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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
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Allman's tax initiative: How much will it cost?

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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County Chief Executive Officer Carmel Angelo has been directed by the board of supervisors to prepare an analysis of costs to the county should voters approve Sheriff Tom Allman's mental health facilities tax initiative.

Allman and allies in the mental health field have drafted an initiative petition asking voters to approve a half-cent sales tax for five years to build or purchase and renovate a building to become a county mental health facility.

Allman and his group are
Read the rest of **Allman**
Over on Page 6

Board revises ambulance services ordinance

Dan McKee
Reporter
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Supervisors on Tuesday took the first step to revise Mendocino County's outdated emergency ambulance services ordinance and establish an exclusive ambulance operating area in the inland county.

The revised ordinance would modernize the current ordinance so it reflects current industry standards, Bryan Cleaver, the county's emergency management services agency administrator, told the board. It would also allow supervisors "to pursue an ambulance EOA, if [the county] so chose."

The feasibility of
Read the rest of **Ambulance**
Over on Page 13

County offers new Medical Cannabis Activity Registration Form

Submitted by the Mendocino County Executive Office

In the final hours of the 2015 legislative session, the California Legislature passed the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act of 2015 that was signed by Gov. Jerry Brown on October 9, 2015. In response to the new legislation, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors created a Marijuana Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of

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



Above, from left: Alex Garcia checks out the burned motor home that will be the target of his next cleaning project. One of the dump sites out Tomki Road which will also get cleaned up by Garcia and his helpers. Luke Scott and Garcia move one of the large metal pieces out of the trash pile. Below: Alex Garcia, the man with a clean-up plan.

Photos by
Maureen Moore



Photo by
Alex Garcia

Above: Some of the trash picked up at the first clean-up effort. Below: Garcia and Scott bag trash, left, and load metal into the truck, right.



Photos by
Maureen Moore

A Man with a (Clean-Up!) Plan

It's not a dream hobby for everyone, but it's something Willits' Alex Garcia is taking to heart: a full-scale effort to clean up the back roads of Mendocino County – and maybe even beyond.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
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As an avid outdoorsman since a young age, Garcia enjoys four-wheeling, hiking and being in the natural beauty all around the outskirts of our community. The love of the outdoors has already been instilled in his 3-year-old daughter, Jayci, who likes to look at fish in the streams, walk with dad, and enjoy the ambiance, too. However, trash is starting to be as common a view as wildflowers.

This got Garcia thinking, and he came up with a remedy.

Read the rest of **Clean up** Over on Page 11

DA blasts auditor-controller's office in grand jury response

Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster on Monday applauded a February grand jury report criticizing a lack of transparency in the distribution of Proposition 172 funds to government public safety agencies.

Dan McKee
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

But Eyster, whose department, along with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, the county jail and the county probation department, has benefitted from those funds, went even further, suggesting the county has acted illegally in managing its share of California Local Public Safety Protection and Improvement Act monies.

The problem, Eyster said in his 48-page formal response to the grand jury report released Tuesday by Kathy Wylie, forewoman of the 2015-16 Mendocino County grand jury, began in 1978, when California voters adopted Proposition 13, which "sharply reduced the amount of property tax revenues available to support local governments and schools."

Eyster was quoting from a 2004 state attorney general's opinion.

"Since then," the attorney general noted, "the Legislature has taken a number of steps to provide additional funding for cities, counties, special districts, and schools," proposing and winning voter approval of Proposition 172 in 1993. A constitutional amendment, the Local Public Safety Protection and Improvement Act of 1993, imposed a half-cent statewide sales tax to be used exclusively for local public safety services.

"Under the statutes implementing Proposition 172," the AG said, "the sales tax revenues in question are deposited in the Local Public Safety Fund of the State Treasury. The [state] controller then allocates the revenues to the counties in proportion to each county's share of the total statewide taxable sales." In turn, the counties maintain a Public Safety Augmentation Fund for receipt of the revenues, and – after retaining a portion of the monies – each county distributes the remainder to the cities within its boundaries according to a statutory formula.

"Both the [California] constitution and the implementing statutes [in the state's government code] restrict the use of Proposition 172 funds to public safety services," the AG opined. Those monies must "be allocated for use exclusively for public safety services of local agencies," including, but not limited to, sheriffs, police, fire protection, county district attorneys, county corrections, and ocean lifeguards."

While the February grand jury report conceded Auditor-Controller Lloyd Weer "has been able to demonstrate the appropriate distribution of Proposition 172 funds to municipalities within the county," Weer "has been unable to demonstrate that the remaining Proposition 172 revenues have been entirely distributed to county public safety agencies as required [by law]."

But Eyster charges that, in addition to Weer having been unable to demonstrate to the grand jury that the

Read the rest of **Grand Jury** Over on Page 13

Community invited to Main Street Corridor Planning Fair

Damian Sebouhian
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Your opinion matters. That's the central, consistent message to those living in the greater Willits community from members of city staff, the Willits City Council, and Main Street Merchants group.

And that's why everyone is invited to participate in the upcoming Willits Main Street Corridor Planning Fair.

The planning fair will
Read the rest of **Corridor**
Over on Page 15

New wildfire protection plan approved

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Mendocino County Fire Safe Council Executive Director Madelin Holtkamp officially presented the board of supervisors with the updated version of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan at Tuesday's meeting.

The plan was the fruit of a year's worth of work by Holtkamp and the Fire Safe Council and funding from the supervisors in the amount of \$25,000. The new CWPP replaces the old plan, which was published in 2005.

Holtkamp told supervisors one of the most important

Read the rest of **Wildfire**
Over on Page 15

County moving forward with mental health transition

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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The transition team charged with shifting responsibility for providing mental health services to adults from Orner Management Group to Redwood Quality Management Company has been meeting and is continuing to make progress.

"Our number one concern is to make sure there is no break in service," Mendocino County CEO

Read the rest of **Mental Health**
Over on Page 13

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Price of legalization

To the Editor:

In reading Jake McFadden's recent letter in Willits Weekly, I wondered, "what price are we going to pay" for all the funds supposedly raised by this action, and is it worth it?

How about the freedom to be able to sit out on your front porch and enjoy the fresh air, not the noxious odor of the "grow" in the neighborhood? Are those funds worth it when there is a possibility of inviting more undesirables into our town? How about the people that might decide to rob one of these shops selling this product?

I totally support Mayor Bruce Burton and Councilmen Larry Stranske and Ron Orenstein for their stand in keeping our community free of this blight.

If people are interested in bringing funds into our community, why don't we look at something that will provide jobs for our youth so they can stay in our town after they graduate from high school? It is a shame that we have allowed our timber industry to be diminished when our forests and wildlife are being destroyed by fires because of lack of proper care, which would occur if logging was still being allowed. The jobs that have been lost, not just the loggers and the sawmills, but also the businesses that support the industry.

Carlin M. Horger, Willits

'Let It Shine'

To the Editor:

Friends, Neighbors and Community: We are inviting all of you to help us "Let It Shine" by spreading the word about Willits Center for the Arts' Indiegogo campaign to raise \$10,000 to repaint and restore the historic WIC building whose exterior is in dire need.

Since achieving non-profit status at the beginning of the year, the nine-woman board of directors has expanded the center's mission. In addition to monthly themed shows in the downstairs galleries, there are more classes for adults and children in our classroom and programs planned for going out into the schools supporting the arts in all forms and creating audiences of the future.

Three free programs will be held upstairs in the beautiful Great Room. Sunday, April 10, from 2 to 4:30 pm, we celebrate National Poetry Month with a "Poetry Party Plus." This will be a fun event, and you will have an opportunity to donate (tax deductible) directly or online and choose a premium perk as an incentive. Saturday, April 23, from 2 to 4:30 pm, is "Art in the Afternoon for All Ages," and we will wind up on Sunday, May 15, from 2 to 4:30 pm with "Movement, Monologues, and Music." Please visit our website, WillitsCenterfortheArts.org, for details.

Over the next few weeks, I will be wearing my top hat and appearing around town to make my pitch. If you or your group would like to know more or have me come and tell you about what we are doing at the center,

and how you can help or to become a part of any of these events, please contact me at Emmy@pacific.net or call WCA at 459-1726 and leave a message. I hope you will join us and Let It Shine.

Emmy Good,
WCA board of directors, Willits

USPS says marijuana ads 'non-mailable'

To the Editor:

The legalization of med-pot is a long way from being a completed process both statewide and on the local level. There are also a few federal wrinkles that need to be ironed out. Case in point, the U.S. Postal Service's new policy regarding that marijuana advertisements, including those in newspapers, won't be handled because they are "nonmailable."

It appears the Observer [the Mendocino County Observer newspaper in Laytonville] is in violation of this new policy since we regularly run med-pot ads and other types of general notices regarding marijuana that are mailed out to our subscribers.

I guess I better establish a bail fund so I'm prepared when the federales take me in custody.

You'd think Post Office bureaucrats, who whine and snivel about losing revenues (that's why the cost of postage increases frequently) because people don't use the mail any more, would be encouraging folks to use the Post Office more.

Nope, instead they threaten to prosecute legitimate businesses such as the print media, therefore guaranteeing even more loss of revenues. Can you spell arrogance and mismanagement?

Our congressman, Jared Huffman, is trying to get this ludicrous policy deep-sixed.

On Tuesday, March 29, Huffman and Oregon colleague Earl Blumenauer, along with six other members of Congress, sent a bipartisan letter to Attorney General Loretta Lynch urging her to clarify how the Department of Justice intends to respond to the U.S. Postal Service's recently announced national policy stating that marijuana advertisements are non-mailable. This policy could harm small businesses and newspapers that are in compliance with state law, and who believe they are compliant with the Department of Justice's marijuana enforcement guidelines.

"The USPS has made clear their position, but this still leaves uncertainty for businesses, including newspapers, as to how DOJ will react to any information provided by USPS about marijuana advertisements," the members wrote. "Clarity for businesses is essential as they work to comply with state law, and as states seek to implement their marijuana laws safely and effectively."

The signatories on the letter, along with Congressman Huffman and Blumenauer, are Representatives Dana Rohrabacher (CA), Steve Cohen (TN), Sam Farr (CA), Mark Pocan (WI) Eleanor Holmes-Norton (DC-At Large), and Ted Lieu (CA).

Here's the full text of the letter:

"Dear Attorney General Lynch:

"We write to request clarification from the Department of Justice on recent policy issued by the United States Postal Service regarding mailed advertisements for marijuana products in states that have legalized marijuana for medical or adult use. While the USPS may make determinations on the mailability of certain items, the authority to prosecute individuals and businesses under the Controlled Substances Act or related federal statutes rests entirely with the DOJ. We therefore request that DOJ offer guidance to clearly establish that in accordance with the department's August 29, 2013 memorandum titled 'Guidance Regarding

Marijuana Enforcement,' and with language in the FY16 Omnibus that bars DOJ from spending funds that interfere with state medical marijuana laws, that DOJ will not prosecute individuals who are placing advertisements for marijuana products in accordance with state law.

"As you are likely aware, in December the USPS issued national policy determining that marijuana advertisements are non-mailable. The policy also made clear that postmasters and managers of business mail entry must send a report on non-mailable items to the Local Inspection Service 'and the matter would then be turned over to the responsible law enforcement agencies for investigation as appropriate.' This policy could pose significant harm to small businesses and newspapers that are in compliance with state law, and believe they are compliant with your department's guidance.

"The USPS has made clear their position, but this still leaves uncertainty for businesses, including newspapers, as to how DOJ will react to any information provided by USPS about marijuana advertisements. Clarity for businesses is essential as they work to comply with state law, and as states seek to implement their marijuana laws safely and effectively.

"Through inclusion of language in the FY16 omnibus spending bill barring DOJ from spending funds that interfere with a date's ability to implement its own medical marijuana laws, Congress has made clear its intent that DOJ not interfere with medical marijuana programs. Additionally, the issue of advertising was not raised as an enforcement priority in the August 2013 guidance relating medical or adult use programs. We therefore ask that you clarify that DOJ will adhere to these laws and policies, and not take enforcement action upon receiving mailability reports submitted by USPS regarding marijuana advertising that is legal under state law.

"We look forward to your prompt response. Small businesses and newspapers across the country are already making important business decisions as a result of the USPS policy."

Jim Shields, Mendocino County Observer, Laytonville

Editor's note: Jim Shields is the editor and publisher of the Mendocino County Observer independent newspaper in Laytonville, and this piece is reprinted courtesy of the MCO, where it was originally published in the March 31, 2016 edition.

