

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
 Donations Accepted Edition No. 148 **Thursday, March 24, 2016**

## School district budget problems loom

Mike A'Dair  
 Reporter  
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Budget problems are looming on the horizon for the Willits Unified School District. According to district Financial Officer Tanya Michel, if all goes according to plan and no unsuspected boons suddenly appear, the district's budget will be so tight in 2017/18 that it will not be able to meet its 3 percent reserve requirement.

Read the rest of **Budget**  
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## Brooktrails Fire Dept. has new water tender on its way

The Brooktrails Fire Department will take delivery of a new \$308,000 water tender this year to boost its firefighting capacity, Deputy Fire Chief Jon Noyer told the township's board of directors during its March 19 annual planning meeting.

Now, it must also find the money to expand its current firehouse to enable

Read the rest of **Tender**  
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## Three arrests made in assault on pastor, Willits man

A 53-year-old Lake County pastor was seriously injured last Friday when he intervened in an attack upon a 47-year-old Willits man outside the Dollar Tree store in the Evergreen Shopping Center.

According to Willits Police Department Sgt. Mike McNelley, when both victims left the store at about 4 pm, the Willits man was "confronted and attacked" by 20-year-old

Read the rest of **Assault**  
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## One dead, two injured, in Highway 271 accident

A 41-year-old man died and his two companions were injured in an early evening accident Tuesday on Highway 271 near Leggett.

State traffic officers report the victim, whose name is being withheld pending notification of his next of kin, was driving a 2001 GMC Yukon south on Highway 271 at about 6 pm when

Read the rest of **Accident**  
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Above, from left: 50/50 raffle winner Earlene Gleisner with Lynn Kennelly; raffle winner Cora Saxton of Grid Alternatives with Cynthia Lamom of Lamom Patent Services; raffle basket winner Jerry Harris, with Chana Eisenstein of East Hill Vet, Kat Harris and Holly Madrigal; Stay and Play Dog Care overnight stay winner Jackie Morninglight. Below: Attendees gathered for a group photo.



Photos by  
 Maureen  
 Moore

## Chamber Mixer at East Hill Veterinary Clinic

Below, left: East Hill Vet's co-owners Holly Bennett and Chana Eisenstein speak to the crowd. Below, right: East Hill staff, including, from left: Chana Eisenstein, Amber Keeton, Holly Bennett, Jessica Darrow, Beau Adamson, Lindsey Bowlds and, in front, Ashley Hendry.



Last Tuesday's Chamber Mixer, held at the new East Hill Veterinary Clinic, had a huge turnout, and Willits Chamber of Commerce's chamber ambassador and mixer point person, Holly Madrigal, noted it was one of the most successful events yet.

"What a great mixer," said Madrigal. "The attendance from not only chamber members and clinic clients, but the community as a whole made for a wonderful turnout!"

Maureen Moore  
 Graphics & Photographress  
 maureen@willitsweekly.com

Around 150 folks oohed and ahed their way around the new facility, checking out the spacious exam rooms, the expanded kennels, the recovery areas and office rooms.

East Hill provided the refreshments, bringing in appetizers – antipasto skewers, bread and sauces from La Siciliana, and wine from Graziano – and desserts – Meyer lemon and chocolate cheesecakes, as well as cookies made by Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County board member, clinic client and friend Mary Miller.

Several adoptable pets also came up from the Humane Society for the occasion; and a cat and a few dogs found homes during the event – and came back Wednesday to get spayed!

Donna Blake of Stay and Play Dog Care and Cora Saxton of Grid Alternatives had booths inside the building's foyer, and at the front desk, raffle tickets were handed out by chamber volunteers, offering three prizes for lucky winners.

The 50/50 raffle winner was Earlene Gleisner, and the winner of a free online subscription to patent attorney (and new neighbor to the East Hill clinic) Cynthia Lamom's website was Cora Saxton of Grid Alternatives. Jerry Harris of the Willits Toy Run won a wine and goodie basket, and Jackie Morninglight was the winner of an overnight stay for her pup with Stay and Play Dog Care.

"The event went great!," said East Hill Veterinary Clinic's Chana Eisenstein. "We feel

Read the rest of **Mixer**  
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Above, from left: Mike, Margie and Alana Smith of Willits Furniture. Bread, sauce and antipasto skewers were made by La Siciliana. Tam Adams of Emandal and candidate for judge Patrick Pekin pet one of East Hill's resident cats. Below, left: The spacious medical area and additional crates at the new facility make a roomier environment for all. Barbara Burica of Dr. Alfred Kerr's office checks out the new clinic.



## No action taken on proposed city pot ban

Damian Sebouhian  
 Reporter  
 damian@willitsweekly.com

The Willits City Council postponed taking any action during Monday's special meeting regarding a marijuana ad hoc committee's controversial report that would ban all cannabis-related activities inside city limits.

The committee, composed of Mayor Bruce Burton and Councilman Larry Stranske, was formed several months ago in response to a now-defunct March 1 deadline for counties and municipalities to formulate their own medical cannabis regulations or face the state becoming the local regulatory agency.

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

## Holtkamp to present new fire plan

Mike A'Dair  
 Reporter  
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Madelin Holtkamp, executive director of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, is set to unveil the organization's new Community Wildfire Protection Plan on April 5 before the board of supervisors.

Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, who attended meetings with Holtkamp with stakeholders in the north county, is pleased with the plan and with Holtkamp's efforts in putting together a good plan.

"This is the best plan this county has ever had," Woodhouse said. "It took two or three times the time we thought it was going to take, but that's because

Read the rest of **Fire**  
 Over on Page 4

## School district puts new buses on hold

Mike A'Dair  
 Reporter  
 mike@willitsweekly.com

Willits Unified School District has temporarily suspended plans to purchase two new school buses. The decision was made sometime between the board of trustees' March 2 meeting and its March 16 meeting.

The decision to place the bus purchase on hold was referred to at the March 16 meeting as something that already occurred, although no such action was on the agenda of either the March 2 or March 16 meetings.

Read the rest of **Buses**  
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# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## Thanks from WEF

To the Editor:

The Willits Educational Foundation wishes to take this opportunity to thank Willits Weekly for the wonderful coverage of our recent Tri Tip Dinner fundraiser. You publicized our dinner at every opportunity, and the beautiful front page color article leading up to the dinner was what put us over the top! The dinner was a total sellout, and you are so appreciated!

There are many people to thank for our success, including all of the ticket buyers and sellers! There is nothing quite like a Friday night dinner ready to pick up with perfectly barbecued meat and sweet beans, prepared to perfection by the Pinon, Goss and Cooley families and their crew. These three families are part of the backbone of Willits, and we are so fortunate to be part of their team once a year.

Tam Adams made and donated all of the delicious loaves of fresh Emandal bread. Kathy Shuster, the Lewis family, and all of their crews of helpers made and donated the Caesar dressing and cookies. Flowers by Annette donated all of the lovely roses. We must not forget Linda Matz and Cats Meow for working so hard on ticket sales!

Jill Persico of Loose Caboose gave many of our supplies at cost, and the Forks Ranch Market gave us a great deal on the meat. Mariposa Market was generous in donating beans.

It was all a labor of love, made possible by you, our Willits community. In the fall, we will be able to give \$7,232.33 to the Willits Unified School District teachers and programs to benefit the kids of Willits. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in this endeavor. Your generosity is truly above and beyond!

**Kathleen Ells Lewis, secretary,  
Willits Educational Foundation**

## Thank a physician on National Doctor's Day

To the Editor:

Each one of us, either by choice or by chance, has been profoundly touched and our lives improved by a physician's compassionate and professional care. On Wednesday, March 30 is National Doctor's Day, an annual opportunity to pay tribute to a great group of professionals who have dedicated their lives to caring for our community.

The first Doctor's Day event was celebrated on March 30, 1933, when Eudora Brown Almond (wife of Dr. Charles B. Almond), set one day aside to honor physicians. From those humble beginnings in Georgia, the celebration spread, and both the U.S. Senate and House officially declared March 30 as National Doctors' Day in 1990.

It is my privilege to recognize the significant contributions of our physicians, whose hard work and sacrifices make a huge difference for our patients. As part of our mission, we take initiatives to make our community stronger and healthier. Our physicians and providers are essential in helping us achieve this mission. These men and women carry on the quiet work of healing each and every day, and we are honored to work alongside them.

I'm sure everyone will agree when I say, our doctors and providers are a vital part of our community. When people are looking to relocate to Willits or the surrounding area, not only do they look for the best housing, schools and hospitals, they also look for great doctors as part of their main considerations.

I am incredibly grateful to our great group of providers, as my family has been a recipient of their care several times and has seen their dedication and commitment. Two years ago, my mother started to have pain in her knees and a knee replacement surgery was recommended. I knew the

## The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

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perfect person for the job. And it didn't matter that she lived 800 miles away. She needed to fly here so she could get the best possible care. I work with these doctors every day and know them personally and trust them whole-heartedly with my own life and my family's lives.

We thank our physicians and providers for their dedication to our community all year-round, however, today is a special day to celebrate all they do for us. Please join me in thanking our tireless healers. Send a letter, email a message of gratitude, or go on our Facebook page and send a note of thanks to the physician or provider (or many) who has made a difference in your life.

On behalf of the board, administration, staff and volunteers at HMH, Happy Doctor's Day to all our physicians and providers in the community!

**Rick Bockmann, president & CEO, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital**

## Cannabis in Willits

To the Editor:

Dear old guys [on the Willits City Council], you are on the wrong side of history. Please stop with your illogical prejudice about a plant and watch the news. We are missing out!! The city would increase its tax revenue. Just one current potential cannabis business estimates its annual city tax contributions would be as much as \$600,000 annually.

Washington's state and local governments have collected more than \$70 million; Colorado exceeded \$70 million; Oregon estimates \$24 million; and the City of Oakland, raised \$1.3 million in tax revenue from medical marijuana dispensaries in 2011.

California's marijuana crop is worth \$14 billion. Dispensary advertisements will increase ad revenue. Mendocino County's zip tie program raised \$600,000.

Legal marijuana could be a \$45 billion to \$100 billion industry, Bloomberg Businessweek reports.

Cannabis is the fastest growing industry in America.

**Jake McFadden, Willits**

## Charter Town Hall in Willits

To the Editor:

On Sunday, April 17, the Charter Project of Mendocino County will be sponsoring a Town Hall meeting at Little Lake Grange from 4 to 6 pm. Since the charter will be on the ballot in the June presidential primary election, and many people are still unsure about what a charter is, this will be a good place to get more information.

This Town Hall is only one of 10 that the Charter Project is sponsoring around the county to educate the public about charters, but also to get input from residents about what they'd like to see included in their charter. Do you think there are some things about our county government that can be improved?

Paul Cienfuegos, popular "Community Rights" advocate, who has facilitated workshops in our county before, will set the tone for the meeting, inspiring creative ideas to flow from the audience. Mike Burgess and Mary Zellachild, the two charter commissioner candidates from Willits, will then give short presentations on what's important to them about a charter. At that point, the meeting will be opened to participants for their input and questions.

