

A word cloud featuring the title "Willits Local Pages" in large, bold letters. The words are arranged in a dense, overlapping manner, with colors ranging from blue to green. The background is a light, textured surface.

Donations Accepted Edition No. 219

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
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The discussion came following a report by City Planner Dusty Duley who said he had been "feverishly working on the cannabis ordinance and the supporting environmental documentation," and that it was still on track to be introduced to the council for consideration on September 13.

Councilmember Ron
Read the rest of
Discussion |
Over on Page 9

Sixty-two people addressed supervisors over a three-hour period during the public comment portion of the August 8 meeting, as the board debated possible revisions to the medical cannabis cultivation ordinance.

Here are comments from seven of those people.

For an ordinance to be adopted by the board of supervisors, it has to be officially considered, or “read,” twice. The first reading of the revised cannabis ordinance has been set for 9 am on Tuesday, August 22. The second reading of the revised ordinance will occur at 9 am on Tuesday, August 29. The public will be able to address the board at both meetings.

– Mike A'Dair

Read more of **Comment** |
Over on Page 9

Mike A'Dair
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New labor contracts for county confidential employees and the Deputy Sheriffs Association were approved by the board of supervisors on Tuesday.

Confidential employees are workers in certain departments who have direct knowledge of and/or involvement in the collective bargaining and labor relations processes of the

Read the rest of
Labor |
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Willits High School staff and students get ready for start of school on August 21

In the last days before the first bell of the 2017/2018 school year rings, things are already a flurry of activity at Willits High School. The roadwork and sidewalks are finalizing, new and returning teachers are readying classrooms, staff and office administrators are checking in students, adjusting schedules and preparing paperwork, and there's even practice for fall sports starting on the field.

Maureen Moore
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Tuesday and Wednesday were filled with new and returning students coming to check in, register, have their identification photos taken, and pick up their new Chromebook laptops. Office staff and administration were on hand in the computer room to help get kids connected into the online system where parents and students can keep tabs on grades, attendance and more. On Monday, new teachers were given tours of the school and welcome information from new Principal Michael Colvig.

Colvig will be joined in the office this year by the new Assistant Principal Marian Lohne, who will also serve as the new athletic director. Aaron Branscomb will assist Lohne as the new athletic coordinator. Other new staff includes Chris Bickford, who will teach social studies, Shawna Byrns, who will teach math, Otto Coelho, who will teach English, Elizabeth Roripaugh, who will teach science, Diana McNally-McCall, who will teach music and theater, and Matthew Alaniz who will teach math. There's also a new district nurse, Laura Hudgins.

Mark Westerburg is returning this year to continue his role as superintendent of the Willits Unified School District schools, and the veteran office admin women

Read the rest of **WHS** |
Over on Page 4

At top: New teachers and staff, joined by the new assistant principal and the new principal, gathered Monday for their school tour, including, from left: Assistant Principal Marian Lohne, Chris Bickford, Shawna Byrns, Otto Coelho, Elizabeth Roripaugh, Principal Michael Colvig, Diana McNally-McCall, Matthew Alaniz, and Laura Hudgins, nurse.

Above, left, from top: Michael Colvig, the new principal at Willits High School. Marian Lohne, the new assistant principal and athletic director at Willits High School.

Below: Students who received their Chromebook laptops Tuesday, including, from left: 17-year-old Gisele Nieto, who will be starting her senior year; 13-year-old Matthew Harries, who will be starting his freshman year; 16-year-old Nathan Maples, who will be starting his junior year; 14-year-old Skylar Arnold, who will be starting his freshman year; 17-year-old Cristian Arreguin, who will be starting his senior year; 17-year-old Eddie Leon, who will be starting his senior year; and 15-year-old Alyssa Harries, who will be starting her junior year.



PG&E's Deanna Contreras helps dig a hole for a new tree in Willits City Park.

PG&E came to Willits Friday morning to commemorate National Safe Digging Day – 8/11 every year – by planting some new trees in Willits City Park. “PG&E has been working with the City of Willits on planting trees as part of the park improvement project,” said PG&E representative Deanne Contreras, “and we’ll plant a couple maple trees to demonstrate what happens after 811 is called. Calling 811 or submitting a request online at www.811express.com could prevent a dangerous accidental strike on a gas or electric line below the surface.”

A “locate and mark” expert helped show the crowd – including Mayor Gerry Gonzalez and the other Willits City Council members, city staff and about 30 helpers from Imagination

Station Preschool – how lines are marked. If you call 811, local utility and telecommunication company workers will come to your location – for free – and mark where the underground lines are.

Contreras said damage to underground pipelines is the number one risk facing PG&E's gas system, and that few PG&E customers ever call 811 before digging, even though natural gas pipelines, electric power lines and other utilities buried underground can lie within just a few feet of the surface.

"Whether it's planting a tree, installing a sprinkler system or building a fence, customers need to know where underground utility lines are located," Contreras said.

– Jennifer Poole

Forrest Gler

Reporter
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After delaying a vote during a previous meeting because of confusion over a 45-day public review process, the Willits City Council last week approved a resolution to increase water and wastewater rates to customers over the next five years to help pay for infrastructure and maintenance costs for the city's water system.

The vote, which came after a public hearing on the matter, was 3-2, with councilmembers Saprina Rodriguez and Larry Stranske voting against. Neither explained why they opposed the resolution.

The new rates go into effect September 1. Water

Read the rest of **Rates** |

Over on Page 9

Mike A'Dair

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A revised timeline for a process that will affect emergency medical services in Mendocino County was adopted by the board of supervisors on Tuesday. The timeline, approved 3-1 with Supervisor John McCowen dissenting and Supervisor Dan Gjerde absent, includes sending out, evaluating and hiring the authors of two winning requests for proposals.

One of the RFPs will seek proposals from a company or organization to handle dispatch needs for the ambulance and fire services.

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Emergency |
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by the Willits Chamber
of Commerce

In an effort to address the challenges presented by the bypass and continue to help the Willits community thrive, the Willits Chamber of Commerce and the City of Willits are collaborating in the formation of a new board, tasked with spearheading a marketing plan for Willits with a focus on driving tourism to Willits.

According to Allison Findley, coordinator of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, "The mission of the Visit Willits Tourism Board is to stimulate

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Willits
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

‘A Garden Party’

To the Editor:

Conducted by Willits Educational Foundation, “A Garden Party” is a summer party like no other.

Once again Phil and Kathy Shuster will host what is becoming a time-honored tradition for those who enjoy great food and drink, silent and live auctions, raffles and live music in a magnificent garden setting. This is their sixth year hosting “A Garden Party” — a benefit for schools within the Willits Unified School District for their art, music and library programs. This year the date is Saturday, August 26, from 4 to 8 pm at 1660 Center Valley Road.

Over time “A Garden Party” has evolved into an early evening party with small plate treats that have included barbecued oysters and tri-tip, as well as all kinds of delicious finger foods and desserts. Water, sodas and beer will be available, and the not-to-be-missed, wet-your-whistle Cosmopolitans. This year the wine will be provided exclusively by Handley Cellars.

Born and raised in Willits, Travis Scott is now assistant vice president at Handley Cellars. Hired in 2013, he has been with them four years, and considers himself fortunate to be able to use his business insight and knowledge of wine and sales at this wonderful winery in the rustic beauty that is Anderson Valley. The Handley Estate Vineyard is ideal for Handley Cellars’ 13.4 acres of Pinot Noir, 12.2 acres of Chardonnay, and 3.2 acres of Gewürztraminer — all of it farmed responsibly, using organic methods and avoiding chemicals whenever possible. Even the winery itself operates on 75 percent solar-powered electricity. He promises to be on hand to pour and answer any questions about the winery and their fine wines.

In just four short hours, raffle ticket drawings and live and silent auctions are on a fast track and will include such unique items as a three-night stay for six people at Seahorse Cove Retreat at Big Lagoon, a getaway weekend at a lakeside vacation home in Lake County, breathtaking photographs taken by June Ruckman and printed on metal, a handmade sunflower tote bag from “It’s in the Bag” (Karen Gridley), numerous specialty item gift baskets and gift certificates. Anyone who despairs over the disappearance of lovely age-old wooden barns will appreciate a photograph taken and beautifully framed by Wendy Wilmes depicting the “Trupack Barn” that stood for so many years north of Willits.

Auctioneer extraordinaire Sheriff Tom Allman has agreed once again to keep the bidding high and lively, although there’s always the chance of a real bargain. Live music will be provided by everyone’s favorite local band, The Basics.

A mainstay each year are local businesses that line up to be sponsors — 37 at last count. Look for their banners attached to Phil’s shop and remember to thank them for their generous sponsorships when you visit their establishments.

Available at Willits Furniture, Cat’s Meow, and Mazahar, tickets are \$20 and will be sold only in advance. If you need additional information, feel free to contact Warren Lewis at 459-4429, Rotary Club/John Cross at 485-2274, or Kathy Shuster at 459-2659.

It’s truly rewarding to see young students who benefit from this event acting as runners to replenish empty dishes, or servers bringing tray after tray of delectable desserts. Last year there were seven from Willits High School and three from Baechtel Grove.

Willits Rotary Club members and Willits Educational Foundation members understanding the importance of keeping school programs thriving and joining forces to

bring this event to the community. “The Garden Party event is one of the many ways that Rotary likes to give back to the community,” says Rotary Club President Holly Madrigal. “A number of Rotarians are graduates of the Willits school system, including myself, and it is so rewarding to support key educational programs.”

A special thank you to Willits Weekly for all of the excellent coverage of this special event!

**Kathleen Lewis, co-secretary,
Willits Educational Foundation**

Why drill in the same vein?

To the Editor:

Drilling another well north of the Elias well — why? As a longtime resident of Willits and a son of a well-known water witcher, Bob Brown, if he was alive today he would say — why? Years ago the man who bought the water rights from Willits even took my dad up in a plane and flew over Willits. My father picked out a spot in the south end of Willits; he went by car and also picked out this area.

Why hasn’t Willits looked for a place to drill on the property up on the watershed? At the gravel pit up on the hill south of town, there is a place where Mr. Snyder told me that could be opened and closed just by sealing it off so you could fill the bottom reservoir and then close it. So who am I — just a 78-year-old retired mailman with no degree in anything. I have helped people find water where others have had no luck. I am no expert but if well drillers can’t find water, they tell people, “Go get Doug Brown and then call us back.”

My question is: Why spend \$30,000 when you already know what is at the Elias site? Also my dad had tracked the water all the way from Lake County to Willits’ two underground streams that run into the Willits valley. One well he drilled years ago acted like a sonic boom when he hit the water — he lost one length of pipe gone. Also he found fish with no eyes, blind with pin stickers on each side of their bodies. How deep was the well? 150 feet? It’s still out in the valley.

A well driller had to drill another well out at that spot, and my dad went out and helped him drill a well, and it is going as of today, so before we drill another well, don’t we need to talk about why drill in the same vein as the other well? Is there a better place closer to the main place to get storage?

