

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

'The Cannabis Hour'

To the Editor:

Thursday, May 4 is the official opening of the Mendocino Department of Agriculture's cannabis cultivation program. My guest that day on KZYX Radio's "The Cannabis Hour" will be Diane Curry, interim agriculture commissioner at the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture.

Curry will talk about the application process and answer any questions you might have about enrollment in the program. That's Thursday, May 4, at 9 am, on "The Cannabis Hour," on KZYX, 91.5 FM.

Call us with questions or comments at 707-895-2448. If you miss the show live online at kzyx.org or on the radio, find the archived version at jukebox.kzyx.org.

Jane Fitcher, Willits

Corporate personhood workshop

To the Editor:

Move to Amend Mendocino is presenting a half-day workshop on the "Timeline of Personhood Rights and Powers" on Saturday, May 20, 9 am to 1 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street in Willits. Our speaker will be David Cobb, who helped develop the timeline along with Jan Edwards of Point Arena.

This presentation will explain the history of corporate personhood "rights," its consequences for democracy, and what we can do about it.

The timeline is a graphic presentation of the history of Supreme Court rulings (not legislation) which have granted corporations increasing "rights" over time, enabling a growth in power and influence to the point where the voice of We the People is overwhelmed by the voice of giant multinational corporations. Citizens United and more recent cases are the culmination of this continuing history, not the beginning of it!

This presentation is a unique opportunity, as this in-depth discussion of the timeline is rarely available. Although it is intuitively obvious to most that the outsize power of giant corporations is a huge problem for democracy, seeing the step-by-step development of corporate political power gives a solid historical and factual grounding to that understanding. Corporate power is not just a legal problem, it is an issue fundamental to our basic political structure and the United States Constitution.

We hope you can join us for this important presentation! Free, with suggested donation of \$20. Co-sponsored by WELL. For questions contact Margaret Koster, mkoster@pacific.net or 459-5970.

Margaret Koster, Willits

'Willits Go Wild' update

To the Editor:

The campaign to raise one year of rent (\$12,000) for The Hub and connect Mendocino County to the greater Eel River Watershed is going gangbusters.

Public talks and field trips on wilderness, fish and aquatic life, regenerative cannabis, watershed restoration, and forest health were well-attended, and we have an expanding network of citizen monitors, guides and volunteers to grow these activities further.

We raised over \$7,000 so far! About \$1,000 came from

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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

Volume 5, Number 204
P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490
willitsweekly@gmail.com
www.willitsweekly.com
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crowd-funding, over \$4,000 came in the form of checks and cash sent directly to the Eel River Recovery Project, and \$2,000 came from a single-donor via the Mendocino Wildlife Association. Contributions large and small may be sent to ERRP, 630 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.

With our rent goal more than halfway covered, Pat Higgins, the human whirlwind, is already mapping out programs for the coming year and beyond.

The first order of business is to start staffing The Hub one day per week, beginning Saturday, June 3, then expand to two or three days per week. Programs fall into five parts:

1. Gateway to wilderness. We are uniquely situated as a jumping-off point for thousands of acres of national forest and BLM lands, the Yolla Bollys, the Sinkyone/Lost Coast, and the wild and scenic Eel River. Willits and The Hub could be a magnet for wilderness adventures and eco-tourism, offering advice, maps, supplies and expertise. This overlaps nicely with WELL's emphasis on economic development.

2. Watershed monitoring, of Outlet Creek and the smaller creeks flowing into it. Citizen monitors can adopt specific locales and be trained to collect relevant data and monitor health. We expect to get kids of all ages involved and take field trips to find salmon, steelhead, otter and beaver populations. Wouldn't it be great to make Willits a salmon-friendly place?

3. School programs, modeled after the successful programs in Round Valley schools, assessing watershed health and helping design solutions.

4. Field trips exploring forest and watershed health. We've seen steelhead leap the waterfall on Elder Creek, viewed successful restoration projects on Soda Creek, walked federal lands that benefitted from cannabis clean-up and observed how forest health is improved after controlled burns based on historical native practices.

5. Regenerative cannabis. ERRP already has programs to help the 60 to 80 percent of cannabis growers that want to be good stewards. These programs include education about: 1) road design that encourages water saturation instead of run-off, 2) creating soil and encouraging mycorrhizal life with compost windrows, 3) water management practices that conserve and recharge soil moisture.

We're excited about connecting with the magnificent Eel River watershed we live in. Watch for more events, activities, and openings at The Hub for Sustainability in the Willits Environmental Center building.

Robin Leleer, Willits

Thank you, letter carriers

To the Editor:

On Saturday, May 13, 2017, the National Association of Letter Carriers and the U.S. Post Office will spend another Saturday gathering non-perishable food for our local Food Bank. Postal workers within the City of Willits, Brooktrails and rural postal routes will collect these contributions from local residents to help maintain Food Bank and Emergency Food Services provided by Willits Community Services.

This annual event delivers a significant contribution to the supplemental and emergency food programs provided to low-income residents of the greater Willits area. Last year, our Willits Post Office Food Drive collected over 722 pounds of food that was distributed through our local Willits Food Bank.

Non-perishable foods are left in or by people's mail boxes. These foods are collected on Saturday, May 13 when the regular mail is delivered. This is hard work for all the postal employees, who have to deliver mail, as well as perform this extra task.

Thank you to the community and to the dedication of the National Association of Letter Carriers, the Willits Post Office and all the postal workers and volunteers that will help to make this year's Postal Food Drive another great success!

Jim Marill, Willits Community Services

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EST. 2013
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Huffman introduces 'Keep It in the Ground Act' before weekend climate march

As thousands of Americans gathered for the People's Climate March last weekend in Washington, D.C., Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) Friday introduced the "Keep It in the Ground Act" to reduce carbon emissions and break our nation's addiction to fossil fuels by permanently barring new fossil fuel leases on all federal public lands and in federal waters.

"This Saturday marks the 100th day of the historically dismal Donald Trump presidency and his all-out war on the environment," said Representative Huffman. "Lost in the broader problems of the Trump presidency, many of this White House's actions to undermine public health and roll back key environmental protections are flying below the radar, but that doesn't mean we can't fight back. As thousands of citizens across the country march this weekend to call for a clean energy future and responsible science-based action on climate change, we'll be acting in Congress in solidarity.

Science says that we need to keep fossil fuels in the ground to protect the planet for future generations, and that's what we will fight in Congress to do. After all, our public lands and oceans – and the fossil fuel deposits beneath them – belong to the American people, not to oil and gas companies. The "Keep It in the Ground Act" represents a crucial step that the federal government can take to protect the public, reduce carbon pollution, and fight dangerous climate change."

Specifically, this legislation would stop new leases and end non-producing leases for coal, oil, gas, oil shale and tar sands on all federal lands; stop new leases and end non-producing leases for offshore drilling in the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico; and prohibit offshore drilling in the Arctic and the Atlantic.

"With Trump passing executive orders right and left to hand our future to the fossil fuel industry, we need this legislation more than ever before," said 350.org Executive Director May Boeve. "The science is clear that keeping oil, coal, and gas in the ground is how we're going to curb the climate crisis. This bill outlines a path toward that goal, and it will take the work of movements to reach our destination – a clean energy economy that works for all. We've been building those movements and gaining momentum, from Standing Rock to the People's Climate March and beyond."

The legislation is co-sponsored by Matthew Cartwright (D-PA), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), James P. McGovern (D-MA), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Mike Quigley (D-IL), Jamie Raskin (D-MD), and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL).

Representative Huffman also introduced the "Keep it in the Ground Act" in the 114th Congress. The Senate version of the "Keep it in the Ground Act" was introduced by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) on March 29, 2017.

– Office of Congressman Jared Huffman, Washington, D.C.

Looking to find our **Willits Weekly** distribution boxes? They're located all around Willits, and there's even one in Laytonville, too!

101 Drive-In, Scoops Deli, J.D. Redhouse, Willits Post Office, Ardella's Downtown Diner, Buttercups Children's Boutique, Willits City Hall, Willits Library, Mariposa Market, the old Country Skillet, Old Mission Pizza, Gribaldo's Cafe, Brewed Awakening, Ace Copy and Shipping, Mendo Mill, the Harrah Senior Center, Grocery Outlet, Geiger's in Laytonville, Howard Memorial Hospital, Baechtel Grove Middle School and Willits High School.