Hack-and-squirt stupidity

To the Editor:

Back in 1998, the Fisher family, billionaire owners of Gap and Banana Republic stores, bought 235,000 acres of heavily logged Mendocino and Sonoma county "timberland" from Louisiana Pacific, making them the largest private landowners in Mendocino County.

Despite heavily publicized promises to log responsibly and sustainably, Mendocino Redwood Company and their Humboldt division, Humboldt Redwood Company, continued clear-cutting at pretty much the same destructive rate as LP had been doing – 4 to 6 percent of standing inventory per year. This is well over twice the maximum rate recommended by the late Hans Burkhardt, author of "Maximizing Forest Productivity," and member of the Mendocino County Forestry Advisory Committee. Burkhardt said a rate of no more than 1 to 2 percent was necessary in order to have sustainable timber production – and he had decades of research data to back it up.

MRC and HRC also continued the questionable practice of poisoning non-commercial varieties such as tan oaks and leaving swathes of standing, dead trees in the forest. This is generally done through a process called hack-and-squirt, where they hack through the inner bark every few inches around the trunk of the tree and squirt in poison. LP used to use Garlon. MRC has transitioned to imazapyr, which may be marginally less toxic to aquatic life.

Whatever the toxicity level, the most crucial problem with poisoning trees and leaving them is increased fire danger. Fires can cost millions of dollars – so you have to wonder why the county allows a practice that can potentially bankrupt us.

Last summer's fire season was exceptionally bad. We had fires both north and south of us and Mendocino County lay under a pall of acrid smoke for weeks at a time. Huge portions of neighboring Lake County were devastated, making 3,000 Lake County residents homeless.

The Valley Fire burned more than 76,000 acres. It destroyed 1,280 single-family residences and 27 multifamily buildings. It left behind mountains of toxic ash, which endangered health and slowed the rebuilding process. Ten percent of businesses in Lake County were either damaged or destroyed.

All in all, the fire cost hundreds of millions of dollars. And this was after the Rocky and Jerusalem fires, to the north and east of the Valley Fire, had already incinerated nearly 100,000 acres in late July and August.

Forestland Steward – a joint project of CalFire, the USDA Forest Service, and others, to provide information on the stewardship of private forestlands in California – put out a Summer 2015 edition of Forestland Steward News, titled "Fire Behavior: What's Going On?" In that issue they blame both drought and increased fuel load for the fact that wildfires are burning more intensively, more frequently, and over larger areas.

There's not much we can do about the drought. The increased fuel load, on the other hand, is partially caused by man and partly by nature, the result of a hundred years of fire suppression, as well as the result of trees killed by disease and insects. But it is also the result of poisoning trees and leaving them standing for up to a decade.

Standing dead trees are what they call fuel ladders, and one of the recommendations Forestland Steward makes for fire protection is to "remove fuel ladders that would lead a fire into the crowns of trees" – one of the most dangerous situations for firefighters.

"When trees die," the newsletter says, "they add to the already excessive fuel loads in the forest. Dead trees ignite faster and burn hotter than living trees. They torch quickly, with fire moving into the crown where it can jump to nearby trees... In overcrowded conditions, there are nearly always trees or fuel ladders nearby to spread the fire."

As things stand now, MRC can't be held responsible if these trees fuel a forest fire. It is a potential cost of hundreds of millions of dollars to Mendocino County, but MRC would be completely off the hook. The county can't afford such an expense, but the Fisher family are billionaires. They are doing their best to avoid this liability.

The Fishers have cranked up their public relations department, (which has so far done a pretty good job "greenwashing" their questionable, logging behavior). Locally, they have launched a high-powered publicity campaign to convince us that hack-and-squirt is a harmless process. They call it a "treatment," avoiding the real issue of fire danger from dead standing trees. They have been buying half-page newspaper ads with condescending headlines reading, "Dear Colleagues, Friends and Neighbors in Mendocino County." (That stuff may work in San Francisco, but it doesn't fly so well here.)

In addition, MRC has turned their lawyers loose on the problem, claiming the county has no jurisdiction over either herbicides or timber harvesting. That may be true, but the supervisors do have responsibility to protect their constituents from a public nuisance. Anything threatening the safety and welfare of the public is a public nuisance, and trees that are intentionally killed and left standing as a fire danger, would certainly fall under that definition.

If the supervisors declare these dangerous practices a public nuisance and a fire breaks out, then MRC has to bear at least a portion of the financial burden. That is why they are fighting so hard against it.

Fire danger is increasing and standing dead trees make it worse. Obviously, a tree killed by poison is just as dangerous as a tree killed by insects, drought or disease. Intentionally killing large swathes of trees by hack-and-squirt is sheer stupidity. It is a danger. It is a problem. It is a public nuisance. And it's time the board of supervisors called it what it is.

Tom Fristoe, Willits



Way Up in the Trees

Little Mike's Tree Service offers residents professional arbor assistance

"Fear of heights? Nah, just faith in – and lots and lots of – good knots," laughed Michael Quinliven, owner of Little Mike's Tree Service, and after making it up 195 feet in the air (his highest climb yet!), you better believe he knows. "I've been climbing trees since I was a little kid," he said, "and doing this kind of work takes me right back."

Quinliven has been in the industry for eight years. He graduated from Laytonville High School in 2008 and started with the U.S. Forest Service later that year, working from Santa Barbara to Lassen. By the end of 2009, he had started working with Davey Tree, helping clear the way for PG&E power lines.

At the request of folks in his hometown of Laytonville, and in Willits where he has resided since 2007, Quinliven eventually started doing a little tree work for family and friends. As demand grew, he saw it was time to get independently licensed, insured and ready to offer his services to the public, and he has since done just that.

Now, Little Mike's Tree Service offers topping, thinning and trimming of trees and limbs for safety and aesthetic situations, and can help with removal of dead or hazardous trees, or those affecting foundations. Quinliven can remove old, new or ugly stumps, help with storm damage or cleanup, and can help with fire abatement concerns, too, whether required by a city or township, or to ensure a 100-foot defensible space as per CalFire guidelines.

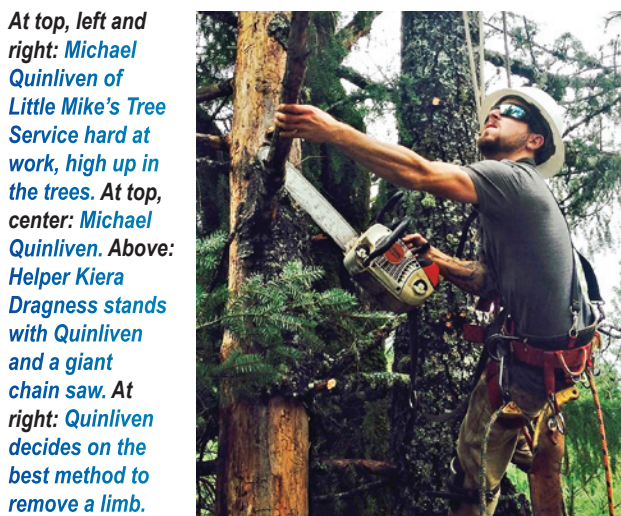
Little Mike's Tree Service also can help with emergency tree situations, in the middle of the night, on weekends or during the week, as well as scheduled work. Quinliven is happy to come give free estimates and get customers on the schedule.

"I really like to build a friendship with my clients," said Quinliven. "Sometimes I get to hang out for a while, talking about life, getting to know the people, and making sure they feel comfortable with me, so that I can really get an understanding of what they want, so I can do my best to make sure they will be happy."

Any downed limbs can be sized into 16 inch logs for home firewood use, and Little Mike's can also chip the smaller branches and brush into woodchips to leave at the site for use in the homeowner's landscaping or for other applications.

Being a lifetime member of the community also inspires Quinliven to give back to the area he calls home. Little Mike's Tree Service has enjoyed entering the Willits Frontier Days parade, has donated tree work on the Willits Frontier Days grounds, has donated firewood for raffles, and recently helped local Willits High School senior Kyle Martinez with some tree removal near the Willits "W" which Martinez is redoing for his senior project.

To schedule an appointment or for more information about Little Mike's Tree Service, give Quinliven a call at 972-0675, email him at Littlemikestreetservice@outlook.com or find him on Facebook under "Little Mike's Tree Service."



Photos by Erika Rowland



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Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital
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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

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

Level: Intermediate

How To Sudoku:

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

		1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9		
		10				11				12				
13	14					15				16		17	18	
19						20			21	22				
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36						37	38	39	40		41	42	43	44
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47	48	49								50		51	52	
53										54				55
56								57	58			59		
						60						62		
						63						65		

CLUES ACROSS

- Engine additive
- Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- Tooth caregiver
- Hawaiian dish
- Retirement account
- Basketball player Ming
- Say suddenly
- Carbon isotope ration (abbr.)
- Frasier Crane's brother
- Framework over oil well
- Edible mollusk
- Handy
- Japanese banjo
- Microwave
- Double-reed instrument
- Covered
- Leaseholders
- Master of business
- Herb
- Blood clot
- Route
- Reach a higher position
- American state
- Erases

CLUES DOWN

- Prods
- Tempest
- Miserable
- Excited
- Temindung Airport
- Provides shade from the sun
- Generators
- Newspapers
- Unaccompanied flights
- Bahraini dinar
- Romanian currency
- Between northeast and east
- London Southend Airport
- Cucumber
- Lovable pig
- Woman (French)
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Clutch
- Seventh letter of the Greek alphabet
- Records electrical activity
- Car mechanics group
- Speaking
- A formal permission
- Exploiter
- Affixed
- External genitals
- Deity
- Eat these with soup
- Swerved
- Connects two pipes
- Challenger
- Ranch (Spanish)
- Righted
- Fatty-fleshed fish
- Prosecutes alleged criminals
- Swiss river

WPD Activity Report

March 27 to April 2

Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 158 incidents this week.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

- March 27**
- 12:10 am: An assault was reported in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.
 - 11:50 am: Officers contacted MONTALVO, Daniel, 30, of Ukiah during a disturbance call at a business in the 1500 block of South Main Street. Officers arrested Montalvo when they discovered he was the subject of a Mendocino County warrant.
- March 28**
- 11:30 am: Officers initiated an investigation of a theft from the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.



Photo by Rod Coots

March 29

- 11:40 am: A vehicle was reported stolen from the 100 block of Mill Creek Court.
- 4 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance at a residence in the 700 block of Coast Street. During their investigation they determined HERBSTTRIT, Bernice, 39, of Willits was in an altercation with the victim, during which she assaulted him, which resulted in an injury to his nose. Herbsttritt was arrested pursuant to 273.5(a) PC (Domestic Violence Causing Injury).
- 6 pm: Officers responded to a reported battery in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

Read the rest of Police | Over on Page 11

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home Gentle Tony

Tony is a 2-year-old, neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 55 pounds. Tony has the sweetest heart and greets everyone he meets with gentle affection. We can see that he is cautious and timid here at the shelter, but we know he'll blossom once he knows he is safe and loved. Tony needs patient guardians who will make sure that he knows he is adored and safe at last. There are few things more wonderful than watching a deserving dog realize they are finally home.

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

OBITUARY |

Donald 'Doc' Wagner

Donald "Doc" Robert Wagner passed away in Willits on December 8, 2015 at the age of 49. He was born February 23, 1966 to Norma and Ilene Wagner. He and Rhonda Clements were married February 22, 2006 in Ukiah.

"Doc" served his country in the U.S. Army. He was a very good man with many friends that enjoyed his company. He liked working with wood and made many specialty wood boxes for his family and friends. He also loved to fish for the sheer pleasure and relaxation of it, not necessarily the "catch."

Doc is survived by his wife, Rhonda Wagner; father, Norman Wagner; step-mother, Verlene Wagner; step-son, Michael

Parlagraeco; Brittany Wilson; grandsons Donavan and Caleb Parlagraeco; and his many friends that will also miss him.

Graveside services with military honors are scheduled for 3 pm on April 13, 2016 at Little Lake Cemetery.

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

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home Cuddly Charley

Charley is the new guy in the house. This sweet 4-year-old is ready to meet you and make you fall in love with him. He came in as a stray, but he is so loving that you wouldn't even know it. Charley loves attention and will let you brush him all day long. He would also do fine with children because he is so gentle and loving. Come

meet Charley and take home your new forever friend.

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



At top, from left: Aurelie Clivaz of Youth Advocates talks about radio and youth. A colorful April Fool's Day crew at the "A Fool's Errand" benefit. KLLG organizer Lanny Cotler talks about the benefits of low-power radio.

Above: The Jug Tucker Band from North Carolina, with (individual pictures) Pat Ickes on banjo and Sherri Criminger on bass.

