

Thank you

To the Editor:
The Willits High School Class of 2022 would like to thank all the generous businesses and community members who supported our silent auction at Hot Winter's Night and our weekend bake sale.

A special thank you goes out to Off The Cuff, Geodes and Gems, Main St. Music and Video, Book Juggler, Mr. Bowles and the WHS Woodshop students, the Kyne family, the Lohne family, the Gibbons family, the Barrett family, Imagination Station Toy Depot, and Grocery Outlet.

We wish all of you the very best in this holiday season, and peace and prosperity in the new year.

WHS Sophomore Class, president Michael Kale

Thank you

To the Editor:
Willits City Manager Stephanie Garbrabrandt-Sierra during her daily communication with PG&E during the power shut-off that occurred October 26-30 shared with a PG&E representative that the senior center lost a considerable amount of food to spoilage as a result of the extended power outage.

On November 5, 2019 I received a call from Jodi Blasquez and had subsequent email correspondence with Alicia Bert, both are Community Relations representatives of Pacific Gas and Electric Company. PG&E requested the senior center apply for a grant.

I subsequently applied for and was approved for a \$7,500 grant.

On behalf of seniors throughout the greater Willits area, I would like to acknowledge Pacific Gas and Electric, the primary funder of The PG&E Corporation Foundation for the grant in the amount of \$7,500.

From January 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019 we have served 10,053 meals in our dining room, and our volunteer drivers delivered 9,196 meals to our Meals on

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Wheels clients. We thank PG&E Corporation Foundation for their community partnership and being an integral part at aiding us in providing these much-needed nutritional services.

Thank you Stephanie Garbrabrandt-Sierra for relaying my concerns to PG&E; it played an integral part in us receiving this much-needed funding.

Richard Baker, executive director, Willits Seniors Inc.

Lack of emergency resources

To the Editor:
Not all heroes wear capes. Our family has heard this saying before. We appreciate the selfless service that our police, firefighters, EMS, nurses, and doctors provide. But what about when you look deeper at this simple saying?

With the loss of our "Lil Mama" two weeks ago, the Hosford family has really gotten a small glimpse into the challenges and heartbreak that our civil servants face every day. While we mourn the loss of this wonderful woman we were so blessed to have in our lives, we have seen the same mourning and tears in the faces of these civil servants. To see the depth of compassion and pain mirrored so deeply in their faces, for a woman that most of them knew for such a brief time, can there be a more selfless act?

These wonderful men and women, who sacrifice so much of their lives to provide care and compassion for the members of our community are what make living in a small community so unique and wonderful. So now when we hear the saying "not all heroes wear capes," we have names and faces to associate with those previously unnamed heroes.

With that said, the Hosford family would like to express our sincere thanks to the men and women that gave such loving care to our "Lil Mama" during the last hours of her life.

The services you provide are so much more than just a simple service. They are the very core of why so many of us choose to live in Small Town America.

To see that it is not just a job, but a calling, that you have dedicated your lives to, we thank you. To know that while we wake up in the middle of night, with tears and silent sobs, mourning our lost family member, you wake up with your own tears for all of the patients you have lost and may lose on your watch.

We applaud your dedication, and the determination it must take, to bear this weight upon your own shoulders to make our community a safer place to live.

While processing this loss, our family has decided that in honor of our "Lil Mama," we are going to do whatever we can to shed light on the fact that Mendocino County has a serious lack of emergency resources. We all as a community are facing this dire issue. Our family lost a loved one, that causing a spotlight bringing this to our attention, and we do not want any of you to see that same spotlight.

We are calling on our community to reach out to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and the Willits City Council so that they will work as diligently as possible with the county EMS directors to find a resolution to our lacking emergency ambulance resources. After speaking with many people involved in this situation, we realize that it is extremely complicated, and as much as we all wish it did not play a part, it is influenced by dollars and cents.

We know that so many of you have read the last letter that we sent in. We have been approached by so many people with encouraging words of support and heard stories from neighbors and friends. The outpouring of love and support has been overwhelming!

Thank you all for this. This issue is too important to let it drop. Our family cannot let any other families suffer if it can be avoided! Let them know that this problem needs to be resolved as soon as humanly possible. This can only happen if we come together in one overwhelming voice. Let our voices be heard!

Diana Hosford, Willits

At right: Tanner and Taylor Drew pay their respects to their grandfather, William W. Drew. Supervisor John Haschak presents the county's proclamation to organizer Natalie Spackman as Roger Ham looks on. Veterans show respect for the fallen.



At left: The attendees show respect for the flag. At left, below: The veterans' section of the Willits Cemetery is adorned with wreaths. Above: American Legion Post 174 Adjutant Roger Ham addresses the attendees as Brian Spackman, Samantha Arms and Callie Brown await their turn. Below: Five hundred wreaths arrive to be distributed to veteran graves.



Veterans Honored

Volunteers lay wreaths on the graves of military veterans in Willits area as part of Wreaths Across America ceremony

"Thank you for your service," could be heard in the blistery cold morning on Saturday at hundreds of grave sites in the Willits area as "Wreaths Across America" volunteers, families and service organizations showed their respect for passed veterans.

Mathew Caine, Features Writer, mathew@willitsweekly.com
Taking handfuls of wreaths from the flatbed trailer, they searched for veterans' graves, some marked with a small round "U.S. Veteran" badge, some already known to their family members, some fortunately discovered, and some, sadly, were missed.

The annual event is spearheaded by Natalie Spackman, a mother of two young children. She serves as the Wreaths Across America location and fundraising group coordinator for Willits. "Every year my goal is to be able to cover every single one of the veterans' graves at our three local cemeteries, but I don't do it alone," said Spackman.

"It really does take a village! Roger Ham

from our local American Legion Post 174 helps me prepare the Willits FFA and 4H for their participation in the ceremony. He rallies the post and makes sure there are two color bearers, U.S. and American Legion flags, a bugle and bugler for "Taps," and a PA system.

"Annette Pinon of Flowers By Annette," she continued, "always makes sure I have the tripods to hold the ceremonial wreaths. Sparetime Supply is always willing to loan us their EZ Ups to guard us from the weather, and Willits High School loans us their podium."

On this cold morning, the early participants and attendees did their best to stay warm enough to be able to function in their assignments. Bonnie Riley became one of the most popular of the early-hour volunteers, by bringing a box of chemical hand warmers for those who forgot to wear gloves. Despite the gelid, steam-breath-

Read the rest of **Veterans** Over on Page 13



Above: Veterans present wreaths for each of the armed services. At left: Wreaths Across America local organizer Natalie Spackman and her son, Brian, carry wreaths to be laid on the graves of veterans at a local cemetery.

Photos by Mathew Caine



At left: MCOE Foster Youth Educational Specialist Christa Schultz, Foster/Homeless Services Manager Blythe Post, and Family Outreach Program Assistant Brady Nord pose in front of donated gifts. Above: Gifts donated to homeless youth at the Mendocino County Office of Education office.

MCOE supports homeless youth during the holidays

Submitted by the Mendocino County Office of Education

Employees and friends of the Mendocino County Office of Education supported more than 250 homeless youth in Mendocino County during their holiday gift drive this year. MCOE Superintendent Michelle Hutchins said, "We are especially grateful to the heroic efforts of Tracy and Brent Schultz who organized and sponsored 40 kids this year."

Year-round, MCOE coordinates educational resources for the hundreds of foster youth and homeless youth in the county, and each winter, MCOE employees host a gift drive so these children can have a little something special during the holidays, according to MCOE Foster/Homeless Youth Services Manager Blythe Post. This year, MCOE received corporate support from Realty World Selzer Realty and Redwood Title Company.

Post said, "People become homeless for many different reasons – the loss of a job, a catastrophic illness, mental health problems – and the children suffer as a result."

Homeless youth struggle for many reasons. They have inadequate housing that does not meet their physical and psychological needs. They lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, which can mean living on the street, living out of a car, living with several families in one small apartment or residence, living in structures without electricity or running water (camping), or living in emergency or transitional shelters. Some homeless youth live with their parents; others are "couch surfers," Post explained.

This lack of consistent housing can require some homeless students to move several times during the course of a single school year, making it hard for them to create lasting relationships. According to Post, these children often feel invisible at school and struggle academically because of social and emotional stressors, as well as inconsistent school attendance.

At MCOE, the Foster/Homeless Youth Services connects schools, social services, community agencies, and resources from the faith community so these children do not fall through the cracks. Post helps educate school counselors, teachers, family liaisons, social workers, and others about how best to meet the needs of these underserved youth, from practical advice on reducing bureaucratic barriers to school enrollment to training people about the effects of trauma on the developing brain.

The holidays can be a particularly tough time for at-risk youth. Post explained that homeless students often become more aware of what they are lacking and when friends at school share holiday plans that involve gifts and family gatherings for holiday meals. This was the inspiration for the MCOE gift giving.

Superintendent Hutchins said, "If we can make the holidays a little brighter for these children, we've done a good thing."

The Mendocino County Office of Education is a public agency whose primary purpose is to provide educational leadership, resources and services to schools to ensure wide-ranging educational opportunities for all students.

Willits Weekly's Holiday Break
This week's December 19 edition of Willits Weekly is our final publication of 2019. We'll be taking the weeks of December 26, 2019 and January 2, 2020 off for our annual Holiday Break.

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 change & a better kind of newspaper and life in the community.
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Library branches offer fine-forgiveness programs

Submitted by Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency

Mendocino County Library is pleased to offer two fine-forgiveness programs to library patrons this holiday season. From December 20 through January 3, 2020, there will be a fine amnesty period. During that time, bring your overdue items to any branch of the Mendocino County Library system and turn in to staff or directly into the book drop, and all items will be checked in exempt from new late fines.

If you have items which accumulated fines in the past, you can take advantage of the Food-for-Fines program. From December 30 through January 12, 2020, bring in non-perishable food items and give to staff to clear library fines while providing non-perishable food to community members in need.

The library will accept up to five unexpired cans of food to go towards previously incurred late fines (not valid for damaged or lost items). Each can of food counts as \$2 towards a maximum of \$10 for waiving fines during this period. All food donated as part of this program is passed on to our local food banks.

Mendocino County Library branches will be closed December 23 through December 29, but the online library is always open at www.mendolib.org, and the book drops will be accepting returns with no fines during this period. For more information, please contact the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency at 234-2875 or visit us in person or online.



NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits 707-459-NOYO (6696) www.noyotheatre.com
From The Noyo Theater

STAR WARS IX: The Rise of Skywalker MAIN SCREEN Fri-Wed: (2D) 4:45 & 8:00pm Thurs: (2D) 1:30, 4:45 & 8:00pm Sat-Tues only: (3D) 1:30pm	STAR WARS IX: The Rise of Skywalker #2 SCREEN Fri: (2D) 5:45 & 9:00pm Sat-Tues: (2D) 2:30, 5:45 & 9:00pm	JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL Fri: 5:30 & 8:15pm Sat-Tues: 2:45, 5:30 & 8:15pm Xmas Wed: 5:30 & 8:15pm Thurs: 2:45, 5:30 & 8:15pm	SPIES IN DISGUISE Fri: 5:30 & 8:15pm Sat-Tues: 2:45, 5:30 & 8:15pm Xmas Wed: 4:30 & 7:00pm Thurs: 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00pm
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Movie Times for 12/20 thru 12/26 Tightwad Tuesday Title for Dec. 24th is in RED - All tickets: \$6

WHEN IT COMES TO MEDICARE, YOU HAVE CHOICES.

MEDICARE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT OCTOBER 15TH --- DECEMBER 7TH

The annual election period allows you to join, switch or drop a Medicare Advantage (Part C) plan or Prescription Drug plan

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From the Sparetime family to yours

Merry Christmas!

We will close at 2pm Dec. 24th and reopen at 8am Jan. 2nd

Have a fun & safe holiday!

SPARETIME GARDEN CENTER
208 E. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA. 95490 (707)459-6791

a surgical procedure at the specialized facility could save her life.

As described in a letter from her son Paul Hosford published in the December 5 edition of Willits Weekly, Davis did eventually get an ambulance transfer after waiting for several hours, but was diverted to Ukiah Adventist Valley Health hospital after going into cardiac arrest during the drive. She eventually was transported to Sutter Santa Rosa Hospital, but passed away after a second cardiac arrest occurred there.

Davis went to Howard Hospital after her symptoms began around 2:15 pm, but her attempted transport to Sutter Hospital didn't begin until around 11 pm, according to Hosford's letter. Initially the family hoped she could be transported by a REACH Air Ambulance, but were told that couldn't happen due to the stormy weather conditions.

"While we love our community, we believe this may have been prevented if she was able to get transportation to appropriate and timely specialized care," Hosford said in his letter.

Hosford and other family members emphasized in their statements at the meeting that they placed no blame on the staff of Adventist Health, who Hosford described as "wonderful," but just hoped to find a way to fix the logistical shortcomings of the ambulance situation in Willits and Mendocino County.

"My concern tonight is we have issues in Mendocino County with our ambulances," said Diana Hosford, Davis' daughter-in-law. "We don't have enough to support the 60,000 people that we have. We have an issue, and we're asking you and asking the community to step up. What can we do to make this not happen to another family?"

"I don't know what we can do as a city to get involved. I just don't want it to happen to anybody else.... I'm just asking that we stand up as a community and do all that we can to not let this happen to somebody else."

"We really need the support of the community," Paul Hosford said at the meeting. "We need support from all of you to talk with our supervisors. We can all pull strings. We can talk to the EMS [emergency medical services] community. They are very willing to hear what we have to say with what needs to be done in our community."

"So if you all could talk to our supervisors, to EMS, and see what we can do as a community, I would highly appreciate it."

As he did at a recent fire board meeting Little Lake Fire Department chief Chris Wilkes gave a lengthy presentation about the ambulance setup in the county (see "Fire chief details 'scary' state of EMS services" in this current edition for more details).

Wilkes' general assessment was that while the situation is complex and there are no easy fixes, ambulance availability is inadequate and the county needs to move to do something soon.

He said that for the 60,000 or so people in the "central corridor" of Mendocino County, four ambulances serve the area, but it was very common for the status to be reduced to "level zero," where no ambulances are immediately available since all of them are either responding to calls or doing facility-to-facility transfers.

He said that in addition to ambulance shortages, the emergency medical technicians in the county are overworked since there are so few available.

"The ambulance services are saying 'We're doing the best we can with what we have,'" said Wilkes. "The paramedics are running ragged. I'll tell you what, they are worn out. They're running 24-hour shifts. They're up all night doing transfers from here to Redding and back. It's every single night, you guys."

"And it's time that we come up with a plan in the county to provide for EMS to our communities," he continued. "That's what we need first before we do anything else. I know that there was a push for a half-cent sales tax and all that. I'm not into that until we have a plan. We need to know what it looks like for all the stakeholders in the county."

He pointed out that Mendocino College no longer has EMT training classes as it used to, so it's difficult for locals to find training in that field.

Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez asked about the city reaching out to the college to see if they would consider bringing the program back, and Wilkes said he would "strongly suggest that."

"The reality is we all want the same thing," Wilkes added. "We all know the system is broken, and it's failing right now.

We have to come up with a plan of how to fix it. We have to push the powers that be at the county to sit down and develop a really good group of stakeholders to start nailing this down."

Councilmember Greta Kanne suggested that the council use a "squeaky wheel gets the grease" approach with the county, and show up to board of supervisors meetings to urge them to act quickly on the matter.

Paul Hosford said he and other family members of Davis did attend the BOS meeting on the day before the council meeting (December 10), asking the supervisors to take measures to fix the ambulance problem.

City Manager Stephanie Garra-brant-Sierra said that she, Mayor Gerry Gonzalez and Councilmember Madge Strong were all involved in a meeting with the county a couple weeks prior to the council meeting to ask that they look into ways improve the ambulance situation, which she said was a "county duty" in California.

"I know the county has been having meetings, and the City of Ukiah is currently funding a study to see what the needs are and what that would cost," she said. "And so there is activity behind the scenes of trying to figure out what to do."

"It is really important that [the City of Willits] advocate, but at the same time they also have a number of different funding mechanisms as a county," she continued. "The county has a lot of flexibility in ways to raise money, and we need to encourage them to really explore all of their options in funding this. And that's what we did during this meeting is encourage that."

