

Donations Accepted Edition No. 143

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
forrest@willitsweekly.com

Mello has lived in Willits since 1989, and has worked in banking and finance for most of that time. He said he's hoping to bring those skills to help with funding issues for the LLFD board, which provides financial oversight and strategic policy direction for the district.

Read the rest of
Mello |
Over on Page 15

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

TTHMs are formed as a result of disinfecting drinking water, and according to the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, the levels of these chemicals must remain below 80 parts per billion within the distribution system. Those levels were found to have peaked past 100 parts per billion

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

Jedidiah William Jones was an acquaintance visiting the woman's home when the alleged attacks occurred, according to sheriff's Lt. Shannon Barney.

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

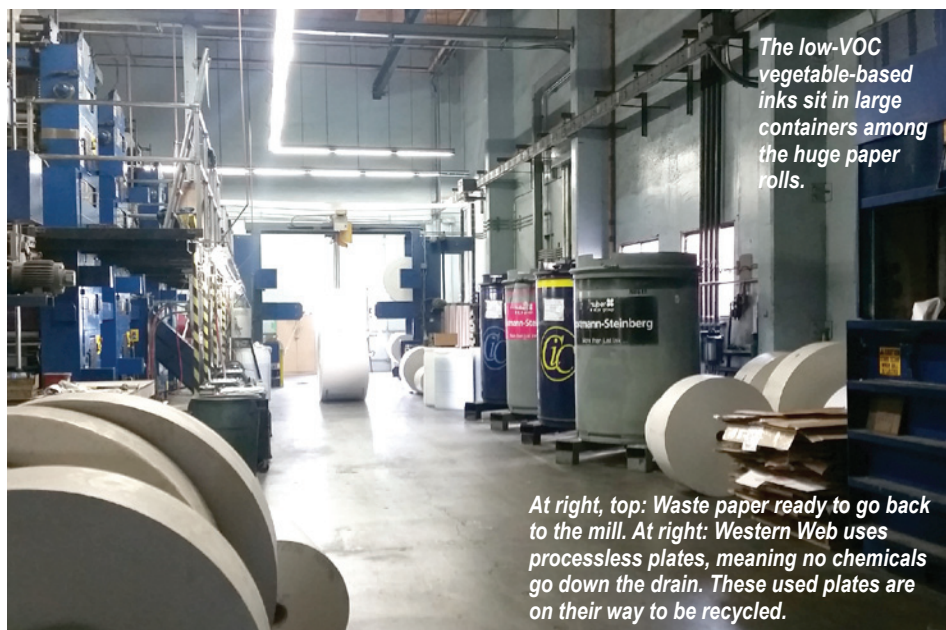


Soroptimist members pose with the cover of the new phone book, from left: Loraine Patton, Divora Stern, Tanya Musgrave, Vicki Ham and Fran Schatz.

Photo by Maureen Moore

The 2016 Soroptimist International
of Willits Community Telephone
Directory is here!

Today's the day that the 2016 edition of the Soroptimist International of Willits Community Telephone Directory goes out to the public! 3,000 of the 4,000 printed copies have been inserted into today's edition of Willits Weekly, and the remaining 1,000 will be delivered to the Willits Library, the Willits Chamber of Commerce, J.D. Redhouse, Gateway Realty and the Savings Bank of Mendocino County. Books are free – pick one up and check out the helpful residential listings, the Soroptimist content and, of course, if you get a chance, please thank the advertisers who helped make the phone book a success again this year!



The low-VOC vegetable-based inks sit in large containers among the huge paper rolls.

At right, top: Waste paper ready to go back to the mill. At right: Western Web uses processless plates, meaning no chemicals go down the drain. These used plates are on their way to be recycled.

We frequently receive comments on how lovely the colors and photographs are in Willits Weekly, and the newspaper's high-quality print job every week is due to our great printing partners, Western Web. This independent printer is located in a small town just west of Eureka, called Samoa. The print shop features a state-of-the-art web press – the kind of printing press needed for newspapers (there is no color web press in Mendocino County), and a staff who cares deeply for quality and the production of a beautiful product.

Each week, Willits Weekly is created right here in Willits, and the finished page files are emailed up to Western Web on Wednesday evenings. Production on the color web press runs overnight to turn the digital files into laser-burned plates which are used to print each edition. The four-page sheets are then assembled to form the full editions, which get bundled together, stacked on a pallet, and trucked

Read the rest of **Western Web** | Over on Page 11

At left: Western Web's 16-unit Tensor press has four towers which print every page in dot-for-dot register, pop off the page, full color. This is the machine that prints Willits Weekly each week and the internal pages of the phone book, too.

Below, from left: Some of the Western Web crew: Kevin Bell CSR, designer, Trish Cornwell, office manager, and Steve Jackson, president. The Ryobi DI press is the ultimate combination of digital technology and proven, high-quality offset printing. From the prep of the file to the press, running good copy takes about 15 minutes, but one set of plates will run over 30,000 copies, making it perfect for short and long runs. This machine is where the phone book covers are printed. A giddy Maureen Moore has a roll of "22 News" or "Willits Weekly in the Raw."



Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

After spending all day listening to a recapitulation of the Kemper report on the county's mental health system, the board of supervisors directed county CEO Carmel Angelo to begin a two-pronged campaign to improve mental health service delivery in Mendocino County.

Angelo will revise the contracts with Ortners Management Group and Redwood Quality Management Company, the two administrative services organizations contracted to provide mental health services to county

Read the rest of
Ortner |
Over on Page 13

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

With three Willits City Council seat openings up for election this November, Willits resident Jed Diamond organized a meeting for citizens interested in the future of Willits and the operations of local city government.

The two-hour meeting was held at the Willits Public Library this past Saturday.

On hand to answer questions and share their experiences were sitting councilmembers Ron Orenstein and Madge Strong, Mayor Bruce Burton and City Manager Adrienne Moore.

Read the rest of
Elections |
Over on Page 13

By Nicholas Iovino

SAN FRANCISCO (Courthouse News) - A federal judge last week said he was dismayed by a state prosecutor's decision not to broadcast the trial of a photojournalist's false arrest lawsuit against the California Highway Patrol.

"I think this reflects poorly on the state," U.S. District Judge James Donato said February 10, after the California Attorney General's Office rejected an offer to broadcast the trial online.

Stephen Eberhard sued the CHP, the Department of Transportation, and officials and officers in both agencies after he was

Read the rest of
Eberhard |
Over on Page 15

County fire districts in crisis

To the Editor:

As you may be aware, there is growing concern and controversy related to the funding of our local volunteer fire districts and the impacts these controversies are having on this critical public safety service.

The current efforts by our local fire districts to seek public support in requesting dedicated fire funding through the ballot initiative process were countered by aggressive litigation by Mendocino County and its representatives. The county sued the newly formed Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts to block a proposed initiative that requests public safety tax revenues be shared with county fire districts, which currently receive no funding from this specifically collected sales tax or any other county funds. This ballot initiative would require the board of supervisors to address on a yearly basis the need to share funding of public safety tax revenues with our local fire districts.

Transparency in public safety funding is the only requirement of the initiative. This requirement, apparently, was viewed as too burdensome by the county. The following is a brief summation of the events leading up to the current status of the initiative:

On December 2, 2015, the fire association submitted the proposed initiative to the Mendocino County Clerk's Office to be placed on the November 2016 general election ballot. On December 15, 2015, the day Acting County Counsel Katharine Elliott was to provide the mandated ballot summary for the initiative, Elliott instead filed suit against the fire districts.

The county (and Elliott) had two weeks to reach out to our volunteer firefighters, but chose to wait until the last day, then sued, hoping to kill the initiative and the efforts of the fire districts.

The lawsuit went to the initial hearing immediately. At that hearing, the fire association requested an out-of-county judge to hear the case, which was refused. The court instead assigned Judge Jeanine Nadel, herself a former Mendocino County counsel.

In all of the following court appearances Judge Nadel ruled against the fire districts, leaving any resolution to be found solely in the appellate courts. The only other possibility is for the board of supervisors to change their position and work with our fire districts to seek resolution of this critical safety issue; the adequate funding of our local fire districts.

Regardless of any question of authority, constitutionality or rights to the allocation of revenues, the fact remains the same: Our volunteer fire districts will face significant operational challenges in the very near future if the county fails to act.

What led to the current legal challenges initiated by the county is the issue of how fire protection is funded and how the lack of county funding is impacting fire's operating capability.

This is how fire districts got into this situation: In November 1993, the voters of California passed Proposition 172, known as the Local Public Safety Protection and Improvement Act of 1993. This half-cent special sales tax was approved by voters to provide an additional funding source for police, fire, district attorneys, jails, probation and other direct public safety agencies.

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

EST. 2013

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

However, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, just 30 days following the statewide approval of Prop. 172, by resolution, declared the county's volunteer fire districts to not be classified as "public safety."

This single act by the board of supervisors at that time excluded our local fire districts from receiving any of the newly approved tax revenue. This exclusion of fire as a public safety partner 23 years ago has now created an environment that will produce the potential failure of the volunteer fire system we have depended upon for well over a century. Mendocino County's past history of funding this most basic public safety service appears to be incompatible with public opinion. However, upon deeper review, the county's refusal to fund fire has been irresponsible.

Mendocino County is asked to provide funding to all interest groups within the county, but the county's first and most critical responsibility is public safety. The current effort of our volunteer fire districts with this ballot initiative contains no secret agenda, no self-interest or personal benefits to protect. The sustained ability to provide adequate fire services to our communities into the future is the only desired outcome. Stated simply, there is no more important public safety provider than our local fire districts and the fire, rescue and medical response capabilities they provide.

The consistent, effective and professional delivery of this capability is not a choice to be made; it is a responsibility.

Today, county residents may ask a legitimate question: "How has the volunteer fire system changed; why is the system in trouble now?"

The answers will vary from one fire district to another. What is common among all districts is the following:

- Operating costs: Insurance, fuel, maintenance, facility and equipment replacement and expendable supplies have all increased in cost over the last 20 years.
- Training requirements: A new volunteer recruit must now complete over 300 hours of instruction and training to reach the level of Firefighter One certification, the minimum required to legally respond and assist in a fire call for service. Added training requirements occur for existing volunteers on a yearly basis. All of these hours of training are completed by volunteers without any financial assistance.
- Response capability: The range and complexity of incident response capability has increased dramatically in the past two decades. Now, volunteers must be trained to respond to incidents ranging from traumatic injury or cardiac failure, to vehicle accidents, rescue, hazardous material spills or exposures to complex structure fires or wild land fires.
- Volunteer retention and recruitment: This issue is the single greatest challenge facing the volunteer system.
- Although some districts do currently have adequate volunteer rosters, the common reality is the average age of volunteers serving today, which is approaching 60 years old. These aging volunteers represent and maintain the institutional knowledge of their individual fire districts and have years

of experience in running these local fire departments. This knowledge cannot be easily replaced.

6. New volunteers are not stepping forward to replace these long-serving volunteer members that dedicated their personal lives to serve their communities. New prospective volunteers must make decisions if the rigors of being a dedicated volunteer firefighter can be balanced with the modern demands of employment and providing for a family. Unfortunately, many decide they cannot manage that balance.

The future of the volunteer fire model in Mendocino County is in crisis. The impact of years of financial neglect by the county and the decisions of past boards of supervisors and current county actions will quickly be realized if new or existing public safety funding is not adequately shared with our local fire districts. The self-sufficient, take-care-of-ourselves mentality of the past is no longer working or appropriate for a modern, well-equipped and staffed fire service.

A new model for fire protection services must be adopted to counter the impacts of volunteer loss, retention and recruitment. This new model must start with adequate funding that will equip and provide financial relief to the existing volunteers serving today and the next generation of volunteers to come. Without this shared public safety funding now, calling 911 in the near future may not provide the assistance that may have been taken for granted for too many years. The County of Mendocino and the current board of supervisors must take responsibility and act now to correct this imminent threat to the public safety.

