

Above: The new manager for the City of Willits, Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra, fourth from left, surrounded by Willits City Council members, from left, Larry Stranske, Ron Orenstein, Madge Strong, Sabrina Rodriguez, and Gerry Gonzalez, at last week's council meeting.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Thanks to the band

To the Editor:

I would like add a few words to Matthew Caine's review of the Rotary Club's crab dinner fundraiser on January 20. In addition to everything and everybody that Caine mentioned, there was a band playing live music the entire evening: when the guests started to arrive, all through dinner, and then as people were going home. Even during the auction, pianist Paul Kemp added musical flourishes to encourage the bidding and inspire the guests' generosity.

I would like to publicly thank my musicians, George Husaruk, Paul Kemp and Sachiko Shimada, not just for playing such fine music, but for being the professionals that they are, and for adding a special touch to a special dinner. I also would like to thank Paul Kemp for providing an excellent sound system for the event. The delightful "auctioneer extraordinaire" Rachel Britten would not have been able to auction a single item in that large noisy hall without the equipment and the sound engineering expertise that Paul provided for her.

B.B. Kamoroff,
The Basics, Willits

Revise Class K – no!

To the Editor:

We are reeling from the economic downturn due to the Willits bypass, along with the recent insult of our local wildfires.

The Class K reassessment is a final nail in the coffin – a literal genocide for the rural, low-density, low-cost housing we have left in this county! A deterrent for young families to join us here and revitalize our county.

Let's take a look at just one of the proposed county housing ordinance revisions harming Class K – that now offers low-income housing during this increasing shortage.

"Class K ordinance shall state that the most recently adopted version of the Uniform Building Code (UBC) would be the operative code. This would avoid the necessity of having to re-adopt Class K revisions."

• This is an alarming proposition. Any changes to the Class K ordinance require amending the General Plan, and for good reason. Class K ordinance is currently part of the Mendocino Housing Element of the General Plan.

• General Plan protocol encourages public input and maintains transparency of purpose.

• Let's not curtail democratic principles for convenience's sake or to avoid public input.

Seems to me that we cannot legally change Class K without the lengthy legal and public-comment-driven process of revising our General Plan.

Here is this point of clarity, written in the 1980s by our county supervisors:

"The Class K building ordinance exists to 'provide minimum requirements for ... limited density rural dwellings and appurtenant structures' and 'to permit the use of ingenuity and preferences of the builder.' The Class K ordinance further states that the adoption of these amended regulations 'is reasonably necessary because ... Mendocino County has a severe housing shortage. Low-cost housing is especially hard to find in the county and the adoption of regulations for limited density rural dwellings will encourage the further construction of such dwellings. State law mandates the County of Mendocino to adopt a General Plan which makes adequate provisions for housing its citizens.' And finally, these amended building

regulations are 'necessary so that county residents may be provided housing at a cost affordable to themselves and to the county of Mendocino.'

This articulate argument, based on and sanctioned by California's Title 24 Building Standards Code and Title 25 Housing and Community Development regulations, was written in the 1980s by our county supervisors to explain the need for amended building regulations that support California affordable housing mandates and help address Mendocino housing shortages.

In the nearly 40 years since this was published, our housing needs have become more extreme, and our state government more adamant that counties must make affordable housing options available to their residents or face legal consequences." Today's Titles 24 and Title 25 still endorse those Class K goals.

Collecting further thoughts on Class K and its importance to our county in this economic moment....

How can the supes, sitting cozy with their \$84,000 salaries pretend to know much about how it is to carve out a piece of land, proudly build a house for your family using your own hands? Raise your kids Mendocino-style in a simple home surrounded by nature and a lessened interest in consumption of wealth and goods? Some of them might have, and yet – here they are – denying the future that they benefited from.

Furthermore, we are dealing with the results of cannabis regulations and how over-regulation is putting many small farms and long-term family cultivators out of business, leaving mostly the big dogs, the ones that use a lot of water. Should we favor them more by getting rid of our heritage rural Class K farmers, the backbone of our rural development since 1967?

What about the many rural families who buy groceries, pump gas, shop at local stores.... Do we want them to leave because they cannot afford to live here? Especially our youth who regularly file this county; let's keep them and build a future!

You who own stores and businesses – millions in local dollars will go away with them – needlessly – because of yet another short-sighted decision by our county. School budgets will suffer by this mass exodus we are experiencing right now ... reducing even more services for our children's education.

We all will be affected by these recent events even now bleeding our economy, you just have not yet seen or felt how it will play out.

I urge you – Mendocino County Third District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey – and all supes – to study this proposal. Do not listen just to the housing commission (who may have gripes such as 13,000 square-foot Class K home applications – yes, I agree – that size Class K housing is wrong!)

Everyone – everyone – must show up at the February 27 board of supervisors meeting and let them know how important Class K housing is to our county economy, to our local culture, to the future of our children, and stewarding the land we all know and love.

Annie Waters, Willits

WCS Winter Fund Drive up to \$29,750

As of January 24, Willits Community Services and Food Bank has raised \$29,750 in its 2017/18 Winter Fund Drive – getting close to its goal of \$34,000.

WCS has been providing essential human services to the greater Willits and North Mendocino County communities since 1981, providing a safety net of human services that help cushion the effects of short- and long-term unemployment, poverty and crisis.

To help WCS reach its fundraising goal, checks made out to "Willits Community Services" can be mailed to WCS, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, or dropped off during office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon to 5 pm.

WCS has received contributions for the Winter Fund Drive from the following donors since the last update:

Esther Faber, Ron Sheets, Laurel Samuels, Allegra McAbee Steele, Patricia and Michael Harrison, R Horse Ranch, Beth and Al Rosen, John Bothwell, Delores Braden, Henry Hanson, David Smith, Gypsy Query, Karl Amo, Debbie McCubbin, Jenna Byrne, Opal Miner, James King, Galen Hathaway, and Cheryl and Jerry Jordan.

– Submitted by
Willits Community Services

California Growers Association files lawsuit to close loophole in state cultivation regulations

On January 22, the California Growers Association, a California non-profit mutual benefit corporation, and the largest cannabis trade association in the state, filed a lawsuit challenging the California Department of Food and Agriculture's decision to allow unlimited stacking of cultivation licenses.

Proposition 64 was clear that it "ensures the nonmedical marijuana industry in California will be built around small and medium sized businesses." Specifically Proposition 64 and its implementing laws are clear that small and medium-sized businesses are provided five years to establish and transition their operations before the state may issue large-scale cultivation licenses. Regulations recently adopted by CDFG, however, create a loophole by allowing a single corporation to obtain and aggregate unlimited smaller cultivation licenses to operate a cultivation site larger than the legal limit.

The decision to move forward with the lawsuit came after nearly two months of careful consideration and a unanimous vote of the CalGrowers Executive Committee. "We took our time with this because we wanted to make sure we got it right," Hezekiah Allen, executive director of CalGrowers, explained. "Generally we think the agency is doing a good job; this is not a broad complaint. Our concern is very narrow in scope, but the implications are huge."

Representing more than 1,000 cannabis growers and businesses in communities throughout the state, Allen said the consensus to move forward was clear: "Prop. 64's five-year ban on large cultivation licenses was included specifically to account for many Californians' concerns that locally owned and community-minded businesses would be replaced by a small number of powerful, consolidated corporations.

"Unfortunately, CDFG's regulatory decision allows these interests to quickly corner the market, while tens of thousands of small and mid-sized businesses are still working to fight local bans, raise capital, or establish operations in compliance with new rules. We could not stand by while a single regulatory decision threatened the future of so many hardworking Californians."

Despite the disagreement, Allen is staying positive. "Our government has checks and balances for a reason. We look forward to an opinion from the judicial branch to help settle this disagreement so we can move forward collaboratively and ensure as many businesses as possible are able to participate in the regulated cannabis market."

To see the full complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief, as filed, check this post on the "California Growers Association" page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CalGrowers/posts/203702817654060.

– California Growers Association, Sacramento

Trump's oil drilling plan: Only 1 public meeting set for California

The Interior Department has done everything they can to make it especially difficult for the people most affected by offshore oil development to be involved by making public comments opposing Trump's plan for drilling all around the country.

1. They are having "Listening Sessions" *not* official government hearings. These have been scheduled far away from coastal communities. They are all in state capitals of coastal states. California's [one and only session] is in Sacramento, Thursday, February 8. If you can go to Sacramento on the 8th, please do. There will be a rally on the steps of the Capitol at 1 pm. The "Listening Session" will be at 3 pm at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 828 "I" Street, Sacramento.

2. It's clear that there is a serious effort to confuse the public. I'm urging participation, no matter how difficult. I hope that people will make an effort to comment, publicly, with cogent arguments about the environmental, economic, recreational, reasons for protecting our oceans from industrialization.

3. Transportation: A bus sponsored by the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity will take riders from Santa Rosa to Sacramento, on February 8, 2018, at 10 am from the Environmental Center of Sonoma County, 55 Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact shoshana.hebshi@sierraclub.org

If you can't go to the rally in Sacramento, please make comments. The comment period ends on March 9. They have a convoluted, complicated and constantly changing website with misleading directions. Here is an easier alternative, a new website for people wishing to make a public comment on Trump's "Drill Everywhere" Outer Continental Shelf Program: <http://SaveTheCoast.org>. Please use it thoughtfully.

