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Wednesday, November 21, 2018

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The last board of supervisors meeting at which he was present was on October 16. In his absence, Third District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey, vice chair, has been serving as chair of the board.

Although a member of the
Read more of **Permits**
Over on page 6

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

After being on the council

Read the rest of
Orenstein
Over on page 13



Above: Members of the Willits Wild Bunch are ready and waiting for this Sunday's Toy Run which will help supply toys for the Willits Children's Christmas Program, headquartered at the old Howard Memorial Hospital this year. Below: Off and revving! The Willits Wild Bunch is ready to go collect toys to give out to those in need this holiday season.



26th annual Toy Run
this Sunday at Little
Lake Grange

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Those wishing to ride behind Santa on the caravan to the Little Lake Grange are welcome to bring their bikes to the Evergreen Shopping Center in time for a noon departure.

Read the rest of
Toy Run | *Over on Page 4*

Below: Jinxy and Superman, left, Bugs and Chewie, center, and the rest of the elves, right, make a pass down the hill in front of the old Howard Memorial Hospital. At bottom: The Christmas Tree of Wild Bunch'ers: at top: Buggs; second row, from left: Chewy, Jinxy and Superman; third row: Willits Children's Christmas Program coordinator Laura Sleeper, Jodi, Eric, and Top Hat; fourth row: Bear and Pops; front row: Lil' Bit, Tiger, Sugar B and Pickles.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"We're a stone's throw away from Remco, so we were there for all of that catastrophe," said Cyndy Sales. "We don't need something else coming into the community that we aren't aware of."

"Do they have a business license? Has there been [an environmental impact report] done on it? How do we get information? What's going on over there?"

Read the rest of
Council
Over on page 6

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

"The second major contribution to this increase were the accruals that come to the county during July and August in the form of both revenues and appropriations. [These]

Read the rest of
Budget
Over on page 13

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Do you have opinions you would like to share with the rest of the community? All residents of the Third District – including Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo – are welcome to send in a letter to the editor, free of charge, addressing your comments, concerns or questions once every four weeks. Email letters directly to willitsweekly@gmail.com. We want to hear from you!

Left-turn courtesies

To The Editor:

Main Street might be happy with its new facelift, but I have some concerns. With no left-turn lanes that at one time helped us make a left turn, it now calls for all of us to be very very courteous.

When someone is waiting to make a left turn and traffic is backing up to San Francisco, take a moment out of your busy life and let them turn in front of you.

I doubt if the so-called bike lanes will get much use, so looking forward to seeing them disappear in the near future and the return of the left-turn lanes.

Bob Wilkinson, Willits

Gratitude

To The Editor:

As the holiday season approaches, I find myself reminiscing about past Thanksgiving dinners and the feelings associated with sharing time with family. I can smell the turkey, hear the sounds of family members talking, kids playing and the football game all at the same time. I think about loved ones who have passed away, the newest family editions and the circle of life.

The older I get the more I realize the importance of making memories with friends and loved ones, whenever and wherever possible. Christmas comes quickly, and it's all about the grandkids. I enjoy asking each of them if they've been bad or good and listening to their responses. I enjoy watching them open presents Santa brought, as a result of their good behavior. I have many reasons to be grateful.

I'm back to work on Monday morning talking with Deb Holcomb, who manages our Meals on Wheels Program, about running an ad for a volunteer driver. The primary purpose of the Meals on Wheels program is to provide a meal for those who are physically unable to prepare meals for themselves. To qualify for the program you need to be 55 years or older or 18 years or older with a disability.

The delivery route takes the driver about 2 to 2.5 hours to complete. The driver usually returns to the senior center about 3 to 3.5 hours later. The extra time is spent talking to clients who often live alone. For some this is the only social contact they receive.

A mutually beneficial relationship develops between the drivers and clients. Clients look forward to talking with the drivers, as much if not more than the meal itself. The drivers are rewarded with heartfelt smiles, when they knock on the door, and feelings of gratitude come from knowing they are making a difference in the lives of others.

While spending time with your family this holiday season, if you find yourself feeling grateful and are touched by the spirit of giving, we would appreciate you financial support. Our Meals on

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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

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

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / jennifer@willitsweekly.com / 707-459-2633

Maureen Moore, art director and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047

Mike A'Dair, reporter / mike@willitsweekly.com

Mathew Caine, photographer / calendar editor / features writer / mathew@willitsweekly.com

Forrest Glyer, reporter / forrest@willitsweekly.com

Joanne Moore, reporter / features writer / joanne@willitsweekly.com

Ree Slocum, features writer / ree@willitsweekly.com

Jenny Senter, features writer / jenny@willitsweekly.com

Danya Davis, features writer / police log / willitsweekly@gmail.com

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com

Jenn Drew, ad sales / 707-354-1670 / advertising@willitsweekly.com

Jackie Cobbs, features copy editor

Justin Stephens, webmaster

Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

Wheels Program provides much more than a meal to someone in need. This program touches the hearts of all those who participate in it.

You can mail your donation to: Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits CA 95490, or visit our website at www.willitsseiniocenter.com – push the “Donations” button Happy holidays,

Richard Baker, director,
Willits Seniors Inc.

Music at the Willits Crafts Fair 2018

To The Editor:

This year at the Crafts Fair in Willits, there will be some additional space provided for an audience for the music. So we encourage you to come out and stay a while to hear your favorite local musicians.

Musicians will include: The Cosmic Family Band (Chris Cichacki, Taylor Sanders, Charles Vaughan and Jason Greenberg); David Partch; Dorian and Dorothea May; Emandal Chorale (led by Don Willis); Just For Fun Choir (led by Nancy New); Kyle Madrigal; Midas Well (Char Jacobs, Chris Gibson, Steve Baird and Paul Nadel from Ukiah); Richard Tootreese Jeske and Jacqueline Morninglight; Steve Hahm (from Ukiah); Trillium (Mary Buckley from Ukiah, Helen Falandes, and Madge Strong); and Twining Time (Anita Blu and John Wagenet).

The Crafts Fair is an annual fundraiser for the Willits Center for the Arts. It provides an outlet for local crafts and art work. It is a venue for musical artists, as well. It will be held at the Community Center (111 East Commercial Street) and in the Great Hall (upstairs) of the Willits Center for the Arts (71 East Commercial Street). This year the fair will take place December 7 through 9.

Look for the schedule of music on posters around town, as well as at the venues. Please come out and support our local artists, including the musicians – most of whom are donating their time to this WCA fundraising event. Thank you,

David Partch, Willits

Holiday Lights display seeks participants

To The Editor:

Calling for local Christmas helpers: The third annual Holiday Lights event is this coming December 15 through 17, hosted by the Frank R. Howard Foundation. If you are a business or group that would like to participate by creating a light sculpture, please contact Ananda Johnson at 459-2777 or Holly Madrigal at 841-0612 if you want to pitch in.

Sculptures will need to be set up by December 14, and contributors must bring their own extension cords and be ready to plug in. Let your imagination take flight! Can you build a giant snowflake, singing angels, Super-Santa or a Grinch? Give us a call to share your ideas.

This holiday event is for the whole community. Add some sparkle to your holiday season, and watch your children's faces light up for a magical holiday light display throughout the Commonwealth Garden. Bundle up and enjoy some festive holiday snacks from Adventist Health Howard Memorial's Roots Restaurant, and warm up with a cup of hot cocoa or hot apple cider as you stroll through the enchanted winter wonderland.

Holly Madrigal, Willits

Mendocino College Ukiah Campus hosts free Job Fair, November 28

Submitted by Mendocino College

Whether hoping to find a fresh start, a better job, or a new career direction, job seekers will find a wealth of exciting opportunities at Mendocino College's upcoming free community job fair. A variety of employers from both the public and private sectors will be eager to hire for immediate openings in a wide range of fields.

Hundreds of quality job opportunities will be presented by employers who are seeking applicants with varying levels of ability and education. Representing employers and agencies from the community include Coyote Valley Casinos, Mendocino Forest Products, DripWorks, Adventist Health, Mendocino County, the City of Ukiah, Savings Bank, Redwood Credit Union, Sherwood Valley Casino, North Coast Opportunities, BiCoastal Media, Ukiah Unified School District, and many, many more!

For those seeking a new career direction, representatives from Mendocino College career education programs will also be on site to answer questions about what classes are needed to enter vocational fields such as business, culinary arts, health sciences, sustainable construction, automotive mechanics, and more.

The event will be an open format job fair and will take place from 11 am to 6 pm on Wednesday, November 28 in the Lowery Student Center at the Mendocino College Ukiah campus. Job seekers are urged to dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes. The Mendocino College Ukiah Campus is located at 1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah. www.mendocino.edu

'Credit card skimmers' found at Hopland gas stations

Submitted by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office

On November 16, at about 11:30 am, Mendocino County Sheriff's deputies were requested to respond to the 13500 block of south Highway 101 in Hopland for the reported discovery of a suspected "credit card skimmer" (scanning device) inside a gas station pump.

The deputy met with a Mendocino County Agriculture Department representative who had responded following a report regarding potential identify theft stemming from a purchase of gas from that specific gas station.

The identify theft victim identified unauthorized charges to their credit card account following their use of the card at the gas station and suspected their credit card information and pin were stolen. The deputy along with the Mendocino County Agriculture Weights and Measures representative then proceeded to investigate all the gas pumps at the location.

In total, five of eight pumps were identified as having the locking mechanisms defeated, indicating someone had accessed the interior components of the gas pump. Only four gas pumps were identified with scanning devices. All four scanning devices were removed and collected as evidence in this investigation.

Based on the number of devices located at the first gas station a check of the other gas station in town was conducted. The completed inspection revealed three additional scanning devices, bringing the total number of scanning devices to seven/

There are unconfirmed reports multiple victims have been affected by these devices. If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or fraud stemming from your purchase at a local gas station, please contact your financial institution and local law enforcement agency to document the loss.

Based on the location of the devices recovered, they were not readily recognizable and would not be visible to the consumer during the transaction. However, consumers should always consider inspecting any credit or debit card machine for loose or cleaner than usual parts, indicating someone has tampered with the device.

Additionally, inspect locking mechanisms located on gas pump panels which contain the card reader and pin pad. Evidence of forced entry at the identified gas station pumps was present and readily apparent after closer inspection.

