

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
 Donations Accepted Edition No. 195 **Thursday, March 2, 2017**

Grist Creek continues to spawn legal hurricane

Mike A'Dair
 Reporter
 mike@willitsweekly.com

The convoluted morass of legal briefings, writs of mandates, demurrers and arguments against demurrers associated with Grist Creek Aggregates' rock processing and asphalt production plant at Longvale, some 15 miles north of Willits, continues to ooze from the offices of various attorneys throughout the county and state.

The Office of the County Counsel of Mendocino County has assumed control of the legal defense of the two defendants: the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and the Mendocino County

Read more of **Grist Creek**
 Over on Page 10

Winter storms wreak havoc on county roads

Mike A'Dair
 Reporter
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A wet winter has wreaked havoc on the county road system, resulting in significant damage to some 30 roads. According to Mendocino County Director of Transportation Howard Dashiell, the storms have caused major damage on five roads: Orr Springs Road, Laytonville-Dos Rios Road, Branscomb Road, Mountain View Road, and Peachland Road out of Boonville.

The worst of these is the Orr Springs Road, which connects North State Street, just north of Ukiah, with the village of Mendocino.

Read the rest of **Roads**
 Over on Page 13

HMH names new CEO

By Cici Winiger, for HMH

Jason Wells has been named president and CEO of Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, according to Jeff Eller, president and CEO of the Northern California Region of Adventist Health. Wells, who has worked for 11 years with Adventist Health System, a sister organization to Adventist Health, will begin his role on March 28.

"I am excited that we've found someone with Jason's vision and proven record of driving growth," says Eller. "He is well-known for driving change and has a passion for sustaining a culture of

Read the rest of **CEO**
 Over on Page 9

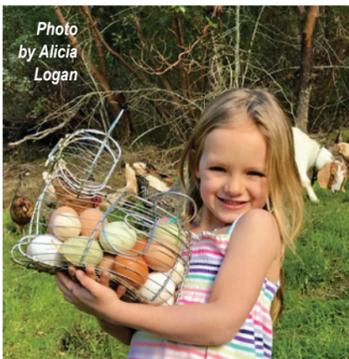


Photo by Alicia Logan



Above, from left: Tinley Logan holds a basket full of farm-fresh eggs. Little Red Hen II curiously watches. Multi-colored eggs from different poultry breeds make egg crate contents colorful. Below: Champie enjoys a variety of compost pieces, including cauliflower.



Photos by Maureen Moore

Backyard Cluckers

Turn compost into breakfast with a home-coop poultry party

If you can get past skunk- and raccoon-proof security measures, can accept the fact that at dusk and dawn you must be home to open and close the coop, and embrace the idea that poop can be washed off shells and does not affect the egg's contents, raising your own flock of backyard chickens can be a rewarding and economical adventure.

Happy to be foragers, chickens can thrive on a feeding program of traditional poultry feed, bugs, and most conveniently: kitchen scraps. Tossing peels, stems, leftovers and more to the birds not only provides them with a nutritious diet, but also allows less waste in garbage cans and the pride of not wasting food. In return, chickens provide breakfast!

Collecting eggs daily from the coop is fun for little kids – and grown-ups, too. If you stock your coop with mixed breeds, an array of colorful eggs will result. And no, just like chocolate milk doesn't come from brown cows, brown eggs don't come from brown chickens, either.

Ameraucana chickens are black-feathered and Cream Legbars are light brown-feathered, and both lay light blue eggs. Buff Orpingtons are golden-feathered and Barred Plymouth Rocks are black-and-white striped, and both lay light brown eggs.

The best layer in my coop is Champie, a Black Sex-Link hen purchased from J.D. Redhouse last year as a teenager. While her three other mixed-breed companions have finally gotten on the consistent egg-laying bandwagon just recently, Champie consistently laid one brown egg per day through the entire winter, essentially carrying the weight of the coop on her shiny black feathers.

Way to go, Champie!

If you are interested in raising a small flock of breakfast-makers, chicks and supplies are available locally at J.D. Redhouse, Willits Power and Coast Hardware. Stores have knowledgeable staff and can get new owners started, or a great online resource is www.backyardchickens.com, which has tons of useful information, too.

– Maureen Moore

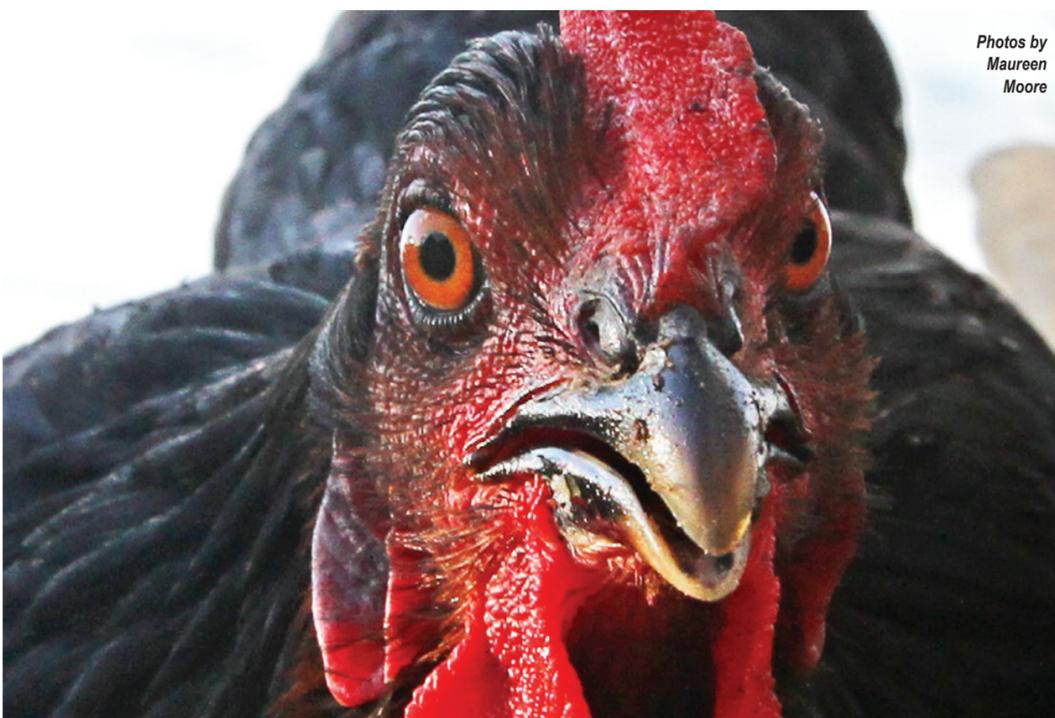


Photo by Alicia Logan

Above: Brownie-Blue, an Ameraucana, "smiles" for the camera. Below: An Ameraucana enjoys some scratch mix, another treat chickens are fond of, which usually contains a mixture of cracked corn, millet, oats, wheat, etc. At bottom: Champie the Black Sex-Link ponders the connection between omelets and their origins.



Photos by Maureen Moore



Pot ordinance dominates council meeting

Damian Sebouhian
 Reporter
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Details on how best to proceed to draft a medical cannabis ordinance for Willits dominated a rigorous two-hour discussion between cannabis stakeholders, city staff and councilmembers, during last week's city council meeting.

The discussion followed a presentation by City Planner Dusty Duley, who highlighted several recommendations and options the council's cannabis ad hoc committee had developed for council and public consideration.

Read the rest of **Ordinance**
 Over on Page 13

Council updated on pot ad hoc committee progress

Damian Sebouhian
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City Planner Dusty Duley updated the city council about the cannabis ad hoc committee's progress in drafting commercial medical cannabis ordinances for Willits at last week's meeting.

"Ultimately the ad hoc committee – [Mayor Gerry Gonzalez, Councilwoman Madge Strong and city staff] – is recommending we allow for a number of businesses that match up with the state licenses [created by the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act, or MCRSA]," Duley said. "Cannabis businesses we

Read the rest of **Report**
 Over on Page 13

California snowpack solid after 'historic' winter

After five years of searing drought, California's Sierra Nevada snowpack continues to build during one of the wettest winters in California's recorded history, the California Department of Water Resources reported in a March 1 press release.

Manual readings taken Wednesday at Phillips Station, about 90 miles east of Sacramento, found a "snow water equivalent" of 43.4 inches, 159 percent of normal, well above the 84 percent of normal found a year ago, said Frank Gehrke, the state's chief

Read the rest of **Snowpack**
 Over on Page 11

WCS ends fund drive with \$37,214

Willits Community Services and Food Bank announced on March 1 that a total of \$37,214 has been raised through the 2016/17 Winter Fund Drive, well over its goal this year of \$34,000.

Final donations came in from the community members listed below:

James and Leigh Austin, David & Linda Beebe, Delores Braden, Tommie & Louise Brown, Melinda Clarke, Joanne Franklin, Michael Frey, Andrew Hill & Pauline Harper, Sara O'Brien, Timothy Rice & Elizabeth Reidel, Hollis Rose, Keith Rutledge & Nancy Simpson, Phillip & Kathy Shuster, St. Anthony Church Guild, Jack & Joan Wade, Dave & Jenny Watts, Willits Mini-Storage, and Mary Zellachid.

WCS has been serving the greater Willits and North County communities since 1981. For over 35 years WCS has provided a safety-net of human services that help cushion the effects of short- and long-term unemployment, poverty and crisis by providing temporary assistance programs and services to people in need.

"Our economy continues to make it difficult for so many people just to survive," said Jim Marill, WCS director. "The availability of financial resources from outside of our community continues to diminish, and this has made it very challenging for WCS and organizations like Willits Community Services to continue to provide essential human services."

WCS manages to provide these programs and services through a combination of funding sources, Marill said, including local contributions. Especially now, donations from local community members – including those coming in through the Winter Fund Drive – are the most important, he said, "because it is those dollars, more than any other resource, that keep the doors open, the lights on and the services and programs operating."

Although this year's Winter Fund Drive has ended, donations are always welcome: Checks can be sent to Willits Community Services, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Also, coming up this weekend, on Saturday, March 4, is "Trio of Trios," a concert to benefit WCS, featuring music by three local groups: Chanterelle, Twining Time and Just Enough. The concert will take place at the United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, and suggested donation is \$10. Questions? Call Clancy at 367-0889.

Sixth man held in pot grower's death

A sixth suspect in the Veterans Day murder of a north county pot farmer has been arrested by Mendocino County Sheriff's investigators and South Lake Tahoe police officers.

The hunt for 33-year-old Jesse Cole Wells of Laytonville had been underway since late 2016, when detectives learned Wells had been seen frequenting South Lake Tahoe casinos, said detective Sgt. Andrew Porter.

Mendocino County Sheriff's detectives, working with the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Douglas County Nevada Sheriff's Office, confirmed Wells had been a frequent casino visitor in the Lake Tahoe area, but failed to find him, Porter said.

Between November 2016 and February 2017, the Sheriff's Office and South Lake Tahoe Police Department had investigated additional tips and reports regarding Wells' whereabouts. Then on February 23, local police discovered the home where Wells was hiding, and sheriff's detectives obtained a Mendocino County Superior Court search warrant for the Northern California residence.

The next day, sheriff's detectives, investigators from the South Lake Tahoe Police Department.

and the department's SWAT team surrounded the home, and Wells was arrested and booked into El Dorado County Jail on homicide and robbery charges. Bail was set at \$650,000.

Wells will be extradited to Mendocino County "at some point," Porter said, and will be tried with the five suspects already in custody for the robbery and murder of 35-year-old Jeffrey Quinn Settler of Bethel Island.

Settler's battered body was discovered in a shed on a remote property some five miles from North Highway 101 in Laytonville on November 11 of last year.

Investigators believe Settler was operating a commercial marijuana growing operation on the property, and the seven men – all of whom had been employed as marijuana trimmers – attacked him in the middle of the night, then fled with more than 100 pounds of processed marijuana.

Four of the suspects had been arrested before February 10, when sheriff's detectives were notified the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office in Williamsburg, Virginia, had arrested the fifth suspect, Frederick Gaestel, 27, of Illinois.