At right: Michelle Cummins, MC, in front of the Dangerous Puppets stage; at far right: Rosebud and Scott Ireland of Blue Sky Pie.

Photos by Mathew Caine

KLLG Radio

Weekend benefit raises funds and fun for new low-power station

KLLG 97.9 radio is another step closer to taking to the airwaves after the success of this past Friday's fundraiser "A Fool's Errand," held at the Willits Little Lake Grange.

The first of April has long been associated with jest, jokes, hijinks and pranks, and this particular event capitalized on all four. All for the noble purpose of raising money so Willits can have its very own low-frequency FM hometown radio station.

Although KLLG has its call sign, channel, location and tower, it lacks the necessary radio equipment and needs to raise a total startup budget of roughly \$12,000 to \$15,000. Although the numbers have not yet been detailed, Friday's benefit will help that effort considerably.

Michelle Cummins, KLLG organizer and member of Dangerous Puppets acted as MC for the evening and helped in creating a festive, kid-friendly atmosphere. As some people dined on food created and donated by Mama J's Zocalo Collective and Kemmy's Pies, kids and adults alike were treated to two puppet shows.

Piccolo Puppet Players brought to life the 354-year-old Punch and Judy show, much to the vocal delight of the children in the audience, who were regularly asked to participate.

Dangerous Puppets were up next, performing their spooky/comical rendition of Lewis Carroll's "The Jabberwocky," and ending the show with the puppet version of Satan singing "Ave Maria."

The first prank of the evening immediately followed the Dangerous Puppets show, as all the

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of KLLG | Over on Page 6



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lights flashed off at once and MC Cummins declared the power had gone out. Following the announcement, concert promoter Da Grand Pooba, KLLG founder Lanny Cotler, and Cummins role-played KLLG coming to the rescue.

Although done in jest, the point of the performance was

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to show that KLLG represents an information safety net for Willits, in the event of loss of power, or if the entire grid should go down.

The second prank was conceived by Pooba's daughter, Kayla Star Freeman, and was pulled on Pooba himself. Lawyer and candidate for Mendocino County Superior Court judge, Patrick Pekin, who was volunteering at the event, announced to the crowd that Pooba was being indicted "for promoting without a license within the limits of Willits." Just as Pooba was being dragged off, "Barack Obama" called to pardon Pooba of all wrongdoing.

With the pranks over, it was time for the crowd to dance to the bluegrass music of local band, Blue Sky Pie, followed by headliners The Jug Tucker Band from North Carolina.

The fundraiser included a raffle with donations from businesses around Willits, including Mariposa Market, The Skunk Train, Headroom and Mazahar.

"So many businesses and locals donated their time, talents and energy and products to support the event and make it happen," said Cummins.

Cotler gave an update on his crowdfunding progress:

"I'm working on the Indiegogo campaign video now," said Cotler. "I should have it up in a week or less. Got some great video snippets from all manner of Willits folk - old, young, hippie, straight, big, little, rich, poor - all pulling



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

in the process of gathering signatures to put the initiative on the November 2016 ballot.

Board of supervisors Chair Dan Gjerde said undertaking a fiscal analysis of the impact of the initiative on the county was necessary because the initiative's tax commitment would expire after five years and only would pay for acquiring the physical plant. The measure would not pay to staff the facility.

"A facility, or facilities, of this type would require significant ongoing expenses to operate," according to the staff report Gjerde read into the record. "However, the board of supervisors and the public have no independent fiscal analysis that would assure any new facilities would not operate at a deficit and negatively affect the provision of other mental health services, or services provided by other county departments."

"The C.V. Starr Center in Fort Bragg provides a recent example of constructing a dream facility without accurately knowing the operational and staffing costs," Gjerde said. "Just months after constructing the beautiful \$24 million facility, the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Parks District seriously considered mothballing the structure. It took voter approval of a permanent half-cent sales tax to guarantee the doors would remain open.

"The C.V. Starr Center clearly shows the risk of building a facility without having a financially sustainable operational plan in place," Gjerde said. "No one wants a repeat of that experience."

Sheriff Allman was in Sacramento on Tuesday testifying before the California Legislature. Contacted during the meeting, Allman spoke over speaker phone about the import and impact of his tax measure. He disagreed with Gjerde's assessment that his proposed mental health center would mirror the problems faced by Fort Bragg's Starr Center.

"The C.V. Starr Center is apples and oranges from a mental health facility, because the state and federal governments reimburse our county for mental health services," Allman argued. "We certainly are guaranteed reimbursement for costs we put out. With all the discussions we've had with mental health over the last year, whether it involved privatization or the county doing this, one of the things I haven't heard from any of the providers is 'there isn't enough money.'"

"If we build a mental health service center in our county, then we will still have the same money coming in to reimburse us for the services we provide. We will be able to keep that money in Mendocino County and have our employees providing those services," Allman said.



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for making a diverse community more like a family when the rubber hits the road."

Mama Jay, who donated her time and food for the cause of KLLG, expressed her eagerness to have a community radio station for Willits.

"We can all participate in it," she said. "All the creative people who live in our community will be able to contribute to it. [KLLG] will serve as a mirror to how fabulous we all are."

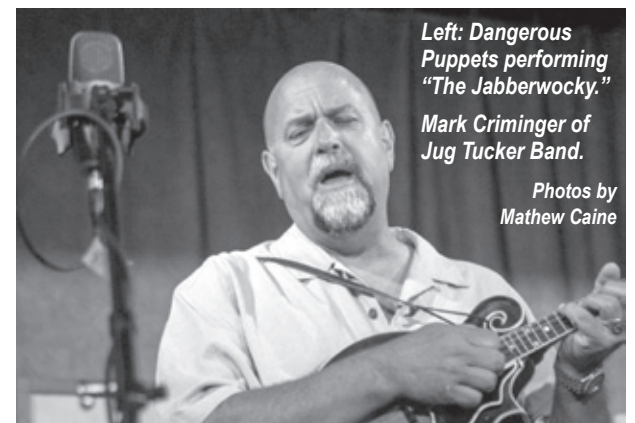
Mama Jay explained a vision for a show she's had ever since she first became a mother, and inspired by all the mothers she's gotten to know who tell each other stories about their kids and about the struggles and triumphs of the birth experience itself.

"It's called 'Baby Talk,'" said Mama Jay. "A show where women tell their birth stories."

When KLLG is on the air, Mama J hopes to be able to make her vision actualized through the airwaves.

KLLG asks the people of Willits: What kind of radio show do you want to have?

KLLG supporters and organizers generally meet on Wednesday evenings at the Grange. To find out about the next meeting visit "KLLG Radio" on Facebook, or to volunteer or donate funds, call 367-1812 or email lanny@klg.com.



Left: Dangerous Puppets performing "The Jabberwocky." Mark Criminger of Jug Tucker Band. Photos by Mathew Caine

"I do not know how a consultant could put together what the costs of operating this would be, he added. "What I would suggest we do is look at a county our size that has [an identical] or similar mental health situation. We need to send somebody from the CEO's office, and possibly somebody from my office too, and look and see how much it's costing them. Otherwise, it's going to be a very biased opinion or a not [well-informed] opinion, and [we'll] just be taking a guess at what it's gonna cost."

Supervisor John McCowen said the sheriff's initiative didn't specify what would be in the center. Allman replied he believed it should consist of four elements: a 72-hour, lockdown psychiatric health facility (PHF); a 30-day crisis/residential facility; a drop-in clinic for outpatient services; and a facility offering drug treatment and alcohol-and-other-drug counseling services.

Ace Barash, director of in-patient care at the new Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits, reminded supervisors there was a lot going on in mental health at the moment. Groups are still considering the viability of the old Howard Memorial Hospital for either the PHF unit or the crisis/residential unit, Barash said, adding he believes RQMC will soon open its own crisis/residential facility.

"It would be nice to have everyone appraised of everything that is going on," Barash said.

County Mental Health Advisory Board member Jan McGorty urged the supervisors to take a leadership role in the transformation of the mental health system. "What we have thus far is a pretty exclusive thing," McGorty said. Speaking of Allman's initiative committee, McGorty said, "It doesn't include representatives of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)."

County Mental Health Advisory Board member Jan McGorty urged supervisors to take a leadership role in the transformation of the mental health system. "What we have thus far is a pretty exclusive thing," she said.

Allman's initiative committee, McGorty noted, "doesn't include representatives of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill." And, she continued: "[Mental Health Advisory Board member] Kate Gaston was asked to be on the committee, but she wasn't asked as member of the board. And so, in the interest of governance, it would be really good if there were an advisory board that was more inclusive, that has the job of looking at all of these components, in a broader, more inclusive, fashion."

Angelo assured supervisors she would be able to prepare a competent and unbiased report, suggesting she could contact Humboldt County to inquire about costs for their program. Angelo added she was prepared to bring in an outside entity to assist with the fiscal analysis.

By a 4-0 vote (Supervisor Dan Hamburg was absent), the board directed her to proceed.

Supervisors did not ask how much it would cost for Angelo to prepare the report, and a "not-to-exceed" figure was not included in the motion. The staff report on the agenda item did not include an estimated cost for the study.

Contacted by Willits Weekly, Assistant CEO Alan Flora said: "We don't know what it's going to cost. We've done a little research on it already, but it's going to depend on what level of detail the board of supervisors wants."



'Embellish at WCA'

April show features fascinating styles of kiln-formed art

Attention, residents of Willits! Do not let April 24 pass you by without visiting the Willits Center for the Arts to experience two fascinating and unique styles of kiln-formed art. The art center's April show, aptly titled "Embellish," features the works of Ukiah-based artists Sean Cramblett and Heather Law. Both artists were on hand to mingle and answer questions this past Saturday during the opening reception.

The most frequently asked question both artists received: "How did you do that!?"

Sean Cramblett's answer, regarding his work: "It takes a lot of experimentation." Using glass as his medium, Cramblett's two-dimensional pieces are created by being set up on a shelf and fired flat, he explained.

"I'll take it out [of the kiln] and crack it and re-fire it again, sometimes repeating that process three or four times," he said.

The finished products evoke cracked ice over a

blue or crimson or black lake, depending on the piece, and seem to be visual representations of the Leonard Cohen line: "There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in."

With his three-dimensional pieces, Cramblett uses plaster molds. The finished products look much more like they were made from clay than glass, with their opaque nature, ridges and wave-like patterns.

Although Cramblett has been working with these two styles of kiln fusing for six years, anyone viewing his work would be surprised to learn this is his first time showing at an art gallery. He is currently seeking

Read the rest of **Embellish** | Over on Page 11



Clockwise from above: "Embellish" attendees check out artist Heather Law's work.

Artist Sean Cramblett talks to a gallery visitor. Heather Law poses with some of her ceramic pieces.

Sean Cramblett in the WCA gallery. Law's beautiful pieces are made with recycled trash. Kyle Madrigal, right, and friends John Lindsay, left, and Adam Manus play at the reception.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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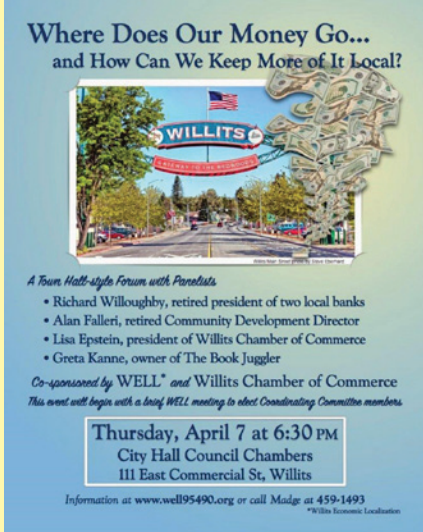
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Thursday, April 7

'Where to Invade Next': Last chance today to see Michael Moore's new film at the Noyo Theatre, 2:30, 5 and 7 pm. "An expansive, hilarious, and subversive comedy in which the Academy Award-winning director confronts the most pressing issues facing America today and finds solutions in the most unlikely places." www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Human Traffic Awareness Event: "Human Trafficking is here in Willits and Mendocino County!" The Willits Soroptimists is 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."

'Where Does Our Money Go?': This Town Hall-style forum, co-sponsored by WELL (Willits Economic Localization) and the Willits Chamber of Commerce, looks at "Where does our money go? And how can we keep more of it local?" Set for Thursday, April 7, 6:30 pm at City Hall Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street. 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. Plus audience questions. Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore and Finance Director Susie Holmes also present to answer questions. Moderator: Emily Rose Smith, a Willits native who has recently returned with an MBA with a focus on socially responsible business. Info: contact Madge Strong at 459-1493 or go to www.well95490.org.



