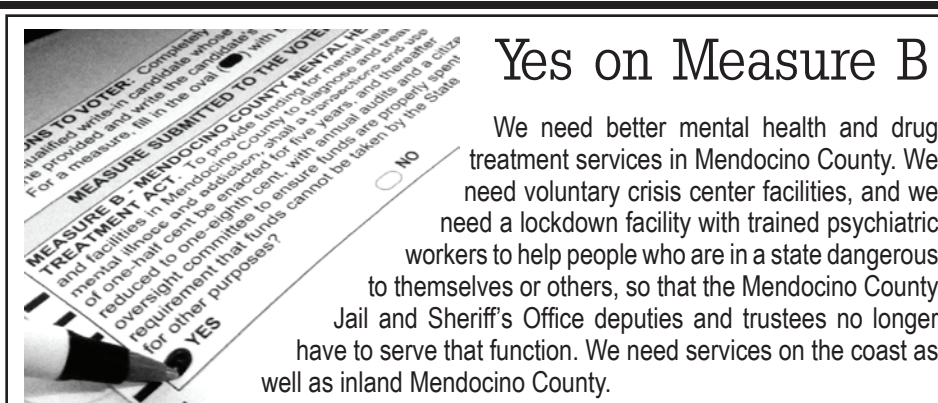


Photos by Teresa Robertson

Read the rest of
Damage |
Over on Page 6



Yes on Measure B

We need better mental health and drug treatment services in Mendocino County. We need voluntary crisis center facilities, and we need a lockdown facility with trained psychiatric workers to help people who are in a state dangerous to themselves or others, so that the Mendocino County Jail and Sheriff's Office deputies and trustees no longer have to serve that function. We need services on the coast as well as inland Mendocino County.

If we pass Measure B, we will have the funds to pay for these facilities – for the price of paying just a tiny bit more in sales taxes, which visitors to our beautiful county will be paying, too.

Measure B would add a sales tax of one-half cent per dollar spent, or 0.50 percent, for five years, which would then be reduced to an ongoing extra tax of one-eighth cent per dollar spent, or 0.125 percent.

What does that actually mean?

The sales tax rate currently in the City of Willits is 7.875 percent – when you spend \$100 now, you pay \$107.88 total, including sales tax. With Measure B adding 0.50 percent to the sales tax, the sales tax rate in the City of Willits will go up to 8.375 percent for five years: When you spend \$100, you'll pay \$108.38. After five years, when the Measure B sales tax is reduced to an extra .0125 percent, the sales tax will be an even

8 percent: When you spend \$100, you'll pay \$108, including sales tax.

The county auditor estimates about \$38 million would be raised over the five years the extra half-cent sales tax would be collected, between July 2018 and June 2023. Measure B requires that a maximum of 75 percent of that \$38 million in estimated revenues may be spent on facilities, and "not less than 25 percent" shall be dedicated to services and treatment.

After the first five years, the auditor estimates the ongoing 0.125 percent extra sales tax will generate approximately \$1.972 million a year, and Measure B requires that 100 percent of that revenue be used for "ongoing operations, services and treatment."

If passed by two-thirds of Mendocino County voters, Measure B would establish an 11-member Citizen's Oversight Committee to make recommendations to the county board of supervisors on how Measure B funds should be spent. Each county supervisor will select one representative to the committee, and the rest will be made up of a member of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, the director of the county's Mental Health Services (or his/her representative), the county auditor (or a representative), the county CEO (or a representative), the county sheriff (or a representative), and a representative of the Mendocino Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The meetings of this committee will be public meetings, subject to the Brown Act open meetings law.

We hope this endorsement will encourage people who have not yet voted to make the effort to send in their mail-in ballots or show up at the polls to vote on November 7. We understand voters' reluctance to raise taxes, but we think it's worth spending this tiny bit extra to improve the whole community's quality of life. Yes on Measure B – For Better Mental Health Services.

Ballot argument in favor of Measure B

Everyone agrees that people suffering from mental illness or drug addiction need treatment. Jail is not a solution. Nor is confinement in distant facilities far from home.

That's why it's crucial to vote YES on Measure B – Mendocino County's Mental Health Treatment Act.

Since Mendocino County closed its only psychiatric health facility in 2000, local mental health services for our most vulnerable citizens have drastically declined. Today, too many beds in our emergency rooms and county jail are occupied by men and women suffering from mental illness and/or addiction. Our county jail shouldn't be the largest psychiatric facility in the region.

Vote YES on Measure B so Mendocino County can construct and operate local mental health treatment facilities and a behavioral health training center so Mendocino County residents suffering from mental illness or addiction can be appropriately diagnosed, housed and treated.

Traumatized veterans, the homeless, even some of our own family members or friends are paying the price of our neglected mental health system – and so are taxpayers. Vote YES on Measure B to save taxpayer dollars by providing early treatment of mental illness and drug addiction, breaking the cycle of homelessness and re-incarceration.

Measure B also includes important taxpayer protections. Vote YES on Measure B, because, by law, all funds can only be used to improve mental health services in Mendocino County. They cannot be taken by the state or used elsewhere.

Vote YES on Measure B to require independent annual audits that must be reviewed by a Citizens' Oversight Committee. Vote YES on Measure B to improve the quality of life for everyone in Mendocino County by providing essential mental health services to Mendocino County residents who need them.

Please join law enforcement, doctors, nurses, taxpayer advocates, business leaders and neighbors by voting YES on Measure B. It's the right thing to do.

Signed by: Tom Allman, sheriff, Mendocino County; John McCowen, chair, representing the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors; Debbie L. Marks, MD, emergency physician; Ross H. Liberty, business owner and taxpayer advocate; and Carlos Jacinto, youth advocate

No argument against Measure B was submitted.

Super Heroes!

To the Editor:

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." That is the motto of Christ's Church of the Golden Rule at Ridgewood Ranch in Willits, California.

These extraordinary people live what they believe. Brian Bartholomew and his fire crew, along with crews from Willits, Los Angeles, Nevada, Oregon and other areas kept the Golden Rule Village from burning. They have worked day and night without stopping. In fact, they continue to watch over our area.

Cody Bartholomew, Joe Swearingin, and young people in the agriculture program worked very hard to get the water system working.

Rick Randall, the manager of the park, worked tirelessly updating and communicating with villagers. He brought in Fort Bragg Septic portable potties because none were available in our area. This allowed people to stay in their homes because there was no water to flush toilets.

Lisa Wilde, also a manager, worked with mountains of paperwork to keep things going.

Ellen Bartholomew helped and coordinated lunches for all villagers, staff and firefighters.

The ranch organized a patrol unit to drive through the park at night to keep us safe.

Also, thanks to the numerous, wonderful people who have not been specifically named that worked so diligently in helping us through this difficult time.

All residents at Golden Rule Mobile Village wish again to extend their heartfelt gratitude and thanks to each and every

person who helped us during this ordeal.

Willits Fire Department loaned Ridgewood Ranch a Little Lake fire engine to fight the fire here at Golden Rule Mobile Village and ranch. Without it we would not have survived this horrible fire.

Thank you! You all are truly our Super Heroes!

Carrole Haas and the residents at Golden Rule Mobile Village

It needs to pass

To the Editor:

The coming election on Tuesday, November 7 is not a glamorous election. No presidents to select. No senators, representatives or governors. When it's not glamorous, the turnout is always abysmal.

We must not let this happen this time.

On the ballot is Measure B. It needs to pass.

For the sake of those who need help; for the sake of the families struggling to provide the care they need; for the sake of creating a compassionate community, Measure B needs to pass.

But to pass, Measure B needs approval by 2/3 of the votes cast. That's the law. That means that for every vote cast against it, Measure B needs two votes cast in its favor. It's a hurdle.

If you support Measure B 100 percent, you must make the effort to vote for it.

If you support Measure B 60 percent, you must make the effort to vote for it.

It's no time to dither or be complacent. It needs to pass.

Louis Rohlicek, Willits

A heartfelt thank you

To the Editor:

On behalf of my wife, Kim "Sugar B" and myself, I would like to thank all the folks who attended the fundraiser that was held in my behalf on Saturday, October 7. The outpouring of love and support we felt is still a bit overwhelming. We hope that we got a chance to visit or at least say hi to everyone there. If we didn't, we do apologize, but we

Rich "Pops" Venturi, Willits

Save tax dollars: Vote Yes on Measure B

To the Editor:

If you want to save tax dollars then Yes on Measure B is a good vote to cast. We have a profound mental health problem in our county, but very few resources to deal effectively with those who need help.

It costs taxpayers much more to have a police officer deal with someone who is having a psychotic problem with mental illness than it would to have that person dealt with in a local facility. In jail that

Read the rest of Letters | Over on Page 15

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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The rest of

Lab

From Page 1

"We received multiple 9-1-1 calls regarding an explosion and fire at the lodge, with up to eight burn victims," Schoeppner said. When the chief and Deputy Chief Jon Noyer arrived, all four single-family cabins were fully involved, as was a motorhome and four or five vehicles parked in front of the complex. Multiple explosions were hurling butane canisters into the air.

One man ran from the cabin where the hash oil lab was located on fire, Schoeppner said, but the flames were quickly smothered by several other people apparently living in the apartment before most fled.

The injured man, who suffered critical burns to his face, hands and respiratory system, the chief said, ran to the nearby fire station, where he was treated before being rushed to Howard Memorial Hospital and airlifted to the burn center at the University of California Medical Center in Davis. A second victim, who suffered moderate burns, was treated at Howard Hospital.

Two Brooktrails fire engines and a rescue squad, two Little Lake Fire Protection District engines, five CalFire engines, a CalFire bulldozer and several CalFire hand crews responded to the scene.

"One CalFire engine, the bulldozer and hand crews were not needed" and returned to their quarters, Schoeppner said. Two CalFire engines remained to help fight the flames; a third covered the Brooktrails fire station during the incident.

VeriHealth also sent two ambulances to the scene.

One Brooktrails firefighter suffered a torn Achilles tendon while fighting the fire. He has been released from the hospital, but will not be fully recovered for four to six months.