Kanne also urged everyone in Mendocino County to participate in the census next year, since the amount of people who are documented to live in the county will affect how much funding is allotted to the area for things like ambulance services.

"The more people who are counted in our county, the more resources we get for our county," she noted. "It's really important that we count everyone because it can make a difference in a situation like this."

Gonzalez elected as mayor again

Also at the meeting Mayor Gonzalez and Vice Mayor Larry Stranske were both selected by the council to serve another year in their positions.

Gonzalez was nominated by Strong, seconded by Stranske, and approved with a 5-0 vote.

"I think he's done a really good job and should continue," Strong said of Gonzalez before the vote.

Stranske was nominated by Gonzalez, seconded by Kanne, and approved with a 3-2 vote, with Strong and Rodriguez voting against.

After the vote, Rodriguez suggested that the council consider different options in the way they select mayor and vice mayor.

"Every time that we do this every year, it's a very awkward process," she said, "and I think that there is a lot of politics that go into the vote."

She pointed out that the City of Ukiah uses an automatic rotation each year allowing each council member to serve as mayor rather than relying on a council vote.

"Each of us was elected by members of the public to sit up here and fill a leadership role, and in 2002 Ukiah recognized that and they changed to a rotation where every year there was a rotating member of the council that had the opportunity to serve as mayor," she said. "And I would propose that this council take that under consideration and come up as a council with a plan on what that might look like."

"I have both participated in and been a member of this council for three years, and during that period of time I've seen how this moment affects decisions throughout the year.... I would just suggest that this council consider a system that takes politics out of play, and we move toward a rotation."

The mayor for the city of Willits doesn't hold any more power than other council members in terms of their vote, but they do guide council meetings and generally have more sway for things such as enforcing rules at meetings and appointing members to committees.

No other council member voiced support for Rodriguez's suggestion to change the mayoral procedure.

Councilmember Strong said that while she had "mixed feelings" about the process, she preferred giving council members some control over who was mayor.

"I think it is very awkward," she said, "but I kind of feel the advantages of doing it – as uncomfortable as it is – is that the five of us get to select who is going to be the chair of the meetings and coordinate agendas. And I think that that overrides the awkwardness that we have to go through to get there. So I think it is important for us to select who we

want to have be in that chair position."

Rodriguez also suggested that they give the public the option to at least weigh in on who should be mayor prior to the vote at the meeting, since they don't get to vote on the matter.

"I've been asked many times why the public doesn't have the opportunity to vote their own mayor," she said. "They don't understand that process. We're elected to the council, but why is it the council makes that decision? And maybe that would be [the public's] opportunity to step up and put in their public input."

PG&E explains new 'time of use' system

The council heard a lengthy presentation from PG&E representative Jessica Chancellor at the meeting as part of a campaign to inform the public about the utility's plans to shift rates to a "time of use" or TOU-based system.

The change was mandated to PG&E by the California Public Utilities Commission.

All local PG&E customers in Mendocino County will be automatically shifted to the TOU system beginning in October of 2020, though customers can go onto the PG&E website (www.pge.com) and shift immediately if they choose, using the "Rate Plans" link.

Customers can also decline and opt out of the TOU plan to stick with their current plan if they prefer.

However, Chancellor said, based on PG&E's studies, 99 percent of customers will either save money or pay about the same with the shift.

In addition, Sonoma Clean Power representative Danielle Baker said the SCP board voted to approve the transition as well, believing it would be "beneficial to their customers."

The standard TOU plan will charge a higher rate to customers at the peak usage time between 4 and 9 pm, and charge lower rates for all other times. There are two other TOU options available to customers – one which would change the peak usage time to 3 to 8 pm, and another which would eliminate the peak usage time on weekends.

On their website, PG&E customers can see what their projected savings might be based on which plans they would choose.

The goals of the rate transition according to PG&E are "to make rates more understandable to customers, more cost-based, and to encourage customers to shift usage to times of day that support a cleaner, more reliable grid."

Groundwater management plan

The council also approved a resolution moving forward with a groundwater management plan for the Little Lake Basin, which the city titled the "Improving Willits Water Supply Reliability and Drought Resiliency with Groundwater and Conjunctive Use" project.

The plan is meant to ensure that those customers who use City of Willits water will have less risk of ever losing access to water in the event of a drought or other emergency which could impact the surface water available at the plant south of town.

According to the agenda summary report from project manager Andrea Trincado, the groundwater management plan "addresses stakeholder participation and cooperation, groundwater level monitoring and management; identifies recharge areas; and provides protections against: groundwater quality degradation, land subsidence, and changes in surface flow and water quality due to groundwater pumping."

"Stakeholders are parties that may be affected by groundwater use and management measures," the report reads, "including: agricultural entities, domestic well owners, public/private water districts, local agencies, resource agencies, environmental community representatives, tribes, and the public at large. Two public workshops will be held to provide information and solicit public input."

Towards the end of the meeting, the council unanimously approved allowing rate increases by Solid Waste of Willits to its customers.

According to the agenda summary report, the rate changes came due to a "cost of living" increase for 2020, as well as a new surcharge of \$1.50 per ton of solid waste tipping fee "in order to fund the programs and services that MSWMA [Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority] provides to the member agencies."

SWOW President Jerry Ward spoke at the meeting, and said that a typical customer with a 35 gallon garbage container would only see an increase of \$1.07 per month, and those with a smaller 20 gallon can would see an increase of 60 cents.

Read the rest of **Council** | Over on Page 13

Housing element approved

The council approved a General Plan Housing Element for the city last week prepared by Community Development Director Dusty Duley, which will now be in effect and require no update until August of 2027.

The council had originally seen and approved a draft of the housing element at their August 28 meeting, though Duley noted last week that he had made some minor revisions since then, based on comments and recommendations from the state's Housing and Community Development department.

The city housing element is a document which, as stated in the final draft, is meant "to identify housing solutions that solve local housing problems and to meet or exceed the Regional Housing Needs Allocation."

As explained by Duley, RHNA is a requirement that the city has enough property available for development to allow for all the city's projected housing needs moving forward.

"One of the very important exercises that we go through with the housing element is ensuring that we have ... adequate land that's zoned correctly to support a wide range of housing for all income groups," said Duley. "That land use inventory is there to show that we meet our RHNA numbers. These are the numbers that are allocated by the state to the city to show that we're creating opportunities to accommodate our fair share of growth for California."

Duley noted that thanks to some rezoning done during the last housing element process for the city, they didn't need to do any sort of rezoning to meet their RHNA requirements this time.

"I'm very happy to report that due to some good decisions in my mind by the council in previous years, we've created an easier pathway for us for this element," he said.

Though in responding to an inquiry from Councilmember Rodriguez, Duley did acknowledge that there was potential to improve development opportunity in the city with some additional rezoning.

Some possibilities he mentioned were changing the zoning of several acres of industrial land near one of the Willits schools, changing the zoning of the now unused commercial property on and around the old Howard Hospital, and expanding the city limits south of Della Avenue around Locust Street.

"There's still a need to look at a comprehensive review of our entire zoning code that really hasn't had a comprehensive update since the early 80s as far as I can tell," said Duley. "And as part of that we'd look at the existing zoning within the city limits. It certainly is an exercise that would take considerable staff time."

Duley also pointed out that because of their work moving forward with the housing element, the city had already received \$160,000 in Senate Bill 2 funds from the state.

"We're going to be looking at using [the funding] towards creating additional housing opportunities by matching up city services with county land," he said. "And if we hadn't done this [housing element], we wouldn't have gotten it. We'd have automatically not been eligible."

As stated in the lengthy document, the city housing element's purpose is to analyze several aspects effecting housing in Willits, including "population and employment trends; the city's fair share of the regional housing needs; housing stock and household characteristics; an inventory of land suitable for residential development; governmental and non-governmental constraints on the improvement, maintenance, and development of housing; special housing needs; opportunities for energy conservation; and publicly assisted housing projects that may convert to non-assisted housing projects."

Solid Waste rate increases

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Read the rest of **Council** | Over on Page 13



Above, from left: Hudson River Inlay's detailed panels feature intricately designed and crafted marquetry. "I was doing a lot of traveling and having a lot of different experiences. So I captured the feelings for myself. And then I decided to share them," says photographer Gabriella Cobb about her black and white photographs of landscapes and animals. Friends Autumn Whitaker and Megan Vincent enjoy exploring The Garlic People's wreaths and garlic braids.

At far left: Aisles at the fair are full of people shopping or talking with one another with strains of music in the background. At left: Author of "Wild Fire Weeds," Mori Natura, sells her book, which deals with issues of changing rules for cannabis cultivation and indigenous people's fire practices.

Below: Bob and Priscilla Gaston sell their "theirrooms in metal."

Photos by Ree Stocum

Merry Marketplace

2019 Holiday Craft Fair offers unique handmade gifts along with live music and delightful food

The Willits Community Center was transformed with greenery, lights, bows and ornaments, for the 33rd time, into a jolly Holiday Craft Fair last Saturday and Sunday. Artists and craftspeople from near and far added to the festive ambience with their inspired, handmade offerings.

On Saturday, the Willits Center for the Arts was open and also hosted the Kids' Crafts Fair in the upstairs gallery. It was another wonderful opportunity for folks to find perfect gifts for those on their lists.

Many people were excited by the quality of well-crafted art available for purchase. "And it's a wonderful way to support the creative youth in our community," expressed one person, a sentiment which was echoed throughout the day.

Over 30 vendors, including the Kids' Crafts Fair, graced the Community Center and Willits Center for the Arts with their wares for the two-day event. Fair-goers were treated to their favorite vendors who show each year including Bonnie Belt with her functional porcelain ware. She awed shoppers with newly sculpted animal designs.

Morgan Rex set up an umbrella and hung his popular metal and glass ornaments. He also brought new sculptures, some large, including a copper water fountain. Janae Stephens from Organic Attire is consistently designing and cutting new stencils for her organic cotton clothing. She had several new ones including wisteria and lilies.

The Pickle Man was there again selling yummy, home-canned pickled vegetables. It's in the Bag fabric artist Karen Gridley found new, colorful quilted material to sew into bags of all sizes, along with pot holders, napkins and other functional creations. Greg Lindsley from Earth and Fire Pottery brought his handsome functional ware. This year he had bowls with a squiggle cut in the rim for keeping yarn from tangling while knitting.

Some of the newer additions to the fair were Marsha Wright and Jon Williams from Lake County. They sold their unique One Earth Studio jewelry, pottery, and infused

glass. Williams has worked as a potter for 50 years and uses crystalline glazes on his porcelain pieces. The crystals form beautiful patterns in the glaze. Wright, a designer, has created attractive fused-glass jewelry in a wide range of colors.

A person couldn't miss hatter Tess McGuire's booth filled with warm, variegated, festive felted hats. Bill Cull is an archeologist who has enjoyed jewelry making at different points in his life. Each silver link and setting is masterfully crafted to showcase a variety of polished stones.

For the Trinity County Ferrara-Frame family, also known as The Garlic People, this was their third year at the show. It's a family business where they (children included) grow, dry and assemble the wreaths and garlic braids.

People were excited about a new vendor at the Holiday Crafts Fair: Stan Salah from Hudson River Inlay. He's one of the designers for the New York company and has artist friends in Mendocino County who encouraged him to show pieces of their original and delicately crafted marquetry.

"Marquetry is an art form they say dates back to King Tut's tomb," Salah said. "It's a very specific form of inlay where we apply veneer to a surface. It's all very thin including the shell and stone. They get the stone in blocks and cut them into thin slices with a diamond cutter. The designs are created and chosen from sketches, and then a thorough design is made.

"We reduce the sketch to patterns for each specific piece of the drawing," Salah continued. "Sometimes there are 1,000 different pattern pieces that make up the finished whole. For every piece of the pattern, we need to decide what material is going to achieve what we want."

They cut the pattern pieces from veneered wood, shell or stone, adhere them to the surface, carefully sand the entire piece, and apply the protective coating. "Even the finishing is an art in itself," he said. Each person in the company contributes in

Read the rest of **Crafts** | Over on Page 13



Above: Palatechnics' Tamara Wilder, right, instructs Lee McClellan about the process in making a looped water bottle bag; Wilder sells sets of instructions and materials as well as teaching hands-on workshops and classes about ancient living skills. At right: Little Reza keeps his mother, Paula, on her toes as he explores Greg Lindsley's functional pottery shelves.

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Thursday, December 19

Willits Farmers Market: Winter market at the Little Lake Grange, 271 School Street. Thursday, December 19, 3 to 5:30 pm. Veggies, fresh salad greens, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, savory and sweet baked goods, including pies and handcrafted bread. More: gift items, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, free herb talks, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Free Backpack Giveaway: Nuestra Alianza de Willits will be giving away backpacks to children between the ages of 3 to 5. They are sturdy, attractive and filled with lots of school goodies. "The only thing we ask is for the parents or guardian to fill out a quick survey." At the Farmers Market, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursday, December 19, 3 to 5:30 pm.

Twinkle Thursdays: Thursdays through December 19. Stores open every Thursday until 8 pm with specials. Look for lit-up Mason jars.

Shanachie Pub: Peter Jong Chang, "all original fusion and instrumental styles with elements of rock, jazz, funk, soul, and reggae." Thursday, December 19, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Friday, December 20

Art Workshops: Holiday Fortune Tellers: Friday, December 20, 11 am to 12 pm. Create an origami style craft that gives holiday greetings and good wishes. Supplies provided. Ages 4 and up. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Holiday Bazaar: "Leopold Collective is excited to present our second Holiday Bazaar. It is going to be a little different this year, rather than three weekends we are going to have a two-day event. Friday, December 20, 3 to 8 pm; and Saturday, December 21, 11 am to 5 pm. The Bazaar is going to be festive, and full of holiday spirit to celebrate the winter solstice, and the holidays." Crafts, music, food, and arts. 109 North Main Street.

December 20th & 21st
Leopold
Friday 3pm - 8pm
Saturday 11am - 5pm
HOLIDAY SHOPPING BAZAAR
crafts • music • food • arts

What's Happening Around Town

Holiday Lights: A Winter Wonderland: The Frank R. Howard Foundation and Adventist Health Howard Memorial invite you to attend the third annual Holiday Lights extravaganza, at the Commonwealth Garden, across from the hospital. "Add some sparkle to your holiday season. Festive holiday snacks from Roots Restaurant. Warm up with a cup of hot cocoa or hot apple cider as you stroll through the enchanted winter wonderland." Friday, December 20 to Sunday, December 22, 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Benefits the Willits Food Bank.

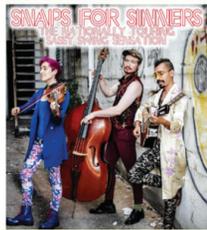
Free backpacks!
We are giving away backpacks to children between the ages of 3 to 5. They are sturdy, attractive and filled with lots of school goodies.

Prayer in Aramaic: "At this darkest time of the year, we invoke the Light of Creation in movement & chanting the Lord's Prayer in its original language of Aramaic. In translation, we discover the cosmic, enlightened and powerful message of the spirit of Christ." The Muse, 30 East San Francisco Street, Sunday, December 22, 3 to 5 pm. 459-9085.

Holiday Lights: A Winter Wonderland: Sunday, December 22. See December 20 listing for details.

Monday, December 23

31st Annual Tubby Tunes: Holiday Music Massacre: Wacky Christmas songs. Monday, December 23, 1 to 3 pm. KMUD-FM www.kmud.org and Wednesday, December 25, 12 to 3 pm, www.kph-tv.org. Info: facebook.com/groups/tubbytunes.



Snaps for Sinners: "a saucy swing ensemble helibent on making people dance and have a good time." Friday, December 20, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Tightwad Tuesdays: Select films in their 2nd or subsequent weeks are discounted to \$6 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad Tuesday movie is "Jumanji: The Next Level". Visit www.noyotheatre.com, call 459-6696 or check the ad in Willits Weekly for show times. 57 East Commercial Street.

Christmas Eve Family Service: Tuesday, December 24, Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, corner of Commercial and Main Streets. Doors open 4:30 pm for informal carol singing. Service 5 to 6:15 pm. Included will be a pageant performed by all the children present who wish to take part; no spoken lines to remember. Children who would like to take part should come between 4:30 and 5 pm for instructions. Church is wheelchair accessible. Holy Communion included in the service. All are welcome! Info: Betsy, 459-3390.