"Start a Backyard Garden from the Roots": an informative garden talk by local author and former manager at Ecology Action, Carol Cox on Thursday, April 7 at 7 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Presented by Friends of the Willits Library. "If you have only a small space for your garden, you need to make every square foot count. Carol will discuss how to set up your gardening space, how roots grow, and how to keep your small space productive with your own compost." Carol Cox managed the Ecology Action Research Garden for nearly 20 years. She co-authored "The Sustainable Vegetable Garden" with John Jeavons. Now she and her neighbors in the middle of Willits are collaborating on a community garden in the empty lot next door.

Shanachie Pub: Aaron Ford, singer-songwriter who lives in San Francisco, with a musical style based in folk, Americana and blues. First Thursday of every month. 8 pm. No cover. Visit www.cdbaby.com/Artist/AaronFord. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, April 8
City of Willits announcement: The City of Willits Business Offices will be closed Friday, April 8 to allow for technology upgrades.

Free Nikos Gyros: Nikos Gyro Shop celebrates their 1 year anniversary with free gyros: 1 per person at the shop. Friday, April 8 only: 11 am to 7 pm. 42 South Main Street, 456-9293.

Mendocino Cannabis Resource Conference: 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. Also featured, a farm-to-table dinner reception sponsored by Women's Grow, Mendocino Chapter, on Friday, April 8, from 6 to 10 pm. Info and tickets at http://mendocinocannabisresource.com or at The Headroom and Emerald River Nursery in Willits, Mendocino State Market & Trim Tools in Laytonville, and M&M Feed & Supply, Uptown Mercantile, and Covelo Building Supply & Farm Supply in Covelo.

"Twining Time": John Wagenet & Anita Blu of Twining Time perform an easy listening mix of originals and modern favorites in the spirit of old time mountain music, folk, and vintage country at Caminiti's Restaurant at the Brooktrails Lodge, 24765 Birch Street. Friday, April 8 from 5:30 to 9 pm. Visit www.brooktrailslodge.com and www.facebook.com/TwiningTime. Info: 459-1596.

Shanachie Pub: Marshall House Project. "A driving soul-funk outfit ... one of the premier bands working in and around Sonoma County." 9 pm. No cover. Visit www.marshallhouseproject.com. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Willits On Stage 4 Auditions: Willits Community Services & Food Bank invites you to show off your talents or interests! Auditions are being held for "Willits On Stage 4," a community variety show set for May 7, 2016 at Willits High School. Can you sing or dance? Juggle? Tell jokes? Spin plates? Bring your best! Saturday, April 9, 9 am to 12 pm, Tuesday, April 12, 7 to 9 pm, and Saturday, April 16, 9 am to 12 pm. All auditions are at Willits United Methodist Church at School and Pine Streets in Willits. Info: Kevin at 456-9429.

Brooktrails Pancake Breakfast & Flea Market: The Prosperity Club and Brooktrails Lodge are hosting an "All You Can Eat Pancakes" for \$5 a person on Saturday, April 9 at the Brooktrails Lodge, 9 am to 2 pm. "A great family event offering a chance to socialize with members of our community, including local artisans and vendors." Plus biscuits & gravy, bacon, eggs, country potatoes, drinks and adult beverages at additional cost. Jumperz Bounce House will also be there for the kids.

"Reservations Not Required - Returning Home": Opening reception for a new contemporary art exhibit by Native American abstract painter Pete Ethan Castro. Saturday, April 9 from 1 to 3 pm at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. "This exhibition is Castro's deeply personal journey depicting Mendocino County Native American segregation, co-evolution, assimilation, enculturation, art and influence." The artist will be on hand to discuss his work and light bites and music will be available. Show runs through July. Info: 459-2736 or www.MendocinoMuseum.org.

Meditation Training Intensive: Continues Saturday, April 9, 2 to 4 pm at the Inner Resource Institute, 1500 Hearst Road. Class #3: "Learning to Open Your Heart Loving Kindness

COLUMN | At the Movies



'London Has Fallen'

The Story: Villainous arms dealers mastermind a devilish plot to slaughter all the world leaders of the Western nations, including President Benjamin Asher's (Aaron Eckhart) right-hand Secret Service agent is Mike Banning (Gerard Butler). Mike just might be Jack Bauer's clone.

My Thoughts: There is a problem in any good guys versus bad guys scenario wherein the good guys have a strong and mutually beneficial monetary arrangement with the bad guys. We call the arms dealers evil without mentioning that the weapons they are selling and using to assassinate the President are all, pretty much, Made in America. At least for me, the lack of any kind of irony spoils this film.

It should be (sadly, even tragically) noted for my gay friends that in this whole movie Gerard Butler (of "300" fame) never takes his shirt off. Oh well ... quel dommage. On the plus side: visceral action sequences, also, there was a production assistant named Barney Shakespeare.

Parents: This flick is "24" style shoot-em-up on the big screen. It is bloody violent. It is propaganda. It is poisonous Kool-Aid. I do not recommend for children.

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



Save the Date
Main Street Planning Fair, April 18-22, downtown Willits
Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner, April 29, Rodeo Grounds

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Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 6:45pm

THE BOSS
(R) 1 hr 39 mins
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Mon-Thurs: 4:45 & 7:15pm

What's Happening Around Town



from 2 to 4:30 pm at the center. "A chance to do a variety of art and craft projects including a Collage Corner, Grid Beam Assembling, Printmaking Projects, Origami, Copper foiling, Rubberstamping, and more."

Monday, April 11

Willits Garden Club Meeting: this month's meeting features retired geologist Julie Bawcome, talking about "Earthquakes." Monday, April 11, 12:30 to 2:30 pm at the Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse, 16100 North Highway 101, 6 miles south of Willits, west of Highway 101, south of Ridgewood (Seabiscuit) Ranch. Social time starts at 12:30 with coffee and refreshment, and Bawcome's talk starts at 1 pm. Guests are welcome, and there is no charge. For more info: Gary Bodensteiner, 459-2708 or or Kitty McDill, 489-6203.

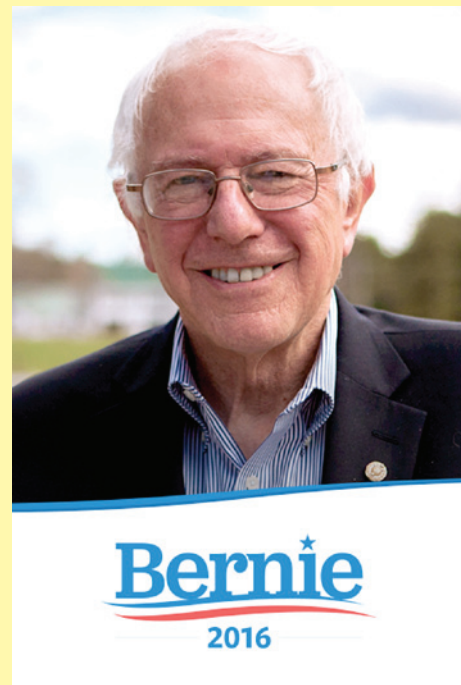
Tuesday, April 12

Willits On Stage 4 Auditions: 7 to 9 pm; see Saturday, April 9 listing for details.

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Batman v Superman" and "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Wednesday, April 13

Willits Monthly Elder Circle: Second Wednesday of each month from 1 to 3 pm, at Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Commercial Streets. "During the monthly meetings, participants are invited to explore their own attitudes and concerns about growing older. We create possibilities for opening to our own inner wisdom while building a safe and supportive elder group." To sign up or for questions: Ruthanne Volz, M.A. at rav@pacific.net or 707-354-3960. By donation.



Bernie 2016

WHS Booster Club Meeting: The monthly WHS Booster Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, March 10, at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS! Tickets to Tri-Tip Dinner & Quarter Auction on sale, for tickets or questions: whsboosters123@yahoo.com.

Friday, April 15

Hazmobile in Willits: The HazMobile household hazardous

waste collection team will be at the Willits Corporation Yard, 380 East Commercial Street, on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16, from 9 am to 1 pm. HazMobile accepts toxic materials like paint, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, gasoline, solvents, acids, bases, toxic cleaners, auto and household batteries, mercury and fluorescent light tubes, that can't go in the trash, for recycling or special disposal. Free to households; 15 gallon limit/per day. Larger amounts from households as well as small business waste is also welcome at the HazMobile, the public should be careful that items are kept in their original containers (except motor oil which can be consolidated), that nothing is leaking, and that all containers are tied down. Info and schedule, call the Recycling Hotline, 468-9704, or visit www.mendoRecycle.org

Free Healthcare Decision Day: Little Lake Health Center invites patients and members of the public to celebrate National Healthcare Decision Day on April 15 by dropping in at the health center at 45 Hazel Street in Willits, 9 am to 5 pm, for a smoothie and a chat with trained staff about advance care planning. Making decisions at the end of life is easier when everyone is prepared. Little Lake Health Center supports the Dying with Dignity movement that promotes putting patients in control at the end of life so they can have a peaceful end in accordance with their wishes. Learn more at www.mhcinc.org or (707) 456-9600.



Slam Poetry Night / Speak Your Mind: Mendocino County Youth Project hosts this open mic night hosted by MC Radioactive. All youth poets and MCs are invited. Free admission, Free food and drink. All Ages. 7 pm, Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street at Commercial.

Shanachie Pub 16th Anniversary Party: Shanachie Pub celebrates its 16th anniversary on Friday, April 15, with live music by Schindig and opens Pick & Pull. 9 pm. No cover. Schindig: "homegrown Mendocino County boys playing a unique eclectic blend of folk, rock, country, blues with a jolt of world music thrown in for good measure," https://www.facebook.com/schindig/ and Pick & Pull: "Old Time High Octane Acoustic Hillbilly Dance Music!" https://www.facebook.com/pickpullmusic. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

"Blithe Spirit": 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. 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 some Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$10. Tickets are available in person at Mazahar, online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006.



Saturday, April 16

Hazmobile in Willits: 9 am to 1 pm at the Willits Corporation Yard, 380 East Commercial Street. See Friday, April 15 listing for more details.

Free Bridge Lessons: starting Saturday, April 16 and continuing Saturdays through June 4 at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, 10 am to 12 pm. "Featuring more strategies for you and your partner to set your opponents. Build on your skills; for students already familiar with basic bridge." Contact Donna at 459-9035 for more info.

Amy Goodman, live in Willits: 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. Goodman will be signing copies of her book, "Democracy Now! Twenty Years Covering the Movements Changing America"; Mendocino Book Company will have copies of the book available for purchase at the event. Tickets, \$25, are available in Willits at J.D. Redhouse and online at www.brownpapertickets.com.

"Blithe Spirit": Noel Coward's comedic gem; see Friday, April 15 listing for details.

Willits On Stage 4 Auditions: 7 to 9 pm; see Saturday, April 9 listing for details.

The New Orisers Presents: Fundraisers for Grange Farm School at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Also, The Wild Mendohoulas. Doors/Dinner at 6 pm. Music 7 to 11 pm. \$10; children under 12, \$2. Tickets available at J.D. Redhouse.

Shanachie Pub: The Good Bad Band, "a popular 5 piece high energy bluegrass band based out of SF ... characterized by acoustic elements and rustic tones." 9 pm. No cover. Visit www.facebook.com/neckbeardboys. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, enter from Main Street only. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, April 17

Charter Project Town Hall: Charter Project of Mendocino County sponsors a Town Hall meeting at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, on Sunday, April 17 from 4 to 6 pm, about Measure W, the county ballot initiative on the June ballot. With Paul Cienfuegos, and two charter commissioner candidates from Willits, Mike Burgess and Mary Zellachid, plus questions and answers from the audience. "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? 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."

A Fundraiser For WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB
Tri-Tip Dinner & Quarter Auction
Saturday, April 23rd
6:00 PM Dinner • 7:00 PM Auction
Willits Community Center
111 E. Commercial St. • Willits, California
\$25 Per Ticket, \$5 Paddle
"All In" Paddles available at the door
Tickets May Be Purchased At The House Doctor
For Tickets Call Donna @ 459-2752 or Bridgett @ 972-2164

Now and Then Films: 'Watermark'

Thursday, April 21

"Watermark immerses the viewer in a magnificent force of nature that we all too often take for granted – until it's gone: Bringing together diverse stories from around the globe about our relationship with water: how we are drawn to it, what we learn from it, how we use it and the consequences of that use. The film features water use practices around the world, including multiple scenes in China and the United States, as well as segments shot in eight other countries. In China, the film chronicles the building of the huge Xiluodu Dam and flooding of its reservoir. 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Come early for trailers & short films. Your donation of \$5 to \$10 helps keep the film series funded. Serving heirloom organic popcorn with real organic butter, garlic and Fair Trade chocolate. Info: 459-6362

CALENDAR DEADLINE:
Get your item included in the calendar! Send artwork and info to willitsweekly@gmail.com by end of day Monday for each Thursday's edition.