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At right: Parishioner Kay Wright with her Greek frozen chocolate torte. A beautiful plate of French crepes with berries. Pastor Rosemary Landry of the Willits United Methodist Church addresses the dinner guests.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: Guests at the Methodist Church's fundraising dinner chow down.

Above, right: Madge Strong leads the Emandal Chorale.

Below: A platter of Greek baklava.



Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

There was no shortage of variety, with 13 distinct international salads and around 10 desserts on the festively decorated food bar. The recipes for the dishes ranged from old family treasures to more modern discoveries found on the internet.

Food for thought: You couldn't take too much of any one item or your plate would not hold all the treasures created by the congregation. You could easily miss out on some of the treats.

The salads included Polish Vegetable Salad (contributed by Rosemary Landry), German Potato Salad, Asian Noodle Salad with a savory peanut sauce (from Rick Williams), Ambrosia Salad, Green Salad, French Salad (from Lynn Williams), Central American Salad (contributed by Betty Lemmer), Fiji Salad (from Delores Braden), Chinese Chicken Salad (by Lorri Barker), Greek Salad (from Kay Wright), Mexican Salad (contributed by Jane McCabe), Mizeria (from Gayle Holz), and other contributions from Pat Moller, Roberta Anderson and more.

Desserts included baklava, flan cake, Swedish coconut fingers, German chocolate cake – provided by some of the same congregants who created the salads, plus more delicious dishes from Tammy Van

Food for Thought

Methodist Church hosts 'International Salad and Dessert Bar'

The Willits United Methodist Church hosted the second in a series of "Diners From Around the World" Friday night, an "International Salad and Dessert Bar." The dinners are for the benefit of the church's array of worthy causes, and for the enjoyment of their congregational palates.

Steen, Karen Oslund and Marna Garcia. The recipes were mostly old family treasures or the more modern internet discoveries.

In addition to the food, the participants were treated to several songs from 22 volunteers of the Emandal Chorale under the direction of Councilwoman Madge Strong, substituting for the chorale's director, Don Willis, who was out of town.

The United Methodist Church of Willits will split this fundraiser's proceeds between the maintenance of the church and the seniors nutrition programs at the Harrah Senior Center, including the daily lunches and the Meals on Wheels program.) Rosemary Landry, who's been pastor at the Methodist Church for five years, spoke with Willits Weekly about the church's charitable programs, including the Manzanita Services program for people with behavioral health challenges, which shares part of the Methodist Church building. The church also helps to support the alcohol- and drug-free Sober Grad graduation party.

Landy also wanted to note that, in the interest of inclusiveness, the church offers "T-Switch," a system by which sermons (and other information) can be projected into members' hearing aids.

The next in the Dinners from around the World series will be foods of Mexico which will support Nuestra Alianza de Willits, which offers translation programs, information and referrals for social services including mental health, immigration assistance and referrals.

To learn more about activities at the Methodist Church, visit the "Willits United Methodist Church" page on Facebook.

Celebrate Mom this Mother's Day
Remind her to get a Mammogram

She packed your lunch. Showed you how to tie your shoes. Helped you find your way in the world. Now it's your turn to look out for MOM. This Mother's Day, give her the gift of good health by reminding her to have her annual mammogram.

Many women put off having a mammogram each year for many reasons. But annual screening mammograms can help detect cancer in its earliest and most treatable stage. A reminder from you might make all the difference. So tell mom to take time for herself, so she can live her healthiest life.

Give Mom the gift of good health.
Tell her to schedule a mammogram today by calling 707.456.3090
Medical Imaging | 1 Marcela Drive | Willits CA 95490

Will be known as:
AdventistHealth
Frank R. Howard Memorial

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital

Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku



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

Level: Advanced

How To Sudoku:

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

SPRINGTIME WORD SEARCH

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

ALLERGIES	FIELDS	NATURE	SNEEZING
BABIES	FLOWERS	NEST	SPRING
BLOOM	GARDENING	OUTDOORS	SUNSHINE
BUDDING	HATCHING	PICNIC	SWARM
BUMBLEBEE	HATCHLING	POLLEN	TREES
CHIRPING	HIKING	RAINY	UMBRELLA
CLOUDS	HUMMINGBIRD	REPRODUCTION	WARMING
DAYTRIP	INSECTS	SCENTED	WEEDS
EGGS	LAWN MOWER	SEASON	WILDLIFE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
	10	11					12			13	
	14				15					16	17
18				19			20		21		
22			23			24		25			
26			27			28		29		30	
		31	32			33		34			
35	36							37			
38			39			40					
41			42		43		44		45	46	47
48		49		50		51				52	
53			54		55					56	
57			58		59		60	61	62		
	63	64					65				
							67				

CLUES ACROSS

- Hot meal
- Razor clams
- Blood-sucking African fly
- Chauvinists
- Windy City football player
- An alternative
- Federal Housing Administration
- Styles hair
- Arabic female name
- Paddle
- Area once separated from Germany
- Marketplace
- Gode Airport
- Upset
- Where wrestlers sweat
- Garland
- Robert __, poet
- An iPad is one
- Fruit of the oak tree
- Della __, singer
- Women's clothing retailer
- Mailed
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

- has a stake in
- Parties
 - Subsystem producers
 - Large, flightless birds
 - Compromises visibility
 - A ballet enthusiast
 - More (Spanish)
 - Skeletal muscle
 - Hands (Span.)
 - Weighed
 - Businessman
 - Famous clock Big ___
 - Unkeyed
 - Break between words
 - Ink (slang)
 - Disappointed
 - Stroke
 - Curdled milk
 - Restaurants
 - Explosive
 - Type of terrier
 - Disfigure
 - Innermost cell layers
 - Bar bill
 - Distinct period of history
 - Mode of transportation
 - Equal (prefix)
 - Operating system

CLUES DOWN

- Type of whale
- Type of medication
- Land of the free
- Formed an opinion of
- Logo
- No (Scottish)
- Leaves tissue
- Sacred state to Muslims
- Thus
- African nation
- Someone who

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

April 24 to April 30

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 128 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

April 24

4:27 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

7:52 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Pine Street.

2:37 pm: **MARTINEZ, Jorge Abel Gregorio** (28) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of Mill Street. He was arrested on charges of felony corporal injury on spouse/cohabitant and felony violation of parole.



Jorge Abel Gregorio Martinez of Willits.

6:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 200 block of Holly Street.

11:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

April 25

12:42 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

12:47 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious persons in the 400 block of South Main Street.

1:02 am: **BAILEY, Sklyer Amon** (22) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11550 H&S (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance) and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

7:06 am: **BOWERSOX, Molly Davis** (31) of Brighton, Michigan was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street and arrested on charges of driving under the influence.

2:29 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

3:39 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

3:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of East Commercial Street.

5:54 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of East Valley Street.

8:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Pine Street.

April 26

8:32 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Boscabelle Avenue.

12:01 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

12:32 pm: **KERL, Keith Allen** (53) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Walnut Street and Locust Street. He was arrested on charges of violation of probation.

1:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of Haehl Creek Drive and Grove Street.

2:52 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Margie Drive.

4:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

11:53 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

April 27

1:09 am: **McCLOUD, Deborah Gertrude** (25) of Covelo was contacted near mile

marker 48 on Highway 101. She was arrested pursuant to 10851 VC (Vehicle Theft - Joyriding) and on misdemeanor charges of vehicle or vessel obtained by theft or extortion and violation of probation.

9:58 am: **MUNSON, Steven Len** (59) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of East Hill Road and Baechtel Road. He was arrested on charges of violation of a protective order.

11:27 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Blosser Lane and Highway 20.

4:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of East Commercial Street.

10:32 pm: **ROBINSON, Casey Ray** (23) of Fortuna was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of a device for smoking or injecting.

11:31 pm: **SPECIEDAY, Cheyenne Eileen** (23) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 100 block of Kawi Place. She was arrested on misdemeanor warrant charges.

April 28

1:36 am: **GRAY, Donald Burt** (70) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Central Street and East San Francisco Avenue. He was arrested on charges of driving under the influence and driving under the influence with blood alcohol over .08.

11:23 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Pine Street.

2:28 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

6:41 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

April 29

12:25pm: **WOOD, Kelly Christeen** (42) of Willits was contacted in the 1200 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on charges of felony failure to appear.

2:29 pm: **McKINNON, Brice Lee** (26) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 503 PC (Felony Embezzlement) and on charges of felony violation of parole.

7:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

7:33 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

8:29 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:14 pm: **STARNES, David Kevin** (36) of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication).