David Roderick, director, Hopland Fire Protection District, for the Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts: Albion/Little River Fire Protection District, Anderson Valley Community Services District, Brooktrails Community Services District, Comptche Community Services District, Covelo Fire Protection District, Elk Community Services District, Fort Bragg City Fire District, Fort Bragg Rural Fire District, Hopland Fire Protection District, Leggett Fire Protection District, Little Lake Fire Protection District, Long Valley Fire Protection District, Mendocino Fire Protection District, Piercy Fire Protection District, Potter Valley Community Services District, Redwood Coast Fire Protection District, Redwood Valley/Calpella Fire Protection District, Sanel Valley Fire Protection District, South Coast Fire Protection District, Ukiah City Fire District, Ukiah Valley Fire District, Westport Water District

Hospice volunteer training in Willits

To the Editor:

Phoenix Certified Hospice of Mendocino County will be providing a free eight-week training session for prospective hospice volunteers, starting Wednesday, February 24,

The goal of hospice is to provide compassionate comfort care for patients with a life-limiting illness. Hospice care seeks to enable the patient to carry on an alert, pain-free life and to manage other

symptoms so that their last days may be spent with dignity and quality at home. The hospice volunteers are vital members of the interdisciplinary team that serves our patients and their families.

Volunteers provide respite care for primary caregivers, visiting and providing companionship for our hospice patients and assisting with errands and tasks as needed. Hospice volunteers are a wonderful, talented group of people. They often express that they receive great emotional and spiritual benefits from their relationships with hospice patients and their families.

Phoenix Hospice is a "Medicare Certified Hospice," which means that individuals and families who wish to receive hospice services can utilize their Medicare hospice benefit. Many people are not aware of this significant benefit and its availability. Pain management and symptom control is one of the major concerns in hospice comfort care. Under the hospice Medicare benefit, 100 percent of the cost of patient's pain medications is covered. This is a very important part of the benefit, in light of the fact that pharmaceuticals for pain management are extremely expensive and their costs continue to rise.

The hospice Medicare benefit also pays for 100 percent of the cost of medical equipment such as hospital beds, oxygen, wheelchairs, etc. A hospice trained team of RNs, home health aides, a medical social worker, spiritual care providers, and volunteers provide quality services, attending to the full range of human needs that arise in end-of-life care. On call 24-hour nursing services are available. Phoenix Hospice provides bereavement support for family and friends of hospice patients for one year following the death of their loved one.

Many private health insurance packages also include a "hospice benefit." They are often very similar to the Medicare hospice benefit in provision of services and coverage. A person wishing to use his or her private insurance hospice benefit is required to enroll with a certified hospice.

Phoenix Hospice is the only certified hospice in Mendocino County. Our service area includes Ukiah, Redwood Valley, Potter Valley, Calpella, Hopland, Anderson Valley, Laytonville, Willits and Covelo.

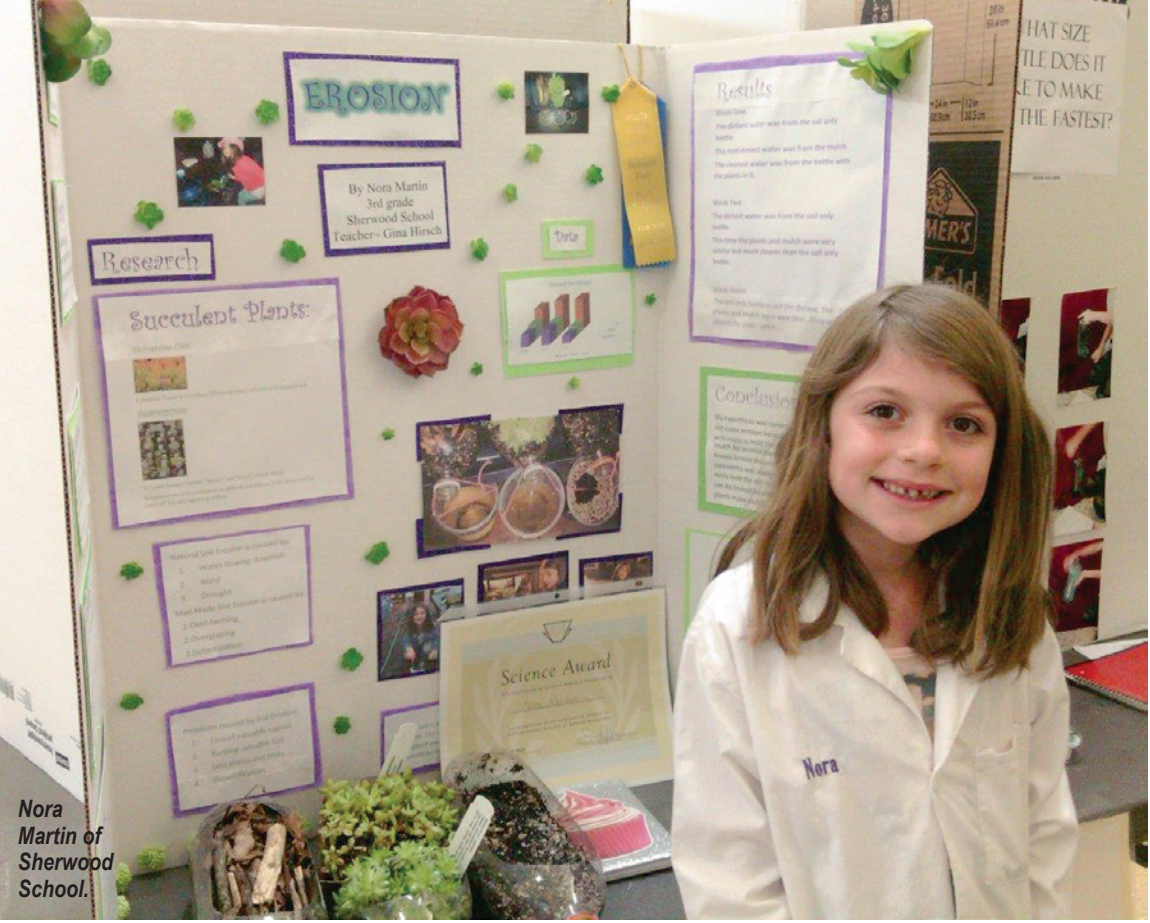
The hospice volunteer training is offered free of charge. The training's primary focus is to prepare prospective volunteers to provide supportive end-of-life care to patients and their families. Learn about the history of hospice, the volunteer role, family dynamics, grief and loss, pain management, spiritual care, communication skills and funeral procedures.

Volunteer training will begin on Wednesday, February 24 from 1 to 3 pm and will continue each Wednesday for eight weeks.

Training will be held in the bereavement room at the Adventist Health Home Care & Hospice Services office, located at 100 Sanhedrin Circle in Willits. If you would like to attend the training, contact Tammy Long prior to the first class at 456-3244.

Tammy Long, for Phoenix Certified Hospice

Read all our editions online! Get right to our website by scanning the QR code above with your smart phone!



Willits Science Fair sends 79 projects to county fair level

Another successful Willits Science Fair last week resulted in 79 individual science projects (worked on by 95 students) winning the gold ribbon that qualifies them to go on to the Mendocino County Science Fair, held March 12 at Mendocino College in Ukiah. In addition to these individual projects, seven classroom projects will also represent Willits at the county level.

Organizer Sharon Hanna, resting her weary feet after long days at the Willits Community Center, said she was pleased by the quality of the entries this year. "We gave out more blue ribbons and more lavender ribbons this year, meaning more of the students got what we wanted them to do: work with procedures using the scientific method."

Hanna also thanked the more than 90 judges and volunteers that came to assess the work on Tuesday, including "40 or 50" teachers from Willits Unified. "It's such a good experience for all the faculty and staff," she said, to collaborate and engage with their peers over judging the projects.

Students from 42 classes in schools around Willits walked or rode school buses to the fair on Wednesday and Thursday to see the 225 total

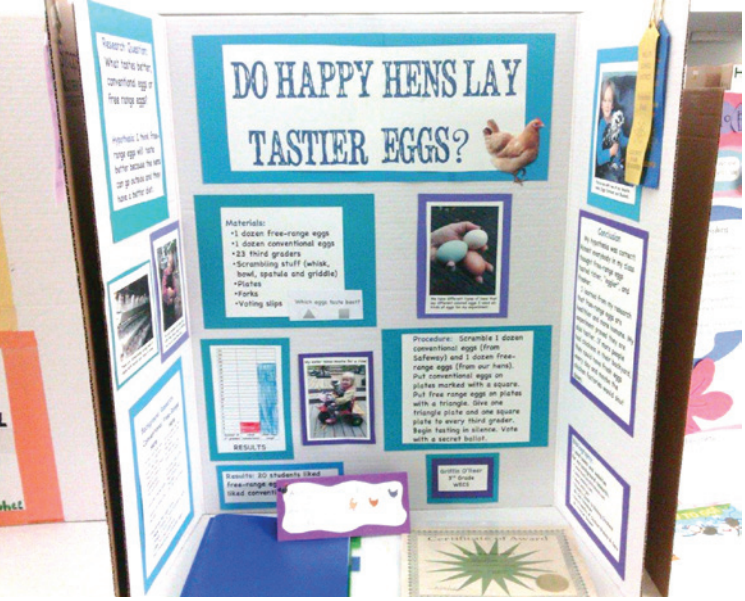
projects that were entered. Of the qualifying projects, Willits Elementary Charter School had 19 projects, Willits Charter School had 25 projects, and Blosser Lane Elementary, Sherwood School, Baechtel Grove Middle School, and Willits High School had a total of 35 projects and seven classroom projects that qualified.

"I hate to use the cliché," Hanna said, "that it takes a village, but it really does. We have such a wonderful community here. Even the people who come in to pay the water bill while we're set up at the community center, they say, 'This is so cool!' The people that wander through always love seeing everything."

Hanna is seeing children of her former students participate in the Willits Science Fair these days, and knows just how much it can mean to a child to win recognition at the fair. One boy, she recounted, was really reluctant to participate this year, but his teacher worked hard with all the students in the class, and "now he's very excited, because he's going to the county fair!" Hanna said.

Qualifiers at the county level will go on the California State Science Fair scheduled for May 23

Read the rest of Science Over on Page 6



Above, from top: "Do Happy Hens Lay Tastier Eggs?" was the project made by Griffin O'Rear, student at Willits Elementary Charter School. Brookside School first-grade teacher Julia Sudlow and her students look at their class project. Sherwood School students in their lab coats browse the Willits Science Fair.



Baechtel Grove Middle School teachers review projects at the 2016 Willits Science Fair.

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Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

9x9 grid for a crossword puzzle.

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!

9x9 grid for a crossword puzzle.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Basics
4. Paper container
7. Diving ducks of N America having a bluish-gray bill
9. Spruce
11. Sacred choral composition
14. Ear lobe decoration
16. S Am. wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers
17. Wolf drama series
19. Straight, bowling or bobby
21. Cotton growing region in W. Central India
22. Tax saving retirement account
23. Expresses pleasure
25. Synoptical
26. Peseta
27. Oceans
29. Weekday
31. Octagonal motif in rugs
33. Beam out
34. Escargots
37. Mother of Apollo in

ancient mythology

- 40. Fed
41. A sleeveless garment like cloak but shorter
43. Yugoslavian River
45. Patti Hearst's captors
46. Representational likeness
48. Plundered
50. Clothier
54. ____ de Janeiro
55. Peaceful relations
56. Replaced union workers
58. African people of Senegambia
59. Every 24 hours
60. 1/100 yen
61. Summate

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Gum arabic
2. Crazy, loco, wacky
3. Unconnected
4. Whirring sound
5. Tartness
6. A group of individuals
7. Bard
8. Buddy
9. Not an amateur



At top, from left: Kim Smythe and Jody Strhl. Tommy Castro and the Painkillers. Chris and Marta Bartow. Above, from left: Laselle and Austin Spence. Linda Prestly dancing. A dancing couple.

A True Blues
Valentines

Couples at Tommy Castro fundraiser share words of wisdom

Couples from around the county filled the Little Lake Grange this past Sunday, celebrating Valentine's Day by dining on farm-to-table meals and dancing to the energetic blues-roots-rock music of Tommy Castro and the Painkillers. The sold-out event, aptly titled "A True Blues Valentines" was promoted by Cosmic Pickle Productions and was a fundraiser for both Care-A-Van and the Willits Charter School.

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

A second couple who met during high school and whose relationship is still going strong is Renee Pasquinelli and Joel Marshall. Married in 1977, Renee admits they didn't know right away that they were going to be right for each other in the long term.

"We did a lot of growing up together," she said. The couple, taking a page from John Lennon's playbook, said that all a healthy relationship needs is love.

