

Free bereavement groups

To the Editor:

If you are suffering with grief from the loss of a loved one, Phoenix Certified Hospice would like to help. Bereavement groups provide an opportunity for the bereaved to explore the individual nature of grief. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective techniques to manage stress, one can move towards recovery. Two eight-week bereavement groups will be starting soon; one in Willits and one in Ukiah. Both groups are free of charge but require pre-registration.

The Willits group is going to begin on Thursday, February 23, from 10 am until 12 pm. This group will be held at Adventist Health's Home Care & Hospice office located at 100 Sanhedrin Circle in Willits. If you are interested in attending or would like more information please contact Roland Hulstein at 456-3248.

The Ukiah group is going to begin on Wednesday, March 1 from 4 until 6 pm. It will be held at the Seventh-day Adventist Church on 1390 Laurel Avenue in Ukiah. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Dennis Long at 456-3295.

Tammy Long, for Phoenix Certified Hospice

WEF Tri Tip Dinner

To the Editor:

It's that time again when the Willits community can enjoy the best dinner of the year! The annual Willits Educational Foundation Drive-Through Tri Tip Dinner will be held on Friday, March 3. For \$60, four people can drive through the Rodeo Grounds to pick up the delectable, ready-to-eat meal, which includes a whole tri tip, Goss family beans, a loaf of Emandal bread, homemade Caesar salad, cookies, and a lovely long-stemmed rose from Flowers by Annette.

All proceeds from this dinner will be given out this coming fall to teachers, students and school programs within the Willits Unified School District. This past fall, 32 mini-grants were awarded within the district. Just a small sampling of these include: pickle ball equipment, ceramics materials, Odyssey of the Mind materials, art and science supplies, books for classrooms and school libraries, funds to publish student National Writing Month novels, ukuleles, peer counseling retreat, and a high school presentation of "Every Fifteen Minutes." It is an agonizing decision, because we are never able to fund all of the requests.

This dinner has become a much-anticipated tradition, and last year we sold out early. It is presale only, so reserve your tickets soon by calling one of these people:

Jenn Drew, president: 354-1670; Annette Pinon, event chairperson: 459-6588; Warren Lewis, ticket chairperson: 459-4429. Tickets are also available at Cats Meow in downtown Willits.

Willits kids and teachers are our No. 1 priority, and we truly look forward to serving our community and doing our small part to help. We appreciate your support, more than we can say!

Lisa Yokum and Kathleen Lewis, co-secretaries of WEF

WCS busts through \$34,000 goal

To the Editor:

As of February 14, the Willits Community Services Winter Fund Drive is up to a total of \$34,670, thanks to the latest donations from the community members listed below:

Sherrie Ebyam, Betty & John Lemmer, Alleen Recio, Dave & Jenny Watts, anonymous, Bruce Burton, Karen Gridley & Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, Ken & Carol Grice, Roz & Rick Lina, Sylvia Manor and two anonymous donors.

Yay! We're so pleased with the community support, as always, but this year has exceeded our goal, and we're very happy to be able to provide essential services to a

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

lot of people throughout the year, and very grateful for the community's support.

The Winter Fund Drive will run through the end of February. Donations (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.

Donate online via the PayPal Giving Fund. Open this link: <https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/hub>, then search for "Willits Community Services." Or donate through Ebay Charities. Open this link: <http://charity.ebay.com/charity/search/> and search for "Willits Community Services."

All contributions are very much appreciated.

Jim Marill, director,
Willits Community Services

Valentine blues

To the Editor:

A night of great food, and incredible blues by a legend: "Roy Rogers and the Delta Rhythm Kings."

The best part of the evening was seeing so many people having such a good time groov'n to the music.

I would like to thank all the volunteers, production staff, Ancestor Radio Productions, the School of Adaptive Agriculture, Ruthie King and, especially, Michael Foley!

Thank you, Willits,

Da Grand Pooba, Willits

Tearing up Main Street

To the Editor:

Does Willits really want to reconstruct Main Street during the height of the summer tourist season? Caltrans says Yes.

Is it a good idea to immediately work on Main Street's reconstruction this year? If so, is it a good idea to accept Caltrans' schedule to begin tearing it up during the prime-time summer tourist season of July and August — the months Caltrans has decided to go to work? Really? We all know that just a little roadwork ties up the town. This happened just a few months ago when the town had to do some roadwork at the bottom of Sherwood Road at the traffic light. Cars were backed up to the south to the carwash, and backed up a couple miles north. Just because a little ditch was being excavated! Is this really how Willits City Council wants to endure its first tourist season since the bypass opened?

We have all seen the drop in city business since the bypass opened. The summer tourist season is probably the best time for Willits to recover some of those losses. That probably won't happen once word spreads that it takes an hour to move a couple miles through town. If Caltrans wanted to ruin any chance of recovery for this small town, they could not have picked a better time than these summer months to shut it down.

When I expressed this problem to Phil Frisbie a few months ago on the Willits Bypass Discussion Board page on Facebook, Phil quickly replied that they are only going to work at night. Was he telling the truth? Can the city council hold him to his word? Or is that just another Caltrans lie?

Whatever the decision, the city of Willits needs to keep our historic 101/Main Street inviting for all the tourists it needs to attract. Tourists now get to choose whether to buzz on by or stop in for a visit. Nobody wants to wait in traffic during vacation time. It is what tourists want to avoid! Backed-up traffic during summer primetime is just another Caltrans decision that will further isolate Willits from the outside world, and ruin any chance of the needed economic surge during this first year of living with the bypass.

Chris Hardaker, Willits

Send your PSAs to KLLG

To the Editor:

Submit your public service announcement to Willits Hometown Radio, KLLG 97.9!

KLLG 97.9 will gladly list events for free for non-profit organizations, fundraisers, and free events that benefit the Willits community. The purpose of a PSA is to inform Willits

listeners of upcoming events and activities. All accepted, edited and re-written content will be added to our list of bi-weekly announcements and regularly aired on KLLG. Each PSA will be roughly 20 seconds long and run for a maximum of two weeks. If you would like a guaranteed announcement during specified times, consider underwriting a portion of our programming. Underwriting is offered to businesses, organizations, individuals, and events.

To submit your PSA announcements, please follow these guidelines when submitting your announcement to PSA@KLLG.org:

• Submit at least one week prior to air time.

• Include: Who is organizing the event and who benefits from it; what the event is; when, where, and contact organization name and contact information; day, date and time of event; location of event; and other information.

• PSAs are primarily intended to promote local events; however, selected statewide, regional, national and international activities may be the subject of PSAs.

• PSAs should be for time-specific events as opposed to ongoing promotions.

What information will not be included in the PSA? Prices; calls to action ("Come on out," "Go get one..."), or testimonials ("It's the best in town").

To submit your PSA, please send an email to PSA@KLLG.org.

To learn more about underwriting, Please email underwriting@KLLG.org.

Michelle Cummins, KLLG program director

March show at the Art Center

To the Editor:

Get prepared. A real treat is coming this way, and soon!

Willits Center for the Arts proudly announces they've scheduled Saturday, March 4 as opening night and artists reception for the latest gallery show, featuring watercolors from Donna Stropes and ceramics from Bruce Kitts. Adding a little intrigue, the show was named "Both Sides of Atmosphere." You'll have to attend to understand why.

There's no way to describe Stropes' work; she cannot be pigeon-holed, and her latest entries add yet another layer. Anyone who has lived in Willits for any length of time has surely seen the serenity of "Winter Peace," where she captured grazing sheep at the Randrup Ranch, or the same serenity in "Ferndale Gold," a step-back in time to one of our remaining dairy farms. In fact, her paintings run the gamut from landscapes to florals, vegetable botanicals to travel paintings, to an entire series done at Ridgewood Ranch. Many pieces are cherished in private collections now.

It's a privilege to be able to see her latest work. From her studio high atop a hillside, she has created a whole set of paintings devoted to constantly changing skies. Be it roiling and rumbling black clouds of a fast-moving storm or beautiful puffy white clouds of Dunoon Harbor in Scotland, she has managed to seize the moment.

Then there's Bruce Kitts. Selected for the amazing Artists in Residence Program at the Mendocino Art Center, Kitts comes to us from Illinois and says he has grown to love this area and its art community. For this, his first showing in Willits, he managed to take time out from his duties as an instructor at MAC and carefully pack several ceramic pieces for the trip over Highway 20. With the help of Art Center Curator Gary Martin, they've created a beautiful display of at least a dozen different pieces, and all for sale. Speaking for himself, Kitts recently noted: "My ceramic work is meant to develop and depict a strong dialogue through its creation of form and surface. My most recent work focuses on showing the inherent qualities of clay. Leaving parts unglazed, over slipping attachments and letting the slip squeeze out the sides, showing ripped edges, leaving marks on the surface; these are all examples of letting the clay speak for itself. Texture and surface play an enormous part in my work. I try not to let any part of the surface go without attention. By utilizing the atmospheric firings provided at the Mendocino Art Center, many of the minute surface details become far more pronounced."

The artists reception on Saturday, March 4 begins at 6 pm for members, 7 pm for the public. Entry is free. Willits Center for the Arts 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-1726.

Holly Madrigal, manager,
Willits Center for the Arts

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Photos by Ree Slocum

Above: Students and teachers browse up and down the aisles at the 2017 Willits Science Fair. At right: Miranda Swearngin with her science project "Crystal Clear," a set of experiments she worked on with partner Nicholas Gollindo, using borax or salt to make crystals. Below, from left: WUSD Superintendent, Mark Westerberg browses Willits Science Fair projects on Wednesday, along with students from Baechtel Grove Middle School. Blosser Lane fourth-grade teacher Lisa Mey signs in projects for her students on Tuesday — a day school was closed due to the weather. At right: BGMS sixth-graders Amy Mendoza and Ally Chavez fill out the questionnaire about the projects they find most interesting.



Willits Science Fair

Last Tuesday, February 7, a day with road and school closures, teachers, parents with students, and volunteers not stranded by the rain and floods got the student projects for the Willits Science Fair safely to the Willits Community Center in time for Tuesday's judging.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
ree@willitsweekly.com

"I feel so grateful we have such caring adults and teachers and community members who came here for kids and for science," said Erin Vaccaro, the new Willits Science Fair coordinator. Science Fair committee members Sharon Hanna, Suzanne Matheson and Jaeva Cash — who's in ninth grade and in her seventh year as a volunteer — were there to help set up and log in the almost 300 science projects.

It was a challenging start for Vaccaro, who took over this year from Hanna, the previous science fair coordinator. Vaccaro's 14 years of mentoring with Hanna and volunteering with the yearly fair played an important role in the smoothness in which the fair was handled, even with this year's weather difficulties.

On Wednesday and Thursday, school was back to normal, and various classes in the district as well as members of the public attended the science fair. Students had

questionnaires to encourage them to find and explore a favorite project. It was also the time when students, family and friends found out the judges' decisions about awards and which projects had the special yellow "County Fair Qualifier" ribbon.

Having the honored ribbon means the student's project will be in the Mendocino County Science Fair competition in March. If their projects qualify there, they'll go on to the California State Science Fair. For some students this was their second time of having the honor of going to the county science fair.

According to Dawn McClelland, earth science, life science and math teacher at Baechtel Grove Middle School, BGMS students had "a strong showing this year," with 31 students qualifying for the Mendocino County Science Fair, compared to four student qualifiers last year. McClelland said her students took two to three months to work on projects one day a week at school. They also worked at home, especially with the experiments.