An important thing to know about the June election is that Measure W just asks if we want to elect a charter commission to write a charter for the county. On the same ballot, we vote for 15 people running for commissioner from the 17 who are listed. If a majority of voters answer yes to the charter question, the 15 commissioner candidates who get the most votes will write a charter for Mendocino County. The people will then have a chance to examine the completed charter for its merits before voting on it in another election. In this way, county voters are given the final say over whether or not to have a charter and whether they approve of what has been written into it.

For those unable to come to the Town Hall, a computerized system has been set up for people around the county to give their thoughts about what should go into the charter: <http://join.windtunneling.com> (Project Code: MendoCountyCharter).

**Mary Zellachild, Willits**

## Human trafficking

To the Editor:

Willits Soroptimist is hosting a local event to raise awareness on the germane topic of human trafficking. Elle Snow, founder of Game Over and featured speaker at our event, states that the human trafficking capital for the entire state of California is in Eureka. This event is being hosted at the Methodist Church at 286 School Street in Willits on Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Elle Snow states a classified ad website, "Back Page," that has escort ads on their "Mendocino" page, receives hits for illicit sexual requests even here in Willits. These traffickers are pursuing our young citizens online and on the streets of Mendocino County. A youth captured by these traffickers can bring in profits of \$10,000 in their first week.

Help promote the safety of our youth and join us for an evening of education, awareness, and making difference in your local community.

**Divora Stern, president, Willits Soroptimist**

## Business success after the bypass

To the Editor:

I was excited to learn about an evening devoted to "Business Success After the Bypass" hosted by the City of Willits and the Willits Chamber of Commerce. From the description it sounded like a winner. "A free presentation by marketing and business expert Bob Pritchard on "18 Keys to Guaranteed Business Success – Life After the Bypass."

I wasn't the only one attracted to the opportunity to learn what we could do in Willits to ensure success after the bypass. Many wanted to learn where we can go from here to continue to make Willits a wonderful place to live and work. When I arrived at 6:30 on March 10, the Willits City Hall meeting room was full of people. I recognized some of the best folks in our community, and we were all eager to hear what Bob Pritchard had to say.

While I felt that Pritchard had some good information to offer, he didn't seem to me to be the best representative of what he was teaching. He emphasized the importance of knowing our clients and customers and engaging them in ways that showed we understood their needs. However, he didn't seem very tuned into the real needs of our community in Willits and Mendocino County.

Sitting among the audience, it was clear to me that hearing from the experts sitting beside me – people like Alan Falleri, Patty Bruder, Ian Fitzpatrick, Diane Smalley, Adrienne Moore, Lynn Kennelly, Bill Barksdale, and many more – would have been very valuable in actually taking Pritchard's ideas and putting them into practice.

For instance, I do believe, as does Pritchard, that businesses today need to have a much better understanding of how we can use the internet and social media. After hiring Ian Fitzpatrick, founder of Radiant Tribes, I was able to greatly expand my reach in cyberspace. I'm still learning how best to use social media and other tools to reach a larger audience.

The best suggestion that Pritchard gave was to have another meeting where we spend the day brainstorming the best ideas about what Willits has to offer our own community and what would attract people to come here to do business. Here are a few of things that make Willits a special place for me:

1. A state-of-the-art hospital and medical campus focused on wellness, with an expanding community of health practitioners in Willits.
2. A "Grown Local" small-farm movement, with a focus on best practices for feeding our community and the world.
3. A crossroads celebrating the past and the future: Auto shows, our race horse, the Skunk Train, the museum, Kinetic Carnivale, the Grange, and economic localization for the 21st century.
4. Some of the best wine and cannabis in the world.
5. People who truly care about people and who, every day, in ways big and small, make the world a better place for all.

I'll enjoy hearing from others who attended the talk, what you felt and thought, and what suggestions you have for addressing business success after the bypass.

**Jed Diamond, Willits**



Left: Sharon Huffman and Grant Bowman pose inside the new store. Below: Construction underway in the parking lot.

# O'Reilly's gets Ready

## New auto parts store plans to open April 16 at south end of town

The empty lot to the north of Willits Power is no longer empty, as the construction crew and O'Reilly Auto Parts team have spent the last several months transforming the old car lot into a new glass-front auto parts store.

The grand opening is planned for Saturday, April 16, and the new store will be overseen by newly promoted manager and soon-to-be official Willits local, Sharon Huffman, who is relocating from McKinvilleville where she was an assistant manager with O'Reilly Auto Parts.

Grant Bowman, Jr., regional field sales manager for O'Reilly's, was onsite last week checking in on the construction progress.

"We've been blessed with this rain," noted Huffman, "But it's pushed back our original planned opening in February, now to April. But we're happy for the rain, so we'll take it!"

The shop has staffed a full crew with many local Willits workers and will receive some setup help from the Ukiah store to get things stocked, set and ready for the opening.

In anticipation of the Willits store's opening, the Ukiah O'Reilly Auto Parts, located at 1399 North State Street,



has acquired an additional 2,500 square feet to help house inventory and make quick parts transfers and deliveries to the Willits shop.

"We saw a need in Willits for another parts house," explained Bowman. "We're able to bring another option to the community and will be open seven days a week."

The store will be open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 9 pm, Saturday from 7:30 am to 8 pm, and Sunday from 8 am to 8 pm. They also plan to be open all major holidays, with the exception of Christmas Day.

Shelves will be stocked with everything to service "ATVs to 18-wheelers" said Bowman, and with their web of regional and national warehouses, Bowman noted that if they don't have something right on the shelf, they are able to source from their stock elsewhere. O'Reilly's is able to provide parts to the professionals in town as well as to sell retail to local walk-in customers.

"We have an 18,000-square-foot warehouse in Sacramento and a 500,000-square-foot warehouse in Stockton," said Bowman. "We will do our best to get everyone what they need as quickly as possible!"

Despite their size, O'Reilly's started out as just a mom and pop store and continues to value family-oriented business practices. In 1957, the first shop was opened in Missouri as a wholesale endeavor, and then grew over the years into the wholesale and retail company that now has a total of 4,573 stores across 43 states.

Even still, the company still values community-minded practices; promoting staffers from within and being involved in their local areas are both important to O'Reilly's. They look forward to participating in the upcoming Memorial Day Community Car Show, as well as continuing to support Willits Frontier Days and the Truck Pulls events.

O'Reilly Auto Parts is located at 1590 South Main Street and can be reached at 707-518-3986.

*At left: Folks at work on the new store including, from left: journeyman electrician Randy Pageau, store manager Sharon Huffman, regional field sales manager Grant Bowman, and on top: Michael Potts, owner of North Coast Electrical Services.*

Photos by Maureen Moore

## Ruth & Joseph

Ruth is a 12-year-old spayed female Boxer, and her partner Joseph is a 14-year-old male Boxer. We are posting these two together, because they need to be adopted as a pair. We know that may be a long shot, but they have lived together their whole lives and are very bonded to each other.

Both dogs are very friendly and affectionate. They love going for walks and spending time in the yard. Despite their age, they are in good health and very active. We know it takes a special soul to welcome a dog in their golden years, let alone two dogs, and we pray that soul is out there! Both Ruth and Joe are house-trained, leash-trained, know basic commands, and are very well-mannered.

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](http://www.mendoshelterpets.com) or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

## Regal Robin

Robin is a little senior kitty who needs a home just for her. She is the sweetest cat you can imagine and just wants love all the time. Robin came in as a stray, though no one knew she was in her teens and had kidney issues. Though her kidneys are not in the best shape, with special food, they function like normal kidneys should and do not cause her any discomfort.

And being an older cat, she needs a home where she can be an indoor cat that will be cherished for what years she has left. We know that she will give you all that she has for as long as she lives. Robin is really a special kitty that can make any senior happy with her confidence and unconditional love.

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](mailto:hsmc@pacific.net) or visit [www.mendohumaneociety.com](http://www.mendohumaneociety.com).



Photo by S. Coffman Photography

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# Par course playground project wins \$5,000 grant

Brooktrails has received a \$5,000 Community Foundation of Mendocino County grant to help renovate its par course playground.

The project – which will feature separate playgrounds for kids aged 5 and under and for kids ages 6 to 14 – will cost an estimated \$100,000 by the time it is completed.

Willits Rotary Club, the Brooktrails Property Owners Association, Willits Charter School and the Willits Unified School District are partnering in the project, according to township General Manager Denise Rose.

“The BPOA has been organizing fundraising efforts, including a ‘go fund me’ crowd-funding drive,” Rose told the Brooktrails board of directors Tuesday, while the Willits Rotary Club is accepting donations through its charitable foundation.

Additional grant funding for the project also is being pursued.

Upgrading the current playground is essential, Rose believes, especially since the school-age population in the township has doubled since the last census. Currently, she said, there are 1,497 children living within the township, of which 800 are below age 10. “So the playground is a major project.”

In addition, “a lot of area schools use the par course as part of their environmental education” activities, Rose said.

To ensure the playground will receive maximum use, students at area schools and members of the Willits Kids Club are helping design the upgrades.

The Community Foundation will host a ceremonial check presentation from 5 to 6 pm on Wednesday, April 20, at the Willits Center for the Arts.

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they are doing it right.

“We paid \$25,000 for the plan, but we’re getting so much more than that from Madelin,” he said. “There has been lots of input from local communities all over the county.”

According to Holtkamp, the purpose of the plan is three-fold. First, the plan highlights areas of high fire risk throughout the county. Second, local jurisdictions and fire prevention organizations were invited to submit their own plans on how to reduce danger from fire in their locales. Third, the incorporation of these local plans into the CWPP will assist local agencies in securing funding to implement their plans.

“When the State Resources Area funding comes along, groups or landowners that want to do fire hazard reduction projects will be eligible to receive SRA money because those projects are in the plan,” Holtkamp said. “Projects that are part of local CWPPs go into a higher funding tier than projects that are not in our plans.”

Holtkamp said one of the recommendations in the plan is for the state of California to create a 100-year plan to thin forests throughout the state.

She referenced a pilot project done by Louisiana Pacific Corporation on what is now Mendocino Redwood Company land. John Anderson, lead forester with MRC, told supervisors about the pilot project at their March 15 board meeting.

Anderson said a small amount of timberland was thinned by Roseburg Resources in 1990. The forest treatment involved removing small ground vegetation and smaller trees, as well as removing conifer branches to a height of about 15 feet.

In July 2000, the Goat Fire raced through the area. However, when the fire hit the thinned area, it left the crowns of the trees and went to the ground. An aerial photograph taken of the Goat Fire incident area shows a green island in the midst of a burned-over forest area. Holtkamp said mechanical thinning on a widespread basis would be one solution to preventing large, devastating fires, such as those that afflicted

Lake County last summer. Another method would be treating county forestlands with a regular regime of controlled burns.

“Most aspects of the forest can live with fire,” Holtkamp said. “Some trees can withstand it; other trees survive it by casting seeds or acorns. Animals know how to survive it. The one animal that doesn’t know how to do that is us.”

## Standing tree study in limbo

In addition to spending the past year on updating the CWPP, Holtkamp spent several months last year writing a scope-of-work for a study on the hack-and-squirt/dead-and-standing tree problem. Holtkamp turned in the final version of the study to supervisors in December 2015, with the advice to seek funding to undertake the study from the state Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and CalFire.

