

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Library Advisory Board

To the Editor:

I appreciated Mike Adair's coverage of the Library Advisory Board/Board of Supervisors meeting. I would like to clarify three items in his article:

- 1) Even though the LAB has had a hard time gaining the ear of the county librarian, the current county librarian, Wally Clark, is very receptive to the LAB's ideas, and provides information to the LAB as needed.
- 2) Historically, there has been only one-way communication between the LAB and the BOS, but the new Third District Supervisor, Tom Woodhouse has called me on a regular basis to discuss library issues. He has been very helpful in the LAB's attempt to better the relationship between our two boards.
- 3) The county resolution that created the LAB has a typo and at the LAB/BOS meeting, BOS Chair Carre Brown asked Supervisor Dan Hamburg and Supervisor Woodhouse to revise the resolution. When the resolution is approved, the LAB will finalize its bylaws.

Marc Komer, Willits

Town Hall Meeting on cannabis

To the Editor:

We, on our 95490 Town Hall Committee, are committed to bringing all of us together to discuss important topics relevant to our community's well-being.

Our main goal is not to educate so much as to provide a place where we can hear each other's ideas, share our thoughts, and listen to our neighbors' ideas too. Many times I hear a slant on something I just had not thought about in that way. That is the main reason I serve: I get a lot from doing so.

This time we have chosen the topic of: "How will the legalization of cannabis affect our 95490 community?" I have to say I wasn't so sure about choosing this topic. I wanted to wait six months or so, but I was soundly voted down by our whole committee.

Now, after talking with many people here, in Laytonville and Humboldt County, and to our sheriff, and after reading a bit, I have totally changed my mind! Now is the time!

Whether you are for or against legalizing cannabis, it seems to be happening in many other states. I think we need to better understand what the three bills before our state in Sacramento say, and what that might mean to us here. Also, what that might mean economically, socially, etc.

So with that in mind, we are offering this as a topic on April 19, at 4 to 6 pm, in our Willits City Hall, in the large room, as we expect more folks.

We have several speakers who are pretty well-versed on the legal aspects, Hezekiah Allan from Humboldt County who is in Sacramento regularly working on this issue, and also Jane Futcher, a local resident and writer. We also hope to have a banker.

Our regular format is to have our speakers speak for five to eight minutes each, then we open the floor to the audience for their questions and comments. We list names so as to facilitate a good mix, and not to miss anyone. We also practice respectful listening to everyone.

We hope you'll come and share your ideas with our neighbors. It's a way for us to inform ourselves about ideas beyond our community, but also for us to look for direction within our community, because we are the ones living here and, when we listen to each other, we have much better ideas for positive direction for our community, 95490. It's a great place to live; we want to keep it that way!

Thanks, and I hope to see you there.

Jane McCabe, Willits

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Concerts for music lovers

To the Editor:

Music-loving friends in Willits, here is a beautiful opportunity to expand your musical horizons. Ukiah Community Concert Association offers the finest live world music at a very reasonable price, and right now the membership drive is open for next season's concerts. New members will receive admission to six concerts for \$70 (\$20 for those under 18), if they sign up before May 1. There is a new member bonus concert on May 10, plus another free jazz concert on May 31. Single tickets to these events can be purchased for \$25 each. Many of these programs are now held in the Mendocino College theater.

The four concerts of next season proper begin in November, with Tomas Cotik and Tao Lin on classical violin and piano, who share a passion and devotion to chamber music. In January 2016, Billy Dean, Grammy Award winner who's sold more than 5 million albums worldwide, sings his one-man show on guitar, piano and multimedia. The April 2016 concert is by Christian Jacob, internationally acclaimed lyrical jazz pianist. Keyboard Magazine raves: "Christian sounds like Bill Evans meets Keith Jarrett meets Maurice Ravel." In May we will hear the RichterUzer Duo on guitar and cello, "each a soloist capable of holding his own on a symphony orchestra stage or matching licks with a road house band, playing music from Led Zeppelin to Bartok ... from the Beatles to Rimsky-Korsakov ... from Gershwin to their own unique tunes."

To learn more about this great program, call Maggie Graham at 459-2305 or go online to Ukiah Community Concert Association's home page, www.ukiahconcerts.org, for more artist information, concert dates, and for tickets. A poster and brochures are also available in the lobby of the Willits Library.

Maggie Graham, Willits

"If It Should Be"

To the Editor:

This is something that has helped me through all the animals that have meant so much to me. Thank you.

If It Should Be

If it should be that I grow weak

And pain should keep me from my sleep

Then you must do what must be done,

For this battle cannot be won.

You will be sad, I understand,

Don't let your grief then stay your hand,

For this day more than all the rest,

Your love for me must stand the test

We've had so many happy years,

What is to come can hold no fears,

You'd not want me to suffer to,

The time has come, please let me go.

Take me where my need they'll tend

And please stay with me until the end,

Hold me firm and speak to me,

Until my eyes no longer see.

I know in time that you will see,

The kindness that you did for me,

Although my tail its last has waved,

From pain and suffering I've been saved.

Please do not grieve it must be you,

Who had this painful thing to do,

We've been so close, we two, these years,

Don't let your heart hold back its tears.

Laura McBride, Willits

Editor's Note: This is one version of a poem posted at many websites, variously attributed to "Julia Napier," "Anonymous" or "Unknown."

'Legally Blonde'

To the Editor:

I wanted to invite the Willits community to come see what has been keeping me so busy the last few months:

choreographing the Mendocino College production of "Legally Blonde," the musical opening this week in the Mendocino College Center Theater.

This is going to be a dazzling production! With a huge and talented cast of "triple-threat" singers/dancers/actors, a full orchestra under the brilliant direction of Les Pflutzenreuter, eye-popping design elements by our extraordinary design team (and their wonderful student crews), choreography by Eryn Schon-Brunner, costumes by Kathy Katz, and a delightful overall concept by director Joel Shura, this is going to be a spectacle you don't want to miss!

Performances run Friday, April 10 through Sunday, April 19. For more information about the musical, visit www.facebook.com/events/881530748535014/. Tickets are available at the Mendocino Book Company, the Mendocino College Bookstore and online at: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1322163.

Please join us for fun and entertainment. See you at the show!

Eryn Schon-Brunner, Willits

Caltrans saving water

Caltrans announced last week that the California Transportation Commission has allocated \$28 million in emergency funding to continue installing smart sprinklers on state property. Smart sprinklers automatically adjust to weather conditions, soil moisture or broken pipes, and this technology has already helped cut water use 50 percent where installed.

"Caltrans districts have significantly curbed irrigation, modernized equipment, and halted many landscaping projects across California," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "These efforts have saved billions of gallons of water, but as this state of emergency continues in California, we must work even harder – and keep leading the way on this critical issue."

As one of the state's largest departments, responsible for landscaping that stretches the size of 22,600 football fields, Caltrans' conservation efforts contribute significant water savings. Conservation efforts, including the following actions by Caltrans, have helped the department reduce water consumption by an estimated 30 percent:

- Invested \$47 million in Caltrans emergency funding to upgrade or repair 1,250 irrigation systems statewide – approximately 25 percent of the state's system – including smart sprinklers that cut water use at least 50 percent by automatically adjusting water usage based on weather conditions, soil moisture or broken pipes.
- Postponed 34 landscaping projects, which include 26 projects that would have gotten underway this year.
- Invested \$8 million in four major water recycling projects in San Luis Obispo, Shasta and San Diego.
- Canceled any turf or grass watering, including all state rest stops, unless recycled water is used.

Caltrans has shut off irrigation entirely in areas of the state with the most severe drought conditions, and will continue to do so. Any essential landscaping to prevent water pollution or erosion uses only inert ground covers, such as mulch or gravel, or drought-tolerant native or non-thirsty plants. Caltrans has received nearly \$1 million in local water conservation rebates for its efforts to reduce water use and upgrade equipment.

Meanwhile, Caltrans is continuing to pursue its goal of reaching a 50 percent statewide cut in water use. As the new smart sprinkler systems come online, Caltrans will strengthen conservation training for all department water managers and landscape architects.

"The California Transportation Commission is supporting these investments in water-saving technology because every drop of water matters during this emergency drought," said CTC Chair Lucy Dunn.

In a further response to the official continued state of emergency in California due to the severe drought, Caltrans will also be posting the following message on more than 700 electronic highway signs across the state: "SEVERE DROUGHT! LIMIT OUTDOOR WATERING."

These electronic highway message signs will be activated so long as there is no highway emergency, traffic safety message, or Amber Alert.

Caltrans asks motorists to report any water waste along its 50,000 lane miles of state highway, such as broken water pipes or leaking irrigation systems, by going to the Caltrans

Read the rest of **Letters** | *Over on Page 10*

Ar right: Hospital Auxiliary volunteers Sandra Barrera, left, and Nellie Larsen, right, with volunteer coordinator Becky Hope in the middle.

Below: Volunteer Sandra Barrera holds three of the teddy bears auxiliary members have on hand to give to little children who need a "hospital friend."

At bottom: Three of the auxiliary's adorable teddy bears ready to help reassure an anxious small visitor.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



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SATURDAY • 4PM-10PM
SATURDAY NIGHT MADNESS
Hot Seat drawings every hour. Win \$50-\$150 free play based on your level of play that day.

SUNDAY • 12PM-9PM
SUNDAY SURPRISE
Hourly hot seat drawings. Winners will choose one of 12 Sunday Surprises to keep the action going.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS
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Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

Volunteers love to lend a helping hand

National Volunteer Week, April 12 to 18 this year, is all about "inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities."

Willits prides itself on its volunteer spirit, and has many volunteer and service organizations.