Christmas Candlelight & Music: St. John's Lutheran Church's annual "most special and intimate Candlelight Carol Sing" on Christmas Eve. Sing Christmas carols and enjoy several area guest

musical artists. Tuesday, December 24, 7 pm. The candlelight service is open to the public and all are welcome. 24 Mill Creek Drive. Info: 459-2988.



Musical Massacre: Wacky Christmas songs. Wednesday, December 25, 12 to 3 pm, www.kph-tv.org. Info: facebook.com/groups/tubbytunes.

Friday, December 27

Shanachie Pub: Eric McFadden, "a guitar virtuoso/songwriter/vocalist. He has toured the world both as a solo artist, and with funk legend, George Clinton." Friday, December 27, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.



BINGO! NEW YEAR'S EVE BINGO TUESDAY DECEMBER 31, 2019 Harrah Senior Center BUY IN \$25 Minimum Includes sandwich, salad, beverage, dessert and one 10 Game Pack Doors Open at 4 PM Packet Sales at 5 PM Dinner at 5:30 PM Bingo Starts at 6 PM 1501 Baechtel Road • Willits 459-6826

Youth & Drugs: The Slippery Slope A Community Prevention Forum Tuesday, Jan. 14, 5:30-7:00 PM

Winter Solstice Spiral Dance 2019 Saturday, December 21 at 7 pm doors open 6:45 Little Lake Grange 291 School Street, Willits

Holiday Lights A WINTER WONDERLAND at the Commonwealth Garden DECEMBER 20-22 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

AT THE MOVIES Jumanji: The Next Level The Story: A fantasy adventure that's comic with cliffs, and cliff hangers, and wild beasts running amok. A group of young, maybe 20-somethings and a pair of 70-somethings are sucked into a danger-filled video game called "Jumanji." The action takes them from jungle to desert to snowy mountains. Perils are everywhere. Mandrills harass. Ostriches stampede. Relationship problems are resolved. All the characters mock themselves and seem to be having fun. Despite the noisy video game Jumanji chaos, order is restored and a happy ending.

Senior Center Lunch Week of December 23 through December 27 Monday: Chicken & Dumplings Tuesday: Tamale Pie Wednesday: Closed for Christmas Thursday: Beans & Cornbread Friday: Birthday Turkey Dinner Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older, \$6.50 per meal, under 55, \$8 per meal. Includes soup, salad, entrée, vegetable, and dessert and drink. (Salad Bar available all year). 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

28th Annual Mendocino County Professional Pianist Concert Friday - Saturday - Sunday JANUARY 10th-11th-12th Mendocino College Center Theatre 1000 Hensley College Road, Ukiah CA

WE'RE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT YOKUM'S BODY SHOP IS NOW CARSTAR YOKUM'S BODY SHOP! SAME GREAT PEOPLE WITH A FRESH NEW LOOK, STILL FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1982.

Holiday Lights: A Winter Wonderland December 20 to 22 The Frank R. Howard Foundation and Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital invites you to attend the third annual Holiday Lights extravaganza, at the Commonwealth Garden, across from the hospital. Add some sparkle to your holiday season and watch your children's faces light up for a magical holiday light display at the Commonwealth Garden. Enjoy some festive holiday snacks prepared by Roots Restaurant. Warm up with a cup of hot cocoa or hot apple cider as you stroll through the enchanted winter wonderland. December 20 to 22, 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Please consider joining this year's Holiday Lights event as either a participant of a sponsor. Contact: Ananda at 459-2777 or 707-354-2166, or Holly at 707-841-0612. Benefits the Willits Food Bank.

Christmas Candlelight & Music December 24 Music can tell a story. It has been said that "music is love and life." The musicians involved in this Christmas Eve event have tied their lives to music. Music cheers and can resurrect memories. When we listen to music, it often takes us to another world. Music is often inspirational, can soothe the soul and take away pain. For many years St. John's Lutheran Church has gifted the community with a most special and intimate Candlelight Carol Sing on Christmas Eve. This year, there will be several area artists gifting their music expertise at the December 24, 7 pm event. Singing favorite Christmas Carols will also be part of the program. "This event has become a favorite over the years and we look forward every year to presenting this music as a gift to the community." 24 Mill Creek Drive. Info: 459-2988.

My Thoughts: Men are incarnated in the bodies of female avatars. Women incarnate in male avatars. All in all, this flick seems to be a loud salute to the notion of gender fluidity. But, lest we confuse this with "we're so very woke" political correctness, remember that women pretending to be men, and men pretending to be women was considered a laugh riot in Elizabethan theater - Billy Shakespeare did it all the time. I myself did have a bit of trouble remembering which character was being represented by which avatar, but that's a personal weakness. For staunch fans of Jumanji movies, this flick delivers on what it promises - foolery and silliness, heroism and loyal friendship. All to the good. Parents: This flick is somewhat chaotic but it's OK, I think, for kids 8 or 9 and up. They'll love its humor. Willisian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

New Year's Eve Bingo at the Senior Center December 31 Doors 4 pm, Packet Sales 5 pm, Dinner 5:30 pm, Bingo 6 pm. Buy In \$25 minimum includes sandwich, salad, beverage, dessert, one game pack. Extra packs \$10 each. Blackout (no limit) \$100 guarantee. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826. Tuesday, December 31.

31st Annual Tubby Tunes Holiday Music Massacre It's that time again! It started 31 years ago in Mendocino County and has grown every year with more wacky songs!

Youth & Drugs: The Slippery Slope January 14 Avenues to Wellness presents a special edition of their Speaker Event Series titled, "Youth & Drugs: The Slippery Slope. A Community Forum." Tuesday, January 14, 5:30 to 7 pm, Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial St. Free to the public, donations appreciated. Refreshments. A community conversation focused on substance use among youth is intended to offer support, tools, prevention strategies and recovery options to families and professionals working with youth. Bring questions to the panel. Dr. Andrea McCullough MD, is a Family Medicine Specialist who has been caring for patients for over 20 years, 10 years of experience as an emergency room physician with a special interest in drug and alcohol recovery. Aurelie Ciavaz, Program Manager at MC Youth Project, has over 12 years experience in education, direct counseling, prevention and early intervention. Aurelie provides strategies on how families can be successful in speaking with youth about drugs and alcohol. Buffey Wright Bourassa, Program Specialist at MC Public Health, is responsible for community prevention, education, and outreach services with a focus on opioid use disorder. She is a coalition member of Safe Rx, Drug Free Communities and the Round Valley Tribes Coalition. Andrew Thomas is a young adult who will share his personal story of recovery from opioid use disorder. Avenues to Wellness is a community-based wellness program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. They offer a free-of-charge speaker series at the Willits Center for the Arts. Info: avenueswellness.org, or 456-9676.

Free New Year's Day Yoga January 1 Our Yoga Center will offer free 45-minute "New Year's Day Resolution" Yoga and Movement classes on New Year's Day, January 1. Let's begin 2020 together with active and peaceful engagement of our bodies, our minds, and our community. Come celebrate OYC's 8th year anniversary! Large Studio Schedule: 9 am Gentle Hatha Yoga - Emmy Good, 10 am Iyengar Yoga (Detox) - Jeff Brunner, 12 pm Family Yoga - Erin Dominy, 1 pm Warm Vinyasa Yoga - Erin Dominy, 2 pm Hot Vinyasa - Eryn Brunner, 3 pm Restorative Yoga - Erin Dominy, Small Studio: 11 am Rope Yoga - Jeff Brunner, 1 pm Prenatal Yoga - Eryn Brunner. Info: www.ouryogacenter.com, 707-841-6100, 1726 S. Main St #B/C.

Shanachie Pub New Year's Eve Party December 31 The return of Soulevity, five-piece reggae-rock-ska-punk-metal-hip hop band featuring former members of Tubesteak Jones and Rhyme Related and others. Joining Soulevity is Self Fulfilling Prophecies. Also playing is special guest Blair Blaze, drummer and frontman, formerly of Tubesteak Jones, Rhyme Related, Dumb Struck Genius, Outlaws of the Illwits and Funkakiln. Tuesday, December 31. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Ongoing Events Computer Lab at the Senior Center: Tuesdays, 2 to 4 pm. Bring questions and your device (or use ours). Learn and get repairs. \$3 donation. Open to everyone. Munchies and Music: Friday Nights at Northspur Brewing Company, 101 North Main Street. 6 to 10 pm. With Greg and Malakai Schindel. "Art Expo": featuring drawings and paintings by Alma Soledad. Re-Evolution Gallery, 15 West Mendocino Avenue. 11 am to 6 pm, Tuesday to Saturday. "Close to Home": Local artist Linda Corben's paintings inspired by the natural world, now featured at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. Through December 31. Friday Night Live: Vendors, food and entertainment. 1722 South Main Street (Evergreen Shopping Center), 5 to 8 pm. Linda Posner's "Word Buffet": KLLG-LP, 97.9, "Poems and Sayings to Start Your Day." Sunday, 10 to 10:30 am. Meatless Mondays: at Roots Restaurant at Adventist Health Howard Memorial, 11 Marcella Drive. "Serving delicious plant-based options every Monday." 7 am to 5 pm. Collective Care: A Holistic Support Group: Fridays, 10 to 11:15 am. 44650 Highway 101, Laytonville. Holistic community support and information. Children welcome. By donation. www.ninesistersbotanicals.com. Eight to the Bar with Les Tarr: Radio active blues programming for tragically hip and twisted. Fridays, 9 pm to midnight. 97.9 FM, KLLG. Willits International Folk Dancing: Class meets every Thursday, 7 to 8 pm, Willits Charter High School. New dances taught 7 to 8 pm. \$0-\$5 sliding scale. Info: megster1989@yahoo.com. Willits Frontier Twirlers Square Dance Club: Mondays, 7 pm, upstairs gallery of the Willits Center for Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Sliding scale \$0 to \$5/class. 707-484-3385 for info. Little John's Place: Every Thursday Pool Tournament, 6 pm, \$5 buy-in. "We'll buy the pizza, you buy the beer." Saturday nights: Free Pool 9 pm to 12 am during December. 383 South Main Street. 459-5636. facebook.com/littlejohnsplace/. Free Herb Talks: by the Mendocino Herb Guild. Every Thursday, 4 pm, at the Willits Farmers Market, indoors for the winter at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Roots Engine House Tours: Docent-led tour of the Engine House most Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Join a Roots of Motive Power docent to view classic motorcars, a steam train engine, and more - up close. Marijuana Anonymous 12 Step Meeting: Every Tuesday at 6 pm. Meeting place is the Back Alley building in Catherine Lane, directly behind the United Methodist Church, which is at the corner of School and Pine, right across from the Grange. 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 I.D. Hosted by DJ-Ken Steely Entertainment with KJ/DJ-Ken Steely & Anna. Come for dinner, stay for the fun. Willits Farmers Market: Winter Market at the Little Lake Grange, 271 School Street, from 3 to 5:30 pm, on Thursday, November 7. The last of the summer veggies, fresh salad greens, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, savory and sweet baked goods, including handcrafted bread. More: gift items, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, free herb talks, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Emandal Choral: The Choral is open to all who wish to sing a capella songs of peace and justice. Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: 367-1573. Friday Potluck Bingo: Harrah Senior Center presents Potluck Bingo on Friday nights. Doors open at 5 pm; games begin at 5:30 pm. Minimum bingo buy-in \$5. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826. Weekly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group: Every Thursday, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941. 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: Tuesdays: 3:30 to 4 pm "Wiggle Time" (Explore movement and self-expression); Wednesdays: 11 to 11:45 am "Play Group" (Self-directed playtime, with toys, ages 0 to 4); 2:30 to 3 pm "Storytime" (Books, songs, rhymes and movement, ages 3 to 6); 3:30 to 4:30 pm "Legu Club" (bring your imagination and start building); Thursdays: 2:30 to 3:30 pm "Storytime and More" (with coloring and board games); Fridays: 5:30 to 5:50 pm "Dance Workout" (Fun, upbeat dance); Saturdays: 11 am to 12 pm "Write Live" (We provide a prompt and a space to create writing); 2:30 to 4:30 pm "Drop-In Knitting" All skill levels. 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. Drop-In Knitting Circle: Saturdays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your own projects or your yarn and needles; we have people who should be able to help solve problems and/or help you learn to knit or crochet. Sign-ups are not necessary - everyone is welcome to drop in." Info: Lotus Baker at 456-9037, or lotusb3@earthlink.net. Soroptimist International of Willits: Women's service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets the second Tuesday at 4 pm and the third Tuesday at noon each month 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. 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; Tweens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: "Mendocino Sheriff's Activities League" on Facebook or Mike Tobin: 354-0565. Shanachie Pub: Mondays, 7 pm: "Monday Blues & Beyond" with Blue Luke & Special Guests. Tuesdays, 8 pm: "Wabi Sabi" with host Mitchell Holman, formerly of It's a Beautiful Day ("Whitebird") features different artists every week. 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, the 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.



The Willits Otters swim team stays warm with help from a propane heater donated by AmeriGas Propane.



Above: Pianist Dr. Lori Schafer, at left, rehearses for Christmas Eve at St. John's Lutheran Church with soloists, from left, Kevin Moore, Carole Hester and Blake Phillips on trumpet. Others performing at the 7 pm candlelight service – open to the public and all are welcome – are Voices of Grace and soloist Heather Miya; Ava Gerrans will accompany the carol singing.

Lutheran Church welcomes all to 'Candlelight Carol Sing' on Christmas Eve

Submitted by St. John's Lutheran Church

Music can tell a story. It has been said that "music is love and life." The musicians involved in this Christmas Eve event at St. John's Lutheran Church-Willits have tied their lives to music in one way or several ways.

Music cheers and can resurrect memories. When we listen to music, it often takes us to another world. Music is often inspirational, can soothe the soul and take away pain.

For many years St. John's Lutheran Church-Willits has gifted the community with a most special and intimate "Candlelight Carol Sing" on Christmas Eve. This year, there will be several area artists gifting their music expertise at the December 24, 7 pm event. Singing favorite Christmas carols will also be part of the program.

"The candlelight service is open to the public and all are welcome," said St. John's Pastor Karl Bliese. "This event has become a favorite over the years, and we look forward every year to presenting this music as a gift to the community."

St. John's celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2003. The church is located at 24 Mill Creek Drive in Willits, 459-2988.

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Thursday: 12/19 30% off Jewelry, Watches and Sunglasses	Friday: 12/20 30% off Toy Sale	Saturday: 12/21 30% off Candles & Pendleton Spa Towels, Blankets and Throws
Sunday: 12/22 Buy 1 Pound of Fudge, Get 1 Pound Free	Monday: 12/23 20% off Pet Supplies 10% off Pet Food	Tuesday: 12/23 25% off Clothing & Footwear 25% off Toys & Gifts 30% off Ornaments

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Willits Otters make Santa's nice list

The Willits Otters stayed off the naughty list this holiday season and received some fantastic holiday gifts. The Willits business community got us through the cold December swimming months by donating warmth to our practices and our dual meet with the Ukiah Dolphins.

AmeriGas Propane donated propane and heaters. Mendo Mill and Lumber Company and the Randrup family contributed deck heaters to keep our Otters warm and swimming. Also, under the Christmas tree was a monetary donation from our local Rotary Club chapter that we used to offer more fall scholarship opportunities to the local children to join or remain in our Otter family.

Coach Arora Chavez continued the grand holidays with winning a Pac Swim grant of \$3,800 to go toward parkas, swim goggles, and swimsuits for the swimmers. The Otters received even more stocking stuffers from our sister club, the Alto Swim Club, which donated 37 swim goggles and several new swimsuits.

The Otter family extends a heartfelt thanks to all of those that made our fall and winter season successful and endearing.

The Otter Swim Club will begin the spring / summer session in February and all are welcome.

Go Otters!

– Submitted by Willits Otters

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Playful Strider

Handsome as all get out, Strider is a dog who's always ready to play. He appears friendly and playful with other dogs and really wants to be with humans as well. Strider is a 1-year-old neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 77 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 online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com or visit the shelter. For more information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

Curious Chance

This watchful gaze belongs to Chance as he assesses his new surroundings and what is expected of him. He's new here, and he's still unsure of what's next. We're trying to put him at ease and let him know that we've got his back from here on out!! Now that he's warm and safe, the search for the perfect home has begun.