Mark Westerberg, Willits Unified School District superintendent, was seen walking through the aisles of projects and stopping at various displays to enjoy the students' work. "It's fun to see what the kids do," he said. "I get to see their creativity and ideas,

Read the rest of **Science** | Over on Page 6



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Next Week:
JOHN WICK 2

THE GREAT WALL in 2D & 3D

(PG13) 1 hr 44 mins

Fri-Sun:
(2D) 12:30 & 5:30pm
(3D) 3:00 & 8:00pm

Mon:
(2D) 11:30 am & 4:30pm
(3D) 2:00 & 7:00pm

Tues-Thurs:
(2D) 4:30 & (3D) 7:00pm

Movie Times for 2/17 thru 2/23

THE BATMAN LEGO MOVIE

(PG) 1 hr 46 mins

Fri-Sun:
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45 & 9:00pm

Mon:
12:00, 2:15, 4:30 & 6:45pm

Tues-Thurs:
4:30 & 6:45pm

FIFTY SHADES DARKER

(R) 1 hr 58 mins

Fri-Sun:
1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm

Mon:
12:00, 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30pm

Tues-Thurs:
5:00 & 7:30pm

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

2017 Willits Science Fair Results

Willits Unified County Qualifiers

Class C-Classroom Projects

Ms. Zak, Blosser Lane, Grade 3, "Eggsplode"; Mr. West, Blosser Lane, Grade 3, "Understanding Earth's Magnet"; Ms. Moore, Blosser Lane, Grade 5, "Power of Thoughts and Intentions"; Mrs. Herman, Willits High School, AP Environmental Science, "What Is Our Eco Footprint?"; and Ms. Bender, Blosser Lane, Grade 3, "The Taste of Perception"

Class B-Demonstrations/ Displays Grades 3-5

Maritza Jacobs, Blosser Lane, Grade 5, "That's Not a Chicken"; Mason Valente, Sherwood School, Grade 3, "A Bright Idea"; Nora Martin, Sherwood School, Grade 4, "Carbon Cycle"; Miles Carpentieri, Anthony Duran, and Josh Duran, Sherwood School, Grades 3, 3, and 5, "Tilt and Latitude"; and Jayden Sossaman, Blosser Lane, Grade 3, "How Geodes Form"

Read the rest of **Results** | Over on Page 6

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Eckankar: The Adventure of a Lifetime

- Community HU Songs
- Membership Discourses
- Spiritual Discussions
- Worship Services

More information? Call 707-456-9934

Willits United Methodist
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Worship Celebration
Sundays - 11:00 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
399 W. Mendocino Avenue
459-6390
Stan Caylor, Pastor
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
1st Sabbath of every month
family potluck at the school.
22751 Bray Road, Willits

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

Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku



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

Level: Intermediate

How To Sudoku:

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

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12		
13								14							15
16			17					18							19
20		21				22			23		24				
25					26				27		28				
29				30					31		32		33		
		34	35						36		37				
38	39									40					
41					42				43						
44				45		46			47				48	49	50
51			52		53			54				55			
56				57		58					59				
60			61		62				63				64		
65		66							67				68		
	69								70						

GARDEN WORD SEARCH

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

CLUES ACROSS

- Package
- Wear away
- Joins a leaf to a stem
- Worsen
- Promotes international cooperation (abbr.)
- Your folks
- Publicity
- Moves up
- Dept. of Labor
- Physicist Enrico
- Whitney and Manning are two
- Human foot (pl.)
- Coral is an example
- Extended error correction
- Small amount
- Dash
- The greatest of all time
- Middle Eastern country
- Ravine
- Cup-like cavity
- Chemical substances
- Extremely stupid behavior
- He built Arantea
- Beverage beloved by Brits
- Cereal plant
- Signal
- Smooth substance of crushed fruit

CLUES DOWN

- Relating to male organ
- Indicates position
- Covers with frost
- Makes a soft murmuring sound
- Wood
- Type of fuel
- Confused
- Where you go at night
- Canadian flyers
- Type of birch tree
- Beloved Welsh princess
- Coated
- Smooth substance of crushed fruit

CLUES ACROSS

- Preface to a book
- Stores grain
- In a way, medicated
- Small island (British)
- An Indiana-based hooper
- Promotes width of printed matter
- Riders use this to transport goods
- Once more
- Thin layers
- Says again
- Cleans thoroughly
- Warnings
- Improves intellectually
- A sign of assent
- Island-based Italians
- Pragmatic
- Peter's last name
- A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- Mexican city
- Sir Samuel ___
- Brit. statesman
- Summer Olympics were just here
- Southern military academy
- Tumors
- Speaks incessantly
- Sacred sound in Indian religions
- Transactions
- Et ___
- Reminders
- Doesn't interest
- Norse gods
- Canola is one type
- Beloved sportscaster Craig
- Irish mother goddess
- Daddy
- Press against lightly
- Sound unit
- Master of Ceremonies
- Morning



Fastback flashback

Local couple celebrates 45th anniversary with unusual surprise

When Willits residents John and Roni McFadden celebrated 45 years of marriage last month, the special gift for the occasion was not the traditional sapphire gemstone, but it was a classic: a 1965 Fastback Mustang. The same 1965 Mustang – owned by John McFadden – that the couple had their first date in – as well as their first kiss.

"I'd always wondered what happened to that car," Roni McFadden said. "We'd sold it to John's cousin after a couple of years, and eventually it disappeared." With John helping their son, Corey, restore his own classic Mustang in recent years, Roni's curiosity about the fate of the original Mustang was piqued, and she started thinking about how to find it.

This Thanksgiving, the McFaddens attended a family reunion in Arizona, and – to Roni's amazement – she saw two photos of the car on the family bulletin board, both showing the license plate number. The Mustang was gold when John and Roni owned it, but the photos showed it had been painted a "root beer brown."

"I took pictures of the pictures," Roni said, "and came home and stewed on it. Then, right before the Chorale

[Roni McFadden helps organize the Mormon Church's annual Community Chorale concert at Christmas time, I decided to put the pics up on Facebook."

"Okay, Facebook friends," Roni wrote, "this is our old Mustang. Ours when we got married in 1972. John had gotten it a couple years before that. It went to his cousin, and then it went somewhere else, and then who knows. We would like to track it down and see if it is still around. We don't have the VIN#. Just this pic of the license plate which doesn't really mean anything if it went out of state. Anyone have any ideas on how to find it ?????," the post concluded.

"Everyone said 'no way' I would find it without the VIN number," Roni said. "Well, within 18 hours of posting, I had a name. I googled the white pages and found the owner living just a block from my cousin in Altadena!"

Roni asked her cousin to check out the car, to make sure it was the same vehicle. And although it looked "totally different," she said, "as they'd made it a race

Read the rest of **Mustang** | Over on Page 6



At top, from left: The Mustang as it looked when Roni McFadden found it late last year – embellished with flames on the side. "Those flames will be put out!" Roni vows.

The original keys for the 1965 Mustang.

A photo of the 1965 Fastback Mustang as it looked when the young McFadden family owned it after their marriage in 1972.

Above: John and Roni McFadden.

At far left: The Mustang being towed from Altadena to Fresno.

At left, top and bottom: More views of the 1965 Fastback Mustang back in the day.



Mock Trial champions

Laytonville High School regains county trophy; heads to state

At this year's 29th annual County Mock Trial competition, members of the Laytonville High School Mock Trial team out-argued the Fort Bragg High School Mock Trial team in the final trial to reclaim the Honorable Judge Ron Brown Memorial Perpetual Trophy, and to earn the honor of representing Mendocino County at the State Mock Trial competition in Riverside on March 24-26.

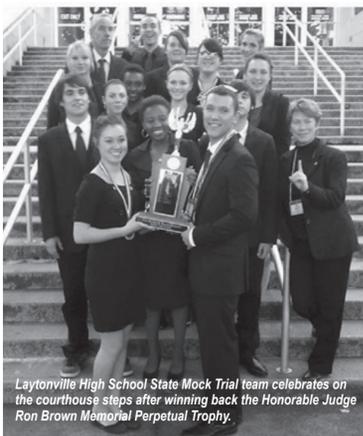
Sponsored by Mendocino County Office of Education, the annual competition gives students the opportunity to experience the American judicial system first-hand. Student teams argue both sides of a fictitious case developed by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, the statewide coordinators of this academic enrichment activity.

This year students portrayed all key roles in the fictitious case, *People v. Awbrey*, the trial of restaurant owner Cameron Awbrey, who was charged with human trafficking and the false imprisonment of Lin Stark, an immigrant from the fictitious country of Tanterra. The case involved issues related to the Fourth and Fifth Amendments: protection against illegal search and seizure and against self-incrimination.

The competition took place during two consecutive weekends, and culminated in the two top teams arguing their case at the Mendocino County Courthouse in Ukiah in front of the Honorable Judge Jeanine Nadel, while a packed house of parents and supporters watched. In addition to Laytonville and Fort Bragg, Ukiah High School and the Developing Virtue Girls' School in Talmage also participated in Mock Trial this year.

Laytonville High School student participants included Sophia Avila, Kassandra Basler, Kiley Carter, Zane Elizondo, Hailey Finnegan, Bronwyn Giffilan, Kyrie Golden, Tanner Goughly, Cora Hamilton, Aurora Hardwick, Oliver Hill, Jephthah Ikeh, Roxanne Johnson, Mercury Lawton, Brianne Sanderson, and Gracie Silva.

The Laytonville High team continues to work with their



Laytonville High School State Mock Trial team celebrates on the courthouse steps after winning back the Honorable Judge Ron Brown Memorial Perpetual Trophy.

coaches to refine and improve upon their trial performance in preparation for state competition next month. Although MCOE is able to pay for team member state registration fees and a portion of the team's lodging expense, the school must still raise approximately \$6,000 to cover transportation cost to Riverside and the expense of meals for the team for three days. Donations from supporters can be made payable to the Laytonville High State Mock Trial Team and sent to Laytonville High School, c/o Bruce Potter, PO Box 868, Laytonville, CA 95454.

Educators and members of the legal community volunteer their time to coach teams and officiate during the competition. Local participants include Developing Virtue Girls School coaches Rianne Kravitz and Matthew Finnegan; Fort Bragg coaches Josh Brown, Tara Larson, and Peter Kafin; Laytonville coaches Bruce Potter, Elizabeth Norman, and Elina Agnoli; and Ukiah coaches Matthew LaFever, Sergio Fuentes, Colin Morrow, Alexander Rich, and Zach Stephens. MCOE funds and coordinates the County Mock Trial program, so the program can be offered to students

Read the rest of **Mock Trial** | Over on page 6

Crystals spark student curiosity at WECS

Sparked by students bringing in crystals from home during "show and tell," Willits Elementary Charter School students became fascinated by the way crystals are formed. Ms. Felton, WECS second-grade teacher, encouraged students to grow their own crystals at home using various materials such as sugar, different types of salt, alum, and Borax. In-class students also experimented with growing crystals using Epsom salts. This exploration culminated with students showcasing their results to parents and fellow second-graders.

Before sharing with other classrooms, Ms. Felton's second-graders will review their results and draw conclusions about how the variables affected their experiments. Ms. Felton notes: "This is a great opportunity to get kids to think like scientists. Not only do they enjoy the hands-on activities, but they are practicing the scientific process, which includes asking a question, conducting research, creating a hypothesis, designing an experiment, recording and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions. Each year teachers choose an area to examine more deeply; this year we chose science, so it has been wonderful for me to see this in action." A backbone of the

Read the rest of **Crystals** | Over on page 10



Willits Elementary Charter School fifth-graders Xavier de la Fuente and Audrey Sher work with second-grader buddy, Amelia France.

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Class B-Demonstrations/Displays Grades 6-12

Lily Barrett, Victoria Hernandez, and Emma Garman, BGMS, Grade 8, "Ice, Ice, Baby"; Christian Jara, BGMS, Grade 6, "A Snowflake is a Snowflake no matter where it falls"; Jeremy Corts and Zack McCann, BGMS, Grade 6, "Water Bottle Rocket"; Laila Britton and Bryanna Gijon, BGMS, Grade 6, "Bring on the Heat"; Nyanna Bertolino Haley, BGMS, Grade 8, "The Ketogenic Diet?"; and Genevieve Van Meter, BGMS, Grade 8, "Am I addicted to my smartphone?"

3-4 Life

Destiny Washburn, Sherwood School, Grade 3, "What brand of toothpaste works best?"; Atley Carpenter, Blosser Lane, Grade 3, "Rainbow Flowers"; and Emerald Mueller, Blosser Lane, Grade 3, "Mammal Heart Rates"

3-4 Physical

Alexander Miya, Blosser Lane, Grade 4, "Rocket Race"; Ely Bowles, Blosser Lane, Grade 4, "Limestone Rocks"; Nadia Jacobs, Blosser Lane, Grade 3, "Battle of the Paper Airplanes"; and Sofia Lopez, Blosser Lane, Grade 3, "Slimed!"