“We recommended the county look at SRA funds to do the study,” she said. Holtkamp added the study was scalable. “You could spend \$500,000 on doing a study on every watershed in the county. Or if you wanted, you could scale it back to one or two watersheds. If you did that, you might be looking at \$40,000 or \$50,000. What we said was, the county could scale the study back to whatever it could afford.”

Holtkamp said the scope of work included a summary of the specialized scientific literature available on the question of whether dead trees left standing in the forest add to forest flammability. She noted most of the studies reviewed by county forestry advisor Greg Giusti concluded dead and standing trees in the forest did add to fire potential.

Since Holtkamp turned in her final version of the scope-of-work for the standing-tree study, the county has not addressed the issue of whether to hire somebody to actually produce the study.

Asked who might do the study, Holtkamp had a brassy answer. “I don’t know,” she said. “What I’m really clear on is, it’s not going to be me.”

Contacted recently, board of supervisors Chair Dan Gjerde said he had not been tracking the issue.

Local residents and coastal firefighters are sponsoring a ballot measure for the June ballot, Measure V, that would declare the practice of leaving dead trees standing in the forest for more than 90 days a public nuisance.

The rest of **Tender** | From Page 1

to accommodate the new piece of equipment and another fire engine.

In fact, Noyer said, the department is seeking to identify new locations for construction of a new firehouse because it has outgrown its current facility, which is also plagued by mildew and mold woes.

And while BFD is “in good shape” compared to other north county fire departments, Director Tony Orth said, it nonetheless faces many of same problems plaguing small fire districts, including recruiting new volunteer firefighters.

BFD hopes to increase its volunteer firefighter roster from the current 17 to 25 this year, Noyer said, but admitted “we’re having a hard time.”

Those problems may become more acute in the future, if the state of California institutes proposed requirements for department-paid annual physicals and respiratory tests.

Still, Noyer remains hopeful because the township has “a very young base now” from which to recruit.

However, he conceded, the department’s “busiest times” are between 8 am and 6 pm, when many volunteers are not available to answer calls.

The department answered 252 calls for service in 2015, Noyer said. That included 194 calls within township limits and 31 within the BFD’s sphere of influence – almost double the total number of calls in 2014. BFD also answered 13 medical aid calls to the Spring Creek area – another doubling of 2014 responses – and three to the Sylvandale area, as well as sending units to five Little Lake Fire Protection District incidents, two CalFire incidents, and two Laytonville Volunteer Fire Department incidents.

Among the total were eight wildland fires, nine vehicle accidents, four structure fires, four vehicle fires, three search-and-rescue calls (“All successful,” Noyer noted), and 147 medical aid calls.

The department, he added, is not compensated by the county for answering calls outside district boundaries but within the BFD’s sphere of influence.

“We respond to everything we’re called for,” Noyer said.

He noted the department’s response time to calls was “under seven minutes. That’s half the national standard of 14 minutes.”

BFD has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a grant to replace firefighters’ protective clothing, and is working with CalFire in an attempt to secure funds for the district’s greenbelt fuel management program, while pursuing grant funding for specialized rescue and fire suppression equipment.

The rest of **Assault** | From Page 1

Montana Konopasek and his brother, 22-year-old Dakota Smith Konopasek, who had been drinking beer at Old Mission Pizza.

The pastor intervened and persuaded the brothers to stop fighting, McNelley said. The two men then went back inside the restaurant, only to emerge again minutes later with their father, 53-year-old Clifford Konopasek, and resume their assault upon the Willits man.

When the pastor again attempted to intervene, McNelley said, all three members of the Konopasek family attacked him, too.

Following the attacks, the three Konopaseks fled, police said.

When WPD officers and sheriff’s deputies arrived, they found the two victims, both of whom had suffered head and facial injuries. The pastor’s injuries were so serious he was taken to Howard Memorial Hospital for treatment, McNelley said.

Clifford Konopasek was found drinking beer inside Old Mission Pizza and taken into custody, police said. The two Konopasek brothers were found at Lumberjacks. When police and deputies attempted to arrest them, McNelley said, both men fought violently with officers.

All three Konopaseks were arrested on suspicion of felony aggravated assault.

Investigation into the incident is continuing. *This report was based on a press release from the Willits Police Department.*

The rest of **Accident** | From Page 1

the vehicle drifted off the edge of the roadway. The driver overcorrected, and the SUV flipped over a number of times, officers say, ejecting both the driver and front-seat passenger.

The driver was pronounced dead at the scene. Passengers Paul Coleman, 29, of Leggett, and Rudy Arias, age and home town unknown, suffered major injuries and were rushed by Leggett Volunteer Fire Department, Laytonville Fire Department and Verihealth ambulances to Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits. Arias

was later airlifted to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital for treatment.

The victim’s body was taken to Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

It’s believed alcohol or drugs may have played a part in the accident, the California Highway Patrol reports. It is continuing its investigation into the crash.

In addition to the CHP, Caltrans and CalFire units also responded to the accident.

*This report was based on a press release from the California Highway Patrol.*

# Tennis | Wayne Waters, 17, Junior

**Breakfast of Champions:** Cereal or toast

**Love for the Sport:** “Learning new skills and the game in general.”

**Years Playing the Sport:** Three years

Last Tuesday at Mendocino, Wayne Waters played singles for the first time ever. He was the only Willits High School player to extend his match to 3 sets in a thrilling, back and forth, 6-4, 4-6, 3-6 loss. This Tuesday at home vs. Point Arena, playing No. 1 doubles with partner Sammy Gamez, they played flawless tennis, earning an impressive 6-1, 6-0 win. Waters never misses a practice. He works very hard to improve his game, but also knows how to keep things light.



– Coach Noel Woodhouse

# Track & Field | Will Smith, 18, Senior

**Position:** Shot put and discus

**Breakfast of Champions:** Spam and sardines

**Years Playing the Sport:** Seven years

Will Smith participated in the Big Cat Track Meet earlier in March and placed first in both the discus and shot put events. He threw a discus over 152 feet (dominating the event; second place was 119 feet), and he threw the shot put over 45 feet. He also maintains a 3.8 grade point average. Will Smith continues to improve in his events. He will be the one to watch in our future track events.

– Coach John Horton

*Editor’s Note:* For those interested in following Will Smith as he works to break the WHS record for discus – 159’ 6” set by Ron Twardowski back in 1966 – the WHS track team will host a meet at home on Wednesday, March 30, starting at 3:30 pm (if it doesn’t rain), competing against Point Arena, Fort Bragg and Mendocino high schools.

Smith says he’s been doing squats, bench press, dead lifts and other basics to work towards breaking the discus record. Next week’s track meet will also feature running events, shot put, long jump, high jump and pole vault. After that, there’ll be a home meet on Wednesday, April 13, with Lower Lake, Rincon Valley, St. Vincent, and Laytonville.



# ‘Nite Bite’ New restaurant at Main Street Music is open ‘til 11 pm

*Above, from left: Owner Pete Swanton, center, trains Dawna Hetherington and Thomas Brower on the computerized cash register with their first customer, Ananda Johnson. Swanton takes a turn at cooking. Thomas Brower prepares Pelmeni dumplings. Below: Ananda Johnson adds some finishing flavors to her meal.*



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Through the front windows of Main Street Music and Video, Willits residents have been watching Pete Swanton’s music section shrink and transform into his new business, Nite Bite. The 300-square-foot project was finished and, very quietly, opened its door for business last Wednesday night.

Surprised passersby and movie/music buffs curiously entered through the new front door to the restaurant and were greeted by Swanton and restaurant staff, Dawna Hetherington and Thomas Brower. Many stopped to inspect the menu and order a pastie, a fruit pie, or an order of Vareniki or Pelmeni dumplings.

Keith and Ananda Johnson were the restaurant’s first customers, ordering pasties from Kemmy’s Pies. Keith Johnson headed up the transformation project as the main builder. He not only transformed the front of the building into a self-contained restaurant, he also installed fine woodwork cabinets and counters made by local cabinet

maker, Shane Chilson.

Swanton is committed to recycling and composting almost every byproduct of the restaurant. His plan is “having just one can of garbage per month.”

Expect to see steam rising from the new restaurant, Wednesday through Saturday nights from 7 to 11. They serve Russian Pelmeni dumplings (meat-filled) and Ukrainian Vareniki dumplings (vegetable-filled), cooked in boiling water, not oil. Condiments for the dumplings include butter, vinegar, cayenne pepper, hot sauce and Parmesan cheese.

The Kemmy’s Pasties on the menu include meat and vegetable varieties, and in addition to Kemmy’s renowned fruit pies, the menu features Bella Rosa coffee and a variety of teas and soft drinks. For more info, call 459-4747. Nite Bite is a great place for a quick dinner or to sit and enjoy dessert or an exotic snack after the theater, a musical event, or a movie.

– Ree Slocum



NITE BITE MENU	
DUMPLINGS	\$8.50
FRUIT PIE SLICE	\$4.00
PASTIES (MEAT)	\$6.00
COFFEE	\$2.00
TEA	\$2.00

*Above, left: Recycling and composting stations at Nite Bite. Above, right: Nite Bite’s menu.*

*Far left: Builder Keith Johnson. At left: Liam U/Cearbhall, a fan of the Russian dumplings, says his favorite condiments are vinegar and butter.*

*Photos by Ree Slocum*

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## Thursday, March 24

**Maudy Thursday Service:** on Thursday, March 24 at 6 pm at Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, across from the Grange. "You are invited to stay after the service and walk the Labyrinth." Questions: please call the church at 486-2855.

## Friday, March 25

**Photos with the Easter Bunny:** from 5 to 7 pm at J.D. Redhouse. Come get your photo taken with Mr. Easter Bunny and some of his live furry friends! Digital images are just \$5 each and will be available to download online. Proceeds split 50/50 with the Little Lake Fire Department.



**Senior Center Easter Bake Sale:** Annual Easter Bake Sale at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Friday, March 25; 8:30 am until sold out. "Enjoy delicious homemade goodies baked by some of our finest bakers." Donations of baked goods welcome: please call the center: 459-6826. All proceeds benefit the Outreach Program.

**Good Friday Services:** on Friday, March 25 at 6 pm at Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, across from the Grange. "This is a community service, sponsored by the Willits Ministerial Fellowship." Questions, please call the church at 486-2855.

**"Native Voices and Environmental Resistance":** An evening of film to support the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and Round Valley Indian Tribes lawsuit against Caltrans over the Willits bypass. Friday, March 25 from 6 to 10 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. \$20 or sliding scale. Phil Gregory, attorney for the tribes, will discuss the importance of the lawsuit. Films include: "Destruction of Indian Nations: the California Story," with an introduction by the spiritual leader of California AIM, Fred Short; "California Natives: Our Story," which documents a rich past, transformative present and hopeful future through stories told in the voices of Native Americans. Coyote Valley

**Evening of Film**  
Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Willits  
Friday, March 25th, 6-10pm

**Native Voices Environmental Resistance**  
A benefit for Coyote Valley/Round Valley lawsuit to protect their sacred sites  
entrance cost \$20 or sliding scale  
Contributions will be gratefully received

**Inspiring Speakers and Documentary Films**  
Sponsored by Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and Round Valley Indian Tribes

introduction by the spiritual leader of California AIM, Fred Short; "California Natives: Our Story," which documents a rich past, transformative present and hopeful future through stories told in the voices of Native Americans. Coyote Valley

Tribal Chairman Michael Hunter produced the film and will speak about it. Maria Gilardin's short film: "Ceremony for Pomo Ancestor Sites Destroyed by Caltrans." Will Parrish:

Willits bypass resistance slideshow. Also a brief address by Priscilla Hunter, Coyote Valley tribal representative. Sponsored by Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and Save Our Little Lake Valley.