The firefighters "did an amazing job," Schoeppner said. "From the time we arrived until the time the fire was controlled took only 40 to 50 minutes.

"We were very fortunate to be able to keep it to just that small area of the complex, rather than extending to the two buildings on either side," he added.

The main Brooktrails Lodge building was not damaged, he noted, and flames did not spread into nearby wildlands.

A family with three children was displaced by the fire.

Agents from the Mendocino County Major Crimes Task Force reportedly found several hundred butane canisters in and around the burnt four-plex.

"Witnesses said everybody knew what was going on [in the rented unit], but no one wanted to take responsibility [and notify sheriff's deputies]," Schoeppner.

According to Schoeppner, the critically injured man admitted to emergency medical personnel while being treated at the firehouse that he was responsible for causing the fire.

A Major Crimes agent told the chief he feared fires like that on Sunday night were "only going to get worse."

"The bad part," said Schoeppner, "is we're the ones who have to pick up the pieces. We're going to be facing a lot more of this down the road."

Recent rains did not lessen the danger of Sunday's incident, Schoeppner noted. And even for wildland fires, "a good two or three inches at least" of rain will be needed, he said, before the moisture has much effect on fire risk.

Cooler temperatures and recent rains have done little to alleviate fire danger in Mendocino County, agreed CalFire Mendocino Unit Chief George Gonzalez, and "both residential and outdoor burning permits are still suspended."

Current hazardous fuel conditions remain, Gonzalez said, and will continue until "significant wet storms over an extended period of time" occur.

The Brooktrails Fire Department's wildland firefighting arsenal will be reinforced next year by acquisition of a new water tender. Schoeppner estimates the tender, which is currently under construction, will be delivered by August 2018, although "it might be a bit quicker."

The township has "scoured the country for the past 10 years in an attempt to acquire a used tender with limited hours of service that would be able to negotiate the terrain within the [BFD's] sphere of influence," Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose said in a September memo to the board of directors, "to no avail."

Through a financing agreement with First Capital Equipment Leasing Corp., the district will pay \$420,000 for the tender over a period of 120 months.



The rest of

Engine

From Page 1

in Redwood Valley, and that the fire was on both sides of the road, heading for the Golden Rule." Noyer and another Brooktrails firefighter, Tim Goss, "wanted to take a squad and go down there and assist with the evacuation," Schoeppner said.

After assisting with the evacuations and doing some firefighting, the crew returned to the station. Shortly thereafter, Brooktrails Fire was "dispatched for an immediate need for a Type 3 engine" to Redwood Valley. "We staffed up with three people, and they were at the incident at the beginning and were moved around during the incident as the days went along." The Brooktrails crew were assigned to the initial attack of the fire, and then later assigned to structure protection and any other tasks needed.

The Brooktrails Type 3 engine is a wildland engine, with 4-wheel drive, which also has structure protection equipment on it. The initial crew included Damian Angell, fire captain and engineer, and firefighters Guy Walter and Albert Hinkle, and later Captain Tyler Porritt and firefighter Niko Steffen also worked the Redwood fire with Engine 5285.

Because 9-1-1 and cell phones were down, the Brooktrails Firehouse was staffed 24/7 with volunteer firefighters, including James Wells, David Wells, Scott Bowman, Emily Smith, Brittany Kessler, James Kessler, Tyler Porritt, Tim Goss, Jon Arrington, as well as Schoeppner and Noyer.

Firefighters "slept in the chairs pretty much," Schoeppner said. "They had sleeping bags and rotated through – we had somebody awake at all times to be able to answer questions."

And questions they did get, as Brooktrails residents showed up to the fire station in search of information, especially between 2 and 5 am the first morning of the fire. "They wanted

to know if they needed to evacuate," Schoeppner said. The answer was: "Not at this point, but stay prepared, we'll let them know if they need to go."

Brooktrails Fire was "constantly monitoring the situation and knew exactly what was going on," he added. "If at any time we felt we needed to order an evacuation [of any Brooktrails area], we would've certainly done that, but it wasn't necessary."

Asked about using an emergency siren for evacuations if the phones were down, Schoeppner said Brooktrails did have such a siren years ago, but "it became defunct several years ago. It was kinda aggravating for some of the people that were near it," he said, and some damage was caused to the lines that went to it, because people "didn't want to hear it when we were testing it once a month."

But the possibility of a new siren – with new technology – is something "we'll be investigating and looking further into as we move forward with all our lessons. There are lot of lessons to be learned, from this fire."

There was also a medical emergency during the time the phones were out. "The neighbor knew we were here, and came straight to the station. We responded, with an ambulance, and assisted them, and the patient was transported. We were in business despite 9-1-1 being out."

Brooktrails Fire also assisted with covering the Little Lake Fire District, while LLFD equipment was out fighting the fire. "We assisted them with a vehicle fire on Highway 20, and then we had a report of a fire at the north end of the bypass, which turned out to be nothing, and another medical incident."

Chief Schoeppner wanted to the station the crew of Engine 5285 and the fire station crew "for their commitment and dedication to our community."



Below, left: Fighting the fire at the Birch Street apartments Sunday night, October 22. Below, right: Brooktrails Fire Department's Engine 5281 at the scene of the honey oil lab fire Sunday night.



At left: Brooktrails Fire Department Engine 5285 and crew fighting the Redwood fire on Monday, October 9 on the Redwood Valley Rancheria up Road I.

Photo by Peter Armstrong

Below: Members of the Brooktrails Fire Department pose together including, from left: Firefighter Scott Bowman; Deputy Chief Jon Noyer; Engineer Albert Hinkle; Firefighter Guy Walter; Firefighter Brittany Kessler; Engineer Damian Angell; Fire Chief Daryl Schoeppner and Engineer David Edgar.

Photo by Maureen Moore

Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

How To Sudoku:

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

HEROES/VILLAINS WORD SEARCH

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

ANTMAN ELEKTRA IRON MAN SPIDERMAN
BATGIRL FLASH JEAN GREY SUPERGIRL
BATMAN GAMBIT LEX LUTHOR SUPERMAN
BEAST GENERAL ZOD LOKI THOR
BLACK WIDOW GREEN GOBLIN MYSTIQUE ULTRAGIRL
BLADE HAWKEYE PHOENIX ULTRON
CAPTAIN AMERICA HERCULES POISON IVY VILLAIN
CAPTAIN UNIVERSE HERO ROBIN WOLVERINE
DAREDEVIL HULK ROGUE WONDER WOMAN

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

CLUES ACROSS

- Plural of ascus
- Repents
- British School
- Adhesive to catch birds
- Male children
- Oil company
- Intestinal
- Money slogan
- 2nd tone
- In actual truth
- Belgian-French River
- Rural Free Delivery
- Midway between S and SE
- Texas armadillo
- 2nd largest Hawaiian island
- Pile up
- Changes liquid to vapor
- Yemen capital
- Byways
- V-shaped cut
- Painting on dry plaster
- Daminozide
- Papa's partner
- ___-fi: fiction/movie genre
- 1st Soviet space station
- Latvian capital
- Come into view

- Blue Hen school of New Zealand
- Picture & word puzzle
- Atomic #18
- Xiamen dialect
- Being overzealous
- One who did it (slang)
- Night breathing noises
- A minute amount (Scott)

CLUES DOWN

- Race of Norse gods
- Large pebbles
- Latin line dances
- The inner sole of a shoe
- A French abbot
- Moves stealthily
- An alternative
- 39th state
- Lotus sports car model
- River fill
- Byways
- Many noises
- Ghana monetary units
- Actor Hughley
- The Cowboy State
- 2nd. Jest
- America
- Surprise attack
- Daddy

- Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- Express pleasure
- Cellist Yo-Yo
- Bronx cheer
- A more firm substance
- Essential oil obtained from flowers
- Company that rings receipts
- Largest church in Christianity
- Capital of Wallonia
- Heroic tale
- Send forth
- The Golden State
- 1/1000 of an inch
- Angel of the 1st order
- Ukrainian peninsula
- Disregard
- Colophony
- Spanish be
- Military policeman
- Cleopatra's country
- Br. drinking establishments
- Removes moisture
- Liberal Arts degree
- Execute or perform
- Atomic #77

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

October 16 to October 22

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 175 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

October 16

12:15 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 20000 block of North Highway 1.

12:32 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 20000 block of North Highway 1.

1:15 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

7:25 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 400 block of Della Avenue.

8:07 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 700 block of South Main Street.

8:09 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

9:37 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

1:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

1:37 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

6:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

October 17

12:26 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious noise in the 100 block of State Street.

9:52 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of Della Avenue and Locust Street.

12:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of South Humboldt Street.

1:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue and issued a warning.

3:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

5:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of East Hill Road and East Side Road.

10:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:54 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street

October 18

4:51 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road.

9:54 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

12:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

12:58 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

2:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of several suspicious persons in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

6:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of South Main Street.

10:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue.

October 19

8:36 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of North Main Street and East Commercial Street.

1:19 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

4:47 pm: SIMPSON, Gerald Crandall (47) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole and on misdemeanor charges of

possession of a controlled substance.

5:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of a sexual assault in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

6:00 pm: MARTINEZ, Jorge Abel (29) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of Mill Street following a domestic disturbance. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of domestic battery and violation of probation.

6:01 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

9:56 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Humboldt Street.

October 20

6:56 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.

12:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Highway 20 and Coast Street.

12:20 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Bush Street.

12:33 pm: Officers initiated a hit and run vehicle collision investigation in the 600 block of South Main Street.

1:51 pm: SWEARINGER, Felix Troy (27) of Covelo was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence), on misdemeanor charges of driving with a blood alcohol content over .08% and driving with a suspended license, and on felony charges of violation of parole.

5:55 pm: PALMER, Timmothy Charles (27) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of North Highway 101 and Hollands Lane. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence, reckless driving, obstructing a peace officer, contempt of court for disorderly behavior, and violation of probation.

October 21

8:06 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Wood Street.

