

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

REACH: Why not Howard Forest heliport?

To the Editor:

Willits Weekly's reporter Mike A'Dair's comment in his January 15 article on Brooktrails stated that I'm "an opponent of the siting of a helicopter medical transport operation at the Willits airport."

Adair didn't offer any specifics of my opposing the establishment of the base, but here are direct quotes on the public record made by me at a Brooktrails meeting – if A'Dair wants to call that opposing the establishment of the base: "This helicopter will enhance response times for the Willits area, but only if the helicopter is available, and not out on a call somewhere else in Mendocino or Humboldt counties that it will serve." "If unavailable, helicopter service will come from Lakeport or Ukiah, as it does now." "Although the helicopter service has positive aspects for the area, it also has some significant negative impacts, mostly for Brooktrails residents exclusively, in the form of noise generated throughout the night, operating close to homes and apartments." "I ask the board to engage the City of Willits to mitigate the negative aspects of the helicopter coming to Willits to the fullest extent possible...."

It appears that the City of Willits shared my concerns, as in a Willits City Council meeting of November 12, they agreed that the REACH project did require a review under CEQA to address some of the concerns I raised publicly.

Some have expressed opinions that the delay created by this review could cost lives, but whose delay is it? A newspaper article said that this project has been in the planning stages for three years. If this is the case, and had the proper procedures been followed, REACH should have been in operation at Willits airport when they said they would be in their July press release.

REACH got some pointed questioning at Brooktrails meetings. They were asked if they had ever operated this close to high-density residential areas before at their other bases, as they propose at Willits. They said yes, at Lakeport Lampson Field and Oceanside Municipal airport. That is on the record, but the facts do not seem to support those claims. Using Google Earth imaging measuring tools, the Oceanside operation is surrounded by industrial zoning, with the closest residence 1,700 feet from the REACH Oceanside operation. The REACH Lampson Field operation is surrounded by farmland with a single residence 650 feet away, but the Willits operation will be only 300 feet away from homes and apartments in a high-density residential area.

We are so very fortunate that Adventist Health has made the investment in our community to build a first-class hospital for us. Our gratitude to Adventist Health and the people at Howard Hospital that helped make this happen cannot be overstated.

We are also grateful to REACH for investing in our community by establishing a base here; however, it won't be the first-class operation that Adventist Health and Howard Hospital are providing, the way REACH has planned it, especially in terms of quality ground transport for critical

patients. REACH has chosen Willits airport because it is normally above the fog line when the city and the hospital are fogged in, but that means that transporting patients from Willits airport by ambulance will entail transporting patients through residential Brooktrails, down Sherwood Road, through all of the intersections of downtown Willits, to the other end of the city to the new hospital.

REACH has used the Howard Forest Cal Fire heliport for patient transfers in the past. That heliport has two helipads, a large jet fuel tank that could possibly be used on a metered sharing basis, and room for crew quarters at the facility. Not only is that heliport out of the fog at virtually the same elevation as the Willits airport, but the ambulance transport would be at freeway speeds most of the way, no stoplights to negotiate, and a much shorter distance, and shorter transport time, to our new hospital. People have talked about this Willits airport basing delay possibly costing lives, but how about the delay of a fast helicopter flight to a slow ambulance transport from Willits airport? How many lives will that cost?

REACH was asked on the record if they had investigated basing the new Willits operation at the Howard Forest heliport, and they said words to the effect of: No, we haven't; it's too difficult dealing with the state, but we do recognize the ground transport issue.

We can talk about environmental impacts, but the most important factor is the quality of service the patients will get from REACH basing at Willits airport. It's quality of service that has made Howard Hospital outstanding in its field. My on-the-record comments about the ground transport issue were never picked up by either of the two local newspapers, and if after reading this letter, anybody feels that I am an opponent to the siting of a helicopter medical transport operation at the Willits airport, I stand guilty as charged, when a better option was not investigated.

Maybe Mike A'Dair could be a good investigative reporter and look into what might be behind the Willits airport decision, and if anybody stands to make a significant amount of money from the REACH operation at Willits airport, at the expense of quality, timely, ground transport for patients.

Paul Trexel, Brooktrails

Arts Center ad hoc

To the Editor:

At the January 14 Willits City Council meeting, the city manager brought forth a discussion regarding the future use of the Willits Center for the Arts, reporting that efforts to establish the Willits Center for the Arts as an independent, self-sustaining entity had stalled. About 50 community members were in attendance for this matter, many speaking in support of WCA's continued operations and activities. Subsequently, Mayor Bruce Burton established an ad hoc committee to provide a forum for community input and explore several potential options regarding the future of the WCA, in order to better inform the decision-making of the city council.

The city council and city staff are very appreciative of all of the volunteers who have stepped forward over the last several weeks to maintain activities, including sending out annual membership letters and managing the schedule of upcoming shows. It is also recognized that there is much interest throughout the community regarding the future of the WCA, as many community members have offered up alternative ideas for the future of the WCA.

In the meanwhile, it is important to note that the city has not entered into any agreement with any individual or group, nor has anyone outside of the city been designated and authorized to serve as the city's representative and spokesperson relative to the WCA. The ad hoc committee, working with city staff and community members, will present a formal recommendation to the full city council upon the conclusion of weighing all options presented during this review process.

For official information regarding the future of the WCA or facility rentals, please contact Willits City Hall at 459-4601 or cityclerk@willitscity.com.

Adrienne Moore, manager, City of Willits

Let's go do-si-do

To the Editor:

The Willits' Frontier Twirlers is considering starting a Beginning Square Dancing class on Monday nights beginning on February 2. Dancing begins promptly at 7 pm, so new dancers are encouraged to come at least 10 minutes early to register. Class is from 7 to 8 pm, with dancing from 8 to 9 pm, called at the level of dancers who are present. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome.

Square dancing does require a commitment to attend regularly, as each week new dance calls are learned and one week builds upon the information of the week before. There is a monthly fee of \$20/person. Young dancer scholarships are available.

The club meets at the WCA (Willits Center for the Arts) upstairs, elevator accessible, with a beautiful wooden floor. Lawrence Johnstone is a gifted caller/teacher with a clear, fine voice and a vast diverse collection of music. He always keeps it interesting and challenging, even at the basic level. Lawrence also calls in Ukiah and Fort Bragg. Visit the Frontier Twirlers on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WillitsFrontierTwirlers.

Square dancing is "Friendship Set to Music," and there is the real pleasure of couples cooperating, creating complex patterns to an increasing vocabulary of calls. It is good for the body and the brain. Many busy people find it a way to do something social with or without a partner and get some exercise too.

We hope you'll join us and become part of our square dancing family. If you have questions, please contact Emmy Good at Emmy@pacific.net or Jenny Watts at Wattsup@gmail.com.

Emmy Good, Willits



Above: The crowd at this year's crab fest with their bidding paddles. Below: Attendees at the 2015 event including, from left: Carol and Jerry Myer; Bobbie and Jim Yokum; and brothers Chuck, at left, and Lee Persico with Edie Ceccarelli.



Photos by Jenny Senter



Above: Saprina Rodriguez showcases a crabby mustache. At right: Server Claire Case-Brackett holds a pan of crab ready for the diners.