Doug Brown, Willits

Call for Holiday Crafts Fair

To the Editor:

The Willits Center for the Arts is accepting entries for the 31st Annual Holiday Craft Fair, December 8, 9 and 10, 2017, to be held at the Willits Community Center and the Willits Center for the Arts Upstairs Gallery. All interested artists, handcrafters, and specialty foods entrepreneurs should request application forms by email to: Bonnie Belt at belt.bonnie@gmail.com or by mail: Willits Holiday Craft Fair, c/o Bonnie Belt, 2291 Buckeye Drive, Willits, CA 95490. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Applications will be e-mailed to all previous year’s applicants and new requests by August 31, 2017. Please note acceptance is subject to quality of work and earliest postmark date.

Bonnie Belt, Willits

Croskey should resign

To the Editor:

I am very disappointed in Georgetanne Croskey’s recent announcement. First, she was appointed to serve out Tom Woodhouse’s term without any say by the people she is supposed to be representing. Second, she came to this appointment with no obvious knowledge of county issues, nor of the constituents she claims to “serve.” Her standard response when faced with issues and information is a cheery “I’ll have to learn more about that.”

This is a job with a large learning curve, and we deserve experienced representation.

Willits Weekly reported on August 3 that Croskey’s husband accepted a new job. Croskey says, “my husband and children need me to be a wife and mother first,” yet the same press release reports: “Supervisor Croskey will complete her term as Third District supervisor on December

31, 2018. Then the family will be reunited.” Though she promises to dedicate her time to serving the constituents and addressing the issues facing the county, I believe she can best serve our county by resigning now so someone with experience and knowledge can fill out the term.

Further, as a representative of the people, she should be accountable to the people. Unfortunately, the announcement that she will be leaving office and not seeking reelection effectively preempts all accountability for any controversial decisions she may have to make.

I see a conflict looming already. In the same issue of the paper announcing her intention to leave the county, I read a front page article about Croskey’s appointment to the Mendocino Fire Safe Council and how she is taking up the challenge of working on an evacuation plan with her family. I think we have a right to expect our representative to plan for the entire county.

Perhaps she is not aware of the full scope of the fire danger facing us. Mendocino Redwood Company, a prominent member of the Fire Safe Council, has been poisoning thousands of acres of oaks, leaving large swaths of dead trees. Aside from increasing the future financial burden to taxpayers, our firefighters are expected to risk their lives against the extreme danger of tens of thousands of highly flammable standing dead trees.

Last year, after a hard-fought campaign against big money, 63 percent of the voters passed an ordinance declaring dead standing trees a public nuisance, thus putting financial responsibility on the timber companies that continue to pursue these dangerous practices.

Apparently MRC is not listening. More likely, they consider the financial risk worth it. They continue the wholesale poisoning of otherwise healthy forestlands. Meanwhile they continue a well-funded PR campaign to neutralize any attention on their responsibility for forest safety. That way the risk continues to fall on firefighters, taxpayers, homeowners and all the rest of us.

I look at our summer heat wave. I shudder at the recent lightning strikes. I think about the thousands of acres burned this year, last year, and the year before, and I am worried. How can we be so reckless as to add fuel to an already critical fire situation?

What will happen when our board of supervisors is asked to deal with the ongoing issue of fire danger created by MRC? How do you think Supervisor Croskey will respond to these issues?

I would ask Croskey to resign now, so someone with more experience can step in. We had several very good candidates apply for the position, including Holly Madrigal and John Pinches. They all have proven experience in public service, the trust of their constituents, and a deep knowledge of complex county issues. I personally favor Holly. However she has moved on to another excellent position serving our community. I say we pull Pinches out of retirement to fill the rest of the term. I may not agree with him on a lot of issues, but I sure respect that he is easy to talk to, he represents our concerns well, and he is not afraid to speak his mind under pressure.

Robin Lelel, Willits

We want peace

To the Editor:

August 6 marks the 54th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan. August 9 is the 54th anniversary of the atomic bomb over Nagasaki.

Total death toll in the two cities is estimated between 150,000 to 280,000. Destruction and overwhelming chaos made orderly counting impossible. Total injured will never be known as the injured extends into future generations with extensive radiation among the victims and offspring.

No matter where you stand on the underlying issues that brought about this unthinkable loss of life in two days there is a lesson for everyone on this earth. If we continue down the path of war, life on this planet will no longer exist. Do not let your government, politicians, and corporations dictate their ideas of freedom and democracy with guns and atomic bombs.

We want peace and not with the barrel of a gun or an atomic bomb. Do not be shy about getting up from the couch and joining demonstrations in the streets demanding peace. Not next month, not next election, and not with the use of atomic bombs.

**Bob Wilkinson, Veterans for Peace,
Mendocino County Chapter**



Above: Jade Whittaker’s first-place photo entry in the Junior building. At right, top: Barbara Carlon’s first-place winning quilt entry “Alaska Scene.” At right: Malayna Lavendusky’s scrapbook, a first-place winning entry in the Junior building. Far right: Namid David’s first-place sewing entry in the Junior building.

There’s more to the Redwood Empire Fair than just livestock — talented community members from across the area fill the Ukiah Fairgrounds exhibit halls each year with incredible examples of ability, too.

The halls, including the Junior building, Home Arts building, Fine Arts building, Floriculture building and the Agriculture/Horticulture buildings, are all open to the public during the fair ... and most feature air conditioning, always a great moment of relief from the usually toasty outside air.

Below is a compiled list of awards received by residents of Willits, Laytonville and Covelo at the 2017 fair.

Entries are open to all, and building supervisors encourage everyone to review the premium book, or fair website, and enter something they’re proud of into the 2018 fair.

For more information on results or on how to enter for next year: 462-FAIR.

— Maureen Moore

Davna Reynolds of Covelo placed with 15 entries in the Floriculture building, including five first-place awards for cut stems, giant and mixed-bouquet zinnias and sunflower entries and five mini and themed arrangements including a “Broken Pot Container” arrangement, a “Skid Row” arrangement and a “Mean Green Mother from Outer Space” arrangement.

Reynolds also received three second-place awards for more cut stem zinnias, a fair theme entry, and a mixed marigold entry. Two broken pot container garden entries also earned Reynolds a second- and a third-place prize.

Heidi Anders of Willits received two awards in the amateur clothing construction category in the Home Arts building: a first-place award for a blouse entry, and a second-place award for her dress entry. Tom Allman of Willits won a first-place prize for his wine grape entry in the Agriculture/Horticulture building. Elena Arkelian of Willits won a first-place award in the Junior building for her

leatherwork entry. Brian Armond of Willits won a second-place award in the Fine Arts building for his “Natural Phenomenon” entry. Danielle Barry of Willits won a first-place prize for her leather entry in the Junior Building.

Michele Briggs of Willits received seven first-place awards in the Agriculture/Horticulture building for her rosemary, zucchini squash and yellow crookneck squash. She also received first-place awards for her unusual color and unusual size entries and for her fish and themed “Produce Character” entries. Her bird and human figure produce character entries also won her two second-place prizes, as did an additional “Unusual Shape” entry. Mary Brodien of Willits won three first-place awards for an African violet in the Floriculture building and two entries in the Home Arts building, including for an embroidery/crewel kitchen towel/pillow entry. Two more African violets and another potted plant won two more second-place and one third-place award. She also received two third-place awards from the Home Arts building for her boysenberry and plum jam entries.

Lynne Brokaw of Willits won two first-place entries, including a Best of Show/Director Award for her animal in acrylics entry in the Fine Arts building. Kathryn Brundage



of Willits won a first-place and a second-place award in the Fine Arts building for her ceramics class project entry. Stephany Brundage of Willits filled the Junior building with exhibits and took home 56 awards this year, including 36 first-place awards for entries ranging from artwork to photography to wood carving. She received 15 second-place awards and eight third-place awards for more photography, logo and typography entries, and a “Humor” entry. Judy Butow of Willits received two awards in the Fine Arts building; one first-place award for her handmade jewelry entry and a second-place award for her mixed media jewelry entry. Mikela Cameron of Willits received two awards from the Fine Arts building; a first-place award and a second-place award for her advanced graphic fine drawing entries. Barbara Carlon of Willits won five first-place awards in the Home Arts building for her clothing and quilting entries, including two dresses and intermediate appliqué, hand- and machine-quilted entries.

Patricia Carter of Willits won a first place award in the Agriculture/Horticulture building for her root bulb/tuber garlic entry. Amy Elliott of Willits won a first-place and a third-place award for her advanced quilt

Read the rest of Results | Over on Page 4

News from Soroptimist International of Willits

Soroptimist International of Willits — SIW — spends their summer vacation giving back to the community.

It started in May with the Scholarship Luncheon for five special young women — future doctors, nurses and even a wildlife officer — many of whom plan to return to Willits as professionals.

Also awarded in May was a check to South Valley High School in Ukiah for a special Young Parents Program-Teen Moms, teacher Mary Vickers, to assist with various needs such as reference materials for the girls.

At the beginning of June, the Literacy Volunteers of Willits, Carolyn Pavlovic, president, and Pam Shilling, treasurer, were awarded a check to sponsor a student and tutor team.

In July, Project Sanctuary in Ukiah was

the recipient of a check to support the work of assisting women and children affected by domestic violence. Then this past week, our own Willits Kids Club was another lucky recipient of a check for their program of assisting families.

These organizations have similar values as Soroptimist International — as Soroptimist translated means “Best for Women and Girls” — they support the needs of women and children. Soroptimist’s mission is to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

Again, this year Soroptimist International of Willits will be focusing on educating youth and parents regarding human trafficking. This is a fairly new subject here in Willits, but a matter that needs our full attention.

Submitted by L. Patton, Soroptimist International of Willits



Above: In May, SIW donated \$200 to South Valley High School’s Young Parents Program. From left: SIW member Loraine Patton; students Shellie Ramirez, Soyria Ramos, Heather Lorenzi and Alexa Sanchez; and Young Parents Program teacher Mary Vickers.



Below, left: Willits Kids Club kids hold the “big check” for \$500 donated by SIW to support the club’s program of assisting families. Front row, from left: Halie Mohr, Mackenna Gable, Valerie Mottern and Timothy Southwick; second row, from left: Dylan Lyman, Jay Griggs, Tristian Bennett, Jessica Erwin and Kendra Mottern; back row, from left: Willits Kids Club Teacher Laura Paeyeneers and SIW President Divora Stern.

At left: SIW donated \$150 in June to Literacy Volunteers of Willits, from left: LVW President Carolyn Pavlovic, SIW member Loraine Patton, and LVW Treasurer Pam Shilling.

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entries in the Home Arts building. Brady Griggs of Willits won four first-place awards for his cake and cookies entries in the Junior building. Jay Griggs won two first-place awards for his origami entries in the Junior building. Peggy Hebrard of Willits won eight first-place awards – seven in the Fine Arts building for her oil paintings and two in the Home Arts building for her decorative paintings. She also won a second-place award in the Fine Arts building for her acrylic painting, another second-place and a third-place award in the Home Arts building for her decorative painting entries, and a final third-place award in the Fine Arts building for another oil painting.

