

REAL ESTATE SECTION



Above, from left: Tom Summers, owner of House Doctor Paints, holds one of the dripless rollers available for sale. Above, right: Color matching is possible with Summers' special computer equipment. Paint chips, swatches and even a baby blanket can be used to find the right shade. Below: Summers and shop dog C.C. smile in front of the rainbow wall of color samples.



House Doctor Paints

Locally owned business offers paint, knowledge and more to community

Tom Summers, owner of House Doctor Paints, purchased the business six years ago from the Riley family. "I received a great deal, at the perfect time, I couldn't pass it up," he said.

Summers, a long-time Willits resident and a Willits High School grad, started out as a mechanic, but a hurt back moved him towards working in the parts department and, eventually, sales in the automotive industry. Summers also worked with Jeff Bender of P & G Painting, working on houses and commercial jobs, and then started working the counter at House Doctor Paints.

Making the transition to House Doctor Paints, and then eventually to purchasing the business in its entirety, seemed a natural progression that allowed Summers to connect the dots of his interests, industry and expertise.

Summers continues to pride himself and the business on continuing to offer personal and professional service in all areas of the store's offerings.

"After being in sales for years, I've come to see that people like to buy from people," explained Summers. "This community has always supported me and has been so great to my family, and I want to continue to offer people the same in return."

Summers is married to Bridgett - "I couldn't have done any

of this without her," he said. "She's my backbone to success!" Bridgett also is the secretary of the Willits High School Booster Club.

The Summers have two children, Stephen, who is a baseball coach and math teacher, and Rachelle, who works for the school district.

Being involved with the community has also allowed Summers to connect with commercial and organization projects, providing insight and ordering assistance for paint and products used on everything from Roots of Motive Power projects, the Willits Charter School rebuild, the Willits Center for the Arts redo and, recently, the restoration efforts on the Skunk Train's Little Stinker.

"I'm always happy to make deals, help out if there's something anyone needs or wants," he said. "Just come in and talk, I want to give you great advice, and provide you with helpful information! I'm an honest guy, and I know that I want to be able to help serve the community's needs."

In addition to interior and exterior paints, Summers carries a wide variety of specialty paints, like high-traffic floor paint, industrial project paint and hard-drying

Read the rest of **Paints** | Over on Page B5

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Be prepared

I began training in a Federal Emergency Management Agency class for Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, training this past week. The purpose is to teach community members how to help their community prepare for the inevitable emergencies and disasters that we will likely face, and to survive and recover with resiliency. We know that fire, earthquake, flood and landslides are all disasters we are likely to encounter here. There are also technological (internet failure, gas line explosions, chemical spills) and intentional (shootings, terrorism, biological) disasters.



Bill Barksdale
Contributing Writer

Remember to consider the needs of children, the disabled and pets.

Whether you are a renter, homeowner or at work there are ways to be prepared for a better outcome when a disaster happens. The training manual for CERT is about 1 inch thick, plus hours of training, so I'll concentrate on a few points that may help.

Make sure you understand your insurance coverage. Could you rebuild or replace your possessions with your coverage? Do you know how much it costs to rebuild? Landslides most likely require flood insurance, which your policy may not cover. Have you made a video or an inventory of your possessions? Remember, insurance won't pay if you can't prove, with a record, what you have - including home remodels, clothes, etc. Talk with your insurance agent.

Prepare a "Family Communication Plan." Where will you evacuate to if your home is in danger? Who should family members call that are out of the area in case you are separated, so that someone knows where everyone is? Identify all evacuation routes. Prepare a grab-and-go bag with important items for which you have only a few minutes to leave. Have carriers, leashes and food for pets and animals. For large animals, know where the local evacuation sites are in your area. "Plan and Practice" so that everyone knows what to do. Don't wait till the last minute.

In your home and place of work, know where the gas or propane shut-off valves are. Have the proper non-spark tools to turn off the gas. A 4-in-1 emergency tool is very handy to have by the door and in your car, to turn off utilities. Have your public utility company reight heaters, stoves and other pilot lights when it's time to turn them back on. Label your electrical breaker or fuse

box so you know how to cut the power to malfunctioning areas, and know how to turn off all the power if necessary. Know where your water main enters your house and how to turn off the main water feed.

