.novoytheatre.com <b>Starts Friday, Oct. 19:</b> <b>HALLOWEEN 2018</b>	<b>FIRST MAN</b> (PG13) 2 hrs 21 mins Fri: 5:15 & 8:30pm Sat: 2:00, 5:15 & 8:30pm Sun: 1:00, 4:15 & 7:30pm Mon-Thurs: 4:15 & 7:30pm	<b>VENOM</b> (PG13) 1 hr 52 mins Fri: 4:00, 6:30 & 9:00pm Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30 & 9:00pm Sun: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm Mon-Thurs: 5:30 & 8:00pm	<b>SMALLFOOT</b> (PG) 1 hr 36 mins Fri: 5:40 & 8:00pm Sat: 1:00, 3:20, 5:40 & 8:00pm Sun: 12:00, 2:30, 4:40 & 7:00pm Mon-Thurs: 4:40 & 7:00pm
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Movie Times for 10/12 thru 10/18 This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

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**Supes** | From Page 1

his vision of the role the industry would play in the Third District. "The appellation is held in the very highest esteem, throughout the world. That's a strength in our county.

"We need to promote that. We need to get cannabis going and help small, heritage farmers survive.

"We don't want to go corporate on this," he warned. "We don't want big grows coming into our county. But we need to help the mom and pops survive."

Haschak added he has a 12-point program on his website spelling out what he intends to do to streamline the county's cannabis ordinance.

However, Pinches questioned whether the county needed a cannabis program at all.

"Last year, the County of Mendocino lost \$2.8 million on its cannabis program," he said. "This year, it's hard to tell how much they are going to lose.

"They've admitted they are going to lose, but it's hard to tell how much because they've got so many positions hidden in Building and Planning and in the Ag Department that it's hard to tell how much you can attribute to it. But the point is, they're still going to lose money on the whole program.

"That brings you to the point of: Do we even need it?

"I thought the whole point of [the ordinance was] for the county to make money so we can fix the roads and all the rest of it," Pinches said. "But if the county is going to continue to lose millions of dollars, why do we even need to have the program? Just say, 'OK, whatever,' you know? Why do we need to spend our hard-earned money on the cannabis program?"

Haschak disagreed. "I don't think that's where we are as a county," he said. "I don't think that's what will be in our best interest as a county. I've talked to cannabis growers and seen what they want. I think we can work to make it viable for them, but also [keep] the communities we want.

"I think we need to look at public banking that will make our community safer when we get large amounts of cash out of peoples' homes," he added. "I think we need to look at co-ops that can collaborate and make [cannabis] economically viable.

And "we need direct sales. With those three things, I think we can make it work for people," Haschak said.

Pinches summed up his position on the cannabis ordinance. "I actually have a copy of my marijuana ordinance [written] on the back of a bar napkin. It's really easy to do. All I said was: Keep a very minimal cost for the small growers, and if you want to go medium-sized or large, then you have to go through the use permit process, just like you have to do to put any other type of business in Mendocino County. Let's put everybody on the same playing field.

"I'm about fairness," he added, "whether it's cannabis growing, pears or grapes, or whatever. As far as rules about extraction of water, grading the land, whatever, we already have those laws on the books. There are state, federal and local laws, the grading ordinance, the state grading ordinance, the extraction of water from illegal sources – that's already done. Why do we need to duplicate that?"

"What we've done, over the past two years, [is] probably spent over \$5 million – and we're getting nothing for it," Pinches argued. "Nobody's happy. But it's ... going to take a lot to change it."

Both candidates felt implementation of Measure B, the county's mental health tax measure, has derailed. And when asked whether they supported the use of the old Howard Hospital as a mental health facility, Pinches failed to address the issue, while Haschak brushed it off, stating Howard Hospital was not "on the table right now."

"I was the person ... precinct-walking for Measure B," Haschak said, "because I thought that was the direction we needed to go: We needed to get that tax in place so we could create this PHF unit [psychiatric health facility, a lock-down facility designed to treat people with the most debilitating mental illnesses].

"I just went to the Measure B meeting the other day, and now they are talking about using the money we are getting – over half a million dollars a month in tax revenue – toward crisis stabilization units, crisis intervention and residential treatment.

"We are getting away from the intent of that money to create this PHF unit," Haschak said. "I think we need to look at the big picture again, with town hall meetings or something, and see what the people want to do. Because I think we've almost done a bait-and-switch with people."