One of the longstanding local volunteer groups is the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, which will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next month: it was founded in May of 1965.

A motto of Howard Hospital is "neighbors helping neighbors," and the auxiliary volunteers play an important role in fulfilling that promise. Willits Weekly talked to Becky Hope, volunteer coordinator, and two longtime auxiliary volunteers about volunteer opportunities at the hospital: Sandra Barrera, who's been with the auxiliary for 16 years, and Nellie Larsen, who's been volunteering for six years.

Barrera was honored with the first annual Jann Lamprich Award for Volunteer Service in 2013, and Larsen won the award last year. The award honors Lamprich's 60-plus years of service to Howard Hospital and to the Howard Foundation and is given annually to an auxiliary volunteer who demonstrates exemplary service to Howard Hospital.

Barrera said she didn't ever think about joining the auxiliary until a friend suggested it: "It sounded wonderful," Barrera said. "I let her know I was interested, I went to a meeting, and the rest is history."

Larsen said she joined the auxiliary after her kids went off to school, and she had some extra time. "I fell in love with it," she said. "I meet so many nice people.... We are just like one big family.... And now we're moving our big family to a big new hospital!"

Auxiliary volunteers are excited about the new hospital for many reasons, but one of them is the plan to reopen the hospital gift shop, staffed by auxiliary volunteers. Barrera will serve as the manager for the new gift store, which will be "much bigger," she said. Products from some new local vendors have already been signed up, including soap and lotion from Potter Valley Soapworks, and ceramics by Satoko Barash,

wife of Dr. Ace Barash, of Howard Hospital's Emergency Room.

Volunteers can sign up to help with many different tasks: staffing the Information Desk right inside the front door is one ongoing duty. Volunteers help patients and visitors find where they need to go, get them a wheelchair if needed, and give out teddy bears to little ones who might be feeling uneasy about an upcoming shot or examination. One task Info Desk volunteers do that "really helps staff," Hope said, is simply sterilizing binders or assembling medical packets.

Volunteers visit with patients, bringing around menus and the list of available movies on DVD, and can help patients order what they want from the kitchen. There's a "Patient Companion Program," with a volunteer keeping one-on-one company with patients scheduled for a longer recovery time.

The volunteers help host employee appreciation and "team building" events as well as a monthly "Reunion Luncheon," for past patients of Howard Hospital's orthoscopic surgery department. "It's very nice," Larsen said. "Usually about 35 people come, and there's lots of food served on china and crystal." Invitations to the luncheon go out three months after patients are discharged. "I love that part," Larsen said. "To see and hear how they prospered, all the wonderful things they can do now there's no pain."

Other departments where auxiliary members can help out include the new Commonwealth Garden, located across the street from the new hospital off East Hill Road, and spiritual care services, working with the hospital chaplain. Clerical work is always appreciated, as are any volunteers interested in fundraising.

The auxiliary is gearing up for their big rummage sale, set for May 16 between Vassar's and Scoops, and members plan to march in the Fourth of July Parade again this year.

"Our volunteers are active and independent," Hope said, "and they all help each other like a real family." Hours are flexible, and weekend hours are available; training is given to every new volunteer. "It's a really rewarding way to give back to the community," Hope said. "Your neighbors and friends are already here!"

Anyone interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities through the Howard Hospital Auxiliary can call Becky Hope, auxiliary coordinator, at 456-3245 or email her at Rebecca.Hope@ah.org.

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Lunch in the Park

Brownies from Troop 10569 help pack and serve free lunches

The Brown Bag Lunch program, done by a rotating group of local organizations and churches, offers a free meal at City Park to anyone who wants it. Last Saturday, three girls from the Girl Scout Brownie Troop 10569 helped regular participants Little Lake Health Center to pack and serve 30 lunches for the program.

Shyla Boren, Clarah Lacey and Bridgette Cruce were able to earn their "Snack Badge" and their "Take Action Badge" after completing Saturday's event. The other three members of the troop plan to work this coming Saturday to earn their badges, too.

The girls met with Little Lake Health Center manager Becky Driscoll at the clinic Saturday morning to help prepare the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and to stuff juice boxes, chips, granola, crackers and a banana into the brown bags.

Some of the food is provided by the Willits Community Services and Food Bank and additional items come from Grocery Outlet. All a recipient of the bagged lunch needs to do is sign a sheet during the distribution to help the Food Bank know how many lunches are used, and how many they need to prepare in the following weeks. This information also helps gather statistics about those in need in the community.

Among the organizations participating in the Brown Bag Lunch program are: Soroptimist International of Willits, AAUW University Women, Seventh Day Adventist Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, Lions Club, Episcopal Church, Brooktrails Women's Club, United Methodist Church, Rotary Club, Shiloh Church, and Emandal.

If your group would like to sign up to prepare and serve the lunches on a rotating schedule, or if you or someone you know is in need of assistance from the Food Bank, contact them directly for more information: 459-3333 or stop by 229 East San Francisco Avenue, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 12 to 5 pm.



At left, above: Shyla Boren puts juice boxes into the lunch bags. Below: The girls at Little Lake Health Center, readying the bags for the afternoon distribution. Above: Shyla Boren spreads peanut butter on the sandwich halves. Photos by Desiree Crawford

Top: The Brownies, from left, Shyla Boren, Bridgette Cruce and Clarah Lacey, ready to give out sandwiches at City Park.

Below: People stop by to grab a sandwich and see what's going on. At bottom: The day's volunteers, from left: Desiree Crawford, Shyla Boren, Clarah Lacey, Katie Lacey, Bridgette Cruce and Becky Driscoll. Photos by Maureen Moore



Family | Children | Couples | Seniors | Portraiture | Maternity

Photography by Maureen Moore

[fuh-tog-ruh-friss] noun: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

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Money from the Bunny

Little Lake Fire Department welcomes Easter Bunny for fundraising photo event

On the Friday before Easter, the Easter Bunny himself made a quick hop over to the Little Lake Fire Department for a photo fundraiser with local photographer, Maureen Moore. Many children delighted in seeing the oversized rabbit, and those more timid were able to be convinced to pose, with the promise of holding and petting a real rabbit, too. Local rabbit breeders, Keely and Heidi Ahders of Blue Box Rabbitry assisted with bunny wrangling and bribing, and LLFD's Mike Cornwall, Kevin Reedy, and everybody who helped out and made the event smooth, fun and a great time for all. The short notice for the event didn't affect the attendance, and when it was all said and done, more than \$300 was raised, \$160 of which was donated back to the department.



Fire departments get new rescue equipment

At the March meeting of the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association, each fire department received a "Spinal Motion Restriction" equipment bundle of new tools to help rescue crews to immobilize patients being transported to the hospital after a traumatic event.

Each bundle provided new "On a Board" backboard pads to provide some cushioning to the spine when placing a patient on a traditional long board, as well as full-body and half-back vacuum splints to use for immobilization when longer transport times are anticipated, and a new

Kendrick Extrication Device.

The equipment was purchased with federal Homeland Security funds distributed through the state Office of Emergency Services.

The committee authorizing local projects for the Homeland Security grant funding is made up of representatives from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, various police and fire departments, and the Health and Human Services Agency.

"Although full 'traditional' spinal immobilization is

not going away," the press release about the new equipment says, "new tools have been approved for prehospital care providers to use to maintain a safe, neutral in-line spine."

The equipment is already being rotated into service, the Mendocino County Health and Human Services press release states: "Improving health in Mendocino County occurs in a myriad of ways every day. This is just one great example of how different agencies came together and coordinated efforts to benefit the health of our communities countywide."

Below, left: Little Lake firefighters crowd around the table at the front of the department's classroom on Tuesday night, to see the new Spinal Motion Restriction equipment in action.

Below: A volunteer tries out the new equipment and declares it a "comfortable and pleasant experience."

Photos by Maureen Moore



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Thursday, April 9

WHS Boosters Club Meeting: 6 pm at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS.

Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly Jazz Night with local musicians. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. "Fellow jazz musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments and partake during the second set, so long as it fits within the moment of sounds!" 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, April 10

HazMobile in Willits: The HazMobile household hazardous waste collection team will be at the Willits Corporation Yard, 380 East Commercial Street, on Friday, April 10 and Saturday, April 11 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. Info and schedule, call the Recycling Hotline, 468-9704, or visit www.mendoRecycle.org.



Laytonville Plant Sale: The Long Valley Garden Club in Laytonville will have its first plant sale/fundraiser of the year on Friday, April 10 at the Laytonville post office from 10 am to 6 pm. With leafy greens, and heading brassicas such as cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage and brussels sprout. Also snow peas, and sweet peas, plus many other flowers, medicinal herbs, drought-tolerant natives, and more. See article elsewhere in Calendar for more details or call 984-8108.

Baked Potato Bar: 5:30 to 7 pm at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Huge baked potatoes with all the fixin's. Adults \$9, kids 10 & under \$5, members \$8. Be creative and decorate a potato at home for a chance to win a great prize!

Auditions for Willits On Stage 3: this evening's auditions: Friday April 10 from 7 to 9 pm, and again, Saturday, April 18 from 9 am to noon at the Willits Methodist Church, School Street across from

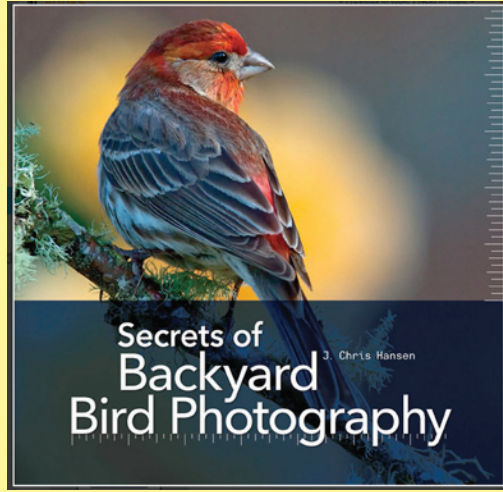
the Willits Grange. The Willits On Stage 3 Variety Show, a benefit for Willits Community Services, will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 7 pm.