Anyone with information concerning the unauthorized access and installation of the recovered credit card scanning devices from Hopland, is asked to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office tip-line at 707-234-2100

Correction |

In the story, "Turkey Toss 2018," in the November 15, 2018 edition of Willits Weekly, the crew helping with the Thanksgiving Community Dinner at the Harrah Senior Center was misidentified. It is the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp crew who will be helping with meal prep and serving dinner this year.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, from left: Herbalist Donna D'Terra speaks about the future of the Mendocino County Herb Guild. Diners talk amongst each other at the Mendocino County Herb Guild Harvest Dinner. Willits Weekly garden columnist Jamie Chevalier displays a rack of her Quail Seeds.

At right: Braised Lentils with Roasted Root Vegetables, the main course.

Below, left: Aria Mikkola-Sears tends to the apothecary. Below, right: Some of the handmade items on display for the silent auction.

At bottom: Attendees speak with the vendors at the Mendocino County Herb Guild Harvest Dinner.



Above, left: The kitchen crew – chefs Danny Becker and Tanner Fry and volunteer Jessica Doss – prepare the roasted peppers. Above, right: Ana Victoria Salcido-Cobbe, one of the founding members of the Mendocino County Herb Guild and the opening speaker, relaxes for a moment before the event begins.

MENDOCINO COLLEGE

JOB FAIR

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11AM to 6PM

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

FANTASTIC BEASTS 2
2D/3D

(PG)13 2 hrs 14 mins

Standard (2D)
Fri/Sat:
12:00, 3:00 & 6:00pm
Sun:
1:00, 4:00 & 7:00pm
Mon-Thurs:
4:00 & 7:00pm
(3D) Fri/Sat: 9:00pm

Movie Times for 11/23 thru 11/29

THE GRINCH

(PG) 1 hr 30 mins

Fri/Sat:
12:25, 2:30, 4:35, 6:40 & 8:45pm
Sun:
1:25, 3:30, 5:35 & 7:40pm
Mon-Thurs:
3:30, 5:35 & 7:40pm

RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET

(PG) 1 hr 52 mins

Fri/Sat:
12:45, 3:15, 5:45 & 8:15pm
Sun:
1:45, 4:15 & 6:45pm
Mon-Thurs:
4:15 & 6:45pm

containers and now they're building a building around it.

"We just would like to know if the city can tell us what's going on. Nobody seems to have answers."

City Planner Dusty Duley explained that the city approved building permits to allow the operators – including couple John and Nancy Hutchison of the nonprofit organization Life Ray – to build what the "administrative office" zoning in the area allows on that lot – an office building and a single-family residence.

Duley made it clear no use of any kind of hazardous material will be permitted since it's not an industrial zone.

"Staff is aware of the development that's occurring on this property," said Duley. "The current owners have received a building permit to construct an office building. They've also received a use permit approved by this council that allows them to build a single-family home in conjunction with operation of a permitted commercial use on the property.

"What's not allowed is any type of storage of hazardous materials or operation of scientific equipment," he continued. "You would not be allowed to bring in hazardous material and then use your equipment to clean it on site. You're not supposed to have a bunch of trucks coming in and creating significant increases in traffic in the neighborhood.

"They have not come in for a business license," Duley added. "When they do come in for a business license, we can approve an administrative or professional office. If they need an office space to conduct business that's fine, but those other activities I've described would not be allowed. Those types of activities are typically reserved for our industrial-type zoning, and so if that's what they're interested in doing, they could not do it on this property and we would certainly direct them towards the appropriately zoned properties."

The life-ray.org website states the company is "a nonprofit organization developing the technology of John Hutchison for elimination of radioactive contamination." There are several hours of footage on their websites (life-ray.org, johnhutchison.com) and on YouTube ("JohnKHutchison1") about the unusual Life Ray techniques.

A big part of their stated goal is to reduce nuclear contamination, and they claim to be able to take radioactive material and convert it into "inert matter."

The Life Ray website describes the technique: "The theory underlying the technology is that all matter is energy that pulsates. Radioactive elements vibrate at a distorted frequency as they are trying to stabilize. Cutting-edge technology supplies the pulsations that radioactive materials need to stabilize. The technology uses audio and radio frequencies to transmutate radioactive elements into inert elements, which are harmless. The process is much simpler and faster and uses much less energy than current processes for rendering radioactive materials inert."

Some community residents have applauded their efforts on social media; however, others are expressing worries about unknown effects that may occur as part of Life Ray's work.

There was some controversy at a previous location in the Brookings Harbor, Oregon, area regarding Life Ray's operations there, with nearby residents calling in repeated noise complaints. Eventually, a lawsuit was filed.

City of Willits building official Christopher Morgan acknowledged the building plan of constructing a large metal structure around two big shipping containers was different and "interesting" but noted everything thus far has been going by the book, including following through on enforcement against any prohibited activities.

"I've had complaints there of work happening after 10 o'clock at night and people living on-site, so I investigated that yesterday," said Morgan. "What they had was a generator running through the night to charge their scissor lift. I told them our ordinance doesn't allow you to work past 7 pm, so that needed to be shut down by 7 every night.

"So far, everything that's approved is what they're doing. It's not something we're having a blind eye to; it's being looked at [to make sure] it stays within the confinements of what it was permitted for."

Duley noted city staff have been very up-front with the Hutchisons about what they would and would not be allowed to do with that property.

"I've spoken to the operator as recently as yesterday," said Duley. "I've also spoken to the operator before they purchased the property. I spoke to the operator before they had ideas about putting in a building and a single-family home there. And we had the conversation of 'What the heck are you guys doing there?' It's different, OK.

"We appreciate the fact they're building the building to encompass the storage containers from an aesthetic perspective. But if they're here to try and bamboozle staff, we've got the community on high alert; staff's already there.

"I know the council from the questioning at the last meeting is there as well," Duley said. "They've been forewarned numerous times, every opportunity that's been given, and as recent as yesterday. And you're right, if they want to build a building and then propose a use that's not allowed in the zoning then, well, at least we got a new building. That's their prerogative."

Toward the end of the discussion, one audience member asked: "Does anybody know what's in the ... containers?" but City Attorney Jim Lance suggested the council should stop talking about the topic because it was not on the meeting's agenda.

"We've probably spent more time on this than we should," said Lance.

Vice Mayor Saprina Rodriguez asked if the council could receive regular updates regarding the status of the property from city staff, and it sounded like that would be included in the plans for future meetings.

Thanks from Little Lake Fire

Little Lake Fire Department Chief Chris Wilkes gave a heartfelt thank you to the council and community members

for their efforts in helping pass Measure J, the firehouse tax measure on the November 6 ballot.

While all the votes have not been officially tallied, Measure J appears to be well on its way to getting the two-thirds voter approval it needs for victory to allow funding and construction of a new Little Lake firehouse.

"Mayor Strong, council members, I want to take some time to say thank you," said Wilkes. "It looks like Measure J is going to pass at 73 percent. It shows strong public support, and that's kind of how we've chalked it up – it really was a community effort.... The community and council ... local service clubs, family members talking to friends and other family members, and really doing public education amongst themselves seems to have made all the difference in the world.

"Even the 'no' votes – hopefully when that building's built and they drive by, they'll be proud of it, because we're all paying for it whether we voted 'no' or 'yes' after it passes.

"We'll make it a nice place, and it will serve our community for a long, long road ahead I'm sure. So, thank you for your guys' continued support, and we are moving forward by the day.... We should see [requests for proposals] go out in mid-February."

Wilkes also responded to an inquiry from Councilman Gerry Gonzalez and presented an update concerning Little Lake's recent activities during the ongoing fires in California, as well as current local fire alert conditions.

"Just so you're aware, we do have a strike team leader and one engine and crew over in Paradise," Wilkes said. "They're on shift today, actually. They've been working over there.

"Also ... Gov. Brown put some money towards pre-positioning fire engines when red-flag warnings are in place. We've been sent out seven times for red-flag warning strike teams. Marin County once, the other six times in Lake County. But they were on a pre-positioning strike team assignment when they got moved to the Camp incident in Paradise.

"So, it looks like the resources are available, and they are moving around as they should.

"We should pay close attention," Wilkes warned. "We've had no escaped control burns, but we've had people burning, and we've had to go out and have them stop because of the weather.... When the sun comes out, those light flashy fuels are certainly susceptible to fire.

"Mother Nature plays the role. If wind comes up, it's a big deal for us.... So, I believe in the burn ban still being in effect at this point. We are not out of the woods yet as far as fire danger goes. Hopefully everybody's diligent and follows the rules."

Councilman Ron Orenstein asked Wilkes: "Is it safe to assume that we're in year-round fire season?"

"The last three years it's appeared that way," Wilkes replied. "You have to remember that last year on the Thomas fire down in Ventura our crews came back on December 22. And we were sending out strike teams in late March this year, so it's been busy."

Willits watershed

The council heard an update about the watershed restoration and timber salvage operation being undertaken by North Coast Resource Management to repair the city's property north of town that burned in last year's Redwood fire.

NCRM Vice President Todd McMahon told the council things are going smoothly, and the organization has already exceeded original projections of revenue coming to the city from the salvaged burned timber. The city has netted a profit of around \$516,000 so far. It had originally projected a gain of \$488,000.

Much of that money will likely be spent on reforestation of the property, which McMahon said should be planned for next winter, although he did note NCRM has procured a \$130,000 grant from the California Greenhouse Gas fund to help fund reforestation.

McMahon noted there was still one section of the property containing timber which needs to be salvaged. The operation has been delayed because of falling timber prices.

"We were on schedule to do it, and the log market this year was very high – and then it's gone through a terrible crash," he said. "The mills cut us off, and until further notice we can't sell the logs."

However, he said that section was not as badly damaged, and mostly contains Douglas fir trees, which are not as prone to bug infestation.

Overall, McMahon had a positive outlook for restoration of the watershed.

"There's a lot of nice green trees that survived up there, too, so it's looking good. I think we're going to get a lot of nice natural regeneration from that."

NCRM plans to submit a full restoration plan to the city soon, which will include creating "shaded fuel breaks" between the watershed and Pine Mountain, and along the main road all the way through the property to help protect against future fires.

"Essentially we're trying to box in the watershed from fire coming in and then rolling into Willits," McMahon said.

Contracts approved

During the meeting the council approved new three-year deals with both the Willits Police Officers Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1245 which include 2 percent annual salary raises as well improved benefits.

In the agenda summary report, the raises were described as "an effort to address long-term recruitment and retention in the department(s)."

The council also approved construction of a new WPD firing range. The department's previous range on the watershed property suffered extensive damage in last year's fire.