**'50s Flashback Dance:** Friday, March 25 from 7 to 10 pm at the Willits Community Center. The dance, open to the public, is the senior project of Willits High School's Alia Duran. Great music and food will be available; no alcohol. Admission is free, but any donations received will be given to the Willits High School Peer Counselor program.

**Shanachie Pub: Anne-Marie's Armada,** "a groovy mix of soulful, funky, bluesy rock with a sprinkle of flamenco. Anne-Marie's Armada had its beginnings in Redondo Beach and West L.A. and has continued through Las Vegas and Northern California." Visit [www.cduuniverse.com/productinfo.asp?pid=9552636](http://www.cduuniverse.com/productinfo.asp?pid=9552636). Friday, March 25, 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

## Saturday, March 26

**Ridgewood Ranch Spring Nature Walks:** at Ridgewood "Seabiscuit" Ranch, 16200 North Highway 101, 5.5 miles south of Willits, on Saturday, March 26 at 10 am (rain cancels). Free to the public. See Saturday, March 19 listing for more details.

**Meditation Training Intensive:** free 10-week meditation training course providing everything needed to launch and develop your own successful meditation journey in a supportive group practice. Starts Saturday, March 26 and continues Saturdays from 2 to 4 pm through May 23rd at the Inner Resource Institute, 1500 Hearst Road. Please call ahead to preregister or to ask questions: 707-357-4676.

# What's Happening Around Town

**Shanachie Pub: Richie Blue Band:** "Guitarist/Singer/Songwriter Richie Blue's blistering guitar playing and heart and soul vocals have taken him to his current status as one of the top drawing acts on the club and festival circuit" and recent inductee into "The Blues Hall of Fame." Richie Blue's "brand of music although rooted in the blues, is a blend of rock-a-billy, country swing, New Orleans swamp, and soul." Visit [www.richieblue.net](http://www.richieblue.net). Saturday, March 26, 9 pm. \$7. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

## Sunday, March 27

### HAPPY EASTER!

**Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt:** Willits Lions Club's 88th annual Easter Egg Hunt is set for Sunday, March 27, starting at noon at Willits High School, 299 North Main. The Lions hand-dye 2,000 eggs every year. Free to attend; hunt is for children 12 and under. Kids are grouped by age, so even the littlest hunters are assured a chance to find an egg. Rain or shine: traditional egg hunt in the WHS baseball fields if the weather allows; otherwise the Lions will host a "drive-up" hunt. Info: 354-8262.

**Easter Sunday at St. John Lutheran Church,** 24 Mill Creek Drive, 459-2988. Easter Breakfast at 9:30 am, Children's Egg Hunt at 10:15 am (weather permitting), and Resurrection Celebration at 11 am. "Please join us for special music, praise, and fellowship!"

**Brooktrails Easter Egg Hunt:** Brooktrails Property Owners Association hosts the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, March 27, starting at 1 pm at Ohl Redwood Grove Park, west of Clover and Birch. Rain or shine. Hunts for ages 0 to 4, and for ages 5 to 12. Bring your own baskets!

**Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast:** every fourth Sunday, from 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast! With live music. \$7 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around." Choose Sourdough Wholegrain or Hank's Famous



Sourdough Wholegrain or Hank's Famous

**Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon,** organic local farm fresh eggs made to order with real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. Sides of organic fruit in season and Amish maple syrup \$1 extra. \$7; \$6 seniors; \$4 children under 10.

## Monday, March 28

**Parkinson's Support Group:** Harrah Senior Center hosts a Parkinson's Support Group every other Monday, with Linda Posner as facilitator. The next meeting is on Monday, March 28. 1501 Baechtel Road. Call 459-6826 for more information.

## Tuesday, March 29

**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: "Zootopia" and "Divergent 3: The Allegiant." For showtimes: [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com). 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

## Wednesday, March 30

**WHS Jazz Ensemble and WHS Concert Bands:** The public is welcome to this free concert, Wednesday, March 30 at 6 pm at the Willits High School Auditorium, 299 North Main Street. Program includes works by Larry Neeck, Robert W. Smith, David Shaffer, Eric Whitaker, Joe Zawinul, and Bob Turner.

## Friday, April 1

**'A Fool's Errand' KLLG Radio Fundraiser:** "A Fool's Errand" is a fundraising party to help start KLLG 97.9, a low-power radio station for Willits, on April Fool's Day, Friday, April 1 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Featuring The Jug Tucker Band, bluegrass and originals from North Carolina, and Blue Sky Pie. Plus performances by Piccolo Puppet Players and Dangerous Puppets. Doors open at 6 pm for no-host dinner by Zocalo Collective and pie by Kemmy's Pies; music from 7 to 11 pm.

"Please come in your most foolish attire!" Silent auction and radio antics. Tickets \$15 at the door; children under 12 are welcome. \$2 at the door.

## Saturday, April 2

**"Un-Happily Ever After...":** Fractured and funny fairy tales, Saturday April 2 from 11 am to 12 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "If you're tired of the same old 'happily ever after,' then come to the Willits Library for an hour of storytime fun, snacks and laughter – the best way to start your Saturday!" Special prizes will be awarded for children who show up as their favorite storybook character. Info: 459-5908; [www.co.mendocino.ca.us/library](http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/library).

**"Embellish":** The April show at Willits Center for the Arts features Mendocino County artists Heather Law, ceramics, and Sean Cramblett, glass, "who reveal their vision of beauty with ornamentation. Law and Cramblett create unique artworks through emphasis and enhancement of flaws and imperfections, in order to make their subject matter attractive and palatable to the viewer." Opening reception, Saturday, April 2 from 5 to 8 pm. Open to the public; refreshments will be served. Show continues through April 24 at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are: Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 am to 3 pm; Thursday 2 to 7 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 12 to 3 pm, or appointment. Visit [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org).



Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, April 3 at 7 pm. "World guitar pioneer Matthew Montfort and tabla virtuoso Vishal Nagar will blend musical traditions from fiery flamenco to resonant raga, with the contemporary colors of jazz and rock, to produce a show of transcendent depth and range." Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com); or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

COLUMN | At the Movies



## 'Allegiant'

**Fan'zer (definition):** gender neutral pronoun; see fangirl, fanboy.

**The Story:** Tris (Shailene Woodley) is back, and she's got guts, not that anyone doubted it, she's older, sexier, and hungry for the truth of what is really beyond the Great Chicago Wall. Four\* (Theo James) returns; he is still handsome, still gentle but tough, still the love of her life. (\*Four is really his name.)

**My Thoughts:** A fan'zers' wet dream of remote viewing, remote control

drone, blasters, force fields, invisibility cloaking devices, omniscient overlords, virtual reality pods, radioactive wastelands, tough chicks with automatic weapons in fitted uniforms, and tough dudes, too. Oh yeah, don't forget the ruthless musclebound thugs with tattoos and spectacular futuristic cities that mock gravity.

This flick runs on the aluminum foil-capped obsession that there exists some secretive Evil Council, like the Masons or the Bilderberg Group or the Elders of Zion who watch us, and control our lives. Blimey! I liked the movie, and in its favor "Allegiant" has a strong moral anticracist message against dividing and categorizing people as those who deserve to live and those who are disposable.

**Parents:** Action and violence ... common video game stuff. The goodguys win, though not completely, and virtue and decency are celebrated. I would have let my kids see this.

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

## 'Where does our money go?'

Thursday, April 7

"Where does our money go? And how can we keep more of it local?" This Town Hall-style forum, co-sponsored by WELL (Willits Economic Localization) and the Willits Chamber of Commerce, is set for Thursday, April 7, 6:30 pm at City Hall Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial St.

Panelists include: Richard Willoughby, retired president of two local banks, with 35 years experience lending to small local businesses; Alan Falleri, county native, with 24 years experience as chief planner of Mendocino County and 12 years as Willits community development director (now retired); Lisa Epstein, Chamber of Commerce president and member of Mendocino County Workforce Development Board; and Greta Kanne, co-owner of The Book Juggler for 10 years and Willits Chamber of Commerce board member.

Following their presentations there will be time for audience ideas and questions. Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore and Finance Director Susie Holmes will also be present to answer questions. The moderator will be Emily Rose Smith, a Willits native who has recently returned with an MBA with a focus on socially responsible business.

This forum will explore practical and visionary ways to localize our economy. Every dollar spent or invested locally continues to circulate locally, creating more jobs and well-being in our community.

We will also have brief community announcements and WELL's semi-annual election of several Coordinating Committee members. Info: contact Madge Strong at 459-1493 or go to [www.well95490.org](http://www.well95490.org).

—Madge Strong, WELL

## 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 24: Dorian May, solo piano.

**Ridgewood Ranch Spring Nature Walks:** Docent-led walks on Saturdays at Ridgewood "Seabiscuit" Ranch, 16200 North Highway 101, 5.5 miles south of Willits. 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. Visit [www.seabiscuitheritage.org/conservancy.html](http://www.seabiscuitheritage.org/conservancy.html) for info or call 707-391-3872.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**AI-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. "AI-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 MHM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

**Kids on the Run!** club for kids kindergarten through 12th grade, sponsored by the Sheriff's Activity League. Started March 12, 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.

**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 S&L programs free to the public. Info: [www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague](http://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, pop, and rock, 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, 4440 Willis Avenue, Laytonville.

## Save the Date

Main Street Planning Fair, April 18-22, downtown Willits  
Charter Town Hall Meeting, April 17, Little Lake Grange

## Mendocino Cannabis Resource Conference

April 8 & 9

Mendocino Cannabis Resource presents a two-day Information and Networking Conference, "for compassionate professionals interested in building a business and growing a community," set for Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. The conference features nationally recognized experts to discuss California medical cannabis compliance and medical cannabis business development.

Mendocino Chapter, on Friday April 8, from 6 to 10 pm.

Keynote speakers: Elvy Musikka, a federal medical marijuana patient for 27 years, and Linda Jackson, founder of Natural Remedies Health Services. Featured presenters include Linda Held, Sarah Russo, Mikki Norris, Chris Conrad and Karyn Wagner. Complete background is available at <http://mendocinocannabisresource.com/conference-presenters/>

Tickets are available online at <http://mendocinocannabisresource.com> or at The Headroom and Emerald River Nursery in Willits, Mendo Sun Market & Trim Tools in Laytonville, and M&M Feed & Supply, Uptown Mercantile, and Covelo Building Supply & Farm Supply in Covelo.

## Care-A-Van at J.D. Redhouse

Wednesday, April 6

The Care-A-Van will be offering low-cost veterinary services at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street, on Wednesday, April 6. Spay and Neuter surgeries by appointment only; Call Bliss at 707-888-7698. Vaccines, tests, microchips available on a drop-in basis from 10 am to 2 pm.

