

Donations Accepted Edition No. 146

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

The revamped committee welcomed new members Bill Barksdale and recently hired City Planner Dusty Duley. Other Revit-ED members include Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, City Manager Adrienne Moore, and

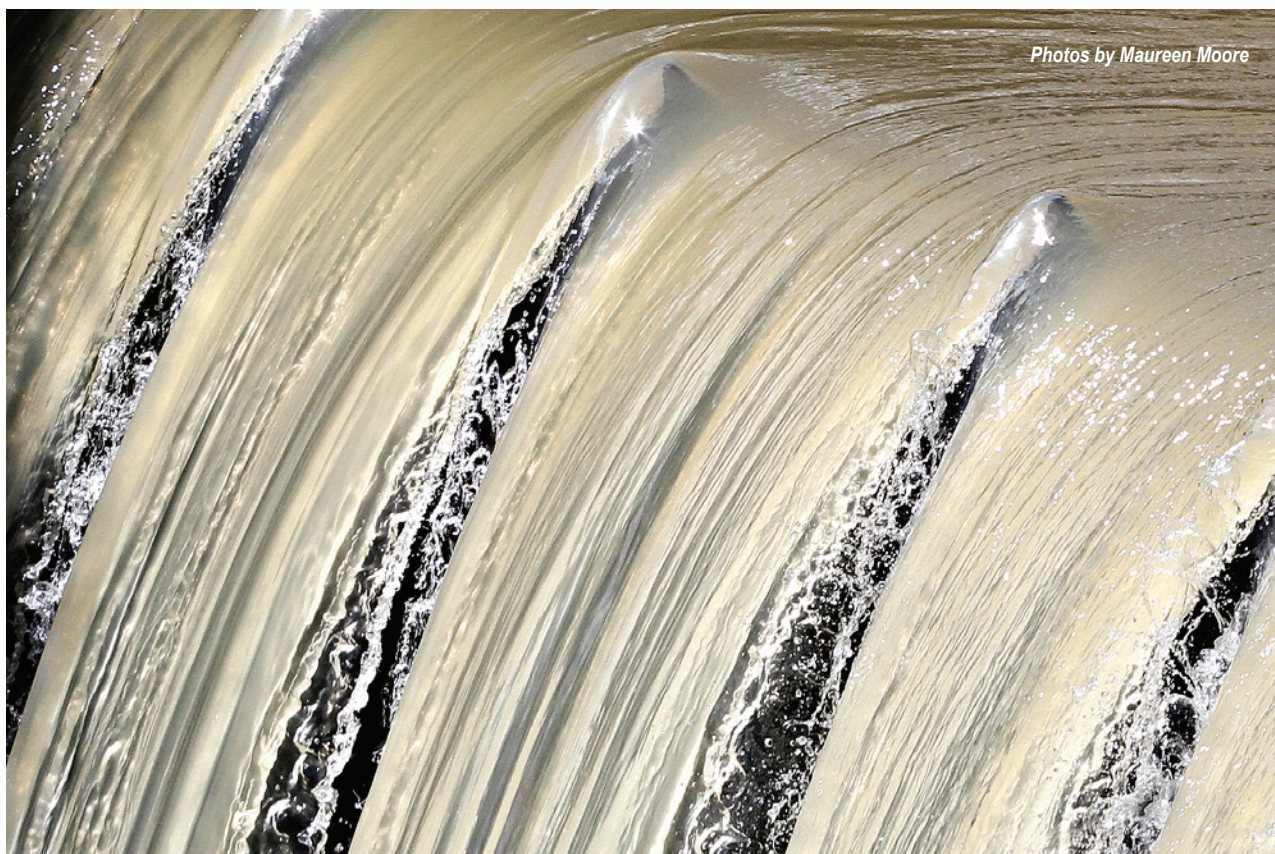
Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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Not all political parties in California allow independent voters to participate in their primaries. Parties in California can choose each election cycle whether to hold “open” or “closed” Presidential primaries. This

A 46-year-old Ukiah man, missing since Saturday, after he and a companion became lost while hiking in the woods southeast of CalFire's Mendocino Unit headquarters at Howard Forest, was found dead Monday afternoon along an old logging road about a quarter-mile north of Laughlin Peak.

After instructing Dalton to

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



Brooktrails reservoirs filled and ready for summer

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

"The excess water we release based on our permits really helps the salmon and the steelhead population in the creeks and streams

Read the rest of
Water
Over on Page 15

Above: *The spillway at Lake Emily was glistening with water Monday afternoon. Above, left:* *Creeks around the reservoir were flowing down the hill, over mossy rocks and through foliage grateful for a drink. At left:* *Culverts across town tried their best to keep up with the recent downpour; this one continued to funnel out water, even in Monday's sunshine. Below:* *The spillway at Lake Emily.*



Lake Emily and Lake Ada Rose are full, and the Brooktrails Community Services District's water supply is hovering at 300 days, General Manager Denise Rose told the district's board of directors Tuesday. Nonetheless, at Rose's request directors renewed a declaration of local emergency due to drought conditions that will restrict residents' usage to 250 gallons per day.

Dan McKee
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"The drought has placed certain restrictions on the township's ability to impound water flowing from Willits Creek," Rose reminded directors.

"As a junior water rights permittee, [Brooktrails] may only impound water when the [state] lifts water board curtailment provisions during certain rain events," she explained in a memo to the board. This the state has done, but it could reinstate them "at any time. Therefore, staff remains concerned about the long-term water supply."

Rose also noted Brooktrails residents have failed to reach a state-mandated goal of reducing water usage by 25 percent from the amount used in 2013.

“While the amount sold per connection per day – 108.98 gallons – is well below the state average, the township did not achieve the target percentage reduction,” Rose said. “The annual reduction in water sold was 22.78 percent.”

On the positive side, Rose said the average Brooktrails household used only 91 gallons per day, well below the allotted 250 gallons.

Brooktrails residents will have a chance to express themselves on the amount they'll pay for water and sewer service during an April 12 public hearing.

Resolutions fixing the water and sewer rates for the 2016-2017 fiscal year were approved Tuesday night by a 4-0 vote of the community services district board of directors; board Chairman Rick Williams was absent. The rates will not be finalized, however, until after the April 12 hearing.

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The district is allowed to fix a water availability charge of no more than \$30 per year for undeveloped properties and a \$5 charge for developed properties, whether or not water is actually used. A \$50 per year charge is levied on owners of parcels within the district that have the capability of receiving sewer services.

Funds raised from the charges are used to maintain the district's water and sewer systems.

The water system charge “has not changed since the 1980s,” Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose told directors. The sewer charge has remained the same since November 1996.

An estimated \$115,255 will be collected from district residents in water fees; they will pay an estimated \$224,000 in sewer fees.

The board of directors also agreed to spend \$1,500 to mail postcards announcing a date to hear protests from residents objecting to the fees for their particular parcels.

The protest hearing is scheduled for June 21 at 7 pm in the Brooktrails Community Center.

Mike A'Dair
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Chavez has been involved in a prolonged trial in the Central Valley, involving his former employer, the Madera Unified School District. Because of the trial, he missed three months of the 2014-15 school year while

Mike A'Dair
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A discussion on whether to open participation on Willits Unified sports teams to students from Willits Charter School received little support at last week's meeting of the district's board of trustees.

The item was introduced by board Chairman Chris Neary, who said at the board's February 3 meeting the issue deserved consideration. During trustees' March 2 meeting, Willits High Principal Robert Chavez told the board he had done more research on what would have to be done to allow that to happen.

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Relations between the county library and the county government are improving, according to Marc Komer, chairman of the county's Library Advisory Board.

Komer reported to supervisors on library and advisory board activities over the past year at the March 1 meeting of the board of supervisors.

Komer thanked supervisors for their swift action on appointing former Fort Bragg branch librarian Karen Horner first as interim

Read the rest of
Supes |
Over on Page 13

Vocational training

What do YOU think?

To the Editor:

I agree with Becky that our children, in my words, are being shortchanged by the constant brainwashing that the only way our children will be able to get a job is to go to college. We are losing them due to the fact that college is not for all. Vocational training should be just as important as college.

I was watching TV this morning, and the city of Detroit was being discussed and the fact that there were jobs available but no one with the qualifications. The jobs??? Welders, nursing, contractors, just to name a few. A college student was interviewed, and he stated that he had attended college for three years and all he had to show for it was a pile of bills. He has since taken classes and now has an excellent job as an IT.

I am so hoping that our school board will finally see the light, and start giving our children a chance, to maybe even remain here in our town, by teaching them a trade. Auto mechanics, welding, carpentry, plumbing, electricians, just to name a few. Who knows, the knowledge learned taking a vocational course may allow someone to pay their way through college.

Carlin Horger, Willits

Ag at WHS

To the Editor:

I understand what Becky is saying in her letter in the last paper, but this is my take on what happened.

The second hire was done because the FFA and Ag Farm were not being kept up to any kind of standards. Complaints from community members, parents and students about the farm and the FFA program. The state was considering taking the FFA charter away. Paperwork was not getting done. Rules were not being followed.

The district was trying to hold together an ag program that needed lots of help.

The problem with the two ag teachers right now is there is no communication between them. This is hard on students and anyone who is trying to help. As an FFA Alumni Committee member, it's been like swimming upstream and not getting anywhere. I could share our minutes and what has been done the last two years. Lots has been done. The pathways at the school are being worked on.

Yes, a teacher that knows welding, construction and auto is a real need at Willits High School. The board should think about this when new hires are in the budget. It is a shame the shops are not being used the way they were supposed to be.

Thanks for reading, and if you would like to talk to me or anyone on the FFA Alumni Committee, please call me, Annette Pinon, at 459-6588.

Annette Pinon, Willits

Old friends

To the Editor:

We call it "JD for Tea at 3." Try as we might, what with jobs, caring for others, illness ourselves, and the weather – hot, cold or wet – we don't always make it, but when we do, it's a delight. Anyone there at the same time and not in a rush is invited to pull up a chair, order something to drink, and join our table.

Imagine how happy we were to see these two longtime residents of Willits walk in last Friday – Betty Ann Spencer and her daughter Patty Ann Spencer Hamley. They



Betty Ann Spencer and her daughter Patty Ann Spencer Hamley. They are sitting at a table, enjoying a cup of coffee, a cookie, and Willits Weekly at J.D. Redhouse.

Photo by D. Stropes

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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explained that, like last year, they had driven all the way from Healdsburg to pick up their tri-tip dinner from the Willits Educational Foundation at the rodeo grounds.

What a treat it must have been for the hardworking WEF volunteers to see them in the parade of cars. No doubt they rubbed their eyes and asked themselves: "Can it be? Is that Betty Ann and Patty?"

Betty Ann noted next month – on April 25 – she will turn 91. Regrettably, she had taken a tumble down three cement steps and fractured her femur a while back, but after surgery and with the aid of a cane she is once again upright and mobile.

Life in a small town is always a joy. And we never seem to get too big to notice when old friends who have moved away and are missed, suddenly walk in. It's like a dream.