Literacy Volunteers of Willits

Tutors Needed

If you can read, then you can teach someone else to read, write and speak English. We'll train you and furnish you with all the tools you'll need. Come and see if this program will fit your volunteer commitment to improve the quality of life in our community. Tutor Training Orientation: 3 to 5 pm, Wednesday, April 20 at the Willits Library conference room, 390 East Commercial Street. Basic Tutor Training Workshop: 9 am to 3 pm, Saturday, April 23 at the library. For reservations call Pam at 459-1586, leave a message on our office answering machine, 459-5098, or email us at lvw@willitsonline.com. We have learners patiently waiting for a tutor.

- Literacy Volunteers of Willits

Willits Main Street Corridor Planning Fair

The Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan will address safety, walking, biking, landscaping, lighting, street beautification, natural drainage, and economic development along the three-mile stretch of Main Street with City of Willits limits. Organized by the City of Willits, the nonprofit Local Government Commission, and funded by a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant. Info: Visit mainstreetplan.com or call City Hall at 459-4601.

All events are held at the old Rexall Building at the corner of Main Street and West Mendocino.

Monday, April 18

• Walking Assessment of Main Street, 5 to 6 pm
• Opening Community Workshop, 6 to 8:30 pm: Free food! Culinary showcase featuring locally sourced food samplings, co-sponsored by North Coast Opportunities.

Wednesday, April 20

• Open House, 5:30 to 6:30 pm: Drop by and share ideas about the designs in progress.

Thursday, April 21

• Open House, 5:30 to 6:30 pm: Drop by and share ideas about the designs in progress.

Friday, April 22

• Community Bike Ride, 5 to 6:30 pm: Led by Walk and Bike Mendocino
• Presentation of preliminary Main Street Designs, 5:30 to 7 pm: Free refreshments by Scoops Catering.

Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner

April 29 - Tickets now on sale

Sober Grad's biggest fundraiser of the year, the Tri-Tip Dinner, is set for Friday, April 29 this year, and tickets are now on sale for this drive-through take-home dinner for four, including a full tri-tip marinated overnight in Cathy Goss' secret marinade, grilled to perfection by Dan Pinon,

Doug Goss, Art Cooley and crew, four baked potatoes with sour cream and butter, salad for four and dressing from Trillium Delights, four of Tam Adams' yummy rolls, four cookies, and a rose from Flowers by Annette, which is all bagged up and delivered to the ticket holder at the Rodeo Grounds as they drive through. Tickets, \$50 for dinner for 4, are available – pre-sale only – at Cat's Meow and Willits High School office, from members of the Class of 2016, or by emailing willitssobergrad@gmail.com.

Poetry Party Plus

The Willits Center for the Arts hosts a party Sunday afternoon, from 2 to 4:30 pm, to kick off its "Let It Shine" campaign to raise funds to repaint and restore the historic WCA building.

Well-known Willits poets Mary Korte, William J. Ray, Dan Roberts and Robin Rule will do brief readings of some of their work upstairs in the Great Room. The "Plus" part of the event includes additional musical performances by guitarist Kim J. Norton and the Emandal Chorale.

All four poets have read at the Center for the Arts many times over the years, they said. They traded memories about when the building was the WIC building, a teen center, a storage center for the Willits Police Department's confiscated goods, and a senior center. "The first time I was in the building was in 1976," organizer of the poetry show Bill Ray said. "They let us use the upstairs, but they told us, don't go to the center of the floor, it isn't stable."

Years of effort by volunteers, including the late Dale Dingman, has resulted in a beautifully restored interior, but the exterior still needs work. The new nine-woman board of directors is seeking to raise money on the online Indiegogo fundraising site, as well as with local events and donations. Anyone interested in donating art work or white elephants for donation premiums can contact the



center at 459-1756 or WCAshine@gmail.com.

Ray provided biographical information about the veteran Willits poets reading at the party, which included three one-liners about his colleagues. "Mary Norbert Korte is writing poetry of ever greater depth, range, and power of language at an age when most poets are clearing out their file cabinets," Ray wrote. "Robin Rule established herself at a young age as a committed poet and through many hardships and trials has remained constant in her devotion to the beautiful and true." And finally: "Dan Roberts is the classic Aquarian; he has done more throughout the past 40 years for Mendocino County culture than anyone I can name, to foster the communication of music, joy, compassion, and care for the young," Ray wrote.

When asked about a one-liner for Ray himself, a former Post Office carrier, poet Korte jumped in to say: "The first I knew of Bill Ray was when he put Christmas cards in the boxes of every resident on his route." Poetry-wise, Ray has produced and read in Willits poetry gatherings since 1974; his selected essays and poetry are at wjray.net.

Below: Willits poets, clockwise from front right: Mary Korte, Robin Rule, William J. Ray and Dan Roberts.

Photo by Jennifer Poole



WCA board members Barbara Willens, Carole Aleshire, June Ruckman, Sandy Strong and Ann Maglente, manager Holly Madrigal, and curator Mary Kelly.

Another "recycled trash" ceramic piece by Heather Law.

Photos by Mathew Caine

The rest of Embellish | From Page 7

more places to exhibit, as he has a score of new pieces ready to be seen and sold.

While Heather Law's kiln work uses the more traditional clay medium, her process and technique is anything but ordinary. She takes what everyone else would throw away – trash, essentially – and "embellishes" it with ceramic permanence and beauty.

"I make plaster molds of each trash item," Law said. "A lot of it is from my own personal trash, but now my friends are collecting trash for me."

Plastic to-go containers, coffee cups, egg cartons, light bulbs, water bottles and even shoes are just a small sample of the items Law transforms from junk to art.

"I'm focused on making political and social commentary about the aftermath of consumerism," Law explained. "I use the daily objects that come into our lives, usually like packaging, the daily stuff we don't think of, that we use for a single use then throw away."

Law's pieces are also functional, as they can be used as planters, as some of her WCA peaces demonstrate.

The "Embellish" art show represents the first collaboration between two newly hired employees of the WCA: Manager Holly Madrigal and Curator Mary Kelly.

"Embellish" will run through April 24; gallery hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 am to 3 pm; Thursdays from 2 to 7 pm; and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm, or by appointment.

WCT's upcoming events include: "Let It Shine," featuring a Poet Party with guitarist Kim J. Norton and the Emandal Chorale, Sunday, April 10 from 2 to 4:30 pm; and Amy Goodman of "Democracy Now" will speak as a benefit for KZYX Radio on Saturday, April 16 at 1 pm.

Find WCA on Facebook or the web at www.willitscenterforthearts.org, or call at 459-1726.

The rest of Police | From Page 4

March 30

12:50 am: A vehicle failed to yield to an attempted traffic stop in the 700 block of Coast Street, and led officers on a high speed pursuit on Highway 20 toward Fort Bragg. Officers determined the recklessness of the vehicle created such a safety hazard for other motorists that they ended the pursuit prior to apprehension of the driver. Shortly afterwards, an MCSO deputy located the vehicle parked, but abandoned, on Irmluco Road. LANGENDERFER, James, 26, of Laytonville was found hiding in the bushes near the vehicle. While Langenderfer was determined not to be the driver of the vehicle, he showed symptoms of recent drug use and was subsequently arrested pursuant to 11550(a) HS (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance). The driver of the vehicle was identified by his identification card which he dropped at the scene. He is being sought for the violation of 2800.2 VC (Felony Evading). At this time, pending the conclusion of the investigation, his name is being withheld.

3:30 pm: CURTIS, Rickie, 42, of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of North Main Street after he was reportedly stumbling into the roadway. Officers determined he was unable to provide for his own care due to his level of intoxication and placed him under arrest pursuant to 647(f) PC (Public Intoxication).

3:40 pm: Officers responded to a residential burglary in the 400 block of East Valley Street.

March 31

3:30 pm: BOLTON, Joshua, 19, of Willits was contacted during a traffic stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to a Mendocino County warrant.

April 1

2:30 pm: A burglary was reported to a residence in the 300 block of McKinley Street, during which firearms were stolen.

April 2

11:30 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance at a residence in the 1700 block of Elm Lane. After hearing an altercation within the residence, officers contacted the occupants. Following their investigation, officers determined that during an altercation HERBSTTRIT, Tabitha, 20, of Willits slapped the victim multiple times. Herbsttritt was arrested pursuant to 243(e)(1) PC (Domestic Battery).

Blithe Spirit

Veteran Willits director and actors put on Noel Coward's comedy

By Steve Hellman, for 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, who guides a cast of accomplished local comic actors.

The action centers on the eccentric and effusive psychic Madame Arcati, played by Kathy De Bane, who, during a planned séance, unwittingly awakens the deceased first wife of novelist Charles Condomine. Elvira the sassy, conniving ghost, played by Gretchen Andersen, intends to make life miserable for Charles' current wife, Ruth.

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



Above: Actors Kevin H.C. Moore, Steve Marston, Kathy De Bane, Gretchen Andersen, Karla MacDonald and Sally Rohlicek hold a séance.

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Help Wanted
Adventist Health Homecare & Hospice Services - Mendocino County. F/T & P/T & Per Diem. RN's and PT's needed. Call Trudy H/R 456-3230.

Brooktrails Flea Market Vendors Needed
2016 Market is Saturday, June 4. Outdoor spaces and indoors tables: \$20 each. Vendors check in: 6 to 7:30 am. Market open: 8 am to 3 pm. Call to reserve a space: Arlene 456-0734.

Moving Sale Everything Must Go
April 7, 8, 9 from 9 am to 3 pm. 23 Blosser Lane #A. Household goods, children's clothing, knickknacks, appliances. Much more!!

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

For Rent
3 bedroom, 1 bath home. Fenced yard, garage, beautiful country setting. No smoking. \$1,400/month, \$2,800 deposit. 707-984-6479.

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

For Rent
Rentals Available May 1st. 3 bedroom, large yard on Hwy 20: \$1,000/month w/ lease. 1 bedroom studio cottage on Locust Street: \$550/month w/lease. 1st, last, and deposit. NP, NS, No 215. References required. Contact Anita @ 459-0373 for applications.



The rest of Clean up | From Page 1

"It made me sad to think about all that trash out there, and I didn't want to worry about her getting in it when we were out exploring," said Garcia. "Along with being a visual problem now, toxins leeching into the ground, blocked streams and dangerous materials lying around will also create long-term problems down the road, and for the future she will be living in."

So, Garcia decided to do something about it and has started a large-scale clean-up effort right here in his hometown. He plans to first tackle back county "out of sight, out of mind" areas, including Tomki, Sherwood and some areas out Muir Mill.

On his first excursion, Saturday, April 2, Garcia and a group of six friends went out Tomki Road and removed 3,500 pounds of garbage and seven tires – all which was in or close to the creek bed that runs alongside the road. He used his own money to cover the dump fees, the supplies and the fuel, which totaled around \$200.

Garcia, who wanted to continue getting so much accomplished, started a Facebook group, "Cleaning up Mendocino County," which went locally viral over the weekend, racking up over 550 members and hundreds of "likes" as it was shared among family and friends. Garcia is inviting the public to join the group and to submit suggestions about where large quantities of garbage are located.

"I want people to feel free to contact me if they need assistance, say they're elderly or disabled, or if county residents are unable to afford big dump fees, we want to help prevent the trash from ending up somewhere else," explained Garcia. "I don't want to step on toes, or offend anyone, I just want to help. I think if we can band together as a community, we can do great things, and this effort leaves us all with nicer areas to enjoy."

All the attention gathered from the Facebook post has also inspired many community members and businesses to support Garcia and the clean-up effort.

Defatte Equipment Rental has offered Garcia the use of heavy equipment free of charge for large-scale removals. Donations of supplies and assistance to cover dump fees have been offered from the community and The Flower Lady of Willits, and Garcia recently met with the Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority, which is interested in sponsoring the project and will not only reimburse Garcia's first dump fees, but also will cover the dump fees as he moves forward with his project. MSWMA will also dispose of the toxic items collected free of charge.

The next clean-up is in the works for April 30, and the group will tackle a burned motor home and debris field out Tomki Road. Garcia is planning on getting the process started to become an official non-profit group, and is in talks about coordinating efforts with the local Boy Scout troops and other service organizations. His big dream would be to expand the efforts to additional counties, too.

