

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013



Online & Print  
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
Donations Accepted Edition No. 151 Thursday, April 14, 2016

## Mental health facilities picture not yet in focus

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

Efforts to establish what most describe as a much-needed mental health facility in Mendocino County are advancing on several separate tracks.

The tracks are only partially coordinating with each other and are only partially coordinating with county government.

The efforts include Sheriff Tom Allman's half-cent sales tax ballot measure, which seeks to raise funds to build or retrofit a mental health facility that has yet to be fully described; a separate effort to open a crisis/residential facility;

Read the rest of **Mental Health** | Over on Page 10

## Fire prevention concerns all of us

By Carl Magann,  
fire chief, Little Lake Fire Department

Spring weather and the continuing warming trend is already upon us. As the weather warms, natural and intrusive vegetation will grow and mature, drying as we head into our summer.

Homeowners and property managers need to take action now. We urge home owners and property managers to remove this combustible fuel from around their homes and structures. Although there is little any of us can do about the weather, we all have the means to control the build-up of fuel and vegetation around our homes and businesses. Fire prevention is a powerful tool that all city

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

## FPPC to investigate MRC

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

The California Fair Political Practices Commission has started an investigation of allegations that Mendocino Redwood Company failed to report expenditures of \$52,768 to the Mendocino County Elections Office at the close of 2015.

A March 29 press release from the political group Citizens for Fire Safe Forests, announced the group had filed a formal complaint with the FPPC against MRC for failing to properly report political spending.

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



## Willits Main Street Corridor Planning Fair

By Adrienne Moore, city manager, City of Willits

The upcoming Willits Main Street Corridor Planning Fair will engage citizens in a planning process to design the future of Main Street, beginning Monday, April 18. In one week, community input will be translated into drawings by designers and engineers, vetted by local agencies, and presented back to the community for feedback. This intensive process, called a "charrette," is known for being highly engaging, creative and efficient at producing community-based plans that set the stage for pursuing funding for construction.

The Planning Fair takes place April 18-22 at the old Rexall building at the corner of Main and West Mendocino streets. The public is invited and encouraged to attend as many of the following events

Read the rest of **Main Street** | Over on Page 13

## No ballot measure

this fall to build new LLFD firehouse

Forrest Glycer  
Reporter  
forrest@willitsweekly.com

The Little Lake Fire District will not pursue placing a tax measure to fund a new firehouse on the November ballot, the district's board of directors decided Tuesday.

The decision marked a change of direction for the board, which had in the past few months strongly considered paying a political consultant firm out of Santa Rosa to help them draft a ballot measure.

An ad hoc committee of three directors – Tom Herman, Patrick Charlson and Little Lake Fire

Read the rest of **LLFD** | Over on Page 13



## Vacancy abatement:

Revit-ED committee members say the gloves need to come off

Damian Sebouhian  
Reporter  
damian@willitsweekly.com

The time for playing the incentive game with perpetual absentee commercial property owners is over and the time for punitive measures has arrived, members of the recently rejuvenated Willits Revitalization and Economic Development Committee agreed during a Tuesday meeting.

The committee focused primarily on the Van Hotel as the most egregious example of ongoing vacancy problems, with recent Revit-ED committee

Read the rest of **Abatement** | Over on Page 13

## Brooktrails sets sewer, water fees for year

Dan McKee  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Without opposition, the Brooktrails Township board of directors Tuesday unanimously passed ordinances establishing water availability and sewer standby charges for community services district residents for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The annual water availability charge remains the same as the existing rate: \$30 for each non-metered parcel of land within the district and \$5 for each metered parcel to which water is made

Read the rest of **Brooktrails** | Over on Page 13



Above, left: Jamie Johnstone gets ready to hit the ball during Friday's game. Above, right: Steven Duran aims for the incoming pitch. At right: Julia Johnstone at the bat.



## Varsity Wolverines play well, but lose in end to Timberwolves

The Willits Wolverines played the Fort Bragg Timberwolves on Willits turf on Friday, and despite a good effort and some points on the board, both the varsity boys and girls teams lost to their opponents.

The final score for the boys was 8 to 6 and the ladies, 15 to 4.

Both coaches noted that both teams had the same issue: The players did a great job throughout the game, but stumbled with mistakes in their last innings, resulting in the loss of both games.

Read the rest of **WHS** | Over on Page 9



Below, from left: Pitchers for the boys varsity game, Layne Wright, left, and Jackson Harris, center, and Cheyenne Walters, right, who pitched the girls varsity game.

Photos by Maureen Moore



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## Street Design 101

To the Editor:

By now many of you have heard about the upcoming planning process for the Main Street Corridor Enhancement Project which is being undertaken to develop a plan for improvements to Main Street. The planning process will seek input from the public through various public meetings during a week-long planning fair scheduled from April 18 to 22.

Local citizens are encouraged to interact with the design team to learn various concepts related to "Complete Streets" design standards and to provide ideas that will be used to shape the plan. This public input is critical to the process and the success of the overall project.

Many local citizens will recall previous discussions, meetings and other attempts over the years to develop plans for Main Street in Willits and may be thinking, "Here we go again," but the big differences in this current effort are that the Willits bypass and the relinquishment of the portion of Main Street from Highway 20 to the northern city Limit are becoming a reality. Caltrans is developing plans for the relinquished segment of Main Street and is welcoming ideas from the city prior to the completion of their plans, so this is a critical time to provide community direction regarding how we want our Main Street to look and function.

Over the past couple of years, the Main Street Merchants have gathered to discuss the future of Main Street. Central to these discussions is how to localize Main Street once Caltrans relinquishes the northern portion to the city. A different design and layout of Main Street will be possible once it's a city street, and it is hoped that many of these concepts can be considered by Caltrans for the southern portion of Main Street that will become an extension of Highway 20 after the bypass is completed.

Main Street Merchants have considered different traffic calming and design concepts that will slow traffic, improve safety, and ultimately, help make Main Street ours. Below are some of the terms and concepts that we have been exploring.

In developing a plan to create a friendlier, safer, more vibrant and more attractive street for our town, "Complete Streets" concepts will be discussed and designed where desirable and where practicable. Please keep in mind these are concepts that will be part of the planning discussions, but not all may be able to be included in the final design, given factors such as cost, right-of-way limitations, citizen preferences, drainage and other engineering considerations.

• A "Complete Street" is defined as a street that is planned, designed, operated and maintained to provide safe mobility for all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit vehicles, trucks and motorists. Complete streets may use a variety of physical features that are broadly described as "traffic calming" and often include curb

extensions, roundabouts, reduced lane widths, speed humps (also called "speed tables"), raised crosswalks, landscaping and paving treatments.

• Center Medians are raised barriers that separate traffic flows, control access and reduce vehicle turning movements, all of which can improve safety if properly designed and constructed.

• Crosswalks are areas specifically designated for pedestrian crossings. They are usually at intersections but, where there are long distances between intersections, there may also be "mid-block crosswalks." There are a number of design considerations that can be considered to improve pedestrian safety in crosswalks.

"Piano Key" or "Zebra" striping, coloring, textures, or raised crosswalks all enhance visibility of crosswalks, as do flashing warning lights. Pedestrian refuges or pedestrian islands are protected areas between traffic lanes that separate pedestrian crossings into segments and allow pedestrians to wait safely for gaps in traffic before continuing the crossing.

• Curb Extensions (also known as bulb-outs) are features that extend from the sidewalk into the pavement at an intersection or at a mid-block crossing that reduce street width both physically and visually, thereby shortening pedestrian crossing distance at crosswalks and potentially helping to reduce traffic speeds. They provide increased visibility for pedestrians and motorists, and move parked vehicles away from street corners, improving visibility.

Curb extensions can be hard surfaced or landscaped or a mix of both. Design considerations for curb extensions include: Should be used whenever possible in pedestrian-oriented areas; should also be used for transit stops, where full-time, on-street parking exists; should only be used where there is a permanent parking lane; should not encroach into the bike lane; street furniture or plants on the curb extension should not impede motorist or pedestrian sightlines; should be designed with curb radii that can accommodate both large and small vehicles

• Road Diet (also known as "Lane Diet") is a narrowing of traffic lanes to reduce speeds. Motorists will generally slow down on narrower streets.

• Roundabouts are circular islands located at the convergence of two or more roadways that take the place of traffic signals or stop signs. In a roundabout, traffic circulates around the island, rather than through the intersection. Roundabouts can improve traffic flow by eliminating the need to come to a complete stop when the intersection is clear and/or reducing the delay if other vehicles are in the intersection. By allowing many vehicles, particularly large trucks, to proceed without coming to a complete stop, they reduce air pollution caused by starting and stopping movements.

Roundabouts can also be used for traffic calming because, even though relatively free flow is maintained, the center island deflects traffic, requiring that motorists slow before entering the roundabout. An important safety feature of roundabouts is that they reduce the severity of accidents because vehicles approach each other at acute angles, not at right angles or head-on. Another popular benefit of roundabouts is for use as a gateway to a neighborhood

or a commercial area, often featuring landscaping or public art in the center island. Lastly, while roundabouts often require more space and are more costly to construct than conventional intersections, they eliminate the need for traffic lights that are expensive to construct and maintain.

• Street Furniture includes items such as benches, bike racks, lighting, planters, trash receptacles and banners which are physical features installed along sidewalks as part of the streetscape. These features can improve aesthetics and provide a sense of identity for a neighborhood or commercial area and enhance the functionality of the street for users other than motorists.

Street furniture can enhance safety and protection from vehicular traffic, as well as providing focal points for street activities. Street furnishings should be carefully placed so that they do not impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic or sight distance.

• Street Lighting refers to the illumination of a street's travel lanes or other portions of the street right-of-way such as sidewalk or other pedestrian areas. Street lighting enhances safety for all travelers, by illuminating hazards, curves and other travelers in the street. Lighting can also improve safety and security around buildings and in parking areas. Specially designed street lights can also enhance the visual attractiveness of an area.

Again this is an important opportunity to get involved and help to guide the eventual improvements to our Main Street corridor. For more information on the process and how you can participate, visit [www.willitsmainstreetplan.com](http://www.willitsmainstreetplan.com) or contact City Hall at 459-4601.

**Alan Falleri, for Main Street Merchants, Willits**

*Editor's note: Before retiring, Alan Falleri was chief planner for Mendocino County for 24 years and the community development director for the City of Willits for 12 years.*

## Bans don't work

To the Editor:

In reference to the city council's meeting on March 21 in which they discussed a proposed ban on growing marijuana within city limits, I'm delighted they chose not to make a decision at this time.

Imagine if Prohibition were back in effect. Would our citizens who drink wine with dinner stop doing so? Of course not. A ban on alcohol such as existed in the early 1900s did not stop the use of alcohol. Banning alcohol during Prohibition simply drove sales underground and created a very profitable, dark business for gangsters and corrupt law enforcement officers. Bans don't work.

A ban on growing pot in town will make criminals out of our citizens. Don't we already have laws or guidelines for growing pot in town? If the laws don't work or are not being enforced, can't we enforce the existing laws or create new guidelines that work for everyone?

The City of Willits does not know how the freeway bypass, opening later this year, will affect the businesses in town. For me, it seems shortsighted to ban marijuana growing in town at the same time that our businesses may be adversely affected by less income from people who are bypassing our town. Many of our businesses are supported by those who grow marijuana. Surely the city council members are aware of this?