– Rachel Binah, Little River

A Hot Winter's Night

Willits High School students show off their many talents in the arts

Willits High School is undergoing a revival of the arts thanks primarily to the efforts of visual arts teacher Carolyn Bakewell and music and theater teacher Diana McNally-McCall, with the help of others such as poetry instructor Jill Walton, leadership director Kelley Case-Brackett, culinary craft teacher Jessie Rees, and the support of the administration.

The 14th annual A Hot Winter's Night at the school on January 26 was a celebration of all that has been accomplished in visual and performing arts since the beginning of the school year. With students from all grades at the high school lending their talents to the proceedings, a delightful and fun-filled evening was experienced by all that attended. The students also appeared to enjoy the ability to create and to be able to express themselves freely and without fear.

Prior to the beginning of the show, there was a \$5 all-you-can-eat soup and salad dinner in the Wolverine Cafe, spearheaded by the Leadership class under the direction of Case-Brackett. The choice of four savory soups included loaded potato soup, albondigas (meatball), chicken noodle and posole (slow cooked pork and corn).

After dinner, the creativity of Bakewell's artists was evident in the halls leading up to the auditorium. In addition to the hovering papier-mâché hot air balloons, the halls were full of the work of over 100 young artists, including class assignments of collages, magazine extrapolations, drawings, paintings and others.

Opening the show was Nicholas Habel and Christopher (C.J.) Abrams, masters of ceremonies and performers. Habel entertained the crowd between acts with an array of internet-inspired groaner jokes, his affable delivery belying the intrinsic silliness of the material: "What do you call a pony with a cough? A little hoarse. Why was the strawberry crying? His mom was in a jam."

First up was the WHS Concert Band, a small dedicated group of 11 students and two teachers, including Chris Olds, musical director of Baechtel Grove Middle School, on alto saxophone. They played three movements from "Simple Gifts" by Frank Ticheli as well as the more familiar "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" by Josef Zawinul.

Next up, Paige Brown recited her poem, "The Butterfly":

"Sometimes I think I can see it. Dark silky veil hovering above me as I hide in its shadow.

And when I open my eyes in the pitch dark. I can see it too.

A black mass as I watch it move closer and closer as it engulfs and paralyzes me ..."

Just when the audience thought it was safe, Habel was back with more jokes: "What do you call false spaghetti? An impasta."

Emma Crowe then thrilled the crowd with a passionate and precise dance to "Just Say" by Extreme Music. Ian Watson performed an entertaining rendition of "Take On Me" by A-Ha. Sakora Scott, as a mysterious hooded figure, expertly improvised on piano to "Lunar Eclipse."

Habel, showing he has talents beyond the telling of sketchy jokes, recited his ruminating poem, "Coffee." Having memorized the words, he was able to engage the audience to the very end.

"You're drowning in a dream. A nightmare that you can't wake up from.

Your heart grows cold as your body grows numb and you head sinks down.

And you realize that this, this is life...."

The first half ended with McNally-McCall's musical comedy class doing a sneak peak of their upcoming "Once Upon a Mattress," which was dedicated to the memory of Chris Schnitzius who played the minstrel in a former production of the musical 20 years ago.

Read the rest of Night | Over on Page 11



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At left: The WHS Concert Band played three movements from "Simple Gifts" by Frank Ticheli, as well as the more familiar "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" by Josef Zawinul. Below, from left: Freshmen Genevieve VanMeter Owens and Ellene Hernandez sell raffle tickets. Jessie Brown's collage "Birdland" was on display in the hallway. John Foucault practices his euphonium.

Photos by Mathew Caine



At top: Carolyn Bakewell, Diana McNally-McCall, and Baechtel Grove Middle School music director Chris Olds had a great time showcasing the students' talents.

Above, left: The musical theater class offers a sneak peak of their upcoming production of "Once Upon a Mattress." Above, right: Rhiyann displayed the work of art, "Dancing Trees."

At right: Nicholas Habel entertains the audience with "groaner" jokes.

Below, left: Eduardo Llamas Calderon displayed his sketch, "Mutilated." Below, right: At intermission, the crowd mingles amongst the artwork and samples goodies provided by the special education kids.



Bunko

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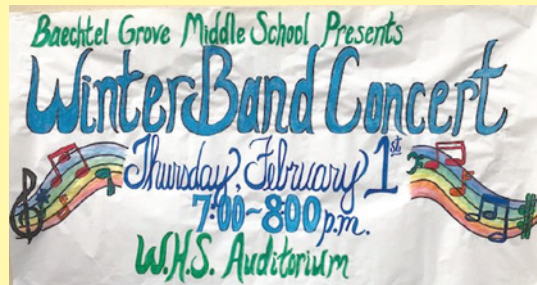
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Thursday, February 1

Diabetes Management Classes: Howard Hospital's Clinical Nutrition Manager Annie Frassinello leads another series of Thursday evening classes related to diabetes topics. Thursday, February 1, the class topic is "Meds, Monitoring and Activities" and on Thursday, February 8, "Coping and Reducing Risks." From 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Seabiscuit Conference Room, Howard Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive. RSVP: Dietitian's Office: 456-3132.



Baechtel Grove Winter Concert: Baechtel Grove Middle School presents its Winter Band Concert on Thursday, February 1 from 7 to 8 pm in the Willits High School auditorium. Admission is free. The program, directed by BGMS music teacher Chris Olds, features the 6th grade band playing various selections from the "Measures of Success" Method Book; the 7th grade band playing "Alle Menschen Müssen Sterben" Choral by J.S. Bach, "Pirates of the Caribbean," and "Procession of the Champions"; and the 8th grade band playing "Grant Us Thy Peace," from 16th or 17th century Germany, and "Funkytown" by Steven Greenberg. "This is a great opportunity to hear student musicians performing great music at a wonderful venue. Come on by and support your friends and our amazing Baechtel Grove Music Program."

Free Violin Concert by Jaime Jorge: Adventist Health Howard Memorial presents a free community concert by violin virtuoso Jaime Jorge, on Thursday, February 1 at 7 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. "Jaime Jorge is a talented violinist who also has an inspiring story to share. Jaime began playing the violin at the age of 5. Born and raised in communist Cuba ... when Jaime was 10, his family came to the United States, where Jaime received a Christian education and violin lessons with eminent violinist and teacher Cyrus Forough.... Since 1988 he has traveled over 6 million air miles and has played in North, Central and South America, Europe, Australia, Asia and Africa (six continents in all and over 70 countries). He has recorded and released 17 albums."

Friday, February 2

Rotary Crab Sale: Willits Rotary Club couldn't get crab last week, but they're on for this week, thanks to Cahto Fisheries, with freshly boiled crabs – while they last – on Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3 starting around 9 or 10 am, at the corner of Main Street and East San Francisco.

Shanachie Pub: Joe Hein Band – "dreamy harmonic sounds with an uptempo rhythm influenced by the songs of yesterday's AM country and R&B gold." Visit www.facebook.com/josepheinmusic. Opening act: Mise. Friday, February 2 at 9 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, February 3

Rotary Crab Sale: Willits Rotary Club couldn't get crab last week, but they're on for this week, thanks to Cahto



‘An Evening to Remember’

Wednesday, February 14

The Adventist Christian School presents "An Evening to Remember," the annual Valentine's Day Dinner fundraiser at the school, 22751 Bray Road. "The gymnasium will become an 'Italian Villa' with ambience, lighting, and décor to make your experience memorable. Service begins at 5:30. The meal will feature a variety of pastas and sauces, a full salad bar, wonderful desserts, and a photo opportunity. Advance ticket are \$10 (available at Mazahar or at the school); \$12 at the door. Info: call 459-4333 or 954-0649.

WCT auditions for cowboy comedy

The Willits Community Theatre will be holding auditions for "Rio Hondo," a western movie-comedy-spoof written by Bill Robens and directed by Lee Stipe. Stipe is looking for 15 men and seven women between the ages of 20 and 60, with, hopefully, an accent on guys and gals who are younger than 40. This comedy has lots of shoot-outs, and there is a need for actors who come on for just a minute or so before biting the dust. There will be doubling and tripling of smaller roles. The show is scheduled to run from June 22 through July 8, over the Fourth of July and Frontier Days holidays.

Auditions for "Rio Hondo" will be held on Saturday, February 3 and Saturday, February 10, both days at noon, and also Friday, February 9 at 7 pm, at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane, just one block west of Shanachie Pub. For more information about "Rio Hondo," email Lee Stipe at lee_stipe@hotmail.com.

Fisheries, with freshly boiled crabs – while they last – on Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3 starting around 9 or 10 am, at the corner of Main Street and East San Francisco.

Phoenix Rising Garden Class: The Phoenix Rising Garden, on the west side of North Street between Redwood and Pine streets, presents the first garden class of 2018. Saturday, February 3, 12:30 to 4 pm. All classes are free; donations appreciated. Spring projects include: pruning fruit trees, planting new asparagus roots, and harvesting potatoes (learn about double-digging beds). Instructor Ron Woolsey. Info: 707-489-5408 and leave a message.