This 5-year-old Lab mix is very dog-social so this can serve as a means of exercise as well as a source of joy for him as he meets and plays with other dogs. He's handsome, curious, neutered and would love to have a stable home environment of his own. Come meet this guy and establish a bond that could last a lifetime!

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: mendohumaneociety.com. To volunteer or help take the dogs for a walk, please join HSIMC on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.

Photo courtesy of Kathi Shipley

GET READY

WHS & SHS Senior formal photos
January 22 & 23, 2019

with photography by
maureen moore

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Measure B committee supports architecture contract

The Measure B committee unanimously endorsed the county's \$3.3 million contract with architectural firm Nacht and Lewis at a crowded meeting that was held in the Seabiscuit Room at the new Adventist Health Howard Memorial hospital in Willits on Wednesday afternoon.

Sheriff Tom Allman clarified that the contract was not, strictly speaking, a \$3.3 million contract – it was a contract that is not to exceed \$3.3 million.

Allman said the contract could be and would be whittled down to a lesser sum if Nacht and Lewis ended up doing less work on the overall project than had originally been envisioned.

It appears to be the probable outcome in light of recent developments, as the \$500,000 grant from the California Health Facilities Financing Authority, which the county received in 2015 to assist with building a crisis residential treatment facility, once again raised its head. It was mentioned by both Behavioral Health Advisory Board Chair Jan McGourty and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director Jenine Miller.

Miller told the committee the CHFFA board of directors had agreed to extend the deadline of the grant until January 28, but with two requirements. Those were, that the proposed crisis residential treatment facility be built on the empty lot on Orchard Avenue in Ukiah, and that the County of Mendocino enter into a contract with Nacht and Lewis for architectural services.

The Measure B Committee went for the money, and voted unanimously to endorse the contract with Nacht and Lewis.

The committee was informed that the Mendocino County Executive Office will be performing an "operational feasibility study" to assess what the ongoing costs of operating a more robust mental health program will be.

Measure B Committee Chair Ace Barash read the December 3, 2019 letter from Adventist Hospital Mendocino Unit CEO Jason Wells, which was published in the December 12 edition of Willits Weekly, in which Wells declares that the Adventist system in this county is gearing up to lease and operate Coast Hospital in Fort Bragg. Wells offered its facilities to the County of Mendocino in a public-private partnership.

Essentially, the county would direct Measure B money to pay for Adventist to retrofit wings in the Coast Hospital and at Ukiah Valley Medical Center, and Adventist would run the equivalent of psychiatric health facilities in both hospitals, for a total of 16 beds and significantly reduced construction costs.

McGourty and District 2 representative Shannon Riley reminded the committee that, in January of this year, former County Counsel Katharine Elliott had advised against entering into a public-private partnership with Measure B funds. "It would be very difficult indeed," Elliott said at that meeting. "It would probably be a very bad idea, because we would not have control over how those funds are being used."

Fifth District representative Ross Liberty tried to refresh the committee's memory of what Elliott had said. "It wasn't so much, can public money be spent on a private asset? It is that, there is the possibility that, say, we spend several million dollars on retrofitting and expanding the Adventist facilities, but, at the end of the day, we have no asset for that expenditure."

Riley asked Interim County Counsel Christian Curtis to research the question of whether giving public funds to a private entity is legally permissible. Curtis said he would undertake the research.

Angelo said CEO Wells had told her Adventist would be getting a business plan to the county within 60 days, and that the plan would likely figure into her operational feasibility study.

In other Measure B business, Angelo introduced the new Measure B Project Manager Isabel Gonzalez to the committee. Gonzalez described herself as "100 percent Mendocino illiterate," having just moved here from San Diego County. She said that she has had work experience in "the private-federal sector, the private-non-profit sector, and in the private-federally-sponsored non-profit sector," but added, "I am new to this sector."

Sheriff Allman asked the committee to approve asking the board of supervisors to allocate \$200,000 to the retrofitting and remodeling project at the recently acquired property in Redwood Valley, which Allman intends to use as a regional training center.

Allman reminded the committee that both it, and the board of supervisors, had rushed granting the sheriff's office \$50,000 in October, so that initial work on retrofitting the building could be begun. He also reminded the committee that the plan was to approve an additional \$200,000 at some time in the near future.

McGourty asked if there was some kind of a work plan for the remodeling work, something that could be printed on paper, so that McGourty and the other committee members would know what was going to be done.

Allman said that the facilities department in the county's executive office had not yet finished the work plan. Third District representative Jed Diamond moved that the money be recommended for allocation, and his motion was approved unanimously.

Diamond also proposed a restructuring of the management tier of the committee. Diamond said he wanted the committee chair and vice chair to serve for two years consecutively, instead of one, and that he wanted those members to be part of an executive committee, together with the project manager, that would develop a work plan for the committee for the coming year and which would set the agenda for each committee meeting.

Diamond also wanted to limit the members who could be either chair or vice chair to those committee members who were "from the public," that is, to the five representatives from the supervisory districts, plus the representative from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board and from the Mendocino Chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness.

In other words, Diamond thought it best that the sheriff (or the sheriff's representative), the CEO, the county auditor and the head of Behavioral Health, could not be either the chair or the vice chair of the committee.

Most committee members supported Diamond's first two suggestions, although interim county counsel Curtis said there was no way that Gonzalez could be on the executive committee. If she was, then the executive committee would have to be Brown Act-compliant. But Curtis suggested that Gonzalez could attend those meetings as staff.

Discussion was vigorous and robust and seemed to be going every which way, but then Angelo moved to approve the longer terms, to approve the formation of the executive committee, with Gonzalez to be staff to the chair and vice chair, and that the third part of Diamond's motion – the limitation of the office of chair and vice chair to public members only – be brought back for further discussion next year, together with a legal opinion from Curtis and/or a policy decision from the board of supervisors.

Angelo's motion was passed unanimously.

City of Willits Building Report

For the City of Willits it is typical to see fewer building permits with the onset of winter, and the last building activity report from city hall shows it.

The total value of construction and other smaller job permits was down in November from the previous year in a monthly report by the city.

Building project value totaled \$123,450 last month, which is a decrease of \$30,141 from 2018. Monthly revenue from 13 permits was \$2,202, a decrease of \$1,225 from nine permits last year.

"We track value because it is nice to see what people spend on improvements in town," City Building Inspector Davey Bowles said.

For the fiscal year through November, permits represent projects valued at \$1,757,793. Last year, projects were valued at \$5,539,810 at this time.

In June, when the last fiscal year ended, project values added to a total of \$6.1 million. "We had some pretty big projects in 2018," said Bowles. He said last fiscal year was probably the city's biggest year ever and included major work at large cannabis facilities.

To compare, for example, \$3.9 million was recorded in 2017, just more than \$1 million in 2016, and \$3.9 million in 2015.

Fees collected from permits are \$28,032 from 87 permits this fiscal year compared to \$95,324 from 93 permits last fiscal year at the same time.

The Building Activity Report tracks permits from family homes and industrial buildings, to heating and air conditioning, roofing, plumbing and electrical.

Numbers for November activity: four re-roofing permits for work valued at \$71,600; one heating and air conditioning project valued at \$9,000; and five electrical, mechanical or plumbing endeavors valued at \$42,850.

What remains for the rest of the city's fiscal year is expected to generate another strong year for project value.

New business licenses

In November 2019, 13 new business licenses were registered with the city.

Business licenses were granted to Drift Wood Home (interior decorating) Lisa Shepard; Koshers Sun Distribution (cannabis distribution) David Kurzfeld; and Donnelly & Co (cannabis distribution) Rachel Donnelly.

In October 2019, seven new business licensees registered with the city.

Business licenses were granted to Ewing Green Thumb (education outreach) Elias Ewing; Northspur Brewing Co. (brewery and restaurant) Jakob Foley; Big Fish Construction (general contractor) Adrian Fisher; Serenity Salon (hair salon) Winter Wilson; DC Eden (cannabis cultivation) Rachel Worswick; and Blue Sky Mac Tech (mobile computer tech) David Hannon.

In addition, many November and October licensees were from out of town. Participating in the Willits economy from locations beyond were: solar installer Distribugen dba Pure Power Solutions (Healdsburg); John Anderson Construction (Reno); wireless communications contractor Apex Site Solutions (Elk Grove); Underground Construction (Benicia); Mendocino Solar Service (Little River); Osmose Utilities Service Inc. (state of Georgia); roofing, solar and fencing contractor James Petersen Industries (Fremont); Humberto's Roofing (Lower Lake); High Country Security (Clearlake); and Lake County Contractors (Lakeport).

Willits woman arrested for reckless evading

A 33-year-old woman from Willits was arrested Monday morning after a high-speed chase up Highway 101 from Redwood Valley.

Carley Schlapkohl failed to stop after a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy attempted a traffic stop, activating the patrol vehicle's emergency lights and siren, at 9:32 am on December 16 in the 7600 block of Redwood Valley.

The deputy pursued the vehicle as it traveled north on North State Street, traveling recklessly onto Highway 101.

During the pursuit, the vehicle continued northbound on Highway 101 to Willits at a high rate of speed. The vehicle went off the roadway into a ditch before becoming disabled at the 23000 block of North Main Street in Willits.

Schlapkohl was subsequently arrested with the assistance of the Willits Police Department and the California Highway Patrol. She was transported to the Mendocino County Jail where she was booked on charges of 2800.2 VC (Reckless Evading) and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

Schlapkohl was to be held in lieu of \$35,000 bail.

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

Winter driving tips from Caltrans

Submitted by Caltrans Sacramento HQ

The winter season is upon us, and the snowy and rainy conditions can make for challenging travel as family, friends, food and festive occasions pull Californians all over the state.

"As winter settles in, Californians will start to see a whole new set of extreme conditions," said Caltrans' Director Toks Omishakin. "Please take care out there on the roads, don't crowd the plows, have patience, give yourself more travel time, and know that we're hard at work to clear whatever may be standing in your way."

Below are some recommended actions you can take to reduce the risks to you and your loved ones on the highways. Drivers must use their best judgment in all types of weather.

Know before you go

Before traveling, Caltrans recommends checking weather and road conditions. Caltrans QuickMap is an online resource with real-time traffic flow information, chain control alerts, and closure information. It is available at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/> or you can download it as an app for your phone from Google and Apple. Motorists can also call 511 or the Caltrans Highway Information Network at 1-800-427-ROAD (7623) for travel information.

Winter Driving Tips

- Be patient.
 - Give yourself extra time to travel, conditions can add travel time.
 - Reduce your speed to match driving conditions and allow more time to reach your destination. Know that bridges and ramps may be more slippery than the roadway.
 - Keep your electric vehicle batteries charged and your fuel tank full. Bad weather may cause long delays or closures.
 - Turn on your headlights to see and be seen. Be observant and maintain a safe distance behind snow removal equipment. Do not crowd the plow. Do not pass snow plows unless directed to do so by law enforcement or emergency public service personnel.
 - If a traffic signal is out, treat as a stop sign, come to a complete stop, look both ways, and proceed with caution.
 - When driving in fog, reduce your speed and use fog lights—makes and models vary. Stay to the right along the white edge line and never stop in the road. If visibility is not adequate, pull off of the roadway when safe to do so.
 - Do not drive through flooded areas. Safely turn around and find another route.
 - If you start sliding on snow or ice, slowly take your foot off the gas pedal and steer in the direction you wish to travel. Do not lock your brakes—pump the brakes if needed or apply steady pressure if your vehicle is equipped with anti-lock brakes.
 - Don't use cruise control.
 - Avoid in-car distractions while driving.
 - If you are stalled, activate your hazard signals and stay with your vehicle. Conserve fuel by periodically turning your engine on and off while maintaining warmth, but be aware of possible exhaust and carbon monoxide issues.
 - If you approach an emergency, maintenance, or any other public service vehicle stopped on the side of the road with flashing lights, move over if safe to do so, or slow down.
 - Winterize your vehicle. Make sure your brakes, windshield wipers, heater/defroster, and exhaust system are in good working order. Make sure fluids are topped-off, especially windshield washer fluid.
 - Make sure your tires are properly inflated and always carry tire chains, even if you think your all-wheel drive car is capable.
 - Pack an emergency kit in your vehicle with the following items: flashlight, blankets, extra clothing, water, snacks, towel, gloves, ice scraper, shovel, broom, sand, and carry a spare key on your person in case you lock yourself out of your vehicle.
- ### Chain control information
- All vehicles, including those with four-wheel drive or snow tires, should carry chains when traveling in snowy weather. Highway signs and QuickMap will indicate when chains are required, and drivers must stop and install chains. Motorists should pull off the roadway completely to install them. If you need help, chain installers may be available to assist for a fee. Please note, chain installers are not Caltrans employees. They are independent business people who are licensed to install chains. Once chains are installed, obey the speed limit of 25 or 30 miles per hour, posted at various locations.
- ### Chain control levels
- R-1: Chains, traction devices or snow tires with proper tread depth of 6/32" are required on the drive axle of all vehicles except four-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicles.
- R-2: Chains or traction devices are required on all vehicles except four-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicles with snow-tread tires on all four wheels. Note: Four-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicles must carry traction devices in chain control areas.
- R-3: Chains or traction devices are required on all vehicles, no exceptions. Note: R-1 and R-2 are the most common chain controls. The highway will usually be closed before an R-3 control is imposed.
- For more information on winter driving, chain controls, and additional resources, visit the Caltrans Winter Driving Tips page at <https://dot.ca.gov/travel/winter-driving-tips>. Please be safe out there, California.

First, the ambulance situation – commonly referred to as EMS (emergency medical services).

Read on to learn how you and your loved ones are currently not protected very well, and what your fire chief would like you to do about it.

To begin with, a bit of history, to provide context.

In the beginning, in 1937, there was Ukiah Ambulance.

In 2013, a not-for-profit public charity purchased Ukiah Ambulance, and it became Medstar.

Then Sonoma-based Verihealth Ambulance started operations.

Then Verihealth was bought by multinational ambulance corporation, Falck.

"When Falck/Verihealth came in here, they came in with a ton of ambulances, and basically forced Medstar out of Willits," said Fire Chief Chris Wilkes. "They came with all these resources and flooded the county.

"Everything was happy-go-lucky. We had ambulances everywhere, and it was really nice," he said. "Then they said 'oops, we're not making any money,' so they started pulling back, pulling back, pulling back.

"The resources are gone that used to be here," Wilkes continued. "Things started looking uglier and uglier and uglier.

"We had to put a [systems status management] plan in place for how ambulance service was going to be provided, because Falck kept pulling their ambulance staffing back to a level that was unacceptable."

Then, about three weeks ago, Falck pulled out entirely.

So what we have now...

"There's a lot to it. It's complicated, and it's scary all at the same time," said Wilkes

"Right now, as of December 1, there's one third-party ambulance company providing ambulance service in the central corridor, and that's Medstar," he said.

They are "running four ambulances now, and working their tails off to make it work ... doing their best," he said. "But it's hard to buy ambulances and find paramedics."

Those four ambulances perform two important functions – 911 calls and interfacility transfers.

We all know 911.

The other function, interfacility transfers, involves moving patients from hospital to hospital for a variety of reasons, most of them not life-threatening. And the hospitals are often a long ways away from each other.

"On a normal day," said Wilkes, Medstar's four ambulances are posted as follows; one in Willits, one in Redwood Valley, and two in Ukiah.

And how many of them at any given time are not in use dictates what the current "drawdown level" is.

If all four are available, "we're at level four," he said. "Take one out of picture, level three. Take two out, level two."

Level two is a "big trigger point. When you get down to level two, you can't take transfers anymore ... unless it's a stat (emergency) transfer ... [which means it] has to happen immediately.

"When you get to level one – only one ambulance available – they'll take that one ambulance, [wherever it is], and move it to Redwood Valley, and it covers Hopland to Willits."

Then there's level zero ... which "happens every single day at some point," said Wilkes.

At level zero, the Ukiah Valley Fire District and the Laytonville Fire Department ambulance join the scenario.

Ukiah Fire has two engine companies with paramedic staff and an unstaffed ambulance. At level zero "they'll take one of their engine companies and put it on this ambulance to start running calls in Ukiah," said Wilkes.

