

Less than open and transparent

To the Editor:

As readers are aware, the Willits City Council on May 11 approved a proposed use of the Remco property by the Burton-Mitchell group on a 3-1 vote, with Mayor Burton recused (not present) and me dissenting. This action was then ratified by a formal resolution on May 25, again on a 3-1 vote.

Background

Under the terms of the court's consent decree, over 15 years ago, the Willits Environmental Remediation Trust has owned the land and continues to be in charge of its clean-up, with funding from Pepsi. The trust has determined the clean-up is now sufficient to allow sale and use of the property. However, the trust must get approval by the city council for a "planned and approved redevelopment of the site" using the existing buildings; otherwise, the trust would be required – at great expense – to remove the buildings and foundations.

Last summer, the trust brought two potential development proposals to city council, with the Skunk Train "in first position" with a conditional contract, subject to council approval, to buy the property for a station, repair yard, etc., and the Burton-Mitchell group as a back-up contract, for a brew pub, various retail and industrial uses, and potential fire station.

On July 22, 2015, the council adopted several additional conditions, involving Pepsi, the trust, and proposed developers, before it would make a determination on the proposals. The matter was finally brought back to council on May 11.

On May 11, the council majority, eager to see the property finally upgraded and in use, approved the Burton-Mitchell proposal as a "planned and approved redevelopment of the site," while noting that this "does not constitute approval for any other purpose, and any future development of the property will have to separately comply with all applicable zoning, permitting and other use requirements."

Many people have been asking me: "What happened to the Skunk Train proposal? Why did the city council act so quickly? What was taking place in all those closed sessions?"

Undue haste

A very brief Remco item was listed on the agenda issued May 6 for the May 11 City Council meeting. However, the staff report for that item was not available until about 1:40 pm on May 10, an unusually short amount of time before the meeting. That staff report was the first time the public was informed there was only one proposal, Burton-Mitchell's, being considered.

An attached letter from trust attorney Philip Hunsucker dated May 6 stated the Skunk Train had "fallen out of contract," with the primary reason being Robert Pinoli's refusal to sign a contract provision that environmental restrictions would run with the land, i.e., apply to any future buyer of the property.

I felt that the public should have adequate opportunity to review this new information, understand the process, and comment on this important matter. I asked that the public hearing be continued to our next meeting. However, that motion failed on a 2-2 vote.

Confusing information

Back on July 22, 2015, the city council's conditions on the developer(s) required "a detailed project financing plan, including phase by phase budgets and financial statements..." and assurances work would be completed. These were to be submitted to the trust, which would bring it back to the city when all other conditions were met.

In early September, we were told in closed session that the Burton-Mitchell group had submitted financing plans responsive to our July 22 conditions while the Skunk Train had not submitted any such plans.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

At the May 11 council meeting, however, Pinoli stated he had submitted such information. At my request, he sent me a copy of detailed phasing and cost estimates that he apparently had submitted to the trust on or near August 13, 2015. Were the Skunk's plans never received? I do not understand the discrepancy.

(An aside: council did not see Burton-Mitchell's finance information until May 11, at the meeting. Having now had time to review both, I don't believe we had a firm basis to find that our July 22 condition was fully met.)

Similarly, in public comment at the May 11 meeting, Pinoli stated he had no objection to restrictions running with the land but had quibbled over minor wording having to do with indemnification of Pepsi. To my knowledge, the council was not informed of this disagreement, possibly just a misunderstanding, which caused the trust to reject an extension of the Skunk Train's contract at the end of August 2015.

Use of closed sessions

Some legitimate questions have been raised as to whether it was proper, legal or advisable for this matter to be discussed in closed sessions. (It should be noted that Mayor Burton did consistently recuse himself whenever this matter was discussed.) No decisions were made in these closed sessions. However, it's possible some relevant information might have emerged if these "progress reports" had been in open session. At the very least, the public would have been informed about the situation in early fall instead of on May 10.

For the future, I would like the city to review its policy and be more cautious on use of closed sessions.

Throughout, the trust was essentially in charge. The trustee, Anne Farr, said they tried to be fair, giving both proposed buyers the same offers. She claimed the Skunk had not submitted financing plans, but that – even if they had – they did refuse the contract provision about restrictions running with the land. In any case, she said the trust had the right to reject (or accept) any proposal at their discretion.

Perhaps it makes no difference now, but I believe the process has been less than open and transparent. Given the importance of this large, controversial project to the future of the city, we could have handled this better.

Madge Strong, member, Willits City Council

Changes for phone book

To the Editor:

Soroptimist International of Willits (SIW) would like to remind the public that since AT&T no longer prints residential numbers in their directory, we rely on residents to update SIW on any changes for our Community Telephone Directory. Changes could include your phone number (landline or cell phone), address (home or P.O. box), or name or number removal due to moving or death.

We are happy to update your listing in our directory. You can email your information to willitsphonebook@gmail.com or call Loraine Patton at 621-0173 and leave her a message. All changes need to be made by December 1 of this year in order to make the new 2017 directory.

Loraine Patton, Willits

KLLG needs programmers

To the Editor:

KLLG 97.9 Radio! Programming, tech, admin — those are the main components of the radio station for Willits that we are creating right now.

Programming is where the rubber hits the road. Whether it's news, music, sports, community discussion and call-ins — our programming, as a low-power local FM radio station, must originate

with you, Willits citizens!

While our community has produced many fine programmers — Dan Roberts, Jane Fletcher, Shari Williams, Tim Gregory, and others — we now have to create many more.

Thus this call to you. You don't have to have radio experience. But you have to love the idea of radio and you being a part of it. We can teach you. In fact, we are setting up basic DJ/host classes now.

So think about the kind of show that would enhance, inform or entertain our community. Then let's get together and talk about it. Call me: 367-1812 or email lanny@cotler.com.

Lanny Cotler, general manager, KLLG

Farmers Market at Hometown Celebration

To the Editor:

It's June, and things get a bit busy. Here is a special event we hope you will calendar now so you won't miss it.

On Thursday, June 23, the Willits Farmers Market will be making a special appearance at the Local First Hometown Celebration. The farmers market will set up in the old Rexall parking lot on Main and West Mendocino from 4 to 7 pm.

The full market will be there including local (Mendocino County) farmers with their fresh produce, veggies and berries picked that morning. There are local ranchers with beef, lamb, pork, eggs and cheeses. The prepared food vendors have anything from snacks to full meals prepared for you to take home or enjoy during the Hometown Celebration.

There are a variety of crafts people, others selling cooking oils, fermented foods, cut flowers, plant starts, skin products, jewelry, handmade soaps, fresh-roasted coffee beans, grains and chocolate. Our local farmers market musicians will be there, keeping the joy of the market lively with their uplifting, sing-able and danceable selections.

An ongoing money saver is a plan called "Market Match." Use your Cal Fresh/EBT card, and the market will double your dollars for fresh fruits and vegetables. Via a federal grant program, the market will match you dollar for dollar (up to \$15). This means you can spend \$15 and get \$30 to spend at the market. See Michael Foley at the manager's table for all the details. Getting our groceries directly from the producer bypasses the middle man, which results in additional savings plus support for our local farmers.

There is a special program from June 9 to July 14 for children called the Power of Produce (POP) which is a free club that 5-12-year-olds can join. Ask about it at the market. Kids are given snacks and green bucks with which to buy their own produce. This is a national program with local sponsors including Sparetime Supply, Mariposa Market, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, and North Coast Opportunities. The POP Club has been very popular with parents and kids.

Also present June 23 at the Farmers Market at Hometown Celebration will be the countywide-famous "Smoothie Bike" loaned to us by North Coast Opportunities for the day. For free you will be able to select your choice of veggies and fruits and pedal the bike until you power up your own smoothie.

You can find the regular Willits Farmers Market every Thursday from 3 to 6:30 pm in Bud Snyder Park, Humboldt and State streets.

Look for the Willits Farmers Market on Facebook. Or for more information, contact: Ian Fitzpatrick at 841-1731 or Carlin Diamond at 459-5505.

Ian Fitzpatrick and Carlin Diamond, Willits



Photos by Ree Slocum

At top, from left: Bugler Zack Ireland plays taps. Robert Ireland, past district and post commander of Post 174, served his tour of duty for two consecutive years in Vietnam as a Medivac door gunner. Veteran Joe Yu, originally from Hong Kong, was drafted and served 366 days in Vietnam. He's been a part of the American Legion for 40 years. Veteran Matt Dearing served his three years as a medic in a VA hospital in Fairbanks, Alaska, specializing in severe burn injuries.

Honoring our veterans

Memorial Day services at the Willits cemeteries

The three-day Memorial Day holiday means different things to many of us. To Roger Ham, commander of American Legion Post 174, the Memorial Day holiday means "a time to take a moment in a busy weekend to remember those who died for this country."

Family members and friends of veterans from several wars, living and deceased, gathered at the Willits Cemetery on Highway 20 and Little Lake Cemetery off of East Hill Road Monday morning. People grouped themselves among the American flag-studded grave markers at each cemetery.

The two, separate, annual services began with a flag raising, followed by

prayers, readings, the American Legion wreath-hanging, the honor guard three-gun salute, and a slow, beautifully played rendition of taps, by "Son of the American Legion" Zack Ireland. There were many red-eyed and teary people deep in memories or sharing stories in the wake of the solemn and poignant services.

The American Legion Post 174 Honor Guard leading the ceremony is made up of veterans: Commander Roger Ham; Chaplain Rev. Mike Smith; Dominic, a "Son of the American Legion" flag bearer; Curtis Deshiell, who hung the wreath; Lane Smith, John Frankum, and Tom Moore, of the rifle squad; Zack Ireland, bugler; and Matt Dearing, former bugler.

Above, left: The Honor Guard Rifle Squad performs a "Volley of Three" salute. Above, right: Curtis Deshiell, who served in Desert Storm, Afghanistan and Iraq, waits to hang the American Legion wreath. Below, left: From left, Ryan Gutierrez, Michael Wilder, Jodi Phillips, Chris Gutierrez, Tina Gutierrez, and Cheryl Wilder at veteran George William Hatton's grave. Below, right: Family members of WWII veteran George William Thom clean his grave site.

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



Power of Produce Club

Free kids farmers market program starts up June 9

The Power of Produce or POP Club returns to Willits Farmers Market on Thursday, June 9 at the Willits City Park from 3 to 6:30 pm. The program will run for six weeks – through July 14. The POP Club empowers children ages 5 to 12 to make healthy food choices by offering educational activities, cooking demonstrations, and food sampling. This exciting and tasty opportunity is entirely free, thanks to generous local sponsors.

Each Thursday, POP Club members will be treated to an expertly prepared dish featuring fresh local produce, and will learn about how to prepare a vegetable in a tasty way, participate in a fun educational activity (like learning about worms!), and then receive \$4 in special market "Green Bucks" that they can use to do their own shopping at the farmers market. POP Club members will also get their own passport book in which they can keep track of the new foods they have tried.

The POP Club is a national program implemented in markets across the US and in Canada. Locally the program started in the late summer of 2015 at the Ukiah and Redwood Valley Farmers Markets. Over 350 local kids have participated, spending their "Green Bucks" to buy over \$1,400 from local farmers. The survey reports 72 percent of POP Club participants have tried a new fruit or vegetable through the program, and 70 percent of parents report their child requests produce that he or she tried through POP at home.

Willits Market Manager Michael Foley remembers last winter's session of the POP Club: "POP brings lots of great new energy into the market by getting kids engaged, talking with local farmers, and excited about learning about fresh fruit and vegetables. Children learn from a young age the value of supporting local farmers, which creates long-term customers, generates more revenue for local farmers, and creates healthy long-term eating habits for kids."