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Jenna Mammina and Rolf Sturm: Vocalist Jenna Mammina and guitarist Rolf Sturm perform at Brickhouse Coffee, Saturday, February 3, from 12 to 2:30 pm. No cover. "Jenna Mammina, one of the leading women of jazz/pop crossover has performed with Bobby McFerrin, Rickie Lee Jones, Al Jarreau, Phish [and more]. Rolf Sturm has played on over 60 CDs, performing with and/or playing on CDs that feature Loudon Wainwright, David Johansen (NY Dolls), Jorma Kaukonen (Jefferson Airplane), Archie Shepp [and more]." The duo has toured throughout the United States, Europe, and Mexico and have released two recordings, "Spark" (2015) and "Begin to Dance" (2017). 3 South Main Street. Info: www.jenna-rolf.com

Haschak for Supervisor Campaign Kick-off: Come and meet Willits teacher John Haschak, candidate for Third District supervisor, at this campaign meet and greet, Saturday, February 3 at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. "Hear Haschak's ideas for creating a more dynamic, sustainable economy, improve infrastructure and disaster preparation, including a second access route for Brooktrails, a sensible cannabis ordinance, and making County government transparent and accountable." 4 to 6 pm. Complimentary tea, coffee and treats. No charge, donations accepted.

"Natural Accumulations": Opening reception for the January show at the Willits Center for the Arts, featuring Willits fiber artist Ursula Patch, Saturday, February 3. Members preview at 6 pm; open to the public 7 to 9 pm. "Ursula Patch gets her inspiration from the natural

environment and how it changes throughout the day and year. She favors using locally sourced animal and plant materials for her work, and her goal is to 'foster strong connections between humans and their environment.'" Also part of this month's show: a Jewelry Pop-Up Show, featuring work in metal, glass, paper, wire and stone from local jewelers around the county." Runs through February 25. Gallery hours: 11 am to 5 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-1726.

Shanachie Pub: Jawknee Lawhorn & The Outhouse Gang, country rock from Huntsville, Alabama – and Los Angeles. Visit www.facebook.com/jawkneelawhornandtheouthousegang. With opening acts John Underwood and Chris Fox. Saturday, February 3 at 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



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Sunday, February 4

Sober Grad Pancake Breakfast: Sober Grad's Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Grange is set for Super Bowl Sunday, February 4! "Our breakfast is a fantastic way to start your Super Bowl Sunday!" Menu includes the Grange cooks' delicious pancakes made from scratch, scrambled eggs, bacon, OJ, and coffee, hot chocolate or tea. 8 to 11 am, Little Lake Grange, to 11 am at The Grange. \$6 adults; \$5

seniors; \$4 kids 10 and under. To go breakfasts will be available.

Ecstatic Dance Mendo: Monthly dance event hosts DJ Gabriel Francisco for a one-hour movement class and 2-hour dance experience followed by a sound healing. Sunday, February 4 from 10 am to 1:30 pm. All are welcome; families welcome. \$15. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "No talking on the dance floor. Move however you choose. Respect each other's space." More info: "Ecstatic Dance Mendo" on Facebook or 347-831-3645.

Monday, February 5

Happy 110th Birthday, Edie! The beautiful Edie Recagno Kennan Ceccarelli of Willits



WEF Drive Thru Tri Tip Dinner

February 23

The Willits Educational Foundation's annual Drive-Thru Tri Tip Dinner fundraiser is set for Friday, February 23 from 4 to 6 pm at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds on East Commercial Street. Dinner for four includes 1 whole tri tip, beans, salad, Emandal bread, homemade cookies and a rose donated by Flowers by Annette. Get your ticket, \$60 for dinner for four, at Yokum's Body Shop, Mazahar, or Cat's Meow, or call Warren Lewis at 459-4429 or Jenn Drew at 354-1670.



Cannabis is Medicine: Changing the Narrative with Education

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 5:30-7:00 PM

Jude Thilman, Medicinal Cannabis Educator

Cannabis has been used as an herbal healing therapy for centuries. Researchers understand the science behind medicinal cannabis, but the public remains ill-equipped to choose and use the cannabis medicine that is right for them. Join us to learn about the science of cannabis medicine and to get answers to your questions about this controversial plant.

Jude Thilman is a medical cannabis educator and the owner of Dragonfly Wellness Center. She offers presentations to patient groups and health providers, as well as consulting for individuals seeking to learn about cannabis medicines.

Adventist Wellness Center
Call 456-9674 for more information.
Email: gdfratewill@gmail.com
Visit: adventistwellness.org for more speaker topics.

- How does Cannabis Heal?
- What Conditions can it Treat?
- What is CBD and how does it work with THC?
- Can I utilize Cannabis without getting high?

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

Tuesday, February 6

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "The Shape of Water," "Darkest Hour," "Maze Runner: The Death Cure" and "3 Billboards Outside Ebbing, MO". For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Twining Time at Brickhouse: John Wagenet and Anita Blu, joined by vocalist Helen Falandes, perform Folk/Country/Americana Roots plus new and old favorites as well as original music; 2 and 3 part vocal harmonies, acoustic guitar and keyboard. First Tuesday of each month; Tuesday, February 6 this month. 12:30 to 3 pm. No cover. Brickhouse Coffeehouse, 3 South Main Street, featuring organic coffee, gluten-free baked goods, sandwiches, and more. Info: "Twining Time" on Facebook, www.reverbnation.com/johnwagenet or 459-1598.

Avenues to Wellness presents: "Cannabis is Medicine: Changing the Narrative with Education," a talk by Jude Thilman, medical cannabis educator, Tuesday, February 6, 5:30 to 7 pm, at Willits Center for the Arts 71 East Commercial Street. "Jude Thilman is a medical cannabis educator and the owner of Dragonfly Wellness Center in Fort Bragg. She offers presentations to patient groups and health providers, as well as counseling for individuals seeking to learn about cannabis medicines." Info: 456-9676 or atwforhealth@gmail.com.



Jude Thilman

Wednesday, February 7

North County Women in Business: NCWIB's monthly first-Wednesday meeting, February 7 this month, features local natural health care providers offering "Tips and Tools for Your Health and Well-Being." 8:15 to 9:30 am. Free to Willits Chamber of Commerce members, free to first-time guests, \$5 to returning non-members. Willits Center for the Arts, upstairs gallery, 71 East Commercial Street.

Willits Science Fair: The 2018 Willits Science Fair featuring projects from school kids around the Willits school district opens for public viewing today at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Wednesday, February 7 the fair is open from 8:30 am to 7 pm, and Thursday, February 8, open hours are 8:30 am to 3 pm. Tuesday is judging day, so public visitors this week will see projects adorned with the ribbons and awards their creators have won. Qualifiers at the Willits level will go on to the county science fair, set for March 10, 2018 at the Mendocino College Gym.



Jon Gonzales

Chrisp. Friday, February 9 at 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Ecstatic Dance

FEBRUARY 4 Sunday + movement class

class 10 a.m. | dance 11 a.m - 1:30 p.m. | + sound bath

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Willits Center for the Arts
71 E. Commercial St.
facebook: Ecstatic Dance Mendo - 347 831 3645
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Senior Center Lunch

Week of February 5 through February 9

Monday: Meat Loaf

Tuesday: Fish & Chips

Wednesday: Beef Stope

Thursday: Spinach Lasagna

Friday: Chicken & Dumplings

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

Saturday, February 10

WCT Auditions: Willits Community Theatre holds more auditions for "Rio Hondo," a western-movie-comedy-spoof written by Bill Robens and directed by Lee Stipe. Saturday, February 10 at noon, at the WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. Info: contact Lee at 456-9654 or lee_stipe@hotmail.com. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.



Calvin Taylor

Cotton Dandee Hoedown: Free show and class at Brickhouse Coffee from 2 to 4 pm on Saturday, February 10, with Marjo Wilson. "Tea & Time – come singalong and support the open mic for kids. Beginner ukulele for all ages; bring your ukelele; let's strum some C-F-G together. I'll be teaching Cotton's '4\$ Deal' and 'C-F Ditty.'"

Shanachie Pub: Women in Music Night, with Caitlin Jemma, folk/country singer-songwriter; Margo Clikar, roots Americana songwriter; and The Real Sarahs. "organic harmonies that enchant and uplift the spirit." Saturday, February 10 at 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, February 11

38th annual Willits Classic Race: the North Coast Striders present the 38th annual Willits Classic – 10 mile, 5k run/walk, and "almost 1 mile" kiddie races – on Sunday, February 11. Sponsored by Adventist Health Howard Memorial. Registration starts at 9 am at the Rec Grove. The kiddie race – new this year, for 4 to 10 year-olds – starts at 9:30 am, and the 10 mile and 5k races start at 10 am. Entry fee: \$20 adults; \$18 for NCS members; \$10 for 18 and under, and a ticket for the whole family is \$40. Proceeds benefit Willits High School and Willits "Kids on the Run" programs. Top three overall male/female for the two events will receive medals; 1st in all age divisions receive medals; 2nd, 3rd in all age divisions receive ribbons; kiddie racers all receive a participation ribbon. Age divisions: 9 & under, 10-13, 14-17, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+. More info or to receive an entry form, email Hollyzenzy@gmail.com.

COLUMN | At the Movies

‘Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri’

The Story: A dark and violent comedy, a crime and revenge drama of anger and guilt, and a search for redemption. Mildred's daughter was raped and murdered seven months ago. Mildred wants the killer or killers brought to justice. In order to goad the police into greater action, she puts up three billboards just outside of town calling out the sheriff for his failure to capture the perpetrators. All hell breaks loose....