Below, from left: Ed Reinhart and Bear Kamoroff perform at this year's event. Allyn Nonnemann showcases a gift basket with assistance from Ann Alumbaugh on the microphone. Jill Carey, Brock McDowell, and Tom Herman tend the bar.

Photos by Jenny Senter

Crab Fest-ivity!

Rain didn't deter more than 185 crab-lovers – some coming from as far as San Francisco – from attending the 2015 Willits Rotary Crab Fest Saturday night.

Cathy Gott and Ann Alumbaugh, co-chairs of the event, were very pleased with the turnout and the support for this annual event. The new-this-year quarter auction was embraced enthusiastically by the attendees, and many bought several paddles for their bidding. The sound of quarters hitting the cans was very loud at times! The live auction's special items – including a cord of wood and a metal elephant sculpture from La Bodega – were popular with the crowd and bidding was vigorous.

Live music was provided by Willits Rotarian Bear Kamoroff on bass and "Mr. Boogie-

Woogie," Ed Reinhart. Serving for the Crab Fest was done by Willits FFA members Caitlyn

Forrester, Dara Collicot and Hailey Riley, their leaders and teachers Kelley Case-Brackett and Becky Bowlds, and Claire Case-Brackett. Willits Senior Center director Allyn Nonnemann and board member Virginia Jorge were on hand to help out with ticket and auction paddle sales.

The Willits Rotary Crab Fest started in 2003 and has become a popular and tasty way to support Rotary's Scholarship Program and the Willits Senior Center. President of Willits Rotary Tom Herman said: "On behalf of the Willits Rotary Club, I want to thank our community for supporting the Rotary Crab Fest. The event was very well attended, and early returns indicate that the event was a financial success. All the proceeds will go to support the Willits Senior Center and the Willits Rotary Scholarship program."



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The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Willits Weekly

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Coming Soon:
The Imitation Game

Movie Times for 1/23 thru 1/29

AMERICAN SNIPER (R) 2 hrs 12 mins
Fri: 5:30 & 8:15pm
Sat: 12:00, 2:45, 5:30 & 8:15pm
Sun: 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:15pm

STRANGE MAGIC (PG) 1 hr 39 mins
Fri: 6:30 & 8:45pm
Sat: 11:45am, 2:00, 4:15, 6:30 & 8:45pm
Sun: 1:00, 3:15, 5:30 & 7:45pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:30 & 7:45pm

INTO THE WOODS (PG) 2 hrs 4 mins
Fri: 5:45 & 8:30pm
Sat: 12:15, 3:00, 5:45 & 8:30pm
Sun: 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:45 & 7:30pm

This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

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Thursday, January 22

Tours of Willits Charter School: Interested parents and guardians are invited to "Come see the beautiful campus, meet the new director, see the classes 'in action,' and have all of your questions answered." Thursday, January 22 from 10:15 to 11:30 am; Thursday, February 5 from 2 to 3:15 pm; and Monday, March 23 from 9 to 10:15 am. Students are welcome to attend. Questions: 459-5506.

"Little Shop of Horrors": Willits Charter School Theatre Arts presents this "1986 American rock musical horror comedy" performed by Charter School students and directed by Billy Hetherington. Sponsored by and performed at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. The show is rated PG-13: not meant for young children. January 22 at 7 pm is an open dress rehearsal, Friday, January 23, 7 pm, is opening night. The show continues on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm, through February 1. Tickets are \$10. Advance tickets are advised, and can be purchased at Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Info: WCS at 459-5506.

Shanachie Pub: Steven Bates, guitar. 6 pm, No cover. Visit www.myspace.com/stevenbatesmusician or www.stevenbatesmusic.com. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, January 23

"Little Shop of Horrors": Opening night, 7 pm; see Thursday, January 22 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: The Self-Fulfilling Prophecies, guitar. 9 pm, No cover. Visit www.myspace.com/selffulfillingprophecies. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, January 24

"Little Shop of Horrors": 7 pm; see Thursday, January 22 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: The Stringtown Ambassadors, from Swannanoa, North Carolina, combine Old Time and Celtic roots with a modern awareness. Visit www.stringtownambassadors.com. 8 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, January 25

Free Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop: Sanhedrin Nursery hosts this free workshop, from 10 am to 2 pm at the nursery, 1094 Locust Street. Led by Dave Watts, nurseryman, and Richard Jeske, orchardist, this workshop will cover fruit tree and grape pruning. Rain or shine. No registration necessary. Info: 459-9009.

Little League Signups: It's time to sign up for 2015 Little League. Willits Redwood Little League serves youth ages 4 to 15 of Willits, Laytonville, and surrounding communities. Signups today, January 25, and Saturday, February 8 at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street. 1 to 3 pm. \$75 signup fee. \$10 late fee for those registering after February 14. Please bring your player's birth certificate and two proofs of address. For info, please call Melissa Coughlin 707-354-2226 or check the Willits Redwood Little League page on Facebook.



Sip Some Soup
Saturday, February 7

To encourage soup makers to enter Sip Some Soup, the benefit fundraiser for Willits Daily Bread set for Saturday, February 7 at the Willits Community Center (see front page story for more information), here are some past winners of the annual soup contest.

2014
1st Place: Mariposa Market with Hungarian Mushroom Soup
2nd Place: Emandal's Tam Adams with Moroccan Red Lentil Soup
3rd Place: Willits 7th Day Adventist Church with Vegan/Butternut Squash Soup
Best Table: Ridgewood Ranch with Ridgewood Wildfire Soup

2013
1st Place: Shanachie Pub with Cream of Mushroom Soup with Oatmeal Stout
2nd Place: Howard Memorial Hospital with Butternut Squash Curry Bisque
3rd Place: Mendocino County Museum with Fusion Pozole
Best Table: Willits Charter Elementary Schools

2012
1st Place: Howard Memorial Hospital with French Mushroom Bisque
2nd Place: Earth's Treasures with Golden Doubleton Pumpkin Marsala
3rd Place: Ardella's Lori Dorholt with Wild Rice Smoked Turkey Soup with Sweet Corn Puree
Best Table: Earth's Treasures

2011
1st Place: Ardella's Kathy Albright with Foraged Mushroom Chowder

'Arsenic and Old Lace'

opens January 30 at WCT

The classic dark comedy "Arsenic and Old Lace" opens at the Willits Community Theatre on Friday, January 30 at 8 pm. The production stars Virginia Hanley and Janet Denninger as two elderly Brooklyn sisters who invite lonely old bachelors into their home ... only to dispatch the men from their misery with arsenic-tainted elderberry wine.

Their nephew Mortimer Brewster, played by Kevin Clay, discovers their most recent and 11th dead victim. Mortimer does everything in his power to stop the seeming acts of charity and spare his beloved aunts from going to Sing Sing prison. Complicating the action are Mortimer's fiancée Elaine and her reverend father, a crazy brother Teddy, a homicidal brother Jonathan, a trio of friendly police officers, and a plastic surgeon of doubtful character.

The twists and turns in the play written by Joseph Kesselring, the myriad moments of irony, and the lively repartee between characters have made "Arsenic and Old Lace" a classic of American theater for seven decades. Frank Capra's 1944 film version of the play starred Cary Grant and helped cement the play's popularity. The production at WCT, directed by Jason Edington, follows the original faithfully.

