

Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
Donations Accepted Edition No. 144 **Thursday, February 25, 2016**



Cannabis 'enrollments' progress slowly

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
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It's been 10 days since the February 15 deadline for cannabis growers to send in their "enrollment notice of intent" forms to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and so far only about 200 have been processed.

"We've got hundreds [of notices] we're wading through and only one person to do the processing," said Connor McIntee, environmental scientist with the Regional Water Board. "We're fairly swamped."

Explaining further the
Read the rest of **Pot** |
Over on Page 13

Photographer puts CHP on trial

By Nicholas Iovino

SAN FRANCISCO (Courthouse News) – A jury heard opening statements and testimony Monday from two state troopers on the first trial day of a Willits photographer's false arrest suit against the California Highway Patrol.

Stephen Eberhard says three CHP officers intimidated and arrested him to retaliate for his covering protests of a highway project in Mendocino County.

The state says the officers were simply "doing their jobs" and arrested Eberhard because he was trespassing.

Eberhard sued the CHP, the Department of Transportation, and officials and officers from both agencies in April 2014. Caltrans was dropped from the suit in December, but Eberhard is still pursuing claims against the CHP,

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

Willits man arrested in rape case freed

Dan McKee
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A Willits man arrested on suspicion of sexually assaulting a Brooktrails woman has been released after sheriff's and district attorney investigators concluded allegations against him made by the 21-year-old victim were not true.

Jedidiah W. Jones, 36, was arrested February 13 by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office after the

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



It's almost Tri Tip Time

Willits Educational Foundation readies for annual fundraiser dinner

Clang the triangle, it's almost time for the Willits Educational Foundation Tri Tip Dinner! The annual event will be held on Friday, March 4 at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds located on East Commercial Street. Anyone who purchases a dinner drives through the rodeo grounds and gets the ready-to-go meal delivered right through their car window, primed to take home and enjoy.

Dinners cost \$60 and include a whole tri tip roast, Goss family beans, Caesar salad, a loaf of Emandal bread, and homemade cookies – all enough for a full dinner for four people. A long-stemmed red rose from Flowers by Annette accompanies each bag and makes a perfect addition to decorate the dining table.

Photos by
Maureen Moore

Read the rest of **WEF** |
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At top: WEF helper Lily Barrett, hands over a to-go dinner bag showing just how easy it is to pick up dinner during the upcoming fundraiser.

Above: Members of the WEF crew pose around the famous Goss bean pot, including from left: Kathleen Lewis, Windi Kvasnicka, Linda Colvig, Angi Edgar, Kathy Shuster, Sandi Young, Warren Lewis, Annette Cooley, Art Cooley and Doug Goss.

Below, left: Veteran three-year WEF helpers, official WEF poster models and now official Baechtel Grove sixth grade students Lily Barrett, Katrina Bergmann and Olivia Kubin smile from inside an antique 1952 Volkswagen Zwitter.

Below, right: Lily, Katrina and Olivia pose with WEF bags atop an antique tractor at the Willits Frontier Days grounds.

They're Open!

Ardella's Downtown Diner opens for 2016

After almost 10 weeks, Ardella's Downtown Diner finally opened for business again on Wednesday. The staff and owners are excited to see everyone back in the booths and at the counter for breakfast and lunch.

"Happy 2016!" greetings were frequently exchanged back and forth across the counter.

Diners were even more excited, though: chiming in on Facebook: "They're open! They're open!"

Read the rest of **Ardella's** |
Over on Page 15



Photos by Maureen Moore

Above: Ardella's co-owners Lori Dorholt and Kathy Albright refreshed and ready on reopening day. Below, left: Joanne and Douglas Kerseg give a thumbs up for the diner's reopening. Below, right: Waitress Tracy Crippen delivers plates of food.



Health and Human Services director resigns

Mike A'Dair
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In the wake of the Kemper report on the county's mental health system, Health and Human Services Director Stacey Cryer has submitted her resignation. The resignation was submitted February 22, just four working days after the Kemper report was reviewed by the board of supervisors. Cryer will work through Friday, April 1.

Cryer was not available for comment as of press time.

The Kemper report was critical of the county administration. That

Read the rest of **Resigns** |
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Animal shelter request for proposals closed

Mike A'Dair
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Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo recently concluded the request for proposals process with Petaluma Animal Services Foundation, notifying the company the county had rejected the foundation's August 4, 2015 proposal to take over operation of the county animal shelter.

In her letter, Angelo told the foundation its response was being rejected due to "insufficient supporting documentation."

"During the oral presentation [held between PASF and county staff] the evaluation committee very

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

Prop. 172 funding battle continues

Dan McKee
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A writ of mandamus asking the state supreme court to set aside a ruling by Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Jeanine Nadel will be refilled Thursday after the California Court of Appeals refused to hear the case last Friday.

The California Supreme Court had kicked the case down to the appellate court for review and possible hearing after Mendocino County Association of Fire District's attorney Chris Neary filed a writ of mandate

Read the rest of **Prop. 172** |
Over on Page 15

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

It isn't that often a community has an opportunity to share a 108th birthday with a person born and raised in their town, and that just happened in Willits on Friday the 5th of February for our very own Edith Recagno Keenan Ceccarelli.

A big thank you to the Willits Senior Center for hosting her birthday luncheon party, and to Allyn and all the staff and volunteers who gave their time and energy to serve the overflowing room full of well-wishers for Edie.

Also a big thank you to Bruce and Ernie and Jon and Bear for the music. It was an event, they said, that was too special to miss. Edie loved the music, the dance with Michael also known as Creek, and the gathering of everyone who came to wish her Happy Birthday.

She was so happy to see her niece, Claudine Recagno Zchnle and husband, Cregg, from Redding and nephew, Don Kennedy, from San Francisco, all the friends and family from Willits, and the friends from out of town sharing this special day.

It speaks well of the town and people she loves so much!

There could very well be a 109th party next year!

Evelyn Persico and families, Willits

Don't miss 'In the Next Room'

To the Editor:

I just got back from seeing what I think is the best play I have personally seen at Willits Community Theatre. "In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)" is well-written, well-directed, well-staged, and well-acted. It is thought-provoking, funny, sad, uncomfortable, and delightful. It is not for children.

My kudos to director Mike A'Dair and to the whole cast and crew. Though all of the acting was on point, and it was clear that every performer understood their character, the two performers that shone most brightly were Maheanani Phillips in the role of Catherine Givings and Kristen McCallum in the role of Elizabeth. "In the Next Room" finishes its run at WCT this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Don't miss this one!

Liam UiCearbhaill, Willits

Bettering our libraries

To the Editor:

The Mendocino County Library Advisory Board wishes to publicly thank the county board of supervisors for their work in bettering the library district. Last week the board of supervisors hired a new director for the Mendocino County Library District, Karen Horner. Horner was quickly appointed as interim director after Wally Clark resigned in December. She also served as the Fort Bragg branch manager. The board of supervisors' prompt and instinctive action has helped maintain library staff morale, dedication and function.

Last week the board of supervisors announced that the county will credit the library district approximately \$100,000 for the improper assessment of A-87 user fees. This is very welcome news, and the library advisory board applauds the work of Supervisor John McCowen and Supervisor Dan Gjerde in their investigation and resolution of this matter.

Now, more than ever, the board of supervisors and the library advisory board are working in concert for the betterment of our libraries.

Marc Komer, chair,
Mendocino County Library Advisory Board

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Experience at the shelter

To the Editor:

Hi. My name is Amy King, and I want to share my experience with you.

I responded to an ad from Mendocino County Animal Services to foster a sweet little dog who had mange and was completely hairless and needed a warm place to crash.

Fostering seemed like a good idea, at first. Once I went and picked up Minnie, it was all over from there. The staff was not only rude, but treated me like I was an inconvenience for saving this poor pup. Not once did they call me and ask how she was; in fact, I called the shelter multiple times to try to get her into the vet and get the medical treatments she needed. After the shelter manager gave me one medication, she was done. Who made her a vet anyway?

Minnie did not get better; she got worse. I proceeded to take Minnie to my own vet; I had no choice, she was sick. I wasn't going to let her die. After thousands of dollars later, multiple medications and treatments, it was determined that she had an enlarged heart and a heart murmur ... and severe allergies.

There was no way I was taking her back to that disgusting, unsanitary, godforsaken place, so I adopted her – at full price. She's happy and healthy today, no thanks to Mendocino County Animal Services!

I'm furious with our county for not taking responsibility and stepping in to deal with these types of problems, suffering and lack of medical attention! Why not let a non-profit take over? Anything would be better than what I witnessed!

I want our government representatives to do something about the situation down there and let Petaluma Animals Services step in. Thanks.

Amy King, Willits

WECS Winter Gala

To the Editor:

The Willits Elementary Charter School had another wonderful Winter Gala! It is with complete respect and awe of our little school that I thank our amazing team of teachers, inspiring director and support staff. It was wonderful to see all the students dance, sing and play their hearts out on the Little Lake Grange stage!