Police Chief Scott Warnock said funding for the new firing range will come from FEMA, a grant from the California

Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and from asset forfeiture revenue obtained by the department.

Haschak checks in

Third District supervisor candidate John Haschak attended the meeting, telling the council he was looking forward to working with them if his lead in the November 6 vote count holds up as predicted.

"If ... I am elected as Third District supervisor I really look forward to being a partner with the city and working together on all sorts of issues that come up," he said.

Orenstein asked Haschak if he planned on regularly attending Willits council meetings to potentially update them on county supervisor activities.

"Certainly, as much as possible," replied Haschak.

Electric charging stations

Duley updated the council on usage of the four electric charging stations the city has installed in its downtown parking lot. He noted statistics from Chargepoint – the company used by the city in conjunction with the stations – show that in the first 15 weeks of being up and running, they've been used 135 times for an average time of 2 hours and 15 minutes by each user.

"My assumption is most of the people using those charging stations are folks traveling through town," said Duley. "They're parking their vehicle for about 2.5 hours and so, hopefully, that means they're having an opportunity to enjoy Willits for a moment and spend some of their money [here]."

More of
Permits

From Page 1

press asked for information on Hamburg's whereabouts at Friday's meeting, neither Croskey nor county CEO Carmel Angelo could provide any answers. "The truth of the matter is, we don't know where he is, and we don't know when and if he will be returning," said Angelo.

When announcing the results of several votes that took place, Deputy Clerk of the Board Karla van Hagen said Hamburg was "absent by prior arrangement."

When asked during a break for any word on Hamburg, Croskey said she didn't know where he was. She added that even if she did know anything about Hamburg's whereabouts, she could not comment on the question because it was a personnel matter.

The absence of Hamburg was pivotal in limiting the board's ability to approve various proposals amending the county's cannabis cultivation ordinance. Another factor was the sheer number of items the board had to deal with that day.

These included the question of cannabis overlay zones, also called combining districts, which the board approved unanimously without making any changes to the Planning Commission's recommendations. Then there were 17 "additional recommendations" brought forward by the ad hoc committee. In addition, there were six major discussion points, proposals to amend the cultivation ordinance in significant ways.

It was when the board took up the six major discussion points – which included topics such as transferability of the right to acquire a cultivation permit, allowing new cultivation permits in rangeland, and the whether the area of allowable cultivation should be increased to 1 acre, that Hamburg's absence came into play. In part, this was because before discussing these major points, First District Supervisor Carre Brown had said she planned to vote "no" on every proposal.

Brown said her decision was a reaction to supervisors' continued tinkering with the cannabis issue. "It's time to stop tinkering and stop messing around and agree on the cultivation ordinance and let it alone and let it work," Brown said.

The fact Brown was voting a blanket "no" and Hamburg was absent meant each of the remaining supervisors – Croskey, John McCowen and Dan Gjerde – had to agree unanimously to move the legislation forward.

As a member of the ad hoc committee, McCowen supported each proposal. For the six major discussion points brought forward by the ad hoc committee, Croskey and Gjerde agreed with McCowen only twice.

One of those issues was on the question of creating a tiered system to determine allowable area for cannabis plant nurseries. Currently, the limit is 22,000 square feet of nursery space on 10 acres. As the cultivation ordinance is currently written, cannabis nurseries are not permitted on properties smaller than 10 acres.

Although no hard numbers were discussed, presumably a tiered system would provide that, for parcels 9 acres in size, perhaps a cannabis nursery of 20,000 square feet might be permitted; for parcels 8 acres in size, a nursery of 18,000 square feet might be permitted, and so on. This might be delineated down to a parcel size of 5 acres, or to an even lower limit which has not been named.

Deputy County Counsel Matthew Kiedrowski told supervisors he would come back to them with proposed language for the change at a future date.

The second major discussion point endorsed by the board was a proposal to require a use permit for all Phase III cultivation permits.

Unlike Phase I permits – which are available to those who can demonstrate they were growing cannabis in Mendocino County prior to January 1, 2016 – Phase III cultivation permits will be available to all comers, whether they have grown cannabis here before or not. Until Friday, the start date for Phase III was to be January 1, 2020.

However, Supervisor Dan Gjerde told his colleagues that while he would support requiring an approved use permit for every Phase III cultivation permit, he did not support the Phase III start date. The board agreed to require use permits for Phase III permits, but to delete the reference to the Phase III start date. Presumably, the board will discuss when to start Phase III at a future meeting.

Supervisors declined to consider further the issues of

Read the rest of
Permits

Over on page 13

Artistic Retreat

North Street Collective hosts artists from around the country to nurture creativity and community

Nestled away on a quiet street in Willits is a place of art and ideas. It is also a retreat and a place to meet and mingle, exchange knowledge, test and perfect techniques, and generally live an artful life, if only for a couple weeks or a few months. The North Street Collective, just a couple blocks west of the center of town, offers a unique immersion into all things Willits for travelling artists.

The Resident Artist Program has been a temporary home to creative people for the last two years, having offered a retreat to 20 artists this past summer, most of whom want to come back to experience what this opportunity has to offer again.

The collective has been host to artists from all parts of the United States and Canada, including Maryland, Rhode Island, Tennessee, New York, Southern California, Washington State, Oregon, Arizona, Colorado and Florida. It is this diversity that is the underlying premise of the North Street experiment.

North Street Collective was started by Noel Woodhouse and Natasha Hoehn, who purchased the premises from the family of "Grandma Mavis" Bromaghim, a long-time and integral resident of Willits who embodied the community spirit of the town.

Together they have made it a place to apprentice, find creative interests, garden, woodwork, paint, and engage in architecture. It is a place where artists can come for a specified amount of time, usually two weeks to three months, with a specific project or idea in mind, and find the solitude and encouragement to make their project a reality.

Along with the solitude, the artists are expected to integrate in some way into the community, interface with other artists, and experience what the region has to offer in terms of outdoor activities, social opportunities, music, and any other aspect of what makes Willits the quiet, quirky village that people easily fall in love with.

"We are open to any kind of artist who can use the space," explained Hoehn, "visual artists, writers, filmmakers, people involved in academic research, scientists. As long as what they do, they can do at the house. We're really open to the type of art. We are especially interested in people whose art is inspired by the place. People who are interested in woodworking or whose work is about the west, that kind of thing.

"We don't put any constraints on them producing something specific," she continued. "We want it to be a time for new exploration. They need to propose how they are going to use their time, to propose a project they are working on, but it doesn't have to be a final product.

Read the rest of
Retreat

Over on Page 15



At top, left: Visitors listen to the artists. At top, right: The North Street Collective sign is painted on the outside of Grandma Mavis' old barn.

Above, from left: Visitors enjoy fellowship outside Grandma Mavis' barn. A buffet dinner by Ashleigh Caudill is set up on the porch. Two pictures show Noel Woodhouse's current restoration and materials project.

At left: Colorful artwork by Peter Makela is displayed on a unique square canvas.

Below: Peter Makela and Suzanne Rivecca, the current artists in residence at the North Street Collective, hang out on the couch.



Read the rest of
Retreat

Over on Page 15

MAIN STREET MERCHANT
HOLIDAY EVENT CALENDAR

11/29
THURSDAY
TWINKLE
SIP & SHOP
STORES OPEN EVERY
THURSDAY TILL 8PM
WITH SPECIALS.
LOOK FOR LIT UP
MASON JARS!

12/8
DOWNTOWN
SCAVENGER
HUNT &
SANTA PHOTOS
AT JD
REDHOUSE

12/13
12 DAYS OF
CHRISTMAS
SPECIALS
START LOOKING FOR
FUN STORE DEALS DAILY
LEADING UP TO
CHRISTMAS!

THINK LOCAL ♦ BUY LOCAL ♦ BE LOCAL
SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES IN YOUR COMMUNITY BY SHOPPING LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

CHECK OUT EACH STORES FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM!

• MONKEY WRENCH
• MOON LADY
• WILLITS POWER

• JD REDHOUSE
• OFF THE CUFF
• BUTTERCUPS

• RE-EVOLUTION
• CAT'S MEOW
• MAZAHAR

• TANGO
• MIRROR MIRROR
• THE BOOK JUGGLER

BLACK
FRIDAY
SALE

6am to 7am: 50% off
one clothing or footwear item

6am to 10am: 40% off
Clothing & Footwear

10am to 6pm: 30% off
Clothing & Footwear

6am to 6pm: 25% off
Toys & Gifts

Brand exclusions apply,
sale limited to stock on hand

SATURDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY

25% off
Toys & Gifts

30% off
Select Clothing & Footwear

J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY
707-459-1214
212 South Main Street, Willits, CA

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Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

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Thursday, November 22

Happy Thanksgiving!

Willits Farmers Market: Market is taking a day off on Thanksgiving.

29th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner:
Willits Community Services and Food Bank invites you to a Thanksgiving dinner, Thursday, November 22, 11 am to 3 pm, Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Give thanks and celebrate with the community. Dinner is cooked by the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp kitchen crew. Anyone may eat for free; donations accepted and will benefit WCS and Food Bank in their continuing effort to provide essential human services in the community.

Thanksgiving Dinner:
Join the Thankful Friends of Laytonville for a community Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, November 22, 2 to 5 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Donations can be made by visiting Laytonville Healthy Start Family Resource Center. Information or to volunteer 984-8089.

Friday, November 23

Black Friday: Friday, November 23. Downtown merchants open early with special and sales. Willits Power, Moon Lady, Monkey Wrench, Buttercups, Off the Cuff, JD Redhouse, Re-Evolution, Cat's Meow, Mazahar, Tango, Mirror Mirror, The Book Juggler are among the participating merchants. Check out each store's Facebook and Instagram for details. "Support the businesses in your community by shopping locally this holiday season."

WHS Travel Club Package Wrapping: The Willits High School Travel Group will be wrapping presents to earn money for their upcoming trip to Italy and Greece, at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street. November 23, 24, December 1, 22, 23, 12 to 5 pm.

Shanachie Pub: Schindig: Friday, November 23, 9 pm. Annual Day After Thanksgiving Party. Featuring Schindig: "unique eclectic blend of folk, rock, country, blues with a jolt of world music thrown in for good measure." Visit facebook.com/schindig/. 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, November 24

WHS Travel Club Package Wrapping: See November 23 listing for details.

Holiday Shopping Bazaar: Leopold Collective, 109 North Main Street offers a chance to enjoy music, food and crafts and to do your holiday shopping. Saturday, November 24, December 8

and December 22, 11 am to 6:30 pm. Delicious treats and refreshments by ToLove Cookery. Info and to reserve vending spaces: 240-477-0629.

