

Board committee looks at Class K ordinance

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Supervisors Dan Hamburg and John McCowen, who comprise the board of supervisors' Public Health, Safety and Resources Standing Committee, tried to find workable compromises on Monday to staff recommendations that would revise and amend Mendocino County's 1981 Class K housing ordinance. The committee was stymied to some extent because several policy

Read the rest of **Class K** | Over on Page 15

Willits woman dies in Highway 20 crash

A Willits woman died Monday afternoon when her 2001 Toyota 4Runner left Highway 20 near Irmulco Road, overturned and struck several trees.

Nanette Williams was driving west at 1:50 pm when her SUV left the roadway for undetermined reasons, overturned several times, struck a group of trees and came to rest on its roof, state traffic officers say.

Williams, 42, died at the scene.

CHP officers returned to the scene Tuesday to investigate the reason for the accident.

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

Covelo woman dies in Tuesday crash

A 64-year-old Covelo woman died and her 31-year-old passenger is recovering at Howard Memorial Hospital following a Tuesday accident on Highway 101.

State traffic officers report the woman, whose name is being withheld pending notification of her next of kin, was driving south on the highway in a 2001 Dodge pickup truck just before 12:30 pm when the truck failed to negotiate a turn near mile post 101 while traveling at about 65 mph.

The accident took place at the south end of a straight stretch of roadway as the highway's southbound lanes curved to the left, the California Highway Patrol said.

The pickup apparently crossed the solid-white edge line and rumble

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



The holidays are almost here!

... and that can mean only one thing:
It's also time for the annual Willits Weekly Cookie Party!

It's almost time for Willits Weekly's annual Cookie Party! This year, we will be celebrating at Scoops Frozen Yogurt and Deli, 110 North Main Street, from 5 to 7 pm on Friday, December 15.

The public is welcome to come and sample cookies and vote for their favorite. Four esteemed judges: Little Lake Fire Department's Fire Chief Chris Wilkes, Brooktrails Fire Department's Chief Daryl Schoeppner, Brooktrails Fire Department's Deputy Chief Jon Noyer, and Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman will vote on the Judge's Choice winner (under the criteria of "which do you want to eat the whole plate of?"), and Willits City Mayor Gerry Gonzalez will be choosing a winner this year for a new category: Best Decorated cookie. Each of the winning entries will earn their baker an inscription on the delightfully tacky, yet coveted, perpetual trophies.

The People's Choice trophy is a sparkling terra-cotta pot with a glistening whisk proudly perched atop. Previous winners include: Lisa Reed and Kylie Reed of the Les Schwab Tire Center team in 2013 for their Mocha Crinkles; Ashlynn Dudley and Emma Garman of the ER Energy team in 2014 for their Crispy Caramel Deliciousness entry; Kathryn Sterngold, who took home the award in 2015 for her Lemon Snowflake Cookies; and last year's winner was the Elf Pie entry by the current titleholder, the Healing Central Chiropractic crew – Shawna Handschug, Alaska, River and Izzy Perry.

The Judge's Choice trophy is a shiny cookie sheet, adorned with cookie cutters and a hand-calligraphed banner atop a wooden hinged easel. Previous winners include: Tam Adams of Emandal in 2013, who won for her Caramel Nut Bars; Adams won the award again in 2014,

this time for the same Caramel Nut Bars, which she also refers to as "crack bars." Adams was graduated to the judge's side of the contest after two consecutive wins, and helped name Lisa von Schlegell as the winner in 2015 for her "Aunt Polly's Munchins" entry. The 2016 winner was John Pilatti and his Sea Salt Caramel Shortbread.

This year's new trophy for Best Decorated features a green Bundt pan, surrounded by a sparkling green garland. The pan sits atop a pedestal and features a sparkling cookie cutter at its center. Items to create the new trophy were purchased from the Willits Senior Center's Christmas Store. Names of winners will be listed inside the shiny pan.

Anyone interested in trying their hand at baking is very welcome! Entering the contest is free of charge; we ask bakers to create 5 to 6 dozen pieces (individual cookies can be cut into smaller pieces) for tasting. Bakers' set-up is around 4:30 pm. Official judges will taste and cast their votes at the beginning of the event, and People's Choice voting will finish at the end of the event.

Baker's forms are available via download at willitsweekly.com/WW-Cookie-Entry.docx or from the Facebook event page – just search on Facebook for "Willits Weekly Cookie Party."

We look forward to seeing you all there and celebrating our fifth holiday season with Willits Weekly!

More info: 972-7047 or willitsweekly@gmail.com

– Maureen Moore



At top: Liz Flynn, left, and Shawna Handschug give Santa a smooch at last weekend's Photos with Santa fundraising event at J.D. Redhouse.

From far left: Willits Weekly's Cookie Party trophies include the Judge's Choice, People's Choice and the new award: Best Decorated. Trophies will be awarded at Friday's party.

Below, left: Garrett and Bonnie brought their dogs – who had a howling good time – to see Santa. Below, right: Mendocino County Care-A-Van's Julie, left, Bliss and Sarah smile with Santa.

See more photos with Santa and learn how much was raised during the weekend fundraiser over on page 6!

Trustee Harris resigns from school board

Joanne Moore
Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

The Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees meeting on December 6 began with all five members in attendance. It ended with four.

Election of new officers was the board's first action item, with President Chris Neary nominating Trustee Alex Bowlds for the president's position. The board voted in favor of the nomination, 4 to 1, with Trustee Laurie Harris voting

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

Redwood Empire Cleaners demolished

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The building that formerly housed the old Redwood Empire Empire Cleaners, at 69 West Mendocino Street, was demolished on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

The demolition is the most recent step in ongoing cleanup and abatement of the property ordered by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2009.

Willits City Planner Dusty Duley was pleased when the old building came down. "Just having that building removed is a benefit to the city," he said. "It was no small task getting the funds together, and I'm sure the community appreciates that effort. As a city planner, what I am looking forward to is having that property

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

Signature gathering for supes candidates starts December 14

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The signature-gathering period for candidates for the 2018 board of supervisors elections, begins Thursday, December 14 and runs through February 7, 2018. The primary vote is set for June 5, 2018, and both the Third District and Fifth District seats will be open for new candidates.