Gail Richards and Donna Stropes, Willits

Transparency

To the Editor:

To Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Chair Carre Brown, and county residents: Should county residents be concerned about the lack of transparency and allegations of improper fiscal assessment against numerous county departments such as Health and Human Services, public safety, and the libraries?

As a former county employee, I tried many times to talk to the board of supervisors during recent union wage negotiations, taking time off work to appear before the board with only the hope of having a chance to be heard, to help the county during tense negotiations, inconsistent with board policy reprimanding supervisors who talk with county employees.

Complex California programs like Proposition 172 and 1991 and 2011 realignment programs with "maintenance of effort" requirements are all subject to federal A-87 program requirements and need transparency to ensure program rules are not violated when county leaders decide how to interpret complex program regulations with co-mingled federal/state funding sources.

Supervisors should be able to talk with their constituents, county employees, former county employees, professionals and all citizens with transparency in order to understand federal, state and local programs, both known and unknown, to protect against program regulation violations and misuse of federal, state and local funds whether intentional, or by accident. Respectfully,

Lance Vannorsdel, Willits

Senior Center lunch

To the Editor:

Our lunch program isn't just for seniors you know! Everyone is welcome to come and dine at the Harrah Senior Center. We love the young and enthusiastic as well as wise and laid back!

Our meals are inexpensive, filling and delicious. Lunch starts at 11:45 with soup served in the winter and salad bar in the summer. The main entree is cafeteria-style so you have some control on the food portions that are served. Our volunteer wait people will serve your drinks, soup and dessert and clear your dining space when you're done. No fuss, no muss!

Lunch is over promptly at 1 pm. Our senior meals (age 55 and over) cost \$5.50, and non-senior diners pay \$7. We also offer a 10-meal punch pass to senior center members (members can be ANY age – \$25 year) for \$50 (\$5 per meal). The senior member card is \$50 (\$5 per meal).

non-senior member card is \$65 (\$6.50 per meal).

We can serve you in three ways. 1. If you are homebound and are unable to shop and cook or have recently had surgery, we can deliver lunch to your home. We delivered 5, 901 meals this past year. 2. If you are short on time and need to get back to work, have an appointment, or just want a meal to heat up for dinner, you may get your lunch "to go." We sent out 2,395 meals this past year. 3. You may come dine in our dining room at the center. We have a beautiful facility and our in-house lunch hour provides time for our seniors and youngsters (under 55) to socialize and share their life stories with one another. We can seat 180 people, so we have a lot of room for you. This past year we served 10,606 meals to our community members.

Until this last year we have had no state or federal funding since the year 2000. This last spring Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency came to us with a wonderful "one time" gift offer of \$10,000 to use for a special project or on one of our existing programs. We chose to use it to offset our dining room meal deficit we incur each year. We want to thank HNSA for thinking of us when distributing this unexpected gift!

The T.R. Eriksen Foundation also supports our nutrition program with a yearly \$7,500 donation as well as \$7,500 to our transportation department. We want to thank the foundation for this yearly grant for these two very important senior programs. You help so many with your continued support!

Allyn Nonneman, director, Harrah Senior Center

FFA speaking competition



Willits FFA members who competed in the Sectional Speaking Competition, at top, left to right: Dante Gray, Devin Heiken and James Brown; bottom row, left to right: Bailey Ferguson, Caitlyn Forrester and Sierra Skinner.

To the Editor:

Wednesday, February 24 was a very important day for Willits Future Farmers of America. It was the day of the Sectional Speaking Competition at Kelseyville High School, that every Willits FFA in the photo above took part in.

The first competition of the day is called "The Creed." Our chapter reporter, James Brown, took part in this competition. It is a competition for freshmen only where they must memorize and repeat five paragraphs that were written 85 years to express E.M. Tiffany's strong belief in the industry of agriculture and the core values of citizenship and patriotism.

Our chapter President Sierra Skinner and FFA member Bailey Ferguson took part in the Job Interview Competition, where you have 10 minutes to fill out a job application for a random agricultural job that they give you. After which you are taken into a room with three judges, where the judges go over the resume and cover letter, then ask you a set of questions.

Devin Heiken, who competed in Impromptu, placed second. Impromptu is a competition only for sophomores, and the contestants compete in two rounds where they had pick topics out of a bowl. The contestant has 1 minute to prepare a 30-second to 2-minute speech on whatever the topic is. Devin will be advancing to the Regional Speaking Competition in the beginning of April in Santa Rosa.

Extemporaneous public speaking is one of the harder competitions WHS students competed in. You have to draw three topics out of a hat, then choose one to write about. You will have 30 minutes to write a speech that must be 3 to 5 minutes long. The judges will determine the winner on their ability to write and speak in a short amount of time. Caitlyn Forrester won second place, and Dante Gray took first

Caitlyn Forrester was also slated to be on the ballot for the North Coast Region Mendo/Lake vice president. At the Spring Regional meeting, she will give a 2-minute speech to fellow delegates from the North Coast FFA chapters. The North Coast Region covers four sections, including Mendo/Lake, Humboldt/Del Norte, Sonoma, and Solano/Alameda. Good luck Caitlyn!

James Brown, FFA chapter reporter, Willits

Read the rest of Letters | Over on Page 11

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Photos by Holly Madrigal



Above: Keynote speaker Paul Kaiser talks to the crowd. Below, left: Gowan Batiste of Fortunate Farms and Ruthie King of the Grange Farm School. Below: Tours in the mist at the NCO Farmers Convergence.



Farmers Convergence

NCO hosts annual farm, ranch and food event at Ridgewood Ranch

Ridgewood Ranch hosted over 150 farmers, ranchers and supporters on Tuesday, March 1 for North Coast Opportunity's fourth annual Farmers Convergence. People traveled from all over Northern California to the convergence, including one beekeeper from San Francisco.

In Sonoma County was the keynote speaker, sharing his success in using the no-till farming technique. Roundtable discussions filled the afternoon, with topics such as "Ask a Buyer," "Farm Accounting," "Diversity & Social Justice" and "Direct Marketing." Jon Bailey and Ian Fitzpatrick presented on the progress of the Mendo-Lake Food Hub and Go Local branding program.

Mendocino County was well-represented with producers and buyers like Harvest Market, Gualala's Surf Market and the Ukiah Co-op. Attendees spent the day networking, hearing presentations and dining on a delectable locally prepared lunch.

Paul Kaiser of Singing Frogs Farm

The day wrapped up with farm tours of the Grange Farm School and Tequiu Farm, both located on the Ridgewood Ranch property.

This full day demonstrates to all of Northern California just how much local knowledge and skill resides here in Mendocino County.

At left, above: Miles Gordon of the NCO Gardens Project. At left: Tequiu Farm cabbage.



Below, left: Hunter Flynn of Tequiu Farm. Below: Scott Cratty receives the first "Cratty Award" for excellence in supporting local food from Elizabeth Archer.



Good Farm Fund

Benefit raises funds for local nonprofit that helps small farms

The Good Farm Fund held a fundraiser Friday, March 4 at the Little Lake Grange, featuring a wide range of fresh food prepared by the Zocalo Collective, and with high energy roots and world music performed by Achilles Wheel and The Grateful Bluegrass Boys.

The Good Farm Fund is a relatively new non-profit organization, "founded to help small farms grow more food and to ensure food security to all of the members of our community," said GFF steering committee member, Caroline Radice.

Radice, farmer at Redwood Valley's Black Dog Farm, explained there are two programs the GFF raises money for throughout the year.

"The first is the food grant program, where food farmers can apply for small grants to help them with projects on their farm," said Radice. "It's for a range of different things, like seeds, irrigation supplies, fencing, tools ... whatever the farmer feels like they need at that moment that they can't afford. We want to help give it to them."

According to Radice, last year – their first in operation – the Good Farm Fund awarded \$7,000 to nine different farmers.

"Hopefully we'll raise a ton of money this year and give out even bigger grants," said Radice.

The second GFF program is called the EBT/food stamp match. According to the GFF website: "The food stamp match is the single most effective way to support local farms and make local food more affordable for low-income community members. The EBT match successfully redirects the subsidies away from industrial food in supermarkets and corner stores to local farmers by giving EBT users an additional dollar for every dollar they spend at the market (up to \$15). This means they get \$30 worth of produce, cheese, or meat for only \$15 in EBT."

Radice added, about the EBT program: "It makes sure that even for people that are low-income, they can still afford to eat nutritious, healthy, fresh, organic, local food."

Radice, along with a few of her friends and her husband, Jason Pluck, created the all-volunteer organization to fill what they considered to be a vital need for Lake and Mendocino Counties.

"It's very hard for local food farms to make it in the area," she said. "Yes, there are a lot of different grant programs that exist, but there's an awful lot of hoops to jump through. You have to put up your own home to use as collateral [in many cases], and you have to sign a really long lease."

The Good Farm Fund grant application process is simple

Read the rest of Farm Fund | Over on Page 4

COYOTE VALLEY

ONE STOP SHOP

GRAND OPENING

WIN FREE GAS FOR A YEAR*

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016 | 10AM-5PM

Join us for the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11am then stay for the Tri Tip BBQ.

Plus, you could win up to \$50 Free Play instantly! Check your receipt to see if you're one of our random winners.

You could win FREE gas for a year. Receive one entry for every five gallons of gas purchased or 150 points earned in the mini casino on March 19 from 10am to 4:30pm. Drawing at 5pm.

HOWL YEAH!

CoyoteValleyTribe.org | CoyoteValleyCasino.com | 707.485.0700

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COYOTE VALLEY

Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate



How To
Sudoku:

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

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

CLUES ACROSS

- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- Climbed over
- Has 50 states
- Able to move
- Prime Minister (abbr.)
- Cotangent (abbr.)
- Particle
- Fastened
- Wonders
- Surpassing all others
- Provides basement access
- Daily
- North Dakota
- Related to gulls
- Provoke
- Lake __, one of the Great
- Police department
- Throat illness
- South Dakota
- Contains iron (Brit.)
- Sees what the future holds
- The extended location

of something

- Cobalt
- Dwells
- Reprimand
- Agree to a demand
- Talented in or devoted to music
- Gospels
- European defense organization (abbr.)
- Edge of a cloth
- Equally
- Experience again
- Female sheep
- Made vanish
- Unit of force (abbr.)

9. Delaware

- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Island
- Central processing unit
- Pitchers
- Long-winged member of the gull family
- Auld lang __, good old days
- Term of affection
- They __
- Polynesian wrapped skirt
- Far down areas in the sea
- Delivered a sermon
- Any physical damage
- A Seattle ballplayer
- Raccoonlike animals
- Odd
- Delivery boys
- Billy __ Williams
- Icelandic poems
- A Scottish tax
- Central Florida city
- Rhenium
- __, denotes past

CLUES DOWN

- __ up
- Rear of (nautical)
- Purses
- Samarium
- A way to take forcibly
- On or into
- Metric capacity unit (Brit.)
- Assign to a higher position

WPD Activity Report

February 28 to March 5

Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 167 incidents this week.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

February 28

10:50 am: Officers investigated a physical altercation in the 10 block of West Oak Street.