We live in such a generous community. Many thanks to all the donors: The Little Lake Grange, Zocalo Catering, Lagunitas Brewery, Frey Vineyards, Emandal, Parducci Wine Cellars, Mendocino Redwood Company, Hook and Loop Jewelry, Graces on Main, Jan Hoyman Studio, Ukiah Co-Op, Mariposa Market, Safeway, Buti Yoga, Our Yoga Center, Hidden Pearl, Headroom, Cat's Meow, Gateway Games, Kemmy's Pies, The Goods Shoppe, Off the Cuff, Re-Evolution, Monkey Wrench, Tango, Tiger Lily's, Mendo Mill, Headquarters, ER Energy, Re-Energize Willits Zumba, Coast to Coast, Nikos, Unique Boutique, Starkissed Jewelry, Cufflynx, Vichi Springs, Pizza to Go, Chop Chop, Loose Caboose, The Book Juggler, J.D. Redhouse, Willits Outlet, Mendocino Metals, Sanhedrin Nursery, Kristiansen Glass Blowing, Artemystique skin care, Laura Rowland, Adam Sherf, Kiri Silva, Adam Hughes, Ashkan Nahreimi, Kara McClellan and Jean Kaplan.

Special thanks to our music director and MC for the event Tyler Balthrop and to Becky Button, the aficionado on New Orleans and everything Mardi Gras!

Aura de la Fuente,
event organizer, WECS

Protect the small farmer

To the Editor:

Having attended the board of supervisors ad hoc committee on cannabis in Willits on February 6, a rousing voice of approval was given to Tim Blake's statement that a 35 plant count would no longer be viable. Comparing us to Humboldt's (and beyond) much larger plant count.

Board of supervisors representatives were encouraged to represent the public 's will and to not back down to the federal stance.

Casey O'Neil made a good case for "ministerial permitting" to protect the small farmer from overbearing regulations above state guidelines.

Many good people voiced concerns about lack of direction

after 14 years of medical allowance, and offered practical solutions for a viable ordinance.

I take issue with the disparity in federal government regulations:

- The feds grow and distribute cannabis to their few dying patients who have the (only) prescriptions (every other patient is by doctor's recommendation).

- The feds hold patents on cannabis products, having stated medicinal value.

- The feds allow three states recreational use.

- The feds allows 17-25 states medicinal use.

- The feds prosecute in all other states.

I take issue with the disparity of federal government policy:

NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse), who oversees government distribution of cannabis to research, has recognized the multi-faceted use of cannabis products.

Schedule 1 narcotics for cannabis has to be removed from our acceptance level as a society.

- Methamphetamine, morally corrupting, detrimental to health and the well-being of all society, has been lowered to a misdemeanor! Explaining this mind-set to our creator will not wash. "Good herb is bad – poisoned chemicals are OK" is a mindset of the devil.

- We need agreement with the federal government to not prosecute small farmers, including transporting more than 2 pounds to dispensaries or market.

- The DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) should get more busy busting meth kitchens and keeping marijuana south of the border.

Please wake up, and turn this around. Thank you.

Philip Frase, Bell Springs

Museum Road Show

To the Editor:

The Museum Road Show brings our county's rowdy history to life through true tales, never before told, and great, live music. This year, take a lighthearted romp through vice, debauchery and politics in the early days of our county, featuring wine and hops history, childhood pranks, home remedies, and the critical 1916 election for wet vs. dry in Mendocino County!

A few of these true stories of our county's wild past, although tastefully and humorously presented, discuss licentious behavior. Parental guidance is suggested.

All tickets are available online at www.brownpapertickets.com or www.MendocinoMuseum.org, by calling the Mendocino County Museum at 459-2736, or by visiting the museum at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits during open hours, 10 am to 4:30 pm, Wednesday through Sunday.

Thank you Museum Road Show Partners! KZYX, Ingel-Haven Ranch/Magruder Meats, North Coast Brewing Company, Emandal-A Farm on a River, Mendocino College Foundation, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, The Book Juggler, Lisa Epstein State Farm, Lia Patterson RE/MAX Full Spectrum, DripWorks, Sparetime Supply, Room to Bloom Preschool & Infant Center, Mendo Mill, Harvest Market, Albion Doors & Windows, Mendocino Film Festival, Real Estate Magazine, and Saucy Ukiah.

There is still time to show your support for the Museum Road Show!

Did you know tickets only cover half the cost of bringing the Museum Road Show to the far-flung communities around Mendocino County? Becoming an advertising partner or joining us as a "Theater Angel" and making a donation all help keep the show on the road.

Contact us at 459-2736 or at Info@MendocinoMuseum.org to find out how you get can involved!

Alison Glassey, director,
Mendocino County Museum

Photos by Ree Slocum

Grange Farm School

Winter turns into early spring at the farm south of Willits

It's a warm day in February. One of those days that feels like spring has sprung. Birds are singing, echoing how we all feel after El Niño's rains.

Paper whites, daffodils, garden greens, onions and leeks are ready to

harvest at the Grange Farm School south of Willits.

I stopped in at the farm school's schoolhouse to say hi to Tim Ward, director of programs and fundraising, who was busy working on a proposal. Ruthie King, manager, and Lila Ryan, volunteer office manager extraordinaire, were also in the office, finishing details for the student handbook. I then went outside and entered the world of three of the GFS's "overwintering crew": Eva King, James Edmonton and Riley Borrall.

Eva is sitting against a tree in the shade, working on research and marketing for the Little Lake Grange

"Grange Grains" program. It is one of her projects this spring. She wants to get the marketing program ready for future students. The school sees projects like this as part of the students' learning experience, and it will become one of the electives in the school's curriculum.

Going to find Riley and James, Riley is already on the path to the kitchen with a huge, enthusiastic smile with his greeting to me. James, in the middle of spring-cleaning his tent, beams his greeting with a high five. All are relieved that the rains had finally stopped, and the tents were drying out.

The four of us gathered around the picnic table under the covered outdoor dining area with cups of yummy coffee (an offering from red-hatted James that's made with homemade ghee butter and locally sourced honey). We began discussing what the winter was like, what

projects the students have been doing and plan to do in the near future, and how it's all managed at the Grange Farm School

Crew member Joshua Sternberg, who will manage the fields in spring for the Grange Farm School and Willits Farmers Market, is working off-campus today. He's been working on strategies this winter and will begin to plant starts, amend soil, and till in the cover crops when the weather and soil are ready. He will continue to manage the crops through the next semester.

Students James and Riley seem to share similar interests and jobs together: livestock management, grounds maintenance work, and recruitment. Because of their creative strategies, recruitment has taken on an interesting dimension: They're able to do research online and visit a

Read the rest of
Farm School | Over on Page 15

Above: Riley and James feed the free-range chickens in the GFS orchard. Above, right, from top down: Riley's tent takes in the warm breezes. Riley with James, who is spring-cleaning his tent. Eva researches marketing for the "Grange Grains" program. Below: Clockwise from left top corner: Look for GFS organic leeks at the Willits Farmers Market later this spring. Legume cover crops to be tilled in later in the spring. Eva, James and Riley prune one of the mature apple trees. Savoy cabbage abounds for GFS use. Greens grow abundantly at the GFS. One of the huge compost piles to be used in the garden this spring. Center: Plenty of kale for residents' use.

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Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

9x9 grid with numbers 1-9 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!

15x15 grid with numbers 1-15 for a crossword puzzle.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. UN Sec-Gen
Hammarskjold
4. Sum up
7. Shame & disgrace
12. Favorite Dr. Seuss
15. About earth
16. Lockjaw
18. 14th Greek letter
19. Durham school
20. Sodium
21. Ancient Olympic Site
24. Used to be United
27. Audio sound network
30. Girls actress Dunham
31. 1000 calories
33. Mekong people
34. Floor covering
35. Moroccan capital
37. Curtsy
39. Cheer
41. Database mgmt. system
42. Enough (archaic)
44. Release for a price
47. Similar
48. Not frequently experienced
49. Doctor

CLUES DOWN

- 50. ___ King Cole, musician
52. Lady Spencer
53. Nauseated
56. More
61. Stevenson classic
63. Uncontrolled
64. Homesick
65. Law
22. Bury
23. Adventure stories
24. Swedish krona
25. Several carangid fishes
26. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
28. Cavalry-sword
29. Mahogany family genus
32. In a way, goes away
36. Thyrotropin
38. Axe killer Lizzie
40. Solomon Islands capital
43. Eerie
44. Root mean square (abbr.)
45. A nearly horizontal entrance to a mine
46. Assembled
51. Racketeer
54. Grand __, vintage
55. Cognizances
56. Hair product
57. Iranian monetary unit
58. This (Spanish)
59. Jeopardy's Trebek
60. Small amount
62. Atomic #44

FROZEN FOOD WORD SEARCH grid with letters.

Table with 3 columns: APPETIZERS, DEHYDRATE, PACKAGES, etc.

Take it to Heart:

Heart attack symptoms and when you should get help

By Cecilia Winiger, for HMH
Besides being the month of love, February is also a time to think about heart health. Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital held a free heart health screening event recently to educate the community about heart disease. While blood pressure checks and diabetes screenings were also provided, the main goals were prevention and education.
"It's sad that heart disease remains the No. 1 killer of men and women in the U.S., but the good news is that it is largely preventable through lifestyle changes," shares Annie Frassinello, registered dietitian and diabetes educator at HMH. "By making efforts to become more active, eat a healthy diet and control blood sugars, we can keep our hearts happy and healthy for a lifetime," adds Frassinello.
But Henrietta Simonsson, RN, who works in the emergency room also cautions others about being too complacent, "Just because they are relatively healthy or have no issues with diabetes or high blood pressure, it doesn't mean they can't have a heart attack," she said. With the information overload especially this month, it's easy to pass this information by. "But the more you know about the signs and symptoms the faster you can get help," Simonsson adds.
Michael Medvin, MD, emergency physician at HMH, explains: "We have a saying in medicine, 'Time is myocardium,' or 'time is muscle.' That means the longer you wait to get help for a heart attack, the more likely it is your heart muscle will suffer damage. Heart muscle doesn't grow back. That's why you should never wait to see if your symptoms get better or worse. You'll have the best possible chance of saving your heart when you get care right away from a hospital."