According to the County of Mendocino Candidate

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

Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

How To
Sudoku:

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

CHILLY TIMES WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

ACCUMULATION	FREEZING	INCHES	SUSTAINED
BLIZZARD	FROST	PROTECTION	TEMPERATURE
CHILL	GLAZE	SHELTER	TIMING
COATING	GRAUPEL	SHOWERS	VISIBILITY
COLD	GUSTS	SLEET	WARNING
DRIFTING	HAZARD	SLIPPERY	WATCH
DRIZZLE	HEAVY	SNOW	WET
FLUFFY	HYPOTHERMIA	SQUALL	WHITEOUT
FLURRIES	ICY	STORM	WIND

			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		
	10	11						12					13	
	14							15					16	17
18							19				20		21	
22					23				24		25			
26				27				28		29		30		
		31	32						33		34			
35	36										37			
38					39				40					
41				42		43		44				45	46	47
48			49		50		51					52		
53				54		55						56		
57			58		59				60	61	62			
	63	64						65						
		66						67						

CLUES ACROSS

1. Large jug
5. Anwar __, Egyptian statesman
10. Punjab province capital
12. Evoke
14. Data
16. Exists
18. Supervises flying
19. Having eight
20. Right-handed page
22. NHL great Bobby
23. German municipality
25. Negotiate
26. Keyboard key
27. Youngster
28. Medical decision (abbr.)
30. Ribonucleic acid
31. One-time Levi's chairman Walter
33. Cold region
35. Type of plywood
37. A way to unfreeze
38. Winter melon
40. Dispute
41. An expression of imagination
42. Human gene
44. Touch lightly
45. Computer giant
48. Garlands
50. Franz van __, German diplomat
52. Vineyard
53. Elk or moose
55. Moved quickly
56. Swiss river
57. Rhode Island
58. Fall into disrepair
63. Ancient Roman virtue
65. Removes
66. Slovenly women
67. Comedian Rogen

CLUES DOWN

1. Extremely high frequency
2. Court
3. Make a mistake
4. Change the appearance of
5. Long-haired dog
6. The Greatest of All Time
7. Designer Christian
9. Atlanta-based rapper
10. Deceivers
11. One who supports disorder
13. Colossal
15. A team's best pitcher
17. Comfort in a time of sadness
18. Opponent
21. Professionals might need one
23. Captures geographical data (abbr.)
24. Senior officer
27. Sacred Islamic site
29. Egyptian unit of capacity
32. Comedienne Gasteyer
34. Performer __ Lo Green
35. Having only magnitude, not direction
36. Cleft lip
39. Payroll company
40. Prohibit
43. Stroke
44. Does not acknowledge
46. Hillsides
47. Austrian river
49. Passover feast and ceremony
51. Golf score
54. Hair-like structure
59. Check
60. Extract metal from this
61. Tell on
62. Powdery residue
64. A part of the mind

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

December 4 to December 10

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 138 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

December 4

12:27 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of West Van Lane.

1:55 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 800 block of South Main Street.

12:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 700 block of South Main Street.

December 5

3:42 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

4:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of East Hill Road.

7:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

10:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of South Main Street.

December 6

11:11 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

6:06 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

9:35 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

10:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

December 7

6:15 am: Officers responded to a report of a possible prowler in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

8:31 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1000 block of Poplar Drive.

9:04 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

9:11 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

11:42 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of North Main Street.

1:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:42 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Grove Street.

December 8

1:34 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

9:05 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of Madden Lane.

1:21 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

4:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

8:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of North Main Street.

December 9

1:22 am: HAMMOND, Blake Zachary (23) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on felony charges of failure to appear.

8:41 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

3:40 pm: Officers responded to a report of a shooting in the area in the 200 block of Bonnie Lane.

6:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of East Barbara Lane.

7:31 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

9:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of Alder Court.

December 10

7:47 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 2600 block of Mitomka Way.

3:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of panhandling in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1600 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FIRE CALLS

December 6 to December 12

by LLFD Fire Chief Chris Wilkes

12-6-2017

- Residential smoke detector activation

12-7-2017

- Medical aid – "Echo" response
- Hazardous Condition

12-9-2017

- Public service

12-11-2017

- Traffic collision – Highway 20

12-12-2017

- Traffic collision – Valley Road
- Traffic collision – North Highway 101
- Traffic collision – Highway 162

Looking to find our

Willits Weekly
distribution boxes?

101 Drive-In, Scoops Deli, J.D. Redhouse, Willits Post

Office, Cafe 77, Buttercups Children's Boutique, Willits

City Hall, Willits Library, Mariposa Market, the old Country

Skillet, Old Mission Pizza, Romi's Roadhouse, Brewed

Awakening, Ace Copy and Shipping, Mendo Mill,

the Harrah Senior Center, Grocery Outlet, Geiger's in

Laytonville, Howard Memorial Hospital, Baechtel Grove

Middle School and Willits High School.

Christmas Chorale

30th annual celebration of the holiday spirit
through music at the LDS church

The 30th Annual Willits Community Christmas Chorale, even though it was housed at the LDS church, was a non-denominational celebration of the holiday spirit as personified in the joyous voices of choruses and audience alike.

The capacity crowd – some of them having recently been through a test of faith and endurance with the Redwood fire – laughed, sang, and found themselves filled with the healing power of song.

Mathew Caine

Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

This is Roni McFadden's fourth year of organizing the event. She inherited the responsibility when her son, the bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, asked her to become involved. The chorale was first organized 30 years ago by Jerry Caldwell, a community leader and member of the church, who was killed in an accident about 10 years ago.

"The Christmas Chorale kind of fell off a bit then because no one else knew how to produce it," McFadden said. "Jerry's daughter took over the leadership of the event, and it began to grow again."

The evening began with a welcome from McFadden who explained that this year there were no changes on the program "which is a miracle."

The opening invocation was offered by Dennis Long, chaplain of Howard Hospital. He invited the "heavenly host" to sing along with the performers and thanked the Lord for "a peaceful place and a time to put away all our daily troubles, our problems, our work, and sit and enjoy and be in your grace and love."

Next up was the incredibly cute and charming presentation from Imagination Station Preschool singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "I've Got Peace in My Fingers," which they signed in American Sign Language.

The School of Developing Virtue Boys Chinese Orchestra, who also played the opening music, set up in the front of the audience and played on their traditional instruments: bamboo flute, mouth organ, moon guitar, Chinese fiddle, and Chinese zither.

The LDS choir sang lovely versions of "What Child is This?" and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

Clay Romero got everyone's attention shouting "Merry Christmas!" as he took the stage to recite a poem, "Do You Know Balihazar?" He then sang a Christmas version of "Hallelujah" accompanied by almost everyone in the building in the familiar chorus.

A group new to the chorale, the Inland Valley Women's Chorus, under the direction and accompaniment on guitar of Willits City

Councilwoman Madge Strong, sang a Hebrew song, "Lo Yisa Goi" which bespoke of the wish that "Nations shall not fight against nations and they shall learn of war no more."

Dawn McClelland soloed on a lilting version of "I Call Your Name."

The Willits Charter School Choir, under the direction of Erin Mendoza sang "A Festival Madrigal" and a Swahili song, "Kuimba!" which offered the message, "Come join us in our music, join us with music and love in your hearts."

Next it was time for the community sing-along, which was rousing led by Michelle Snider and accompanied by Gloria Ulrich on the organ. Most of the audience participated, standing to sing the popular Christmas carols.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Room to Bloom Preschool who attempted to sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Some of the kids decided that hearing their voices on the microphone was more important than actually singing the song. It devolved into creative chaos, which resulted in Jake McFadden whisking his kids off the stage to the delight of the crowd.