At a time when it is likely that the state of California will legalize marijuana growing and recreational use, banning it from the city seems backward. Couldn't we use tax monies from this "new" industry? We could even have a marijuana dispensary in town that could assist people with buying not only pot for recreational use but also for medicinal purposes.

Personally, I see a thriving Willits in the future with our black market pot culture coming out into the light. Prices will diminish; home invasions will end; we'll clean the environment; and our city coffers will grow with new tax income. For me, it's a win-win!

**April Tweddell, Willits**

## At what price?

To the Editor:

Looks like the problem of what happens after the bypass has been solved. Just curious as to what price to our community? We were looking for a way to lure tourists here. Guess we can just advertise ourselves as the place to come buy your marijuana. We non-users will have to hope that our smelling abilities will be affected by bad colds, or on nice evenings find ourselves banned inside our homes. I guess this is similar to what is happening to free speech in this country, you can say what you want, as long as you agree with me....

What element of outsiders will be coming here? These pharmacies, I guess you call them, will be holding large amounts of money. Is our present law enforcement ready for the possible additional crime? Oh, that's right, with all these funds coming in, we can afford a larger police presence.

One can only hope if one decides that they don't want to live next door, or within smelling distance, they will be able to find a buyer for their home.

Looks like one more time it is easier to just give in then to stick to your principles. All I hear is, if we don't get our way we will sue you. That seems to be the way these days if someone doesn't get what they want, right or wrong, we will just take you to court. Problem is nine times out of 10, it is cheaper to give in than to fight them.

It is a shame this is the only way people seem to think we will bring dollars into our community. Years ago we were a viable and productive place to live. Then we were told that trees did not grow back and that spotted owls were more important than having people working. Now, these same trees that weren't supposed to grow back have, thicker than ever and without the proper care and ingress, they are just burning and with that causing bigger problems with the environment some are so worried about, by throwing more carcinogens into the atmosphere which these same people state that our driving cars fueled by fossil fuels is causing. I am confused, why is one, forest fires, not a problem, but cars are???

I digress. My issue, of which I have been told I should try smoking marijuana as I might like it, is that we will lose our wonderful little town that has meant a lot to me for a lot of years.

**Carlin M. Horgex, Willits**

*Editor's note: Willits Weekly mistakenly ran the wrong version of a letter to the editor by Carlin Horgex in the April 7, 2016 edition, so we are printing the correct version in this week's paper.*



At left: The crowd in the Mendocino County Museum's "tall gallery" for this weekend's opening.

Above: Artist Pete Ethan Castro's "Dance Regalia" figure, with a coyote mask.

# Pete Ethan Castro

## Sunday reception for contemporary Native American artist

There could be no better fit for the Mendocino County Museum's first contemporary Native American Art exhibit than the diverse and profound works of local artist, Pete Ethan Castro.

"Reservations Not Required - Returning Home" is currently on display in the "tall gallery" section of the museum, and will be running through July. The opening took place Saturday afternoon to a swelling, diverse crowd of locals as well as people from Lake County and Round Valley.

Castro, who is of Wailaki heritage, has shown all over California, including at the Oakland Museum of California, and he currently has a piece up titled "School Daze - Outside the Box" at Sacramento's California Museum.



Clockwise from top left:

Castro speaks with his partner and life-long friend, Laura Hamburg.

Jed and Carlin Diamond enjoy a discussion with the artist.

Pete Ethan Castro poses with his family at the reception.

Castro's abstract painting, "Black Oak."

A young couple in front of Castro's "Panic," mixed media on canvas.

A print of Castro's "School Daze - Outside the Box," acrylic on cradled panel board.

Photos by Mathew Caine



**The Rules: LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto: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**

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

**Volume 3, Number 151**  
P.O. Box 1698  
Willits, CA 95490  
[willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)  
[www.willitsweekly.com](http://www.willitsweekly.com)  
707-459-2633; 707-972-7047

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / [jennifer@willitsweekly.com](mailto:jennifer@willitsweekly.com) / 707-459-2633  
Maureen Moore, art director and photographer / [maureen@willitsweekly.com](mailto:maureen@willitsweekly.com) / 707-972-7047  
Mike A'Dair, reporter / [mike@willitsweekly.com](mailto:mike@willitsweekly.com)  
Jenny Senter, features writer / [jenny@willitsweekly.com](mailto:jenny@willitsweekly.com)  
Damian Sebouhian, reporter / [damian@willitsweekly.com](mailto:damian@willitsweekly.com)  
Forrest Glycer, reporter / [forrest@willitsweekly.com](mailto:forrest@willitsweekly.com)  
Rachel Belvin, assistant publisher and advertising / [rachel@willitsweekly.com](mailto:rachel@willitsweekly.com) / 707-367-9319  
Justin Stephens, webmaster

For advertising inquiries, please call 707-459-2633 or 707-972-7047 or email [advertising@willitsweekly.com](mailto:advertising@willitsweekly.com)

**Willits Weekly**

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

In the mail:  6 Months - \$40  1 year - \$75  Additional donation included \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Home delivery:  6 Months - \$30  1 year - \$50 (Home Delivery only available in Willits, Brooktrails & local areas) (call for details)

Please make checks payable to Willits Weekly | P.O. Box 1698 in Willits, CA 95490

Locally Owned | Independent | Editions Every Thursday | Online & In Print

**QUESTIONS: 707-459-2633 | 707-972-7047**

Web: [www.willitsweekly.com](http://www.willitsweekly.com) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/willitsweekly](https://www.facebook.com/willitsweekly) Email: [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

**JOHN FORD RANCH**

707.459.5193

RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

**Room To Bloom Preschool**

Where the love of learning grows

239 South Main Street - Willits

Morning & School Day Programs  
8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Art • Circle Time • American Sign Language  
Outside Play • Snacks • Group Activities  
Inquiry Based Learning • Spanish • Infant Care

Call Today to Enroll Your Child!

RoomToBloomPreschool.com 707-456-9743  
Preschool #233008715 & Infant #233008719

**Willits Best POWER & HARDWARE**

HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT

Lawn & Garden Equipment • Generators  
Sales, Parts & Service • Pick-up & Delivery

1600 S. Main St. Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420  
Willits, CA 95490 Service: 707 459-0596  
[willitspower@gmail.com](mailto:willitspower@gmail.com) Fax: 707 459-6369

**NOYO THEATRE** Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits  
707-459-NOYO (6696)  
[www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com)

Starts Friday, April 22:  
**THE HUNTSMAN**

**THE JUNGLE BOOK in 3D**

(PG) 1 hr 45 mins  
Fri: 5:30 & 8:00pm  
Sat/Sun: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm  
Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:00pm

**THE JUNGLE BOOK in 2D**

(PG) 1 hr 45 mins  
Fri: 3:45 & 6:00pm  
Sat/Sun: 1:30, 3:45 & 6:00pm  
Mon-Thurs: 5:00pm

**MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2**

(PG-13) 1 hr 34 mins  
Fri-Sun: 8:30pm  
Mon-Thurs: 7:30pm

**THE BOSS**

(R) 1 hr 39 mins  
Fri: 3:30, 5:45 & 8:15pm  
Sat/Sun: 1:15, 3:30, 5:45 & 8:15pm  
Mon-Thurs: 4:45 & 7:15pm

**Nikos Gyro Shop**

Unique Food For Unique Events  
Not Just Gyros | Expanded Food Options | Competitive Catering Pricing

Village Salad  
Lemon Chicken  
Hot Soup  
Traditional Gyros  
Baklava & Coffee  
Grilled Cheese  
Haloumi Sandwich  
Falafel & more!

707-456-9293 HOURS: M-W: 11-4 & TH-F: 11-7 42 S. Main Street

**BUD GARMAN CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC.**

707-459-5859

Environmental Restoration - Ponds  
Septic & Water Systems - Site Development  
Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery

24900 N. HWY 101 IN WILLITS [GARMANCONST@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GARMANCONST@GMAIL.COM)



**Thursday, April 14**

**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, April 23, 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. Info and schedule, call the Recycling Hotline, 468-9704, or visit [www.mendoRecycle.org](http://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.mchcinc.org](http://www.mchcinc.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



**COLUMN | At the Movies**



**"The Boss"**  
Daniel Essman  
Columnist

**The Story:** Melissa McCarthy is the super-wealthy, flamboyant, selfish (but ultimately lovable) "Boss" to Kristen Bell's competent, but lonely, single mother Girl Friday. McCarthy loses her wealth and is forced to move in with her former employee. Hilarity of various kinds ensues. Everyone is happy at the end.

**My Thoughts:** The movie is vulgar and funny. Some bits worked; some didn't. Film critics who get paid for their opinions did not like the movie.... Well, good for them. For you many moviegoers who love Melissa McCarthy and her bawdy humor, this movie is catnip for kittens; you will not be disappointed in the least. As for me, I laughed.

**Parents:** Slapstick humor, adultish sex jokes, lesbian jokes; in sum, humor that is not child-appropriate.

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

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](http://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 KZXY Radio. Saturday, April 16, 1 pm, at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. 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, may still be available in Willits at J.D. Redhouse; tickets are sold out online. Some standing room only tickets might be available at the door.

**Free Monologue-Writing Workshops:** for anyone interested in performing a personal monologue at Willits Community Theatre later this summer, three free monologue-writing workshops will be held at the Willits Library on Saturday, April 16, Saturday, May 21 and Saturday, June 18, from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. The workshops are intended as preparation for anyone hoping to participate in the "Speakeasy: An Evening of Original Monologues" at WCT on July 23 and 24. Organizer Annie Samson says she will conduct the workshops to help potential participants develop their original monologues of no more than five minutes in length. For more information on the workshops and the event, contact Samson at 707-459-9014 or email: [joker@instawave.net](mailto:joker@instawave.net).

**"Blithe Spirit":** Noel Coward's comedic gem; 8 pm; see Friday, April 15 listing for details.

**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! Last scheduled audition: Saturday, April 16, 9 am to 12 pm, at Willits United Methodist Church at School and Pine Streets in Willits. Info: Kevin at 456-9429.

**WHS Softball**

**Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**

This Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the Willits High School softball team is set for Saturday, April 30, from 5 to 7 pm at the Willits High School cafeteria. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$6 for under 6.

**Challenger Soccer Club**

Challenger Soccer Club, a new soccer club for kids in the 5th through 8th grades, will meet every Friday at Baechtel Grove Middle School, 1150 Magnolia Street. Registration for spring and summer continues. For more details, contact Saprina Rodriguez at 354-2539.



**TUESDAY, MAY 3**  
5:30-6:30 P.M.

**UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA BEHAVIOR**

By Alexis Glidewell, L.C.S.W.

Learn how to modify troublesome dementia-related behavior Alexis Glidewell is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has been working with older adults and families affected by neurocognitive disorders for over twenty years. Her career in this field started as an adult day program, where she provided direct care to, and helped structure individualized care plans for people with various types of dementia.

Call 459-9696 for more information Email: [alexis@willitsdementia.com](mailto:alexis@willitsdementia.com) Visit [www.willitsdementia.org](http://www.willitsdementia.org) or speaker series request

**COMMON CAUSES OF DEMENTIA SYMPTOMS**

**WHAT DEMENTIA IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT**

**WAYS TO COMMUNICATE AND REMAIN "CONNECTED" WITH LOVED ONES AFFECTED WITH DEMENTIA**

**COMMON TRIGGERS FOR DEMENTIA PATIENTS**

**WILLITS SENIOR CENTER**  
1508 Baechtel Road  
Free to the public.  
Donations appreciated.  
Refreshments will be served.