Willits Weekly's Rachel Belvin participates in Howard Hospital's free heart health screening.

And here's the kicker: for women the symptoms can be very different than what men experience. "For women, the symptoms can include shortness of breath, fatigue, light-headedness, back pain and shoulder pain," Medvin says. "Because women tend to take care of everyone else, they tend to minimize their symptoms and get help later. At the early signs of a heart attack, women tend to wash dishes, take the kids to school and go on like nothing happened, and by the time they get to the hospital, a whole day has passed." The bottom line: Listen to your body and know what's normal and what isn't. If you start experiencing symptoms that are different from what you would expect, seek help immediately.
At the end of the day, no one is immune from heart attacks, and it's good to think about heart health all year long. "It pays to keep your heart healthy by eating right, getting enough exercise, monitoring your blood pressure, stopping smoking, and keeping up with your annual exams," concludes Dr. Medvin.

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Above, from left: Blosser Lane teacher Laura Roland with some of her students. Blosser Lane PE teacher Matt Moratti instructs a student how to use the badminton equipment acquired through "Donors Choose." Blosser Lane students learn while working with a iPad. At right: Students enjoy badminton during PE class.

'Donors Choose'
Crowd funding site for schools helps teachers, students

Like many other public schools across the country, the Willits Unified School District is strapped for cash. Teachers lack an adequate number of "consumables" like math workbooks and readers, and often must rely on photocopying these learning materials in order to have enough to go around for their students.
Extracurricular materials are even more difficult to come by. That is why Willits teachers like Laura Rowland need your help. Rowland, an elementary school teacher at Blosser Lane, would love for her students to have access to eBooks. Millions of books are floating in the cloud, eager to be read and discussed in the classroom. The problem is, in order to access those books, a device is needed: A device that the school district simply cannot afford on its own.
In Rowland's case, that device is an iPad. "With iPads," Rowland said, "my students can access their textbooks and novels, but I mostly want to use them as readers."
Inspired by Baechtler Grove Middle School PE teacher Matt Moratti, Rowland signed up with a crowd funding website especially designed for public school teachers, called "Donors Choose."



Photos by Mathew Caine



The site allows for teachers to make requests for specific items or events like field trips. The public can donate any amount, as low as \$1, towards that goal. Once that goal is reached, the desired materials are purchased by Donors Choose and made available to the school for use.
The amount of money Rowland is asking for is \$2,300, the cost needed for five iPads.
"I would use them in reading centers that the students would rotate through," Rowland said. "They add to what I'm able to do as a teacher. With this kind of technology, it really levels the playing field."
More and more teachers are using the services of Donors Choose, with impressive results. PE teacher Moratti, for example, was able to get badminton equipment for his class this year.
"Badminton is something all kids can participate in," Moratti said. "As soon as I sent emails out to everyone in the district and shared it on Facebook, I got a lot of support from the community."
The challenge for teachers in small towns like Willits is getting the word out. Although the website covers the entire country, most donors are understandably concerned with local needs.
The Donors Choose website was started in 2000, by a history teacher at a Bronx public school named Charles Best.
According to its website: "Our team of 80 has vetted and fulfilled over 600,000 classroom project requests that range from butterfly cocoons, to robotics kits, to 'Little House on the Prairie.' Many of us are former teachers, so our operation feels like a cross between a startup and a schoolhouse."
Unlike many crowd funding companies, with Donors Choose, no money is exchanged between the donor and the requester. The donor's money goes towards the product or the event only.
"No money crosses my hands," said Rowland. "It goes immediately to Donors Choose. And once I meet my goal, Donors Choose sends me those iPads."
Because Donors Choose is a public charity, all donations are tax deductible.
According to their website: "Every donor gets a thank you letter from the teacher, photos from the classroom, and a report of how each dollar was spent."
Many school districts in Mendocino County are signed up with Donors Choose. To help support any of their curricular needs, go to www.donorschoose.org.

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WUSD chooses six applicants for superintendent interviews

The Willits Unified School District has received 13 applications to fill the position of district superintendent of schools, board Chairman Chris Neary told Willits Weekly on Monday. Neary said that of those 13, the board selected six applicants who will go on to the interview process.

Neary said the board of trustees' special advisory committee will interview the six applicants on Wednesday, March 2, and trustees will interview them on Thursday, March 3. Both interviews will be done in closed session.

Neary said he expects the board to make a decision on March 3, although he added it might take some time to negotiate a contract with their first choice.

"We will have to negotiate a contract first," Neary said. "We don't want to make an announcement until we have a contract in hand."

Neary praised the work of district Director of Human Resources Laura Sleeper. "She has done an excellent job on this," Neary said. "She has done as well as any consultant or headhunter we could have hired."

In other school news, trustees decided in open session on February 19 to hire consultant Susan Daniel of Employee Relations Consultants, a firm specializing in employee investigations. Daniel will investigate complaints coming from employees within the district's Department of Transportation, directed at the director of that department.

The board put a limit of \$10,000 to secure Daniel's services.

Key players talk about mental health

Over the past several months, public attention has become focused on the county's mental health system, particularly on Ortnr Management Group and its subcontractor, Integrated Care Management Systems.

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com In order to give Willits Weekly readers a sense of the issues, we offer the following excerpts from public statements about Ortnr made at the February 16 board of supervisors meeting.

One damning indictment was made by Ace Barash, director of Inpatient Care at Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits. Barash said that early on in the relationship between Howard Memorial Hospital staff and Ortnr, he was encouraged by the potential for a productive working relationship.

"Their representatives appeared interested, engaged and supportive," Barash said. A series of meetings were planned at which hospital staff and Ortnr personnel were supposed to work out protocols between the two organizations.

But then something happened.

"The meetings either didn't happen or didn't continue," Barash said. "Our practitioners and administrators were assured Ortnr wanted to communicate with us, but the meetings never really materialized. They couldn't agree on a meeting time when everybody could be present, or there just wasn't time. The hoped-for supportive structure for the most therapeutically difficult and most vulnerable patients never came to be. So in our interactions with Ortnr, the seed of distrust was planted...."

"We've had numerous years of frustration in mental health care since there was last a workable structure in the 1990s," Barash said. "Unfortunately, the frustration only intensified with the appearance of Ortnr."

"As the time has passed, there have

2016 Willits Science Fair Special Award Winners

Local businesses sponsored a number of special awards for students participating in the 2016 Willits Science Fair. A total of 225 science projects from Willits area students were displayed at the Willits Community Center this year; judging took place on February 9.

J.D. Redhouse recognized excellence and creativity in science with free ice cream. Winners of this award were:

- Triniti Alvarez, Willits Elementary Charter School, Grade 3, How to Make Chalk
- Kate Austin, Blosser Lane Elementary, Grade 5, Dissolving Skittles

- Claudia Cazares, Willits Elementary Charter School, Grade 3, Sugar Crystals and Salt Crystals
- Emily Christman-Soria, Willits Elementary Charter School, Grade 4, Can Water Float on Water?

- Kyler Hall-Jimerez, Willits Elementary Charter School, Grade 3, What Do Plants Need to Grow?
- Devin Johnson, Sherwood School, Grade 5, Forest Fires
- Toby Rasmussen, Sherwood School, Grade 4, Rainbow Flames
- Francesca Rodrigues, Sherwood School, Grade 3, Absorbency

- Maya Waters, Willits Elementary Charter School, Grade 4, Masi and the Maze
- Maci Yokum, Blosser Lane Elementary Charter School, Grade 5, Space Rocks

Elementary, Wave Action The Flower Lady of Willits recognized an outstanding project related to plants or flowers with a gift certificate. The winner of this award was:

- Kaylee Anderson, Willits Charter School, Grade 6, The Effects of Fertilizers

California Forestry and Vegetation Management recognized outstanding tree-related projects with a cash prize. The winner of this award was:

- Tristan Hofmaister, Willits Charter School, Grade 6, Timber

Curves recognized excellence and creativity in science with free exercise sessions. The winner of this award was:

- Eileah Frye-Edmonds, Willits Charter School, Grade 10, Microbiological Electrocuton

George's Geodes and Gems recognized excellence and achievement in science with a gift certificate. The winners of this award were:

- Trenton Herrera, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Grade 8, Chocolate Rocks
- Daniel LaCount, Willits Elementary Charter School, Grade 5, Space Rocks

DripWorks recognized excellence and achievement in science with a gift certificate. The winner of this award was:

Alyssa Fraser, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Grade 7, Testing the Waters

Real Goods sponsored awards for outstanding science related to energy. Winners of this award received a book and a gift certificate. Winners were:

- Chloe Breen, Willits Charter School, Grade 10, Comparison of Solar, Wind, and Biofuel Power Production

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

The Book Juggler sponsored four unique awards. Winners received themed collections of books and merchandise.

- Winner of "The Most Awesome Exploration of the Human Body" was Jersey Greene, Sherwood School, Grade 5, Tongue Tied

- Winner of "The Most Amazing and Thoroughly

Read the rest of Awards |

Over on Page 11

you, getting people with guns and badges to do your mental health, it's not the right way to go," he said. "From 5 at night to 8 in the morning, sometimes, we are the first responders, whether it's Covelo or it's downtown Willits, law enforcement is the first one to respond."

Allman referred to Mark Montgomery, vice president for operations for Ortnr Management Group. "I'm not going to vilify Ortnr at this point, because, Ortnr does take care of some of our issues. Every time I call Mark Montgomery with a problem, it's dealt with.