3-4 Earth

Westley Durant, Sherwood School, Grade 3, "Vanishing Water," and Enzo Vaccaro and Soren Pinelli, Sherwood School, Grade 4, "It Is Rocket Science"

5th Life

Isabel Young and Kendahl Potter, Sherwood School, Grades 5 and 4, "The Blind Spot"

5th Earth

Jacob Kubin, Blosser Lane, Grade 5, "Geology Dash"

5th Physical

Karina Cardona and Sydney Kubin, Blosser Lane, Grade 5, "Watch Out for the Slime!"

6-8 Life A

Alyssa Fraser, BGMS, Grade 8, "The Effect of Fertilizer on Java Moss Growth"; Jensen Matheson, BGMS, Grade 7, "Can Bacteria Break Down Oil?"; and Aleen Hernandez, BGMS, Grade 8, "Saving the Strawberries"; and Jada Smith, BGMS, Grade 8, "Hydroponic vs. Soil"

6-8 Life B

Brandon Tehrani, Cody Chesser, and Michael Frahm, BGMS, Grade 8, "How does smell affect taste?"; Nakolo Anderson Joens-Poulton, BGMS, Grade 7, "Oh come on, wash me!"; and Kenneth Burton, BGMS, Grade 7, "Kool Aid Taste Test"

6-8 Physical

Jack Buckingham, BGMS, Grade 6, "May the Slime Be with You!"; Mariah Ochoa and Maddy Hoagland, BGMS, Grade 6, "Fruit Is Power!"; Nomiah Britton and Claire Case Brackett, BGMS, Grade 8, "Ice, Ice, Baby"; Kaiden Butler and Kristan Frost, BGMS, Grade 8, "Swish"; and Dylan Gijon, BGMS, Grade 8, "Pure Pressure"

6-8 Earth

Nickolas Galindo and Miranda Swearingen, BGMS, Grade 7, "Crystal Clear"; Tyler Dalton, Axel Parmerly, and Harley Lukenbill III, BGMS, Grade 6, "Aerodynamic Planes"; and Daniel LaCount, BGMS, Grade 6, "Homemade Telescope"

Charter Schools County Qualifiers
Class B-Display/Demonstration Grades

3-5; Evan James, WECS, Grade 3, "Stop, Look, Learn"; Amber McBride, WECS, Grade 4, "The Sparkle Lamp"; and Rhyann Holder, WECS, Grade 4, "Fizz Between My Toes"

Class B-Display/Demonstrations Grades 6-12

Jersey Greene, WCS, Grade 6, "Tongue Tied"; Eleah Frye, WCS, Grade 11, "Succulents in Terrariums: The How To!"; and Lacey Maxwell and Yulissa Hernandez, WCS, Grades 11 and 9, "What happens when you get too angry?"

3-4 Life

Kadie Balthrop, WECS, Grade 3, "Can you taste with your eyes?"; Griffin O'Rear, WECS, Grade 4, "Rock with Your Flock"; Ivan Carrillo, WECS, Grade 3, "Sports Give Your Heart Speed"; and Kaleb Whitehurst, WECS, Grade 4, "Come to Your Senses"

3-4 Physical Science

Christian Moog, WECS, Grade 4, "The Infinite Flame"; Tyler Jimenez, WECS, Grade 4, "Which Cookies Taste Better from an Easy Bake Oven?"; Caleb Luna, WECS, Grade 4, "Refreshing Soda"; and Ryzyn Lowham, WECS, Grade 3, "Walking Water"

3-4 Earth

Matthew Posey, WECS, Grade 3, "Erosion," and Jade Angelina Luna, WECS, Grade 3, "Biogas"

5th Life

Aubrey Sherf, WECS, Grade 5, "Fragrant Flavors," and Deegan Norton, WECS, Grade 5, "Grow Flowers Grow"

5th Physical

Ruan Hardin, WECS, Grade 5, "Pulling My Own Weight," and Emily Soria, WECS, Grade 5, "So Cool"

5th Earth

Achsa Hill, WECS, Grade 5, "Waves in Time"

6-8 Life A

Sky Greystar, WCS, Grade 8, "Plants and Nutrients," and Farrow Lockwood, WCS, Grade 8, "Seeing Green with Greywater!"

6-8 Life B

Jasmyn Rosado, WCS, Grade 8, "Does the use of electronics before bed affect your quality of sleep?"; and Farrah Breen, WCS, Grade 8, "Comparing Organic and Non-organic"

6-8 Physical

Caleb Christman, WCS, Grade 8, "Is It Hot in Here?"; Katherine Wood, WCS, Grade 6, "Ice Melts"; Nick Miller, WCS, Grade 6, "Got Ohms?"; Hunter Paris, WCS, Grade 6, "The Effects of Barrel Length on Projectile Distance"; Tristan Hofmaister, WCS, Grade 7, "Winter Hot Potato"; Sky Aragon, WCS, Grade 8, "Defense Durability"; and Willow Daun-Widner, Grade 7, "Detergent's pHs and Effectivity"

9-12 Life A

Cera Bacci, WCS, Grade 11, "The Ich," and Jessica Cronin, WCS, Grade 11, "The Effect of Electrolyte Supplements on Endurance Racing"

9-12 Life B

Chloe Breen, WCS, Grade 11, "The Disadvantages of Imidacloprid," and River Hickman and Finlay Moore, WCS, Grade 11, "The Purrfect De-stresser"

9-12 Physical Science

Stephany Brundage, WCS, Grade 11, "Definite and Random Theoretical Probability when Determining a 10-locus Genotype for Rabbit Color," and Savannah Leschke-Munton, WCS, Grade 10, "The

victim is an orange?"

Special Award Winners

Awards from George's Geodes and Gems: Ely Bowles, Blosser Lane, Grade 4, "Limestone Rocks"; Aidyn McFadden, WECS, Grade 5, "Crystal Magic"; Jacob Kubin, Blosser Lane, Grade 5, "Geology Dash"; and Isabella Nunez and Liliana Acevedo, BGMS, Grade 8, "Magnets, Magnets, Magnets"

Awards from J.D. Redhouse: Xander Couevas, WECS, Grade 3, "Chemistry of Vinegar"; Claudia Cazares, WECS, Grade 4, "Sugar"; Kristin Watts, WECS, Grade 4, "Will It Explode?"; Kayla Matney, WECS, Grade 4, "Tooth Decay"; Amberlynn Nowlin, BGMS, Grade 7, "Acidic Fruits"; Devon DiFazio, WCS, Grade 8, "Evap-o-Rate"; Tokyo Jordan, WCS, Grade 6, "Just for the pH of it"; Samantha Arms, BGMS, Grade 8, "Cleaning Lincoln!"; and Alexandra Titus and Jonathon Dyer, BGMS, Grade 6, "Hovershoes"

Awards from California Forestry and Vegetation Management: Christian Moog, WECS, Grade 4, "The Infinite Flame," and Nora Martin, Sherwood School, Grade 4, "Carbon Cycle"

Awards from The Book Juggler: Original Thinking in Science: Jade Angelina Luna, WECS, Grade 3; "Grossest" Project: Aleen Hernandez, BGMS, Grade 8, "Saving the Strawberries"; and Commitment to the Environment: Chloe Breen, WCS, Grade 11, "The Disadvantages of Imidacloprid"

Award from Willits Area Cyclists: Matthew Posy, WECS, Grade 3, "Erosion"

Awards from Sarah Hanna Consulting: Jada Smith, BGMS, Grade 8, "Hydroponic vs. Soil," and Nora Martin, Sherwood School, Grade 4, "Carbon Cycle"

Award from TD Hanna and Consulting: Alexander Miya, Blosser Lane, Grade 4, "Rocket Race"

Awards from Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic: Ezra de la Fuente, WECS, Grade 3, "Plant Power"; Gavin McFadden, WECS, Grade 3, "Hydro Phyto"; Triniti Alvarez, WECS, Grade 4, "When Fruit Turns Brown"; Dixie Marci, WECS, Grade 4, "Batteries"; Jack Croskey, Blosser Lane, Grade 4, "Bouncing Eggs?"; Lyly Herman and Cecily Potter, Blosser Lane, Grade 3, "Egg'cellent Science"; Rhyann Holder, WECS, Grade 4, "Fizz Between My Toes"; Kara Wilkes, WECS, Grade 5, "Environments for Fish"; Audrey Sherf, WECS, Grade 5, "Fragrant Flavors"; Kayleigh Laferty, BGMS, Grade 7, "Evaporation Exploration"; Martin Coughlin, BGMS, Grade 8, "Cans vs. Air"; Nick Karkar and Christian Erickson, BGMS, Grade 8, "Parabola vs. Pizza"; Jonathon Chavan and Nathan Sauers, BGMS, Grade 8, "Cricket Maze"; Zoe Jordan, WCS, Grade 8, "Can Music Affect Plants?"; Jasmyn Rosado, WCS, Grade 8, "Does the use of electronics before bed affect your quality of sleep?"; Sarah Warrick, WCS, Grade 8, "Which stain remover will work the best?"; Mason Valente, Sherwood School, Grade 3, "A Bright Idea"; Isabelle Burton and Bridgette Bjorklund, WCS, Grade 10, "Using Daphnia to Monitor Water Toxicity"; and Nyanna Bertolino Haley, BGMS, Grade 8, "The Ketogenic Diet?"

Awards from Padula Ranch: Griffin O'Rear, WECS, Grade 4, "Rock with Your Flock"; Emerald Mueller, Blosser Lane, Grade 3, "Mammal Heart Rates"; Maritza Jacobs, Blosser Lane, Grade 5, "That's Not a Chicken"; Alyssa Fraser, BGMS, Grade 8, "The Effect of Fertilizer on Java Moss Growth"; and Jessica Cronin, WCS, Grade 11, "The Effect of Electrolyte Supplements on Endurance Racing"

Results submitted by Willits Science Fair.

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and I look for the ones that are really unique. Most importantly, the kids learn about the scientific method."

Westerberg also mentioned that at some schools, like Sherwood Elementary School, the older students present their projects to the younger students to gain the skills of organizing thought and talking in front of people. This also inspires the younger students to consider doing a project when it's their turn.

Vaccaro who also teaches eighth-grade science at Willits Charter School as well as high school biology and chemistry, notes: "To do a nice project, you have to understand science, because you have to do an experiment but you also have to show off your research skills, your writing skills, your math skills, and your artistic skills. It's a great way to put all of these learned skills together."

This process all starts, sometimes, months earlier when a classroom teacher asks a simple question of their students: "What do you want to study for your science fair project?" It all evolves from there.

This year, there were 295 projects filling the community center. Over 100 parent and student volunteers made sure the process for judging and community viewing went smoothly.

Vaccaro sent a special thank you to the Science Fair Committee: Sharon Hanna, Suzanne Matheson, and Jaeva Cash. "Their dedication and tireless energy helped make this event possible," Vaccaro said. "And thank you to all groups and businesses who sponsored prizes for students, including PG&E, which supplied a wide variety of incentive prizes."

Vaccaro also noted the registration paperwork and project abstracts for the county science fair are due back to schools on Wednesday, February 22. Extra copies of registration materials are available at school sites and online at sites.google.com/willitsunified.com/sciencefair. The Mendocino County Science Fair will be held on Saturday, March 18 at Mendocino College in Ukiah.

The rest of **Mustang** | From Page 5

car" – and painted it dark blue with flames on each side – it was the same car, and it was for sale!

At that point, Roni said, she decided to buy the car as a surprise anniversary gift for her husband. After the under-the-radar deal was made (this was a "hard secret to keep" Roni later posted on Facebook), the Mustang was towed to Fresno, where the McFaddens' nephew did an "unveiling video" which Roni showed John on January 8, the couple's 45th wedding anniversary. "My husband is in a state of disbelief!," she posted later that night.

The weekend of January 21-22, the couple "drove down to Fresno and brought our car home," Roni posted on Facebook. "Last leg of trip. Headed up the Ridge toward home with the Mustang! I STILL can't believe this has happened! This Mustang has so many stories in her! Now that she starts, we will get to work – there's a lot of work to be done – and make her as pretty as she used to be."

"I was pretty dumbfounded while watching the 'unveiling video,'" John said, "and am anxious to start working on it to restore it to its former self."

– Jennifer Poole

The rest of **Mock Trial** | From Page 4

at no cost to them. Approximately 70 students represented the four high school teams.

Participating in the event as presiding judges were the Honorable Judges Clay Brennan, Keith Faulder, Cindee Mayfield, Jeanine Nadel, and David Riemenschneider; and Judges Pro

Tem Giny Chandler, attorney at law, and Katharine Elliott, county counsel.