**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 trip 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](mailto:willitssobergrad@gmail.com).

**KZXY Presents AMY GOODMAN**  
Host of Democracy Now!  
At Willits Center for The Arts

**SATURDAY**  
April 16 • 1:00pm

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

**Sunday, April 17**

**Auditions for 'Beside Yourself':** Willits Community Theatre will hold auditions for "Beside Yourself," a comedy-farce, to be directed by Kevin Moore, a theater veteran with more than 35 years' experience both on stage and as a technical director. Auditions are set for Sunday, April 17 from 1 to 4 pm and Monday April 18 from 6:30 to 9 pm, with call backs on Tuesday April 19 as needed. Call is for two experienced male and two female actors, each playing a set of identical twins with different personalities. Actors should be able to convincingly play mid-30s to mid-50s+. Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday, April 19 at 7 pm.

Scripts are available at the Willits Library, or by emailing [michaeladair69@yahoo.com](mailto:michaeladair69@yahoo.com). For more information about the show, call Kevin Moore at 459-0939.

**Buddhist Discussion Meeting:** The public is invited to a Soka Gakkai Buddhist discussion meeting Sunday, April 17 at 1 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Soka Gakkai is the "Society for the Creation of Value based on the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin, spreading a culture of peace from one person to another throughout the world."

**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



**Rotary Club Surf & Turf Dinner - Saturday, May 7**

The Willits Rotary Club is putting on an "Evening Before Mother's Day" dinner at the Willits Community Center on Saturday, May 7, to raise funds for scholarships for Willits-area graduating high school seniors. This "evening to remember" dinner is being catered by Chef Adam Celaya of Adam's Restaurant, with filet mignon and jumbo prawns with chimichurri sauce as the entrees, accompanied by pan-seared potato cakes, grilled asparagus, and a locally sourced arugula salad. Dinner also features hors d'oeuvres, antipasti, a cheese board with local cheeses, fine local wines and beer, and – for dessert – a chocolate decadence cake with a berry compote.

This dinner is to make up for the annual – held for at least 20 years – Rotarian crab sale and crab feed which was cancelled this year, due to the lack of local crab, in order to ensure this year's seniors have the opportunity to be awarded \$1,000 scholarships. The community center will be elegantly draped and decorated in the WHS Wolverine colors of green and gold, and members of the WHS Interact Club will dress up in black and white to serve dinner. The Basics will provide music, and there will be live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$100 each – a limited number will be available – and advance reservations can be made for tables for eight.

Tickets can be purchased at Willits Furniture Center, 775 Central Avenue (459-4224) and at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street (459-1214). If you would like to be an event sponsor or purchase tickets or if you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please

**The New Orleans Suspects:** Fundraiser for Grange Farm School at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Also, The Wild Mendohoulias. Doors/Gumbo Cookoff Dinner by Zocalo Collective at 6 pm. Music 7 to 11 pm. \$20; children under 12, \$2. Tickets available at J.D. Redhouse. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.



**Monday, April 18**

**Willits Main Street Corridor Planning Fair:** "Help Make Main Street Ours!" can train you and furnish you with all the tools you'll need. 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 [lw@willitsonline.com](mailto:lw@willitsonline.com). We have learners patiently waiting for a tutor."

**The Main Street Corridor Planning Fair:** The Main Street Corridor Planning Fair, April 18 through 22, will gather community input for the Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan, which 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. Info: Visit [mainstreetplan.com](http://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.

**Auditions for 'Beside Yourself':** Willits Community Theatre will hold a second audition for "Beside Yourself," a comedy-farce, to be directed by Kevin Moore, Monday April 18 from 6:30 to 9 pm. See Sunday, April 17 listing for more details.

**Dances of Universal Peace:** "Come celebrate our precious Earth through sacred dance & song drawn from the world's mystical traditions. Accompanied by live music, the dances are heartfelt and connect us to ourselves and each other." Monday, April 18, 7 to 9 pm, Room 4 at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: Lynn Davis, 459-9085.

**Tuesday, April 19**

**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: "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" and "The Boss." For showtimes: [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com). 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

**Wednesday, April 20**

**Literacy Tutors Needed:** "If you can read, then you can teach someone else to read, write and speak English. Literacy Volunteers of Willits



**Soroptimist Night at 'Blithe Spirit'**  
Willits Soroptimist Club is sponsoring a special evening performance of "Blithe Spirit, at the Willits Community Theatre, on Thursday, April 21. "This production, a comedy written by Noel Coward and directed by Bill Barksdale, promises to be a fun and enjoyable evening. Tickets are \$15, including snacks and a wine reception starting at 6:15 pm, prior to the play at 7 pm. The proceeds from our sponsorship will provide much-needed funds to support local high school scholarships as well as monetary awards to deserving women and girls." For tickets, call Marilyn Harden at 459-5649.

**Now and Then Films:** "Watermark immerses the

**Chef Adam Celaya and Rotarians Jolene Carrillo, Ann Alumbaugh and Mike Smith gamely pose with some of Carrillo's cows to help promote the "surf & turf" dinner.**

Photo by Jennifer Poole

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

**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  
118 E. Commercial St. • Willits, California

\$25 Per Ticket, \$5 Paddle  
\*All In\* Paddles available at the door

Items May Be Purchased at The Home Doctor  
2100 Highway 101  
Dinner @ 459-2152 or Willits @ 972-2164

**MENDOCINO COLLEGE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT & HORTICULTURE CLUB'S**

**SPRING PLANT SALE**

**FRIDAY APRIL 29**  
9 AM - 5 PM

**SATURDAY APRIL 30**  
9 AM - 3 PM

**FEATURING**  
Heirloom Vegetables  
California Natives  
Shrubs & Berries  
Drought Tolerant & Hard to Find Plants

Mendocino College  
Department of Agriculture  
1000 Highway 101  
Eureka, CA 95542

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." 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.

**Shanachie Pub:** Harley Donley, solo show of mostly world folk and classical by "lead guitarist in his former band Shotgun Jesus." 8 pm. No cover. Visit <https://www.reverbnation.com/rootrot>. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Friday, April 22**

**Willits Main Street Corridor Planning Fair:** The Main Street Corridor Planning Fair, April 18 through 22, will gather community input for the Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan, which 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. Info: Visit [mainstreetplan.com](http://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. Friday, April 22: Community Bike Ride, 5 to 6:30 pm, led by Walk and Bike Mendocino; and presentation of preliminary Main Street Designs, 5:30 to 7 pm: Free refreshments by Scoops Catering.

**"Blithe Spirit":** Noel Coward's comedic gem; 8 pm; see Friday, April 15 listing for details.

**Saturday, April 23**

**"Blithe Spirit":** Noel Coward's comedic gem; 8 pm; see Friday, April 15 listing for details.

**Shanachie Pub: Them Travelin' Birds.** 8 pm. No cover. Visit <http://themtravelinbirds.com>. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Sunday, April 24**

**Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast:** every fourth Sunday, this month Sunday, April 24, from 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast! With live music. \$8 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around." Choose Sourdough Wholegrain or Gluten Free Pancakes or Hank's Famous Butter Milk Pancakes, with Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs made to order with real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. Sides of organic fruit in season for \$2-\$3 (this week apple/pear sauce with optional yogurt) and Amish maple syrup \$1 extra. \$8; \$7 seniors; \$5 children under 10.

**"Blithe Spirit":** Noel Coward's comedic gem; 2 pm matinee; see Friday, April 15 listing for details.

**May 7th & 8th "I got bucked"**

**Govelo FFA Field Day 2016**

**SATURDAY**  
Parade 10:00 am  
Cymkhana 1:00 pm

**SUNDAY**  
Junior Rodeo 1:00 pm

**ADMISSION**  
\$4 pre sale  
\$5 at gate

**Chicken BBQ INDIAN TACOS**

**New Orleans Suspects**

**Saturday, April 16**  
This benefit for the Grange Farm School headlines the New Orleans Suspects, a touring band bringing together some of the best, most highly respected players in New Orleans including: Reggie Scanlan on bass (The Radiators, Professor Longhair Band); "Mean" Willie Green on drums (Neville Bros.); Jeff Watkins on saxophone (James Brown Band, Joss Stone Band); Jake Eckert on guitar/vocals (Dirty Dozen Brass Band); and CR Gruver on keyboards and vocals (Polytoxic, Outformation). The crowd at the Little Lake Grange, says Cosmic Pickle Productions promoter Da Grand Pooba, "is going to get a full night of thumping, bumping R&B New Orleans hoodoo music" from a band that sells out Bay Area venues whenever they're here in California. Visit [www.neworleansuspects.com](http://www.neworleansuspects.com).  
Opening will be the Wild Mendohoulias with Marjo Wilson, who'll be playing music "in the spirit of what the New Orleans Suspects are doing." Doors open/dinner starts at 6 pm; music from 7 to 11 pm; \$20; children under 12, \$2. Tickets online at Eventbrite, or at J.D. Redhouse.

No-host dinner from the Zocalo Collective will be a "Gumbo Cookout," featuring Jamaican BBQ chicken, black-eyed peas, Southern-style deviled eggs, dirty rice, cornbread biscuits and spring slaw.

**Ongoing Events**

**Willits Winter Farmers Market:** from 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Winter produce, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Music on April 14: TBA/misc; music on April 21: Richard Jeske, guitar, accompanied by Loren Herz-O'Brien on the flute.

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

**Ridgewood Ranch Spring Nature Walks:** Docent-led walks on Saturdays at Ridgewood "Seabiscuit" Ranch, 16200 North Highway 101, 5.5 miles south of Willits. 10 am (rain cancels). Free to the public. Meet at the Ridgewood Ranch Oak Woodlands Conservation Trailhead (conservancy shed). Follow directions to the Golden Rule RV Park for ranch access. Visit [www.seabiscuitheritage.org/conservancy.html](http://www.seabiscuitheritage.org/conservancy.html) for info or call 707-391-3872.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Kids on the Run:** club for kids kindergarten through 12th grade, sponsored by the Sheriff's Activity League. Started March 12, Saturdays at 10 am at the ball fields between the Dog Park and the Mendocino County Museum. Cost for 2016: \$10, includes a T-shirt and free race entries. Questions? Contact: Michelle Kuskievicz at 262-608-6262 or Gina Henbury at 707-485-1794.

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

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

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

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



# Herbs for Everyone

Workshop will teach kitchen medicine and first aid

In a warm and cozy living room under the shade of redwoods in Willits, a group of Mendocino County herbalists gathered to talk about and plan their workshop, "Herbal Medicine Making for Everyone: Kitchen Medicine and First Aid."

Donna d'Terra, director of Motherland Botanical Sanctuary and Herb School, and Wendy Reed, founder of The Caretaker's Garden in Boonville and director of the California Healing Institute, initiated an Herbal Teacher Training through the winter. They wanted to provide a way for interested herbalists to learn or hone their teaching skills. The "Herbal Medicine Making for Everyone" workshop is the culmination and graduation project of the teaching class. All of the eight women teaching a half-hour class have been herbalists in various parts of Mendocino County with businesses of their own.

