

Willits Weekly

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Online & Print
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
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Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mendo Film Fest spotlights Seabiscuit on Sunday, May 31

Courtesy of the Mendocino Film Festival

The Willits area boasts an illustrious and star-studded history, with many of Hollywood's biggest names, including Clark Gable, Bing Crosby, and Carole Lombard, frequently staying with Charles S. Howard at the Ridgewood Ranch south of Willits. Perhaps the biggest star of all to grace the grounds was the legendary racehorse, Seabiscuit.

In 1940, Seabiscuit won the Santa Anita Handicap, smashing records and racing into history as he cemented his legend and inspired the nation, before retiring a hero at Ridgewood Ranch. That same year, the Noyo Theatre was founded. Now, 75 years later, as the Mendocino Film Festival

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

Baechtel Grove named 'Gold Ribbon School'

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Baechtel Grove Middle School has been named a California 'Gold Ribbon School,' Superintendent Patricia Johnson announced at the May 6 school board meeting.

The special designation was created late last year by the California Department of Education to honor schools while the state office's traditional award for excellence in education, the California Distinguished School award, is on hiatus. The office thought it best to suspend the Distinguished School award while California schools are transitioning to the state's new Common Core

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

County, deputies reach labor agreement

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Mendocino County and the county Deputy Sheriffs Association announced April 30 they had reached a tentative agreement on a new labor contract.

The agreement provides that members of the DSA will receive a 6 percent wage increase effective immediately. They will receive another 2 percent hike on July 1, 2015, and a second 2 percent increase on July 1, 2016, meaning the 10 percent salary

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



Above, from left: Robert Goleman of Bolliver's Fine Foods and Confections holds one of his strawberry rhubarb tarts. Madge Strong, Kristin Miller Fraser and Holly Madrigal pose at the Willits Economic Localization (WELL) table. Baby Ruby showcases one of the darling fruit-themed knitted hats, this one a strawberry, by Valerie Trimmer.



Above: Sarah Grusky and market manager Michael Foley of Green Uprising Farm. Below, left: Artichokes were available for sale at last week's market. Below, right: Owner of Picaro Gordo Pet Memorials, Jacki Pealatore, chats with a customer at her booth.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Back to the City Park

Willits Farmers Market returns to its summer location

On every first Thursday in May, the Willits Farmers Market returns to its outdoor location, lining the north end of Willits City Park, taking over the whole block of State Street. Vendors last week included those who participated in the winter market at the Little Lake Grange and also featured new summer faces – creating a bustling and festive affair to kick off the summer season.

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

In addition to the first market



Oil Well Hill road improvements underway

It looks like normal road repair, but road construction on Oil Well Hill may help drivers pass over the mountain ... after some turns are tweaked and new asphalt is laid.

Zack Cinek
Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

A Granite Construction crew arrived on the hill not long after survey stakes appeared on the shoulder and in two turnouts on the south face of the landmark hill.

"By increasing the banking on turns and then [laying] better high-friction asphalt it will help keep people in their lanes," California Department of Transportation spokesman Phil Frisbie said.

The project is considered a "safety project," Frisbie added.

Cost of the Oil Well Hill work is about \$650,000.

The road work could have residents living north of Willits thinking about leaving for town a few minutes earlier. Another delay occurs a short distance away to



make way for dump trucks working on the Willits bypass.

Drivers can anticipate a brief slowdown. Caltrans expects delays on Oil Well Hill to be about 10 minutes.

The safety project spans from the bottom of the hill at the Reynolds Highway junction to the top of Oil Well Hill.

Above: Trucks hauling lumber descend Oil Well Hill, where Granite Construction crews have been working this week.

Below: A view of the northern interchange of the Willits bypass.