Pinches agreed. "Measure B money is supposed to be for the facilities," he said. "I don't disagree that maybe we need more crisis intervention. Putting those services out there in the county – I'm all for that.

"But Measure B was passed just to build facilities," he claimed. "And now they're talking about a smaller facility here, one on the coast. They're talking about building one that Redwood Children's Services, or Redwood Quality Management [would run] in the middle of Ukiah

"One thing I did get out of the Kemper Report that's typical of consultants," Pinches said. "The next thing they need is more money.

"Everybody has a different opinion of where these things should go, but keep in mind, Measure B was for the construction of facilities only, not for the operation of mental health services."

According to the language of the ballot measure,

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

other CAOs [County Administrative Officers], for implementing innovative programs that exemplify the traits of leadership, and for establishing programs and activities that have long-term positive results for the community."

When asked for an example of what she did to earn CACE recognition, Angelo referred to her work on the state's Senate Bill 109 Committee. That committee, put together by the California State Association of Counties, arrived at a funding formula to distribute state money to each of the state's 58 counties in association with Senate Bill 109, the bill that took inmates out of the state prison system and shipped them back to the counties.

Angelo said the committee's goal was to agree on a formula fair to all three types of California counties: urban counties, suburban counties, and rural counties.

She said the committee achieved its goal. "We achieved equity."

Her most recent award is the 2018 President's Award from the Rural County Representatives of California, announced on September 25. According to Angelo, the award was given to her for "exemplary service in advocating for rural counties."

The RCRS press release announcing the award said Angelo was selected "for her work in helping advocate and champion a number of public policy issues on behalf of California's rural counties, including creating a local and regional approach to addressing cannabis cultivation, working to have better deployment of broadband in rural areas, and ensuring access to health care in rural communities."

Greg Norton, RCRS president and CEO, thanked Angelo for "consistently providing RCRS staff and board members wise counsel on a number of public policy areas," and always "being willing to do the work needed to either pass or defeat legislation that is impactful to California's rural counties as a whole. We're grateful for her dedication, and are pleased to provide this year's award to a true champion and advocate for California's rural communities."

"My belief is that Mendocino County is only one of 58 California counties and, at the state level, we don't have much of a voice," Angelo said. "The only way that we can have our voice heard is by trying to advocate on a larger scale.

"So, we have adopted a regional approach, and that's what RCRS does. Working through them, all of the rural counties know that when there is something going on at the state level, we can work together and our voices will be heard."

When asked for an example of work she has done using a regional approach, Angelo pointed to her 2016 work on cannabis, when she represented Mendocino County at a series of meetings of representatives from cannabis-producing counties from Northern California that resulted in a joint statement of recommendations on how the state should approach the then-pending decriminalization of cannabis.

"Our policy statement absolutely influenced cannabis policy at the state level," Angelo said.

In addition, displayed in the foyer of the county's executive office is a multi-year award from the Government Finance Officers Association for clarity and transparency in the presentation of the county budget. According to the plaque, Mendocino County received that award in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

The rest of  
**Letters** | From Page 2

other categories of precise training that takes place.

The volunteers make time out of their lives to do this type of training and go above and beyond what is expected of them. This is just a small example of the commitment that has been given by the history of volunteers we have been so proud of calling our friends and neighbors.

Through my years on the department, the idea of the new firehouse has been a key topic. We used to talk about a brick building with a second story for crew quarters, and one thing we always wanted was a pole to slide down. We wanted a building in the middle to town to impress everyone that would see it. We did not want such a building for ourselves, we wanted such a place for our town.

Due to the high price of building for a public use and with using tax dollars, the department has to build what the budget will accept for the best value. During the long history of the local fire departments, pride has been one of our driving factors. Pride in our equipment, our training and our ability to service our community.

We used to travel statewide and compete in firefighter contests with the large departments, not for personal glory, but to show the pride we have in our little town and community. We send out engines and crews to others in need across the state.

My reason for this letter is to support the upcoming Measure J on the ballot. For years the volunteers have had fundraising events for this firehouse project. In 2002 the department went out for a parcel tax increase, and one of the reasons for the increase was the future need for a new firehouse.

The fire board has submitted numerous applications for grants, but for some reason we have not been awarded any. We used to say that we are too well-trained or that we have worked so hard to get our ISO rating low that we do not look like we need help.

Little Lake Fire is out of options. We need a "Yes" vote to get this built.

Mike Horger, Willits



Spunky Grace

Meet Grace! She is unforgettable! She has a perpetual wink, well, not really. As the result of an accident as a puppy, she lost an eye but she gets along just fine! She manages to use it to her advantage

and appears to wink at everyone! In addition to that, she's cute, sweet, and spunky.