Each woman will teach a class pertaining to her specialty

**Ree Slocum**  
Features Writer

in herbal foods and healing modalities on Saturday, April 30 from 10 to 2:30 pm. The eight workshops and teachers are: "Let's Ferment" by Tabby Korhummel; "Fire Cider" by Georgia Lane; "Green Soup" by Carolyn Peterson; "Nourishing the Nervous System" by Michelle Cummins; "Ecological Wild Harvesting" by Hannah Germstad; "Making a Simple First Aid Salve" by Kimberly Vadelnieks; "Body Care as Super Food for Skin" by Yolanda Pritam Hari; and "Presto Pesto" by Rosemary Georgeson.

Spring! What a perfect time to learn how to make healing medicines and foods with plants found in Mendocino County's wilds, gardens, and the market. Teas and lunch are included in the workshop, with some tastings of foods made in the classes.

"Herbal Medicine Making for Everyone: Kitchen Medicine and First Aid" will take place Saturday, April 30 from 10 am to 3:30 pm in Room 4 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Sliding scale \$20 to \$40. For more information about the workshop, contact Donna d'Terra at 459-5030.



At top, left: Herbalists gather to discuss the details of the upcoming workshop. At top, right: A spring tonic tea, being served at the gathering.

At left, top: Michelle Cummins shares the bright smell of an herb with Rosemary Georgeson.

At right: Hannah Germstad picks pepperwood tree leaves to dry.

Above: Herbalists and teachers, including, front row, from left: Hannah Germstad, Donna d'Terra and Wendy Reed; back row, from left: Michelle Cummins, Kimberly Vadelnieks, Rosemary Georgeson, and Yolanda Pritam Hari.

Redwood Meadows is an active independent senior community featuring 101 apartment homes, primarily a mix of one and two bedroom apartments which are single story 4-plex cottage-type set amongst seven acres of park like landscaping.

We are a smoke-free and pet friendly community. We boast a community center where activities are held like card games, Bingo, birthdays and socials. We also have a barbecue area for residents to get together for social functions.

Redwood Meadows is conveniently located adjacent to the William F. Harrah Senior Center with a thrift store, cafeteria and taxi service, and Howard Memorial Hospital is just blocks away.



**REDWOOD MEADOWS**  
Senior Apartment Community

1475 BAECHEL ROAD  
WILLITS, CA 95490  
707-459-1616  
MON-FRI 10:00-4:00



Ca. Lic # 927007 Serving areas of Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties W.C. & G.L. insured

## B.A.S. ROOFING, Inc

Roofing applications available to fit any roofing need  
Residential & Commercial

Online: [www.basroofing.com](http://www.basroofing.com)  
Office: (707) 462-4514  
Mobile: (707) 367-3786  
Sonoma: (707) 541-6934  
Email: [basroofing@live.com](mailto:basroofing@live.com)

212 J.D. REDHOUSE & CO. MERCANTILE

NEW BRANDS | MEN & WOMEN | #MORETHANA FEEDSTORE

Rock Revival UPPER PLAYGROUND carhartt  
MENDO Miss Me HARD ITALY  
Free People Wrangler

JD REDHOUSE 212 SOUTH MAIN STREET | DOWNTOWN WILLITS

COLDWELL BANKER MENDO REALTY INC. PRESENTS

## Homes For Dogs Project

We are at it Again! Our Realtors...Helping You Find a Home, and Helping Shelter Dogs Find a Family

*Meet Bill*

Realtor® Bill Barksdale has a long history of loving dogs, cats and all animals since his first Collie companion at age 4. Bill has helped arrange pet adoption events at the Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty parking lot & office for a number of years and looks forward to bringing the love of these deserving companions to many more homes. "I invite you to consider adopting a shelter animal to share your love," Bill asks.

*Meet Lois*

Lois is a sweet five year old black lab that was abandoned along with her dog companion. Her dog friend has been adopted and now she's waiting for her new home. She would make a great family pet—she is good with most dogs (selective with females) and loves people in general! Her gentle calm nature and playful spirit is typical lab all the way! She'd love to meet you and your family!!!!

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
MENDO REALTY, INC.

To adopt, or learn more information about "Phyllis", or other animals, please contact The Humane Society of Mendocino County  
**707.485.0123**

The Humane Society  
for Inland Mendocino County



## Willits FFA members honored at Spring Regional Meeting

Willits High School seniors and active Future Farmers of America Willits Chapter members Sierra Skinner, 18, and Elizabeth Rountree, 17, received high honors on Saturday, April 2 during FFA's Spring Regional Meeting at Santa Rosa High School in Santa Rosa.

"The state degree is awarded by the State FFA Association," explained FFA advisor and WHS teacher Kelley Case. "For a student to qualify

for their state degree, they must be an active member in the FFA for at least 24 months; previously received their green hand and chapter degrees; earned and invested \$1,000 in an agriculturally related project, or worked 300 hours; given a six-minute speech; served as an officer or as a committee chairman, or actively participated on a committee; demonstrated parliamentary procedure; have a satisfactory scholastic record; participated in chapter activities and activities above the chapter level; and have at least 25 hours of community service. The students start record books as freshmen enrolled in an ag class, and update them on a regular basis. They can receive their state degree their junior year if they have all the requirements."

Another FFA member, WHS junior Caitlyn Forrester, 17, was elected as a regional officer. Forrester had to fill out an application and go through an interview process before being slated.

"Once she was slated, she had to give a speech on why she should be elected to represent the Mendo-

Above: State FFA degree recipients Sierra Skinner and Elizabeth Rountree stand with North Coast Region Mendo-Lake Vice President Caitlyn Forrester and Willits High School Principal Robert Chavez, who came to show his support to the girls at the awards ceremony.

Below: Regional officer Caitlyn Forrester, center, and state degree recipients Sierra Skinner, left, and Elizabeth Rountree, right.



Photos by Kelley Case

## The rest of Baseball From Page 5

There are four divisions of teams, T-Ball (ages 4 to 5), Machine Pitch (ages 6 to 8), Minors (ages 9 to 10) and Majors (ages 11 to 12). This year, around 275 kids from Willits and Laytonville are signed up to play.

In T-Ball, teams include Room to Bloom Bats, Brown's Corner Blue Wahoos, O'Kelley's Hardwood Flooring & Construction Dragons, Nor Crawl Mets, El Mexicano Owlz and Geiger's Long Valley Market Tin Caps. In Machine Pitch, teams include Weather Top Nursery Muck Dogs, Little Lake Auto Parts River Cats, Dr. Rued Dentistry Nuts and S&S Transmission and Spas Thunder. In Minors, teams include J.D. Redhouse Angels, Laytonville Chevron Athletics, Les Schwab Braves, Mobile Equine Veterinary Giants, Potter's Construction Marlins and Sparetime Supply Pirates. In Majors, teams include the Willits Power and Hardware A's, NOR CAL Redi-Mix Diamondbacks, Old Mission Pizza Giants, Garman Construction Padres and Red Fox Yankees.

The ceremonies this year will also feature the 1st annual Barbecue and Raffle, and tickets are available to purchase to support the league. Presale tickets are \$12 each, and tickets will be \$15 each the day of the event. The meal will include BBQ chicken, beans,

salad and bread and will be served from 2 to 4 pm at the fields.

To purchase advance tickets, contact Roger Patereau at 972-4120.

Though many divisions are full, there are still some openings for kids interested in playing in the Majors, which are usually kids 11 to 12, but this year, some 10 year olds are also on the rosters. Those interested can find paperwork on the team's website: <http://wrlf.sply.com>, or can contact any of the officials of the league for more information. Willits Redwood Little League 2016 board members include Clint and Kim Jewell, Brad Lebert, Melissa Coughlin, Craig Dudley, Roger Patereau, Casey White and Sergio Avila.

To keep up with Willits Redwood Little League, "like" the league's Facebook page. Notices for tryouts next year will again be posted there, as well as sent out to schools.

All of the games are home games, taking place at the fields located on East Commercial Street. A complete calendar is available online at <http://wrlf.sply.com>, including 10 games set for opening day. Most Saturdays are filled with games, with start times ranging from 9 am through 5:30 pm.



## The rest of WHS From Page 1

Willits High School varsity coach Rick Yadon noted several of the players did help the boys' team score points, including Layne Wright, Kyle Martinez, Justin Thom and Nick Arrington. Wright was able to score a triple and a double, and the other three "hit well," the coach said.

The Lady Wolverines coach, Meranda Powers, said pitcher and WHS junior Cheyenne Walters "pitched seven innings and had four strike-outs. She also only allowed three hits at the plate."

As there is no junior varsity girls team, all ages play together on one team. However, that includes only one freshman and one senior girl, with most of the team made up of juniors, Powers noted.

"The girls really just need to start working together as a team," explained Powers. "We had some errors in communication, and everyone was shocked at how crazy it got in the last inning. We kept it tied throughout the game, but just lost defense in the end."

Again, the same was true with the boys' team: Yadon said his players will be working on defensive drills which will hopefully help them avoid making the little mistakes that ended up

## The rest of Castro From Page 3

weren't just assimilated. Some were outright kidnapped and forced into slavery.

"Pete's aunt Bev [age 83, who lives in Willits] told me a story of how the family would tattoo their children, so if they were kidnapped, they could find them later," Hamburg said.

For Pete Castro, born in Ukiah in 1961, those hurtful days of the past "are very fresh, as far as I'm concerned."

Nevertheless, "the underlying message behind the art," Castro told the crowd in his introduction to the show, "is to explain a lifestyle and to express some of my own healing processes."

Not all Castro's work is political in nature. There are several different animal portraits and humorous, tongue-in-cheek social commentary pieces, as well as aesthetically appealing abstract paintings.

Included with the art pieces are some of Castro's own writings: an autobiography, his experiences as a native dancer, and a short piece on Indian schools.

Castro credits the women in his life for nurturing him and raising him right.

"In the foreground were the women of my family: my mother, Juanita Carol Clark, my grandma Caroline Clark, my great-grandmother Mary L Clark, and various aunts in Round Valley. I was passed around a lot as a child."

He describes his minimalistic

childhood home in idyllic fashion:

"So it was there at the Big House, a home with no plumbing or electricity, a home lit by lantern light, with the woodstove for cooking and warmth — which was the center of our Covelo family life. Our chores included hauling in buckets of water from outside for bathing and cooking, plucking feathers from the quail, grouse and chickens, and learning how to hunt for food and how to fish for steelhead and salmon straight out of the mountain creeks."

Castro was baptized Catholic in Ukiah in the early 1970s and even served as an altar boy for a spell at the historic St. Mary's Church. He soon abandoned his altar boy days, once he was introduced to more indigenous ways like dance, living in the wilderness, and hunting.

According to Castro: "Nature taught me to be mindful and respect the elements. My elders taught me how to live and work with nature and helped me to build my confidence. From there, I began to listen to what nature had to say. The more I listen, the more it teaches me."

"And then, I began to listen to myself."

The Mendocino County Museum 400 East Commercial Street, is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Visit <http://www.mendocinomuseum.org> or call 459-2736. Admission is \$4, \$1 for age 6-20; free to all on the first Wednesday of every month.