Brice Lee McKinnon of Willits.



Renaissance Woman

'One of a Kind' art show in honor of the late Holly Cratty

The Willits Center for the Arts will be hosting a retrospective collection of paintings by fine artist Holly Cratty, who passed away in 2012. Cratty's works are "covered with soaring colors and horizons that stretch out forever or dense, almost metallic studies of texture," as described by WCA manager Holly Madrigal.

Cratty's works were painted mostly with acrylic paints on canvas. She sometimes used rice paper, sumi ink, oil pastels, matte acrylic gels, and photographs. She believed that the layers add a sense of depth and history to her abstract, minimalist color fields, she told Valley Art Gallery in Walnut Creek, of which she was a member.

Cratty was a woman of deep feeling, according to her

husband, Scott. Cratty spoke of her work as "celebratory; bound with love for my subjects in a sense of wonder." Through her paintings, she strove to express her thoughts regarding her relationship to her subject. "It is my understanding that each of us (and perhaps all life forms) exist in relationship to each other, and it is the quality of these relationships that is of the greatest interest to me," she wrote about her Master of Fine Arts exhibition in 1999.

In addition to painting, Holly Cratty helped her husband run the Westside Renaissance Market in Ukiah. "Holly added the 'Renaissance' to the Westside Market and was a Renaissance woman.... She was a philosopher, poet, scholar (in many fields), photographer, deeply

contemplative person of spirit and faith, nature lover, animal champion, activist, humanitarian and relentless self-examiner," says Scott Cratty.

Holly Cratty's work will be on display in the Great Room upstairs gallery at the Willits Center for the Arts. A reception will be held Saturday, May 6 at 6 pm. The reception is open to the public and offers beer, wine and appetizers. "One of a Kind" will run at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, through June. Hours at the WCA galleries are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, call the art center at 459-1726 or visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

— Jackie Cobbs

'Vessels'

May show at Willits Art Center features ceramics, photos

"Vessels," the May exhibit at the Willits Center for the Arts, features the world-class ceramics of HP Bloomer IV and the striking black-and-white photography of Craig Gardner. The opening reception May 6 is not to be missed.

Bloomer's ceramics utilize geometric patterns. "My glazing and patterning technique," he explains, "has become a starting point for determining the design of the form, allowing a conversation between form and surface.... These forms, patterns, and glazes may at times seem busy. Their intent is to parallel the eventual and vibrant world in which we live by reflecting ways we often segment, structure and compartmentalize our lives, while playfully providing handmade objects for everyday use."

Bloomer grew up in central Texas and has honed his craft nationwide, including receiving a doctoral fellowship at the University of North Texas. He lived in Colorado after receiving his MFA and has shown his work in many fine art galleries, including the Aspen Art Museum and the Harvey/Meadows Gallery. Bloomer is currently an artist in residence at the Cobb Mountain Art and Ecology Project in Middletown.

Featured alongside Bloomer's ceramic vessels is the photography of Craig Gardner. Gardner's main focus, called "Bodyscapes," is similar to landscaping photography. "It's all about the curves

of light and shadows. You look at landscapes and you see highs and lows, darks and lights that are really amazing," he says. "I see these same features in the human body.... I would like people to see nudity as something beautiful and natural, and this is what I try to capture in my photos." To Gardner, lighting, and manipulating that light to make his subjects a beautiful art form, is the most important part of his photography.

Gardner has lived in Ukiah for three decades with his wife of 23 years. Gardner has appreciation for the female form, and the subject of women being accepted breastfeeding inspired him. He started photographing women in order to ease the prejudice people were feeling about this natural human process.

More than 25 women have wanted to be part of this show. They want people to feel that it's OK, it's natural, and it serves a very important purpose - nurturing their babies.

"Some women are told that their bodies are ruined by pregnancy," says Gardner. "That is not true; their bodies are different but still beautiful." Gardner adds that many of his subjects have never modeled before. Some were nervous at first, but once they saw the images they were at ease.

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

At right: Craig Gardner's photographs often feature women breastfeeding their babies. A selection of ceramic pieces "for everyday use" by HP Bloomer.



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 57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-NOVO (6696)
 www.noyotheatre.com
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King Arthur: Legend of the Sword

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY: VOL. 2 in 3D
 (PG13) 2 hrs 17 mins
 —PREVIEW—
 Thurs, May 4 @ 7pm
 Fri:
 3, 6 & 9pm
 Sat/Sun:
 12, 3, 6 & 9pm
 Mon-Thurs:
 4 & 7pm

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY: VOL. 2 in 2D
 (PG-13) 2 hrs 17 mins
 —PREVIEW—
 Thurs, May 4 @ 7:30pm
 Fri:
 4:30 & 7:30pm
 Sat/Sun:
 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30pm
 Mon-Thurs:
 4:30 & 7:30pm

BORN IN CHINA
 —DISNEY NATURE FILM—
 (G) 1 hr 20 mins
 Fri:
 3:45 & 5:45pm
 Sat/Sun:
 11:45am, 1:45, 3:45 & 5:45pm
 Mon-Thurs:
 3:45 & 5:45pm

GOING IN STYLE
 (PG13) 1 hr 36 mins
 Fri thru Thurs:
 7:45pm

Movie Times for 5/5 thru 5/11

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 Food, games, prizes, bike event, pet consultant, diabetes and blood pressure testing, chair massage, smoothie bike, summer safety, tooth fairy, elder care, and many more activities for kids of all ages, parents and grandparents!
Friday, May 12, 3:30-7:00, Baechtel Grove Middle School Yard
1150 Magnolia St., Willits, CA
 Questions? Call Avenues to Wellness 456-9676

professionals working under the supervision of a public health nurse employed by the county's Department of Public Health.

Requests for a visit will be based on referrals from local obstetricians, from the Family Resource Centers, or from the county's Family and Children's Services division. Each para-professional will visit up to 20 families and, if permission to visit is granted, visits will occur once a week from the birth of the child, until the child is 6 months old. After that, the para-professional will continue to visit the family at intervals for the next three years.

Molgaard was asked why Mendocino County children and families are suffering so much today. "It's actually a perfect storm," Molgaard said. "There are four elements we believe are contributing to it. One: we have in this county a permissive drug culture. Second: there is an enormous amount of poverty here. Third: we have been caught in the electronic games culture. Electronic devices have been snatched up by the buying public, here as much as everywhere else, and every time you are obsessing over your device, that is time taken away from your child, or that is time your child is taking away from his or her parent.

"Lastly," she continued, "studies have shown that participating in organized religion helps keep families together and helps reduce childhood neglect and maltreatment. And we know that church attendance in this county is low. It's nothing like what it was 50 years ago.

"When you look at all the studies – and we have – quite surprisingly you will find that the one element common to families that rank high on the index of child well-being is that families participate in organized religion," she said. "As a recovering Catholic, this is a hard one for me to admit, but this is what the studies say."

Molgaard also deplored the impact of single-parent families on modern children's brain development. "Four generations ago it was common to have a lot of adults living in a household. You might have an older sister, you might have an uncle or an aunt, a grandfather or a grandmother, living in the same house with a young child. All these adults would interact with the child and help the child's brain develop.

"A hundred years ago, the ratio of adults to child was 4 to 1. Now, that ratio is .8 to 1. Because of all the kids being raised in childcare situations, it's not even 1 to 1, it's less than that. And that has had an impact on brain development.

"The brain of the child is not developing as well," she said. "You can be born with great genes, but if you don't have human interaction, your brain is not going to develop. I think that most of our kids have subnormal brain development."

Redwood Community Services Executive Director Camille Schraeder praised the Mendocino County grand jury, whose May 2015 report shed searing light on the county's Families and Children's Services Division, which, Schraeder opined, was the precipitating cause for Health and Human Services taking remedial action now.

"In retrospect, the work of the grand jury was conducive to bringing together all the different efforts that were happening in our county, but which hadn't come together yet," Schraeder said. "After the grand jury report, people recognized we needed to come together to work more effectively.

"Having said that, nothing will solve the problems in Family and Children's Services until salaries and housing are solved," she added.

Local agencies get money

Supervisors on Tuesday allocated money to two local agencies that will assist the county in implementing its new "differential response" policy. Differential response is a family-and-child welfare practice in which families judged to have a relatively low potential for dysfunction, but who still need counseling, will be directed to non-county personnel for counseling.

To that end, supervisors approved a contract with First 5 Mendocino for \$162,000 for services from May of this year to June 30 of next year.