Additional cast members include Gary Hudson, Lee Stipe, Kevin Moore, Alexis Eich, Mary Burns, Thomas Kenney, Filemon Lara-Lopez, William Schlosser, Joe Dowling, and Pete Willson. The production runs from Friday, January 30 through Sunday, February 15, with performances on Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15; and some Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$10. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 S. Main Street, online at www.brownpaperickets.com, or leave a message at the WCT office, 707-459-0895. Tickets will also be available at the door for all performances.

— Steve Helman, for WCT

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

"Little Shop of Horrors": 2 pm matinee; see Thursday, January 22 listing for details.

"Renew, Reroof": a concert at Willits United Methodist Church, to help raise money to put a new roof on the church. The concert begins at 5 pm and will be followed by a soup supper at 6:30. 282 School Street, across from the Grange. Local musicians scheduled to perform include "Just Enough," an ensemble of Kate Black, Clancy Rash and Helen Falandes; the Emandal Chorale; and young singer-songwriter-cellist Sarah Rose McMahon. Suggested donation for the concert is \$10 and for the supper \$8, with all sales at the door the night of the concert.

Tuesday, January 27

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movie: "American Sniper" and "Into the Woods." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Thursday, January 29

"Dance for Rey" Zumba Fundraiser: Energize Willits hosts this Zumba fundraiser to support the medical fund for Rey Amador, who was recently diagnosed with colon cancer. Hidden Agenda, 399 South Main Street. 6 pm. \$10 donation. 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit the Amador family. For info: 707-583-ZFUN.

Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly Jazz



Free Healthy Lifestyle Classes

Adventist Health presents a series of free "Healthy Lifestyle" classes on the third Thursday evening of every month, through September 2015. The classes, on health topics of interest to the general public, are from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the 11 Oaks Conference Room, and have various presenters. The first class, Thursday, February 19, titled "Healthy Hearts," is presented by David Ploss, MD. To register, call 456-3132.

February 19: Healthy Hearts
Presented by David Ploss, MD

March 19: Moving Safely
Presented by Heather Anderson, PT

April 16: Stop Overeating
Speaker from Overeaters Anonymous

May 21: When Should I Call My Medical Provider?
Presented by Suki Spillner, FNP

June 18: Focus on Eyes: Diabetes & Eye Health
Presented by Geoffrey Rice, MD

July 16: Fill Up On Fiber: All You Want To Know About Fiber
Presented by Annie Dogali, RD

August 20: Caring For Your Feet
Presented by Walter D'Costa, DPM, FAPWCA

September 17: Safe Driving
Speaker from CHP



Virginia Hanley and Janet Denninger star as the two Brewster sisters.

Photo by Ron Greystar

Friday, January 30

"Arsenic and Old Lace": This dark comedy, a classic of American theater for seven decades, opens tonight at the Willits Community Theatre at 8 pm, starring Virginia Hanley and Janet Denninger as two elderly Brooklyn sisters who invite lonely old bachelors into their home ... only to dispatch the men from their misery with arsenic-tainted elderberry wine. Runs through Sunday, February 15, with performances on Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15; and some Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$10. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, online at www.brownpaperickets.com, or leave a message at the WCT office, 707-459-0895. Tickets will also be available at the door for all performances. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

Free concert by pianist Sam Ocampo

Thursday, February 6

International concert pianist Sam Ocampo is performing a free concert on Friday, February 7 at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. "Ocampo has recorded more than a dozen albums and is a renowned music arranger and producer. This free concert is open to the public and is sponsored by the Willits Christian Churches Fellowship. Space is limited: first come, first seated.

Willits Elementary Charter School 3rd Annual Winter Gala

The Willits Elementary Charter School's 3rd Annual Winter Gala is set for Saturday, February 7 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street; doors open at 4 pm. This luau-themed event will be catered by Zocalo Catering, featuring locally raised, spit-roasted pork, vegetarian kabobs, coconut rice and more. Also featuring Jenness Hartley on viola, student and staff performances, a raffle drawing and a silent auction. No host bar. Child care available. Dinner Tickets \$20 each; buy a table for 8 for \$140. Student performances start at 4:45 pm and dinner at 5:30 pm. Dinner and raffle tickets available at the WECS office, 405 East Commercial Street (entrance on Lenore).

WCS Fund Drive up to \$27,875

Willits Community Services has reached a total of \$27,875 as of Tuesday, in its Winter Fund Drive to raise \$32,000 to help WCS continue to provide essential human services to the greater Willits and north Mendocino County communities. Donations can be mailed to: Willits Community Services, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, or dropped off during office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12 to 5 pm. For questions, please contact 459-3333 or willitscs@gmail.com.

All contributions are very much appreciated; this week's contributors include Nancy Boone, Delores Braden, Michael Cunningham, Jed & Carlin Diamond, Sherrie Ebyam, Scott & Judy Ferleman, Michael Frey, Elaine Gallups, John & Doreen Glycer, Robert & Jeri Harman, Ken Larue & Carol Grice, Roz & Rick Lina, Sherry & Larry Minson, Diane Monteleone, Carol Orton, David & Ursula Partch, Ron's Muffler & Automotive, Diane Smalley & Wallace Stahle, Allegra Steele, Donna Vaiano, and Jack & Joan Wade.

Beginning Square Dancing

The Willits' Frontier Twirlers hopes to start a Beginning Square Dancing class on Monday nights beginning on February 2, at the Willits Center for the Arts. With enough interest, beginners class will run from 7 to 8 pm, with dancing to follow from 8 to 9 pm. Caller/teacher Lawrence Johnson will call each evening's dancing at the level of dancers who are present. New dancers are encouraged to come to class at least 10 minutes early to register. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. \$20/month, with young dancer scholarships available. More info at www.facebook.com/WillitsFrontierTwirlers. Questions? Contact Emmy Good at Emmy@gpacific.net or Jenny Watts at Wattsup@gmail.com.



Square dancers move around the floor.

Ongoing Events

Willits Winter Farmers Market: from 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, with produce, local meats and fish, local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Art Works by Robert Nixon, Sr. at WCA: the January exhibit at the Willits Art Center features watercolors and oil paintings, landscapes of local scenes, still lifes, and abstracts, by the late Robert Nixon, Sr. Art works priced to sell; all proceeds to benefit the Willits Center for the Arts. Runs through January 25 at the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm.

The Emandal Chorale: this community chorus based in Willits is in its 20th season, and you are welcome to join! Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm. No auditions necessary. The Chorale meets upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Willits Photography Club: meets at the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street, on the second Saturday of each month from 10 to 12 noon. All levels of experience welcome. Come to the back door of the Art Center.

Alateen Support Group: for teens ages 12-17 that are friends and family members of problem drinkers and/or addicts. For teens only. Every Thursday, 6 to 7 pm, Room 44 at Willits High School, north of gym near pool. Contact: Aurelie at 707-489-1258 or Cindy at 707-972-4748 or cynlamon@gmail.com.

Junior Grange After-School Program: an after-school program for kids ages 5 to 14, Mondays from 3 to 6 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Membership fee: \$1, plus \$1 annual dues. Info? Contact Zeynep at 707-972-8558 or zeyny34@yahoo.com.

"Garb Me!": an ongoing pattern draping evening every Wednesday from 6 to 8 pm at Wower, 330 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-9697, or drop by Wower.