Several more musicians and choirs followed: The LDS Women's Ensemble sang "My Gift, My Offering." Ed Reinhart played a deftly realized improvisational "Christmas Boogie." Erin Mendoza then soloed a hauntingly beautiful version of "O Holy Night." Next up was the St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church accompanied by Train Singer Greg Schindel, singing three songs of hope and peace. John Walczykowski, with his amazing, rich baritone, sang "Somebody Talking 'Bout Jesus."

The Emandal Chorale, which was formed 20 years ago for this event, filled the huge room with three songs, performed with their usual excellence of harmonies and intricate rhythms. They were joined in the last song, "Kalinka" (a Russian folk tune) by the Willits Charter School Choir.

Normally the program ends with the Emandal Chorale, but this year offered a surprise. From the back of the room, "Amazing Grace" was heard through the reedy drone of bagpipes, played expertly by Jasmine Marie Todd, much to the delight of the audience.

Closing remarks were given by Bishop Dale Abono, who invited the crowd to return on December 9 of 2018 to the next chorale. Train Singer Schindel gave the closing benediction, reminding us that "2017 has been a year with more than its share of tragedy, loss and heartbreak for all of us, because we are all connected and we are all one body in the sight of God." He asked God to "please begin to mend our broken hearts with your constant love."

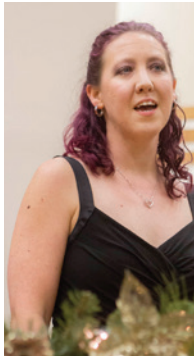
And then there were cookies.



Above, left: Ed Reinhart waves to the crowd prior to playing "Christmas Boogie" on the piano. Above, right: Roni McFadden, organizer of the chorale, offers the welcoming remarks. Below: The capacity crowd at the 30th Annual Willits Community Christmas Chorale.



Above: The Willits Charter School Chorus accompanies the Emandal Chorale under the direction of Don Willits.



At right: Erin Mendoza sings "O Holy Night." Far right: Two students from Room to Bloom Preschool vie for microphone time.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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25% Off Toys & Games	10% Off Pet Food				25% Off Toys & Games	25% Off Toys & Games
30% Off Clothing & Footwear						
25% Off Toys & Games						

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30% Off Pendleton Blankets & Spa Towels	40% Off Candles	30% Off Clothing & Footwear	30% Off Clothing & Footwear
13	30% Off Drink wear	25% Off Toys & Games	25% Off Toys & Games
14	14	15	16

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30% Off Clothing & Footwear	30% Off Watches & Jewelry	30% Off Clothing & Footwear	30% Off Clothing & Footwear
17	21	22	23

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SHOP SMALL
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Santa Photo Fundraisers

\$937.50 donated to local groups after weekend of photo shoots at J.D. Redhouse

It was a packed (ware)house last weekend at J.D. Redhouse when folks from the community – and some just passing through – stopped in to have their photo taken with Santa Claus and raise money for local groups.

The event started on Friday, December 8, and that day's earnings, \$620, were split with the Mendocino County Care-A-Van. The group offers low-cost veterinary services to the public and works with the shelters to place animals in homes.

Saturday's event raised \$495, and proceeds were split with the Willits High School class of 2018. The senior class will use the funds to help pay for trips and class events over the coming months before graduation. Students from the Class of 2018 also held a bake sale for donations during the photo shoots and offered everything from cookies to pretzels and more for the delight of those waiting in line.

Sunday's event was certainly the busiest – the line wrapped out of the warehouse,

around the corner, and down the sidewalk on the south side of the J.D. Redhouse building. Sunday's event benefitted the Willits 4-H horse group and the day's proceeds, which totaled a whopping \$760, were split with the new group which plans to use the money towards new helmets. The 4-Hers also sold handmade horseshoe ornaments and cork horse figurines for additional funds.

This is the sixth year local photographer Maureen Moore has held Santa photo fundraising events, and she noted her excitement to get to offer a fun, family event for the community, as well as help raise money for several great groups each year.

Moore also expressed her appreciation to Ashtan, Hanna and the crew of J.D. Redhouse for hosting the event, to all of the helpers who came to wrangle money, parents, kids and pets, and of course to all of the kids of all ages who came out, waited in line, and willingly said "boogers!" while perched on Santa's lap.

Above, from left: Roxie the German Shepherd waiting for Santa as he made his way towards Willits from the North Pole on Friday, for the weekend full of fundraising photo shoots. Ayanna giggles from Santa's lap. Wyatt sits with great-grandma Margie on Santa's lap. Tinley was dressed for the occasion and her annual smiley photo with Santa.

At right, top: Some of the J.D. Redhouse crew posed together with Santa Claus. At right: Sawyer and Archer came ready to see Santa and smile for the camera.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Above: Willits 4-H horse group members, including, from left: Natalie, Mattea, little Natalie, Katie, and Danielle, pose with Santa. Below: Jake, Kaleb, Aybrie and Ashtan of J.D. Redhouse smile with Santa. At bottom: Johnetta, Natalie and Jeremy stop by to pose with Santa Claus.

Below: Santa can do it all: even wrangle four dogs for a sweet annual photo. At bottom: Orion and Elvia sit with Santa.



Above: Daylee and Camden smile from Santa Claus' lap.

It's a Holiday Party!
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Healing Central Chiropractic
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Friday, December 22nd
from
9am-2pm

- \$15 Adjustments for existing patients
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	December 18 All Pocket Knives 25% OFF 	December 19 All Milwaukee 15% OFF 	December 20 Aisle 14 Houseware Sale 25% OFF	December 21 25% OFF Everything you can stuff in our stocking!

New home? New number? New business?

Update your information with the Soroptimist International of Willits before the 2018 book prints!

Get your number – residence or business or cell phone – into the local phone book! Members of the Soroptimist International of Willits are working on updating the Community Telephone Directory for 2018. Now is the time to let the club know about changes, additions or removals needed to names, addresses or phone numbers.

You can also submit information regarding changes to how you want your information listed by emailing willitsphonebook@gmail.com.

The Soroptimist phone book is a handy and easy way – the type is large enough to read easily – for locals to find you or your business.

Businesses are also welcome to purchase advertisements that show up as display ads throughout the pages of the book.

"Businesses that advertised in the 2017 book should have received either an email or letter via U.S. mail regarding advertising costs and an "early bird discount," Patton said. "If you would like information regarding advertising you can call 459-1606 or email the phone book committee at willitsphonebook@gmail.com."

Willits Weekly also partners with the Soroptimists to not only help distribute 3,000 of the 4,000 copies of the book, but to offer advertisers a bundled rate if they choose to buy ads in the phone book and the newspaper, too. Bundled ads will run alongside Soroptimist-related content in Willits Weekly. Money collected for phone book ads goes to finance scholarships and other programs sponsored by the club.