10:12 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:21 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1000 block of Poplar Avenue.

6:32 pm: YARBROUGH, Allen Micheal (29) of Jamestown, New York was contacted in the 21000 block of Locust Street. He was arrested on felony charges of transporting drugs for sale, possession of a controlled substance, and being a fugitive from justice.

8:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of State Street.

11:06 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation near the intersection of East Commercial Street and Marin Street.

October 22

12:03 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Sandy Avenue and Bonnie Lane.

12:26 am: DUNCAN, Shanice Elizabeth (23) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of West Valley Street and South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct.

3:14 am: NAPOLI, Dominic Antonio (22) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence) and 11375 H&S (Possession of a Controlled Substance).

1:33 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

3:07 pm: O'CONNOR, Bernard Thomas Jr. (37) of San Francisco was contacted in the 100 block of West Valley Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on charges of disorderly conduct.

3:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

8:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 200 block of Margie Drive.



From far left: The Schindels open the show. Michelle Cummins of KLLG thanks the crowd for their support. Bob Fry, financial director of KLLG, enjoys himself at the KLLG anniversary party.

Below: The sold-out crowd at The Hill Punk Hoe Down helped raise \$8,500 for KLLG.

At bottom: The Dirt Floor Band reunites for The Hill Punk Hoe Down.

KLLG Anniversary

Willits' radio station celebrates first year with 'Hill Punk Hoe Down'

By the end of the evening, KLLG Radio's first anniversary party, "The Hill Punk Hoe Down" at the Little Lake Grange, had netted a profit of \$8,500. This was thanks to the efforts of the hard-working management team and the growing cadre of loyal listeners to this eclectic, local low-powered station who packed the Grange Hall to capacity. All leftover food from the party was sent to the Redwood Valley Grange to help feed those displaced by the fire. Station management will be meeting this week

Mathew Caine

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County Disaster Fund.

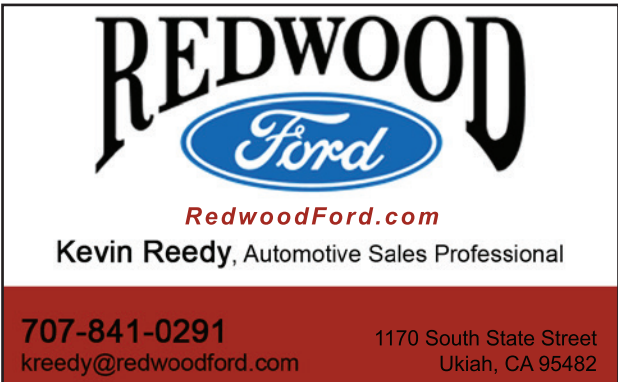
The evening was marked by excellent performances by hosts Greg and Malakai Schindel, who sang multi-instrumental songs that warmed up the crowd. Next up was the amazingly tight, retro jazz sounds of Tumbledown House from Oakland, consisting of Tyler Ryan Miller (guitar and vocals), Gillian Wolfe (vocals and kazoo stylings), Zac Johnson (clarinet, bass clarinet and trombone), Arlo Perstein (trumpet), Ryan Lukas (upright bass), and Jimi Marks (drums).

In contrast to Tumbledown House's precisely rehearsed music, the headliners, local favorites The Dirt Floor Band, blasted out their brash club band, high-energy sounds that got the crowd off their feet and up dancing for the rest of the evening. The band, consisting of Adam Sullivan (guitar, mandolin and vocals), Kyle Madrigal (bass), Jeffrey Stovall (banjo), Malakai Schindel (flute, harmonica and others), and Bobby Cochran (drums) did not disappoint their fans in this, their reunion concert. It is always a treat when they get together and let loose.

In addition to purchasing tickets, attendees were encouraged to donate, bid in a silent auction, and buy raffle tickets. Luscious and healthy food was provided by the Zocalo Collective.

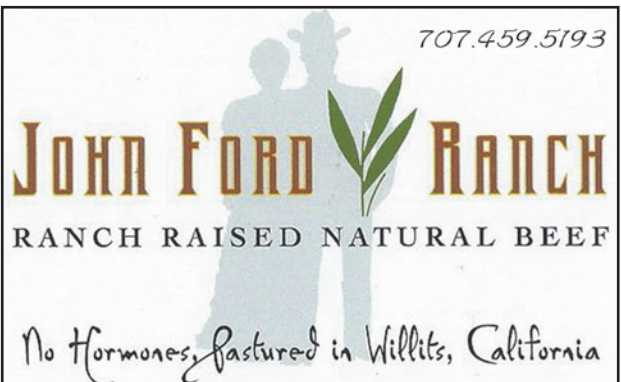
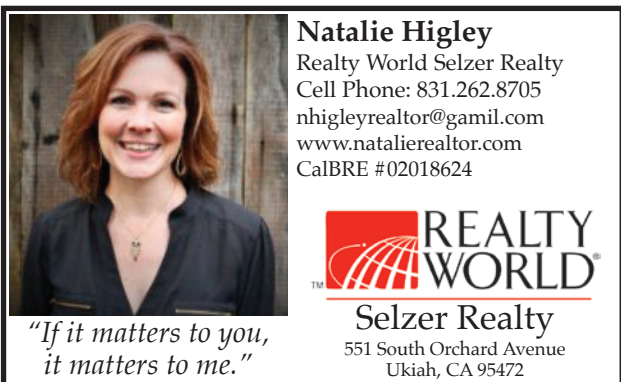
One of the original founders of KLLG, Lanny Cotler, used to speak of his vision of the station as a facility where communication could remain open during times when all other communications were knocked out due to disasters in a dystopian future. This vision recently played out during the Redwood fire.

The station, due to the efforts of its dedicated management team and programmers, notably Michelle Cummins, Mike Burgess, Bob Fry,



Above, left: Rossi Jensen, programmer at KLLG, displays the auction items. Above, right: Lauren Jaslow, KLLG programmer, compiles a list of beverages for the evening. Below, left, top: Gillian Wolfe and Tyler Ryan Miller of Tumbledown House entertain the crowd at the Grange. Below, left, bottom: Greg Schindel and Michelle Cummins get ready for the big event.

Photos by Mathew Caine



structure to steal marijuana occurring in March 2016; kidnapping and robbery while armed with an assault weapon to steal marijuana in July 2017; and vehicle theft while running from law officers on the two prior cases in August 2017.

As part of the negotiated settlement, Jackson stipulated to a state prison sentence of 25 years, according to Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster, who offered Jackson the “take it or leave it” plea deal. The DA’s time-sensitive offer would have expired at 5 pm Wednesday.

Under current law, Jackson will have to serve at least 85 percent of his sentence before becoming eligible for parole.

Jackson’s arrest stemmed from an early morning July 16 raid on a marijuana grow in the 43000 block of Highway 162 when Jackson and several other armed men drove to a home in several vehicles, claiming to be law enforcement officers.

The Willits property owner suspected they were lying and that the ski-masked men had come to steal his cannabis crop. The men allegedly shot their guns, and the property owner ran to call 9-1-1.

A second Willits resident was found unharmed at the site, but said he had been kidnapped and threatened with guns. He told deputies five armed men had held him at gunpoint, asking where they could find

elections official processes your affidavit of registration, determines your eligibility to register, and validates your information,” states the California Secretary of State’s website, “your registration becomes permanent and your provisional ballot will be counted.”

“Conditional voter registration” or CVR, as it’s known, was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2012, “to be operative on the January 1st after the certification of a statewide voter registration database.”

California’s statewide voter registration database, VoteCal, was certified in September 2016, so “CVR became operative” as of January 1, 2017.

CVR is not available online or at polling places on Election Day – only at the county elections office on Low Gap Road in Ukiah.

Although CRV started on January 1 this year, there have been no elections in Mendocino County so far in 2017, so this November 7 election is the first time the county voter office will be handling conditional registrations.

“We will go through the process we go through for all provisional voters to validate their ballots,” said Mendocino County Voter Registrar Sue Ranochak. “We’ll put the ballots in provisional envelopes and put a special sticker on them identifying them as conditional.”

One advantage of requiring that last-

valuable, then forcing him into a truck and threatening to shoot him if he did not go with them. The men allegedly robbed him of his belongings and forced him to help them steal marijuana plants, before letting him go as they drove away.

The Mendocino County SWAT team was called in to search the wooded area around the property, and three men were found and arrested: Daniel Hernandez Sanchez, 24, a transient, and Matthew Sturges, 31, and Alejandro Nunez, 24, both of Willits.

The next day, July 17, a man was stopped on Highway 101 in Redwood Valley and arrested on a Sonoma County warrant. After his arrest, detectives determined the man was a fourth suspect in the Covelo robbery: Joshua Hanover, 29, of Redwood Valley.

Jackson, the fifth suspect in the crime, evaded capture for six weeks, several times fleeing deputies on a motorcycle or all-terrain vehicle. A tip led detectives to where Jackson was hiding on a property in the 4800 block of Black Bart Trail in Redwood Valley.

Jackson’s three felony cases were referred to the probation department for a social study and sentencing report, the DA said. Jackson will be back in court on November 27 at 9 am in Department H for formal imposition of his 25-year sentence.

“Being returned to prison should not be too great of a lifestyle shock for [Jackson],” Eyster said. “This will be the fourth time he has been committed to state prison.”

minute conditional voters register at the voter office, Ranochak noted, is that any omissions – like failing to sign the form – can be corrected right then and there.

The new law provides for a criminal penalty of imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year or a fine of up to \$25,000, or both, for anyone convicted of committing fraud in the execution of a conditional voter registration, as well as an additional civil fine of up to \$25,000.

Ranochak encouraged anyone who’s lost their mail-in ballot to call the voter office by end of day on October 30 to have another ballot sent to them in the mail, but she noted that registered voters can always show up at any polling place to vote, too. They will be given a provisional ballot, and once their information is validated, their vote will be counted.

“We’ve also ordered ample extra sample ballots for the voter places affected by the fire,” Ranochak said. “We have enough ballots and provisional envelopes to cover the permanent absentees in Redwood Valley and Potter Valley. We think we have it covered – we’re very lucky we didn’t lose any polling places in the fire.”