POP Club enrollment is open, and the program will run on June 9, 16, 23, 30 and July 6 and 14. Space is limited, so be sure to bring your kids to the farmers market and get them signed up!

This session of the POP Club is sponsored by Mariposa Market, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Sparetime Supply, and North Coast Opportunities.

For more information on the POP Club, please contact Tarney Sheldon at North Coast Opportunities: 707-462-1950 or sheldont@ncoinc.org.

– Submitted by North Coast Opportunities



Crunchy carrots available at the Willits Farmers Market.

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.

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Willits Weekly

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officer to preside over nuisance cases.

A partial list of situations described by city ordinance as "nuisances" includes, but is not limited to: Accumulation of junk, rubbish and waste of unsightly or unhealthy nature; fire hazards; substandard buildings; polluted or stagnant water; abandoned or deteriorated buildings creating visual blight; improper storage of abandoned vehicles; discarded or abandoned appliances, toilets, cabinets or other household fixtures or equipment stored so as to be visible from a public street or adjoining properties; and dirt, sand, gravel, concrete, or other similar materials that constitute visual blight. Marijuana cultivation that does not comply with the city's ordinance is also considered a nuisance.

A typical nuisance case is generally initiated by a complaint to Code Enforcement Officer John Sherman, who then issues a verbal warning. If the nuisance isn't abated shortly afterwards, Sherman issues a notice of nuisance explaining to the violator how to abate the property. If not abated to Sherman's satisfaction within 15 days, fines begin to accrue.

The violator, in the current system, has the opportunity to appeal their case to Moore, who determines the next step. If Moore rules against the violator, that person has yet another opportunity to appeal Moore's ruling.

Lance's revised draft code enforcement ordinance proposes to expedite the entire process.

Lance explained to the council that a central element of his draft proposal includes adding a hearing body that would take over the hearing process from Moore.

"I'm proposing there be a pool of local attorneys who would serve on a rotating basis," Lance said. "[These] persons are not city employees, so there wouldn't be a perception of bias."

Additionally, the city would adopt what is called an administration citation process for relatively minor offenses.

"It would operate similar to a parking citation," Lance said. "With a swift appeals process for those that object to it. John Sherman thought that that would be a big time saver."

When it comes to marijuana cultivation within the city limits, Lance proposes the city utilize an inspection warrant process, "where we put evidence before the judge," Lance explained. "If the judge grants it, he or she issues an inspection warrant, and law enforcement accompanies John [Sherman], and he then has a lawful right to enter the property over the objection of the property owner."

The current process has not been working at abating marijuana cultivation, according to Lance, as violators often simply refuse to comply, or the compliance will take place after harvesting the crop. Meanwhile fees accrue to very high amounts and go unpaid.

"Then, there will be a change of ownership

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April 29, 2016

Barbara Lincoln
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Dear Barbara,

Thank you so much for your amazing tax fee discount program that generated over 1 + 1/3 tons (2,703 pounds) of grocery donations for distribution to those in need in our community.

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Thank You!

Jim Marill
Executive Director

According to Pinoli, lease talks were sidelined between the two parties due to issues at Tunnel No. 1.

"But WERT said to take our time; they didn't have anyone else interested," Pinoli told Willits Weekly. "And that if they did, they'd let us know."

In late 2014, Pinoli said, "We revisited talks and worked on drafts of a lease with option [to buy]."

Then, in spring 2015, he said, Pinoli received a call from Ed Mitchell of the Burton/Mitchell group. Pinoli told the Willits City Council during its May 11, 2016 meeting that Mitchell had told him during that 2015 phone call he was also interested in buying the former Remco property, and wanted to know if Pinoli and the Skunk Train would be interested in being tenants.

Pinoli declined the offer.

That same spring, Pinoli said: "We had an almost complete version of the lease with option, and the trust said they had another interested party and that the only thing they would do is a sale of the property. They were not interested in a lease option."

Therefore, on May 29, 2015, Pinoli signed an agreement with WERT to purchase, and opened escrow on June 4. This agreement was set to end July 28, but could be renewed as long as Pinoli signed an amendment to the contract.

Both he and the Burton-Mitchell group – in second position behind Pinoli at the time – complied with the amended agreement.

Then, in August 2015, a dialogue took place between Pinoli and WERT Trustee Anne Farr that, Pinoli recalled, essentially ended the Skunk Train's chances of ever owning the former Remco site. It's a dialogue Pinoli is still scratching his head over.

"Pepsi is the land owner," Pinoli said. "WERT is the trustee for the property. They wanted to make sure Pepsi was indemnified. Let's say we were to do something on the property that would cause environmental degradation. This wouldn't be part of the trust's and/or Pepsi's responsibility to clean up. It would be our responsibility. So when she asked us to indemnify Pepsi, I responded with: 'We have already indemnified the trust in the agreement; why don't we take the language in the agreement whereby we indemnify the trust, copy and paste it to amendment No. 2 and change the words WERT to Pepsi.' It's that simple. It's not complicated."

"I get her response which is: 'Your proposal is unacceptable to the trust.'"

The rest of Cannabis | From Page 1

listened intently to his May 26 presentation at the Laytonville Grange. "When we come out and inspect I don't want to see more than 99 plants."

Johnson warned that medical cannabis cultivators can expect "no flexibility" in future years, when the county completes its permanent ordinance and state regulations kick in.

Applications for the medical cannabis cultivation program are available from the Sheriff's Office and online at <http://www.mendocinosheriff.com>.

Johnson spelled out some of the program's key requirements:

- Submission by July 18 of a cultivation application for up to 99 plants (or equivalent square footage) on parcels of 10 acres or more to the Sheriff's Office with a non-refundable \$1,500 application fee.

- One initial inspection by the Sheriff's Office (and three additional inspections of participating farms).
- Purchase of a \$50 zip tie from the county treasurer for each plant (if farm is approved). Receipts of purchase must be taken to the Sheriff's Office for collection of zip ties.
- Compliance with all county zoning regulations.
- Building-permit amnesty to participants who are attempting to correct permit issues.
- Optional application to the Agriculture Department for cultivation of up to 25 plants.
- Placement of a six-foot metal wildlife fence with locked gate around all cannabis gardens.
- Enclosed pesticide and chemical storage.
- Submission of valid doctor's medical recommendation with application.
- Parole clearance required for those with criminal records.

Participation in the program will not protect cultivators discovered selling their medical cannabis illegally.

"If you get caught selling to black market you are done," Johnson said. "And all the information [you submitted] will be provided to help prosecute you. You make every marijuana farmer look bad."

Johnson said the sheriff will not require or expect farmers to show proof of compliance with North Coast Regional Water Quality Board regulations or state Water Board use requirements. However, he said, the county will insist on knowing where a farmer's water comes from.

"Have your paperwork ready if you are drawing out of a creek," Johnson said.

Many of those attending the meeting appreciated Johnson's candor and non-threatening manner.

"It was great to start establishing open channels of communication between the program administrators and the community of farmers seeking permits," said California Growers Association Board President Casey O'Neill of Laytonville after the meeting. "Undersheriff Randy Johnson was very approachable and, as an association, the California Growers is in full support of the program."

Jane Fletcher hosts *The Cannabis Hour* on KZYX FM every other Thursday morning at 9 am.

Pinoli received official notice that the Skunk Train had fallen out of contract in a March 4, 2016, letter from WERT Attorney Philip Hunsucker. Willits City Attorney Jim Lance also received a copy of that letter.

In the March 4, 2016 letter, Hunsucker quoted what he identified as an August 28, 2015 letter from the Skunk Train as follows: "We are thus not willing to agree to the trust's proposed amendment. We have previously informed the trust of this."

On May 6, 2016, Hunsucker sent city attorney Lance a letter summarizing why the Skunk Train had fallen out of favor.

"Among other reasons, the trust will not enter into a new contract with the Skunk Train because it has refused to enter into a declaration of environmental restriction that would make conditions necessary to protect human health and the environment run with the land, requiring any subsequent owners to adhere to the conditions."

Trustee Farr echoed this condition in her address to the Willits City Council at the May 11 meeting.

"[Farr] said the covenants need to run parallel with the property," Pinoli said. "Covenants are restrictions. Those covenants are in the original agreement."

In other words, according to Pinoli, when he had signed the original agreement in May 2015, the environmental restrictions Hunsucker and Farr say he refused to sign had already been agreed upon.

"If [Farr] wanted us to do something different from what she asked for, we have yet to see something in writing," Pinoli said. "What she later asked for us to agree on – the deed restrictions – they were already in the initial agreement."

Pinoli says his group has spent close to \$30,000 fulfilling the conditions the Willits City Council asked for last summer: to provide a development plan, a phased project financing plan, and completion assurances, including a letter from his bank.

He brought those plans to the May 11 meeting and has offered them up for inspection by the public, though he declined to send any of those documents electronically.

"We didn't spend \$30,000 as the person in first position knowing we weren't going to get the property," Pinoli said.

"Everything that I have done to date has been above-board, has been factual," he claimed. "I'm not going to speculate, nor am I going to throw notions out there [about] why Anne Farr has deviated from the contract."

Multiple permits to the same farmer are not permitted, but may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Multiple permits on the same parcel are not permitted but could in some cases be reviewed.

Johnson said while he doubts the federal government will investigate the program, his department would turn over farmer information if it were subpoenaed.

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Classic Metal

Chamber mixer shows off shiny cars and fancy bikes

The Willits Chamber of Commerce held its annual Memorial Day Weekend Classic Metal Mixer this past Saturday at the Baechtel Creek Inn and Spa. Business owners, city representatives and other members of the public sampled appetizers and tasted award-winning wines from Barra of Mendocino Winery.

Also on hand at the mixer were a sampling of the cars and motorcycles set to be displayed during the following day's 35th annual Community Festival and Car & Motorcycle Show. Attendees of the mixer had the opportunity to mingle with the vehicle's owners, as well as take part in a fundraising raffle.

According to Lisa Epstein, chamber president, the mixers are a once-a-month activity, organized by a six-member ambassador committee, the purpose of which is to raise money and add members.

"The money for the chamber does go for events [like these], but right now our primary goals are to help Willits, post-bypass," Epstein said. "We're going to be looking at signage and promotion. We've requested marketing proposals from different sources, and we're going to raise a lot of money to help pay for that."

Jan Rodriguez, owner of Baechtel Creek Inn and board secretary of the chamber, explained the importance of attracting tourists to Willits after the bypass is opened.

"For every dollar [Baechtel Creek Inn] collects, the city gets 9 percent," Rodriguez explained. "That's true with all the hotels. Tourism is really one of the biggest income [opportunities] Willits can get."

Read the rest of Mixer | Over on Page 11

At top: A view from the roof of last week's Classic Metal Mixer.

At far left, above: Auto Mart's Jim Montalvo with his raffle prize, a gift basket from Barra of Mendocino.

At left, above: A beautiful vintage yellow vehicle.

At left: The crowd at Baechtel Creek Inn for the Classic Metal Mixer.

Below, from left: Jerry "Top Hat" Harris gives a thrill to a travel agent from China checking out Mendocino County for future Chinese tourists.

Lisa Davis of Scoops, which catered Sunday's hamburger, hotdog and nacho lunch at the Car Fest.

Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore at the Classic Metal Mixer.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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Sales, Parts & Service • Pick-up & Delivery

1600 S. Main St.
Willits, CA 95490
willitspower@gmail.com

Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420
Service: 707 459-0596
Fax: 707 459-6369

707.459.5193

JOHN FORD RANCH
RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No hormones, fastured in Willits, California

SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®

Soroptimist International of Willits would like to remind the public that since AT&T no longer prints residential numbers in their directory, we rely on residents to update us on any needed change to the Willits Community phone book.