For more information about changes and advertising, or on joining Soroptimist International of Willits, contact Patton at 459-1606 or email willitsphonebook@gmail.com.

– Maureen Moore

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Mid-week Bible Studies
Potluck every 2nd Sunday
Alan Klier, Lead Pastor
459-3106

St. Francis Episcopal Church

1 North Main Street, Willits
707-459-3066

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Children's Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com

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



OBITUARY |

Scott Bowers

Scott Bowers was a world-famous artist, and talented musician. More importantly, he was an honest, compassionate man who was always there to listen to your troubles, make you laugh with his quick wit, and share one of his stories. Born in San Francisco in 1947, he enjoyed the 60s. In his teenage years he was given a scholarship to one of the world's top art schools but when he couldn't afford the rent, he hit the road and played guitar and pedal

steel in country and rock bands all over California and Colorado, hung out with celebrities, and lived a life worth a movie.

After he was tired of the fast lane, he moved to Willits where he loved the railroading and logging history. In 1985 he started his business, RailRoadAvenue Models, which develops high-end model railroading accessories that are world-famous.

In August of 1989 he met Sonja, who was looking for some guitar lessons. They were together nearly every minute of every day for 28 years, including the day he died on November 29, 2017, after a well-fought battle with ALS. His last words were filled with love for everyone around him.

Scott's spirit lives on in his partner Sonja who never gave up, his son Josh who owes him his heart, and his son Ian who looks and acts so much like him. We miss him dearly.

Memorial services are in the works, but anyone that wants to honor this beautiful person is encouraged to play some loud rock 'n' roll or country music, light up, and have a good time filled with love.

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



Sweet Cali

Sweet Cali is a 2-year-old female mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 67 pounds. Cali is a wonderful and beautiful dog. She has lots of energy, and she's very joyful. She was shy of the camera, and a little bit distracted and quiet until the toys came out – and wow, she had a great time chasing tennis balls and flipping in the air. Cali has a soft, lovely coat with velvety ears. She's an affection-seeker and a tail-wagger! Cali is a happy and social dog who enjoys playing with all her new canine friends.

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

Young Triton



Triton is a 1-year-old pit bull who is sweet with people and gentle with children. He loves to play and is energetic. His new owner should be familiar with the breed, as he is a young, strong active dog who needs exercise regularly and training that will allow him to mature into his full potential as a wonderful canine companion. A mellow dog might be a good sidekick after a slow introduction, but definitely no cats allowed! His previous experience has made him afraid of loud noises – so this should be noted and allowed for as he acclimates to his new surroundings. He is very charismatic and cute as can be, so come meet him soon and see for yourself!

For more information on Triton or other adoptable animals, call Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County at 707-485-0123, check www.mendociniansociety.com, or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. To volunteer or help take the dogs for a walk, please join us on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.

Congrats

Happy Birthday to Alaska!

After a storied career in administration, he had a second vocation as a Mendocino College professor teaching raku ceramics in Ukiah for 13 years.

Bob died at home on November 16, 2017. Bob's wife, Kathleen, his children Rob (Ruth) and Kathy (Paul), his brother Don and sister Betty, and his grandchildren Sean and Mackenzie will miss him forever. A memorial potluck is scheduled for noon, Saturday, June 30, 2018 at the family residence.

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

Love, Mom, Dad, River, and Cricket



Congrats

Grady Cooley wins November attendance prize

Congratulations to Grady Cooley, a second-grade student at Brookside Elementary School, for winning the November Perfect Attendance Award. Grady's name was drawn from all the students with perfect attendance, including no tardies, during November. For their efforts he and his family won a \$50 gift certificate at The Goods Shoppe.

The Brookside PTO sponsors the monthly attendance award for perfect attendance and no tardies. December's Perfect Attendance Award will be a \$50 gift certificate to Busters Burgers.

The PTO is a key partner in Brookside's quest to improve attendance and reduce the number of tardy students to maximize student learning.

– Kathleen Crossman, principal, Brookside Elementary School

At left: Second-grader Grady Cooley holds the \$50 gift certificate to The Goods Shoppe he won as Brookside School's Perfect Attendance Award winner for November, with Mimi Crook, treasurer of the Brookside PTO.



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From far left: Painter Laura Corben, left, visits with Sienna Reno of Expansion Prints. Ann, Leah Joy, and Trinity Barrett serve food from the Willits Charter School. Michelle Oye creates one-of-a-kind pictures made of pressed flowers and other natural materials.

Below, from left: Shoppers at the Willits Holiday Craft Fair peruse the many booths and talk with the artists. Bonnie Belt, a well-known ceramist in Mendocino County, organizes the Willits Holiday Craft Fair. Jenuwine Design creates unique art and jewelry from paper.



Handmade for the Holidays

Crafts Fair last weekend featured gifts by Northern California artists and artisans

The annual party for craftspeople, artists, epicures and confectioners known as the Holiday Crafts Fair is, in the words of coordinator and ceramist, Bonnie Belt, "like old home week because I don't get to see a lot of these people except at this show." If one wanted to experience a cross-section of the artistic community of Mendocino County – and beyond – you only needed to converse with these knowledgeable, creative and very approachable Northern California denizens.

The show, which benefits the Willits Center for the Arts, was very much a sum of its parts. The eclectic group of vendors each had their own areas of expertise and their own stories. It would be a shame to just look at the art without getting to know the artisans who created the goods.

Beginning upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, a cross-section of the vendors might include Caryn Fisher of String Creek Crafts, creator of some very artistic (and functional) traditional brooms, mostly hand-style. Fisher is new to the art, having been introduced to it last August at a workshop from Bethany Ridenauer. "I took the class and just couldn't stop making brooms," she said. Fisher exemplifies the passion that engulfs most of the artists for their chosen art. They are driven to create their visions, be it flat art, three-dimensional creations, or epicurean delights. Fisher is a stay-at-home mom who homeschools her young daughter.

The arts are not immune to prevailing conditions in the economy as the arts sustain many of the exhibitors. Such is the case of TEK Photography. Evan Kovasi, a photographer of great vision and technical ability, who creates stunning panoramas of nature. "The show has been slow for us this year due to the economy in Northern California, which is tied into the price of cannabis. People can't spend money on discretionary items like art," he said.

Several of the artists were able to combine their lifestyle with their artistic genres. The Garlic People, Colleen and Tom Ferrara, create decorative art that utilizes a quarter of their cultivated land for the production of vegetation for this purpose. As is apparent from their business name, they create earthy art from garlic as well as hot peppers. They live off the grid in Trinity County on 248 acres of inaccessible land, use hydro and solar energy, and homeschool their two children. They donate much of the food they produce to the "local" food bank (2.5 hours away from their home).