Scoring panels included local attorneys Robert Boyd, Ashley Rose Burrell, Brian Carter, Giny Chandler, Cooper Demarse, Lewis Finch, Caitlin Keane, Patrick Kingsley, E.D. Lerman, Meredith Lintott, Brian Morimune, Hannah Nelson, Margaret O'Rourke, Douglas Parker, Nathaniel Raff, Josh Rosenfeld, Charlotte Scott, Michael Shambrook and Frank Zotter.

"We're incredibly grateful to all the volunteers who make this program possible," said Carolyn Brown, who coordinates Mock Trial for the Mendocino County Office of Education. To learn more, please visit the Mendocino County Mock Trial competition's webpage at www.mcoe.us/District/Department/27-Curriculum-Instruction/Portal/Mock-Trial.

Furry Friends

Happy Boy

Happy is a super-handsome, endlessly loving boy in search of a faithful, compassionate owner. He is a 1-year-old neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 50 pounds. This adorable boy has a love for stuffed animals, belly rubs, and lounging on the couch.

Happy is obviously eager to bond – he can be shy at first, but quickly becomes your best friend. We can only imagine what a loyal shadow he'll be once he knows he is safe and loved in his forever home. Happy has all the making of a wonderful companion and pet, and with a little effort he'll be the best pup around and make you happy!!



Photo by Rod Coats

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. Many wonderful dogs and cats await their forever homes here. To view photos and bios, please visit online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com, or visit the shelter. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.

Gentle Jesse

Jesse is a gentle soul who is looking to bond with a new best friend.



He's a 2-year-old Chihuahua mix who came to stay at the shelter last year, after his previous owner passed away. This little blond boy can be shy at first, but the right person can bring out his happy, adventurous personality!

For more information on Jesse or other adoptable animals, call 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.



Boy Scouts of America Pack 42 Den Leaders Mike Tobin, left, and Juan Carrillo, with Scouts in front, left to right: Connor McCoy, Coltin McCoy, Adrian Carrillo, and Ivan Carrillo.

Congratulations

Boy Scout Pack 42

Boy Scout Troop/Pack 42 celebrated the 107th birthday last week of Boy Scouts of America, which was incorporated on February 8, 1910, with "Blue and Gold Honors Night." Congratulations to Tigers Conner McCoy and Adrian Carrillo, who received their "Family and God" and "Team Tiger" Belt loops. Congratulations to Lion Coltin McCoy, who received his "I'm a Winner" ribbon. Many others were also in attendance, said Den Leader Mike Tobin, "and there was a good potluck dinner, too."



Mary Holmes

Mary Genevieve Holmes passed away on January 4, 2017, at the age of 93. She was born on May 26, 1923 in Oklahoma. Mary was a beautiful woman who everyone loved. She used to love going dancing with a sparkle in her eyes. She enjoyed playing Nintendo with the grandkids and reading.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry Holmes, and three sons, Johnny, Mike and Bill Flanagan. Also preceding her in death were grandchildren Dale Stipe, Wyatt Halverson, Merrick and Kayshia Fischbach, and daughter-in-law Dottie Flanagan. She is survived by: four daughters, Mickey Venable and Randy, Bonnie and Cory Ross, Tracy and Ted Brown, and Linda and Ried Grittman; sons, Gary Stipe, Sr. (who passed away January 24), Roger and Nancy Stipe, Loren and Sonja Stipe, Danny and Rhonda Stipe, and David Flanagan. She is also survived by 25 grandchildren and 52 great-grandchildren.



There will be a celebration of Mary's life held on Saturday, March 18 at 1 pm at the Redwood Meadows Senior Apartments' Recreation Room at 1475 Baechtel Road.

Cheryl Wilder

Cheryl Marie Wilder passed away on February 4, 2017 at the age of 59. Cheryl was a natural caregiver, full of compassion, love and humor. Her lifetime was given to caring for her kids, grandkids, parents and brother. She enjoyed gardening, and sharing her joy for living with family and friends. She also enjoyed shopping and watching her WWE Wrestling, and her San Francisco Giants.

Cheryl was predeceased by her parents, George and Ann Hatton, and her brother, Larry Hatton. She is survived by her beloved family, children: Tina (Manuel) Gutierrez, Jodi (Eric Alvarez) Phillips, and Michael Wilder; four amazing grandkids: Alyssa, Christopher, Ryan and Kylie; sisters: Georgia Jones and Judy Massoth; lovable nieces and nephews; many dear friends; and her special "family" of pets, Sadie and Lucy. Service information will be announced at a later date. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

SATURDAY SPORTS FUN!

WE WILL BE GIVING AWAY 8 PAIRS OF TICKETS TO THE GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS GAME ON MARCH 26.

Earn entries (25 points/entry) on February 22, 25 and on March 1, 4

Drawings at 8P & 9P on February 25 & March 4

2 pairs of tickets for each drawing time each week. The Raffle Barrel will be emptied after the 9P drawings each week. Players Club members may win once per week and up to 2 times for this promotion.

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Photo by Charlotte Ballenger

Thursday, February 16

Free Positive Parenting Group: "Systematic Training for Effective Parenting" classes are parental guidance workshops for parents of children ages 4-12. Classes happen once a week every Thursday, 9 to 10:30 am, at Brookside Elementary School, Room 25. Open to all families with children in the Willits Unified School District. Breakfast is included. Classes are free. Thursday meetings: February, 16, 23, March 2, 9. Info: Jackie Herz, 459-3232.

Live Music at the Brickhouse: Singer-songwriter David Parch will perform. Thursday, February 16. No charge. 2 to 3 pm. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.



Above: "The Sunshine Boys" playing at the Willits Community Theatre.

"The Sunshine Boys" at WCT: the classic Neil Simon odd-couple play telling the story of two aging vaudeville performers who can't stand each other, but who are forced to work together one last time, is guaranteed to bring laughs. Director Christine Dill also directed 2014's huge hit, "The Angel of Chatham Square." "The Sunshine Boys" runs through February 26, with shows on Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Friday and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15 and some Sunday matinees for \$10. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Tonight's performance, Thursday, February 16, 7 PM, is sponsored by the Howard Hospital Auxiliary, for tickets to tonight's show, contact Dianne Menzies: 354-1809. Otherwise, advance tickets available in person at Mazahar, 38 Main Street, online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.

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

Friday, February 17

Rotary Club's All-You-Can-Eat Crab Dinner: Loads of fresh sweet crabs, salad, pasta, and French bread. Also, wine and beer will be available for purchase. Dollar auction and live auction, live music by The Bassics. This event is a benefit for the Willits High School Seniors Scholarship Fund and the Willits Senior Center. Tickets are \$50, and are available at Willits Furniture, Tri-Counties Bank and the Willits Senior Center. Friday, February 17 at 6 pm. Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Info: Ask any Rotarian, or call Ann Alumbaugh: 459-1440 or 841-1315.

"The Sunshine Boys" at WCT: The classic Neil Simon play. Friday, February 17 at 8 pm. Tickets \$15. See Thursday, February 16 for details.

Shanachie Pub: Oddjob Ensemble & House of Mary. "Oddjob Ensemble is a showcase of stunning musicianship, exotic tonalities and of course shenanigans!" House of Mary is a three piece indie rock band whose style is "fun, flirty, clever, sexy, and unique." It features Aubrie Arnoux-vocals and harmonica, Blair Mullen-drums, Spencer Byrnes-guitar. Friday, February 17, at 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, February 18

VIP Pet Care Veterinary Clinic: Mendo Mill in Willits hosts a community veterinary clinic with VIP Pet Care, Saturday, February 18, from 10 to 11:30 pm, with vaccinations, testing & deworming, RX heartworm, and flea & tick control for your cat and dog. Licensed veterinarian at every clinic. No appointment necessary. Visit Mendo Mill for prices. 305 East Commercial Street.

"Water is Life" Concert: A benefit for Standing Rock, Saturday, February 18 from 2 to 11 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Featuring: The Real Sarahs, Mystic Sol, Clay Hawkins Trio, The Sheds, Danni El, Forrest Glycer, Farmers Market Band, Sarah Rose, Hal Wagenet, Dennis Chrisp and more. Keynote speakers, first-hand Standing

What's Happening Around Town



Claire Case-Brackett helps out at the 2016 Crab Feed.

Blues, and experiments with elements of Americana, Bluegrass, Jazz and Funk." Saturday, February 18 at 9 pm. \$5 cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, February 19

"The Sunshine Boys" at WCT: The classic Neil Simon play. Sunday, February 19 matinee, at 2 pm. Tickets \$10. See Thursday, February 16 for details.



Blue Lotus

Tuesday, February 21

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. Tightwad film this week: "The Batman Lego Movie" and "50 Shades Darker." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Rock accounts, kombucha & elixir bar, family friendly with a kid zone. Catering by Zocalo Collective, Tacqueria Ramirez Taco Truck. Tea Temple. Yoga and Body Movement. Silent Auction, art, and more. Suggested donation \$20 (includes entry and small bite). No one turned away for lack of funds. Donations accepted.

Wednesday, February 22

Sports Talk on KLLG: Every week on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm, join host Steve Kovner for sports talk radio on KLLG 97.9 FM, Willits Hometown Radio. Call-ins at 459-KLLG (459-5554); sports fans are invited to call in with their opinions.

Shanachie Pub: West Coast rock and roll jam band Blue Lotus features original songs "that take you from rock and roll to spaced out intergalactic madness. Rooted in Rock and

Thursday, February 23

Grief and Bereavement Workshop: Phoenix Certified Hospice begins an 8-week bereavement group which aims to provide opportunity for those who have suffered loss to explore the individual nature of grief, and will offer techniques to understand grief and manage stress. The group is free of charge but requires pre-registration. Starts Thursday, February 23, 10 am to 12 pm. Adventist Health's Home Care & Hospice office, 100 Sanhedrin Circle. Info: contact Roland Hulstein at 456-3248.

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

"The Sunshine Boys" at WCT: The classic



Neil Simon play. Thursday, February 23 at 8 pm. Tickets \$10. See Thursday, February 16 for details.

Friday, February 24

"The Sunshine Boys" at WCT: The classic Neil Simon play "The Sunshine Boys." Friday, February 24, 8 pm. Tickets \$15. See Friday, February 17 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: The Stone House Band, formerly known as Black Iris Band, is a classic rock and blues cover band featuring veteran players Todd Brayton: Lead vocal-drums; John Chambers: lead guitar-vocals; John Chambers: guitar-backing vocals; and newest member Joe Munch from Laytonville. Friday, February 24, 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

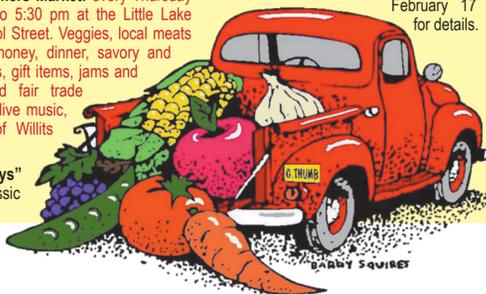
Brayton: Lead vocal-drums; John Chambers: lead guitar-vocals; John Chambers: guitar-backing vocals; and newest member Joe Munch from Laytonville. Friday, February 24, 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, February 25

"The Sunshine Boys" at WCT: The classic Neil Simon play. Saturday, February 23 at 8 pm. Tickets \$15. See Thursday, February 16 for details.

Sunday, February 26

"The Sunshine Boys" at WCT: Final hilarious performance of the classic Neil Simon play starring Mike A'Dair and Louis Rohlicek. Sunday, February 26. 2 pm matinee. Tickets \$10. See Friday, February 17 listing for details.



COLUMN | At the Movies



'A Dog's Purpose'

The Story: Bailey the dog has questions about the reason for his existence. He's not deeply suffering or vexed by the problem: "What does it all mean, and what should I be doing?" He just asks the question. He loves his boy, his playtime, the boy's family, or in Bailey's words, "the pack." Then Bailey dies. That's sad. But don't worry. Bailey reincarnates ... and he goes on wondering "why am I here?" through life after life after life.