7 pm: Officers investigated a domestic altercation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

8:30 pm: Officers initiated an investigation into a reported child abuse.

11 pm: ELLISION, Jhanna, 22, of Willits was arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

February 29

3 pm: Officers initiated a mental health commitment in the 300 block of South Main Street.

11:15 pm: BROCKWAY, Robert, 28, of Fort Bragg was arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

March 2

4 pm: Officers initiated a drug investigation in the 21000 block of Baechtel Road.

4 pm: A vehicle was reported stolen from the 100 block of Pine Street, and was ultimately recovered in Humboldt County.

March 3

5 am: Officers initiated an investigation after receiving a report of a missing adult female.

12:30 pm: After a concerned citizen reported a suspicious subject loitering in the backyard of a third-party residence on Valley Road, an officer located that subject walking into town. During the ensuing investigation, it was determined the subject, PAGE, Martin, 50, of Willits was under the influence of a controlled substance in violation of the terms of his probation. Page was arrested pursuant to 11550(a) HS (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance) and 1203.2(a) PC (Violation of Probation).

3:40 pm: Officers investigated a report of criminal threats in the 10 block of West Valley Road.

March 4

8:50 pm: Officers responded to a domestic altercation in the 10 block of Creekside Court and contacted SPERLING, Charles, 40, of Willits. During the course

Read the rest of WPD | Over on Page 11



Jake Whitehurst of J.D. Redhouse, right, presents Bliss Seiferd, coordinator for Care-A-Van, with a check for over \$2,500.

Tommy Castro show brings in
\$2,500 for
Care-A-Van

J.D. Redhouse gave a check for over \$2,500 this week to the Mendocino County Care-A-Van, from proceeds of ticket sales from the Tommy Castro Valentine's Day show at the Little Lake Grange. The Cosmic Pickle Productions show was a joint benefit for the Care-A-Van and Willits Elementary Charter School.

The Care-A-Van, which provides low-cost veterinary services in its 26-foot state-of-the-art "surgery on wheels" is making regular stops at J.D. Redhouse, including last Sunday, March 6.

"We had another successful day of spay and neuter surgeries, as well as vaccinations, despite this wet weather," said J.D. Redhouse's Ashtan Bloomquist. "We will be posting on our Facebook page when we expect our friends from the Care-A-Van to be back."

"Thanks for your continued support J.D. Redhouse," Bliss Seiferd, registered veterinary technician and coordinator for the Care-A-Van, said. "We are always amazed by the community support we get for our program, but this goes beyond anything we could have expected."

By providing low-cost, high-quality spay/neuter and vaccination services as well as animal welfare information, the Care-A-Van is working towards eliminating euthanasia as a means of solving pet overpopulation in Mendocino County.

Check the "Mendocino County Care-A-Van" Facebook page to hear about all scheduled stops in the north county. The Care-A-Van will be in Laytonville on Friday, March 25, from 10 am to 2 pm; location still to be determined. To make appointments for spay and neuter surgeries, or for more information, call 707-888-7698 either before March 13 or after March 20 (Seiferd will be out of cell range during that time). Vaccinations, tests and microchips are provided on a drop-in basis.

- Jennifer Poole



Above: Masseuse Janice Cinek. Below: Cinek shows the new far infrared sauna with a happy and relaxed and kid-friendly model. Photos by Maureen Moore



Massage &
Relaxation

Janice Cinek returns to Willits offering far infrared and bodywork

Registered nurse for 36 years specializing in chronic disease management, a recipient of a bachelor's degree in psychology from Sonoma State, and a certificate holder for intuitive healing, Janice Cinek knows how to help the body, mind and spirit – and her massage skills bring her healing abilities to another level.

Recently returning to Willits after spending some years away, working in hospice care and chronic pain management, Cinek is now working at Willits Chiropractic offering massage, bodywork and "far infrared" sauna treatments. Cinek received her massage training from Phillips School of Massage in Nevada City and graduated in 2008. She will now be available Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and some

Read the rest of Massage | Over on Page 11

The rest of Farm Fund | From Page 3

and straightforward and, according to the website, includes the following guidelines:

- Must have managed a commercial food farm operation for at least 1 year in Mendocino or Lake County, or worked on commercial food farms in Mendocino or Lake County for at least 3 years.

- The farm for which the money will be used must have a foundation of commercial food production.

- Applicants are not required to own land or machinery to apply. They should, however, show a dedication to farming and/or contributing to the Mendocino and Lake counties food system. The grants will be directed toward small farms with under 10 acres of land being used for food production.

- Grant money cannot be used to purchase and/or propagate genetically engineered crops.

The Good Farm Fund is fiscally sponsored by North Coast Opportunities, or NCO.

According to Radice: "NCO is a great organization that's helping people do great

things in the community. They have a small administrative fee that's very affordable. They're very supportive of people doing projects like this."

Attendees of the fundraising event at the Little Lake Grange dined on an array of fresh and local food prepared by the Zocalo Collective and chef Mama Jay. The menu included BBQ pork ribs with original sauce, blackened salmon, coconut rice and peas, baked sweet potatoes and saladise nicoise, plus Jamaican curry chicken wings.

The Grateful Bluegrass Boys opened the music portion of the night, performing classic rock and folk music cover songs from the likes of Bob Dylan, Grateful Dead, The Eagles, Van Morrison and the Rolling Stones.

Headliners Achilles Wheel then took the stage, performing their original, high-energy, roots rock and world music. They are currently on tour promoting the release of their second album "Stones to Sand."

For more information about the Good Farm Fund, go to www.goodfarmfund.org. Caroline Radice and her husband Jason Pluck of Black Dog Farm can be reached at 607-351-6584. Find them online at www.growitcookitcanit.com.

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Sheriff's Report

Willits man held for domestic violence

J. Hugo Carrillo-Flores, 48, of Willits was arrested on suspicion of domestic violence after a 49-year-old female motorist flagged down a Willits police officer at 4:40 pm on February 23 to report she had been physically assaulted by her boyfriend during an argument.

The boyfriend, Carrillo-Flores, was seated in the passenger seat of the car.

The alleged incident had occurred earlier in the day at the home the couple shared in the 33400 block of Bertha Keys Way in Willits.

Since the home is located in an unincorporated area of the county, a deputy sheriff assumed responsibility for the investigation into the incident.

According to sheriff's deputies, the woman and Carrillo-Flores had argued over the use of a car they owned jointly. The argument became more heated, and Carrillo-Flores began vandalizing the car and allegedly pushed the woman to the ground causing bruising to her lower right leg.

After she thought Carrillo-Flores had left the residence, the woman got into her car and drove away, only to discover minutes later that Carrillo-Flores had hidden himself in the back seat, according to sheriff's reports. He then began to damage the vehicle again.

The adult woman drove into Willits to seek help, stopping only when she saw the Willits police officer.

Carrillo-Flores was arrested on suspicion of domestic violence battery and booked into county jail.

Covelo domestic violence arrest

Sheriff's deputies arrested 22-year-old Sergio Nunez-Davila shortly after noon on March 1, following investigation of a reported domestic violence incident of that occurred around 10 pm the night before in Covelo.

Nunez-Davila allegedly grabbed his 26-year-old wife in a headlock during an altercation at their home in the 76000 block of Short Creek Road in Covelo, punching her several times in the head and face with his free fist, bruising her face, according to sheriff's Sgt. Mike Davis.

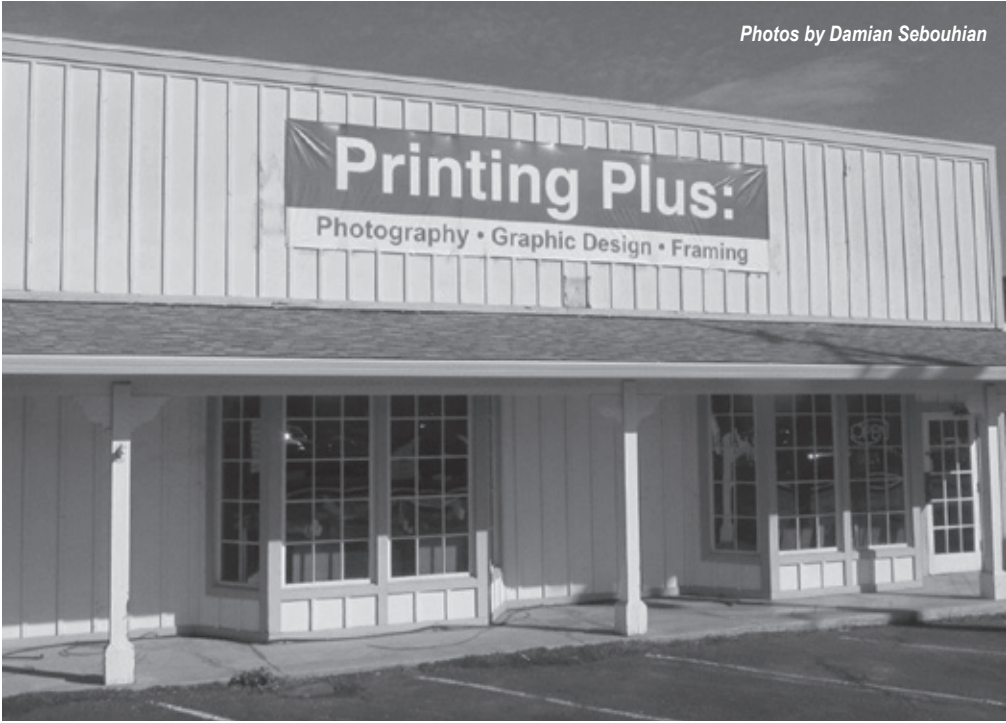
Deputies arrested Nunez-Davila on suspicion of domestic violence battery at the couple's home. He was taken to county jail.

Felon faces weapons charges

Convicted felon Johnny Goforth, 49, was arrested at 9 am Monday, February 29, after sheriff's deputies found several firearms and live ammunition inside his home in the 76000 block of Highway 162 in Covelo. As a convicted felon, Goforth is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition.

He was booked into county jail.

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



Photos by Damian Sebouhian



At left: The new location for Printing Plus.

Above: Alisa Kvasnicka is learning the printing trade.

Below, left and right: Moving day at Printing Plus last month.

Printing Plus Longtime local print shop moves to South Street

Printing Plus, the 30-year-old Willits print shop, has recently moved from its location on East Commercial Street to South Street, across from the Safeway parking lot. The new location affords the business more space to add equipment, ultimately geared for Printing Plus to expand its capabilities, volume and processing speed.

"Printing Plus is a one-stop shop for everything from photography, graphic design, printing, book-making, cards and promotional posters," said recently hired Alisa Kvasnicka.

Alisa is currently responsible for customer service and digital graphics, and is using her position with the company to expand her knowledge of the printing and graphics industry. "I'm excited about working here because I'll get more training in the field," she said. "Ultimately, I'd like to do way more with graphic design."