Shanachie Pub: J.W. Teller: "Missoula, Montana native has amazing vocal restraint that combines honey-warmth and cracked weariness." Visit facebook.com/jwtellermusic/. Saturday, November 24, 8 pm. 50B South Main Street.

Sunday, November 25

Willits Toy Run: The 26th Annual Willits Toy Run, hosted by the Willits Wild Bunch, takes place Sunday, November 25. Motorcycle run starts at noon at the Evergreen Shopping Center, escorted by the Little Lake Fire Department, and proceeds to the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, where the party continues until 3:30 pm. Live music by King Snake's Blues Band. Raffle, live auction, free lunch and no-host bar. All are welcome to join the party: Admission is one unwrapped toy (for ages 1 to 17 years old) for the Willits Children's Christmas Program, sponsored by the Willits Rotary Club with thanks to Willits Lions Club and Little Lake Fire Department. Info: roadglidebandit@gmail.com.

Monday, November 26

Senior Center Christmas Store: The Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, invites everyone to their annual Christmas Store which will be open from November 26 to December 8 (closed on Sunday) from 10 am to 2 pm. "Come see some of the fabulous finds," Christmas décor and wrapping items, candles, ornaments, holiday cards, wreaths, advent scenes, See's Candies and more. All proceeds go to senior center programs. For information: 459-6826.

Tuesday, November 27

SAA Farm & Garden Volunteer Day: Tuesday, November 27 is "Giving Tuesday," a global day of giving, fueled by the power of collaboration

What's Happening Around Town

Friday, November 30

'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever': This hilarious and heart-felt holiday comedy opens at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub), on Friday, November 30, including 17 child actors, the story focuses on an annual church pageant that is hijacked and turned upside down by the Herdman kids, a rambunctious rough and tumble bunch from the wrong side of the tracks who turn the opening rehearsals into chaos. Then, December 6 through December 16, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pm, and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. A special benefit sponsored by the Willits PEO will be held Thursday, December 6, 7 pm. Benefit tickets are \$20 and available from Judy Corzine, 707-367-3090. Tickets \$15 to \$20, at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpaperickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets available at door until sold out.

Shanachie Pub: Pat Simmons Jr. & Billie Kerr: Friday, November 30, 8 pm. Billie Kerr "singer-songwriter who turns life experiences into art" opens for Pat Simmons Jr. "Pat's music career began as a teen, when he first began opening as a solo act for The Doobie Brothers." Visit: patsimmonsjr.com and billiekermusic.com. 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, December 1

WHS Travel Club Package Wrapping: See November 23 listing for details.

Holiday Craft Fair: Beautifully handcrafted items made by local vendors. Homemade candies by Sober Grad. At the Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Saturday, December 1, 9 am to 4 pm.

Sherwood Valley Christmas Crafts Fair: Saturday, December 1, 9 am to 3 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Native American jewelry; medicine pouches; homemade jam, wreaths and ornaments; blankets; crocheted items; handmade soaps, and much more. Info: Mehan Gunter, Sherwood Valley Food Program, 456-1710.

Sunday, December 2

Annual Laytonville Christmas Bazaar: Arts and Crafts Fair featuring over 60 local artists and crafters. Featuring local art, hand crafted gifts, artisanal goodies and more. Sunday, December 2, 10

*Holiday Express: Roots of Motive Power in partnership with the Mendocino County Museum presents the annual Holiday Express, a free family event on December 1 from 12 to 5 pm. 420 East Commercial Street. Free steam train rides, 12 to 5 pm; Meet Santa and receive a small gift, 12 to 4 pm; free admission to the Mendocino County Museum; "Wagon Full of Toys" Raffle (tickets for sale at the event, drawing 3:30 pm); free crafts; refreshments, decorated trees, wreaths for sale (limited).

KPHT 2nd Anniversary Party: Saturday, December 1, 12 to 4 pm, "Kay Fat" invites you to come dance to Il Big featuring Indiana Slim and Blue Luke. Corry Hanna opens. Dennis Chrip and the Eclectic Coyotes. At the Garden Club, 375 Harwood Road at Willis Avenue in Laytonville. No cover to dance, but donations requested for homemade chili, corn bread, hot dogs, beer and drinks.

Holiday Tree Lighting: Willits Chamber of Commerce hosts the annual Holiday Tree Lighting in front of the Mendocino County Museum on Saturday, December 1 at 5:30 pm, with Frankie J. leading Christmas carols. The chamber will also be hosting a chamber mixer at its Skunk Train Depot office, 299 East Commercial Street, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, with light holiday snacks and beverages (spirits and non-alcoholic). Happy Holidays! Sagittarius: Local

am to 4 pm, Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Free admission. Take photos with Santa, 12 to 3 pm; \$5 suggested donation. Info: 707-984-8089.

Open House: "WELL (Willits Economic Localization) is celebrating our very successful Paint the Town projects at a gala Open House, Sunday December 2, 4 to 6 pm at the Willits Hub, 630 South Main Street (just south of Mariposa Market). We'll be honoring the artists, volunteers, and donors who've brought color and creativity to Willits – painting the concrete K-rails at Main and Commercial streets, fire hydrants, trash receptacles, and putting artwork in storefront windows. Entertainment by local trio, "Just Enough" (and more), good food and cheer. (Potluck contributions are welcome.)"

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Lunch served to the hungry in the City Park across from the Willits Police Station every Saturday at 1 pm. Served by various community-minded organizations. For information, call the Food Bank at 459-3333.

Boomer's Friday Night Karaoke: 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of every month, Boomer's Saloon, 45020 Highway 101, Laytonville. 9 pm to 1 am. No Cover, 21+ Please bring ID. Hosted by DJ-Ken Steely Entertainment with KJ/DJ-Ken Steely & Anna. Come for dinner, stay for the fun.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings at Howard Memorial Hospital: Held once a week on Mondays, 6 to 7 pm in the Seabiscuit Conference Room. Open to everyone and anyone who needs support recovering from alcoholism. Info: Cici at 456-3591

Brooktrails Golf Course: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 am, Senior League, Age 50 and over. Lifetime membership \$10. Green fees extra. Thursday, 5 pm, Working Man's Scramble with \$12 green fees, \$5 buy in, cash prize for 1st place. Drink and snack provided. Saturdays, 8 am, "Sweeps" utilizing NCGA handicaps. Sundays, 5 pm, free golf for kids, 5 to 18, with paying adult. For times and information: 459-6761. 24860 Birch Street.

Social Dancing: Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. No partner required. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. Club atmosphere in which the participants teach each other swing, salsa and other types of partner dancing. Collaborative playlist.

Willits Farmers Market: Now indoors at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, winter hours: 3 to 5:30 pm. No market on Thanksgiving Day! The last of the summer veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, dog treats, jams and jellies and savory preserves, balsamic vinegars, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

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

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

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

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

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or 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 to 11:30 am "Play Group," and 3:30 to 5:30 pm "Lego Day" (bring your imagination and start building); Thursdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Story Time." Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

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

Al-Anon Meeting: Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind 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 lotus33@earthlink.net.

Sportsmitten 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 St. John's Lutheran Church Hall, 24 Mill Creek Drive. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

Weekly Life Changes Discussion and Support Group: Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 am. In the Conference Room at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

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

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 5 pm. Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5:15 to 6 pm. Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 to 7 pm; Twens 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: New weekly event on Tuesdays, 7 pm: "Vabi Sabi" with host Mitchell Holman, formerly of It's A Beautiful Day ("Whitebird") features different artists. Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday at 7:30 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 8 pm. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic Night every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

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

Senior Center Lunch

Week of November 26 through November 30

Monday: Pasta Carbonara

Tuesday: Ortega Chicken Sandwich "Crispy"

Wednesday: Oven Baked Fish

Thursday: Beef Chow Mein

Friday: Birthday Turkey Dinner

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

Main Street Merchant Holiday Event Calendar

November 23 through December 13

Friday, November 23: Black Friday: Stores open early with exciting special and sales.

Saturday, November 24: Small Business Saturday: Shop small, save big, eat, drink & buy local.

Thursday, November 29: Thursday Twinkle Sip & Shop: Stores open every Thursday until 8 pm with specials. Look for lit-up Mason jars.

Saturday, December 8: Downtown Scavenger Hunt & Santa Photos with Willits Weekly's Maureen Moore at J.D. Redhouse.

Thursday, December 13: Twelve Days of Christmas Specials: Start looking for fun store deals daily leading up to Christmas.

Participating stores: Willits Power, Moon Lady, Monkey Wrench, Buttercups, Off the Cuff, JD Redhouse, Re-Evolution, Cat's Meow, Mazahar, Tango, Mirror Mirror, The Book Juggler, and more. Check out each store's Facebook and Instagram for details. "Support the businesses in your community by shopping locally this holiday season."

Carolers Wanted

Calling all carolers and minstrels: the Willits Community Theatre is looking for musicians to come and volunteer their talents as Dickens Carolers during the holiday season. All proceeds will benefit the WCT. If you are interested, please contact TinaMarie at HillsideMusicStudio@gmail.com. Please respond ASAP - Caroling will begin Thanksgiving weekend.

'Dying Consciously: The Greatest Journey'

December 4

The Avenues to Wellness speaker series presents: "Dying Consciously: The Greatest Journey" by Kitty Norris, empowerment coach, officiant, death midwife. Tuesday, December 4, 5:30 to 6:30 pm, Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Free to the public, donations appreciated. "Dying Consciously" is a spiritually-oriented, volunteer hospice service group. Members are trained to respectfully and gently assist persons involved in the dying process, including the person transitioning, their family members, care-givers, and friends. The work is simple and elegant, offering a positive message with the intention of bringing dignity and peace to the dying process.

Kitty Norris is a personal empowerment coach, officiant, and death midwife who has been assisting clients with life path transitions for many years. She is honored to offer this sacred work with the dying and their loved ones, to help them resolve issues and to consciously cross over.

Assist the dying in a peaceful manner

Conduct a guided 'Life Review' to identify unfinished business

Offer the dying person and their loved ones a way to reconcile

Consider death as an ally

Willits Center for the Arts 71 E Commercial St. FREE to the public. Donations appreciated! Wheelchair accessible.

Holiday Lights

A WINTER WONDERLAND at the Commonwealth Garden

DECEMBER 15-17

5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Would you like to participate in this year's Holiday Lights event? If so, please contact: Ananda Johnson @ (707) 459-2777 / (707) 354-2166 or Holly MacIsaac @ (707) 841-0612. Signatures set up by December 14th (each participant must supply their own entrance cards). Proceeds will benefit The Caring Kitchen.