As of Wednesday afternoon, the voter office has received 6,769 ballots back out of 39,000 ballots mailed out for the November 7 election. That’s about a 17 or 18 percent return so far. “Not bad for an off-year election,” Ranochak said.

The tax referred to is the cannabis business tax approved in November 2016, when voters ratified Measure A1. Passage of the measure imposed a minimum tax of \$1,250 for grows of 2,500 square feet or less, \$2,500 for grows of between 2,501 and 5,000 square feet, and \$5,000 for grows larger than 5,000 square feet.

County CEO Carmel Angelo told supervisors at Tuesday’s meeting that 20 to 30 people from the California Office of Emergency Services will be arriving in Mendocino County and seeking a place to set up an office. Angelo is considering following the practice used in Sonoma County, and allowing Cal OES to set up a tent in the county Administrative Center parking lot. Security for the tent would be provided by the National Guard.

Interim Director of the Department of Planning and Building Services Nash Gonzalez reported the Army Corps of Engineers will conduct debris removal for fire victims. To do so, the Army Corps needs to have a right-of-entry form signed by the property owner. Once that form is signed, the Corps will remediate the site free of charge.

Gonzalez added that the Department of Toxic Substances Control will be in the county to conduct an assessment of fire damage and resources needed for cleanup over the next four weeks. Army Corps of Engineers personnel told him the Corps expects to have the fire area cleaned up by January 1, 2018, he said.

Supervisor John McCowen noted it was imperative that remedial action be taken immediately to keep fire debris and ash from flowing into the watercourses within the fire area. He suggested burn areas near creeks need to be covered with plastic and straw wattles laid along the creeks to keep rain-soaked ash sludge from flowing into the water.

McCowen asked what state or federal agency is responsible for protecting the state’s watercourses after a fire, but no one could provide an answer.

“The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board would need to be brought on board as quickly as possible, in order that a wrench doesn’t get thrown into things,” Gonzalez said.

Lee Howard, a North Coast Builder’s Exchange board member who also is a board member of the Russian River Flood Control District, pointed out some of the logistical problems of efficiently getting resources on the ground in some of the remote areas affected by the fire.

He referenced the deep interior reaches of Tomki Creek, near where it flows into the Main Fork of the Eel River. This is way up into Hellangone, about six miles south of Hearst and some three miles northwest of the Van Arsdale Reservoir on the Eel River

side of the Potter Valley Project.

“The number of people it will take to do that is unbelievable,” Howard said. “You’re talking five miles. And by the time you walk around out there to put wattles up and over and in, you’re probably talkin’ 10 miles.

“Semis can’t even get past the old ford. We’re lookin’ at 100 trucks a day, 200 trucks a day. It will be interesting to see how they’re gonna do that,” Howard said.

“If this stabilization doesn’t take place within the next two to four weeks, we are going to have another environmental disaster on our hands,” McCowen warned.

County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder Sue Ranochak told supervisors her department has received 139 damage reports thus far, with losses in property value totaling a little over \$38 million. Her staff will visit the affected properties to assess the loss in property value, Ranochak said. “We will get through it as quickly as we can.”

Director of Environmental Health Trey Strickland advised people with septic tanks and leach fields, whose property has been damaged by the fire, to “tape off” the leach field and tank areas. “If they are well-marked, it seems reasonable to suppose that the Army Corps will be able to get in there without damaging any septic lines,” Strickland said.

When asked by the supervisors if his department could adopt special rules permitting composting toilets on an emergency basis, Strickland replied he could not. The county cannot issue a permit for composting toilets, he said, and the state of California does not have any regulations that would offer any guidance on the issue.

“For a short-term solution, porta-potties are a better solution than composting toilets,” Strickland said.

County Counsel Katharine Elliott said her department would be coming to the supervisors next week with an urgency ordinance that would increase penalties for price-gouging hotel and motel owners offering housing to fire victims. Gonzalez told the board his department is putting the finishing touches on language for a second urgency ordinance that would loosen restrictions on temporary housing, such as recreational vehicles, mobile homes and travel trailers, on properties within the areas affected by the fire.

Recovery Director Tammy Moss Chandler said people who have been impacted by the fire, and who have not yet sought help from the government, should go to the Local Assistance Center at Mendocino College at 1000 Hensley Creek Road, just north of Ukiah. The center is open from 10 am to 7 pm seven days a week and is scheduled to remain open until 7 pm on Monday, October 30.

Chandler added center personnel will assess over the weekend whether the LAC should remain open after October 30 or not.



Above, from left: Efram Turner of Life’s Collective Farm in Redwood Valley came looking for information and cuttings in order to replace crops lost in the Redwood fire. C.J. Hughes, student of the School of Adaptive Agriculture, and James Bording, graduate and intern at Golden Rule, attend the event. Richard Jeske checks sugar content with a refractometer. Below, left: Richard Jeske demonstrates proper pruning technique. Below, right: The red grape table included varieties such as Brilliant, Eureka and Vanessa.



All about Grapes

Local table grape grower holds annual seminar, tasting and sale

Once a year, local Willits table grape grower, Richard “Tootreese” Jeske opens up his vineyard to winners, fruit

farmers, agriculture students and interested members of the general public. It is a party. It is a seminar. It is an event to share ideas, tastes and comradery.

Upon entering the property, the invitees are greeted with a sign welcoming people to the annual grape tasting and explaining that there are “grapes to taste and palate-cleanser snacks (to reset one’s taste buds).” Inside, one will also

find grapes being pressed as well as juices to taste. For purchase are grapes, grape plants, grape juice and tree collard plants (for which Jeske is known as a purveyor of fine collards).

Arrayed on tables, several varieties of table grapes can be found in colorful bowls, arranged by color and whether they contain seeds, with names such as Empress, Himrod, Gold, Queen of the Vineyard, Brilliant, Jefferson, Muscat Angel, Eureka, Einset, Vanessa and more. It is a veritable Grape Garden of Earthly Delights.

In addition to the amazing variety of grapes to sample, there were three bottles of wine, created by Jeske’s significant other, Jacqueline

Morninglight, in a natural process of aging. She has created, by experimentation, a sweet sherry, a sparkling wine, and a white wine. There were also other fruits brought by others to taste.

Mark Albert, a registered nurse and fruit farmer from Ukiah, brought an exotic fruit called “feijoa” to sample. He appreciates their ability to survive in extremes of temperature and atmospheric conditions. Originally from southern Brazil, “they can handle as low as 9 degrees, as they are dormant during the winter months and don’t bloom until May.”

He intends to market the fruit when he retires from nursing. Albert looks to Jeske for wisdom

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Read the rest of
Grapes |
Over on Page 15

Far left: Jacqueline Morninglight’s homemade wine was one of the offerings on the sampling table.

At left: Various fruits were brought to sample, including cherry plums, Asian pears and feijoas.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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Willits Weekly

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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
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
399 W. Mendocino Avenue
459-6390
Stan Caylor, Pastor
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
1st Sabbath of every month
family potluck at the school.
22751 Bray Road, Willits

St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-459-3066
Church Services / Communion
10:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m.
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April Tweddell
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april@willitsweekly.com

Thursday, October 26

“Seven Kinds of Wonderful”: final weekend for the October show at WCA featuring the works of Esther Siegel (assemblage), Julie Beardsley (assemblage), Laura Fogg (art quilts), Nancy Simpson (art quilts), Mickey Fernandez (mosaics), Elizabeth Raybee (mosaics), and Nan Trichler (art quilts). Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Closes, Sunday October 29. Gallery hours: 11 am to 6 pm. Info: 459-1726.

WHS Soccer: Willits High School vs. Fort Bragg High School at home. Thursday, October 26. Girls game at 5:30 pm; boys game at 4 pm (head coach Tatiana Cantrell).

WHS Volleyball: Willits High School vs. Fort Bragg High School at home. Thursday, October 26. JV at 5 pm. (JV head coach Tim Miller); varsity at 6 pm (varsity head coach Jill Walton).

Help For Fire Victims: The Mendocino County Youth Project is organizing a “give-away” event. This event is for anyone in need of clothes, hygiene supplies, suitcases, and the like. Thursday, October 26, 7 to 7 pm. Methodist Church, 286 School Street. Info: Aurelie Clivaz 489-1258.

Charter School Two Day Costume Sale: “Gently used” Halloween costumes at a nominal price this Thursday and Friday. Funds to support charter school students trip to Italy. Thursday, October 26. 3:45 to 5 pm. Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Info: Michel Chenelle 459-5506



Friday, October 27

Charter School Costume Sale: Final day of sale for “gently used” Halloween costumes at a nominal price. Funds to support charter school students trip to Italy. Friday, October 27. 2:30 to 5 pm. Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Info: Michel Chenelle 459-5506

Halloween Carnival at Willits Library: Friday, October 27. 6 to 8 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Tribute to Laura Nyro at WCA: A music and dance tribute to Laura Nyro, the gifted songwriter of the 60s and 70s. Also, Bill Taylor's original music. Jaye Alison Moscarello on vocals. “All are welcome to sing

What's Happening Around Town

along and dance. It's about community healing from the fire.” \$15 suggested donation goes to the Community Foundation Disaster Fund. Friday, October 27. 7 to 10 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Reserved seats in advance via paypal.me/JMoscarello and memo: Laura Nyro, or tickets at the door. Info: Bill and Jaye 272-1688, 310-970-4517 or artisall@earthlink.net

Youth Poetry Night: “Behind the Mic” open mic poetry reading at Brickhouse Coffee on the corner of Main and Commercial streets. It's called “Youth Poetry Night,” but people of all ages are invited to read poetry, prose, play music, and sing. Friday, October 27. 7 to 10 pm. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 Main Street.