A second contract was approved with Redwood Community Services for \$292,246 for the same term.



Ridgewood Ranch hosts Kentucky Derby fundraiser for Redwood Community Services

Friends and fans of Seabiscuit, horse racing, and Redwood Community Services will gather from near and far on the day of the Kentucky Derby, Saturday, May 6 from 1 to 6 pm in order to raise funds for RCS.

The event celebrating the 143rd Kentucky Derby horse race will be held at the Howard House on Ridgewood Ranch, home of the legendary racehorse, located a few miles south of Willits off Highway 101.

The celebration will kick off with exclusive Derby-themed drinks, hors d'oeuvres and a catered luncheon. Activities include a ladies' Kentucky Derby hat contest, silent and live auctions, bidding booth, and live coverage of "the two most famous minutes in sports" – the crossing of the Kentucky Derby finish line.

Festivities will continue under the event tent sponsored by Selzer Realty, featuring country music artist McKenna Faith performing first-class, high-energy, boot-stomping music immediately following the televised race.

Ticketholders will also have the opportunity to participate in a guided ranch tour, including Seabiscuit's newly restored stud barn, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center.

The event's location, Ridgewood's historic Howard House, is the Craftsman-style ranch home of Charles S. Howard, owner of Seabiscuit, built by William Van Arsdale in 1905. Seabiscuit's life-size memorial bronze statue adorns the front lawn.

The 5,000-acre Ridgewood Ranch, studded with oaks and old-growth redwoods, is where Seabiscuit recuperated during his 1939 injury in preparation for his blaze-of-glory finish at the

1940 Santa Anita Handicap. His retirement home – still a working ranch – has become a destination for visitors far and wide, with 20 historic buildings remaining on the ranch from the Seabiscuit and Howard era. Just over a third of the property – 1,689 acres – has been placed in a permanent conservation easement.

"A trip to Ridgewood is beyond bucket list," says special guest and Seabiscuit fan, Lloyd Schwing. He elected to forego a trip to the 2017 Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs to watch his own filly compete in the Oaks. Schwing, together with his late wife, Anne Marie, not only admired the courage and vision of Howard, Tom Smith and Red Pollard, but that of Laura Hillenbrand as well. "They have been an inspiration to us in our endeavors."

Event proceeds are in support of Redwood Community Services, a non-profit agency that provides specialized care and services to foster children and their families, that is the largest provider of foster care and children's mental health services in Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma counties. For more information on RCS, visit www.rcs4kids.org.

Tickets are by advance purchase or reservation only. Tickets can be reserved by contacting Pamela Mathias of Redwood Community Services at 707-367-4703 or mathiasp@rcs4kids.org. Tickets can also be purchased at J.D. Redhouse or Mazahar Boutique in Willits or online at www.rcskd.eventbrite.com.

For more information about Ridgewood Ranch, visit www.seabiscuitheritage.org.

– submitted by **Redwood Community Services**

This show is best for mature audiences.

Come see both of these fine artists at the opening on May 6. Romi's BBQ is generously providing refreshments for the evening. The 6 pm "Members Hour" will include a conversation with the artists.

"Vessels" will run at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, through May. Hours at the WCA galleries are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, call the art center at 459-1726 or visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

– submitted by **Willits Center for the Arts**

head at least two times," Mason said.

As Laiwamckay continued to pull the woman's hair, the fighting pair moved into the garage, where the 45-year-old victim reportedly grabbed a hatchet and took at least two swings at Laiwamckay, Mason said.

Laiwamckay eventually released the victim and left the residence, and the woman called the Sheriff's Office.

She was later transported to Howard Memorial Hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Deputies located Laiwamckay at her Ukiah home and took her into custody, Mason said. She was taken to county jail where she was booked on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and first-degree burglary.

After posting \$30,000 bail, Laiwamckay was released.

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



Shawneesuree Laiwamckay.

Some spots are cute.

Some not so much...

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Above, from left: Kathy Neff helps Diana Moore try on outfits Tuesday afternoon. Moore holds up two additional outfits she's excited to wear in the show. Full of sass, Linda Wiley shows off a black sequin tunic topped with a fancy feather boa. Below, right: Neff and Wiley pose together during Wiley's fitting Tuesday afternoon.

Photos by Maureen Moore

A Day for Tea & Togs

Food and fashion at the Senior Center

Come to the Harrah Senior Center on Saturday, May 13 at noon for an enjoyable day filled with music, an afternoon tea with tasty treats, and a curated fashion show featuring outfits created with finds from the center's Thrift Store. Tickets to "Tea & Togs" are \$15 each and are available in advance or at the door. Reservations may be made for groups of six or more.

Maureen Moore

Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Nancy New and the Just for Fun Choir will perform, then a light lunch of everything from salmon salad to mini éclairs to strawberries will be served before the show begins.

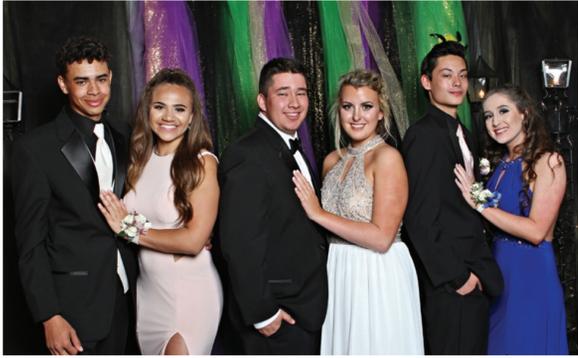
Models range in age from 6 to 92, and will each be wearing three to six outfits, custom-selected for them by show coordinator Kathy Neff. The outfits are grouped in categories like "Suing Up," "Lady in Red," "The Jacket," "Skirting the Issue," "The Color Coral," and more, with the finale being "The Luau."

Models for Tea & Togs this year include:

Scarlet Barling, 6: Loves all colors and still likes to play. This is her second time modeling in the show.

Eva Earnest, 10: Favorite color is blue, loves clothes, wants to be a fashion designer when she grows up.

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



King & Queen

Willits High School seniors Othello Jackson and Chanel Alexander were named top royalty at Saturday's Senior Prom. Runners-up included Miranda Wilson, Julia Johnstone, Riley Hsieh and Oliver Campuzano. The event was held from 9 pm to 1 am at the Willits Community Center and was themed "Masquerade Ball."

Above: The 2017 court including, from left: Othello Jackson, Chanel Alexander, Oliver Campuzano, Miranda Wilson, Riley Hsieh and Julia Johnstone. At right: The crowned winners: Prom King Othello Jackson and Prom Queen Chanel Alexander.



Photos by Maureen Moore

212

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Charles Martin and his wife, Catharine.

OBITUARY |

Charles Martin

Charles Henry Martin, also known as the Comptche Renegade Farmer, died in his sleep on January 25, 2017 from complications due to congestive heart failure. He was born in Newark, New Jersey on November 8, 1930 and is an only child of Minnette Martin. His father died when he was 2 years old, and he was raised solely by his mother who never remarried.

In his mid-teens, the family moved to California in 1945 where Martin attended and graduated from Whittier High School. During this time he learned how to milk cows at a local farm and was soon helping supplement the family income. He also worked on a rabbit farm and later worked as a parts delivery driver and assistant manager for the local Chevrolet dealer. He attended Fullerton Junior College, 1950-51.

Martin was inducted into the National Guard in 1951 and was shipped to Japan for further training. On February 18, 1952 during his first landing in the Korean War, he was hit by mortar fire and sustained life-threatening injuries. After multiple surgeries and a year of physical therapy, he returned to Fullerton College and graduated with a BA in 1953. From 1958 to 1962 he attended Cal Poly and graduated with a BS in mechanical engineering. During the '60s and '70s he worked in the rocket industry and was responsible for the Titan III Booster rockets that would help launch the Space Shuttle for many years.

He was a home gardener for many years, and in 1985 he moved to Comptche with his wife where he started an organic farm and sold produce to local restaurants throughout Northern California. In 1996 he decided to retire and moved to Ridgewood Ranch in Willits where he worked with the Church of the Golden Rule on numerous gardening projects, including their prized Cherry Orchard Project.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Catharine, of 30 years, his son Ron and Rhonda grandchildren.

Burial services were held at the Little Lake Cemetery in Willits on Monday, January 30, with a Celebration for Life following at St. John Lutheran Church.

OBITUARY |

Marilyn Rex

Marilyn Kay (Deaton) Rex, 53, passed away April 15, 2017 at home in the care of her loving husband, Morgan. She was born August 19, 1963 in the old Howard Hospital here in Willits, to Johnny and Margie (Wisely) Deaton.