When Willits Weekly asked Chris and Marta Bartow the question, Chris jumped in and said, "OK honey, on three: one, two, patience!" Marta, not surprised by the joke, agreed.

"A lot of patience," she said. "And fun. Definitely having fun is important."

Having met 13 years ago at the Little Lake Farm, the couple said that it's important to be able to work well together on projects. "That [quality] will build a relationship, right there," Marta emphasized.

A relatively new couple, Freddie and Mara Welker, met two years ago on a beach in Fort Bragg. Each was alone and watching the sunset when they met and decided to start dating. Having both been around the block a few times with other relationships, the couple said what they're looking for in a mature relationship is commitment, understanding, tolerance and, above all: fun!

Olga de Santa Anna, who said she and her family are direct descendants of the

Read the rest of Castro Over on Page 6

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WPD Activity Report

February 7 to February 13

Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 161 incidents this week.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

February 8

10 pm: CAPE, Cherlyn, 20, of Willits was contacted during a traffic stop in the 200 block of Madrone Street, and arrested pursuant to an outstanding Mendocino County warrant.

February 9

1 am: JOAQUIN, Sylvester, 51, of Covelo was contacted during an investigation at a business in the 1200 block of South Main Street. During the contact, Joaquin was found to have a personal amount of suspected methamphetamine in his possession. He was arrested pursuant to 11377(a) HS (Possession of a Controlled Substance) and released with a citation.

2:30 pm: Officers initiated an investigation into a reported parental concealment of juvenile female in 800 block of Coast Street.

4:40 pm: Officers initiated an investigation of counterfeit bills being passed at a business in the 700 block of South Main Street

February 10

3 am: WINELANDER, Harry, 29, of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street after officers recognized him as the subject of an outstanding Mendocino County warrant. Officers determined Winelander was on active Mendocino County probation and conducted a search in accordance with the terms of his probation. During the search, officers located a personal amount of suspected heroin in Winelander's possession. Winelander was arrested and released with a citation for the warrant and 11350 HS.

3:50 am: BRUCE, Jessica, 28, of Willits was contacted as the passenger of a

vehicle during a traffic stop in the 1100 block of South Main Street. Bruce was both the subject of an outstanding Mendocino County warrant and a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation parole hold. She was arrested for both.

7:30 am: Officers investigated a collision in the 300 block of North Main Street.

5:45 pm: Officers responded to a reported collision in the 800 block of South Main Street. As a result of their investigation, they arrested PLOTNICK, Robert, 40, of Laytonville for 23152 VC (DUI), 20002 VC (Hit and Run), and 273(a) PC (Child Endangerment).

February 11

12:30 am: Officers responded to a reported domestic disturbance at a residence in the 200 block of Holly Street. During the investigation, the victim reported that she sustained visible injury when, during an altercation, LOCKETT, William, 45, of Willits punched and choked her. Lockett was arrested pursuant to 273.5(a) PC (Domestic Battery Causing Injury).

4:45 am: Officers responded to a check the welfare of an unconscious subject in the 200 block of Holly Street. When they arrived, they located JEWELL, Clint, 29, of Willits. After conducting an evaluation of Jewell, officers determined he was unable to care for his own safety due to his level of intoxication, and placed him under arrest pursuant to 647(f) PC.

4:40 pm: Officers responded to a reported three-vehicle collision at the intersection of Commercial Street and Main Street.

February 12

8 am: Officers investigated a reported violation of a court order in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

1:40 pm: OVERCAST, Jennifer, 37,

Read the rest of WPD Over on Page 11



Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

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Olga de Santa Anna, who said she and her family are direct descendants of the

Read the rest of Castro Over on Page 6



At top: The dancing crowd at the Little Lake Grange. Above: Bill Cummings and Olga de Santa Anna. Below: Freddy and Mara Welker.



and 24 in Los Angeles.

Below is the list of projects by Willits students that qualified for the Mendocino County Science Fair. Willits Weekly will print the list of special Science Fair awards given out from businesses in the community next week.

Mendocino County Science Fair Qualifiers 2016

Willits Unified School District

Grades 3-4 Life Science

- Jack Crosby, Grade 3, Blosser Lane Elementary, Killing Machine

- Kendahl Potter, Grade 3, Sherwood School, Does Scent Affect Emotions or Color Choice?

- Isabel Young, Grade 4, Sherwood School, What's Your Favorite Animal?

Grades 3-4 Physical Science

- Elena Arkelan, Grade 4, Blosser Lane Elementary, Bubble Glory

- Ely Bowles, Grade 3, Blosser Lane Elementary, Electro Magic!!

- Luka Ritchley, Grade 4, Blosser Lane Elementary, Lemon Battery

- Enzo Vacarro & Soren Pinelli, Grade 3, Sherwood School, Safest Way of Getting Rid of Mold

Grades 3-4 Earth Science

- Nora Martin, Grade 3, Sherwood School, Erosion

- Kaylie Reeser, Grade 3, Sherwood School, Wave Energy Generator

Grade 5 Life Science

- Penelope Maidrand & Hunter Young, Sherwood School, Brine Shrimp

- Helena Rooney & Sylvia Wartell, Blosser Lane Elementary, What are you saying?

Grade 5 Physical Science

- Grace Crosby, Blosser Lane Elementary, To Pop or Not to Pop; That Is the Question?

- Jacob Howell & Nicholas Miller, Blosser Lane Elementary, Mentos Explosion

- Alejandro Sanchez, Jonathan Cortez & Joseph Lincoln Frazier, Blosser Lane Elementary, Popcorn: Getting A Better Pop?!

- Shelby Perez-Bowen, Blosser Lane Elementary, Would You Like Some Salt with Your Egg?

Display Projects Grades 3-5

- Jersey Green, Grade 5, Sherwood School, Tongue Tied

- Caitlin Huffman, Zynthia Mendoza & Danissa Want, Blosser Lane Elementary, Lava Lamps

- Deon Smith & Shaden Coles, Grade 4, Sherwood School, Watch Out Superman

Grades 6-8 Life Science A

- Claire Case Brackett & Zander Jennison, Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Three Pots In a Plant

- Aleen Hernandez, Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Light vs. Dark

Grades 6-8 Life Science B

- Jaeva Cash, Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Like, Wow

- Briana Evans & Makenzie Hansen, Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Are You Smarter than an 8th Grader?

- Alyssa Fraser, Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Testing The Waters

- Britney Patel, Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Color Blunder

- Emerald Waters, Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, ABC As Easy as 1 Chew 3

Grades 6-8 Physical Science

- Tyler Bailey, Gwyn Hernandez & Emma Compa, Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Get Popp'n!

- Makaya Caldwell, Kyla Hendry & Layla Wantt, Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Get Poppin!

- Jada Smith, Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Transesterification of Peanut Oil

Classrooms Grade 3-5

- Ms. Lohne, Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary, Metal vs Rust

- Mrs. McNeal/Ms. McClelland, Grade 4, Blosser Lane Elementary, Lights! Carrots! Action!

- Ms. Ostrove, Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary, Color vs. Memory

- Mr. West, Grade 3, Blosser Lane Elementary, Welcome to Your Satellite

Classrooms 6-12

- Baechtel Grove Middle School 6th Grade, Acid Rain

- Willits High School AP Environmental

City continues building growth in January

The City of Willits issued 12 building permits in January with a total valuation of \$61,250, compared to \$39,300 for January 2015.

Three heating and air-conditioning permits were issued with a valuation of \$7,8000, while eight electric, mechanical, plumbing permits were issued with a valuation of \$48,450. One addition and alteration permit for a residential building was issued with a valuation of \$5,000.

Total revenue for January 2016 was \$2,235.75, more than double last year's \$1,165.45.

Ninety-two permits have been issued to date this fiscal year, for a total construction valuation of \$4,916,993, and \$55,434.26 collected in building fees.

Total construction valuation for the same dates last year was \$2,443,065, while total fees collected were \$24,518.

Twelve building permits were issued

in January 2016, compared to six in January 2015.

New business licenses issued in January 2016 included:

Lights of Gaia on Daphne Drive; owner, Erin Harpster; license issued for an unspecified business.

Cleopatra's Temple on Main Street; owner, David Parmenter; license issued for a private club.

Tamarack Solar Products on Baechtel Road; owners, David Kats and Sequoya Cross; license issued for renewable energy products.

Sweet Things on Main Street; owner, Corazon Elliott; license issued for retail clothing.

Janice Cinek Therapeutic Massage Health & Wellness on Main Street; owner, Janice Cinek; license issued for massage with health & wellness coaching.

— Willits Weekly staff

Covelo residents held following high-speed chase

Two Covelo residents were arrested last week by Round Valley Tribal Police officers following a high-speed chase along Logan Road.

The chase began after the officers spotted a vehicle driven by 33-year-old Lucy Lincoln of Covelo racing down Logan Road at about 3 pm, according to sheriff's Lt. Kirk Mason.

Officers also recognized 32-year-old Curtis Bettega as a passenger in the vehicle, whom they knew was wanted on a felony arrest warrant.

The officers gave chase, Mason said, clocking Lincoln's car at speeds reaching 100 mph as Lincoln wove in and out of traffic.

As Lincoln's car turned onto Short Creek Road, the left front tire blew out, Mason said, causing the engine to fail. Bettega reportedly tried to flee, but the tribal officers managed to detain him, and placed both Bettega and Lincoln under citizen's arrest before calling

sheriff's deputies.

While waiting for deputies to arrive, the tribal officers discovered a baggie in Bettega's front pants pocket containing almost 26 grams of methamphetamine.

Lincoln was also placed under private person's arrest for reckless driving, Mason said.

After arriving at the scene, deputies also arrested Bettega on a felony no-bail warrant and suspicion of violating probation.

Lincoln was placed under arrest by deputies on suspicion of violating probation and of harboring, concealing or aiding a person she knew was wanted for a felony, as well as reckless driving.

Bettega is being held in county jail without bail. Lincoln was being held in-lieu of \$20,000 bail.

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

Willits man arrested by deputies, federal marshals

A 47-year-old Willits man was arrested by sheriff's deputies and deputy marshals from the U.S. Marshals Service on February 11 following a 6 pm traffic stop on Reynolds Highway.

Israel Ramirez, also known as "El Chino," was arrested without incident on an active federal arrest warrant, according to sheriff's Lt. Kirk Mason.

"At the time of the arrest," Mason said, "the warrant was sealed; therefore, the

charges [against Ramirez] are not being disclosed by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office."

Ramirez was taken to county jail until he could be released to the U.S. Marshals Service. He will then be taken to a federal court where the charges against him will be disclosed.

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

historical Mexican general, met her partner Bill Cummings at a winery in Santa Cruz.

"Trust," Olga said right off the bat.

"And being very caring and trying to anticipate what the other person's needs are," added Bill. "And trying to fulfill those needs."

Echoing the concepts of trust and support in partnership were Willits' John Sherman and his wife, Danielle, who also met in Santa Cruz.

"We met on a dance floor in a rock and roll club called the Town and Country Lodge," John said, smiling at the memory. "We've been together for 42 years, married for 40."

These couples and dozens more began the romantic evening by choosing from a gourmet menu, including prime rib, butternut squash lasagna, cheese plates, fresh-baked bread from Roland's Bakery, farmers market salad, shrimp bisque, and chocolate mousse for dessert.

Tommy Castro and his band The Painkillers took the stage around 7:30. With a giant, tie-dye tapestry emblazoned with psychedelic hearts acting as a backdrop, Castro's passionate rocking-blues style sent supercharged energy into the crowd. Soon, tables were moved to create more dance floor space, and couples took full advantage.

Tommy Castro, a very personable performer, introduced several of his songs with anecdotes, explaining his



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

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Fri: 5:30 & 8:00pm
Sat/Sun: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:00pm

KUNG-FU PANDA 3

(PG) 1 hr 35 mins
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Sat/Sun: 12:15 & 5:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:15pm

SPOTLIGHT

(R) 2 hrs 8 mins
Fri: 7:30pm
Sat/Sun: 2:30 & 7:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 6:30pm

Movie Times for 2/19 thru 2/25 This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5



JV Basketball | Heidi Herold, 15, Freshman

Position: Wing
Breakfast of Champions: Breakfast burritos
Love for the Sport: "I love the fast pace of the game and the aggressiveness."
Years Playing the Sport: Eight years

In the tournament game against Mendocino, Heidi Herold had 6 points, 5 steals, and 4 rebounds. Against Point Arena in the tournament, she had 11 points, 4 steals, and 4 rebounds. Heidi has very good basketball sense, and she is always asking questions to understand the game even better. She is truly a pleasure to coach.