Mondays at Wower: Free events at the Wower maker space, 330 East Commercial Street. 6:30 pm. Lectures, slide shows, flash videos, guest speakers, demonstrations. Info: 459-9697 or www.wowerllc.com.

Cards and Games at Willits Library: free games in the Willits Library's Community Room. Tuesday bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm; Thursday bridge sessions from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Info: Donna at 459-9035. Tuesday evenings: "Dungeons and Dragons, the Adventurers' League," from 6 to 10 pm. Both newbies and experienced players, ages 13+, are welcome to join. Info: Dan at 972-3154. Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 pm: Chess: bring your chess set and have some fun with friends. All ability levels welcome. Info: Raymond at 841-0473.

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

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.

Smoking Cessation Program: Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the HHM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 11 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday and World Music Open Mic every Monday, 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room: every Wednesday night, karaoke in the bar. 207 South Main Street. 459-2444.

Open Mic Jam at Al's Redwood Room: every Friday night, hosted by Dream Capsule Entertainment, featuring talented, established local musicians from all over Northern California. Jazz, Blues, Rock. New talent welcome. Al's Redwood Room, 207 South Main Street, starting at 9 pm. Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving at Al's on Fridays from 9 pm to 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 354-3197

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Laytonville Grange. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, and more.

"Little Shop of Horrors": 7 pm; see Thursday, January 22 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Mad Cow Jazz, jazz/swing featuring Charlie Valley (vocals), Dorian May (piano, band leader), Dorothea May (bass), and Jesse Bessoni (drums). Visit: www.reverbnation.com/madcowjazz. 8 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, January 31

"Arsenic and Old Lace": 8 pm, see Friday, January 30 listing for details.

"Little Shop of Horrors": 7 pm; see Thursday, January 22 listing for details.

Sunday February 1

"Growing Soil & Nutrition": presentation by John Jeavons, internationally known educator and developer of the Grow Biointensive method of small-scale agriculture. 4 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Sponsored by Willits Economic Localization. Info: Madge at mstrong@willitsonline.com or 459-1493. See article elsewhere in Calendar for details.

"Little Shop of Horrors": 2 pm closing matinee; see Thursday, January 22 listing for details.

Have an event or something to add to Willits Weekly's Calendar?

Email us! willitsweekly@gmail.com

COLUMN | At the Movies



American Sniper

Daniel Essman
Columnist

The Story: U.S. Navy SEAL Chris Kyle (Bradley Cooper) serves four tours of service in Iraq. He was the most lethal sniper in United States military history (this movie is based on a true story). His efforts to fulfill his personal moral obligations — his moral code — drive him to take risks which go well beyond the call of duty on the battlefield. Also, the movie shows how his moral code affects his family life on returning from war.

My Thoughts: I have always believed that the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 was perhaps the greatest mistake in U.S. history. I share this political analysis, at least in part, with our long-time allies France, Germany and New Zealand. That said, there are times when I set aside my personal beliefs about history (writ large) in favor of the personal struggle of an individual who is trapped inside that history. Stated simply, Chris Kyle thinks that if he does not fight jihad in Iraq, then we will have to fight them here in America ... that's what he believes.

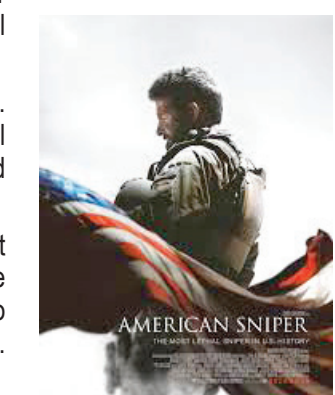
In the code of the American West, it's said that "a man's got to do what a man's got to do." Clint Eastwood directed "American Sniper" (and no, Eastwood does not make Chris Kyle into Dirty Harry), but Kyle's sense of duty in defiance of death certainly makes him a Clint Eastwood hero.

So, what do I think? I think this is an exceptionally good movie.

Parents: Not for children. Realistic and terrifying battle scenes and horrific slaughter, blood and death. There is no celebration of military combat, just the fear and the blood and the necessity of killing.

More for Parents: Chris Kyle was raised to believe that it is a man's duty to be a protector of those who cannot protect themselves. This movie shows how he tries to live by that duty, and it is a true story. So there's the good and the bad of it.

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



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Lost Dog
Male blue-nose pitbull, neutered, 3 years old, last seen January 2, near Wild Iris Lane in Willits. Had blue color with tags. Large head, very muscular. Uncut ears. Please call 808-896-7157.

Photography
Is there a 2015 graduate in your household? Did you get engaged over the holidays? Have you had a family portrait taken in the last few years? Why not create a different kind of New Year's tradition in your family and schedule a professional and natural photo shoot with Maureen Moore? Low pressure, fabulous results. Check out work online: www.mphotography.com or call 972-7047.

Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, January 22, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

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Tiara & Title!

Four Willits girls run for Miss Mendocino County 2015:

Michaela Terrell, Emily Oberg, Amanda Mason and Shyanne Demarco

Left: Miss Mendocino County contestant Michaela Terrell.
Right: Miss Mendocino County contestant Emily Oberg.
Photos supplied by contestants



Michaela Terrell, 18, is a graduate of Willits High School and is in her second semester at Mendocino College studying pre-nursing. Hoping to be done with pre-nursing by next year, Terrell plans to save money by staying in the area to continue in the nursing field.

"They have a great program here, and though I'm not sure if I want to study for nurse practitioner or doctor, I really want to become an obstetrician and deliver babies!" said Terrell.

With a relatively expensive education looming and needing to be self-reliant to pay for her college expenses, Terrell noted the scholarship opportunity and decided to run for the title of Miss Mendocino.

"Running for the title is something I wasn't very sure about doing, but I am very glad I have," said Terrell. "I'm not really used to being around all girls and connecting with other girls, but it's been going great so far, and I have met some amazing girls."

Being involved with SAL (Sheriff's Activity League) has helped shape Terrell's talent that she will perform for the competition: Sai Kata, a type of karate. Terrell will showcase a series of movements to music with a handheld pair of sai blades. The sai was used in Okinawa by police to make arrests and to control crowds. Modern demonstration versions feature three dulled points, and due to their metal structure and resulting weight, can be used to develop strength and coordination.

The specific series of movements in

the Katas have been passed down from generation to generation. To help her with her specific Sai Kata, Terrell enlisted the help of Cody Burford, her best friend and also a third degree black belt. Michaela would like to thank Cody and her family and friends for supporting her on her journey through the pageant.

During the evening gown portion of the contest, Terrell will put down the sai blades and instead showcase a lovely gold and brown halter gown with a low back and flowing skirt and hem.

The connection to karate also led Terrell to her platform: anti-bullying. Terrell was the subject of bullying for her practice in and knowledge of karate, often being "egged" on to engage in fights by other girls.

"I was never into that. I didn't like that my appreciation for karate made me the subject of bullying," Terrell said. "That's what I want to try and shed light on through my platform; untraditional bullying and how it can come in many forms."

Already starting to research statistics about bullying, Terrell said she was shocked when she read that California was the number one state in bullying. She hopes to shed light on the various forms of bullying - from physical to verbal to cyber - and help provide anti-bullying resources to those in need.