Daniel Essman
Columnist

My Thoughts: This movie is intensely and graphically violent; it is also brilliantly funny. It is totally unpredictable. The rape-murder takes place before the movie begins, it is the horrific event which drives the action. Most unusually, out of the violence and Mildred's hunger for justice comes transformation and redemption for all the peculiar characters. "Three Billboards," in a forthrightly non-PC, even anti-PC manner offers up its cruel, sometimes idiotic characters to the judgment of the audience, then changes direction and we see these "jerks" in their complexity as tenderhearted human beings. The cliched notion of good guys versus bad guys is righteously upended. This is a fable about guilt and anger, and the need for forgiveness. What a great movie!

Parents: Not for children, not even mature children. But you parents should go see it. Teens and up.

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



Ongoing Events

Willits Farmers Market: Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, balsamic vinegars, local honey, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Tools for Fire Victims at the Farmers Market: Every Thursday, the Farmers Market and the School of Adaptive Agriculture are collecting tools for those who lost their homes in the Redwoods Complex Fire. Please bring donated tools to the Farmers Market on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. If tools are dull, Keith Rosen will sharpen them during the market. If unable to transport tools, contact Market Manager Michael Foley 216-5549 to arrange pick up.

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

Willits Frontier Twirlers: Square-dancing workshops held every Monday from 6:30 to 7:45 pm, at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Dancers are encouraged to come regularly as new moves are taught every session. Bring your partner or come as a single dancer and join our fun-loving club!" \$5 per person, per night.

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.

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

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

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9403 or honemann@yahoo.com.

Willits Community Drum Circle: 7 to 10 pm at the Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Friday. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932.

Willits Library Activities: Wednesdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Play Group," and 3:30 to 5:30 pm "Legy Day" (bring your imagination and start building); Thursdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Story Time"; Fridays: 5 to 6 pm "Youth Game Night" (ages 10 to 14). Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

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

At-Anon Meeting: Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid) at the Evergreen Shopping Center. Saturdays at 10 am at St. Francis Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 66 East Commercial Street. "At-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."

Drop-In Knitting Circle: Every Saturday of the month, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your own projects or your yarn and needles; we have people who should be able to help solve problems and/or help you learn to knit or crochet. Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in." Info: Loker Baker at 456-9037, or lotusb3@earthlink.net.

Soroptimists International of Willits: Women's service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets second and third Tuesdays of every month, noon to 1 pm, at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street, in the back room. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

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

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

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

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 5 pm. Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5:15 to 6 pm. Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 to 7 pm; Teens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Little John's: Little John's Bar and Dance Club offers Karaoke every Thursday night, from 9:30 pm to 1:30 am. "Come join the fun and sing a song." Also, free pool every Sunday from 6 to 10 pm. 383 South Main Street. Info: check "Little Johns" on Facebook or 459-5636.

Shanachie Pub: Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday at 7 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 8 pm. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic Night every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

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

Save the Date

WEF Tri Tip Dinner, February 23, Willits Rodeo Grounds

Sip Some Soup, March 10, Willits Community Center

Cupcake Wars, March 24, Willits Community Center



WCA's annual Art Auction is back

Willits Center for the Arts is bringing back the annual Art Auction – of donated goods and services, as well as donated art – in March. The grand opening of the event is March 3, and the final Bid Party is set for March 24.

You too can donate to the auction! If you want to donate goods, services or art for this gala event, call Lyndsey at 459-1726 or email: manager@willitscenterforthearts.org. The WCA mailing address is PO Box 503, Willits CA 95490.

This important fundraiser keeps the arts alive in our community and brings vibrant and relevant shows to your art center, 71 East Commercial Street. Your participation and generous donations continue to bring performance, dance, poetry and visual arts to our community.

– Willits Center for the Arts



Above, from left: Jerry Myer, president of the North County Friends of Mendocino College, sits with Katie Fairbairn, executive director of the Mendocino College Foundation. The crowd at the Willits Chamber of Commerce mixer at Mendocino College's North County Center in Willits. English instructor at Mendocino College Steve Hellman, left, chats with Jim Harden, secretary of the North County Friends group. Below, from left: Attendees at the chamber mixer chat in The Commons at the North County Center campus. Nicol and Brian Kunka enjoy themselves at the chamber mixer. Carolyn Wadman, former dance instructor at Mendocino College, and Mary Pappadakis, Willits Library volunteer, attend the January chamber mixer.



Below: North County Center's behind-the-counter staffers, Jesse Garcia, left, registration assistant, and Barbara Nobles, counter assistant, welcome chamber members.



Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

area, the atmosphere was festive, and Chamber board members were offering wine and beer at the bar and selling tickets for a 50 / 50 mixer.

But there was also a long table spread with an assortment of books – all textbooks and all needed as part of the North County Center's lending library of textbooks available from the reference desk for students to use at the center

With the price of textbooks so high, many students cannot afford to buy their own books, so they borrow from a

Friends of the Willits Chamber of Commerce and the North County Friends of Mendocino College mingled at a chamber mixer at the North County Center campus on East Commercial Street on January 12. There was a spread of tasty hors d'oeuvres in The Commons

Mendo College Mixer

North County Center friends group raises \$1,100 for textbook lending library


friend or study at school with the help of the lending library.

Guests were encouraged to find a book that interested them or represented their business, and "adopt a book" by donating funds to purchase a copy for the lending library.

More than \$1,100 was raised to purchase textbooks thanks to the mixer, the Mendocino College Foundation reported.

Jerry Myer, president of the North County Friends group, told the crowd that the group had three main current goals: hiring tutors to help with math and English coursework, supporting the textbook lending library, and putting up an outdoor display case for announcing college and community events.

Read the rest of Mixer | Over on Page 13



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Far left: Mike Harger talks with Jerry "Top Hat" Harris.



At left: Alex and Juice catch up at the Chamber mixer.

HELP WANTED

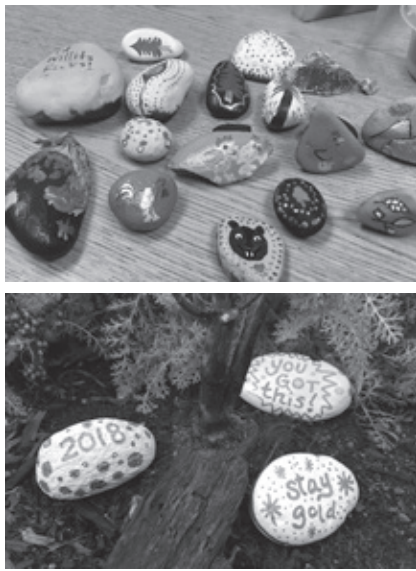
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Above, at left, top: Chickens, trees and nature are the themes featured on this crop of rocks, ready for the hiding. Above, at left: Inspirational messages including "Stay Gold" and "You Got This" show on these 2018 rocks.

Photos by Becky Button and Lauren Morris

Above, right: It was a painting party at WECS as students worked hard to decorate rocks with colorful images and messages.

Photo by Maureen Moore

The rest of Rocks | From Page 1

contributors from around the world. Similar to geocaching (using a GPS system to hide and seek little canisters called "caches"), ordinary rocks painted with special messages or designs are hidden in public areas to be found by others and treasured or re-hidden.

"I like making art that I can let go of," remarked Jessica Clark, a henna artist and the after-school program coordinator for Willits Elementary Charter School. "I love seeing them again when someone finds them and posts it to the Facebook page. I like knowing that they are out there."

Other rock painters echoed Clark's sentiments:

"I really like that it encourages creativity and getting outside," said Alison Hughes, a local mom who paints rocks with her children. "I like that it helps the community connect and people from all different lifestyles can contribute in their own unique way."

Lauren Morris, mother of three and owner of First Steps Daycare, is a frequent contributor on the Willits Rocks Facebook page.

"I love having this time with my daughters to do these fun, cheap activities," Morris commented, "It is so fun finding, painting and hiding them! It's a great thing for the community."

In my role as an independent study teacher at WECS, we have folded rock painting into the curriculum. Each month we pick one of the themes we have been studying in class and paint a set of rocks to hide around town. So far we have painted our favorite animals, flora and fauna of Mendocino County, animal life cycles, and inspirational words and symbols to kick start 2018! My students love it, the project is cheap and easy, it reinforces their learning, and we get to share our creativity with the community. Not to mention, all you have to do to join the fun is pick up a rock that is literally just lying there on the ground!

Below: Painted rocks ready to be hidden.