Initially, Porter said, Gaestel challenged extradition to California. However, on February 22, the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office was notified Gaestel had elected to waive extradition and was ready to be transported to Mendocino County for prosecution.

Wells' arrest came as the result of the "cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies working with concerned citizens who came forward with the information about [his] whereabouts," Porter noted.

Currently, a single suspect, Gary Blank III, 34, of Garberville, remains at large. Blank "is believed to have fled the state of California," Porter said.

Anyone with information regarding Blank's whereabouts is urged to call Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Investigative Services Unit at 463-4421, the Sheriff's Office Tip Line at 234-2100, or the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office via the department's Facebook page.

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

Proclamation of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Recognizing March 2017 as Women's History Month in Mendocino County

WHEREAS, Mendocino County women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our county in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County women have played, and will continue to play, a significant role in every sphere of the life of Mendocino County by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home including unique roles throughout county history by providing the majority of the volunteer force particularly important in the establishment of charitable, humanitarian, and cultural institutions of the county; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County women currently hold significant leadership positions in local government and businesses, including countywide elected positions, a seat on the board of supervisors, seats on area city councils, and numerous other seats as elected and appointed members of boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of women in history has consistently been overlooked and undervalued, prompting in March 1983 the first Women's History Gala Celebration in Mendocino County, that was held at the Anderson Valley High School, thereafter, each year it has been held in the City of Ukiah, the seat of Mendocino County, with the March 5, 2017 celebration to be held at the Saturday Afternoon Club marking its 34th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the annual Women's History Gala Celebration sponsored by the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, American Association of University Women-Ukiah, Ukiah Saturday Afternoon Club, and the Cloud Forest Institute has a tradition to recognize and honor particular women who exemplify each year's designated theme. Honorees selected who embody this year's theme of "Honoring Trailblazing Women In Labor and Business" are: Pennyroyal Farm, a Boonville organic cheese and vineyard established by Sarah Bennett, Star White and Erika McKenzie; a Ukiah Valley-based, independently owned national/international paint and coating company, Penofin-Performance Coatings, created by Barbara Newell, CEO; and Ukiah's Connect Insurance owner, Maureen "Mo" Mulheren, executive director of the Ukiah Valley Networking Agency and the only woman on the Ukiah City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby proclaims March 2017 as "Women's History Month" in recognition of the achievements of all women in Mendocino County and invites the public to attend the 34th Women's History Gala Celebration to especially honor important women in our community.

Dated: February 14, 2017

John McCowen, chair, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

Covelo woman held in pickup theft

A 33-year-old Covelo woman was arrested on February 25 on suspicion of possessing a stolen vehicle after deputies responded to a trespassing incident at a home in the 1800 block of Perch Road shortly before 6 pm.

Deputies immediately noticed a 1991 Toyota pickup truck parked in front of the home that appeared to have been recently spray-painted, says sheriff's Sgt. Joseph DeMarco. The pickup's license plates also were missing.

"Deputies contacted Jennifer Michelle SchmittFeliz, 33, of Covelo at the residence and connected her to the vehicle," DeMarco said. They also learned a 53-year-old Ukiah man had reported the pickup stolen two days earlier.

Conducting a records check, deputies found the woman had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for her arrest for driving with a suspended license.

SchmittFeliz was arrested on the warrant and suspicion of receiving a stolen vehicle and booked into county jail. Bail was set at \$15,000.

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

Savings Bank employees dress 'Casual for a Cause'

Eleven non-profit organizations in Mendocino and Lake counties have received a portion of the \$11,285 contributed by Savings Bank employees and the bank during the 2016 "Casual for a Cause – Denim Days" year-long fundraising campaign. Due to the ongoing success, this effort will continue in 2017.

"Over the past five years, this effort has made a great impact in our communities with donations totaling \$66,457," said Katie Kight, Savings Bank marketing officer. "We're investing in our local youth, senior citizens, those in need, the arts, education, public safety and economic development to strengthen the quality of life in our communities."

The idea of "Casual for a Cause – Denim Days" began in January 2012 with a group of Savings Bank employees who wanted an additional way to make a difference in our communities during difficult economic times. Every Friday and Saturday, Savings Bank employees have the opportunity to dress casually by wearing denim jeans to work while supporting a variety of local non-profit organizations through voluntary donations. Each month employees at a designated branch select the organization of their choice which will benefit by the monthly contributions.

In 2016 the following organizations received funds from this program: Potter Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Hopland Cemetery – Wreaths Across America, Lake County Habitat For Humanity, Redwood Coast Senior Center, Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project, Redwood Community Services Youth Empowerment Camp, Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department, Willits Kids Club, Laytonville Food Bank, Hospice of Ukiah, and Court Appointed Special Advocates of Mendocino and Lake Counties.

"With your help we are able to provide assistance for those families in our community affected by the recent fires," wrote Richard Birk, president of Habitat for Humanity Lake County. "Only with the ongoing support of people like you can we continue to live up to our mission."

"Our current patient load is the highest it's ever been, and we are experiencing the need for more medical and in home staff," wrote Janet M. Denninger, administrator for Hospice of Ukiah. "Your gift will help us meet our present and future growth."

"Laytonville Food Bank thanks everyone at Savings Bank for the donation," wrote Norma Branson. "With your donation we gave out extra food for Thanksgiving and Christmas."

"We are grateful for the work your business does to improve and support the communities it serves," wrote Chief Ed O'Brien, Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department. "Your donation will help fund the emergency training, rescue and response of our volunteer fire department."

As the local community bank, Savings Bank is proud of their tradition of giving back to their communities and the community support and volunteer time that their employees provide.

– submitted by Savings Bank of Mendocino County



'Water Is Life'

Local talent, activists and volunteers raise \$7,026 for Standing Rock

The Water Is Life benefit for Standing Rock at the Willits Grange on Saturday, February 18 was a nine-hour fundraising effort featuring 14 musical acts, speeches from several local prominent water protector activists, a silent auction with items donated by over 20 local artists

and businesses, dancing, drumming, yoga, meditation, a tea temple, a kombucha bar, food from Taqueria Ramirez and others, and much more.

The event was not only a fundraiser, but also a rallying cry to maintain the spirit of the protest movement against the Dakota Access Pipeline in the face of adversity, and many in the local community who have supported the cause in recent months came together to show their support again.

"Standing Rock is a huge template for being part of a movement," said Jaylene Johnson, who organized the event along with a group of friends and activists. "Whatever [ends up happening] out there, you can look to the example of it for people coming together in a moment's notice to create and to do something.... When we raise all of our voices together, all of our energy together, that's when we're truly powerful."

The musical acts on Saturday ranged from the solo acoustic set by longtime Train Singer and songwriter Greg Schindel, to the large ensemble of the Emandal Chorale, which turned into a joyful audience participation experience with much of the crowd joining in to dance and sing.

Also amongst the bevy of local musical talent that the crowd was treated to were The Real Sarahs, Mystic Sol, The Clay Hawkins Trio, The Raging Grannies, The Farmers Market Band, The Sheds, Forrest Malakai & Sarah, Danni El, Pipe This!, Dennis Chrisp, Sarah Rose McMahon and Hal Wagenet.

All of the speakers and performers donated their time to the event, as did many other volunteers from the community in various capacities.

The money raised at the event – \$7,026 – will be distributed by the local non-profit Cloud Forest Institute in coordination with Mendo Stands With Standing Rock, "to help with clean-up, legal support and sponsoring local passionate water protectors."

Jenny Burnstadt, fiscal director of Cloud Forest Institute, spoke at the event and described the organization's goals as "to encourage communities to regain balance within ecological systems through environmental education, forest conservation, and fiscal sponsorship of likeminded local and global grassroots initiatives."

The keynote speaker Saturday was Paula Britton, tribal business administrator for the Round Valley Indian Tribes, and formerly an environmental director for various tribes including the Habematolel Pomo Tribe in Lake County. She's worked with many tribal, state and federal agencies over the years, including the EPA and the California Water Plan, studying and trying to improve environmental conditions involving water and its sources.



At top, left: Mystic Sol and the crowd get into the groove. At top, right: "Standing Rock," acrylic on paper, 1" x 14", 2016, by artist Jazzminh Moore.

At top: The Emandal Choir sings a joyful tune.

Above: The Sheds, with Kyle Madrigal playing the guzheng and Sarah Rose McMahon on the cello.

At left: Danni El, Dan Miller and Matt play for the crowd.

Photos by Ron Greystar



At left: Joel Mauer stands tall and "green" as the Farmers Market Band plays.

Photo by Forrest Glycer



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.

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Worship Celebration
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Children's Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com

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

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

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

REAL PEOPLE LASTING IMPACT

"RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP ALLOWS ME TO PURSUE MY DREAMS AND MAKE THEM A REALITY."

— DIEGO QUINTERO, MENDOCINO COLLEGE CLASS OF 2017
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES MAJOR

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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

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

Level: Advanced

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!

CHICKEN WORD SEARCH

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

- ALEKTOROPHOBIA
- BANTAM
- BARNYARD
- BEARD
- BLOOM
- BREED
- BROOD
- CANDLE
- CARRIER
- CHALAZAE
- CHICKEN
- CLOACA
- CLUTCH
- CREST
- DAM
- DOWN
- EMBRYO
- EXHIBITION
- FERTILE
- FRIZZLE
- FRYER
- GIZZARD
- GRIT
- HATCH
- HEN
- INCUBATE
- KEEL
- MANURE
- NEST
- PECKING ORDER
- PULLET
- ROOSTER
- STRESS
- VACCINE
- WATTLES

March 2017

Osho Zen Tarot: Harmony, Beyond Illusion, Fighting
Medicine Cards: Coyote, Crow
Mayan Oracle: Ben, Rhythm, Men
Ancient Egyptian Tarot: Two of Cups, King of Cups, Nine of Swords
Aleister Crowley Deck: Completion, Success, Power
Healing Earth Tarot: Seven of Feathers, Mon of Feathers, Ten of Crystals
Words of Truth: Multidimensional, Release, Fantasy Bond



Suzanne Wagner
Columnist

With Jupiter opposing Uranus on March 2, you will feel a need for more personal expression and freedom. This can make a strong reactive and rebellious energy to expand out into your world. Expect sudden changes in circumstances and make a mental note that the more restricted you have felt, the more upsetting the change is likely to be.

Mars goes into Taurus on March 9, and you have to decide if you want to be a raging bull or a contented cow? Needless to say, Mars is not happy in this position, and neither will you be. But it will steady the energy of Mars a bit which might be a greatly needed thing at this moment. Don't expect to change anyone's minds this month, as perspectives are appearing like locked horns of both the bull and the cow. Pushing will only get you in a position of people holding a grudge against you. And with the later astrology, you don't want that to turn into vindictiveness. In its most positive it can unlock your sensual side, so perhaps it is about making love not war.

The Jupiter square Pluto at the end of the month is a major event and will likely trigger some ruthless determination in a few of you. You may notice others are all out for the money and how much they can get. There will be those that take the expansiveness of Jupiter and the nuclear bomb energy of Pluto and turn that into religious mania and extremism. Watch out for the self-righteous as they are more bigoted, xenophobic, intolerant, and ignorant than usual. My suggestion is lots of exploration in the spiritual realms, and cultivate calmness and personal center. This is a time to not break laws or anything else.

As I pulled the cards I was feeling very positive, as today, I had a wandering sheep and goat show up at my house and they have spent the day with me. I thought perhaps the world's differences were finally being ironed out... that was until I saw the cards. Sheep and goats are very different in their mentality, but they both can be hard-headed and stubborn. I ask all of you to look inside at where you are intransigent. So much suffering and pain comes from an unwillingness to shift and notice the suffering of others over your desire to be right.