Kasey Hollifield of Willits won two first-place awards in the Home Arts building, including one for a beginner quilt entry, and three second-place awards in the Home Arts building for her embroidery/crewel kitchen towel/pillow entry, an afghan entry and a quick bread entry. Suzen Ingle of Willits won six first-place awards – three in the Home Arts building for her carrot juice, beet and green bean entries; one in the Agriculture/Horticulture building for her dried veggies; and two in the Home Arts building for her intermediate quilting entries. She also received a second-place award in the Home Arts building for a sauce entry, and two third-place awards for her spaghetti sauce and jelly entries. Wayne Ingle of Willits won three awards in the Agriculture/Horticulture building: a first-place award for his red globe onion entry, a second-place award for his garlic entry, and a fourth-place award for his “Gardener’s Delight” variety entry.

Walker Klee of Willits won a first-place award in the Junior building for his leather entry. Betty Lemmer of Willits won a second-place award for a group entry in the Home Arts building. Josephine Lockner of Willits won five awards in the Home Arts building: two first-place awards and two second-place awards for decorative painting and wearing apparel entries and a final third-place award for a wearing apparel entry. She also received a second-place award in the Floriculture building for her artwork and floral arrangement combination entry. Alicia Logan of Willits won two first-place awards in the Fine Arts building for her photography entries featuring animals and clouds. Caleb Lovell of Willits won three first-place awards and one second-place award in the Junior building for his photography and jam entries.

Rose Mann of Willits won a first-place and a third-place award in the Home Arts building for her cookie entries. James Mattson of Willits won two first-place awards in the Junior building for his cake and cookie entries. Karen Mattson of Willits won a first-place award in the Agriculture/Horticulture building for her group entry and a second-place award in the Fine Arts building for her acrylic entry. Miles Mattson of Willits won two first-place awards in the Junior building for his mixed media and fair theme entries. Artie McCann of Willits won three Fine Arts building awards: a first-place and fourth-place award for beaded jewelry entries and a second-place award in the Fine Arts building for her ceramic mixed media entry. Tom McCann of Willits won two first-place awards for his watercolor paintings in the Fine Arts building. Ava Mucke of Willits won a second-place award in the Junior building for her two-piece outfit.

Evelyn Persico of Willits won three awards in the Home Arts building:

a first-place award for peppers, a second-place award for rhubarb, and a fourth-place award for zucchini relish. Alastair Rose of Willits won two Junior building awards: a first-place award for a fruit entry and a second-place award for a vegetable entry. Caroline Salcedo of Willits won five awards in the Home Arts building, including two first-place awards, two second-place and one third-place award for her quilting entries. Willits Sit N Sew of Willits won a first-place award in the Home Arts building for their group-made quilt entry.

Robert Sizemore of Willits won two first-place awards, one second-place award and one third-place award for his advanced wood and metal art carving entries. Ralph Smith of Willits won three first-place awards in the Home Arts building for his salsa, sauce and preserves entries as well as a second-place award for his jelly entry. Katie Spackman of Willits won three first-place awards and a third-place award in the Junior building, including a Best of Show/Director’s Award for her educational poster. Patricia Sprinkle of Willits won two first-place awards in the Home Arts building for her bar cookies and dipped chocolate entries and a second-place award for her biscuits. She also received two third-place awards and a fourth-place award for her potted succulents in the Floriculture building. Michael Tobin of Willits won a second-place award for his featured booth. Lani Ulvila of Willits won a first-place award in the Home Arts building for her quilting entry.

Beverly Vaccaro of Willits won a first-place award and a second-place award for her drop cookie entries in the Home Arts building. Enzo Vaccaro of Willits won three second-place awards and two third-place awards between his entries into the Floriculture and Junior buildings. Erin Vaccaro of Willits won two first-place awards, one in the Agriculture/Horticulture building for her fresh herb entry, and one in the Floriculture building for her flower arrangement “Pretty in Pink” entry. She also won a second-place award in the Floriculture building for her favorite board game entry. Sofia Vaccaro of Willits won three first-place awards, one second-place award and one third-place award in the Junior building and also a second-place and a third-place award in the Floriculture building.

Aura Whittaker of Willits won a first-place award in the Home Arts building for her layered cake entry. Claire Whittaker of Willits won two first-place awards in the Junior building, one for her cake entry, another for her tea party entry. Jade Whittaker of Willits won three first-place awards in the Junior building for her entries. Lynn Williams of Willits won a first-place award in the Home Arts building for her collection entry. Kylie Yokum of Willits won a first-place award for her decorated “Scottie Dog” entry.

Aurora-Belle David of Laytonville won a first-place award for her decorated “Scottie Dog” entry and a second-place award in the Junior building as well. Namid David of Laytonville won two first-place awards in the Junior building. Mason Kelly of Laytonville won two first-place awards in the Junior building. Malayna Lavenduskey of Laytonville won a first-place award in the Junior building. Hailey Musgrave of Laytonville won two first-place awards in the Junior building. Haley Whitcomb of Laytonville won two first-place awards in the Junior building and Paige Whitcomb won one first-place award in the Junior building.

Results provided by the Redwood Empire Fair.

Supes say drying sheds OK this year

Dozens of Mendocino cannabis farmers begged the board of supervisors on Tuesday, August 8 to make complying with county cultivation regulations easier and cheaper.

The board promised several changes:

- The deadline for cultivation permit applications is now June 1, 2018.
- Existing drying sheds will be allowed this year under an agricultural exemption even if the buildings don’t meet Building and Planning Services codes for commercial buildings.
- Portable toilets may be substituted for the plumbed toilets the county thought were required by Americans with Disabilities Act standards.
- Proof of a collective agreement with an outlet will not be required.
- Detailed lighting requirements for cultivators and nurseries will be eliminated, provided grow lights do not impact neighbors or the night sky.
- Greenhouses and hoop houses *may* be given agricultural exemptions after further review.
- Trimming may be allowed in drying sheds after further review.

A first reading of the revised cultivation ordinance will be held Tuesday, August 22 board meeting. A second reading is slated for August 29. Next month, the supervisors will take up the permitting regulations for dispensaries, processors, distributors and manufacturers.

The board said no medical cannabis transportation permits would be available this year.

To incorporate stakeholder input into the ordinance process and speed it up, the board and county CEO Carmel Angelo will conduct a weekly conference call with well-informed community cultivators and consultants.

The board plans to make Planning and Building Services the “first stop” in the cultivation application process to avoid applicants discovering midway through that they can’t get a permit because their properties don’t comply with zoning and building codes.

The supervisors also decided to eliminate third-party inspectors from the ordinance because the county has hired six inspectors of its own.

Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg and 3rd District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey voiced support for creating a cannabis community advisory board — something long sought by county cannabis leaders. Chair John McCowen said he recognized that many of the people in the room had expert knowledge of every aspect of cannabis industry, and he hoped to utilize that expertise.

About 40 people spoke during public comment, many saying they were worried that they will be economically destroyed by the high costs of getting a permit.

Samantha Ward was one of 12 farmers from Covelo who voiced frustration at being “underrepresented” in the 3rd District because that seat was vacant for many months during the absence and after the resignation of Supervisor Tom Woodhouse.

Most of the Covelo cultivators said the current ordinance’s elimination of cultivation from rural residential zones of 1- and 2-acre parcels (RR-1 and RR-2) would destroy the value of their properties and requested a zoning-based overlay opt-in for Covelo. The Laytonville Area Municipal Advisory Council, LAMAC, is working with the community to create an overlay that could exempt RR-1 and RR-2 communities from the county’s cultivation prohibition.

“Get rid of some of these hoops,” advised Laytonville farmer Casey O’Neill, who is vice president of the board of directors of the California Growers Association. “You are still leaving the 25-plant farmers out to dry. Get these folks in.” O’Neill suggested the board create a low-cost application and some type of provisional permit for cottage farmers. He also asked that trimming be allowed in drying sheds.

Amanda Reiman, vice president of community relations at Flow Kana in Redwood Valley, urged the county to create a cannabis

“ombudsman” and an appeals process for farmers denied permits. She suggested such an appeals committee should review the 19 denials that have already occurred since the county is still writing the rules. The comment echoed the complaint of cultivators who say the regulations and the permitting process have changed so much since May that they are a “moving target.”

“We are marching farmers off a cliff, and we are not building them a bridge,” Reiman said.

Tuesday marked the first time in nearly two years that Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg has participated in the board’s cannabis discussions. He announced at the start of the meeting that an apparent conflict-of-interest issue had been resolved and he did not need to recuse himself, as he has for many months.

At the start of Tuesday’s meeting, Interim Agricultural Commissioner Diane Curry reported that her department has received 673 cultivation permit applications, has issued two permits, and has denied 19.

CEO Angelo acknowledged cannabis is an important part of the county’s economy, “whether we like it or not,” and, noting the slow pace of permitting, said there’s “a problem here.”

One issue of concern to several Woody Glen residents of Ukiah was whether cultivators should be allowed permits if they use the community’s private roads to get to their farms. The supervisors did not propose any changes related to permits on private roads.

Reaction to the long, packed and emotional hearing was mixed. O’Neill said he thought cultivators made some “major strides” at the meeting. Julia Carrera, former consultant to the Small Farmers Association and one of eight county-approved third-party inspectors, was also upbeat.

“I think that in the seven and a half years I’ve been observing cannabis in this county, I’ve never seen a more articulate group of attendees being more poignant and professional in their approaches,” Carrera said. “And I think the board of supervisors actually heard that.”

Carrera gave as an example the case of a farmer who told the board Tuesday that he was denied a permit and also denied an appeal. After his presentation, Chair McCowen said: “You will get a permit.” Carrera was impressed.

“These are big changes,” she said. “I think that they are listening. How much they are able to move is yet to be seen, and we are all somewhat challenged with patience. But I think we’re stepping in a direction that I haven’t seen before, and for that, I’m thrilled.”

Laytonville cultivator Swami Chaitanya, president of the Mendocino Cannabis Industry Association, told the board during public comment that Mendocino cultivators are the economic backbone of the county and grow the “best medial cannabis in the world.” But, he said, they are not appreciated or supported by the county: “We are providing 50 percent of revenues and jobs. And you would be all over us because it is cannabis and we have that stigma.... At least give us the chance to compete.”

After the meeting Chaitanya said how difficult the application process has been for most county farmers. “I’ve always said that either God’s in the details or the Devil is. And I think now we’re dealing with the Devil,” he said.

Chaitanya said Supervisor McCowen and the board want to eliminate cultivation from rangeland and timberland protection zones, TPZ, as well as forestland, where most county cultivators are currently growing. By denying new permits in those zones after this year, he said the county is destroying property values.

“That is a big issue related to transfer of property because the permit doesn’t go with the property, which drastically reduces property values. I call it the death by a thousand cuts,” Chaitanya said. “It’s a combination of permits and inspections and fees and different kind of licenses and all these different ways in which distributors and track and trace are going to eat into all of what the farmer has to do.”