Photos by Zack Cinek



Robert Chavez to be new WHS principal

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Veteran school administrator Robert Chavez has been named principal of Willits High School, Sanhedrin High School and New Horizons School, effective July 1. He will replace Jeffrey Ritchley, who served as principal of



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

Water: How it works in Willits

Ron Orenstein
Contributing Writer

Part 1

The drought, now going into its fourth year, has grabbed everyone's attention, and whatever the cause, we're seeing what may be the new normal, when it comes to using and managing our water supplies.

Early on, the City of Willits took steps to secure and preserve our water supply, being one of the first, if not the first jurisdiction in the state to impose water use restrictions. And thanks to the conservation efforts and cooperation of our citizens, we were able to stretch our water supplies enough to keep from running out of

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

Brookside teachers seek English specialist

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Ten Brookside Elementary School teachers walked to the front of the room during the May 6 school board meeting to ask trustees to make sure the district hires a specialized teacher to instruct Spanish-speaking elementary school students how to read English.

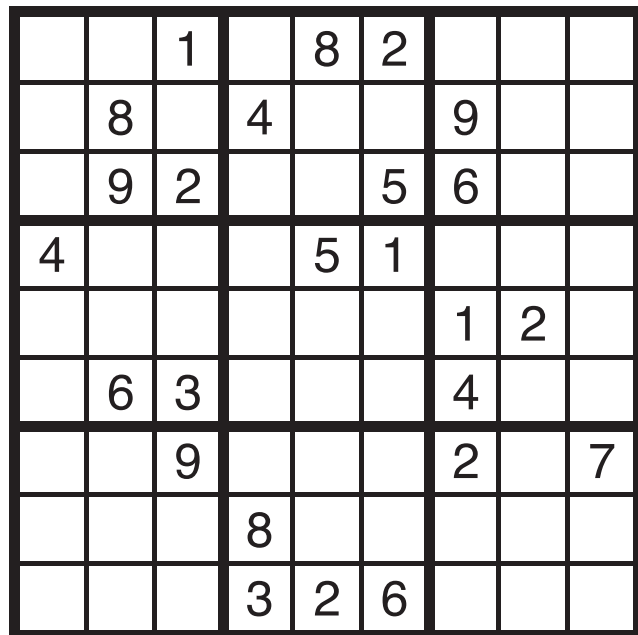
According to Brookside teacher Barbarie Gonzalez, Brookside does not have a designated English Language Development teacher. Instead, the school