Wildlife Photographer Chris Hansen: Friends of the Willits Library (FOWL) presents this book presentation and slide show by wildlife photographer Chris Hansen at 7 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Chris Hansen, a local Willits area resident for over 25 years, loves photography and teaching others about it, and his photos have been published in books, magazines, newspapers, websites, calendars and videos. His latest endeavor has been the book, "Secrets of Backyard Bird Photography," published by Rocky Nook Publishing. Hansen will give a short presentation on how this book was written, followed by a presentation of some images of local birds and wildlife at 7 pm in the Community Room of the Willits Library. This event is free to the public.

"Lips Together, Teeth Apart": Get ready for the fireworks as Terrence McNally's award-winning play opens at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, April 10, directed by Bill Barksdale. The Tony Award-winning playwright follows two couples as they spend the 4th of July weekend partying on Fire Island – with unexpected results. Plays Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15, and Sunday, April 19 and Sunday, April 26 matinees at 2 pm for \$10. This production contains adult language. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, online at www.brownpapertickets.com, or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available for all shows at the door. The playhouse is located at 37 W. Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Shanachie Pub: high-octane power Trio 454 plays rock and roll: fresh originals and favorite covers. 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

What's Happening Around Town



Wildlife Photographer Chris Hansen: Friends of the Willits Library (FOWL) presents this book presentation and slide show by wildlife photographer Chris Hansen at 7 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Chris Hansen, a local Willits area resident for over 25 years, loves photography and teaching others about it, and his photos have been published in books, magazines, newspapers, websites, calendars and videos. His latest endeavor has been the book, "Secrets of Backyard Bird Photography," published by Rocky Nook Publishing. Hansen will give a short presentation on how this book was written, followed by a presentation of some images of local birds and wildlife at 7 pm in the Community Room of the Willits Library. This event is free to the public.

"Lips Together, Teeth Apart": Get ready for the fireworks as Terrence McNally's award-winning play opens at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, April 10, directed by Bill Barksdale. The Tony Award-winning playwright follows two couples as they spend the 4th of July weekend partying on Fire Island – with unexpected results. Plays Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15, and Sunday, April 19 and Sunday, April 26 matinees at 2 pm for \$10. This production contains adult language. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, online at www.brownpapertickets.com, or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available for all shows at the door. The playhouse is located at 37 W. Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Shanachie Pub: high-octane power Trio 454 plays rock and roll: fresh originals and favorite covers. 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, April 11

Relay For Life Fundraiser: Family Dance & Karaoke Night Fundraiser presented by Relay For Life of Willits and Body Works Gym Relay Teams, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial. Dance and Karaoke, 7 to 10 pm. Featuring DJ Mikey T and the KiloBytes.

"Lips Together, Teeth Apart": 8 pm. See Friday, April 10 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: "Celternative" music by The Gnarly Pints: "Irish jigs, folk songs, contemporary covers and catchy originals. Visit www.thegnarlypints.com or on Facebook. 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, April 12

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am, at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, eggs, and your choice of sausage, ham, or bacon. Adults \$7, members \$6, kids \$5.

"Lips Together, Teeth Apart": 2 pm matinee. See Friday, April 10 listing for details.

Monday, April 13

Ice Cream Social: Harrah Senior Center presents the monthly Ice Cream Social, with special guest DJ Mike Tobin. 1501 Baechtel Road, 1:30 to

2:30 pm. Pie, ice cream, coffee, & prizes. Members \$1, non-members \$1.50

Tuesday, April 14

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: "Home" and "Furious 7." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Willits High School Open House: Parents and guardians of Willits High School students are invited to an open house, at 5:45 pm. "We will begin in the Allen Garcia Auditorium with an opening speech by Principal Jeffrey Ritchley, followed by a performance by the WHS Band. Classrooms in the main hall will be open, and each department will have a mini question and answer session. Snacks will be provided." Questions: please call Willits High School at 459-7700.

Thursday, April 16

Now and Then Film Series: presenting "Temple Grandin," as a fundraiser for Lovin' Mama Farm, 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "Temple Grandin" is a film biography of Temple Grandin, "an autistic and brilliant woman who overcame the limitations imposed on her by her condition to become a Ph.D. and expert in the field of animal husbandry. She developed an interest in cattle early in life while spending time at her aunt and uncle's ranch. She is noted for creating a humane design for the treatment of cattle in processing plants." Lovin' Mama Farm owners Matt and Corrine, Farmers Market vendors known for their high-quality produce, are raising funds to restart their farm, possibly in Willits, to help create long-term infrastructure for local food. Suggested donation of \$5 to \$50, "to help relocate these young farmers and get them started farming again!" Info: 459-6362.



The Gnarly Pints

"Lips Together, Teeth Apart": 7 pm. See Friday, April 10 listing for details.

Friday, April 17

"Lips Together, Teeth Apart": 8 pm. See Friday, April 10 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub 15th Anniversary Party: Celebrate 15 years of Shanachie Pub with music by Charley Crockett and the Self-Fulfilling Prophecies. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, April 18

Auditions for Willits On Stage 3: 9 am to noon this morning at the Willits Methodist Church, School Street across from the Willits Grange. The Willits On Stage 3 Variety Show, a benefit for Willits Community Services, will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 7 pm

Animal Emergency Planning: a free training at the Laytonville Grange, April 18 and 19, presented by speakers from Northern California animal rescue nonprofit Noah's Wish, to organize an animal emergency network in Long Valley. "Our volunteer network will maintain a storehouse of cages and supplies and set up a shelter for pets and farm animals of all types during a crisis." Learn how to: Plan a rescue operation; organize a shelter; do intake of animals; house different species in appropriate ways; care for animals at the shelter; set up those collapsible cages. Saturday, April 18, 9 am to 4 pm (lunch included), and Sunday, April 19, 9 to 11 am, a drill to practice what the group learned the day before. Please register online by emailing lin@willitsonline.com.

"Lips Together, Teeth Apart": 8 pm. See Friday, April 10 listing for details.

"Mestizo Mysteries": an educational forum presented by members of Nuestra Alianza de Willits, who will share their "Mestizo" culture through storytelling, food, and dance. 11 am to 3 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. "Mestizo Mysteries

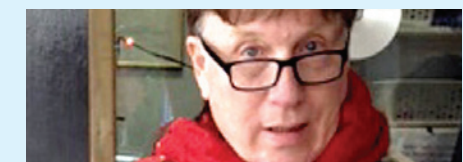
is a partnership between Nuestra Alianza, Tina Tyler-O'Shea (a Willits resident and Sonoma State University student), and the Willits Police Department in an effort to raise funds to support Nuestra Alianza's programs and to encourage cross-cultural activities." Tickets are \$15 at the door. See article elsewhere in Calendar for more details.

Sunday, April 19

95490 Town Hall: 4 to 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. This Town Hall's topic: "How will the legalization of cannabis change life in our 95490 community?" Panelists include Jane Futcher, author and journalist, and Hezekiah Allan, advocate for rural economic development, present executive director of the Emerald Growers Association, and member of the California Young Democrats Environmental Caucus. After brief statements by the speakers, the forum will be open for comments by attendees. See article elsewhere in Calendar for more details.



COLUMN | At the Movies



'Fast and Furious 7'

The Story: The gang is back. But they've created enemies in their previous six adventures, and Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham) is one of them. And, Dear Reader, he is unquestionably the toughest, the meanest and the most relentless of them all. Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel), Bryan O'Connor (Paul Walker), Letty Toretto (Michelle Rodriguez) and the whole crew are in trouble ... including Dwayne Johnson as Hobbs plus Ludacris and Kurt Russell.

My Thoughts: If Roger Corman had been willing to spend the money, he might have produced and directed this series. There are lots of explosions and ridiculous, Armageddon-like and headache-inducing car crashes. I loved them. Also, every couple of scenes was fancified with fancy shots to such an extent that I figured women's pretty butts must have been part of the art direction. I loved that, too. (I realize that this reaction of mine should not actually be categorized as a "thought.")

Parents: It's all so mind-numbingly ridiculous that your kids will most probably love it. And ultimately, the movie is about family loyalty and courage and the willingness to risk one's life for those one loves. That's actually pretty solid.

More: There is a tear-inducing cinematic goodbye to Paul Walker who died during the shooting of the film. (I cried a bit). The affection these actors share in real life is open, sincere and strong.

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

Cards and Games at Willits Library: free games in the Willits Library's Community Room. Tuesday bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm; Thursday bridge sessions from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Saturday free bridge classes, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm, for new and review students. Info: Donna at 459-9035. "Friday Night Magic": Youth game night, for kids ages 10 to 14, starts April 2 (no games April 10 due to spring break) and runs through June. Bring cards and games to share. Parental contact info required to sign in. From 5 to 7:30 pm, but library doors close at 6 pm, and no admission after 6 pm. Info: the Willits Library at 459-5908. Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 pm: Chess: bring your chess set and have some fun with friends. All ability levels welcome. Info: Raymond at 841-0473.

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

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

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

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 11 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room: Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street 459-2444. With Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving from 9 pm until 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 367-7865.

Open Mic Jam at Al's Redwood Room: Every Friday night, hosted by Dream Capsule Entertainment, featuring talented, established local musicians from all over Northern California. Jazz, Blues, Rock. New talent welcome. Al's Redwood Room, 207 South Main Street; starting at 9 pm. Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving from 9 pm until 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 367-7865.