Anyone who'd like to sponsor Terrell, or find out more information, can contact her at michaelaterrell@willitsunified.com

Emily Oberg, 22, is a graduate of Ukiah High School class of 2010, and is currently attending Mendocino College where she is taking general education classes. She plans to go on to a college with a good film program soon.

Though she grew up in Ukiah, Oberg now calls Willits home. She moved to Willits, where her boyfriend lives, three years ago and started volunteering with the Willits Senior Center.

"I feel like I've met half the community through the Senior Center," Oberg said. "I was spending four days a week there. I even logged 520 hours one year. I really enjoyed it."

Even though she is now working at the Noyo Theatre as an assistant manager, getting connected back with the senior community is something she hopes to do through the Miss Mendocino pageant.

Her platform "Helping Seniors Through the Arts" will help to coordinate more classes and activities for seniors in the community, and she plans to teach art classes, painting, drawing and other craft projects.

But, while she has been working at the Noyo Theatre, Oberg has been excited to help the owners collect anecdotes and information for the Noyo's 75th anniversary film which is currently being made, featuring memories and stories about the theater over the past several decades.

The anniversary is in May, and the finished

film is planned to be shown to the community. Oberg originally decided to run for the title of Miss Mendocino along with a friend, but the friend couldn't do it. Oberg decided to forge ahead solo, and has been out speaking with the community to gather sponsors and support for her try for the tiara.

"Lots of my sponsors have come from Ukiah businesses, since they know me and my dad and my 'traveling-gypsy' twin sister Adrianna, but all of the Willits community has been so supportive and encouraging, too," said Oberg. Her dad, Michael "Obie" Oberg, works at AC Delco Auto Parts in Ukiah and was the inspiration for Emily's talent for the pageant: playing the banjo.

"A few years ago, my dad taught me how to play, and I've been doing it ever since!" explained Oberg.

Though the father-daughter pair usually enjoys playing traditional old folk songs, Oberg has created a special piece for the stage at the pageant which will feature a mixture of songs which focus on a lyrical melody, since the performance will be purely instrumental.

Oberg will also be showcasing a long, purple beaded gown on stage during the evening gown portion of the competition which her stepmom Paula Martin helped her select.

Anyone who would like to sponsor Oberg or would like more information is encouraged to contact her via email at emilyoberg@gmail.com.

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Revenue | From Page 1

- Brooke's Massage & Wellness, a mobile massage business operated by Brooke McFadden.
- Lily's Spa, a massage business operated by Ruiping Li.

The city's report on newly issued building permits and projects completed in December shows \$5,445 in revenue from new permits, \$442 more than December 2013.

For the fiscal year, total revenue from permits stands at \$24,402, up from \$19,883 at the same time during the previous fiscal year.

The city issued permits in December for a 2,311-square-foot single-family home in the Haehl Creek neighborhood, replacement of electrical service at a speeder shack at the south end of Railroad Avenue, roofing work on Walnut Avenue, a lumber storage building at Mendo Mill, a hookup of temporary power due to fire damage on Maple Street, and tenant improvements at 393 South Main Street.

New projects were valued at an estimated \$1.4 million, an increase from \$882,900 in December 2013, the report stated.

Work signed off on in December by the city building inspector included a 6.5kw roof-top solar array on Maple Street and replacement of a 1,000-gallon fuel tank at the PG&E yard on Baechtel Road.

- Zack Cinek

Franklin | From Page 1

The sides of one of the PG&E excavations. "Part of the hole gave way," Magagn said. "The PG&E guy said it was just a fluke chance that dirt would come down and break that line."

"At 2:54 Friday afternoon, we were dispatched to a natural gas leak near the 200 block of Franklin," Magagn said. "As we arrived on scene, we could hear the natural gas hissing from one of the excavated areas covered by heavy steel plates." Firefighters had no way of moving those 4 foot by 8 foot steel covers.

Willits Weekly's Maureen Moore, who was in the neighborhood at the time, said she could hear the hissing from 500 feet away.

The fire department requested PG&E to respond, and the power company called in an underground crew and a backhoe to take the steel plates off. There was a possibility of a spark from the steel plates as they were being moved.

"We did a fire hazard standby with one engine, and we put guys on a charged hose line" - filled with water and ready to go - as protection for the PG&E crew, Magagn said. Firefighters were wearing gas masks.

PG&E used a compression tool, Magagn said, to shut off the gas line.

The fire department also closed Franklin Avenue near the leak for public safety during the incident. The firefighters cleared the scene about 5:00 pm, while the PG&E crew was still working to restore gas to the residence with the broken line.

PG&E crews were back at work on the upgrade project this week. A call to PG&E's public relations department Tuesday morning was not returned by press time.

Little Lake Fire Department has about "six or eight" calls to gas leaks every year, Magagn said. "Most of them are caused by somebody doing a dig; this one was a little different."

Woodhouse | From Page 1

public safety," Angelo said. "The committee will be limited to gathering information about the economic impacts of legalization."

The board agreed the short-term committee will report back to supervisors in 90 days.

Several representatives from local and regional pro-legalization groups were present when the item came up at Tuesday's board meeting. Some speakers welcomed the board's action on the issue; others urged the board to take broader action.

"We're your neighbors, your family, your friends," said Jude Tillman of the Mendocino Cannabis Policy Council. "We go to the same churches. We send our kids to the same schools. We value and we contribute to the well-being of the entire community."

"The socio-political climate has shifted recently, so much so that the respectable small cannabis farming community has come out of the shadows and is now prepared to participate in shaping their country's economy. And we are eager to support and work with our elected public officials."

"We need to develop our legislative policies and procedures well before Sacramento politicians create theirs, because theirs will be principally influenced by large-scale, uniform-cultivation companies," Tillman said. "We're worried about these large corporate grows that are going to move in. They are going to take their profit out of our county, and

Woodhouse | From Page 1

out of our state."

Woodhouse urged the public not to overwhelm committee members with calls and opinions. "Before I go down the rabbit hole, I just want to say, goodbye to everybody," Woodhouse said. "I'm taking Carmel [Angelo] with me, so...."

"This is very important, but I really hope the public will learn a lesson from government," he said. "I think we have 38 committees. We have all these agendas and notes and minutes and procedures. There's very little time left to actually do anything new. We're just trying to respond to emergencies."

"We have to invent a new way of doing things, and that's what we're trying to do here. And it's gonna be driven by what I claimed in the election is what I wanted, and that's public comment."

"We do need your involvement, but please learn from us, and if you give us your comments in writing it would really help," Woodhouse added. "I hope Carmel will come up with a recommendation of how information can get to the county without going through me. I already have trouble opening the emails I get."

For those who want to contact Supervisor Woodhouse, his email at the board of supervisors office is woodhouse@co.mendocino.ca.us. His phone there is 463-4441; his office phone in Willits is 459-4677.

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Learning about Martin Luther King, Jr.