Know where the safe places are in your home or office to stay in place if you can't leave. Have shoes by the bed to avoid stepping on broken glass or debris. Stay away from large windows. Identify what walls are less likely to collapse in an earthquake. Put all explosive things like gas, oil, etc. in one as-safe-as-possible place so you don't have explosions all over the place in a fire.

There are different types of fire extinguishers. Class A is for paper, cloth, wood, most rubber and some plastic. Class B is for flammable liquids like oil, gasoline and kerosene. Class C is for electrical equipment (which should be turned off if possible if on fire). Class D is for combustible metals like aluminum, magnesium and titanium. Class K is for cooking oils and animal fats. Check your fire extinguishers (have more than one around). Try to have the dry chemical type that covers Class A, B and C fires, and make sure the chemicals inside are fresh so it works.

Never try to put out an oil fire with water, like on your stove. The water will not mix with the oil. It will super-heat in seconds into hot steam and explode, shooting burning oil all over you and your house. Cover a burning pot if you safely can. Call 911.

Organize with your neighbors. Identify disabled and elderly neighbors and plan how they can be helped in an emergency. How can you get them and yourself to safety? Organize a neighborhood watch. Create fire-safe landscaping. You may want to have a neighborhood emergency phone tree and house-to-house check team so you can warn or check on each other in an emergency.

Remember - each person in household is responsible for making sure they have their own emergency food and water supply. Take care of yourself first; otherwise you cannot help anyone else. Your grab-and-go bag should always be ready with cash, meds, clothes, important documents, first-aid kit, radio and flashlight. What else is important to you? Computer, phone, glasses, pet food, at least three days' supply of food and water, water sanitizer, hand sanitizer, bleach? Make a list of what's most important to you, then decide what you can grab in five minutes.

Be prepared!
Bill Barksdale has been a real estate agent in Mendocino County for over 25 years. He is an inductee into the Realtor Hall of Fame. Contact him at Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty Inc.: 707-489-2232 or bark@pacific.net.



Above: Arlene Davison introducing her dogs to the brand-new dog park back in 2012.

Frank Grasse Dog Park turns 4

By Louis Rohlicek

On a late afternoon, just before Christmas, a father and son were chatting with other dog owners while their Boston terrier ran around the dog park in Willits. Everyone was bundled up in the fading light.

The man and his young son were from San Francisco.

"We were looking for a Christmas outing. There were Bay Area options. We heard about the Skunk train in Willits and its Christmas ride for kids. We wanted to try it. But we also wanted to bring our dog on the trip. On the internet I found that the Baechtel Creek Inn welcomes dogs. Then I found out online that Willits has a dog park. That swung it."

It was a good story, appreciated by the other locals at the park that evening.

The Frank Grasse Dog Park is beginning its fifth year as a Willits city park. Many local people worked to build it. The park opened in the fall of 2012. Chuck and Arlene Davidson's dogs were the first canines to try it out. It was a hit.

Every day people bring their dogs to the park. The dogs run free in a large space. It's a big deal for dogs who don't have a large ranch or estate to roam in.

And the dogs are safe. Both the main park and the adjacent Small Dog/Old Dog park are surrounded by chain link fencing. There is a double-gated entryway to transition the dogs safely to and from the park.

Located on the east end of Commercial Street, the Frank Grasse Dog Park is tucked between the ball fields and the skateboard park. There's plenty of parking. It's easy to find.

Owners are expected to pick up after their dogs. The city provides plastic poop bags for the dog owners to use. There is a receptacle for the bags. The city does a great job emptying the bins.

Most dogs are well-socialized to hang out with other dogs. The park is not their home, so there isn't any personal territory to defend. Scraps occasionally occur. The owners of the offending dogs remove them from the park. It works.

There are shade structures in each park to give shelter from the summer sun. In the winter they protect people from the rain. The dogs run around, rain or shine. Their owners prefer to stay cool and dry.

Recently, thanks to a generous financial donation from Wellington "Mac" McClellan, as well as help from local businesses (Spartan Supply and Northern Aggregates), the dog park has added two strong picnic tables and a "heritage" bench for the seating comforts of the dog owners. Standing around for half an hour or more can get tiring. Dogs aren't the only ones who have to "sit."

Three years ago scarlet maples and cottonwoods were planted around the park perimeter. Just thin sticks when planted, the maples are now nearly 15 feet tall. The cottonwoods

Read the rest of **Park**
Over on Page B6

At left, top: One of the new picnic tables at the dog park.
At left: Willits residents recently enjoying the new park bench.