This 8-month-old shepherd mix is a real candidate for canine companion of the month. Come meet her 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 Petfinder or through our website: mendohumanesociety.com. To volunteer or help take the dogs for a walk, please join HSMC on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.



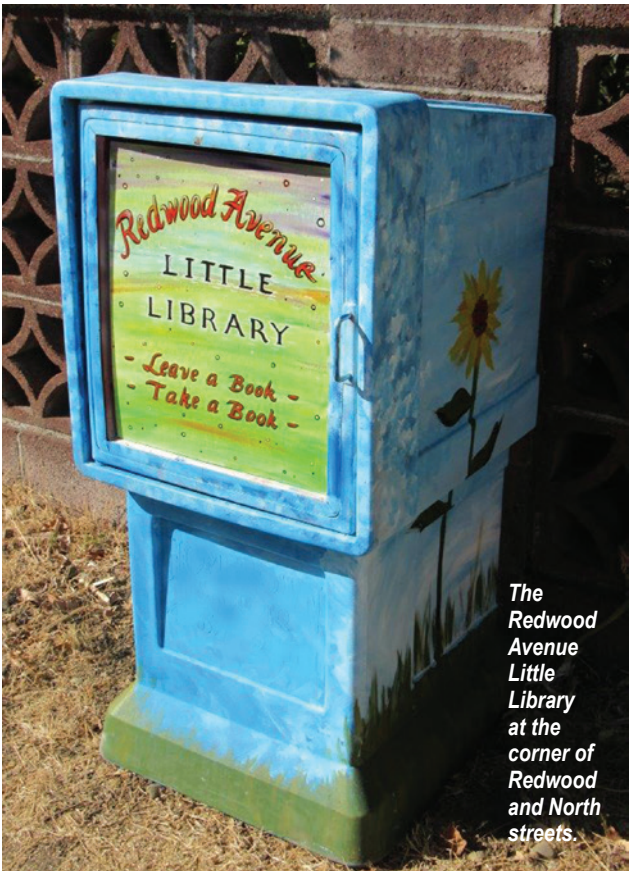
Happy Einstein

This young happy dog is Einstein. He is an 8-month-old neutered male who currently weighs 42 pounds. He currently goes back and forth from a foster to the shelter. His foster mom Janette has great things to say about him. Einstein has been a great foster boy. He has gone on all kinds of adventures, and he's willing to go anywhere – even to the car show in downtown Ukiah, where he was great!

He is non-reactive and seems to love everyone he meets. He is great in his crate, and sleeps all night in it. He loves toys and likes to play in water in the kiddie pool. He has learned "Sit" and now knows "Down." He responds well to "No" or "Uh-uh." He will get mouthy, but is learning it is not OK. He is a puppy with lots of energy and needs to be watched at all times. If you're looking for a fun companion, Einstein will be the perfect match!

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.

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. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.



The Redwood Avenue Little Library at the corner of Redwood and North streets.



Neighbors Linda MacDonald, left, and Annie Waters stand with the colorful free library.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

Little Library

Redwood Avenue neighborhood creates and shares a colorful free book box

A Willits neighborhood has been graced by a little free library set up on the corner of Redwood Avenue and North Street. Adorned by cheery sky-blue paint and sunflowers, the Redwood Avenue Little Library offers – and accepts – free books.

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Neighbors Annie Waters and Linda MacDonald talked about how the free book library had been established. "There were a few of us neighbors who worked on it after we got the box offered to us," Waters said. "It went up just before Labor Day."

Waters got help and inspiration with the project from artist Carolyn Bakewell, who designed and painted the sky and flowers. The box is a cherry red inside. Artist Linda MacDonald painted "the sign" on the front door.

"It fits in with the Willits Paint the Town project," Waters said, "and with local neighborhood community vibrancy."

"We hope a lot of books get exchanged there and that people meet and talk about books with each other," Waters said.

"This is a great idea," said passerby Jason, a patron of the free library, who said he'd been dropping off books there, too. "Every neighborhood should have one."

"We welcome anybody to use our library," MacDonald said. "As the sign says: 'Leave a Book' and 'Take a Book.' We're into keeping it neat and tidy."

There have been people using the free library since it went up, including those taking a walk in the neighborhood, and drivers too. "I have

seen people drive here, stop and drop off books, and pick up books," MacDonald said. Waters has seen parents with children stop to check the library out, too. "We had some kids books," she said, "but they were all taken. We'd love more kids' books."