Chaitanya, whose “Swami Select” brand has achieved high visibility in the state, said one hidden cost of permitting that nobody’s talking about are attorney and consultant fees as well as bookkeepers fees on top of state and county fees, taxes and application costs.

“I think the net result of all of this is it’s going to be the end of the small farmer in Mendocino County. And I don’t know what’s going to replace it to keep the county’s economics healthy.”

Jane Fulcher hosts “The Cannabis Hour” every other Thursday at 9 a.m. on KZYX/Mendocino County Public Broadcasting. She’s the author of five books, including “Women Gone Wild,” a memoir about moving to Mendocino County.

Registrar Secretary Rose Mehtlan, Accounts Clerk Julie Orr, and Attendance Secretary Karen Thiel, will be back at their posts again for the upcoming school year. Counseling staff includes Nicole Burke and Lucy Kyne, and Karey Spivey and Andrew Tuttle will serve as psychologists.

The school year will start on August 21 and conclude on June 7, 2018 and will feature a trimester system this year. The first trimester will run from August 21 through November 9; the second from November 11 through March 9; and the final third semester will run from March 12 through June 7.

Willits High School is located at 299 North Main Street in Willits; the school can be reached at 459-7700 for more information.



Above, from left: Flourishing rows of vegetables at the Senior Center garden. A 100-year-old wagon that Joe Schafer refurbished for collecting produce. Happy squash plants reach for the sun.

Below: Wilma and Joe Schafer, the gardeners at the Senior Center garden.

At bottom: Wilma Schafer collects cucumbers.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Labor of Love

Harrah Senior Center gardeners Joe and Wilma Schafer are retired – but not resting

What do a couple of 80-year-old Kansan farmer/gardeners do after retirement in Willits? They grow. Their expertise and indefatigable energy have recreated the garden at the Harrah Senior Center into a vegetable- and fruit- and money-making enterprise for the center.

Joe and Wilma Schafer are working the garden for their third season this year. A labor of love, the garden has flourished, even with the loss of 25 feet of growing space, due to a boundary adjustment. Wilma says she is actually glad that the boundaries have changed. The garden still produces enough to meet the needs of the Harrah kitchen, with its 300 meals a day, and has enough left over to supply many shoppers at the Senior Center Thrift Store – where you need to go early to get the day’s fresh veggies.

The Garden of Eatin’, as they call it, produces sweet potatoes, a variety of peppers, squash, lettuce, copious amounts of green beans (they’ve had two picks already), zucchini, cucumbers, etc., and several types of fruit from the trees that have been growing for the entire 10-year history of the garden. And tomatoes: “We have tomatoes throughout the garden,” Wilma said. “A lot of them are volunteer. We’re going to be surprised with what we’ve got because there were no names on them. Somebody donated some beautiful plants; some of them we bought. Hopefully, there’s not a lot of cherry tomatoes because it takes forever to pick those things. I would say there’s some heirlooms in here, because there’s some big ones. We just put those in because we had a spot.” It is time to begin planting the fall crops, too, mostly root vegetables, beets and radishes, and some cabbage.

The Schafers don’t work the garden entirely alone. They have several volunteers to thank. Dave Watts of Sanhedrin Nursery is their tree expert. He helps with any questions they might have about the trees and comes down periodically to help in person. “Whenever we have a bug we can’t identify, we call Dave,” Wilma said. “He volunteers all over town. He’s a good guy. We’re Kansas wheat farmers. We don’t know a whole lot about trees. Kansas doesn’t have a lot of trees.”

Leon Springer, owner of DripWorks, is responsible for the irrigation system. “Leon is the reason this garden looks so good. He helped us with the drip irrigation system. He had some of his workers come down and show us how to do it,” Wilma said. “They did several rows, then Joe was able to take over and we put the rest of

the system in. Without Leon’s help, we wouldn’t have enough time in our day. That drip system has been a godsend.”

There are several other volunteers who help out in the garden, “I’d like to mention Angela,” Joe added, “because she and her boyfriend have made it possible for us to be where we are with this garden. She was here to mulch, pull weeds, prep, whatever we needed.”

The Schafers also have herpetological assistance in the guise of a couple gopher snakes who keep the garden free of unwanted hungry guests. “We have the garden snake for the gophers,” Joe said. “That’s his job. He’s about 4.5 feet. He’s kind of a character. Last year we stepped in a lot of gopher holes, but since he’s been here, we haven’t noticed any this year. We have another snake that’s about 2.5 feet. I was able to grab the big one by the tail. It shifted into four-wheel drive and dual low, and I could not hold him. He was that powerful.”

In addition to the gophers, there is a constant battle against the weather, the heat, bugs and the blackberries that try to crowd into the garden from Haehl Creek. And the birds. “We had a family of quail clean out a whole row of radishes,” Wilma said. “The birds devastated our snow peas. They would eat them as quickly as they came up.”

Since the Schafers have taken over the stewardship of the garden, there has been a marked change in the way that the kitchen utilizes and produces food for diners at the Senior Center and the Meals-On-Wheels program. For the first few years of the garden, the then-cook preferred to use canned and prepared vegetables due to the speed and ease of preparation. Thanks to the combined efforts of the past director, the current director, Richard Baker, the Schafers, and several others, the kitchen is now serving fresh vegetables from the garden whenever possible. “They had a good garden,” Wilma said, “but they didn’t have a rapport with the kitchen. The kitchen wouldn’t let them in the door with their vegetables. They were growing all this stuff, but they weren’t able to use it. Allyn, the past director, was into getting fresh vegetable and fruits to the senior citizens,” Wilma said, “and she told the kitchen they had to utilize what was grown on site.”

The Schafers have created a paradise of fresh produce for the seniors with their efforts and their love of helping nature to flourish.



Above, left: Wilma Schafer inspects the table grapes. Above, right: Banana squash can grow up to 36 inches long.

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Thursday, August 17

Willits Farmers Market: Outdoor market at the Rec Grove Park on East Commercial Street. 3 to 6 pm. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. This week, the Willits Weekly table will have a dozen pairs of "Eclipser" safety glasses, manufactured by American Paper Optics, endorsed by the American Astronomical Society as a "reputable vendor of solar filters & viewers," and meeting ISO and other standards for safe viewing of eclipses. Glasses come with "Get Eclipsed," a booklet about the August 21, 2017 event, written by eclipse experts and educators Fred and Pat Espanak. For donations? Giveaways? Subscription premiums? Trade? C'mon by, and we'll see.

The Lamprich Center Dedication: Honoring Jann Lamprich for her decades of service to the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital and Foundation. Also: unveiling of the bronze statues, "Frankie and the Puppies" and the two lions "Frank and Howard." Thursday, August 17. 3 to 5 pm. Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive and The Lamprich Center, 3 Marcela Drive. Refreshments will be provided by Roots Restaurant. Info and RSVP: 459-2777.

Shanachie Pub: Dennis Chrip & Friends, local talented musicians playing original, improvised and rare moments in music. Thursday, August 17. 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, August 18

Music at Brickhouse Coffee: album release tour by Intuitive Compass, singer/songwriter Jason Dea West with "old time circus freak and accordionist" Aurelia Anne Cohen play "Original Western Folk Music." "Their provocative lines and dynamic arrangements include elements of country blues, old-time, vintage swing,jazz, frontier balladry, instrumentals and the perpetuation of traditional folk songs." Friday, August 18. No cover. 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. Brickhouse Coffee, corner of Commercial Street and Main Street.

Pulled-Pork Drive-Thru Dinner: Harrah Senior Center fundraiser dinner includes: a generously portioned BBQ pulled pork sandwich (smothered in Virginia's Homemade Secret BBQ Sauce) on a freshly baked roll, coleslaw, baked beans, and a cookie. \$12 ticket per meal. Pre-sale only, tickets sold at Senior Center Front Desk. Pick up your dinner(s) between 5 and 6:30 pm on Friday, August



Intuitive Compass

80th Annual Old Timers Baseball and BBO: Saturday, August 19 at Harwood Park Ball Field in Laytonville. Home Run Derby starts at 11 am. Opening Ceremonies start at 12 pm. At 1 pm, the Laytonville vs. Willits Old Timers Baseball Game begins.

18 at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Shanachie Pub: Joe Holt, folk singer/songwriter. Plus Shoring, a quartet, "too driving to be Folk, too thoughtful to be Pop." Friday, August 18. 7 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, August 19

Booster Club Golf Tournament: Willits Boosters 5th Annual Golf Tournament at Brooktrails Golf Course, Saturday, August 19. Registration starts 8 am at the golf course, 24860 Birch Street. The tournament begins at 9 am with a four person scramble/shotgun start. Prices to play: General public \$35; Members \$20. Prices include green fees, lunch and a drink ticket. First place, second place, and third place finishers will each win a prize. Also, there will be a "closest to the pin" contest. All proceeds will benefit Willits High School athletic teams and clubs. For information: 972-2164, or email whsboosters123@yahoo.com to help with the golf tournament and/or other Booster Club activities.

Round Valley Blackberry Festival: Annual festival in downtown Covelo on Saturday, August 19 and Sunday, August 20. Master of Ceremonies Mickey the Clown will kick off the festivities on Saturday, August 19, 10 am to 6 pm. Free admission. "Try a blackberry slush ... local musical groups play throughout the entire weekend. Sip a glass of Mendocino County wine while strolling around the arbor full of arts and craft booths." Children's games, and a square dance on Saturday at 7 pm. Live KYBU DJs play for a dance party on the Library Commons Patio from 8 pm to midnight. Festival continues on Sunday, August 20, 10 am to 5 pm, with a motorcycle/ antique car show with both local and out-of-town vehicles. Info: www.roundvalleyblackberryfestival.com.

"Little Lake Blues & Brews": this weekend's concert at the Rec Grove has been cancelled.

BBQ and refreshments will be served. Also, \$5 a ticket raffle with a \$1,000 prize. "Volunteers wanted! We are looking for donations of salads for the potluck – green salad, fruit salad, any variety of salad is appreciated." Please call Albert for more information or to volunteer 707-354-3090 or 984-8089.

Shanachie Pub: Brooks Forsyth, musician/songwriter from Boone, North Carolina, plays Americana, blues, folk, bluegrass and roots-rock plus his originals. Saturday, August 19. 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, August 20

Round Valley Blackberry Festival, Sunday, August 20, 10 am to 5 pm, downtown Covelo. Motorcycle and antique car show day today. See Saturday, August 19 listing for more details.

"Little Lake Blues & Brews": this weekend's concert at the Rec Grove has been cancelled.



Monday, August 21

Solar Eclipse Viewing in Covelo: Watch the eclipse safely! Viewing and discussion will happen at 10 am in front of Round Valley

Library, 23925 Howard Street, Covelo. Info: 983-6736.

Tuesday, August 22

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: "The Dark Tower," "Annabelle: Creation," and "Nut Job 2." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Thursday, August 24

"The Cannabis Hour": "Kids and Cannabis" will be the topic, with guest Amanda Reiman, MSW, PhD, cannabis and drug-policy expert and educator, and current head of Community Relations for Flow Kana, a branded cannabis distribution company working with small farmers in the Emerald Triangle.