Photo by Maureen Moore



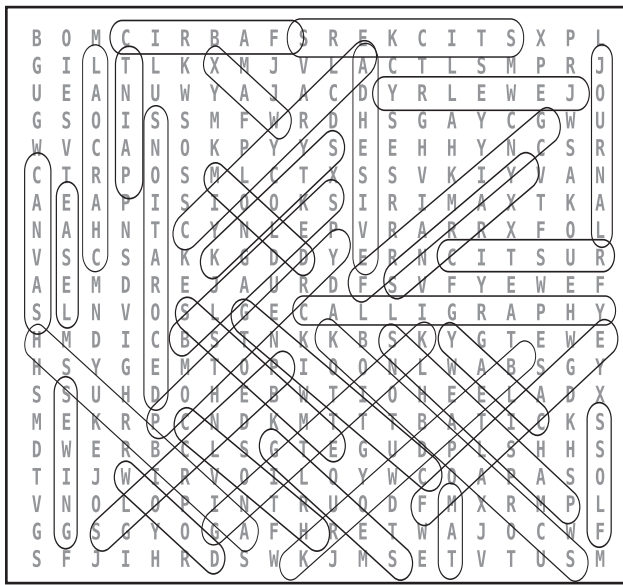
WW138

City of Willits Request for Proposals

Willits Watershed Burned Timber Salvage and Reforestation Project

The City of Willits is seeking proposals from qualified firms with a background in sustainable forestry and resource management experience for this project. The project will have two phases. The first phase is the reduction of fuel loading in the Willits Watershed by salvaging/removing dead and dying timber damaged by the Redwood Complex Fire. The second phase is the development of a reforestation plan for the same area. Copies of the Request for Proposal are available from the City of Willits City Clerk's Office at cmoorhead@cityofwillits.org or (707)459-7121. Interested parties with questions regarding the project are encouraged to contact Scott Herman Utility Superintendent at sherman@cityofwillits.org or (707) 459-7122. The deadline for receipt of proposals is 5:00pm on March 1st 2018.

Publication Date: February 1, 2018



Ready to Rock?

Check out these helpful clues below for just-hidden gems!

1. If you want to find a treasure trove, Look for rocks around Rec Grove.
2. For more rocks than you can carry, Find them at the museum and library.
3. Get outdoors and move your feet, Look high and low along Main Street.
4. Home in the valley, home on the range, Look for some rocks outside the Grange!
5. Look with your eyes, think with your brain, Hunt your rocks over by the Skunk Train!
6. After you've looked down by the tracks, You may want to check out Lumberjacks!
7. Make sure you've got on your walking shoes, And check our Facebook page for even more clues!

Search for "Willits Rocks!" on www.Facebook.com

How to Get Started with Willits Rocks

Find a nice flat rock that inspires you.

Wash your rock and clean off all the dirt.

Get creative with some paints, Sharpies, glitter or embellishments.

(The internet is full of enthusiastic rock artists, so look online for inspiration.)

On the back of your rock, write: "Willits Rocks!" and the Facebook logo.

After your paint is dry, I recommend using a clear spray sealer to preserve your hard work and creativity from the elements.

Hide your rock somewhere public.

Share a photo of your rock and clues to its location on the Willits Rocks! Facebook page.

Congratulations! You have just brightened someone's day.



Current Job Openings:

Cook - Part-time
Eligibility Worker I
Engineer I
Equipment Operator
Health Program Eligibility Worker
Library Assistant - Ukiah/Willits
Public Defender Investigator
Senior Equipment Operator
Senior Substance Abuse Counselor
- Fort Bragg
Staff Assistant I/II

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources
EOE

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

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English, Math, Test Prep, Homework Support, Study Skills, Maddie Armstrong ... 707 841-3106. Call to arrange free consultation and grade availability.

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John Ford Rancher's Choice Box: 50 pounds of steaks, roasts and ground beef. \$300 (\$6/pound), amazing deal! Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call now: 459-5193.

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Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$50/hr. Tutoring \$30/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamerin@yahoo.com.

Esoteric Science

Esoteric Science, Mystery School Teachings, study group to commence weekly in Willits. Looking for members. Purpose is to clarify & make more precise our understanding of occult truths. Contact Nicholas 707-841-0149.

EXPERIENCE

The Sound of Soul

Tuesday, February 20, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 E. Commercial Street. You're invited to experience chanting HU (pronounced hue), a sacred sound and ancient mantra. HU can uplift people of any religion, culture, or walk of life. Information? Call April, 972-2475 or visit www.TheSoundOfSoul.org.

For Rent

Executive office - 2 large offices, 1 small; kitchen, bath and reception. 1,240 square feet. An additional 370 square feet could be added if needed. Call Margie, 459-6874 or Megan, 972-8776.

Heartfelt Counseling

Divora Stern LCSW, Energy Psychology, (707) 354-9911. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, EFT, Alternative Modalities Available Somatic/TRE, Art As Therapy. Seeking Help As A Strength. 716 S. Main Willits. Partnership & Medicare Accepted

Volunteer Opportunities

The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our team, call Deb at 707-459-6826.

SEWING AND ALTERATIONS

Seamstress and Sewing Teacher
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707-367-6182, Willits

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW137

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2017-F0729

The following persons are doing business as: Brewed Awakening, 1437 South Main Street, Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by a general partnership: Stefani Dorothea Kroesen, 1475 Baechtel Road, #N-1, Willits CA 95490 and Erica Wenda Bruce, 92 Franklin Avenue, Willits CA 95490.

The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 1, 2017.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on October 5, 2017.

s/Erica W. Bruce
Pub dates 01/11, 01/18, 01/25, 02/01/2018

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interim executive director. Cooper began work January 29.

Humason served as the executive director of the Yolo County Visitors Bureau from early 2011 to April 2017. He was hired as executive director of Visit Mendocino County on April 3 of last year.

Felony charges were filed by the Yolo County District Attorney's Office against Humason two weeks ago. He is scheduled to appear in Yolo County Superior Court in Woodland on February 21 to face arraignment.

It is not yet officially known how much Visitors Bureau money was allegedly embezzled or otherwise lost. According to a January 25 report published in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, the charging documents filed against Humason state the value of the missing funds exceeds \$950. However, that article also states that "sources with knowledge of the situation" claim "as much as \$50,000 cannot be accounted for in the bureau's records."

Mendocino County Tourism Commission Board of Directors Chairman John Kuhry confirmed Cooper has begun working as Visit Mendocino County's interim executive director on a 30-day contract. He also confirmed the commission's board of directors will meet February 28 to review the situation and take further action.

Asked if he had any idea of how long Humason's Yolo County trial would take, Kuhry said he had "no idea."

Department and a CalFire engine also battled the flames.

The fire closed Poppy Drive for about 30 minutes, according to the Garberville office of the California Highway Patrol.

Some 19 firefighters had the fire contained within half an hour to 35 minutes, Schoepfner said.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office detectives took custody of the scene after the fire was extinguished and continued their investigation into the fire on Wednesday, he noted.

During the month of January, "we have seen an increase in fires from the same period from last year," a post on Brooktrails Fire Department's Facebook page reported. For the month of January, Brooktrails Fire responded to seven fires, 11 medical assists/vehicle accidents, and six "other type" incidents.

initially had a pool of 31 applicants from "across the western United States to choose from," he said, and Garrabrant-Sierra "was at the top of that list."

The 31 were eventually narrowed down to eight, six of whom were interviewed by the council. Perrault said the high number of applicants was "really a testament to Willits" and the desire many had to come here.

"I've been involved with other recruitments where they had to go scratch for applicants," he said.

Garrabrant-Sierra thanked the council after the vote, and had high praise for Willits as well.

"I'm very excited to start working with the city of Willits and all of you, and fulfilling your vision and working with staff," she said. "I just want to say Willits is a really special place, and I'm so excited to work here."

"Everyone who you talk to about Willits no matter where they are, when you mention Willits they get a sparkle in their eye," she continued. "It's a great city. I have to say that having been in this business a long time I've not come across that kind of city before, where everyone says that, and everyone has a Willits story ... and it's always a great story."

According to a press release from the City of Willits, Garrabrant-Sierra's most recent experience was serving as the assistant city manager for the City of Tracy where she functioned as the city's chief operating officer. In addition she's worked as the administrative services director for the City of Alameda, managed infrastructure contracts for the Texas Parks and Wildlife division, and was a risk manager for the City of Oakland. She also has a law degree from UC Berkeley and has run her own practice.

Mix and match

Supervisors again expressed support for allowing cultivators to mix and match different cultivation styles under one permit, which is currently not allowed.

Deputy County Counsel Matthew Kiedrowski told the board the amendment would require an ordinance change but would not need to be reviewed by the Mendocino County Planning Commission.

Forest Land, TPZ change of parcels

The board has asked county staff to clarify that a zoning clearance is all that is required when a cultivator in Forest Land or Timber Production zoning districts seeks to move to a new parcel.

In those instances, the board directed the cultivation ordinance be revised to state a zoning clearance is required when the new cultivation site is the same size as the cultivation site being abandoned, but added an administrative permit is required if the area under cultivation in the new site is an expansion of the area under cultivation in the old site.

Kiedrowski said an ordinance amendment would not be required to clarify that.

Mature plants only, or all plants?

The board has asked the cultivation ordinance be revised so the definition of "area under cultivation" includes mature plants only. Currently, the defining criterion of area under cultivation is plant canopy, but with no distinction made between mature and immature plants.

Kiedrowski replied this change would require an ordinance amendment, adding it would represent a major change to the cultivation ordinance because it could represent a significant expansion of cultivation area.

He asked supervisors to grant him and other members of the county's cannabis team time to review the proposed change.

Conditional permits for non-qualifying applicants

Supervisors also asked that cultivation regulations be relaxed to allow the county to grant conditional permits to cultivators who

added. Completed applications and a letter of interest must be submitted to the district office or emailed to drose@btcsd.org by 5 pm on February 16.

Willits Mayor Madge Strong expressed confidence in the choice the city made at the meeting.

"I am so pleased that we have you as our new city manager, because you are very well-qualified and you really feel like the right person for our community," said Strong.

The three-year contract pays Garrabrant-Sierra \$120,000 per year plus benefits.