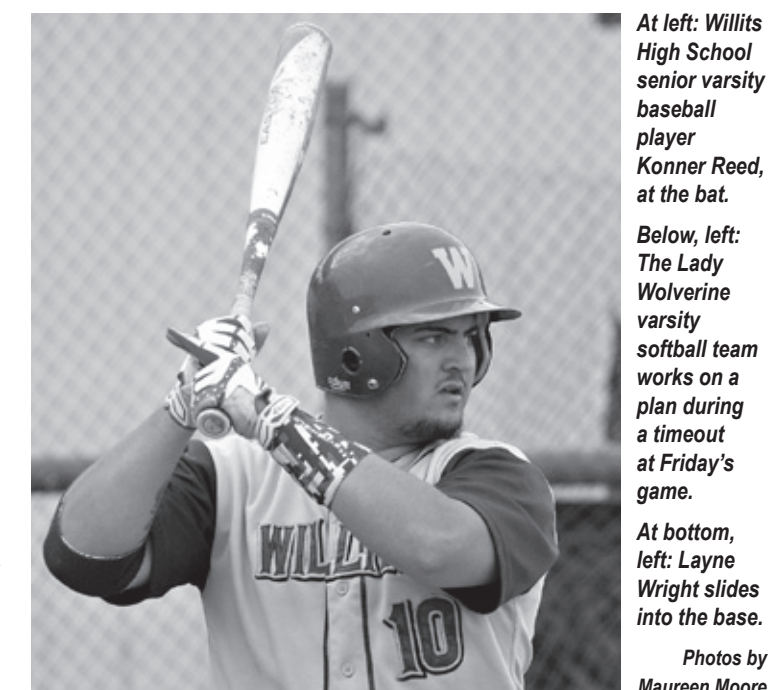
## The rest of Plaque From Page 5

donation was spent."

The beautiful plaque shows a "crossword angel" and reads: "In Memory of the Life of Audrey M. Swofford, August 14, 1929 - April 7, 2014. Come rain or shine, she will be right here sitting with all of us. City of Willits community will always remember you fondly."

Moorhead told Willits Weekly that Swofford's step-daughter, Dr. Aleen Swofford, from Knoxville, Tennessee, stopped at the City of Willits offices when she was here for the services and said she'd like to make a donation to the city to "use as you see fit." After talking it over, city staff decided that awnings for the ballfields — to provide shade from the hot sun for all the "grandparents" who like to come watch the kids' ballgames — would be just the right civic improvement to honor Swofford.

— Jennifer Poole



At left: Willits High School senior varsity baseball player Konner Reed, at the bat.

Below, left: The Lady Wolverine varsity softball team works on a plan during a timeout at Friday's game.

At bottom, left: Layne Wright slides into the base.

Photos by Maureen Moore

See more photos from the games online: <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/sports>

losing it for them in the last inning.

"We have been leading the games, but have just had a few mistakes right at the end," said Yadon. "We are 3 and 0, and should be 0 and 3. We have a great team and are looking forward to playing better end innings as we move through the season."

Come cheer on the boys team at their next home game, held at Willits High School on Saturday, April 16 at 11 am. The varsity team will take on the El Molino Lions at the Willits High School fields, and the junior varsity team will play at the old ball fields on Commercial Street, also at 11 am.

Come cheer on the girls team at their next home game which will be held at Willits High School on Tuesday, April 19 at 4 pm against the Cloverdale.

For additional game information, including stats, results and a complete calendar of games, check out the teams' pages on maxpreps.com by typing in "Willits" in the search field.

For access to schedules for all the spring WHS sports, go to <http://willsunified.com/athletics>, and choose the sport you're interested in.

The rest of  
**Investigate**

From Page 1

Citizens for Fire Safe Forests led the petition drive to place Measure V on the ballot in November. If passed, Measure V would declare the practice of leaving dead trees standing in the forest for more than 90 days a public nuisance.

County resident and treasurer of Citizens for Fire Safe Forests Allen Cooperider, who filed the complaint, said he'd received an acknowledgment from the Enforcement Division of the FPPC that they have started an investigation into the allegations.

According to Cooperider, MRC reported the expenditures to the California Secretary of State's Office, but failed to report them locally. "MRC has a clear obligation to file disclosure statements at the local office, the same way we are required to do," Cooperider said. "It seems disingenuous of the company to go around talking about how transparent they are and then try to hide their expenditures from local people."

According to statements provided by Cooperider to the FPPC, MRC spent the money in the fall of 2015 to pay a consultancy group, and to place ads opposing what it then termed the "Tan Oak Initiative" in several local newspapers.

At the time MRC spent the money, the tan oak initiative had not qualified to be placed on the June ballot. It was declared to have qualified in late February, and was given the title of Measure V.

John Anderson, director of forest policy for MRC, confirmed the FPPC has contacted the company. "We were contacted by the FPPC. We responded, and we are awaiting a response back from the FPPC," Anderson said.

Anderson also explained why he believes the company failed to report the expenses to the Mendocino County Elections Office.

"I would imagine that was because the initiative petition being circulated had not yet qualified as a ballot measure," Anderson said. "So we went ahead and reported those costs to the secretary of state out of an abundance of caution."

"We rely on attorneys and experts to do that work for us," he added.

Cooperider also pointed out MRC has skirted FPPC rules in the past, and has been fined by the FPPC at least one time before. In January 2015, the lumber company was fined \$8,319 by the FPPC for failing to file eight "major donor committee" statements, and a failure to file five "late contribution reports," spanning the period from 2010 to 2014. During that time, MRC made donations to 141 candidates and organizations totaling \$175,241, which it failed to report.

Anderson had an explanation for that, as well. "On that one, it was something that had been going on for a number of years," he said. "It was an internal paperwork thing that we just weren't aware of. Then one of our people found it and said, 'I think we have a problem here.' So we looked into it and yes, we had a problem. We weren't reporting things the way we should have. So we self-reported that to the FPPC. They fined us, and we paid the fine."

"It's a very complex set of laws, as you can imagine. But we think we're on top of it now," Anderson said.

The rest of  
**Mental Health**

From Page 1

an effort by a third group to open a 72-hour locked mental health facility, and the possibility of utilizing the old Howard Hospital in Willits, which remains vacant and for sale.

According to mental health insiders, progress on three of these tracks is at such a sensitive stage that people can't say much about it.

Ace Barash, director of inpatient care at the new Howard Hospital, said in a recent phone conversation with Willits Weekly that Redwood Quality Management Company is actively pursuing establishing a crisis/residential mental health facility in Mendocino County. RQMC is an umbrella company over Redwood Community Services, a Ukiah company that for decades has provided mental health services for children here, and which was only last month awarded a contract to begin to provide mental health services for adults.

At the same time, another group Barash is associated with is actively working on siting a locked mental health facility somewhere in the county.

Barash said progress on both the crisis/residential track and the locked facility track are at highly sensitive stages and that he could not divulge further details.

"There are a lot of things going on right now," he said. "In a few weeks it will be a lot more clear."

Margie Handley, president of the Howard Hospital Foundation, said much the same thing when asked for details about progress on siting a mental health facility at the old hospital building.

"I can't say anything right now," Handley said. "There are lots of balls in the air, but no one knows where or when they are going to come down. I can tell you that I hope to know a lot more in 60 days. I'd say by then we'll know which direction it's going to go."

Handley mentioned the old Howard Hospital has been offered for sale at a price of \$2.1 million. "For a 38,000-square-foot facility that occupies an entire block in

The rest of  
**Prevention**

From Page 1

and county residents need use this fire season to prevent unwanted fires.

Most weeds are ugly and detract from the appearance of individual properties and our neighborhoods. Uncontrolled weeds create a fire hazard, endangering property and surrounding neighborhoods. Uncontrolled weeds provide cover for transients and can provide an unwanted food source for insects and rodents. Additionally, weed abatement is a yearlong battle, requiring continuing efforts to keep vegetation under control.

The Willits Municipal Code and the California Fire Code prohibit any excessive intrusion of weeds on private or public property. Tall weeds are considered a nuisance, and may present a fire hazard. In the event that overgrown weeds are found to constitute a fire hazard, the Fire Department will provide a notice of violation in order to inform property owners/managers of the necessity to remove the weeds and combustible fuels from their properties.

The notice is a courtesy reminder sent by the fire department to owners of parcels within the City of Willits reminding them that they are responsible for weed abatement on their properties by June 17, 2016.

Starting on May 2, 2016, staff from the Willits Fire Department, working with Willits Code Enforcement, will actively begin conducting inspections on all affected properties within the City of Willits. Properties not in compliance with the City Municipal Code and the California Fire Code will be issued an official notice of violation for compliance. If a property owner or manager receives a notice from the Little Lake Fire Protection District, they are encouraged to act on it promptly.

If by June 30, 2016 the lot or property is still not in compliance, property owners will receive a citation, a hired contractor will abate the problem, and the property owner will be billed for abatement costs.

If the public has a concern about fire-prone grass and brush near their home, or for a list of abatement contractors, they should contact the Little Lake Fire Protection District at 459-6271. Someone will investigate whether the brush or grass removal is necessary or possible. The LLFDP appreciates the community's assistance in building defensible spaces between their homes and any wildland areas.

If you live in the state responsibility area, SRA, you are responsible for ensuring that your property is in compliance with California's building and fire codes that call for homeowners to take proactive steps to protect their property from a wildfire.

California law requires that homeowners

the center of Willits, that's a steal," Handley said.

Barash said investigations into the feasibility of using the old Howard Hospital, located on Main Street, have become increasingly complex. "We are going to have to go to OSHPD," Barash said, referring to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, based in Sacramento. "And so, before we do that, we are trying to get as much information as we can so we can ask OSHPD the right questions and give them the right answers, if we can."

"It's become much more complex than anyone thought."

Barash suggested the crisis/residential facility RQMC is working on may be a temporary facility that will serve until a better facility can be secured. "We need a crisis/residential facility as soon as possible," Barash said. "Even if the half-cent sales tax initiative passes, it's going to be years before such a facility can be built. We're trying to cover the bases, and have something in place as soon as possible."

"We're just trying to be as expeditious as possible," he said.

David Byrnes, information officer with OSHPD, told Willits Weekly that, while there are no requirements that Howard Hospital be retrofitted for earthquake safety if it were to be used as a crisis/residential facility or a locked mental health facility, owners may wish to do so as a safety precaution.

"Even though there are no requirements for structural retrofit of these buildings, they are after all SPC-1 buildings, that is, at risk of possible collapse in a strong earthquake," Byrnes said. "Some SPC-1 buildings may not be structurally suitable for housing patients of any kind."

The hospital may want to investigate the structural safety of the old building in terms of suitability for the intended end use before doing any kind of conversion, Byrnes said.

Sheriff Allman told Willits Weekly Wednesday that his group had just received the final version of the initiative petition from the county counsel's office and will start to circulate the petitions this week.

in SRA clear out flammable materials such as brush or vegetation around their buildings to 100 feet (or the property line) to create a defensible space buffer. This helps halt the progress of an approaching wildfire and keeps firefighters safe while they defend your home. The first 35 feet around your structure is the most important zone, where the property owner can create horizontal and vertical fuel breaks to give their home a chance for survival.

The law also requires new homes to be constructed with fire-resistant materials. By building your home with materials like fire-resistant roofing, enclosed eaves and dual-paned windows, you are hardening your home and giving it a fighting chance to survive a wildfire.

By following the law, you will help prevent buildings from being ignited by flying embers, which can travel as much as a mile away from a wildfire. You also provide that buffer space that gives firefighters a zone of safety as they work to protect properties.