— Coach Paul Riley



JV Basketball | Jasmine Mendoza, 14, Freshman

Position: Point guard, shooting guard
Breakfast of Champions: Oatmeal
Love for the Sport: "I love the intensity and the heart."
Years Playing the Sport: Nine years

In the game against Clearlake, Jasmine Mendoza had 2 points, 3 steals, and 2 assists. In the tournament game against Mendocino, she had 6 points, 3 steals, and 4 rebounds. Against Point Arena, she had 6 points, 2 assists, 3 steals, and 3 rebounds. Jasmine has one of the nicest shots on our team and is our best free-throw shooter. Jasmine also fills in at point guard and is very relaxed at that position.

— Coach Paul Riley



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Varsity Basketball | Angel De Los Santos, 16, Junior

Position: Post
Breakfast of Champions: Cereal, Cheerios
Love for the Sport: "I love the competition!"
Years Playing the Sport: Six years

My Amazing Athlete this week is Angel De Los Santos, a junior on the Varsity Girls Basketball Team. Angel has made a significant impact upon our team this season, with her leadership skills on both the offensive and defensive side of the court.

Angel is always seeking to improve and to assist her teammates in any way possible. Angel never stops working at practice, and you will never see her taking plays off during a game. With Angel's consistent work ethic and positive attitude, you can't ask for anything more, as a coach.

— Coach Jody Ward

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Brown Butter Brussel Sprouts with Ricotta and Angel Hair Pasta

In a small pot over very low heat, melt butter slowly until foamy. Continue to cook, occasionally swirling pan to check bottom for darkening of liquid butter. Watch closely; Burned butter and browned butter are not the same. Turn off heat when butter becomes golden.

Cook pasta and reserve a cup of the pasta water. Chop onion and sautee until translucent in large skillet. Clean, trim and quarter brussel sprouts and add to onions. Add wine, and salt and pepper to taste. Add cooked pasta to skillet, and add reserved water if needed. Stir in ricotta and top with Parmesan cheese.

- 10 brussel sprouts
- 1/2 stick of butter
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1 onion
- 2 tbs. white wine
- Angel hair pasta
- Salt and pepper
- Parmesan cheese

— Maureen Moore

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Dinner Menu

Enjoy a sit-down meal with our new dinner service
Meals range from \$9.95 to \$18.95

Chicken Oscar Fried chicken, crab fresh asparagus & house-made Hollandaise sauce Served with potato & veggie of the day	Center-Cut Pork Tenderloin Columbiced pork, sun-dried tomatoes, chipotle peppers & Cannellini beans Served with potato & veggie of the day	Shrimp Scampi Tender shrimp cooked with capers, lemon, butter & white wine Served with pasta or veggie of the day
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Half pound Bison Burger and Flank Steak Platter also available

Pasta Selections

will also be available featuring fresh and delicious ingredients
Dinner Menu will change seasonally

Restaurant Hours

BREAKFAST & LUNCH: Tuesday - Saturday: 9 am - 3 pm
DINNER: Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 5 - 8:30 pm
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Thursday, February 18

School District Public Meeting: The Willits Unified School District holds a public meeting to get public input on the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the 2016/17 budget for the Willits schools. Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 3:30 pm at Willits High School Media Center, 299 North Main Street. Info: call the WUSD district office at 459-5314.

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play"': Opening the 2016 season at the Willits Community Theatre, this award-winning avant garde romantic comedy, "spotlights the dawn of the age of electricity in the late 1800s when a scientist, Dr. Givings, has invented a new electrically-powered device for treating hysteria: the vibrator. Get ready for laughs, unexpected romance and the confirmation of true love." Directed by Mike ADair, starring Lee Stipe, Maheanani Phillips, Lara Eventide, Ron Greystar, Gloriann Lucero, Kristen McCallum, and Kathy De Bane. Runs through February 28. Thursdays at 7 pm (\$10); Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm (\$15), and Sundays, February 21 and 28 at 2 pm (\$10). Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpaperickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.

"In Search of Balance"': Now and Then Film Series presents this 2016 award-winning documentary that "explores a new paradigm of health, science and medicine that recognizes the importance of the interconnections between us, the food we consume, how we produce that food and the natural world at large, including the mysterious, invisible world of the human microbiome." Visit <http://insearchofbalancemovie.com/> for more details. Thursday, February 18 at 7 pm, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Donation of \$5 to \$10 to help fund licensing for this series. "Come early to see trailers & short films." Serving heirloom organic popcorn with real organic butter and Fair Trade chocolate. Info: 707-459-6362.

Shanachie Pub: Eugene Christopher Band. Indie Folk Rock. 9 pm. No cover. "Currently out of Newport Beach, Eugene grew up in Monroe, then lived and traveled around the country, but will never forget his roots in the backwoods of Swartz, Louisiana." Visit www.reverbnation.com/eugenechristopher. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, February 19
"Chinese in Mendocino County"': Friends of the Willits Library (FOWL) is pleased to offer a free book presentation/

What's Happening Around Town

signing and slide show by local author Lorraine Hee-Chorley Friday, February 19 at 7 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Families warmly invited. "Chinese in Mendocino County" is the first-ever broad history of the Chinese in Mendocino County. The Chinese were instrumental in the county's development in the 1800s, but little has been written documenting their contribution to local history until now. "Chinese in Mendocino County," from local author Lorraine Hee-Chorley, boasts more than 200 vintage photographs. The photographs date from the early 1800s to the 1970s, painting a vivid picture of the Chinese presence in Mendocino County.

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play"': 8 pm at Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, February 18 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Self Fulfilling Prophecies, folk rock grunge popping, with Buckminster West, Morgan Stocker and Bochi Idarius. 9 pm. No cover. Visit www.myspace.com/selffulfillingprophecies. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, February 20

WCT auditions for 'Pump Boys and Dinettes'': The Willits Community Theatre holds auditions for "Pump Boys and Dinettes," an outlaw country and western musical revue, to run in June (rehearsals in April and May). Directed by veteran actor/director/dancer and Ukiah High School drama instructor Maria Monti. Saturday, February 20, at noon, at the WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. The call is for two women and four men, 20 years old and up. Each person who is auditioning should bring a song to sing, no more than 8 to 12 measures. The women should bring sheet music if they wish to be accompanied. People who are auditioning for one of the male roles should bring their instrument and be prepared to sing and play one song. Questions? Contact director Monti at 456-0901 or tappinshoes@comcast.net.

Winter Fashion Show: A benefit for Willits High School Booster Club and two scholarships, featuring fashions by local boutiques and merchants. Saturday, February 20, 6 pm, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. \$20. Children 6 and under are free. Refreshments provided by WHS Booster Club. Info: 469-2752. Tickets at the door or available at Off The Cuff, Tiger Lily's, Carhartt, Buttercups, Monkey Wrench, J.D. Redhouse, and Earth's Treasures.

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play"': 8 pm at Willits Community Theatre; see Friday, February 12 listing for details.

Sunday, February 21

Quit Smoking! Free 5-day Program: "Thought about quitting smoking for good? Try our 5-day plan to stop smoking that has helped many people all over the world. You will have the wholistic tools and individual support you need to quit." February 21 to February 25 at 6:30 pm at the Friendship House, 399 West Mendocino Avenue. Questions? Call Dennis at 972-9005.

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play"': 2 pm matinee at Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, February 18 listing for details.

Tuesday, February 23
Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are

\$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Deadpool," "Hail, Caesar!," "Kung-Fu Panda 3" and "Spotlight." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Wednesday, February 24

Positive Parenting Group: Free parent workshops to learn: "How to understand your child's behavior; How to listen and talk to your child; Discipline that makes sense... Have fun. Talk to other parents! Add to your Parenting Tool Box." Appropriate for parents of children ages 4-12. Open to all families with children in the Willits Unified School District. Starts Wednesday February 24, 2015 and continues Wednesday through March 30, then skips spring break week, and concludes on April 13. Brookside Elementary School Room 25, 9 to 10:30 am; breakfast served. For more info and to sign up, contact Jackie Herz at 459-5385 ext: 1452 jackieherz@willitsunifi.ed.com or Katie Cochran at 459-5385 ext: 1440 katiecochran@willitsunifi.ed.com.

Hospice Volunteer Training: Phoenix Certified Hospice of Mendocino

County will be providing a free eight-week training session for prospective hospice volunteers, starting Wednesday, February 24, from 1 to 3 pm. "The goal of hospice is to provide compassionate comfort care – at home – for patients with a life-limiting illness." Training will be held in the bereavement room at the Adventist Health Home Care & Hospice Services office, 100 Sanhedrin Circle. To sign up or for more info, contact Tammy Long at 456-3244 or see "Hospice volunteer training in Willits" letter on page 2.

Thursday, February 25

Willits Chamber After Hours Business Mixer: The Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, hosts this Willits Chamber of Commerce Mixer on Thursday, February 25. 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Catered appetizers by Emelia, beer and wine, and music. "Join us for networking, fun and light refreshments." The first major WCA event with the new non-profit board of directors.

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play"': 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, February 18 listing for details.

Friday, February 26

"Twining Time"': John Wagenet & Anita Blu of Twining Time perform easy listening music during the dinner hour: Originals and modern favorites in the spirit of old time

mountain music, folk, and vintage country at Caminiti's Restaurant at the Brooktrails Lodge, 24765 Birch Street. Friday, February 26 from 5:30 to 9 pm. Visit www.brooktrailsodge.com and www.facebook.com/TwiningTime. Info: 707-459-1596.

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play"': 8 pm at Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, February 18 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Austin Leonard Jones Band, "Obviously a country/folk artist [mixed] with 'tropicalana beats and synth squiggles at every turn'. 9 pm. No cover. Visit www.austineleonardjones.com. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, February 27

Brooktrails Breakfast and Flea Market: The Prosperity Club and Brooktrails Lodge are hosting an "All You Can Eat Pancakes" for \$5 a person on Saturday, February 27 at the Brooktrails Lodge. "A great family event offering a chance to socialize with members of our community, including local artisans and vendors." Also offering biscuits & gravy, bacon, eggs, country potatoes, drinks and adult beverages at additional cost. Jumperz Bounce House will also be there

for the kids. Still a few flea market booths available: message 707-367-9737 for details.

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play"': 8 pm at Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, February 18 listing for details.



Shanachie Pub: The Cherry Pickers, bluegrass for dancing or sitting back and enjoying: "Some of the hottest young players on the West Coast." 8:30 pm. No cover. Visit www.facebook.com/TheCherryPickersBand. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, February 28

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: every fourth Sunday, from 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast! With live music. \$7 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around." Choose Sourdough Wholegrain or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs made to order with real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. Sides of organic fruit in season and Amish maple syrup \$1 extra. \$7; \$6 seniors; \$4 children under 10.

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play"': 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, February 18 listing for details.

COLUMN | At the Movies

'Brooklyn'

The Story: In the early 1950s, a young Irish woman emigrates to New York – Brooklyn in fact – and suffers homesickness and loneliness...and she finds kindness and love. All in all, a simple story of some nontrivial complications.

My Thoughts: A beautiful movie. An Irish, British, Canadian film about the lure and glamour and possibility of the United States. And yes, it is a simple story but nonetheless, "Brooklyn" brought me to tears all the way through. A non-phony love story will do that to me.

Daniel Essman
Columnist

Also, Celtic music tears at my chest, and sentiment for the era, sentiment for young love, sentiment for death and loss, sentiment for absent friends and family. This film is filled to overflow. And then there's the brilliant and complex charisma and pure Irish beauty of the young lead actress Saoirse Ronan – be still my heart – Oscar nomination for Best Actress.

This is a very kind movie. But then, don't just take my word. Go for it. Go see it. 98 percent thumbs up on Rottentomatoes.com.

Parents: Sure, the movie is fine for 12 and up. Young children will be bored. One modest scene of lovemaking between married adults ... no nudity. And as I said, a very kind movie, a love story for teens and adults.