This change could be your phone number (landline or cell) address (home or P.O.), addition of a new business, addition of a new listing, or removal of a listing for moving or death.

We are happy to add or update your listing in our directory. You can email your information to willitsphonebook@gmail.com or call Loraine Patton at 621-0173 and leave her a message.

All changes need to be made by December 1st of this year in order to make the NEW 2017 Directory.

YOKUMS BODY SHOP

Auto Collision Specialists
We work with ALL Insurance Companies!
Lifetime Warranty - All Makes and Models - Free Estimate!

CAR WASH & COMPLETE DETAIL SERVICE

1619 S. Main St.
Willits, Ca
707-459-9385
yokumsbodyshop.com

BROOKTRAILS GOLF COURSE and GRILL
24860 Birch Street
Willits, CA 95490
(707) 459-6761
brooktrailsgolfcourse@gmail.com

Golf Course Hours:
8am-7pm

Grill Hours:
9am-5pm

Weekly Schedule:
8am
Mondays & Fridays
Senior League

8am Wednesdays
18 Holes Golf –
Fun Day All Welcome

5pm Thursdays
Bordo Scramble

10am Sundays
Disc Golf Club

BROOKTRAILS GOLF COURSE and GRILL
24860 Birch Street
Willits, CA 95490
brooktrailsgolfcourse@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:
Sat. • May 28th • 8am-2pm
Your Hosts: WHS Golf Team
Entry Fee: \$40 - 2 Person Scramble

Sat. • June 4th • 8am-2pm
Your Hosts: Laytonville Lions
Entry Fee: \$40 - 4 Person Scramble

Sun. • June 12th • 8am-2pm
Your Hosts: Seventh Day Advent School
Entry Fee: \$50 - 2 Person Scramble

Fri. • June 17th • 8am-2pm
Brooktrails Senior League
2 Person Best Ball, Blind Draw
Entry Fee: \$5

Mon.-Thurs. • June 20th-23rd
8:30am-11am
Your Hosts: Brooktrails Golf Course
Entry Fee: \$20

Sun. • July 17th • 8am-2pm
Your Host: Willits Rotary/Phoenix Hospice
Entry Fee: TBA - 4 Person Scramble

For more information:
Call: 707-459-6761
Facebook: Brooktrails Golf Course

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-NOYO (6696)
www.noyotheatre.com

WILLITS MENDOCINO FILM FESTIVAL
June 4th & 5th - Tickets \$11.00 at Noyo
or online at www.mendocinofilmfestival.org

ALICE: THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

(PG) 1 hr 53 mins
Fri: 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45pm
Sat/Sun: 1:15, 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:15 & 7:45pm

X-MEN: APOCALYPSE

(PG13) 2 hrs 24 mins
Fri: 5:15 & 8:15pm
Sat/Sun: 2:15, 5:15 & 8:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:15 & 7:15pm

DARK HORSE

— ONE WEEK ONLY —
(PG) 1 hr 26 mins
Fri: 4:30, 6:30 & 8:30pm
Sat/Sun: 6:30 & 8:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:30 & 7:30pm

Thursday, June 2

The Cannabis Hour Radio Talk Show: host Jane Futcher has invited Bruce Anderson, editor and publisher of the Anderson Valley Advertiser, to discuss his concerns about the down side of cannabis cultivation in Mendocino County. "I'm looking forward to discussing some of the obvious ironies of life in a county whose primary economic drivers are intoxicants where once our economy was dominated by timber, fishing, farming of various kinds," Anderson writes. "I'd hope to keep it light, no rants about devil weed etc." Thursday, June 2 at 9 am on The Cannabis Hour, KZYX 91.5 FM.

Shanachie Pub: Aaron Ford, singer-songwriter out of SF: "His musical style is based in folk, Americana and blues." First Thursday of every month. 8 pm. No cover. Visit www.cdbaby.com/Artist/AaronFord. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, June 3

Pelican Stories! at the Library: 11 am to 12 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Join us for a morning of fun, as Shirley Castro, author of the 'Pelican Family Series,' reads from her wonderful and educational stories about the lives of Pelly, Melly, Kelly, Shelly, Dolly, Stelly, Eilly, Telly, Nelly, and Zelly." Info: 459-5908.

Willits HomeBREW Club: June meeting on Friday, June 3, starting at 7 pm at the Willits KOA in their meeting hall (pull up to the gate, tell them you are here for the homebrew meeting and then drive straight back to the red meeting hall). The beer style of the month is Pilsners. Come and learn about all things fermentable! Visit <http://willitshomebrew.weebly.com/> for more on the Willits club.

Senior Center Drive-Through BBQ Chicken Dinner: Harrah Senior Center presents a Drive-Through BBQ Chicken Dinner for Two on Friday, June 3. Pick up from 5 to 6:30 pm. Pre-sale tickets only! Available at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. \$25 for dinner for two: includes BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Garlic Bread and Brownie, BBQ Courtesy of the Willits Lions Club. Info: 459-6826.

Shanachie Pub: Pick & Pull. 9 pm. No cover. Fred (upright bass fiddle), Keith (guitar, mandolin, banjo, vocals), and Nate (banjo, guitar, vocals) play "Old Time High Octane Acoustic Hillbilly Dance Music." Visit <https://www.facebook.com/pickpullmusic>. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, June 4

Brooktrails Women's Club Flea Market: the annual Brooktrails Flea Market takes place Saturday, June 4 from 8 am to 3 pm, rain or shine, free admission. "Antiques - plants - household and much more! Treasures are waiting for you! Come visit with your friends, do some shopping and support local organizations!" Fundraising lunch available from Brooktrails Fire Department: hot dogs, hamburgers, sodas and chips. Vendor spaces may still be available: Outdoor spaces and indoors tables: \$20 each - first-come, first-serve! Call to reserve a space: Arlene at 456-0734. Vendors check in: 6 to 7:30 am. Flea market proceeds go to the Brooktrails Women's Club Scholarship Fund and donations are made to the Brooktrails Fire Department and CERT groups, too.

HMH Auxiliary Volunteers Rummage Sale: Howard Memorial Hospital Auxiliary volunteers present their annual Rummage Sale, Saturday, June 4 from 8 am to 2:30 pm, on Highway 101 between Scoops and the old Vassar's Pizza parking lot. All proceeds will go towards purchasing hospital

Summer Arts and Music Festival performers DJ Logic at top and Delhi 2 Dublin, below.

Summer Arts & Music Festival

June 4 & 5 at Benbow Lake
The 40th annual Summer Arts & Music Festival is set for Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5 at Benbow Lake State Park in southern Humboldt County.

Entertainment includes "a broad spectrum of musical genres and dance forms from local to international in origin" as well as the Kid Zone, food, wine and micro-brews, vendor booths and more. Advance discounted tickets for the weekend available through June 3 at mateel.org. Admission at the gate is \$25 per day or \$40 for the weekend pass; kids 12 and under free. Gates open at 9:30am and entertainment runs from 10am to 10pm both days.

A free public shuttle is offered continuously from Redway, Garberville, Benbow, and Richardson Grove State Park. Check out the Summer Arts pages of www.mateel.org for full schedule.



equipment.

Laytonville Lions 26th annual Co-Ed Golf Tournament: Laytonville Lions Club hosts its annual tournament on Saturday, June 4, at the Brooktrails Golf Course. 8:30 am sign-in; shotgun start at 9 am. \$40 non-members, \$30 Lions member, \$25 BGC annual. BBQ Tri-Tip Lunch; raffle; CTP Contest on Hole #1, win a new BBQ/Smoker Grill. Info: Lonnie: 707-357-1130 or Brooktrails Golf Course at 459-6761.

Willits Horsemen's Association Beef BBQ & Rodeo: 67th Annual Gymkhana, Beef Barbecue & Rodeo, Saturday, June 4 & Sunday, June 5 at the Willits Horsemen's Arena on East Commercial Street. Gymkhana on June 4 starts at 9 am; June 5 schedule includes: Team Roping at 8:30 am, Jackpot Team Roping at 9 am, Beef BBQ at 11:30 am, and Rodeo Grand Entry at 1:30 pm. Rodeo events for all ages; free to spectators! BBQ tickets are \$15 and \$5 for children. For general info or info on Rodeo & Roping: Jim at 707-354-1624, or for Gymkhana info: Kathryn at 707-489-6565. See article on page 12 for more details.



Mendocino Film Festival / Willits Program: the 2016 Mendocino Film Festival program in Willits starts Saturday, June 4 at 9:45 am, as a special MFF Skunk Train featuring Train Singer Greg Schindel singing Johnny Cash, departing the Willits Depot. June 4 screenings at the Noyo Theatre, 57 East Commercial Street, include "The Messenger" at 2 pm (\$11): A documentary exposing the plight of songbirds endangered by urban sprawl, including a Q & A with producer Joanne Jackson after screening. At 4 pm, the Noyo Theatre screens "We're Still Here: Johnny Cash's Bitter Tears Revisited" (\$11), with modern-day musicians paying homage to Johnny Cash's controversial 1964 album of folk songs dedicated to the plight of Native Americans. Ticket price includes admission to reception to follow at Mendocino County Museum. Reception, 5:30 to 7 pm, celebrates the film festival and Mendocino's rich heritage of Native American history. "Guests will have the opportunity to explore the museum's exhibits including Woven Worlds: Native Peoples of Mendocino County and the current installation of Reservations Not Required-Returning Home, a collection of contemporary art created by local Wailaki artist, Pete Etharain Castro." Fine refreshments; attendance restricted only to attendees of the 4 pm screening at the Noyo. More info about the film fest, visit: www.mendocinofilmfestival.org.

2nd annual WHS Alumni Baseball game: 11 am at Willits High School's Dave Kline Field. "Bring the family for lots of baseball fun." Alumni who'd like to play, please contact Aaron Branscomb or Ricky Yaden at 354-4516; players are asked to give \$20 donation towards the WHS baseball program. Raffle, \$1 per ticket, for a solid redwood picnic table donated by Parlin Fork Conservation Camp or a tailgating ice chest full of goodies. Raffle tickets are available at Monkey Wrench or by calling Jessica at

Mendocino Film Festival Seabiscuit Legacy Program: Film Fest events in Willits on Sunday, June 5 start at 9:45 am at Ridgewood Ranch, with a Guided Ridgewood Ranch tour featuring the film, "Ridgewood Ranch: Home of Seabiscuit," with original cinematography by Dr. Raymond Babcock. "This short film features rare film footage, including Seabiscuit's homecoming after his history-making win at the 1940 Santa Anita Handicap, life and retirement at Ridgewood Ranch, as well as breathtaking horseracing scenes. Reservations can be made at www.seabiscuitheritage.org. Then, a Ranch-style BBQ from 12 to 1:30 pm, featuring special Seabiscuit themed musical selections. Tickets for tour + BBQ are \$40. At 2 pm, the Noyo Theatre, 57 East Commercial Street, will screen the MFF Short Films Program, including "Only Human" (\$11), and at 4 pm, the Noyo will host an exclusive showing of "Dark Horse," an inspirational documentary about a working-class horse who takes the racing world by storm, presented by Jacqueline Cooper, president, Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation. More info about the film fest, visit: www.mendocinofilmfestival.org.