My Thoughts: This is a Lasse Halstrom movie. He's the gifted director of the international hit, "My Life as a Dog." (I promise to get a copy for the video store). But director Halstrom aside, I promised myself no more dog movies. After "Old Yeller," when the dog dies. Or "Marley and Me," when the dog dies. Or "Hachi, a Dog's Tale." Or "My Dog Spike," which features a movie poster showing a cute terrier staring at a toilet bowl which led me to expect a comedy, but it really is about the author's guilt over the death of his dog. Dan, I said, no more dog movies. I'm even tearing up writing this and remembering those movies. But "A Dog's Purpose" solves the dilemmas of guilt, separation, loss and heartbreak which the death of a beloved pet shoves into our collective faces. So, go see this dog movie. It's safe. Added bonus, it's a good date movie.

Parents: G rating. Kids will like this movie. There's some heartbreak, and an alcoholic father, but this is OK. The dogs die, but they come back. And Bailey reunites all the people who should be reunited.

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



Ongoing Events

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

"One of a Kind": the February show at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, features new works by Tom Zephyrs. Also, in the upstairs gallery: "Esther Hart-Retrospective." Both shows run through February 26. Also: 12 jewelers present a "Pop-Up Shop for Valentine's Day" runs through February. Winter Gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. If you are interested in volunteering to be a docent, call the art center at 459-1726.

Bi-Monthly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Meeting: Join Linda and guests every 2nd and 4th Monday, 10:30 to 11:30 am. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941

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.

Tuesday Night Potluck Bingo: Potluck dinner and bingo every Tuesday at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Be sure to bring a dish to share! 5 to 7 pm; \$5 buy-in; 50 cents per card. Info: 459-6826.

Free Seeds for your Garden: "Check out" flower, vegetable, and herb seeds to plant in your garden. After the plants are done, save the seeds, label them and return them to Will Minor at Willits Public Library. Heirloom seeds only. No GMO and no hybrids! Questions? Call Will at 459-5908, e-mail him at minorw@co.mendocino.ca.us, or see him at the library desk.

Al-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. "Al-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."

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

Library Coloring Club: Want a little color in your life? Then by all means, come to the library! The Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, is hosting a Library Coloring Club, every Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm for ages 14 and up. "We've got the crayons and the paper - you bring the imagination."

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

Volleyball Open Gym: at Baechtel Grove gym; Sundays 7:30 pm and Tuesdays at 8:30 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 HHM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5 pm to 6 pm; Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 pm to 7 pm; Tweens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 pm to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Singer songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday, 8 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 8 pm. No cover. "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, 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7:30 pm; pre-signup list starts at 3 pm when the Pub opens. "An eclectic array of local musicians and even performers from around the world!" 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays, November through May, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Local fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan goat cheeses, ranch meats, eggs, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

Senior Center Lunch

Entrees for the week of February 20 to 24

Monday: Salisbury Steak
Tuesday: Chicken Cacciatore
Wednesday: Meat Loaf
Thursday: Lemon Tilapia
Friday: Turkey Dinner (Birth Day Lunch)
Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entree, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

For all parents & educators!

BREAK THE CHILDHOOD OBESITY CYCLE

By Heather Criss, Public Health Educator

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 5:30-6:30 PM

Once children are obese, it is more likely that they will continue to be obese when they reach adulthood. Understand the environmental and social causes of childhood obesity. Learn how Mendocino County compares to California statistics. Discover how we can work together as a community to improve our children's health for the long term.

Heather Criss has worked for 3 years on a federally funded Obesity Prevention grant aimed at decreasing the rate of chronic disease associated with obesity. She is committed to making policy, system and environmental changes that support health.

Avenues to Wellness
Call 456-9676 for more information.
Email: atoforhealth@gmail.com
Visit: avenuestowellness.org for more speaker topics

LEARN NEW INFORMATION TO REVERSE THE OBESITY CYCLE

REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CAUSES OF OBESITY

UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTION

CREATE CHANGE FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
71 East Commercial St.
Free to the public. Donations appreciated. Wheelchair accessible.

'Water Is Life' benefit for Standing Rock

Saturday, February 18

"Water Is Life," a benefit at the Little Lake Grange for the Standing Rock demonstrators in defense of Native American rights, will begin at 2 pm on Saturday, February 18 with a prayer ceremony and drums by the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo. Keynote speaker, longtime water protector and tribal chair Paula Britton will share her experiences, as well as an "amazing collection of Willits water protectors" who will share multimedia presentations of first-hand accounts of their experiences at Standing Rock.

Throughout the day, well-known local musicians will perform including: The Real Sarahs, Mystic Sol, Clay Hawkins Trio, The Shreds, Danni El, and more music to be announced.

Included on the benefit schedule will be yoga and meditation, a beautiful Tea Temple, a Health Bar with kombucha and infused waters, and tasty tacos & burritos from Taqueria Ramirez. We will also have a silent auction with archival giclee prints and originals from local artists Jacob Souik, Joel Mauer, Jazzminh Moore, John Roussos and more, as well as items donated from local businesses such as Re Evolution, Paradigm, Testa Vineyards, Parducci, and many more! A Kid Zone will be available for entertainment for children to enjoy activities such as games, art, and face painting in a safe, attentive environment. This event is family-friendly.

The organization is asking a \$20 donation. This includes admission and a small meal (while supplies last) made with organic and local ingredients provided by Zocalo Collective catering. Any donation amount will be accepted at the door, nobody turned away for lack of funds.

The money raised from this event will be channeled through Cloud Forest Institute, a licensed 501c3 non-profit organization collaborating with Mendo Stands with Standing Rock, which will distribute the funds responsibly to help with cleanup, legal support, and sponsoring local passionate water protectors.

YOU SHOULD COACH!

Music and Fun for the Family

Saturday, March 11

The School for Adaptive Agriculture Winter Carnival fundraiser at the Little Lake Grange runs, 291 School Street, from 12 noon to 10 pm on Saturday, March 11. The Carnival will feature musical performances, guest speakers, workshops and local art and craft vendors from around the county. Everybody's favorite music from our first-rate local favorites including Charley Crockett, Schindig, The Real Sarahs, Pick & Pull, House of Mary, plus The Cult of Ours, and many more. Special activities for kids will include a bounce house, arts and crafts areas, carnival games, and surprises. Night activities will offer more music, an optional School of Adaptive Agriculture dinner available for purchase, silent and live auction items, as well as raffle items available for bidding.

WEF 'Drive-Thru-Dinner'

Friday, March 3

The Willits Educational Foundation's "Drive-thru-Dinner" is coming up on Friday, March 3 at the Willits Rodeo Grounds. The money raised benefits teachers, students and programs within in the Willits Unified School District. The dinner is for four and includes: A whole tri tip, Caesar salad, beans, Emandal bread, cookies and a rose from Flowers by Annette. Dinners will be available for pick up between 4 and 6 pm. Dinner tickets are \$60 and may be purchased by calling Jenn at 354-1670, or Flowers by Annette at 459-6588.

Willits Youth Football & Cheer needs coaches

Supporting young people with positive organized sports activities, the local group Willits Youth Football & Cheer is seeking coaches for the 2017 season. If you are interested in helping out, please request an application by emailing: willitsyouthfootball@gmail.com, or stopping by Roundtree Glass, 24 Monroe Street.

2017 International Wildlife Film Series



Feb 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

Willits Rotary Club Annual

CRABFEST

ALL YOU CAN EAT
CRAB, PASTA & SALAD, FRENCH BREAD
Fri. February 17
2017 • 6pm
A Post Valentine's Day Celebration
\$50 per person
No Host Bar • Dollar Auction
MUSIC BY THE BASSICS
ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT
WILLITS SENIOR CENTER &
THE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
WILLITS COMMUNITY CENTER
111 E. COMMERCIAL ST. • WILLITS, CALIF.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
ANN ALUMBAUGH (707) 459-1440
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WILLITS FURNITURE, WILLITS SENIOR CENTER, & THE COUNTRIES BANK

Art Class Seeking Models

The Life Drawing class at the Willits Center for the Arts is seeking models to sit and pose. The class is interested in all body types, ages and ethnicities. Models will be compensated for their time. The class invites local artists to attend the weekly artistic practice. Beginners are also encouraged to attend. The class meets every Thursday from 1 to 4 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. For more information, please contact Devi Doree Chase: 459-6284

International Wildlife Film Festival

Starts February 24 at Ukiah Civic Center

The Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project hosts a tour of award-winning films from the International Wildlife Film Festival in Missoula, Montana. Beginning February 24, the series will run for five consecutive Friday evenings at the Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Avenue. Doors will open at 6:15 with live music, snacks, and a time to socialize. Films begin screening at 7 pm.

The first film, "Earth - A New Wild: Home," investigates our changing relationship with the wilderness by focusing on stories that demonstrate how animals and humans can thrive side by side. The second week's feature is "Flight of the Butterflies," a beautiful Canadian film traces the life cycle and migration route of monarch butterflies. Series ticket holders can look forward to seeing a wide variety of wildlife and to visiting extraordinary habitats that span the planet.

Tickets are available at Mendocino Book Company or at the door. A series ticket for all five nights is \$45. Single tickets are a \$10 suggested donation for adults and \$5 for children. Films are appropriate for older children. For more information: Maureen Taylor, RVOEP Education Coordinator, at 489-0227. Or go to: <http://rvoep.org>

Proceeds from the film festival will benefit the Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project. The RVOEP is a special program of the Ukiah Unified School District that provides outdoor environmental education programs to over 2,000 students each year on a 45-acre woodland in Redwood Valley.

Steve Prochter, chair of the RVOEP selection committee, notes, "This year we have worked hard to select films that give us a sense of hope at a time when many of earth's ecosystems are in peril."

'Break the Childhood Obesity Cycle'

Wednesday, March 8

Avenues to Wellness presents "Break the Childhood Obesity Cycle" as part of its monthly speaker series. Heather Criss, public health educator, will lecture on understanding the environmental and social causes of childhood obesity on Tuesday, March 8, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Learn how Mendocino County compares to California statistics, and discover how we can work together as a community to improve our children's health for the long term. Criss has worked for three years on a federally funded Obesity Prevention grant, aimed at decreasing the rate of chronic diseases associated with obesity. She is committed to making policy, system and environmental changes that support health.

Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Howard Foundation. They offer a speaker series the first Tuesday of every month. For more information call 456-9676 or visit: avenuestowellness.org for upcoming speaker topics and a video archive of past events.



At top, left: Wrestlers Ethan Ferguson, Austin Andrade, Beau Roberts and Jacob Arms, with empty plates and a thumbs up. At top, right: Head coach for the WHS wrestling team, Brian Bowles, with friends at La Siciliana's beverage counter. Above: La Siciliana had two seatings during its "All You Can Eat" Spaghetti Fundraiser last week.

At right: Wrestlers and friends D'Artagnon Meek, Ethan Ferguson, Owen Sebastian, Dave McGuinness, and Adrian Brito. Below, left: WHS wrestler Patrick Turner. Below, right: WHS head wrestling coach Brian Bowles.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Spaghetti Feed raises \$2,000

Funds raised at La Siciliana will help WHS wrestlers with expenses



The Willits High School Wolverines wrestling team raised \$2,000 during its Spaghetti Feed fundraiser at La Siciliana Restaurant on Monday, February 6.

Wrestling head coach Brian Bowles said the money will be used "for tournament fees, and to help with different financial burdens on our team."

Bowles credited La Siciliana owner Kapila Phoenix with the fundraising idea, as one of his employees, D'Artagnon Meek, happens to be a senior on the wrestling team.

"La Siciliana] made the food, and the employees offered up their time, and the wrestlers are the hosts, doing all the serving," Bowles said.

Phoenix said it was a "wonderful night," and wanted to thank the "generous community members who purchased tickets, made donations and enjoyed the 'all you can eat' meal.

"It is heartwarming," Phoenix continued, "to see our community come together to get behind and support these wonderful young people who are so dedicated to their school and sport of choice."

Willits Weekly's Jenny Senter, formerly with the Mendocino County Office of Education, was one of the happy diners that Monday night. "It was a wonderful dinner!" Senter said. "And the young waiters were so attentive! I had forgotten how much I enjoy being around young people. Go Wolverines!"

Since the fundraiser, the wrestling team traveled to Lower Lake High School this past Saturday to compete in the North Coast Section duals championship as the first seed in the tournament.

"We received a bye [an automatic advancement to the next round] in the first round," Bowles reported. "And wrestled St. Patrick-St. Vincent [Vallejo] in the semis, besting them 60-20."