Tim Ramming, who bought the business three years ago with his wife, Jennifer, described some of the new work Printing Plus is doing.

"We're getting into framing and large format matting," Ramming said. He recently bought a production-size digital printer with a raster image processor, and another is on its way. "That thing is almost always going full time every day," Ramming said.



Photos by Ron Greystar

The rest of Death | From Page 1

shelter in place, his friend decided to walk out of the area alone in search of help, the sheriff's office reported.

After wandering through the area all night, the man was able to contact CalFire personnel and told them of Dalton's plight at about 7:30 am Sunday.

A search was immediately launched for the missing man by members of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue team, CalFire, Little Lake Fire Department and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Some 30 people combed the area on foot; helicopters and aircraft were unable to join the hunt at the time because of poor weather conditions, Barney said.

By Monday, search-and-rescue teams from the California Rescue Dog Association, Sonoma County, Contra Costa County, Napa County, Lake County, Solano County and Humboldt County, as well as the California Air National Guard Air and the California Office of Emergency Services Law Branch had joined the hunt.

Altogether, 70 searchers and 30 support personnel took part in the search, Barney said.

Around 2:22 pm Monday, "an all-terrain vehicle search team discovered a deceased male," Barney said. The dead man "matched the description" of the missing 6-foot-tall, blond-haired, blue-eyed Dalton. The dead man was dressed in a black leather jacket, a black shirt, tan shorts and black shoes.

A California Air National Guard Blackhawk helicopter airlifted the body from the woods and flew it to the incident command base, where a deputy coroner confirmed the body was that of Jamie Dalton.

"The weather during this ... incident was cold, wet, with some snow and sleet falling in the area," Barney said.

A death investigation has been initiated, and an autopsy is being scheduled. "There were no obvious signs of trauma on the decedent," he added, "and foul play is not suspected."

An autopsy has been scheduled to determine the cause of death.

"The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office would like to thank all agencies and volunteer search and rescue personnel who responded to assist on this incident," Barney said.

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

The rest of Revit-ED | From Page 1

councilmembers Larry Stranske and Holly Madrigal.

While the Revit-ED committee cannot make policy decisions on its own, it is tasked with formulating recommendations to the city council for action.

Several topics were listed as priorities for the committee to tackle: commercial signage, business development, commercial and residential re-zoning, and affordable housing. But by meeting's end, it was agreed the No. 1 priority was to help to establish a sphere of influence for the City of Willits.

"The sphere of influence is the probable ultimate boundary for the city for the next 20 years," said Duley. "It's about identifying where growth is going to happen, where the city can accommodate growth [and] provide police services, fire protection services, water and sewer."

The process in establishing the sphere of influence will involve Revit-ED formulating a recommendation to the city council. If accepted, the recommendation will then be forwarded to the Mendocino County Local Agency Formation Commission, or LAFCo, for final approval.

Currently, the sphere of influence is defaulted to the city limits.

"We have a number of properties we provide water and sewer services to outside the city limits," said Duley. "That would be a perfect example of land that could be annexed by the city."

If a business were to open just outside the city limits, Willits would not receive the tax revenue. Therefore, the committee agreed, establishing a larger sphere of influence was vital.

Vacancy abatement was discussed as being second on the priority list. There are too many vacant downtown buildings that could be used commercially, committee members agreed.

"How do we convince the owners it is no longer profitable for them to leave their buildings vacant?" asked Barksdale.

Taxing or creating a fee structure for those owners who refuse to sell or rent out their buildings were ideas the committee tossed around for future consideration.

In the realm of business development, Barksdale explained that one way of attracting new businesses was to offer tax breaks.

"Say you gave somebody a five-year tax incentive to bring their business to Willits," Barksdale suggested. "For that five-year period [the city] could give that business a low tax base, but they have to create [a certain amount] of jobs."

He added establishing beautification design standards was crucial to attracting business owners, and suggested Willits consider replicating the actions of other successful cities such as Ashland, Oregon.

"Almost every commercial building in Ashland has an awning over it," said Barksdale. "Awnings create a uniformity, and businesses can advertise on the awning, which takes the place of having to put a sandwich board on the sidewalk."

Holly Madrigal reminded the committee that once the bypass is completed and Caltrans relinquishes North Main Street to the City of Willits, there will be a major rules change relating to signage.

Currently no business or company is allowed to deploy off-site signage. "The Willits Community Theatre wanted to put up a sign at the Van Lane alley entrance, advertising their location," Madrigal said. "Right now, they're not allowed to do that," as per Caltrans rules.

Madrigal stressed the importance of Willits setting up some standards of its own, once the Caltrans rules are no longer in place, as well as to work with Caltrans in determining what kind of signs will be raised on Highway 101 around the Willits exits.

"[How about] a 'Welcome to Willits' sign that would include banners advertising events that are happening in town?" Madrigal suggested, crediting the Willits Chamber of Commerce for taking the lead on such project ideas.

Moore updated the committee on the upcoming charrette process regarding the Main Street Corridor Enhancement Project, scheduled for the week of April 18 through 22. City staff is currently working on a flyer detailing each day's topics. The charrette process is designed to include public discourse regarding the formulation of the Main Street plans.

"We are looking at a location on Main Street for the charrettes," Moore said, but declined to say exactly where until the location agreement was finalized. "There's going to be a kickoff on Monday, the 18th," she said. "It will be a community event with finger food, basically an open house type of thing. At the end of the week on Friday, April 22, the plans will be shared with the public."

The next Revit-ED meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, at 4 pm. The committee is inviting a Caltrans official to present the Highway 101 signage plans. All committee meetings are open to the public and take place in the council chambers at Willits City Hall on East Commercial Street.

For more information, contact Dusty Duley or Adrienne Moore at 459-4601.

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(PG13) 1 hr 45 mins
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Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:15pm

Movie Times for 3/11 thru 3/17

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



Getting Hot Hot Hot!

Senior Center Chili Cook-Off March 11

It's time for the 9th annual Chili Cook-Off at the Willits Senior Center! The event will be held on Friday, March 11 from 5:30 to 7 pm at the center, located at 1501 Baechtel Road. Come taste and vote for the "People's Choice," "Hottest Chili," "Most Entertaining/Best Decor" and "Most Crooked Team" ("bribes" encouraged!).

This year's judges, Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez, Willits Rotary Club's Ann Alumbaugh, and Little Lake Fire Department Chief Carl Magann, will pick the winner for the 2016 "Judge's Favorite." Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman will emcee the event this year. Tasting tickets are just \$8 for adults, \$7 for center members and \$5 for kids. There will also

– Maureen Moore



At top: Nita Lopez, Chevelle Sperling, Max, Shannon Thom, Liam Sperling, Ramona Smith at the 2015 cook-off. Above, left: Jeff Konicek, AKA Mr. K, relaxes after tasting. Above, right: Michael Tobin offers 2015 judge and Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman a bribe to help sway the vote.

Photos by Jenny Senter



Fred Snyder
1933 - 2016

Fred Snyder, 83, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on March 3, 2016 after a wonderful, well-lived life. He was born in Viborg, South Dakota on February 10, 1933 to Glenn and Florence Snyder, and was one of eleven children. In his teens he worked on farms and ranches, following the wheat harvest and working cattle prior to becoming involved in road construction, which ultimately became his life's work, while simultaneously owning and operating several successful businesses.

In 1952 he married Joan Huchendorf in Silverton, Oregon, and they began a family with the birth of their first child in Rapid City, South Dakota. Shortly thereafter they relocated to Oregon and then Northern California. Fred graduated from the Oregon Technical Institute and later attended Humboldt State University. Fred and Joan made their first home in Fortuna, California, lived for a time in Cloverdale, and then relocated back to Fortuna until they settled in Willits in 1969. They had five children – Roberta, Mark, Doug, Keith and Kathi.

Fred was a co-owner of a rock crushing plant in Cloverdale and then later worked in road construction for Mercer Fraser in Humboldt County while concurrently owning and operating an A&W franchise in Fortuna with his wife, Joan. Upon relocating to Willits, Fred and Joan owned and operated two Union 76 bulk fuel businesses, one in Willits and the other in Ukiah. When the bulk plants were sold in 1973, Fred reengaged in the construction business working for Parnum Paving as well as establishing an asphalt and rock crushing business with his late son Mark Snyder under the name of Dakota Paving. He wrapped up his construction career with Harrah Industries and Ghilotti Brothers, retiring in 1998.

He was active in the Willits community giving of his time and talents to the Kiwanis, the Willits Little League, the Willits Volunteer Fire Department and more. Upon relocating to Willits he became a member of the Methodist Church. He loved travel and golf and was a member of the Brooktrails Men's Golf Club. And, his Gribaldo's morning coffee group, working collaboratively, came up with solutions to many of the world's problems.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joan, his children Roberta Matteis of Roseville, Doug Snyder of Reno, Keith Snyder of Willits and Kathi McCrum of Roseville, ten grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

He was well-known for his caring nature and his willingness to help others in need, and he had many close friends in the community. He will be missed very much by his family and friends.

Services will be held at the Agape Church Hall at 290 South Lenore Avenue at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 12. A reception will follow the services. The family is asking that contributions be made in memory of Fred to Hospice or any charity of one's choice.



Cupcake Wars Returns

3rd annual event shows off bakers' skills for WHS Booster fundraiser

Bakers, get your aprons, and tasters, get your tickets: It's time for the 3rd annual Cupcake Wars event! The event will be held this Saturday, March 12 from 3 to 5 pm at the Willits Community Center and will help raise funds for the Willits High School Booster Club.

There are already 10 entrants signed up to compete for Best Decorated, Best Taste, Best Decorated Table and People's Choice, but event volunteer Bridgett Summers says there's still time to sign up for anyone wishing to enter.

Bakers pay \$25 as an entry fee and must bring a minimum of 24 cupcakes. They get to decorate their tables and present their cupcakes for judges and the public.

The judges, Holly Madrigal, Robert Chavez and Brad Walton, will sample each entry and select the winners. A prize of \$50 will be awarded to each winner of Best Table, Best Decorated Cupcake and Best Tasting Cupcake. The winner of the



Above: So many colorful entries for the 2015 contest.

Left: Katelynn Germann holds a tasting tray. Below: The Energize Willits team poses with their entry at the 2015 contest.

Photos by Maureen Moore

People's Choice award will receive \$100.

To vote for who wins the People's Choice award, event goers can purchase cupcake tickets. Prices per cupcake are \$2 each, \$10 for six, and \$20 for 12. A person can also purchase voting tickets for \$1 or, if they just want to look and not taste, eventgoers can pay a \$1 entry fee to just come inside and check it all out. All money is taken at the door, not at the cupcake tables.

All of the proceeds from the event will go to the Willits High School Booster Club to help support high school activities with purchases of anything from sports equipment to band instruments to necessities for the arts, drama or extracurricular clubs.

To sign up, or for more information: email whsboosters123@yahoo.com or call Summers at 972-2164.