"However, it shouldn't take the sheriff calling Mark Montgomery to deal with a problem. It should be handled at a much lower level," Allman said.

At the December 15, 2015, meeting of the board of supervisors, Allman did criticize Ortnr. "We have situations where our 5150 forms that we fill out are not accepted," Allman said, "because they are completed in two different colored inks, a black ink and a blue ink. This was because on Thanksgiving Day, an officer had to run out on a call and the chief of police in Willits had to complete the form, and he used a different pen, and the form was not accepted."

Montgomery did address supervisors at the February 16 meeting.

"Ortnr Management Group has reached out, and will continue to reach out, to our community providers, to improve the system," Montgomery said. "Our after-care model was mentioned briefly, and it was said it still needs work. It does, although people who are leaving the community and returning, every person is seen at our access centers and connected to mental health services, if they're interested. I say, if they are interested, because they have that choice."

Montgomery then mentioned Jim

Featherstone, co-author of the Kemper report on the mental health system in Mendocino County. "I think Mr. Featherstone did a fantastic job describing specialty mental health, and I think that's often overlooked. Our experience here in Mendocino is that the county mental health system of care was basically a place where folks can go and get care, and that's the belief system, when it's a safety net service for folks who are chronically mentally ill and there is a priority population that was established many years ago.

"It has to do with funding and it has to do with finance. And it has to do with Medi-Cal carve-up. And that happened in the late '80s."

Chandra Gonsales, Crisis Services program manager for Redwood Community Services, also addressed the board at that meeting.

"Too much time is wasted trying to make people believe the system is working. It clearly is not," she said. "The children, youth and young adults in the county are missing out on opportunities for new services and programs as funding is being cut to give dollars to an adult system that is lacking in services and full of excuses.

"No one is winning. Not the county. Not the providers. And certainly not those who are left unheard and unserved."

Gonsales concluded with this poetic statement: "The roots of the great redwood trees grow outwards instead of down," she said. "When they come into contact with other redwood roots, they wrap around each other multiple times, forming a stronghold. Eventually every tree is connected to one another. They are able to weather harsh storms because they hold each other up. Standing tall and strong ... connected together ... the older roots linking to the young roots so that all share like strength. We are redwood strong."



Go Wolverines!

WHS girls wrap up basketball season

The Willits High girls basketball teams closed out their seasons last Tuesday night playing Middletown at home, with the varsity squad being defeated by the league-leading Mustangs 44-32. Willits hung tough for over three quarters, trailing by only one point early in the fourth, but Middletown (22-6, 13-1 in league) was able to pull away late. The Wolverines ended up with a record of 9-16 overall, and 3-11 in league.

Chanel Alexander led the way for Willits, with 21 points and 5 steals. She hit a 3 point shot to give Willits a 23-20 lead midway through the third quarter, but they were unable to hold on to the lead for long. Head Coach Jody Ward said Alexander has been a standout player all year, leading the team in points and steals, and often guarding the opposing team's best player.

The Willits JV team won easily 44-26, and ended the season at 18-10 overall, and 8-6 in league. Stephanie Webb led the team with 18 points, and Megan Riley had 8 points, 7 steals and 4 assists.

Before the varsity game, the four seniors on the Wolverines – Macy Hendry, Sylvia Friend, Hannah Friend and Kelsey Butler – were honored in a ceremony hosted by Ward, who praised them as "a pleasure and an honor to coach."

Later, Ward said he was happy he could pay tribute to them in that way. "I think they deserved that. Those kids put in a lot of time, a lot of hours.... The girls

were great, they busted their butts every game and practice."

He added that he was proud of the character the team showed all season long. "They're sharp; they kept me on my toes, every day. Sometimes I'd wonder who the real teacher is.... I would learn so much from them. It's really inspiring, because I don't think you always get that with sports teams."

In assessing the season, Ward said the team let a lot of winnable games get away in the fourth quarters of games this year, and he felt they were better than their record indicated. "We had the potential to win at least five other games," he said. "We simply could not do it in the fourth quarter, and we let games slip away."

The team was a bit short-handed at times, especially since they were without one of their star players from last year, Vanessa Camp, who tore her ACL last year and was out for the entire season. Camp and Alexander were both voted All League last year as sophomores. With both of them returning next year, Ward thinks the team's future looks promising.

Willits JV Coach Paul Riley also had very high praise for his team this year. "They fight so hard, there's no quit within them at all.... They're so resilient, and work so hard." The JV girls won the Mendocino Tournament earlier this month, with Morgan Riley taking home the Tournament MVP honors, and Daisy Barrett winning All Tournament.



At far left: Kiley Butler jumps for a tip-off against Ukiah High.

Above: Morgan Riley charges past a defender.



At left: Stephanie Webb looks to pass, as Coach Paul Riley advises.

Below: The JV team won the Mendocino Tournament earlier this month.

At bottom: Varsity player Haily Findley goes for the ball.

Photos by Bonnie Riley



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Redwood Valley: Beginning Tuesday, March 15, 9:30 - 12 PM

INFORMATION AND/OR REGISTRATION:

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Thursday, February 25

Kids POP Club at Farmers Market: The Power of Produce Club continues at the Willits Farmers Market, Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, through 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. Info: contact Jessica Ruff at 707-467-3224, 810-599-5533 or jruff@ncoinc.org. Live music at the market this week: The Farmers Market Band.

Last Weekend for 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. Gallery will be open, hosted by artists, Thursday and Friday from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 pm. Visit <http://willitscenterforthearts.org>

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": Last weekend for the first production of 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 A'Dair; starring Lee Stipe, Maheanani Phillips, Lara Eventide, Ron Greystar,



in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also available at the door until sold out. See article elsewhere in Calendar for more 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.brooktrailslodge.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 25 listing for details.



Willits Center for the Arts presents
The Annual Members Art Show
Open to all members of the Willits Center of the Arts. All Media.
GALLERY HOURS: THUR & FRI 10 TO 7 PM, SAT & SUN 10 TO 3 PM
WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
71 EAST COMMERCIAL STREET 707-459-1726

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

of our community, including local artisans and vendors." Also offering biscuits & gravy, bacon, eggs, country potatoes, drinks and adult beverages at additional cost. Jumper Bounce House will also be there for the kids. Might still be 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 25 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.

Buddhist Discussion Meeting: The public is invited to a Soka Gakkai Buddhist discussion meeting Sunday, February 28 at 1 pm at the Willits Library,

390 East Commercial Street. Soka Gakkai is the "Society for the Creation of Value based on the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin, spreading a culture of peace from one person to another throughout the world."

"In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play": Closing performance today at 2 pm at Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, February 25 listing for details.

Tuesday, March 1

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," "Lady in the Van" and "Zoolander 2." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

'Avenues to Wellness': 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

Wednesday, March 2

Free Healthier Living Workshop: Workshop in Laytonville starts Wednesday, March 2. Sign up now for six free 2.5 hour sessions of The Healthier Living Workshop, which has been taught worldwide. 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

Free Cancer Research Lecture: Howard Letovsky presents a free lecture on his current research on the use of electromagnetic frequencies in the treatment of cancer, Wednesday, March 2, at 7pm at 630 South Main Street in Willits (the former Willits Environmental Center office). Letovsky is a part-time Willits resident and CEO and chief technologist of Letovsky Dynamick, Inc.; the goal of Letovsky's research is to use very specific bio-electromagnetic frequencies to target and kill certain cancer cells without harming healthy cells. For more information, see article elsewhere on Calendar page or leave a message for Ellen at 459-2643.

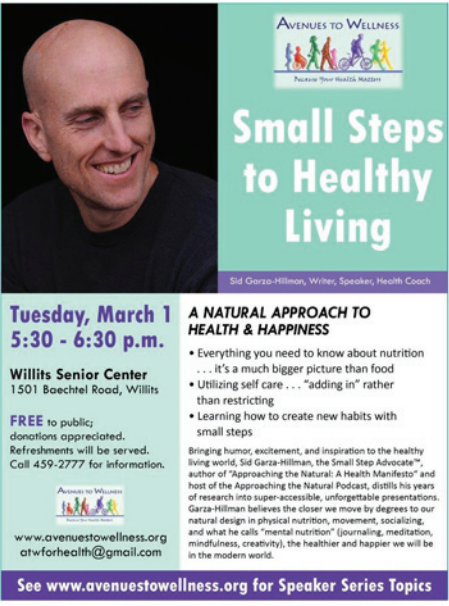
Thursday, March 3

Free to All Creative Writing Class: Starting again on Thursday, March 3 in the Sunshine Room at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, at 1:30 pm. "Join us to find your inner writer." Class continues on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

Kids POP Club at Farmers Market: The Power of Produce Club continues at the Willits Farmers Market, Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, through March 10. See Thursday, February 25 listing for more details. Live music at the market this week: Dorian May plays solo jazz piano.

Willits Charter School Tour: "Interested parents and guardians are invited to an exclusive tour of Willits Charter School. Willits Charter School welcomes applicants in the sixth through 12th grades for the upcoming school year (2016-2017). The tour will be on Thursday, March 3, from 4 to 6 pm at 1431 South Main Street. Please call the WCS office if you have any questions at 459-5506. Come see the beautiful campus, meet the director, take a tour, and have all of your questions answered. Students are welcome to attend."