In Remembrance of Dale Dingman: a community celebration of Dale Dingman's life at the Willits Center for the Arts. "A time to share, and remember Dale, and all he accomplished for the Willits Center for the Arts." Including music by the Emandal

Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Appearance, Personality and Poise Competition
Saturday, June 18
Mark your calendar! The 2016 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Appearance, Personality and Poise judging competition will be held at noon on Saturday, June 18, at the American Legion/Veteran's Hall, 189 North Main Street. The Willits Soroptimist Club is proud to again be handling this event. We have four Sweetheart contestants running this year - Calayan Knight, Sierra Skinner, Cheyenne Walters and Halee Reed. You will have an opportunity to watch the four contestants go through the three required categories of this event. First, each contestant is required to write up a description of the outfit she will be modeling. The description will be read by a designated Soroptimist as the contestant models her outfit. Secondly, each contestant will give a five-minute prepared speech on this year's Willits Frontier Days theme "The Roaring Twenties." During the final category, three outside judges will meet and individually interview each Sweetheart contestant. The Appearance, Personality & Poise event represents 20 percent of the Frontier Days Sweetheart Contest. Free attendance. We hope you will be able to attend this event to support your favorite Sweetheart contestant.

Noted owl expert

speaks at Willits Library
Friends of the Willits Library (FOWL) invites you to attend a free public lecture about the Spotted Owl by Mike Stevens on Thursday, June 9th at 7 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

If you go into the woods at night, you might want to invite along noted owl expert, Mike Stephens. Short of that, you're invited to hear him speak at the Willits Library. Stevens has been working with spotted owls for over 20 years. He will discuss spotted owl population trends in Mendocino County forests and the devastating effects of the recent arrival of barred owls, close relatives from the eastern U.S. His digital slide show features pictures, audio, and possibly some video.

Stevens has a B.S. degree in Forestry from Unity College, Unity, Maine, and a second B.S. degree in Wildlife Science from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces. He is also a joint author on a several scientific articles and is currently undertaking the task of writing a book "How to Study Spotted Owls."

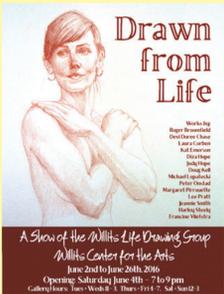
Stevens moved to Mendocino County in 2000 to start a radio-telemetry study of spotted owls and their use of foraging habitat and the effects of timber harvesting. He has worked for the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Redwood Sciences Lab in Arcata, and The National Council for Air+Stream Improvement (NCASI). He has operated his own wildlife consulting business, Mike Stephens Wildlife Consulting since 2005, and has numerous varied clients such as The Conservation Fund, Jackson Demonstration State Forest, Save the Redwoods League, Redwood Forest Foundation Inc., and many more.

What's Happening Around Town

707-489-1478, Also silent auction and concessions at the game.

"Sacred Geometry": An exhibit of quilts by Nan Trichler, opening reception, Saturday, June 4 from 4 to 7 pm, at Re-Evolution, 15 West Mendocino.

"Drawing from Life: A Show of the Willits Life Drawing Group": Runs June 2 through June 26 at Willits Center for the Arts. Opening reception on Saturday, June 4 from 7 to 9 pm. Works by Roger Broomfield, Devi Doree Chase, Laura Corben, Kat Emerson, Diza Hope, Judy Hope, Doug Kell, Michael Lopatecki, Peter Onstad, Margaret Pirrouette, Lee Pratt, Jeannie Smith, Harley Steely and Francine Vliestra. New gallery hours: Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 am to 3 pm; Thursday from 2 to 7 pm; Friday from 11 am to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 3 pm.



Shanachie Pub: House of Wrongs Krew DJ Night. First Saturday of every month. 9 pm. \$5 cover. "All forms of House Music from 1996 to the present concentrating on deep, funky & groovy tunes, with some Latin & Jazz undertones as well as Electro." 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, June 5

Willits Horsemen's Association Beef BBQ & Rodeo: free to spectators. Team Roping at 8:30 am, Jackpot Team Roping at 9 am, Beef BBQ at 11:30 am \$15 adults, \$5 children), and Rodeo Grand Entry at 1:30 pm. Free to spectators. See Saturday, June 4 listing for more details.

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Soroptimists and Sweethearts at a previous poise event.



Willits Frontier Days

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- Submitted by Soroptimist International of Willits

Chorale. Sunday, June 5 from 1 to 3 pm. 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-1726 or wcrental@gmail.com.

KLLG Antenna Tower Raising: The Willits Hometown Radio group is ready to raise the antenna tower for the new low-power KLLG Radio. Sunday, June 5 at 2 pm in the back parking lot of Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "We invite everyone to come and help us pull up the tower (so we can start broadcasting). We will need at least 20 people to help lift the tower into position. The more who show up, the easier it will be."

Monday, June 6

New Film Club at Noyo Theatre: Lois Hoover, owner of the Noyo Theatre, invites film-lovers to attend the first meeting of a new Film Club in Willits, featuring the documentary "Dark Horse" (an inspirational documentary about a working-class horse who takes the racing world by storm, featured 3 pm; Thursday from 2 to 7 pm; Friday from 11 am to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 3 pm. Screening at the Noyo, 57 East Commercial Street, starts at 5:30 pm, to be followed by an informal after-film discussion in the backyard patio space at Al's Redwood Room. "Regular admission will be charged at the theater, and there's no obligation to buy food or drinks, but the patio will be a nice space to gather for our initial gab-fest. Absolutely everyone is welcome." Hoover hopes to hold a Film Club event once a month to start, "and hopefully growing as interesting films become available." Info: 459-6696.

Tuesday, June 7

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Alice: Through the Looking Glass" and "X-Men: Apocalypse." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street, 459-6696.

Lunch with Twining Time at Brickhouse Coffee: Every first Tuesday, join Twining Time (singer-songwriters John Wagenet and Anita Blu) at Brickhouse Coffee on the corner of Highway 101 and Commercial Street, for live easy-listening Folk/Americana, a little blues music: acoustic guitar, keyboard, and polished vocal harmonies, 12:30 to 2 pm. Info: 459-1598.

Avenues to Wellness Speaker Series: this month's free talk features Ross Lake speaking on "Qi Gong for Good Health and Double Happiness." 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Ross Lake is a Licensed Acupuncturist now in his 30th year of practice who has been practicing Qi Gong intensively for the past 12 years. "Qi Gong is proven to be a safe and effective way to treat a wide range of problems and complaints, from depression and anxiety to Lyme disease and cancer." Talk will include an overview of Chinese Medicine and Qi Gong, followed by a participatory Qi Gong demonstration. Advance tickets for all regular shows are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.



TUESDAY, JUNE 7 5:30-6:30PM
QI GONG FOR GOOD HEALTH & DOUBLE HAPPINESS
By Ross Lake, L.Ac.
Qi Gong is proven to be a safe and effective way to treat a wide range of problems and complaints, from depression and anxiety to Lyme disease and cancer. Qi Gong demonstrates simple movements, breathing and meditation to produce a variety of benefits. This presentation will include an overview of Chinese Medicine and Qi Gong, followed by a participatory demonstration. Ross Lake is the author of "Qi Gong for Health: The path to inner wellness practicing Qi Gong."

IMPROVES FLEXIBILITY & COORDINATION
RELIEVES JOINT PAIN AND INFLAMMATION
INCREASES CARDIAC FUNCTION
REDUCES BLOOD PRESSURE
REDUCES TENSION, ANXIETY & DEPRESSION
WILLITS SENIOR CENTER
1501 BAECHEL ROAD
FREE to the public
Donations and Refreshments will be served

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

Willits Fire Department Fun(d)raiser
Saturday, June 25
Little Lake Fire Department holds a Public Fire Safety Open House and its annual fundraising drawing on Saturday, June 25, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Rec Grove. Fire volunteers will be selling hamburgers, hot dogs, chili beans, nachos, and other tasty treats, and providing demonstrations in auto extrication, fire extinguisher training, demonstrating apparatus, providing discussion about the new firehouse, volunteering as a firefighter, and many other items. Other organizations will also be providing public safety information. Throughout the day names will be drawn for prizes for the Little Lake Firefighters Association raffle. Local favorite Tova Scotia will be MC and DJ for the Saturday event. Anyone interested in donating items for a silent auction or door prizes, or for more info, should contact the Little Lake Fire Department business office at: 459-6271.

DEADLINE FOR WILLITS WEEKLY: Monday prior to Thursday Publication

Senior Center Lunch

Week of June 6 through June 10
Monday: Salisbury Steak/Noodles
Tuesday: Cod
Wednesday: Spinach Lasagna
Thursday: Tostados
Friday: Baked Chicken
Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under \$5: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Shanachie Pub: Margo Cilker, on acoustic guitar, harmonica and vocals, "joined by some of your favorite local musicians TBA." 8 pm. No cover. Visit <http://www.margocilker.com>. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Saturday, June 11

Sit N Sew: new monthly drop-in sewing group meets at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Saturday, June 11 from 1 to 5 pm. Free to all. "Anyone who wants to sew is welcome. Just bring your sewing machine, and a project to work on." Info: Rachel at 354-0605.

'Beside Yourself': 8 pm at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. A "family friendly farce" written by Nick Hall and directed by Kevin H.C. Moore. See Friday, June 10 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Taluna Duo, featuring Gaia Mobilij on Calabrian lyre and accordion, and Peppino Leone on percussion and traditional Southern Italian frame drums. 9 pm. No cover. Visit www.taluna.it. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Sunday, June 12

Melvin Seals and JGB: Cream of the Crop is proud to present An Evening with Melvin Seals and JGB. Sunday, June 12 at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Doors/no-host dinner by Zocalo Catering, 5 pm. Music 6 to 9 pm. Limited tickets available (only 200) \$35. Tickets in Willits at J.D. Redhouse or online at Eventbrite. "From blues to funk to rock to jazz, Melvin Seals [keyboardist with the Jerry Garcia Band for 18 years] serves up a tasty mix with a little R&B and gospel thrown in to spice things up." Visit www.melvinsealsandjgb.com. A Cosmic Pickle Production.



COLUMN | At the Movies
Daniel Essman, Columnist

'Alice Through the Looking Glass'

The Story: To Alice's dismay, the Hatter has fallen into deep and soul-sickening melancholy. Alice - ever the stalwart friend - must cross the rickety seas of Time itself to save poor Hatter from his fatal malaise. Much stands in her way, including, especially, the Red Queen, who hates Alice, and pretty much everyone and everything else.

My Thoughts: I doff my hat to the filmmakers. I am certain that LSD entered into the creation of this flick. "Alice" is a series of tumbling fantastical images put to the big screen from some perilously blown minds... One might think the filmmakers were from Willits.

Lewis Carroll could have had producer Tim Burton in mind when he created Wonderland. Consider all its fabulous beings: Humpty Dumpty, Tweedledum and Tweedledee, Cheshire Cat, the Red Queen, as well as assorted living things which hadn't ought to be able to talk, but do anyway. Now consider Burton's Edward Scissorhands... There's a character from the far side of the looking glass.

Parents: Alice was 10 years old when Lewis Carroll first told her the Wonderland stories. I think that should be the age rule for this movie. Alice is a loyal, courageous and sensible girl, a fine role model for children.

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

Ongoing Events

Willits Summer Farmers Market: the Willits Farmers Market is now in Bud Snyder City Park, from 3 to 6:30 pm every Thursday afternoon (market will stay open a little bit later into the dinner hour this summer). Veggies, strawberries, cherries, green garlic, greens, artichokes, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

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

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

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

Willits Library Public Events: "Stories for Crawlers and Walkers." Thursdays at 11 am. Technology group for help with hand-held devices. Fridays at 1 pm. Youth Game Night, ages 10-14, Fridays from 5 to 7:30 pm. 390 East Commercial Street. More info: 459-5908.