The victory set up a finals match with Stuart Hall, a team that had just upset Healdsburg – last year's NCS champs.

"The Wolverines lost just two of the 14 weight classes with a score of 68-12 in the finals," Bowles said. "We were awarded an NCS first-place pennant, a commemorative plaque, and each team member received an NCS gold medal. The team has a perfect league and section record of 10-0!"

The team will travel to Clear Lake High School this Saturday, February 18 to compete in the league championships.

"The top three placers in each weight class move on to the NCS Individual Section Tournament, held at James Logan High School [in Union City]," Bowles said.

For the girls wrestling team, Bowles praised Nicole Karkar, "who represented

Willits at the Girls NCS Individual Section Tournament and placed 5th place at 131 pounds. Great job by Nicole this whole season."

Bowles named Tyler Vesey, Colton Horger and Meek as "our standout seniors leading the [boys] team. Ethan Ferguson and Jacob Arms [lead] the freshmen. Arms is undefeated in league play. All of our wrestlers have done extremely well. We beat Lower Lake, which is in the next tier as far as school size. We beat them 37-32 [during our last meet]."

With six freshmen on the squad, Bowles said: "The future looks very bright. We lose four seniors [at the end of the season], but we've got a really good crop of freshmen and a good supporting cast of middle grades."

Bowles said that when it comes to coaching: "It's important to have fun. You build character, you teach work ethic and team. If you do that and have fun and respect each other, then the winning part comes from that. It's a grueling sport, it's a time commitment. These guys are working six days a week at least. Saturdays are our tournaments. Sundays are their only days off. It's tough, and they're doing a very good job of it."

"I like that he's always there for you," said senior Adrian Brito of coach Bowles. "Even if it's not wrestling-related, he'll always be there to give you advice on life in general. Even on the mat, he gives us such good advice. Starting as a freshman, I didn't know as much as I do now. I give him all the credit for that."

Brito has seven years of wrestling experience under his belt and is 20-6 during the regular season.

"My most remarkable match would be my final in Middletown where I went against a guy about four times and he hadn't scored a single point on me," Brito said. "I beat him 7-0."

Brito said what he likes most about wrestling is "the adrenaline rush you get when you're on the mat; everything else disappears. I'm in the moment. It's something you can't repeat. You have to be there."

Senior Tyler Vesey likes wrestling so much, he's hoping to earn a scholarship for college next year.

"We're a young team, and we've practiced really hard, and it's all paying off," Vesey said. "I've been wrestling since the sixth grade. I competed with a traveling freestyle team last summer. I want to wrestle in college."

Coach Bowles used one word in describing the most valuable quality that wrestling can teach: "Perseverance."

"The kids have definitely put the work in, and they've benefited."

The rest of ADA | From Page 1

"It'll go beyond local code ordinances," she said. "[Building Code Enforcer] John Sherman enforces the ordinances, and he's talked about barrier removal [during a previous city council meeting].

"That does not go as far as the ADA itself. This inspector is a certified ADA specialist who identifies the ADA issues when he goes out and does inspections. He has the expertise that our building official does not."

Moore and city staff decided to organize the forum after it came to Moore's attention that last month an attorney had been "targeting local business for ADA noncompliance."

Reports from the city planner

City Planner Dusty Duley last week provided the city council with some positive news regarding progress with highway signage, the Main Street Relinquishment Project, and the marijuana ad hoc committee meetings.

"We met with the deputy director of Caltrans for District 1, and he brought along some of his key staff," Duley said. "They said they're going to look into trying to establish signage that in previous conversations we were told we weren't going to get – such as the logo signs on the north interchange."

Duley added that Caltrans is considering placing a sign near CalFire's Howard Forest headquarters on the ridge that would say "Willits 6 Miles."

"We provided Caltrans with the resolution we passed at the last [city council] meeting for the additional downtown signage," Duley said. "We requested to meet with their staff out in the field to figure out where [those signs] should be located, and we're exploring ways to keep costs to a minimum."

Duley added Caltrans is also "interested in paying for some [Main Street] improvements they weren't at first showing interest in." This includes irrigation lines under both sidewalks, electrical lines, and possibly paying for a broadband conduit system.

"Often the big cost for installing broadband is ripping the road up itself," Duley said. "Since that meeting, there's been ongoing conversations between the Caltrans design team and city staff as to some of the specifications as to what a broadband conduit system might look like."

Duley reported meeting with Assemblyman Jim Wood and his staff about the Highway 101 bypass.

"One of the members [at] the meeting coined the term 'Economic Mitigation,'" Duley said. "We're looking for some help at the state level. Maybe a one-time addition to their budget to get some money for Willits. A lot of this is just words at this point, but it's encouraging nonetheless."

The rest of Taxi | From Page 1

Redwood Taxi has been an independent contractor with Hey Taxi, Inc. out of Ukiah. Hey Taxi operated in Willits from 2005 to 2008.

In his letter to the city, Gutierrez wrote: "We feel there is sufficient market now to provide a successful operation, and the city's growth both in people and economics would support a taxi service."

Once rates for the taxi service are approved, Gutierrez and any drivers he contracts with must obtain a business license from the city before doing business in Willits.

However, both Lance and Councilman Ron Orenstein raised concerns about the lack of any conditional ordinances that could allow the city to cancel its relationship with the taxi service "if things went sour," Orenstein said.

"The authority with the council is to approve the rates alone," said City Planner Dusty Duley. "If a situation came up where the taxi service wasn't operating correctly, and we weren't interested in them to continue to service the city, I'm not sure what our avenue is to terminate that service."

Lance asked Gutierrez about his arrangement with the City of Ukiah.

"Do you have a contract with the City of Ukiah that authorizes you to perform your taxi service there, or is it simply a business license?"

"It's business license, solely," said Gutierrez. "[Ukiah] never established a contract with us or the main business. We operate all individually as independent contractors."

Gutierrez explained to the council that before contracting with Redwood Taxi, a driver would have to pass a "five scan" background check and a drug test, and to show they have a clean driving record.

"They would not be able to drive for me unless all of those things were covered," Gutierrez said. "We have a fantastic insurance provider. The commercial liability policy carries a million-dollar coverage, which also includes our passengers, which is unique. If any of our drivers are in a situation where they're at fault, and passengers are injured, they're going to be covered."

Gutierrez told the council each cab will be equipped with two cameras, one interior and one dash cam.

"We would want to have those cameras in our taxis, and we would love it if we had a relationship with law enforcement [so] they would have complete access to those any time they request it. That helps us when people are coming into the vehicles. You never know if somebody has bad intent."

Despite these and other assurances, including a successful history in Ukiah, Orenstein voiced further concern.

"Our responsibility is for the health, welfare and safety of the public," Orenstein said. "It's easy to take a drug test on day one and then go crazy on day five. What assurance is there that it's a permanent condition that they're sober?"

Gutierrez answered by saying that "when we felt that we had a driver that had some issues, we requested them to get another drug screen."

Orenstein next asked Gutierrez about the possibility of assault.

Americans with Disability Act Forum

Tuesday, February 21

The City of Willits and the Willits Chamber of Commerce are partnering once again; this time to host an educational forum next Tuesday, February 21, from 6 to 8 pm, at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street, on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for local businesses.

As a community, we want to provide a safe and inviting environment to all of our residents and visitors. The purpose of the presentation is to educate local business owners on accessibility requirements and the appropriate steps to take to be compliant. This is a challenging time for our local businesses, particularly our small businesses, struggling to survive since the Willits bypass opened last November. By providing this forum, we hope to provide business owners with the appropriate tools to evaluate their facilities and, if necessary, create a plan for compliance.

The presenter, Gary Waters, a licensed architect since 1988 and a certified access specialist, has focused his professional career on accessibility in the built environment. Together with partner Anthony Goldsmith, an attorney with a specialized practice in accessibility law, Waters is a founding member of Pacific Access Consulting, LLC, serving clients throughout the state of California. PAC recognizes that accessibility includes both civil rights as well as design and construction issues. Serving both public and private clients, PAC takes a multi-disciplinary approach to access consulting.

For any questions or concerns, please contact City Manager Adrienne Moore at 459-4601 or amoore@cityofwillits.org.

– submitted by the City of Willits

and evaluate your trees every few years."

Moore said staff is continuing to work on the grandstands at the rodeo grounds "damaged in December from a tree falling due to a storm. That's going to be a big project," she said. "We're continuing to work with REMIF [Redwood Empire Municipal Insurance Fund] and the people they brought in – an engineer and an insurance adjuster – to get that taken care of in time for Frontier Days."

Two more arrests in pot grower's death

Only two suspects in the murder of a Laytonville-area pot grower remain at large after Virginia deputies arrested a 27-year-old Illinois man they found hiding in a vacant house in Williamsburg.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office was notified of the arrest of Frederick Gaestel last Friday by a representative of York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office.

Gaestel surrendered peacefully after deputies surrounded the house where he had taken shelter, said sheriff's detective Sgt. Andrew Porter.

"Mendocino County will work to get Gaestel extradited to Mendocino County so he can stand trial for homicide," Porter said. That process can take up to "several months" if Gaestel challenges extradition.

Gaestel's arrest was the "result of the cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies working with concerned citizens who came forward with the information about his whereabouts," Porter noted.

On January 16, an additional suspect in the murder, Michael Andrew Kane, 26, of Pleasantville, New York, surrendered to Customs and Border Patrol officers at the California-Mexico border. Kane had been hiding in Mexico when he contacted his family and told them he was "tired of running" and wanted to surrender, Porter said.

His arrest was facilitated through the U.S. Marshals Office and the U.S. Border Patrol.

Thirty-five-year-old Jeffrey Quinn Settler's bludgeoned body was discovered on a remote Laytonville property five miles from Highway 101 last November 11.

In all, sheriff's detective identified seven suspects in the Bethel Island man's death; all had been employed by Settler as marijuana trimmers.

Investigators believe the men beat Settler to death during a robbery, fleeing with more than 100 pounds of processed marijuana.

The remaining suspects at large are identified as Gary Blank III, 34, of Garberville, and Jesse Wells, 33, of Laytonville.

Anyone with information about the location of the remaining suspects is urged to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Investigative Services Unit at 463-4421 or the Sheriff's Office Tip Line at 707-234-2100.

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

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The rest of Crystals

From Page 4

WECS philosophy also includes students teaching others, which deeply cements student learning.

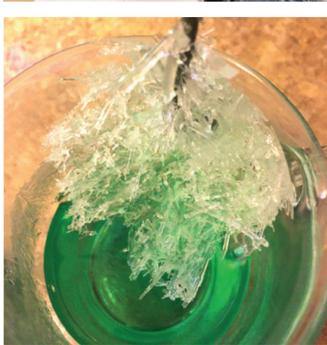
Parent Ashley Sherf, also a teacher at WECS, noted, "My daughter loved this project! She started asking great questions, wondering about what might have affected the crystal's growth, such as temperature and other environmental factors."

Megan Wolf, WECS' fifth-grade teacher, realized that her students' work on mixtures would deepen their learning about crystals; teachers collaborated so that the fifth-grade students could help second-graders hypothesize how to separate the salt from the water in a salt-water solution. Ms. Felton has also planned a field trip to George's Geodes and Gems to show students even more examples of crystals.

– Kara McClellan, director, Willits Elementary Charter School

At right, top: WECS students Skylyn Glassey and Izzy Sims do work related to crystal formation.

At right: An example of a crystal made by WECS students.



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Above, from left: Alexis Swoboda, 16, won first place in the women's 5k. Kianna Ruffin, 12, came second place for women overall in the 5k run. Cat Barriga, 9, came in first place in his age group in the 5k race. Amelia Wirt took first place for women in the 10-mile run. Robert Swoboda won first place in the 10-mile run. Swoboda poses with his sister Alexis Swoboda, who took first place among women in the 5k race.

Willits Classic

Hundreds compete in 5k, 10-mile races around the Willits valley

The 37th annual North Coast Striders Willits Classic 5k and 10 Mile Road Race began on a cold but sunny morning last Sunday. The first 33 runners, the ones braving the 10-mile (16.1 kilometer) race, took off at 10 am, hoping they had the stamina to win or even finish the race. From the Rec Grove, the race went up Commercial, to Hearst Road, to Eastside Road, to East Hill Road, to Center Valley Road and Bray Road, East Valley and back to the Rec Park. Several veterans Willits Classic runners said this was their favorite race due to the beauty of the surroundings and the fellowship of the participants.