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

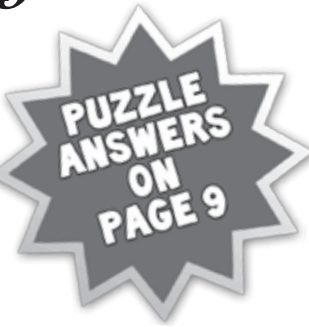
Puzzle Page & More

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

Sudoku



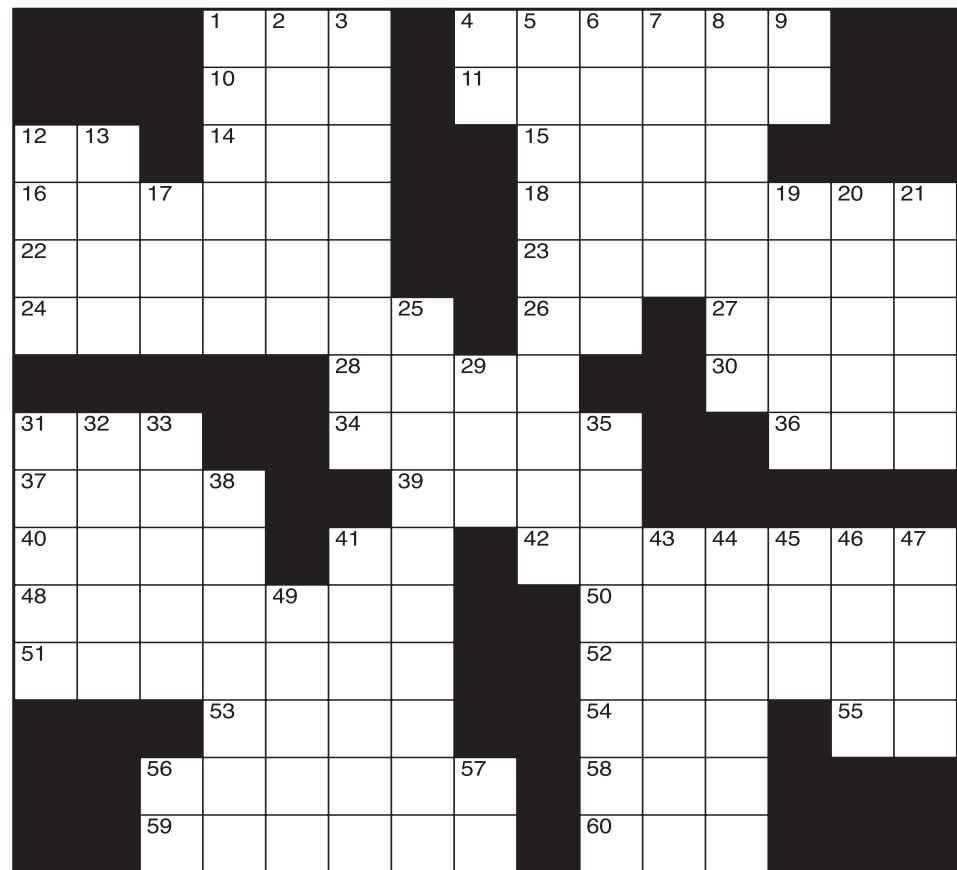
Level: Intermediate



How To Sudoku:

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

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Cleopatra's viper
- Cuneiform writing
- Dekaliter
- Groaned
- For instance
- Wave in spanish
- Arabian gulf
- Written in red
- Denouncements
- Eat one's heart out
- Survive longer than
- Take priority over
- Foreign service
- Russian king (alt. sp.)
- Stinkheads
- Old name for Tokyo
- Box (abbr.)
- Red rock in Australia
- Not old
- Enlarge hole
- Difficulty walking
- The high point of something
- 101

CLUES DOWN

- Admirer
- Mouth secretion
- Afterbirth
- Initials of "Bullitt" star
- Family crest
- Forearm bone
- Unable to move
- Loss due to a rule infraction
- Touchdown
- Hunting expeditions
- Unusual appearing ghostly figure
- Without civilizing influences
- Heartbeat
- Morning juice
- Wicket
- Head louse egg
- 40th state
- Pleasing to the eye (Scot.)
- Nickname for an anorexic
- Engaged in a game
- Household god (Roman)
- Accordingly
- Spiritual teacher
- A bridal mouthpiece
- Dress up garishly
- Cleverly avoid
- S.E. Asia goat antelope
- Fla. state dessert
- Popular legume
- Two-die gambling game
- Easily annoyed (alt. sp.)
- Khoikhoi peoples
- Cyclic
- Flavor of Newport cigarettes
- Jamestown was the 1st English
- Fine meal made from cereal grain
- Incarnation
- Norse goddess of the sea
- Ignores or snubs (slang)
- Tiny glass bubble
- Chinese mahogany genus
- Deepwater Horizon Co.
- ___ denotes past



Questions? Comments?
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Ballet Barre for beginners and seniors Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 am. A more advanced Ballet Barre Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 am. Both classes taught by professional ballerina Suzanne Wagner. Suzanne is only here until May 20, so don't wait to come check it out! (Next session starts in late June.)

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Hunky Jordy

Jordy is a 1-year-old neutered male American Staffordshire mix who weighs 65 pounds. Check out this handsome hunk. His good looks and charm will have you head over heels! Our play groups have brought out the best in Jordy. He is cool and calm, nice with every dog he meets, never bickers, and is able to adapt to any play style. Jordy needs an owner that he can develop a trusting relationship with. If you are willing to continue his training and create a bond with him, Jordy will show you his best side. Pit crew training runs twice a week at the shelter and is free for our adopted dogs.