Jody Ciesielczyk of Heart of Shasta chocolates comes from even farther away. Ciesielczyk has been making chocolates for eight years; she sells at craft shows, stores and online. The show was very good for her. On Sunday she was sold out of several items.

Rain and Maya Ceramics are a family business with a small kiln at home. They produce their own glazes out of materials

found from the land, Manzanita ash, local clay, iron coloring and brown bottle glass. "There is creativity and risk at every stage," Rain said; "very rewarding when it works out."

Jennifer Zeek of Jenuwine Design creates stunning and colorful three-dimensional art from repurposed paper (watercolor paper, cardboard tubes, junk mail, or her kids' school papers, for example).

Across the street, at the Willits Community Center, various local schools could be found at the Kids Crafts Fair inside the Willits City Council chambers on Saturday, selling hand-made art objects to fund projects to enrich the lives of their students. The Willits Charter School students were working on funding their week-long Italian journey scheduled for June. The Waldorf School and Willits High School additionally offered colorful creations. Sober Grad had a table as well.

Entering the main hall, Bonnie Belt showed an array of beautifully realized ceramics with her favorite themes of birds and trees, amongst others. Belt has produced the show for the last six years after she made the mistake of volunteering to help. She organizes the booths and vendors, while Ann Maglinte oversees the musical artists who perform at both locations. Belt is a very successful artist who shows primarily at the Highlight Gallery in Mendocino as well as wholesaling and shipping throughout the country.

There were foodies in residence such as HDL Farm Gourmet Food Co. of Lake County, a French family who sells fine balsamic vinegar, olive oil, mustards and jams. The Pickle Man, resplendent in traditional garb, is more of a specialist. He pickles almost anything, including okra.

Artisans such as Anne Vanderhorck "make things with love. Each piece is like a surrogate grandchild," she said, in a comment typical of the love with which the artists create their products. One of Vanderhorck's Raggedy Ann type fabric dolls was won in the end-of-show raffle by a very happy young girl, who'd been playing with the doll earlier. AfterGlow Naturals hand-crafted herbal products from Boonville, the creation of Joanne Horn, include essential oils, muscle rubs, facial creams, healing balms, and an assortment of body oils with natural ingredients. Doug Carmichael of Sherwood Forge in Ferndale is a blacksmith who works with steel and copper to create mostly small artistic utile objects. Gregg Lindsley of Earth and Fire Pottery from Cobb Mountain in Lake County is a ceramist who apprenticed with a master potter for seven years, throwing the same pot over and over until it was perfect. Sienna Reno of Expansion Prints from Pine Mountain makes prints on T-shirts that hope to "raise environmental awareness honoring and respecting where we come from."

Northern California is rife with creative people who are always willing to engage in conversation about their art. They are some of the treasures of this part of the country.



Above: Gregg Lindsley, Earth and Fire Pottery, displays his ceramic coffee mugs and mixing bowls.

At right: Jahdae, Isalah and Makonnen from the Willits Charter School show their candles and wreaths.

Below: Doug Carmichael of Sherwood Forge with his rustic chandeliers, sconces and lamps.

At bottom: Joanne Horn of AfterGlow Naturals creates balms, salves and aromatherapy scents.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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‘Holiday Lights: A Winter Wonderland’

The Frank R. Howard Foundation and Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital invite the community to the 2nd annual “Holiday Lights: A Winter Wonderland” celebration at the Commonwealth Garden in Haehl Creek. Add sparkle to your holiday season and watch your children’s faces light up for the magical holiday lights display, including a bicycle wheel igloo built by Willits Area Cyclists, a light-covered horse and buggy from Willits Furniture, and light sculptures by Mariposa Market and the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County.

Bundle up, enjoy hot cocoa or hot apple cider and festival snacks from Howard Hospital’s Roots Restaurant as you stroll through the winter wonderland, December 15 through 17, from 5:30 to 8 pm each evening. Suggestion donation \$5 or an unwrapped toy for the Willits Kids’ Christmas Program; free for kids 12 and under. Parking available at the hospital parking lot. Proceeds will benefit the Willits Center for the Arts and the Commonwealth Garden/Frank R. Howard Foundation.



Above, from left: Seussville signs, at the 2016 Holiday Lights celebration, by the Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Willits branch. Santa in his flying machine holds a Christmas message to all. Jaxon and Barbara Leef, surrounded by holiday lights. Below, from left: Willits Furniture’s beautiful “Horse and Carriage.” Three log and limb reindeer, lit up with lights. Grady Fonsen inside the “Bicycle Wheel Igloo,” made by Willits Area Cyclists.



American Legion remembers Pearl Harbor Day

Members of the American Legion Post 174, Willits, salute the flag at half-mast in Babcock Park on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2017, in remembrance of the more than 2,400 U.S. soldiers and American citizens who were killed in the Japanese surprise attack on the U.S. Navy base in Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941.

Post Commander Roger Ham continues to express interest in connecting the public with the activities of the American Legion and encourages anyone who would qualify to join the Legion.

“Anyone who has been a part of the military from 1991 forward is eligible for membership,” said Ham. “That includes people who served in Desert Storm, Iraq and Operation Freedom among others. Of course anyone who served in World War II, Vietnam, or Korea are eligible, too.”

Interested persons are welcome to attend the Legion’s meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the Veterans Hall, located on the east side of the intersection of Main Street and Sherwood Road.

The Legion is also proud to offer veteran information and resources for services: They assist in memorial services for military members – be that funerals or services at cemeteries, churches or funeral homes; they serve as the color guard and flag raisers at the Willits Frontier Days events including the CCPRA rodeos, truck pulls, horse shows and other events; they have a booth at the Hometown Celebration and Fourth of July festivities with membership and resource information; and they also raise funds through raffles and more to be able to donate to local groups and organizations like Willits Community Services and Food Bank, Phoenix Hospice and the Howard Foundation. The Legion also assists the Women’s Auxiliary with poppy sales.

To learn more about the Legion, stop by the monthly meeting, contact Ham directly at 456-9858, or check out their ad in the Soroptimist Community Telephone Directory, listed under “A,” for more information.

– Maureen Moore

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The rest of Letters | From Page 2

MCFARM, the organization that does the real work of setting up markets to make fresh produce, meat, eggs, and prepared foods available to you through much of the county. Also not expensive and not hard. For more information, see <http://mcfarm.org>.

The market would welcome other vendors, as well. During this holiday season, we are as much a crafts market as a fresh foods market. We have plenty of prepared food-to-go or food to eat on the spot for our customers right now.

But there is room for cooks with unique products, like Michelle Costa’s Mendo Ferments, or Denise Bartholomeo’s flavored vinegars and olive oils. And there is room for crafts of all sorts. If you’re making something you want to sell, see your market manager and run it by him. You’ll also have to join MCFARM (and get a state seller’s permit).