– Maureen Moore



OBITUARY | Dale Dingman

Dale Wallace Dingman of Willits died in his sleep, February 28, after a long illness.

Dale was born January 30, 1946 in Chicago.

He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and studied design at Michigan State University.

He is survived by his sister, Kathy Dingman Katz, her husband, Aaron; sister, Gale Shearer, her husband, John; and nieces and nephews, Danny, Amanda, Melany Katz, grandnephew O'Rion Katz, and Jon and Liz Shearer. He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Dorothy Dingman of Chicago.

Before coming to Willits, Dale lived in Denver, where he worked in record promotion and distribution for many years.

Dale finally settled in Willits in 1996, earning a living as a designer, carpenter and skilled tile worker.

Shortly after arriving Dale became involved with the Willits Center for the Arts. As an active member of the arts community, Dale volunteered thousands of hours over the years to creating a grand art venue that has hosted thousands of artists and their patrons.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Willits Center for the Arts.



Kids POP Club

Thursday, March 10

Kids POP Club at Farmers Market: The final week of the Power of Produce Club at the Willits Farmers Market, Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. The POP Club empowers children ages 5 to 12 to make healthy food choices by offering educational activities, cooking demonstrations, and food sampling. Each child is provided with \$4 in market currency each week they participate, which they can spend on any fruit or vegetable they choose. This week's activities feature hands-on fun with worm composting bins; the featured vegetable will be beets, and the soup for tasting will be veggie chili with beets. Info: contact Jessica Ruff at 707-467-3224, 810-599-5533 or jruff@ncoinc.org.

WHS Booster Club Meeting: The monthly WHS Booster Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, March 10, at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS!

'Business Success after the Bypass': a free presentation by marketing and business expert Bob Pritchard on "18 Keys to Guaranteed Business Success – Life After the Bypass". Pritchard will address how local business, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, can make Willits a destination for visitors. "This special Thursday event is sure to be insightful and informative for business owners, business leaders and community members interested in learning how to thrive after the bypass." A Los Angeles-based businessman, entrepreneur and marketing consultant for 25 years, Pritchard has consulted to 91 Fortune 500 companies on six continents, won the coveted "International Marketer of the Year" award, and hosts a global business radio program that attracts nearly 590,000 listeners. Thursday, March 10 at 6:30 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. Hosted by the City of Willits and the Willits Chamber of Commerce. More info, call the Chamber at: 459-7910.

Old Blind Dogs at WCT: This four-piece band from the cutting edge of Scotland's roots revival, performs at the Willits Community Theatre on Thursday, March 10 at 7 pm. Since forming in the 1990s, the popular band has developed its own trademark style, combining an energetic mix of dynamic percussion, polished vocals, soaring fiddle and stirring pipes – all blended to fuel their delicately-phrased melodies and traditional songs. Advance tickets \$20; available in person

at Mazzahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets also available at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Friday, March 11

9th annual Chili Cook-Off: Enter your chili in the Harrah Senior Center's 9th annual Chili Cook-Off for a chance to win a great prize and bragging rights! Friday, March 11 from 5:30 to 7 pm, at the center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Prizes for "People's Choice," "Judge's Favorite," "Hottest Chili," "Most Entertaining/Best Decor" and "Crookedest Team." Judges this year: Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez, Willits Rotary Club's Ann Alumbaugh, and Little Lake Fire Department Chief Carl Magann, with MC Sheriff Tom Allman. Enter your favorite chili: \$25 entry fee. Taste and vote for your favorite chili: \$8, \$7 members, \$5 kids. Fresh-baked corn bread muffins, frosted mug root beer floats available. Call Harrah Senior Center for entry form or more info: 459-6826.

Mendocino County Museum Road Show: Local history springs to life in this 3rd annual countywide touring production that opens in Willits – one night only! – on Friday, March 11 at Willits High School, at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm for pre-show music by Americana ensemble All About Sally. "A completely new selection of stories gleaned entirely from local primary sources ... tales of hop-picking, childhood pranks, home remedies, politics, vice, temperance campaigns, and the exciting, critical election of 1916 for wet versus dry in Mendocino County." Tickets are



Mendocino County Museum Road Show

\$15; \$12 for seniors 65 & over and for youth 20 & under (parental guidance is suggested, and attendees are asked not to bring young children). Tickets available in person or by phone at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits, 400 East Commercial Street or 459-2736 or online at www.MendocinoMuseum.org. See article on page 5 for more details.

ClosEnuf at Brooktrails Lodge: "Come listen and jam with seasoned musicians who love to entertain. If you like to listen to good classic rock'n'roll, come up to the Brooktrails Lodge, 24675 Birch Street, and check it out." Every second Friday. Sign-ups at 7:30 pm for open mic jam. Music starts at 8 pm.

Shanachie Pub: Mendo Dope, Daniel and Bryan Eastmon aka "Old E" and "Bleezy": "infusing a west coast style flow with a

cannabis culture lifestyle, creating an original sound that was built up independently." Visit www.mendodopemusic.com. 9 pm. \$5. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, March 12

Kids on the Run! first practice March 12 for this running club for kids kindergarten through 12th grade, sponsored by the Sheriff's Activity League. Saturdays at 10 am at the ball fields between the Dog Park and the Mendocino County Museum. Cost for 2016: \$10, includes a T-shirt and free race entries. Questions? Contact: Michelle Kluskiewicz at 267-608-6262 or Gina Henebury at 707-485-1794.

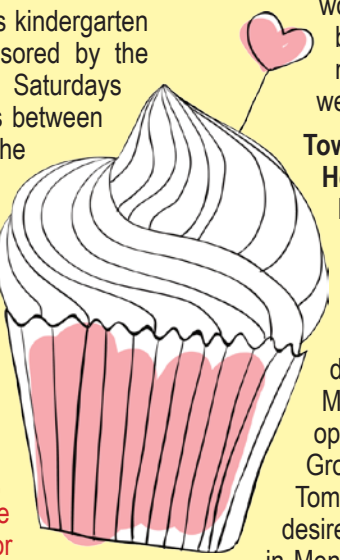
WHS Booster Club Cupcake Wars: 3rd annual fundraiser for the WHS Booster Club. Saturday, March 12 from 3 to 5 pm at the Willits Community Center. Prizes for Best Decorated Cupcake, Best Tasting Cupcake, Best Decorated Table and People's Choice. Still time to sign up: \$25 entry fee for bakers, who must bring at least 24 cupcakes. Judges this year are Holly Madrigal, Robert Chavez and Brad Walton. \$50 prizes for each winner; \$100 prize for People's Choice winner. Prices per cupcake are \$2; \$10 for six, and \$20 for 12. \$1 for voting tickets. To sign up, or for more information: email whsboosters123@yahoo.com or call Bridgett Summers at 972-2164.

American Legion St. Patrick's Day Dinner: American Legion-Willits Post #174 hosts the annual Duane Brown Memorial St. Patrick's Day, Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, Saturday, March 12 from 5 to 7 pm at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street. Menu: Corned Beef & Cabbage, Murphy's (Spuds), Carrots, Onions, etc. and dessert. Tickets: \$18, \$9 for children under 13; free for children under 5. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Shanachie Pub: House Of Mary, out of Sacramento, with "powerful indie, acoustic, Americana originals" Visit www.facebook.com/Houseofmarymusic. Opening performer: Ian Kashani. 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, March 13

Senior Center Biscuits and Sausage Gravy Breakfast: Biscuits and sausage gravy with eggs as you like them or pancakes; choice of ham, bacon or sausage and eggs. Orange juice, coffee, etc. Sunday, March 13, 8 to 11 am. Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. \$7; \$6 members; \$5 children.



What's Happening Around Town

Boy Scout Pinewood Derby: Willits Cub Scout Pack 42 is holding their Pinewood Derby on Sunday, March 13, starting at 2:30 pm at the Scout Hut in the Recreation Grove, East Commercial Street. The Pinewood Derby is a racing event for Cub Scouts in the Boy Scouts of America organization. Cub Scouts, with the help of parents, build their own gravity-powered race cars from wood, usually from kits containing a block of pine, plastic wheels, and metal axles. The public is always welcome.

Town Hall Meeting on Mental Health: The topic of this Town Hall Meeting is: "Mendocino County Mental Health Services: What we have; What we need; How do we get there?" with panelists Wynde Novotny, executive director of Manzanita Services; Mark Montgomery, vice president of operations for Orther Management Group; and Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman discussing the existing and desired status of Mental Health Services in Mendocino County. Sunday, March 13 from 4 to 6 pm at Willits Community Center, 111 Commercial Street. Community members will have the opportunity to jot down questions that will be read by our facilitators and answered/ explained by our panel. Refreshments provided by the 95490 Town Hall planning committee.

Monday, March 14

Willits Garden Club Meeting: this month's meeting features author Oliver Kolkmann discussing his book titled "Birds of Mendocino County." Monday, March 14, 12:30 to 2:30 pm at the Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse, 16100 North Highway 101, 6 miles south of Willits, west of Highway 101, south of Ridgewood (Seabiscuit) Ranch. Social time starts at 12:30 with coffee and refreshment, and Kolkmann's talk starts at 1 pm. Guests are welcome, and there is no charge. For more info: Gary Bodensteiner 459-2708.

Shanachie Pub: Inle Elni – dark folk metal with acoustic instruments and "really poetic and catchy song writing." Visit https://www.facebook.com/Inle-elni. Opening act: local favorite songstress Sarah Rose McMahon. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Tuesday, March 15

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 are "Zootopia" and "Gods of Egypt." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Saturday, March 19

Ridgewood Ranch Spring Nature Walks: This year's docent-led walks at Ridgewood "Seabiscuit" Ranch, 16200 North Highway 101, 5.5 miles south of Willits, start on Saturday, March 19 at 10 am (rain cancels). Free to the public. Meet at the Ridgewood Ranch Oak Woodlands Conservation Trailhead (conservancy shed). Follow directions to the Golden Rule RV Park for ranch access. All walks are guided. Saturdays through April 16. Visit www.seabiscuitheritage.org/conservancy.html for info or call 707-391-3872.



'Twining Time' benefit for WCS: Willits' own folk duo "Twining Time," John Wagenet (vocals/guitar) and Anita Blu (vocals/keyboard) will join with world-class musicians Hal Wagenet (lead guitar) and Mitchell Holman (bass) to perform a concert on Saturday, March 19 to benefit Willits Community Services and Food Bank. This "fun evening of originals and modern favorites in the spirit of old time mountain music, folk, and vintage country – with plenty of audience participation expected – is set for 7 to 9 pm at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub). Tickets, \$15, are available in advance at Mazzahar and at the door (only 74 tickets available. Sponsored by Sparetime Supply, Coast Hardware, Willits Redwood Company, North Coast Resource Management, Willits Power and Hardware, Willits Furniture, and Round Tree Glass.