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

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- Adults interested in maintaining independence
- caregivers, family members, or friends of someone with an on-going condition

Register today for the 6-week series at these locations:

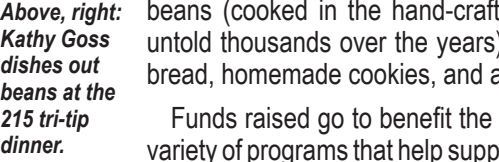
- Redwood Valley: Beginning Tuesday, March 15, 9:30-12 PM
- Willits: Beginning Friday, March 4, 9-30 PM
- Laytonville: Beginning Wednesday, March 2, 10-12:30 PM

Information and/or registration:

Doreen Blumenfeld
(707) 459-2777
doreen@avenuestowellness.org
doreen@avenuestowellness.org



Above, left: The WEF tri tip crew relaxes last year, after their work was done.



Above, right: Kathy Goss dishes out beans at the 215 tri-tip dinner.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

WEF Tri Tip Dinner on Friday, March 4

The Willits Educational Foundation's annual Drive-Through Tri Tip Dinner fundraiser is set for Friday, March 4 at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds. Take a night off from cooking, and c'mon down to pick up a full, delicious dinner for four people, including a whole tri-tip roast, a hearty serving of Coss family sweet beans (cooked in the hand-crafted double-bottomed bean pot that has served untold thousands over the years), Caesar salad, a loaf of Tam Adams' Emandal bread, homemade cookies, and a long-stemmed rose.

Funds raised go to benefit the Willits schools, for grants to teachers for a wide variety of programs that help supplement and inspire learning by our local students.

For ticket information and purchase, please contact Annette Pinon at 459-6588, Warren Lewis at 459-4429, or Cat's Meow in downtown Willits. One of our members will contact you right away!

Free Healthier Living Workshop

Starts Friday, March 2 in Laytonville; Tuesday, March 4 in Willits

Sign up now for six free 2.5 hour sessions of The Healthier Living Workshop, which has been taught worldwide to individuals dealing with chronic health conditions or individuals that are caregivers of others with chronic disease. • Feel better; • Strategies to reduce pain, stress, fatigue, anxiety &

sleep loss; • Goal-setting and problem solving; • Healthy eating and physical activity; • Tips to better manage your health; • Communication skills to work better with doctors, family & friends. Workshops are for adults interested in becoming more physically active, or who have ongoing health conditions (arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic pain, anxiety, etc.), or who are interested in maintaining independence. Workshops are also for caregivers, family members, or friends of someone with an ongoing condition

Register today for the 6-week series in Willits (beginning Friday, March 4, 1-3:30 pm) and in Laytonville (beginning Wednesday, March 2, 10 am to 12:30 pm. Information and/or registration: Doreen Blumenfeld: 459-2777 or doreen@avenuestowellness.org

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FREE & public, donations appreciated. Refreshments will be served. Call 459-2777 for information.

Willits Senior Center 1501 Brookside Road, Willits

www.avenuestowellness.org or artofhealth@gmail.com

See www.avenuestowellness.org for Speaker Series Topics

Power of Produce Club

Free kids activities at Willits Farmers Market

The Power of Produce Club will kick off at the Willits Farmers Market on Thursday, February 18 at the Little Lake Grange from 3 pm to 5:30 pm. The program will run for four weeks – through Thursday, March 10.

The POP Club empowers children ages 5 to 12 to make healthy food choices by offering educational activities, cooking demonstrations, and food sampling. Each child is provided with \$4 in market currency each week they participate, which they can spend on any fruit or vegetable they choose. This incentive provides an effective way for children to engage in the local food system through conversations with farmers, buying local, and understanding the importance of healthy food choices.

The POP Club is a national program implemented in markets across the US and in Canada. In 2014, 1,434 kids joined, which resulted in 5,474 kid shopping trips to the market. In the summer of 2015 at the Ukiah Farmers Market, 119 local kids participated, spending their "market money" to buy over \$850 of fruits and vegetables from local farmers.

"We're looking forward to hosting more kids and families at the Willits winter farmers market," says Michael Foley, Willits Farmers Market manager. "Every week during the last half of February and first half of March, bring your child to the market's POP Club booth and get your 'Passport to Health.'"

For more info: contact Jessica Ruff at 707-467-3224, 810-599-5533 or jruff@ncoinc.org

33rd Annual Women's History Gala Celebration

Honoring Women in Public Service & Government

March 6, 2016 - Sunday 12:30 pm

Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse 107 South Oak Street, Ukiah

Presented by Mendocino Women's Political Coalition with AAUW & Ukiah Saturday Afternoon Club

Program Dedication
Aileen Shippey & Judy Pruden

Refreshments
"Silent Auction"

Everyone is Welcome!

Fellowship Speaker: Betty Yee, California State Controller

Guests: MC: Maureen "Ma" Mulhearn, Ukiah City Councilwoman

Honorees: Cere Brown, Lisa Cooper, Linda Noel, Poot, Lisa Cooper, Poot, Lisa Cooper, Poot

Tickets: at the Door \$10

MWPC PO Box 1140, Ukiah, CA 95422

SAVE THE DATE!

Willits Chamber of Commerce

Cordially Invites You to the February After Hours Business Mixer

Hosted by The Willits Center for the Arts 71 East Commercial Street, Willits

February 25, 2016 5:30 p.m. ~ 7:30 p.m.

Join us for Networking, Fun & Light Refreshments

For more information contact the Willits Chamber office at info@willitschamber.org (707) 459-9194

9th annual Chili Cook-Off

Friday, March 11

Enter your chili in the Harrah Senior Center's 9th annual Chili Cook-Off for a chance to win a great prize and bragging rights! Friday, March 11 from 5:30 to 7 pm, at the center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Prizes for "People's Choice," "Judge's Favorite," "Hottest Chili," "Most Entertaining/ Best Decor" and "Crookedest Team." Call Harrah Senior Center for entry form or more info: 459-6826.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of February 22 through February 26

Monday: Beef Tips
Tuesday: Spinach Lasagna
Wednesday: Pulled Pork
Thursday: Salisbury Steak
Friday: Birthday Turkey/Stuffing 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, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Ongoing Events

Willits Winter Farmers Market: from 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Winter produce, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Music on February 18: Richard Jeske, guitar, accompanied by Loren Herz-O'Brien on the flute. Next week, February 25: Dorian May plays solo jazz piano.

2016 Members Art Show: Willits Center for the Arts February Show features works by WCA members in various media. Runs through February 28 at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Expanded gallery hours for February: Tuesdays through Fridays, from 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sundays from 12 to 3 pm. Visit <http://willitscenterforthearts.org>

The Emandal Choral: ongoing rehearsals on Wednesdays, 5 to 6:30 pm, for the Choral's 21st season, at the Little Lake Grange great hall, 291 School Street. No auditions: Open to all who love to sing.

Inner Resources Institute: three free programs at the new Inner Resource Institute, 1500 Hearst Road (at Hearst and Valley roads in the old Grace Baptist Church building). • Morning Meditation: Every morning at 6 am. • Kirtan: Every Thursday at 7:30 pm. Devotional singing and chanting led by Chimmayan. • Sunday Morning Service: 10:30 am. Satsang and fellowship consisting of a short talk on practical spirituality; meditation; Kirtan and worship; and a prayer service in which we pray for individual, family and humanity's needs. Info: 707-357-4676 or innerresourcesinstitute@yahoo.com.

The Mentoring Program: Free classes for girls in grades 6 through 10 in the Willits school system. Friday afternoons from 4 to 5 pm. Class subjects rotate: Herbs, Crafts, Yoga & Movement, Life Skills, and Cooking and Home Arts. Room 4 in the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, the Cultivate Wellness Studio. Call Michelle Cummins for info: 972-1601.

Tuesday Wii Bowling: Every Tuesday at the Harrah Senior Center Dining Room, 1501 Baechtel Road. 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Info: 459-6826.

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.

Willits Frontier Twirlers Square Dance Club: Monday night workshops at the Willits Center for the Arts, upstairs in the great room. Newer dancers from 7 to 8 pm; plus dancing from 8 to 9 pm. Lawrence Johnstone, caller. Guests always welcome! Info: Jenny Watts, 459-9526.

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: Due to popular demand, the Willits Library is holding the drop-in knitting circle every Saturday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects – we'll supply the coffee! Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in."

Willits Library Public Events: "Pajama Story Time" for families, Tuesdays at 7 pm. "Stories for Crawlers and Walkers," Thursdays at 11 am. Technology group for help with hand-held devices, Fridays at 1 pm. Youth Game Night, ages 10-14, Fridays from 5 to 7:30 pm. Drop-in Knitting Circle, Saturdays from 3 to 4:30 pm. 390 East Commercial Street. More info: 459-5908.

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 and Tuesdays at 7 pm. Some experiences desired not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

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

Smoking Cessation Program: Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the MHM 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: Kids aged 5 to 10 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Thorne: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: World Music Mondays: Sign ups start at 7:30 pm sharp. Music starts at 8 pm.

Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday: 8 pm. No cover. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip, pop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic every Wednesday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room: Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street. Info: 459-2444.

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays, November to May, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willits Avenue, Laytonville.

Avenues to Wellness

Tuesday, March 1

The Avenues to Wellness series presents, "Small Steps to Healthy Living," with presenter Sid Garza-Hillman, writer, speaker and health coach. "A natural approach to health & happiness: Everything you need to know about nutrition; utilizing self-care ('adding in' rather than restricting) and learning how to create new habits with small steps." Tuesday, March 1, 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Free to the public; donations appreciated; refreshments will be served. More info: 459-2777 or visit www.avenuestowellness.org



More than 200 community members attended the 4th annual Prayer Breakfast.

Right: Inspirational speaker and magician Billy Riggs on stage at the Willits Community Center.

Below: HMH Chaplain Dennis Long, at left, and HMH CEO Rick Bockmann, at right, flank inspirational speaker and magician Billy Riggs.



4th annual Prayer Breakfast

Howard Hospital hosts spiritual gathering at community center

By Cecilia Winiger, for HMH

On Thursday, February 4, during the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington D.C., Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital hosted its fourth annual Prayer Breakfast, a spiritual gathering of the Willits community. Coordinated by HMH Chaplain Dennis Long, the event brought together

faith leaders, community leaders, medical personnel, first responders, and local business owners.

Five local faith leaders led in prayer from their respective faiths – reflecting the diversity, acceptance and openness of the Willits community. Prayers were offered for unity, home and family, protection, and for the city, state, and nation.



Photos courtesy of HMH

Held at the Willits Community Center, over 200 members of the community attended the annual event, which 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.

In between magic tricks

and jokes, inspirational speaker and magician Billy Riggs inspired attendees with his message of achieving balance and happiness. According to Riggs, the keys to a happy and balanced life are: character; maintaining relationships; achievement or working towards a goal; and faith or believing in something far more important than one's self.

Riggs emphasize the importance of making goals, to keep you inspired and motivated. He encouraged everyone to make a bucket list and to keep adding to it every day. In speaking about spirituality or faith, Riggs said that one has "to realize that not everything is up to you, so that when things don't go your way, you have a higher power to turn to besides yourself."

As a parting message, Riggs said: "Find people you can be yourself with, people who will be there for you when you need them most. Invest your life in people, not things. Don't wait till you're 85 to realize this, because by then it's too late."

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

OBITUARY |

Linda Hartke

Linda Marie Hartke, 65, passed on February 5, 2016 in Willits, with her family by her side.

She was born March 13, 1950 in Vallejo. She graduated from John Swett High School, class of 1968.

Linda worked for In-Home Supportive Services for many years. Later in life she enjoyed spending time with all her grandchildren, watching movies and TV and even watching them play videogames. She loved watching her "General Hospital."

She is preceded in death by her parents, Raymond Andrade, Betty Frizado (Gade) and her dog, Lady.

Linda is survived by her children Angelina Southwick, Marcus E. Gomez and Matthew Hartke; her son-in-law: Timothy Southwick; and her grandchildren Timothy and Malaina Southwick, John and Cherokee Southwick; Joseph and Alasia Southwick; Sierra Southwick and Michael Marney, Patricia Southwick, Raymond Gomez, Bianca Gomez, River Ramsing, Hunter Southwick and Sapphire Southwick.

She is also survived by her great-grandchildren Leilani Welsh, Timothy Southwick, Jesus Jr. Garcia, Gabriel Garcia, Zayden Southwick, Kassidie Garcia, Embertynn Southwick, Joseph Marney, and Jace Southwick, and her ex-husbands Marcus W. Gomez and Bryan D. Hartke.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 3:30 pm on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 1750 South Main Street, in the Wagon Wheel Rec Hall.