Finally, the market welcomes local authors – Jenny Watts was there last week with her new book “A Year in the Garden,” as was Jo Schneider with a number of her historical novels. And we have had tables featuring advice from local gardeners, herbalists, counselors and others wanting to educate the public and let them know about opportunities in town.

Let your market manager know what you have in mind, and we can talk. I’m available at 707-216-5549 or foley.mw@gmail.com.

Willits Farmers Market is open every Thursday, from 3 pm to 5:30 pm, November through April at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Michael Foley, market manager, Willits

The rest of Tags | From Page 3

The Baker family donates books every year, “but this year we also wanted to buy for a kid,” Baker said, “and it looked like fun to do a tag this year, to do a boy Christmas for a little guy.”

The Little Lake Fire Department will be helping deliver Kids Christmas Program toys on Christmas Eve as usual this year, Fire Chief Chris Wilkes told fire board members at their meeting Tuesday night.

Santa’s HQ is downtown, on the corner of West Mendocino Avenue and Main Street. If you see a motorcycle in the parking lot, Santa’s elves are surely there. For more information, or if you can help with wrapping presents, call: 707-972-8782.

OBITUARY |

Esther Hart

Esther Mayme Hart, 95, of Laytonville, California died November 26, 2017 in Laytonville. She was born July 31, 1922 to Mabel and Walter Micheels in Omaha, Nebraska. She married Jess Hart on July 27, 1940 in Reno, Nevada.

Esther was an artist for 40 years and domestic engineer for 77 years. She served the many communities she graced with everything from knitting sweaters for foster children to hosting celebrations of unparalleled elegance. She was active in Episcopal congregations in every one of the numerous communities in which she lived.

An adventurous soul, she began her life in Omaha, and followed the love of her life to California so they could be married before the war. While living in Bodega Bay, her first child, son Michael was born in 1944. After Esther and Jess moved back to Nebraska for a time, she gave birth to their second child, daughter Donnalee in 1948. Esther, Hess, Donnalee and Michael moved to Honolulu, then the U.S. territory of Hawaii, in 1956. From there they welcomed their

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The registrant commenced to
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Statement filed with the Mendocino
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s/Christina Lawrence

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first granddaughter into the world, Cecelia Konia Michelle Pooley in 1975.

In 1988 they moved back to Washington state to be closer to their family, including their second granddaughter, Amanda Lee Hart, born in 1990. In 2002, Esther and Donnalee moved to the rural hills and valleys of Northern California where her great-grandchildren were born, Caruna Gillespie, 2003 and Celina Gillespie, 2005. To the end of her days Esther was actively involved in every aspect of community and family life.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jess Hart, her brother Lloyd Micheels, and her sister Dolores Moore. She is survived by all those loving family members listed above. Services were held at St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church in Willits on December 9, 2017. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Francis of the Redwoods, Willits, California.

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

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The rest of
Harris | From Page 1

"no." Neary then nominated Trustee Bob Colvig for the position of clerk, and the board voted unanimously to approve.

Harris then took the floor, read a prepared statement of resignation, and left the meeting.

In her statement, Harris told the board it had been an honor for her to be a volunteer in the school district's classrooms for 15 years, adding she had disagreements with both the superintendent and the board. She did not respond to a request for comment on her decision or for a copy of her statement.

After leaving the meeting, Neary said he had "valued [Harris'] opinion" and thanked her for her service.

A replacement to finish out Harris's term of office will be chosen using the same procedure recently followed to appoint Colvig after Georgeanne Croskey left the board to join the board of supervisors in May 2017. Applications for the position will be publicly solicited, and applicants will undergo questioning by trustees at a board meeting. Applicants' answers will be privately scored by each board member; the winner will be the candidate with the highest score.

The term of the newly selected board member will expire in December 2018, as will the terms of all other current members except for new Bowlds, whose term will expire in December 2020.

Commenting after the meeting, Willits Teachers Association President John Haschak expressed appreciation for Neary's efforts during contract negotiations with the teacher's union last year. "He made a great effort on behalf of transparency – taking on the county about their budget projections. I think that was a great thing as president."

The board also recognized and honored the passing of two longtime, well-loved former employees.

The loss of Bob Kirkpatrick, former Willits Unified and Mendocino County Office of Education superintendent, deeply touched the educational and larger local community. Neary, who was on the board that initially selected Kirkpatrick as superintendent decades ago, remembered how Kirkpatrick had managed to get extra money for the district early on and create three small necessary schools: Vineyard, Crazy Horse, and Sherwood schools. Sherwood School is still a vital member of the Willits family of schools. Vineyard and Crazy Horse closed due to declining enrollment in 2001 and 2000, respectively.

"What a loss to the community. He treated everyone with respect," said Haschak of Kirkpatrick.

Libby Cash, a longtime district bus driver, was also fondly remembered. "She worked for the district for about 23 years and was much loved in the community – driving many miles, taking many people many places," said Haschak.

On a brighter note, the board also heard a presentation from Willits High School students and teacher/advisor Carolyn Bakewell on the school newspaper, The Wolverine.

Going strong after quite a long hiatus, the paper is "published once each trimester, covers everything – sports, special events, academics, interest stories – and is always open to ideas," said Bakewell. Students meet once a week at lunch to "decide what to cover, divide up the responsibilities, and we plug away at it." The Wolverine's editor is Daisy Barrett. On staff are Jocelyn Beebe, Alyssa Fraser, Teo Labus, Jada Smith and Hailey Frahm.

"I enjoy being the editor of The Wolverine because I believe it is important for our community to be informed about the student activities and their opinions about the school," said Barrett. "I enjoy building new relationships with other students while we create a paper about our lives."

The Wolverine is published as an insert inside Willits Weekly three times during the school year.

In other business, the board also reinstated a lapsed past practice of assigning individual board members to specific schools to act as (in Neary's words) "points of contact" between the schools and the board. Bowlds was assigned to Willits High School and Sherwood School, Trustee Bob Colvig to Brookside Elementary, Trustee Cynthia Carni to Baechtel Grove Middle School, and Neary to Sanhedrin Alternative High School and Blosser Lane Elementary School.

After the meeting, Neary admitted to a "soft spot" in his heart for Blosser Lane school, noting when he first started with the district board in 1980: "Brookside school had 750 kids. It was the largest elementary school north of the Golden Gate Bridge. The electrical was so bad; you plug something in and it sparked."

Neary saw the need for a new school and, "seven or eight years later," Blosser Lane Elementary was completed with Neary and Kirkpatrick sharing much of the responsibility for the project. "It's a beautiful school," said Neary.

In other business, the board also approved required annual reports from the district's charter schools: La Vida Charter School, Willits Elementary Charter School, and Willits Charter School.

In remarks to the board, Haschak said the WTA is interested in forming committees to assist with curriculum program adoption. After the meeting, he added it was the union's feeling that math and science programs were being adopted without a lot of teacher input.