The Ten of Crystals is just one of three big cards indicating painful transitions that are experienced as deaths. Now again, I look at this metaphorically, so stay calm

DEATH NOTICE | Jonathan Drew Britton

Jonathan Drew Britton of Covelo passed away on February 20, 2017 at the age of 46. A "Celebration of Life" potluck dinner will be held Saturday, March 3, 2017 at 2 pm at the Round Valley Indian Tribes Senior Center in Covelo. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER
 45 Hazel Street, Willits (707) 456-9600
 littlelakehealthcenter.org

Don't Let Little Problems Become BIG ones!
Know your numbers.
 Talk to your health care provider today to learn about your blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and BMI.
 WE ACCEPT Medicare, Medi-Cal, Partnership and other insurance.

and don't freak out. This card is about letting go. Fate and destiny are steering this boat, and I know that many of you are not happy about that and wish we could get off the boat as we see it headed right into a huge storm. But you and I are not in control of that boat, something bigger and wiser is. We cannot fathom the wisdom of the divine in the moment, but often later we begin to get a glimpse into a greater plan. The old world has died, and each of us needs to let go in some way. Only then can you find a way through these difficult times. Your situation seems hopeless (Nine of Swords), and you feel that you are suffering at the hands of others who do not care about your feelings, only their power and success. You wonder at the intolerance and mindless projections of hatred on others. You feel each knife even if it is not intended for you. You feel the despair and disillusion of humanity over the ages and are seeking to find a center where you can sit with a compassionate and open heart.

It is clear that there is a lot of shadow (Crow) and trickery (Coyote) afoot. It is as if the shadow has fully awoken and is taking over your world. Don't let it! There are always doorways to freedom that can be found in restriction. Such times allow us to re-prioritize and get back to simple things and helping each other.

What is difficult is to take the armor off and allow those wounds that your ego has been hiding from you to get some air and light so that they can finally heal. Some of these wounds are ancient and from your genetic history and potential past lives.

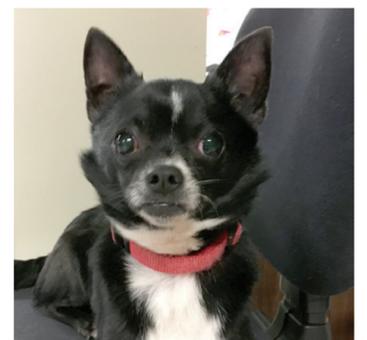
Regardless of how old or how stuck a particular pattern is and how deeply engrained it is in your psyche, you can heal. You can let the grief dissolve away under the waters of Neptune in Pisces. It is time to stop rejecting yourself and find the deeper knowing that you are here to connect heaven to earth and earth to heaven. You cannot do that if you are weighted down with such anger, hurt, resentment and pain.

It is time to find the rhythm and flow that brings power and choice back in. No, you may not get your way right now, but you can find the courage and strength to be your brightest light and self in the middle of extremely challenging circumstance.

You are stepping beyond the illusion that this world can impose a limitation on who you are to become. Often the greatest people in the world had a terrible event that they used as something to push against and propel themselves into a new and very different expression than they believed was possible.

The impossible is possible. You have the resistance, now take the power back. No one took it. It was always there. No one, no law, and no thing can define who you really are.

Suzanne Wagner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology," which can be found on Amazon.com. For more information: visit www.suzannewagner.com, email suzanne@suzwagner.com or call her at 707-354-1019.



Dapper Dancer

Dancer is the perfect little sidekick for anyone looking for a small-sized buddy. At under 10 pounds, this 2-year-old Chihuahua mix is ready to come along on any adventure! Dancer is a major love-bug, and he wants to cuddle so much he'll try to jump right up into your arms! This sweet boy gets along with small dogs, cats, and people of all ages. For more information on Dancer or other adoptable animals, call 707-485-0123, check www.mendocohumanesociety.com, or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday.



Photo by Rod Coats

Energetic Tony

Tony is an energetic pup who loves playing outside and going for walks – he will need a home where he gets daily exercise. Tony is a 2-year-old neutered male, mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 54 pounds. Tony knows basic commands such as: sit, stay, come, and shake, and we think he'll learn the rules of his new home quickly with some continued training. He does need leash work since he gets so excited about walks he can pull. Tony has a great spirit and will bring lots of laughter and love to his forever home.

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



'Second Shift: 100 Years of Housework'

On Saturday, March 4, from 1 to 3 pm, join the Mendocino County Museum for a day of fun for the family! Take a curator-guided tour of "Second Shift: 100 Years of Housework," and then paint your own take-home tea towel.

"Second Shift: 100 Years of Housework" explores how women have approached housework over the last century and how changes in technology and social expectations have changed how women cook, clean and care for children. The exhibit features many items from the Mendocino County Museum collections as well as items loaned from residents of the county, including a 1910 stove, 1970s apartment washer and dryer, cookbooks from different eras, sewing machines, and vintage advertisements.

The tour is free with museum admission (\$4 adults, \$1 ages 6 to 20); materials for tea towels are \$3.

For more information, please visit www.MendocinoMuseum.org or call 459-2736.

At left and right: Scenes from the "Second Shift" exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum.



CONGRATS!
River turns 3!
 You're so big and so smart, how could it be?
 It's your birthday again, and now you're turning 3!
 Happy Birthday, Miss River – March 5, 2017!
 We love you so much, mom, dad, Alaska and Cricket

Birthday? Anniversary? New job? Send in a Congrats notice and photo to Willits Weekly, free of charge! Email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com

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CLUES ACROSS

- 'ER' actress Leslie
- Hebrew name for Babylon
- Newts
- Leaf angle
- Dravidian language
- Ridge on nematodes
- Monetary unit
- Determined the tare
- Unfreeze
- Merits
- World's oldest broadcasting organization
- Vacation spot
- December 25
- Ottoman military command
- Resin-like substance secreted by insects
- A.C. Comics female supervillain
- Insect linked to honey
- Opinion
- In the middle of
- Basketballer Yao
- Remove lid
- Pressure wound therapy
- Fabric
- Witnessed
- Defunct European economic organization
- 'Hotel California' rockers
- When you expect to arrive

CLUES DOWN

- 'Sleepless in Seattle' actress Ryan
- Danish airline
- Insecticide
- Scientific instrument
- Type of seal
- Israeli city
- Aviv
- Cavalry sword
- Ottoman title
- Gurus
- Cold wind
- Predatory reptile (abbr.)
- New Jersey is one
- Divulge a secret
- Finely chopped mixture
- Actress Zellweger
- Romanian city
- bassist
- Mineral
- Late night host Myers
- Pull along
- Not good
- British Air Aces
- Upset
- Maltreatment
- Nocturnal, cat-like animal
- Hollyhocks
- Shelter
- Finished
- Discharge
- 'X-Men' actor McKellen
- Beloved dish and cheese
- Holds coffee
- Languish
- Quenches
- Electric fish
- Consume
- Type of school
- Erase
- Educate
- 'Transformers' actress Fox
- Spiritual leader
- Every one
- Site of the Taj Mahal
- Welsh village
- Weapon
- Geological times
- S. Asian crops
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Witness

Thursday, March 2

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

Friday, March 3

WEF Drive-Thru Tri Tip Dinner: Already sold out! Get your tickets earlier next year for the Willits Educational Foundation's dinner to benefit teachers, students and programs in the Willits Unified School District, featuring dinner for 4, with a whole tri tip, Caesar salad, beans, Emond bread, cookies and a rose from Flowers by Annette. For ticket holders, dinners will be available for pick up between 4 and 6 pm.

Shanachie Pub: Fulfilling Prophecies, a local group featuring Morgan Stocker, Buckminster West and Bodhi Idarius. They all grew up in Ukiah, moved to Portland, grooved on punk, folk, rock, and will perform original compositions. Friday, March 3, 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Saturday, March 4

Willits Charter School Garage Sale: The WCS Peer Counseling class is having a garage sale to raise money for the Peer Counseling program and the victims of the Lake County fire. Saturday, March 4, 9 am to 1 pm. Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Students are asking their fellow Willitsians to bring donations of clothes, tools, or pretty much anything useful or decorative to the Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street, between 8 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday up until the sale on March 4. Info: Aurelie Clivaz, Mendocino County Youth Project, at 489-1258, or acivaz@mcyp.org.

Mendocino County Museum: Take the guided tour of the new exhibit: "Second Shift: 100 Years of Housework," then paint your own take-home tea towel. Saturday, March 4, from 1 to 3 pm. Tour is free with museum admission: \$4 per adult, \$1 for ages 6 to 20, free for 5 and under. Materials for tea towel \$3. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-2736, www.MendocinoMuseum.org.



"Both Sides of Atmosphere": Beginning tonight, the March show at Willits Center for the Arts features watercolors by Donna Stropes – including a recent series of paintings of clouds – and ceramic work by Bruce Kitts, resident artist and instructor at the Mendocino Arts Center. Opening reception on Saturday, March 4 begins at 6 pm for members, 7 pm for the public. No admission. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 Commercial Street. Info: 459-1726.

Both Sides of Atmosphere
Presenting
Donna Stropes Bruce Kitts

Opening Reception
Saturday March 4th
6 to 9 pm.

March 4th through March 26

The Trio of Trios Concert: rescheduled from an earlier date due to illness. Now Saturday, March 4 at 7 pm. The show, a benefit for Willits Community Services and Food Bank, features music by three local groups: Chanterelle, Twining Time and Just Enough. United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. "Please join us for an evening of wonderful acoustic and a capella music selections and help support a great cause!" Suggested donation: \$10. Refreshments available at intermission and after the show. Questions?: Clancy at 367-0889.

Shanachie Pub: Redbud, featuring Mendocino County locals Tobin Hendricks, Bob Dress and Yoli Rose and new guitarist Bill Thornsbey. Share good vibes, rock, reggae, punk and blues. Their musical identity: "Think globally; dance locally." Saturday, March 4, 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, March 5

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop: Richard "Tootrees" Jeske presents an outdoor workshop on fruit tree pruning at the Laytonville Ecovillage on how to successfully grow fruit in our area, where to plant, which varieties to buy, and how to care for your trees. Bring pruning shears, a fruit tree ladder (if you have one), and rain gear as the workshop will help support a great cause!" Suggested donation: \$10. Refreshments available at intermission and after the show. Questions?: Clancy at 367-0889.

Tuesday, March 7

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: "Batman Lego" and "John Wick 2." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Twining Time at Brickhouse Coffee: John Wagenet and Anita Blu of Twining Time play the first Tuesday of every month, March 7 this month, at Brickhouse Coffee

carry on in light rain. May cancel in heavy storm. Bring a brown bag lunch. Sunday, March 5, 10 am to 2:30 pm. Laytonville Ecovillage. RSVP Required: 984-6536, or Dan at laytonville.ecovillage@gmail.com.

Sunday Bingo: Lunch and St. Patrick's Day bingo at the

Senior Center. Bingo cards \$10 a pack. Lunch choices: Hot Dog, Nachos, Chili, Chips, Dessert, plus a special Reuben sandwich w pasta. Sunday, March 5. Doors open 10 am; snack bar opens 11 am; bingo begins at 11:30 pm. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Tommy Castro at the Grange: "Funky and soulful Tommy Castro and the Painkillers bring songs from their new album, 'Method to My Madness,' celebrating the basics of raw blues and rock" to the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Proceeds to benefit Willits Future Farmers of America Alumni. With silent auction and dinner. Doors open 5 pm; dinner through 6:30 pm; music starts at 7 pm. Tickets \$25; pre-sale dinner tickets (choice of chicken or veggie entrée with rice and beans) are available for \$10, at Moon Lady, Sparetime Supply and Main Street Music and Video. Plus dessert

or visit www.avenuestowellness.org for upcoming speaker topics and a video archive of past events.

Wednesday, March 8

Lifeguard Training: Enroll at Mendocino College for Lifeguard Class which starts today, Wednesday, March 8 at the North County Center's Museum Classroom 3, 400 East Commercial Street. Class meets on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8:50 pm starting March 8 and ending on May 24. The class will also meet on 6 Saturdays (April 1, 22, and 29, May 6, 13, and 20) from 9 am to 4:50 pm at the Willits High School Pool. Students who successfully complete all course requirements, attending all classes, and are at least 15 years old by May 24, will receive American Red Cross certifications for "Lifeguarding; Community First Aid & Safety; CPR for the Professional Rescuer; First Aid for Public Safety Personnel." All certifications will be valid for two years. Enrollment fees for



high school students are as low as \$89. For more information, please call 459-6224, or visit www.mendocino.edu.