Agent Profile | Beverly Sanders Realty

Realtor Amy Wray

From secretary to "Rookie of the Year" in just over 12 months, Realtor Amy Wray of Beverly Sanders Realty in Ukiah is moving up the real estate ladder fast, and feels she finally has found her calling in life.

However, Wray's involvement in the real estate industry started even prior to her job with Beverly Sanders. Wray has a license in interior design and home staging and also purchased and renovated one of Willits' historic homes, giving her a well-rounded knowledge of the industry as a whole.

The historic home, located at 168 Pine Street, was one of the featured homes in last month's Willits Weekly Real Estate Section's Now and Then series.

"It was such a charming home, in a nice neighborhood," said Wray. "It just needed a lot of love, and it turned out wonderfully."

Wray was a long-time Willits resident before moving to Ukiah in 2014. Her father was the namesake and owner of Dino's Pizza, and much of her family still resides in Willits. While living in Willits herself, Wray worked for Bill Jack at Coast Hardware, at Willits Furniture and for Dr. Frank Grasse, where she and her dog "Friday" would enjoy greeting and helping vet clients. Wray still has a pup at

home; "Tippy," a half-Lab, half-McNab mix who keeps her on her toes.

Wray is also a former volunteer with Canine Companions for Independence, where she was a puppy raiser. She also volunteers on the crisis line for Project Sanctuary.

Wray started working with Beverly Sanders in July of 2014, and Sanders encouraged her to move forward with obtaining her license right away.

"She really encouraged me to get my license," said Wray, "so I started studying though 'first tuesday,' an online course, and was able to get my license in just over a year."

Wray was recently recognized for her hard work and commitment to the industry by NorBAR, the North Bay Association of Realtors, as the 2016 "Rookie of the Year" for the Mendocino chapter.

"I am so pleased to have earned this award," Wray said. "I am very involved in with weekly meetings, attending property viewings, and keeping up with the new inventory as it comes onto the market. I want to stay knowledgeable and current on properties and availabilities in the Willits and Ukiah areas so that I can best serve my clients with their listings and sales."

Feel free to connect with Wray to learn about the market, real estate or staging and design. Contact Wray via cell: 972-6856, at the office: 463-2570, or via email: amy.wray@sbcglobal.net. Wray encourages everyone to also check out her website: amywrealstate.com, where client testimonials and additional information can be found. Wray is also generally in the office, 320 South State Street in Ukiah, daily, but is always available to make appointments for showings and more.



Above: Real estate agent Amy Wray, hard at work.

At left: Wray stands in front of the historic Ukiah building which now is home to Beverly Sanders Realty.

At right: Wray holds her NorBAR "Rookie of the Year" award.

Below: Wray works on real estate from her Ukiah office.

At bottom: Beverly Sanders Realty agent Amy Wray.

Photos by Maureen Moore



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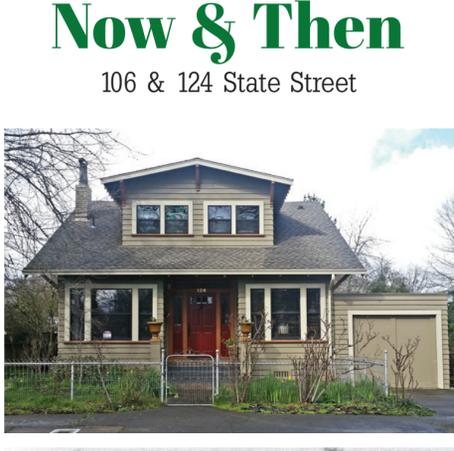
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Now & Then

106 & 124 State Street

106 State Street built in 1910

The house at 106 State Street is important as it anchors the block of houses facing the Northwestern park that were all built between 1910 and 1915. The house is built in the Northwestern Addition and as such is a part of the general development of the town and its expansion. It owner, A. J. James, also served a term on the Willits Board of Trustees, and in 1916 was selected to serve as President of the Board.

The house at 106 State Street features a medium hip roof with a low gable over a bay window extension on the west side of the house and a gable roofed dormer in the center of the roof, facing State Street. The gable of the dormer overhangs on either side. The roof trim of the gable and of the dormer is a boxed cornice with a sloped soffit.