Marilyn was married to Charles Morgan Rex on September 7, 1995.

Marilyn had a special aunt, Myrtle Deaton, and a very special friend, Dorothy Combs, who both sat with her in the last few weeks of her life. They got many sweet smiles and "I Love You" from Marilyn in those days.

Marilyn was a very loving person, and all of her family and friends loved her very much. She will be greatly missed by all.

Marilyn is survived by her husband, Morgan Rex, her parents Johnny and Margie Deaton, her sisters Donna Frost (Ted) and Sandra Haws (Larry), and her brother David Deaton (Judy), and many uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, and many friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 1 pm, at the Shiloh Gateway of Worship church, 68 East San Francisco Avenue.

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW113

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2017-F0318

The following persons are doing business as: Advanced Designs Inc. DBA Advanced PCB Designs and CENTER OF ATTENTION, 24926 Brooktrails Drive, Willits CA 95490. Advanced Designs Inc. business is conducted by a corporation: Advanced Designs Inc., 4730 South Apache Road, SE 300, Las Vegas, NV 89147. CENTER OF ATTENTION business is conducted by a married couple.

The registrant Advanced Designs Inc. commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 1/1/2010 and the registrant CENTER OF ATTENTION commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 1/1/1995.

The registrant Advanced Designs Inc. commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 1/1/2010 and the registrant CENTER OF ATTENTION commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 1/1/1995.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on April 14, 2017.

s/ Jason Dunlap, President
Pub dates 04/20, 04/27, 05/04 and 05/11/2017

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Environmental Health Technician — Extra-Help
Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist
Social Worker I-V (Includes Immediate Openings for Temporary Extra-Help Work)
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www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr EOE.



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Brooktrails Flea Market Vendors Needed
2017 Market is Saturday, June 3. Outdoor spaces and indoors tables: \$20 each. Vendors check in: 6 am to 3 pm. Call to reserve a space: Ariane 456-0734.

Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song: Wednesday, May 24, at 6 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Ancient Wisdom for Today. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

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Garage Sale
4 family garage sale, Sat. and Sun., May 6th and 7th, 9-4. Furniture, tools, Hallmark ornaments, exercise equipment and so much more. 1660 Center Valley Rd., Willits.

Help Wanted
NCO Head Start Recruiting for Willits: Family Support Specialist - Bilingual pref. \$11.70-\$14.27 DOQ. For full job description details & appl go to www.ncinc.org/about-us/jobs or 707-467-3200 x 302. Closes: 5/8 @ 5 pm (Postmarks not accepted). EOE

Help Wanted
Managing Director - permanent part-time. Apx 3 days a week. Salaried. Responsible for day-to-day running of Willits Community Theatre. Report to the board of directors. Must be a self-starter. Experience with Microsoft Publisher and QuickBooks a plus. See our website online at www.willitstheatre.org for details. Email resume to wcl@willitsonline.com.

Help Wanted
The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, located in Redwood Valley, is seeking a part-time employee to work a minimum of 20 hours per week. Ability to lift 40 pounds and work independently required. Duties include but not limited to; daily cleaning of Cat condos and/or Dog kennels, dishes, litter pans and feeding. Please call 485-0123 to schedule an interview.

Help Wanted
HAZ TECHNICIAN JOB, Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority, Ukiah. Full-time, hard-working. \$15/hr, good benefits; bilingual a plus. To apply, go to www.mendocinocycle.org or contact mswma@pacific.net. Applications due May 5, 2017.

Help Wanted
Adventist Health Homecare & Hospice Services - Mendocino County. Part Time or Per Diem Speech Therapist needed. Call HIR Trudy #456-3230.

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We'll be back!
Kenny's Barber Shop will be closed from May 7 to May 16, but we'll see you when we're back! 1569 South Main Street. 456-1174.

Help Wanted
NCO Head Start Recruiting for Willits: Family Support Specialist - Bilingual pref. \$11.70-\$14.27 DOQ. For full job description details & appl go to www.ncinc.org/about-us/jobs or 707-467-3200 x 302. Closes: 5/8 @ 5 pm (Postmarks not accepted). EOE

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May 2017 Calendar

MONDAY

POINTS DAYS

4X POINTS

All Players Club members will earn 4X Points from 10A to 10P on the days of the promotion!

SUPER SENIOR DAY

50% DISCOUNT FOOD COUPONS ISSUED (to be used for that day only) when the customer has earned minimally 50 points from 10A to 7P.

BINGO! THURSDAY

12PM \$75 FREE PLAY
1PM \$100 FREE PLAY
2PM \$150 CASH
8PM \$125 IN FREE PLAY
9PM \$150 IN FREE PLAY
10PM \$100 CASH

Players Club members must have earned minimally 50 points to receive a bingo card for the 12P, 1P & 2P bingo games.

Players Club members must have earned minimally 50 points (throughout the day) to receive a bingo card for the 8P, 9P & 10P bingo games. ANY SENIOR (55+) THAT WINS A BINGO GAME (Not a second chance), WILL WIN A \$50 FREE PLAY BONUS.

Bingo Cards can start being issued at 11A for the 12P, 1P, and 2P for the 8P games. The 12, 2P, 8P & 10P cards will be issued after the earlier game has ended.

If two customer's claim the win together, the prize amount is "split" between the two winners.

For the 2P and 10P, there will be a "Second Chance Win". After a confirmed bingo for these three games (and the winning customer has been processed), the game will continue until a second "Bingo" is won, and the "Second Chance Win" customer will win \$50 Cash for the 2P game and \$100 Cash for the 10P game.

The "Second Chance Win" opportunity will be announced before each of the specific games.

FRIDAY NIGHT

TRUCK ENTRY DRAWING - 20 PRIZES/ENTRY AT 11A
May start to receive points for drawing entries at 11A
Each drawing time has a prize value to it

PAYDAY!

8:00PM WIN CASH FROM 8-11! \$100
10:30PM \$200
11:00PM \$150
11:00PM \$250
11:00PM \$300

At each drawing (except the 10:30 & 11P drawings), an entry will be drawn from the Raffle Barrel. The winning customer will have 30 seconds to claim their prize. If the number is not claimed the money for the specific drawing will be forwarded to the next drawing for the night. For example: If the 8P drawing has no winner, the \$100 will be forwarded to the 9P drawing and will be worth \$250.

For the 11P drawing, if there is no winner on the drawing, there will be an additional drawing. This process will continue until a winner has claimed the cash prize.

Customers may win up to 6 times each week of this promotion.

TUESDAY

POT OF GOLD PLINKO

Hot Seats
12 Random Hot Seat Drawings

Approximate Times of Hot Seat Drawings
1P – 4P (twice per hour = 6 Drawings)
7P – 10P (twice per hour = 6 Drawings)

Winner will receive one Plinko Chip. The Winner will place the Plinko Chip in a slot of their choice on the top of the Plinko board. The plinko chip will slide down the board and will land in one of 8 prize slots. Prizes will be randomly placed at the bottom of the Plinko board.

The prizes are: "\$20 Free Play", "\$40 Free Play", "\$60 Free Play", "\$100 Free Play".

If a winning customer has less than 300 points earned (on the day of the promotion) when their name is drawn, they will win the "base" Free Play amount.

If the winning customer has earned more than 300 points on the day of the promotion, they will earn a 50% bonus on the Free Play they won.

The Players Club Representative will switch the prizes on the bottom of the Plinko Board every six games.
All Free Play won must be played by 2A.
Customers may win up to twice each Tuesday.

HOT SEATS & BONUS SPIN WEDNESDAYS Double Your Fun!

EARLY SESSION: 11A ending at 3P
2 random winners/hour (8 total winners)
Each winner will win \$40 in Free Play
Each Hot Seat winner will also spin a prize wheel that could double their Free Play winnings.

EVENING SESSION: 7P ending at 11P
2 random winners/hour (8 total winners)
Each winner will win \$100 in Free Play
Each Hot Seat winner will also spin a prize wheel that could double their Free Play winnings.

Customers may win up to two separate Hot Seats each week for this promotion



SATURDAY FUN • May 6 & 13

Hot Seat Drawings!

Round #1:
11 AM to 12 PM – 2 random winners per hour;
12 PM to 1 PM – 2 random winners per hour;
1 PM to 2 PM – 2 random winners per hour.
Each winner will win \$50 in Free Play.
Customers will have to play a minimum of \$20 to be eligible for Round #1.