District calendars for the next two school years were also presented to the board. Superintendent Mark Westerburg said parents had been surveyed prior to the completion of the calendars, which are posted on the district's Facebook page.

The rest of
Cleaners | From Page 1

made use of again."

Willits City Councilman Larry Stranske, who happened to pass by this reporter on the street during the Tuesday lunch hour, said he was happy to see the old building come down. "This is a great day," Stranske said.

Redwood Empire Cleaners was owned and operated by Rene Sanchez from 1949 until his death in 2004. Unfortunately, a side effect of Sanchez's operation was that the area beneath and around the building was heavily polluted with cleaning solvents, to the extent that water quality in water under the site and air quality above the site was badly compromised.

In 2008 and 2009, numerous chemical compounds were found on, beneath and near the site, including tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE) benzene, 1,2 dichloroethane and carbon tetrachloride. Of those five chemical compounds, the first, PCE, degrades into the second, fourth and fifth compound. All five chemical compounds are carcinogenic.

Soil, air and water tests were taken at the site in 2008 and again in 2009. A soil gas test taken in 2008 found PCE at 1,200,000 parts per billion in the vicinity of the building and in the soil at 191 parts per million. Groundwater tests showed PCE at 3,000 parts per billion – the maximum contaminant

The rest of
Signature | From Page 1

Information Packet, the filing fee to run for the office of county supervisor is \$612. However, a person seeking to become a candidate for the office may collect signatures in lieu of paying the fee. The number of signatures that must be turned in to completely obviate the filing fee is 972.

According to Mendocino County Assistant Registrar of Voters Katrina Bartolomei, any verified signatures a prospective candidate turns in will reduce the filing fee he or she will have to pay, at a rate of \$0.6297 per signature. A candidate who collects 100 signatures could submit those signatures and would pay a filing fee of only \$548.03.

According to the Candidate Information Packet: "Signatures accepted for payment of the filing fee will be verified in the order they are submitted. Voters can sign for only one candidate per office. Duplicate signatures will be rejected. Once the signatures are verified, the candidate will be notified if there is a deficiency. The deficiency can be made up in additional signatures or cash, but must be completed no later than March 9, 2018."

In 2018, Mendocino County offices up for election include assessor-clerk recorder, auditor-controller, district attorney, sheriff-coroner, superintendent of schools, treasurer-tax collector, two superior court judges, and county supervisors for districts 3 and 5.

The Third District supervisor's seat is currently held by Willits resident Georgeanne Croskey, appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown on May 9. A few months after she was appointed, Croskey announced she would not seek reelection in 2018. Willits teacher and president of the Willits Teachers Association John Haschak is the only candidate who has announced a run for Third District supervisor thus far.

The seat of the Fifth District supervisor is currently held by former U.S. Congressman Dan Hamburg. Albion-Little River Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ted Williams, who was at the forefront of the county's anti-hack-and-squirt Measure V ballot initiative, also has thrown his hat in the ring for the Fifth District board seat.

"I believe my experience, accomplishments and imagination can help find solutions to the many problems that currently confront our county," Williams said in a statement announcing his campaign.

For more information about the 2018 elections, visit the "Elections" page on the Mendocino County website at: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/elections.

The rest of
Crash | From Page 1

strip, as well as the asphalt shoulder of the roadway, and plunged down a foliage-covered hillside, colliding with a large tree.

The passenger in the pickup, Edward R. Wilson of Concord, was able to free himself from the badly damaged cab of the truck. The driver, however, was trapped in the wreckage and pronounced dead at the scene.

Wilson was taken to Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits for treatment of moderate

The rest of
Class K | From Page 1

decisions they were considering turned upon the question of whether those actions would be legal under California law.

The subcommittee directed Mendocino County Counsel Katherine Elliott to research the proposals, and provide legal opinions to the full board of supervisors on several questions.

The Class K ordinance articulates minimum safety and public health standards for owner-built residences in limited-density areas: the county's backwoods. According to Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg, when the ordinance was adopted in 1981, Class K stood for "Cabin Code." It has not been amended since its adoption some 36 years ago.

County Planning Official Mike Oliphant came to the committee meeting with recommendations to change the Class K ordinance in five areas.

Oliphant recommended all new single-family Class K residences have an automatic indoor sprinkler system. The size of a Class K house would be limited to no more than 2,000 square feet. All Class K residences would have to comply with regulations detailed in the Wildland-Urban Interface code – state regulations written in 1992 that spell out safety standards for houses built in or near areas subject to wildfires.

Oliphant also recommended that all Class K houses be required to have a perimeter foundation, and that the minimum parcel size where a Class K permit could be granted would be 5 acres.

Oliphant's recommendations drew 10 letters from the public, and about 20 people attended the committee meeting.

Several of them spoke, and most of those argued Oliphant's recommendations were too expensive, and the cost of putting in the perimeter foundation and sprinkler system he was recommending would place the cost of building a Class K house out the budget range of typical Class K builders.

County resident Robert Salisbury told committee members putting in an automatic sprinkler system and a perimeter foundation could easily cost \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Recent wildfires have reduced the county's unrented housing stock to zero, other speakers contended.

Angela DeWitt of the Anderson Valley Housing Association said, "Finding affordable housing in Anderson Valley is more of an uphill battle every day."

Salisbury agreed with that point of view, stating that if the committee endorsed the changes being proposed by Oliphant: "We could end up being a county of trailers and outlaws. I can't express it to you well enough: with Class K, you have a great opportunity to help people build affordable housing. It's your job."

During discussion, it became clear the changes to the Class K ordinance being considered will only apply to new construction, and new permits. McCowen clarified the distinction in a separate phone conversation with Willits Weekly.

"If you built a Class K structure in 1985 or in 2000 and you got a permit, and we change the Class K ordinance now, you are OK. You would be considered as legal and

level for PCE in groundwater is 5 parts per billion.

A soil gas test done in June 2009 showed a significant drop-off of PCE, down to 330,000 parts per billion.

A groundwater test in August 2009 also showed a significant drop-off of PCE, at 358 parts per billion, and another groundwater test in 2013, showed PCE levels at 113 parts per billion. In 2014, a test sample from one well showed 136 parts per billion and a sample from another well showed 132 parts per billion.

In 2015, a cleanup plan was approved and was subsequently modified. A July 2017 "public notice fact sheet" on the State Regional Water Quality Control Board's Geotracker website, at https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/geo_report/7965074539/SL0604593246.pdf, describes the cleanup plan as it now stands.

The plan recommends "excavation and disposal of approximately 160 cubic yards of source area soil from beneath the former dry-cleaning machine" as well as "installation and operation of a soil vapor extraction treatment system" and treatment of groundwater PCE contamination by injecting chemicals to enhance its natural breakdown. "The progress of the remediation will be monitored using: soil vapor, groundwater and indoor air monitoring."