"It feels really good to give things," Waters said. "especially when it enriches and benefits an unknown or secret friend. That's one of the things I love about the library."

"It's a way to promote community, promoting literacy and community awareness," MacDonald said.

The Redwood Avenue neighborhood has had a Labor Day block party for 10 years, with a BBQ and potluck where they "talk about the neighborhood news," MacDonald said, and encourage residents to get to know each other. "We encourage other neighborhoods to do this, too!"

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

Welcome  
Paul M. Charpentier, MD  
Orthopedic Surgeon

We are pleased to welcome to Dr. Paul M. Charpentier to the Orthopedic Joint Center team. Dr. Charpentier will be working with Drs. William Bowen and Jeremiah Dawson doing what he loves most – helping patients get back to moving without pain.

Born and raised in Mendocino County, Dr. Charpentier is excited to care for the community he loves. He specializes in minimally invasive hip and knee replacement, arthroscopic surgery and complex reconstruction of the hip, knee and shoulder. He is an advocate for non-operative treatments, but is highly trained in surgical joint replacement and revisions. He believes multi-modal pain protocols and post-operative rehab protocols are key to a speedy recovery.

Dr. Charpentier earned his medical degree from Northeast Ohio Medical University, completed a residency at Michigan State University, followed by a Fellowship at Virginia Commonwealth University, specializing in joint replacements.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Charpentier and his wife and three children to our community.

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Photos by Mathew Caine

# Art from the Ashes

2017 Redwood fire survivors find healing from the tragedy in artistic expression

Willits and Mendocino County is a place of dangerous beauty. That scenery that greets residents every morning with magnificent views is a spark away from becoming a maelstrom of fire that is capable of consuming all that we love: homes, art, pets and people. Living so close to

**Mathew Caine**  
Features Writer  
mathew@willitsweekly.com

and with nature gives us gifts, but also has us living at its will.

The recent fires of the last two years affected all of us in some way. We all lost something, at the least, a feeling of serenity and safety. We are all survivors. We refuse to be victims. Healing takes time, but it can be aided with creative projects that allow the survivors to apply their feelings and fears into an artistic medium that enables them to come to terms with their grief. Thus the "Art from the Ashes" project was launched.

"Art from the Ashes," featuring artwork made by the survivors of the 2017 Redwood fire, had an opening reception Saturday at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits and will be exhibited at the museum through November 4. Many of the pieces on display came from a workshop that artist and muralist Elizabeth Raybee offered to survivors at her Ukiah studio, to create and to talk through their experiences.

"I did a two-weekend workshop," explained Raybee, "that was free to anyone who was strongly affected by the fire. Most people in it had

had their houses burned down. Judy Geer, who did this mirror," Raybee said as she pointed out a mosaic piece of mirror and melted window, "she and her husband and her daughter stayed awake for two or three nights, and they fought the fire because he had been a firefighter in Marin most of his adult life. They saved their house and their neighbor's house. This piece that she made was from one of her neighbor's broken, melted windows who did lose their house, and she's giving it to them as a gift."

"Most of those people got to come for the whole two weekends," Raybee said. "At first I thought to [ask them to] bring broken and melted things, and then I realized most people couldn't get back to their homes. Either they were not in the space to go look at that point, or FEMA came in and scraped everything away. Since I already have a studio completely filled with tons of mosaic supplies of every sort, I made a lot of [ceramic] letters and numbers, so people could write things into their pieces. People could come and do the workshop. They didn't have to bring anything."

"The two weekends were really moving," continued Raybee, "I heard a lot of stories. I had one person tell me that just making decisions about where each piece goes in the mosaic, every piece had to be 'decided,' that she had

Read the rest of **Ashes** Over on Page B6

Above, from left: Esther Siegel stands beside her creation, "Barn's Burned Down." Exhibit organizers Elizabeth Raybee and Jaye Moscariello embrace for a photo. Visitors to "Art from the Ashes" at the Mendocino County Museum examine a felted art piece. Some items, like this Buddhist statue, were found in burned areas after the fire.



Above: Artist Elizabeth Raybee shows one of the mosaic mirrors to a friend. Below, left: "Untitled" by Tom Boek is an unusual sculpture of metal melted in the fire. Below, right: Jan Hoyman shows her collection of plates.