Timber salvage on Willits watershed

The Willits City Council also unanimously approved sending out a "request for proposals," seeking bids from firms to conduct salvage of burned timber and create a reforestation plan for city watershed property damaged in October's Redwood fire south of town.

Perrault said leaving the timber as is would "contribute to the fuel load up there and there's a possibility an additional fire is likely to occur."

Another danger he noted was that dead and damaged trees could attract insect infestation, which could spread to healthy trees.

Nearly 45 percent of the 3,136-acre watershed property, which supplies the city with the bulk of its water, was impacted by the fire, he said, although a 482-acre section was the most damaged and would be the focus of the salvage work.

According to Perrault the RFP will be open for 30 days as staff assesses the bids. Timber salvage will likely take place this summer.

Since repair of the burned areas will be considered part of an emergency operation, Perrault said CalFire would be in charge of permitting, oversight, and ensuring that California Environmental Quality Act regulations are followed.

currently do not qualify for a permit, on the assumption they might qualify in the future in an overlay zone or under an exception.

Kiedrowski argued against making the change. Currently, "we don't know what the overlay zones will look like," he said. "If we were to accept applications from those who believe they will be eligible for inclusion in an overlay zone, without knowing the criteria, then planning staff would have no ability to reject any of those applications. We would have to accept them, and that means we would be allowing someone to cultivate knowingly while we know they are in violation of our ordinance."

However, County Planner Mary Lynn Hunt told supervisors her staff is already doing what the board was proposing.

Kiedrowski said allowing non-qualifying growers to apply for a permit – and for the county to issue them a conditional permit – would be OK in a "sunset district" – a zoning district where cultivation is currently allowed but which is looking at being closed to growers after 2020, or possibly being included in an overlay zone. He said he would not recommend accepting permit applications in "non-sunset districts."

Supervisors agreed with Kiedrowski, who said changing the current measure to provide this would require an ordinance amendment.

Micro-business without a home

Supervisors also urged the cannabis facilities ordinance be modified to allow issuance of home occupation or cottage industry permits in cases where the applicant does not have residence on the property.

County Planner Mary Lynn Hunt opposed the change. "Our tool to limit the size of manufacturing in our rural areas, as an accessory to a cultivation site, is our existing zoning code, which has home occupations and cottage industries, and which states you have to have a home on site. This limits the number of employees you can have. If we just allow manufacturing and distribution without requiring that they have a home on site, we no longer have that tool."

McCowen argued in favor of the change. He was joined by Third District Supervisor

The board has 60 days from the date of Ramming's resignation to fill the vacancy.

The new director will hold office until the next district board election.

Perrault noted that the North Coast Resource Management firm initially informed city staff in November that a salvage operation would be possible and would be beneficial to the city.

NCRM also told staff that salvaged timber from the land could net the city an estimated \$400,000 in profits, which could help with the reforestation project to follow.

Willits Utilities Superintendent Scott Herman encouraged the council to approve sending out the RFP, adding time was of the essence to prevent the bugs attacking.

"Our watershed is rated as 'pristine' – it would be nice to keep it that way," he said.

Happy Birthday, Edie

The council presented a proclamation at the meeting honoring Willits native resident Edie Ceccarelli's upcoming 110th birthday. Ceccarelli was born in Willits on February 5, 1908, and will officially receive the proclamation at her birthday celebration at the Harrah Senior Center that day.

As read by Mayor Strong, the proclamation stated: "It is the privilege of the Willits City Council to acknowledge and honor you as you turn 110 years young. We would officially like to recognize that you have had the privilege of celebrating the most birthdays in Mendocino County.... Your lifelong love of people has enriched all of those whose lives you have touched.... Your love for dance, walking and having an occasional sip of wine has kept you young at heart. Now therefore, I Madge Strong, mayor of the city of Willits, do hereby extend our collective heartfelt congratulations to you Edie Ceccarelli ... in wishing you a happy birthday."

Georgianne Croskey, and Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde.

Board Chairman Dan Hamburg was opposed to the modification; but, after counting the votes, Hamburg told Kiedrowski to go ahead and implement the change.

Williamson Act problems

Supervisors directed Kiedrowski to revise Mendocino County's Williamson Act ordinance, which currently prohibits packing and processing facilities to be located on lands enrolled by the act.

This prohibition particularly is relevant in the case of Flo-Canna, a cannabis processing and distribution firm located on lands formerly owned by Fetzer Vineyards in Redwood Valley. Although Fetzer no longer owns the land, the land remains under the Williamson Act, and processing and distribution – two of the chief functions of Flo-Canna – are not allowed on the land.

The board seemed eager for county staff to resolve this problem quickly. "We want to solve the problem. We don't really care how it's solved," said Gjerde.

"It is a very important issue for this board to get that facility up and running, legally," Hamburg agreed.

Kiedrowski said while the revision would require a change to the county's Williamson Act ordinance, the adjustment would not entail a planning commission review.

Kiedrowski added he would be placing restrictions on personal grows for adult-use cannabis found in Chapter 9.30 into Section 10A-17 of the cultivation ordinance.

He said he would also be revising both the cannabis and the facilities ordinances to cover adult-use cannabis as well as medical cannabis.

All this would take a while, Kiedrowski told supervisors, and he expected any changes needing to be forwarded to the planning commission would be reviewed at the commission's March 15 meeting.

The needs assessment would analyze what services are currently available and would, according to the motion, "prioritize which mental health facilities would meet the most important needs."

In February 2016, Kemper produced an analysis of mental health services and mental health services delivery systems then available in the county. That report revealed deep flaws in the service delivery system and led to the termination of the county's contract with Orther Management Group a few months later by the board of supervisors.

McGourty's motion was seconded by Ace Barash, MD, and supported by four members of the 11-person committee: Barash, McGourty, Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo, and county Mental Health Director Jenine Miller.

But Third District committee representative Jed Diamond argued it was premature to contract with Kemper, suggesting instead the committee could undertake the needs assessment itself.

"Carmel had talked about, you could give us the [2016] Kemper Report and you could give us a summary of it; plus Jenine said, or implied, that she could add in what's changed since then – new services we have now that weren't there then," Diamond said. "If we had that, and maybe some input from the rest of the group about what we think is missing and what you all think is missing [Diamond pointed to Miller and McGourty]. ... We all have a lot of expertise in this area. That's why we were appointed. So, if we had those elements I mentioned earlier, and then we shared what we know is missing, maybe, among all of us, we got it.

"If we don't, then it seems to me, we'd be in a better position to ask Kemper: 'Here's what we don't quite know. Here's what still needs to be assessed.'

"It seems to me, that would, at least, help me, before we ask for a needs assessment done outside, by somebody else. I'd like to get clear about where we are, what we know already, and collectively, what is known by this group," Diamond said.

Angelo agreed to supply committee members with copies of the February 2016 Kemper report as well as a short summary of the report's major findings.

As the meeting drew to a close, Second District representative Shannon Riley, however, said a needs assessment was imperative. "I agree we need a needs assessment," Riley said. "I guess I'm a little concerned, personally, that we don't have that information already, that we went out to the taxpayers and we're collecting this money without clear ideas of what we need. So, I absolutely agree we need this as soon as possible, but I think we need more direction from this commission."

In other committee action, the committee named Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman chairman of the committee and Barash as vice chairman. The vote for Allman was 10-1, with McGourty casting the lone dissenting vote. Barash was appointed vice chairman unanimously.

The committee also approved the year's calendar of meetings. It agreed to meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month, except in December, when it will meet on the third Wednesday.

New curator shares vision for county museum

Karen Mattson, recently hired curator of the Mendocino County Museum, brings to her position a wealth of experience in museum work and a new vision of what the county museum could be.

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Mattson, a Laytonville native with a husband and two kids, has 11 years of experience working in museums. She worked at the Janet Turner Museum in Chico for three years while she was in college, eventually ending up as the collection manager there. Then she worked at the Uptown Studio in Sacramento for a year, where she managed the gallery space. Finally she spent seven years working at the Placer County Museum, where she was curator of education and manager of the Living History program there.

"I interviewed her with the director of the Arts Council, Alyssum Wier," said Mendocino County Library Director and Acting Museum Director Karen Horner, who was present for the Willits Weekly visit. "And she was like, 'You guys have to have her!' We wanted her ideas, her vision, her creativity. What she implemented in Placer County is what we want here in Mendocino County."

Mattson explained what the conditions were in the Placer County Museum when she began there and some of the work she did to transform the museum into an educational destination:

"In the Placer County Museum, what we were up against is, it was actually located on the county fairgrounds, and it didn't have climate control. So it was very hot in the summer. And one of the things we were faced with was we really couldn't have a lot of collections there. It wasn't a safe place.

"So what we decided to do is, we turned it into an educational destination. We created a theater, and we knew that we wanted a program for fourth grade, because it tied into their curriculum. And I created a mural with a magnet background. This was a mural of what Placer County was like after the gold rush. On top of it, I created another mural, which was what Placer County looked like at the beginning of the gold rush. Behind that, we worked with the archivist, who identified different personalities, people that came to Placer County from around the world, either did or did not find gold, what their profession was, and how that changed Placer County. That was just one of the stops on the tour, and the visitors would just cycle through.

"We had many discussions with teachers in the area, prior to doing the museum, and one of the things they wanted was finding some way to bring in science during their visit. So what we ended up doing was building this rock map, kind of like this big table, that told us how rocks changed over time. So we brought in all these different rocks and they could look at them under a magnifying glass. And then they would go pan for gold."