WCS Country Music Festival: This fundraiser for the Willits Charter School features country artist McKenna Faith (from Ukiah, currently living in Nashville), and local singer/songwriter Sarah Rose McMahon. Plus silent auction and bake sale. Saturday, March 19 at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, doors open at 8 pm. Tickets \$20 for ages 20+; \$10 for ages 6-18; under 6 free. No-host BBQ dinner, \$7. Tickets at willitscharter.org/fundraiser or at WCS front office.

Sunday, March 20

"It's All About the Soil": California Growers Association monthly event features presentations by Judith Harwood on biochar, Alan Adkisson on bokashi composting, and Dirty Business Soil on bed prep and amendments. Sunday, March 20 at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue in Laytonville. CGA business, 3 to 3:30 pm; panel starts at 3:30 pm and continues to 5:30 pm. Sliding scale, \$5 to \$20 donation, sliding scale. Info: Erin at 707-972-3536



Email us your calendar listing! willitsweekly@gmail.com

Ongoing Events

Willits Winter Farmers Market: from 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Winter produce, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Music on March 10: tba; music on March 17: Richard Jeske, guitar, accompanied by Loren Herz-O'Brien on the flute.

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

"Less is More": Willits Center for the Arts' March show. "Less is More" opens with an artists reception, Saturday, March 5 from 6 to 9 pm. Featuring mixed-media work of Dorothy Asbury, Mya Byers, Julie Byers, Tonia Silverstein, and Celia Price. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Continues through March 27; gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays, 4 to 7 pm; Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 3 pm. Visit http://willitscenterforthearts.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

Al-Anon Meeting: Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Ride-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. Saturdays at 10 am at St. Francis Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 66 East Commercial Street. "Al-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."

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

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

Soroptimists International of Willits: Women's service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets second and third Tuesdays of every month, noon to 1 pm, at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street, in the back room. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

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

Volleyball Open Gym: at Baechtel Grove gym; Sundays and Tuesdays at 7 pm. Some experience desired not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

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

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

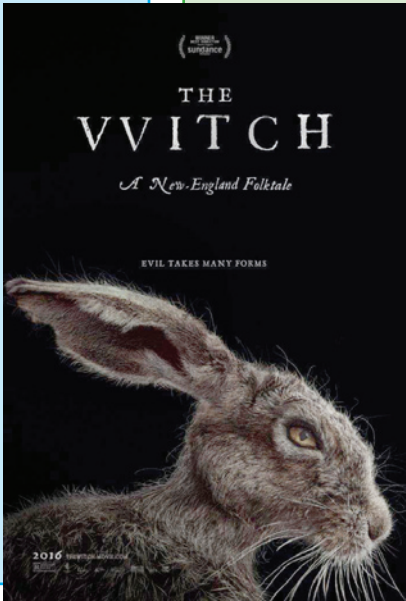
Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 10 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

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

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

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

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



'How Love Reveals Truth'

Sunday, March 20

"How Love Reveals Truth" is the theme of a worship service presented by ECKANKAR: Experience the Light and Sound of God, Sunday, March 20 from 11 am until noon, at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street.

A panel of speakers will share insights and personal experiences on how they recognize God's love in their lives. Soul's whole purpose in this world is to find divine love. "The individuals who can actually live the principles of love in their own lives, and let other people be, are living the examples of the highest truth" explains Harold Klemp, spiritual leader of ECKANKAR.

The service also features a HU Song. Throughout the ages, followers of many spiritual traditions have used prayer, the singing of holy words, and meditation to bring themselves closer to God. In the same way, those who have discovered HU, an ancient name for God, sing it for their spiritual upliftment. Singing HU draws us closer in our state of consciousness to the Divine Being. This is its purpose. It is for those who desire spiritual love, freedom, wisdom, and truth. Regardless of your beliefs or religion, you can sing HU to become happier and more secure in God's love.

ECKANKAR teaches that the spiritual essence, which is the Light and Sound, connects everyone with the heart of God. This Light and Sound is the ECK, or the Holy Spirit. Direct experience with these twin aspects of God opens the deep spiritual potential within each of us. The Light and Sound purify, uplift, heal, and direct us on our journey home to God.

If you wish to learn new techniques to help you better understand and experience more of God's love and how these techniques can offer insights of higher consciousness, then join us at this worship service. For more information feel free to call: 456-9934.

– submitted by ECKANKAR

Spring Meditation Training Course

Spring Meditation Training Course: a free 10-week meditation seminar, providing "everything needed to launch your own satisfying and effective meditation practice in a supportive group practice," starting NEW DATE: March 26, continuing every Saturday from 2 to 4 pm, at the Inner Resource Institute, 1500 Hearst Road. "Everyone needs meditation for healing, stress

release, the development of inner poise and for the realization of our full potential. Countless scientific studies have proven the rapid and reliable benefits of ongoing meditation practice. Even meditating for five minutes a day has a profound and positive effect on health, relationships and work." To register or for questions: 707-357-4676.

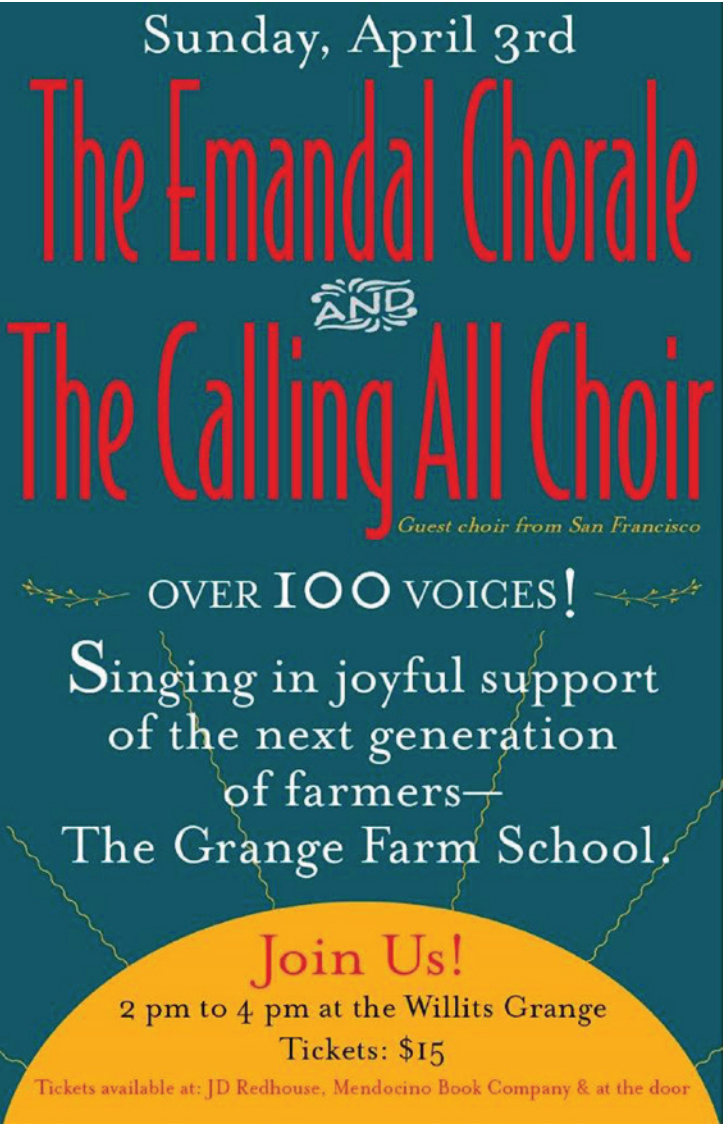


Tuesday, March 22nd
5:30pm
\$37.50 Per Person
Pre Registration Required
Call 707-459-0975 or visit
www.flowerladyofwillits.org

Join us for a fun spring evening of flower arranging. This workshop includes everything you need, plus a guided demonstration, to make a festive Easter basket! Space is limited.

Umpires needed

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





Above, from left: Jimmy Booth sets the strap on the next drive assembly to be moved. The front yoke on the Kelly Springfield steam roller. (Photo by Chris Baldo). Ken Smith and Keith Rongey set the valves for the glass column in the water column. Troy James talking through the next steps with photo referencing. The gears fit in place.

At right: A recent Wednesday night work party at Baldo Locomotive Works, from left to right, Troy James, Keith Rongey, Heisler the dog, Don Ford, Chris Baldo, Jimmy Booth and Chuck Jones.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Baldo Locomotive Works

Restoring the 1921 Kelly Springfield steam roller

The newest project at Baldo Locomotive Works is the restoration of the 1921 Kelly Springfield three-wheeled steam roller. In the early 1900s, steam road rollers were used to maintain roads in the U.S.

A changing and jovial group of Roots of Motive Power volunteers has been working on restoring the 1921 steam-powered roller on Wednesday evenings, a project that began in October 2014. Due to the year-round nature of the work, it was decided to use Chris Baldo's large, enclosed, and heated building for the project, instead of the Roots facility on East Commercial Street.

The first job for volunteers was to dismantle the Kelly Springfield roller, down to the last bolt. Photos were taken of parts in place to reference for its reassembly. The pieces were lined up on the floor and used as needed. As suspected, the roller's smoke box and front tube sheet were found to be completely rusted, and they needed to be replaced. The parts were fabricated and welded locally. The boiler was, thankfully, in excellent shape.

Riveting the front tube sheet is an "old world" process. Scott Wickert of Tillamook Locomotive Works in Oregon and Eduard Neubauer of San Francisco were called upon for their expertise and the use of their "old world" tools to set the tubes and rivets. It took the volunteers hours of experimenting with the old and new tools and technologies to drill the holes exactly, set them in place, and replace bolts with rivets on the boiler. Because of the amount of pressure that boiling water and steam creates, the engineering must be precise. Mistakes could result in an explosion. One of the most important pieces in the system is the "glass sight gauge." It is standard on all steam-powered machines. The cast metal tube is about 2 feet tall with a glass column insert. The gauge lets the engineer know if there's enough water in the boiler, ensuring there won't be any accidents.

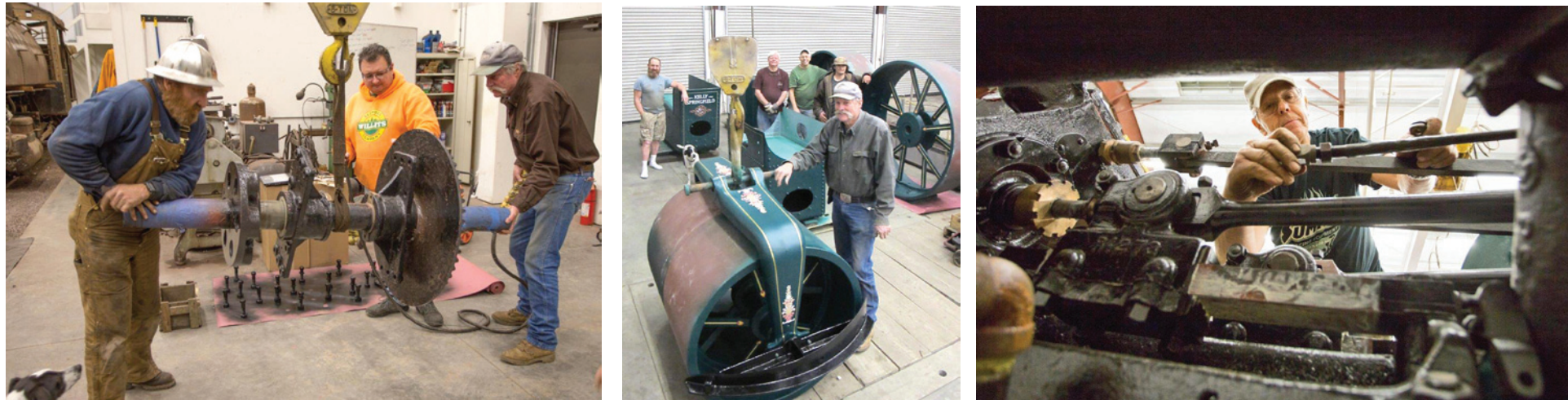
Meanwhile, Bruce Evans, graphic artist and Roots volunteer, was busy with the art for the Kelly Springfield. After finishing the lettering and pin striping design for the roller, he applied the art transfers to the various parts of the machine. Troy James sprayed the protective clear coat onto the art and all the green wheels and tanks. The beautiful addition of Evans' art completes the machine's aesthetic.