## Seeking tax forms?

Willits Library has them

Willits Librarian Jill Dorman has announced that free tax forms are now available ("they arrived late") at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, 459-5908. Willits Library is open Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10 am to 8 pm, Thursdays from 10 am to 6 pm, and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm.

## 'Blithe Spirit'

Opens April 15 at WCT

Noel Coward's comedic gem "Blithe Spirit" opens Friday, April 15 at Willits Community Theatre for a sure-fire hilarious three-week run. Coward's unabashed send-up of clairvoyants and jealous, squabbling ghosts arrives on stage under the veteran directorship of Bill Barksdale guiding a cast of accomplished local comic actors.

Barksdale describes "Blithe Spirit" as a masterpiece in terms of its structure and its build-up to repeated laughs. "I'm working with some of the top actors in our area, and it's just wonderful, bringing this play to life with their talents," he says.

Performances of "Blithe Spirit" will run from April 15 through May 1, with shows on Thursday at 7 pm for \$10, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm for \$15, and Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$10. Tickets are available in person at Mazahar; online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com); or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006.

## Amy Goodman, live in Willits

Saturday, April 16

Amy Goodman, journalist, author and host of "Democracy Now!" appears in Willits to benefit KZYX Radio. Saturday, April 16, 1 pm, at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "Democracy Now! is a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez," that's been broadcast for 20 years on Pacifica radio, NPR, community and college radio stations, on public access, PBS and satellite TV, and the internet: "Democracy Now!'s podcast is one of the most popular on the web."

KZYX Presents  
**AMY GOODMAN**  
Host of Democracy Now!  
At Willits Center for the Arts

**SATURDAY**  
April 16 • 1:00pm

Tickets \$25.00 at Dig! Music, Ukiah Co-op, J.D. Redhouse, Harvest Men, and at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)  
All Proceeds Benefit KZYX

## Human Traffic Awareness Event

Thursday, April 7

"Human Trafficking is here in Willits and Mendocino County!" The Willits Soroptimists and Little Lake Grange are sponsoring an awareness event at the Methodist Church, 286 School Street, on Thursday, April 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Guest speaker: Elle Snow, founder of Game Over, Inc., at 6:30 pm; video presentation at 7 pm; Q&A at 7:30 pm. "Learn how you can help stop human trafficking now."

**BROOKTRAILS**  
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## Senior Center Lunch

Week of March 28 through April 1

Monday: Beef Tips on Noodles  
Tuesday: Baked Sole  
Wednesday: BBQ Chicken  
Thursday: Chicken Fried Steak  
Friday: Roast Pork Loin

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

**AVENUES TO WELLNESS**  
Planting a Spring Garden!

**GETTING READY!**  
You are invited to attend "Planting a Spring Garden" by the Commonwealth Garden team. In its 4th year of production, Commonwealth Garden grows food for the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital year 'round. The Willits climate, which can range from dry and warm winters to rain and snow into June, offers an abundance of learning opportunities. Topics covered:

- Fall cover crops for spring fertility
- Orchard pruning
- When and if to start seeds
- Bed preparation
- The right time to plant ... weather permitting
- Necessities: Shade cloth, drip irrigation, pest management, and pollinators

Class handouts will offer a wealth of information that will help guide you in creating a successful Spring garden.  
Commonwealth Garden is a program of the Food & Seed Foundation  
See [www.avenuestowellness.org](http://www.avenuestowellness.org) or [info@forthearts@gmail.com](mailto:info@forthearts@gmail.com)

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## How does Willits survive after the bypass?

"You just view the bypass as a competitor." Those were the words of Los Angeles-based businessman, entrepreneur, award-winning marketing consultant and radio talk-show host Bob Pritchard, addressing a room full of business owners and concerned citizens at Willits City Hall on March 10.

"You tackle the bypass the same way you'd tackle any other competitor," said Pritchard during the beginning of his speech, his Australian-accented voice oozing with charismatic authority. "It doesn't matter what sort of business you're in, working together as a team, you can win."

Normally, Pritchard's business advice doesn't come cheap: He charges up to \$17,000 a seminar. But, due to some fast acting on the part of the Chamber of Commerce's Lynn Kennelly, Willits snagged him for free.

"On September 21, I received an email that said, 'Be one of 20 chambers out of 5,500 to win big,'" Kennelly explained during her introduction. "Pritchard is the honorary president of the American Institute of Sales, Marketing and Management? Might as well send the email back and see what I get."

As it turns out, Willits was the 16th out of 20 chambers in the United States that won out.

Continuing with the competitor analogy, Pritchard told a story about how a community of small businesses worked together in the city of Decorah, Iowa, to defeat the behemoth Walmart.

"After two years, Walmart left town, beaten by a whole bunch of small businesses that actually worked together," said Pritchard.

The high-energy consultant peppered his two-hour presentation with various inspiring David-and-Goliath success stories, emphasizing that the slingshot to victory involved these small businesses employing his "18 Steps to Business Success."

It was obvious this was the same

**Damian Sebouhian**  
Reporter  
damian@willitsweekly.com

presentation he gave to all the chambers, tailored slightly to fit the concerns of the Willits community. Nevertheless, many attendees walked away with some useful information.

Realtor Bill Barksdale commented on Pritchard's emphasis of incorporating what is called "big data" analysis into organizing a sound business plan.

"Google Analytics has a lot of that data-analyzing technology built into it," said Barksdale. "It's going to be very important for us to have people on board who understand how to use Google Analytics and any other data-analyzing technology."

Author and psychotherapist Jed Diamond echoed the importance of embracing the powers of technology.

"When I hired Ian Fitzpatrick, who is somebody who is more technologically savvy than me," Diamond said, "he taught me about the value and benefits of social media to reach an audience and to connect with people."

Pritchard, referencing a Singularity University study about business and technology, said the past 10 years represents only 1 percent of the "technology revolution" and that the other 99 percent will occur in the next 10 years.

"In the next 10 years, change is going to happen two-and-a-half-thousand times faster than it is now," Pritchard said. "So you have to start catching up now, or you will be left behind."

To exemplify his point, Pritchard directed the audience members to all stand up and make loud cheering sounds. Using his

smart phone he snapped a photo of the spectacle.

"I just sent that spontaneous standing ovation to 650,000 people," he declared proudly.

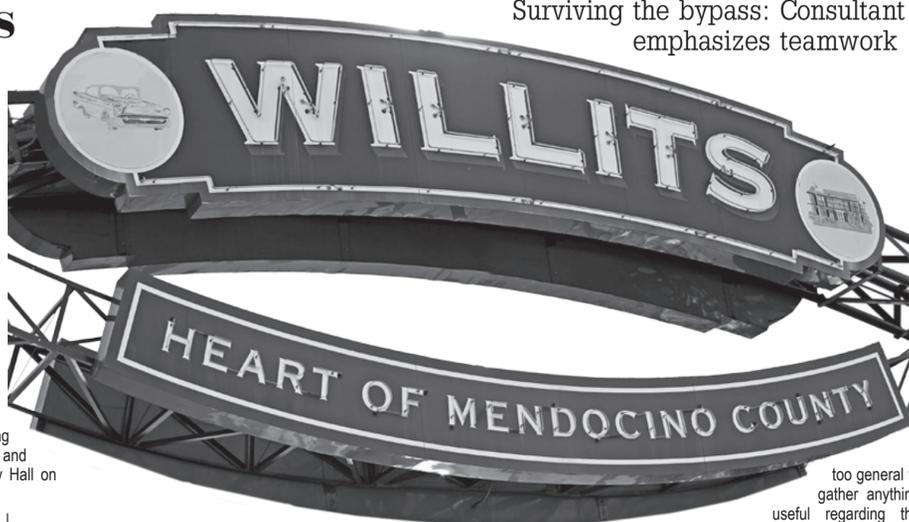
Pritchard cited several examples of small businesses incorporating social media and big data analytics to great success, and how using that technology is far more effective than traditional modes of advertising, competitive pricing, brand awareness and customer satisfaction.

"If you base your business on any of those things today, you will go broke," Pritchard warned. Rather, he said, citing a Harvard study, "Sixty-eight percent of people stop doing business with you because they don't think you care about them." Accordingly, because four out of five sales are generated by repeat business, it is vital, Pritchard said, "to knock my socks off with how much you care about my business."

Diamond cited The Book Juggler as an example of this kind of exemplary customer service. "I drop in about three or four times a week," Diamond said. "I was there today, and [owners] Greta and Chris greeted me, and they helped me find what I was looking for. If we apply that kind of [customer care] to our local community, we could not only make our community more exciting and more valuable to our local residents, but make it so good and so caring that people will come from miles around."

Some business owners – some who wished to remain nameless – weren't enthusiastic about Pritchard's talk, saying it was more of a sales pitch and the information

Surviving the bypass: Consultant emphasizes teamwork



too general to gather anything useful regarding the aftereffects of the bypass.

Evelyn Fisher, co-owner of Nikos Gyro Shop, acknowledged Pritchard raised some good points, but thought most of his information was more suitable for big cities and big business.

"I think he underestimated this community," said Fisher. "He doesn't know it well enough to realize that [business is generated] here by a whole lot of word-of-mouth and newspaper [coverage and advertising]."

Fisher acknowledged the importance of social media, and praised the Willits Chamber of Commerce for updating its website, however: "It has to be a multi-pronged approach. You can't just rely on social media, because then you're losing a huge portion of our population here who still looks at the newspapers, talks to their friends [and] sits around the table at J.D. Redhouse and talks about their day."

Fisher, regarding the bypass, explained the importance of having good signage on Highway 101. "The biggest challenge is how to lure people off the highway that aren't already getting off to go to Highway 20," said Fisher. "We need a 'Welcome to Willits' sign on either end of the bypass."

"People respond to benefits," said Barksdale, regarding attracting outside business. "That's the basis for every business when you're dealing with customers. So, as a town, we have to start identifying our benefits. That's what we have to sell."

Or, as Pritchard put it, "The more successful a single business is, the more successful the city as a whole can be."

## Galletti bench warrant recalled

A bench warrant issued for the arrest of Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools Warren Galletti was recalled on March 18 by the Mendocino County Superior Court.

Galletti, 50, was arrested the night of February 11 by state traffic officers on suspicion of driving under the influence, and booked at county jail.

Some local media outlets reported an arrest warrant had been requested for Galletti after he failed to appear for a Friday, March 11 court hearing.

However, District Attorney David Eyster and Galletti's defense attorney appeared last Friday morning before a visiting judge and "stipulated there was no need for the issuance of a warrant, especially since the warrant had yet to be prepared," according to Mike Geniella, the DA Office's public information officer.

"While the District Attorney's Office had not sought the arrest of Mr. Galletti, as had been reported, a bench warrant was nevertheless ordered partially due to a calendaring glitch," Geniella stated in a press release.

"It is clear to the district attorney that Mr. Galletti has not attempted to avoid or otherwise sidestep his court obligations and the District Attorney's Office remains aware of his whereabouts," Geniella said. "Likewise, Mr. Galletti is aware of his court obligations and it is expected he will be making all necessary court appearances, as required by law."

Galletti's arraignment is now scheduled for April 8 at 9 am. "Because the matter is a misdemeanor, Galletti has the option of appearing in person or through retained counsel," Geniella noted.

Galletti was elected to head the Mendocino County Office of Education in November 2014 and began his first term on January 5, 2015.