"For us [in Willits], when at level zero ... Laytonville moves their ambulance down to Longvale."

Which is no small sacrifice. Unlike most of the county, Laytonville taxpayers fund their own ambulance service.

"They don't complain. They love to help. Sue [Carberry, Laytonville fire chief] is a wonderful chief. They want to be part of the solution," said Wilkes. "But ... their public is paying for their ambulance to be located in Laytonville. And because we can't get it together down here, they're now moving their ambulance to Longvale to support other communities.

"They can't deny [providing the service], and they're not trying to deny it," he said. "But it's not good for them to be a part of [the system] because they're not providing directly to the people who are paying the bills.

Taxpayers in Laytonville fund and love their ambulance.... They only have one, and to pull it out of the tax base ... it's a hard thing to do," he said.

By way of illustration, and in some detail, Wilkes described two recent ambulance drawdown scenarios ... to illustrate the importance of the need to deal with the problem now, and why, in his opinion, the use of ambulances for transfers "dictates 911."

"I want to explain a couple of situations that happened recently so you understand how delicate our system is," he began.

Situation one.

The Redwood Valley ambulance and one Ukiah ambulance are transferring patients from hospital to hospital.

So there's two ambulances left, and, remember, when there's only two, transfers are not allowed.

But there's a transfer needed and waiting.

One of the two ambulances doing transfers gets back and hits the county line, so now there are three ambulances available, and the waiting transfer takes off.

Then there's a 911 call.

So two ambulances are transferring and one is on a 911 call.

That means it's level one, and so the remaining ambulance is moved to Redwood Valley from wherever it is.

And that ambulance is now "serving 60,000 people," said Wilkes.

Situation two.

It's already at level one, and so the only available ambulance has gone to Redwood Valley.

Willits gets a call and the Redwood Valley ambulance, which is "45 to 20 minutes away," heads north.

Now it's level zero.

Willits gets another call, so Laytonville's ambulance has to join the mix.

Meanwhile, Ukiah Fire, the other backup for level zero, is on a call in Ukiah.

"So technically," said Wilkes, "we're at level negative two that day. At that point there was nothing left."

Wondering how it got to level one in the first place, he called [dispatch and said] "what the heck happened?"

Turns out, transfers took two of the four available ambulances and then an emergency transfer took the third.

"Ambulance companies are quick to say that transfers are not a problem in the county. It's the 911s that end up" bringing the drawdown level down, said Wilkes. "I'm saying different.

"It's a 911 system that's working with four ambulances that's been completely dictated by out-of-county transfers."

Moving on to solutions, Wilkes was quick to point out that he was "not tying to beat up on transfers.

"The point is, the hospitals have a need. They have to move patients ... open up beds for 911s to come in," he said.

But, "in the field we have to have 911 ambulance. We have to get people from no care to definitive care. That's our job, and that's our goal."

To find a solution, Wilkes said: "We have to come to an agreement. We have to recognize the problem. We all have a common goal.... We all have to work together ... the hospitals and the fire folks and the EMS providers ... to find a common ground to make this work for everybody. I think that we're moving in that direction, but it's a long road to get there.

"The reality is, there's no money, and there's no way to fund and subsidize ambulance service," Wilkes said. "I'm not a huge fan of big government, but I think our ambulance service should be taxpayer-based."

"I don't know that we've been this critical in the past," he continued. "The responsibility is falling on the county now, and they're being pushed into a corner."

When he tries to communicate with the county about the issue, though, "we hear nothing out of the CEO's office," he said.

"Zero. They say nothing to us. They don't give us information. They don't respond to emails. They don't try anything out. I don't know where they stand. I wish I could tell you. I have no idea."

Something that is under discussion at the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, however, is a half-cent sales tax to fund ambulance services.

On this, Wilkes is not necessarily in favor.

"I'm not in support of just throwing money at this problem that doesn't fix it without a plan," he said. "We need a real solid true plan."

The "hypothetical" plan that he would support?

"In my opinion, interfacility transfers should be a contracted service with hospitals, and 911 ambulance should be subsidized with money from the county," he said. "That's the kind of plan I could stand behind."

And how that might come to be?

"The fire chiefs ... we've been swinging ... we've been fighting as hard as we can for a long time," said Wilkes.

"But the power is in the people. It comes from the folks in the public to come to the city council meetings, to read the articles that are put out, to go down to the supervisors meetings and pressure the CEO's office and make something happen at the county," he said.

Apopos of that, Wilkes then briefly addressed a recent local ambulance availability failure that has been in the news and heightened local awareness with respect to the sorry state of ambulance service.

"It wasn't our call, and I don't want to get involved with what happened because I don't know," he said. "But if there's anything good to come out of that situation ... the folks that it happened to ... all they want is for that to not happen to somebody else.

"If they could do anything, almost in honor of Paul's mother, it would be to fix it so it didn't happen to anybody else," he said. "I think they're going to put their foot on the gas until something happens. I don't think they're going to let it go."

And that is what your fire chief would like you to do, too.

In other news, Wilkes announced that a "full set of plans with a new application" for the new firehouse had finally been filed with the city, which means "early February ... we'll get our request for proposals out there."

He also informed the board that the district's "nexus study," which will provide the information needed to determine development fees, was "well under way," but that some development was "coming quicker than the study, [and] could affect the fire department pretty drastically."

In that case, he said, a "number" will be set as a condition with respect to the project nonetheless.

Annual state-mandated fire inspections of schools, hotels, motels, and apartment complexes, he reported, were ongoing, with schools, which "take hours," to be finished first.

"We're working on it ... doing our best," he said.

And tribute was made to 21-year volunteer, Danny Mendoza, whose career with the post office is moving him to Texas.

"It pains me," said Wilkes, who read Mendoza's letter of resignation to the board, a letter that made clear it pained Mendoza as well.

"He was a good firefighter, good captain," said Wilkes. "It's hard to replace 20-year guys.... The range now is about eight years."

Finally, the tale of the harrowing extrication with a happy ending.

It was snowing.

On Highway 162, "just past the bridge, [a vehicle] hit a tree with the top of the cab and was over the bank."

The driver was "in the driver's seat under the dash in the snow," said Wilkes. "The [district's new hydraulic] tools were awesome ... cut the vehicle off the gentleman."

"You train," said Little Lake training chief Eric Alvarez. "You just start cutting ... don't know where the patient's at ... don't know what the car's going to do."

"Eric did a wonderful job," said Wilkes. Chief Wilkes fired up and showed off at December's board meeting the department's "like-new custom-built mobile 60 kW power substation."

The substation was bought at a great price from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and Willits Power and Hardware owner Mike Garrity, who "could have sold it for a lot more ... picked it up on his own," said a very appreciative Chief Wilkes.

The motion that finally passed on a 4-1 vote was authored by Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams. It directs the code enforcement division of the county Department of Planning and Building Services to investigate a complaint that was recently lodged against timber company Mendocino Redwood Company, to document whether or not that complaint is valid, and to return to the board of supervisors within 30 days with recommendations on how Measure V, as it applies specifically to that complaint, might be enforced.

In addition, the motion declares that Ted Williams and Third District Supervisors John Haschak are to be appointed to a Measure V Ad Hoc Committee, which is charged with the task of exploring and evaluating how Measure V might be enforced.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen cast the lone dissenting vote on Williams' motion.

Williams made his motion after previous motions by McCowen and by Haschak had failed to get a second. McCowen had moved that Haschak and Williams be appointed to an ad hoc which would review alternatives on enforcing Measure V, and make recommendations to the full board. Haschak had moved that the issue be sent to the General Government Committee for similar consideration.

Measure V has been controversial for numerous reasons. Several laws in the California code and in the state's Forest Practices Act state quite plainly that forest practices are exempt from being declared a public nuisance. However, other sections in the state's code provide that conditions in which the hazard of fire is elevated are a public nuisance.

In February 2017, former Mendocino County Counsel Katharine Elliott sent a letter to the California Attorney General requesting an opinion on whether the practice of a private timber company leaving dead, standing trees on its property constitutes a public nuisance.

For two years, the office of Attorney General Xavier Becerra did not respond to that request. The board of supervisors told the public repeatedly that the county would not enforce Measure V until it knew that it could legally enforce it.

In the early months of 2019, newly elected supervisors John Haschak and Ted Williams were in Sacramento on a supervisors' training exercise, and, while there, spoke with Becerra. They asked about the county's 2017 request for an opinion about Measure V, and were told that an opinion would be forthcoming. By this time, public pressure was mounting that Measure V be enforced.

In mid-year, counsel Elliott again contacted the office of the attorney general to tell the office that pressure was still mounting, and that both the public and the supervisors were eager for an opinion. Elliott told the supervisors the office would render its opinion within 30 days.

Finally, on August 8, 2019, Senior Assistant Attorney General Susan Duncan Lee wrote Elliott to tell her the office had determined it was a conflict of interest on the issue and therefore would not be able to render an opinion on the matter of Measure V.

On Tuesday, eight people addressed the supervisors, urging them to act on enforcing Measure V. One of them was Naomi Wagner, who, like Cynthia Raiser Jeavons on the Harris Quarry issue which was addressed earlier in the day, had brought a short video to the meeting, with a request that the video be played for the supervisors and for the public.

As she had done with Jeavons, board Chair Carre Brown denied Wagner's request, telling her: "No, it's just not the practice that we have. If you had submitted it to the clerk, we maybe could have watched it as part of the studying that we normally do. But no, we won't allow that."

Wagner then continued with her verbal comments. "Basically, what you're going to see is what it really looks like out there," she said. "You see the forest fires that we've been enduring over the last five years, and you see the tiny, tiny belts of conifers that are left and the huge roads, and you the dead standing trees, these unbelievable swaths of them."

"You need to be able to see this to actually appreciate the extent of what is being done to this county," Wagner continued. "It's not only Mendocino Redwood Company but it's mainly them. And by their own statistics they show that they've now poisoned trees over 110,000 of their 220,000 acres. It is drastic. It is an emergency. We need to address this, and I hope you will take it seriously, and more seriously than you already have, because it really is up to you now," she said.

John Andersen, who is vice president for Forest Practices for MRC, also addressed the board. Andersen made reference to the "2016 letter to the board." This was a letter written in July 2016, just a few days after the results of the June 2016 vote in support of Measure V were certified, in which the company told the county why it believes that forest practices as practiced by the company are exempt from being declared to be a public nuisance.

"We do stand by our 2016 letter to the county," Andersen said. "However, we are open to working with the county, working on a working group.... We have a bit of a concern, if we move toward enforcement, that it kind of leads us maybe down the road towards litigation, and will keep us from being openly involved in a working group, if we get legal advice that tells us not to do that, so we'd like to avoid that."

"There are some good ideas that are out there on other forests and restoration projects that have material that is sub-commercial. RCRS is working on a project in the Sierras. So, bringing together all these ideas to come up with a possible solution I think would be a better route to go. We'd be happy to work on that," Andersen said.

permit at 200,000 cubic yards a year. The most recent uncontested use permit, which was approved in 1997, was for 75,000 cubic yards a year, although the 2007 EIR called for 250,000 cubic yards per year and the 2012 EIR called for 150,000 cubic yards per year.

The existing quarry will be allowed to expand to the north and to the west for an additional area of 18 acres, bringing the total area of the quarry to 30 acres.

An asphalt plant was approved for a location on Black Bart Drive, about 2,000 feet west of the junction of that road with Highway 101. The asphalt plant was permitted to produce 58,280 cubic yards, or about 150,000 tons, of asphalt per year, and to engage in night-time operations up to a maximum of 100 nights a year.

The vote could signify an end to a protracted public process going back 15 years, to 2004, when Northern Aggregates, Inc. first requested a use permit for an asphalt plant on property which it then owned on North State Street, north of Ukiah. During that legal process there have been four EIRs and four lawsuits.

Two of the lawsuits had to do with a 2014 decision by the board of supervisors to grant vested rights to Northern Aggregates, in response to its claim that commercial mining operations had been ongoing at the site from before 1976, which was the year that the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act became law in California.

One of those lawsuits was tried in Mendocino County Superior Court, and one was tried in the First District Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

The second lawsuit was focused on the 2012 EIR. In that suit, the local citizens group Keep the Code claimed that the EIR was defective and inadequate on 22 points. The Superior Court of Mendocino County found the EIR to be adequate on 20 of those 22 points. However, the court also found that the board of supervisors had failed to adequately substantiate the reasons why it dismissed the EIR's project alternatives 4 and 5 as infeasible.

Alternative 4 is identical to the proposed project, except that the asphalt plant would be issued a temporary use permit for a period of five years. Alternative 5 is mostly similar to the proposed project, except that nocturnal work at the asphalt plant would only be allowed for 20 nights a year, instead of the proposed 100 nights. In addition, under Alternative 5, the applicant would be required to pay for a partial highway interchange at Ridgewood Summit.

The new EIR contained appendixes which included financial analyses of alternatives 4 and 5. The financial analysis of Alternative 4 was done by EnviroMINE, which examined the financial aspects that would accrue to Northern Aggregates if it used a temporary asphalt plant to supply asphalt for Phase 2 of the Willits bypass.

The study concluded that Northern Aggregates could supply all the asphalt for Phase 2 of the project within three years, and could then sell the plant, but that the company would lose between \$2.4 and \$3 million.

A second study, called the Hatch Report, commissioned by the county to peer review the EnviroMINE study, found that the temporary plant would still be a loser on a longer, hypothetical project lasting five years. For that five-year project, the company would lose between \$1.6 and \$2.8 million. So both the EnviroMINE study and the Hatch Report found that Alternative 4 is economically infeasible.

The EnviroMINE group and the Hatch group also looked at Alternative 5. They found that the cost of building a partial interchange at the Ridgewood summit location would cost \$37.1 million, and they calculated that the Northern Aggregates share of that cost would be \$28.6 million and would have a negative net present value of \$23.4 million.

In addition, the EnviroMINE study suggested that the County of Mendocino would likely have to pay the remaining \$8.5 million of that \$37.1 million price tag, since there wouldn't be anyone else around in that area that would have a reason to build an interchange, with, apparently, an overpass. Both EnviroMINE and the Hatch Report concluded that Alternative 5 would be economically infeasible.

During the Monday supes' meeting on the issue, the room was filled to capacity with people. Opinions on both



Above: The roots of the oak tree that fell in Rec Grove Saturday morning. Below: Troop 42 Scoutmaster Kenneth Pederson talks about hearing the tree fall from inside the Scout Hut.



sides were evenly matched, with 18 people speaking in support of the project and 18 people speaking in opposition to it.

Those who were opposed to granting the new use permit and certifying the 2019 EIR were perhaps hurt by board Chair Carre Brown's decision not to allow them to show a video which, they claimed, documented that fires can get started in asphalt plants.

Those who were in support of the Harris Quarry expansion were probably helped by a talk by Little Lake Fire Chief Chris Wilkes, who said that, historically, Northern Aggregates has not been a cause of fires in the Ridgewood Summit area.

"We go to fires in the Ridgewood Ranch area," Wilkes said. "However, in the history of me being on the fire department, 23 years, I've never been to a fire caused by Northern Aggregates. Our fire risk in that area is due to vehicles on the highway, unpermitted construction in the Black Bart subdivision, rubbish accumulation that doesn't get taken care of and abated in the Ridgewood Ranch subdivision, improper generator use, as we saw in the recent public safety power shutdown...."

"When Northern Aggregates took the time, and their own money, to make the highway expansion bigger, to do acceleration and deceleration lanes, we went to zero vehicle accidents, between Black Bart Drive and the quarry entrance. Zero," Wilkes said.

"In the early part of my career, before this was done, we had major vehicle accidents in there – fatalities. Our volunteer firefighters were literally going to extricate people out of vehicles. There's been zero since they put that in there. I actually consider Northern Aggregates a partner in public safety for that reason," Wilkes said.

The work that Northern Aggregates did on the highway up there on the summit helped to sway the opinion of Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde. Gjerde pointed to the work that Northern Aggregates did up there, which cost the company a reported \$1 million, as one of the key reasons why Gjerde trusted them.