How do you talk to your children about cannabis? Does just say no work? Are Emerald Triangle kids at special drug risk? With host Jane Fletcher. Thursday, August 24, 9 am, on KZYX Radio, 91.5-FM. Questions at 9:40 am: 895-2448.

Duplicate Bridge at the Library: All bridge players are welcome. Duplicate bridge games in the Willits Library Conference Room, 390 East Commercial Street. Thursday, August 24 at 4:30 pm, and continuing: Thursday, September 28, Thursday, October 26. Info: Donna 459-9035.

Hot Topics in Diabetes: Howard Hospital's Clinical Nutrition Manager Annie Frassinello talks about "Garden Fresh Cooking," Thursday, August 24, 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Seabiscuit Conference Room, Howard Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive. RSVP: Dietitian's Office: 456-3132.

Friday, August 25

Open House & Reception: Baechtel Grove Middle School has been refurbishing their gym. "Join us to celebrate and see the newly improved gym ... promote Willits pride and a healthy lifestyle." Refreshments will be served. Friday, August 25. 5 pm. Tom Tilton Gymnasium, Baechtel Grove Middle School, 1150 Magnolia Street. Info: 459-2417.

Youth Poetry Night: "Behind the Mic" open mic poetry reading at Brickhouse Coffee at the corner of Main Street and Commercial Street. It's called "Youth Poetry Night" but people of all ages are invited to perform: read poetry, prose, play music and sing. Hosted by Tristan Cockrell. Friday, August 25 from 7 to 10 pm.

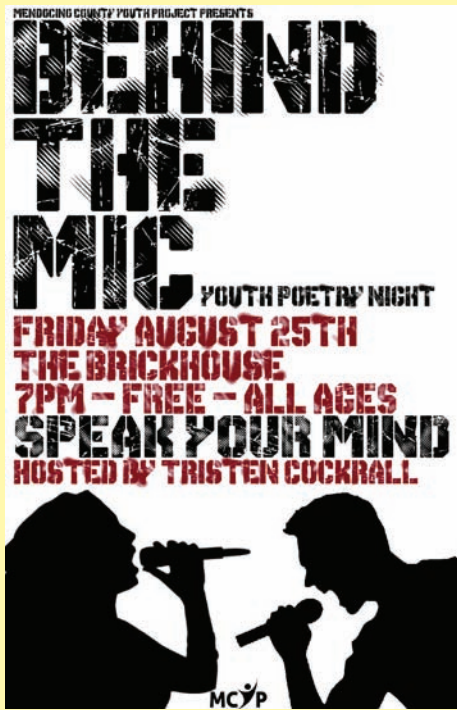
Shanachie Pub: Gun Hill Royals, "Their sound is a melting pot of many styles ... country waltzes to rug cutters." Friday, August 25. 9 pm. \$5 cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Saturday, August 26

"Quilty Pleasures": the annual free outdoor quilt show by the Long Valley Outdoor Quilt Show, Saturday, August 26, 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, August 27, from 11 am to 4 pm, behind the Fat Quail Quilt Shop, along Highway 101 in Laytonville. "With 70 quilts [a few for sale] entered in the show this year it will be worth the trip to Laytonville just to see all of the color and pattern floating on gentle breezes in the sun." On Saturday (only) Ron Crane will display his collection of antique washing machines. Raffle tickets on sale for the 2017 quilt plus themed baskets. All proceeds from raffle ticket sales go toward scholarships for Laytonville High School graduates. Raffle drawings will be on Sunday afternoon; no need to be present to win.. Info: 984-6966 or visit http://thefatquail.com.

"A Garden Party" Fundraiser: Willits Rotary Club and the Willits Educational Foundation invite the public to "A Garden Party" Saturday, August 26, 4 to 8 pm. The party features music by The Basics, hearty appetizers, Handley Cellars wine, beer and other beverages at a cash bar, silent auction, and prize drawings. This annual event benefits art, music and libraries in the Willits Unified School District. "A Garden Party" is at Phil and Kathy Shuster's garden, 1660 Center Valley Road. Tickets: \$20, advance sale only. Tickets available at Willits Furniture, Cat's Meow, and Mazahar. Or call for tickets and info: Jenn Drew: 354-1670; Kathy Shuster: 459-2659; John Cross: 485-2274; or Warren Lewis: 459-4229.



Shanachie Pub: Old River Road acoustic duo out of Hopland and Ukiah play traditional songs and covers. Saturday, August 26, 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, August 27

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am, Sunday, August 27 (and every fourth Sunday through

October). "Join your friends at the Grange breakfast! \$8 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods...." Choose sourdough wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or Gluten-Free, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic eggs, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. Live Music! \$8; \$7 seniors, \$5 children under 10. Extra: sides of organic fruit and Amish organic maple syrup. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street.

"Quilty Pleasures:" Final Day for the Long Valley Quilters annual free outdoor quilt show at the Fat Quail Quilt Shop in Laytonville. See Saturday, August 26 listing for more details.

COLUMN | At the Movies



‘Annabelle: Creation’

The Story: A horror movie with the usual horror movie elements. Annabelle is a creepy doll. The Girls-at-Risk are orphans. The Spooky Old House has way too many rooms, a cellar, a dumb waiter that causes drafts from that very same cellar, and a door that is always locked ... no make that two doors ... no, make that three doors if you count the door to the Brooding Caretaker's wife's bedroom. The Brooding Caretaker broods more than he talks. The Girls-at-Risk are all so pretty and adorable, and ... omigosh ... they can't just leave the spooky old house because they are orphans and they have nowhere else to go. And also, the Young Nun who looks after the Girls-at-Risk is awfully pretty and kind and grateful to the Brooding Caretaker and his Invalid Wife who never leaves her bedroom. The movie starts with a loving doll maker making a doll that belongs on the poster for a horror movie, and then ... no surprise ... really bad things happen to good people.

My Thoughts: The filmmakers are mostly competent. The situation is straightforward. The actors all do creditable jobs. The sets and vintage farm truck and especially the vintage orphanage bus are top-shelf props. The flick depends too much on jump scares, on "don't open that door" scares. Most importantly, the script has a "rules of the game" problem. The script never answers the question, "What are the limits of the demonic monster's power?" For me, that's important. I don't like a monster that sometimes has super strength, telekinetic powers and the ability, without hands, to write creepy notes and memos, but then can't open a door. Also, I hate that so many movies tell the audience that the virtues of Kindness and Gratitude and Decency are repaid with terror and slaughter. Parents: Don't bring your kids.

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



2017 Roots of Motive Power Steam Festival

September 9 and 10

Roots of Motive Power's annual September steam-up is set for Saturday, September 9 (starts at 9 am) and Sunday, September 10 (goes through 4 pm) at the Roots of Motive Power facility at 420 East Commercial Street. "This is our big one-time-a-year steam-up. If you only come to one of our events, this is the one. Plumes of steam and the shrieks of steam whistles will fill the air as a variety of steam-powered equipment – everything that runs – is fired up. Our big Bucyrus Erie steam shovel will be out back digging on the dirt pile along with the bulldozers. The Heisler locomotive will be pulling the riding cars and giving rides to the public." Free admission; kid friendly! Roots' famous BBQ is back this year, at the Rec Grove Park, featuring beef, lamb and pork, along with many different salads. Raffle and live auction after the BBQ. Visit http://www.rootsofmotivepower.com for more information on one of Willits' truly unique organizations.

Holiday Crafts Fair call for artists

Willits Center for the Arts is accepting entries for the 31st Annual Holiday Craft Fair to take place on December 8, 9 and 10, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, and the Willits Center for the Arts Upstairs Gallery, 71 East Commercial Street. All interested artists, handcrafters, and specialty foods entrepreneurs should request application forms by e-mail to: Bonnie Belt at belt.bonnie@gmail.com, or by mail: Willits Holiday Craft Fair c/o Bonnie Belt, 2291 Buckeye Drive, Willits, CA 95490, and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Applications will be e-mailed to all previous year's applicants and to all new requests by August 31. Please note: acceptance is subject to quality of work and earliest postmark date.

Do you have an event to include in our calendar?

willitsweekly@gmail.com

End-of-day Monday deadline for Thursday!

Ongoing Events

Willits Farmers Market: Outdoor market Thursdays at the Rec Grove Park on East Commercial Street. 3 to 6 pm. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Twice-Monthly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group meets 2nd and 4th Thursday, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941.

Tibetan Buddhist meditation group meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or honemann@yahoo.com.

"In the Realm of the Spirit" August show at the Willits Center for the Arts, featuring iconic images of saints and angels by Willits artists Marco Donner and Sue Ellen Parkinson. 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday 11 am to 6 pm. Those interested in volunteering to be a docent, can call the art center at 459-1726.

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

Willits Library Activities: Wednesdays: 11-11:30 am "Play Group," and 3:30 to 5:30 pm "Lego Day" (bring your imagination and talent building); Thursdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Story Time," 4 pm "Farmers Market Story Time"; Fridays: 3:30 to 4:30 pm; Fridays: 5 to 6 pm "Youth Game Night" (ages 10 to 14). Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

The Willits Seed Lending Library: Offering information on seed saving and gardening. Seeds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables are free to seed library members, and seed donations are gladly accepted. "We look forward to seeing you at the Willits Library!" Al-Anon Meeting: Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid) at the Evergreen Shopping Center. Saturdays at 10 am at St. Francis Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 66 East Commercial Street. "Al-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."

Drop-in Knitting Circle: every Saturday of the month, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your own projects or your yarn and needles; we have people who should be able to help solve problems and/or help you learn to knit or crochet. Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in." Info: Lotus Baker at 456-9037, or lotusb3@earthlink.net.

Soroptimists International of Willits: (On summer break until September 12). 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 new location for the summer. Willits High School, Sundays 7 to 9 pm, and Tuesdays at 7:30 to 9:30 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 HMH Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5 pm to 6 pm; Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 pm to 7 pm; Tweens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 pm to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Singer songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday. 8 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday. New time: 6 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. Sign up for the lottery from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and even performers from around the world!" 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Laytonville Farmers Market: Mondays, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Local fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan goat cheeses, ranch meats, eggs, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of August 21 through August 25

Monday: Smothered Chicken

Tuesday: Beef Stroganoff

Wednesday: Chicken Pasta Florentine

Thursday: Beef Chow Mein

Friday: Turkey Birthday Dinner

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entree, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Join Us for an Open House & Reception

FOR THE BAECHEL GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM PROJECT

Help us keep our community healthy and fit!

We have been working on the much-needed refurbishing of the Baechtel Grove Gym for months now. Join us to celebrate and see the newly improved gym and thank those who have come together for this community project to promote Willits pride and a healthy lifestyle.

Refreshments will be served.

Friday, August 25 5:00 p.m.