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

## Fight on Mill Street leaves Willits men injured

Two Willits men were treated at Howard Memorial Hospital after being injured in a Mill Street fight last Thursday morning.

Willits Police Department officers broke up the fight shortly after 10 am with the assistance of sheriff's deputies, according to WPD Sgt. Mike McNeley.

One of the combatants had sustained a stab wound to the abdomen, McNeley said. The other had suffered head injuries after being struck with a tree branch.

Both were taken to the hospital by ambulance. Their injuries, McNeley said, were determined to be non-life threatening.

Police did not release the names of the combatants, but said investigation into the altercation is continuing.

This report was based on a press release from the Willits Police Department.

## Michigan man dies in north county crash

A 67-year-old Michigan man died and his wife was seriously injured last Thursday when their car was struck by a big rig driven by a north county man at the junction of Highway 1 and Highway 101 in Leggett.

According to state traffic officers, a 2000 Mercury Grand Marquis driven by Daniel Barnard of North Muskegon turned left from Highway 1 onto Highway 101 directly into the path of a southbound 2011 Freightliner driven by 51-year-old John Barney of Willits shortly before 11:30 am.

Barney, officers say, took evasive action in an attempt to avoid a collision, but the Barnard car "continued to travel directly into the path of the truck, resulting in a broadside collision" that left Barnard dead at the scene and his wife, 68-year-old Linda Barnard, with major injuries.

Linda Barnard was rushed by Laytonville ambulance to a waiting helicopter and airlifted to Enloe Medical Center in Chico for treatment.

Both Leggett and Laytonville firefighters, as well as the California Highway Patrol, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office and Caltrans crews responded to the accident. Highway 101 was reduced to one-way controlled traffic at the accident scene for 3.5 hours, the CHP reported.

Alcohol or drugs do not appear to be a factor in the accident, officers said, but investigation into the crash is continuing.

This report was based on a press release from the California Highway Patrol.

## Significant cuts proposed to West Coast salmon season

Submitted by the office of  
Congressman Jared Huffman

Washington, DC – on March 14, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the federal agency responsible for the management of West Coast salmon fisheries, released three options for California's 2016 sport and commercial salmon fishing seasons.

Each of those proposed options would cut the number of salmon fishing days for commercial fishing by more than 20 percent, with the most restrictive option for Fort Bragg cutting fishing days by 45 percent, representing a significant cut in this iconic and economically valuable fishery.

The options proposed by the fisheries council include "effort reductions" that range from 20 percent from last year all the way to complete closures in some areas. The proposed plans are available for public review until early April, at which point a final salmon season will be determined.

California's salmon fishing industry represents an economic value of approximately \$1.4 billion, making the dire announcement – especially the option that would entirely eliminate commercial fishing during the coming season – of significant concern to California's economy and jobs in coastal communities. The fisheries council's announcement last week comes at a vulnerable moment for fishing fleets, with fishermen facing simultaneous crises in California crab fisheries and declines in the Klamath salmon fishery and the Bay-Delta salmon fishery.

In response to the news, congressional representatives from across the Bay-Delta region voiced

concerns about the state of the salmon fishing industry and legislation that would further exacerbate salmon population declines, and urged their colleagues to instead pass comprehensive drought legislation that protects devastated Northern California salmon runs and the economic value they represent.

Representatives Doris Matsui, Jerry McNerney, Mark DeSaulnier, and Mike Thompson have all supported Congressman Jared Huffman's Drought Relief and Resilience Act, a range of short- and long-term solutions to stretch water supplies and build new clean water infrastructure, creating jobs without undermining environmental protections, preempting state laws, or redirecting impacts from one drought-stricken area to another. The legislation directs U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in consultation with state and federal agencies, to prepare a plan to address the impacts of drought on the salmon population.

"California's salmon fishermen will unfortunately face further devastating losses and significant economic hardship this year, worsened by the constant push to divert more water from the Bay-Delta estuary," said Rep. Huffman (CA-02). "Yesterday's announcement confirms that this is not the time for Congress to weaken protections for salmon and their ecosystems. Unless we begin enacting both short- and long-term solutions to our drought challenges, salmon fishermen will continue to pay the price. That's why I am urging my colleagues to support my responsible drought legislation to achieve sustainable salmon runs and protect salmon fishing jobs, while building a more robust, resilient water supply for California."



At top, left: Baechtel Grove Middle School students at the Pi Day event.

At top, right: from left, BGMS staffers Ms. Evans, Ms. Dillman, Ms. Munguia, Ms. Larson and Mrs. Hendrix, take their spattering in good spirit.

Above: Principal Munguia smiles through the pies.

At right: Sequoia, left, getting ready to throw, as Britney's pie heads towards its target.

At right, below: The table full of ready-to-throw pies.

Photos by Mathew Caine

It's not every day a Baechtel Grove Middle School student is allowed to throw a pie at a teacher. It's not every day a teacher will sit there and – without retaliation – take that pie square in the face (that is, if the student's aim is true).

On any other day, that student would most assuredly be suspended. But this isn't just any other day. This day occurs once a year in March, and in honor of geometry's most famous and irrational of numbers, it has been coined "Pi Day."

March 14, or 3/14, reflects the first three digits of pi, 3.14, the mathematical constant representing the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.

Pi, otherwise known as  $\pi$ , is commonly approximated as 3.14159. For schools such as Baechtel Grove, Pi Day is celebrated with learning about the number, as well as testing the aerodynamics of a paper plate covered with pudding and whipped cream.

One of the academic activities used for Pi Day was applied by teacher Brenna Dillman.

"We wrote a story using the numbers from pi," said Dillman. "The first word of the story had three letters, the next word had one letter, the next had four letters, and so on."

The event, for Baechtel Grove, was born out of a need to incentivize students to improve their overall attendance.

"We've had so many absences," said PE teacher Erin Evans. "We lost over \$20,000 of ADA funding for the month of February."

ADA stands for Average Daily Attendance, and it's a major part of how public schools are funded. For each student that comes to class on any single day, the school is funded \$35. For every student who doesn't come to school, for any reason whatsoever, the school doesn't receive that \$35.

That's why incentives like Pi Day are vital to boost attendance scores. Since March first, every classroom at Baechtel Grove that recorded 95 percent or better attendance was entered into a drawing for eligibility into the pie-throwing event held after school on March 17. The drawings ended on March 14, but by that time, every classroom was eligible.

It turns out, throwing pies at the teachers of their choice is a good motivator for middle school students.

During the event, the students gathered outside near the ball wall, and while the pies were quickly being assembled, the first round of teachers donned goggles and garbage bag jackets and positioned themselves in chairs directly in front of the ball wall. Baechtel Grove Principal Maria de los Angeles Munguia also gamely offered herself as a target.

Teacher Mary Colvig, bullhorn in hand, directed the proceedings. Students lined up five at a time behind a blue chalk line, roughly eight feet from their helpless targets. Colvig gave the orders and the students fired away. The rounds continued until all the students had thrown their pies and all the marked teachers were doused and spattered.

By the end of the event a good section of the ball wall resembled a Jackson Pollock painting.

## $\pi$ Day

### Baechtel Grove students fling pies for Pi Day

By Damian Sebouhian

#### Some interesting facts about pi include:

- Pi's decimal representation never ends, and it never settles into a permanent repeating pattern.
- Computer scientists have calculated pi up to more than a trillion digits.
- The first 144 digits of pi add up to 666.
- There's a website that lets you find your birthday within the first 200 million digits of pi: <http://www.angio.net/pi/>
- Celebrities born on Pi Day include: Albert Einstein, Michael Cain, Billy Crystal and the current NBA Most Valuable Player, Golden State Warriors' own Stephen Curry.
- Comedian John Evans once quipped: "What do you get if you divide the circumference of a jack-o'-lantern by its diameter? Pumpkin  $\pi$ ."
- William Jones introduced the symbol " $\pi$ " in 1706, and it was later popularized by Leonhard Euler in 1737.

## Keith Faulder

running for Superior Court judge

Submitted by the Keith Faulder for Judge campaign

Sheriff Tom Allman and District Attorney David Eyster have endorsed Keith Faulder for Mendocino County Superior Court Judge. Ukiah Police Chief Chris Dewey and Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez joined the sheriff and DA in endorsing Faulder.

"I'm supporting Keith Faulder for judge because he has the experience and integrity to do the job right. He's fair and honest, and I appreciate his approach to the law," Sheriff Tom Allman said.

District Attorney David Eyster agreed: "I urge voters to choose Faulder for several reasons. Keith has the knowledge and experience we should expect of a judge. He served the people of Mendocino County as a top prosecutor and then became a top defense lawyer. Keith is a long-time resident of this county who really understands the values we embrace and those we seek to protect."

Faulder stated: "It is a privilege to have the county's top law enforcement officials endorsing my candidacy. I believe my breadth of experience is a major reason for their confidence and endorsements."

Faulder's experience spans a broad range. He served in the District Attorney's Office as chief trial deputy, assistant DA and as interim district attorney. In these various roles, he supervised attorneys, investigators and support staff, and managed a multi-million-dollar budget.

Faulder prosecuted thousands of cases. He has never been reversed on appeal regarding the more than

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

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The rest of **Pot** From Page 1

However, rather than consider ways Willits could opt in to California's Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act, or MMRSA, Burton and Stranske modeled their recommendation on a City of Merced ordinance.

That ordinance, passed in January, officially prohibits "all commercial medical marijuana uses in the city and prohibits cultivation for medical use by a qualified patient or primary caregiver."

In supporting such a sweeping ban for Willits, Burton reminded his fellow councilmembers the federal government still has marijuana classified as a Schedule 1 substance.

"We would be misleading the community by saying they have a right to grow, produce and sell marijuana in this community when the feds are busting [growers] on a regular basis," Burton said.

Burton also warned the city could be held culpable by the federal government if it issued licenses for cultivation.

"If we give somebody a permit for something that's illegal, how are we not somewhat complicit in that activity?" Burton asked.

However, Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster, whom Burton described as being more knowledgeable on the topic than anyone in the packed council chambers, told councilmembers federal intervention should not be a concern.

"I disagree with the analysis the ad hoc committee went through," Eyster began. "Congress has taken certain rider actions against the budget of the Department of Justice to tell it not to enforce actions in states where there's an organized medical marijuana structure, either in place or going into place."

Eyster cited Washington, Colorado and Oregon as examples of states that have legalized cannabis without any backlash from the federal government.

Eyster noted the ban the ad hoc committee is recommending would include not just cultivation and sale of cannabis, but also pot use.

"We're not talking about use," Burton said.

The rest of **Budget** From Page 1

"It is critical that the district address the deficit spending that has been in existence here for many years," Michel told the board at its March 16 meeting. "The deficit spending has now depleted the reserve to a critical point, and there is no longer any reserve remaining to carry the deficit."

Michel warned trustees if the district could not meet its reserve requirements, it was possible the State Department of Education could take over management of the district.

"If that happens, they will be in charge of everything, and they will tell you what to do on every point," Michel said. "You don't want to go there."

A sheet of paper provided to the public by Michel gave a brief prospectus of the district's budget for this year and for the next two years as well.