Mattson said she wants to take the Mendocino County Museum in a similar direction to what she did in Placer County: to create interactive exhibits that elicit a higher level of participation from the museum visitor, when compared with what the Mendocino County Museum offers now.

"We need to create a connection to our museum, and have hands-on activities, whether it's to serve schools or to serve families," Mattson said. "But it's critical that people be engaged in your museum. People are not engaged by reading and standing. So we really need more ways to get people to come here, stay here, play with each other, do something fun, have an experience – because having an experience is what's going to create a connection and allow people to interpret what's happening here. That is the direction we'd like to go in the future, is to have more involvement."

However, before the museum can take that giant leap into the future, it has to climb up to the present, and that means taking care of some current issues. Mattson said that her three priorities in getting the Mendocino County Museum to climb up to the present are climate control, pest management, and inventorying the collection.

Creating an accurate inventory of the museum's collections will likely take a very long time, Mattson said. "Even just a plan for inventorying the collection, how we're going to tackle it, and when, would be a good start," she said.

Mattson also said she'd like to see the museum update its current policies, after a director is hired. "I want to look at our collections management policy, our acquisitions policy, and our procedures for how we follow up on all these things," she said. "What I'd really like to see is a beautiful binder so that what we do is super-transparent, so everyone knows: this is our policy, this is exactly what's going to happen, within our staff, this is who is going to do those things, this is how it will be done.

"And once we have that," she concluded, "then everything will be easier, because everyone will know what role everyone does. It will improve our communication with different boards and our mission, it will really tighten it up. People will know what we stand for, what we're looking for, and it will really help us, I think."

Amazing Athletes of Willits High School

Basketball | Justin Bays, age 18, Senior



Senior Justin Bays is the team leader on and off the court. He is leading the team in scoring and assists. Justin plays both guard and forward. He has been a varsity player for the last three years. After high school, he is looking to go into music production.

– submitted by
Varsity Head Coach
Mark Westerburg

Basketball | Josh Betts, age 17, Senior



Senior Josh Betts is the quickest player in the conference. Josh leads the team in steals and hustle. Josh has great speed on offense and defense. Unfortunately for Josh, he has been fighting nagging injuries all season long. Josh was named the student of the month at Sanhedrin in November.

– submitted by
Varsity Head Coach
Mark Westerburg

Narcotic Nightmare

Prescription drug abuse and addiction is a local epidemic, too

The fact that there's a nation-wide opioid-addiction epidemic in full swing will not be

news to anyone not currently living under a rock. You probably know someone who

is struggling with it or know someone who knows someone struggling with it. The degrees of separation are few.

Mendocino County is no exception.

What's happening here was the subject of a January 10 program sponsored by Avenues to Wellness, "Prescription Drug Abuse: A National and Local Epidemic." The presentation was given by Kyree Klimist, MFA, and Buffey Wright, program specialist, who comprise two-thirds of a team administering a program called the "Safe Rx Mendocino Opioid Safety Coalition."

They covered a wide range of topics: What is an opioid? How did opioid abuse become so widespread? How widespread is it in our county? How do you help someone who has overdosed? What treatments are available?

They explained that we have opiate / opioid receptors in our bodies. We're hard-wired to experience pain relief and general well-being. And, we produce naturally occurring (endogenous) chemicals, called endorphins, which attach to these receptors.

Opioids that we introduce into our bodies "hijack the reward system of the brain,glom onto the endorphin receptor, fool you into feeling you don't have pain," said Wright.

By the way, there is a difference between a made-in-nature opiate (extracted or refined from the opium poppy – opium, codeine, heroin, morphine), and a made-in-the lab opioid (Oxycontin, Vicodin, Demerol, Fentanyl, etc. – there are lots). But it isn't relevant for purposes of this article. So they're all opioids.

Fentanyl is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine and, "just started to hit our county," said Klimist.

Perhaps it doesn't matter how this current epidemic came about, but it is interesting nonetheless, and Wright provided some juicy background.

Heroin was first created and commercialized at the Bayer Pharmaceutical Company in Germany in the 1890s.

Jumping forward almost 100 years: a brief letter, published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine in 1980 declared "addiction rare in patients treated with narcotics" and quickly took on a life of its own – resulting in doctors being trained to overprescribe narcotics and billions for the pharmaceutical industry.

Add to the mix an American Pain Society's declaration in the 1980s (recently abandoned by the AMA) that pain was the "fifth vital sign" (along with blood pressure, heart rate, respiration rate, and temperature). The prescription of narcotics continued its soar.

Increased Medicare funding linked to the required monitoring of patient satisfaction with quality of pain care also increased pain medication prescriptions in hospital settings.

Some local statistics cited by Wright include 17 deaths in 2016, the death of two youths on the coast last year, more deaths from narcotics than motor vehicle accidents, over 1,200 prescriptions for narcotics written for each 1,000 people in the county in 2015, and two deaths from unintentional prescription opioid overdose each month, twice the California average.

In the face of this formidable adversary, the Safer Rx Coalition is making use of all the tools in the toolbox to save lives and help others to do the same.



They work with the healthcare, education and general community to expand availability of the drug naloxone (Narcan), which is easy to use and literally saves lives by temporarily reversing the effects of an opioid overdose.

How do you know if someone has overdosed or is just high? The high person, according to the coalition, may be drowsy, have pinpoint pupils, be itchy, have slurred speech – but they will respond to a loud noise or light shake if you try to wake them. A person who has overdosed may be pale or clammy to the touch, have a limp body, have blue, purple or grayish fingernails, lips or skin, be unable to speak or awaken, be vomiting, making gurgling noises, or have slowed or stopped breathing.

If it's an overdose, it's time for Narcan. Contact the coalition to find out how to acquire this drug – for free if necessary.

The coalition also encourages expansion of access to "medically assisted treatments" for opioid dependence through the use of the drug Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone), combined with counseling. This treatment is currently locally available at the Little Lake Health Center and at Redwood Medical Clinic.

Educating the community about safe storage of medications is also a coalition priority, and they have acquired a considerable number of medicine lock bags for distribution. The bags aid in reducing availability of medication to unintended recipients. According to Klimist, medicine cabinets of seniors are "the No. 1 source of medications for teens." Locking up meds won't prevent stealing the whole bag or slashing into it, but it will prevent the common practice of "just taking a few" pills so the theft goes unnoticed.

Safe disposal of medication (including veterinary ones) is also important. "Do not flush it down the toilet," warns Klimist. The coalition sponsors periodic drop offs. The Willits Police Department at 125 East Commercial is also a medication drop-off location, as well as the HazMobile when it's in town.

There's no easy way out of or up from this narcotic nightmare. And no one is invulnerable. The power of these drugs to hijack a life is immense.

"No matter where you are, you'll be dependent after two weeks," said Klimist.

Wright shared her personal experiences with recovery and getting "back on her feet" with the help of community. "It's gradual and sneaky and took me by surprise. It grabs you by the throat until it's done," she said.

Klimist told of hearing from people who are judgmental of those who repeatedly overdose and need Narcan. She strongly disagreed. "Let go of judgment," she said. "Support them. Keep giving it. It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. Sometimes the best we can do is harm reduction."

There's more to the coalition's activities and offerings than this snapshot can cover. Their next meeting is January 24 at 8:30 am at the Public Health conference room in Ukiah, 1120 South Dora, and all are welcome. Or check out their website, www.saferxmendocino.com. Or call 707-472-2727.

At intermission the viewers were treated to a variety of baked snacks including bite-sized tastes of such goodies as red velvet cake, brownie bites, poppy seed cake and others as they mingled amongst the artwork.

Next, Cheyenne Turner danced expertly to "Villain" by Social Repose. This was followed by more student poetry, "A Student's Mindset" by Mychaela Nowlin, a tale of lost and unrequited young love. Savanna Hofmaister followed with "Bantam Step" by Harry Jente, played deftly on the piano. Mikayla Blake recited her poem, "A Little Taste of Hope."

The Willits High School glee and musical theater classes combined to sing "Seasons of Love" from Rent and "Tale as Old as Time" from Beauty and the Beast, danced by Abrams as the Beast and Samantha Miller as Belle. The audience was invited to sing along with the lyrics printed on back of the program.

"What is the value of music for the students? The real value is that they are a community. When they're in their music classrooms, they are supporting each other, working together as a team. They're having fun. They're engaged, not just sitting at a desk. They have to work individually and as an ensemble. I see a lot of magic happening," explained McNally-McCall.

"There's an intrinsic value to doing the arts," stressed Bakewell. "It teaches one patience and perseverance. Sometimes I have to push them to do a little more. They show up kind of afraid to be in my class but then, at the end they're artists. Pablo Picasso said, 'We're all artists. We just forget once we grow up.'"



Above: Members of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team pose last week with their new utility terrain vehicle donated by Adventist Health Howard Memorial. From left: Greg Mudd, SAR member, Jared Chaney, SAR commander, Jason Wells, AHHM president, Sheriff Tom Allman, Walt Gabler, SAR member, Judson Howe, AHHM chief financial officer, Linda Givens, AHHM chief nursing officer, Matt Hilton, SAR member, and Dave Kobetz of MotoSports Ukiah.