Shanachie Pub: Sista Otis, singer/emcee/ songwriter/performer extraordinaire. Friday, October 27. 9 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 28

Pet Costume Contest: Mendo Mill Home Center & Lumber is sponsoring a treat for your dog or cat, and refreshments for their humans. Awards for “Owner/Pet Look-Alike,” funniest costume, scariest costume and “most creative costume.” Saturday, October 28. 11 am to 2 pm. Mendo Mill Home Center, 305 East Commercial Street. Info: 450-4631.

Haunted House at the Charter School: “Willits Haunted Asylum.” Students will be selling pumpkins, and for a nominal fee will carve them, and for a bit more will carve them. Saturday, October 28. 6 to 8 pm. Admission \$5. Willits Charter School, 1431 Main Street. 50 percent of the proceeds will go to the Community Foundation of Mendocino County to help survivors of the Redwood fire.

Annual Halloween Bash at the Grange: Hot Buttered Rum & The Rainbow Girls will be playing in a night of revelry featuring dancing, costumes, a cash bar, and a “funky good time.” This family-friendly costume party sells out the Little Lake Grange every year. Costume contest, silent auction, local beer and wine. Special Kid's Room hosted by Grange Youth. Saturday, October 28. 6 to 11 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Tickets: \$30 in advance at J.D. Redhouse, or \$35 at the door, (children under 12 are free).



Shanachie Pub: Moon Lady-Moon Man Halloween Costume Party featuring the Afro Funk Experience playing chunky rhythms and deep soul sounds. Saturday, October 28. 9:30 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194. Advance party tickets available at Moon Lady-Moon Man, Main Street Music and Video, and Shanachie Pub.

Sunday, October 29

Haunted House at the Charter School: Willits Charter School, 1431 Main Street. See Saturday, October 28 listing for more info.

Tuesday, October 31
Happy Halloween!

Free Halloween Makeup Glitter Party: “Come on in and let us glitter you up!” Glitter hair, tattoos, bears, skin and scary glitter! All ages are welcome. Tuesday, October 31. 2 to 5 pm. CPG Studios, 132 East Valley Street.

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies. “Victoria & Abdul,” “Happy Death Day,” and “Geostorm.” For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Halloween Party at John's Place: Enjoy the party, wear a costume, win the costume contest. 1st place \$30, 2nd place \$20 and 3rd place \$10. Event starts at 10 pm. “Come listen to the DJ playing music and show off your costume!” Free to attend. Ages 21 and up. Tuesday, October 31. John's Place, 377 South Main Street. Info: Laurie 459-5636

Shanachie Pub: All Hallows Eve Party with Blue Lotus, playing a sound that fuses rock and Roll, Blues, Jazz, Funk and Americana styles. October 31. 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Friday, November 3

Soup and Dessert: St. John Lutheran Church Women's Guild's annual Soup and Dessert Lunch and raffle. Lunch is \$7, and includes soup, bread and dessert. Handmade craft items are available for sale for early Christmas shoppers. Raffle for a night at the Little River Inn, a hand-painted saw blade by Peggy Hebrard, a bountiful Thanksgiving Basket, and a beautiful handmade fall afghan. Friday, November 3. 11 am to 2 pm. St. John Lutheran Church, 24 Mill Creek Drive. Info: 459-2988.

Harrah Senior Center Annual Baked Potato Bar and Funding Raffle: Everyone invited for baked potatoes with choice of toppings, beverage & dessert. 5 to 7:30 pm. Members \$8, adults \$9, children \$5. Last chance to get your tickets for the FUNDING Raffle, proceeds to benefit the center's Transportation, Outreach and Nutritional programs. Tickets are \$2 each or 12 for \$20. Prizes include: a 2 night stay on the coast at Harmonie House with a beautiful view; value \$800; 1 night deluxe queen room at Benbow Historical Inn; at least 20 gift certificates ranging from \$100 to \$25 from local businesses; a Webber BBQ grill/utensils/apron and 25 pounds

of John Ford Ranch ground beef (package); and a Keurig K15 Coffee Brewer. Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Willits Area Cyclists Taco Rampage: 2nd annual Taco Rampage. Free admission. “Come enjoy mountain biking insanity, food, drinks, and friends.” Fish tacos, rice and beans. \$10, beer, ale, wine, and sodas. \$4 for a bottle of local brew; \$20 for a limited edition WAC stainless steel pint glass plus fill up tickets. Also a raffle, fun for the kids, a showing of 2017's “Redbull Rampage” on the big screen. 100 percent of the proceeds will go directly to Willits Area Cyclists (WAC). Friday, November 3. 6 pm. Brooktrails Community Center, 24860 Birch Street. Info: Adam Sherr wactrails@gmail.com, and wactrails.wix.com/ride

“Moon Over Buffalo”: Opening night tonight for comedic playwright Ken Ludwig's play “Moon Over Buffalo,” which runs November 3 through November 19 at Willits Community Theatre. This comedic play, directed by Bill Barksdale, centers on two aging actors



Annual Halloween Boogie at the Mateel

Friday, October 27

KMUD Radio and Mateel Community Center present the annual Halloween Boogie, Friday, October 27 at the Mateel, 59 Rusk Lane in Redway. Five Alarm Funk and Sty mie & the Pimp Jones Luv Orchestra perform at this funky Halloween costume party along with KMUD DJ's spinning between sets. A costume contest for all age groups with prizes for the best costumes as well as a full bar & food including treats will be available. Tickets are on sale now at local outlets in advance or online for \$25. The tickets are \$30 at the door. Proceeds from Halloween Boogie benefit KMUD and the Mateel. The doors are at 8 pm and the show starts at 9 pm.



mendochomebrewfest.com. Proceeds will benefit The Good Farm Fund that provides economic development support to small farmers in Mendocino and Lake Counties, and funds farmers market ‘Market Match’ programs to increase local food security. This year's proceeds directed to an emergency fund for farms affected by the fires. Information at www.goodfarmfund.org.

Waldorf School Enchanted Pumpkin Patch

Tuesday, October 31

The Waldorf School of Mendocino County, 6280 Third Street, Calpella, invites the public to their annual Enchanted Pumpkin Path on Tuesday, October 31 from 4:30 to 8:30 pm. The kindergarten playground and school campus will be transformed into a “magical alternative to Trick-or-Treating” for younger children and their families. The main event is the Enchanted Path which consist of nine skits with treats based around a children's story. The school will buzz with games, activities, and food. Admission is \$8 per person. Tickets can be purchased at The Cat's Meow in Willits, or the Mendocino Book Company in Ukiah. The school campus opens at 4:30 pm with food at The Smokey Cauldron Cafe.



Homebrew Festival in Ukiah

Saturday, November 4

The first Mendocino County Homebrew Festival is set for Saturday, November 4 at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center from 3 to 6 pm. This will be a signature event for the 18th Annual Mendocino County Mushroom, Wine, and Beer Festival. 30 homebrewers from Mendocino and surrounding counties compete in the People's Choice Awards for ribbons and prizes, including the Brewer's Choice Award which will be brewed by Ukiah Brewing Company and served at the pub. There will be live music and for purchase Farm-to-Table food by the Mendocino College Culinary Arts Program. For tickets and information visit www.mendochomebrewfest.com.

Senior Center Raffle

Get those tickets back in!

The Harrah Senior Center's biggest fundraiser of the year is underway – and you don't have to leave home to participate. A dozen raffle tickets have been mailed to the homes of many Willits residents. This year's “2nd Annual FUNDING Raffle” drawing will be held on November 3 – there's no need to be present to win – so there's plenty of time to get those tickets returned. With about 50 prizes donated by local businesses, you've got a pretty good chance at winning something fabulous – for a price of \$2 per ticket or six for \$10.

Last year's first FUNDING Raffle raised \$8,263 to support the center's many ongoing programs, including affordable lunches, support groups, Meals on Wheels, transportation services, social and educational activities, and Outreach, which provides seniors with information and advocacy regarding community services, resources and health care options. For info: 459-6826

Senior Center Lunch

Week of October 30 through November 3

Monday: Shredded Beef Tacos

Tuesday: Goulash

Wednesday: Fish and Chips

Thursday: Bratwurst

Friday: Chicken and Dumplings

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entree, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.



Halloween Happenings

October 26: Costume Sale, 3:45-5 pm, Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street

October 27: Costume Sale, 2:30-5 pm, Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street

October 27: Halloween Festival, 6-8 pm, Willits Library, 390, East Commercial Street

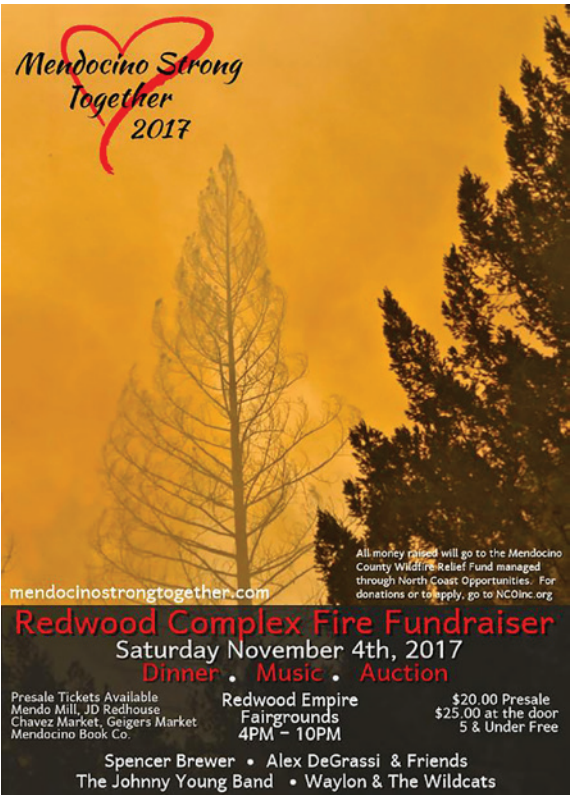
October 27: KMUD Halloween Boogie, 8 pm, at the Mateel, Redway

October 28: Pet Costume Contest, 11 am-2 pm, Mendo Mill, 305 East Commercial Street

October 28: Willits Haunted Asylum, 6-8 pm, Willits Charter School, 1431 Main Street

October 28: Halloween Bash at the Grange, 6-11 pm, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street

October 28: Moon Lady-Moon Man Halloween Costume Party, 9:30 pm. Shanachie Pub



Above: Pastor Karl Bliese, in front, and Tami Rempel, left, Nancy Bliese, and Vicki Ham invite the Willits community to the St. John Lutheran Church Women's Guild annual Soup and Dessert Lunch.

with one last chance for success and backstage romantic nuttiness. Thursdays at 7 pm for \$15, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$20, and Sunday matinees at 2 pm on November 12 and 19 at 2 pm for \$15. Advance tickets are available at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane. A special First Thursday benefit performance sponsored by the Emandal Chorale will be held on November 9. For benefit tickets, contact Tamara Adams at 459-9252.