First- and fourth-grade “buddies” at Willits Elementary Charter School read and discussed the book, “Let’s Read About Martin Luther King, Jr.” by Courtney Baker last week, before the Martin Luther King Day holiday on Monday. The biography, illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu, is published by Scholastic First Biographies as part of the “Let’s Read About...” series for



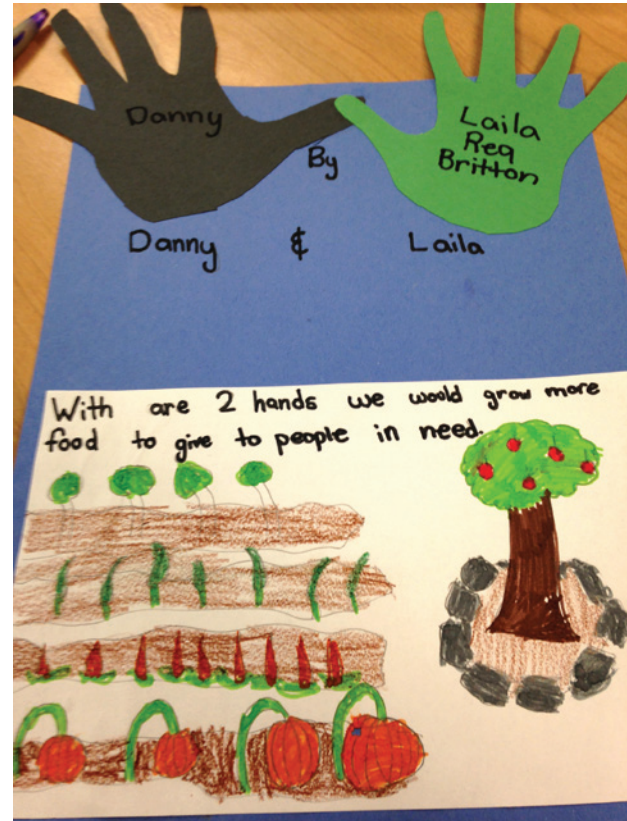
young readers, which features historic and contemporary figures, including George Washington, Christopher Columbus and George W. Bush.

WECS director Kara McClellan reports that, after the book discussion, lead teacher Cristina Balthrop and first-grade teacher Jeanette Shribbs asked each pair of buddies to think of a way they could help make the world a better place for everyone. They traced their hands, and then finished and illustrated the sentence: “With our 2 hands we would...”

What would the students do? “Pick up trash, save water, help push people in wheelchairs, make clothes for poor people, grow food for homeless people, grow more food to give to people in need, help people if they got hurt, help our mom slow down so she doesn’t crash, change the world to be nicer to the people around us, protest global warming and pick up garbage, pick up trash on the earth so the earth lasts longer,” and more.

At WECS, each of the grades is paired up into buddies of different ages: students in second and fifth grades are buddies; first and fourth grade students are buddies; and Kindergarten and third grade students are buddies, too. They meet once a week to read together or do some other activity.

– Jennifer Poole



Above: Two of the illustrations kids at Willits Elementary Charter School made in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

More Abooooooard!

Roots adds another open-air riding car to yard

With the recent acquisition of a second open-air riding car, Roots of Motive Power hopes to accommodate more riders during their annual steam-ups, shortening lines and wait times while simultaneously saving another piece of antique train equipment from ruin.

The 1916 car was originally built by Pullman-Standard as a 40-foot wooden boxcar, then was transformed into a caboose by Western Pacific Railroad in 1938. In the late

1950s, it was transferred to the Sacramento Northern, where it continued operation as a caboose until the late 1970s when the old wooden cabooses were replaced with all-steel models. After its retirement, the car suffered a fire, and the car body was removed. Between the fire and

Read the rest of **Roots** | Over on Page 11



Left: The riding car before being rescued by the Roots crew.

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

forward to every month,” said Nancy Reed about WCA’s monthly art opening receptions. Reed coordinates volunteer efforts and can often be found at the center’s front desk during gallery hours.

The WCA’s appearance on the city council agenda drew interest from some out-of-town arts supporters and the Arts Council of Mendocino County.

Former Third District Supervisor Hal Wagenet attended the January 14 meeting, and offered a professional analysis of the center done six or eight months ago while he was head of the Arts Council.

Wagenet believes the center needs about \$2,000 a month to survive, but not to thrive.

City Hall would like for the center to become self-sustaining without staff support or money from the city.

Dale Dingman, a longtime supporter of the center, thinks the center can raise enough money from the community to cover its basic needs.

“It is all about people and community,” Dingman said. “A couple of phone calls and you fill up a room.”

Janae Stephens, Arts Council president, sees the center as an engine of local economic development.

Stephens said the council would be willing to help author a mission statement, form a legal structure, and provide fiscal assistance for a professional planning session.

The WCA formed in the early 1990s and opened its gallery doors in the beginning of

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

almost bizarre, history in Mendocino County. Established in 1949, it existed virtually in name only for much of its history. In 2003, the board of supervisors attempted to change the landscape of county water politics by infusing more money, power and responsibility into the agency. It appointed Roland Sanford as the agency’s general manager and gave him a long list of tasks, but did not provide him with an adequate budget.

After the 2008 financial crash, Sanford’s budget was further reduced, and he left. In 2010, the agency was blended into the county’s Department of Planning and Building Services. Its staff went from three fulltime employees to only a half-time position.

Currently, according to Planning and Building Services Director Steve Dunicliff, the water agency has neither a general manager nor a staff person. Dunicliff has himself been meeting minimum state requirements concerning water, by contracting out necessary work to the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, the University of California Cooperative Extension, or other private organizations.

Over the past six years, the water agency’s annual budget has averaged about \$130,000. As Supervisor Carre Brown, chairwoman of the board of supervisors for 2015, noted during discussions on the water agency: “It’s been on life support.”

Dunicliff said the most important work currently being done by the agency is ensuring compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, which monitors improvements in dealing with storm runoff in cities. He noted the agency must soon gear up to meet requirements of the recently approved California State Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program.

Groundwater reports for various basins in the county will become mandatory in 2020 and in 2022.

During discussions Tuesday afternoon, several heavy-hitters in the world of water urged supervisors to beef up and retool the agency.

Joe Scriven of the county Resource Conservation District praised the agency for maintaining a valuable public records library having to do with water. Mike Webster, a retired field officer for the U.S. Geological Survey, warned supervisors the water agency “has lost a lot of institutional memory over the last couple of years. You ought to bring that back.”

Ukiah resident Andrew Nicoll argued a competent water agency would help unify the water voice of the county.

“There are seven water districts in the Ukiah valley alone,” Nicoll said. “There’s

the last decade. Compared to a long-running Willits organization like Frontier Days, the WCA is still a young group.

Frontier Days’ Jeffrey Cook urged WCA not to become discouraged. Cook pointed out Frontier Days has always been a totally volunteer effort.

“That is what created it, and that is what sustains it,” Cook said. “It is that lasting idea that keeps it going.”

David Steffen drove from Gualala to attend. Steffen handles underwriting for radio station KZYX, and made a case for the center’s reach outside of the Willits community, recalling the first time he laid eyes on the gallery.

“When I first walked through the door with Dale [Dingman], I was gaga that this place was here – sort of on one of the edges of the county,” Steffen said. “Like a sports team does, it brings the attention of everyone in the county to Willits.”

Willits school teacher Marisela de Santa Anna urged continuation of the center’s popular “Art Under 20” program that shows art from students.

“Sometimes we have it so packed it is out into the street,” de Santa Anna said.