Round #2:
5 PM to 6 PM – 2 random winners per hour.
6 PM to 7 PM – 2 random winners per hour.
7 PM to 8 PM – 2 random winners per hour.
Each winner will win \$75 in Free Play.
Customers will have to play a minimum of \$30 to be eligible for Round #2.

Round #3:
9 PM to 10 PM – 3 random winners per hour.
Each winner will win \$100 in Free Play.
Customers will have to play a minimum of \$40 to be eligible for Round #3.

Round #4:
10 PM to 11 PM – 3 random winners per hour.
Each winner will win \$150 in Free Play.
Customers will have to play a minimum of \$50 to be eligible for Round #4.

All winner(s) must use their promotional "Free Play" by 2AM the night they won, or the Free Play will be removed from their account.
Customers may win up to two (2) times each Saturday of this promotion.

MEMORIAL DAY T-SHIRT • 10AM - 4PM

All Players Club members that earn 100 points on this day of the promotion, will receive a Sherwood Valley Casino/Memorial Day T-Shirt.
One shirt per customer. While Supply Lasts!

Scratch Card Sunday!
10am-8pm!

Players Club members that earn minimally 40 points on each specific Sunday, will receive one (only one) Scratch Card (via the Players Club). Each Scratch Card will have a prize (cash or free play), which will be;

\$10 Free Play \$20 Free Play \$50 Free Play
\$75 Free Play \$100 Free Play
\$20 Cash \$50 Cash \$100 Cash

Customers may receive only one Scratch Card each Sunday for this promotion. All Free play that is won via the Hot Seat drawings must be used by 2am on the same gaming day, or the winnings (Free Play) will be removed from the customer's account.

SATURDAY SPORTS FUN

MAY 17, 20, 24 & 27

We will be giving away 10 pairs of tickets to the San Francisco Giants game on June 10th.

Earn entries (25 points/entry) on May 17, 20, 24 and 27th.

Drawings at 8P & 9P on May 20 & May 27

2 pairs of tickets for 8pm drawing and 3 pairs for tickets for the 9pm drawings each week.

The Raffle Barrel will be emptied after the 9P drawings each week. Players Club members may win once per week and up to 2 times for this promotion.

Management reserves all rights to cancel or alter any promotion with little or no notice.

Sherwood Valley Rancheria Smokeshop

New Winter Hours: Monday-Friday 10am to 6pm
Saturday 11am to 5pm - Closed on Sundays
707-354-2382

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written version of the ruling.

The lawsuit was brought by a group of seven cannabis entrepreneurs, including longtime cannabis activist Pebbles Trippet. The plaintiffs were represented in court by Ukiah attorney Larry Rosen.

In his February 2 complaint, Rosen explained why he was suing the county. "Despite [the] characterization of Measure AJ as merely an "advisory measure," four members of the board of supervisors who signed ballot arguments in favor of Measures AI and AJ coupled them explicitly. This is clear and obvious evidence of the board's intent to place Measure AI on the ballot to cause only legal marijuana businesses to pay special and extra taxes into the general fund for general public purposes.

"The two ballot measures were presented as a set, and these election materials support a finding that the two measures are so closely related and inseparable that they constitute, in the words of California Constitution Article XIII C, "a tax imposed for specific purposes which is placed into a general fund."

"Because the two measures were presented as a set, the ballot argument in support of Measure AJ, signed by and written at the direction of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, assured voters the "marijuana tax" money from Measure AI will be spent for "critical county services" unrelated to and not caused by legal marijuana business (and their customers) that will exclusively pay that tax.

"Measure AI accompanied by its companion Measure AJ together proposed a special tax subject to Article XIII C's supermajority approval requirement," Rosen argued.

This is also Eva's second time modeling in the show along with her sister, Scarlet.

Maggie Graham: Teaches piano, volunteers at the Senior Center, second time in the show.

Norma Hanson: "Said she wouldn't wear a bikini, but is a great sport about whatever I put her in," laughed Neff. This is Hanson's second time in the show, also.

Deb Holcomb: Works at the Senior Center as the volunteer coordinator and doing whatever else needs to be done. This is her first time in the show.

Elaine Houpe: Volunteers at the center as hostess at lunch; this is her second time in the show.

Mary Roediger James: Volunteers at the center, loves the Thrift Store, loves clothes; multi-year show veteran model.

Diana Moore: Volunteers at the front desk at the center; this is her first show.

Martha Morgan: Will be 93 years old this year, and bakes the "best lemon meringue pies" says Neff. Morgan has been in all but one of the past five shows.

Kay Nord: Subbed for a teenaged model at the last minute last year, volunteers whenever needed, former board member at the center, and has been in all but one of the shows.

Danielle Sherman: Loves the Thrift Store, says being in the show is her way of promoting the store and giving something back; she's been in all the shows.

Linda Wiley: Volunteers as hostess in the dining room, has been a spectator at the show every year; this is her first year modeling.

"Diana Mann has created a group of lovely baskets which we will be raffling off as well," Neff said. "Each basket has a slightly different theme, all related to 'tea,' and features collectables from our Thrift Store."

The raffle baskets are on display at the front desk of the center, and tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

"This is a fun event and a great way to spend an afternoon with friends, moms, daughters and grandmothers," said Neff. "Remember to bring your own teacup!"

For more information, call the Senior Center at 459-6826.



Willits Weekly
459-2633 & 972-7047
willitsweekly@gmail.com

projections, to predict how much new housing each region in the state must be prepared for.

For the years 2014-2019, Willits was given a "regional housing needs allocation" of 13 new units, which is much lower than the city's previous RHNA assessment of 209 for the years 2007-2014. The city isn't responsible for building the homes, but needs to show it is ready and able to welcome construction if developers should choose to do so.

Mendocino County was evaluated as needing 250 new housing units by the state HCD for the 2014-2019 period. The Mendocino County Council of Governments then allocated numbers to Willits and other cities in the county.

Michael Baker International consultant Jennifer Gastelum, who helped develop the draft along with City Planner Dusty Duley and other staff, told the council some of the proposed changes in the city zoning ordinances were "carryover" from the previous RHNA, which showed Willits had a need for more housing, especially low-cost units.

These changes include a new "minimum density" of 14.5 housing units per acre in R3 zones, allowing second units to be added to single-family dwellings in residentially zoned areas, and permitting second-floor residential homes above businesses in commercial areas.

In addition, there were also measures that would allow transitional housing, emergency shelters, single-occupancy homes for "extremely low-income" people, and "farmworker housing" on agricultural sites.

Duley pointed out all new construction proposals still must go through the proper reviews and channels before being green-lighted.

Some council members expressed concern about proposed zoning rule changes. Councilwoman Madge Strong said she had misgivings concerning the possibility of overdeveloping an area near a creek on Coast Street in an R3 zone.

Councilman Ron Orenstein wanted to reduce the size or number of people allowed to live in secondary houses, or "granny units" as they're often called, arguing it could become a nuisance to neighbors if unchecked.

"Let's do low-cost housing for sure," said Orenstein, "but let's not throw everybody else under the bus in order to accommodate this. We have to find that middle ground."

Duley said the city needs to be aware of state requirements to allow increased housing, and be prepared in case the RHNA numbers went up again.

"If we don't have the adequate lands, especially for our lower-income groups ... we might be in the position where the city's having to go around and look to rezone land to R3 within our community. And that's not always an easy thing to do. Folks have concerns about R3 lands being next to them.... We had to go through that exercise with the county, and it wasn't fun."

Gastelum said lobbyists in Sacramento threaten every year to tie housing element infractions to reductions in transportation funds if local governments don't comply, but haven't done so yet. She felt the current housing element draft put Willits in a good position to meet its requirements.

"Should the market [desire], there are opportunities for housing to come into the city, and that's basically all the state is requiring to see."

The draft will now be given to the state for a 60-day assessment, and then come back to the council for official adoption with any changes.

Willits had some notable demographic trends that stood out in the housing element report, which was based on research from U.S. Census data and other surveys. For instance, Willits was the only city in the county whose population declined from 2000-2016, dropping from 5,074 to 4,088. Gastelum said this likely was why Willits was only assigned 13 new homes out of the 250 in the RHNA.

By contrast, Mendocino County's population as a whole rose by 4.6 percent in that period, with the unincorporated areas rising the most, by 12.8 percent.