Howard Memorial donates equipment for Search and Rescue team

By Cici Winiger, for AHHM

Adventist Health Howard Memorial (formerly Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital) recognizes the important role that our county's first responders play in keeping the community safe and healthy. The recent wildfires underscored even more the benefits that well-trained and well-equipped first responders can make when disasters occur. That's why when the Mendocino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team asked for the hospital's help, the decision was easy.

The hospital donated \$14,500 to Search and Rescue toward the purchase of a new utility terrain vehicle, an item that has been on their wish list for quite some time. Search and Rescue is a non-profit organization and receives no annual funding from the Sheriff's Office. The 50 members of SAR are all volunteers who donate their time and energy to help the community. Many members spend a good deal of their own money for their personal equipment and costs to travel to and from trainings.

SAR's budget for training and supplies is about \$15,000 per year and is met through fundraising efforts and community donations. SAR had previously used a UTV on a "loan program" sponsored by Kawasaki and administered by Ukiah MotoSports. The program has since been discontinued by Kawasaki. So the hospital donation was definitely a welcome gesture.

Adventist Health Howard Memorial President Jason Wells explains: "During the recent fires, we worked very closely with the Search and Rescue team, and saw firsthand the great work that they do. Besides helping the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office with doing welfare checks and locating missing persons, they also provided a sense of security, both for the hospital and for the community. Knowing that we had great partners ready to help was invaluable during those times."

As a part of the Mendo-Lake Complex fire operations, SAR volunteers assisted in accounting for missing persons, helping people evacuate from their homes, and also caring for and rescuing animals who were displaced, injured, or other otherwise could not be taken by their families when they evacuated.

In addition to helping during disasters, SAR is called upon,

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



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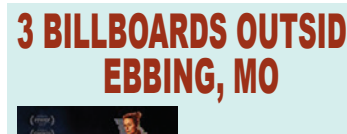
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Above: Nancy Bliese, RN, chats with speaker Marcus Engel after receiving a signature on her copy of his book, "I'm Here."

At left: HHM CFO Judson Howe, left, HHM president Jason Wells, RN and manager for quality Kristy Bowen, and CNO Linda Givens, at right, stand with speaker Marcus Engel and his dog, Elliott, after one of the speaking events on January 10.

Below: The Willits Community Center was transformed into an elegant venue for the presentation.

Below, from left: Engel talks to the attendees about his experience with trauma and compassionate care. Brittany Powers and a group of Howard Memorial employees listen to Engel at the Willits Community Center.

Photos by Maureen Moore

National speaker comes to Willits to inspire Howard Memorial staff

By Cici Winiger, for AHHM

Adventist Health Howard Memorial has a reputation for great care, as evidenced by nationally leading patient and employee experience scores and awards. But the hospital is always striving to get better for its patients and the community.

During their inaugural "Howard Experience Day" on January 10, Marcus Engel, a patient who has overcome

adversity in a big way, came and spoke to hundreds of employees, volunteers and physicians to share his story and inspire them to continue changing people's lives.

A drunk driver hit Marcus when he was a freshman in college, nearly killing him and leaving him blind. His experience as a patient was heightened by his loss of sight and having to endure countless hours of surgery and many days spent in the hospital.



He said the compassion he felt from health care professionals and his family is the reason he is alive today, so he has made it his mission to share his story to inspire others to be "present."

He said helping those that are injured, sick or dying is one of the greatest human experiences you could have. "Simple human presence is the cornerstone of caregiving."

Read the rest of **Speaker**

Over on Page 13



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The rest of **Speaker** | From Page 12

"I also hope that you walk away understanding that your work and your role as health care professionals is some of the most sacred work that any human being can do," said Engel.

He has written four books on health care communication and his personal experiences. Engel speaks at healthcare organizations and universities about 15 times a year, hoping to inspire that kind of understanding.

"Our staff does an amazing job every day," noted Jason Wells, Adventist Health Howard Memorial president. "Physician and employee burnout is at an all-time high in the United States, so we are looking for ways to support our teams and keep their passion for exceptional patient care thriving. This event and Marcus' story is just one of the many ways we do that. We wanted to inspire our staff and reemphasize the amazing opportunity we have to touch people's lives, and Marcus drove that message home for us. We're excited to see more improvements at the hospital as we all embark on a continued journey towards top performance in all areas. Our community deserves nothing less than the absolute best from Howard," Wells concluded.

The rest of **Mixer** | From Page 8

"We exist to help students of the North County campus be better students and to help the campus," he said.

Myer introduced his colleagues in the North County Friends, Tim King (vice chair), Jim Harden (secretary), and Tom Herman (treasurer), and then "not only our liaison to the [Mendocino College] Foundation, but the new college foundation president, Marilyn Harden."

Myer also gave a shout-out to the foundation's Lana Eberhard, marketing/program specialist, and Katie Fairbairn, executive director: "The foundation doesn't exist without these two people," he said. "They're in charge of planning – and already are planning – this year's Gala." Mendocino College Foundation's annual fundraising Gala at the Ukiah campus is set for August 11 this summer.

"The work done by the foundation and the affiliate groups is really important," said Debra Polak, dean of centers at Mendocino College, including the Willits campus. "The North County Center is a small program," she said, "but we've been open four years now. This space" – she indicated the area the mixer was held in – "is named 'The Commons' – and this space is bustling with students, especially on Tuesdays

At right: Tim and Anna King find the adjustable round study trays on the chairs in The Commons area handy for mixer business, too.

Far right: An appealing plate of cookies, one of many treats offered at the mixer.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



The rest of **UTV** | From Page 12

on average twice a month, to help locate missing persons or help the Sheriff's Office with evidence search for certain cases. The new UTV has already been used on several missions, including to help locate a missing person in the woods off Highway 20 and James Creek recently.

"Mendocino County has some very rugged terrain, and typically it is in that type of terrain in which people become lost. This UTV will allow us to quickly deploy SAR resources to search areas which would otherwise not be easily accessible," explains SAR Commander Jared Chaney.

"The Sheriff's Office and SAR is grateful to have community partners, such as Adventist Health Howard Memorial," Sheriff Tom Allman said, "that donate generously to provide a much-needed piece of equipment for search and rescue operations. It's these types of relationships, between the private sector and the public, that allow our SAR team to provide the professional services to the community that they do."

Dave Kobetz with MotoSports of Ukiah helped

to provide the UTV at a highly discounted cost and coordinated with aftermarket vendors to donate thousands of dollars in add-ons, including a winch, windshield and a hard-shell roof. MotoSports also donated the labor needed to prepare the UTV for action.

Judson Howe, chief financial officer for Adventist Health Howard Memorial, concludes: "We like partnering with organizations that help us accomplish our mission. This donation benefits not just the residents of Willits, but also all of Mendocino County. To be able to help an organization that puts their lives on the line, all on their own time, makes this so worthwhile."

To join SAR or to learn more, visit their website at www.mendocinosar.org.



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Members of the Willits High School Academic Decathlon team who competed in the speech and interview portion of this year's Regionals at Upper Lake High School.

WHS Academic Decathlon team competes in regionals

It's that time of year again for Academic Decathlon decathletes. The Willits High School Academic Decathlon team is in the middle of competing at Regionals at Upper Lake High School. Team members have completed the speech, interview and essay portions of the competition. On February 3, Regionals will close with students taking seven exams in the subject areas of Science, Social Science, Art, Literature, Mathematics, Economics, and Music. This year's theme is "Africa," which the students have been studying from the perspective of each discipline since August. Top scorers for the team will compete on Saturday, February 3, in the only public event, Super Quiz, at 2 pm.

Academic Decathlon teams are comprised of students from three different academic levels, who compete within their GPA categories of 4.0-3.75, 3.74-3.0, or 2.9-1.50. What's unique about Academic Decathlon is that students of all achievement levels are represented. The team will move on to compete at the State competition in March if they meet the qualifying score of 30,000 next weekend.

– Submitted by Mary Colvig, WHS Academic Decathlon

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Sweet Dodger

Dodger is shy in our shelter, but that's understandable when you go from a home to a shelter! Despite being timid, he is a very, very sweet boy and so eager to bond with humans. Dodger is a 2-year-old neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 72 pounds. He was surrendered because he did not get along with the neighbor's dog. Since we don't have more information, any dogs at home should be introduced prior to adoption. His past guardian said, "He is loyal, knows 'Sit,' gets along with all age people in the family."

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

Help get every dog at the Ukiah shelter out for some exercise at the "Empty the Shelter" pack walk every second Saturday of the month, coming up February 10.



Walker Blue

Blue is a 9-month-old Walker hound/blue tick hound mix who will wiggle into your heart at first meeting. He holds back a little at first, but very shortly he is running and playing in his sweet, mellow, low-key way. He is good with most dogs, but since he is somewhat shy a lower-key dog would be his best canine companion. Since he is still a puppy, he will need some basic training but, in return, he will contribute years of love and devotion!! Come meet him soon – he's waiting!

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



An unspayed female dog, her mate and all of their puppies, if none are ever neutered or spayed up to:

1 year = 16	2 years = 128	3 years = 512
4 years = 2,048	5 years = 12,288	6 years = 67,000

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County

and all rescues would like to remind you that

February is Spay/Neuter month

Please do your part in helping to prevent pet overpopulation by spaying and neutering your pets and encouraging your family, friends and neighbors to do so also.

Located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley 707-485-0123

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