Thursday, March 9

Willits Winter Farmers Market: every Thursday afternoon from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Veggies, local meats and local grains, honey, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. This week's live music is by Ron O'Brien, playing his own solo acoustic guitar arrangements, from rock to Rachmaninoff.

WHS Booster Club Meeting: The monthly Willits High School Booster Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, March 9, at the Willits High School Food Center. This week is the annual Boosters election of new board members: The club is in serious need of new members and all positions within the club are available. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS. Willits High School Food Center, 299 North Main Street. Info: whsboosters123@yahoo.com.

Friday, March 10

Big Chili Cookoff Funtime Event: The Harrah Senior Center and the Willits Rotary Club present the 10th Annual Chili Cookoff. Be a taster, to help award prizes for Hottest Chili, Child's Choice Chili, or Best Booth. Chili entries from organizations, clubs, businesses and individuals still welcome (\$25 registration fee). Public invited for an assortment of chilis, served with fresh-baked corn bread, plus \$2 root beer floats. Taster's Ticket: \$8 for adults, \$7 for senior center members, \$5 for children. Saturday, March 10. 5:30 to 7 pm. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Shanachie Pub: Holus Bolus (which means "All at Once") is one person, multi-instrumentalist Tom Boylan. He builds songs one layer at a time, coalescing into one sound that's acoustic-psychedelic groove-rock. Friday, March 10, 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, March 11

Winter Carnival: The School for Adaptive Agriculture is throwing a fundraiser shindig with music, food, art, crafts, and talent. Music by local favorites including Charley Crockett, Schindig, The Real Sarahs, Pick & Pull, House of Mary, plus the Cult of Ours. Special activities for kids will include a bounce house, arts and crafts area, carnival games, and surprises. Optional dinner available for purchase, silent and live auction items, as well as raffle items. Tickets \$30 adults (all day); \$20 adults (after 5 pm); \$10 for kids age 5 and up; kids under 5 are free. Tickets available online at Eventbrite.com and in Willits at J.D. Redhouse and Earth's Treasures. Saturday, March 11 from 12 noon to 10 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Tickets online at Eventbrite.com, and at J.D. Redhouse, and Earth's Treasures.

Shanachie Pub: Mendocino featuring Daniel and Bryan Eatmon aka "Old E" and "Bleezy," brothers who grew up in Northern California's Emerald Triangle, Mendocino County. Their rhyming groove "infuses a west coast style flow with a cannabis culture lifestyle." With special guests Cheech, P Did It, Cuban B, King BZ, & Mr. Blap. Saturday, March 11, 9 pm. \$10 cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, March 12

Starhawk in Willits: "Head, Heart, and Hands: Hope and Action in Challenging Times," a "community empowerment workshop celebrating hope in dark times and sharpening our skills to forge solutions to the problems we face." A fundraiser for the Willits Environmental Center, featuring Starhawk, internationally known leader in the revival of earth-based spirituality and Goddess religion, and author of many books, including "The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess" and "The Fifth Sacred Thing." Permaculture, ritual and community facilitation. Bring your own lunch. Sunday, March 12. 10 am to 5 pm. Sliding scale \$50 to \$75. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: Traci at 357-5693.

Starhawk's Heart, Head & Hands: Hope and Action in Challenging Times
— Facilitator: Starhawk —
March 12th, 2017
Little Lake Grange 10-5pm

When the world seems headed on a course of destruction, what do we need to maintain hope and keep moving forward to build a world of justice and balance? We need heart connections—with support for community that can allow us to grieve and help us move through anger and fear to compassion and commitment. We need long term thinking and strategic planning. And we need the skills and courage to take action—whether that's blocking a pipeline or planting a garden. Join Starhawk and spend a day of feeling the spirit and sharpening our tools. This workshop weaves together an introduction to permaculture design with ritual and ceremony to help us connect to our ancestral roots and deep emotions, analysis and strategy tools for planning and organizing, and nature connections to renew the spirit.

\$50-75 Sliding Scale
Register at the door.
Bring your own lunch. There will be a hot lunch break. Treats and Coffee for purchase.
For information call 707-357-5693

Lifeguard Training at Mendo College

Class starts March 8
Mendocino College Lifeguard class begins March 8, at the North County Center's Museum Classroom 3, 400 East Commercial Street in Willits. Class meets on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8:50 pm starting March 8 and ending on May 24. The class will also meet on 6 Saturdays (April 1, 22, and 29, May 6, 13, and 20) from 9 am to 4:50 pm at the Willits High School pool. Students who successfully complete all course requirements, attend all classes, and are at least 15 years old by May 24, will receive American Red Cross certifications for "Lifeguarding; Community First Aid & Safety; CPR for the Professional Rescuer; First Aid for Public Safety Personnel." All certifications will be valid for two years.

Enrollment fees for high school students are as low as \$89. A digital version of the required textbook can be downloaded for free via the internet at redcross.org. Students must have access to the textbook to complete all the required assignments. For more information, please call 459-6224, or visit www.mendocino.edu.

Add your local event to our Calendar – just send us an email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

COLUMN | At the Movies



'John Wick: Chapter Two'

The Story: Murder and revenge powers more hand-to-hand slaughter than I ever imagined possible; or rather, more than I ever thought might be entertaining. In this case, John Wick (Keanu "tai chi master" Reeves) is forced pretty much against his will to assassinate a person he rather likes. And then, the treacherous relative of the deceased goes after Wicks with a slaughter force composed of "Thugs-R-Us" heavies. But, as we no doubt already know, against John Wicks those poor thugsies don't have a chance in hell. Blood everywhere. Poor thugsies. Sequel already in the works.

My Thoughts: This is a genre movie: a "professional hit man wants to settle down in peace but they just won't let him" movie. It could have been a Tarantino effort. It could have been a Peckinpah booze-driven, existential statement. It might possibly have been a second-billed Roger Corman drive-in flick. Heck, there is unquestionably a tip of the hat to Bruce Lee and "Enter the Dragon." Keanu Reeves is a real tai chi master and rumors have it he did all his own stunts. I believe it. The fight choreographies are tight—very, very well done. On the one hand, "John Wick: Chapter Two" is a lousy date movie, but for girlfriends or girlfriends of the genre, it's kick-ass good. I myself loved the flick!

Parents: Not for children. Too graphic. Too brutal. High body count. Teens and up.

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

BINGO
St. Patrick's Day

Sunday March 5th
Harrah Senior Center
1501 Baechtel Rd
459-6826

Doors open @ 10am
Snack bar opens @ 11am
Games begin 11:30am
Minimum Bingo buy-in \$10
Lunch Special—Reuben Sandwich With Pasta

Lunch Special
Hot Dog
Nachos
Chili
Chips
Desserts

BRING A FRIEND AND RECEIVE A SURPRISE

Senior Center Lunch

March 6 through March 10
Monday: Spaghetti/Meat sauce
Tuesday: Chili Cheese Dog
Wednesday: Salisbury Steak
Thursday: Chicken Enchilada Bake
Friday: Pork Chops

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entree, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

10th Annual Chili Cookoff - Friday, March 10

The Harrah Senior Center presents its 10th annual Chili Cookoff – Organizations, clubs, businesses and individuals are cordially invited to enter their chili (\$25 registration fee) for a chance to win a great prize and bragging rights! Friday, March 10 from 5:30 to 7 pm at Harrah Senior Center, 1601 Baechtel Road. Prizes for People's Choice, Hottest Chili, and Best Booth/Dressed. Served with fresh-baked corn bread plus root beer floats for \$2. Taster's tickets: \$8 for adults; \$7 senior center members; \$5 children. Info: 459-6826.

34th Annual Women's History Gala

Sunday, March 5
The 34th Annual Women's History Gala Celebration is set for Sunday, March 5, 12:30 pm, at the Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse, 107 South Oak Street, Ukiah. Sponsored by Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, AAUW-Ukiah, Ukiah Saturday Afternoon Club, and Cloud Forest Institute. Honoring "Women Trailblazers in Business." Special guest: former California Superintendent of Schools and candidate for California governor, Delaine Eastin. \$10 at the door. Questions: Gala Chair Katarzyna Rolzinski at 468-9003.

Duane Brown Memorial Dinner

Saturday, March 18
The American Legion Willits Post #174 presents the annual St. Patrick's Day "Duane Brown Memorial Dinner, on Saturday, March 18, from 5 to 7 pm. Veterans Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street. Featuring Corned Beef & Cabbage, Murphy's Spuds, Carrots, Onions, etc. and Dessert. Tickets may be purchased at the door: \$18 for adults; \$9 kids under 12; kids under 5 are free.

WCA Wants You!

The Willits Center for the Arts is thriving with our expanded hours, stunning art shows, classes and beautiful rental space, but we can't do it without you. We are seeking volunteer docents to sit the gallery once or twice a month. The gallery is open 11 to 5 pm Wednesday through Sunday; we separate the shifts into 11 am to 2 pm or 2 to 5 pm. Weekend spots are especially needed.

Sitting the gallery involves welcoming visitors, answering questions about the artwork if needed, and making sales. If you are interested, our manager Holly Madrigal will walk you through the opening or closing process. You are welcome to read, make art or listen to music while at the gallery. We also have Wi-Fi internet access for the docents' use. One of our docents said she loves seeing the changing art shows when she volunteers. It is her chance to take her time and absorb the artwork. If you are interested contact Holly 459-1726 or WCArental@gmail.com

– Willits Center for the Arts

Immigration Policies Town Hall

Sunday, March 19
The 95490 Community Town Hall group presents a Town Hall meeting on "Immigration Policies and the Greater Willits and North County Regions: How Do These Affect Us? What Can We Do?" at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, from 3:30 to 6 pm on Sunday, March 19. Confirmed panelists so far include: Sheriff Tom Allman; City of Willits Mayor Gerry Gonzalez; Willits City Councilwoman Saprina Rodriguez; and immigration specialist for Congressman Jared Huffman, Heather Gurewitz. Panelist presentations will be followed by a moderated public discussion. Info: Jim Marill 707-513-9981 or Jane McCabe 707-540-3802.

34th Annual Women's History Gala Celebration
Sunday, March 5, 2017
12:30 pm

"Honoring Trailblazing Women in Business"

MC: Madge Strong
Willits City Councilwoman

Rocio Ortega's Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse
107 South Oak Street,
Ukiah, CA

Presented by
MWPC
AAUW
USAQ
Cloud Forest
Institutes

Guest Speaker
Delaine Eastin
California Superintendent of Schools

MAKE-A-WISH Greater Bay Area

WHS Senior Project Fundraiser
Come Help Julia & Jamie sponsor a Child's wish!

Saturday, March 25, 2017
Willits Community Center
111 E. Commercial St.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Live Auction at 7:30 p.m.
\$10.00 admission
Children 5 and under free

Dinner will be available for purchase, provided by Taqueria Ramirez. No host bar provided by Kiwanis of Willits.

If you have any questions, would like to purchase pre-sale tickets or make a monetary donation please call Julia (707) 272-1480



From left:
The Youth Poetry Slam at Brickhouse Coffee.
Nikolai Ritchley delights the crowd with some stand-up jokes.
Dan Roberts performs his tribute to Judy Bari: "Give Charlie The Moon."
 Below, from top:
Tom Mann plays host at Brickhouse Coffee for the evening.
Forrest performs his religiously inspired hip-hop poetry.
Levi, Paige and Sheila Persico prepare to enjoy an evening of spoken word.

Photos by Mathew Caine

The rest of
Water | From Page 3

The rest of
CEO | From Page 1

from the Oceci Sakowin, one of the main camps at Standing Rock, were forcibly removed by police and federal authorities, and over 40 were arrested. Still legal actions and protests continue against the pipeline, including a "Rise with Standing Rock" Native Nations March planned in Washington D.C. on March 10.

"We have to just keep going, and we have to encourage each other to keep going with whatever it is you're doing on a daily basis," said Britton. "I tell [young people], don't be a bright light by yourself, you need to join with others in order to get things done. And I would say that to this same group. As a community we need to figure out how we can help even more."