Shanachie Pub: Aaron Ford, singer-songwriter who lives in San Francisco, with a musical style based in folk, Americana and blues. 8 pm. No cover. Visit www.cdbaby.com/Artist/AaronFord. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant,



enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, March 4

Free Healthier Living Workshop: Workshop in Willits starts Friday, March 4. Sign up now for six free 2.5 hour sessions of The Healthier Living Workshop, which has been taught worldwide. 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

WEF Tri-Tip Dinner: 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. Dinner for four,

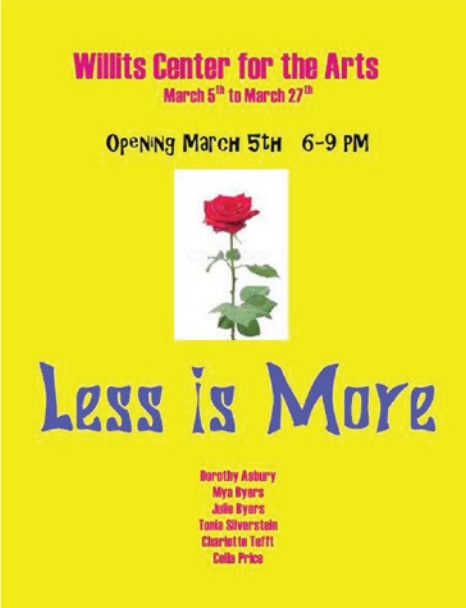
including a whole tri-tip roast, sweet beans, Caesar salad, a loaf of Tam Adams' Emandal bread, homemade cookies, and a long-stemmed rose. Funds raised go to benefit the Willits schools, for grants to teachers for a wide variety of programs that help supplement and inspire learning by local students. More info and tickets: Annette Pinon at 459-6588, Warren Lewis at 459-4429, or Cat's Meow in downtown Willits.

Saturday, March 5

"Less is More": Willits Center for the Arts' March show, "Less is More" opens with an artists

reception, Saturday, March 5 from 6 to 9 pm. Featuring the work of Dorothy Asbury, Mya Byers, Julie Byers, Tonia Silverstein, Charlotte Teft and Celia Price. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Visit <http://willitscenterforthearts.org>

The Wrongs Krew: first Saturday of the month House Music night benefits the annual "Wrongs of Summer." Tonight, featuring DJs Christafari, Curtis Flow and Podge, with sound by Hodge Podge. 9 pm. \$5 cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.



Howard Letovsky presents cancer research at free lecture

On Wednesday, March 2, at 7 pm at 630 South Main Street in Willits (the former Willits Environmental Center office), Howard Letovsky will present his current research on the use of electromagnetic frequencies in the treatment of cancer. Letovsky is a part-time Willits resident and CEO and chief technologist of Letovsky Dynamick, Inc. The goal of Letovsky's research is to use very specific bio-electromagnetic frequencies to target and kill certain cancer cells without harming healthy cells.

Letovsky's research has attracted the attention of other cancer researchers in California and internationally, including cancer research hospitals in North America. Letovsky may be best-known in Willits for his early work on electric vehicles and in particular for his development of an electric vehicle for the Willits Police Department in 1991.

Letovsky is eager to share this ground-breaking cancer research with the interested community of Willits. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge for this event. For more information leave a message for Ellen at 459-2643.

Last weekend to see 'scandalous and magnificent' production at WCT

Kitty Norris calls the production of "In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)" at Willits Community Theatre one of the best-ever plays to be staged at the venue. As a member of the board of directors at WCT, Norris attends many productions at the theater, and she recently came away from the current show with nothing but praise.

"The play is scandalous and magnificent," says Norris. "It's an important play, not to be missed, with terrific direction, acting, costumes and set." The play by award-winning playwright Sarah Ruhl finishes its run this week with shows on Thursday, February 25 at 7 pm for \$10, Friday and Saturday, February 26 and 27 at 8 pm for \$15, and a final matinee on Sunday, February 28 at 2 pm for \$10.

A mild-mannered doctor at the dawn of the age of electricity in the late 1800s Victorian Era has invented a device for treating hysteria: the vibrator. Through Ruhl's playful symbolism and lyrical language, the play makes thematic leaps from the Victorian ignorance of female sexual desire, to motherhood, breastfeeding, and jealousy. Ruhl also authored "Dead Man's Cell Phone," a 2013 hit at WCT.

While impressed overall with the acting, Norris

Senior Center Lunch

Week of February 29 through March 4

Monday: Meat Loaf

Tuesday: Chicken Broccoli Casserole

Wednesday: Tuna Salad Sandwich w/Jo Jo Fries

Thursday: Pork Loins

Friday: Baked Cod w/Homemade Tartar Sauce

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.

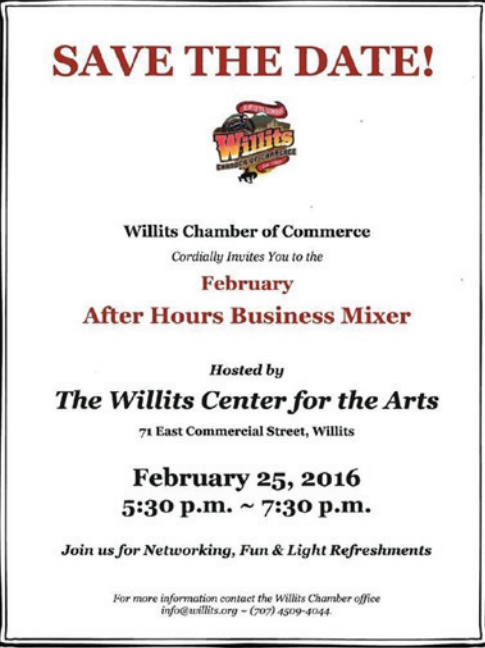
reserves particular praise for the character of Elizabeth, portrayed by Kristin McCallum, and that of Catherine Givings, played by Maheanani Phillips. Norris says: "They are particularly vivid and well done. For me, theirs is the most important of the many relationships in the play."

Norris says: "The play is designed to take the audience on an odyssey of emotions, from head scratching incredulity, to distress, to lots of spontaneous laughter. This is it definitely does, in the hands of WCT's skilled actors and under the direction of WCT veteran Mike A'Dair."

The all-star cast includes Lee Stipe as Dr. Givings, Maheanani Phillips as Mrs. Catherine Givings, Lara Eventide as Sabrina Daldry, Ron Greystar as Dick Daldry, Gloriann Lucero as Leo Irving, Kristen McCallum as Elizabeth, and Kathy De Bane as Annie. Advance tickets for all regular shows are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, online at brownpapertickets.com, or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available for all shows at the door.

— Steve Hellman for WCT

Actors Lara Eventide, left, and Maheanani Phillips in "In The Next Room." Photo by Ron Greystar



Umpires needed for 2016 Willits Redwood Little League

2016 Willits Redwood Little League is looking for senior and youth volunteers to umpire Little League baseball for the 2016 season. Contact Brad at 707-354-0794. Registration closed February 19 for Little League, but to be placed on a waiting list with no guarantee of team placement, visit <http://wrl1.splay.com>. Info: Melissa Coughlin 707/354-2226 or check "Willits Redwood Little League" on Facebook.

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." Taste and vote for your favorite chili: \$8, \$7 members, \$5 kids. Fresh-baked corn bread muffins, root beer floats available. Call Harrah Senior Center for entry form or more info: 459-6826.

Mendocino County Museum Road Show opens in Willits on Friday, March 11

Now in its third year, the Mendocino County Museum Road Show has become an annual tradition, reflecting the lives of Mendocino County residents back to them via drama and song. The Museum Road Show will play over the span of three weekends in March at five venues around the county, opening in Willits on Friday, March 11 at Willits High School, at 7:30 pm. Doors open half an hour early for guests to find their seats and enjoy pre-show music.

Museum Road Show Director Linda Pack, working with dramaturge Kate Magruder, has once again dug into the archives, presenting a completely new selection of stories gleaned entirely from local primary sources. The audience will get to test the adage "The more things change, the more they stay the same," as the cast romps through tales of hop-picking, childhood pranks, home remedies, politics, vice, temperance campaigns,

and the exciting, critical election of 1916 for wet versus dry in Mendocino County. Seven remarkable actors will together portray more than 50 different characters, as local history springs to life through a number of stories that are all the more touching and funny because they are true.

Americana ensemble All About Sally will once again provide vocal background, which will combine with light and sound effects, a backdrop of never-before-seen vintage photos, and the trademark proscenium arch to form a homegrown extravaganza. Tickets are \$15; \$12 for seniors 65 & over and for youth 20 & under (parental guidance is suggested, and attendees are asked not to bring young children). Tickets available in person or by phone at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits, 400 East Commercial Street or 459-2736 or online at www.MendocinoMuseum.org.



Old Blind Dogs at WCT

Thursday, March 10

Old Blind Dogs, a four-piece band from the cutting edge of Scotland's roots revival, perform at the Willits Community Theatre on Thursday, March 10 at 7 pm. Since forming in the 1990s, the popular band has developed its own trademark style, combining an energetic mix of dynamic percussion, polished vocals, soaring fiddle and stirring pipes – all blended to fuel their delicately-phrased melodies and traditional songs.

The band has sustained its wide popularity through the years, with the current foursome of Jonny Hardie on fiddle and guitar, Aaron Jones on bouzouki and guitar, Ali Hutton on border pipes and whistles, and Fraser Stone on drums and percussion. Hardie, Jones, and Hutton all combine with vocals to bring forth the band's overall sound of compelling energy and intoxicating rhythm.