"Some of the comments that I heard from the public had to do with the improvements made to Highway 101," Gjerde said. "I didn't infer that this project should be approved because of the improvements to the public right of way, but I know, as someone who sees lots of permits, I was a little surprised to see the applicant actually make such a significant improvement to Highway 101 when it when it wasn't a condition of the project. I can't say that I've seen an applicant make that significant an improvement to a public space when it wasn't a condition."

"So, that goes to the point of the credibility of the applicant, and there's 71 conditions here, as to whether or not they will fulfill them. So I think that speaks to that issue, more than anything else," Gjerde said.

First District Supervisor Carre Brown explained why she would be casting a yes vote. "I think this is something that we need," Brown said. "It's economy, it's jobs, it's good roads. And having a local source is something we've been missing, and need."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak explained why he voted against the Harris Quarry expansion package. "I think that good points were made on both sides today," he said. "I think we do need the asphalt, we do need the job creation. But at the same time, we do have these communities that are right near that area."

"We have unprecedented fire danger in our communities that we have to deal with, and we're trying to deal with," Haschak continued, "and people are certainly scared of any kind of fire danger, and, in this situation, certainly an asphalt plant being put at the bottleneck for any kind of escape route that they'd have, for these thousand people that live in that area...."

"And I also feel for the community down at Ridgewood Ranch, which is I think one of the treasures of our county. And just to have three times as much quarry dust, and then asphalt pollution going down into that valley, just seems really tragic. And also the plan they have for senior housing, up at the top of Ridgewood, at the White Deer Ranch, I just ... you know, no one wants something like this in their backyard. But in this situation, there are large communities that have to deal with this. And that's where I'm coming from," Haschak said.

rounds picking up old Christmas trees. Damage to the renovated Scout Hut could have been worse, too. City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra said the city hopes to do in-house the estimated \$30,000 to \$35,000 in repairs needed from the fallen tree.

The top of the tree reached a shipping container on the other side of the park fence where the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds and supporting buildings are located.

Another tree fall in 2017 damaged bleachers and a building on the Frontier Days grounds.

Most trees inhabiting the cluster of trees there do grow in the park boundary at the corner of South Lenore Avenue and Commercial.

Some trees extend into the area near Mendocino County Sheriff's Office substation near the county offices and into the rodeo grounds side of the fence.

Cleanup began Monday morning when a city backhoe was on scene as a worker atop a shipping container on the rodeo grounds side of the park fence tossed back pieces of debris.

A dump truck hauled away larger pieces of the remains and logs that the city hopes to recover some usable lumber from.

"What we are hoping to do is get planks out of it," said Garrabrant-Sierra.

The tall oak trees that populate the park are an iconic feature of the town. A Fourth of July barbecue plays out there each year with locals and visitors sprawled out on green grass shaded by the mighty oaks.

Cars roll into the grove each spring, and park among the tree trunks for Willits' annual Community Car Show. A stage with a roof over it supports concerts in the park and other ventures into live music over the decades.

five-year contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services, while also directing him to meet with "non-lethal stakeholders" in order to assess how the public might best be informed on how to access their services, was 3-2, with Haschak and Williams joining, once again, in a no vote.

Williams told the supervisors he was voting no because he felt that, in adopting the "Variation on the Non-Lethal Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Plan," the county would be spending a considerable amount of money every year in order to benefit one industry, which would be the ranching industry.

Williams has previously advocated spending large sums from the county's general fund in order to benefit the cannabis industry.

Before casting his vote against adopting the management plan, Haschak urged the board to pursue a path which would more fundamentally diversify the options likely to be selected by the employees of Wildlife Services.

"I'm not going to support this, because I think we have an opportunity here to work with these other groups in a more, real concrete way, and not just to jump into this contract with Wildlife Services," Haschak said.

"I'd like to go back to forming an ad hoc committee to really work with all these stakeholders to try to find a path forward, without just jumping into the five-year commitment," Haschak said.

The county has employed the services of trappers in Mendocino County since 1919. The county has had contracts with USDA's Wildlife Services for the same type of work since 1989.

In early 2015, the supervisors began to hear from various animal rights groups, who claimed that the county's trapper program was both ineffective and cruel. On June 16, 2015, the board of supervisors adopted a resolution seeking a one-year contract with Wildlife Services. On the same day, the board of supervisors approved a resolution declaring that its contract with Wildlife Services was exempt from CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act.

A few months later, the Animal Legal Defense Fund and affiliated groups sued the county on its non-CEQA determination. On May 17, 2016, the county rescinded its 2015 wildlife-related decisions and suspended the wildlife damage management program. According to the recently prepared EIR, "Since April 2016 the USDA's Wildlife Services has continued to implement the IWDM Program wholly independently from and without any oversight, direction or funding from the county."

According to the EIR, the Wildlife Services approach to Integrated Wildlife Damage Management includes the use of non-lethal techniques including, "frightening devices" such as propane exploders, and canons, pyrotechnics, distress or predator calls, foxlights, shepherd collars, critter glitters, chemical repellent methods such as tactile repellents and olfactory repellents, guard animals, numerous types of fencing such as barricades, barrier fencing, electrical fencing, fladry (a series of cloth or plastic flags attached to a rope or wire), electric fladry, modification of human behavior, traps, including cage or box traps, decoy traps, foothold traps, corral traps, snares, nets, tracking dogs, decoy dogs, and injectable immobilization drugs such as Telazol, Xylazine and Yohimbine.

"So I would say that work needs to be continued to be done with Fish and Wildlife as they continue their analysis on some of the study numbers throughout the state, specifically related to the depredation of cougars," she said. "That being said, we do support the use of non-lethal and lethal. But as you've heard previous speakers before you, there is a need for using lethal if necessary," Jones said.

The arsenal also includes lethal methods, such as stronger traps, euthanasia methods, including carbon

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Keith Michalak and Jes Pearce picking flowers at Buttercup Compost Lab on the School of Adaptive Agriculture campus.

Photo by Renata Abbade

School of Adaptive Agriculture announces 2020 Practicum Program

The School of Adaptive Agriculture is now accepting applications for its 2020 Practicum Program.

Designed for those who want to learn about farming from the ground up, the program is a 12-week residential immersion in farming, ranching and food production, which runs from April 20 to July 3, 2020.

Prospective students may be thinking about starting their own farm or ranch, interested in connecting a food business more closely to local farms, or serious about finding a career in support of sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

Students spend three days a week working on local farms and ranches dedicated to educating new farmers, have a day of classes covering all aspects of sustainable agriculture, and devote one day to visiting a varied array of local farms and ranches. In-depth analysis of these experiences and training in communications and leadership skills are integral parts of the curriculum.

Located at the beautiful Ridgewood Ranch outside of Willits, the School of Adaptive Agriculture hosts two start-up farms and an experimental mini-farm devoted to testing and developing best-practice composting methods.

The school's curriculum covers the essentials of small-scale vegetable and livestock production, and grain growing and processing. Classes also introduce students to the history and economics of agriculture, approaches to sustainable agriculture, planning for profitable production, and the skills and industrial arts necessary to run a small-scale farm or ranch.

Instructors are drawn from a select group of local farmers, ranchers and specialists. Following the program, students have the option of applying for an internship at a local farm.

For more information about SAA's programs and workshops, visit www.adaptiveagriculture.org

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Willits Weekly's Holiday Break

This December 19 edition you're reading is our final publication of 2019, and we'll be taking the weeks of December 26, 2019 and January 2, 2020 off for our annual Holiday Break. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year to all!

The rest of Council | From Page 4

He explained that, as with previous rate increases, factors included rising fuel costs and the amount the company was paid for recyclable material.

"Without the \$1.50 increase, Councilmember Strong knows that MSWMA would probably go away," said Ward. "And it is an important function of the county right now for the recycling opportunities as well as the hazardous waste collection program."

"We have a good reputation with the brokers we deal with," he continued, "but unfortunately the composite market value went from \$98/ton down to \$89, and we believe it's still going down."

He added that if Solid Waste started allowing the scrapping of certain types of plastic and paper they could actually save money, but he didn't want to see it come to that.

"That's not the intent of this program," he said.

He noted that because of market troubles, around 900 buyback recycling centers had closed in California in the last 18 months. The one operating in Willits at SWOW's Blosser Lane facility is now one of only three in Mendocino County.

He felt that the state's CalRecycle should be doing more to help the situation, since so many people are paying CRV fees at stores and unable to get that money back as they should.

"Of course CalRecycle is sitting on their hands not doing anything about it," he said. "It's very unfortunate. The state has got over a billion dollars in their fund, and I don't know what they're using it for. I just can't wait to see a class action lawsuit against the state for something like that right now, and I keep saying that, but nothing comes of it."

"It's a real mess in the recycling field within the state of California, and hopefully something will change," he added. "I don't see any countries bailing us out in the short term."

The rest of Crafts | From Page 5

different stages.

Although the large pieces were pricy, they indeed sold. "I'm setting up the show schedule for next year and am hoping to be back at this fair again," Salah said.

On stage local musicians provided a wide range of musical styles for shoppers. Everything from Emandal Choir's list of favorites, some holiday folk-style music to trance was heard throughout the two days.

Once again, yummy food was provided by the Willits Charter School. Among their usual menu of lasagna, salad, chili and quiche, they added a baked potato bar and sandwiches. There was also an out-of-this-world, gluten-free chocolate cake amongst the gastronomic offerings.

The festive holiday event brought out hundreds of shoppers. Often the isles were filled with folks talking with one another and the artists and making purchases. The vendors Willits Weekly talked with had a wonderful time, made good sales, and were happy to be at the fair. "It's been one of our two top fairs for the year," said Wright. "We'll definitely apply next year, too."

The rest of Veterans | From Page 3

creating cold, much of the talk tended toward thankfulness that it was not raining like it was last year. A thick fog blanketed the Willits Cemetery, occasionally allowing the sun to peek through and warm up the area in spots.

At 9 am, American Legion Post 174 Adjutant Ham, called for the colors, which were presented by Tom Moore and John Frankum of the Legion. After the flags had been presented and set in place, two young members of the Willits FFA, Samantha Arms and Callie Brown, offered short eloquent talks on the importance of remembering those who gave everything to protect our freedoms and what their sacrifice meant to those who currently enjoy those freedoms.

A memorial prayer was spoken by Pastor Gerry Burney, after which Necole Aguilar sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" masterfully as the attendees respectfully placed their hands over their hearts. Seven-year-old Brian Spackman recited the Pledge of Allegiance perfectly.

Next, the memorial symbolic wreath-laying took place at seven easels, for the various branches of the military service, with a veteran and a young assistant: Tom Massoth, along with Catie Spackman (Willits 4H), laid a wreath in memory of all who served in the U.S. Army.

Dan Pinon with Madison Maciel (Willits 4H) laid a wreath for the U.S. Marine Corps. Robert Green with Danielle Barry (Willits FFA) honored the U.S. Navy. The U.S. Air Force was honored by Doug Case and Elena Arkelian (Willits 4-H). The U.S. Coast Guard was gifted a wreath by Walter Oberkirch and Taylor Drew (Willits FFA). Curtis DeShiell with Brian Spackman (Willits 4H) laid a wreath for the U.S. Army. And finally, Fred Branson and Kaleb Whitehurst (Willits 4H) so honored the U.S. Army.

After the ceremonial wreath-laying was over, the participants and families were given wreaths at various locations around the cemetery in order to gift the graves with them and to utter their thanks to the deceased veterans. It was both solemn and joyful as each discovered the graves of strangers and family members.

There were over 500 wreaths to be distributed in three graveyards: the Willits Cemetery on Highway 20, the Sherwood Cemetery by the Sherwood School, and the Little Lake Cemetery on East Hill Road. Wreaths were additionally placed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Mendocino County Museum and at the Jesse D. Pittman S01 Navy SEAL Memorial Bridge on the Willits bypass.

Wreaths Across America had its beginnings in 1992, when Morrill Worchester, owner of a wreath company in Maine, found himself with a surplus of wreaths around the Christmas season. Remembering an experience he had as a young boy visiting Arlington National Cemetery, he proposed to honor the country's war dead at that military graveyard.

Many citizens and a few senators stepped up to help so that the war dead would not be forgotten and would be honored and respected. Since then, the annual laying of the wreaths, in the first or second Saturday of December, has grown to the point where, in 2014, over 700,000 wreaths were gifted to the graves and the phrase "Thank you for your service" could be heard the same amount of times.

Wreaths Across America is supported by donations which can be accepted all year-round. For more information: www.wreathscrossamerica.org or at the Willits Wreaths Across America Facebook page. For a printed sponsorship form or even more information, contact Natalie Spackman at natalie@norcalredmix.com, 707-841-7214.

The rest of Allman | From Page 1

January 2, 2023, unless he chooses to run for sheriff, and is elected in the 2022 election.

Allman made a short speech to the supervisors prior to the vote, telling them he thought they could be proud of where Mendocino County is today. He told the supervisors his decision to retire was "months if not years in the making" and added that he thought Kendall would be "as good if not a better sheriff than I was."

Allman also had praise for county CEO Carmel Angelo, who, he said, had as much respect for Allman as he had for her. "You are getting your money's worth with Ms. Angelo, I can tell you that," Allman said.

Allman began working for the county as a sheriff's deputy in August 1985. He was first elected sheriff in November 2006 in a hard-fought campaign against former Sheriff's Department Captain Kevin Broin. Subsequently, he ran unopposed in 2010, 2014 and in 2018. He was sheriff here for 13 years.

He was known for being a highly public sheriff, frequently appearing at community events all over the county. He showed up regularly at board of supervisors meetings and excelled at fighting for his department. He won the trust of a large part of the county's populace by his fair administration of the 9.31 marijuana program.

Two cases upon which Allman spent the most money and invested the most departmental man-hours in, were the month-long pursuit of Fort Bragg killer Aaron Bassler in 2011 and the long investigation into the circumstances of the mass suicide-murder of the Hart family in 2018.



Tom Allman and wife Laura.

Allman was a leader in the effort to develop and enhance mental health facilities in Mendocino County, largely as a way to get his deputies out of the county's emergency rooms and back out on the streets where, Allman said, they belonged.

In 2016, he championed measures AG and AH, which would have imposed a half-cent sales tax for five years in order to build a "one-stop shop" mental health facility in this county. Those two measures lost by just a few votes: in the case of Measure AG, by 141 votes or 0.44 percent of the total vote.

A year later he championed Measure B, which offered a more sophisticated approach to a sales tax and which voters supported with a yes vote of 83.53 percent.

Allman was also instrumental in securing a \$25 million grant from the State of California to build a new wing at the county jail. The wing, which will hold inmates with mental health issues as well as violent criminals, is due to open in early 2023.

In accepting Allman's resignation, the supervisors praised various aspects of his career. Second District Supervisor John McCowen, who recently announced that he will not be seeking re-election in 2020, reminded folks of the time in 2009 when Allman

reached into a burning car to pull a woman out. "You are a true hero," McCowen said.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde referenced Allman's penchant for personally appearing seemingly everywhere, all over the county, when he said, "There's so many people on the coast who feel connected to the county because of your connection to them, and I really appreciate that."

Volunteer Ombudsman Sought

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of others in Lake or Mendocino Counties? Do you have a passion for helping, a caring spirit, and a willingness to learn? If you answered "yes" to these questions, then being a volunteer Ombudsman is a great way for you to give back to your community!

About the Volunteer Position

The Long Term Care Ombudsman program is a government-funded advocacy agency for nursing home and assisted-living residents. Volunteers have permission to enter any nursing home, assisted-living or other long-term-care facility at any time, unannounced. This is the time to stand up for those who do not have a voice. Hours are flexible, free training is provided so that you will have all of the necessary tools to advocate for those who are already vulnerable in the community, and mileage is reimbursed as well.

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Volunteering to improve the quality of life of others is rewarding in so many ways. Having the opportunity to witness a face brighten when someone sees your familiar face or anticipates you walking by their door so they can share their recent family visit is truly heart-warming. Not only are you advocating for and helping those who are some of the most vulnerable, you are building life-long skills in communication, listening, and problem solving. We learn through others and their life experiences and can apply those new-learned abilities to many areas of our personal and professional lives. Volunteering teaches you skills that are applicable in all areas of life.