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

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

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

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

Kids on the Run! club for kids kindergarten through 12th grade, sponsored by the Sheriff's Activity League. Saturdays at 10 am at the ball fields between the Dog Park and the Mendocino County Museum. Cost for 2016: \$10, includes a T-shirt and free race entries. Questions? Contact: Michelle Kluskiewicz at 267-608-6262 or Gina Henebury at 707-485-1794.

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

Shanachie Pub: Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday. 8 pm. No cover. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic Night every Wednesday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7:30 pm; pre-signup list starts at 3 pm when the Pub opens. "An eclectic array of local musicians and even performers from around the world!" 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

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

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Artist Tom Zephyrs

Paintings of Willits scenes featured at Brickhouse Coffee

Clockwise from top right: Artist Tom Zephyrs talks about his 14-foot-long "Valley Panorama." Painting rusty trains is a "special challenge," he said. The exhibit at Brickhouse Coffee includes a book of maps, showing where the paintings were done. The Noyo Theatre. A tree-filled landscape. Zephyrs' landscapes often include paths, like this one.

Photos of Tom Zephyrs by Jennifer Poole



Willits artist Tom Zephyrs has filled the walls at Brickhouse Coffee with his beautiful landscapes, studies of downtown Willits, a portrait, a still life and a painting of a rusty old train.

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

"Valley Panorama," a 14-foot-long, 32-inch-tall painting of a Willits valley hay field, was painted in five separate panels especially for this show.

"When Sara and Tom [Mann, owners of Brickhouse] invited me to show, I came in and took measurements of the walls," Zephyrs said. "I wanted it to be a full display. I thought: Wouldn't it be great for those coming into the café to be embraced by this piece." Zephyrs emphasized how much he appreciated that Brickhouse was providing a venue for local artists – and local art lovers.

"Valley Panorama," inspired by an East Hill Road hay field, includes the road, as do other works in the show. "Roads and paths are a theme in my landscapes," Zephyrs said. "It brings a perspective.... I don't know, I just like to think about roads and paths."

A painting of the Noyo Theatre is tucked into the café's brick alcove. "The Noyo Theatre has always engaged me," Zephyrs said, "the aesthetics of its Art Deco shapes, a collage of rectangles and triangles. As an artist, you put these shapes together – the overall scene is still the same, but you can see the structure, the rectangles and triangles, and that's what makes painting exciting for me."

Zephyrs also pointed out the painting of the old train to the right of the door: "It's a special challenge painting old rusty metal and iron, how the train is beat up, and the tracks, too." His painting, "Iron Relic," now displayed at the new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, won a silver award at the California State Fair.

Zephyrs has shown "all over California," he says, but isn't as interested in pursuing sales or shows as he once was. "It's too much work," he said. One exception, he said, is Howard Hospital, where eight of his paintings are displayed. "I'm incredibly honored that with all of our local artists they wanted paintings from me."

Zephyrs and his wife, Lucy Perkins, have lived in Willits about 15 years. Before they moved here, Perkins would sometimes cover as radiologist at Howard Hospital. "I'd drive miles on the back roads and paint," Zephyrs said. "We fell in love with Willits, so when we decided to find a new home, we moved here."

Zephyrs' paintings will be on display at Brickhouse Coffee, on the corner of Main and Commercial streets, through June.



The rest of Field Trip | From Page 1

bills must be current and paid.

Munguia said the school performs a preliminary check on student eligibility two weeks before the day of the trip. At that time, if the student passes the review, he or she is offered a preliminary permission slip to take part in the field trip.

Munguia then undertakes a final review five days before the trip, and informs parents of children not eligible to go as early as five days, but not later than three days, before the trip.

"At the very least they would know usually five and sometimes three days before," Munguia said.

For some parents, that is too little, too late. Annie Morris, grandmother of a Baechtel Grove student, feels the entire policy is wrong. "We worked hard to raise money for that trip," Morris said. "We had a bake sale in front of Safeway. We sold Mother's Day baskets. I personally donated \$150 to this thing. And then to find out my grandson couldn't go. It's totally wrong.

"If you're going to give an incentive to somebody, they ought to make it so everyone can go," Morris said.

"I was never told by the school he was failing his classes, or in danger of failing his classes," said Gard, mother of a Baechtel Grove student not allowed to go on the trip.

The rest of Ratifies | From Page 1

council meeting.

"The public was not given full information in advance at all," Strong said. "There were things that happened way back in August last year that I was not aware of until May 10, the day before the meeting. Some of it not even until May 11, when we got the handout from the Mitchell group regarding the proposed phasing and cost assurances."

The Mitchell group's cost assurances, presented to the council as part of conditions imposed by the city last summer, came in the form of a letter from the Savings Bank of Mendocino County. The letter, signed by bank Vice President Stacy Starkey, states in part: "I can confirm [Bruce Burton and Ed Mitchell] have the financial capacity to purchase the subject property and complete the development."

Burton's son, Ernie, provided a three-page phased development plan report which estimated the total cost of the proposed project at \$10.57 million over a period of six-and-a-half years.

Strong, who said she was speaking for many of her constituents, did not object to the Burton-Mitchell project itself, as much as to the lack of transparency over the last year with closed session meetings concerning the Remco site sale.

"Since July 22, I don't believe there has been a single public meeting about it until two weeks ago," Strong said. "But there were numerous closed session meetings, some of which had to do with potential land use, and some of which didn't. Some of the information that came out, we're not allowed to talk about, but it would have been very helpful for the public to know."

Councilman Larry Stranske disagreed, saying it didn't matter what the public thought, or even what the city council thought, given that the sale of the former Remco property is between two private entities. The city's only role was deciding whether to allow the existing buildings on the site to stay up or not.

"That's essentially all we have to say about it," Stranske said. "I see it as a private individual, the trust, selling it to another private individual."

Vice Mayor Ron Orenstein concurred with Stranske, admonishing Strong's criticism of a lack of transparency.

"I'm not thrilled this has been presented as [the city engaging in] secret meetings without full disclosure," Orenstein said. "I'm tired of reading about this stuff on Facebook and some of the newspapers in town. It's just wrong. It's wrong information, and it needs to be spoken clearly."

Orenstein reiterated that Mayor Burton was never involved in any of the open or closed meetings about the sale and that Willits citizens have had a year to voice their opinions.

"I don't see a whole lot of the public here," he added.

Those members of the public who were present echoed Strong's concerns, disagreeing with Orenstein's stance.

The rest of Grist Creek | From Page 1

and will terminate December 31. The \$50,000 is in addition to Gross's initial \$10,000 fee for services.

Gross will litigate four lawsuits related to the asphalt plant.

She will defend the air district and Air Pollution Control Officer Robert Scaglione in two lawsuits filed by Friends of Outlet Creek. The first disputes the district's granting of an "authority to construct" for the plant as a whole; the second centers on the district's issuance of a permit to operate a crumb rubber heating and blending unit as a part of the plant.

Gross will also defend the air district in a lawsuit filed by Grist Creek Aggregates against the district. In that suit, Grist Creek alleges the

The rest of Staffing | From Page 1

five years since 2011, according to Dunham, ranging from 43 in 2011 to 232 in 2015. During that same period of time, the total number of regular county employees has also increased, from 1,047 in 2011 to 1,106 on December 31, 2015.

But staffing problems remain a major concern, Dunham says. For example, in her May 17 report to the board of supervisors, Mental Health Director Jenine Miller reported the vacancy rate in her department was almost 30 percent, with 17 vacancies out of 59 total positions. Miller also said she herself was doing part of four different jobs.

In the spring 2015, staffing was such a problem in the Family and Children's Services division of Health and Human Services Agency that the Mendocino County Grand Jury investigated the division. The grand jury found chronic understaffing was adversely impacting the county's children, leading to late reports and slow response times, while division staff routinely carried a caseload twice as heavy as the state recommends.

A few weeks after the report, then-HHSA Director Stacey Cryer told supervisors the vacancy rate for some positions within the Family and Children's Services division was 50 percent.

From 2011 through 2015, the county has regularly ended its fiscal year with a fund balance in the millions of dollars, much of it due to employee positions funded but not filled during the previous fiscal year.

For example, in June 2011 and again in June 2012, the fund balance was plus \$2.9 million. In June 2013, the county was \$6.8 million in the black, and at the end of fiscal 2013-14, the county's coffers overflowed by \$8.8 million. In June 2015 the county closed out the fiscal year with a fund balance of \$11.7 million.

According to Assistant CEO Alan Flora, the county will finish out the 2015-16 fiscal year with a fund balance of \$6.1 million.

Despite this, the supervisors have not established a staffing target. Asked if she was working with a staffing target, that is, a number that she has been directed to bring the number of county employees to, Dunham said she does not have one.

"There is not a target number of employees to hire," Dunham said. "We hire based on department needs and available resources. My goal for the Human Resources Department is to fill as many authorized positions as possible with qualified, competent individuals."

But Dunham cautioned it is "the board of supervisors and [county] department heads [that] decide what level of service they will provide in order to meet the needs of the public."

Dunham avoided mentioning the role of county CEO Carmel Angelo. However, Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse did not hesitate to point the finger at Angelo's office.

"The board of supervisors doesn't decide about level of service," Woodhouse said. "We control the budget. We decide what the budget is. But I'd say, the CEO's office is where that question is decided."

The question of what is going on and who is calling the shots can cause confusion even among department heads. This was emphasized recently by Health and Human Services Agency Assistant Director Brian Lowery, who spoke to supervisors during the public comment portion of a May 16 board meeting. Lowery was placed in charge of HHSA after Cryer's April 1 departure. A few weeks after taking over the day-to-day operations of HHSA, Lowery went out on leave. County staff would not comment to Willits Weekly on when Lowery leave began, or what nature of leave he took: stress leave, medical leave, family leave, or administrative leave. All they would say is that he was out on leave.

At the May 16 meeting, Lowery said he was told by HHSA Chief Financial Officer Doug Gherkin that the current budget situation within HHSA is "flat," meaning there is no money

air district acted in bad faith and against the provisions of its authority to construct, when it required the company to secure a permit to operate the crumb rubber unit.

Finally, Gross will represent the air district in its suit against Grist Creek Aggregates, in which the air district alleges Grist Creek acted negligently and contrary to law in operating the plant.

Gross will be employed by the air district as an independent contractor, not as a regular district employee. According to the agenda summary, the money to pay Gross is coming from the air quality management district's budget.

"The district has made adequate funding available to cover the cost of the retainer and contract amount," the summary stated.

to hire new people within HHSA. Lowery said Gherkin told him he wouldn't be able to hire an additional employee in HHSA unless a current HHSA employee quit, retired or was fired.

"That's not what we've been reporting to you," Lowery told supervisors. "What we've been reporting is, we are doing everything we can to hire social workers. We have a request in to hire 16 additional social workers. But the CFO tells me we can't hire unless a social worker leaves."

"We have to have the resources," he complained. "We cannot not hire the social workers we need. Because in the budget outline it says it is a goal of the county to keep resources as they are."

"We were 14 social workers down in child welfare and three down in adult," he noted. "If that's the position today, then we can't do the job. The central functions of the department cannot be done. Children and families we are pledged to help are in jeopardy, if that is how we are balancing the budget."

"I don't know if that is the case. I'm just telling you what I was told," Lowery said.

During a later phone conversation with Willits Weekly, Dunham said the county does not have a "one-for-one" policy regarding employees. She added, however, that the county does have a "no new positions" policy, which is different from "no new employees" policy.