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willits Avenue, Laytonville. Buy local: vegetables, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, hot soup, baked goods, and more.

A profile of WCT director Bill Barksdale

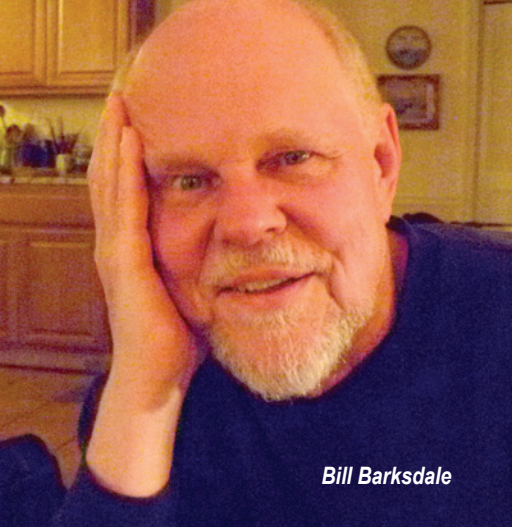
In a career spanning more than 20 years with the Willits Community Theatre, Bill Barksdale is easily recognized as one of the best directors to grace the local playhouse stage. He has directed a legacy of WCT hits, among them, "The Haunting of Hill House" (1994), "Barefoot in the Park" (2001), "Shirley Valentine" (2003), "Cooking with Gus" (2004), "On Golden Pond" (2006), "The Fantastiks" (2009) and "Dead Man's Cell Phone" (2013).

Barksdale is directing the current WCT production of "Lips Together, Teeth Apart," a comedic drama by Tony Award-winning playwright Terrence McNally. Barksdale brings a unique, in-depth approach to leading a mix of four veteran and newer actors for the production. The play opens April 10 and runs through April 26.

Described by some actors as "intense" and "exacting," Barksdale has a way of producing results. Steve Marston, a newer actor who stars in the show, says of Barksdale: "I was intimidated at first, from everything I had heard about him. Then once I got used to his approach, I became excited to work with him." Also starring in the play are veteran actors Damian Seubouhin, Gretchen Anderson, and Gloriann Lucero.

Barksdale is known for generating deep emotional expressions from his actors. Karla McDonald starred as Maggie in the 2011 Willits hit, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." She says of working with Barksdale: "The man is a force of nature. He knows exactly what he wants, he's specific with his actors, and if you're not on the same page, and you're trying to duck him, he's still coming at you." The end result for her, says McDonald, is a deep affection for the director and a protected feeling as though what she does on stage is the very right thing.

Barksdale says the magic he loves most about his directing for live theater comes from the emotional power in the relationships between the actors.



He says, "Everything is in the subtext, in what flows beneath the surface between the characters." For the present show, Barksdale has worked with a drama where tension rills between two couples partying over the July 4th holiday on Fire Island. The tension builds in a series of climaxes, broken by moments of strong, cathartic humor.

"We're on a roller coaster ride," Barksdale says. "We have a wife who has been unfaithful and feels burdened, a husband who admits he's been unkind, another wife who is a powder keg waiting to blow that fuels the play and who says everything she shouldn't, and then her husband who makes everyone else around him superior because he feels inferior." This kind of complex emotional landscape creates the perfect setting for Barksdale's directing talents.

He remembers his initial thrill with live theater came when he saw his first play in early elementary school. From that point on his love for the stage led him to performing in a prestigious high school theater arts department in Lake Oswego, Oregon. In 1968, Barksdale moved to New York City with the goal of becoming a professional actor. He studied at The Neighborhood Playhouse, an acting center renowned for the work of Gregory Peck, Steve McQueen, and Joanne Woodward. Further work in San Francisco at Studio Eremos and Theatre Rhinoceros presaged his moving to Willits in 1987.

Barksdale says of his abiding love for directing: "There's a psychic connection for me. Theater grasps and enfolds me and mixes me in emotionally with the actors." He quotes his early mentor, Sanford Meisner, "Theater is real life in imaginary circumstances."

– Steve Hellman, for Willits Community Theatre

Responsible Beverage Service Training In Laytonville

No-cost training for businesses that sell or serve alcohol and organizations who serve alcohol at fundraisers. This training is based on standards set by the California ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) and is an educational experience that provides servers with the information and guidance to protect themselves, community group and/or business establishment from legal ramifications associated with serving alcohol to minors, overly intoxicated individuals, or other issues, and how to avoid these issues in the first place!

This informative and useful training will be held on Wednesday, April 29 at the Willits Center for the Arts upstairs meeting room from 9 am to 1 pm. To register or for more information, contact training sponsor Laytonville Healthy Start at (707) 984-8089.

Laytonville plant sale Friday, April 10

The Long Valley Garden Club in Laytonville will have its first plant sale/fundraiser of the year on Friday, April 10 at the Laytonville post office from 10 am to 6 pm. Usually the club does one plant sale a year some time in May, but this year there will be two plant sales.

This early spring plant sale on April 10 focuses on cooler weather plants, and the second plant sale on May 29 will have all the warm season plants.

You can expect to find a large variety of plants at both sales. The early spring sale will have a lot of leafy greens, and heading brassicas such as cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage and brussels sprout. There will also be snow peas, and sweet peas, plus many other flowers.

Come check out our huge medicinal herb section to find comfrey, astragalus, white sage, lavender, and many more. This is the place to be if you are looking for drought-tolerant perennials and herbs. There are a few native trees and ginkgo trees as well.

For everyone who has a greenhouse, we will have a small amount of plants at Friday's sale that need to stay in the greenhouse until the danger of frost has past. This includes a few types of basil, tomatoes, and tomatillos. The May 29 plant sale will include lots of peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, beans, zucchini, corn, basil, ground cherry, flowers, and so much more. Call 707-984-8108 if you have any plants you would like to donate to either sale, or if you would like to volunteer to work at the plant sale. We hope to see you there!

Town Hall: How will cannabis legalization affect our 95490 community?

"How will the legalization of cannabis change life in our 95490 community? Many families tiptoe and whisper around the elephant in the room, afraid to disturb him. The big fat elephant in our 95490 community has kept us quietly tiptoeing for years, but on Sunday, April 19, 2015, our 95490 Town Hall, from 4 to 6 pm at Willits City Hall, will awaken, discuss and analyze him. The topic is not whether cannabis should or should not be legalized. The topic is: "How will the legalization of cannabis change life in our 95490 community?"

Will our community be poised to take advantage of the economic realities legalization will bring, and will we be prepared for problems? Come discuss your vision, your concerns and your plans. Two of our panelists include Jane Futcher, author and journalist, and Hezekiah Allan, advocate for rural economic development, present executive director of the Emerald Growers Association, and member of the California Young Democrats Environmental Caucus."

Savings Bank Shred Event in Willits

Savings Bank of Mendocino County and Integrity Shred have teamed up to offer the public an opportunity to shred outdated confidential documents in four locations in Mendocino and Lake counties during the month of April.

In Willits, the public is encouraged to bring documents for safe, secure on-site shredding to Savings Bank of Mendocino, Willits branch, 145 South Main Street, on Thursday, April 23, from 9 to 11 am.

Please note, a limit of three 35 pound boxes will be accepted. Hours and number of customers accommodated may be limited to truck capacity.

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast, every fourth Sunday, set for Sunday, April 26 at the Little Lake Grange, 8 am to 11 am. Choose Sourdough Wholegrain or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs made to order, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$7; \$6 seniors; \$4 under 10. Extra sides of organic fruit in season or Amish maple syrup, \$1. 291 School Street (two blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of 101).

Relay For Life invites all cancer survivors

"We would like to invite you to participate in the 2015 Relay For Life Willits as our honored guests. This year's Relay For Life Willits will be held at Recreation Grove Park on July 25-26 from 10 am Saturday to 10 am Sunday.

Our event kicks off Saturday morning by celebrating our survivors at the opening ceremonies followed by a Survivors Lap around the park. We want to celebrate you! We would like to encourage all survivors from Willits, Fort Bragg, Covelo and Laytonville and beyond to sign up now for Relay For Life Willits."

Early registration is recommended and will guarantee a "Survivor" T-shirt in your size. To register now, visit www.relayforlife.org and search for "95490" or call 1-877-7848 and an operator will assist you with your registration. Registration is free! All are welcome.



– Jenelle Faulstich



Left: Annika Hansen hands Lenore Hansen a dinner bag during last year's event. Below, left: Students, parents and volunteers pose for a quick photo between raindrops. Right: Dinners for four, ready to go. Photos by Maureen Moore

Sober Grad's Tri-Tip Dinner set for April 24

It's almost time for Sober Grad's Tri-Tip Dinner, the biggest fundraiser of the year for the annual drug- and alcohol-free graduation party for all Willits-area graduating seniors. The Tri-Tip Drive-Through Take-Home Dinner serves four people, and includes a full tri-tip marinated overnight in Kathy Goss' secret marinade and grilled to perfection by Dan Pinon, Doug Goss, Art Cooley and crew.

Accompaniments include four baked potatoes with sour cream and butter, salad for four with dressing from Trillium Delights, four yummy rolls from Tam Adams from Emandal, and four cookies, plus a rose from Flowers by Annette.

The dinner is all bagged up and handed to ticket holders at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds on Commercial Street – as you drive through. You don't even have to get out

of your car! Tickets, \$50 for dinner for four, are by pre-sale only. Tickets are available at Cat's Meow, 29 South Main Street, or the Willits High School office. Call Linda at Cat's Meow, 459-6201 or email WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com to buy tickets or for more information.