Mayor Bruce Burton endorsed City Manager Adrienne Moore’s proposal to form an ad hoc committee to explore ideas about the center’s future, and formed an ad hoc committee. No committee members were appointed at last week’s council meeting, but Burton said he would see who is interested in being on the committee.

lots of duplication of effort. If we could pool all these districts together, we’re really not in that bad of shape. And, if we pulled all these agencies together, it would give us a much more powerful voice in Sacramento.”

Janet Pauli, chairwoman of the Inland Water and Power Commission, which primarily focuses on water supply issues connected with the Potter Valley Project and Lake Mendocino, told supervisors what an adequate water agency should be doing.

“In addition to maintaining historical records,” Pauli said, the water agency would be available for “resource sharing, grant-writing expertise, lobbying, the ability to be a lobbying voice for the county, which is something we sorely lack, general monitoring, dealing with countywide concerns with water quality, groundwater, surface water, public education and information.”

“You did hear the message of coming together with one voice,” said former county supervisor and current chairman of the Russian River Flood Control District Richard Shoemaker. “That voice has been unified for 25 years. How we do that has been the issue. I urge each of you, as board members, to become deeply involved in the water issues in your district. If you want to do that as the water agency, great, but they need your attention, all of you.”

“Two years ago, there was an attempt by the Local Agency Formation Commission [LAFCO] to bring people together to discuss water issues in the Ukiah valley. In some areas, it was well received. In other areas, not well received. Lots of issues around conspiracy and everything else. Lots of fear. So if you can bring some neutrality to open discussion about these issues, that would be very helpful.”

“Russian River Flood Control is glad to help with that,” Shoemaker added.

Supervisor Brown explained why Angelo was the logical choice for the position: “First, the manager of the water agency has to make sure various county departments are complying with state law and state standards on water. Well, those department heads already answer to Angelo anyway. She’s their boss now. Secondly, the board of supervisors sits as the board of directors of the water agency. With Carmel in that position, I think the board of directors would feel some comfort in knowing someone we trust was making sure all the necessary work was being done.”

When asked for her assessment on how the idea was being received, Brown said she hadn’t heard any “pushback” on the idea yet.

The move to appoint Angelo to the position will be considered at the board of supervisors’ February 3 meeting.

Supes finalize 2015 legislative agenda

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors finalized its 2015 legislative agenda by unanimous vote this week, including new and ongoing issues on the federal slate. Willits Weekly covered the state-level lobbying agenda last week.

Much of the federal agenda is a continuation of the issues established in 2014, but new items include additional support for agricultural issues, extending marine sanctuaries, and protecting

specific monies for transportation, wildlife, and senior services.

Added to the draft document before approval of both the state and federal agendas was support of funding opportunities for restoration of rail infrastructure from Windsor to Willits.

In the 2014 legislative agenda, supervisors supported certain aspects of the Farm Bill, calling for recognition of rural needs, enhanced technical assistance, and simplified funding applications. This year, the county is supporting elements in the Farm Bill “that help promote local economic development,” including connecting rural communities to broadband internet and also “providing much needed, and often unavailable, financing for rural small businesses, communities, and individuals.”

Other efforts the county is supporting include food security programs, access to safe rural housing, and community infrastructure and partnerships.

Transportation policy gets this nod of support: “A surface transportation policy that encompasses preservation and maintenance of the existing highway system, including the secondary or rural highway network, and connectivity between local, regional and statewide transportation systems, is essential for our county,” the agenda states.

This year’s agenda continues to state the importance of advocating for local control in light of federal-level budget and debt-ceiling negotiations, “ongoing deficit reduction measures,” and “the continuing congressional earmark moratorium.”

This year, the need to “prevent disproportionate reductions to local government” is listed in light of an expiring temporary spending measure and a new Congress.

One item resulting from deficit reform is the need to protect “entitlement” and safety net programs for seniors. This year, the board specifically mentions the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, which is due to undergo further funding cuts that would affect 195,000 volunteers nationally.

“Seniors and nonprofits are significantly impacted by these proposed cuts,” the agenda states. “In rural populations such as Mendocino County the loss of these supports has an even greater impact as there are fewer resources to cover the loss.”

Increasing federal funding for the Coyote Valley Dam feasibility study and ongoing maintenance is also continued from last year.

There are several items supervisors will advocate for on both state and federal levels that have continued unchanged from 2014. These include: support for the collection of internet sales tax, the use of biomass and biochar within the county, and the “development of locally based models for energy delivery/energy independence, including wind, solar, and geothermal energy.”

Under that heading, supervisors are committed to supporting “efforts for Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) which allows cities and counties to secure alternative energy supply contracts,” a model used in Marin and Sonoma counties.

Other items the board continues to support include the continuation of the Secure Rural Schools Act of 2000 in fiscal year 2015 and federal funds for the responsible dredging of Noyo Harbor.

In light of a lawsuit filed by animal advocates in November 2014, charging the county with violating the California Environmental Quality Act by not requiring a CEQA evaluation of its contract with the USDA’s Wildlife Services to trap animals considered a threat to agriculture, the county “requests support from our federal elected officials to advocate for USDA assistance in developing a joint NEPA/CEQA analysis to assist Mendocino County in the current litigation as well as future lawsuits in other counties.”

As in 2014, the agenda for regulatory reform and relief includes simplifying the USDA meat processing regulations and inspections to encourage local meat production.

The full legislative agenda can be found at: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/administration/pdf/2015_MC_Legislative_Platform-FINAL-update_UPLOAD.pdf

Willits City Council

HOW THEY VOTED – January 14 | Consent Calendar

Approved 5-0: The consent calendar included establishment of a city appropriations limit of \$5,495,822 for the fiscal year as per the Constitution of the State of California and a resolution for a one-time funding increase to the State Drinking Water State Revolving fund of \$391,312 that was approved in July.

HOW THEY VOTED – January 14 | City Manager Reports and Recommendations

Approved 5-0: Contract for Human Resources services with Regional Government Services, good through June and not to exceed \$40,000.

HOW THEY VOTED – January 20 | Special Meeting

Approved 4-0: City will negotiate and execute a sublease agreement to authorize REACH to commence temporary operations at the Willits airport. Madge Strong was absent.

– Zack Cinek

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

REACH wants to move to Willits.

“She assured me REACH is 100 percent committed to being at the Willits airport,” Moore said.

REACH went live at the Ukiah Regional Airport last week, where it hoped to temporarily house an EC135 helicopter and a team for critical-care transport.

A special meeting was called for Tuesday night, and council members met in closed session to discuss REACH.

The Keep the Code group argues REACH’s move to the airport needs to follow the processes of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Mayor Bruce Burton said the matter concerns him. “Personally,” said Burton, “my take on that is landing airplanes and helicopters at an airport does not constitute a development.”

One solution to get REACH flying from the Willits airport has been a sublease agreement between REACH and an airport tenant.

At a regular city council meeting six days prior to Tuesday’s special meeting, Burton said he wanted the council and the city to defend the airport and make a sublease agreement available.

At the special meeting, council members voted 4-0 to give an order to city staff that they “negotiate and execute” a sublease agreement between airport occupant Sierra Pacific Aviation, REACH and the City of Willits.

The rest of **Roots** | From Page 10

Roots’ purchase, it was transformed into a riding car with a burlap roof and hay bale seats.