Willits activist Sierra Rose Alexander gave a moving slide show presentation of her many experiences at Standing Rock, and she agreed with the need to keep fighting for indigenous and environmental justice.

"You really can think of the front lines as everywhere, and that you can have an impact wherever you are," said Alexander, who grew up on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in southeastern Montana, and has worked at Green Uprising Farms in the Willits area.

"So let's keep this fire burning. It's lit a fire in all of us. Just don't let it fizzle out. Whatever happens, we still go on. Even if the pipe goes in the ground, we still have a big victory, and a lot of people are awakening."

Throughout the event, Britton, Alexander and others spoke about what led them to go to Standing Rock, how being there changed them, and the importance of keeping the movement that coalesced there going. Britton called her experience there "truly, truly moving."

Sara Grusky, a co-owner and co-founder of Green Uprising Farms, who was another speaker at the fundraiser, said she was drawn to the No DAPL cause after protesting against the Willits bypass, and saw parallels with both movements involving Native American rights, and environmental water issues.

"I can't even articulate how amazing it was to be a part of that," she said about being at the Standing Rock camps. "To feel the strength and the generosity, the dedication, the resistance, the community that we just built in the moment of necessity. It'll have to happen again and again in these times."

Johnson said that while she had thought of organizing such a benefit months ago, it really came together over the last few weeks before the show through weekly meetings with a small group, but many others from the local area were quick to rally and help.

"The community was super generous with us within that short amount of time," she said. "It feels great... It really was fluid the way it all came together. And I just attribute it to living in a really great community."

Among the core group of organizers was Kyle Madrigal, who took the lead on gathering the musical talent. He also played in four of the musical acts on Saturday, helped with stage management, and coordinated playing the entire show live on the Willits radio station, KLLG, 97.9. He said this is a practice KLLG will likely repeat for future shows at the Grange.

Jazzminh Moore was another who played a big part in organizing the event, leading the effort to get items from artists and businesses to donate for the silent auction.

She also created the art for the event poster, which was one in a series of five paintings she did called "The Liberty Series," with the goal of using the proceeds to support Standing Rock. She said she created the first one the day Donald Trump was elected and the last the day he was inaugurated.

"I wanted to be able to do something tangible, and not just forward Facebook posts about news... And so creating work that can then be printed and all the proceeds donated to Standing Rock is something that I could do in physical reality (to help)."

Other artists and craftspeople who donated included Cyndee Logan, who also helped with planning the event, Jacob Souk, Joel Mauer, John Roussos, Jane Ghotlos, Robin Goldner, Elizabeth Raybee, Erik Leons, and Ron Greystar, who did photography for the event.

Businesses and groups who donated included Re Evolution, Paradigm, Testa Vineyards, Parducci, Willits Center for the Arts, Holistic Health Consultation, East Hill House Herbs, Low Gap Whiskey and American Craft Whiskey.

Johnson also wanted to give thanks to Katrina Weaver, Lyndsey Be, Jacob Stillman, and the many, many others who donated their time and efforts.

Joel Mauer, in addition to donating his art, also helped with organizing and planning, led a yoga and meditation session at the event, and gave the last speech of the night, talking passionately about his experiences at Standing Rock.

"It was an honor to be there," he said. "It was hard. It was cold. It was uncomfortable. But I felt blessed and we all did. Everything that we did felt filled with radiance and energy.... This movement is continuing on. And the question is, 'What do we do with it? How do we marshal this energy into a directive; a focused, creative place? How do we create the world that we want to see?...' There's a marriage between thought and action that must come into play."

Wells will leave his position as chief operating officer of Physician Enterprise and vice president of Experience at Park Ridge Health, a 103-bed hospital near Asheville, North Carolina. In this capacity, he oversaw business development and strategy, marketing and communications, hospital and clinic patient experience, and the operations of 38 medical practices. During his tenure, more than 50 physicians and providers and several new specialties were added to the network.

Additionally, Wells provided executive oversight of several significant accomplishments including national recognition for multiple years as a top 100 healthcare employer in Becker's Healthcare Review and the 2015 best performer in the state of North Carolina on hospital HCAHPS "willingness to recommend."

"Jason's background includes leading organizations to achieve high patient satisfaction and experience ratings, a natural fit for Howard Memorial Hospital, which routinely receives exceptionally high scores from patients. Additionally, he has extensive experience in physician recruiting, a significant focus for Howard Memorial Hospital and the Mendocino County community," adds Eller.

Wells, who is passionate about improving the patient experience and physician recruitment, says he's looking forward to partnering with providers and the community to bring in more physicians to fully utilize this impressive facility delivering exceptional care for our community.

"I am humbled to have been selected to lead such an impressive community treasure as Howard Memorial Hospital. As the largest employer in Willits, we play a key role in economic development for Willits and the greater region. And this is such a pivotal time for the hospital and the community as we work together to find innovative ways to deal with the impacts of the new bypass. The new hospital is state-of-the-art, and it complements the exceptional providers and staff. I'm looking forward to building on that reputation for great care so we can draw people in to experience this unique hospital in such a great community."

Asked what brought him to Willits, Wells says he loves the small-town feel. "My wife and I both lived in small towns. She grew up in Fall River Mills, California, and her parents still live there, and they are thrilled to have their grandchildren close by."

"We are excited to be moving to Willits. There is something special about truly connecting with friends in a small town that is lost in a large urban setting. We experienced the friendly spirit of Willits during our visit in January and have been excited about making the move and making new friendships and exploring everything that the community has to offer," he adds.

Kevin Erich, who took over HMH's leadership temporarily while the search for the new CEO was underway, says he feels confident that he is leaving the hospital in Wells' capable hands. "As much as I have loved my time here, I'm excited to have Jason assume leadership over this hospital and community that's really close to my heart. With his energy and experience, I'm confident that he will do well and he will take HMH's exceptional care to the next level."

The community is invited for an open house to meet the hospital's new CEO. The open house will be held on Thursday, March 30 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Main Lobby of the new hospital on 1 Marcela Drive. Appetizers and refreshments will be served.

At right: The new CEO for Howard Hospital, Jason Wells.

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

February 20 to February 26

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 142 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

February 20

8:39 am: Officers initiated an assault investigation in the 10 block of Creekside Court.

10:20 am: Officers initiated a death investigation in the 100 block of Margie Drive.

11:38 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 10 block of West Valley Street.

12:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 10 block of West Valley Street.

12:24 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

12:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 300 block of South Main Street.

1:35 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

5:02 pm: Officers responded to a reported trespassing in the 60 block of Hillside Drive.

6:00 pm: Officers responded to a reported trespassing in the 60 block of Hillside Drive.

February 21

4:07 am: Officers responded to a reported disturbance in the 40 block of Bush Street.

11:36 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

5:32 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

February 22

3:08 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

5:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of East Valley Street.

10:10 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 800 block of South Main Street.

February 23

12:00 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of East Valley Street.

2:14 am: Officers initiated a death investigation in the 10 block of Alder Court.

11:24 am: Officers responded to a hit-and-run collision in the 300 block of South Main Street.

3:44 pm: Officers responded to a reported skate park violation in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road and issued a warning.

3:55 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street.

February 24

8:19 am: Officers responded to a report of a possible hitchhiker under the influence of a controlled substance on Highway 101 between mile markers 40 and 50.

12:50 pm: HEPPE, Patrick Andrew (30) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to 245 (A) (1) PC (Assault with a Deadly Weapon).

4:22 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

9:13 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

February 25

2:02 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

8:27 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

10:14 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

1:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person on Marin Street.

5:23 pm: CARVER, Jeffrey Wayne (33) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Holly Street and arrested pursuant to 647(F) PC (Public Intoxication).

11:11 pm: Officers responded to a reported trespassing in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

11:45 pm: FONTAINETUCKER, Heidi April (41) of Willits was contacted in the 40 block of Bush Street and arrested pursuant to 243 (E)(1) (Domestic Battery).

February 26

1:31 am: MUNYERIA, Gitahi (35) of Chicago, Illinois was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to 647(F) PC (Public Intoxication).

7:51 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

11:38 am: Officers responded to a reported fight in the 500 block of East Commercial Street.

3:59 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1600 block of Baechtel Road.



Patrick Heppe



Heidi Fontainetucker

Youth Poetry Slam

Open mic at Brickhouse Coffee 'gets better and better all the time'

Brickhouse Coffee hosted the sixth Youth Poetry Slam last Friday evening, and as Mendocino County Youth Project member Billy Hetherington declared to a full house of supportive spoken-word enthusiasts: "It just gets better and better all the time."

Damian Sebhounian, an array of poets, storytellers, and hip-hop freestylers, and even a very young stand-up comedian signed their names to the open mic list and kept the audience entertained and awed throughout the evening.

Tom Mann, owner of Brickhouse Coffee, kept the audience and performers satiated and hydrated.

Tristen Cockrall, a recent graduate of Sanhedrin High School, played the role of emcee, and explained to Willits Weekly the importance of spoken word and its influences on the youth in the community.

"Poetry is such a pure way for people to come and express themselves and make friends," said Cockrall. "People really get moved by it. If someone is really lonely or down and depressed, and they go to some poetry and share that with everybody, and come out of their comfort zone, they realize that there are so many people in the crowd feeling the same way."

One of the first poets of the evening, Katie Madison, expressed just that sentiment before reciting her poem "The Tunnel of Life."

"Since this is a safe place, I thought it would be really nice for me, and for everybody else who can possibly relate, to [share this piece]." Madison told the crowd.

"This is a beautiful thing," Hetherington said of the event. "I love that Tristen is stepping up and taking this on and that you guys keep coming back. I grew up around here. I know what it's like. It's easy to get distracted. It's nice to have spaces like this where you can feel safe enough to bare your soul. I like it when people come and say they're just here to listen and not share, and then a few people later, they're signing up [to read]. That's success to me, and I love that."

Tristen credited Hetherington, and other youth workers Aurelie Clivaz and Carter Lane with inspiring him to become co-director of Youth Poetry Night.

"I went to one of the poetry nights, and I liked it," said Cockrall. "I stayed in contact with Billy and Aurelie. I saw them at school, and they knew I recently had a child and that I really wanted to be a youth worker."

From there, Cockrall joined forces with other artists in Ukiah to create a "big, giant galaxy mural" as part of a Youth Action Party.

Cockrall is currently accepting submissions from youth for an art showing at Brickhouse Coffee to be scheduled sometime in the near future.

"It's going to be for the Youth Poetry Slam and the art show," Cockrall said. "The art show is going to run anywhere from two days to a month after the poetry slam. It's a perfect opportunity to get recognition in the art and poetry world."

Interested artists are encouraged to contact Cockrall at 349-0356, or at tristencockrall.te@gmail.com

The following are excerpts from some of Friday's performers:

"But when I see you, you are so broken and shattered, just like me. Which means that I will take your salted wounds and instead of sugar, I will pour upon them, honey."

— McKenna McNelley (from "I Prefer Honey Over Your Sugar")

Read the rest of Poetry | Over on Page 9



At left: Billy Hetherington recites his poem "Progress."
 Below, from left: Aurelie Clivaz performs her poem "May I Exist."
 McKenna McNelley performs her poem "Dearlly Departed."
 Cera Bacci "whispers" her poem "What You Said."



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Air Quality Management District. County Counsel Katharine Elliott said her office has taken back the responsibility to defend the county and its air district from Terry Gross, the air district's special counsel for the past year.

However, last week the board of supervisors agreed to subcontract with Gross for continued work on the air district cases. The new contract will pay Gross \$25,000 for a year's worth of legal help. The \$25,000 contract means that, by the end of this year, Gross will have been paid \$85,000 for work related to Grist Creek Aggregates.

An attorney formerly with the County Counsel's Office, Gross resigned from that job in March 2016 to become an attorney with the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District. She focused on defending the air district from two lawsuits filed by Friends of Outlet Creek and a lawsuit filed by Grist Creek Aggregates, following the March 2015 approval of a supervisors' resolution allowing Grist Creek Aggregates to construct a rock-processing and asphalt-production plant at Longvale.

Gross also filed and pursued a lawsuit brought by the air district against Grist Creek Aggregates.