DEATH NOTICE | Jerry Maddox

Jerry Alan Maddox of Willits passed away on February 1, 2016 at the age of 68. Memorial Services will be held at the Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel at 3:30 pm on Friday, February 26, 2016. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

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- Hottest Chili
- Most Entertaining/Best Décor
- Crookedest Team (voted on by the judges)

March 11, 2016 • 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Call Willits Harrah Center for entry form or more information.

Harrah Senior Center

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Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, February 25, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

Computer Help
Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$40/hr. Tutoring \$20/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamargin@yahoo.com.

Duplex for Rent
Deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex in Brooktrails. All appliances. Laundry room, central heat & air, garage. Incredibly nice. No smoking, no pets. \$900/month plus \$1,800 deposit. Call 984-6479.

For Rent
2 bedroom, 1 bath house located in the Willits Valley. \$1,000 month, with an attached studio. \$300 call. Call 707-367-1346; evenings 707-391-7768.

For Sale
'04 Cargo Trailer, 24' x 8.5', 2 axle, 6 lug rims, side door and large pull-down door in back. Very good condition. \$5,200 or best offer. 707-489-2130.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers \$390 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at <http://www.oakvintage.net/tp>

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Barbara Carlon
Visit my webpage: Zibergirl.com
707-367-6182, Willits.

Volunteers Wanted
Frank Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in various departments of the hospital. Hours: flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

Help Wanted
Mazahar Boutique is looking for 2 very qualified, mature & experienced boutique salespeople. If this is you, please apply in person and bring a resume with you to 38 South Main Street, Willits.

Help Wanted
Noyo Theatre: part-time position available for Assistant Manager. Duties include selling concessions & tickets, counting money, cleaning theaters. Help train & supervise staff, make work schedules & assist with hiring. Must be willing to work evenings, weekends and school holidays. Print on-line application & drop off at theatre. No calls. www.noyotheatre.com/Employment%20App.pdf

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Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$40/hr. Tutoring \$20/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamargin@yahoo.com.

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The rest of **Western Web** | From Page 1

down – very early Thursday morning – to Willits on a truck bound for San Francisco. Our delivery folks pick up the bundles and start delivering to newspaper boxes and businesses first thing Thursday mornings.

Sometimes, Willits Weekly also features special inserts, like this week's 2016 Willits Community Telephone Directory, put together by Soroptimist International of Willits. Western Web also prints the directory, uses automated machinery to stuff a phone book into each of our papers: a great way to distribute the book to the community.

In addition to how much we appreciate the print quality provided by Western Web, we are also proud to be supporting a business that prints other independent publications, and that also focuses on green practices.

Western Web uses low VOC (volatile organic compounds), vegetable-based inks as well as paper that is at least 40 percent post-consumer waste and 100 percent recycled.

Plain paper and inked trimming waste is collected through a huge vacuum system, then bundled for recycling.

WILLITS MAIN STREET CORRIDOR PLAN SURVEY

The City of Willits is just getting started with the Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan. A design and engineering team has been hired to assist the City and coordination is beginning for the Willits Main Street Corridor Planning Fair (charrette), to be held April 18-22, 2016. The Planning Fair will provide many opportunities for community members to share their vision and design concepts for Main Street, and to have these ideas translated into plans that can be vetted by the City and Caltrans.

Which issues are important to you? Please rank each issue according to its level of importance.

	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important
Pedestrian/bicycle safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intersection safety (i.e. Commercial and Main; E. Valley and Main)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting local businesses along the Main Street corridor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscaping and "greening" of Main Street	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
On-Street parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Off-Street parking (parking lots)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking for trucks and trailers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic Calming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Places to gather/sit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural storm water management (biowales, retention basins, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gateway treatments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signage/Wayfinding signs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to transit (bus stops)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____					

This survey will close on March 1, 2016. Please mail to or drop off at City of Willits, attn: Survey, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490.
To take this survey online, please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/WillitsMainStreetPlan

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

HMH President and CEO Rick Bockmann provided a heartfelt greeting, sharing how working for a hospital has shown him the importance of prayer, especially since most people come to the hospital during their most vulnerable times. "Every time, I hear the helicopter landing, I realize that someone is in there needing help. And I say a quick prayer. I'm a firm believer in the power of prayer." He also acknowledged his appreciation for the local leaders' dedication and commitment and for their effort to come together as one family serving the needs of the community.

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

Willits Weekly | February 18, 2016 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 11

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This attention to detail, appreciation of independent small businesses, helpful and knowledgeable staff, environmental consciousness and efficient professionalism make us proud to have Western Web be a part of the Willits Weekly team.

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– Maureen Moore

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Gateway treatments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other (please specify) _____					

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To take this survey online, please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/WillitsMainStreetPlan

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

HMH President and CEO Rick Bockmann provided a heartfelt greeting, sharing how working for a hospital has shown him the importance of prayer, especially since most people come to the hospital during their most vulnerable times. "Every time, I hear the helicopter landing, I realize that someone is in there needing help. And I say a quick prayer. I'm a firm believer in the power of prayer." He also acknowledged his appreciation for the local leaders' dedication and commitment and for their effort to come together as one family serving the needs of the community.

As the prayer breakfast came to a close, Chaplain Long offered a final prayer of dedication where he asked for a special blessing on the Willits community and the nation.

Later that night, Riggs amazed and amused the community with his magic at the Willits Community Center, while emphasizing his message of positivity. In a performance that was equal parts hilarious and uplifting, over 250 attendees came away inspired after the event, co-sponsored by HMH and the Willits Christian Churches Fellowship.

The rest of **WPD** | From Page 4

of Willits was contacted amongst a group of campers in the 400 block of East Hill Road and arrested for an outstanding Mendocino County warrant.

February 13
7:30 am: SMITH, Jennifer, 32, of Willits was contacted amongst a group of campers in the 800 block of Blosser Lane and arrested for an outstanding Mendocino County warrant.

7:45 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance at a residence in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue. During their investigation, officers determined a juvenile male had battered his adult guardian. The juvenile

8:30 am: Investigation of a reported vandalism in the 200 block of School Street



Across the top, from left: Runner Robert Swodoba with his first-place 5k run medal; Jim Longwith (#278), winner of the Men's 70+ division in the 5k race, finished 10th overall; Karen Poole, first-place winner in the women's division for the 5k race; Organizers Vin Madison, left, and Rodger Schwartz pose with the timer. At left: Runner #363 coming in for the finish.

Willits Classic footrace

36th annual event draws runners from around the North Coast

Willits High School teacher Alexander Kramer took top honors at the 36th annual Willits Classic 10-mile race this past Sunday, with a remarkable time of 1 hour, 2 minutes and 50 seconds.

One hundred people participated in the event, which raised money for running programs at Willits High School and the Sheriff's Activities League "Kids on the Run" program.

Organized by Vin Madison and Rodger Schwartz of North Coast Striders, the event has a rich, attractive history for runners, as enthusiasts of the sport gathered from Lake and Mendocino counties and beyond to test their speed and stamina.

Walkers also participated. "The majority of this race I was convinced I wasn't in a good mental space for it," said Kramer, who also won the event last year. He felt he had over-trained for it this time around, which led to several aches and pains prior to the start of the race. "It felt like torture," he said, "but as soon as I finished the race, about a minute afterwards I felt amazing and started thinking about the next race."

The Willits Classic offered two types of races: the 10 mile and the 5 kilometer, with runners divided into a number of subcategories based on age and gender.

Participants started at the Rec Grove park across from the Willits Library, and headed south to East Hill Road. The 10-mile course looped around all the way to Canyon Road, then to Hearst Road and back to East Commercial Street for the finish.

Karen Poole won the 5k race among the female participants, both overall and for her age group of 18-29,

Above, left: Runners prepare for the start of the 10-mile run, including Alexander Kramer (#343), at left, overall 10-mile winner. Left: Runners get set for the 5k run, including Robert Swodoba (#332), 5k overall winner. Below, from left: Roger Ramirez, Ukiah High School track and field coach, monitors the run from his motorcycle. From left to right: Ginny Cholez, Dennis Cholez, Carol Jadicker, Pollyann Johnston and Pat Prettie pose before their 5k run. Map of race route.



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residents. The new contracts will specify what each must do to fill in service gaps the county wants filled, and will offer specific plans for how those gaps will be filled and how the county will ensure both companies comply with requests for additional services.

In statements made to supervisors Tuesday, representatives from both ASOs said they approved of the proposed changes – in principle.

In addition, Angelo will begin drafting a new request for proposals to potential providers of adult mental health services delivery in Mendocino County. Angelo will send out the new RFP if Ortner fails to provide the services the county wants.

The steps were taken in response to a 62-page report prepared by Kemper Consulting Group, released February 5. The report was notable because of its willingness to blame the County of Mendocino for some of the shortcomings in Ortner's performance.

The report found very little to criticize about RQMC or its main subcontractor, Redwood Community Services. Speaking of mental health services in general, early on in his presentation report, report co-author Lee Kemper told supervisors the number of people receiving county mental health services had increased over what it was before the county decided to privatize mental health.

"A substantial amount of care is being delivered," Kemper told supervisors. "The array is well-developed on the children's side, and is in need of further development on the adult side."

What went wrong

The Kemper report was blunt in its criticism of county government for its role in creating many of the shortcomings in adult mental health services delivery.

In apportioning blame, the report referenced former Mental Health Director Tom Pinizzotto, who was removed from his position late last year.

"We believe these weaknesses or gaps in the ASO contract are the result of three dynamics," Kemper wrote. "[There was] the former mental health director's intention of getting the ASO contracts in place as quickly as possible, with the belief any gaps in the contracts – such as specific service delivery requirements, data reporting requirements, and implementation of electronic health records – could be addressed after the contracts were executed."

Second was the "former mental health director's expectation that documented processes for determining medical necessity for mental health services, periodic quality improvement reviews of ASO service delivery, annual external quality review organization reviews, and compliance with Medi-Cal treatment and billing requirements, in combination, would assure overall mental health service needs among children and adults would be addressed."

Third was the failure of other county officials.

"Insufficient attention was given by other county leadership, including the Health and Human Services director, county counsel, county executive and the board of supervisors, to the significance of the ASO contract gaps – most specifically the following: 1.) lack of clearly defined contract deliverables, notably the lack of a formal program implementation plan from each ASO to be approved by the mental health department; 2.) lack of specified ASO service delivery goals, objectives, timelines and performance metrics; 3.) unclear structure for receipt of defined data and other reporting by ASOs; and 4.) lack of specified fiscal, programmatic or other penalties for subpar ASO performance."

The Kemper report was specific about how the failure of the county allowed the failure of Ortner to happen.

"Had the ASO contract required the submission of ASO implementation plans for approval by [the mental health division], the requirements

contained in the ASO scope of work could have been incorporated into these plans as well as the county's mental health plan and [the mental health division] would have been in a position to review, understand, negotiate and approve the overall framework for the service delivery system proposed by each ASO," the report stated.

"The absence of these implementation plans, and the lack of a plan approval role by [the mental health division], left the county with accepting the service delivery systems as they have been defined and established with each ASO, and with little uniform documentation of each delivery system," according to the report.

What does the county want?

The Kemper report lists 36 recommendations that would enhance ASO performance, but supervisors have yet to determine which of these it wants to implement.

Some of the more important recommendations include the creation of the county position of an ASO contract manager to monitor the performance of the ASOs, and creation and implementation of an electronic health records system to interface between each ASO and the county's mental health division.

The report calls for both ASOs to write and sign memoranda of understanding with each component of the county mental health services delivery system, including the other ASO, local hospitals and community health centers, the public guardian and justice systems, and the county's substance use disorder treatment services branch.

The report calls for Angelo, HHSA Director Stacey Cryer and new Mental Health Division Director Jenine Miller to "develop community consensus about developing in-county short-term crisis services and residential services."

The report also calls for providing mental health services to remote areas in the county, including the Point Arena area and Covelo.

In addition, the report calls for "the county executive, HHSA director and the new [mental health] director to establish a renewed spirit of openness and transparency with the Mental Health Advisory Board, through frank discussion of key issues and successes of the county's mental health delivery system."

One question not discussed Tuesday was – granted these improvements are necessary – how much are they going to cost and who is going to pay for them?

Close to the brink

The decision to continue with Ortner and hope a more explicit contract will clear up problems in delivering adult mental health services came after three members of the board of supervisors stated publicly they didn't trust Ortner to meet the needs of the county and its residents.