The riding car was part of a bundle deal Roots’ Chris Baldo purchased, along with two other cabooses from the Sacramento yard. One even features a bright red paint job and can be seen at Baldo’s yard on Blosser Lane.

Though the riding car has had several visual reincarnations, Baldo notes the mechanics are in good shape, and it should be ready to ride during the Fourth of July 2015 celebration.



Above: The Level II class: Henrietta and Jake, Kay Lynn and Missy, Shannon and Oden, Trooper, Sallie and Roxie, Willow and Cathy, and Jenna and Captain.



Left: Students ask their dogs sit in close proximity to others and wait politely.

Below: Jenna and Captain perform a pattern on a loose leash showing control and communication.

Below right: Instructor Sallie Palmer demonstrates "sit/stay with distractions" with Trooper.



More Well Mannered Mutts are coming!

Tuesday evening marked the first of Sallie Palmer's next round of dog training classes in Willits. Palmer is the owner and trainer of Well Mannered Mutts, based in Ukiah, but has also started teaching in Willits. Though in the beginning classes weren't overflowing, that can no longer be said as more and more people see Palmer's "Well Mannered Mutts" around town. Tuesday's Level 1 classes were bursting the seams at the Willits Community Center, where the classes are held. Since so many Level I graduates were itching for more training, Palmer has started holding Level II classes, as well. These classes focus on extending past the Level I basics of "sit," "stay," "down," and proper leash techniques to work on adding new skills, as well as implementing more real-life scenarios.

The training is based on the new American Kennel Club Canine's "Good Citizen-Advanced," also called "Community Canine." Graduates from the class look forward to testing for this certification and showcasing the possibilities of positive relationships between dog and owner, hopefully encouraging others to do the same. Contact Palmer at 463-3647 (463-DOGS) or wellmanneredmutts@gmail.com to set up a private lesson, get on the waiting list, or for information on future classes, or visit www.wellmanneredmutts.com.

— Maureen Moore



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Elegant Niko

Niko is a 3-year-old neutered male Belgian Tervuren who weighs 47 pounds. We know from his past home that he loves to go on adventures, so Niko would be a great companion for someone with an active lifestyle. Because of his adventurous nature, chasing wildlife is hard to resist, and he has had an encounter with a wild pig and was injured. Supervision in that area would be required.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

Photo by Sage Mountainfire



Amazing Athlete

of Willits High School

BASKETBALL |
Chanel Alexander,
15, Sophomore

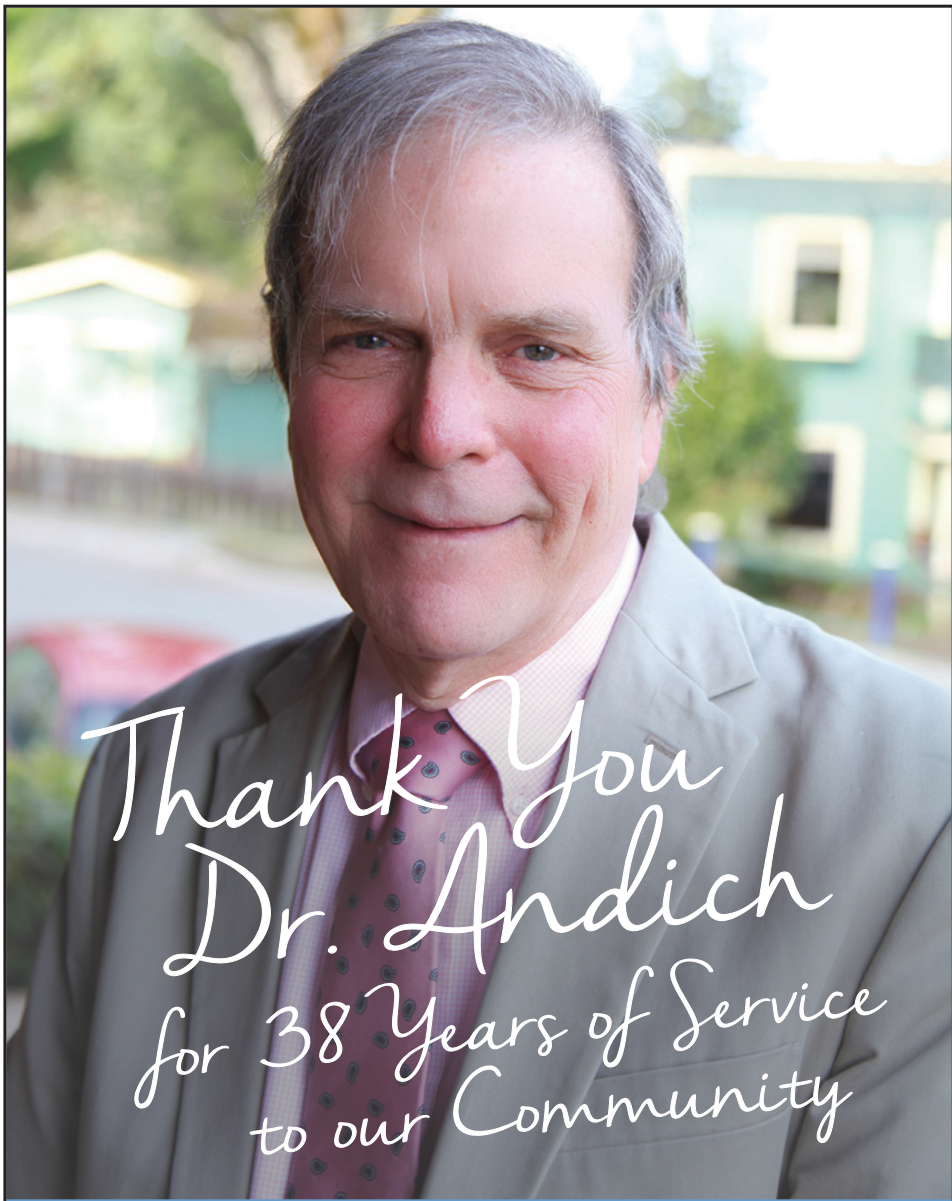
My selection for athlete of the week is Chanel Alexander – again.

Chanel is a sophomore on the varsity girls basketball team.

Chanel turned it up another notch this week! She's settling into the role as our team's point guard. The point guard position is a very demanding and pressure-packed position on the basketball court. Chanel accepts the responsibility with poise and style.

In both our games last week, Chanel was our offensive leader and played superb defense! Chanel was shooting really well in Tuesday's game in Fort Bragg. In Friday's game in Lower Lake, Chanel took over the game offensively: Attacking the basket all through the game. It was something special to watch. She couldn't be stopped!

— Coach Jody Ward



Thank You
Dr. Andich
for 38 Years of Service
to our Community

BRUCE ANDICH, M.D.

After 38 years of continued service to our community, it is with deep respect and gratitude that we announce the retirement of Bruce Andich, M.D., Internal Medicine, from the Redwood Medical Clinic.

As of January, 2015, Dr. Andich will no longer be seeing patients in the clinic. Patients will have the option to see John Glycer, M.D., Family Medicine physician, and Suki Spillner, FNP-C, at the same office located at 88 Madrone Street, in Willits.

To schedule an appointment call 707.459.6115

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