What works in the SRA will also work for property owners and managers within the local responsibility area, LRA, of Mendocino County. Be proactive in your preparations against fire. Remove combustibles from around all standing structures. Give your structure a chance against fire.

Don't be dependent on open burning to get rid of combustible vegetative materials. Mulch vegetation or recycle it at Solid Waste of Willits. As a reminder, all large pile burn permits expire on April 30, 2016. All small burn pile (dooryard) permits will expire on May 30, 2016. It is always possible the burn season may end even earlier, depending on weather conditions.

Plan your burning carefully and consider your current situation. Ensure that a responsible person is in attendance until the fire is dead out and cold. If a fire escapes your property, you could face civil and legal charges, including the cost of fire suppression.

All property owners, managers, and citizens are asked to be cautious in their daily activities. Even the action of trying to create a buffer could create the spark or heat source necessary to start a fire. Use caution with smoking materials, and please use common sense with any fire or open flame. Remember even something as harmless as a small warming fire has a great potential to cause damage to our neighborhoods and destruction of our forest lands.

Thank you for keeping your neighborhoods and your homes safe from accidental fires. Working together, we can keep our city and county a safe place to work and live.

**'Where Does Our Money Go?'**

"For every dollar that is spent locally, 52 cents stays in the community," Greta Kanne, owner of The Book Juggler, declared at last week's forum "Where Does Our Money Go?," where she was a panelist.

Co-sponsored by Willits Economic Localization, or WELL, and the Willits Chamber of Commerce, the town hall-style forum was

organized, in part, as preparation for the opening of the Willits bypass, which is expected to take place by the end of this year.

Held in council chambers at Willits City Hall, the event featured three other panelists: Richard Willoughby, retired president of two local banks; Alan Falleri, retired community development director; and Lisa Epstein, president of the Willits Chamber of Commerce.

Emily Rose Smith, a Willits native who recently returned after earning a master's degree in business administration, acted as moderator.

Falleri began the proceedings with some lightheartedness: "I couldn't decide which T-shirt I should wear for this panel discussion, my 'Build Community' T-shirt, or my 'Think Local, Buy Local, Be Local' T-shirt." Pulling up one of the shirts to show the audience, he said, "So I wore both."

From there, things got a little more serious as Falleri summarized the history of the lumber industry in Mendocino County, how after World War II, the small local mills were bought up by giant, outside industry.

"I saw people come in from out of state, big corporations, beholden to their shareholders," Falleri stated. "They came in, and they did not have a good sense of the community, and they didn't have a good sense of how our timber grows, how our land forms. They made a lot of money and supplied a lot of jobs, and now they're gone and our resources are pretty well depleted."

As he continued, it became clear Falleri was warning Willits not to look to be rescued from the consequences of the bypass through luring big box stores into the city, though he didn't completely rule out the idea of carefully selected bigger businesses.

Falleri discussed his experience working with a group called Business Alliance for Local Living Economies, or BALLE.

"BALLE has a wealth of information," Falleri said. "They have forms, examples and templates for all kinds of things you can do locally. One of those was the Hometown Festival, which promotes small independent retail."

The biggest threat to independent retail today was identified by the panel as being online shopping.

"Our money goes to four places," said Epstein. "It goes in town, it goes to Ukiah, it goes out of town, and it goes online."

Willoughby identified the overall change in consumer marketing towards millennials as a big reason for continued growth in the online world.

"My whole adult life, baby boomers have been the major focus of marketing," Willoughby said, "because they represented the largest portion of our population. Millennials have overtaken them; they're 18 to 34 now, and these kids are not going to go offline."

In order to compete with giant online retailers, Epstein and others stated it is important to establish a strong online presence. The Chamber of Commerce is collecting all the information it can for local businesses, she explained.

"Businesses need to understand that they should be involved with the chamber," Epstein said. "They have to buy into the premise that we're representing them, and we're going to do everything we can to make this town a better place."

Kanne discussed the consequences of online shopping versus the benefits of buying local.

"For every \$10 million in sales that Amazon makes, they employ 14 people," Kanne said. "If you look at independent retailers in America, they employ 47 people for every \$10 million in revenue. If you look at small independent stores that aren't chain-owned, it's 57 people for every \$10 million in sales. When you're supporting independent stores, you're actually supporting more jobs in Willits, in the state and in the country."

Jed Diamond, local author and psychotherapist, remarked about how, even if a local store doesn't carry a certain item you may want, they more often than not can order it. That way, the money stays local, instead of being sucked out into the internet ether.

Diamond also explained how his business increased, once he established an online presence.

"Now 80 percent of my income comes to me online," Diamond said. "A lot of money is now coming in to us as a community, because I have an online presence. Instead of a constituency of 5,000 Willits people, I get people who buy my services all over the world. Then some of them want to see me in person, so they come to Willits; I put them up at local hotels, I give them the tour of our unique local stores."

Another tip for expanding an online presence for local businesses, championed by both Kanne and Epstein, is to write positive reviews on sites such as Yelp. When travelers are driving on Highway 101 and are considering stopping in Willits for food and shopping, they will undoubtedly google what is available, the argument goes. The more positive reviews retailers receive online, the more likely people will take the exit and explore what Willits has to offer.

A list of ways local consumers can help Willits retailers includes: Write reviews on sites such as Yelp and Angie's List; find local businesses on Facebook and "like" and "follow" their pages and recommend those businesses on your page; for businesses whose online presence is minimal or nonexistent, request the owners get on board with the digital age, as it will only improve their business.

"What it comes down to is: Your dollar is your vote," Kanne told the group. "The way that you spend your money is a vote for the community you want to live in. Do you want a community where people are looking out for one another and working together to create a place they all enjoy being in, or do you want to save your extra \$3 because you can get it online? These are choices we have to make."

**C BROWNS CRNER**  
7 am to 11 pm  
365 Days a Year

Groceries  
Beer & Wine  
Pay at the Pump  
Gas & Diesel

459-4854  
1799 So. Main St.  
P.O. Box 428

24 Hour 7 Days a Week  
Emergency Service • Call Anytime  
**Tom Wake - Plumbing**  
Serving in Mendocino and Lake Counties  
Full Service Residential, Commercial

•Faucets & Tubs •Garbage Disposals  
•Toilets •Pipe Repairs •20+ YEARS  
•Gas Lines •Fixture Replacement EXPERIENCE

For Fast Service Call  
**707-391-4343**  
Lic: #884811

**Marc Komer**  
Legal Document Assistant

An Affordable Non-Attorney Service

Divorce, Living Trusts,  
Evictions, Probate, Incorporation,  
Name Change, etc.

www.mendolegaldocs.com  
459-2775  
104 W. Mendocino, Willits

*I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.*

TELEPHONE (707) 459-2163  
FAX (707) 459-2319

**ALFRED F. KERR, D.D.S.**  
FAMILY DENTISTRY

OFFICE HOURS  
By APPOINTMENT

12 W. VALLEY STREET  
WILLITS, CA 95490

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Lois is a sweet 5-year-old black lab that was abandoned along with her dog companion. Her dog friend has been adopted, and now she's waiting for her new home. She would make a great family pet – she is good with most dogs (selective with females) and loves people in general! Her gentle calm nature and playful spirit is typical lab all the way! She'd love to meet you and your family.

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 hsmico@pacific.net or visit www.mendohumanesociety.com.



Photo by S. Coffman Photography

Miss Lois

**WPD Activity Report**

April 3 to April 9

Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 166 incidents this week.

**Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests**

**April 3**  
8 pm: GUSTIN, Richard, 47, of Willits was contacted in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane and arrested pursuant to two warrants; one from Placer County and one from Nevada County.

**April 4**  
10 am: A traffic collision was reported in the 1400 block of Willow Lane.

**April 5**  
11 am: Officers initiated an investigation of a theft from a business in the 1300 block of South Main Street.  
5:50 pm: Officers were called to a traffic collision, resulting in property damage, in the 800 block of South Main Street.

**April 6**  
1:40 pm: Officers were called to a traffic collision, resulting in property damage, in the 800 block of South Main Street.

**April 7**  
9:40 pm: Officers investigated a reported assault in the 10 block of Alameda Avenue.  
**April 9**  
1 am: While investigating an open door at a church in the 1000 block of South Main Street, officers determined the building had been forcibly entered.

Officers secured the building and initiated a burglary investigation.

6:20 am: Officers were called to a traffic collision, resulting in property damage, in the 23000 block of Sherwood Road.

4:50 pm: Officers were called to a traffic collision, resulting in property damage, in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

7:50 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance at a business in the 1700 block of South Main Street. When they arrived, they determined the source of that disturbance was CARRIGG, Sono, 51, of Willits. After speaking with Carrigg, they determined he was under the influence of a controlled substance and placed him under arrest pursuant to 11550(a) HS (Drug Influence). Carrigg was also found to be in possession of a small amount of suspected methamphetamine, in violation of 11377(a) HS (Possession of a Controlled Substance).

**Wonderful Turtle**

Turtle is a 1.5-year-old male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 51 pounds. Turtle is a joy to be around. Give him a tennis ball, and he will entertain himself, and you, for hours! Oddly enough, he seems unsure of stuffed animals! He is super friendly and happy and likes everyone he meets, human or canine. Turtle is wonderful company, whether out for a walk or cuddled on the couch. And he's a gorgeous boy to boot.

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.

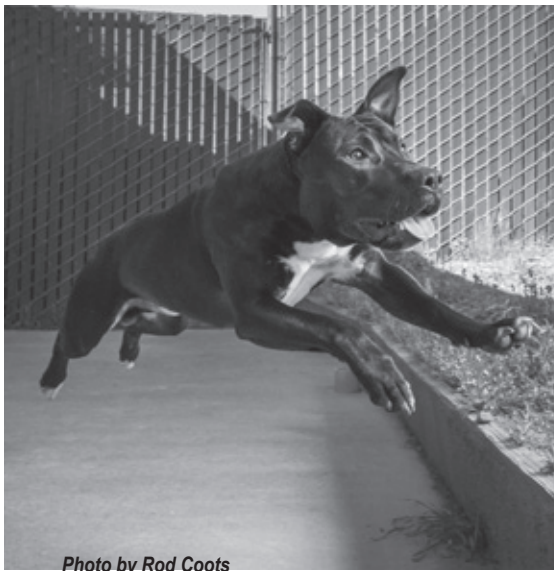


Photo by Rod Coats

**BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
20 Spruce Street

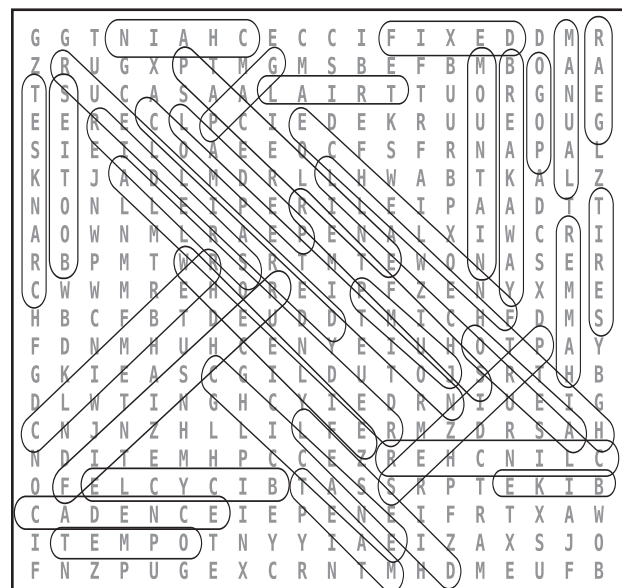
**New Online Kindergarten Registration will be:  
Thurs., April 28 & Fri., April 29, 2016  
8 to 4:30 p.m. at Brookside Library**

Our Kindergarten program is for children 5 years old by September 1, 2016  
Our 2-Year Transitional Kindergarten Program is for children turning 5 between Sept. 2 and Dec. 2, 2016

**Please Bring:**  
1. Emergency contact information  
2. Birth certificate  
3. Immunization records  
4. Your child, as there will be a 15-minute assessment done at time of registration.  
Input forms will be available during registration  
You will receive a user name and password through our Aeries.net parent portal.  
Your student will receive a FREE "Welcome" bag.  
See you then!