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Above: Bartender KK Estes and Northspur co-owner Sarah Foley work behind the bar. At right, top: Train Singer Greg Schindel plays his form of manic train music with son Malakai accompanying on flute. At right: A slider assortment plate from Zocalo Collective is available for \$10. Above, right: Greg and Malakai Schindel delight the crowd with their brand of musical lunacy.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Munchies and Music

Greg and Malakai Schindel star at Northspur Brewing along with the catered dishes and the beer

Greg Schindel, the Train Singer, singing Ozzie Osborn's "Crazy Train" accompanied by Malakai Schindel, the Singing Conductor, is a near-perfect moment describing the inspired lunacy that was Northspur Brewing Co.'s first, of its soon-to-be weekly "Munchies and Music" events. Even the rains could not dampen the pure joy and manic beer-fueled enjoyment of the pre-Christmas happening at Willits' new brewpub at Main and State streets.

Jerry Albright, visiting Northspur with his wife, June Ruckman, and friends, Steve and Lana Eberhard, has been coming to the brewpub since it opened in the fall. "This is magic here," he says. "Look what they've done. They've transformed an old garage that had become a chocolate factory, into a brewpub. Willits has another hangout. It's community. It's wonderful.

"There's nothing like this place," continued

Albright, "in the 11 years we've been here. This is the perfect complement to Shanachie Pub." Indeed, now there is a place to go for almost every taste, giving the town's residents a choice of atmosphere, beers, and soon-to-come food.

The "Munchies" part of the evening was provided by Willits' own Zocalo Collective Catering, under the direction of Jaynene Johnson. This evening she was assisted by Luna Hart and Kristy Lee who served up the sliders and vegan platters.

"Tonight we're offering an assortment of sliders," said Johnson. "Caribbean pork with arugula and creamy tamari sauce; a 'BL Brie,' which is bacon, arugula and brie; and a mushroom slider with caramelized onions, a vegan selection."

The vegan platters consisted of kale and herb pesto, almond hummus, seaweed crackers, celery,

Read the rest of **Munchies** | Over on Page B5



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On Ground meetings 2/8, 3/7, 4/4, and 5/2 from 12:30-3:20PM in room 8020

CSC-201 COMPUTERS AND COMPUTER APPLICATIONS.

Late Start 2/8/20 – 5/22/19

On Ground meetings 2/22, 3/21, 4/18, and 5/16 from 9AM-11:50AM in room 8010

CDV-202 MULTI-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE with Martha Myklebust.

Late Start 2/8/20 – 5/22/19

On Ground meetings 2/22, 3/21, 4/18, and 5/16 from 12:30-3:20PM in room 8020

Hybrid classes are mostly online, with occasional "on ground" - classroom meetings. Be a full time student on just your weekends!

Online with limited weekend meetings for full-time success!

www.mendocino.edu/enroll



Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

CREATIVITY WORD SEARCH

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

ARTISTIC	COLLABORATE	INDUSTRY	PORTFOLIO
BRAINSTORM	DESIGN	INFLUENTIAL	PROTOTYPES
BREAKTHROUGH	EMERGING	INNOVATION	SOFTWARE
BUSINESS	EXPERIMENT	INVENTION	SUPPLIES
CANVAS	FRAMEWORK	MARKET	TECHNOLOGY
CHALLENGING	IDEAS	MODEL	THEORY

	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

CLUES ACROSS

- Hair care product
- Looped
- It's present in all living cells
- Choose
- South Dakota
- Cash machine
- Of the pia mater
- Ancient Egyptian documents
- Layers at the back of the eyeballs
- Not perceived
- Look over
- Improve a tire
- Time zone
- Main branch of Islam
- Bark of the mulberry tree
- Sea eagles
- Records heart muscle activity (abbr.)
- Famed Hollywood producer
- Yuck!
- Reject outright and bluntly

CLUES DOWN

- More cloudy
- Main course
- Protect with plastic
- Equally
- Rebukes
- Friend to a salesman
- Warm up
- Overshadow
- Interior lineman in football
- San Antonio hoopster
- Comedian Cook
- Time zone
- First PM of India
- Performing perfectly
- A way to hide
- Former NBA commissioner
- Peter's last name
- It flows NW to the Seine
- Be obliged to repay
- Southeast
- Slip in
- Leisure time activity
- Breastbones
- Sun up in New York
- Indigenous person of N. Africa
- Confessed openly
- A way to separate with an instrument
- Influential journalist Tarbell
- Manning and Roth are two horses in India
- Something to believe in
- Form of 'to be'
- Atomic #73

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

December 9 to December 15

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **123 incidents** in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

December 9

8:04 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

1:27 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1100 block of Locust Street.

2:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of South Main Street.

December 10

1:57 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of School Street.

9:55 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and East San Francisco Avenue.

1:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:15 pm: HOPLOCK, Melissa Jean (28) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol) and assault on a peace officer.

December 11

9:57 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Northbrook Way.

12:16 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:41 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and Railroad Avenue.

5:17 pm: THOMAS, Kellan Michael (36) of Chico was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (A) VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol), 23152 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08% or Higher), 14601.2 (A) VC (Driving with a Suspended License from DUI), and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

December 12

7:54 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Alice Drive and issued a warning.

8:59 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of West Commercial Street and North Street.

12:56 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

8:16 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1200 block of Magnolia Avenue.

8:21 pm: SOLLID, Richard Henry (30) of Willits was contacted in the 600 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery).

10:37 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of West Valley Street.

December 13

12:40 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of Mill Street.

4:20 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

December 14

12:25 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of East Valley Street.

12:51 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

6:45 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

7:39 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

3:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

6:59 pm: SHAUL, Dominic Matthew (18) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of McKinley Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

8:56 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

December 15

8:22 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of South Main Street.

2:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of South Main Street.

10:01 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:16 pm: ACEVES, Maria (36) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. She was arrested on felony charges of domestic corporal injury, assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm, and willful cruelty to a child with possible injury or death.



Michael Kellan Thomas of Chico.



Maria Aceves of Willits.



Photo by Mathew Caine

Retired WHS teacher and coach Dave Kline to join SF's Prep Hall of Fame

More than 50 years later, longtime Willits resident, teacher and coach Dave Kline has been invited to join the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame for his career as a student athlete at San Francisco Polytechnic High School. He graduated from Poly High in 1967.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

He will receive his honor at a dinner on May 16, 2020 at the Spanish Cultural Center in San Francisco along with nine other athletes and coaches. Kline was nominated 10 years ago.

According to the nomination form: "The nominee must exemplify the highest standards in athletic skill, sportsmanship, ethical behavior, moral character, and leadership. All candidates will be judged on their influence and/or contribution to the San Francisco interscholastic athletic program."

"I'm deeply honored by this," Kline told Willits Weekly. "For all the people that I grew up with in San Francisco, this was always a big thing. It's a very humbling experience. It feels surreal that after all this time. It's like reaching the top of the pyramid for San Francisco high school athletes. It's such an honor to be inducted into this along with the guys who are already in the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame."

In his sophomore year at Poly High, Kline was the starting quarterback in an 8-0 championship sophomore football team in addition to playing varsity basketball and junior varsity baseball, moving up to varsity for the last five games.

As a junior, he played varsity football as quarterback, end, and corner back. He was starting guard for the varsity basketball team, leading in scoring and earning Honorable Mention All-City. He also played varsity baseball, leading the team with a .424 batting average, making the first team All-City.

In his senior year, Kline continued as starting guard on the basketball team and was named All-Tournament. He was named All-City First Team. He played varsity baseball on a team that made it to the finals of the championship. In 1990, he was named to the Poly Hall of Fame.

After locating to Willits Kline, taught Civics, Economics, Geography, and History at Willits High School for many years, as well as coaching wrestling and baseball. He retired from teaching in 2009 and now spends his time painting houses.



Congrats

Happy Birthday Alaska

You run, you play, you shine so bright with such a cheeky grin.

Your eyes, your wit, and all that spice explains the love we're in.

The time flies by, I can't believe today you're turning 4.

And I'm absolutely sure that we just couldn't love you more.

Happy 4th birthday Alaska!

Love, Mom, Dad and River



Congrats

Happy Birthday Matt

I'm so glad to get to celebrate your birthday with you again this year, and can't wait for it and everything else to become traditions for many, many years to come. Thank you for being such a wonderful, supportive, funny, caring and incredible person and for loving me as much as I love you! Happy birthday!

Love, Maureen

THE FRANK R. HOWARD FOUNDATION & ADVENTIST HEALTH HOWARD MEMORIAL INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE THIRD ANNUAL

Holiday Lights

A WINTER WONDERLAND at the Commonwealth Garden

Add some sparkle to your holiday season and watch your children's faces light up for a magical holiday light display at the Commonwealth Garden. Bundle up and enjoy some festive holiday snacks prepared by Roots Restaurant / Adventist Health Howard Memorial. Warm up with a cup of hot cocoa or hot apple cider as you take a stroll through the enchanted winter wonderland.

DECEMBER 20-22

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for this year's *Holiday Lights* event.

You can contact either Ananda Johnson @ (707) 459-2777 / (707) 354-2166 or Holly Madrigal @ (707) 841-0612 for information.

Proceeds will benefit the Willits Food Bank, who has provided food to families in need for over 20 years.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church
290 S. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
9:15 a.m. - Bible Class, adult & children
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Awan: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor, Burton Jernigan
Information: 456-9668
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
• Sound of Soul events
• Membership Discourses
• Spiritual Discussions
• ECK Light & Sound Services
Move information?
Call 707-456-9934
www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service & Children's Church - 11 a.m.
Mid-week Bible Studies
Potluck every 2nd Sunday
Alan Klier, Lead Pastor
459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Saturday confessions - 4:45 p.m.
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass - 9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-459-3066
Church Services / Communion & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Healing Prayer 3rd Sunday
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Brunette

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
399 W. Mendocino Avenue
707-459-5714
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
4th Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school.
22751 Bray Road, Willits

Willits United Methodist
A Christ centered, progressive church
ALL ARE WELCOME
286 School St. (at Pine)
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor
Worship Celebration
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com



Photo by Marcy Barry

Willits real estate agent Tara Moratti is new owner of Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty

Submitted by Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty

As we approach the new year, Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, Inc. is excited to begin 2020 with top-producing agent Tara Moratti as our new owner!

Co-owners John Lazaro and Kerri Vau purchased the Coldwell Banker franchise in 1987 when Tara was just 7 years old. With two offices – one in Ukiah and another in Willits – and 32 years of business later, John and Kerri want to thank the Mendocino County community for helping contribute to the company's many decades of success. The two could have chosen to sell their company to local brokerages, as they were approached by other big-brand real estate companies; however, their choice to draw from within the company felt the most natural and ultimately, Tara is the perfect fit. She has been with the company for 12 years, and has been a top-producing agent for over a decade.

"In 2015, when I did follow through with obtaining my brokers license, I knew I would eventually venture out to owning my own company. I just never imagined it would be the one I've worked for the last 12 years! I am so grateful to John and Kerri for their support and look forward to carrying

on a reputable company," she says.

Tara enters into this new position with assured goals of continuing the tradition of offering professional and reliable real estate services for Mendocino County. John and Kerri's business philosophy was never to be the "biggest" real estate company, but the "best" with strong ethics and professionalism, and Tara will continue to operate with the same beliefs.

"When I was originally licensed in 2004, I planned to get my brokers license within two years and start my own company. But life got busy with having my daughter in 2004 and a son two years later. I've spent my time and energy developing a successful, repeat business and raising a family in the community that raised me," she says.



Tara is also committed to assisting the agents and administrative support in providing the best customer service and technology tools to our clients.

"It's important to have agents who know the area – who live, work, and support the community we provide our valuable professional services to. We continue to grow and know the many facets of the communities that lay within these county lines," she says.

Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, Inc. specializes in all aspects of real estate sales: Residential, Multi-family, Commercial/Industrial, Lots & Land, Vineyards & Ranches, and Business Opportunities with representation for both buyers and sellers.

Kerri and Whitney Vau, as well as John and Marcia Lazaro are excited to continue in sales working now under the helm of Tara's ownership. John and Kerri would also like to express their gratitude to invaluable Willits office manager Lee Persico, whose 42+ years of contributions have helped the office hold the rank of #1 Real Estate Office in sales volume in the Willits area for more than a decade.

We hope you will come see us in the new year, and we look forward to our continued service to the Mendocino County communities.



Above: New owner of Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, Inc. Tara Moratti, center, is flanked by previous owners Kerri Vau, left, and John Lazaro.

Holiday Gifts (and stockings!) for all

Willits Christmas Kids Program provides gifts to community children

The community's generosity proved as overflowing as the donation barrels around town again this year, allowing hundreds of children to have gifts to open Christmas morning. The colorful tags hung on trees at businesses around Willits were listed with wishes and needs of local kids, and all the gifts were donated, purchased, wrapped and readied for the families in need. The Willits Frontier Days Juniors club helped add to the experience by donating and stuffing over 300 stockings to add to the gift-giving experience. Another successful year in the books for the Willits Christmas Kids Program.



Photo by Maureen Moore

Above, left: Willits Frontier Days Juniors members, Danielle Barry, left and Hazel Cooke helped stuff 320 stockings donated by the club to the Christmas program, ensuring each child also has a stocking to open Christmas morning. Above: A donation barrel at J.D. Redhouse is filled with donated goods given to the community through the Willits Christmas Kids Program.



The rest of Munchies | From Page B1

and carrots. For those who could not make up their minds, a sampling plate of all three sliders was available for only \$10, the perfect companion to the current revolving choice of nine beers, brewed on the premises in the gleaming metal vats that line the south wall of the open, railroad-themed space.

In addition to the sliders and the vegan platter, Krista Pickens of Shewolf Coffee provided the finishing touch with her health-conscious and delicious eclectic desserts: apple-gingerbread crisp with cranberries, a sourdough chocolate cake with peppermint crunch, and her prize-winning vegan pumpkin cheesecake with whipped cream, chocolate, and spiced pecans. And, of course, there was the signature Shewolf, fresh home-roasted coffee.

Father and son Greg and Malakai Schindel are well-known around Willits for their talents, which they have exhibited at many of the town's more creative venues. The elder Schindel can be seen (or heard) plying his zany brand of music, myth and stories on the Skunk Train, delighting the riders, and on his weekly radio show, "The Bi-Polar Express," where he explores his special brand of lunatic narratives, anecdotes, and deft guitar work.

Malakai Schindel, one of Willits' most visibly talented artists, has his visual work displayed in murals around town. His music, both in the groups, Schindel and The Dirt Floor Band, amongst others and as a solo multi-instrumental artist, is beloved and in demand in the town. In a rare appearance together, the Schindels delighted the crowd with railroad-themed songs, fronted by Greg and accompanied by Malakai on guitar, flute, pan flute, and digeridoo.

Since its opening in the fall after a protracted effort to get the place open, Northspur Brewing Co. has gained in popularity as the venue has been discovered by the residents of Willits. It is a place to meet friends, enjoy a cold glass of fresh, craft-brewed beer, play a board game, or just hang out.

Northspur Brewing's reputation has been growing, even in places as far as Fort Bragg or Sacramento, according to co-owner Sarah Foley, who along with her brew-master husband, Jakob, created this well-received new "hangout." The Foleys are looking forward to continuing to innovate at the brewpub and are considering several options for theme-night fun.

Along with the weekly "Munchies and Music," a movie night, a trivia night, and various other options for families and friends are being contemplated, to keep a freshness and inviting atmosphere at the place. Also being studied are events like a "Beer 'n Backgammon" afternoon, where people can get together in an activity that doesn't involve staring at a little screen.

A kitchen is currently being worked on to be able to provide a consistent assortment of foods to the clientele. When completed in the next few months, Zocalo Collective will run their catering out of the brewpub as well as furnishing the brewpub with their special, signature brand of healthy and extremely savory consumables.

If the "Munchies and Music" night is any indication of their prospective success, the Northspur Brewpub, with its ever-changing selections of beers and soon-to-come comestibles, games and movies, will be around for years to come. This homey venue for gatherings with friends provides Willits with a place to anchor the downtown area with a creative, fun, warm, inviting setting that can be enjoyed by the whole family.



At top: Train Singer Greg Schindel plays wandering minstrel through the crowd. Above: Michael Foley of Green Uprising Farm shares a beer with his son, Northspur owner Jakob Foley. Below: Entertainer and Skunk Train Conductor Malakai Schindel spends time with his wife, Skylar. At right, top: The Schindels perform in a rare musical collaboration at Northspur Brewing Co. At right: Jakob Foley works the bar.