Half an hour later, at 10:30 am, the remaining 90 runners of the 5k (3 mile) race began the walk/run competition. The first to cross the finish line for the 5k was Alex Schulz of Ukiah, with his daughter Rosalie in his racing stroller and a time of 21:35. Second in the 5k was Anthony Fleming of Healdsburg, age 69, 22:01, followed by Philip Henebury, age 16, from Redwood Valley, 26:03. Fleming entered this race as a warm-up for the Senior Olympics this summer in Birmingham, Alabama, in which he plans to enter the 5k and 10k races having qualified by winning the 5k in Oregon and the 10k in Montana.

The top three females in the 5k race were Alexis Swoboda, 16, from Redwood Valley, coming in at 21:58, Kianna Ruffin, 12, of Ukiah, 22:03, and Blair Wickliffe, 36, of Ukiah, 25:18. Alexis Swoboda, who was running injured with a bad knee, is the sister of the first-place winner in the 10 mile race, Robert Swoboda. Ruffin had two sisters running as well, Krystina and Emylia, who also did well in their age groups.

There were medals awarded for the top runners in each age group. This was very much a family-friendly race with brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers participating. Jedidiah and Jonas Swearingin have been running along with their parents, Josh and Sarah, since they could walk. The Swobodas (2 members), the Ruffins (3), the Trouettes (5), the Olsons (4), the Barrigas (4), the Heneburys (4), and the Kristiansens (3), amongst other families, made the event an affair for the whole family to enjoy.

The top three males in the 10-mile race were Robert Swoboda, 18, of Redwood Valley, with a time of 1:00:16 – just missing his goal of 1 hour, Alexander Kramer, 37, of Calpella, 1:01:19 and Mark Mulholland, 35, of Ukiah, 1:06:08.

Robert Swoboda missed several races this year due to an injury, but wants to continue running in college. He won 1st place in last year's Willits Classic 5k, and this year decided to step up to the 10-mile race, for which he was obviously prepared.

Kramer, a Willits High School teacher, won the 10-mile race last year and has consistently run in the top three in the past five years.

The first three women to finish the 10-mile race were Amelia Wirt, 18, of Fort Bragg coming in at 1:18:18, Michelle Kluskiewicz, 27, of Willits, 1:18:19, and Amanda Koch, 33, of Fort Bragg, 1:28:25. Amelia ran the race as her high school senior project, having to write a paper on her experience. She runs about 6 miles a week and plans to continue running at College of the Redwoods in Eureka.

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

At right, from top: Starting the 5k Run/Walk. Amelia Wirt from Fort Bragg stands in front of the race history wall. Wirt, who took 1st place in the women's 10-mile run, was doing the race as her Senior Project. Alex Shultz was the first to cross the finish line of the 5K race, with his daughter, Rosalie.

Below, from left: The Trouette family does a pre-start selfie. Rita MacKubbin, 72, took first place among women in her age group in the 5k. Holly Enzler of North Coast Striders prepares nourishment for the runners.



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Above: Christina, Amelia and Kianna Ruffin. Below: Anthony Fleming, age 60, came in second in the 5k race.

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

The race is under the aegis of the North Coast Striders that holds five main running events each year: the Willits Classic 10 Mile Race and 5k Run/Walk, the Boontling Classic 5k, Legends of the Redwoods 10k and 5k Run/Walk, and the Annual Christmas 5k and Annual Meeting. The group was founded in 1980 to bring together individuals interested in walking and running for health and fitness. Most are from Lake and Mendocino counties. Sponsorship is provided by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, which also provided the much-welcomed gloves for the runners.

Timing services for the event were provided by Ready, Set, Go out of Ukiah, a "certified orbiter timer," with 23 years' experience in electronic timing of races as far away as the Belize Marathon, but mostly in Northern California. Ready, Set, Go has races coming up in Ukiah (the Jesse Pittman Memorial Race in June), Point Arena and several other locations.

For more information about the North Coast Striders, visit <http://striders.org> or the "North Coast Striders" page on Facebook.



LEGAL NOTICES

WW105
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
Joseph Michael Spreng
CASE NO. SCUK-CVPB-17-26780 1

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of Joseph Michael Spreng, Joseph M. Spreng

2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by (name of petitioner) Shaina Spreng in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino.

3. The Petition for probate requests that Shaina Spreng be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

4. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

5. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: March 10, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. E, located at: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 N State St, Ukiah, CA 95482.

7. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

8. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code; or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

9. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

10. Attorney for petitioner: Christopher J. Neary Neary and O'Brien, 110 S Main Street, Suite C Willits, CA 95490 Telephone: (707) 459-5551.
Pub dates: 02/16, 02/23, 03/02/2017

WW103 Fictitious Business Name Statement
2017-F0066

The following person is doing business as: **Imagination Station Preschool & Childcare Center, Inc.**, 11 North Marin St., Willits CA 95490; Saprina Rodriguez, 331 West Mendocino Ave., Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by a Corporation: Imagination Station Preschool & Childcare Center, Inc., 11 North Marin St., Willits CA 95490.

The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 2/1/11.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on January 26, 2017.
s/Saprina Rodriguez
Pub dates 02/02, 02/09, 02/16, 02/23/2017

WW102 Fictitious Business Name Statement
2017-F0069

The following persons are doing business as: **Pacific Blue 32901 Pearl Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.** This business is conducted by a General Partnership: Carlon Cathey, 411 South Street #4, Fort Bragg CA 95437, and Stephen Dunlap, 32901 Pearl Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mendocino on January 26, 2017.
s/Stephen Dunlap
Pub dates 02/02, 02/09, 02/16, 02/23/2017

WW104 Fictitious Business Name Statement
2017-F0067

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **Learning Depot Academy**, 265 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits CA 95490; Saprina Rodriguez, 331 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by a Corporation: Imagination Station Preschool & Childcare Center, Inc., 11 North Marin St., Willits CA 95490.

The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 9/1/16.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on January 26, 2017.
s/Saprina Rodriguez
Pub dates 02/02, 02/09, 02/16, 02/23/2017

Willits Weekly was adjudicated on November 18, 2016 and is now able to run legal ads. Contact 459-2633 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com for more information.

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

Willits Weekly is looking to add to our crew of news and feature freelancers. Experienced news reporters with an interest in following a local beat in depth are encouraged to send a resume and clips to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Possible opportunity for a writer with an interest in news, but no news experience.

Willits Weekly is always happy to talk to local writers interested in covering community events, local organizations and businesses, and local people. Experienced feature writers are welcome, but writers interested in trying something new are encouraged to apply, also. An interest in taking pictures is a plus. Please send resume and samples of your writing (and sample photos if you've got them) to willitsweekly@gmail.com

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Above, from left: Stephen Lawler, from the Blackfoot/Cherokee tribe, fans smoke from the burning sage. Speakers Stan Caylor from the Seventh-day Adventist Church (above, center) and Brad Branson, first counselor to the bishop from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (above, right) address the gathered crowd. Below, left: It was a full house for the morning breakfast. Below right: Guest speaker David Levy, MD. At bottom right: Margie Rice, left, a violinist and concert mistress for the Ukiah Symphony, performed at the breakfast. Attendee and speaker who blessed the food, Linda Posner, right, listens to other speakers during the annual prayer breakfast.



Photos by Maureen Moore



Prayer Breakfast

Annual event sponsored by HMH offers 'prayers for unity'

By Cici Winiger, for HMH

Business owners, law enforcement, first responders, hospital leaders and local elected officials got up early Thursday morning, February 2 for the annual prayer breakfast at the Willits Community Center. Coinciding with the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC, the gathering's main theme was uniting the community and asking for blessing and guidance in the face of many challenges both at the local and national level.

Organized by Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital Chaplain Dennis Long and now on its fifth year, the prayer breakfast started in 2012 as a gathering to draw upon the rich faith and diversity of the community as the source of its strength and hope for the future.

Five local faith leaders offered prayers for unity, the city, state and the nation, home and family, and for our first responders. Stephen Lawler, from the Blackfoot/Cherokee tribe, offered prayers for unity and burned sage to bless those in attendance. Stan Caylor from the Seventh-day Adventist Church prayed for the city, state and nation, asking for unity amidst divisions in light of current events. Brad Branson, first counselor to the bishop from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints thanked and prayed for those who risk their lives every day protecting

the community. Sam Senerchia, Soto Zen Buddhist, asked for blessings for home and family.

Special guest speaker David Levy, MD, from UC San Diego, shared his insights about addressing burnout. A neurosurgeon and author, Dr. Levy talked about the power of faith, and that most of the time, it's a matter of "reframing" how one sees things. "What you water, grows. Focusing on your blessings and practicing gratitude is such a positive thing for the mind and relationships," he explained. "You'll be surprised how things can turn around just by changing the way we look at things," he adds.

Dr. Levy said first responders, healthcare workers and law enforcement members are very susceptible to burnout because they absorb the world's problems. But Dr. Levy cautioned attendees about the myth of achieving work-life balance, citing a famous quote by former GE CEO Jack Welch who said: "There is no such thing as work-life balance, only work-life choices."

"When you're burned out, you can make 'withdrawals'

on these accounts, and that will keep you going. If your accounts are empty, you can keep going, but it'll cost you; relationships will suffer, or you will lose sleep or feel emotionally drained and lash out at those you love," he explained.

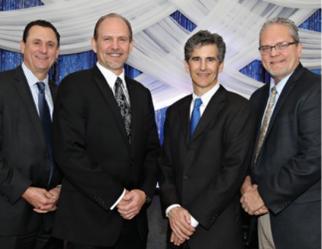
Dr. Levy emphasized the importance of relationships as they relates to combating burnout. "The quality of your relationships is one of the most important things that determine your well-being. Make sure you spend time with friends – not friends on Facebook, but real friends. Turn off those phones and have real conversations and spend time with your kids."

In conclusion, Dr. Levy offered one more piece of advice: "We're so used to celebrating the big things or getting those big joys, like a new car, graduating from college or buying a new house. I call those the '\$1,000 joys.' Those things don't come often in life, so we need to start looking for \$20 joys and start collecting them every day so that by the end of the week, you have \$1,000 [worth of] joy in your pocket. Think about the small things: Maybe your child said his first word, or you had a great conversation with your coworker, or maybe someone complimented you on something, or you got a call from an old friend. Keep collecting those \$20 joys, and you'll be surprised how much better your life will be."

According to MCERA Administrative Secretary Judy Zeller, Stephens and Parker were sworn in on Tuesday this week, and attended the MCERA board meeting on Wednesday.



Below, from left: Law enforcement and fire department personnel pose together at their table. During the blessing of the bread, attendees were encouraged to "touch the bread, or touch someone who is touching the bread." Jeff Eller, president and CEO of the Northern California Region of Adventist Health, Dennis Long, chaplain at Howard Memorial Hospital, guest speaker David Levy, MD, and Kevin Erich, interim CEO for Howard Memorial Hospital stand together.



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The rest of Supes From Page 1

MCERA board member and a financial advisor from Santa Rosa. He has earned the reputation of being a dogged critic of the status quo on the board.

Parker is a Sonoma County mortgage broker, mortgage lender and banker. He has served on the boards of several community service organizations, including the board of directors of the Sonoma Land Trust, the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Rosa, the Blood Bank of the Redwoods and the Sonoma County Museum of Contemporary Art.

During his interview with the board, Parker presented himself as an unflappable pragmatist and cool operator. When asked if he felt daunted by the problems facing the retirement association, he replied: "There are lots of details involved, but I don't think it's the most difficult problem I've ever addressed."

The main problem facing the retirement board is financial solvency. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the return from investments was a negative 2.35 percent. The association's entire investment portfolio lost money, and the unfunded actuarial accrued liability, or UAAL, increased to \$205 million.

When asked by board Chairman John McCowen what he thinks MCERA should do, Stephens advised the retirement board to lower its assumed rate of return to 6.25 percent – a full 100 points lower than its current 7.25 percent rate of return. That presents a problem: When the rate of return is lowered, the amount of money the county has to pay into MCERA increases.

If MCERA were to lower its assumed rate of return by 100 points, from 7.25 to 6.25 percent, the county's annual contribution to MCERA would increase to \$26.37 million. Currently the county pays \$19.6 million.