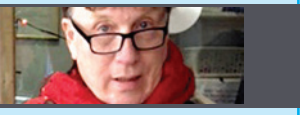
Their latest album release, "Four on the Floor," takes their work in bravely new directions and has picked up the Indie Acoustic Project's "Best Celtic CD" award. The Montreal Gazette called the Old Blind Dogs, "A Scots neo-traditional super-group with a bracingly modern musical attack." The band has released 10 albums and won numerous awards including the prestigious title of Folk Band of the Year at the 2004 and 2007 Scots Trad Music Awards.

With a sound steeped in centuries of Scottish folklore and history, the band's performance will provide a rare treat for WCT patrons.

Advance tickets are \$20 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

— Steve Hellman for WCT

COLUMN | At the Movies



'Deadpool'

The Story: A smart-ass, good-hearted, reformed mercenary dying of cancer is transformed by comic book pseudo-science into a superbeing who is pretty much invulnerable... but there's a kicker, he's grossly ugly with blotchy reddish-pinkish-lizardish skin. Gross. At any rate, ugly or not, he has to save his beautiful girlfriend from a sociopath with superpowers. I know this doesn't sound funny, but it's a comedy.

My Thoughts: "Deadpool" is an overtly self-aware meta-story. Its protagonist narrates directly to the audience. And he makes it clear that his situation is a cliché in 90-plus percent of action comic books. Movie-goers other than I found the droll dialogue, the over-the-top fight scenes, and the acrobatic mayhem and slaughter to be quite amusing. I found the movie clever, and believe that the filmmakers had great fun putting the flick together. Give the movie three out of four stars. It's a good time.

Parents: Cartoonish bloody slaughter and plentiful stripper nudity and some raucous sex scenes. Not really sex porn ... more like martial art, crashing car, explosions porn. Not for children, though you parents are going to hear a lot of whining if you don't let the boys of a certain age (eight to 10) see the movie. You have my sympathy. R-rated.

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

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 25: Dorian May plays solo jazz piano. Next week, March 3: Farmers Market Band.

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 Chinmayan. • 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 experience desired not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

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

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

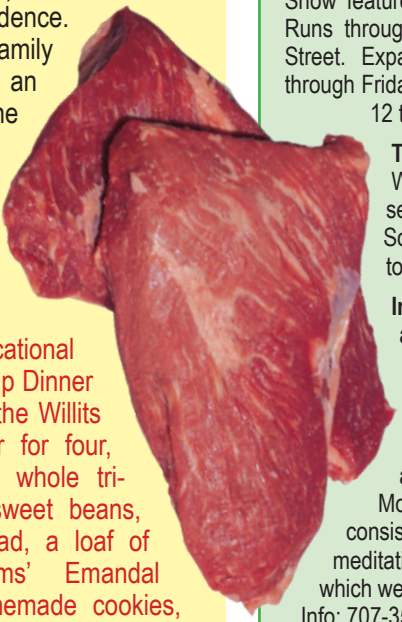
Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 10 from 6 to 7 pm. Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 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 hop 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 Willis Avenue, Laytonville.



Furry Friends

Hoping for a Home

Sweet Pea

Sweet Pea is a 2-year-old spayed female mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 38 pounds. Sweet Pea's name is no accident. She's the sweetest girl! Despite her young age, she has a mellow nature and is happiest lounging next to you on the couch or lying at your feet. Sweet Pea will be an easy and lovely addition to her forever family. 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.mendosshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.



Photo by Rod Coats

Loving Juliet

Juliet is a sweet little cross-eyed Chihuahua that could make a great lap dog for the right person! At about 2 years old, she is calm and loving with most people (those over 10 years old). She would also enjoy a canine companion since she has had one most of her life. Come meet this funny little gal soon, and see if you can give her a forever home.

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.mendo.humanesociety.com.



Photo by S. Coffman Photography

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DEADPOOL

(R) 1 hr 47 mins

Fri: 6:00 & 8:30pm

Sat/Sun: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm

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

ZOOLANDER 2

(PG13) 1 hr 42 mins

Fri: 5:45 & 8:00pm

Sat/Sun: 1:15, 3:30, 5:45 & 8:00pm

Mon-Thurs: 4:45 & 7:00pm

LADY IN THE VAN

(PG13) 1 hr 44 mins

Fri: 5:15 & 7:30pm

Sat/Sun: 12:45, 3:00, 5:15 & 7:30pm

Mon-Thurs: 5:15 & 7:30pm

Movie Times for 2/26 thru 3/16

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

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Fresh Baked Corn Bread Muffins Root Beer Floats Available

TASTER TICKETS: Adults \$8 Children \$5 Sr. Center Members \$7

Prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st Place Prize: Most Votes/ Most Popular Chili • Hottest Chili, Best Booth/ Best Dressed Team • The Most Crooked Team will be voted on by the Judges

March 11, 2016 • 5:30-7:00 p.m. For more information call 459-6826.

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Willits High School students and staff show their school spirit Tuesday for 'Merica Day.

We've got spirit, yes we do!

The last two weeks have been spirit-filled at local schools, with students from Blosser Lane Elementary School, Baechtel Grove Middle School and Willits High School all showing their spirit with various dress-up days.

Willits High School is celebrating Future Farmers of America Week this week. Monday was Flannel Day, Tuesday was 'Merica Day (shown above), Wednesday was Camo Day, Thursday is Cowboy/Cowboy Day, and Friday will be Blue and Gold Day, the official colors of the FFA.

"FFA is an intercultural student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. Every year, FFA chapters around the country participate in National FFA Week," explained Kelley Case, FFA advisor at Willits High School. "The week-long tradition began in 1947 when the National FFA board of directors

Read the rest of Spirit Over on Page 12



Baechtel Grove Middle School students and staff, including Principal Maria de los Angeles Munguia (at left), show their spirit on Hawaiian Day.



Above: Blosser teachers and staff also got in the spirit, including, from left: Jenn Drew, Patricia Smith, Ms. Marian Lohne, Mrs. Nancy Runberg, and Sharen Reinier.

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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 macmergin@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 month. 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. 707-489-3130.

Free to All

Creative writing class is starting again. First class is Thursday, March 3 in the Sunshine Room at the Senior Center, at 1:30 pm. Thereafter, class meets at the same time on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Join us to find your inner writer.

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

Help Wanted

Mazhar 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

Adventist Health-Homestead & Hospice Services Mendocino County. F/T - P/T - Per Diem positions: RN, Home Health Aide, Physical & Occupational Therapist. Great Team & Great Benefits. Call Trudy-H/R #456-3230.

Household Items for Sale

Never-used Magic Chef 30-inch gas range self-cleaning oven and Nu Tone hood: \$500. New queen headboard: \$100. Antique drop-leaf table: \$100. Wooden corner hutch: \$30. 707-472-8386, please leave message.

Keith's Knife & Tool Sharpening

will be sharpening tools at Sparetime every Wednesday, from 1 pm on, starting March 2. Knives Scissors - Garden Tools. Most items \$3 to \$5.

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.oakrvine.net/p>

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Seamstress and Sewing Teacher Barbara Carlon Visit my webpage: Zibergirl.com 707-367-6182, Willits.

Volunteer Opportunities

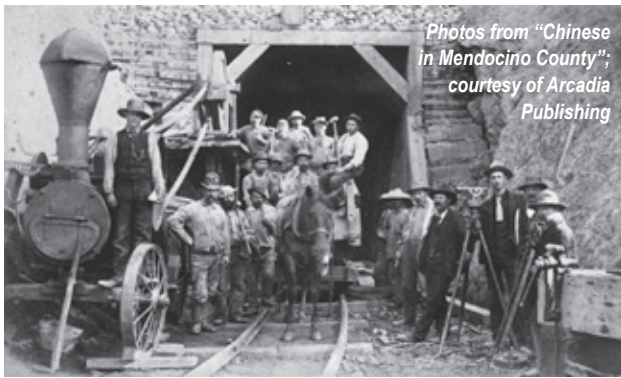
The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our Team, Call Mariya at 707-459-6826.

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.

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Photos from "Chinese in Mendocino County"; courtesy of Arcadia Publishing



'Chinese In Mendocino County'

Local author discusses her history book at the Willits Library

Friends of the Willits Library hosted a slide show and book presentation by Mendocino author and teacher Lorraine Hee-Chorley this past Friday evening.

Damian Sebouhian Hee-Chorley's book, "Chinese in Mendocino County," has been described as the first-ever expansive

account of the Chinese people's life and influence in Mendocino County, and contains over 200 vintage photographs.

Many of those pictures were displayed for the audience of approximately 30 people as a fascinatingly informative slide show.

As the great-granddaughter of one of the first Chinese settlers in the village of Mendocino, Joe Lee, Hee-Chorley made a promise to her now-deceased father to save and preserve her family's history.

In the book's introduction, Hee-Chorley declares: "Dad, your promise as been kept!"

Hee-Chorley's sweeping presentation began with the struggles and major contributions of the Chinese immigrants of Mendocino County during the mid-to-late 1800s, and ended with a picture of one of the only remaining Chinese remnants of that time: the small red and green Taoist temple of Kwan Tai, among the oldest

The rest of Awards From Page 6

Revolting Experiment" was Rhyann Whaley, Willits Charter School, Grade 7, Eggs

• Winner of "The Most Bizarre or Imaginative Experiment" was Jaeva Cash, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Grade 8, "Like, Wow"

• Winner of "The Experiment Showing Greatest Interest in Conserving Natural Resources" was Natalee Lopes, Willits Charter School, Grade 11. Sea Star Wasting Disease

Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic sponsored awards for outstanding work on a Science Fair project. They were awarded a certificate & a gift card. Winners of these awards were:

• Jady Arnold, Blosser Lane Elementary, Grade 4, Aqua Ponics

• Carly Barbita, Willits Elementary Charter, Grade 5, How Do Forest Fires Affect Plant Life?