# SPOOKTACULAR COSTUME CONTEST

## WEDNESDAY

## OCTOBER 31, 2018

6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

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Above, from left: Debbie Frye brought her 25-year old warmblood, Mars, to the animal blessing. Attendees gather in the shaded garden area with their pets on Saturday morning. First-time blessing attendees, Camila, left, and Natalie, hold 4-year-old Cookie.

Photos by Maureen Moore

## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor, Bill Nobles  
Information: 456-9668  
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**Grace Community Church**  
Celebrating Life In Christ  
25 Hazel Street, Willits  
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
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 Bandmanadam  
Mass times:  
Saturday confessions - 4:45 p.m.  
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass -  
9:00 a.m. English  
10:30 a.m. Spanish  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

**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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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



Above: David Hughes mans the sound booth for Levi Lloyd and Friends during the Falling out of Summer Music in the Park event.

# Blessing the Animals

Annual event appreciates the furry loved ones in the lives and memories of the community

A horse, Mars, and his owner, Debbie Frye, were among the first few to be waiting at the St. Francis garden outside of the St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church Saturday morning for the Rev. Betsy Bruneau and the annual Blessing of the Animals event.

All animals are welcome, as are stuffed animals and even photos of loved pets who have passed, at the ceremony dedicated to appreciating the roles and places pets have in humans' hearts and lives.

The ceremony started with a few prayers, which participants were able to read along with, thanks to a small handout.

Bruneau then individually went to all the attendees, and gave each a special blessing.

"Thank you for being a part of our lives," "Thank you for taking care of your person," "You will forever have a special place in our hearts," and other sweet sentiments were issued to each attendee. People also received a quick blessing, issued with a cedar sprig dipped in water.

— Maureen Moore

At right, from top: Shane and his 7-year-old corgi/ Golden retriever/ cocker spaniel mix rescue dog, Waffle, receive a blessing from the Rev. Betsy Bruneau. Even stuffed animals can receive blessings. A prayer is spoken at the beginning of the Blessing of the Animals event. Below: Rev. Betsy Bruneau blesses Peppermint the stuffed animal for Cordelia.



At right, from top: Levi Lloyd and Friends plays to the gathered crowd at the third Falling out of Summer Music in the Park event.

Attendees gather around the Ramirez Taco Truck which parks in the Rec Grove's cement driveway during the Music in the Park events.

At right: City staffers Stephanie Garra-brant-Sierra and Bill Wilson enjoy tunes in the park.



Thursday is the last chance this season to catch the "Falling Out of Summer" series of concerts being held in the Rec Grove park; Funkacillin will play from 5 to 7 pm and everyone is welcome to attend the free event.

Last Friday, Levi Lloyd and Friends came to play for the gathered crowd; the band hails from Sonoma County and as music aficionado and Willits City Manager Stephanie Garra-brant-Sierra noted, they have quite a following and are probably the most widely known band who participated in the series.

"There was a slightly smaller turnout last week," said Garra-brant-Sierra. "And it was a shame, Levi Lloyd and Friends put on a great show! We did change the date from Thursday to Friday last week, however, since we worried about the possible lingering rain Thursday, and because we had also received feedback that people wanted a Friday show."

Regardless, those who did make the trek to the park, with foldable chairs, blankets

— Maureen Moore

At left, below: Attendees gather on the lawn at the Rec Grove to watch Levi Lloyd and Friends play. At right: Bring your chairs and find just the right spot to enjoy the last concert of the year, October 11, with Funkacillin.



Above, left: Willits Frontier Days Junior members, including, Danielle Barry, Lisa Arkelian, Hazel Cooke, Elena Arkelian, Desi Oliver, Cadion Rambauth, and Hailey Riley, worked hard to ready the rodeo grounds for this Saturday's Ranch Rodeo. At left: Hailey Riley runs the weed eater. At left, below: Danielle Barry mows the lawn at the grounds.

Photos by Marcy Barry

## Getting Ranch Rodeo Ready

Willits Frontier Days Juniors spruce up grounds for Saturday's rodeo and BBQ

It was all hands on deck Sunday at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds, as seven members of the Willits Frontier Days Juniors and a crew of supervising and assisting adults came out to get the grounds ready for this Saturday's Ranch Rodeo. Junior members included Danielle Barry, Lisa Arkelian, Hazel Cooke, Elena Arkelian, Desi Oliver, Cadion Rambauth, and Hailey Riley, and adults included Marcy Barry, Alexis England, and Erin and Earl Rambauth.

Some ran weed eaters, leaf blowers and mowers, others lined the trash cans with new bags and picked up old garbage around the grounds – all in an effort to spruce things up for the upcoming festivities.