During discussion toward the end of the afternoon, Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse came out openly against Ortner. In remarks to his colleagues, Woodhouse said: "We have not done a good job, the people who have done this outsourcing. They have put tremendous amounts time on this, and the product is just to me just totally not acceptable. And so to give [Ortner] another chance, to do all this paperwork and tighten up the contracts...."

"To me, when I was doing business for all those years, the main thing was not to write the tightest contract, to make my buyer close. It was to read the buyer, figure out what they wanted, and then write the contract so that both sides got what they wanted. And then it would slide along, and then the bumps were not about whether or not you were going to buy. They were about how to make it better for everybody.

"The 50 health care professionals who spoke here a month or six weeks ago didn't say, 'We want you to draw up a tighter contract with these providers.' Nobody said that. They said, 'This doesn't work for

us.' We're not getting it. They were very clear that the relationship wasn't working, it wasn't the right partner."

Then, speaking to Kemper, Woodhouse continued: "Today you showed us that Redwood Quality was just doing a wonderful job. We can start with them. We can tighten up the contract with them and even do a better job. The flow is there. It's happening. I think that is something I could support. Because when you work with somebody that has the same intention as you, then the challenges that you learn, you can apply to the next person you work with.

"But I don't feel the same way about Ortner Management Group," he noted. "It just doesn't work for me."

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde echoed Woodhouse in different words. "I'm not convinced that MOUs with them, and with other groups, will suddenly make the relationship better. I'm just concerned we are prolonging the day, if we go down this course, of dealing with another RFP process to get somebody else in here to replace Ortner.

"As was pointed out in the report, there were things they were contractually obligated to do. Now just because the contract doesn't have a hammer, doesn't mean they shouldn't have fulfilled it," Gjerde said. "If their heart was in it, they would have fulfilled the contract, as weak as it was. Some people have said the contract that Pinizzotto gave us was weak as water. But as weak as it was, they should have fulfilled what little they promised to do."

First District Supervisor Carre Brown lined up on the same side as Woodhouse and Gjerde. Addressing Mark Montgomery, vice president of operations for Ortner, Brown said: "You did come up and speak. You offered no apologies for anything that has occurred that gives stress to many of our providers, our partners. That distresses me, and I have to go, 'Enough is enough.'"

But Supervisor John McCowen's comments then completely changed the direction of the conversation.

"We do have a pretty comprehensive report," McCowen said. "We have a number of recommendations and, while Mr. Montgomery didn't say, 'Gee, I am really sorry we didn't do better over the last two and a half years,' he did say, unequivocally, that [Ortner] supports the recommendations and is prepared to rewrite the contract and to implement the recommendations.

"That would represent a pretty clear way forward," McCowen said. "If, instead, we say, 'Well, Ortner, thanks, but no thanks. We're giving notice, and we're going back out for an RFP,' the only sure result is continued uncertainty and, I believe, no improvement in delivery of adult mental health services for some interim period of time. And then, we're starting over with, perhaps, a completely new provider.

"There's no guarantee that Redwood would be the successful bidder," McCowen added. "I think providing children's services and adult services are not the same thing. I don't question their commitment or their performance. That might be a great solution. But we are going into a period of extended uncertainty if we go down that road and, after all that has gone into the current system thus far, I think it is worthwhile to see if we can successfully implement the recommendations. And I think, again, that is the best way forward."

The rest of the board agreed with McCowen. Kemper suggested the two-track strategy described in the beginning of this story. The board questioned whether it could approve such a strategy within the constraints of the Brown Act, and it was determined to play it safe and not chance it.

Gjerde, the board's chairman, asked Angelo to return on March 1 with a clear plan of action upon which the board could legally vote. By general consensus, the other board members agreed with Gjerde, with no vote taken.

Of the 13 members of the public present at the meeting, only one – Bill Barksdale – declared his interest in running for city council.

"I want to see Willits become the kind of city I want to stay in, live in, grow old in, and probably die in," Barksdale told the group.

Barksdale, a Mendocino County resident since 1987, and a City of Willits resident since 2009, is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker/Mendo Realty. Barksdale said many Bay Area people can't afford to live there anymore, and are looking at relocating to more rural areas like Willits.

"Those people are exploring whether or not Willits is a place they want to live in," Barksdale said. "Many of those people have skills and job-creating abilities. They have interest and experience in education. How do we attract those people here?"

Although Barksdale hasn't officially declared his candidacy, he certainly sounded like someone on the campaign trail. During the last couple months, he has been attending city council meetings and attended a few of the local cannabis forums as well. During this time Barksdale has been organizing his thoughts and visions for the future of Willits.

"How do we deal with mental health and people with disabilities and make our infrastructure more usable for those folks?" he asked. "How do we improve public transit? How do we help foster more economic growth? How do we support local business?"

Barksdale also brought up other issues, such as affordable housing for seniors and low-income citizens, and other attendees echoed his concerns.

Nicky Keyes, who identified herself as a physically disabled citizen of Willits, called for better public transportation that provided service well into the evening.

Michael Foley, who identified himself as a "disenfranchised voter" because he lives just outside the city limits, declared his interest in what he called "democratizing wealth" and creative, outside-the-box thinking for small-town economic growth. Inspired by the book "What Then Must We Do," by Gar Alperovitz, Foley expressed his interest in starting up a reading group to explore the book and its ideas.

Orenstein, who was reelected to his third term in November 2014, strongly encouraged anyone interested in running for a council seat to attend as many meetings as possible to get the feel for the job and to educate themselves about all the issues.

Orenstein expressed the importance of keeping things in perspective and to be clear about one's motivations for being on the council.

"It's never a good idea to sit on the city council if you have an agenda," he said. "You do it because you want to serve the community. That's the bottom line; that's what it's all about."

That bottom line, City Manager Moore explained, involves a fiduciary responsibility of maintaining the police force, public safety, water, sewer and roads.

"The business of running the city is not sexy," said Moore, who has over 25 years of public service experience. "As staff, we'd like to see council members getting elected who take an interest in all of it. Everyone has their specific interests, but the business of the city comes first. Staff's responsibility is to stabilize our fiscal resources so we can build from there and pursue other visions."

All in the room agreed the two biggest challenges for the future council to tackle are the Main Street relinquishment project and the eventual legalization of recreational cannabis.

While Barksdale admitted that cannabis legalization should be taken advantage of in some way, he strongly cautioned the City of Willits to be careful not to make it an all-encompassing economic force.

"I don't want the symbol of Mendocino County and the City of Willits to be a marijuana leaf."

Burton, who stated he will be running for re-election this November, identified Howard Hospital's new facility as a landmark success and said that the challenge now is to attract health practitioners to the area.

"It's our greatest economic opportunity with the hospital here," Burton said. "We're going to have to work hard to staff it and for it to maintain itself."

Both Orenstein and Strong cautioned interested candidates with big and bright visions to prepare themselves for the budgetary constraints the city is currently under.

Strong, who is nearing the end of her first term, explained: "I had big ideas and goals in my platform when I ran, but when you look at the annual budget and the capital improvement budget, and try to project that out to five or 10 years, you realize the city just can't do it all."

Orenstein expressed that visions only reach fruition when there's a partnership between the city and the general public or private sector. He cited the building of the skate park as an example of that partnership. Once a committee was formed and action was organized, what had been a pie-in-the-sky dream for 25 years transformed into reality.

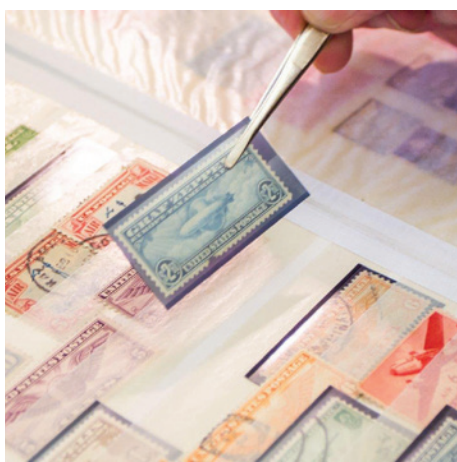
"Within about three or four years of establishing the committee, we raised \$600,000 dollars [including a recreation grant from the state], and we got the first skate park in Mendocino County," Orenstein said. "It all started with a citizens group of over a dozen people. We made it happen."

Orenstein cited the creation of the recent dog park as a result of implementing that same exact strategy.

"I have learned that getting citizen groups together with a vision and working really hard for a period of two to three years of intense labor – they can get these things done," he said.

The three council seats open in the November election are currently being held by Mayor Bruce Burton, Councilwoman Holly Madrigal and Strong. The filing period for interested candidates is between July 13 and August 7.

To learn more about this process and how to get involved, contact Moore at 459-4601.



Willits Stamp Club

Collectors share their pastime at the Willits Library

A small group of stamp enthusiasts – or philatelists (pronounced “fe-la-te-lists”) – meets every other month, on a chosen Wednesday, at the Willits Library. From 5 to 6 pm, for a mere hour, they gather together with stamp books, collecting books and albums, magnifiers, stamp tongs, and boxes of stamps to help one another fill out their collections.

The group, with a range of members aged from their late 60s to Mack McCelland, who’s 99, has been meeting for about two years, with a shared sense of enjoyment, knowledge and trust.

Boxes and envelopes of stamps go home with members and are brought back to the next meeting in two months. Lucky that, since there are thousands of stamps in some of the boxes to sort through!

Stamps have been collected since they were first printed in England in 1840. “The Penny Black” were the first adhesive stamps and were printed in sheets to total 68,808,000 individual stamps. Bought for a penny, they’re now worth a few thousand dollars in “mint” condition. In the U.S., the first stamps issued were the 5 cent Benjamin Franklin (3,700,000 sold and worth about \$500, used) and the 10 cent George Washington

(865,000 sold and worth about \$1,400 used). Unused in very fine condition? These stamps can fetch upwards to \$30,000!

But the story of stamp collecting is not just about price and value. The club members also enjoy the miniature pieces of art and rich history revealed in each stamp. According to Marvin Talso, president of the Willits Stamp Club, the celebrated 1898 Trans-Mississippi Commemorative \$1 stamp, “Western Cattle in Storm,” depicts the ruggedness of the American West and is considered one of the premier U.S. stamps made.

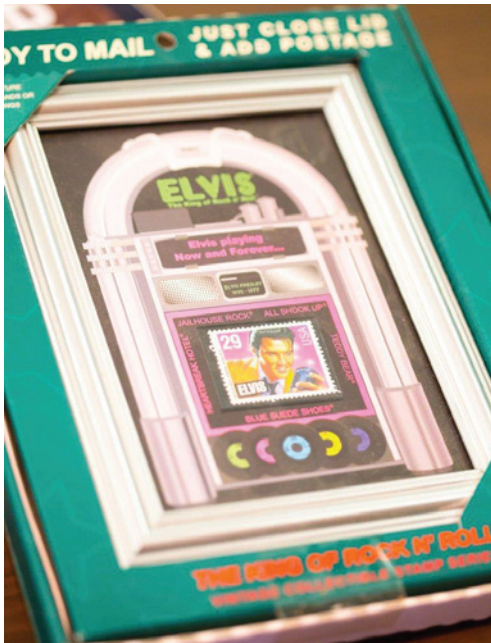
Widely used by stamp collectors, educators and art enthusiasts, “An American History Album” by Michael Worek, Jordan Worek and Terrence W. McCaffrey is a popular book that details the history of a large selection of U.S. stamps.

The next meeting of the Willits Stamp Club is Wednesday, April 13 at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, from 5 to 6 pm. Dust off your grandmother’s 1933 “International Junior Postage and Stamp Album,” entice your son, daughter or grandchild to come along, and head to the library. Young people interested in stamp collecting are welcome to attend for encouragement and help in getting a collection started or expanded.

Across the top, from left: A “Graf Zeppelin” \$2.60 stamp, issued in 1930 as part of the first set of trans-Atlantic airmail stamps. They were expensive – \$2.60 was equal to a day’s wage for some – and after 2.5 months, the unsold stamps were removed from service and destroyed. John Smoot and Mack McCelland sort through a box of stamps. A well-worn 1933 “International Junior Postage and Stamp Album,” displayed with a recent collectors’ catalogue. Pat Wilson, foreground, browsing through stamps to fill in his collection.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Above, top: A 1972 George Washington Bicentennial “cinderella” (not for postage purposes) stamp. Artfully made and worth \$1. Above: Stamp collectors Dave Beebe, Bruce Brunell, Chuck Riley, and Joyce Stamps enjoy their pastime together.