A December 2016 report from Segal Consultants concludes if the assumed rate of return on investments were lowered to 6.25 percent, MCERA's UAAL would balloon to \$287 million.

Before the vote appointing him to the MCERA board, Parker told supervisors the rate of return on mortgage investments was 6.25 percent. That rate of return was quite steady, he added, and was not subject to stock market fluctuations.

If MCERA is looking for a place to invest some of its money, Parker said, he recommended putting it in mortgage securities, which he described as solid and dependable.

"I share Mr. Sakowicz's concerns about the stock market," Parker said. "It's basically a race track run by bookies. I think the retirement board would be well-served by investing in mortgages."

According to MCERA Administrative Secretary Judy Zeller, Stephens and Parker were sworn in on Tuesday this week, and attended the MCERA board meeting on Wednesday.

The rest of SWOW From Page 1

contracts, but when Ward asked the board for some kind of financial compensation to offset his expenses in keeping the buyback center open, supervisors moved on to other considerations.

On January 24, the board approved a package giving SWOW the equivalent of \$288,000 worth of concessions, increased income, and reduced costs. The board acted in response to Ward's yearlong request for financial help. His company is struggling in the wake of low recycling commodity rates, negative cash flow problems in the company's Humboldt County operations, and a string of bad luck in Mendocino County.

Ward told supervisors it would cost him \$12,000 to keep the buyback center in Westport open. He also said it would be difficult for him to find an employee willing to work only one day a week.

The transfer station, which until January 24 was open three days a week, had only three or four customers a day, he noted.

When asked by Willits Weekly if his bank had responded yet to the news of concessions, Ward said it had not. "I have no idea what they're gonna do or say at this particular time," he said. "I haven't had a response back."

"But I sent in my quarterly report and my end-of-year report, and the news did not look good," he added. "We're in negative territory again. I told them we got some concessions and our picture will look better, eventually. I am going to be sitting down with my bankers in a couple of weeks."

Supervisors Dan Hamburg and Dan Gjerde told fellow board members they have been feeling the heat from the public in their respective districts. The package of concessions to SWOW included provisions that would close recycling buyback centers in Gualala and Anderson Valley, as well as the Westport transfer station and buyback center.

The rest of Council From Page 1

mayor was not the will of the majority," said City Attorney Jim Lance. "I urge you to revise the rule [so] that an ad hoc committee, for example, may be formed if the majority of the council wishes it."

Councilman Ron Orenstein agreed with Lance.

"What happened in November made it very clear," Orenstein said. "We had four councilmembers who wanted to do one thing, and one councilmember, who happened to be the mayor, [who] just blocked it. The will of the council has to be superior."

Mayor Gerry Gonzalez concurred, adding the new rules should allow the mayor "to retain the role of appointing one [ad hoc member], and one of the majority of the three councilmembers requesting the committee [should] make up the other appointment."

Other rule changes discussed with less than unanimous agreement involved public comment concerns, specifically in regards to section 19A, which currently states: "No question shall be asked of a councilmember or members of city staff, nor shall any councilmember or members of city staff respond to any questions of the public without first obtaining permission from the presiding officer."

"I think [that rule] is too limiting," said Councilwoman Madge Strong. "If one of us makes a comment about whatever is on the agenda and someone in the public wants to single me out about what I said, I think that should be OK. It shouldn't be prohibited."

While Councilwoman Saprina Rodriguez agreed with Strong, Councilman Larry Stranske warned such a procedure could result in issues not being properly answered.

"If we have public expression about a topic that's not on the agenda at all, it's catching [councilmembers] off guard. If somebody is going to ask me a question, I am not prepared to answer it. The way it is right now, where we listen to [the public] and don't have any comment on it is the correct way to do it. If it's something we think should be discussed [more thoroughly], then we put in on the agenda."

Lance said the current rule is useful because "what you want to avoid is a lot of back-and-forth dialogue on something that's not on the agenda that the council is not prepared for."

After further discussion, it was decided the rule be amended slightly to include language that would give the mayor discretion to allow certain questions to be asked of individual councilmembers or members of city staff.

The council agreed to also allow for the mayor's discretion when it comes to public comment time limits.

Moore noted that although the rules as currently written allow for a five-minute time limit: "Our practice for the last several years has been three minutes. We need to reflect in our rules what we actually do in practice."

"[I prefer] three minutes," Strong said. "I think if people are focused, they can get in a lot in three minutes. If they want to provide a whole bunch of background information, they can be encouraged to do that in writing."

"I think under public comment, [the time limit] should be three minutes," Rodriguez agreed. "But for topics [on the agenda], I'd prefer the five minutes, because if you come here for a purpose, people should have the opportunity to really make sure we understand what their concerns are."

Moore next asked the council about adding an adjournment time rule to the procedures.

"During the first Remco hearings, the [council chamber] was packed and [the meetings] went well into the wee hours," Gonzalez said.

"This past year or two our meetings have not been very long," Lance said. "Ten years ago, we often met till after midnight. I would suggest that if you're going to make a time limit that it be for the regular agenda and maybe stop at 10 or 10:30, but you build in some mechanism to extend it if four-fifths agree to it."

Both Stranske and Rodriguez agreed with adding the adjournment rule.

"I'm for the time limit," Stranske said. "I get up at 5:30 in the morning. I don't function well after 11 pm."

Stranske added, while most of the meetings have been manageable in length: "There are some hot button items out there. They just haven't surfaced yet, but they're out there."

The last bulleted item brought to the council by Moore regarded "adding a new section that defines the authority for placing items on the council agenda."

Moore noted, in her original request, she recommended there be a consensus of three or more council members greenlighting an item in order for it to be put on the agenda.

However, she changed her mind because a consensus requirement would "be problematic. That would force it to come to a council meeting just to make the request, then it would have to come back in a subsequent meeting to be discussed and acted upon."

Therefore, Moore explained, only two councilmembers would be needed to have an item placed on the agenda.

"That way it could come directly to me without further delay of having to seek permission from the full council," Moore said.

Orenstein asked about the danger of violating the Brown Act.

"If the first person didn't want to go there, I'd have to talk to another member, which would be a violation," Orenstein said.

Moore said in order to avoid such a scenario, "I would likely send out an email where I would blind copy each of you – so there [wouldn't] be any interaction between you – to ask if there's any interest in forwarding this item to the agenda."

Moore and Lance will be collaborating to make the changes and bring them to the council during a future meeting for formalized approval.

The rest of Pot rules From Page 1

the three-person board (with Supervisor Dan Hamburg recused on marijuana issues and the Third District supervisor's seat vacant) outlined what kind of personal use ordinance they want.

Personal use grows will be limited to six plants, and are to be part of the 25-plant per parcel limit. On less than 10 acres, the plants must be grown indoors; on 10 acres or more, they may be grown outdoors.

When grown indoors, the plants cannot be grown in a habitable space. (That means in most cases they will be grown in a greenhouse.) The area used to grow the six plants cannot be larger than 100 square feet.

The ordinance will use the setbacks already incorporated in the county's 9.31 ordinance. However, the restriction on growing cannabis within 1,000 feet of a youth-oriented structure or facility or church will no longer apply, as the provisions of Proposition 64 "trump" the restrictions in Proposition 215 and in the county's Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance.

McCowen said the proposed ordinance only applies to cannabis plants grown for personal use. "The regulations for the commercial cultivation of cannabis will be addressed in the future," he said.

The outlines laid down by McCowen and agreed to by supervisors Dan Gjerde and Carre Brown are considered a starting point, and supervisors may change the details of the ordinance in the future.

Gjerde told McCowen he opposed the idea that the six guaranteed "recreational" cannabis plants would be taken from the 25 plants per parcel limit, so that only 19 plants could be grown for medical cannabis.

"I'm not against reducing, at some point, the medical marijuana allotment," Gjerde said. "I think that's where you're heading. But I am against doing it before we have an amendment to our coastal plan."

"I don't want to say too much on the record but, basically, there needs to be some options for the coast, and right now they have very few options, and this is one of the few options they've got."

Medical cultivation ordinance

McCowen had requested an agenda item be placed on the February 14 meeting agenda to clarify the direction to staff about the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance given at the board's February 7 meeting. On February 10, he drafted a memorandum recapitulating the decisions the board made during that meeting, listing 46 items.

During the February 14 meeting, supervisors went through those 46 items, approving most of them and discussing some of them.

Among the highlights:

Landowners may have more than one cultivation site per parcel, providing the total cultivation area does not exceed the limit for that type of permit.

No dwelling unit requirement for parcels in the Upland Residential zoning unit.

No commercial cannabis cultivation in Residential zones R1, R2 and R3, Suburban Residential (SR), Rural Community (RC), RR1, RR2, or non-conforming parcels within the RR5 zoning districts. People cultivating there now will have a two-year sunset period to relocate, if they meet certain requirements.

An overlay district may be granted. That district would basically exempt certain communities of the county from some of the provisions of the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance, especially the prohibition against cultivation on smaller residential parcels.

Guidelines for the creation of overlay districts have yet to be finalized.

Any current cultivator in any specified zone who is out of compliance with the terms and regulations specified in the ordinance, or who is in compliance

but does not apply for a permit within 90 days from when the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance is adopted, or who applies for a permit that is not granted, or has a permit revoked, is violating the law and subject to marijuana site eradication.

The board confirmed its previous direction to staff to consider the advisability of that 90-day deadline to apply for a permit.

Supervisors also confirmed previous direction to disallow new cultivation permits in Rangeland (RL), Forestland (FL) and Timber Production Zone (TPZ) zoning districts. However, an exception was made for Rangeland that already has a cultivation site on it.

"An existing cultivation site in RL could relocate to another site in RL provided that the destination parcel had an existing cultivation site, no new cultivation sites would be established, and the original cultivation sites would be restored and excluded from any future cultivation," according to McCowen's memorandum. The board agreed with his assessment.

Touchy items

Supervisors had previously said multiple-parcel landowners may lease out only two parcels for cannabis production. However, board changed its mind and did not set a limit to the number of parcels an individual landowner may lease out for production of the weed. However, the parcels must conform to the requirements of the ordinance.

"They would have to be bona fide, existing cultivation sites, as of January 1, 2016," McCowen said.

Previously the board had agreed the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance would state that new cultivators coming into new cultivation sites after January 1, 2020, would need to undertake a watershed assessment on the watershed in which their prospective grow site was located before a cultivation permit would be issued. The board confirmed that a less-thorough water availability analysis would be sufficient to allow permits to be issued for relocation sites, but watershed assessments will still be required for new sites after January 1, 2020.

Gjerde balked at the imposition of a 90-day application deadline, saying he would support such a period in instances where an overlay exemption is allowed and a new 90-day application deadline would begin after the overlay exemption is granted.

McCowen opposed that exemption, arguing no one would apply for a permit right away. "We're kind of saying, 'You don't have to apply for a permit if you don't want to.'"

Gjerde insisted the exemption was non-negotiable. "There's a lot of nervousness out there in my district on the part of [coastal] property owners, who are now growing under 9.31, who are not causing problems with their neighbors, and who are in RR5 or RR2. They are afraid they are going to be zoned out of business."

When McCowen jokingly asked if failure to get what he wanted on this question would cause Gjerde to vote against the entire Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance, Gjerde said it would.

"This is a deal-breaker for me," he told McCowen.

Because of the current Third District supervisorial seat vacancy, and a conflict of interest on the part of Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg, the drafting of the ordinance is being undertaken by only three supervisors: McCowen, Gjerde and Brown. All three must agree to everything and approve the ordinance for it to become law.

McCowen agreed to Gjerde's request to extend the 90-day application deadline when an overlay exemption is granted.

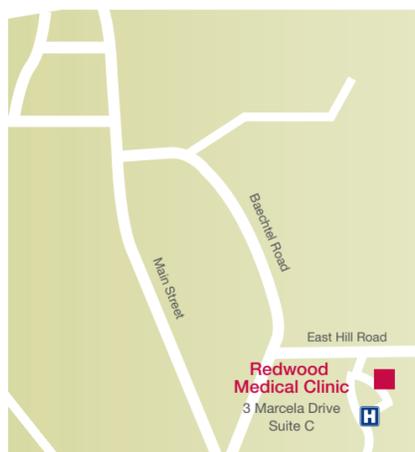
The board will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, February 28, to consider issues related to the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance, the new personal use ordinance, and other cannabis-related items.

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