One more annual benefit event for Sober Grad, the Ducky Derby at the Brooktrails Golf Course, is set for May 17. Contributors can sponsor one of 400 rubber duckies, numbered 1 through 400, for \$5/duck and \$20 for five duckies.

All sponsored ducks are dumped into Willits Creek on the Brooktrails Golf Course, and they "race" to the finish. The first duck to cross the finish line wins its sponsor \$200! Second-place duck wins \$100. Third-place duck wins \$50.

The last duck to cross the finish line wins its sponsor two nights at Ruth and Mike Dell'Ara's beautiful guest house in Caspar on the Mendocino coast, along with a dinner.

The 2015 Sober Grad Party is set for Thursday, June 11. The party goes all night until 4 am, with heaps of door prizes, giveaways, big cash prizes, games, platters-full of food, DJ music, movies and much more entertainment.

Volunteers are also needed to help put on the big party, including: decorating and setting up starting at 9 am on the day of party; chaperones from 9 pm to 4 am; and, especially, volunteers to clean up after the party is over. Those interested in volunteering can email WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com.



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Mariposa Market

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NAPA VALLEY NATURALS EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL
24 OZ.
ON SALE \$9.99
REG. \$14.89

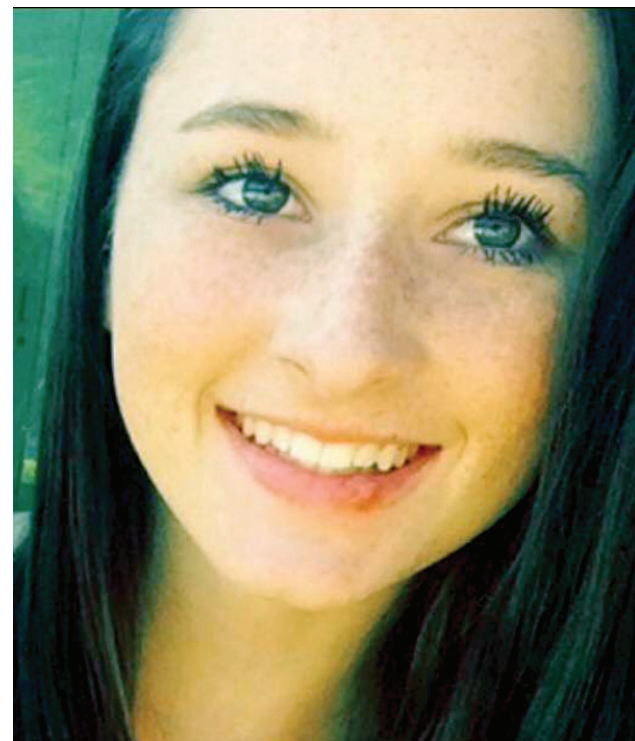
WOODSTOCK ORGANIC MAYONNAISE
32 OZ.
ON SALE \$9.99
REG. \$12.99

NATURAL SEA CANNED TUNA, TONGOL AND ALBACORE
ON SALE \$2.99
REG. \$3.69-\$4.29

ORGANIC ROASTED AND SALTED PISTACHIOS
POUND
ON SALE \$9.99
REG. \$12.19

500 S. MAIN STREET, WILLITS 459-9630

Amazing Athletes of Willits High School



Softball | Cheyenne Walters, Sophomore, 16

Position: Pitcher, shortstop
Breakfast of Champions: Bagel
Love for the Sport: "I have been playing since I was 6, and my favorite part is having to work as a team."

Sophomore Cheyenne Walters has done a great job this season so far for the WHS Softball team. Cheyenne hit 3 for 4 against Laytonville the first game, and she got another hit in the second game. Cheyenne pitched a great game against El Molino, striking out nine batters and hitting 1 for 3, giving us a 5-2 win. She also pitched a great game against Middletown, but our defense made too many errors to help her out with a win.

- Coach Rick Hendrix



Softball | Jamie Johnstone, Sophomore, 15

Position: Pitcher
Breakfast of Champions: Bagel and cream cheese
Love for the Sport: "I love the personal competitiveness and the pressure as a pitcher."

Sophomore Jamie Johnstone has also done a great job this season for the WHS Softball team. Jamie has pitched twice against Laytonville and once against Clearlake. Her first game with Laytonville, she went 2 for 4 and struck out six batters, helping herself out to a 15-3 victory. In her second game with Laytonville, Jamie got another hit and a 14-3 victory. Although we lost to Clearlake, she pitched a great game, only walking five batters and going 2 for 2 at bat.

- Coach Rick Hendrix

Puzzle Page & More

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate



How To Sudoku:

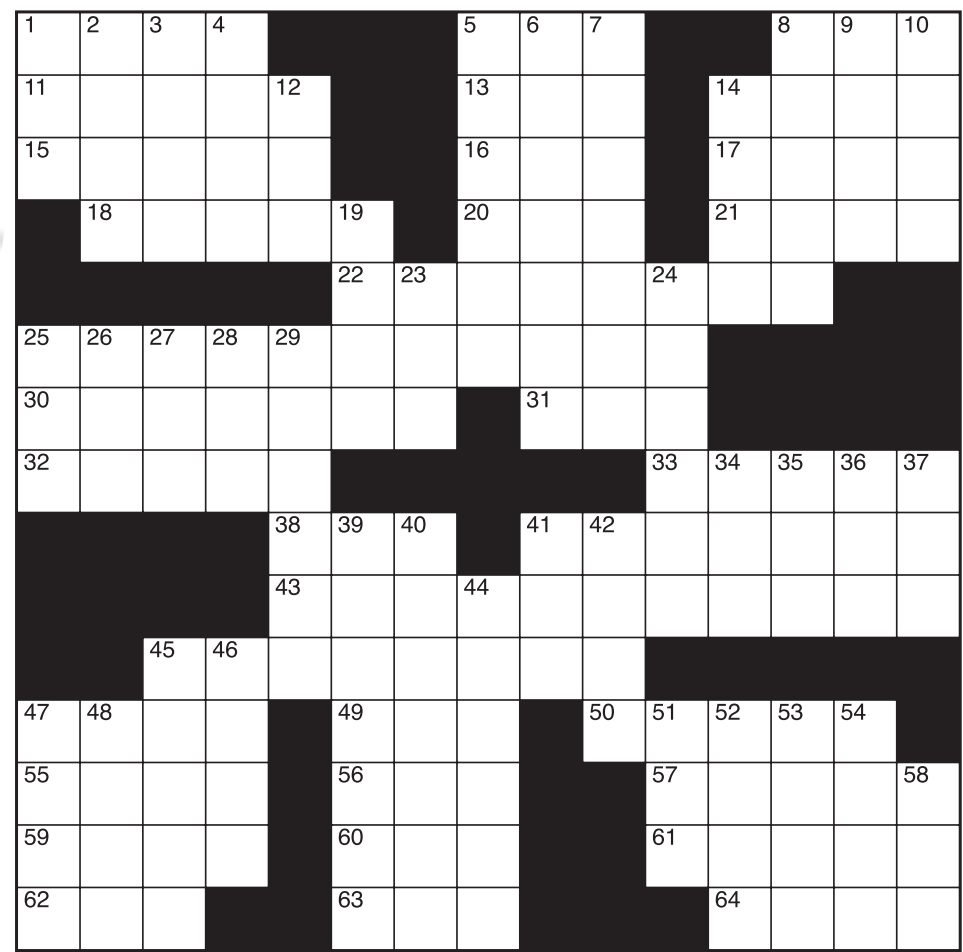
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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

VISIT IRELAND WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| ADARE | CORK | KENMARE | SAINT ANDREWS |
| ARMAGH | DERRY | KERRY | SHANNON |
| BELFAST | DINGLE | KILDARE | SLIGO |
| BLARNEY | DONEGAL | KILKENNY | TIPPERARY |
| BOYNE VALLEY | DOOLIN | KILLARNEY | WATERFORD |
| BUNDORAN | DOWNPATRICK | KINSALE | WESTMEATH |
| CLARE | DUBLIN | LIMERICK | WESTPORT |
| CLIFDEN | GALWAY | LISTOWEL | WICKLOW |
| CONNEMARA | IRELAND | ROUNDSTONE | |

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Harsh grating sound
5. American Resource Bureau (abbr.)
8. Fiddler crabs
11. Mex. soccer goalie
13. After B
14. Jai __ sport
15. Brief ad or notice
16. Certified public accountant
17. Vexation
18. Rough gemstone
20. Annual grass of Europe and N Africa
21. Metal cooking vessels
22. Suspiciousness
25. "Purple Haze" musician
30. In a way, built up
31. Runner used for gliding over snow
32. In a way, initiated
33. Was inclined
38. Divides evenly into
41. Born early
43. The Ocean State
45. Rifle blades
47. Whale ship captain

CLUES DOWN

1. Take by force
2. Liberal rights organization
3. Avoid and stay away from deliberately
4. Meat from a pig (alt. sp.)
5. Harmoniousness
6. Fixes
7. A member of the Beat Generation
8. Arm bones
9. Abel's brother (Bible)
10. Small Island (British)
12. __ Dhabi, Arabian capital
14. Egyptian cobras
19. Overly precious (British)
23. Not or
24. Foreigners
25. Stab
26. Frost a cake
27. Microgram
28. George's brother composer
29. Famished
34. Snakelike fish
35. Doctors' group
36. Turns into noun
37. CNN's founder
39. Bad water disease
40. Given
41. Favorite
42. Lift
44. Discuss opposing points
45. Bleated
46. Swedish rock group
47. Indian housemaid
48. Israeli dance
51. Insect secretion used in shellac
52. Macaws
53. Source of the Blue Nile
54. Abba __, Israeli politician
58. Patti Hearst's captors