Baechtel Grove Middle School Gym 1150 Magnolia Street in Willits

To learn more, call Saprina Rodriguez at



‘Mental Health: Up Close and Personal’ Tuesday, September 5

"Mental Health: Up Close and Personal," with Willits residents Jed Diamond, Tom Allman and Gary Martin, set for Tuesday, September 5, is the first of a series of discussions on mental health issues in our community and how we can solve them. Presented by the Avenues to Wellness speaker series. 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

"In an effort to de-stigmatize the issues of mental illness and open up candid discussion, these three prominent community members will speak personally about their experience related to mental illness. Jed Diamond and Gary Martin will talk about how mental illness has affected their life, how they broke denial and their path to wellness through treatment. Tom Allman will share his experience of losing his brother to suicide and the mental illness he sees on our streets every day, as sheriff of Mendocino County."

Visit www.avenuestowellness.org for more information and for the upcoming ATW Speaker Series schedule at the Willits Center for the Arts, the first Tuesday evening of each month. Or call 456-9676.

Willits Mendocino County Youth Project

Presents:



Back to School Clothes

For Middle and High School Students

Fri. Sept. 1st 2:00-5:00 pm

30 San Francisco St., Willits

(first studio on right)

For more info please contact:

Aurelie (707) 489-1258



Elections workers needed

November 7, 2017

The Mendocino County Elections Department is currently looking for poll workers in our Willits, Fort Bragg, Mendocino, Little River and Point Arena polling locations for our November 7, 2017 Consolidated District Election. We also need an inspector and a judge in our Little River polling place due to the retirement of our long time workers.

This would be a great opportunity for service organizations to help their communities. All of our workers receive a stipend from the county for their work.

Please call Gina at 707-234-6808 for additional information. Your help would be greatly appreciated!!

– Mendocino County Elections Office

Free Back-to-School Clothes

Friday, September 1

Willits Mendocino County Youth Project will be providing free back-to-school clothes for middle-school and high school students on Friday, September 1 from 2 to 5 pm at 30 San Francisco Street in Willits. Info: Prevention & Early Intervention North Inland Program & Signs of Safety Coordinator Aurelie Clivez: 489-1258.

Save the Date:

Roots of Motive Power Steam Festival, September 9 and 10, East Commercial Street
Seafood & Pasta Dinner, September 15, Harrah Senior Center
T Sisters and Pick & Pull, September 29, Little Lake grange

‘Claws for a Cause’ Benefit Dinner & Auction

Saturday, September 2

Willits Rotary Club, South Ukiah Rotary, and the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center (formerly known as Ridgewood T.R.A.I.L. Riders Association), and members of the Redwood Empire Lions Club are gearing up for the benefit dinner & auction known as, "Claws for a Cause," Saturday, September 2, from 5 to 9 pm at the "Historic Howard House" on Ridgewood Ranch, a few miles south of Willits, at 16200 Highway 101.

Featuring an elegant meal planned and prepared by Adam's Restaurant of Willits, including Maine lobster accompanied by a filet mignon steak, appetizers, and dessert. Wine tasting hosted by Barra of Mendocino County. Music by the Ed Reinhart Band, and a dollar auction and silent auction. Event tickets, \$80, are available at Willits Furniture Center, or by calling Erin Holzhauer at 391-3873.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the nonprofit Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center, "a therapeutic horsemanship program dedicated to providing equine assisted activities to children and adults who are challenged physically, developmentally, socially and/or emotionally." Make a contribution and/or be one of the event sponsors. Contact: Diane Cannon, board president, Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center: 489-8372, or Mike Smith, Willits Rotary Club Event Coordinator: 972-2471.





Lunch at the Senior Center

New cook Nancy Middleton serves up 100 fresh and tasty meals a day

"I just let her do her thing back there," explained Richard Baker, director of Harrah's Senior Center, talking about the center's new cook, Nancy Middletown. "Everybody loves her and her food. They love the little extras she adds. She's very good at finding items inexpensively, so she's saving us a lot of money.

"We've noticed that our costs have gone down and our revenue has gone up," Baker continued, "because more people are coming to eat as they like what she puts on the menu. We have a wider variety of foods on the menu now. She's exactly what I wanted. She has an excellent attitude. She interacts positively with people. She goes out and speaks with people in the dining room. She'll do little extra things for people with their diets. One guy's a pescatarian [fish only], so she's slip him a piece of fish. She's very attentive to the individual needs of the people that come in."

Middletown, who's been cook at the center for just over three months, loves her new job: "Everyone's super nice," she said. She is enjoying remaking the kitchen into her

own space. "When I first started here and was learning the kitchen," she said, "the cook was ordering a lot of pre-formed already-cooked food, so all she was doing was kind of warming things up. I got away from that. Everything is fresh, as much as I can do.

"The garden has started producing. So far we've got the zucchini, squashes and crooknecks and some cucumbers. I'm ready for the tomatoes and whatever else the garden will produce. We're going to be getting some food from The Gleaners soon, mostly fruits. The meals we serve are so low in price, that things like The Gleaners really help to keep the prices down for our mostly fixed-income clients."

The Grateful Gleaners is an organization that finds underutilized gardens and orchards and harvests them to get food to donate to several worthy places locally.

"We do just under 100 meals a day with our lunches and Meals-on-Wheels," Middleton said. She is used to cooking en masse. "I cooked for my dad and my brother, who could eat in great quantities. I always cooked in large

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

At top, from left: The early lunch crowd at the Senior Center, including Pat Collins, center. A beautifully presented plate. A working kitchen.

Above: New Harrah Senior Center cook Nancy Middleton gets ready to serve.

At right: New cook Nancy Middleton prepares for the lunch rush.

Far right: Middleton puts the finishing touches on a lunch plate.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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

rates are planned to increase by 4 percent during each of the next five years and wastewater by 7 percent during the first two years, then go down to a 4.5 percent raise by the fifth year (2021/22).

The council can reassess each year and choose to lower the rate increases, but cannot go above any stated rates in the city's plan for the next five years.

Eric Hegelson, a representative from Bartle Wells Associates who helped designed the plan, said the city would have more flexibility to change the water rates than wastewater. Though he noted that even for water Bartle Wells recommended implementing the planned increases for at least the first two years before reassessing.

The sewer rate plan also involves the city likely taking on a loan of \$2.4 million in fiscal year 2018/19 to help pay for infrastructure projects, which Hegelson said would be difficult to avoid.

Other changes will be a decrease in the number of tiers for volume-based usage from four to two, while fixed charges (monthly cost regardless of use) will go down for customers initially, but end up being higher by 2021.

City Attorney Jim Lance explained that despite some concerns brought up at the last meeting about the public review period mandated by Proposition 218, the city had acted in "substantial compliance" in how it sent out notices to the public.

Although 189 out of 1,600 wastewater customer had not received a notice, he said, even had all 189 opposed the increases it still would not have been enough to stop the city council's actions. Only seven opposition letters had been received out of 1,600 wastewater and 2,500 water customers. Over 50 percent of customers would have had to oppose the resolution to stop the increases.

Other water actions

In other water-related actions, the council approved the full-time use of the Elias replacement well to supplement the city's drinking supply, and approved a professional services contract with LACO Associates to provide hydrogeology services for testing the feasibility of installing another production well.

The moves toward using groundwater instead of solely relying on surface water are intended to provide higher-quality water for the city, function as a back-up source in case of a severe drought or other emergency, and lower costs in the long run.

"To deliver a better product to our customers and lower the cost overall definitely feels like a win-win," said City Manager Adrienne Moore.

The Elias well project – which started in 2014 when concerns about the ongoing drought were high – was initially envisioned as a project to only provide water in case of an emergency, she said. Recently, though, the California Division of Drinking Water has been encouraging the city to put it into full-time use after it examined the quality of the well.

"As far as the Department of Drinking Water was concerned we could have turned this on months ago," said Moore, "but we wanted to wait until we had done our due diligence with all of this information to bring to you and the public."

Rod Wilburn, former City of Willits engineer, and now a contract engineer for the city, also recommended approving full use of the well. He said it would provide up to 330 gallons per minute of "very good, very clean drinking water," and would improve water quality during the summer, in particular, when warm weather causes more algae in the surface water.

He said the Elias well, which he was involved in completing nearly two years ago while city engineer, "is a \$2 million project that should be put to use."

"Overall to me, this is a benefit to the community, and my recommendation is that it be used to the fullest extent possible," said Wilburn.

Councilwoman Madge Strong expressed concern that the well had not gone through a California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA, review, since it was initially exempted as an emergency project.

Wilburn and City Attorney Jim Lance said it was still exempt because it was already constructed, and there would be no "growth induction" since the project didn't include adding any additional individual water hookups.

Wilburn also pointed out that in researching the underlying aquifer, he believed the well would have no significant effect on it.

"There's an abundance of water in the aquifer, and the amount of water that would be used in the Elias well is nominal when you look at the total volume," he said.

For the new test well, for which \$30,000 was budgeted by the city for hydrogeology services, Strong questioned if the city would really need it once they put the Elias well into use.

Moore said if an emergency struck to knock out the city's surface water, the Elias well alone would not be enough to provide the town with water.

"This is strictly to address vulnerabilities with having one source of water at our reservoir," she said. "If we had a seismic event, if we had a water quality issue, we wouldn't have a second source to go to."

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

Orenstein was particularly concerned that staff and council had not yet come up with a fee structure that would ensure the city would regain the costs that would occur due to increased enforcement issues after the ordinance is – potentially – implemented.

"We've been discussing this thing for like two years, and we've sort of skirted around the financial aspects of it," Orenstein said. "There is going to be an increased need for enforcement presence, whether it's code enforcement or police, and that's going to cost us some money. If we're looking at this ordinance to possibly adopt it next month, it would be real, real helpful if we could have some kind of ballpark numbers to see how we're going to pay for what we need to pay for."

Duley responded that the new cannabis businesses would have the same type of cost recovery methods as other businesses in town, such as application fees and code violation fines. Anything else, he said, would have to be done through a special voter-approved tax.

"I would anticipate that there might be something that goes to the voters of Willits that has to do with a square footage tax or a sales tax or something, and that would be where the city would potentially recover funds beyond what our cost of staff time is," he said.

Councilmember Madge Strong agreed that cannabis businesses should be treated like other businesses in terms of cost recovery.

"The city provides police protection for everyone in the city," she said. "And we already have a bunch of bars that operate, and they have a little bit more police protection responsibilities than schools and residences, but that's part of doing business. It isn't fair to expect that new businesses are going to pay more than everybody else."

Mayor Gerry Gonzalez, who sits on the cannabis ad hoc committee with Strong, said they have considered writing into the cannabis ordinance rules similar to what bars have in terms of revoking licenses.

He also noted that even if the ordinance didn't pass, the city would still have to continue to pay for enforcement against illegal nonpermitted grows in city limits.

Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez questioned Duley about concerns she had about preventing loitering around future cannabis businesses. Duley responded that the city planned to require businesses to have staff on hand to help prevent that, particularly for dispensaries.

City Manager Adrienne Moore argued that the city needed to get the structure of the ordinance in place before they could figure out how all the fees and fines would work.

"We need to get this ordinance finished to know what we're looking at," she said. "We need to know what is going to be adopted before we can figure out what the code enforcement should look like, what sources of funding we're going to have or need to create to cover our costs. So it's not being ignored," she said, "but we need to take care of this step first."