THE ORIGINAL 32ND ANNUAL WILLITS HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

FINE ARTS & CRAFTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

12:00 Noon - 7:00 P.M. Community Center

12:00 Noon - 9:00 P.M. WCA Upstairs Gallery

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

WILLITS COMMUNITY CENTER & upstairs at the WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LIVE MUSIC FRI., SAT. & SUN. BOTH LOCATIONS

KID'S CRAFTS FAIR SAT. ONLY. 10AM-2PM Classroom at WCA

FOOD & BEVERAGES BY THE WILLITS CHARTER SCHOOL

A BENEFIT FOR THE WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Willits Community Center 111 East Commercial St. Willits, CA.

For more information call Bonnie at 707-459-4792

Holiday Express

December 1

Roots of Motive Power in partnership with the Mendocino County Museum presents Holiday Express, a free family event on December 1 from 12 to 5 pm. 420 East Commercial Street. Free steam train rides, 12 to 5 pm; Meet Santa and receive a small gift, 12 to 4 pm; free admission to the Mendocino County Museum; "Wagon Full of Toys" Raffle (tickets for sale at the event; drawing 3:30 pm); free crafts; refreshments, decorated trees, wreaths for sale (limited).

Willits Weekly

Online & In Print

AT THE MOVIES

'Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald'

The Story: In J. K. Rowling land (decades before Harry is born), there lives a powerful wizard named Grindelwald who wants to dominate the world of magic, and of Muggles, too. A young Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law) recruits the renowned but shy fantastic beast lover Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) to oppose the evil Grindelwald (Johnny Depp). That essentially is the plot, but the action as a whole overflows with complex relationships and a dozen films' worth of fabulous magical sights. Some are terrifying, and some are for laughs. So, Harry Potter fans ... rejoice!

Dan Essman Columnist

My Thoughts: I loved the flick. The relationships which drive the action are somewhat of a muddle. There are questions of identity, guilt, desire for revenge, megalomania, thwarted love affairs, and occasional garbled dialogue that want clarifying. I have faith that if I were a true-to-the-bone Harry Potter-ite, I'm quite sure I would not have been confused. (Also, I would be much younger, and my hearing would be better.) So put my cavils aside, this is a fine movie and I think I shall watch it again.

Parents: I believe this is too complex and too rife with evil characters for young children. Also, the little ones don't need to see innocents killed with magic.

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

THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD

IN CINEMAS NOW

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Above, from left: Posters and photos of the missing woman, Khadijah Britton, decorated the stage at the fundraiser held earlier this month at the Willits Community Center. Indian tacos were served with a helping of salsa, cheese, lettuce and sour cream. Vendors lined the west wall of the center, including this table offering information about human trafficking.

Help find Khadijah Britton

Family hopes for new information, raises funds for awareness



One of the singers performing for gathered family and friends at the benefit. Family of Khadijah Britton gather for a group photo during the event, including, front row, from left: Tomias Britton, Josie Boggs, Stephanie Britton, Lydia Hostler. Back row: Vince Frease, Connie Hostler, Taleah Britton, Daphne Smith, Bam Britton, Andrea Oliver, Gerald Britton Jr., Ronnie Hostler and Susie Short. Valerie Stanley offers beaded earrings for sale at one of the vendor booths. Below, from left: John Perez and Tracy Nelson jam off stage. The Willits Community Center was set up in a red, black and yellow theme. A silent auction was held on the east side of the room, with dozens of items donated from locals and businesses.





Welcome Dr. Claudia Petruncio

Internal Medicine Specialist at Redwood Medical Clinic

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Petruncio to our community. She brings over 30 years of experience in the medical field, including time spent in clinic and hospital settings. She graduated and completed her medical residency at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. As an Internal Medicine specialist, she cares for patients with a wide range of conditions, including diabetes, thyroid disorders, hypertension, chronic pain and geriatric care.

“I love Internal Medicine because I get to treat the whole person, from head to toe. I believe that medicine should treat mind, body and spirit, and that’s what I get to do for my patients.” – Claudia Petruncio, D.O.

To schedule an appointment call (707) 459-6115

Redwood Medical Clinic
3 Marcela Drive, Suite 3
Willits CA

www.AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org



Surviving the Holidays



By Ben Anderson, LCSW

Emotions often run high during the holidays. For some, the holidays bring joyful reunions with friends and family. For others, the holidays cause anxiety or sadness; they can trigger unwanted memories of loss or other painful experiences.

Part of what makes the holidays so challenging is the expectations we place on ourselves and others when we get together with family. If family relationships are healthy and supportive, then the holidays simply bring the stress of a busy season – travel, gift exchange, meal preparation, and trying to make sure everyone gets along.

But if family relationships are strained, or if you’ve recently lost a loved one or experienced a divorce, the holidays can magnify difficult emotions. Even as adults with children of our own, being with our parents and siblings can lead us to revert to old roles and patterns that can be stressful for all involved.

The challenges of economic hardships are also harder to endure during the holiday season. The whole world seems to be focused on exchanging gifts, and you may be struggling with how to put food on the table. Explaining to young children that Santa won’t be bringing the latest and greatest toys is hard for everyone.

Here are some ways to reduce stress during the holidays.

Take good care of yourself

- Get enough sleep. Everything feels harder to manage when you haven’t gotten a good night’s rest. Getting enough sleep gives you the energy you need to handle holiday craziness.
- Exercise. A brisk walk for 30 minutes a day can lift your mood (and improve your waistline). Even a slow 20-minute stroll will improve your mood.
- Prioritize. Sometimes we are the reason for the stress we feel during the holidays: We try to do too much. Instead, prioritize your responsibilities and cut out some of the activities that aren’t essential. Do less. Enjoy more.
- Indulge, but don’t overindulge. It’s easy to overdo it with food and drinks during the holidays. Overindulging can make you feel terrible – physically and emotionally.
- Ask for help. If you need help, ask friends and family to pitch in, whether it’s shopping, cooking, wrapping gifts, or entertaining a family member who needs extra attention.

Be present in the moment

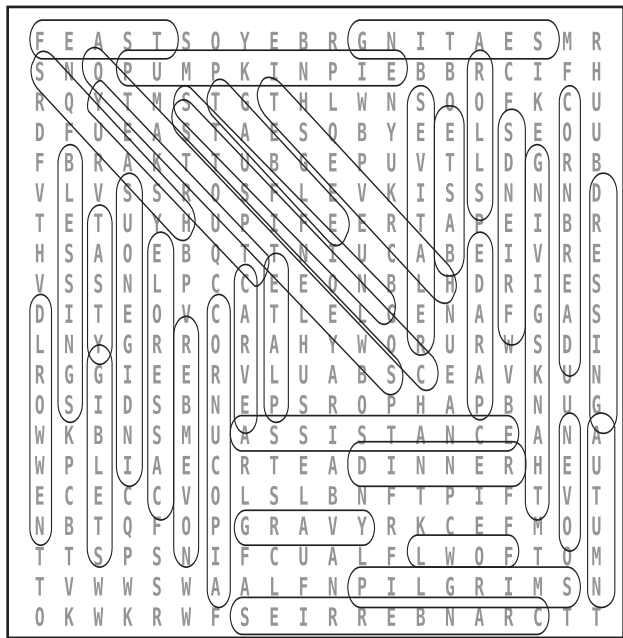
- Stress is not the “reason for the season.” If you find yourself feeling stressed, stop what you are doing for 5 seconds and focus on relaxing every muscle in your body. It is physiologically impossible to remain stressed if every muscle is relaxed. Why not try it right now?
- Strive for nice, not perfect. Look for a very nice gift, not a perfect one. See if you can find a beautiful decoration, not a perfect one. Realistic expectations can help reduce stress. Try to find something enjoyable in each activity.
- Gratitude fights depression. Being grateful doesn’t mean everything’s wonderful, but if you can think of three things you are grateful for, studies show it will put you in a better mood.

Taking action fights depression

- Fight loneliness by volunteering or participating in faith-based activities. For people without loved ones nearby, the holidays can feel lonely. Consider volunteering at a local shelter or food bank. You’ll spend time with others and make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. If you simply want to be with others, numerous faith-based activities in our community offer companionship and support.
- Start a new tradition. Holidays can be full of joy, but can also be tough reminders of happier times. Don’t be afraid to change your traditions. If specific activities remind you too much of a recent loss, do something else. Start a new tradition.
- Practice random acts of kindness. Improve someone else’s day by doing something nice for a stranger. You may find that the person who benefits the most is you!

If you feel like what you’re experiencing goes beyond holiday blues, consider talking to your doctor or a therapist. They can help.

Ben Anderson, LCSW, is the director of Behavioral Health at MCHC Health Centers, a local, non-profit, federally qualified health center offering medical, dental and behavioral health care to people in Lake and Mendocino counties. Little Lake Clinic in Willits, 456-9600, is part of MCHC Health Centers.



LEGAL NOTICES

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Santa Photos at J.D. Redhouse

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Help Wanted

Wanna have some holiday fun? Skunk train Willits is seeking on board helpers for The Magical Christmas train, several positions open including Santa, Elves and helpers. For details call Pam at 707-459-1052 or send inquiries to pbskunk@gmail.com

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8	3	9	5	6	4	2	1	7



Above, left: A Gemini Space Capsule toy reflects the excitement of space travel in the 1960s. Above, right: Batman stands next to the Batmobile with Legos in the background.

Vintage Toys

Mendocino County Museum displays playthings from the past – antique to '80s

"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." – George Bernard Shaw

"What was your favorite toy?" asked Megan Dukett, program administrator of the new Cultural Services Agency: Museum and Parks, to each of the kids and adults who came to see the latest exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum.

The Vintage Toy Exhibit will be up in the long gallery until March 18. It includes toys from the 1890s and the turn of the 20th century, up to the more modern 1980s. The early toys and playthings, born of the boom of manufacturing, include Crayola Crayons, Teddy bears (named after Theodore Roosevelt), and electric train sets. Mail order catalogs, like Sears, Roebuck and Co., also added to the rise of manufactured toys. The early toys were designed to help kids prepare for adult life.

In the post WWII era, plastics began to replace wood and metal. The advent of television helped to promote products and stimulate imaginations. In 1959, the best-selling doll of all time, Barbie, was born. Trends were set, and plastics allowed everyone to have what all the other kids were playing with.