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



'Patriot' mix flowers for Willits Frontier Days

Sanhedrin Nursery has donated special red, white and blue petunias, called the "Patriot" mix, each year for the past seven years to the Willits Frontier Days Association. This year the nursery donated nearly 600 lovely and specially grown flowers. The flowers have already been planted on the Frontier Days grounds, with help from the regular Frontier Days volunteers and the Willits Junior Horsemen.

Above: Willits Frontier Days President Marcy Barry, center, receives the annual donation of flowers from Sanhedrin Nursery owner Dave Watts, left, while TnT Towing & Recovery employee Victor Hernandez, right, helps out. Below: Barry's truck was filled to the brim with the colorful petunias.



Plant images courtesy of www.rareseeds.com



Companion Planting for the Vegetable Garden

By Leon Springer, DripWorks

Editor's note: This piece was originally posted on "The Mainline," the DripWorks blog which features a wide variety of informative posts on subjects related to farming, gardening and water conservation.

Though some may plant their gardens haphazardly (to each their own, I say), I like to create a plan and plant carefully for beneficial growth and insect control. With 40 years of vegetable gardening experience as my guide, here are a few things that I have learned along the way:

- Diversity in the garden (as in most areas of life) is healthier.
- Some plants have a positive effect on others.
- The results of these relationships are often as beautiful as they are productive.

The following is a brief synopsis of what I have gathered on the subject of companion planting from books ("Roses Love Garlic" is my favorite), online blogs, friends, trial and error, and good old common sense. Some of this material is based on science and some on folklore. Take what works for you, be open to experimentation, and, above all, have fun. Whatever

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



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After more than 20 years of accommodating the Willits Daily Bread meal program in our parish hall, St. Anthony's church is asking that Willits Daily Bread find a new home. Due to many reasons, both from within the parish and from the program itself, we are terminating their tenancy.

If you are a church or an organization that could provide them with another location, please consider offering them your space.

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AVENGERS 2: AGE OF ULTRON

(PG13) 2 hrs 21 mins
Fri: 5:15 & 8:15pm
Sat/Sun: 2:15, 5:15 & 8:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:15 & 7:15pm

THE AGE OF ADALINE

(PG13) 1 hr 53 mins
Fri: 5:30 & 8:00pm
Sat/Sun: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:00pm

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Clockwise from above: the REACH helicopter hovers right over the ground. Flight Nurse JohnRey Hassan and Flight Paramedic David Hoyt post with REACH's EuroCopter 135. Hoyt demonstrates the streamlined patient gurney. The EuroCopter 135 takes off at Ells Field.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

REACH at Ells Field



REACH Air Medical Services brought in the helicopter that will be serving REACH 18, their base at the Willits Municipal Airport, last weekend. Crew members gave tours, and staged takeoffs and landings of their shiny red helicopter.

REACH's Jeff Cress says REACH plans to start working out of Willits very soon, despite a recent lawsuit filed by Keep the Code, which says the City of Willits failed to perform an adequate environmental impact report for the base and which asks the court to impose a restraining order against REACH activities in Willits while the case is being heard.

A modular house was delivered earlier this week, for the REACH crew on call at the base, and Cress anticipated it would be put together by Friday. The flight crew staying at the house will consist of one pilot, one nurse, and one paramedic. The REACH 18 crew will also include a dedicated aviation mechanic technician.

Flight Paramedic David Hoyt (from Ukiah) and Flight Nurse JohnRey Hassan (from Emeryville) both have about 10 years of experience in emergency medical services. They are looking forward to working out of Willits: "The view is beautiful," Hoyt said. "It's great it's elevated above the fog."

Hussan said working out of a remote, rural base meant "a lot of good diversity" in the calls they'd be responding to. "It's great to help people in a more rural area: time matters. We can get people to that higher level of care much faster."