Garcia hopes to do a clean-up or two every month and welcomes anyone who is interested in helping out or in learning more to contact him via email at: alexgarcia99@gmail.com, call him on his cell: 671-5133, or post on his Facebook group page: "Cleaning Up Mendocino County."

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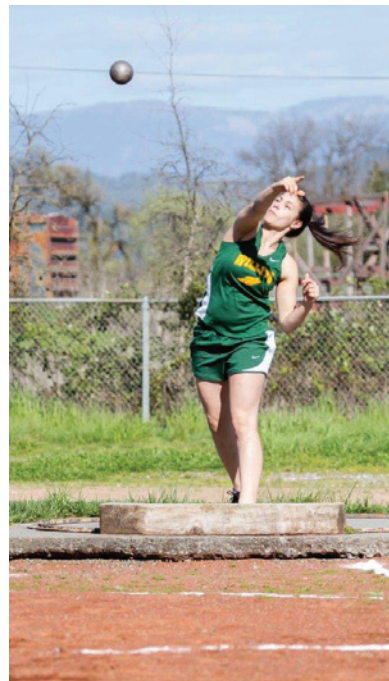
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Above: Will Smith's wind-up and throw for a distance of 150 feet, 2 inches, his longest throw that day. **At left:** At Wednesday's meet, from left: Mike Horgor, father of track athletes Grace and Colton Horgor, athlete Will Smith, and Coach Ken Smith, Will's father. **Below, far left:** Will Smith waits for the discus event. **Below, left:** Emily Bishop, 2nd place winner in the girls shot put event, throwing 23 feet, 7 inches. Grace Horgor won first place throwing the shot 25 feet, 5 inches.



Photos by Ree Slocum



Above: Bailey Ferguson beating her personal record during the girls shot put event, where she placed 4th.

Photo by Ree Slocum

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The rest of Mental Health

From Page 1

Carmel Angelo told the board of supervisors on Tuesday.

The transition team has attempted to prepare action plans for all scenarios, Angelo said, including a worst-case scenario in which Ortner ceased to provide services in Mendocino County before June 30. However, subsequent discussions with Ortner Vice President of Operations Mark Montgomery has Angelo convinced that scenario is unlikely.

"We expect Ortner will be providing services through June 30," Angelo said. No Ortner Management Group representative attended Tuesday's board meeting.

County Mental Health Director Jenine Miller announced the county has reached an agreement to hire a contract manager, one of the steps recommended by the Lee Kemper Consulting Group to improve mental health services. Miller added the position should be filled within a month.

There are 37 tasks to be performed to complete the transition from Ortner to RQMC, an analysis prepared by county mental health staff indicates. To date seven have been completed. Twenty-seven tasks are scheduled to be completed by June 30.

The seven completed tasks include notifying existing service providers, outpatient subcontractors, Mental Health Services Act subcontractors and the California Department of Health Care Services of the pending transition, designating staff to prepare and process the new contracts, designating someone to monitor transition progress, and performing a fiscal analysis of potential costs associated with the transition.

Supes approve contract adjustments

Supervisors took steps to fund the transition to RQMC, approving four resolutions augmenting overall payments to both RQMC and OMG. The board approved paying Ortner an additional \$20,000 to finalize a contract with the nonprofit Nuestra Alianza in Willits to provide mental health services to a portion of the county's adult Latino population. It approved beefing up its contract with RQMC by \$35,000 so it could subcontract with Healthy Start in Laytonville, to provide mental health services to children and youth.

The board also approved increasing the county's contract with RQMC by \$153,000 so the organization can expand its mental health services to children and youth, and then by another \$827,000 so RQMC can develop the infrastructure required to provide mental health services to adults after June 30.

The \$827,000 is a "not-to-exceed" number. Some \$400,000 would be used for infrastructure development; another \$300,000 would be held in reserve in case RQMC's services are needed before June 30, Supervisor John McCowen said.

Approximately \$127,000 would go to paying increased RQMC administrative costs, McCowen said.

"What we have asked for, we will need, and what we don't need, we won't need," RQMC Chief Kindergarten Officer Camille Schraeder added.

The money is available in the 2015-16 budget, Angelo told the board. The county had an \$11.7 million fund balance carryover in 2015-16; supervisors and the Health and Human Services Agency combined in November 2015 to give away some \$380,000 to numerous community organizations.

The changes bring Ortner's contract value to \$7,620,000 and RQMC's to \$10,759,096.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde said that even with the increase in RQMC's administrative costs, those costs were still well below those of Ortner's, when compared to each organization's respective contract values.

Gjerde pointed out that with the changes, RQMC's administrative costs rose from 7.5 percent to 8.1 percent of its total contract amount; Ortner's administrative costs amounted to 18 percent of its contract amount.

The rest of Ambulance

From Page 1

implementing an exclusive operating area for the sustainable provision of ambulance services, especially in inland Mendocino County, has been under study since an EOA Oversight Committee, consisting of representatives from various county offices, fire chiefs and hospital staff, was established by supervisors in 2013, according to a summary written by Acting-County Counsel Katharine Elliott, whose office is sponsoring the ordinance.

The committee solicited input from emergency transport providers, dispatch providers, fire chiefs and hospitals to discuss "best methods and system design" of an EOA before entering into a contract with The Abaris Group, a healthcare and emergency medical services consulting firm, in September 2014, to develop and implement an ambulance exclusive operating for inland county areas and to develop and assist with implementing a revised county ambulance ordinance. In addition to establishing an EOA, the proposed ordinance would add a Local Emergency Medical Services Authority to replace the county's current "health officer" and "EMS Agency," which it currently shares with Sonoma County.

The ordinance's language offers "a more concise and reflective ordinance, and removes language that duplicates EMS Standard Operating Procedures," according to Elliott's analysis.

Bill Bullard, Abaris senior vice president, said he had been working with "the county team for the last 18 months to develop an ambulance request for proposal" the county is prepared to issue once the ordinance was approved by supervisors and an EOA is established. He's also had a hand in crafting the new law.

Bullard said Abaris had worked with county CEO Carmel Angelo "in San Diego in the past."

The EOA debate is not a new one. Back in 2013, the county was warned that, "in many areas, the emergency medical services system is in a fragile state."

At the time, the report noted, "the City of Ukiah had recently stopped its own ambulance service; Mendocino Coast District Hospital was in bankruptcy, and the outlook for its ambulance service, which serves most of the North Coast, was uncertain." In addition, "fierce inland competition between ambulance companies threatened system sustainability, [while] fire districts throughout the county often operate with a lack of resources, compromising their ability to respond outside their

The rest of Grand Jury

From Page 1

remaining Proposition 172 revenues have been entirely distributed to county public safety agencies, "the Office of the Auditor-Controller, in the face of a written demand to provide "an accounting of the Public Safety Tax Revenue for the current and most recent fiscal years, and a copy of the maintenance of effort calculations," has through institutional or other delay been unresponsive to this obvious need for transparency."

Instead, Eyster claims, the Office of Auditor-Controller admitted it had done only "limited research," and that annual maintenance of effort calculations had not been performed since fiscal year 2003/2004.

Weer's office, Eyster said in his response, asked for additional time to further research the matter and "provide the requested information. However, a month later, the information was still not forthcoming."

"Worse," Eyster maintains, "almost five years later, the Office of Auditor-Controller still has yet to provide an audit or otherwise provide adequate documentation regarding the proper public safety tax disbursements, as well as explain how the required annual maintenance of effort has been calculated."

"It remains an open question whether the manner in which Proposition 172 monies have been received, accounted for, and allocated since 1994 – all under the supervision of the Office of Auditor-Controller – actually violates the law itself, not just the spirit of the law" as charged in the grand jury report, "by commingling and allowing the allocation of Proposition 172 monies outside of its public safety-only mandates."

That failure to update the MOE calculation annually as required by law, according to the grand jury, "has placed the county in a position of non-compliance with state requirements."

Eyster notes in his response that "noncompliance with state requirements in these situations is normally remedied by state-imposed financial sanctions."

The document exposing problems with the handling of Proposition 172's purpose-specific revenue is a 2009 email from then-Auditor-Controller Meredith Ford to former District Attorney Meredith Lintott uncovered by Eyster "while researching why the auditor-controller was not performing annual audits of the county's Proposition 172 monies."

That email, Eyster claims, "is literally a 'smoking gun,' indicating [Ford] had been intentionally commingling Proposition 172 sales tax monies in the General Fund and then allocating those funds equally to all county offices – not just mandated public safety offices – in order to 'spread the pain' being experienced by [the county's]

jurisdiction.

"The county also relies heavily on air ambulance. And while air ambulance is a vital part of any EMS system, it is very expensive, is more susceptible to weather conditions, and its use must be balanced with available ground transport resources and patient needs."

An EOA, the report concluded, "is the only means by which the county [could] limit ambulance operations in a given area to the entity (or entities) which best serve those communities. It is also the only legal means by which citizens, through their elected representatives, would be able to ensure that services meet their expectations. [And it] allows services competing for the same area the opportunity to compete through a transparent proposal process."

Administrator Cleaver notes the number of ambulances directly serving Mendocino County's Highway 101 corridor has jumped from four in 2012 to eight or nine currently.

That situation, he believes, is unsustainable. There aren't enough area ambulance calls to financially support the two private companies supplying inland ambulance service: Verihealth and Medstar, a nonprofit successor to Ukiah Ambulance, especially with the rising costs medical services are experiencing.

"Usually you find one provider for an exclusive operating area," Cleaver emphasized. "Not two or more."

Bullard assured supervisors the exclusive operating areas "could be as varied as you choose." The coast system, which appears to be working well, could be excluded entirely, or the board could establish any number of EOAs it wanted.

"The EOA does not have to include the coast," board chair and coastal representative Dan Gjerde emphasized.

Cleaver also stressed that once a geographical EOA is designated, it must be approved by the state. But supervisors "have the ultimate say in the matter."

Supervisors agreed 4-0 to introduce and waive reading the ordinance amending the Mendocino County "Emergency Medical Response" Code section, and authorized staff to present the ordinance for adoption following proper notice.

Supervisor Dan Hamburg missed the meeting due to illness.

non-public safety departments" due to the declining economy and falling revenues.

Ford's words in the email "are contrary to the spirit and black letter law of the proposition, yet [Weer] has yet to expressly repudiate this practice and make amends by providing annual audits," Eyster charges.

He would have preferred, he says in his response to the GJ report, that the grand jury would have made a finding and recommendation requiring the Auditor-Controller's Office "to present forensic audits demonstrating Mendocino County has been in full compliance with the mandates of Proposition 172 from 1994 to the present."

It remains "an open question whether the long-standing problems relating to the lack of transparency and the local lack of accounting for Proposition 172 monies can, as the grand jury suggests, be easily rectified by a simple alteration to the format of the county budget," Eyster says. The grand jury's statement "overlooks the need for catching up on long overdue fiscal year audits from the beginning of Mendocino County's receipt of [Proposition 172] monies to the present."

The DA believes the board of supervisors should require Weer "to publicly report as soon as possible what the 1992-1993 base year allocation was for each Mendocino County public safety entity; then, for each following year, report what the amount of Proposition 172 sales tax received was, including what the percentage increase of that funding was from the prior year; and then report for each following year the Proposition 172 funding received by each public safety entity as adjusted by the required and cumulative percentage increases."

Proposition 172 sales tax monies, he emphasizes, "were not intended to help local boards of supervisors save money for spending on needs away from public safety entities, [but] to supplement what Mendocino County must already spend to adequately fund its public safety entities and functions."

"No one is asking the auditor-controller to reinvent the wheel," Eyster notes, "just [to] follow the law, the calculation formulas, and account for the monies received and disbursed like the vast majority of other counties have been doing for over 20 years."

For his part, Weer says he disagrees with the grand jury's assertion that the current method of budgeting the distribution of Proposition 172 funds to public safety agencies lacks transparency.

"The current method ... works well in our county and has been in place for over 20 years," he stated in his response to the GJ report. However, to "make it easier for the

The rest of Cannabis

From Page 1

Supervisors John McCowen and Tom Woodhouse, to review the county's 9.31 marijuana cultivation ordinance and report back to the board with recommended revisions to address local conditions and concerns in light of MMRSA.

The County of Mendocino intends to begin issuing permits for cannabis cultivation and other cannabis activity as defined by MMRSA, Business and Professions Code section 19300, et seq.