Reprinted with permission from the 1988 book "The Architectural Heritage of Willits," by Nelson A. Streib and Susan Pritchard, commissioned by the City of Willits.

124 State Street built in 1912

The house at 124 State Street was designed and built by its first owner, A. H. Clay, a carpenter who had lived in Willits since 1901. Clay worked on many of the houses in Willits, building several for his own use.

This house has a medium hip roof with a shed-roofed dormer window facing south toward the street, centered low on the roof, and directly above the centered recessed front porch and entrance. The shed dormer, like the hip roof, has projecting eaves with exposed rafters, the cornis of the dormer roof is further supported by plain wooden brackets. The house is covered in overlapping horizontal boards.



At top, from left: Tom Summers, owner of House Doctor Paints, holds up two of the products being used on the Little Stinker restoration project.

Summers runs the color matching machine.

At right: The front of House Doctor Paints, located at 65 North Main Street.

Below, from left: Summers shows off one of the many pieces of professional paint-mixing and color-matching machinery in the back of the paint shop.

Different tapes for different jobs. Summers can help guide customers to decide on the right products.

At bottom, from left: Summers opens a can of wood finish on the paint table.

Purdy and Wooster are two of the brands of large brushes stocked at House Doctor Paints.

Photos by Maureen Moore



The rest of Paints From Page B1

interior cabinet paint. Deck stains, special tape, rollers and brushes for every need and shape and much more line the walls of House Doctor Paints, ensuring a one-stop-shop option for homeowners and businesses alike.

Weekly orders are also placed for special items, a service that is available to professionals and the general public.

"We'll see each other in Safeway," Summers laughed. "I want to know about issues, and I want to help make sure things are right when customers buy supplies from House Doctor. I work with a great network of local painters in the community, and other industry professionals who can help get jobs completed. Willits has knowledgeable people available to hire, who know their stuff!"

House Doctor Paints carries Benjamin Moore and Pittsburg Paints products; there are tons

of inspirational brochures and options on their websites for ideas, and Summers is also able to color match paint chips and other items for the perfect shade.

Reps are available to come onsite to jobs to help with planning and product selection, and Summers welcomes everyone to check out the House Doctor Paints Facebook page and mybenjaminmoore.com and ppg.com for additional information.

House Doctor Paints is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm and on Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm. They are located at 65 North Main Street, north of the Commercial Street stoplight in Willits – "Just across the street from the best burgers in town!" laughed Summers.

Contact House Doctor Paints for more information at 459-4383.

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Budget your after-tax income

Hello Willits friends and neighbors of the Redwood Empire. How did we get to March...? By the way, one month until personal taxes are due (April 18), friends!

This month I'd like to talk about how to budget your after-tax income or take-home pay. This is your salary *after taxes*.

I absolutely have a budget for my take-home pay. I must. I realize I'm an accountant, and I love this stuff, but it's very important to know your priorities and actually have a plan for your money.

There is something called the "50/20/30" guideline. Your monthly after-tax income could be allocated in this way:

- **50 percent NEEDS:** Fifty percent of your after-tax income should be spent on your home and on living needs: car payment, utilities, food, health/car insurance, child care, cell phone.

- **20 percent SAVINGS/SECURE YOUR FUTURE:** Pay down toxic debt like credit cards, get money into your investments (401K, other retirement and brokerage) as well as an emergency fund. These are



Nicholas Casagrande
Columnist

good budget areas to have *automatically deducted* from your paycheck. It makes it much easier to regularly pay or contribute if it goes directly to pay off the credit card or to invest in your future.

- **30 percent WANTS:** Place 30 percent of your take-home pay into your entertainment and enjoyment bucket: eating out, fancy groceries, shopping, hobbies, clothes.

"50/20/30" is a guideline, and needs to be tailored to your budget and goals.

Don't be afraid!! Once you've taken the step to have a framework, you'll feel a good deal better and more in control of your spending and future.

Please know I would be happy to sit down with you and craft a 50/20/30 budget for you. There are good resources for saving and budgeting ... and there's me.

Nicholas Casagrande, EA, is an accountant and a financial advisor. His firm, NC Financial Group, is a wealth management firm serving individual clients as well as small-to-medium-sized businesses. Client work includes personal and corporate taxes, investment planning, insurance, and real estate. NC Financial Group's Willits office is located at 675 South Main Street; contact 855-240-6606 or nicholas@ncfinancialgroup.com for more information.