— Jennifer Poole



Willits Charter School accreditation likely reaffirmed

The accreditation review for Willits Charter School was completed recently and, according to WCS Director Jennifer Lockwood, all indications point to a high probability the school's accreditation will be continued for another six-year term.

The end-of-term visit was performed by the visiting committee of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

"They were here for four days," Lockwood said. "What we learned was that all of our hard work has really paid off. It was affirming for the school, for the students, and for the staff."

In a recent interview, Lockwood noted the WASC team commended the school on a number of its policies and practices, and also made several recommendations about how the school could improve. In the visiting committee's report, there were 16 commendations and only seven recommendations.

Among the commendations are the following:

- There is extensive parental involvement in all aspects of the operation of the school.
- The staff and students respect diversity and individuality.
- Bullying is minimal and is not tolerated by students.
- Peer counseling is a powerful student-initiated process that supports the success of all students.
- Small class size promotes the building of positive relationships between students and teachers.
- The culinary program, augmented by the school garden, provides quality food for students that promote a healthy lifestyle.
- The school provides an array of diverse electives while still maintaining a rigorous academic curriculum.

Among its recommendations, the WASC team noted the following:

- There is a need to provide sufficient resources to improve the technology infrastructure and IT (Information Technology) support to meet the needs of students and staff.
- The school action plan needs to be more detailed and cover a three-year period rather than a one-year period, as it currently does.

The charter school ought to improve math proficiency by offering support classes similar to the existing English support class.

The Willits Charter School was founded in 2000 and is in its 15th year of operation. Currently it has 125 students. This is Lockwood's first year as charter school director.

While she was pleased with the report given to her by the WASC visiting committee, Lockwood stressed the positive report did not automatically translate into a reaffirmation of the school's accreditation. However, she added she expects accreditation will be reauthorized for another six-year term.

"They didn't mention anything negative in the report. They felt positive about our school. We got more commendations than we had ever gotten in a WASC report," Lockwood said.

"The report affirms we have a strong academic program that meets the needs of those students who excel in school, and of those students who struggle, and all of those in between," she added.

The rest of Chavez | From Page 1

Willits High School and Sanhedrin High School for the past two years.

Ritchley's tenure at Willits High School has been checkered. In his first year as principal, he undertook to administer the school without a vice principal. The district office shifted Tanya Ramming, a popular high school counselor, to Baechtel Grove Middle School at the beginning of the 2013 academic year, leaving veteran counselor David Hulse-Stephens to share the counseling load with Daniel Drickmann, a first-year part-time counselor.

When the overwhelmed and stressed Hulse-Stephens resigned in February 2014, Superintendent of Schools Patricia Johnson left Drickmann in charge of all high school counseling, a move permitted by the state education code.

The move did not play well with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, however; WASC officials threatened to suspend the accreditation of Willits High School. To top it off, the WHS leadership team resigned en masse in May 2014, alleging Ritchley did not respect the culture of the school.

Ritchley's second year was smoother. The district hired James Madden as vice principal, as well as two counselors and a career technical advisor. However, Ritchley revoked the school's long-standing open lunch policy at the beginning of the year, splitting the lunches between upper and lower classmen and permitting only upper classmen to leave the campus for lunch. Two student polls conducted during the winter indicated the closed-campus, split-lunch policy was unpopular with a majority of students.

Ritchley also was very protective of the high school's new gym floor, which helped to create a climate of resentment at the school. On the plus side, Ritchley labored tirelessly and successfully to restore the school's jeopardized accreditation.

At the May 6 board meeting, the board appointed Ritchley dean at Baechtel Grove Middle School, effective July 1. According to BGMS Principal Maria de los Angeles Munguia, the Baechtel Grove dean is responsible for attending to "school climate." The dean deals with discipline problems, truancy and attendance issues, and educates the students on bullying issues. The middle school dean also develops rewards and incentives to maximize positive behavior.