The annual Ranch Rodeo event will take place at the grounds this Saturday, October 13 starting at 10 am with the opening ceremonies and the Working Ranch Horse class. The barbecue contest will start at noon and the Calcutta Auction around 12:30 pm, with the main rodeo events following, including: Calf Branding, Team Sorting, Ranch Doctoring, Dally Calf Roping and Trailer Loading.

Riders interested in participating in the event are welcome to still sign up to be a three-person team for the Ranch Rodeo, or to compete as an individual in the Working Ranch Horse class. Three-person teams pay a \$600 entry fee, and individuals entering the Working Ranch Horse class pay a \$70 entry fee.

There's something for the non-equestrian participants, too: the barbecue cook-off. Entry into the contest is \$80 per team, and awards are offered for People's Choice ribs, beans and bread, and Judge's Choice ribs, beans and bread. There's also a best decorated table award, too. The raw meat is supplied by Willits Frontier Days, but contestants are responsible for bringing five loaves of bread and 3 to 5 gallons of beans, as well as their own cooking apparatus, and other materials and ingredients.

2017 BBQ cook-off winners included Garman's Construction for Judge's Choice ribs and bread; Willits Fire Rescue for Judge's Choice beans and People's Choice ribs; the Willits Power Thunder Chickens for People's



Choice bread; and Folsom Ranch for People's Choice beans and best decorated table.

Taster tickets will be sold for \$10 to those wishing to cast votes for the People's Choice awards. Entry to watch the rodeo is free of charge.

Entry forms for both the barbecue and the rodeo are located online at [www.WillitsFrontierDays.com](http://www.WillitsFrontierDays.com) under the "year-round" tab. For more info on the rodeo, contact Marcy Barry at 272-5395 and for the BBQ, contact Mattie Owen at 367-5550.

— Maureen Moore



Photos by Maureen Moore



Photos from the 2017 Ranch Rodeo, above, from left: Attendees bid on which team they think will win the rodeo during the Calcutta Auction. If the buyer's team wins, they too share in the winnings. Kat Willits works on moving steer "0" towards the barrels. Cowboys in the ring work to rope a calf. Above, right, from top: Mary Fonsen, Misty Gonzales and Kinzie Barlow at the Willits Power and Hardware barbecue booth. Brian White gets ready to throw his loop. Mike Fonsen works to keep steer "1" separated from the rest of the herd.

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**Paul Craig**  
1939 - 2018

Paul Craig passed away peacefully at home on September 26 with family and friends present after a long struggle with leukemia. Paul was born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1939. He is survived by his wife, Thayer, his daughter, Tasha and one brother, Guy Thomas Craig, Jr., who lives in Sausalito with his partner, MaryAnn Miner. Paul graduated from Emporia State Teachers College in Kansas where he met Thayer. He spent four years of active service in the Air Force.

Paul, Thayer and Tasha moved to Willits from the Bay Area in 1980. With the help of his brother, Paul built a home on Pine Mountain where Paul and Thayer recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

Paul, like his father, was a builder and inventor. Intrigued with the houseboat scene in Sausalito, the Craig brothers decided to build houseboats for themselves. With the help of an architect friend, they completed boats that were artistic, compensated designs with slanted walls, rounded roofs and upper decks. They lived on them for several years.

Paul's next major building project was to join two other experienced boat builders to build three 42 foot Piver trimarans. This was a two-year project, and Paul's trimaran was completed in a rented barn in Davis. The craftsmanship was professional and the boat performed well. The family lived on the boat in the Bay Area and sailed in the San Francisco Bay and up and down the coast.

Paul was a licensed airplane mechanic and pilot. He worked for several years at the Oakland airport on passenger planes. During this time he and his family purchased a "run out" Cessna 150, and he supervised a complete teardown and reconstruction of the plane so it could fly again – and fly it did. While living in Alameda he remodeled three Victorian houses.

Paul was an adventurous traveler. With his brother and two German friends, he went by RV through Morocco. Another trip was to Pakistan and India with Thayer and Guy to stay and tour with a Pakistani friend. A special trip with Guy, Thayer, MaryAnn and Paul was a cruise up the Norwegian coast to the Russian border and back to Oslo by train.

Paul was a loving and generous husband, father and friend. His love of life and optimistic spirit will be missed. A memorial for Paul is planned for October 20 at the Willits Center for the Arts in the upstairs room from 3 to 6 pm.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



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