In preparation for the revised ordinance and new cultivation program, the county encourages the registration of medical cannabis activity to assist the county in assessing the level of interest of persons to apply for local permits and identifying operations that were in good standing prior to January 1, 2016.

Submission of this form will guarantee priority processing for local permit applications once they become available. Additional information and the Medical Cannabis Activity Registration Form are available online at <http://co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/mendoreg.htm>.

The Medical Cannabis Activity Registration Form must be submitted to the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture no later than 5 pm on June 3, 2016. For more information, contact mendoreg@co.mendocino.ca.us or 707-234-6830.

public to follow, I would support changing the format in the county's budget book to clearly identify the four public safety departments that receive Proposition 172 funding."

Weer also disputes the grand jury report's allegation that he "has been unable to demonstrate the remaining Proposition 172 revenues have been entirely distributed to county public safety agencies as required," claiming distribution "was demonstrated to the grand jury through the county's net county cost method of budgeting."

The Proposition 172 funds in question, Weer says, "are deposited into Budget Unit 1000 Non-Departmental Revenues. From here they are distributed to the four public safety departments through their annual NCC assignments. The 'maintenance of effort' calculation confirms the funds have been properly distributed."

He also rejects the grand jury report's claim that failure to update the MOE calculation annually has placed the county in a position of noncompliance with state requirements.

"The MOE calculations have been prepared as required," Weer insists. "Each and every MOE calculation has clearly shown the county is in compliance with state requirements."

The auditor-controller notes he and County Executive Officer Carmel Angelo have embraced a grand jury report recommendation to adopt a method of budgeting Proposition 172 funds to county public safety agencies that is "transparent to the public and [the] affected agencies," and to employ this method for fiscal year 2016/17 "and subsequent budget cycles."

Beginning with this year's budget process, he says, public safety departments "have been instructed to budget their full distribution of Proposition 172 funds as a separate revenue line item in their budget unit."

And while the report's recommendation the Auditor-Controller's Office resume performing the MOE calculation annually and report its completion to the board of supervisors has not yet been implemented, it will be in the future, Weer asserts. Beginning with the 2016/17 budget process, the auditor-controller will work with the CEO's office "to determine the best way to present the MOE calculation as part of the final budget process."

In the meantime, negotiations between the board of supervisors and Mendocino County's 22 fire districts, which are clamoring to be included in Proposition 172 fund disbursements, have been continued until May 3 due to the illness of Supervisor Dan Hamburg, who with board Chairman Dan Gjerde, compose the board's ad hoc committee studying the issue.

'Girl Waits with Gun'



"Girl Waits with Gun" (2015) is the most recent book published by Northern California non-fiction writer Amy Stewart. She is known for her many books detailing such topics as poisonous plants and bugs, the lives of earthworms, the cut flower industry, and plants used in alcoholic drinks. Stewart writes a gardening blog, and with her husband owns an antiquarian bookstore located in Eureka. Now, this diverse-minded and well-seasoned author has turned her hand to fiction and succeeded brilliantly.

Fran Resendez
Columnist

"Girl Waits with Gun" is based on a historic criminal case that took place in rural New Jersey in the early 1900s. Stewart does a great job of research, using local newspaper articles and actual court proceedings to lend authenticity to her fictionalized story. The main characters are a trio of sisters who eke out an existence on their family farm. The women have gone into town for supplies when their horse and buggy is hit by an automobile. Unfortunately for them, the driver of the car turns out to be a ruthless and powerful local factory owner with a gang of thugs at his disposal. This sets the conflict as the eldest sister, Constance Kopp, attempts to recover damages so they can get their much-needed buggy repaired.



As the story unfolds we learn the history of the sisters, becoming familiar with their personalities and eccentricities; Norma raises pigeons and scans newspapers for stories of calamity, while young Fleurette garbs herself stylishly and aspires to the life of an actress. There's also a subplot involving tragedies resulting from a recent labor strike. Throughout the story, Constance, the eldest, strives harder and harder to protect her loved ones, finding an ally in the local sheriff and doing her own investigation into the factory owner's unsavory past. This is a story of personal courage during a time when women had few options for independence, much less assertiveness against the powers of wealth and the cynicism of local politics.

I found myself engrossed in the family's story, delighted by the sheriff and his brave officers, and admiring the quiet sense of humor applied by Stewart to the writing. I think you will all be satisfied by the ending.

Whether you read by page or device, please utilize our library system and patronize independent bookstores, both new and used.

Local poet Fran Resendez is retired from 20 years of bookselling at the former Leaves of Grass bookstore in Willits.

Editor's note: As per The Book Juggler's Greta Kanne, the shop can order this book and have it for you in a day or two. The paperback version is due to be out on May 3. Kanne says, and the second book in the series, "Lady Cop Makes Trouble," has a publication date of September 6.

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Don Harris

May 25, 1927 - April 1, 2016

Donald C. Harris, age 88, a valued resident and prominent member of the community of Willits, California for 56 years, passed away peacefully in his home in the very early hours on April 1, 2016 after being surrounded and taken care of comfortably by loved ones for three days on Hospice.

Don was born on May 25, 1927 in Springville, Utah to his parents, Clifford and Thora Harris. His siblings were Gordon Harris, Norma Ward, and Chuck Harris. Don attended high school at San Bernardino High School where he was an outstanding athlete and first-string basketball player, adopting the nickname "Mouse" to his fellow class and teammates.

Don served in the U.S. Coast Guard during WWII and went on an honorable mission for the Mormon Church for two years in Canada before meeting the love of his life, Lori Faulk, and marrying her on September 8, 1949. They moved to Willits in 1960 to raise their family. Don started his first job at Willits Cable, where he worked and installed the first satellite for cable TV on San Hedrin. Don proudly coached Little League for his sons in the 1960s and was a Golf Champion at the Brooktrails Golf Course from 1969 to 1999, where he received many first-place trophies which will be spread out evenly amongst his grandkids as treasured keepsakes. Don retired from the cable company and became a school bus driver for Willits Unified School District.

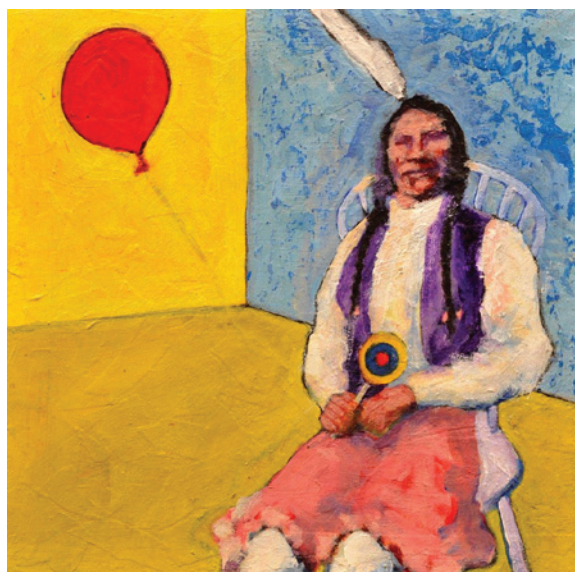
Don was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, where he was a Bishop and held many important positions for 88 years, extending prayers and service to many. Don and his family spent many memorable summers boating, skiing and camping at Lake Mendocino and Shasta Lake with the infamous green, sparkly boat we all know and will forever remember as the Super Pickle.

Don was an extremely loving, devoted husband to his wife and father to his children, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren who absolutely adored him. He was very active in all of their lives, creating a living legacy of jokes, songs and stories to pass down through generations to come. He had an uncanny ability to make others laugh, smile and feel very welcome with his wit and genuine charm. He will dearly be missed by all.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Lori Harris, his children, Judi (Dave) Kline, Debi (Jim) Anderson, Don (Tanya) Harris, Janie (Carl) Newby, and Steven (Sherry) Harris, 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

His graveside service will be held at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bluffdate, Utah on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 2 p.m. A celebration of life will also be held in Willits with a date and place to be announced.

An immense thank you to the staff, nurses and doctors of Howard Memorial Hospital for taking such good care of Don over the years. A very special thank you to Willits Phoenix Hospice for providing the comfort care, and to Dr. Glycer for his supportive care.



'Reservations Not Required'

New show by Native American painter opens Sunday at county museum

Submitted by the Mendocino County Museum

From April 9 through July 2016, a comprehensive exhibit of abstract paintings by Pete Ethan Castro will be on display at the Mendocino County Museum. A free opening reception will take place on Saturday, April 9, from 1 to 3 pm in the museum's Long Gallery.

Pete Ethan Castro has deep roots in Mendocino County; he was born in Ukiah and is a member of the Wailaki Tribe of Round Valley. For the past three decades he has worked as a traditional Native American scholar, California Indian basket weaving artist and contemporary painter – using acrylic, mixed media and abstract forms.

Castro's work reflects his own deeply personal journey and depicts Mendocino County Native American segregation, co-evolution, assimilation, enculturation, art and influence. As children, both of Castro's parents were sent to the Round Valley Indian School. His father attended high school at

the Sherman Institute of California in Riverside. One of his paintings, "School Daze - Outside The Box" (36"x48" acrylic on cradled panel board) represents his parents' experience of forced assimilation. This piece is currently on display at Sacramento's California Museum, part of their Signature Exhibits.

Some of the paintings that will be on display at the Mendocino County Museum further explore the tension of assimilation, including "Take Off Your Feather and Come Inside" (12"x12" acrylic on canvas), which features an Indian man wearing a fluffy pink apron, posing with a "bull's-eye" lollipop and a red balloon. In "Evictions & Obituaries" (12"x12" mixed media on canvas), a solitary Native American figure stands in front of blocks of obituary news text, evocative of tenement apartments, recalling the widespread displacement caused by

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

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

aspects of the new plan is that it has been digitalized and made computer-friendly. Holtkamp hired a group of computer technicians to translate the plan into a computer-friendly format. Now, instead of wading through a book that may be many years old and out of date, people interested in submitting a wildfire protection project will be able to simply click on a county map at the Fire Safe Council's website to determine what is being done in their area.

According to Holtkamp, with the new technology, it is much easier for the public to apply for money to do a project or to see if their project has been approved. Holtkamp told the supervisors this was the most important result of her work.

"I hope you have a really good tool for keeping this up to date, keeping the information good, and making it easy for the departments, the citizens, and the various subdivisions to share information," Holtkamp said.

"They can sit at their local fire safe council meetings and call this up, and find out, do we have a project? Are we going to do this firebreak, or this road clearing, or this vegetation management project?"

"We had to get a format going, where we could do that. To me that was the thrust of

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

mostly take place at the old Rexall Building at the corner of Main Street and West Mendocino, beginning Monday, April 18, and running through Friday evening, April 22.

There will be opportunities for public involvement throughout the week. Planners and designers will listen to and utilize the concepts developed by participants to work on preliminary plans for a hoped-for new Main Street, which will be unveiled at the end of the week.

While it's been acknowledged that other local planning efforts have fallen short of completion – for example, the "One Town, One Vision" effort in 2003 – this time is different, say those involved in the process.

"In years past there was still a question mark on whether the bypass was going to happen," City Manager Adrienne Moore said. "Funding hadn't been secured or plans hadn't been finalized. That's what sets this effort apart, because the bypass is obviously happening, and it's going to be open very soon."

There are two other key factors that set this planning process apart from all the others. The city received a \$170,670 sustainable transportation planning grant last year from the California Department of Transportation. Caltrans will be setting the groundwork for implementing the new plans as part of its requirement to "relinquish" the north half of Main Street to the City of Willits "in a state of good repair" as Highway 101 moves to the bypass.

Greta Kanne, of the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Merchants, as well as the Main Street technical advisory group, was encouraged by the charrette planning process she attended in Hopland last year. A "charrette" is an intensive design workshop, utilizing public participation.

"It was a very democratic process," said Kanne. "It was amazing to see people engaged in what would work best for the town that they know."

After receiving the grant last year, the city made a concerted effort to hire the most qualified consultant firm to help with the new Main Street designs, and decided on Wallace Roberts & Todd, or WRT.

"WRT representatives did the most homework on Willits," said Kanne. "They actually came up here and spent a week talking to citizens and property owners. In their proposal was a really clearly identified understanding of what the constraints and the realities in Willits are."

After WRT was chosen, the Main Street Project Team set up a public survey, asking participants to identify and rate areas of most importance. Of the 348 respondents, two-thirds of them indicated that the following three issues are "very important": pedestrian and bicycle safety; supporting local businesses on Main Street; and intersection safety.

The results of the survey can be found on the internet at www.willitsmainstreetplan.com.