The Kelly Springfield roller will accompany the Buffalo Springfield steam and gas rollers to San Francisco for The Center for the Book's, "Roadworks Steamroller Printing Festival" on September 18.

Individuals in the Roots of Motive Power

Below from left: Troy James, Jimmy Booth and Keith Rongey swing the two-speed drive mechanism into place. The Wednesday work party crew, from left to right: Troy James, Kirk Graux, Chuck Jones, Jessie Smith and Keith Rongey with the newly painted roller and water tank. (Photo by Chris Baldo). Chuck Jones sets the pin for the throttle shaft pivot point.

Photos by Ree Slocum



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Above, left: Roots of Motive Power members, left to right, top row: Chuck Jones and Don Ford, and in front: Jessie Smith, Chris Baldo, Troy James, the water column (without glass tubing), Ken Smith and Keith Rongey. Above, center: The Kelly Springfield's parts waiting for placement.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Above, right: Bruce Evans, graphic artist, and Kirk Graux with rear water tank artwork.

Photo by Chris Baldo

The rest of Roots | From Page 10

group restoring the Kelly Springfield have varying interests and skills. Each person works when they can and on the parts of the project where they are needed or want to learn about. The more-skilled people serve as instructors to those wanting to learn information and skills, making the restoration project a perfect situation for anyone interested in steam engine technology, and in what tools are used and how to use them. There's a lot of humor mixed with intense concentration on those Wednesday evenings.

Saturdays, with appointments ranging from 9 am through the evening hours. While scheduling an appointment is best, she will also be taking walk-in appointments when time permits.

To ensure there's something for everyone's needs, Cinek will offer deeply relaxing therapeutic massage, as well as integrated Swedish massage, deep tissue and trigger point therapy. She is also proud to now be able to combine massage with her new far infrared sauna treatment.

The sauna comes from sauna-therapy industry leaders Sunlighten of Kansas and emits a low electromagnetic frequency light. The light is one of the invisible parts of the sun's spectrum, and its low heat from the sauna has the ability to penetrate human tissue 2 to 3 centimeters deep, which is ideal for detoxing and relaxing the systems of your body. There is no danger of sunburn inside the sauna.

Look for Roots of Motive Power's Buffalo Springfield steam and gas road rollers, as well as the Willamette steam donkey, on display as part of the historical exhibitions at the Redwood Region Logging Conference, March 17 to 19 at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah (see box for more details).

Chris Baldo's article, "Roller Mania: Roots Volunteers at Work," in the December 2015 issue of the Roots newsletter, "The Highline," details some of the steps the group has been doing to restore the steam-powered vehicle. "The Highline" is sent to all members of Roots of Motive Power; membership is \$35/year. Visit www.rootsofmotivepower.com to become a member or click on the "Projects" tab for more details about the 1921 Kelly Springfield steam roller project.

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The rest of WPD | From Page 4

of their investigation, officers arrested Sperling pursuant to 273.6(a) PC (Violation of a Protective Order) after determining he was the subject of an active court order that prohibited contact with the victim. Also at the location was NEAGLE, Richard, 35, of Willits, who was arrested after officers determined he had two active Mendocino County warrants and was found to be under the influence of alcohol in violation of the terms of his probation.

March 5
12:30 am: Officers investigated a reported physical altercation in the 200 block of South Main Street.
10:40 am: Officers initiated a mental health commitment in the 24000 block of Cobb Drive.

The three-day conference also features classes for professional loggers, a golf tournament, social events including the (members only) Gin Fizz Breakfast on Saturday morning and the Timberman's Banquet/ Auction & Sawdust Bowl Social on Saturday night, a high school forestry competition, a loggers' competition on Sunday, a chainsaw carving competition and auction, and much more.

Check the "Program" page at <http://www.rlc.net/> for a full schedule, or call the conference's Eureka office at 443-4091.

pressure. It also offers pain relief for joints and muscles, arthritic backs and necks, and can even help those with autoimmune diseases and cancer.

"These treatments help keep the body as an un-ideal host for unwanted toxins, and the treatments can even help the body be a less ideal place for low-oxygen, high-sugar and dehydrated cancer-loving tissues," said Cinek.

Children can also benefit from the sauna and can start as early as age 2. Cinek noted that research has shown this therapy is advantageous for children with autism, autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, learning disorders and more. Children are welcome to come with their parents, and each can receive a treatment.

The system runs on a timer and can be used as a solo treatment, or combined with a massage. Cinek suggests patients could come in 15 minutes before their massage and enjoy a short sauna session, have their massage, then have another 15-minute treatment post-bodywork. Far infrared sessions can be purchased as packages, too; as Cinek noted, they increase in effectiveness if able to be done two to three times a week.

If you would like to schedule a massage with Cinek, or learn more about the far infrared sauna process, call 489-2433.

Children can also benefit from the sauna and can start as early as age 2. Cinek noted that research has shown this therapy is advantageous for children with autism, autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, learning disorders and more. Children are welcome to come with their parents, and each can receive a treatment.

"With my experience in the healthcare industry, I really see the benefit of continuity of care, and if needed I would love to be a health companion to my clients, accompany them to their other physician appointments, help them advocate for their care, and make sure we're all doing everything we can for each and every person to be comfortable in their own body," said Cinek. Cinek is also available for in-home care consultations.

If you would like to schedule a massage with Cinek, or learn more about the far infrared sauna process, call 489-2433.

4:45 pm: Officers contacted HAKE, Chad, 27, of Willits during a reported fight in the 10 block of South Street. Officers determined Hake was intoxicated to the point that he was unable to provide for his own care and placed him under arrest pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication).

11:20 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Sequoia Boulevard. As they arrived, they contacted SILVA, Buck, 28, of Willits, as he was walking away from the area carrying the Sequoia Boulevard street sign. During their investigation officers determined Silva was unable to provide for his own care due to his level of intoxication and placed him under arrest pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication)

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Help Wanted

Driver for Harrah Senior Center Van. To be available to cover for vacations and/or sick days. Must have clean driving record and be able to pass drug test. Call 707-459-6826 or pick up application at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd.

Keith's Knife & Tool Sharpening

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

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

Volunteers Wanted

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

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REDWOOD REGION LOGGING CONFERENCE

March 17, 18 & 19

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Closed Sunday

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REDWOOD EMPIRE FAIRGROUNDS, UKIAH

REDWOOD REGION LOGGING CONFERENCE

March 17, 18 & 19

Fun for the entire FAMILY

• Wildlife Show • Lumberjack Show •

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Thurs. Friday 9 AM to 5 PM • Sat. 9 to 4:30

Closed Sunday

www.rrlc.net or call 443-4091

REDWOOD EMPIRE FAIRGROUNDS, UKIAH



Kim Silva, family nurse practitioner, has joined the Redwood Medical Clinic.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home Sweet Raji



Photo by S. Coffman Photography

Raji is waiting for you! This sweet guy is now loose in the cattery and will be standing by the door, waiting to greet you when you walk in. Raji is a mellow young adult that would do well in just about any home. He loves to be held and would cuddle with you all day if he had the chance. He wouldn't mind playing with children either, and just wants all the love in the world. Come meet Raji today or call 707-485-0123.

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

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Nurse practitioner trades big city for small-town charm

By Cecilia Winiger, for HHM

After living in the city for 15 years, Kim Silva, a board-certified family nurse practitioner, was ready for a change. And she found the perfect place in Willits. Having grown up in Humboldt County, the choice to trade the congested city for a small town was easy, Silva said. "It was like coming home for me. I didn't realize how much I missed Northern California until I moved back. I missed the beautiful scenery and the smell of the redwoods. The fact that I don't have to be stuck in traffic for two hours to get to work isn't too bad either," she adds.

Silva will join John Glycer, MD, and Bev Draudt, FNP, at the Redwood Medical Clinic, and will be seeing patients starting in March. As a family nurse practitioner, Silva specializes in caring for the whole family: men, women and children. Silva evaluates and treats many conditions and offers a wide range of services, including preventative medicine, such as vaccinations and annual physical exams; management of ongoing chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and hypertension; and treatment of acute medical conditions. She has over 30 years working in psychiatry and has a special interest in women's health.

Silva is a graduate of Samuel Merritt College in Oakland, earning her master of science degree as a family nurse practitioner while

working as a registered nurse in the psychiatric unit at San Francisco General Hospital.

Asked why she chose to specialize in family medicine, Silva explains: "In coming to a small community my hope would be to get to know and care for the whole family. This is a great opportunity to treat everyone — children and their parents — thus allowing me to see the whole picture and provide better care."

Silva is excited for the opportunity to provide care in a small-town setting, especially with a new hospital and a brand-new facility. "Frank Howard Memorial Hospital has such a great reputation; with the new hospital and the new clinic that is opening soon, I feel like we are truly providing the best for this community," she said.

Silva loves music as much as she loves taking care of patients. She's been playing the drums since grade school and has played in many rock bands in various venues in the Bay Area. She enjoys both playing and listening to different types of music, especially fusion and funk. She also enjoys spending time with family, taking road trips, camping and photography.

Silva is now accepting new patients at Redwood Medical Clinic's current location at 88 Madrone Street in Willits. To schedule an appointment please call 459-6115.

Silly Cino

Cino is a 1-year-old neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 78 pounds. Four words to describe Cino: goofy, goofball, playful and silly. This big



Photo by Rod Coats

boy is a pure delight, and as happy and friendly as a dog can be.

He would be thrilled to spend all day in the play yard, romping, playing with toys or simply sniffing and snooping in the sun. Then he would like to stretch out on the couch and get belly rubs until he falls asleep! Cino loves attention and affection, and is obviously very eager to bond. We have no doubt that he will be the most loving, loyal, grateful companion and family member.