• Laila Britton, Willits Elementary Charter School, Grade 5, Which Water is Which?

• Nakai Cleland, Blosser Lane Elementary, Grade 4, Rocket Science

• Josh Duran, Sherwood School, Grade 4, Colored Ice Cube Madness

• Lukas Jordan, Willits Elementary Charter School, Grade 4, Hover Flight Time

• Kayla Matney, Willits Elementary Charter School, Grade 3 Eat Organic or Eat McDonalds

DAG

HUMILIATION

THECATINTHEHAT

EARTHENTETANUS

XIARTUNHNA

ELISSSR

LENAKCALLAO

RUGRABATBOB

RAHDBMS

RANSOMISH

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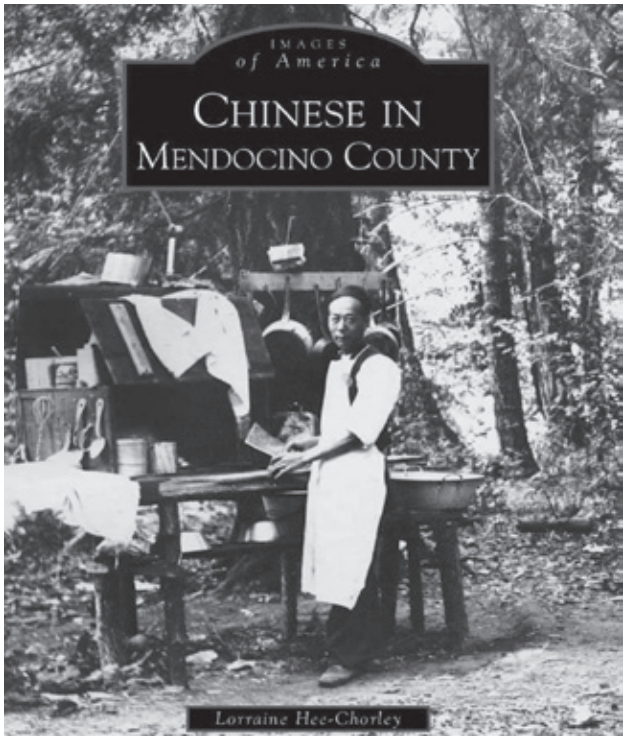
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At left, top: In January 1892, the Union Lumber Company contracted Chinese laborers to dig the Noyo tunnel east of Fort Bragg by hand, after union workers refused to dig deeper. This photo was taken on completion of the tunnel, showing only two Chinese laborers. Far left: Cook Henry Choy, left, and his assistant Kai Kwan Wong in 1949 in the "modern" kitchen at the Ten Mile logging operation. At left: George Hee, the author's father, holding a salmon he caught in Big River in 1969. Below: "Chinese in Mendocino County" by Lorraine Hee-Chorley.



buildings in the county, located in the village of Mendocino.

"These pictures and the Taoist temple are the only physical evidence left to attest to the Chinese presence in Mendocino County," Hee-Chorley writes.

As documented in her book, Hee-Chorley discussed the racist policies used to stifle Chinese industriousness.

"The Chinese were the only immigrant group where there were state, federal, municipal and county laws created to prohibit them from either doing business or immigrating into this country," Hee-Chorley said.

Among the numerous laws passed to that effect by the state of California was in 1954 which added the Chinese to the 1850 statute "prohibiting 'Negroes' and 'Indians' from testifying for or against a white person."

Other laws forced Chinese workers to pay taxes for mining and fishing (1856), prohibited corporations and governments from employing Chinese workers (1879), and prohibited Chinese children from attending public schools (1885).

Anti-Chinese sentiment was so strong in California, some politicians used it as their central campaign issue. Included in Hee-Chorley's book is a photo of a campaign button of

Read the rest of Chinese Over on Page 15

• Jessica Cronin and Destiny Anderson, Willits Charter School, Grade 10, Fecal Fiesta

• Lilah Crane, Willits Charter School, Grade 6, Rat vs. Rat

• Griffin O'Rear, Willits Elementary Charter School, Grade 3, Do Happy Hens Lay Tastier Eggs?

Sara Hanna Consulting presented a certificate and a cash award to outstanding projects in Environmental Science or Natural Resources. Winners of this award were:

• Stephany Brundage, Willits Charter School, Grade 10, The Death of Diatoms

• Nora Martin, Sherwood School, Grade 3, Erosion

PG&E: All Science Fair participants will be receiving a set of small prizes: crayons, rulers and small flashlights, courtesy of PG&E



Above, left: Blosser Lane students pose together on Crazy Hair Day. Above, right: More Crazy Hair Day fun.

At far left: Bobbie Nunez and Chelsea Hage.

At left: Cups and crazy colors give extra height to some students' hair, while spikes and braids also add to the goofy hair styles.

Below, left: Students of Room 28 pose with their crazy hairdos.

Below, right: Students Tanner Drew and Shelby Perez Bowen pose with Jenn Drew, center, as Ms. Zak smiles from behind.



Photos by Maureen Moore



The rest of Spirit | From Page 10

designated the week of George Washington's birthday as National FFA Week in recognition of his legacy as an agriculturist and farmer."

Baecht Grove Middle School also held a spirit week, with Monday being '50s Day, Tuesday being Hawaiian Day, and Wednesday being Wear Pink Day (shown at bottom left). Thursday is Inside Out / Backwards Day, and Friday is Crazy Hair Green and Gold Day. BGMS also held some spirit days last week, which concluded with a Friday night glow-in-the-dark school dance. The dance was free to attend for students and was emceed by Michael Tobin, aka DJ Mikey T.

Blosser Lane Elementary School had Crazy Hair Day last Friday, and dozens of students across the campus showed up with colorful patches and wacky accessories, even including some 3-D elements.

Great job to all the students who helped and participated to make each of the spirit days a success!

— Maureen Moore

At left: Students at Baecht Grove pose with staff and teachers for Wednesday's Wear Pink Day at the middle school.

Photo by Jenni Wyatt



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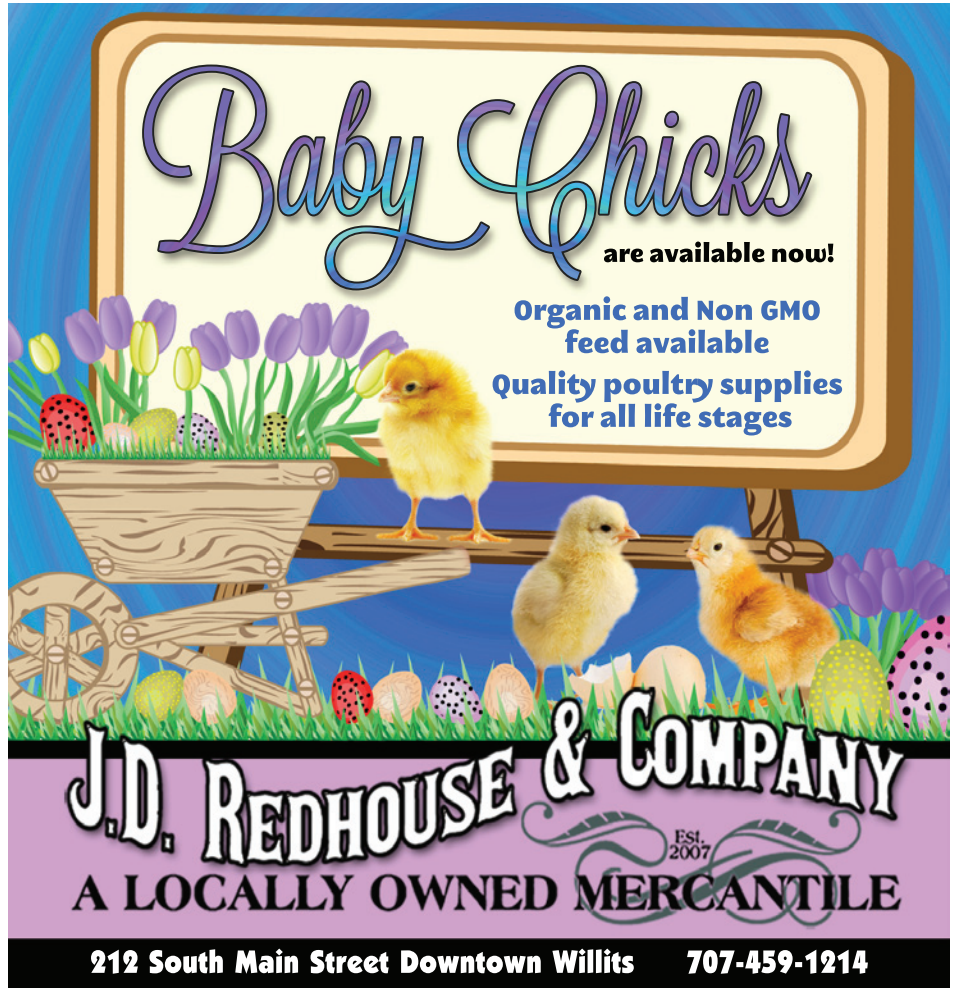
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magnitude of the task before them, McIntee said, "This region includes Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino counties, which obviously are the biggest when it comes to water usage and distribution density."

McIntee said the agency would have a more specific breakdown of the number of notices per county in a couple of weeks.

The Regional Water Board is just one of the state agencies tasked with implementing a regulatory program to address the environmental impacts of cannabis cultivation. The agency's regional staff members have spent the past year working with stakeholders such as county supervisors and the California Growers Association to adopt a pilot program geared at directing growers towards compliance.