Above, left: The very popular commemorative “Elvis” stamp, issued in 1993. Above, right: Mack McCelland, the oldest philatelist in Willits.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC Meetings concerning Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the 2016/17 Budget

The Willits Unified School District will be holding meetings to receive input from the public on matters pertaining to the LCAP and 2016-17 Budget.

Open Meeting Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.

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The rest of Eberhard

From Page 1

arrested in July 2013 as he covered a protest against a highway project in the Northern California town of Willits. Eberhard agreed to dismiss Caltrans as a defendant in January.

During a pretrial conference last week, Judge Donato said he’s “been itching for an opportunity to have a televised trial” as part of the Northern California U.S. District Court’s “Cameras in the Courtroom” pilot program.

Despite Donato’s assurances the video would be edited, not live, and that both parties could block objected footage from being broadcast, state attorney Harry Gower III refused to consent, saying Eberhard and his supporters could edit and manipulate the footage.

“The plaintiff and his associates have demonstrated they would make poor use of this,” Gower said.

He said a photo Eberhard took of one defendant, CHP Officer Teddy Babcock, was plastered on disparaging T-shirts.

Donato said that story did not change his perspective, and he remains “terribly disappointed” with the state’s decision. But he said he cannot televise the trial without consent from both parties.

After the hearing, Eberhard said he had nothing to do with the person who printed his photo on T-shirts. Eberhard’s attorney, Duffy Carolan, had no objections to the proceedings.

Preparing for trial

The trial begins on February 22. Each side will be limited to nine hours of testimony, with 30-minute opening statements and 45-minute closing statements, Donato said.

Nine jurors will be selected from a pool of 35 to 40. They will be asked to decide whether CHP officers arrested and intimidated Eberhard to retaliate against him for covering the protests and to dissuade him from continuing to cover the issue.

Eberhard says officers simply wrote citations and released protesters at the construction site, but they arrested him to chill his First Amendment rights.

Donato rejected Eberhard’s motion to exclude testimony from the state’s expert witness on proper police arrest procedures and protocols, but forbade the expert from weighing in on the specifics surrounding Eberhard’s arrest.

Donato also denied the state’s motion to exclude testimony on Eberhard’s pain and suffering from the arrest, finding those details would inform the jury on the issue of damages.

To calculate damages, Donato said, Eberhard must present specific, non-abstract, compensable losses that can be analyzed in dollars, such as lost wages, lack of employment or medical bills.

The judge said the alleged chilling effect on Eberhard’s newsgathering was too abstract to support a claim for damages, but if Eberhard lost work as a result of the arrest, that could be valued in terms of dollars.

After partially surviving two motions to dismiss and one motion for summary judgment, only a handful of Eberhard’s original claims against the CHP and three named officers will go to trial.

Jurors will be asked to decide whether the alleged intimidation, assault and arrest violated Eberhard’s First Amendment rights; whether it had retaliatory intent, in violation of state and federal civil rights laws; and whether he deserves damages for the state’s conduct.

The Willits Bypass Project, which is nearly done, is also the focus of another federal lawsuit by Native Americans tribes, who say the state failed to protect sacred artifacts and resources when building the new \$300-million stretch of highway.

This article was reprinted courtesy of Courthouse News Service, www.courthousenews.com, a nationwide news service for lawyers and the news media based in Pasadena.



Arnie Mello

The rest of Mello

From Page 1

As a longtime community member, Mello said he understands the importance of the LLFD.

“I know our little fire department has always been well-managed and equipped,” he said. “I feel that’s a good thing just given where we live. It’s a high-hazard area, and I can understand the importance of doing all we can to make sure our fire department is ready and able to help when they need to.... Wherever I can help, I’m happy to help.”

Mello currently works as executive director of the Frank R. Howard Foundation, and has a lot of previous experience on other community boards. Since living in Willits, he’s served as a member of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, the Harrah Senior Center, the Willits Rotary Club and the Willits Airport Commission.

The LLFD board consists of five locally elected officials. Any resident of the district can run for a board seat. All members of the board are volunteers and receive no salary or remuneration. Tony Madrigal is the current board president.

The board meets the second Tuesday of each month at the district offices at 74 East Commercial Street at 5 pm. Interested community members are invited to attend and participate in discussions.

The rest of Attack

From Page 1

Before that, the woman claimed, Jones assaulted her against her will for almost five hours, threatening both the victim and her family while “committing numerous sexual assaults against her,” Barney said.

After interviewing both the woman and witnesses to the attack at the victim’s home in the 24000 block of Birch Circle, detectives identified Jones as the alleged assailant, and located and arrested him, Barney said.

“At the time of the assault,” he added, Jones “was on felony probation for cultivation of marijuana.”

Jones was booked into county jail on suspicion of forcible rape, forced oral copulation, penetration with a foreign object, making criminal threats, and violating his probation.

Anyone with information related to this case, Barney said, “is encouraged to contact the Mendocino County Detectives Division via the Mendocino County Tip Line at 707-234-2100.”

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



Jedidiah William Jones

Animal shelter discussion hits scheduling snafu

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors surprised even the most jaded observer last week when it overturned two public promises to hold discussions February 16 concerning the county’s animal shelter.

Mike A’Dair, Supervisor John McCowen assured the public during a February 8 meeting of the board’s Health and Human Services Committee that the full board would consider the recommendations of the committee regarding the animal shelter at its February 16 meeting.

Then, during the morning session of its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 9, the board discussed McCowen’s promise and supported it.

The support, though, wasn’t unanimous. Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse told the rest of the board he thought there might not be adequate time to consider the animal shelter question,

especially since the board had already committed to spending the afternoon discussing the Kemper report on mental health.

In order to create more time for the mental health discussion, the board asked CEO

Carmel Angelo to reschedule the Kemper report item for 1 pm, rather than the regular 1:30 pm start of the afternoon session.

With two public promises made on the scheduling issue, and with the issue having been discussed at some length, the matter was apparently settled.

But Woodhouse brought the issue up again later in the day Tuesday, convincing a majority of supervisors to move the presentation and discussion of the Kemper report to 10 am on February 16. The motion passed 3-1, with Supervisor Carre Brown voting “no” and McCowen not voting, as he had left the room.

A full discussion of the animal shelter question will be rescheduled to an undetermined date.

Supes OK library adjustments

Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved a resolution to agree to defray charges levied erroneously against the county library.

Somewhat surprisingly, the amount to be repaid to the library comes to just a under \$100,000. In previous, informal discussions, Supervisor John McCowen had estimated the sum would reach more than a million dollars.

The funds to be reimbursed are A-87 charges, established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget in its circular A-87. The purpose of A-87 charges is to defray to local governments allowable costs the local government incurs in connection with implementing federal grants or other agreements with the federal government.

Tuesday’s resolution marked the culmination of six months of discussions undertaken by the supervisors’ library ad hoc committee in response to two reports issued by the county grand jury. Supervisors Dan Gjerde (District 4) and John McCowen (District 2) sat on the library committee.

In its 2013-14 and 2014-15 reports, the grand jury levied numerous allegations against the county, arguing many of the A-87 charges assessed against the libraries were improper.

It was thought the county had levied A-87 charges against the entire value of the new Fort Bragg Library, without taking into account that two-thirds of the construction costs for that library had come from grants and private donations, and were therefore not subject to A-87 charges.

It was likewise presumed A-87 charges had been assessed against the Willits Library, when a large part of the costs of construction of that building had been funded by a state grant.

It was also assumed, during early parts of the discussion, that these costs had been assessed against the library for many years.

However, in researching the history of the county’s A-87 charges against the libraries, Auditor-Controller Lloyd Weer discovered the county had failed to assess the A-87 charges during the period of time when it thought it had a right to.

The upshot of the work of Weer and the library ad hoc committee was written into the resolution approved Tuesday, which states: “1. the library is

The rest of Water

From Page 1

during January 2015, and again between June and September.

As a result, the City of Willits received a notice of violation from the California Division of Drinking Water on August 12, 2015, and a notice was sent to Willits water customers the following month.

According to the city’s latest update to water customers, sent last week: “It is very important to emphasize that the most recent quarterly tests, conducted in October 2015 and January 2016, show the concentration of TTHMs meets the appropriate levels in the City of Willits distribution system.”

The high amount of TTHMs were not as a result of using more of the chemicals than usual, but rather, due to concentration buildup at the two specific sites with too-high levels.

“Walker Road is a long way from the treatment plant, with far fewer users, so the water isn’t replenished as much,” Wilburn said, adding that the drought and water conservation efforts kept the city from doing its usual flushing of the system.

“Since September, we’ve started using a different chemical in our clarifier at the new water treatment plant,” Wilburn said, “and we’ve seen very good results removing organic material at the source.

By removing organic material at the clarifier, it decreases our disinfection byproduct concentration throughout the system.”

Wilburn credited the change in chemical application as well as the increase in rainfall for the positive change in TTHM concentrations.

According to a report presented at last week’s Willits City Council meeting, the City of Willits

anticipates the problem has been solved.

A table from the report, at left, shows the improvement in test results.

For those who might be worried about health effects of drinking city water during those periods

of higher concentration of TTHMs, the report states that only chronic exposure over many years could result in illness.

“The scientific study that is the basis for this regulation,” the report reads, “showed that some people who drink 2 liters of water every day, containing disinfection byproducts in excess of the maximum limit, over a 70-year period may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.”



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Willits Frontier Days gives back to community with \$3,000 in donations

Above: Vicki Ham and Loraine Patton of Soroptimist International of Willits pose with Willits Frontier Days past president Rick Crowder and current president Marcy Barry and Kevin Reedy and John Thomen of the Little Lake Fire Department.

Photo by Lee Persico

Each year, Willits Frontier Days makes donations back to other service clubs, groups and organizations as a way of saying "Thank You" back to the community.

This year, six groups received donations, including the Little Lake Fire District, that received \$350 for their smoke detector program; the Soroptimist International of Willits, who received \$500 for human trafficking awareness and \$250 for their book project; Willits High School's peer empowerment summit received \$300; the TRAIL program at Ridgewood Ranch

received \$1,000; the Willits High School swim team received \$300; and the Willits 4-H sheep program received \$300. All in all, donations totaled \$3,000 for 2016.

Representatives from many of the organizations attended the Willits Frontier Days monthly meeting last week to receive their checks. Attendees included Loraine Patton and Vicki Ham from the Soroptimist International of Willits, John Thomen and Kevin Reedy from the Little Lake Fire Department.

– Maureen Moore

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Loving Sundance

Sundance was "Mom of the Year" in 2015. She had a litter of her own and, once they were weaned, she took on four more litters! Sundance is a wonderful cat with lots of energy and lots of love to give. She likes to play with other cats if they will play with her. And she will take any attention you send her way. You will find her loose in the Cattery and loving life. But she would love a home of her own even more.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, where you can come visit, play with and/or adopt dogs and cats, is open to prospective adopters from 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday, and from 11 am to 3 pm, on Saturday and Sunday. 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley (right down the street from the Broiler). Info: 707-485-0123 or hsimc@pacific.net or visit www.mendohumanesociety.com.



Photo by S. Coffman Photography



Photo by Rod Coots

Big Moose

Moose is a 3-year-old male Shepherd mix who currently weighs 82 pounds. Moose is a big boy who needs lots of room to romp around and plenty of exercise. He is a social dog who really loves his treats. Moose walks well on a leash and is eager to please and learn new things.

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

Sober Grad

Basket Winner

Leti Ceja, pictured, with the Sober Grad Valentine Raffle Basket, is this year's lucky winner of the fundraising raffle.

Ceja is an instructional aide at Brookside Elementary School which is where she bought her raffle tickets. Ceja, who has been with the Willits Unified School District for 22 years, has a daughter who graduated last year, and several friends graduating this year, and wanted to support Sober Grad's drug- and alcohol-free party on graduation night for all Willits area graduates.



The basket was stuffed full of wonderful items including: 1 dozen roses from Flowers by Annette; many items donated by Cat's Meow; and more donations from Adam's

Restaurant, El Mexicano, Suzanne Pope, Karen Cavanaugh, Rebecca Smith, Tango, Re-Evolution, J.D. Redhouse, Brooktrails Golf Course, Sparetime Supply and more.



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