She also encouraged making a "distinction between the underground economy that we've been dealing with all these years and this emerging legitimate business model."

"I just don't think we're going to have the code enforcement issues with these businesses that we have like we've been dealing with all of these years. But experience will tell us one way or the other, and we'll have to address those things

accordingly."

City Building Official John Sherman agreed with Moore's assessment, and spoke of his frustrations about handling those who continue to grow outdoors illegally in city limits.

"From a code enforcement standpoint, the way I see this, when all the permits have been issued and the businesses are up and running, I'll have a list and I'll have addresses and I'll know where all those people are and what they're doing," said Sherman. "Compare that to driving around town finding an outdoor illegal backyard pot grow two or three times a day. At this point, I'm finding several a week, and I expect that to become several a day."

"You can grow your six plants indoors with our blessing, but you can't grow any plants outdoors. That's just the way it is," he continued. "The bottom line is, if I have to obtain warrants and eradicate the plants, that's what I'll do.

"We've not taken a stand against marijuana, we've taken a stand against the nuisance that growing it outdoors creates. I just want to let people know that explaining the virtues of marijuana to me while I'm standing there looking at your grow in your backyard is not going to be very helpful."

Other notes

Sherman also let council and city staff know a photovoltaic solar power system is up and running on the roof of City Hall, and is providing enough power to run all the city's office machines during the day. He said it is officially hooked into the power grid, and he is working on the paperwork to have PG&E buy the excess power back.

The system was donated to the city by North Bay Solar Electric and its owner John Takes, who Orenstein said recently expanded his business from the Sonoma County area into Willits.

The council adopted a resolution to accept an Federal Aviation Administration grant offer for the Airport Improvement Program at Ells Field Willits Municipal Airport, for runway rehabilitation and an automated weather observing system. The cost for the project would have been nearly \$150,000, but the grant will cover 90 percent of that, and Moore said the city also will be seeking to receive about half of the remaining funding from Caltrans' Division of Aeronautics, which would leave the city with a balance of only around \$8,000.

The council approved a contract with LACO Associates for repairs of a Watershed Road landslide that occurred during the heavy rains last winter. In her city manager's report, Moore said 94 percent of the project's cost is reimbursable through state and federal emergency assistance funds.

Rodriguez said there will be a ceremony on August 25 at 5 pm unveiling the new repairs and improvements to the Tom Tilton Gym at Baechtcl Grove Middle School, a project she undertook on her own accord. The event is open to the public.

The repairs include a new paint job and new wooden panels inside. Rodriguez said it's taken her more than five weeks to complete and left her with a \$12,000 balance, though many community residents have already donated to the cause.

"I took on the project because I really felt like when you want people to make a difference, you have to be the example," she said. "And the gym needed repair. For me it's one of many projects to come."

Vice Mayor Larry Stranske thanked her for her work, saying "I've heard some really nice things in the community, and I want to congratulate her for taking that on and doing such a nice job."

More of **Comment** | From Page 1

Joe Gothelf

I want to speak about the possibility of overlay exclusion and exemption from a lot of the things that have applied across the board to all our districts, that are obviously very different in our needs. I think the way that Supervisor Gjerde handled his responsibilities is exemplary, in terms of the fact that he had different needs from downtown Ukiah. Covelo is the same. And I speak to you particularly, Croskey, in terms of our need for you to represent us properly. You came to us in the 11th hour of this. We have been unrepresented. We are being forced into areas that do not fit our needs. We are circular pegs going into square holes. And you will destroy those pegs, trying to smash us into those holes, which we do not fit.

Jed Davis (from a letter read to the board)

It makes no sense that cannabis is the only plant that cannot be grown on parcels on which the permitted use for their zoning designation is row crops, orchard crops, general agriculture, propagation and animal husbandry. It makes even less sense that the reason stated for this restriction is land preservation, when 1/4 of an acre is the maximum size grow being permitted for cannabis. Orchards, row crops and grazing animals use large amounts of acreage. To say a cannabis grower is destroying the land when they are using only a 1/4 of an acre seems ludicrous and prejudicial.

A large portion of the county is zoned rangeland. Many growers have purchased and have moved to rangeland parcels due to their reclusiveness and privacy, in order to grow cannabis without bothering others. To say that if they discontinue their growing in the future, their property can never be grown on again ... you have taken people who purposely located themselves away from others, in order not to interfere with others, and made it impossible for them to sell their property for comparable value, since they can't sell the primary use of the property, with the property. This will lead to a reduction of property value and tax revenue to the county, as well as potential lawsuits from property owners, who have realized that their property values and earning potential are both diminished.

Emiko Taylor

I am a Woody Glen neighborhood resident. I never speak in public, so I'm nervous. But I want to speak up for my kids, and my grandkids.

I came to Ukiah from Japan in 1962. My father was a farmworker. He worked very hard to give his kids a good life. So did my mother. My husband and I moved to our home on Robinson Creek in 1977. We both worked very hard to give our kids a good life. Our kids grew up playing along the creek in a very safe neighborhood. Now we babysit our grandkids so the parents can work to give them a good life.

We want our grandkids to play in a safe neighborhood, too. We want them to explore the creek and walk safely in the woods, like our kids did. I don't feel safe when I look across the creek and see a large amount of marijuana plants. I think about people from outside the area who will work there. I think about others who might come to steal the marijuana and who might use our property to get at it.

Life in our neighborhood is not the same, when you think of it that way. I love my life on Robinson Creek in beautiful Mendocino County. I want my grandkids to play safely here. I don't want to feel the need to protect them with firearms, security cameras, and other things. Please help us keep our neighborhood safe.

Samantha Ward

As a small farmer and a resident of Round Valley, it is extremely important to me that we be allowed to continue to grow cannabis on a small scale. As the ordinance stands, the majority of small farmers in Covelo wouldn't even be able to apply for a permit, due to the zoning restrictions.

I have a 1 acre parcel, and there is more than enough space for my residence, my 25-plant cannabis garden, my vegetable garden, my goat and my chickens. To me, this should be protected as a small-scale cottage industry. The majority of my neighbors are in a similar position.

Because of our unique situation in the county, the community of Covelo can only survive if we are granted an exemption from some of the regulations of the ordinance. We want the opportunity to be legitimate, to come out of the closet, so to speak, but as it stands right now, a lot of us would only have three years left to cultivate. We have a thriving little town already, based on cannabis and the potential tax revenue from it. Becoming legal would benefit both our community and the county at large. The small farmer created this movement and our value cannot be ignored at this critical point in the process.

Julia Dakin

This morning we heard that there are 19 denials and two approvals. Using the 700 application number, that [percentage] extrapolates out to 620 denials and 74 approvals. That's a 90 percent denial rate. I think those numbers should scare everyone in this room, 'cuz the only realistic option is the black market.

I know from representing three of those denials and speaking with others, that the denials are not the result of egregious violations. They are the result of inflexible interpretations of the ordinance that appear to be eliminating applicants as fast as possible.

After speaking with all of you [county supervisors] separately, I don't believe that's your intent. There are solutions, I believe, that would solve many people's problems. I think – except for egregious violations – extend the sunset clause to all parcels that have been growing, but have setback or buffer zone issues. That will benefit the county, because the program will be a success, instead of a failure, as currently projected by the extrapolation.

Mendocino County will get the tax dollars it needs, and you won't get attacked by people like me, who have jumped through every hoop for the past two years.

Nikki Lastretto

My concern is, what happens after drying and the trimming room? 'Cuz that's the part of the farm that I take care of, personally. I'm very concerned – where are we gonna be able to do this? We contacted a contractor last February, to be able to build a building. I was told that it would take well

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



‘Water Cups’

August open house for artists-in-residence at the North Street Collective

Completion of the first grant-funded residency for artists at the North Street Collective culminated in an August 5 open house that featured work by artists Karina Faulstich and Seth Garcia. It was also a time for curious community members to stop by to see the finished remodel of Grandma Mavis' former home. Many people were drawn in and stayed to talk with the artists and hear their presentation.

The artist couple was attracted to the North Street Collective because it has an emphasis on community and the environment. They applied for the residency stressing their focus on drought and water and the effects on the community. "We started to look at how water systems have been shaped by humans from both the industrial standpoint and what's going on globally with human interactions with water and the environment," Faulstich said. Garcia added, "It was an amazing opportunity to go to Willits and see what's happening: How was water being thought about and used? The added complexity of issues around the Eel River watershed was exciting to them.

During their 2.5 month residency the couple met with community members, interacted with the Eel River Recovery Project, attended some field trips, interfaced with people from the School of Adaptive Agriculture (Director Ruthie King is a close friend), and met with other locals. The artists were often discussing water issues from drought to flooding, from agriculture to wildlife – exploring what water means to individuals as well as the impact on the area.

Faulstich knew early on that she wanted to work in clay – "wild" clay dug directly from the Earth – for this project. Because of her long friendship with King, Faulstich was introduced to the Ridgewood Ranch folks where a clay pit existed, and she was invited to harvest the clay for her work. They also loaned Faulstich a potter's wheel, clay tools, and a kiln. "It was amazing how it all came together!" she remembered.

Garcia wanted to explore the utilitarian side of poetry. "Poetry can be very much confessional and locked in the self," he said. He was looking forward to the challenge of reaching out and engaging with the community – not staying isolated which is the norm in many residences.

Faulstich told the gathering about her process
Read the rest of **Cups** Over on Page 11

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The rest of **Lunch**
From Page 8

portions, so this is right up my alley. They could eat like an army." In fact, she has trouble cooking small: "Everyone jokes because I cook so much food. I love to feed people. If I cook at home, I'm delivering to the mountain next to me and all my neighbors."

Middleton grew up in a body shop in Menafée in Southern California. She started early working on the cars her father brought to his home workplace. Since then, this Renaissance woman has worked in a feed store bucking hay, at a pool company, in steel, and at several food businesses, too. She enjoys a challenge and hasn't run into anything she can't become good at – with the exception of wiring.

When civilization began to encroach on her acreage in Menafée, she moved to Willits four years ago to live on her family's property, 200 acres in the Tomki area. "We own the whole mountain," she said. She's currently fixing up a recent purchase, a double-wide trailer, that she bought as a guest home.

"I love everything I cook here, except the rice," Middleton said. "I have trouble getting the consistency correct in large quantities. Google is my friend. I find a lot of recipes online. Google tells you everything." She loves the big kitchen with so much room to run around. She does like to accommodate the special requests and needs of her diners. "We do some special diets for a few people," she said. "We used to do vegetarian options on many of the meals, but there really aren't any real vegetarians here. I have one diner here named Gunther who only eats fish, so I make him some every day. He's kind of spoiled. He tries to eat really healthy, so we accommodate that."

Middleton said, in general, she is serving less fish at the center – at least for now. "It was difficult to get it really fresh. I wasn't happy with what was coming in. There's some steamed fish coming up on the next menu, so I'm going to see how that comes out, try to do some little foil packs with rosemary. Most of what we got from the fish company was par-fried."