Because Gross is married to newly appointed Air Pollution Control Officer Barbara Moed, she cannot represent the air district in court. But because she knows a great deal about the legal ins and outs of the several cases against the district, the county hired Gross as a subcontracting attorney.

A history of the dispute

In 2002, a 10-year use permit for rock processing and asphalt production at the Grist Creek site was issued to Panum Paving, owner of the property at that time. Industrial activity there – primarily rock processing – ceased around 2006, and the use permit expired in June 2012. In 2011, the property was purchased by Covelo resident Brian Hurt, who owned and operated Grist Creek Aggregates.

In March 2015, supervisors, led by then newly elected Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, approved resumption of rock processing and asphalt production at the Longvale site by Grist Creek Aggregates. Supervisors argued that, because a rock processing plant and a small, seldom-used asphalt plant at the site had been given a 10-year use permit in 2002, the industrial activities proposed for the Longvale site were not a substantial change from the previous use, a use permit for a new project there would be unnecessary, and no California Environmental Quality Act study on the project would have to be undertaken. New industrial activities – including rock processing and asphalt production – would be allowed, based on the expired 2002 use permit.

Claiming that a new, potentially environmentally destructive industrial use had been approved without having to undergo the CEQA process, Friends of Outlet Creek filed suit in April 2015.

Then, in June 2015, supervisors rescinded their March resolution. By doing that, the county, in essence, said the Longvale project was not, legally speaking, a project. Nevertheless, the project that was not a project went forward without the CEQA study.

Friends of Outlet Creek filed an amended suit in July 2015. In a tersely worded ruling that October, former Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Richard Henderson ruled in favor of Mendocino County.

"County demurrers to the first amended petition on the grounds the county's adoption of the rescinding resolution renders the writ petition moot," Henderson wrote. "County is correct. The court grants the request for judicial notice."

In January 2016, the Friends group appealed its lawsuit against the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to the California Court of Appeals.

In June 2015, the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District issued an "authority to construct" for the project.

Rau and Chris Watt – recused themselves, and the alternate physician member of the hearing board, Dr. Robert Calson, was not able to attend either hearing.

Thus, the hearing board only had four members able to attend: Redwood Valley attorney Tom Johnson, Ukiah businessman Eric Crane, Ukiah resident Chet Koehn, and Willits paralegal Marc Komer.

After hearing testimony from neighbors about health effects they suffered as a result of the plant, the hearing board deadlocked on a motion to revoke the crumb rubber heating and blending unit authority to construct.

The board revisited the issue two months later, with the same board members and the same result. The air district allowed Grist Creek Aggregates to reopen the plant briefly in the spring of 2016 so the company could fulfill its contractual obligations to Caltrans. The plant operated for two weeks and then shut down.

Representatives from Grist Creek Aggregates and the air district met several times over the summer and fall of 2016 to attempt to reach a settlement on the notice of violations and the \$173,255 fine. Negotiations broke down, and the air district sued Grist Creek Aggregates on April 7, 2016.

In addition, Friends of Outlet Creek sued the board of supervisors in federal court for violating the Clean Water Act. Friends' attorney Doughty is set to take the case to trial in September.

This makes a total of six lawsuits that have arisen from supervisors' decision to approve the continuation of asphalt operations at the Longvale site without CEQA review or issuing a new permit. There is the Clean Water Act federal lawsuit, the CEQA lawsuit against the board of supervisors, MAQMD I, MAQMD II, the Grist Creek lawsuit against the air district, and the air district's lawsuit against Grist Creek Aggregates.

Friends vs. supervisors

The four lawsuits filed by Friends of Outlet Creek are at various points on the adjudicatory curve. The first lawsuit against the board of supervisors is now in appeals court. It has been fully briefed and the parties are awaiting a decision.

In that suit, Deputy County Counsel Matt Kiedrowski, who is defending the county and the board of supervisors against Friends of Outlet Creek, argued Judge Henderson's ruling should be upheld.

"The trial court justifiably concluded the only reasonable interpretation of the June resolution is that it rescinded and voided, in its entirety, whatever determination had been made or project approval had been given in the March resolution," Kiedrowski told the court, "and the appellant's characterization in amended paragraph 36 'is not reasonable and [is] clearly contradicted by the language of the June resolution, of which the court takes judicial notice.'"

"Appellant asserts that its claims are not moot because the June resolution did not completely rescind the March resolution, and therefore the respondents approved a project for CEQA purposes. Appellants' arguments read a secret meaning into the June resolution that is contrary to the June resolution's plain language," Kiedrowski argued.

Friends' attorney Doughty rebuffed the county's argument that its suit is moot. "The county of Mendocino and its board of supervisors argue that the question presented by my client's action is 'whether a CEQA lawsuit challenging an action can go forward when that action has been rescinded.' This presupposes an answer to the question actually presented by the case: Whether the county's fumbling attempt to withdraw a resolution, without reversing its underlying approval, somehow achieved its professed intent to circumvent CEQA and the development review required by law.

"The asphalt plant was actually constructed subsequent to the county's review of Grist Creek Aggregates' and Brian Hurt's project proposal, and subsequent to the filing of this lawsuit," Doughty argued. "The ongoing harms from an asphalt plant approved, timely challenged, constructed and operational to this day [July 18, 2016] are not moot."

argued. "The ongoing harms from an asphalt plant approved, timely challenged, constructed and operational to this day [July 18, 2016] are not moot."

MAQMD I

The Friends' first lawsuit against the air district, MAQMD I, has caused a split between the respondents. The first respondent, the air district, is arguing that the suit should be thrown out because the authority to construct has expired and there is no project to stop. However, Grist Creek Aggregates has demurred, insisting the authority to construct issued by the air district in June 2015 is not expired, but was automatically renewed when Grist Creek offered to pay the air district for a renewal of the permit in May 2016.

In defense of the county, attorney Gross argues: "The air district determined that outstanding and unresolved violations warranted denial of the permit. [Grist Creek Aggregates] failed to appeal the district's denial, thus leaving the expired permit terminated. [The company] and the district attempted to, but were unable to, resolve the outstanding violations. The settlement violations reached an impasse on December 20, 2016.

"Respondents [Scaglione and the county air district] were required to undertake an environmental review of the project pursuant to CEQA because the respondents' granting of the November authority to construct to Grist Creek Aggregates was a discretionary action [signaling] approval [of an important element] that is part of a project (a) for which no other agency had assumed the lead, (b) for which no existing CEQA document covering the circumstances and environmental effects peculiar to the project exists, and (c) to which no CEQA exemption applies," she argued.

Adam Guernsey, an attorney representing Grist Creek Aggregates, believes the county's contention that the case is moot is incorrect. "[The air district's] position is factually and legally wrong, as the real party's authority to construct automatically renewed upon the tender of payment to the air district on May 26, 2016. This issue will be determined in Mendocino County Superior Court on its merits, and does not prohibit this court from ruling on the issues before it – [which is] whether petitioner [Friends of Outlet Creek] is entitled to bring its lawsuit challenging the air district hearing board's action under CEQA."

Guernsey continued: "A dispute exists between [Grist Creek Aggregates and its contractor, the Mercer-Fraser Company] and [the air district and Robert Scaglione, former air pollution control officer for Mendocino County] as to the validity of the authority to construct. That issue will be litigated in the proper forum that has original jurisdiction over such matters. Resolution of that dispute on the merits could take years. Here and now, however, this court can provide the parties effective relief on the issue of whether or not the petitioner is entitled to bring its lawsuit challenging the air district's hearing board's action under CEQA."

"Accordingly, the petitioner's appeal is not moot," Guernsey concluded.

Doughty explained why Friends' right to sue cannot be abridged. "Under CEQA's citizen suit provision, a petitioner has the right to seek a judicial review of any public agency's approval for CEQA noncompliance, subject to limited exceptions not relevant here.

"The appellant's petition was properly pled, pursuant to the Code of Civil Procedures and the citizen suit provisions of CEQA, and there is no support for the argument that the language of Health and Safety Code Section 40864 ... was intended to repeal by implication the citizens' right to petition pursuant to CEQA."

MAQMD II

Friends of Outlet Creek's lawsuit against the air district relative to its November 2015 granting of authority to construct the crumb rubber heating and blending unit has been partially pled.

Read the rest of **Grist Creek** | Over on Page 11

But another layer of complexity has been added to the legal martini because, in August 2016, the board of supervisors appointed Dr. Mills Matheson of Willits to the air district hearing board. Part of the Friends group's argument for why the case is ripe to be heard in court is that, after two trips to the air district's hearing board – both of which resulted in a deadlock – it has exhausted its administrative remedies and therefore is entitled to sue.

However, with the addition of Matheson to the board, the respondents argue that the Friends' claim that going back to the hearing board would be futile, is defunct. The addition of Matheson gives the hearing board five regular members and three alternates. Another trip to the hearing board to seek a revocation of the November 2015 authority to construct the crumb rubber heating and blending unit would be heard by a five-person board and would result in a decision.

Doughty said the managers at the Grist Creek site had done some good things, such as moving their heavy equipment and any chemicals that were still on site, to a high location. "That was good," she said.

Doughty said the water board has been paying close attention to Grist Creek operations and that, so far, managers there have been in compliance with their permit. "Our inspector has gone out to the site many times. He hasn't noted any violations of the storm water permit."

When told that the flooding at the Grist Creek site was the result of what had been described as a five-year rainfall event, Doughty said placing an asphalt plant on a flood plain was not a good decision. "It really is best for officials to consider water quality when they site an industrial plant. With a five-year event, you would not expect to see flooding. Any time you see flooding at a five-year event, that is not a good siting decision."

Attorney Doughty argued the air district was fundamentally in error when it issued the November 2015 permit without recourse to CEQA.

"Respondents [Scaglione and the county air district] were required to undertake an environmental review of the project pursuant to CEQA because the respondents' granting of the November authority to construct to Grist Creek Aggregates was a discretionary action [signaling] approval [of an important element] that is part of a project (a) for which no other agency had assumed the lead, (b) for which no existing CEQA document covering the circumstances and environmental effects peculiar to the project exists, and (c) to which no CEQA exemption applies," she argued.

City of Ukiah attorney David Rapport, who also is the attorney for the air district's hearing board, argued Friends has not exhausted its potential administrative remedies, and therefore their lawsuit is premature.

"The Mendocino County Code of Ordinances provides an administrative code enforcement procedure for the county's planning department to determine where a use is proper under the relevant zoning and land use entitlements.... Any party may initiate code enforcement proceeding by filing a complaint with the planning department. This process creates a robust administrative record satisfactory for use in court, should any party seek judicial review of the board of supervisors' determination," Rapport argued.

On this suit, attorneys representing Grist Creek Aggregates agreed with Rapport, and filed a demurrer against MAQMD II.

"The demurrer is made on the grounds that the petitioner fails to allege facts sufficient to state a cause of action and because the court lacks jurisdiction, because this petition is improperly pleaded as a CEQA action," wrote attorney Harrison.

"Petitioner does not allege any facts showing that it exhausted its administrative remedies by complying with the county's code enforcement procedures to determine whether Grist Creek's operations are allowed under the property's existing entitlements," Harrison wrote.

In remarks made to Willits Weekly, Friends' attorney Doughty said the MAQMD II case has been riddled with writs of mandate, demurrers and emergency appeals.

"We are stuck in purgatory," Doughty said.

Grist site floods in January storm

January 10's heavy rainfall flooded numerous areas in Mendocino County, including the Grist Creek Aggregates site. Neighbors took pictures of the plant during the storm, appearing

to show water pouring onto the site from nearby Outlet Creek. Other photographs show equipment and buildings submerged under two to three feet of storm water.

According to Andrew Watson, Mendocino County branch chief for the U.S. Geological Survey, the January 10 flooding was a five-year rain event. Watson said he based his assessment of the storm's intensity on information gathered by his staff on the main stem of the Eel River near Leggett.

Information gathered by other U.S. Geological Survey staff for the same storm concluded that, on the Russian River near Guerneville, the January 10 storm was a two-year storm.

Mona Dougherty, supervisor of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Storm Water Management program, was asked to comment on the significance of the Grist Creek site's January 10 flooding.