Although the district attempted to hire a full-time dean for BGMS during the summer of 2014, it was unable to do so. During the 2014-15 school year, Rocky Johnson, husband of the superintendent of schools, agreed to work at the school in a part-time capacity as acting dean.

Robert Chavez has been principal at Blosser Lane Elementary School for the past year. Prior to that, he was an administrator for more than 20 years in the southern part of the California Central Valley, first in the Cutler-Orosi School District near Visalia and then in the Madera School District.

Asked for his thoughts as he contemplates taking over the helm at the three district high schools, Chavez said: "I enjoy the pace of high school, and seeing our adolescent children blossom into young men and young ladies and go out into the world as adults. There are so many different programs to develop. There is so much promise and potential in all the different programs. You're never bored."

"If the culture is developed right, it is also like a family," he added. "If you treat the students with dignity and respect, and if you treat the staff with dignity and respect, then they will give that back to you, and it will become a wonderful place for everyone, for the students, for the staff and for the administration."

Covelo woman arrested for stabbing sister

A 48-year-old Covelo woman is recovering in an out-of-county hospital from multiple stab wounds suffered last Saturday during an evening altercation with her sister at a Refuse Road home. In the meantime, her sister, 43-year-old Audrina Phillips, is in Mendocino County jail facing possible attempted murder charges.

According to Mendocino County sheriff's investigators, Eugenia Phillips was stabbed multiple times in the torso after a dispute over a piece of Refuse Road property turned violent shortly before 9:30 pm.

After coming to blows, deputies say, Audrina allegedly grabbed a knife and stabbed her sister several times. Two men at the house on 23000 Refuse Road restrained Audrina while her sister escaped and drove herself to the Covelo Fire Department station for treatment of "life-threatening" wounds. Eugenia was later air-lifted to an out-of-county trauma center where, investigators say, she is expected to recover.

An ambulance took Audrina to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, where she was treated for minor injuries sustained in the fight before being arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and taken to county jail, where she is being held in lieu of \$125,000 bail.

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

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Meet Maggie
 Sweet Maggie is a Labrador mix, about 2 years old, and is a total sweetheart. She is an active dog who will need a home where she gets plenty of exercise and love! She has a super friendly disposition and would be an amazing addition to a family with kids.

To adopt, or learn more information about "Maggie", please contact the Human Society of Inland Mendocino County
707.485.0123
 The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County

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Schedule of Events:
 9:00 am Saturday..... June 6th, 2015 Gymkhana
 8:30 am Sunday..... June 7th, 2015 Team Roping Sign-Up
 9:00 am Jackpot Team Roping
 11:30 am Sunday..... June 7th, 2015 Beef Barbecue Adults \$13.00 / Children \$5.00

Rodeo Events for All Ages - Free to Spectators
 1:30 pm Sunday..... June 7th, 2015 Rodeo Grand Entry

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Construction starts

on Lamprich Medical Offices Building at new Howard Hospital site

Construction started this week on the Lamprich Medical Offices Building, an integral part of the medical campus designed to surround the new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital off East Hill Road. A groundbreaking ceremony last Thursday for the "MOB" was attended by honoree Jann Lamprich, currently executive director for the Frank R. Howard Foundation, along with Rick Bockmann, president and CEO of Howard Hospital, and Margie Handley, president of the Howard Foundation.

Others holding a shovel at the ceremony included Howard Foundation board members Tom Herman, Tony Madrigal, Richard Willoughby and Dr. Tedd Dawson; Dr. John Glycer of Redwood Medical Clinic; Arnie Mello of Tri-Counties Bank, and Councilman Ron Orenstein, representing the City of Willits.

When finished, the MOB will be the new home of the Redwood Medical Clinic, a physical therapy facility, and a new, retail pharmacy, as well as the new offices of the Howard Foundation.

The proximity of the doctors' offices, physical therapy and the pharmacy to the new hospital is going to be "very convenient," CEO Bockmann said. "That

is the goal: a one-stop health center to take care of all your health care needs. I am so thankful to the Howard Foundation for having the foresight and the determination to build this building as part of an integrated campus: to have all the elements of health in one place."