In addition, from 2010-2016 the median income in Willits fell alarmingly from \$40,465 to \$30,678, while

Mendocino County's average income rose from \$56,300 to \$58,900.

The median price of a house in Willits was found to be \$252,500, which Gastelum noted was more than even some in the "moderate"-income bracket (\$80,000 a year for a family of four) could afford, based on projections.

Decline in last-quarter 2016 sales tax

City Financial Director Susie Holmes summarized the latest data regarding the possible impact of the bypass on local businesses – based largely on a report from a sales tax consultant – and the news was not good.

According to the latest assessments, business activity in the city for the quarter from October to December 2016 (the bypass was opened November 8) decreased by 9.5 percent compared to the same quarter for 2015.

Holmes defined "business activity" as taxable transactions in the city.

Among the biggest drops was a 17.9 percent decline in service station business, which she said added up to a decline of \$4.3 million in sales and a \$175,000 decrease in revenue for the city for that quarter.

"Sales tax net cash receipts" for Willits during the final quarter of 2016 decreased by 2 percent compared to 2015. Prior to that, sales tax receipts had been up for at least four quarters in a row compared to the previous year's receipts of the same quarter.

Mendocino County as a whole saw about the same amount of business activity in its last quarter of 2016 as 2015, and posted a gain of about 9.5 percent in sales tax net cash receipts.

Orenstein pointed out, given the bypass was only open for part of the quarter, there were likely other factors for the decline in business, and Holmes agreed.

She said there were still "some issues" in the data they were trying to work out, and she would have more specifics at the next meeting.

Yet she did warn that, based on the latest information, she thought the previously projected sales tax revenue for the city – \$1,475,000 – would be decreasing by about \$100,000 for the current fiscal year.

Cannabis ordinance progress

Vice Mayor Larry Stranske expressed his frustration with the city about the lack of progress in producing a cannabis ordinance.

"This thing needs to get going, because it's really lagged in my estimation," he said. "I would like either for it to go [forward] or go away. The lag on this has just been crazy. And I just think it's time we start doing something with it."

Mayor Gerry Gonzalez, a member of the ad hoc cannabis committee scheduled to meet this week, argued he and the committee have been doing what they can to research the topic and come up with an ordinance that "addresses everybody's concerns."

New procedure manual

The council approved a new manual of procedures for conducting Willits City Council meetings 4-1, with Stranske casting the dissenting vote.

Stranske objected to the idea that councilmembers who were not part of a certain ad hoc or subcommittee would be "prohibited" from taking part in meetings with those committees, or even asking questions. As business owners and citizens, he argued, councilmembers should have the right to at least ask questions at important committee meetings that could affect them.

However, City Attorney Jim Lance said the Brown Act prohibits councilmembers from speaking out in subcommittees they're not on, and they should use caution regarding official procedures.

Orenstein pointed out the city council as a whole does have the final word on all matters committees discuss, and can voice their opinions on the topics at regular council meetings.



Call for Mother's Day photos

Mother's Day is just around the corner (Sunday, May 14!), and Willits Weekly is ready to honor moms in the community with our annual photo collage feature.

This is something we do for free for the community, and everyone is encouraged to participate!

You can tag "Willits Weekly" on Facebook in your images or text them to Maureen at 972-7047, but emailing digital photos to willitsweekly@gmail.com is best.

However, if you only have a print photo, it can be brought to Ace Copy and Shipping and scanned and emailed to us easily. Make sure to include a caption naming the people in the photograph from left to right.

We need to have all images in by end of day Monday, May 8.

The photo collages will appear in the May 11 edition, just in time for Mother's Day.

Questions? Call 972-7047 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com. We will print as many photos as we can, so get yours in early and get included in this fun way to honor all our mothers!

— Maureen Moore



Blosser Lane Elementary School third-grade students held a trash clean-up of the school campus in honor of Earth Day.

Blosser Lane students do Earth Day clean-up

Third-grade students at Blosser Lane Elementary School helped to clean up and beautify the school grounds on April 20 in honor of Earth Day. Students from Ms. Bender and Ms. Zak's classes spent the first part of a school day centered around learning about Earth Day doing the trash clean-up.

Below: The Willits Kiwanis Cougars at the Stockton tournament. Back row: Coach Matt Rountree, Shaden Coles, Jack Buckingham, Kevin Arms, Terrin Findley, Coach Jeff Findley, and Coach Billy Arms. Front row: Bryce Sjoland, Kevin Rountree, Justin Coleman, Steven Husarek, Robert Husarek, and Kyle Walters. Missing is Coach James Walters. The Cougars would like to thank Windsor Mill for donating their team hats.

Big League Dreams

Willits youth baseball team plays Stockton tourney

The Willits Kiwanis Cougars traveled to Stockton to play a two-day tournament last Sunday. The 12 and under team, consisting of mostly 11-year-old boys, got to play at Big League Dreams in Manteca. The boys fundraised for this tournament, which cost \$600 to enter.

Big League Dreams is a complex made up of six fields to look like major league fields. The boys played a double-header on the Anaheim Angels field against kids who have been playing with each other for at least four years and are mostly at the top of their age group.

The Kiwanis Cougars have another tournament on May 20, again in Stockton. We have been asking for assistance from local businesses to help with funding. The funding goes toward equipment, uniforms,



— Coach Billy Arms

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Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
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 Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
 Pastor: Bill Nobles
 Information: 456-9668
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 Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
 1st Sabbath of every month
 family potluck at the school,
 22751 Bray Road, Willits

If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
 (707) 972-2475
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The rest of Rules | From Page 1

Supervisor Dan Hamburg recused himself from the proceedings due to a ruling by the State Fair Political Practices Commission concerning a "likely" conflict of interest in participating in the rule-making process on this aspect of cannabis regulation.

Probably the most significant changes agreed upon by supervisors would allow the manufacturing of cannabis byproducts using both volatile and non-volatile solvents in commercially zoned properties, with a major use permit.

Comments by Director of Environmental Health Dave Jensen seemed to shift supervisors from opposing the policy change to supporting it. Jensen said he felt comfortable with allowing the use of volatile solvents in commercially zoned areas, if the manufacturing use met county fire, safety and building code standards for the proposed property.

"This is an interesting argument coming from me," Jensen said, "that we include volatile solvents, because it is my staff, for the past several years, which has responded, often in the middle of the night, to these explosions, to garages that have blown up, to houses that have caught fire. It's my people who have come back with the stories and the photos of what can and has, and maybe even will, under the wrong situations, go wrong.

"And it is also my staff which regularly goes out to other manufacturing facilities that use volatile solvents. Those manufacturing companies, which comply with these regulations, do not blow up; we do not go to them in the middle of the night to help put out fires.

"I guess my point is, for myself, as director of Environmental Health," Jensen said, "I believe there is a place for the use of volatile solvents, within the context of thoughtful, well-documented, acceptable standards."

At the request of Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde, cannabis manufacturing with both volatile and non-volatile solvents would be permitted in Rural Communities zones with a major use permit.

The major use permit process requires a noticed public hearing be held before the Mendocino County Planning Commission. Minor use permits require a noticed public hearing before the zoning administrator.

Supervisors also directed staff to allow dispensaries in both Commercial-1 and Commercial-2 zones in unincorporated Mendocino County. Existing dispensaries would be "grandfathered in" in commercial zones, and the approval process for new dispensaries would require that applicants obtain a major use permit.

Nineteen people addressed the board concerning business license and cannabis facilities regulations. In general, the comments indicated the public understood the industry far better than the supervisors.

Jude Thielman, a dispensary owner from the coast, told supervisors that regulations needed to allow vertical integration of the industry. Ashley Oldham opined the county needs to welcome cannabis tourism and what she called "bud-and-breakfast" operations. She also said certain permits needed to be approved in tandem as a matter of course. "Everyone with a cultivation permit should be able to get a transportation permit," Oldham said.

Ron Edwards of Willits again argued against the need for a county-based track and trace system, urging supervisors hold imposing such a system until the state initiates its system at the beginning of next year.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen acknowledged each of the three supervisors able to participate in the regulation-making for the cannabis industry are functioning at something of a disadvantage.

"It's not only that we're drafting regulation for a process that we don't understand," said McCowen, "it's that we're drafting regulations for a full-blown industry, where people are doing what they have been doing for years, for decades, in some cases."

After discussing the item, the board asked staff to bring the revised code sections back for another look. The board discussed the matter with CEO Carmel Angelo, and the date and time of 10 am on Tuesday, May 23, was selected.