"The board of supervisors has directed that there be no increase in the overall number of positions, not employees," Dunham said. "Therefore, we cannot create a new position unless we delete an existing position. When this occurs, the position marked for deletion is a position that has not been recently filled and there are no plans to fill it in the foreseeable future. This has nothing to do with filling a vacant, existing position."

Asked if it was possible that departments have a "one-for-one" policy, Dunham said, "All departments are aware of the board's directive regarding the number of county positions."

During budget discussions held on May 16, Supervisor Woodhouse addressed the need to hire an adequate number of people. Speaking of vacant positions, Woodhouse said: "I want to fill 'em. I don't want to leave them unfilled so we can tell ourselves we're making progress. I want to fill them."

Speaking after the Memorial Day holiday, Woodhouse was still dissatisfied about the county's staffing policy, saying the county needs to change direction on this issue.

"What we do when we're under pressure is, work harder, do the same thing and hope for a better outcome," he said. "But I want to change that, because what we're doing isn't working. I want us to stand back, look at what we're doing, evaluate and do something different. Come up with a fresh approach that has a different outcome."

"Because what we're doing now isn't working," Woodhouse emphasized. "We're not going to hire the people we need in mental health or in our other needs. We need a different approach. I want the board of supervisors to take a look and see if we can find a different approach."

Meanwhile, according to Dunham, the county is in the midst of a major push to hire the next round of recruits. Recently, her office merged the HHSA staff services unit with the county's Human Resources to streamline services to all county departments.

Dunham says she has more changes planned for the future. She is exploring ways to coordinate with Mendocino College, Sonoma State and other colleges in Northern California so her office can tap into a larger pool of potential applicants. She also wants to hold discussions with community partners to develop a joint recruiting strategy. She is working on a more sophisticated media advertising strategy, including radio ads and the development of specialized brochures for hard-to-fill jobs. And her office plans to hold a job fair at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah in July.

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Americans, attendees are invited to an exclusive reception at the Mendocino County Museum...

Also on Saturday, the Noyo will also show "The Messenger" at 2 pm, a documentary exposing the plight of songbirds...

Sunday's activities continue a new Willits tradition, the MFF Seabiscuit Legacy Program...

"This is the second year we've been screening equestrian

sausage, ham, eggs and more made by the Willits Lions Club, and then attendees were able to wander the aisles...

There were 10 lucky winners who won raffle prizes, including Joey Demarco, who won the private wine tour...

At noon, Kati Mulhauser sang the National Anthem, and the American Legion color guard presented the flags.

Everyone was welcome to participate in the car show games which included the lifter stack, sponsored by Round Tree Glass...

The second annual arm wrestling contest was also held, and male, female and youth awards were given.

One of the interesting entries this year was Anthony McKerny's restoration of Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman's old 1953 International Harvester...

"You know, over the years, a half-dozen Willits High School students learned to drive a stick shift in that truck out in the field," laughed Allman.

Allman said the truck was used by the assistant fire chief for Little Lake Fire Department in the 1950s...

"Anthony's dad called me in January and asked if they could restore it, and I thought it was a great idea," said Allman.

Originally called "Decoration Day," Memorial Day was first widely observed on May 30, 1868 to commemorate the soldiers - Confederate and Union - who lost their lives in the Civil War.

On Saturday, at both Willits cemeteries, the American Legion Post 174 volunteers placed flags at the grave markers of people who served their country.

Many families took this time to remember and reminisce about the deceased soldiers, to clean and decorate the graves, and to share stories with laughter and tears.

Cheryl Wilder, veteran George William Hatton's daughter, remembers a father who had long periods of silence where he wouldn't eat or drink...

John Harrington, surrounded by other family members at his father George William Thom's grave site, remembered a heroic story his father told of his experiences.

Another goal of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, and a specific job of the ambassadors, is to conduct outreach to businesses that currently are not members.

As a part of that effort, the chamber is waiving the set-up fee for anyone who becomes a member by July 3.

"We want to increase our membership by 25 percent during the coming fiscal year," Epstein said.

"Now is the time to join the chamber," added Holly Madrigal, city councilwoman and ambassador of the Willits Chamber of Commerce.

According to Epstein, when a business joins a chamber of commerce, that business "has an elevated perception in the eyes of the consumer, and consumers are more likely to make purchases [from that business]."

Another benefit of chamber membership includes enhanced promotion.

"If you're a chamber member and you Google yourself, you're going to come up on the first page because of our website," Epstein said.

The recently revamped website allows for members to receive a free listing in the business directory and allows for them to link directly to their website, and that's just one of the benefits of chamber membership.

"It's more important now more than ever to have a really strong chamber, because of all that we're trying to do," Epstein said.

Barbara Ivy of Ivy Tax Services, a chamber ambassador, too, acted as the point person for Saturday's Metal Mixer.

Other shout-outs from Epstein include members of Bikers Against Child Abuse; April Tweddell, chair of the ambassador committee; Carlin Horgor, chair of the Willits Car Show Committee; Barra of Mendocino; and Jan and Bob Rodriguez for hosting the event.

To find out more information, go to the Willits Chamber of Commerce website at http://willits.org/.

Showing off Cars and Bikes

Annual Memorial Day show in Rec Grove Park attracted close to 150 entries

"The turnout was great!" said Willits Chamber of Commerce's Lynn Kennelly about last Sunday's Community Festival in Rec Grove Park.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

And there were indeed bikes and cars to see! Kennelly noted that 112 cars entered the show - a few taking advantage of the new "all years" entry option - and 36 motorcycles were entered, too.

"For the first time for bikes to enter, we were very happy with the number of entries!" said Kennelly.

The day started off with a breakfast of pancakes, Read the rest of Car Show | Over on Page 11

At top, from left: Reid Davidson wipes down his 1959 Type-I Volkswagen Beetle. Members of the Willits Wild Bunch, including from left: Kevin "Pakman" Tyrell, Richard "Pops" Venturi, Kim "Sugar B" Venturi, Tim "Superman" Westby, Gloria "Jinky" Westby, and TJ "Chevie" Jones. Glen Helton heats up ham on the Willits Lions Club breakfast trailer.

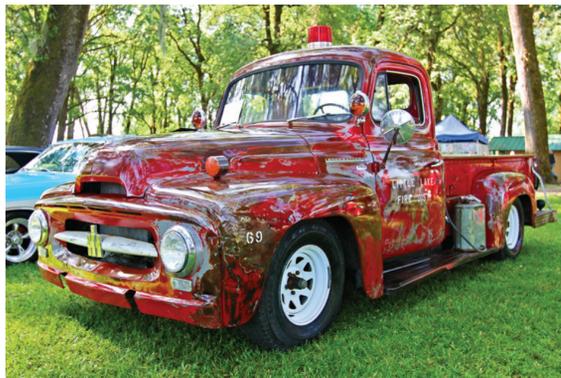
At right, top: Anthony McKerny's restoration of the old Willits truck previously owned by Tom Allman.

At right, center: Bikes on display at the bike show.

At right, bottom: Joey Demarco stands with his modified 1934 Ford 3-window coupe with suicide doors.

Below: Classic cars on display, shining in the sun at the Rec Grove Park.

Photos by Maureen Moore



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At left: Award recipients and Soroptimists, including from back left: Barbara O'Rear, Jane McCabe, Olivia Cooper, Hillary VanBezooyen, Divora Stern, Shanna Gayski and Tanya Musgrave. Front left: Krystina Hewitt, Hannah Friend, Gabriel Agenbroad and Flor Haschack pose together at the luncheon.

Below: Divora Stern, left, and Vicki Ham, right, stand with Violet Richardson Award district winner Mary Elise Cozelman.

At bottom: Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart candidates, from left, Sierra Skinner, Calayan Knight, Halee Reed and Cheyenne Walters, stand with Soroptimist Loraine Patton, center.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Soroptimist Award Luncheon

Graduates, Sweethearts and Soroptimists gather for annual award and scholarship luncheon

It was a full house on Tuesday, May 17 at Old Mission Pizza when eight award recipients and four Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart contestants and their family and friends joined members of the Soroptimist International of Willits for the 2016 award and scholarship luncheon.

Scholarship committee chairperson, Tanya Musgrave, conducted the meeting and introduced the scholarship committee that included herself, Jane McCabe and Barbara O'Rear. Scholarships were given to seven Willits High School graduates, including Olivia Cooper and Hillary VanBezooyen, who received the Evelyn K. Kennedy award, and Krystina Hewitt, Hannah Friend, Flor Haschack, Gabriel Agenbroad and Shanna Gayski, who received traditional scholarships.

The Evelyn K. Kennedy scholarship money was given under the guidelines that it be given to a student who is entering the teaching or medical field and will be majoring in those fields during their college education. The Kennedy scholarship is for a larger amount than the traditional scholarships, and is allocated out over a longer period of time.

The eighth honoree was Mary Elise Cozelman, who had previously been awarded the Violet Richardson Award at the Willits level, and was also recently honored with the district level Violet Richardson Award, too. Cozelman was honored at the luncheon for her receipt of this District 5 award.

Read the rest of **SIW** | Over on Page B2

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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE B7

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

Level: Intermediate

How To Sudoku:

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

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13			14			15			
16					17		18			19			
	20					21				22			
				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			

CLUES ACROSS

- Businessmen
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- From a distance
- Ruth's mother-in-law
- Performer ___ Lo Green
- Drug for Parkinson's disease, L-___
- Composure
- Broadcasts cartoons (abbr.)
- Used for baking or drying
- About alga
- Food grain
- Not messy
- Super Bowl-winning Bronco
- Egg-shaped wind instrument
- Get rid of
- Being enthusiastic
- A bird's beak
- Pores in a leaf
- Time of life
- Yuppie status symbol
- Parasitic fever
- Gallantry
- Put this in soup

CLUES DOWN

- Tennis player Ivanovic
- ___ Nui, Easter Island
- Cotton pod
- Air pollution
- The real ___, the genuine article
- Taken to
- Holds artificial teeth
- Greek mythical figure
- Small depressions in the retina
- Vertical position
- Shout at length
- Conceivable
- White (French)
- Small dog
- Malay people
- Third-party access
- North winds
- Peruvian mountain
- Annual percentage rate
- Mourning garments
- Network of nerves
- Guided
- Nests of pheasants
- DJ Rick
- No seats available
- Patty
- Singer Charles
- Ancient Mesopotamian
- Canada and the U.S. are members
- Cognitive retention therapy
- Much ___ About Nothing
- Georgia rockers
- Cologne
- The products of human creativity
- Brazilian city (slang)
- Honorary title in Japan
- They can die
- Candy is inside this
- Verizon bought them
- Semites
- Marine mollusk
- Entertains
- Made of crushed fruit or vegetables
- Town in Apulia, Italy
- Unresolved root or sum of roots
- Invests in little enterprises
- Spanish city
- Search
- Midway between south and southeast

SUMMER LIVING WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
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| BACKYARD | DIVING | SAILBOAT |
| BARBECUE | FIREFLIES | SPF |
| BASEBALL | FISHING | SUMMER |
| BEACH | GRADUATE | SUNGLASSES |
| BICYCLE | HEAT | SURFING |
| BOARDWALK | INGROUND | SWIMMING |
| BONFIRE | OCEAN | SWIMSUIT |
| CAMPSITE | PARTIES | TAFFY |
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The rest of **SIW** | From Page B1

The 2016 Willits Frontier Days award contestants and Sweetheart committee members were also in attendance and were introduced by Sweetheart committee chairperson Loraine Patton. Committee members also include co-chairperson Vicki Ham, "Appearance, Personality and Poise" chairperson Marilyn Harden, and committee member Kristin Noonan.