If you have any questions, please call the Brookside office at (707) 459-5385 or visit our website at brks.willitsunified.com

Willits Weekly  
T-shirts are just \$20!  
Get them at the Farmers Market



**CLASSIFIEDS**

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

**Affordable Tutoring**  
English, Math, Test Prep, Homework Support, Study Skills. Maddie Armstrong ... 707 841-3106. Call to arrange free consultation and grade availability.

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

**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.

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

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

**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.

**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.

Get your classified included here next week!  
Just \$10 | 30 Words | 2 Weeks

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

**Upper Level Salon Business for Sale**

Good business opportunity due to owner's retirement. Turnkey situation: a four-station salon in a good location with parking. Two operators with established clientele interested in staying. Shop comes with many salon extras.

**Inquiries: 459-4439 or 354-0980.**



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



Above: Back row, from left: Danielle Barry, Emma Garman, Samantha Arms, Grace Aguilar and sheep leader Chris Ceresa. Front row, from left: Elena Arkellan, Sierra Mayfield, Briana Ramsey, Taylor Quinliven, Ava Mucke and Carson Quinliven. Below: A lamb shows off one of the new embroidered sheets that were recently donated to the Willits 4-H sheep group.

## A fancy flock

Willits 4-H Members receive sponsored sheep ensembles for fair season

The sheep owned by members of the Willits 4-H will look extra cohesive this fair season, as the flock will all be donning the same frocks this year.

Sheep will wear their new embroidered mesh fly-sheets that aim to keep sheep clean and comfortable and ready for the show ring. A few will also wear some festive pink tie-dye spandex Slinkies underneath their donated sheets, too.

J.D. Redhouse, Willits Frontier Days and T&T Towing all made this possible by sponsoring the embroidered sheets for the sheep group. There are also matching feed tubs



and water buckets donated for the pens by Chris and Jeff Ceresa and Debbie and Bob Baechtel.

Come see the sheep along with all the other animals at this year's Redwood Empire Fair, August 4 through 7 at the Ukiah Fairgrounds.

— Maureen Moore



Above: Bernie Sanders for President supporters pose with a "Flat Bernie" cutout figure in front of the new HQ on Main Street. Clockwise from bottom left: Liam U'Ceirbhail, Janey Mitchell, Carol Hughes, and Cynthia Raiser Jeavons.

Photo by Rose Raiser Jeavons

**Come Join Us!**

**CALVARY CHAPEL**  
WILLITS

**Afternoon Bible Study**  
Sunday's @ 3pm

The Grange Hall  
291 School St. Willits, CA 95490  
707-354-2771  
Free childcare will be available.

**Well Mannered MUTTS**

Dog Training  
INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION • PUPPY HEAD START • GROUP CLASSES  
BEHAVIOR CONSULTATION

Sallie Palmer  
CERTIFIED DOG TRAINER

707.463.3647  
CELL: 707.621.2068  
WELLMANNEREDMUTTS@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.WELLMANNEREDMUTTS.COM



Evelyn Fisher of Nikos Gyro Shop with customers Don Willis, above, and Travis Moretto, below, with their free gyros.

Photo by Damian Sebouhian

## Nikos' 1st anniversary

Congratulations, or "Συγχαρητήρια" in Greek, to Nikos Gyro Shop on their first anniversary on Friday, April 8. Owners Adrian and Evelyn Fisher celebrated their first year in business by giving a free gyro to every customer who visited their Main Street shop that day – until they ran out after giving away almost 300 gyros! "Thank you Willits for making our anniversary amazing," Evelyn Fisher said on Facebook. "We thank each and every person who has supported our family business this past year. We look forward to many more gyro-filled years ahead! Opa!" Check out "Nikos Gyro Shop" on Facebook or call 456-9293.

— Jennifer Poole



## Bernie Sanders

campaign office opens in Willits

A local office for the Bernie Sanders for President campaign has opened in Willits at 716-C South Main Street, next to the old Country Skillet.

Steering committee member Cynthia Raiser Jeavons reported 50 to 60 people showed up to the "overflowing" grand opening on Sunday afternoon, with many signing up to volunteer for local efforts "to help Mendocino County #FeeltheBern," including voter registration, phone banking, canvassing, and more. The office has "Bernie buttons, bumper stickers, and yard signs (soon!)," Jeavons said.

Check out the "Bernie Sanders for President – Willits" Facebook page to learn more about activities at the new campaign office, or stop by whenever the "Bernie" sandwich board is out front.

— Jennifer Poole

**HARPAH SENIOR CENTER THRIFT STORE**

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Furniture, collector dolls, paintings, prints and books. The Thrift Store has anything from china to silverware and formal dresses.

Best of all reasonable prices.

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. We do pick up donations if you are unable to bring them in. Please call 707-459-2176 to make arrangements.

Call for more information 459-6826 • 1501 Baechtel Road

## The rest of Main Street

From Page 1

as possible:

The events will kick off with a Walking Assessment of the area on Monday, April 18 (5 to 6 pm), beginning and ending at the old Rexall building. During the walkabout, participants will review conditions along portions of Main Street, and help determine where and how improvements can be made.

After the assessment, North Coast Opportunities' Food Hub and Food Prep projects will be hosting a Local Food Culinary Showcase at the old Rexall building (6 to 6:30 pm). Some of the best chefs from Willits restaurants, small businesses and catering companies will be in attendance. Serving up samples of fresh, inspired dishes featuring locally grown and raised vegetables, fruits, meats, cheeses and grains will be Adam's Restaurant, Nikos Gyros, Brickhouse Coffee, NCO Healthy Harvest Project, Zocalo Collective, Good Earth Kitchen, Mendocino Fermented Foods, J.D. Redhouse and Kemmy's Pies. Participants will see ingredients from farmers market favorites Green Uprising Farm, Covelo Organics, Fortunate Farm, Tequio Community Farm, Cinnamon Bear Farm, Mendocino Grain Project, Ford Ranch Beef and Shamrock Artisan Chevre.

Immediately following the culinary showcase, a Community Workshop (6:30 to 8:30 pm) will engage participants, as they become "community designers" and craft their own solutions to design issues on a 28-foot-long map of the entire Main Street corridor. Input received at the workshop will be formative to the Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan.

On Wednesday and Thursday, April 20 and April 21 (5:30 to 6:30 pm), community members are encouraged to drop by the Open House at the old Rexall building, to look at the designs in progress and talk with the design team. The community input from these sessions will be incorporated into the final plan.

In celebration of Earth Day, on Friday, April 22, Walk & Bike Mendocino will lead a Community Bike Ride (5 to 5:30 pm) prior to the presentation of the preliminary Main Street designs (5:30 to 7 pm). An array of free appetizers will be provided by Scoops Catering.

This planning process seeks to have as many of these improvements as possible included in the Caltrans construction project along the portion of Highway 101 to be relinquished to the city. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in late 2017. The remaining improvements – including those improvements to the portion of South Main Street that will still be Highway 20 – are an important part of the long-term vision for Main Street and will be included in the resulting Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan. The plan will address safety, walking, biking, landscaping, lighting, street beautification, natural drainage and economic development along the corridor. It will also include recommendations for phased implementation and identification of potential funding sources.

More information about the Planning Fair may be found at [www.willitsmainstreetplan.com](http://www.willitsmainstreetplan.com), or by calling City Hall at 459-4601.

## The rest of Abatement

From Page 1

member Bill Barksdale calling the hotel a blight. Others echoed his judgment.

City Planner Dusty Dooley, tasked with exploring what measures other municipalities have taken regarding vacancy abatement, told the committee: "There's been communities that have levied taxes against vacant buildings.

"They'll require somebody that has a vacant building to register with the city," Dooley said. "Maybe it starts out as a \$50 fee to register it vacant. Then if it retains vacancy, that fee goes up."

Dooley explained the fee money collected wouldn't simply go to the city's general fund, but towards specific building repairs.

Dooley also discussed incentive measures to inspire property owners to fill their vacancies.

"The other tool I've seen cities use is a property tax incentive, where if the owner completes substantial rehabilitation or establishes occupancy they get some type of tax break," Dooley said. "Other jurisdictions will work with a land owner in a way where they waive permit fees to incentivize them."

According to former Community Development Director Alan Falleri, when it comes to the Van Hotel, those kinds of incentives have already been offered and rejected by owner Theodore Papadopolis several times before.

"We were going to put murals up in the vacant windows to dress the building up," Falleri said. "But the property owner refused to go along with it."

Falleri suggested evaluating and possibly amending the nuisance ordinance to target buildings like the Van Hotel.

"You could write something in the nuisance ordinance that says that once a building gets to a specific stage, there's a health-and-welfare-type situation that's a nuisance," explained Falleri. "Then the zoning enforcement officer can lien the building."

Barksdale suggested the possibility of exploring the route of eminent domain. Simply put, eminent domain is the power of the state to take private property for use in a public project in return for reasonable compensation.

"You have to pay the owner the fair market value of the property," Barksdale acknowledged. "But in commercial project, fair market value is established by income history, and we know that the income history of that property has been virtually zero."

Barksdale continued: "I don't see why we allow that blight to remain here, and nobody has pursued that [eminent domain] mechanism. As someone who sits on the assessment appeals board for the County of Mendocino, that's how I would look at it."

Councilmember Holly Madrigal, who chaired the meeting, urged caution,

## The rest of Brooktrails

From Page 1

available. Directors also passed a \$50 per year standby sewer charge for each parcel of land within the district capable of receiving sewer service without requiring a mainline extension, whether that service is used or not.

The charge has not increased since 1996, district manager Denise Rose told directors.

No one attended the public hearings scheduled to debate the fees.

The district has approximately 1,155 water and 1,425 sewer hookups. In other action taken Tuesday, directors renewed their declaration of a local drought emergency, maintaining a 250-gallon per day water cap for Brooktrails residents.

Lake Emily and Lake Ida Rose, which provide Brooktrails' drinking water, remain full and stable due to residents' "diligent conservation efforts," Rose told directors, but both the state and Mendocino County remain "in the midst of a long-term drought," and California's water boards have renewed emergency water restrictions for 2016.

Those restrictions hamper Brooktrails' ability to impound water flowing from Willits Creek into the district's reservoirs, Rose explained.

"As a junior water rights permittee," Rose said, "the township may only impound water when the water board lifts curtailment provisions during certain rain events," as it did this winter. The township's permit also requires

suggesting that going for eminent domain should be a last resort.