An enrollment notice of intent basically informs the water board about the size and characteristics of each cannabis cultivation site. Growers with sites that are 2,000 square feet or smaller are exempt from water board regulation and fees.

A three-tier system is being used for all larger sites. Determining what tier a site falls under is relative to the potential threat to water quality, with 1 being the lowest threat and 3 being the highest.

The annual fee for a tier 1 site is \$1,000; tier 2 is \$2,500; tier 3 is \$10,000.

For more details about the enrollment process, the Regional Water Board can be contacted at northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov.

While the members of the California Growers Association have been doing their part in cooperating with the Regional Water Board to encourage growers to comply,

Hezekiah Allen, executive director of CGA, expressed his disappointment with the February 15 deadline.

"The deadline is not very fair in our opinion," Allen said. "First of all it's a pilot program, which is meant to adapt and grow as challenges are uncovered. There should be room for wiggle. Secondly, the program is only about 70 percent completed."

Allen explained that, to many growers, among the most important element of the enrollment process was going through third parties, of which there are only two: Timberland Resource Management, out of Fortuna, and Pacific Watershed Associates.

"Using third parties provides another level of anonymity in case the federal government ever decides to ask for information about the enrollees," Allen said. "We had this experience with Mendocino County's 9.31 program a couple years back, where the federal government instructed the county to give them the records of the program."

Allen expressed hope the water board wouldn't target growers who haven't yet turned in their enrollment notices, especially since the agency is so behind processing the ones they have.

"We hope [the water board] will complete the program, staff it up to meet the challenge, and work with the growers to get them regulated before shifting gears into a real enforcement, punitive, penalty-oriented approach."

Allen identified the shortage of water board staff as the reason for the slow rate of processing the enrollment forms.

"The transition to regulation is going to be very difficult," Allen said. "Creating unnecessary obstacles, like lags in processing time, is not going to encourage greater

participation. We feel very strongly that the resource agencies need more staff to do their jobs."

To that end, Allen said, CGA fully supports Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed budget for 2016-17. The finalized California state budget is due to be enacted sometime this summer, with the revised budget to be released in May.

According to the state Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Brown is proposing to spend \$5.7 million in new funding and to add 35 new positions to the State Water Resources Control Board. The other three agencies tasked with regulating cannabis cultivation are also getting significant bumps in their budgets.

According to the report: " (1) \$3.4 million and 18 positions to the Department of Food and Agriculture for oversight, regulation, licensing and environmental impact; (2) \$700,000 (from the Department of Pesticide Regulation Fund) and three positions to the Department of Pesticide Regulation for guidelines for the use of pesticides in the cultivation of medical marijuana; (3) \$7.6 million (from the General Fund) to the Department of Fish and Wildlife to make permanent the statewide multi-agency task force and to address environmental issues related to cultivation."

"We are very hopeful that the proposed budget will move forward," Allen said, "and the regulatory agencies will see an increase in staff in the next several months. In the meantime, everyone, take a deep breath and let's keep moving towards the goal of a well-regulated industry."

To contact the California Growers Association go to www.calgrowersassociation.org.

Hezekiah Allen can be reached by phone at: 916-879-5063.



No charges to be filed against Jeddiah W. Jones.

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Birch Circle resident accused him of assaulting her for more than five hours at her home.

However, after sheriff's detectives concluded their preliminary investigation and submitted the charges to the District Attorney's Office, inconsistencies in the victim's statements raised issues, and investigators from both offices decided to probe deeper into the case, according to DA's spokesman Mike Geniella.

"It was the conclusion of the Sheriff's Office and District Attorney investigators that there was a lot of false testimony given in the case," Geniella said.

DA attorneys concluded "the case could not be prosecuted beyond a reasonable doubt, and decided not to prosecute."

They also decided not to prosecute the alleged victim for making a false report, Geniella said. "It's a complicated family issue," he explained.

A stay-away order against Jones obtained by the family remains in effect.

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criticism was not limited to former Mental Health Director Tom Pinizzotto, who was fired in the fall 2015, but also was leveled at the board of supervisors, county CEO Carmel Angelo and Cryer.

The report also criticized other upper-level personnel for the poor performance of the county's mental health system. "In our opinion, the board of supervisors should not have approved the ASO [administrative services organizations] contracts in the form brought to the board because of a lack of clear [mental health division] approval and oversight role and accountability mechanism in the scope of work contained in the contracts. Further, we believe that other county officials, including the former [mental health] director, HHSA director, county counsel, and county executive [CEO] should have assured the ASO contract included these key provisions prior to submission to the board for approval."

Supervisors voted to privatize its mental health system in May 2013. John Pinches was Third District supervisor at that time. The other four current supervisors — Carre Brown (First District), John McCowen (Second District), Dan Gjerde (Fourth District) and Dan Hamburg (Fifth District) — were incumbents in 2013.

Cryer became director of the Public Health Branch of HHSA in October 2007. She was elevated to the position of HHSA director in August 2010.

WCS Winter Fund Drive raises \$33,052

The Willits Community Services and Food Bank's Winter Fund Drive raised a total of \$33,052 this year, beating its \$32,000 goal.

"A big thank you to everyone who helped make our 2015 Winter Fund Drive a great success," said WCS Director Jim Marill. "We will soon publish a formal thank you ad where all the contributors,

other than those who wished to remain anonymous, will be acknowledged. The Winter Fund Drive is an important fundraiser for us, and we are very grateful for our community's support."

Marill invited the public to an upcoming benefit performance for WCS on Saturday, March 19, at Willits Community Theater, featuring John Wagenet and Anita Elliott performing as "Twining Time," with guests Hal Wagenet and Mitchell Holman. He also noted the 4th annual Variety Show to benefit WCS, "Willits On Stage," is set for May 7 at Willits High School.

The latest batch of donors includes Nancy Boone, Delores Braden, Buckeye Construction, Scott & Judy Ferleman, Richard Glanders, Richard Hinker, Gerald & Cheryl Jordan, Daniel Loughry, Christopher Martin & Lucy Sharp, Dennis Miller & Mary Burns, Patricia Moeller, Cindy & Verne Morninglight, David & Ursula Parch, Nika Patterson, Madeleine Russo, Phillip & Kathy Shuster, St. Anthony Church Guild, Gene & Carley Stewart, Margaret Strong, Louise Wilkes, Willits Lions Club, and Mary Zellachild.

WCS is always happy to accept donations to help continue to provide essential services to the Willits community; send donations (checks made out to "Willits Community Services") to WCS, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490,

or drop them off during office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon to 5 pm. Call 459-3333 for more information.



The WCS "thermometer" on East Commercial and Main shows the fund drive goal has been reached.



Willits High School's Athlete of the Week

JV Basketball |
Emily Acevedo, 15, Freshman

Position: Wing
Breakfast of Champions: Fruit and yogurt
Love for the Sport: "I like the intensity of the game."
Years Playing the Sport: Four years

My Amazing Athlete this week is Emily Acevedo. In the Mendocino tournament, she had 4 points, 3 assists, 6 steals and 3 rebounds. Emily is one of eight freshmen on our team. Emily is very fast on the court. If we have somebody who is a problem for us, we usually stick Emily on her and tell her to shut her down. Emily gives 110 percent all the time. Looking forward to her returning next year. I believe she will help out the team tremendously. She has been a pleasure to coach.

– Coach Paul Riley



CONGRATS | Ethan Fisher

Congratulations to Ethan Albert Fisher on his 13th birthday, February 19, 2016. Ethan enjoyed a special 13th birthday thanks to a ride in his friend Pete Swanton's airplane. Love from mom Evelyn and dad Adrian, brothers Declan and Grant, and all the rest of your family and friends.

OBITUARY |

Helen McPhillips-Cavanaugh

Helen Lucille McPhillips-Cavanaugh, 88, of Willits passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 31, 2016.

Helen was born to the late Clarence and Clara Robinson in Boonville on April 20, 1927. She graduated from Willits High School in 1945.

While always a busy and talented woman, she used her retirement to enjoy her time at her ranch taking care of her many animals. She leaves behind a legacy of memories with family and friends. She enjoyed playing the piano at Northbrook while lifelong friend Florence Persico sang. She was also very dedicated to Eastern Star and served as "Worthy Matron" with the Willits chapter.

She is survived by her son Roderick Cavanaugh and wife, Karen, of Willits; daughter Penny Fonzi and husband, John, of Stockton; Kevin McPhillips and wife, Cathy, of Davis; Shawn McPhillips of Willits; and her longtime friend Jim Belvin.



She is survived by 11 grandchildren and two great-grandsons: Ashley Cavanaugh; Andrew Cavanaugh and fiancé, Sierra Hayes; Haley Grahl AKA Samantha Autumn Helena; Jason Fonzi and wife, Ashley; Aaron Fonzi; Rachel Belvin; Edward McPhillips; Allison (McPhillips) Charter and husband, Nick, and their two children, Bryce Vernon Charter and Graham Henry Charter of Arbuckle.

Also surviving are other family: Tilda Robinson, wife of William "Bill" Robinson of Whitter Springs; Mike and Sherry Falge of Whitter Springs; Fred and Lora Robinson of numerous great-nephews and great-nieces.

Whitter Springs; and great-nieces.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Charlie Cavanaugh, Vern McPhillips, her parents, and her siblings, William "Bill" Robinson and Alice Falge.

The family is planning a Celebration of Life to be held at the Willits Senior Center on February 27, at 2 pm. Any charitable contributions can be made to the Little Lake Fire Protection District.

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

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