For this year, the district is awash in positives. There is the one-time revenue of \$775,000 from the state to defray past state mandates, \$60,000 for Career Technical Education materials and supplies, \$313,000 in Prop. 39 revenues, \$50,000 from a Career and Technical Education Incentive Grant, and a \$75,000 reimbursement from Microsoft Corporation for district purchases of computers and software.

The district's total 2015/16 revenue is \$20.2 million, while expenditures are \$20.1 million; the reserve for economic uncertainties account is at \$605,000 and the unassigned reserve is \$281,000.

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"I think you are," Eyster replied. "If you're not talking about use, you're not talking about marijuana. What you're talking about here are people who are able to grow and use, purchase and use, transport and use, and the like."

Nonetheless, Eyster did acknowledge it is within the city's rights to draft a total ban on cannabis. "You can basically make this a no-marijuana zone if you want," he said. "It'll be interesting, though, because you're surrounded by an awful lot of Mendocino County."

Casey O'Neill, chairman of the California Growers Association, warned councilmembers a ban could result in unwanted litigation. "Personal bans are most likely to bring lawsuits," O'Neill said. "[Proposition] 215 is still the law of the land, and patients under that law have the right to cultivate their own personal medicine."

O'Neill, who has been acting as a consultant to the board of supervisors' marijuana ad hoc committee, cautioned that a total ban would severely damage Willits' economy. "Cannabis has the potential to be a significant balance to the negative economic impacts of the bypass," said O'Neill. "Businesses like labs, that don't cultivate and aren't interested in sales, could be located in Willits. Dispensaries could be very helpful. There's great potential to generate revenue by opting in to MMRSA."

Jane Fatcher, a cannabis rights activist who said she owned two properties within the city limits, condemned the ad hoc committee's recommendation.

"A complete ban is a very backwards thing for this city in the heart of the Emerald Triangle to enact," she said. "Even the county historical museum is considering creating a cannabis exhibit."

"This is a recognized positive asset," Fatcher argued. "I don't think you need to be afraid of it. It should be embraced for its potential to create jobs and opportunities that are lacking here."

Area newcomer Karen Byars said she plans to start a cannabis resource center. "It would be an educational presence here in the community; to educate about cannabis compliance as well as how to build our cannabis

The one dark cloud is the district will be able to increase its year-end fund balance by only a small amount: \$146,000.

For 2016-17, there are fewer positives and more negatives. Federal support for education is reduced by \$255,000 for the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities program, by \$6,000 for the Rural Education Assistance Program, by \$131,700 for Title 1, and by \$438,000 for the Elementary Counseling grant.

State support for district programs also will be reduced in 2016/17, by almost \$900,000. Gov. Jerry Brown's Mandated Costs Reimbursement program will close, reducing district revenues by \$475,734, and revenue from the five-year Prop. 39 program will cease, reducing district income by \$427,241. In addition the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant will cut \$25,000 from what it has annually been contributing to the district's budget.

Total revenues for 2016/17 will be an estimated \$18.3 million, with total expenditures probably coming in at \$19.1 million. The district's fund balance will take a hit amounting to \$770,000. The Reserve for Economic Uncertainties remains at \$605,000, and the unassigned reserve increases to \$349,567.

For 2017-18, the financial balance tips into the red zone. Federal revenues are reduced by \$269,000 as the Elementary Counseling Grant is expended and funding of the

businesses.

"I'm not planning on growing or selling or distributing marijuana," Byars explained, "but I am planning on moving here to set up a center for educational purposes. Does this ban include me?"

"Selling real estate, I can say growers are easily two-thirds of the buyers and sellers out there," said lifelong Willits resident and Realtor Jake McFadden, co-founder of Willits Elementary Charter School. "It's reprehensible to consider an outright ban on the very industry that props up this economy. It's absolutely ludicrous. There's so much tax revenue to be gained that could help support and fund our schools and keep the economic wheels turning."

Both Burton and Stranske, however, stood by their recommendation, although Burton noted he would advocate the penalty for breaking the ban be no heavier than a nuisance fine.

But councilwomen Holly Madrigal and Madge Strong rejected the ban, echoing many of the concerns addressed by the public.

Had the council taken action, Vice Mayor Ron Orenstein would have cast the swing vote.

And while Orenstein chastised pot growers as taking the easy way out and being lazy, dismissing claims cannabis has helped the local economy, he added:

"MMRSA has a lot of good tools we could use as a city. I feel we can use these laws and embrace the issue, and own it, and make it be what we want."

While Orenstein said he's not completely against a ban, he did admit the city doesn't "have the staff to do an adequate job of enforcing [it]. And if we're not going to enforce the ban, then why bother doing it?"

Burton told the council there would have to be more discussions before a decision could be made. "This isn't a one-meeting issue," he said.

To find more information, including the ad hoc committee's report and recommendation, go to <http://thecityofwillits.com/category/agendas/>

program ends. At the state level, the Support for Educator Effectiveness program will be cut by \$139,000, reimbursements for current mandates falls to \$300,000, and CTE funding is reduced by another \$25,000. The district will have to pay more in retirement costs to both the State Teachers Retirement System and the Public Employee Retirement System. A new contract for both teachers and classified staff will likely be in play; however, those new numbers are not part of Michel's analysis.

As it stands, Michel predicts revenues in 2017-18 to be \$17.9 million, with expenditures estimated at \$18.7 million. The year-end fund balance declines by \$781,000, the reserve for economic uncertainties drops to \$563,000, and the line item for unassigned reserves moves into negative territory at minus \$284,728.

Michel told the board: "The actual shortfall is likely to be much higher, as there are no increased costs built into materials, supplies and operating costs."

Board Chairman Chris Neary seemed unwilling to shift into panic mode. "I've been on the board for three years, plus 12 years when I was on the board before, and the budget has always been out of whack," Neary said. "These problems always seem to go away, somehow or another."

Neary asked Michel to provide him with a list of discretionary programs available for trustees to cut. Michel said she would do that.

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The rest of **Buses** From Page 1

On December 16, both Superintendent Patricia Johnson and Financial Officer Tanya Michel advised trustees the district would receive \$775,000 from the state of California, and they intended to use the money on three items.

First, the district would buy two new school buses, at a cost of about \$200,000 each, or \$400,000. The new buses would replace two buses that no longer meet federal air pollution emissions standards.

In addition, Johnson announced plans to dispose of three old buses that are rarely driven, and which, she believed, could not be retrofitted to meet California air emissions standards.

In addition to the buses, Johnson and Michel announced plans to purchase \$200,000 worth of new textbooks, and to pave the parking lot at Willits High School at a cost of \$175,000.

The state funds were to come from a decision made by Gov. Jerry Brown to defray the cost of educational mandates state government had imposed for many years on California school districts.

After Johnson made her announcement at the December board meeting, Trustee Alex Bowlds said he preferred spending the money on a new heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system at Blosser Lane School. Blosser had lost HVAC in five classrooms during the past year, and the existing system was widely believed to be disintegrating. Johnson later estimated the cost of a new, high-quality HVAC system for Blosser Lane School at \$250,000.

The issue was not discussed at the board's January or February 2016 meetings, and administration plans on how to spend the \$775,000 appeared to be on track.

At the March 2 board meeting, Transportation Department Technician Clarence Ryan told the board he would be resigning due to difficulties he has experienced working under WUSD Director of Transportation Terry McGillis. He also addressed the bus issue, opining the district's plan to scrap three of the five buses was ill-advised. McGillis argued a retrofit system is now available that will correct the emissions problems, so three of the older buses were still usable.

"Buses 1, 6 and 7 are pretty good buses," Ryan said. "They all have less than 100,000 miles. They have a lot of life left in them. Buses 87 and 89 have to go."

Ryan's comments appeared to impact trustees, and at the March 16 meeting Johnson announced purchase of the buses had been suspended.

Contacted later by Willits Weekly, Johnson confirmed the \$775,000 had been swept into a reserve account for the time being. Johnson and her staff are continuing to investigate whether buying the new buses is necessary or not.

Additional study is also being undertaken on the Willits High School parking lot paving job. Johnson said currently it is not known how much damage the parking lot has sustained.

"It depends on how deep the damage goes," she said. "If it just goes down to the secondary layer, then all we have to do is pave it, and we can do that for the \$175,000 that we have. But if the damage goes all the way down to the foundation of the pavement, then we have to do a lot more repair, and that will cost more money. So we have a contract with SHN to investigate the condition of the pavement, and we will go from there."

Johnson said the issue will be discussed at the board's April 13 meeting.

The rest of **Faulder** From Page 10

40 homicide cases he tried. Additionally, his experience includes private practice, where he gained experience in criminal defense, civil litigation and property litigation, in addition to family and juvenile law, including a stint in the Public Defender's Office.

Faulder is deeply invested in the community, having served as a board member at Project Sanctuary to help families affected by domestic violence.

He also serves as the president of the board of trustees of the Mendocino County Law Library to help ensure information remains accessible to everyone in the community.

Faulder has also been an instructor in the Criminal Justice program at Mendocino College and an attorney coach for the Mendocino County Office of Education's Mock Trial Program.

"I am my own person. I will always make decisions based on all the available information, and if new information comes to light, I will not be afraid to revisit past decisions. I have enormous respect for our local judges, and I would be honored to join them. To do so, I ask for your vote," Faulder stated.

Faulder said he will use his knowledge of the law and his compassion for people to find a balance between punishing those with a debt to society and seeking opportunities for their rehabilitation.

Learn more at [keithfaulder.com](http://keithfaulder.com) or [facebook.com/KeithFaulder2016](https://www.facebook.com/KeithFaulder2016).

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Photo by Ron Greystar



Photo by Calling All Choir

# Glorious chorus

Calling All Choir comes from SF to sing with Emandal

Music lovers in Willits are in for a treat on Sunday, April 3, as the Calling All Choir from San Francisco will join with the Emandal Chorale at a fundraiser for the Grange Farm School at the Little Lake Grange.

Both of these mostly a cappella community choirs have in common the premise that "everyone can sing, and everyone should be able to enjoy singing," said Don Willis, director of the Emandal Chorale.

Willis attended a rehearsal of the Calling All Choir in San Francisco last month. "What they're doing is very high level," he said. "The choir sounds beautiful, just beautiful. It's a step up from what we're doing, I would say, and I'm hoping our choir will be inspired by what they've been able to do."

Director Mark Growden of the Calling All Choir – which he informally calls the "Y'all Come Choir" – agrees that although the two choirs are different, they are "similar in spirit, in certain ways."

Growden, a professional musician who's toured widely, had no choral experience before starting Calling All Choir about

2.5 years ago. "But I taught music for 13 years," he said, "and had a lot of training in music education. For years I would lead Community Sings, where anyone is welcome – come for two hours to learn rounds and pieces I developed, meant specifically for a group of people with some good singers and some beginners, to get a large group singing and having a really satisfying experience with music and community."

This Willits concert will be part of a cultural exchange, as Emandal will sing at a festival of "non-auditional community choruses from around Northern California" Growden is organizing for later this year at the Mission Dolores Basilica in San Francisco. Growden already had Willits connections, having led workshops and performed here often. One of the SF choir members has a house in Brooktrails, and the visitors from the city will also be staying with members of the Emandal Chorale.