Shanachie Pub: Huddy Bali are back, with rock n roll out of Los Angeles/San Francisco. Friday, November 3. 9 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, November 4

Willits Photography Club: November exhibit at the Willits Center for the Arts features the camera work of Willits photographers. Opening reception: 7 to 9 pm; members' hour at 6 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm. Info: 459-1726.

“Moon Over Buffalo”: Comedic playwright Ken Ludwig's play of backstage antics. 8 pm at Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, November 3 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Adam Hill, roots acoustic songwriter, plays at 6 pm. Stones and The Ghosts combine songs and jams to create unique style, 9 pm. Saturday, November, 4. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, November 5

“Hubbub” at Willits Environmental Hub: Celebrate the Hub's 1st Anniversary Gala with food and entertainment on Sunday, November 5. 4 to 7 pm. Willits Hub, 630 South Main Street.



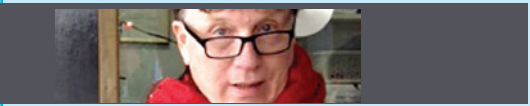
‘Mendocino Strong Together’

Saturday, November 4

“Mendocino Strong Together” is the theme of a dinner-music-auction fire relief fundraiser for the Mendocino County Disaster Fund on Saturday, 1053 North State Street, Ukiah. Featuring a tri tip and taco dinner, music by Alex DiGrassi and Spencer Brewer and Friends, plus a one-of-kind, only in Mendocino auction. After dinner, dance to the music of Waylon and the Wildcats and the Johnny Young Band. “It is a time to gather together with our friends and neighbors to begin the rebuilding phase of the terrible fire losses in Redwood and Potter valleys. Every dollar spent on this event will go to a deserving family or business in need.” Tickets available locally at J.D. Redhouse and Mendo Mill in Willits and Geiger's Market in Laytonville. Auction items are needed for the “Grand Local Auction of Great Items.” Contact Lana Eberhard at 467-1018 at the Mendocino College Foundation to donate. Item donations may be dropped off at 1000 Hensley Creek Road 9 am to 12 pm, and 1 to 4 pm. Deadline is November 1, 4 pm.

Do you have an event to include in our calendar? We cover Willits, Laytonville and Covelo community events for free! Email us a photo, poster and copy-and-paste text to: willitsweekly@gmail.com End-of-day Monday deadline for Thursday

COLUMN | At the Movies



‘The Mountain Between Us’

The Story: An adventure/survival/love story in the snow-covered peaks, a saga of courage and epic perseverance. Dr. Ben Bass (Idris Alba) and Alex Martin (Kate Winslet) and a golden Labrador (Raleigh, Austin) survive a plane crash on a snowy mountain range high above the timberline. No one knows they are there. They have to struggle and fight bitter cold and lack of food. I loved the movie.

My Thoughts: Once again the critics diss a fine movie. Idris Alba is grim, manly and heroic; he's

a contemporary movie idol. Kate Winslet is strong, subtle, beautiful, and reliably tough. They meet as strangers in an airport. This survival film chronicles how their feelings for each other grow into love. It is quite touching, totally unforced. I believed it. Also, spoiler alert, the dog doesn't die, but there were times when we were worried.

Parents: This is a touching story of courage and loyalty. But for children below the age of 12, let me caution, there is an elegant, even graceful love scene which the kids won't particularly understand, and a “PG” rating which the flick well earns. So consider yourself forewarned.



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

‘Haunted Asylum’

To the Editor:

Representing the Student Leadership class of Willits Charter School and our decision to set the theme of our Halloween fundraiser as the ‘Haunted Asylum,’ we would like to make it very clear that in no way do we mean to demean or mock the mentally unstable and their respective journeys to stability.

We understand the potential for offense and crudeness at the expense of the mentally ill, but we have absolutely no intent to represent those offenses in our fundraiser. We chose the term “asylum” in our event as opposed to “house” due to the stigma of the location that is the asylum.

Due to the archaic nature of the term “asylum” and that it is no longer officially the term used in U.S. mental institutions, we do not mean to demean the people who had spent time in such facilities, but to utilize the stigma of an abandoned asylum. If anything, we mean to bring awareness to the dark connotation of mental asylums, especially due to our county's history with the now closed and originally named Mendocino State Asylum for the Insane and the history that it comes with.

We, as student leaders of the WCS community, do not stand for the degradation of the mentally ill. We aim to make a haunted house with ambience of an outdated asylum. In no corner of this ambience that will overtake our school from October 28 to 29, from 6 to 8 pm, will you find any content that demeans or makes fun of the mentally ill.

We intend to make a spooky course for supporters of our community and anyone who's in for a creative scare to enjoy, and for a good cause! Originally, we planned on pledging half of our profits and any further donations to survivors of Hurricane Irma, however, due to the recent wildfires scorching through Northern California, we believe that our pledge must go to the survivors in our community who are beginning to rebuild after the Redwood fire burned nearly 40,000 acres, displacing so many people.

The money will be sourced to the Community Foundation of Mendocino County to help with relief and recovery. Our community is beginning to recover from a major shock, and we will need all the aid, funds, people, support, and hope we can muster to help these people.

Please, join us at the 2017 WCS “Haunted Asylum” knowing that we do not mean any ill intent towards the mentally ill, and that your experience with us will not be one of mockery and demeaning, but of creativity and genuine scares. We hope to see you on October 28 and 29 – thank you so much for your support!

WCS Student Leadership 2017, Willits Charter School

This Week @ KLLG

This week at KLLG we are grateful to all who came out to show their support for the station at our birthday party, The Hill Pump Hoe Down. Year two is looking like it will be an awesome one at the station for our community.

— Michelle Cummings

Ongoing Events

Willits Farmers Market: Outdoor market Thursdays at the Rec Grove Park on East Commercial Street through October 26; moves indoors on November 2, 3 to 6 pm. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

“Seven Kinds of Wonderful”: The October show at the Willits Center for the Arts features Esther Siegel (assemblage), Julie Beardsley (assemblage), Laura Fogg (art quilts), Nancy Simpson (art quilts), Mickey Fernandez (mosaics), Elizabeth Raybee (mosaics), and Nan Trichler (art quilts). Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm. Ends October 29. Info: 459-1726.

Karaoke at Little John's Place: Little John's offers free live entertainment including karaoke Wednesday nights from 10 pm to closing. No charge, just come have fun. Info: 459-5636

Willits International Folk Dancing: Every Thursday from 7 to 9 pm. Learn recreational cultural dances from around the world. Beginners welcome, no dance experience necessary. No partner needed. \$5 per class. Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Info: Megan Wolf 530-647-6512 megster1989@yahoo.com

Twice-Monthly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group: Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or honemann@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: 11-11:30 am “Play Group,” and 3:30 to 5:30 pm “Leggo Day” (bring your imagination and start building); Thursdays: 11 to 11:30 am “Story Time,” 4 pm “Farmers Market Story Time”; Fridays: 3:30 to 4:30 pm; Fridays: 5 to 6 pm “Youth Game Night” (ages 10 to 14). 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 Ride-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 lotusb3@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, 1708 South Main Street, in the back room. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

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

Volleyball Open Gym: Baechtel Grove Gym, 1150 Magnolia Street. Sundays 7 to 9 pm, and Tuesdays at 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Some experience desired, but not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

Smoking Cessation Program: Free “Freedom from Smoking” class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the MHM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 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 or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Singer songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday at 6 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday. 8 pm. No cover. “Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable.” Open Mic Night every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. “An eclectic mix of local musicians and even performers from around the world!” 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 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Local fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan goat cheeses, ranch meats, eggs, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

MaMuse & Fula Brothers

Wednesday, November 8

Two bands, MaMuse & Fula Brothers, join up for a Folk Gospel and West Africa-California Boogie, to dance and raise spirits, at a concert of “honey for the soul” on Wednesday, November 8. The doors open 7 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. MaMuse will play a stirring set of folk/gospel/harmony inspiration, then Fula Brothers will light the dance floor with a West African-California Groove experience. “Expect a full heart, a lively community of dancers, and collaborative magic when the bands play together.” Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Tickets available at mamuse-fulabrothers-willits.eventbrite.com.

5th Annual Día De Los Muertos in Ukiah

Wednesday, November 1

Mendocino College invites the community to join the college faculty, staff and students in celebrating the 5th annual Dia de los Muertos at the Pomo Plaza of the Ukiah campus on Wednesday, November 1 from 4 to 8 pm. “Everyone is welcome at this free event so bring your family and friends and join us for an entertaining evening featuring live music, traditional dancers, arts and crafts, food, piñatas, altars and so much more!” Mendocino College is located at 1000 Hensley Creek Road. To reserve a space to create an altar or for more information, contact Juvenal Vasquez at 468-3115.



Gentle Panda

Panda is a stuffed toy aficionado, and he knows "Sit." He is a 1-year-old male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 62 pounds. Panda is a sweet dog who gently takes treats with a soft, delicate mouth. Panda would be best in a home with children over 12, as his energy might overwhelm a younger child. Panda needs to learn about "four paws on the floor," and an obedience class would be a good place for him to brush up on his training.

The Ukiah Animal 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 online at: www.mendoinimalsshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.



HMH
Chaplain
Dennis
Long.