"Now that the hospital is a reality, I am really excited that we can start the most needed part of the medical campus, the medical office building," Handley said. Next will come campus housing, an auditorium, and a wellness center, planned to include a pool, as well as continuing work on the five-acre Commonwealth Garden. The MOB will have a "wellness" component, too, for doctors and staff, including a small gym, showers and lots of natural light. "Daylight was important," said architect Alexander Jermyn, who attended the groundbreaking and who will be working with contractor Helmer & Sons throughout the construction period as "a design/build team."

Doug Helmer of Napa County's Helmer

& Sons said the 16,000-square-foot, single-story building is set to be finished by the end of October. "It's a very quick schedule, so we'll be bringing in a very large crew," Helmer said. "We're excited to be here in Willits; we like doing community projects like this," he said. Past Helmer & Sons projects have included work on hospitals, medical clinics, and educational facilities in Napa, Sonoma and Lake counties.

Lamprich of the Howard

Foundation started working for Howard Hospital 63 years ago. "She has been devoted to this hospital," CEO Bockmann said. "We are honoring her many years of working to provide medical services to her community."

"I was blessed to be able to do that," Lamprich smiled. "And it's an honor for me, a highlight, and a very thoughtful gesture."



Dignitaries and team members at last week's groundbreaking for the Lamprich Medical Offices Building, from left to right: Jann Lamprich, Margie Handley, Rick Bockmann, Richard Willoughby, Tony Madrigal, Dr. Tedd Dawson, Doug Helmer, Tom Herman, Alexander Jermyn, Dr. John Glycer, Arnie Mello and Ron Orenstein.

Photo by Jennifer Poole

OBITUARY

Francis Barnes

Francis Oliver Barnes died unexpectedly at his home on April 11, 2015 in Willits. He was 68.

Francis was born on November 29, 1946 in Willits to Oliver and Agnes (Vieria) Barnes of Covelo. His interest in business began early in life and, by the time he was in high school, he was working part time for the local bank. After graduating from Round Valley High School in 1965, he spent his summers working for Cal Fire while attending Burbank Business College.

Following graduation from college in 1968, Francis returned to Willits and began working. During his lifetime he worked many different jobs. He was the production manager for more than 15 years at Little Lake Industries, until it closed. Later, he was the night manager at Tower Market, and most recently he owned Adams & Barnes Accounting until his retirement in 2011.

In the 1980s and 1990s Francis helped organize the Second Sunday Socials in Mendocino County.

Francis is survived by his partner of 24 years, Darrell Carpenter; his daughter Lisa (Gustavo) Leon; grandchildren Fabian and Briana Leon; the mother of his daughter, Linda Barnes; his sister Patricia Tucker; his niece Toni Ann Moss and her children Kennidy and Tyler; Darrell's parents Duane and Nona Carpenter and his siblings, DeeLynn (Cutler) Carpenter, Joan (Hardy) Maahs, Sally (Rocky)



Provencher, and Mark (Deanna) Carpenter and their extended families.

Francis was preceded in death by his parents Oliver and Agnes Barnes, and his brother Jeffery Barnes.

Francis' love for travel began at an early age with cross-country car trips with his parents and sister to visit his mother's relatives in Massachusetts. He and Darrell enjoyed traveling, which he captured on film. Their journeys took them around the world to Thailand, Italy, and Mexico, and in the United States to Washington, Oregon, Utah, Virginia, and Hawaii.

Washington, Oregon, Utah, Virginia, and Hawaii.

"A Celebration of Francis' Life" will take place on Sunday, May 17 at 3:30 pm at the Rec Grove (corner of East Commercial and Lenore Streets) in Willits. All are welcome to attend and share their favorite stories and memories. Attendees may bring an appetizer or side dish to share at the barbecue.

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

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