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

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Chavez said some of the unknowns from the February 3 meeting, which had loomed as potential obstacles, turned out to be not that difficult to overcome. It would cost the district only an additional \$29 to pay dues to the Coastal Mountain Conference, and there would be unknown transportation costs.

After Chavez finished with his presentation, several district teachers spoke out in opposition to the proposal.

"I wanted to address this whole idea of charter versus public school not being competitive," said Mackenzie Erickson, a teacher at Baechtel Grove Middle School. "But in reality, from a parental perspective, it is a competition, because each site has their own programs they offer to try to lure students to their school. Because really, it's all about ADA [Average Daily Attendance]."

"The programs we have that sets us apart from the charter school [are] our sports and our band program — and these other things, like WEB and other side programs we have. But ultimately, it's these pieces the charter doesn't have. And our biggest, our first concern is, it's about programs. The charter has their programs; we have ours."

Erickson said Baechtel Grove staff had gotten together to discuss the proposal that Willits Charter School students should be allowed to play on district school sports teams, including Baechtel Grove's sports teams. "We came up with a long list of deltas [negatives]," Erickson said. "It was delta delta delta. We only came up with one positive."

Baechtel Grove teacher Liesl Hendrix focused on the impact that mixing schools on one school's sports team would have on a teacher's ability to use sports as a way to motivate and influence kids.

"I really appreciate being able to go to the coach, at my school, and

to say: 'Hey, this kid's really having problems,'" she said. "I really need to see this kid in intervention. I really need to see them stepping up their game before they play on a team." If we have students from other schools, how am I going to do that? How am I going to network with those other principals and students to get them to where they need to be? Because academic excellence is an important part of being a sports player."

Baechtel Grove teacher Kristian Hart told the board he had already tried blending students from two different schools, when he was coaching baseball at a school in the Redding area.

"We tried to bring in a charter school, just exactly what we are talking about," he said. "We had problems with the students because they didn't become a team, because there was competition with each other. We had three games that had to be forfeited because a third of my team was made up of charter school kids. Because of something going on at the charter school, the kids stayed away, without any notification to me, which I would have known if they were at my school."

"So we had to forfeit a game, which is really a humiliation to the students, and I lost my best players because of that. So for a team that was sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders, I was scrounging, I was going down to fifth-graders to play on the team. So there isn't a cohesive team, when they're not at school together," Hart said.

Teachers Barbarie Gonzalez and Tessa Ford, coach Paul Riley, and Tami Jorgensen, Baechtel Grove Middle School administrative secretary, also spoke in opposition to the idea.

Former school board member Saprina Rodriguez spoke in support of the proposal, especially as it might affect the district's middle school. She pointed out the competition factor was a moot point, because the student

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principal at Blosser Lane Elementary School. His absence required Blosser Lane teachers Nancy Runberg and Janice Haschak to perform some of the day-to-day duties of the office of principal at the school from mid-March until the close of the school year in mid-June 2015.

Chavez also has missed a great deal of the 2015-16 school year, during which he has been employed as principal of Willits High School, Sanhedrin High School and Sherwood School.

Chavez told the school board he was only able to be present at Willits High for two days, and sometimes three days, a week, from the beginning of the school year until approximately February 1.

He told Willits Weekly the trial has gone on longer than anyone anticipated. "It is the longest civil trial in the history of that court," Chavez said. "The trial opened on March 13, 2015."

The letter was signed by 16 of the 25 teachers at Willits High: Carolyn Bakewell, Jennifer Barrett, Mike Colvig, Tim Conrad, Priscilla Dodge, David Likker, David Parmenter, Anne Pedersen, Susana Ramirez, Gwen Rasmussen, Stephanie Roelling, Amanda Samana, Marisela de Santa Anna, Patrick Sears, Jered Sherrill and Jill Walton. The letter claims Chavez's absence has led to numerous problems, including poor student discipline, lack of student respect, Willits High teachers feeling unsafe, and a general sense there is no one in charge.

"School-wide discipline is in shambles," the letter reads. "There is no consistency in the [Student Resources Center] room due to the lack of a single overseer or teacher. Two periods of SRC are not covered [by a staff supervisor], with the duties of staffing the room falling to a secretary."

"There is no consequence for students repeatedly sent to the SRC.... There is a lack of consequence for open and overt defiance of teachers and staff. Students swearing at teachers with no consequence. Students swearing in hallways and refusing to disperse."

Willits High School Vice Principal James Madden's performance was also criticized. According to the letter, Madden is "ineffective as a disciplinarian." He shows "lack of leadership in parent-teacher meetings.... Students do not take him seriously and openly mock him."

Madden was characterized as being "ineffective as vice principal partly due to inadequate guidance."

The letter said "teachers and staff do not feel safe at work.... The phone lines in the main office are not manned consistently, in case of classroom emergency." There is "a lack of adequate supervision in common areas" leading to "fights" and "students being out of class."

Another problem the letter characterizes as stemming from the breakdown in discipline is a spate of "threatening behavior by students toward teachers and staff."

The high school's counselors also were criticized. School counselors did not "heed or respect the educational decisions made by the teachers," the letter states. "Teachers are being told they may not have students transferred out of their classes" and yet, "students are being transferred out of their classes without consulting the teacher." There is a "disrespect for the teacher's judgment of the dynamics

of their classes," according to the letter. The letter said that counselor Nicole Burke was "helpful," but counselor Kelly Mace was "uncooperative."

In language strikingly similar to that used in the June 2014 criticism of former Willits High Principal Jeffrey Ritchley, Willits High teachers who signed the letter claim the lack of discipline at the school is having a deleterious effect on teacher morale. "Thirty to 50 percent of the teachers presently at Willits High School are considering leaving the campus due to lack of leadership in the school and district as a whole," the letter states.

"It is educationally reprehensible with regard to our students that these teachers are so unsupported that they are taking the first opportunity to depart for a district that offers basic professional respect. Compounding this situation is the imminent departure of our highly effective veteran teachers due to retirement and dissatisfaction. Willits High School will shortly find itself without its stalwart pillars and lacking the raw materials to construct a replacement edifice," the letter claims.

Chavez told trustees conditions at the high school were not as bad as all that. He acknowledged his absences have caused problems at the school, but added discussions with board Chairman Chris Neary, an attorney, have enabled him to find a way of getting out of his obligations to the court.

In a separate interview with Willits Weekly, Chavez said he is no longer attending the trial and has not done so since early February. He said he would have to return to the court when called as a witness, which will probably be sometime in May or June.

"All of their concerns really stem from my absences," Chavez told the board of trustees during the March 2 meeting. "I was involved in a court case I was required to attend, until Mr. Neary coached me on how to get out of it. He did that, and I needed to do that, because of the trial. They need their principal there.... For a high school principal to come in only two days, many times, or three days at the most, and get all that work done.... I wasn't able to make the connection with the teachers, like I should have."

"I think the students are doing so much better. I've had literally over a dozen parents come up to me and thank me because their child is having a great year. In the past, for whatever reason, their child was not happy."

"So I've been out for court," Chavez said. "And then most recently, I've been in the hospital for some internal bleeding. Nobody knows why. They say, 'It just happened. You're healthy as a horse, except you're bleeding inside.' But now ... I'm fine. I've got most of my blood back. I'm about 90 percent."

Chavez told the board he had had a discussion with several teachers expressing dissatisfaction, who wanted to go to trustees with their complaints. Chavez told them he was back now and conditions would be improving at the school. He told trustees he had at first asked the teachers not to go before the board, but they wanted to bring the letter to trustees.

"I had to let them do it," Chavez said. "That's their right, and I would never deny them their rights. I love them."

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population of the Willits Charter School was locked in at 170 or so.

"I don't think it's an issue when it comes to ADA," Rodriguez said. "I don't think we will be losing ADA by allowing students to participate in sports. The charter school is already at capacity. If you let in a few students from there to play sports, you're not going to lose any of our students who will go over to the charter school."

"I've been coaching soccer for 25 years," she continued. "I've coached six years at Baechtel Grove and six years at the high school. And during that time, I can't imagine that it's ever been an issue in our community, that there has been a rivalry between students."

"We're a small community. Our kids know each other. They get along. It doesn't matter what school you go to. You come for the love of the game," Rodriguez said.

Board chair Neary said there did not appear to be much momentum building in support of his proposal.

Contacted a few days later, Neary said he wasn't going to push the issue. "I don't think it's time now," he said. "But I don't think we should always look for ways to cooperate with the Willits Charter School."

Superintendent search almost done

Trustees conducted interviews with six candidates for superintendent of schools during a special closed session meeting held last Thursday. According to Neary, the board has reached a decision on a preferred candidate and is now in the process of contract negotiations.

Neary said he was very pleased with the three finalists for the position. He added that currently the district is researching if the board can announce the new hire at the March 16 board meeting, or if legal niceties will require the name of the new superintendent be announced at the April 6 meeting..

Museum report

Museum Director Alison Glassey presented supervisors with a report on the status of the Mendocino County Museum, the upshot of which was that the museum has grown, improved and expanded during her tenure as museum director.

Glassey has brought in attractive and interesting exhibits to the museum, including the Civil War exhibit that was on view during 2015. She noted an upcoming program, "Native American Days," will be presented to middle school and high school students later on this year and predicted it would be a valuable educational tool.

The Museum Road Show, a recent addition to the museum's annual program, incorporates elements of theater, monologue presentation and history, and has enabled the museum to reach the public in new and exciting ways.

One of the museum's most important recent actions has been establishment of an auxiliary organization, the Mendocino Museum Community Partners, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide financial and other support for the museum. Glassey said the MMCP was essentially a "Friends of the Museum" organization, whose charge was to sponsor events, raise funds and round out museum programming. Willits-area residents Alan Falleri and Kim Bancroft have been appointed to the board of directors of the organization, along with former Third District Supervisor Jim Eddie and former county Auditor Meredith Ford.

Glassey noted the most pressing need the museum has now is to repair the artifact storage building that stands next to the museum. The building, constructed circa 2000, has metal siding and a metal roof that does not effectively insulate its contents against the climate. In fact, given the metal roof, it is impossible to control either the temperature or the moisture content of the air inside the building, which makes it useless for artifact storage.

Glassey said the artifact storage facility needs to be brought up to a safe and sustainable condition so museum staff can expand and rotate the museum's collections. "Without that, we can't bring in much that is new," she said. "There's no room."

Glassey estimated it would cost just under \$200,000 to improve the building to necessary standards.

Glassey suggested supervisors schedule a meeting with the full board of supervisors, the museum advisory board (appointed by the board of supervisors) and the new MMCP board in the near future.

County CEO Carmel Angelo told Glassey there would be little time for a joint meeting before June, when supervisors are scheduled to adopt the county budget.

Supervisor McCowen pointed out that supervisors have several boards, commissions and advisory boards they rarely or never meet with, and recommended the board take steps to redress that shortcoming. He named the Mendocino County Mental Health Advisory Board, the Mendocino County Fish and Game Commission, and the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Advisory Board as three of the more prominent of such boards, and said there were others as well.

Supervisors agreed to discuss the issue during an upcoming meeting.

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