Contestants for this year's Sweetheart title are Calayan Knight, Sierra Skinner, Halee Reed and Cheyenne Walters. The girls are out selling tickets to all the Willits Frontier Days events, including the barbecue, CCPRA rodeos, junior rodeo, and truck pulls. Ticket sales, a speech, modeling, poise and personality, and riding a horsemanship pattern all factor in to who is named winner at the upcoming Sweetheart dinner. For Frontier Days tickets, contact Halee Reed at 354-3154, Cheyenne Walters at 354-4484, Sierra Skinner at 841-6669, or Calayan Knight at 485-2316.

To learn more about the Sweetheart contestants, log onto <http://www.willitsfrontierdays.com/sweethearts.html>



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Photo by Will Emerson



At top, left: "Sienna, study #2," by Kat Emerson. At top, right: Michael Lopatecki works with model Phoebe on a project for the upcoming show. Above: Devi Doree Chase works to prepare the drawings to hang for the show. Below, left: One of Michael Lopatecki's pan pastel sketches from his portfolio. Below, right: Local cellist Sarah Rose McMahon in a drawing by Devi Doree Chase. At right: The cornerstone piece in Devi Doree Chase's series, "There Are No Illegal People."



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Photos by Jenny Senter

'Drawn from Life'

Members of the Drawing Club in the spotlight at the Art Center in June

One common thread that emerged from conversations with some of the members of the local Drawing Club was that an early childhood filled with exposure to art led them to pursue their artistic dreams.

The Drawing Club members are busy preparing for their "Drawn from Life" show at the Willits Center for the Arts in June. The opening reception is set for Saturday, June 4, from 7 to 9 pm. Refreshments will be served, and the public is welcome.

The group's talented artists include Roger Broomfield, Devi Doree Chase, Laura Corben, Kat Emerson, Diza Hope, Judy Hope, Doug Kell, Michael Lopatecki, Peter Onstad, Margaret Pirrouette, Lee Pratt, Jeannie Smith, Harley Steely, and Francine Vlietstra.

I caught up with Devi Doree Chase at the Art Center on Friday as she unpacked her pottery pieces for the show and completed prep for hanging the drawings.

Chase explained that she sculpted pieces of her series "There Are No Illegal People" using a favorite medium of Navaho wheel clay with sand, mid-range. The series is her heartfelt response to those members of our society that have been the target of ridicule by some other members of our society.

Chase took time to share the small details of several of the other artists' framed and matted entries of the exhibit. She also praised fellow artist Kat Emerson for all of her time spent cutting mats for the show's sketches.

When asked how long she had been an artist, Chase replied "77 years" - she can't remember a time when art wasn't part of her life. She went on to tell the story of when

her artist aunt asked her what she wanted for her second birthday. She answered her by saying, "A palette, brushes, and paint." Her aunt promised to fulfill her wish when she turned 12. Devi relates that she had to remind her aunt of the promise when she neared her 12th birthday, but true to her word she received the paint and brushes. Because money was tight, her aunt showed her how to use a kitchen plate for a palette, and it was her palette of choice for years.

Chase eventually moved to Willits and took classes with Joey Sala through Mendocino College. When that class was discontinued, Chase and other artists found they missed having a class to create their art in a collaborative environment. They were lucky to be able to continue to meet for their life drawing classes at the Grange for a while on an unofficial basis. Fourteen years, and several different locations later, they are still meeting weekly. There are 14 artists in the group but usually there are about only six in attendance at a given meeting.

Michael Lopatecki, a longtime Mendocino County resident, was in the WCA studio recently to finish a piece for the show. While working, he shared that his father was an artist and he grew up with the smell of oil paints in his home. He said it was natural to become an artist because, he said: "Once you have that exposure from an early age, you look at things differently."

Lopatecki said it took him years to find his chosen medium, and noted that the work of Bill Elmore influenced his choice of charcoal powder and graphite for his art. He has also added pan pastels. He explained the advantage of pan pastels is that they have soft tonal effects, the strokes are not linear, like pencil, and they are quick to apply. He



Read the rest of **Drawn** | Over on Page B8

Willits Horsemen's Rodeo & BARBECUE

June 4 & 5

at the East Commercial Street Arena

Saturday: 9 am: Gymkhana
Sunday: 9 am: Jackpot Team Roping
Sunday: 11:30 am: Beef Barbeque
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Sunday: 1:30 pm: Rodeo

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Stetson Burgess Tyler Buschbacher Kelsey Butler Kelly Carrillo Maria Chavez Olivia Cooper William Derickson



Fernando Diaz Octavio Diaz Alia Duran Daniel Duran Dakota Eaton Jeremy Elenniss Blare Elliott



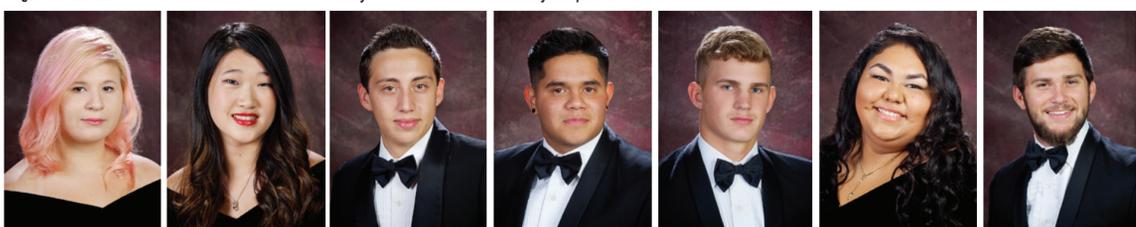
Hannah Friend Sylvia Friend Destiney Gamez-Webb Samuel Gamez Shanna Gayski Jordan Gazzano Helen Gonzalez-Caceres



Kristine Gonzalez Dante Grey Tomas Hardman Flor Haschak Casey Hebel Austin Heller Macy Hendry



Rogelio Hernandez Loren Herz O'brien Kristyna Hewitt Courtney Humphries Norea Israel Justin Jimenez Brandon Johnson



Zoe Kaller-Martinez Siena Karp Michael Knoell Alejandro Lara Blake Leslie Jasmin Mandujano Kyle Martinez

Willits High School

Congratulations to the
Class of 2016
Photos on pages B4, B5 and B6



William Smith Anthony Sorace William Switzer Gabrielle Terrell



Nicholas Rescina Christian Rodriguez Victor Rodriguez Shy Silverstein



Brianne McBride Mitchell McKinley Juan Medina



Sierra Skinner Rex Smith Justin Thom Tyler Thornsberry



Annalise Mendoza Jacob Morris-Mendoza Justin Mosher



Dylan Tyler Kacey Tyler Jessica Tyrrell Vera Tyrrell



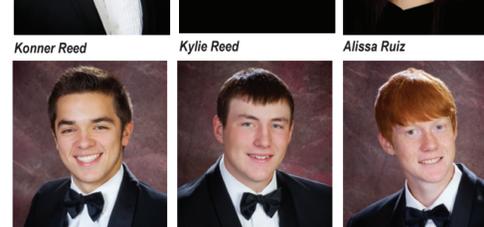
Tessa Mullins Kristopher Novo Oscar Nunez



Shivam Patel Kayla Pedersen Yvette Ramirez



Konner Reed Kylie Reed Alissa Ruiz



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2016 Graduates of New Horizons High School:

Dalton Beals, Juan Vazquez Cendejas, Amber Elliott, Beatriz Gandarilla, Devlin Gillespie, Sylvia Monroy-Heredia, Ryan Hosford, Tim Klick, Halee Reed, Kylee Wood

2016 Graduates of San Hedrin High School:

Lacey Ayers, Samantha Bacon, JennaRae Bailey, Tristen Cockrall, Benjamin Dotson, Aldair Escalante, Marco Escobedo, Joseph Faustina, Dustin Ferguson, Shybreaze Fischbach, Tierra Grover, Kyle Loehr, Susanna Morgan, Cailyn Pedersen, Desiree Rumble, Bailey Scroggins, BriAnna Turner, Adam Ulrich, Samuel VanDyke, Arianna Wiegand, Dakota Williams



Above, left: Lucky recipients of \$1,000 checks given at 2015 Sober Grad: Billy Mann, Lakota Lebo, Alyssa Alvarez and Sam Grossman. Above, right: Leslie Leon proudly displays her loot from last year's event, including a mini-fridge, toaster oven, flat screen TV and cookwear. Below: Part of the mob of excited and tired graduates wait for distribution at the prize table at the end of the night.



Grad party night for area seniors

Sober Grad: Wednesday, June 8

The Willits Community Center will be filled with celebrating graduates on Wednesday, June 8 for the annual Sober Grad event. Seniors from all Willits schools are welcome to attend and enjoy the free food, games, dancing and fun provided by the Sober Grad Committee to create a safe celebratory place, allowing grads to "make it to their futures."

Sober Grad is run on volunteer effort, and organizers are still looking for some helping hands to make the night a success.

Still needed: decorating and set-up. Show up at the community center anytime after 8:30 am Wednesday morning. Clean-

To sign up, contact Joyce Waters at 489-8377 or email willitssobergrad@gmail.com. —Maureen Moore



Photo by Darby Johnson

2016 Willits High School prom court announced King Garrett Vincent and Queen Hannah Friend

The court celebrates at the Rustic Romance Prom last Saturday at the Willits Community Center, including, from left: Prince Nick Rescina, Princess Kelsey Butler, Queen Hannah Friend, King Garrett Vincent, Princess Anna Villegas, and Prince Austin Heller.

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COLUMN | Intuitive Patterns

June 2016

Osho Zen Tarot: Ice-olation, Totality

Medicine Cards: Weasel, Dog

Mayan Oracle: Muluc, Chuen, Adventurer's Quest

Ancient Egyptian Tarot: Four of Swords, Eight of Cups, Five of Wands

Aleister Crowley Deck: The Fool, Oppression, Queen of Cups

Healing Earth Tarot: Tower, Man of Rainbows

Words of Truth: Health, Pushing, Overview, Expansion

Neptune is going retrograde this month on the 13th of June until the 20th of November. This should aid in fine-tuning your intuitive senses and allow you to feel into the more subtle places that need to be addressed. During this transit you have to really pay attention to the messages and act on them quickly, because if you have not done the work necessary by the time Neptune goes direct, then your feelings of missing the mark and not being in the right place at the right time actually get stronger.

The negative side of this aspect is that addictive patterns can worsen, so it is going to be important to reign in those out-of-control urges because those too will bite you if you are not careful.

Neptune is the second-largest planet, and it is also the planet of illusion, so there may be a feeling of not knowing what is true or correct for you during this time. The choices may seem so diverse that you cannot seem to know what is the correct door to walk through.

On June 17, Saturn and Neptune will be at 12 degrees, and you will experience the second of the three squares (the third one will be September 6). Saturn wants to restructure your philosophical outlook and free your mind to travel beyond the old boundaries, while Neptune wants to dissolve away what seemed so real from your past. So this combination can be very shattering for the psyche. Just remember that there is always liberation when the blinders come off and you see what is really there rather than what you had created as an illusion.

To move through this month, you need instinct and intuition. As both Saturn and Neptune are in mutable signs (Sagittarius and Pisces) the game is choice, to gain confidence, and to learn to adapt to a constantly changing landscape called

OBITUARY |

Patrick Brown

Patrick (Pat) F. Brown passed away in Willits on April 18, 2016 at the age of 61. Although he was born in Englewood, California, and lived for a while in Oroville, California, Pat graduated from Willits High and considered Willits his home base. Upon graduation, he joined the Navy and was off to a life full of adventure and service.