In the 1970s and 1980s, hit movies and television shows influenced the tastes

of the kids. Atari came out with Pong in 1979 and the electronic toy revolution was begun. The first Nintendo Entertainment system came out in 1986, and the Game Boy portable system debuted in 1989.

One of the most common questions asked when kids see the early toys on display is, "Where are the batteries?" This exhibit hopefully will stimulate inquiries and talks between children and their parents, and bridge generational gaps.

"I'm hoping that when families come," said Dukett, "they'll have multiple generations with them. They can have conversations about growing up and how things were different in whatever era they were growing up in and how toys were different."

Every third Saturday, while the Toy Exhibit is up, Dukett is holding a vintage whirligig toy-making workshop from 1 to 3 pm in the exhibit hall. Kids (and adults) are encouraged to color the wooden discs that are provided for free.

When strung with a couple feet of string and wound up using a little bit of skill, the disc can be made to spin at high speed and rewind itself, creating a constant whirling machine that is as fascinating as it is therapeutic.

Whirligigs have been in existence for

Read the rest of **Toys** Over on Page 15



At top, left: A doll from the mid-20th century sits among some antique doll furniture. At top, right: Books from the past are on display in the Vintage Toy Exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum. Above: Megan Dukett shows Kristen and Morgan Nolan how to make the whirlingig function. Below: A Sunken Treasure game from the 1950s is laid out.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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The rest of **Orenstein** From Page 1

from 2002 to 2006 and 2010 to 2018, Orenstein has decided to hang it up this year and will finish out his final term in December.

"I'm getting to the point where it's time to step aside and let some young people in," he said.

Orenstein moved to Willits in 1997, following a long-time goal he'd had to get to Northern California.

"Growing up in Pennsylvania, you always looked to California to be the Golden State," he said. "The first time I came to California was in the '60s, and San Francisco just blew me away. I told my wife then, 'We're going to move to California [someday].'"

He moved from the Pittsburgh area where he had worked as a project manager in the manufacturing industry, and said he was drawn to being involved in community activities in a small-town environment.

He began regularly attending Willits City Council meetings in 1998 and kept going for four years "to see what was going on" before running for the council in 2002 and winning a seat.

"It's hard to get involved in a big city, but with a small town I could get involved," he said. "I had never been involved with politics before, and it was kind of fascinating how this whole thing worked. And the more I attended the meetings and saw what was involved on a local level, it became important. You get the sense that you really have more control of your destiny in a small town like this if you take that opportunity."

Still, there were a lot of challenges early on during his council years, as the city tried to overcome difficult economic times.

"In the early days for me, most of it was survival. We had some pretty difficult budgetary issues. The economy was not strong, and we were constantly operating at a deficit. There were periods where we couldn't offer any kind of salary increases to the workers. It was really tight."

He said that recently things have been better as enthusiasm has built for rejuvenating the town following the bypass being constructed.

"In the last five or six years, things were changing in the town. And one thing kind of built on the other. Maybe it was like kicking us out of the doldrums in some way. It's been pretty exciting."

Orenstein was vice mayor for five years, and has been on numerous ad hoc committees over the years, including ones related to the marijuana ordinance; the underage tobacco ordinance; Caltrans negotiations and the use of city streets by the bypass contractors; negotiating a new contract with the city's waste hauler; designing and building solar panels at city facilities; developing a sustainable water management plan for Little Lake Valley aquifer; and overseeing development at the Willits airport.

He said that "public service" has been his favorite aspect of being a council member.

"That sounds kind of corny to say, but it's true," he said. "You're there, you don't get any money for it. We don't often get a lot of respect, but at the end of the day, you work for the sense that you've done some good things for the community, helped to make it better in whatever ways. I guess that's probably the most satisfying part of it."

Orenstein's political leanings have changed over the years. He came to Willits considering himself "a blue collar liberal," but found common ground with people on both sides of the aisle.

"I came to realize that far left is no better than far right, and extremism of any kind is never good for anything, that somehow we need to meet somewhere in the middle. We always have to do that. Because if the extreme right or the extreme left has their way, then the other side is always going to be looking for ways to thwart them and to overthrow them. And then when the other side gets into power, they throw everything out – and we're seeing this right now in Washington."

"It's not right to just dismiss everybody that doesn't agree with you. Listen to them and realize that everybody has a point of view. They're not always right, they're not always wrong, but between us, we'll find the answers. To me, this was like an epiphany."

He added that he thinks most in the community understand this, and points to his experience with the bypass, which he supported, as evidence of that.

"The bitterness that was happening with the bypass for a while, there were still enough people in this community that kept reminding everybody, 'You know the bypass is going to be over in a couple of years, Caltrans is going to go away, and we're going to be left with each other in this small community, let's be careful about that.'"

"By and large, I think people in this community get that message, that no matter what craziness is going on around us, just remember we're on this small little island here, and we're going to see each other on the street every day, and we've got to live with each other."

His opinions on some issues have changed over the years, such as with cannabis.

For years he opposed legalizing and permitting marijuana businesses, but eventually changed his outlook, and took a stand in 2016 along with other council members, opposing then-Mayor Bruce Burton who was trying to block the formation of a cannabis ad hoc committee.

"It occurred to me that instead of trying to ban something, which isn't going to work anyway because we don't have the money or the resources to enforce a ban, let's take hold of the problem and make it something that we can live with. Take control of it, take the lead on it, and that's what the argument was about."

Last year he cast a vote to allow permitted business operation in Willits with the city cannabis ordinance (it passed 4 to 1), and now he said he is pleased with what he is seeing with those getting their businesses up and running.

"We have maybe half a dozen businesses that are getting ready to open in town.... They're business people, they're investing millions of dollars in their projects, and they're serious. And they're educated and they're not trying to get something for nothing."

"They're going to be good for the community and so far, it's happening. But until they open up and start operating, and the public will see that they're not destroying our town, we still have to work towards that thing. There's not full acceptance yet, but I think that will happen within a couple of years."

Orenstein sees the ability to change outlooks on issues as a positive attribute, and reflective of keeping an open mind about things.

"I think 'flip-flopping' is a silly term," he said. "You do have to evolve your ideas. New information comes to light, new conditions. You can't always be fixed, you have to be open to change."

Orenstein has also worked with many other local groups other than the city council over the years, including the county Grand Jury, Economic Development and Finance Corporation, the Revit-ED Committee, Willits Economic Localization (WELL), Community Care of Mendocino County, and the Mendocino County Civil Service Commission. He lists some of the work he's done with them as some of his proudest accomplishments.

In 2001 he helped form a nonprofit group, the Willits Skate Park Association, along with Dave Madrigal, which raised \$600,000 to build the first skate park in Mendocino County.

"I'm proud to say that skate park is one of best run in the state," said Orenstein. "I'm proud of that thing."

He also cites helping to get solar panels placed at the city's water plant with members of WELL as a proud moment. During the effort to get them approved, he made a spreadsheet of all the city's electricity use to determine where solar panels would have the biggest impact.

Although all of the votes from the November 6 election have not yet been tallied, there will be at least one new Willits City Council member next year, along with several others in Ukiah and Fort Bragg, and Orenstein had this advice for the newcomers.

"I think it's important that they do their homework and do their research, and read and listen and keep an open mind. Beyond that, ask the questions, do not become a rubber stamp, don't accept everything staff and everybody brings to you."

"As policymakers ... we're the ultimate body that says what's going to happen in the town, which means we have the ultimate responsibility, and we need to take that responsibility seriously."

He also noted that council members should be prepared to understand the practical reality of both the opportunities and limitations of being on the city council.

"You come into office with all kinds of ideas on how to fix things, then reality strikes. So you sort of get into this comfort zone of figuring out, 'OK, we can't do everything. What can we do? And let's start taking steps and baby steps, and let's start making progress.'"

"Staff and council start feeding each other ideas, and then we start getting the synergy going, and it's really pretty exciting actually."

He said that he enjoys seeing all the new activities going on such as WELL's Paint the Town project and the city's Falling Out of Summer concert series, but feels that focusing on getting more long-term business into the city is most important.

"Most of our economy is off of Main Street – it's the 'dirty' industries that you don't see.... Ultimately we need to strengthen the base economy."

"Now marijuana may become that," he went on. "There's some good plans going on with some of these new businesses to make this a destination.... I still get a little leery about that too. I don't want to see Willits turn into Amsterdam where people come shopping for pot on Main Street, and I don't see that happening."

Orenstein sees a bright future for Willits and feels like it's gotten over the hump after some of the recent challenges such as the bypass.

"The city staff and city manager have come up with some really interesting ideas. There are a lot of good things happening, a lot of new businesses coming into this town and opening up. There's some good opportunities that are happening, so I think it's going to be good. It starts out with the bypass and with Main Street. Little by little, it's going to take years to get us where we need to be, but I'm confident that we're going to be in good shape in the future."

Orenstein says that after 20 years of public service and volunteer work, he's looking forward to spending time on the road traveling with his wife, Brenda, around the country in their travel trailer.

When looking back at his years as a city council member and other community activities, he's happy with what he sees overall.

"I'm happy with what I think I've accomplished.... I can go to sleep at night knowing that I've touched some lives and I've made some changes to myself and the world, and there's not much more that someone can want other than to know that they've touched lives. And maybe the world is a slightly better place than it was before you came along. I guess that's all we can aspire to."

The rest of **Budget** From Page 1

need to be accrued back to June 30, so those projections were also taken into consideration at June 30 and attempted to project.

"The third and final one would be the handling of the year-end process for designated reserves, so that every dollar of designated reserves frees up dollars in the fund balance. So those three [factors] were the major reasons for the fund balance," Weer clarified.

Later in the meeting, Second District Supervisor John McCowen offered a simpler explanation for the good budgetary news.

"With the year-end close-out [for fiscal year 2017/18], which is now \$4.4 million instead of the anticipated \$498,000 – that \$4.4 million I believe is comprised of \$2.4 million of additional unanticipated departmental revenue over what had been included in the 2017-18 budget, and then \$2 million in fund balance that had not been expended."

"That would indicate that the auditor's projections are on the conservative side, which is wise, and is prudent, I think," McCowen said.

The budget presentation did not contain any information about which departments brought in the unanticipated departmental revenue. Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde asked that such information be included in future quarterly budget reports.