The cleanup and abatement work is being done by West Environmental Services and Technology of San Rafael.

injuries, officers said. The woman's body was taken to Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

The CHP was assisted at the scene by personnel from the Little Lake Fire Protection District, Veri-Health Ambulance, and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

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

non-conforming, and you would not have to comply with the new rules.

"But say you built your Class K home in 1995 but you didn't get a permit. Now, let's say, it's June 2018 and you want to get a permit. In that case, you would have to comply with the standards in place on the day you got your permit," McCowen said.

Planning and Building Services Interim Director Nash Gonzalez drew a simple conclusion for Class K owners who don't have a permit. "If you don't have a permit, and you don't want to comply with the new regulations, then you'd better get your permit now."

As the discussion developed, several questions arose which committee members thought could only be resolved by a legal opinion from the County Counsel's Office. McCowen wanted to know if the county could legally ignore the state's dictum in the California Housing Code that all new houses must have interior automatic fire sprinkler systems. He inquired if the county could legally exempt people seeking a Class K permit for new structures from having to comply with regulations found in California's Wildland-Urban Interface code.

A third question involved whether the county could exempt Class K builders from the requirement that builders who do not want to build a perimeter foundation for their structure must retain an engineer to design and approve any other type of foundation that is used instead. Committee members wanted to know if it would be possible for the county to insert simple engineering standards into the language of the permit, so a Class K owner-builder could "do it himself" while staying within the guidelines of state law.

Finally, McCowen wanted to know what kind of amnesty the county could offer owners of older, unpermitted Class K houses. If an owner who built an unpermitted Class K house in 1990 seeks to get a permit now, he wondered, would that person be required to comply with the new, revised Class K code, or could that person be allowed to comply with the old Class K code?

Although McCowen seemed clear what the answer to that question was when he spoke with Willits Weekly, during the meeting, neither he nor Hamburg nor any of the staff present at the meeting were absolutely certain of the answer. The committee directed County Counsel Katherine Elliott to render a legal opinion on those four questions.

Because Elliott's answers will likely have an enormous bearing on Class K policy in the future, McCowen requested the board of supervisors vote on whether Elliott's opinions on those questions could be made public. County CEO Carmel Angelo and the members of the subcommittee agreed the board could vote on whether or not to make Elliott's answers public on December 19, that Elliott would have her answers to those questions ready to present to the board on January 9, and the board could vote to give direction to staff on the final shape of the revised Class K ordinance (based on Elliott's answers) at the first board meeting in February.

Absent those answers, it is impossible to state exactly what form the newly revised Class K ordinance will take.

‘Ho Ho Ho-Down’

Marjo Wilson and her character ‘Cotton Dandee’ entertain at Brickhouse Coffee

Covelo musician and visual artist Marjo Wilson drew a crowd of children, adults and families to Brickhouse Coffee on Saturday afternoon in Willits for her “Ho Ho Ho-Down.” She introduced her fanciful, musical rabbit character, Cotton Dandee, whose job is to be the ice breaker that calms nervous children – or adults – beginning to learn the beat, melody and words to simple songs. The method of teaching is considered to be Cotton Dandee’s.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
ree@willitsweekly.com

The phrases are catchy and full of easy hand gestures or clapping that go with the words and swinging beats. They encourage one to sing, clap, move and have fun – no matter your age.

Some of the Covelo moms expressed their delight in the abilities of their young children. They have learned all of the music on the CD, and some joined Wilson on the improvised front stage at Brickhouse Saturday.

“My daughter always asks to play Cotton Dandee when we’re in the car,” one parent mentioned. “I like to sing along, too!” she declared.

Wilson is best known for her “adult” music that’s, according to her website, “Rooted in the Blues, the music swings from a little Latin, to a little Swampy, to a little Country, to a little Funky, to a lot of dance beat Rock.” Wilson’s main objective is to bring people together and encourage them to be actively involved with music. She’s produced nearly a dozen CDs of her “adult” music with other artists, and she performs throughout the county and beyond.

And it was time to step out and do something different, so Wilson decided she wanted to expand her musical offerings. She decided to write some new songs and consulted with a pop musician in New York who counsels musicians. Through a series of skyping and lessons, the consultant mentioned that Wilson could do music for children and create a CD.

Wilson resisted the idea at first thinking she wasn’t really a kid person. When she realized that her fan base has been – not exclusively – “people under 6 and over 60,” another world opened up for her. “So I’ve kind of written [music] for the child and adult,” she told me.

“I write what I feel. I try to message it so

people enjoy the music, sing along ... and dance. So moving the body and actively singing along and having a great time has always been a huge thing for me. It feels really good when you have a full circle of energy from the stage to the audience back to the stage. It just swings. The looping around of energy is awesome!”

Wilson decided to get on board with writing children’s music, which led her to creating a fanciful, musical, rabbit troubadour, Cotton Dandee. “I didn’t want to be in front. Cotton’s the front man,” she confided. She sees herself as his helper. His mission in life is to help children of all ages – and their moms and grandmas, dads and grandpas, too – find the joy in music and the fun in making music together.

Wilson was greatly influenced by growing up listening to her mother sing and joining in with her at an early age. “We read all the classics. My early brain got reading and singing nursery rhymes. It got hardwired with the beat and the rhyming,” she said. Her early experiences with her mother also instilled in her an appreciation for musical simplicity and the fun of learning with others.

With her Cotton Dandee buddy, Wilson has a desire to help children and adults “reclaim their calm nervous system,” as she coins it. She worked in a New York studio with musicians to record the 10 songs for the CD and brought the recording back to Covelo to mix. “I wanted a warmer and softer sound to make it nervous system friendly.”

She then worked with Peter Temple from the coast who helped her “hone the sound so it was a balance between clarity and softness ... so it feels earthy.” She’s happy with the results. “It’s not baby music. It doesn’t talk down. It’s from my 4-year-old heart to your 4-year-old heart,” she explained. “The moms love it, and the kids love it.”

The next Cotton Dandee Hoedown will be at Brickhouse, 3 South Main Street, Willits on February 10. Marjo Wilson’s paintings can be seen on the Brickhouse walls. A hoedown is also being planned for Covelo.

Cotton Dandee’s CD and book set would make a great holiday gift. Find it at The Book Juggler, 182 South Main Street.

You can also visit www.cottondandee.com to purchase the set and for more information.



At top: The audience is finding the joy in music and the fun in making music together with Marjo Wilson and her “band.” Andy Wright of Willits Community Television, right, smiles as he videos the event. Above, from left: Gigi performs a solo at the “Ho Ho Ho-Down” Saturday at Brickhouse Coffee. One of the dozens of shaker instruments that Marie Collins – Cotton Dandee’s sing-along music pack with CD “for car and kitchen,” along with an introductory book. Wilson plans to expand the sets to include books for each song on the CD. Below: Marjo Wilson teaches Cotton Dandee songs with her band at Brickhouse Coffee.



Photos by
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