Photos by Mathew Caine

'Youth & Drugs: The Slippery Slope. A Community Forum'

Submitted by Avenues to Wellness

Avenues to Wellness presents a special edition of their Speaker Event Series titled, "Youth & Drugs: The Slippery Slope. A Community Forum" on Tuesday January 14, 5:30 to 7 pm at the Willits

Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Refreshments will be served. This event is free to the public, donations are appreciated.

You are invited to a community conversation focused on substance use among youth.

This event is intended to offer support, tools, prevention strategies, and recovery options to families and professionals working with youth. Bring your questions to a panel presentation by our substance use experts. Join us for an evening of community support and intervention.

Dr. Andrea McCullough, MD, is a family medicine specialist who has been caring for patients for over 20 years. McCullough has more than 10 years of experience as an emergency room physician and she has a special interest in drug and alcohol recovery.

Aurelie Clivaz, program manager at Mendocino County Youth Project, has more than 12 years' experience in education, direct counseling, prevention, and early intervention. Clivaz provides strategies on how families can be successful in speaking with youth about drugs and alcohol.

Buffey Wright Bourassa, program specialist at Mendocino County Public Health, is responsible for community prevention, education, and outreach services with a focus on opioid use disorder. She is a coalition member of Safe Rx, Drug Free Communities, and the Round Valley Tribes Coalition. Andrew Thomas is a young adult who will share his personal story of recovery from opioid use disorder.

Avenues to Wellness is a community-based wellness program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. They offer a free-of-charge speaker series at the Willits Center for the Arts. Visit: www.avenuestowellness.org for an online archive of past events. Call 456-9676 for more information.

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BINGO!

NEW YEAR'S EVE BINGO

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 31, 2019
Harrah Senior Center

BUY IN \$25 Minimum
Includes sandwich, salad, beverage, dessert and one 10 Game Pack

Doors Open at 4 PM
Packet Sales at 5 PM
Dinner at 5:30 PM
Bingo Starts at 6 PM

BLACKOUT (No Limit)
\$100 Guaranteed
Extra Packs \$10 Each

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LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER

littlelakehealthcenter.org MCHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

DECEMBER CALENDAR



EARN ENTRY TICKETS DAILY
NOW – DEC 28 8AM – 10PM
 100 points = 1 entry ticket

WEEKEND DRAWINGS

Saturday & Sunday
Dec 1- 28 5PM – 10PM

11 names drawn each day to win \$100 Free Play and a ticket into the final drawings.

FINALE DRAWING Saturday Dec 28 After 10PM
WIN FREE PLAY, CASH & THE CAR

Come play the Charging into 2020 Game Board to win more entry tickets, Free Play and up to \$1,000 Cash! And one lucky winner will drive away in the new 2019 Dodge Charger SXT!



Actual make, model and color may vary.

Winner is responsible for any taxes, fees and licensing. Non-transferable. See Player's Club Booth for complete details.

GIFT OF THE MONTH

EVERY SAT & SUN
DEC 7 – 29 10AM – 5PM

Redeem 500 points on Saturdays or Sundays to receive a **Robe and Blanket Set*** Get a different piece each week, while supplies last.

*For guests who did not receive a Gift of the Month postcard.



TUESDAYS DEC 3, 10, 17 & 24

BARRY'S CHARGED UP POINTS

9AM – 9PM

Come play day or night to receive **5X POINTS!** Get charged up to earn Free Play faster.



— WEDNESDAYS —

Holiday Spin & Win

10AM – 8PM

We will draw 2 hot seat winners each hour. Winners will spin the wheel for a chance to win \$500 Free Play. Must have 250 points earned that day to be eligible for the hot seats.



— THURSDAYS —

Flurries of Free Play

8AM – 2PM & 4PM – 10PM

Earn 200 points to get a Flurries of Free Play Scratch Card. If you participated in the morning session, then you can get a second scratch card during the night session by earning 100 points. Or you will need 300 points for the night session only. Every card is a winner and you could win up to \$1,000 in Free Play!

— FRIDAYS —

AVALANCHE HOT SEATS

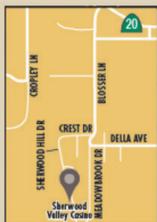
5PM – 10PM

Every 10 minutes, 2 guests will win \$50 Free Play. Must be playing with your card in any machine. If we call your name, you'll have 1 minute to claim your prize, or that prize will be forfeited.

Must be 18 & over to play. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

Management reserves all rights to cancel or alter any promotion with little or no notice.

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO



100 Kawi Place, Willits 707-459-7330 www.svrcasino.com

Willits families encouraged to apply for new child care funding

Submitted by North Coast Opportunities

Rural counties in the state of California continue to experience high costs for infant and toddler care. Families frequently pay an average of \$600 to \$1,000 per month. According to Kidsdata.org, that can add up to \$7,200 to \$12,000 a year. In Lake County, for example, a family is likely to spend one-third or more of their gross income on child care.

North Coast Opportunities' Rural Communities Child Care has been able to access funds just released by the California Department of Education to help more families pay for child care in Mendocino County. Local parents and caregivers are encouraged to contact NCO's Rural Communities Child Care program to apply for this additional funding.

Rural Communities Child Care Program Director Teri Sedrick is pleased to announce this expanded funding opportunity. "The high cost of child care can sometimes impact employment opportunities for local families," Sedrick said, "forcing a member of the family to choose between a job or staying home with a young child. NCO's Rural Communities Child Care can help low-income families pay for child care so they can keep their job and continue to improve the financial situation for themselves and their family."

To be eligible for subsidized child care, families can apply at any time. In order to qualify, a family of three cannot earn more than \$4,278 gross monthly income. Income eligibility is required, and a family must be able to demonstrate their need for child care. Applications can be submitted to NCO Rural Communities Child Care. Please call your local NCO Rural Communities Child Care office for assistance: Ukiah and Willits: 467-3200

NCO is the Community Action Agency that serves Lake and Mendocino counties, as well as parts of Humboldt, Sonoma, Del Norte, and Solano counties. NCO reacts and adjusts to community needs, including disaster response and recovery. For more information visit www.ncoinc.org or call 467-3200.

Mendocino County transitions to winter burning

Submitted by CalFire Mendocino Unit

Recent rains and cooler temperatures across the region have lowered the threat of wildfires allowing CalFire's Mendocino Unit to transition to the winter burning effective Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 12:01 am in the state responsibility areas of Mendocino County.

CalFire will not require burning permits, for residential burn piles 4 x 4 foot or smaller, until approximately May 1, 2020. Burn piles larger than 4 x 4 foot will still require a CalFire burn permit. Residents wishing to burn must verify it is a permissive burn day prior to burning. Burning must comply with Mendocino County Air Quality Management District regulations. For more information regarding winter burning regulations go to the MCAQMD web site at www.mendoair.org or call the district office at 463-4354. Burn Day status is available 24/7 on the Burn Information Line at 463-4391.

Cooler temperatures and rainfall alone does not prevent fires from escaping control. Property owners and residents are asked to use caution while conducting debris or agriculture burns, to follow all guidelines provided, and to maintain control of the fire at all times.

Outdoor burning requirements

- Only dry, natural vegetative material such as leaves, pine needles and tree trimmings may be burned.
- The burning of trash, painted wood or other debris is not allowed.
- Do not burn on windy days.
- Piles should be no larger than 4 feet in diameter and in height. You can add to a pile as it burns down.
- Clear a 10-foot diameter down to bare soil around your piles.
- Have a shovel and a water source nearby.
- An adult is required to be in attendance of the fire at all times.

A leading cause of wildfires this time of year is from escaped residential debris burning. Individuals can be held civilly and/or criminally liable for allowing a fire to escape their control and/or burn onto neighboring property.

For more information about how you and your family can prepare for wildfire visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.



Current Job Openings:

- Administrative Assistant
- Animal Facility Attendant - Extra-help - Fort Bragg & Ukiah
- Assistant Clerk-Recorder/Registrar
- Corrections Deputy
- Deputy County Counsel III/II/IV
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
- Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Senior Engineering Technician

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:

www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources

EOE

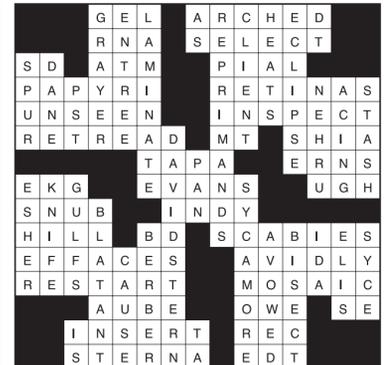
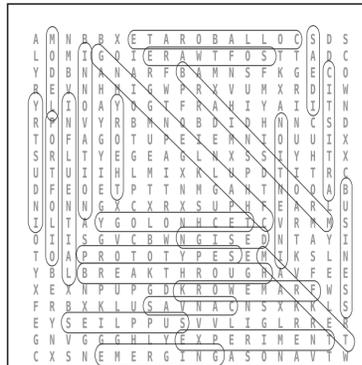
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CLASSIFIEDS

Christmas Cheer
 Donate to the annual Willits Community Services & Food Bank Winter Fund Drive; send a check to WCS, 229 East San Francisco Ave, Willits CA 95490; 459-3333 for more info.

Help Wanted
 At Covelo ranch: Exchange ranch and outdoors work for rent. Must have trailer/camper. Man or woman, retiree a plus. Must have good work ethic, be clean, healthy, reliable, with references. Call for details: 707-272-6354.

Computer Help
 Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamerjin@yahoo.com.

Estate Sale
 Estate Sale at 2151 Valley Road. Ongoing thru December 31st. Tools, Art, Furniture, Antiques. Monday through Sunday 9am - 4pm. Everything must go.

Event Spaces Available
 Event spaces available at the Willits Center for the Arts! • Great Room • Classroom • Ceramic Studio For inquiries, email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-1726. For additional information visit: www.willitscenterforthearts.org/rentals

Experience The Sound of Soul!
 Tuesday, January 21, 2020: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 E. Commercial Street. Welcome to the worlds of HU (pronounced hue), an ancient, universal name for God. This sacred word can spiritually uplift people of any religion, culture, or walk of life. It is freely given - a gift beyond measure. Love is love. And you are that. HU is the Sound of Soul. Information? Call April, 972-2475 or visit: www.TheSoundofSoul.org

For Rent/Lease
 Retail Office Space For Rent or Lease. Prime Location: Safeway shopping center. Main Street and Hwy 20 in Willits. Heavy foot traffic and ample parking. 2400 sq ft, \$3000/mo. Victor Hanson (707) 272-1460.

Trailer Space for Rent
 House trailer space for 1 person in Covelo for rent, on beautiful 30 acre private ranch, \$350/month, includes trash, water and septic. Call for details: 707-272-6354.

For Sale
 1 complete drum set, \$1,500 OBO. Elliptical step machine, in new condition, \$1,500 OBO. 2 bookcases, 1 double (\$40), 1 single (\$30), both 5 feet 5 inches tall. 459-3409.

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

Patricia Nelson

Patricia "Pat" I. Nelson (1931-2019) passed away on December 1, 2019 at the end of a 16-day voyage to the Hawaiian Islands. Pat was born in St. Louis, Missouri to Alice and James Counts. She lived most of her life in Missouri and California.

She was a dedicated employee and in the 1970s worked her way up from clerk-typist to the supervisor of the linen facility at the VA Hospital in San Francisco. In the early 1980s she was the executive director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce.

Pat married George Nelson, and one of the highlights of their life together was winning a \$100,000 Lotto "scratcher" allowing them the ability to travel and see the U.S. in their RV. They founded the "California Pacers," an RV group for Pace Arrow owners. In September, Pat attended the 30-year reunion of the "Pacers." She returned to Willits and spent her last two years at Redwood Meadows.

Pat is survived by her four children, son, James (Karin) Goede (Hemet, CA); daughters, Robin (Phil) Brewer (Greeley, CO), Peggy



Kendall (Mack, CO), and Kristin Noonan (Ukiah, CA); step-daughter, Ann Duncan (Vacaville, CA); step-son John Nelson (Reno, NV); grandchildren, Melonie (Dan) Gonzalez (Gilroy, CA), Jennifer (Tyler) Widener (Greeley, CO), Scott (Katie) Brown (Colorado Springs, CO), Kenny Goede (Greeley, CO), Kari Jarvis (Dayton Beach, FL), Kristina (Jordan) Schissell (Mack, CO), Kevin (Courtney) Jarvis (Clifton, CO), Topher Ray (Ukiah, CA), Kalli Kale (Eureka, CA), Cassidy Noonan (Willits, CA); "bonus" grandson, Steve (Jody) Brown (Arlington, VA); step-grandchildren, Matt Duncan (Vacaville, CA), Tonya Duncan (Portland, OR), Debbie (Bob) Messerer (Pilot Hill, CA), Diana Kenoyer (Reno, NV), Justin Nelson (CA), and Jen Johnson (San Luis Obispo, CA); 26 great-grandchildren; and numerous

nieces and nephews.

Pat was preceded in death by her husband of 23 years, George; a stepson, Michael Nelson; her five siblings and her parents.

Pat loved parties! On December 28 from 1 to 3 pm, a party will be held to honor Pat's life at the Redwood Meadows Clubhouse, 1475 Baechtel Road, in Willits. Memorial contributions may be made to the Willits Senior Center, or to Willits Weekly, because it was her favorite paper that she looked forward to reading each Thursday.

Opal Miner

A cornerstone of the Willits community is no longer with us. Opal M. Miner passed away on December 16, 2019 after a brief bout with an aggressive cancer. As a lifelong local resident of Mendocino County, she was born January 25, 1928 in Ukiah, and served as an insurance agent and notary for 66 years.

Her business, Opal Miner Insurance Agency, was a rock in the community, and throughout her career Opal served as a role model for women starting out in the business world. She will be deeply missed by all of us.

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

Juanita June Hughes

Willits resident Juanita June Hughes passed away on November 30, 2019 at the age of 86. She was born June 14, 1933 to Elmer and Clara "Lorretta" Burrell. She married Louis Dail Hughes, Sr.

Juanita is survived by six children and many grandchildren.

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



Fran Resendez

Fran Resendez, loving wife and mother, died peacefully at home on the morning of December 7, 2019, a few days after her 70th birthday. But the really important story is the radiance that defined her life.

Frances Ellen Resendez (she always asked people to call her Fran or Franny) was the embodiment of laughter, creativity and goodwill. One friend noted that you could always tell if Fran was in the audience for a comedy because her laughter rose above everyone else.

The life of the mind was essential to Fran, and she took great care to nurture it, including spending her working life as a librarian and a book-seller. Fran was also a talented pianist, visual artist and poet/playwright, and she used her enormous gifts to illuminate the lives of her family, friends and community.

Franny possessed a deep spiritual presence that defied religious demarcations. She often said that she lived in a bubble of love. By this she did not mean that she was immune to the stresses of this world, but that she strove to retain an appreciation of the goodness around her.

It may seem odd to mention Fran's love of good food after descriptions of her spiritual nature. But for Fran there were no distinctions between the delights of this



world and those of the other dimensions pulsing around her. She was open to it all.

Franny is survived by her husband, Armand Brint, daughter Ellie (Tessa) Crawford, son Ernie Burton, daughter-in-law Vanessa Burton and grandchildren Bennett and Hattie Burton. She is also survived by her sister Irene Resendez and niece Victoria Vesper. In addition, Franny is survived by all her loving friends in Willits, Ukiah and beyond.

For those interested in making a donation in loving memory of Fran, we recommend the (largely volunteer) organization that provided such wonderful care, competence and compassion to Fran in the last months of her life. Please consider: Hospice of Ukiah, 620 South Dora Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.



Al Hartshorn

George Alfred Hartshorn was born in Willits, California on November 13, 1955.

On December 9, 2019, Al made his journey into heaven, peacefully.

Al was born, raised, and lived in Willits his entire life. Al served in the U.S. Army, and was stationed in Germany – a true patriot to his country.

Al loved to fish and really enjoyed the education he received at the College of the Redwoods, through Fish & Game classes.

Al was a caring and protective son, and brother. He was a strong champion for people with disabilities, and a compassionate community and family member.

We love you, sweet angel Al.



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