NOYO THEATRE

Willits, CA

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Next Week:
Paul Blart, Mall Cop 2

GET HARD

(R) 1 hr 40 mins

Fri/Sat: 1:45, 4:00, 6:15 & 8:30pm
Sun: 12:45, 3:00, 5:15 & 7:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:15 & 7:30pm

FURIOUS 7

(PG13) 2 hrs 17 mins

Fri/Sat: 2:00, 5:00 & 8:00pm & 8:15pm
Sun: 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:00 & 7:00pm

HOME

(PG) 1 hr 34 mins

Fri/Sat: 1:30, 3:45, 6:00 & 8:15pm
Sun: 12:30, 2:45, 5:00 & 7:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:15pm

Movie Times for 4/10 thru 4/16 This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

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NEW CLASS! Strength and Stretch with Maddy starting Wednesday, April 1 at 10:30.
This class will fill in the gap until Suzanne returns for Ballet Barre Session #2 on April 20. (Ballet Barre Session #1 concludes March 30.)
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See our webpage for our full schedule: www.studiojoywillits.com

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Howard Foundation NEEDS YOUR INPUT

A permanent listing of all those who donated to the Foundation's Capital Campaign for the Hospital Building Fund is being produced for permanent display at the new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. The Foundation wants to ensure the accuracy of this permanent listing; we don't want to miss or misspell a single one of our deeply appreciated donors' names. Please, take a moment and either come by the Foundation Office or the HMH Information Desk, or go online to review your listing. If visiting in person, please notate any corrections on the provided document. If visiting online, please email jannl@howardfoundation.org with any corrections or additions.

Thank you for helping us do the best we possibly can! It is important to us to correctly document your listing.

List is available to view at:
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the HMH Information Desk
One Madrone Street
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Baby Sign Language
Free Demos: Willits 4/14 10:30 am, The Muse; Ukiah 4/18 10:30 am, Mendocino Baby. <http://mysmarthandswithmana.wordpress.com>. Please call 707-354-2475 to RSVP.

Brooktrails Flea Market Vendors Needed
2015 Market is Saturday, June 6. Booths cost \$20 each. Vendors check in: 6 to 7:30 am. Market open: 8 am to 3 pm. Call to reserve booth space: 456-0734.

Business Classes
"Taking Your Business On-Line": 10 am to Noon Wednesdays. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd, Willits. 10 two-hour classes, \$20 each. Call for details: 459-6826.

Community Hu Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, April 23, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

Computer Help
Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$35/hr. Tutoring \$15/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macemargin@yahoo.com.

Help Wanted
Willits Elementary Charter School seeks Office Manager. Multi-tasking and organizational skills, computer literacy (CALPADS a huge plus), and a love of kids crucial. Join a supportive and collaborative environment. Starts FT August 1, but some PT work before that date. **Bilingual strongly preferred.** Salary DOE. Email resume and cover letter to: hiring@willits5charter.org.

SEWING AND ALTERATIONS
Seamstress and Sewing Teacher Barbara Carlon Visit my webpage: Zibergirl.com 707-367-6182, Willits

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.

Volunteers Wanted
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.

Knife Sharpening
Keith Knife Sharpening returns to Willits. Every Thursday at the Farmers Market. Sharpening knives, scissors, garden tools. 541-297-5378. Farmers Market at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School St, through April.

Mobile Home for Sale
What a yard! Fully lattice-fenced. Low care, including tulips, iris, blackberry, grape arbor and producing peach tree. Bubbly fountain. Hand rails on stairs. Porch with western exposure (cooler). 900+ brick patio under large shade trees. Large stick shed. Deer-proof side, rear & separate garden area. Great park location. Located in Seabiscuit Valley. Lovely roses, arthoche plants. The home?? Too many features to list. Call Jay at 459-8570 for details or anytime viewing.

Preschool Art Playshop
CANCELLED April 11 at The Muse 34 East San Francisco Ave. CANCELLED due to the flu. Artise Box, April 11, also cancelled. See magicalmovementcompany.com for future workshops.

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The rest of Letters | From Page 2

Water Watcher" icon to submit a maintenance service request.

"This summer is likely to be severely harsh, so the state is taking action by halting irrigation altogether or drastically cutting consumption while keeping plants alive when necessary to curb water pollution and erosion," said Dougherty. "The department is taking these steps - and is planning more - because the historic drought threatens all Californians with a critically dry summer, and protecting the public and water supply is a top priority."

Californians can learn more ways to help cut water use during California's drought state of emergency by visiting: www.saveourwater.com.

Caltrans Headquarters, Sacramento

"Silence the Distraction"

To the Editor:

To save lives and educate all motorists within California, especially young drivers, about the dangers of distracted driving, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Impact Teen Drivers, and more than 200 law enforcement agencies statewide are teaming up this month. The coalition has increased education and enforcement efforts for National Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April and California Teen Safe Driving Week, the first week of April.

"Driving is a complex task, requiring a motorist's full attention," CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow said. "Imagine driving for four or five seconds while blindfolded. That can be the effect of looking down while driving to send a text message. In the average time it takes to send a text message - less than five seconds - a car travelling 60 mph will travel the length of a football field."

Collisions caused by distraction occur daily throughout California. In 2013, there were 50 people killed and nearly 4,000 people injured as a result of driver distraction.

Throughout April, officers in each of the CHP's eight field divisions will focus their efforts on educating the public

The rest of Agreement | From Page 1

Now the two sides have agreed they will jointly own the portable buildings, and the district will pay the difference between installing the portables to non-DSA standards (which will be borne by the Kids Club) and upgrading the installation to DSA standards. The Kids Club will put up the total funding for the project, and the district will pay the Kids Club back over a six-year period. Under the conditions of the agreement, these "cushioning costs" will not exceed \$39,000.

The first-term payment will be no more than \$6,500 and will be due on July 1, 2016. The contract states the Kids Club may install up to three portable classrooms on district premises.

Eric Glassey, president of the Willits Kids Club, expressed gratitude to district Superintendent Patricia Johnson and to board of trustee members Saprina Rodriguez and Laurie Harris for their help during negotiations. Glassey also

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WILLITS WEEKLY - The LOCAL Newspaper

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DJ Mike Tobin - "Name That Tune"
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about the dangers of distracted driving through local media interviews, visits to schools, and traffic safety presentations. In addition, two dates (April 1 and 15) have been earmarked as special statewide education and enforcement days for all law enforcement agencies that are participating in the traffic safety campaign.

The urge to read and answer a text message when hearing the text notification can be enticing. The OTS has adopted the message of "Silence the Distraction" in new public service announcements aimed at getting drivers to turn off cellular telephones while driving so they will not be tempted. In addition, an outreach event featuring texting cartoon "emojis" will be touring community colleges throughout the state to engage the most vulnerable texters: 18- to 30-year-olds.

"No text, call, or social media update is worth a crash," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "With an average of less than a second to react to an urgent situation on the roadway, drivers need to have all their attention on the road."

While distracted driving can take many forms and affects all road users, younger drivers pose a greater risk.

During California Teen Safe Driving Week, April 1 to 7, Impact Teen Drivers focused on educating teens that the No. 1 killer of teens - reckless and distracted driving - is 100 percent preventable.

"People are realizing everyday behaviors, such as texting or reaching for a dropped item, can be lethal when done behind the wheel," Kelly Browning, executive director of Impact Teen Drivers, said. "The next step is more complicated - getting people to choose to change their behavior."

Safe driving is the responsibility of all motorists. Parents, as role models, are in the ideal position to demonstrate good behavior to their children operating a motor vehicle.

"All of us who drive are responsible for keeping the roads safe. If you have teenagers in your family who are driving, make sure they understand the laws and what their responsibilities are as well," Commissioner Farrow added. "The collective goal with this month-long campaign is to change the behavior of all drivers to eliminate distractions behind the wheel. That change begins with education."

California Office of Traffic Safety and the California Highway Patrol, Sacramento

The rest of Agreement | From Page 1

introduced various Kids Club board members and staff, on hand for the board of trustees vote, as were some of the kids themselves.

The new classrooms replace three portable classrooms the Kids Club is losing because the district is requesting them to use as a new office complex for the district administration.

Trustees also approved a bid from Mendocino Construction Services to build a driveway from Blosser Lane Road to the proposed district office complex. The bid came in at \$34,988, well under the estimated cost.

The proposal to put the project out to bid, approved at the March 4 board meeting, assumed the winning bid would likely come in at between \$48,000 and \$60,000. Mendocino Construction Services is a small, sister company of Northern Aggregates, which owns and operates the Harris Quarry just south of Willits.

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Imagination Station wins \$5,000 grant

FIRST 5 Mendocino awarded a grant of \$5,000 to Imagination Station Preschool and Childcare Center in Willits, to help with reopening in their new location after the John's Place fire damaged their building in November. "We lost more than 50 percent of our belongings. Despite the challenges, we reopened in a new location just 72 hours later," owner/operator Saprina Rodriguez said.

Imagination Station is a preschool and childcare facility serving children from ages 18 months to 5 years, 5 days a week, offering special after-school and summer/holiday hours for children ages 6 to 9 years. The center offers full-time childcare, drop-in care and after-school pick-up, and accepts child care subsidies.

"FIRST 5 Mendocino is dedicated to helping parents raise children who are healthy, happy and ready to learn," said Anne Molgaard, executive director of FIRST 5 Mendocino County, in the press release announcing the grant. "Child care facilities operate right on the edge, with very small profit margins. We wanted to help this facility that miraculously reopened just three days after the fire. Congratulations to Imagination Station, and thank you to all those who made it possible."