Chapters 9.30, 9.31 formally approved

In addition to making changes to the cannabis business license ordinance and cannabis facilities regulations, supervisors approved a second reading of Chapters 9.30 and 9.31 of the Mendocino County Code. The two chapters were approved as part of a vote on the consent calendar; they weren't even pulled out of the calendar for discussion. Approval of the two items means they will become effective law in this county on June 1.

Chapter 9.30 governs the cultivation of adult use marijuana, which California voters approved with the passage of Proposition 64 last November. Chapter 9.31 includes certain revisions of that chapter, to make it conform to regulations included in the county's new medical cannabis cultivation ordinance, which the board approved on April 4, 2017. Chapter 9.31 governs the cultivation of cannabis in the coastal zone of Mendocino County.

At left: 2017 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart candidates Hailey Riley, left, and Keely Ahders, right, stand with current Willits Frontier Days President Fred Barry.

Photo by Maureen Moore

Meet the Candidates

Keely Ahders and Hailey Riley start their race for the 2017 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart title



Hailey Riley

Hailey Riley, 19, is in her second year in college at Mendocino College.

"I will be riding my own horse, whose name is Easy Nina; she's a bay, a solid paint."

Hailey's parents are Paul and Bonnie Riley. She has a little sister, Morgan Riley, and a grandfather, Mike Riley.

As far as after-school activities and hobbies, Hailey rides her horse as much as she can, "especially bareback or on trail rides." She plays basketball for Mendocino College, and is on a women's slow pitch softball team at her work place, Howard Memorial Hospital.

"I decided to run for Sweetheart, because I've been wanting to do it for a while, but between knee injuries and surgery, I was never well enough to, and now that I am, I am very excited to be able to run."

Hailey has been riding for about 10 years, doing gymkhanas, horse shows and trail rides.

"I'm going to college to become a certified X-ray technician, majoring in allied health, and double majoring in kinesiology. After getting my degrees and certification for X-ray, I plan to get my certifications in MRI, Ct scan and ultra sound."

During this year's Sweetheart contest, Hailey is "looking forward to meeting new people and learning more tricks and techniques with my horse."

She'd like to thank "everyone that is helping me along the way. I'm very appreciative of my family for all the dedication they are also putting into this with me."

Contact Riley by calling or texting 707-272-1139.

The rest of Warnock | From Page 1

have a lot more opportunities and pay a lot more are still having the same problem. It's worse at a smaller department where the pay is not so much."

But on the positive side, WPD has "a lot of people who grew up here," Warnock said, and who want to work in Willits, including Officer Cody Mason, Officer Rico McCoy, and Sgt. Michael Bennett.

Warnock said some of the younger WPD officers would be making the rounds at police academies to work on attracting new officers to Willits. "We seem to have the best luck recruiting at academies," Warnock said.

One advantage of working at a small police department that WPD recruiters will point out to potential new colleagues is the opportunity to learn a well-rounded set of skills, instead of only one specialized skill, as can happen in larger, urban police departments.

"When you're working at a smaller agency," Warnock said, "you have to know how to do everything, you get more experience in all phases, and you're more valuable than somebody who's been trained only in a specialty."

Warner mentioned some other things that made Willits a good place for officers to relocate to, including hunting, fishing, the environment, and the cost of living.

Warnock will also be working on upgrading some equipment for the department. "A lot of departments have gone to 'external ballistics vests,' instead of [so-called] bulletproof vests," he said. "When an officer wears a bulletproof vest, there's at least 30 pounds of stuff on their duty belts, and that can cause back problems. We're doing a conversion that can carry a lot of gear, and lighten up the duty belts."

Statistics from the Redwood Empire Municipal Insurance Fund, he said, showed the new vests drastically reduced back complaints.

Warnock is also working on a reserve police officer program and on revitalizing the WPD volunteer program — "Volunteers could do a lot of miscellaneous stuff," he said, "from filing to directing traffic, to assisting officers, to doing some community things like helping to clean up graffiti."

A reserve program would be for people

who meet "all the same requirements as police officers," Warnock said. "They have to pass the same background checks, medical, psychological tests, and [have graduated] from police academy. A lot of people apply to be a reserve officer because they make too much money and don't want to give up their jobs, but they do want to be involved in law enforcement and their communities. Others want to get their foot in the door."

Warnock retired in 2007 from the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control after more than 30 years in law enforcement and criminal justice, including working at the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office, the Mendocino County Public Defender's Office, Novato Police Department, and the San Diego Police Department. Since retiring, Warnock had been working part-time at the Willits Police Department.

Chief Warnock holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Management, is currently pursuing a master's degree, and previously served in the U.S. Navy. He and his wife, Tina, have lived in Willits for the last 26 years.



Above, left: Members of the Willits Police Department: Officer Michael Nguyen, Sgt. Michael Bennett, Chief Scott Warnock, Officer Kevin Leaf, and Officer Justin D'Orazio.



Above, right: Ron Orenstein and Scott Warnock discuss their visions for the future of the Willits Police Department.

At left: City Manager Adrienne Moore administers the oath of office to new Willits Police Chief Scott Warnock.

At right: Scott Warnock.

Photos by Mathew Caine



William England, Brian and Catie Spackman, and Danielle Barry show off their Color Me Green swag.

Cuddly Rowan

Rowan is a 1-year-old female mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 49 pounds. It was a sad day for Rowan when her human decided she could not continue to care for her beloved dog. They clearly loved each other, and have been together since Rowan was 6 weeks old. Rowan slept right next to her person on her bed. She was housetrained in her last home and alerted her human any time someone came to the door. We have found Rowan to be cuddly and affectionate and always ready for a game of tug of war. During her evaluation, she was afraid of Oliver, our tester dog.

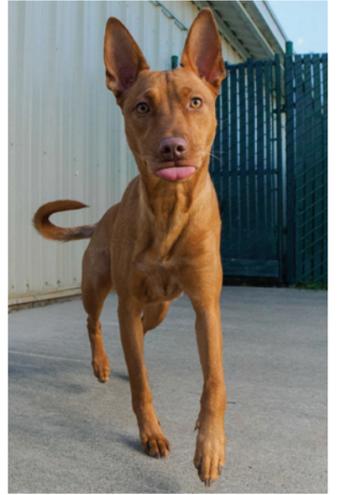


Photo by Rod Coots

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. Please join us the second Saturday of every month, May 13 this month, for our "Empty the Shelter" pack walk and help us get every dog out for some exercise! To view photos and bios of available pets, please visit www.mendoanimalshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.

Get Ready to Get Green

Color walk/run fundraiser for countywide 4-H

The Willits 4-H Club is excited to announce it is our turn to host the Color Me Green 5K Walk/Run! The Color Me Green Walk/Run is a countywide fundraiser that supports the Mendocino County 4-H youth development program.

Participants will run or walk 5 kilometers with other members of their community and will be showered with green color as they pass, leaving them colored in green by the end of the fun. Runners and walkers will have the opportunity to bypass the color station if they choose to.

The Color Me Green 5K Walk/Run aims to provide all youth and community members a fun learning opportunity for improving their health while raising funds to support the local 4-H clubs so that all members can participate in educational workshops and 4-H events, as well as keep the enrollment costs down so everyone can be a part of the amazing 4-H experience.

The event is being held at Nelson Vineyards at 550 Nelson Ranch Road in Ukiah. The 5K starts at 9 am on Saturday, May 13. Participants should arrive at 8 am to pick up their packet, including T-shirt, sunglasses and water bottle. The cost to participate, if paid before May 12, is \$35; \$25 for 18 and under; and \$20 for 4-H members and leaders. On the day of the race, the cost will be \$40; \$30

for 18 and under; and \$25 for 4-H members and leaders.

We are very excited to host this event and the kids, along with their parent volunteers, have been meeting since January to plan it. Even though this is a countywide fundraiser, we are proud to say that a lot of the donations for T-shirts and Color Me Green swag for this event came from our wonderful Willits community. This year T&T Towing, J.D. Redhouse, Sparetime Supply, Dr. Kerr D.D.S., Willits Frontier Days, and Printing Plus all made generous donations to this event. Out-of-town sponsors include Geiger's Long Valley Market, Ag Unlimited and Express I.T. The Willits 4-H Club would like to thank these businesses and invite you all to come walk or run with us on Saturday in support of this wonderful program for our youth.

– Natalie Spackman, Willits 4-H Club

At right: 4-H member Catie Spackman, her little brother Brian, and 4-H member Danielle Barry hydrate for the 5K Walk/Run.



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