Coping after the fire

Advice from a hospital chaplain

By Cici Winiger for HMH

The recent fire have no doubt changed our communities forever. And the road to rebuilding and recovery is just beginning. Whether one was impacted directly by having to evacuate, losing a loved one, or just being stressed from the uncertainty of it all, there are many emotions involved.


Chaplain Dennis Long, spiritual care director at Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, shares that taking care of one's emotional and mental health needs is just as important as our physical needs. "During a disaster, people go into a survival mode and your instincts take over," Long said. "You make it work; you do whatever it takes to protect yourself and your family. But after the adrenaline has worn off, and you start seeing the aftermath, all the stressors are present, and the reality of what has happened begins the roller coaster of emotions."

Long, who offers emotional and spiritual support for patients and their families while in the hospital, says the feeling of loss one encounters during a death in the family or after getting a cancer diagnosis could also be the same as losing your property, a pet or a job during a disaster.

Long, who also works with first responders and healthcare workers after a stressful situation, such as the death of a colleague or after a disaster response, says it's important to recognize one's emotions and hold space for the grief and feeling of loss process. This applies to those directly impacted and those who have family members and friends who have been impacted by the fire.

"Allow yourself to feel those emotions – don't feel bad about

Read the rest of
Coping | Over on Page 15



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The rest of
Odds | From Page 1

grow next door to her is "out of control." However, county Interim Commissioner of Agriculture Diane Curry told Willits Weekly the grow is in compliance – or at least moving toward compliance – with the county's medical cannabis cultivation ordinance.

"We've been on-site twice, the last time with Supervisor [Georgianne] Croskey," Curry said. "The neighbor is in compliance as far as we are concerned."

Department of Agriculture staffers visited the property the week of August 7. Afterwards, Cook said, when Curry told her the grow was in compliance with the county's cannabis cultivation ordinance, she retained the services of Keith Conaway, currently a real estate agent in Novato. According to his report, Conaway has a bachelor's degree in environmental sciences from Seattle Pacific University and was appointed by former U.S. President Bill Clinton as an advisor to President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Global Green Foundation for five years.

In early September, Conaway visited Cook's property and assessed, from there, conditions on the property next door. He found numerous instances where he believes operations and conditions on the property are out of compliance with the ordinance.

According to a paper he wrote on September 8, Conaway noted several areas he said were violations, including the following:

"Rapid removal of tree cover. For over four months there has been regular chainsaw use to remove trees to create a single- and double-terrace grow over 600 feet long," Conaway wrote.

"Grows directly on year-round creek with no erosion or leaching controls." Conaway opined this was "in direct opposition to your regulations and guidelines," and noted the county's own publication, "Watershed Best Management Practices for Cannabis Growers."

Conaway also named conditions he claimed were violations of the county's cannabis ordinance: terracing and disruption of soils on hillsides for expanding grows, noise from chainsaws, generators and heavy equipment, visual blight from four large hoop houses in the main view of the Cook residence, major expansion of the number of plants – from about 60 plants in 2016 to what Conaway termed "thousands of plants" during the height of the 2017 grow season – toxic and chemical exposure (both on the subject property and on the Cook property), diversion of springs on both properties, as well as the diversion of a creek on the neighboring property.

Conaway wrote the diversion of watercourses was "a major environmental concern with the coming rains. Restoring this resource is imperative and should concern the county as much as it should other agencies."

Conaway added he suspected artificial lighting was being used, or would be used in the future, to create growing conditions inside of one or more hoop houses on the property. This, he said, was against the provisions of the cannabis ordinance. "One would suspect that this is being used with artificial light, against their application and all regulations for an artificial lighted grow. This is not an enclosed building, but simply a hoop house with black plastic on all sides."

After Cook made a copy of Conaway's report available to Curry, Curry scheduled a second visit to the property. That took place September 29, and Supervisor Croskey came along.

The county again found the grow on the property in question was in compliance.

"We've investigated those complaints and we have not found any violations that would warrant us denying their permit application," Curry said. "There are things that need to be addressed, and the applicant is addressing them. Everything looks like they are moving toward compliance. I know that building permits have been issued."

Contacted by Willits Weekly, Croskey declined to comment on the difference of opinion between Cook and Curry, and on the accuracy of the allegations by Cook and Conaway. "I've been trying to make sure that [Cook's] concerns are heard and that she is not being ignored," Croskey said. "As far as looking at the property and assessing it for violations, that's not my role. That's why we have trained code enforcement officer."

Cook said she was "dumbfounded" by the county's apparent willingness to issue a cultivation permit to the property owner. "They are building buildings without permits. They are terracing slopes, which is against the rules. They have diverted streams, which is against the rules. They don't have water there, so they are bringing in four to five water trucks a day. Isn't that against the rules? Over the past six months they have cut down over 150 trees over there. That's against the rules. They are making a lot of noise. They've got generators going on over there eight hours a day. That's against the rules."

"I would like to know what she [Diane Curry] thinks is in compliance?"

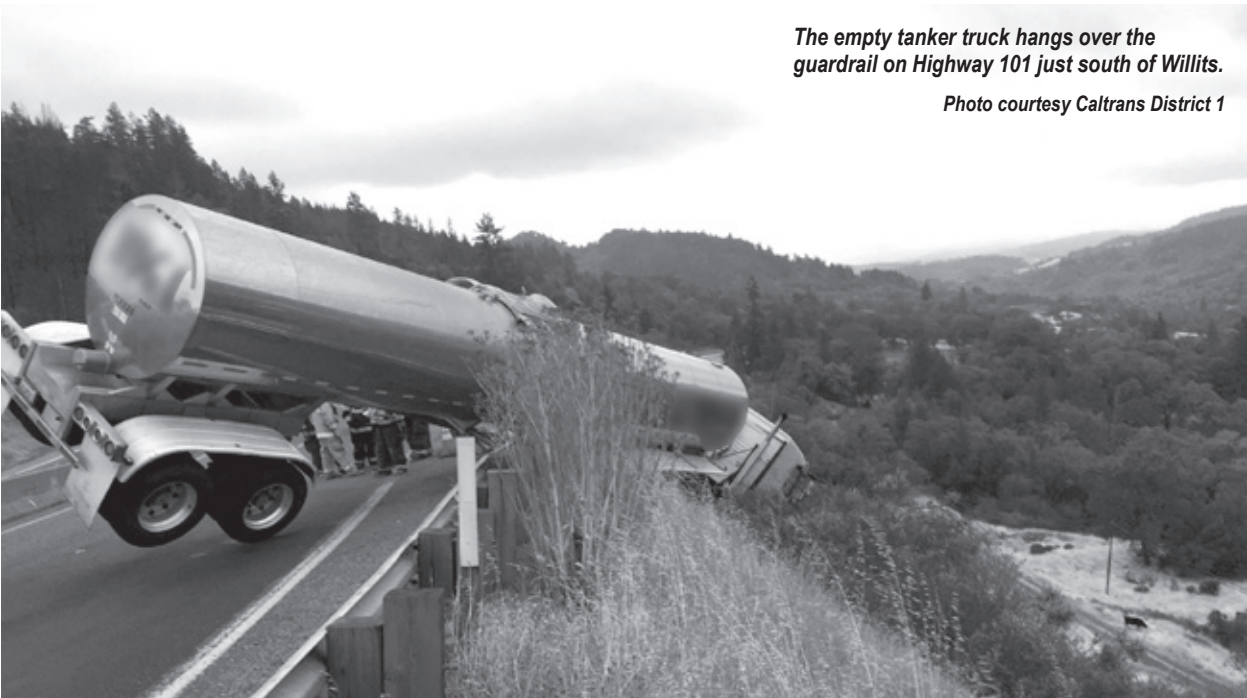
"I'm not against pot growing," Cook added. "I've lived out here for 17 years, and that whole time I've had pot growing going on around me, and I'm OK with it. What I'm against is bad pot growing. And this is a bad grow, because the growers over there have no respect for the land, and no respect for their neighbors. It is inappropriate from an environmental standpoint, and it is inappropriate in terms of the county rules."

"I'm really incensed that a group of supervisors have gotten together to write a bunch of regulations that you are supposed to follow, when they are not. If those regulations have been written to regulate cannabis, those regulations ought to be followed."

"I'm living in a rural residential area. But if you're talking about 10,000 plants, that's not residential. They are making this area not a residential place anymore. That's not how it's supposed to be."

"For [Curry] to say there's no problem over there, I am dumbfounded," Cook said.

Curry told Willits Weekly her department is in contact with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding conditions on the property in question. "We are reaching out to Fish and Wildlife so that they can do their paperwork and determine if the neighbor needs an LSA [Lake and Streambed Alteration] agreement," she said.



The empty tanker truck hangs over the guardrail on Highway 101 just south of Willits.
Photo courtesy Caltrans District 1

Semi crash blocks southbound 101 traffic

An Elk Grove man escaped injured, but traffic on Highway 101 was partially blocked last Thursday when he lost control of his big rig in light rain near the Harris quarry south of Willits.

Thirty-three-year-old Singh Talwinder was southbound on the highway just before 6 pm on October 19 when he reportedly lost control of

his 2015 Volvo tractor-trailer due to wet road conditions, high winds, and the speed the truck was traveling, state traffic officers said.

The big rig crashed through the highway guardrail and came to rest with the cab hanging over a steep embankment on the west side of the road while the empty tanker trailer blocked the southbound lanes, the

CHP said.

Caltrans, CalFire and state traffic officers had to redirect southbound traffic into one of the highway's northbound lanes for several hours while crews recovered the tractor-trailer.

This report was based on a press release from the California Highway Patrol.

Hit-and-run driver gets 12 years in state prison

A 20-year-old Willits man was sentenced last Friday to 140 months in state prison for the December 2015 death of a transient.

In late August, a Mendocino County Superior Court jury had found Justin Everett Phillips guilty of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence, leaving the scene of an accident where serious bodily injury has been inflicted, engaging in a speed contest causing serious bodily injury, reckless driving causing bodily injury, and resisting arrest.