Dougherty said the managers at the Grist Creek site had done some good things, such as moving their heavy equipment and any chemicals that were still on site, to a high location. "That was good," she said.

Dougherty said the water board has been paying close attention to Grist Creek operations and that, so far, managers there have been in compliance with their permit. "Our inspector has gone out to the site many times. He hasn't noted any violations of the storm water permit."

When told that the flooding at the Grist Creek site was the result of what had been described as a five-year rainfall event, Doughty said placing an asphalt plant on a flood plain was not a good decision. "It really is best for officials to consider water quality when they site an industrial plant. With a five-year event, you would not expect to see flooding. Any time you see flooding at a five-year event, that is not a good siting decision."

snow surveyor, who made Wednesday's measurements.

"It's not the record," Gehrke said in the press release, "the record being 56.4 (inches), but it's still a pretty phenomenal snowpack. January and February came in with some really quite phenomenal atmospheric river storms, many of which were cold enough to really boost the snowpack."

State Climatologist Michael Anderson said the winter season has been "historic," especially in the central and southern Sierra where elevations are higher and where snowfall has been nearer the 1983 record amount.

The SNE in the central and southern regions in the Sierra Nevada is 49.0 inches (191 percent of average) and 46.4 inches (201 percent of average) respectively. "These regions are tracking very close to 1983," Gehrke said. "Most of the snow courses are well over their April 1 accumulations which [at Phillips Station] is 25 inches," he said, "so we've busted through April 1 values pretty much at all snow courses throughout the state.

"SNE" is defined as "the depth of water that theoretically would result if the entire snowpack melted instantaneously."

A video posted Wednesday at 11:37 am on the California Department of Water Resources Facebook page shows Gehrke making the Phillips' survey measurements under bright blue skies in a meadow near Lake Tahoe.

The Phillips snow course, near the intersection of Highway 50 and Sierra-at-Tahoe Road, is one of hundreds of sites in California surveyed manually throughout the winter. Manual measurements augment the electronic readings from about 100 sensors in the state's mountains that provide a current snapshot of the water content in the snowpack, which normally contributes about 30 percent of California's water needs when it melts in the spring and early summer, the Department of Water Resources said.

The snowpack usually is at its deepest and most water-laden around April 1, so weather watchers won't know with certainty what kind of wet season it has been until then, the DWR said.

Since October 1, the Northern California, San Joaquin and Tulare Basin indices' rainfall totals are, respectively, 76.5 inches (average is 34.7), 60.7 inches (average is 27.4) and 41.0 inches (average is 19.4). Collectively, the three regions had a total of 178.2 inches of rainfall, or 218 percent of the five-month average (81.5 inches).

This report was based on a press release from the California Department of Water Resources.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Joseph Michael Spreng CASE NO. SCUK-CVPB-17-26780 1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of Joseph Michael Spreng, Joseph M. Spreng. 2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by (name of petitioner) Shaina Spreng in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. 3. The Petition for probate requests that Shaina Spreng be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. 4. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. 5. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notices to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. 6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: March 10, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. E, located at: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 N State St, Ukiah, CA 95482. 7. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. 8. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing of personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. 9. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account or provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. 10. Attorney for Petitioner: Christopher J. Neary Neary and O'Brien, 110 S. Main Street, Suite C Willits, CA 95490 Telephone: (707) 459-5551. Pub dates: 02/16, 02/23, 03/02/2017

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2017-F0061 The following person is doing business as: **Suite 75, 75b South Main St., Willits CA 95490.** This business is conducted by an individual: Christina Bowers, 370 Laurel St., Willits CA 95490. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on January 25, 2017. s/Christina N. Bowers Pub dates 02/23, 03/02, 03/09, 03/16/2017

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From left: "Valley Morning" and an untitled watercolor by Donna Stropes. Below: One of artist Bruce Kitts' ceramic pieces. At bottom, from left: Watercolors "In the Clouds," "Into the Mist," and "Harbor of Dunoon Scotland," by Donna Stropes.

'Both Sides of Atmosphere'

March show at the Arts Center features artists Donna Stropes, Bruce Kitts

The March show at the Willits Center for the Arts is entitled "Both Sides of Atmosphere," and features watercolors by Willits artist Donna Stropes and ceramics work by Bruce Kitts, current artist in residence at the Mendocino Art Center.

The opening reception for the show is set for Saturday, March 4 at the Arts Center, 71 East Commercial Street, from 6 to 9 pm.

The paintings Stropes chose for this exhibit are mostly of recent work, including a series of paintings of clouds. "About a year ago, I started to paint clouds," Stropes said. "I've always done a lot of things that were 'atmospheric,' with light and sunrise or sunset, but I never really did clouds. I left clouds out of so many of my early landscapes!"

"But living up on the hill," she continued, "I look up and see these beautiful clouds. There's a pasture across Sherwood Road

with an open view, and we have the most beautiful sunsets, especially when it's cloudy. I've been looking at these clouds for a long time, but all of a sudden I started wanting to paint them."

Other watercolors in the show feature a different kind of "atmosphere" – the fog. "I like painting trees and mist and fog," Stropes said. "I love our foggy mornings."

Stropes told a story about how she and Kitts, along with curator Gary Martin and her husband, Larry Stropes, talked about what they should name the show. Larry favored "Both Sides Now," after the Judy Collins song about clouds (and life and love), and another suggestion was to make a title out of the Willie Nelson song, "Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground."

But after Kitts talked about how he glazes his pottery, blowing "atmosphere" into the kiln, that struck a chord with all. "I like the atmosphere," Stropes said. "I like the clouds and whatever is going on in the space up there, and that's how we came

up with the theme."

Illinois artist Bruce Kitts, who is spending the year as a resident artist and instructor at the Mendocino Art Center, has contributed a dozen pieces – all for sale – to WCA's March show. "My most recent work focuses on showing the inherent qualities of clay," he said. "Leaving parts unglazed, over slipping attachments and letting the slip squeeze out the sides, showing ripped edges, leaving marks on the surface; these are all examples of letting the clay speak for itself. Texture and surface play an enormous part in my work. I try not to let any part of the surface go without attention. By utilizing the atmospheric firings provided at the Mendocino Art Center, many of the minute surface details become far more pronounced."

"Both Sides of Atmosphere" runs through March 26. Winter gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-1726.



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The rest of Roads From Page 1

The damage on Orr Springs Road occurred at milepost marker 39.2, some 4 miles west of Ukiah, where the hillside under the road slipped out, leaving a huge crater and taking about three-quarters of the road with it.

County road crews have closed the entire road.

On Tuesday, Dashiell said his crews were busy putting in a bridge to make the road passable to one-lane traffic.

"We're working on it now," he said. "We're drilling holes now to measure compaction and density. So far, it seems good down there."

"Once we put the bridge in, we will watch it carefully to see how it holds up," he said. "If we see cracks forming, we'll have to close the road again."

A permanent fix might cost anywhere between \$1 million and \$1.5 million, Dashiell said. He was hesitant to give an estimate of when that fix might be in place.

"If I say this summer, and then it doesn't happen this summer, then everyone will be mad at me, so I won't say that," he said. "It could be as early as this summer, though, if all the planets align. But a lot of these major repairs come in two or three years after the event."

Mountain View Road is the main connector between Point Arena and Boonville. According to Dashiell, the road has had problems in different locations. In December, it was assailed by a collapsing culvert. Road crews stabilized it. Then, in January, there was a major slide that took out one lane.

"We still have at least a lane, everywhere along the road," he said.

The Laytonville-Dos Rios Road is a secondary access road, that connects Laytonville with Dos Rios and Covelo. It is 13 miles long and saves locals who want to get to Dos Rios from Laytonville some 10 miles, when compared to the alternate route of going down to Highway 162 and then up to Dos Rios.

Dashiell said a section of the road near a creek has developed several slips. "The road is closed, officially. Now, some of the guys up there who have these monster trucks, they are able to get through," he added. "There's nothing we can do about that. There is sort of one lane open to the left. We have been watching it. It isn't getting any worse, but I am advising people to go around."

Branscomb Road connects Laytonville with the coast, near Westport. For about 10 miles, the road runs along the South Fork of the Eel River. During intense winter storms, the river eroded the bank, and part of the road slipped out. One lane remains open. "It hasn't gotten any worse," said Dashiell.

Peachland Road starts up about a mile north of Philo and runs north for about four miles. Dashiell said a slip developed and his crews closed the roadway, but – as with the Laytonville-Dos Rios Road – some of the locals with big, four-wheel-drive trucks are ignoring the signs and going around the slip.

Dashiell estimated the total cost of repairs for all 30 roads with problems will reach about \$7 million. He added that the Federal Emergency Management Authority and the Emergency Management Authority of California have visited the county to assess damage in various locations.

The Federal Highway Authority pays 88.53 percent of costs to repair roads that are part of the Federal Highway System, as Mountain View Road and Orr Springs Road are.

FEMA pays 75 percent for damages on roads that are not part of the Federal Highway System, and when FEMA pays, often but not always, Cal-EMA will engage to pay approximately 80 percent of the remaining 25 percent. According to Dashiell, this means that in the best-case scenario, Mendocino County will have to pay 6.25 percent of the cost of major road repairs when FEMA and Cal-EMA have engaged but the FHA has not.

"We could have some damage we don't get reimbursed for," Dashiell warned.

Continued delays at 101 southern interchange

Meanwhile, winter storms have caused an ongoing slide at the southbound Highway 101 on-ramp south of Willits.

According to Caltrans Public Information Officer Phil Frisbie, work crews are engaged in maintenance work at the site, where mud and boulders are slowly sliding down the hillside onto the road. Frisbie said southbound motorists should expect intermittent delays of up to 10 minutes as crews "swap out dump trucks."

The work is ongoing on most week days from 7 am to 7 pm.

Local Caltrans employees say sometimes delays are longer, and are recommending – unofficially – that Willits residents heading south consider taking the northern interchange to get on the highway.

Once the rains stop and the next season of stable warm weather begins, Caltrans will begin work to permanently fix the slipping hillside, Frisbie said. He said motorists should expect that work to continue at least until early summer.

The rest of Ordinance From Page 1

While the committee recommends the city allow a plethora of cannabis-related businesses – including indoor cultivation, nurseries, manufacturing, testing, dispensaries, distribution and transportation operations – considerable contention remains regarding specific areas.

They include:

- The current recommendation to prohibit the use of volatile solvents for the purposes of cannabis manufacturing;

- Placing a cap on the number of use permits for cannabis-related businesses;

- The current recommendation to allow for indoor-only cultivation;

- Buffer zones between "sensitive receptors" and cannabis businesses.

In his report, Duley iterated the committee's recommendation to allow for the use of only non-volatile solvents for cannabis manufacturing purposes.

"Given the safety risk of many processes using volatile solvents, as noted in discussions with the Little Lake Fire Department, the ad hoc committee is recommending only manufacturing using non-volatile solvents be allowed," Duley said.

During public comment, Lee Jensen, who identified himself as a biochemist specializing "in the medical properties of marijuana," strongly disagreed with the committee's recommendation.

"What I want to do is to be able to separate the various cannabinoids for their potentially different medical benefits," Jensen said. "If you limit us to not allowing volatile solvents, you'll pretty much kill that process."

"With proper training," he argued, "using certain volatile solutions is very manageable. In a testing facility, you're going to need volatile solvents. I would encourage you to at least allow liquid volatile solvents. You would hamper us from doing proper extension of medical research and extraction if you disallowed [them]."

Dell Potter, who said he's been a cannabis cultivator since 2010, agreed.

"I would suggest you revisit the idea of hydrocarbon extraction and volatile extraction," Potter said. "When it's performed with certified equipment in a class-1, division-1 lab where there's no chance of combustion or spark, it's completely safe. I think it's used throughout the chemical and food industry, and is a common method with safety protocols available for it."

While Councilmember Ron Orenstein voiced his support of putting a cap on the number of use permits granted cannabis businesses, he warned the process for deciding who gets a permit should be "foolproof," to create a fair environment and stave off potential litigation.

He criticized the ranking process currently recommended by the committee.