"The city council would have to make the decision to go ahead with eminent domain," Madrigal said. "It's litigious; it is not a popular thing for government to take over people's property. It doesn't mean it wouldn't work here, but maybe we could try an assessment structure first."

Greta Kanne, owner of The Book Juggler, told the committee how every time her brother, a real estate attorney in Palo Alto, comes to Willits for a visit, "he looks at a particular building and says 'I don't know why your city doesn't enact eminent domain.' Every time he comes, he says that."

Kanne said the Van Hotel isn't the only problem.

"There are some buildings where the windows are broken and there's plants growing into the buildings, and there's trash around the fence lines," she said. "I think that's when you have to say, 'here's the standard, these owners aren't meeting it, so we have to assess some kind of penalty.'"

Barksdale suggested altering the zoning codes as a possible alternative to the eminent domain option.

"We could identify a certain area [and classify it as] an 'enterprise zone,'" Barksdale said. "Because it's the core of the economic engine we're trying to develop, there are certain things we're expecting properties to comply with in that zone."

County Supervisor and Revit-ED committee member Tom Woodhouse summed up the concerns of those at the meeting most accurately.

"It's time for the city to stand up," Woodhouse proclaimed. "If the bypass is going to weaken us, we should start doing something now."

Woodhouse suggested picking the four worst properties in town and bringing them before the city council so the council could begin a study to condemn those buildings.

"We're past the reward incentives and the facade painting and putting up awnings," Woodhouse said. "We're in a different struggle financially, so we have to respond at a higher degree of courage, I think. Doing nothing hasn't worked in the last 10 years."

The Revit-ED committee has no authority to act, but is charged with making specific recommendations to the city council. By its next meeting on July 12, the committee is planning to put together such recommendations, not only regarding vacancy abatement, but also Willits' "sphere of influence" and highway signage in anticipation of the bypass opening.

Those items were also discussed during Tuesday's meeting; Willits Weekly will report on those issues in a future edition.

water be released from Lake Emily at the rate of 10 cubic feet per second during April.

"Staff remains concerned about [the district's] long-term water supply," Rose said. That supply currently is hovering around 275 days, although more spring storms are expected.

Rose also noted that although Brooktrails residents used only about 109 gallons of water per day, the district still fell slightly short of achieving a state-mandated goal of reducing water use by 25 percent over 2013 usage.

Director Tim Ramming also unveiled Brooktrails' new trail map, the result of almost 18 months of work by Crystal Schiffbauer and Adam Sherf and their team of volunteers.

The team found "a number of trails listed on the existing trail map are no longer accessible, are not marked, or are in need of maintenance."

Rose noted \$10,000 has been set aside in the district's preliminary fiscal year 2016-2017 budget for trail maintenance, but board President Rick Williams said the majority of the work would have to be undertaken by volunteers.

Current township policy, which requires district staff to supervise volunteers at work, "discourages volunteer work," Rose noted, and may need to be changed.

## The rest of LLFD

From Page 1

Department Chief Carl Magann – had discussed and assessed the prospects of the potential measure and supporting campaign before Tuesday's meeting, and unanimously decided the timing was wrong.

"This is going to be a very contentious election cycle," said Herman, "and it just didn't feel like the time for us to be on the ballot with a tax measure. So we decided we'd rather wait until we're not competing with other tax measures."

The board approved the ad hoc committee's decision, and agreed to reconsider a tax measure after the next election. They will also move forward with trying to raise money for the firehouse on their own, including a fundraiser on June 25.

Mendocino County Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, in attendance at the meeting, voiced his support for LLFD getting a share of Proposition 172 funding. An ad hoc committee for the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors also endorsed that position last month.

Prop. 172 was a state measure passed in 1993 which raised the sales tax by one half-cent to fund "public safety" programs. This was originally thought to include fire departments, but they were largely cut out of funding throughout the state, including Mendocino County. LLFD and other local departments have been fighting for a share of Prop. 172 funds in recent years.

Woodhouse said he wasn't sure how much the department would get, or how quickly they would get it, but thought it was just a matter of time before the district would get something allocated from 172. He also felt strongly that they deserved it.

"Everybody on the board feels like we'll never have enough money to do everything," he said, "but we have to [help] these core beliefs. And when you call 911, you expect the fire or police [department] to be there. If they're not, everything else you're fighting about doesn't matter."

He also commended Magann and the LLFD on the way they conducted themselves at the board meetings regarding Prop 172.

"When you guys come to the board, you're the most polite, thoughtful people," he said, "You're talking about other people's needs. You guys are serving, and it really makes a difference. We all want to stay open to that kind of attitude. It may not seem like it, but the kind approach does pay off in the long run."

Woodhouse came to the meeting to inquire about getting LLFD help to look into the possibility of condemning certain properties in town he says are "beyond repair." They agreed to research the issue over the next month and place it on the agenda for their next meeting.

Also at the meeting, LLFD Training Chief Chris Wilkes presented an update on firefighter training, including the success of the burn training day hosted by LLFD last Saturday. There, 24 firefighters from around the county, including three from LLFD, came to complete their training in the three-month intensive Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Academy. It culminated with a live burn simulation drill with propane-produced flames in a specially designed trailer brought by the Kelseyville department. Students went through several training stations throughout the daylong event.

Wilkes, who coordinated the event, said: "It went very well – no conflicts, no problems."

He was commended and thanked by Magann and board member Tony Madrigal, who were both involved in the burn training day as well, and agreed that everything went really smoothly.

"You did a great job of putting everything together and I really want to thank you, and the rest of the board thanks you," said Madrigal.

Wilkes also discussed new training techniques the firefighting team has been working on, including new methods for extracting people from crashed vehicles due to changing types of construction, such as hybrid and electric engines, and ultra-high-strength steel.

"Things are changing," he said, "and we're being dynamic and trying to move forward with those changes, and become more efficient."

He and the LLFD also were involved in an "active shooter drill" at Mendocino College recently, which was run by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. He said the sheriff's office did "a really, really good job of putting it on. We were lucky enough to be a part of it."

Several police departments, as well as paramedic units, also took part in the drill, including the Willits Police Department. Wilkes noted these kinds of drills are becoming very common in cities and towns around the nation.

Robert McKenzie was sworn in at the meeting as an official LLFD firefighter after finishing his required 12-month probationary period working with the district. He previously worked as a company officer and trained operator with the Brooktrails Fire Department.

**40 varieties of TOMATO PLANTS**  
and  
**30 varieties of PEPPER PLANTS**

Grown Locally At  
**Sanhedrin Nursery**  
1094 Locust St., Willits • 459-9009  
OPEN SUNDAY - Closed Tuesday

Connect online with Willits Weekly - just scan the QR code with your smart phone's reader app

## Amazing Athletes of Willits High School

**Softball**  
| Haily Findley, 16  
(17 next week),  
Junior

**Position:** First base

**Breakfast of Champions:** Oatmeal and fruit

**Love for the Sport:** "The intensity of the game.... I've played for a while, I'm good at it, and it's fun."

**Years Playing the Sport:** 12 years



I would like to name Haily Findley for Amazing Athlete this week. She hit a three-run home run against St. Helena that put us ahead to win the game. Findley was a positive and productive team player this week.

– Coach Meranda Powers

**Swimming**  
| Olivia Cooper, 17,  
Senior

**Events:** 200 individual medley, 100 backstroke, or whatever is needed

**Breakfast of Champions:** Smoothie with protein powder

**Love for the Sport:** "Water and sun is fun; good camaraderie; a fun, low-impact sport that's good for longevity and health."

**Years Playing the Sport:** Since freshman year



I would like to nominate Olivia Cooper for Amazing Athlete this week. She is one of my most outgoing swimmers. She is always at practice. She is willing to help the new swimmers, take the lead, and do any event I need her to swim. Olivia swims one of the hardest events: the 200 meter individual medley race [combining butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle]. I feel Olivia deserves to be nominated as one of this week's top athletes.

– Coach Mattie Pinon

OBITUARY |

## Alvin Robinson

Alvin Keawiula Robinson passed away on December 4, 2015 at the age of 81. Born February 27, 1934 to Alvin K. and Charlene "Carson" Robinson in Ft. Wayne, Wyoming, he married Elaine H. "Barr" Robinson in Burlingame, on June 15, 1957.

Alvin was with Hiller Helicopter for 15 years. He was a Boy Scouts of America member since 1944 and a Boy Scouts ranger for 38 years. He was a member of the Mendocino County Grand Jury. Alvin enjoyed 29 years with the Black Bart Gunfighters in Willits, nine years with the Skunk Train Christmas Train, and seven years with the Willits Harley-Davidson Toy Run.

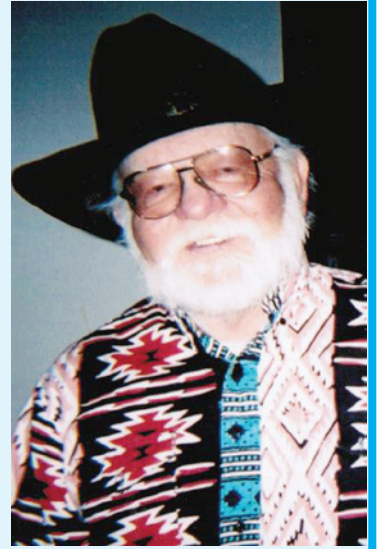
Alvin, a 2nd lieutenant, proudly served in the U.S. Air Force, 1953-1954.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Elaine Robinson; sons: Alvin K. Robinson, Gregory S. Robinson, and Brian Robinson; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A "Celebration of Life" will be held at 2 pm on April 30, 2016 at the Willits Community Center.

If you wish, the family suggests a living memorial of outdoor plants.

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



**Tennis** | Juan Jacinto, 17, Junior

**Breakfast of Champions:** Waffle

**Love for the Sport:** "Tennis is more of an intense solo game; you rely on yourself."

**Years Playing the Sport:** Three years at WHS

**Tennis** | Alexia Duran, 16, Junior

**Breakfast of Champions:** Protein shake

**Love for the Sport:** "It's a fun, mellow sport."

**Years Playing the Sport:** Three years at WHS

Juan Jacinto and Alexia Duran are co-captains of the tennis team and do a great job warming the team up and helping to run practices. Juan is our #2 singles player. He won all three of his matches over spring break, helping lead the team to victories over Fort Bragg, Anderson Valley and Point Arena. His overall record this season is 4-2. Alexia plays doubles. Paired with a new partner last Friday at Point Arena, she earned her first victory of the season, 4-6, 6-3, 9-7.

– Coach Noel Woodhouse

**M**pho•tog•ra•phress  
[ful-tog-ruh-friss]  
noun: Maureen Moore: a person who creates fabulous photo moments



707-972-7047 maureengetsmail@gmail.com



Sunny skies  
while getting an MRI?  
Only at your new hospital.

Amazing Clarity.  
Superior Comfort.  
And a Beautiful View.

With twice the imaging power of our previous MRI technology, the new GE Optima MRI can see details that have never been seen before. This gives physicians unprecedented clarity when making a diagnosis. Plus, its wider, more comfortable bore means you can breathe easy and feel more comfortable. It's the next generation in diagnostic imaging — and another advancement in technology brought to life by the friends and neighbors you trust.

Medical Imaging  
and Radiology

New  
location

1 Marcela Drive  
in Willits

707.456.3095  
www.howardhospital.org

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital  
Adventist Health