Both Angelo and Weer agreed supervisors had \$3,965,190 to spend, and Angelo gave the supervisors a list of her recommendations. That list includes \$1 million to the jail expansion project; \$100,000 to replace power lines to the Mt. Sanhedrin microwave communications station; \$200,000 to upgrade generator connections at the county Emergency Operations Center; \$200,000 to replenish the reserve fund for the county's Capital Improvement Program; \$1 million to work on Phase II of the roof project for the county administration center; \$1 million to Information Technology for upgrades indicated in the master plan to modernize the county's tech capacity; \$45,000 to pay the annual fee for the software license and maintenance for the Recorder's office; and \$420,190 back to budget reserves to potentially pay for anticipated overtime and extra help for the Sheriff's Office.

During discussion, supervisors learned the jail roof is also leaking. McCowen asked whether the money should be put into the administration center roof or the jail roof, and Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde suggested the board approve spending the \$1 million on roofs, but that approval should wait until supervisors have a more detailed report on all of the county's leaking roofs before it allocating which roof repairs the money would be used for.

The four supervisors present unanimously approved the first quarter budget report for fiscal year 2018/19, and the accompanying spending plan.

Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisor Karla Van Hagen noted that Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg was absent by pre-arrangement.

The rest of **Permits** From Page 6

the transferability of cultivation permits to new ownerships and the question of whether new cultivation permits should be allowed in rangeland zoning districts.

On the transferability question, Croskey sided with McCowen, but Gjerde opposed the measure. Instead, Gjerde proposed transferability should only be allowed in cases in which the owner of a permit on less desirable land wishes to sell his permit to another person who has a cultivation permit on more desirable land, such as ag land.

Gjerde said transferability should be allowed in such cases. At the same time, the new owner could expand his area for cultivation to as much as an acre.

Gjerde argued one of the benefits of his idea would be that it would get to "yes" on two questions: that of transferability and the question of expansion of the permitted area of cultivation.

However, Croskey would not support Gjerde's idea. The audience groaned when it realized that because Croskey and Gjerde could not agree, a person buying property in rangeland will still not have the ability to legally grow commercial-scale cannabis on that land, even when the previous owner had a permit to do so.

On the question of allowing new cultivation permits in rangeland, Croskey felt now was not the time for that move. "I think there could come a time [for it], but I don't think this is the time," she said.

In addition, the board declined to consider whether the upper limit of cultivation space should be expanded to 1 acre and whether the number of cultivation permits per parcel should be increased beyond the current limit of two.

In addition to these major discussion points, the ad hoc committee offered 17 minor recommendations to the board pertaining to the county's network of cannabis ordinances. For these minor questions the

board was much more positive, informally voicing support for 14 of them.

Supervisor Brown had yet to draw her line in the sand when these recommendations were discussed and agreed with her colleagues on many of them.

The board approved modifying its definitions section in order to match the county definitions with the state's cannabis rules. It agreed to delete "church" and "treatment center" from the county's list of sensitive receptors. It was equivocal in its attempts to limit generator use, finally agreeing to continue to allow small generators during the drying period.

It agreed to drop the requirement for "wildlife exclusionary fencing" around pot grows, but to continue to require fencing and a lockable gate. The issue on the fencing was a requirement that the fencing be buried; that was deemed unnecessary.

Supervisors also voted to require that cultivators subscribe only to the state's track-and-trace system, once that system becomes operational.

The board also clarified the number of required inspections, settling on one initial inspection and one annual compliance inspection; the compliance inspection would form the basis of the next year's permit renewal.

Supervisors agreed to once again create a six-month extension period for Phase I permit applications; however, it was not able to agree to a start date for that period.

The board approved allowing cottage-level indoor permits in industrial zoning districts; to allow mixed-light permits, only in greenhouses that have odor control, in industrial zones; to delete the requirement for a separate habitable dwelling unit for each tenant in common; to allow any permitted cultivator to file a notice of non-cultivation and, finally, to include language that would define criteria to deny a permit in the revised ordinance.



Above: In the Willits Community Theatre production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," the 27-member cast includes, back row, from left: Anya Schwabs, Alexis Zynda, Kate Austin, Miles Mattson, Kai Schwabs, Alexis Zynda and Sakora Scott, Nicole Sylstra, Kolten Davis and Damian Reiter. The two tiny angels in the middle row are Jedediah Swearingin, left, and Kaya Reiter, right. In front, with arms spread and doing the splits,



At right: Some of the tag tree helpers gather at the old HMH for a photo including, from left: Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer, Willits Frontier Days Vice President Marcy Barry, program organizer Laura Sleeper, Little Lake Fire Department Fire Chief Chris Wilkes, and program volunteer Santa Calderon, in front.

At right: One of the trees, located at J.D. Redhouse, with tags ready to fulfill.

Photo by Jake Whitehurst

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Below: Part of the cast of the Willits Community Theatre's production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." In back, on the left side: Scott Mattson; below him, angels Anya Schwabs, Alexis Zynda and Kate Austin; in front of angels are wise men Jonas Swearingin, Kai Schwabs and Miles Mattson; sitting down in front is Nicole Sylstra with little angels Evangeline Semisch, Jedediah Swearingin and Kaya Reiter. In back of the creche are Soren Pinelli as Joseph and Sakora Scott, understudy for Mary and assistant stage manager. In back, on the right side: Earlene Gleisner, Sarah Coon, stage manager Beth Semisch, Angela Ostrowski, and finally, standing in front of them, in bat robes, are Kolten Davis and Damian Reiter.



Reiter, right. In front, with arms spread and doing the splits, is Evangeline Semisch. Below: Mary and Joseph gaze on the baby Jesus in this shot from "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." At left, as Joseph, is Soren Pinelli; at right, as Mary, is Sylvia Wartel. At bottom: The elder angels are whispering divine secrets to the younger ones. The angels are, front, from left: Evangeline Semisch, Jedediah Swearingin and Kaya Reiter. Back: Alexis Zynda, Kate Austin and Anya Schwabs.

Holiday Comedy

WCT presents hilarious and heartfelt 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

By Steve Hellman for WCT

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," a hilarious and heartfelt holiday comedy, opens at the Willits Community Theatre on Friday, November 30.

Based on the best-selling young adult novel by Barbara Robinson, the stage production directed by Robert Ford sports a cast of 27, including 17 child actors. The story focuses on an annual church pageant that is hijacked and turned upside down by the Herdman kids, a rambunctious rough-and-tumble bunch from the wrong side of the tracks.

In this humorous look at the foibles of community relationships, the Herdmans turn the opening rehearsals into chaos, and their mayhem is so complete, people start taking sides and gossip whirls about a failed pageant. But hold on. A transformation true to the holiday spirit may be in the offing.

Director Robert Ford praises the play for being about a community and how it pulls together to work out its pageant – and wider – issues. Ford is particularly excited about the involvement of veteran adult actors, along with so many child actors in the production.

"We're building a legacy at WCT with the involvement of

our young people," says Ford. He notes that several of the children are veterans of previous WCT shows, including "A Christmas Carol" and "The Phantom Toll Booth." The cast also includes new faces, with children experiencing their first taste of live acting.

In this show-within-a-show, the Herdman kids may bring the chaos, but along the way, something else much larger takes over.

Opening night is Friday, November 30 at 7 pm, but there will not be any other public performances that weekend. The show will then run December 6 through December 16, with performances on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pm, and Sunday matinees at 2 pm.

A special benefit performance sponsored by the Willits PEO will be held on the first Thursday, December 6 at 7 pm. Benefit tickets are \$20 and available from Judy Corzine: 707-367-3090. Advance tickets for all regular shows are \$15 to \$20 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at www.brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24 / 7 at 800-838-3006.

Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Time for tag trees!

Trees out now for Willits Children's Christmas Program

'Tis the season for shopping, especially with Black Friday and Small Business Saturday just around the corner, and trees bearing the colorful tags outlining wishes of community children are close by, too.

Anyone who selects a tag can purchase one or all of the items and bring them back, unwrapped, to a drop-off location or to the old Howard Memorial Hospital with the tag.

Event organizers will then check off the tags accounting for all the items, and then bag the gifts for each family. Wrappers will be volunteering at the old HMH to wrap all the gifts in time for delivery on Christmas Eve day.

Tree locations include: Mendo Mill, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Unique Boutique, Grocery Outlet, Mazahar, and Healing Central, and drop-off locations include House Doctor Paints, Coast Hardware, and Willits Unified School District

Call Laura Sleeper at 354-1991 for more information.
– Maureen Moore



The rest of
Guild From Page 3

later, lights in the shape of a grain of wheat, and natural-colored napkins.

After the three-course dinner, Michelle Cummins asked everyone to join hands for a nature prayer by Sarah Grusky, speaking to the gifts and connections to the earth that are at the heart of the guild's purpose.

Salcido-Cobbe, the first speaker, explained the history and purpose of the guild after offering a short prayer for rain to aid in the firefighting efforts and to bring sustenance. Another of the founding members, well-known herbalist and teacher, Donna D'Terra, had everyone close their eyes and transport themselves 10 years into the future when the guild has fulfilled their aims: an herbal mobile clinic to provide outreach to all points of the county, an herb exchange where buyers and farmers can connect, herbal education curriculums at all the schools as well as gardens, and a booming economy helped by the herbal trade including farms and herbal tourism.

Pierce was next to speak. She is up for several awards and fellowships for native artists, and will soon be featured in a PBS program, "Craft in America: California Visionaries," which can be seen December 21. She spoke about her connection and stewardship of the earth, specifically the oaks, which have been tied integrally to the Pomo for at least 18,000 years.

As a basket weaver from the time she was 7, Pierce learned to tend to the plants and places from which her materials originated. She realized later, after taking an herbal course from D'Terra, that she had been an herbalist, even though she was more of a wild harvester than a planter.

Pierce explained the nature of fire to the crowd, and how it benefits the trees of the area, killing the beetles and other parasites and creating a more alkaline environment in which the trees could flourish. She pleaded with those in attendance to take responsibility for the health of the forest, to help give it what it needs to be healthy, as the Pomo had done for centuries prior to the appearance of the settlers:

"Make friends with these trees so you know when they are sick, you know when they need help. I believe you are what you eat, what you ingest, what you see, what you spend time around. I try very hard to be the earth and the water."

For more information on the Mendocino County Herb Guild, visit www.mendocinoherbguild.com.

The rest of
Toys From Page 12

thousands of years. The early natives of the area made these toys with deer knuckles in place of the wooden discs. In other cultures, such materials as flattened musket shot were used.