The rest of **Park** | From Page B2

are about 30 feet tall. Soon they'll provide more shade in the summer than the shade structures.

So bring your canine pal to the Frank Grasse Dog Park. It's great chance for the dogs to get the exercise they need. That's what the dog park is about.

But it's more than a place for the pups. Ringed by surrounding hills, with hawks and vultures circling high overhead in the blue sky, and afternoon breezes rustling the cottonwood leaves, the dog park is a great place for the dog owners too.

See you at the dog park.

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- Property Listings

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Ads	3.25" wide x 2" tall color display ad:	5" wide x 5" tall color display ad:
Commitment and ad copy deadline is the first Friday of the month	\$25/month with 3-month minimum commitment	\$100/month with 3-month minimum commitment
	\$32 on one-run basis	\$120 on one-run basis
	3.25" wide x 4" tall color display ad:	5" wide x 10.5" tall color display ad:
3,500 copies each week	\$50/month with 3-month minimum commitment	\$225/month with 3-month minimum commitment
Ads go online and in-print for one price	\$64 on one-run basis	\$250 on one-run basis
	OPEN HOUSE SPECIAL: 5" wide x 3" tall color display ad: \$60 on one-run basis	

Call for ad space:
April Tweddell
707-972-2475

Runs on the second Thursday of the month.



Gary Crosby, center, new sales manager for Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, with co-owners John Lazaro and Kerri Vau.

Gary Crosby

new sales manager for Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty

Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, Inc. is excited to announce the appointment of Gary Crosby as the full-time sales manager for their busy real estate sales offices in Ukiah and Willits. John Lazaro, broker and co-owner, says: "We are proud to welcome Gary Crosby to the Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, Inc. team of real estate sales professionals." Crosby assumed his new responsibilities on February 1.

Crosby is a native of Ukiah, who has lived and worked in and around Mendocino and Sonoma counties his entire life. After graduating from Ukiah High School in 1975, he left Ukiah in pursuit of a higher education. Crosby holds bachelor's degrees in Business and in Economics from Sonoma State University and a master's degree in Business Administration from Golden Gate University.

In addition to his formal education, Crosby has been a licensed building contractor since 2004 and has practiced real estate sales and investing since 1992. Opening his own real estate office in Cloverdale in 2001 and partnering with Creative Property Services, Crosby operated a successful franchise for many years. Working closely with city leaders, investors and homeowners alike, he developed a reputation for fair dealing and creative marketing and quickly became a top-producing agent.

"Willing to go the extra mile to service his clients' needs and the community, Gary's combination of skills, knowledge and expertise makes him a valuable addition to our management team," says Coldwell co-owner Kerri Vau.

"I'm happy to be home again!" Crosby says. "I have been working my way back to Ukiah for 40 years, and I plan on making this my home for the next 40 years."

He is excited to be back in Ukiah, and we at Coldwell Banker Realty are happy to welcome him home.

Please join us in welcoming Gary Crosby to Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, Inc. We are looking forward to a happy and prosperous 2017 and beyond.

- Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, Inc.

COLDWELL BANKER

MENDO REALTY, INC.

MENDOCINO COUNTY'S PREMIER REAL ESTATE COMPANY

1460 South Main Street, Willits • (707) 459-5389

This 2-Story 2016 built home on 4.5 +/- acres features 3 bed., 2 ba. with a generous bonus room that could be a second living room or 4th bedroom. **\$499,000**

Downtown commercial property with 130' of Main St. frontage with 21 off street parking spaces. Property has great exposure. For sale **\$695,000** or Lease **\$.75 per ft.** (negotiable)

This clean, sunny 3 bed, 2 bath home in town is on nearly 1/3 acre. Garage conversion has bedroom, family room & full bath. Wheel chair accessible. **\$249,000**

Ready for your home! PG&E...got it! Water and sewer...got that too! **\$75,000**

This 3 bed, 2 bath home is located in a sunny location. It has been well maintained & features an open floor plan. Terraced, fenced backyard. **\$255,000**

Country Living! This home was built in 2003 with an open floor plan featuring 2 bed., 2 bath and an office/bonus room. Beautiful country parcel located in the 3rd Gate area. **\$339,900**

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Contact one of our experienced agents to find homes for sale in Willits or Mendocino County.
mendocinocountyproperties.com • coldwellbanker.com