"We will all get together for a light lunch right before the concert to sit down and enjoy each other's company," Willis said. "The Grange Farm School is making the soup, and we'll have bread from Emandal." The chorale was founded in 1994 by Tam Adams of Emandal, who wanted to take part in the Christmas sing at Mormon Church but wasn't in a choir, "so

she started her own," Willis said.

Willis thought of making the concert a benefit for the Grange Farm School because he wanted to "encourage the very strong, committed group of young people involved in the Grange Farm School ... to follow their dreams and have something that works for them. I really see it as a generational thing. We want to nurture the next generation of community leaders, as well as – of course – the next generation of farmers."

Having the San Francisco choir involved in the fundraiser is important "not just to raise money, but to raise awareness for the Grange Farm School among people from the Bay Area," Willis said. "The Grange Farm School needs a wider net than we have in this community; they need to get students and support from all over."

Tickets for the Sunday, April 3 concert are \$15, available in advance (with so many singers, including about 55 members of the Emandal Chorale, the show is expected to sell out) at J.D. Redhouse. Both choirs will do a set of their own songs, as well as sing together, and there'll be a singalong with audience members, too. For more information about the Emandal Chorale, call Willis at 367-1573.

Photos by Ree Slocum



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# Dinner at Roland's

South-side bakery and bistro opens for weekend dinners

Everyone can rejoice about a new dinner option in Willits, and Roland's Bakery and Bistro is now offering delicious options for dinner on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, as well as breakfast and lunch.

**Maureen Moore**  
Graphics & Photographress  
maureen@willitsweekly.com

The eatery is tucked into the south leg of the Evergreen Shopping Center, in between Curves and Goodwill. They

offer indoor seating for 20 or so, and a few outdoor dining tables, too.

Unlike breakfast and lunch, dinner is a sit-down, full-service experience. A menu featuring everything from pasta puttanesca to a flank steak plate to garlicky grilled shrimp to zucchini fritters (along with several starters, salads and a soup du jour), is presented when diners are seated, and a basket of warmed bread and zesty tapenade starts the meal.

Three house specialties are featured, including a Blackened Pork Tenderloin served with garlicky white bean puree and finished in a chipotle, sundried tomato cream sauce; the Chicken Oscar, a lightly fried chicken breast topped with steamed asparagus, crab meat and Hollandaise sauce; and Shrimp Scampi, jumbo shrimp sautéed with garlic, capers, white wine, lemon juice and butter – all accompanied by dinner potatoes or pasta.

My choices? The bruschetta: grilled house-made bread topped with seasoned tomatoes atop a oozy thick balsamic vinegar glaze; and the pesto cream pasta: garlic, pesto, cream – yes please!. Of course, for dessert, the panna cotta: sweetened cream combined with gelatin and cooked until just set, and topped with berries and whipped cream. The panna cotta tastes somewhere between flan, a light pudding, and vanilla bean-flavored heaven.

Reservations are available, or patrons are welcome to drop by during the dinner service from 5 to 8:30 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Don't forget to also check out Roland's Bakery and Bistro for breakfast – bagels, breakfast burritos, scrambles, Danish, croissants, coffee – and for lunch. With their revolving specials, you can expect to find all kinds of good things: fried fish sandwiches, pork chop and mashed potatoes, Southwestern couscous salad, shrimp po-boys, clam chowder and much more.

Roland's Bakery and Bistro is located at 1726 South Main Street and can be reached by calling 841-3058. Their regular breakfast and lunch hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 am to 3 pm and Sundays from 10 am to 2 pm.



Photos by Maureen Moore



Clockwise from top left: Bread and olive tapenade to start the meal, with a large glass of lavender lemonade. The new dinner menu. Panna cotta with whipped cream and berries. Zucchini fritters and ranch to dip. Bruschetta with tomatoes. Side of mixed veggies. Chicken Oscar, served without the crab by request.



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At left: Soroptimist International of Willits ladies who attended the luncheon meeting, including, from left: Loraine Patton, Bonnie Britten, Founder Region Treasurer Vicki Ham, District 5 Director Kris Chorbh, Marilyn Harden, club President Divora Stern, club Vice President Jan McCabe, club Treasurer Tanya Musgrave, club Secretary Barbara O'Rear and Fran Schatz.

Below: Heidi Conzelmann, Mary Elise Conzelmann, club President Divora Stern and District 5 Director Kris Chorbh pose with Conzelmann's check.

Photos by Maureen Moore

## Soroptimist Awards Luncheon

2016 Violet Richardson and 'Live Your Dream' honors awarded

Each year, the Soroptimist International of Willits gives out two awards, the Violet Richardson Award and the "Live Your Dream" Award, at their annual awards luncheon.

This year, the luncheon was held on March 15 at Old Mission Pizza. Several Soroptimist members attended, along with family and friends of the award recipients, as well as the District 5 Director Kris Chorbh from Eureka and guest Lana Eberhard, scholarship coordinator at the Mendocino College Foundation, and a prospective new Soroptimist member, Bonnie Britten.

The Violet Richardson Award is a recognition program for young women ages 14 to 17 engaged in volunteer action within their communities or schools. The award is given to young women whose activities make the community and world a better place. This year, Mary Elise Conzelmann of McKinleyville received the \$350 award.

Soroptimist International of Willits' current president, Divora Stern, prepared a short biography for the winner. "Mary Elise is 17 years old and very active in her local community for many years. Her work at the Mad River Grange helping with breakfasts, rummage sales, and voting polls for local elections made her an excellent candidate. Another one of her many outstanding accomplishments was spearheading a food drive, bringing in more cans of food than there were students attending the school. We are immensely proud of her work in the community and are extremely honored to present this award to this inspiring young woman."

The "Live Your Dream" Award provides financial assistance to a female head of household, helping her with education, training and reaching her goals. Applicants must provide the primary financial support for their dependents (including children, spouse, siblings and/or parents), demonstrate financial need, and be enrolled in, or have been accepted to, a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program. This year, an anonymous single mother living in Ukiah received the \$1,000 award.

"We are pleased and honored to award [the recipient] who has overcome many obstacles as a single mother of two young daughters and has completed her GED within these circumstances. Now she is a full-time student and employed while raising her children without any assistance. [The recipient] and her youngest daughter are victims of domestic violence. The Willits Soroptimist Club is pleased to support a single mom struggling with a court case and with an ill child by presenting this award."



Read the rest of Kards Over on Page B7

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Kati's Kards

Local artist showcases cards at Mariposa Market



Maureen Moore  
Graphics & Photographress  
maureen@willitsweekly.com

With crafting in her blood, Willits' Kati Muhliauer has recently found a new way to express her artistic abilities: hand-making recycled and embellished cards – or "Kati's Kards" as she calls them – which are now for sale at Mariposa Market.

The daughter of "Grandma" Mavis Bromagim – someone well known for her homey arts and crafty skills – Muhliauer enjoys working in many mediums and in new and exciting ways. She's currently taking a ceramics class at Mendocino College and a Colour Me Positive online journaling class and is also a holiday florist at The Flower Lady of Willits, where she excels at tropical arrangements. Her house and yard also feature many of her creative sculptures.



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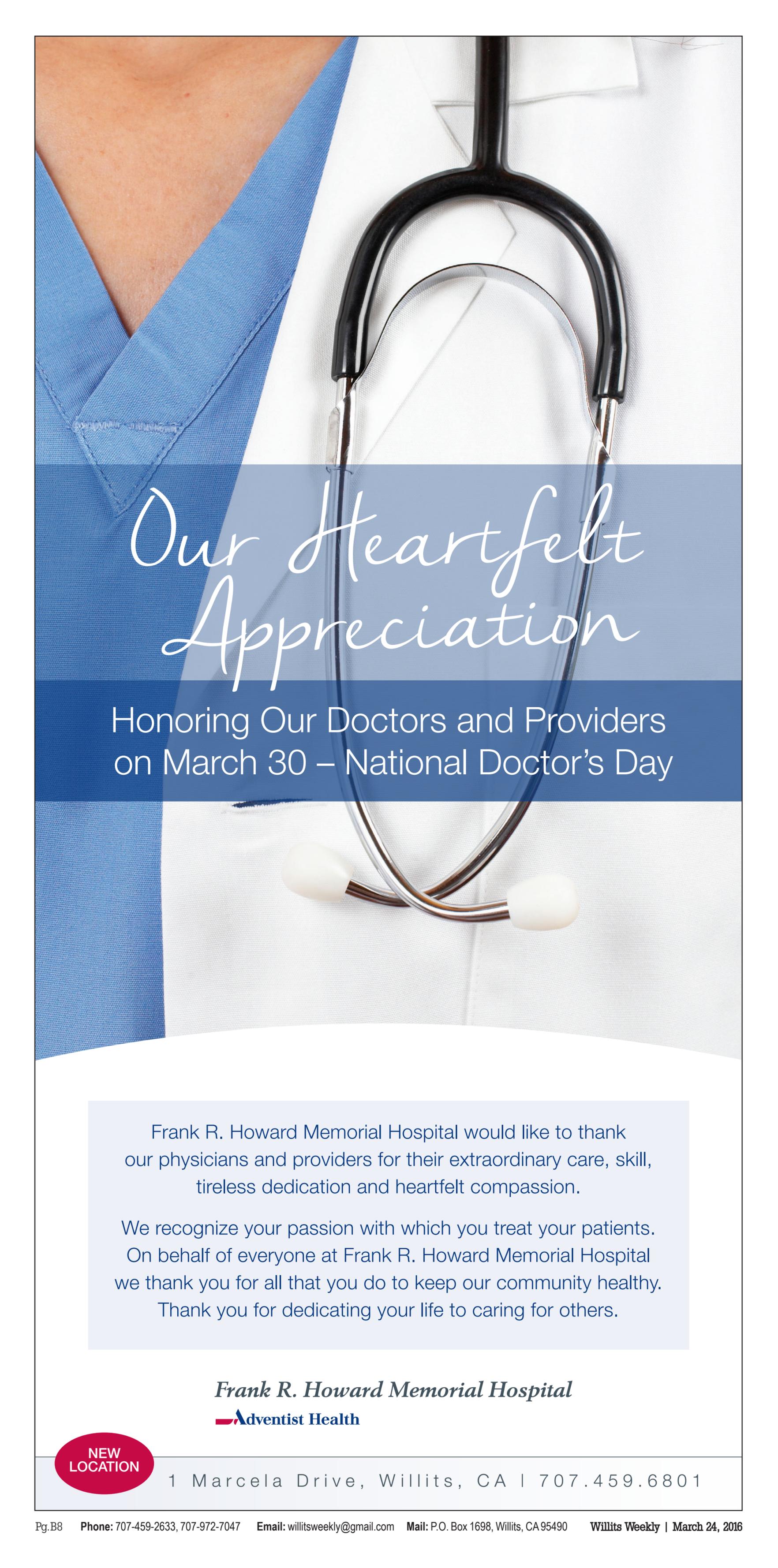
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# Our Heartfelt Appreciation

Honoring Our Doctors and Providers  
on March 30 – National Doctor's Day

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital would like to thank our physicians and providers for their extraordinary care, skill, tireless dedication and heartfelt compassion.

We recognize your passion with which you treat your patients. On behalf of everyone at Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital we thank you for all that you do to keep our community healthy. Thank you for dedicating your life to caring for others.

***Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital***

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