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Lovely Lonnie Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Lonnie is a 2-year-old spayed female Labrador Retriever mix. She currently weighs 62 pounds. Lonnie is a truly gorgeous girl as you can see! Despite her size, she is a big love who will make a great family dog. She is a smart, attentive girl who does well with other dogs!

If you're thinking about adopting a cat, take advantage of our "Pounce into Spring" special happening through May 10, and you can name your own adoption fee for any cats that are ready to go home, or \$50 for any cats who will need to stay at the shelter to be spayed or neutered.

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.

Photo by Rod Coats

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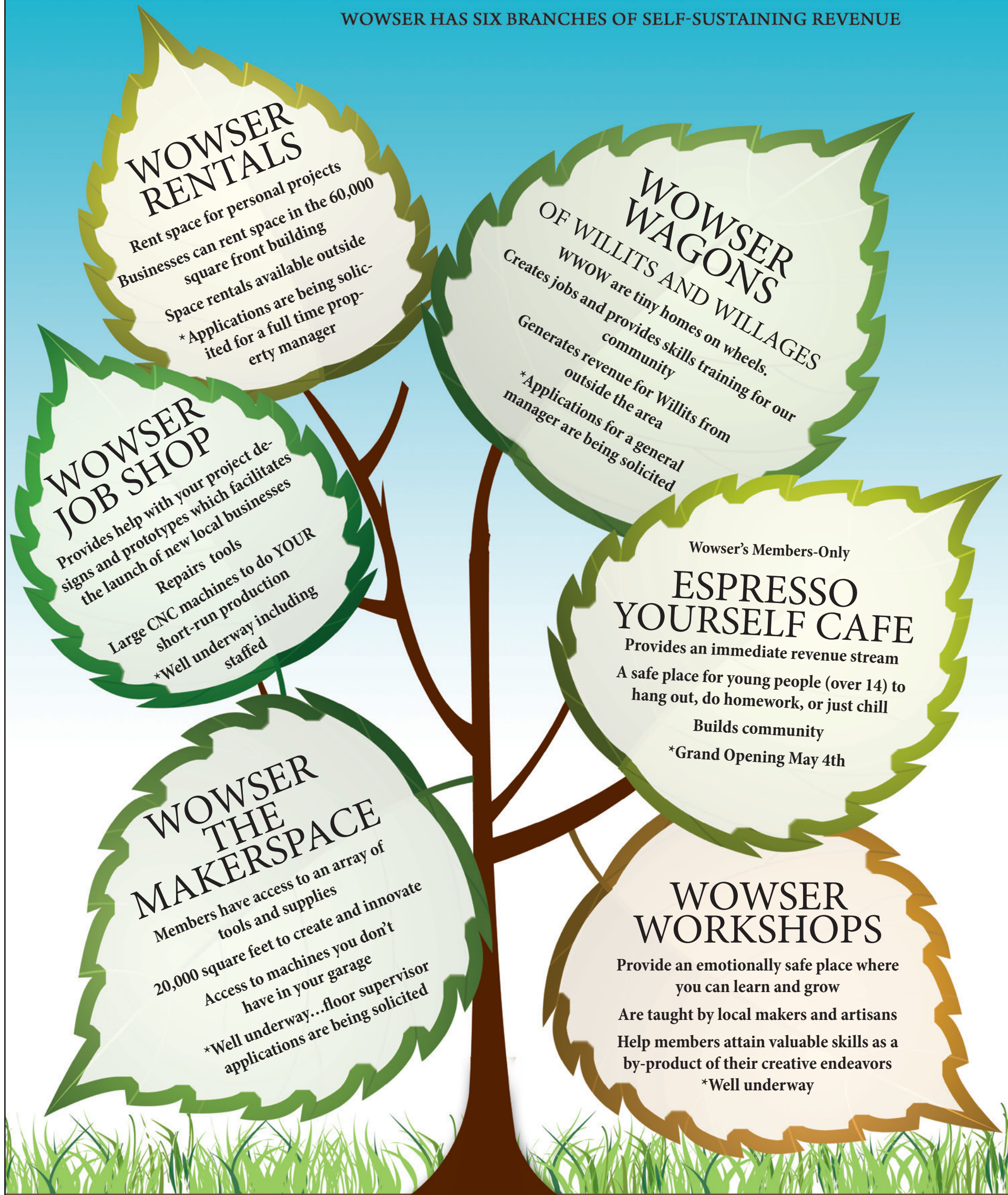
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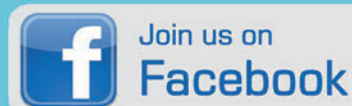
Please consider a huge contribution. At the same time, the irony is that the small contributions always add up to be more than the larger contributions. The whole point is to have everyone contribute something.

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

at the rail crossing, according to Caltrans representative Phil Frisbie.

Falsework that came down in the collapse is starting to be reconstructed. Contractors have told Frisbie there will be a small amount of demolition on the southern edge of the collapse.

Four viaduct columns damaged in the falsework collapse over Haehl Creek on January 22 have also been rebuilt, Caltrans says.

California Occupational Safety and Health Office representative Peter Melton told Willits Weekly Wednesday that OSHA's investigation of the accident was "ongoing." OSHA has six months after the incident to make its report.

The state expects completion of the viaduct in September. The city and Caltrans continue working together where the viaduct passes land connected to the city's sewer plant.

The project enters its third season of construction this spring.

Caltrans says dirt-hauling from the old Mendocino Forest Products mill site north of Willits should commence in May, depending on the weather.

Any work in Upp Creek at the northern interchange has been suspended until June. Just off the edge of the highway, people dressed in safety vests have been seen sifting through the dirt, doing what appears to be archaeological work. Caltrans cannot comment on the location of archeological sites.

A number of components have been completed on the project's 3.3-mile southern segment, from where the southern interchange begins to Center Valley Road.

Other components in that portion of the project – like bridges, retaining walls, embankments and the East Hill Road crossing – have been partially completed and await the start of construction season.

The current 65 percent completion mark has risen over the winter from a Caltrans report in October, estimating the project was 50 percent finished.

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

hired as a consultant to the city.

State and federal agencies require investigators to know employment law, compared to the criminal law which police are familiar with from their day-to-day work, a report from Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez stated.

A background check on prospective police officers and support personnel is required by POST (California Peace Officer Standards and Training).

Gonzalez cited the possibility of travel outside the county and flexibility in scheduling in conducting background investigations as something the Willits Police Department could not undertake.

Warnock's contract was on the Willits City Council consent calendar at its last meeting, and passed on a vote that included other noncontroversial business.

Councilman Ron Orenstein did ask City Manager Adrienne Moore a question about polygraph-testing city employees.

Moore explained that, in addition to police hires, the city may screen applicants to some higher-level positions.

Willits will pay Warnock \$1,500 for a local background investigation, \$200 for completed polygraph investigations, and .575 cents per mile of travel.

Those rates come with adjustments for investigating candidates from out of the area.

The contract outlines what reports and procedures are to be followed during background checks.

Interviews with candidates, criminal record checks in locations where that person has lived, worked or gone to school, contact with two neighbors, and final delivery of reports in person, not by mail, are required by the contract.

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

He then reportedly chased the victim all the way through downtown Covelo before the driver was able to elude him in traffic.

Assisted by state traffic officers, sheriff's deputies stopped Henderson's vehicle on Highway 162 near Dos Rios. A search of his vehicle revealed the pellet pistol, pellets for the weapon, several items believed stolen in a recent Willits burglary, marijuana, and a substance in a hypodermic syringe believed to be methamphetamine.

After being released on bail, Henderson bolted from Judge David Nelson's courtroom on March 20 after learning he was to be arraigned for attempted murder rather than assault with a deadly weapon, according to DA spokesman Mike Geniella.

He was found hiding in a North School Street creek bed minutes later.

Henderson's preliminary hearing was held April 1 and 2, and he was "held to answer and ordered to stand trial on the attempted murder charge," said District Attorney David Eyster.

Henderson also "has two prior 'strike' convictions for attempted murder and robbery out of Oregon," Eyster noted.

Deputy District Attorney Joshua Rosenfeld represented the state during the preliminary hearing. Henderson was represented by Deputy Public Defender Eric Rennert.

Henderson's next court date is April 16 at 1:30 pm in Department A. He remains in county jail on \$400,000 bail.

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

the budget process.

A preliminary budget, expected next month, will consider detailed work programs for each of the major goals, according to the report.

The city says approval of the work programs will occur with budget approval in June.

Those programs, according to the report, seek to "define and scope the adopted goal," and ensure understanding of the goal so money can be allocated and progress measured.

Goals are likely to extend beyond the one-year budget and two-year goal-setting period, but "the city can measure progress and success in accomplishing the goal by clearly defining the specific actions it plans to take over the next two years, and its resource allocation over the coming year via the budget process."

The city report identifies some information each of the work programs should contain: work completed, challenges in achieving the goal, stakeholders, assumptions, and an "action plan" detailing specific tasks and due dates over the next two years.

The work program looks at the financial and staff resources required to accomplish these tasks, too.

When council members Larry Stranske, Holly Madrigal, Ron Orenstein and Mayor Bruce Burton voted on goals at a special meeting last month, they favored post-bypass planning and water security equally.

Post-bypass

The lead-in to the post-bypass goal states the city will develop and implement a public improvement and economic development plan that anticipates changes from the bypass.

The city also hopes to continue relationships with the Main Street Merchants group and the Willits Chamber of Commerce.

Another part of the post-bypass goal is to work with the California Department of Transportation and landowners at

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

neglect. It is also higher than the state average as far as the number of children sent back to foster homes within a year of being reunited with their families.