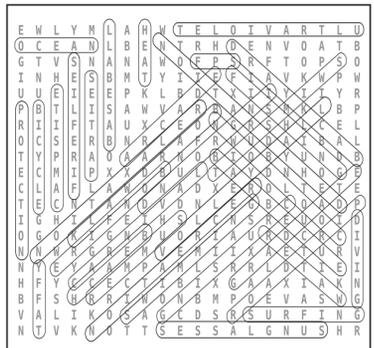
He was a Navy Seal, a stuntman active in many TV shows and movies, a martial arts expert, a paramedic, a cross country truck driver, and a motorcycle enthusiast. His was a never-to-be-forgotten, larger-than-life personality. If you needed a friend, you could count on Pat. He had a special soft spot in his heart for children and dogs. Pat was a tireless worker for Toys for Tots and a dedicated volunteer watchman for his church, Grace Community. He was also a member of AA and proud to have reached 25 years of "clean and sober."

Patrick was predeceased by his parents, Esther and Albee Brown. He is survived by his beloved wife, Suzan, and their little dog, Fokie.

A memorial service to honor this very special man will be held at 1 pm on Saturday, June 11, at Grace Community Church, 25 Hazel Street (behind Flyers) in Willits.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Suzan Brown at P.O. Box 1373, Willits, CA 95490.

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your life. The most important aspect of this square is that it will show you that "Knowledge is Power," and that is going to allow humanity to finally let go of blind faith. Expect some people to have their foundations rocked, shattered and then washed away by a tide of Neptune's change. Each of us is being asked to grow up and allow the cold, hard and honest truth to mature us out of the place where we get caught up in the illusion of disinformation. You will not be allowed to stay in denial, and you will not be able to escape the hard truth and choices confronting you this month.

Yet, there is a playful quality to this month, with the Mayan Archetype Chuen. Play is essential to allow you to move through this challenging game of "Real Dungeons and Dragons." If you have the attitude of childlike enthusiasm and fun that so much is shifting around, then you can get on top of the energy and play the game rather than feeling played. Just remember that there is going to be a lot that you cannot see, so plan accordingly because you will have to adapt at a moment's notice.

What you can say about this month is that it is dynamic. There is a type of intended risk that is present throughout the month, and you will want to have with you the most loyal friends surrounding you as well as those with great ability to see into the great beyond to give you insights to the next potential steps in this developing game.

Let this month be one of such movement and expansion that you are enthralled with just the feeling of no longer being stuck. You may want to know what is happening to you, but it would be better to live in the space of moment to moment. Let the wonder and childlike enthusiasm take the place of fear. Let the adventure be so enticing that you know you will step on the path even when you don't know why you are choosing that particular path. Don't push, but just go with what presents. You might just discover that you are braver and more of a hero in your world than you realized.

Suzanne Wagner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology," which can be found on Amazon.com. For more information: visit www.suzwagner.com or call her at 707-354-1019.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Cute Scotty

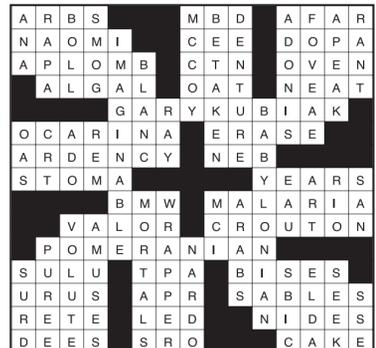
Scotty is a very cute 2-year-old male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 37 pounds. This handsome Scottish terrier mix is a joy to have around and a favorite of shelter staff and volunteers. Scotty is a very friendly pup and greets you with a happy face whenever you walk in the room. He is very easy to handle and seems to do OK around other dogs (though a meet and greet with any other dogs you may have in your home is always recommended prior to adoption.)



Scotty is a small but sturdy size and an easygoing, eager-to-please guy who we think will make an easy transition into his forever home. He is sure to bring loads of love and laughter to a very lucky family!

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 new website: www.mendocinoshelter.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453. Photo by Rod Coats

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Open Monday to Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.



CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

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

Help Wanted Office Assistant
Brooktrails Township
CSD
P/T Seasonal, 20+ hrs/week, Fire Dept. Reception/secretarial duties, assist the staff with Hazard Abatement program. Extensive interaction with the public. Requirements: 1 year clerical experience, knowledge of standard office procedures, good computer skills, HS grad. Pre-employment physical. For job description and application, visit District Office, 24860 Birch Street, Willits, CA 95490 or go online to www.btcsd.org. Closing date Friday, June 10, 2016, 5 pm.

Algebra, Geometry Tutoring, Test Prep
Mac Smith 459-MATH

Annual Spring Yard Sale!
Pearl Street, Multi-family sale. Saturday, June 4th 9 am to 4 pm.

Beach Ultimate Hisbee
2nd annual Mendocino Beach Ultimate Frisbee Tournament and Beach Dance Party. Saturday, June 11 at Big River Beach. Tournament: 11am-6pm (all levels welcome); Party: 2-9pm (\$5 donation). Info: <http://mendocinoultime.com/>.

Brooktrails Flea Market
Get your Vendor Space reserved! Antiques - plants - household and much more! Treasures are waiting for you! 2016 Market is Saturday, June 4. Outdoor spaces and indoors tables: \$20 each - first-come, first-served! Vendors check in: 6 to 7:30 am. Market open: 8 am to 3 pm. Lunch available from Brooktrails Fire Department. Call to reserve a space: Arlene 456-0734.

Computer Help
Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$40/hr. Tutoring \$20/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamerjin@yahoo.com.

Duplex for Rent
Deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex in Brooktrails. All appliances. Laundry room, central heat & air, garage. Incredibly nice. No smoking, no pets. \$900/month plus \$1,800 deposit. Call 984-6479.

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

For Sale
Classic Car '65 T Bird, excellent condition, one owner. 459-9228. Sears Tractor, less than 60 hours. 24 hp, \$500. 459-9228.

Free Workshop
"Unlocking the Spiritual World of Dreams" Workshop - Free - Saturday, June 11, 2 to 4 pm at Ft. Bragg Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street. Call 707-972-2475 for more information.

The Fruit Group
It's apricot season! Taking orders now. We need coordinators for Brooktrails, Covelo and Garberville. For info, call Brenda at 459-9335 or email thefruitgroup95490@yahoo.com

Help Wanted
Ardella's Diner: Full-time line cook, full- and part-time dishwashers, and part-time wait staff. Will train right candidates. Perfect summer job for student. Apply in person. No phone calls.

Help Wanted
Barbara Carlson Visit my webpage: Zibergirl.com 707-367-6182, Willits.

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

went on to explain: "If you start with an outline, it confines you. You need to have a feel for the whole body to see the body." He uses the pan pastels first and then adds the lines after he has created his image of the "whole body."

Live model Phoebe was on hand as Lopatecki's model. She said the hardest part of live modeling is holding a pose for the up-to-45 minutes it takes. She said she uses the time to meditate. She has modeled off and on for about a year, and only for the Drawing Club.

Artist Diza Hope, who will be showing along with her mother Judy Hope, said she "got started in art because my mom was always painting or drawing and making amazing things. It was hugely inspirational being around her creativity and skilled art making." Diza Hope has been drawing on and off with the group for about 13 years.

She knows how hard it is to model because she has also modeled for the club. She found it interesting to see all the interpretations of one pose from multiple angles and directions. She really appreciates what it takes to be able to hold a pose for a stretch of time.

10-year veteran of the Drawing Club, artist and long-time Mendocino County resident Kat Emerson noted: "In our Willits group, we generally work the entire three hours on one pose, which is, I think, a little unusual. Most groups start with short, 1- to 2-minute poses, and work up to maybe a half hour pose at the end."

Emerson also said she has always had an interest in art. Her mother and grandmother took her to museums from an early age and always encouraged her to pursue her art. Art materials were a staple in her childhood. Drawing from life is her first love and one she finds offers new challenges each week. She also enjoys oils, printmaking, ceramics and weaving.

Michelangelo and Rembrandt are in Emerson's opinion "gods," but she draws inspiration from Goya, Velazquez, Sorolla, Sargent, Cassatt, Morisot, Artemisia Gentileschi, Botticelli, Caravaggio, Vermeer, Monet, Renoir, Raphael, Fechin, Klimt, and Manet, to name just a few of her favorites.

"I completely lose myself in the process," Emerson said about her artwork. "My goal is always to try to have something essential about the model come through me onto the page. Drawing from photo references is not the same. The camera captures a single instant through an objective lens. A drawing done from life is necessarily a composite of many moments, of fleeting thoughts passing through the mind of the model, of subtle and not so subtle shifts in the pose, and my eye, as opposed to the camera's, is very subjective, and capable of choosing how to respond those shifts and changes."

The Drawing Club meets every Thursday from 1 to 4 pm, and all levels of experience are welcome. There is a fee, which covers the cost of the model's time. For more information about classes or becoming a live model, contact Devi Chase at 459-6284.

"Drawn from Life" runs through June 26 at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. New expanded gallery hours are: Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 am to 3 pm; Thursday from 2 to 7 pm; Friday from 11 am to 7 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 3 pm, or by appointment. For more information, please contact 459-1726 or www.willitscenterforthearts.org



St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble

Murmurs of enjoyment preceded resounding applause Saturday night at the sixth spring performance by the visiting St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble from Russia.

Performing at the Methodist Church in Willits, the ensemble sang hymns and sacred music from Russian composers from the Baroque through Classical periods (1630-1943). At intermission, the a cappella group changed costumes and came back to sing Russian secular music.

Above: Evoking an ancient crumbling monastery asleep in the wild, the St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble from Russia sings Russian poet Afanasy Fet's "Nocturne," set to music by Russian composer Sergy Taneyev.

At left: The ensemble sings Russian composer Victor Kalinnikov's "Whither Shall I Go from Thy Spirit" at the Willits Methodist Church.

Below: The men's ensemble sings Saturday night at the Methodist Church.

- Ree Slocum

Photos by Ree Slocum

Saturday NIGHT FUN!
June 4, 11, 18 & 25
HOT SEATS!
FREE PLAY!

Summer Cash
Giveaway July 16th
\$7,000 to be WON
in one EVENING!



Round #1: 11A to 2P:

2 random winners/hour (6 winners).
Each winner will win \$50 in Free Play.
Players Club members must play minimally \$20 to be eligible for Round #1 Hot Seat drawings.

Round #2: 5P to 8P:

2 random winners/hour (6 winners).
Each winner will win \$75 in Free Play.
Players Club members must play minimally \$30 to be eligible for Round #2 Hot Seat drawings.

Round #3: 9P to 10P:

3 random winners/hour (3 winners).
Each winner will win \$100 in Free Play.
Players Club members must play minimally \$40 to be eligible for Round #3 Hot Seat drawings.

Round #4: 10P to 11P:

3 random winners/hour (3 winners).
Each winner will win \$150 in Free Play.
Players Club members must play minimally \$50 to be eligible for Round #4 Hot Seat drawings. All winners 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

Entries for this promotion can be earned on;
Tuesday June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5 & 12, 2016

20 pts/entry

Saturday June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 2 & 9, 2016 20 pts/entry

Saturday July 16, 2016 - 25 pts/entry

On July 16, 2016, drawings will take place at approximately;

7P (one winner) • 8P (one winner)

9P (one winners) • 10P (two winners)

Each winner will choose an envelope. After 10P each winner will open their envelope to determine their prizes.

Prizes

\$3,000 Cash

\$2,000 Cash

\$1,000 Cash

\$500 Cash

One Winner

One Winner

One Winner

Two Winners

Players Club members may only win ONE envelope



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

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