In addition to the whirligigs, there are other creative toys to play with as part of the exhibit, including Legos and other building blocks to stimulate the imaginations of the little ones. It is fun to watch what they come up with. It is an introduction to what is going on in their minds and how they think. Toys are a way for children to express themselves and have been for thousands of years. We all play in our own ways – even adults.

Coming up next year at the Mendocino County Museum is "Over Here: Americans at Home in World War I," a traveling exhibit of materials from the National Archives, looking at what Americans at home were doing during WWI, which just observed its 100-year anniversary. The exhibit is set to be in Willits June 16 through August 11. For more information, visit

www.archives.gov/files/exhibits/over-here.pdf.

The museum, located at 400 East Commercial Street, is normally open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 4:30 pm, but is closed November 22 and 23 of Thanksgiving week. Visit www.mendocinocounty.org/government/museum to learn more.

The rest of
Retreat From Page 7

"For example," Hoehn continued, "if they are in the midst of writing a book, they might propose writing three and a half chapters. If they're in the midst of discovering new work, they might use us to source new materials. They aren't expected to finish a certain number of things."

Currently, there are two artists in residence, Peter Makela and Suzanne Rivecca. Makela just graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art with a master's in painting. He wanted to come to Willits, as his family history is rooted in the area and he wished to experience the lore with which he grew up, see the places from all the stories.

Makela currently paints in a square format because "it is a huge challenge. I find rectangles very boring. Rectangles already have a hierarchy. A square is a solid, relatively dead shape. To make it come alive and to make it move is a real challenge. It is philosophically democratic. All sides are equal."

Rivecca is a writer, whose work is heavily influenced by her life experiences. She has published a book, "Death is Not an Option," which has garnered some very good reviews. She does quite a few residencies, as she finds that she needs to get away from situations in which she is living in order to write about them.

"It's been a really unique residency because it's so relatively intimate," Rivecca shared. "I go to a lot of residencies because I find it very difficult to write about San Francisco when I'm in San Francisco." She prefers not to get caught up in the social hierarchies and game-playing in larger residencies, and would rather spend the time creating.

Once a month or so, Woodhouse, who shows his own creative wood projects, opens the house up in order to expose the artists and townspeople to one another, and to create a sense of community within the house. The artists get to explain their art and their projects to the attendees, mingle and show their art.

North Street Collective is helping the Willits art community grow in creativity and influence by creating a space to show and nurture artists. Check out the "North Street Collective" Facebook page for information about the next open house.

Sweet Winter

Winter is a sweet, shy Lab mix who is a beautiful grey-brindle color and seems more like "spring" than "winter." She is still young (only a year old) and is slowly building her self-confidence as she interacts with both people and other dogs. She would benefit greatly if the right family came along to foster her during this adjustment period to make her feel more secure so she could then move on to a permanent adoptive home. Once you connect with her, she is very loving and sweet so it is definitely time well spent! Come meet her soon – her potential is obvious!

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

Lively Drake

Drake is a strong active guy. He loves to play with stuffed toys and will chase a tennis ball. Drake will need an active home where he will get the attention and exercise he needs. His past human said Drake loved everyone! We had a great time with Drake during his photo shoot – he was fun and lively. This handsome fellow is a 5-year-old neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 72 pounds.

The Ukiah Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. More info: 707-467-6453.



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Photos by
Ree Slocum



Above, from left: Irene Haugen and her daughter, Laura Sleeper participated in Small Business Saturday last year. They're showing some of the gorgeous children's clothing they bought at Cat's Meow. Outside of Mazahar, Tiffany's Family Circus performers with red noses, Ken Burton and Tiffany Dunlap, wow the kids by making balloon critters, swords and painted faces.



At left:
Santa poses
with Jake
Whitehurst,
left, and
Ashtan
Bloomquist,
right, and
their kids
Aybrie and
Kaleb at the
J.D. Redhouse
Santa Photo
event last
year.

Photo by
Maureen Moore

'Think Local – Buy Local – Be Local'

Main Street Merchants invite community to #ShopSmall with holiday specials starting early Black Friday morning

Merchants in downtown Willits and beyond are kicking off the local holiday shopping season with a Black Friday celebration, featuring sales and specials starting early Friday morning, November 23. Then, Saturday, November 24 is Small Business Saturday, a nationwide celebration sponsored by American Express that promotes the virtues of "shopping small" on your own hometown's Main Street.

Check each store's Facebook or Instagram pages for details, but here's some teasers from participating merchants. Buttercups Children's Boutique will be open at 6 am on Black Friday with "huge deals": "And yes, the early bird gets the worm!!!"

J.D. Redhouse has their "biggest sale of the year" on Black Friday and Small Business Saturday: "Best savings begin at 6 am on Friday, November 23!!!" Tango says: "Tango Willits Black Friday Get Ready! You won't want to miss these! Stay tuned for our sales!"

Mazahar and The Willits Enchanted Toy Shoppe is hosting Tiffany's Family Circus on Small Business Saturday – family fun with face painting and balloon-twisting. Moon Lady and Moon Man starts "Blackout Weekend" on Black Friday at 8 am, continuing with three days of storewide specials and surprise giveaways.

Monkey Wrench Men's & Women's Wear is open 6 am to 6 pm on Black Friday, and 10 am to 5:30 pm on Small Business Saturday, and is offering a buy 2 get 1 free sale, with giveaways all day.

Participating merchants include: Willits Power, Buttercups, Re-Evolution, Tango, Moon Lady, Off the Cuff, Cat's Meow, Mirror, Mirror, Monkey Wrench, J.D. Redhouse, Mazahar and The Book Juggler.

Also this year, merchants are offering a "Thursday Twinkle" Sip & Shop, starting Thursday, November 29 and continuing Thursday evenings December 6, 13 and 20. Stores will be open until 8 pm for your holiday shopping experience – Look for the

lit-up Mason jars!

Also on Thursday, November 29, starting at 5 pm, Willits Power is offering one of their popular wreath-making workshops. The cost is a \$25 donation to Rascal's Rescue, but there's only 25 spots, so RSVP early: 459-6420.

Next on the special shopping events roster is a downtown Scavenger Hunt, on Saturday, December 8. Also that Saturday, J.D. Redhouse will be featuring the 7th annual "Photos with Santa" with Willits Weekly's photographress Maureen Moore. Santa will be ready for photos between noon and 2 pm on Saturday, and again from noon and 2 pm on Sunday, December 9. An evening session will also be held at J.D. Redhouse on Friday, December 7 from 5 to 7 pm. Digital photos are just \$5 per group, and there are no scheduled appointment times.

"Just come down any time during the session with your well-behaved friends, family, and/or pets!" Moore laughed. All

sessions are held as 50/50 fundraisers for local groups; this year, the Willits Frontier Days Juniors, the Willits 4-H Swine Group and the Willits High School Senior Class will all be recipients of funds. Questions: 972-7047.

Thursday, December 13 starts off "12 Days of Christmas Specials": Start looking for fun store deals every day leading up to Christmas, including Christmas Eve, for the true last-minute shoppers.

Participating merchants include: Willits Power, Buttercups, Re-Evolution, Tango, Moon Lady, Off the Cuff, Cat's Meow, Mirror, Mirror, Monkey Wrench, J.D. Redhouse, Mazahar and The Book Juggler. Look for the blue #ShopSmall graphics from American Express for other stores participating in Small Business Saturday.

– Jennifer
Poole

'Giving Tuesday' SAA farm and garden volunteer day

The Gardens Project and The School of Adaptive Agriculture, two local programs working to build a more resilient food system in our community, are teaming up this "Giving Tuesday," November 27, for a farm and garden volunteer day. This global day of philanthropy kicks off the season of giving and is fueled by the power of collaboration and giving back to our communities.

Both organizations have a few projects that need some extra hands to get them to the finish line, such as building a new community garden at The White Deer Lodge, felting holiday ornaments out of local wool for a fundraiser, and helping with repairs around the farm school grounds (painting the historic school house, tiling the student kitchen, etc.).

Giving Day on Tuesday, November 27 will start at 9:30 am at the schoolhouse, followed by a 2.5 hour work party. Then the day will wrap up with a hearty lunch and discussion of what's next for both programs. Please send a dish to share for lunch. If you can join us on this international day of giving, please send an email to office@adaptiveagriculture.org. Please note in your email if you have any dietary restrictions.

If you can't make the volunteer day, consider other ways to support these important community programs this Giving Tuesday. Visit the Giving Tuesday's "My Giving Story" competition site between now and December 7 to vote for the School of Adaptive Agriculture's video. The top prize of \$10,000 would fund two full student scholarships (including room and board) for the School of Adaptive Agriculture's Practicum Program, which equips the next generation of farmers with essential skills in the science, art and business of sustainable food production). Link here: <http://mygivingstory.givingtuesday.org/fbcontests/profiletab/GivingStory2018/3065527>

The Gardens Project is also inviting the community to sponsor a community gardener for 2019. Just \$10 a month provides a space to garden, and water, compost, seeds, tools, and organic gardening workshops to improve food access for a low-income member of our community. Find out more at gardensproject.org/donate.

About Giving Tuesday

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide. Following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, this year's #GivingTuesday will take place on November 27 and will kick off the giving season by inspiring people to collaborate and give back.

To learn more about #GivingTuesday participants and activities or to join the celebration of giving, please visit: www.givingtuesday.org; www.facebook.com/GivingTuesday or twitter.com/GivingTues



Above: Joshua Sternberg, field manager, School of Adaptive Agriculture.



GARDENS PROJECT

NOVEMBER 27TH IS GIVING TUESDAY, A GLOBAL DAY OF GIVING. IT KICKS OFF THE SEASON OF GIVING AND IS FUELED BY THE POWER OF COLLABORATION AND GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

Gardens Project and the School of Adaptive Agriculture, two important organizations building a more resilient food system in our community, are teaming up on Tuesday 11/27. All are welcome to join our volunteer day on this global day of giving.

PROJECTS

- Building a new community garden at the White Deer Lodge
- Painting the school house at the School of Adaptive Agriculture
- Felting with local wool (crafting holiday ornaments)

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

- 9:30am Meet up at the school house
- 10am - 12:30pm Workday at two locations
- 1pm Lunch (please bring a dish to share)

MEET UP AT

School of Adaptive Agriculture (Ridgewood Ranch)
16200 North Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490

Visit our Facebook pages for more information. Please RSVP in advance by sending an email to office@adaptiveagriculture.org or call 707.225.0143.

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459-3106

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Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass - 9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
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Healing Prayer 3rd Sunday
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St. John Lutheran Church
Karl Bliese, Pastor
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