Phillips was accused of driving the truck that ran down 49-year-old Donald Wagner on Center Valley Road on December 8, 2015. Wagner was wearing dark-colored clothing and walking west in the eastbound lane of the roadway in cool, rainy weather at about 4:30 am when he

was struck.

Phillips stopped, momentarily, and then fled the scene without calling for help, leaving Wagner to die, according to state traffic officers.

Last month, Phillips also plead guilty to recklessly evading a peace officer, a felony. That crime occurred in November 2016.

"The investigation [in this case] took a while, and the evidence was not as straightforward as we normally would like, but nevertheless we were still able to achieve the right and necessary results," said Assistant District Attorney Rick Welsh, who prosecuted the case.

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

Disaster Fund of Mendocino County aids residents affected by fire

Within hours of the firestorm which began the Redwood Complex Wildfire, the Community Foundation of Mendocino County mobilized the Disaster Fund for Mendocino County, and was presenting grant monies to help those most affected by the fire. Donations to the Disaster Fund for Mendocino County poured in, with 900 donors contributing approximately \$360,000 in 10 days.

Immediate needs were addressed through two local non-profits, North Coast Opportunities and the Mendocino Coast Children's Fund. One hundred percent of all donations are being distributed to those in need, thanks to a sponsorship of administrative costs from Obenah LLP, CPAs, Fetzer Vineyards, and an anonymous donor.

The grants provided funds for gas and grocery cards, N-95 masks, motel stays, clothing and diapers, and as repopulation and recovery continue, will also address longer-term needs such as temporary housing, replacement of essential household items and medical care or counseling. Those in need of assistance should contact NCO, visit their website (www.ncoinc.org), or contact NCO Administrative Manager Robyn Bera (707-467-3236, rbera@ncoinc.org). The Mendocino Coast Children's Fund can be reached at 707-684-6644, website www.mccf.info or email mccf@mcn.org.

The Disaster Fund for Mendocino County is managed by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, and was created in 2014 with a lead gift of \$20,000. The Disaster Fund is designed to be awarded to family resource centers, senior centers, community dining rooms and other non-profits that provide disaster relief and recovery services. Major contributors to the fund include George & Ruth Bradford Foundation, Harvest Market and its shoppers, Sonoma Clean Power, Fetzer Vineyards, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, and Ukiah Natural Foods Co-op and its shoppers.

Additionally, contributions came from a number of Community Foundation of Mendocino County donor-advised funds including: the Pearson Family Fund, Hudson Family Fund, Mabel Albertson Fund, J-Olivanti Fund, Sandy Maillard Fund, Martin and Morris Fund, John Pack and Linda Francis Family Fund, Ted and Wilma Westman Donor Advised Fund, and Klein Family Fund for South Coast Opportunities.

"Many survivors don't have the resources to even cover their basic needs right now," said Megan Barber Allende, president and CEO of the Community Foundation. "We are so thankful for the generosity of the community and for the many people who have stepped up to help out. The grants will provide immediate relief, but will also offer some short- and long-term assistance."

Donations to the Disaster Fund for Mendocino County can be made at the Community Foundation's website, www.communityfound.org, or by mailing or dropping off a check to the Community Foundation office at 204 South Oak Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. Donations are also accepted by phone at (707) 468-9882 or at any branch of the Savings Bank of Mendocino County.

Barber Allende adds, "This experience reminds me how we are all so connected as a community. When the people we know experience loss in such deep ways, we all hurt. Recovery is a slow process as we adjust to the new normal. I am grateful for the ways we come together and support each other when the unimaginable happens."

– submitted by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County

Editor's Note: In Willits, Sparetime Supply and the Griggs family has offered to match up to \$10,000 of donations to the disaster fund: "Make checks out to the Community Foundation Disaster Fund (68-0330462), and mail them to Sparetime Supply, 475 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits CA 95490, and we will submit them on your behalf with our matched donation."

COLUMN | Cannabis Diary

Cannabis losses 'substantial' in Mendocino fires

From The New York Times to High Times to the Wall Street Journal and even Facebook, this country and county are talking about the fires in Mendocino, Sonoma and Napa counties and how they have affected the 2017 cannabis harvest.

Hezekiah Allen, executive director of the California Growers Association, a Sacramento-based cannabis grower/cultivator trade organization, confirmed Monday that eight Mendocino farms on the "permit track" were destroyed in the Redwood fire. He expects that number to grow as Redwood Valley residents return to their homes and assess the damage this week.

Jane Fletcher
Columnist

Allen reported that 23 permit-track farms in Sonoma County were also destroyed by fire.

Hundreds more unpermitted grows were lost in Sonoma, Napa and Mendocino counties.

Allen said he is working with California's departments of agriculture, hazardous materials and public health to determine what contaminants might be present in cannabis exposed to intense smoke.

"This is in some ways an unprecedented fire event," Allen said. "It struck urban areas in some cases. We don't really know what chemicals were in the smoke. We are working on getting a list of potential contaminants." Then they will test for them.

None of the farmer members of CGA has lost their life, Allen said, but he knows of "some pretty severe tragedies."

He thinks the financial value of the lost crops is "substantial," but at this point he and his organization are still reeling from the personal devastation to members and cannot yet put a dollar value on their losses.

"We want to ensure that partial crop losses don't turn into total crop losses," Allen said.

One way to maintain the value of smoke-exposed cannabis, he said, is to explain to consumers that cannabis exposed to smoke is not necessarily unhealthy. He said many buyers are eager to support farmers in the fire zone by buying cannabis that may be discolored and have a "campground barbecue flavor" – if it's not harmful.

Not everyone is rooting for local cannabis farmers. I was shocked to learn that some Mendocino residents were celebrating and praying that cannabis farmers and their crops would be destroyed in the Redwood fire.

I discovered this on Facebook, when a Willits Facebook "friend" posted the following: "It sickens me to say I have heard anti-cannabis people wishing that growers would lose their homes, vehicles and crops. As if all growers are bad people, and it's OK to wish bad things for them. Bad things happen to good people too. Self-righteous people who probably even think they are Christian."

My friend's remark drew some quick and passionate responses. One confessed she had also heard such anti-grower sentiments.

Many came to the defense of cannabis farmers.

"You know I don't approve of marijuana – no secret there," said one person. "But I agree wholeheartedly with your statement. I've seen this on Facebook and it appalls me. Christian is as Christian does."

"Typical of this county. It really makes me sad," someone else said.

"No one deserves to lose anything," chimed a person.

Said another: "Many people's lives have been destroyed from abusing alcohol, but we don't wish harm to the grape growers, vintners and huge economy surrounding the wine industry. Only ignorance would cause someone to wish harm on cannabis growers."

"I would not wish this tragedy on my worst enemy," wrote someone else.

The way I look at it, cannabis is the economic driver of this county. If cannabis farmers are hurt, we all lose, economically – in lost property taxes, sales taxes, and retail sales – and in social, emotional, mental and physical health costs.

These fires have been sad and

Read the rest of
Losses | Over on Page 15

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

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

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



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



Above, from left: Spencer Brewer and his keyboard. Waylon & the Wildcats will get you up and dancing. Alex DeGrassi on guitar. Johnny Young Band will rock the after-dinner dance party.

Mendocino Strong Together 2017

mendocinostrongtogether.com

Redwood Complex Fire Fundraiser
Saturday November 4th, 2017
Dinner • Music • Auction

Presale Tickets Available
Mendo Mill, JD Redhouse
Chavez Market, Geigers Market
Mendocino Book Co.

Redwood Empire Fairgrounds
4PM – 10PM

Spencer Brewer • Alex DeGrassi & Friends
The Johnny Young Band • Waylon & The Wildcats

All money raised will go to the Mendocino County Wildfire Relief Fund managed through North Coast Opportunities. For donations or to apply, go to NCOinc.org

\$20.00 Presale
\$25.00 at the door
5 & Under Free

‘Mendocino Strong’

Fire assistance fundraiser November 4 at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds

“Mendocino Strong Together” is the theme of a fundraiser planned by local community members for Saturday, November 4 from 4 to 10 pm at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah. Mendocino Strong Together is a chance to change the lives of the survivors of the Redwood fire.

There will be delicious food, talented entertainers, a silent auction and an exciting live auction ... and most of all, a time to gather with our friends and neighbors as a community to begin the rebuilding phase of the terrible fire losses in Redwood and Potter Valleys. Every dollar spent at this event will go to a deserving family or business in need.

The event includes a tri-tip and taco dinner and a stellar silent auction, with music during these festivities by Alex DeGrassi, Margie Rice, Ed Reinhart, Greg Schindel, Spencer Brewer and others, and a one of a kind only in Mendocino live auction hosted by Tom Allman. After-dinner dance party music will be with Waylon and the Wildcats and the Johnny Young Band.

Tickets are available at all Mendo Mill locations, Mendocino Book Company, Chavez Market in Ukiah, J.D. Redhouse in Willits, and Geiger’s Long Valley Market in Laytonville. Tickets are \$20

in advance and \$25 at the door. Children under 5 are free.

Auction items are needed for the “Grand Local Auction of Great Items.” Contact Lana Eberhard at 467-1018 at the Mendocino College Foundation to donate. Auction donations may be dropped off at the 1000 Hensley Creek Road campus from 9 am to noon and 1 to 4 pm. Deadline is November 1 at 4 pm.

Financial donations to support the Disaster Fund of Mendocino County, where the funds from the Mendocino Strong Together benefit will be going, may be made at any branch of the Savings Bank of Mendocino County. All donations are going directly to those in need, are tax-deductible, and are being managed without a fee by North Coast Opportunities. Anyone who was displaced or is in need of assistance may go to the Local

Assistance Center at Mendocino College and find information on many kinds of assistance from state and local agencies, including quick relief from NCO.

More information and updates are available at the Mendocino Strong Together Facebook page and www.MendocinoStrongTogether.com.

– submitted by Mendocino Strong Together

HOME CENTER & LUMBER CO.
MENDO MILL

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CALLING ALL
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A TREAT BAG FOR YOUR DOG OR CAT,
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**SATURDAY
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Awards for:
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MOST CREATIVE**

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