"If you rank from one to 10, how do you decide? It's arbitrary, and it can be challenged," Orenstein said. "I don't know what the answer is, but you need to be mindful that it could be challenged."

"[Ranking is] common," City Attorney Jim Lance replied. "In personnel decisions, you might have 10 applicants applying for one job, and there's some arranging that goes with that. We have some good examples [of permit application ranking]. The City of Berkeley and some others out there have some pretty sophisticated criteria for ranking these businesses and narrowing them down from a large pool to a small pool [with] the city council considering the top three applicants."

Former Willits City Planner Alan Falleri argued against capping the number of permits for cannabis businesses.

The rest of Report From Page 1

"We don't limit the number of [pharmaceutical businesses] that sell medicinal products," Falleri said. "Once you establish the buffers and zonings, let the marketplace dictate how many businesses can operate."

Local attorney and business owner Colby Friend agreed with Falleri.

"You should not have any limit to the [number] of permits allowed in this city," Friend said. "You're going to limit the amount of revenue the city can take in. It's going to kill competition, and competition is supposed to be the impetus for capitalism."

Several cannabis stakeholders voiced a desire for Willits to allow greenhouse cultivation within city limits.

Manna Brownbot argued that because the buffering and zoning process should detail appropriate distances to prevent people from being contaminated by odor, "greenhouses should be considered."

"If you are going to be growing cannabis in this town, I believe it should be outdoor," local resident Mike Adams agreed. "That's certainly the best way the plant can be grown and the least environmentally harmful."

"Some of the commercial greenhouses are very secure and very energy-efficient," Falleri said. "You shouldn't rule them out."

Orenstein also recommended the council add more buffering zones than those included in the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act, or MCRSA, which currently prohibits any cannabis business with a storefront or any mobile retail outlet from being located within 600 feet of a school.

"It seems to me we need to add a whole bunch of [buffering zones] in addition [to schools]," Orenstein said. "I don't know that any of these [cannabis] facilities would be appropriate next to residential areas or playgrounds or churches."

But Adams argued such protective buffers aren't put in place for other more harmful substances.

"Going into Rite Aid, [I noticed that] alcohol and toys were only 18 feet apart," he said. "There are 43 places in this town where one can buy alcohol; there's only six that children are not allowed into. Tobacco is very similar. Every store in Willits where you can buy tobacco, children can go into. Whereas with cannabis businesses, you would have to be at least 21 to even enter a facility that's selling cannabis."

Friend suggested the council take a trip to Amsterdam to visit a city that "knows what they're doing."

"They've been doing this for 30 years," he said. "Take a look at what a coffee shop looks like. Is it dirty? Is it a problem for kids? Not at all. It's beautiful. Better architecture and transportation. All the taxis are Teslas. They're just ahead of everybody right now, and they've [had] legalized marijuana in their city for 30 years now. Willits will never be another Amsterdam, but it could be a haven for this type of business."

Duley explained what the next steps will be for the cannabis ad hoc committee.

"Based on feedback from the city council, staff will continue to work with the ad hoc committee and stakeholders to develop a cannabis ordinance to bring back to the council for review and recommendation," he said. "Upon finding the majority of council is in favor of the draft ordinance, staff will be able to undertake a [California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA] review and complete the required environmental document."

"The final draft ordinance and CEQA environmental documents would be brought back to the council for potential adoption."

recommend are the indoor-grow categories broken up into three separate levels."

A small indoor operation would be considered up to 5,000 square feet; a medium operation would be from 5,001 to 10,000 square feet; while a large operation would be from 10,000 to 22,000 square feet.

"The committee is recommending outdoor cultivation businesses be allowed within the limited industrial, heavy industrial and industrial park zoning districts, and prohibited in all other zoning districts," Duley reported.

Despite significant stakeholder pressure during the committee's public meetings and previous city council meetings for the city to consider greenhouse cultivation, the committee's current view is to "prohibit outdoor and mixed-light medical cannabis cultivation," Duley said.

"The general thought is that outdoor cultivation would likely result in a nuisance to the community due to odors," Duley continued. "The city has realized this from small, unpermitted, personal outdoor grows which have occurred in the city."

"The committee agreed that lands outside of the city limits and within the county currently provide ample opportunities for outdoor cultivation and in locations that are more appropriate than in an urban setting."

However, despite that recommendation, Duley added: "The committee further noted that outdoor or mixed-light cultivation within a greenhouse may be considered [later], should it be proven such a setup could operate without causing odor, security or visual impacts."

In addressing setbacks and buffer zones, Duley noted MCRSA requires cannabis businesses with a storefront or mobile retail outlet, "such as a dispensary, be located at least 600 feet from a school."

During his presentation, Duley displayed a map that identified all schools in the city, accompanied by the 600-foot buffer zone, which would significantly narrow the scope of allowable cannabis businesses.

Duley clarified that a buffer zone "is measured from property line to property line and not from a building that houses children and a building that holds the marijuana business."

Duley used a cannabis nursery as an example.

"If you had a license for a nursery, and you had a retail outlet where you could purchase plant starts at that nursery, that would be considered a storefront, and subject to an automatic 600-foot buffer from schools," Duley said. "We can generate a list of properties by parcel numbers so you'll have an understanding of the number of properties inside that potential buffer."

Although cannabis businesses specific to cultivation, manufacturing, distribution and transportation would be limited to the three industrial zoned areas, other types of businesses –

such as testing labs and dispensaries – could operate in community commercial and heavy commercial zoning districts, according to the committee's recommendations.

Because some cannabis businesses could theoretically meet a buffering requirement by not having a storefront, Duley noted the council has other options to consider.

"The point of the buffers is to avoid impact to sensitive receptors [like schools]," Duley said. Those impacts include "odor, noise and visual impact." However, in some cases, he said: "You won't be able to smell or see it from outside the building. If we identify the standards – and applicants can meet them – then potentially we met the intent of the buffers and we won't need the distance buffer."

On the other hand, Duley suggested the city may want to add other "sensitive receptors" to the list of required buffer zones, such as parks and churches. Duley showed what the map would resemble in such a climate.

"You can see that when you add additional sensitive receptors, it quickly starts eliminating potential eligible properties to get a cannabis permit," said Duley. "With the [Rec Grove] park, a lot of the industrial land to the northeast section of the city becomes ineligible for having a cannabis permit."

Duley said the council will have to decide what kind of permitting process should be implemented when drafting the ordinances for cannabis businesses.

The two recommended methods to choose from are administrative use and discretionary use.

"One benefit of [administrative use] is that staff would only be charged with reviewing an application for consistency with the applicable standards identified in the cannabis ordinance," Duley said. "Provided a business is consistent with the standards, staff would issue the permit. This would result in significantly less staff time to process an application relative to staff time required to process a use permit."

With a discretionary use permit, the "city council would have the authority to approve, deny or place additional restrictions or conditions of approval on any individual project. Some jurisdictions have required use permits for all cannabis-related permits for this reason."

Duley added the council will also have to decide whether to place a cap on the number of use permits permissible within city limits.

For instance, "the city could allow only three dispensary permits, and potentially limit the largest indoor grow operations," Duley said. "There's a concern that locals, who don't have the resources others out of the area have, may have a harder time participating in the permit process in Willits. So, the thought was we cap the largest-size grows and allow additional smaller-type operations. The council can cap any of the permits for any type of activities."

With a cap on permits in place, the city would have to create a fair process to decide who gets them, especially "if you receive more applications than the number of permits to issue," Duley said. "Ultimately, we thought that some sort of scoring or ranking system would be the most appropriate, fairest way to find the cream of the crop among the application pool."



Become a WHS Booster

Fundraising club for extracurricular activities at Willits High School seeks new board members

The Willits High School Booster Club encourages anyone interested in having fun helping out with high school activities, especially sports, to join the club's board of directors – maybe even to become an officer.

"More new members are necessary for the WHS Boosters to continue," board member Bridgett Summers said. "We have a good thing going, and it's time for other people to step up."

The Booster Club board has 10 voting board members, but those currently serving as officers "are ready to let somebody else be officers," Summers said. The annual meeting where board members are elected is set for Thursday, March 9; the club holds meetings on the second Thursday every month at the WHS Food Center, starting at 6 pm.

"Being a member of the Booster Club is easy," Summers said. "It shows your support for Willits High School students, and helps support athletics and extra-curricular activities." Monies raised by the club are used for purchasing uniforms, for equipment (a recent request was for instruments for the high school band), and for scholarships.

Booster Club volunteers raise funds by staffing the concessions stand at the fall football games each year, and there's a good list of volunteers happy to do that, Summer said.

The club is in a good position financially right now, thanks to a series of "solid annual fundraisers" which members have been putting on in recent years. Current board members and volunteers are more than willing to help newcomers with the details of how each event is put on.

Two fundraisers coming up soon are the Cupcake Wars competition (being organized by the WHS student Jr. Boosters club this year), scheduled for April 15, and the Boosters Dinner and Quarter Auction, set for May 13.

Two other annual events are the Boosters Golf Club Tournament, held in September last year, and the Winter Fashion Show, tentatively scheduled for November 11.

Dave Barrett, president of the Willits Booster Club, has been involved the last seven or eight years, and he agrees becoming involved with the Boosters is a perfect way to give back to the community. "Everything we do is fun," he said. "There's not a whole lot of stress involved. We put on some really fun and entertaining events."

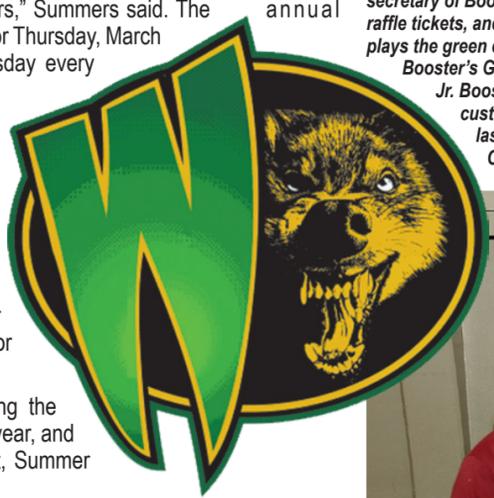
When asked why he got involved himself, Barrett said: "I'm a huge advocate of youth in our community, and a strong believer that the more opportunities we can create for young people, the more successful they're going to be." Students involved in extra-curricular activities are typically "more successful," he said. "They get better grades; they're more connected to the community and their school. I like to support those programs, to make sure those things exist for kids, and the better the programs are, the better off the kids are."

Both Barrett and Summers stressed Booster board members do not have to be parents of current high school students. "Our doors are open to anyone who wants to be involved in our community," Barrett said, including "retired folks still entertained by youth sports, who want to stay connected."

Those interested can come to the March 9 meeting, or contact the Boosters at whsboosters123@yahoo.com for more information.

Some of the Booster Club fun over the 2016 including, clockwise from above, left: WHS students pose together to promo the Booster Club's Quarter Auction. Isabel Gutierrez and Camryn Christensen smile with auction tickets. Bridgett Summers, secretary of Boosters, handles raffle tickets, and Diana Peart plays the green during the Booster's Golf Tournament. Jr. Boosters and customers during last year's Cupcake Wars.

Photos by Maureen Moore and Mathew Caine



Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com



NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-NOYO (6696)
www.noyotheatre.com
Next Week:
KONG: SKULL ISLAND 2D & 3D

LOGAN
(R) 2 hrs 20 mins
Fri: 6:15 & 9:15pm
Sat/Sun: 12:15, 3:15, 6:15 & 9:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:15 & 8:15pm

JOHN WICK - CHAPTER 2
(R) 2 hrs 2 mins
Fri: 6:00 & 8:45pm
Sat/Sun: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00 & 8:45pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:45pm

THE BATMAN LEGO MOVIE
(PG) 1 hr 44 mins
Fri: 4:30, 6:45 & 9:00pm
Sat/Sun: 12:00, 2:15, 4:30 & 6:45 & 9:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 6:45pm

Movie Times for 3/3 thru 3/9

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

WE'VE MOVED!!
our new address 1196 South Main Street
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(707) 459-3070
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