While the Main Street Corridor Planning Fair includes some form of public participation throughout the week, Kanne stressed that Monday is the most important day for the public to be involved. "That's when the basic ideas behind complete streets will be presented," she said.

For more information, call City Hall at 459-4601.

it, to get this off paper, to where it is easy to view. It cost probably half as much to make 20 copies of this book, as it cost to put this plan online. And this will last forever, where that book will last a year," Holtkamp said.

Much of the 113-page plan is boilerplate, featuring descriptions of the size of Mendocino County, its terrain, its population and its economy. There are long passages about CalFire, its organization and responsibilities, as well as accounts of the county's 24 fire local departments. The most essential element of the plan involves describing what the various communities and fire districts in the county can do to minimize the effects of, and reduce the chances of, a large wildfire occurring.

The CWPP notes there are four preferred methods of reducing the impacts of wildfire.

First, is for the individual homeowner to set up the 100-foot circle of defensible space around his or her dwelling. The first 30 feet should be stripped bare to the ground, and the next 70 feet should have much of the vegetation removed. According to the plan, "this does not mean that the vegetation should be stripped bare to the ground. It involves thinning and breaking up the continuity of ladder fuels and large areas filled with contiguous shrubs that can readily transmit fire."

The next method recommended by the plan is chipping. Chipping is a preferred

"The consultants have large maps of the target area, and participants get to sit down with pen and paper and mark up what they think belongs," she explained. "If you want a crosswalk here, if you want a choker or a bulb there, if you want a roundabout, or anything else, you can sit down and put those elements where you think they belong."

One major event that will follow the Main Street Corridor Planning Fair before designs are finalized is set for Thursday, May 19, involving a to-scale modeling demonstration on Commercial Street.

"Commercial Street is the same width as Main Street," said Moore, explaining it wouldn't be practical to set up the model on Main Street. "There will be a team that's going to use wattles [tubes filled with straw that are used to reduce sediment along slopes] and lay them out in an outline [on the street], to represent bulb outs or striping for parallel parking on one side and diagonal parking on the other side."

The Planning Fair kicks off on Monday, April 18, at 5 pm with a "Walking Assessment" of Main Street. The public is invited to meet at the old Rexall building to participate in discussions about pedestrian and intersection safety, and to discuss Main Street design ideas "in the field."

Immediately following the Walking Assessment, the first community workshop will be held from 6 to 8:30 pm back at the old Rexall building.

April Cunningham of North Coast Opportunities will lead a free culinary showcase, featuring locally sourced food samplings from local restaurants and food purveyors paired with area farms. Participants in the local food showcase include Roland's Bakery, Kemmy's Pies, Adam's Restaurant, Nikos Gyro Shop, Brickhouse Coffee, J.D. Redhouse, Black Oak Coffee, the Willits Grange Community Kitchen group, Mendocino Grain Project, Mendocino Fermented Foods, Princess Seafood, John Ford Ranch beef, Filigreen Farm in Anderson Valley, Fortunate Farm in Caspar, and Tequio Farm, on Ridgewood Ranch.

The culinary showcase will be followed by a presentation on Main Street design, where participants will have the opportunity to become citizen designers and work together with friends and neighbors to map their own designs for Main Street.

Next, there'll be two open houses at the old Rexall building on Wednesday, April 20, and Thursday, April 21, both from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The public is invited to drop by and share ideas about the design in progress.

The final day's events, on Friday, April 22, will start with a community bike ride led by Walk and Bike Mendocino from 5 to 5:30 pm. After the bike ride, staff and planners will present the preliminary Main Street designs at the old Rexall building from 5:30 to 7 pm. Free refreshments will be provided by Scoops.

Kanne believes, with the current city staff, the appropriate grants will be sought and won. "There are so many grants out there," Kanne said. "With Adrienne [Moore] at the helm and Rod Wilburn at Public Works, and a new planner in Dusty Dooley, it really seems like they're in a much better position to go for those grants."

Moore said the end result of Main Street's transformation is still a long way away. "This is going to be a long-term, phased-in project," she said. "This is probably a 10- to 15-year overall project that will be dependent on our ability to obtain additional funding sources."

In the meantime, nothing can happen until the designs are furnished, and that process involves input from the community.

For more information, call City Hall at 459-4601.

method of fire thwarting in semi-populous rural areas, such as Pine Mountain or Brooktrails. According to the plan: "Home owners are united and educated through the establishment of fire safe councils. Home owners are required to clear flammable brush and ladder fuels to meet the [state's fire protection] requirement."

A third method of fire suppression is controlled or prescribed burning. Areas are identified that could most benefit from using prescribed burning to establish anchor points and a natural barrier against a larger fire event.

And finally, the fire safe council and other participants in the CWPP project use shaded and non-shaded fire breaks to compartmentalize fire. They use natural barriers and topography, including roads and rivers, to determine areas in the county that can serve as a primary or secondary fire control lines.

Selected recommendations

The plan includes brief descriptions of what is being done or is contemplated to be done in the future in several locations in the Willits area. For Pine Mountain, the plan states: "The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council is in the planning stages of a fire-reduction project in the area of Pine Mountain, which is located on the east side of the Willits valley. This will be accomplished by creating shaded fuel breaks and fuel reduction areas."

The rest of **Reservations** | The rest of **Blithe**

From Page 14 | From Page 10

forced relocations and tribal disenrollments. Three blocks of color fields form "Merge With Caution" (48"x60" mixed media on panel board), Castro's attempt at reconciling dueling cultural and personal identities.

In 2014, Castro contributed work to the Oakland Museum of California for their California Native Exhibit (deer antler awl with dogbane cordage and abalone shell ornament), and in 2012 his paintings were featured in a solo exhibit at the Risk Press Art Gallery in Sebastopol. He has partnered with the Cultural Conservancy as the lead builder on the California Canoe Project (traditional Tongva T'iaat), and his current focus is developing a native grasses/fibers garden to harvest for basket-weaving materials for community artists, tribal elders and himself.

Since returning to Ukiah two years ago, Castro has been sharing his native Wailaki language and offering prayer at community events. He was recently a keynote speaker at Howard Memorial Hospital's annual Prayer Breakfast and at the Ukiah Adventist Hospital's 1st & 2nd Annual Survivors Reunion.

"They're probably planning on doing the minimum," said Strong. "Caltrans has pledged to leave Main Street in a good state of repair, but what they consider a good state of repair and what we really want, like pedestrian access, could be two different things."

Once the relinquishment is finished, the city will own that section of Main Street, and the design plans will be ready to be implemented. In order to do so, however, funds will have to be appropriated for construction.

Kanne believes, with the current city staff, the appropriate grants will be sought and won. "There are so many grants out there," Kanne said. "With Adrienne [Moore] at the helm and Rod Wilburn at Public Works, and a new planner in Dusty Dooley, it really seems like they're in a much better position to go for those grants."

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In the meantime, nothing can happen until the designs are furnished, and that process involves input from the community. For more information, call City Hall at 459-4601.

The plan also notes a special project planned for the Baxter Ranch, near Dos Rios. "The proposed Vegetation Management Plan will be done to meet a specified objective and conducted under specific climatic conditions to ensure control and minimize air quality and biological impacts.... The primary goal of this prescribed burn is to reintroduce fire as a natural element of the ecosystem. A second goal is to improve wildlife habitat by inducing new shoots from sprouting species to increase forage production, with islands of unburned fuel left within burn units to provide shelter for small mammals. A third goal is to reduce overall fuel loading to decrease the chance of catastrophic wildfires in the future."

The plan notes the Fire Safe Council has plans to do the same kind of project in the Shaffer Ranch Road area. In Brooktrails, the plan states: "The district is currently thinning various projects to reduce fire risks and increase forest succession."

Holtkamp recommends prescribed burning for the forested areas around Willits. "Prescribed fires are far less costly than uncontrolled fire burning through a developed community that would be costly to rebuild. The efficient burning of wildland tracts would provide an effective reduction of fuel loading in high, very high, and extreme fire hazard severity zones," Holtkamp wrote.

Supervisors thanked Holtkamp for her work and approved the plan with little discussion.

Karla MacDonald appears as Ruth, the proper English wife so fatefully intent on maintaining control over her unraveling household, the trouble is just getting started.

The zaniness grows by leaps. Ruth herself will soon end up dead and start on her own crusade as a second vengeful ghost. Mix in veteran character actor Kevin H.C. Moore as the hapless Charles who insists on remaining sophisticated and witty in the face of the growing domestic disasters, and the laughs just keep coming. Steve Marston plays George Bradman, a skeptical good friend, Sally Rohlicek is Mrs. Bradman, the naive wife who wouldn't mind a little excitement for once, and Tara Logan returns to the WCT stage as the sweet young maid with a deep secret trying desperately to hold it all together

Barksdale describes "Blithe Spirit" as a masterpiece in terms of its structure and its build-up to repeated laughs. He has worked closely with the actors on their pacing and timing. "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.

The play is family-suitable. 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.

Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.

Soroptimist International of Willits hosts a special benefit performance of "Blithe Spirit" on Thursday, April 21 at 7 pm as a fundraiser for local high school scholarships as well as monetary awards to deserving women and girls in the Willits community. Help the Soroptimists "Help Women and Girls Live Their Dreams." Tickets are \$15, which include snacks and a wine reception starting at 6:15 pm. To purchase tickets for this special evening, call Marilyn Harden at 459-5649.



Photos by Christine Felton

Weaving at WECS

Second-graders learn about weaving and natural dyes

Above, from left: Garden coordinator Monica Gowan demonstrating natural dyeing to second-graders at WECS. Beet and turmeric dyes. Second-graders, from left, Ezra de la Fuente, Kadie Balthrop, and Adam Hill learn about beets and beet dye.

By Kara McClellan, director, WECS

Ever since seeing a wool-spinning demonstration by a local textile artist, the second-grade class at Willits Elementary Charter School has become fascinated with all aspects of making and weaving yarn. Individual students have even brought in various types of looms from home to practice the ancient art of weaving.

It began with a classroom visitor. Robin Chapin Pilatti – whose daughter Ashley Sherf teaches kindergarten at WECS – brought her portable spinning wheel in February to demonstrate the art of spinning wool into yarn. Students got to feel samples of different types of raw wool from various breeds of sheep and other animals, including angora rabbits and alpacas.

Pilatti generously donated several skeins for a class project, and this led to further collaborations among the teachers at the school.

"The art teacher and I had been planning to do a

weaving project," said WECS second-grade teacher Christine Felton. "We had already had them experiment with weaving paper."

Felton said she had been looking for an opportunity for students to experiment with natural pigments from the school garden. WECS Garden Coordinator Monica Gowan agreed to teach students about dyeing wool using beets and turmeric root. Students used their knowledge of root crops and color mixing from art class to predict what colors they could make. Now that the wool is dyed, students will braid it to make friendship bracelets with WECS art teacher Rachel Alvizo.

"We teach about art all over the world," said Alvizo, "and weaving is an art in almost every culture on earth. Earlier, we learned about the colorful serapes woven in Mexico. We hope to tie this in with a field trip to the museum to learn more about Pomo basket weaving." A local basket weaver is also planning on teaching WECS students traditional pine needles weaving techniques this spring.

But arts and crafts are not just for fun at WECS.

"Over the last couple of decades, activities like this started to be seen as extras that took away time from test preparation," said Felton. "The reality is that children's learning increases exponentially when they do a project like this. They make connections across the curriculum."

This kind of collaboration is not unusual at WECS, where teachers use student-driven projects to integrate learning across the subject areas.

Felton said she is finding ways to connect the weaving projects to the standards required of every California public school, for example, measuring the yarn to meet a math standard and learning how the spinning wheel works for science.

"The connections are just endless," she said. "And it is learning that will stay with them because they did it themselves, with their own hands."



Photos by Ashtan Bloomquist

J.D. Redhouse donates \$1,000 to WECS

At right, Kaleb Whitehurst of J.D. Redhouse presents a check for \$1,000 to Kara McClellan, director of the Willits Elementary Charter School. "J.D. Redhouse & Company is thrilled to donate \$1,000 to the Willits Elementary Charter School," said Kaleb's mom Ashtan Bloomquist. "This donation was generated from the ticket sales of the Tommy Castro Valentine's Day concert, which J.D. Redhouse sponsored back in February." At left, Kaleb, a student at WECS himself, holds the check, surrounded by his celebrating schoolmates on the school's East Commercial Street campus.



SATURDAY GIVEAWAY APRIL 23RD

(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO LOGO BEACH TOWEL
Players Club members that earn **70 points on April 23** will receive a **Beach Towel (While Supplies Last)**. Towels can start being redeemed for **starting at 12:30PM**



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