De Vall was speaking as an advocate for children and member of the public at a presentation of the Children's Action Committee before the board of supervisors. The main focus of the CAC presentation was to highlight the work of the 13 county-based organizations working to heal families and protect children.

Those organizations include the Action Network in Gualala, the Action Network in Point Arena, Anderson Valley Family Resource Center, the ARC Family Resource Center in Ukiah, the Arbor Youth Resource Center in Ukiah, Laytonville Healthy Start, Nuestra Alianza de Willits, Nuestra Casa de Ukiah, Potter Valley Youth and Community Center, Round Valley Family Resource Center, Safe Passage of Fort Bragg, Ukiah Family Center, and Willits Integrated Services Center Family Center.

According to CASA of Mendocino County Executive Director Sheryn Hildebrand, in 2014 the 13 organizations provided services to 1,700 adults and 2,500 children in Mendocino County.

Summing up after presentations from representatives of all 13 organizations, Hildebrand asked supervisors for a sustainable source of funding so they could continue their work: \$50,000 each, which amounts to \$650,000.

Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse and told the groups their requests came at a good time, just as the supervisors are starting to bear down on creating the budget for the next fiscal year.

Needs of county's homeless to be assessed

Also on Tuesday morning, the board heard a report from Ford Street Project Executive Director Jacqueline Williams concerning the county's homeless population. Williams, who currently serves as chairwoman of Mendocino County's Health and Human Services Agency Advisory Board, told supervisors her board has decided to seek broader and deeper data on the county's homeless population.

To that end the advisory board is undertaking a homeless needs assessment project.

The intent of the project is to provide an in-depth analysis of the homeless situation in each of the five supervisory districts, and to note the strengths and weaknesses of each district in meeting the needs of the homeless population.

Williams and her board will be looking for input and participation from seven stakeholder groups, including healthcare providers, law enforcement, faith-based providers, homeless services providers, school and library personnel, the business community, and behavioral health providers.

Williams told the board: "We think our community needs an epiphany on the homelessness issue. We're hoping that if we can revitalize the players who are working on this, and put us all together asking questions and offering solutions, that epiphany will come."

According to the most recent available data, gathered on January 24, 2013, 1,344 people are living in Mendocino County without a home.

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Water

Water goals for the city include finishing its emergency water supply project, with an environmental assessment for full integration into the city water system, and a forecast of future water demand.

The goal covers supply, infrastructure and conservation. Identifying supply capacity and additional water sources, protecting the Little Lake aquifer, and projects like Main Street water-line replacement and relining the system's 3-million gallon tank are named as some of the goal's objectives.

Brown's Corner intersection

In one sentence the city stated what it intends to accomplish: to "continue working with Caltrans to design and implement improvements to the Brown's Corner intersection, including the possibility of a roundabout."

Other goals considered, but falling short of making the grade for major goals, included assessment of circulation needs, assessing the formation of a new parks and recreation special district, jobs, bike and pedestrian trails, an organizational assessment, bypass support, and planning for a well-rounded community.

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

koypepia, too.

There's a long list of "mezethes," small sampler dishes of food popular in Greek taverns and, of course, the iconic Greek dessert, sweet and sticky baklava made with phyllo pastry, honey syrup and nuts.

"I've always wanted to have a restaurant," Evelyn said. "It's a long-held dream, but it never would've happened without the support and hard work of my husband, Adrian." Adrian, a contractor who said he's looking forward to working indoors out of the rain and the hot sun for a change, has transformed the restaurant – the former Burrito Exquisito – into an elegant downtown presence, painted in grey, red and black. The family is working on the back yard, too, and plan to have it open – with 24 seats, a shade structure, and a water feature – by summertime. A mural is also planned, by Willits artist Diza Hope.

Nikos is named after Evelyn's father, Nick Philis, a Greek Cypriot native who worked as a chef in the Bay Area and Ukiah after moving to America. "You know the famous house dressing at The Broiler?" Evelyn asked. "That was his recipe." Philis and his wife, Alberta, also owned The Beacon restaurant in Ukiah for 10 years.

Evelyn used to stay in Cyprus each summer: Nikos is decorated with a framed traditional village costume in red and black she wore growing up, family pictures, and photos of some of her favorite places in Cyprus. "All my recipes are from my Aunt Chrisoulla," she said.

"Kopiaste," Evelyn says, "is a word we use in Cyprus that roughly means, 'come in and join us.' You hear it often walking around the streets of villages, people calling you into their shops, their taverns or even their homes."

Cyprus is known throughout Europe for its hospitality: "I hope people will want to come in here, not just because of the food, but because of the warm hospitality," Evelyn said. "But I also want them to feel they're getting good value for their money."

Adrian and Evelyn's three sons, Ethan (12), Declan (age 8 1/2) and Grant (age 6) are helping with the business, too. "I think in most Greek restaurants, it's typical for the children to be involved in the family business. Our boys are homeschooled, and this will be part of their learning experience." Ethan is doing deliveries to downtown merchants within walking distance: "I'm looking forward to it," he said. Students are more than welcome to visit Nikos for lunch or for an after-school treat.

And, finally, just how do you say "gyro" anyway? Almost like "yee-ro." "We've got a saying," Evelyn laughed: "Be a hero, eat a gyro!"

Nikos Gyro Shop, 42 South Main Street, is open Monday through Wednesday from 11 am to 4 pm, and Thursday and Friday from 11 am to 7 pm. Visit www.nikosgyroshop.com or "Nikos Gyro Shop" on Facebook for more information, or call 456-9293.

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Eggs, eggs & more eggs

The rain may have prevented a traditional Easter egg hunt, but it did not prevent the dying of 2,000 eggs by the Willits Lions Club. Cleverly, the group held a “drive-up” hunt at the Willits High School – instead of the usual “field hunt” – to get the eggs out to happy Easter celebrators.

However, only about 500 were given out by the end of the rainy event, leaving the Lions with hundreds of eggs to still find homes for. Luckily, Willits Daily Bread and the Willits Community Services and Food Bank were happy to receive the egg overflow. The Willits Lions Club meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6 pm at Loose Caboose. They welcome anyone interested in joining the service club to come to the meeting for more information.

Above: Willits Lions Club members Ruth Weston, Verd VanBezoooyen, Chuck Jones, and Glen Helton, with their Easter goodies.

Below: Glen Helton hands out bags of eggs at the “drive up” hunt.

Bottom: Eggs and more eggs prepared by the Lions Club.

Photos by Maureen Moore



OBITUARY | Shirley Ann Walsh

Shirley Ann Walsh

Shirley Ann Walsh of Willits passed away on April 2, 2015 at the age of 83. Born December 17, 1931, this former resident of Alameda had lived in our community for 45 years.

Most recently employed by Microphor, Shirley enjoyed being outdoors gardening, and delighted in her time with family, especially time spent with her grandkids. Shirley was also “Mom” to many Willits residents.

Shirley is survived by her children: Sharon (Mel) Brown, Sandra (Ron) Gendron, Randy (Bernadette) Robertson, and Star (Steven) White; step-children: Kathleen Graham, Debra (Jeff) Gouvea, and Lisa (Michael) Moulthrof; 14 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren; and sisters Jeanette Sarot and Ruth Pruit. Shirley will be greatly missed by Robert Haas, her life partner of many years.

Shirley was pre-deceased by her daughter Danna Elizabeth Walsh.

Funeral services will take place at 1 pm on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at the Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel, followed by graveside services at Little Lake Cemetery. A “potluck” Celebration of Life will be held at 3 pm (after the graveside services) at the Recreation Grove Park.

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



OBITUARY | Thomas Hoffman

Thomas Hoffman

Our heavenly father has summoned longtime Willits resident and retired schoolteacher Thomas “Tom” Raymond Hoffman, on March 31, to be eternally joined with his loving wife, Myra, who passed in 2001.

Born June 21, 1933 in St. Helena, Tom spent his youth growing up in San Francisco, excelling in both football and baseball. After high school, Tom was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1952 and spent several years traveling and pitching in several Minor-A league organizations from Boise, Idaho to Batavia, NY, to Jessup, Georgia. However, while playing ball, duty called, and Tom was drafted into the U.S. Army, fighting in the Korean War, thus ending his shot at playing in the majors. Stationed in Fort Ord, and Fort Bliss,

Texas, he rose to the rank of Cadre Sergeant in tank armament.

After fulfilling his commitment to country, Tom married his high school sweetheart Myra Marks in 1957. After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in business, he spent his early career working at Dean Witter. Although business looked like a promising career path, Tom decided to go back to college and chase his true passion – teaching. Earning his teaching credential from University of San Francisco, he made the bold decision to move his family of six from Pacifica to this remote little logging town up north.

Tom took to the area very quickly, becoming active in the Willits community, serving as a board member (and PA game announcer) for Willits Youth Football for five years, coaching Willits Police basketball and Little League baseball teams, serving as president of the Lions Club, and coaching the Willits High JV baseball team.

Known as “Mr. Hoffman” around Willits, he taught fourth grade to generations of Willits residents for 25 years, before retiring in 1993. Never one to sit around, Tom continued on as school traffic crossing guard for several years. He also did a short stint as co-racehorse owner with close friend Jim Donaldson, earning a first place finish with “Jammin Johnny,” before retiring permanently.

Tom is survived by his older brother Bob Hoffman and wife, Anne (San Diego); three sons: Douglas and wife, Ruth (Holly Springs, NC); Gary and wife, Mary, and grandchildren Thomas (Texas) and Katie (Fremont); and Greg (Willits) and daughter Anne-Marie Nava and husband, Fredy, and grandchildren Michael, David (Tennessee), Myra and Megan (Willits).

The family has requested contributions in Tom’s name be made to the Willits Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 2206, Willits, CA 95490.

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