"When we have leftovers," she said, "they get turned into soup mostly. We also donate to Willits Daily Bread, who provides food to the homeless. They get all of our soup every Friday. Anything we don't think we can use goes to them rather than to the trash. We do a lot of recycling, and much of the food scraps go into compost for the garden. We use recyclable containers for the to-go lunches. They're pricey, but worth it."

Middleton's children even get in on the act. "My 9-year-old daughter comes in and volunteers here on most Thursdays. She likes to serve and make desserts. My son even came in here as well. He's 7. He made cookies, then sat down and played video games the rest of the time."

The Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, serves lunch Monday through Friday, from 11:45 to 1 p.m. Lunch, \$7 for adults and \$5.50 for seniors over 55, includes soup, salad, entrée, vegetable, dessert and a drink. Thursday, August 17, the center is serving Pasta Primavera with Italian Sausage, and on Friday, August 18, the main dish is tri-tip. Monday, August 21, lunch features Smothered Chicken. Willits Weekly features the Senior Center menu each week in the "What's Happening" calendar.

The rest of **Labor** From Page 1

county administration with its employees.

The bargaining unit representing confidential employees has 28 members. The bargaining unit representing the Deputy Sheriffs Association has 138 members.

The new contract for confidential employees provides a 3 percent raise plus a \$2,000 payment each year for two years. It includes a 1 percent raise for employees who have worked 10 years with the county, another 1 percent raise for those who've worked 15 years, and another 1 percent hike for those who've been with the county for 20 years.

For confidential employees certified as being bilingual, and who use their dual language talents at work, those who spend less than 10 percent of their worktime using their alternate language will receive an \$18 bonus each paycheck. Those who spend more than 10 percent of their time at work using their alternate language will receive a \$32.50 bonus per pay period. The new contract runs from September 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019.

Members of the Deputy Sheriffs Association received pretty much the same deal. DSA members will receive a 3 percent pay increase, plus a \$2,000 payment, for each of the two years of the new contract. There will be no increase in health benefit payments for the year 2018. DSA members who've worked 10 years with the county will receive a 2 percent longevity increase; those who've worked 15 years will get another 2 percent; and those who've worked 20 years or longer another 2 percent. The new contract runs from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019.

The items were approved unanimously, with Supervisor Dan Gjerde absent.

The rest of **Cups** From Page 10

working with the clay. She had created in clay before, but never harvested her own. It was more difficult than she'd originally thought. "I dug clay from a known clay pit on Ridgewood Ranch. Then I had to get out the stones and rocks and other things, let it dry, then grind it and add water. I could then throw it on the wheel."

She also spoke about the trials of finding the correct temperature to fire the pieces and making a few interesting mistakes along the way. Meanwhile, Garcia would work on his poetry and, at the end of the day, the couple would share what they'd done – Faulstich choosing phrases she liked from some of Garcia's new poems to stamp onto cups the next day.

After they talked about their processes everyone was invited to find the cup they'd chosen, fill it with the water and sip, reflecting about water, as Garcia read several of his poems. His poetry was inspired by his interactions with community members or explorations with water issues in Little Lake Valley. His soft manner and voice set a tone to some of the wonderfully worded phrases – stimulating images and feelings.

After this experience in Willits the couple headed to LA to visit Faulstich's dad. They plan to come back to Willits this fall to find work farming. Once back, Faulstich plans to offer a workshop on harvesting, processing and making things with the "wild" clay. The workshop will most likely take place at Ridgewood Ranch.

The couple is very grateful to Natasha Hoehn, artist and administrative director of the North Street Collective, for the beautiful space to work and live in and her generosity with materials, stipend and spirit. They also thank Noel Woodhouse, program director and lead artist of North Street Collective, for every little and big thing he did for them to make the project a success. The couple is also indebted to each community member who shared their thoughts, experiences and feelings freely with them.

To find out more about the North Street Collective and the list of visit events and workshops please visit www.northstreetcollective.org.

From Page 1

The rest of **Comment** From Page 9

over a year. There's no way they would get the permits in time for this year. I know one person in Potter Valley who has a shed that's being build this year, a proper drying and trimming room. There's no way we can do this for this year. My gut tells me you're probably just gonna have to let us slip. But personally, I'm really trying to do this legally, and I just want to know we're gonna be all right.

If you can give us some guidance, please, on how to do this. Swami and I can trim real fast, and we go as fast as we can, but we might need an extra pair of hands. So where does that person sit? We can do it in our building. Do they sit out in the meadow? I just need to know: anything you can tell us, so we do it right.

Ellen Drell

I want to speak to the issue of zoning restrictions and non-transferability that was mentioned many times earlier, and just to remind us all that the zoning restrictions are key to making the ordinance legally defensible, with regard to the adequacy of the EIR (environmental impact report).

As we all recall, the description of the environmental conditions, or the baseline, was deemed adequate because the ordinance, while allowing existing growers to apply for permits regardless of the zone, created a path for at least maintaining the existing conditions, and hopefully improving existing conditions. It did not fuel the expansion of commercial cannabis growing and all its attendant development pressures and impacts to all the remote areas of the county – in particular, rangeland and timberland.

I just want to remind everybody that those restrictions, and the non-transferability of the permits, are pretty securely grounded in the whole premise of the ordinance, and the legal defensibility of the ordinance.

Christi Esparza

I am a member of the Round Valley Growers Association, and I live in Covelo. As you know, we've been without

The rest of **Emergency** From Page 1

that are operating in the county. The other will seek proposals from interested ambulance or emergency medical services companies to provide upgraded ambulance service in a newly designated exclusive operating area, or EOA, which takes in most of the county.

The adoption of the revised timeline is the latest step in a multi-year process to deal with emergency medical services and/or ambulance problems here.

A good portion of the problem stems from the county's low population and the relative poverty of that population. Another part is attributable to the fact that in some areas of the county two or more ambulance services are competing against each other, resulting in financial woes for both. Under such conditions, each ambulance service has difficulty enhancing the level of service it can provide.

To remedy this cause of the problem, supervisors in 2013 decided to consider creating an exclusive operating area in the county. Only one EMS/ambulance provider would be allowed to operate within the EOA.

The theory is that, with enhanced customer participation due to having a monopoly on the market, the provider will be able to provide better service to the public.

The proposal has been under discussion for four years. In 2014, supervisors signed a contract with The Abaris Group to develop an EOA. The Abaris Group delivered a blueprint on how it might work in April 2016. However, further discussion ensued, and an ordinance rewriting the provisions under which ambulance and emergency medical services may be provided in Mendocino County was not adopted by the board until January 9.

On June 6, the board directed the county's Health and Human Services Agency to split up the proposed RFP – which had been for one provider which would provide both ambulance and EMS services to an EOA and, at the same time, provide dispatch services to the county's EMS and fire districts – into two RFPs, one for the ambulance service and one for the dispatch services.

It was the status of the two RFPs that Health and Human Services Agency Director Tammy Moss Chandler reported on at Tuesday's board meeting. Chandler said the two RFPs were at the office of the state agency that oversees emergency medical services, and instead of expecting to have the RFPs ready to go out by the summer, she is now expecting the RFPs to be ready to go out by the end of summer.

During discussion of the revised timeline, McCowen told his colleagues he saw trouble brewing. He argued that

representation for the better part of a year, until recently. It will be crucial to have our voices heard, and we hope they will be heard now. I hope you will take into serious consideration the concerns we are bringing to you today....

We want to continue to move forward in this legal market and to keep making a living here. There are a few points that cause me some concern, as they will make it difficult for our communities to thrive. I have a concern about the inability to transfer permits. Under current regulations, they are not transferable. This will hurt our property values, and we are building businesses for our futures here. It is a non-issue for other industries. I don't see why it has to be an issue for us, in this industry.

Rangeland is a big issue. I hope that it is something that you will take out of sunseting. That will also drop our property values, and if our property values go down, property taxes go down, then the county's coffers will go down. So please work with us to grow our communities. None of the potential revenues from this community are possible if this community fails. Help us to succeed. Our success is the success of Mendocino County.

As a resident of Round Valley, I ask that you add in the overlay zones for Covelo, as other people have stated. It is a huge livelihood for our community. We have new restaurants, as Ruby has stated. We have a thriving farmers market. I invite all of you to come, every Friday, noon to 4. And those things can go away if the overlays don't happen.

I love our community. I love living in Round Valley. It is an incredibly beautiful place, with a great community. A number of us made the trek out here today. And, board of supervisors, you said you would work with us. Please work with all our concerns. Please help us continue to build the community we love. Thank you for your time. Our success is your success.

If this happens, McCowen said, it could have a deleterious impact on EMS delivery and quality of service. Instead of releasing both RFPs on August 21, he felt the county should release only the RFP for the EMS provider, which would mean the county would ask CalFire to continue to provide dispatch services for the time being.

During discussion on McCowen's idea, there was considerable support for retaining CalFire as the dispatch provider. CalFire Mendocino Unit Chief George Gonzalez told supervisors his agency wants the contract, and he believes the current contract would need only a few small adjustments to make it effective for a system that wielded a single EMS company over an entire EOA.

Anderson Valley Fire District Chief Andreas Avilla noted the communications committee of the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association also strongly favored retaining CalFire as the dispatch provider. CalFire has been providing dispatch services for the county since 1985 and has never gone through an RFP process. Gonzalez reminded board members that, although CalFire has never entered into an RFP for the dispatching contract, it has renegotiated its contract with the county approximately every three years.

CEO Carmel Angelo said it was very unusual for a contractual relationship to continue as long as the CalFire dispatch relationship has – 32 years – without an RFP. "Even in some of your larger contracts you do an RFP every 10 or 20 years," she said.

Currently the county's contract with CalFire states the county will pay them not more \$648,130 per year for providing dispatch services. According to Mendocino County Assistant CEO Alan Flora, that number is a "not to exceed" number, and the amount that the county pays each year is dependent on the number of calls that CalFire dispatches.

"Usually we pay somewhere between \$450,000 and \$500,000 a year, something like that," Flora said. Supervisor Carre Brown said the county owes citizens the best ambulance system available, and the best way to achieve that goal is to send out both RFPs. Supervisors Georgeanne Croskey and Dan Hamburg agreed with Brown, and the original proposal to send out both RFPs as soon as they are vetted and approved by the state agency, was approved.

THANK YOU!

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Bodensteiner Medical Research	Garman Family Land	Mayfield Consulting	Rose Development	Thurston Auto Plaza
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Burris Club Lambs	Georgianne Croskey, DVM	Mendocino Co. Farm Bureau	Round Valley Indian Health Center	Ukiah Valley Rentals
Charlie Hiatt	Granite Construction	Mendocino Construction	Round Valley Indian Housing Authority	Ukiah Waste Solutions
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2017 Grand Champions



The Grand Champion poultry pen was raised by Hugo Chavez of Anderson Valley FFA who stands with his buyer from Rescue Solutions.



The Grand Champion steer was raised by Kaylee Mills of Potter Valley 4-H who stands with her buyer from Thurston Auto Plaza.



The Grand Champion turkey was raised by Isaac Arnold of Fort Bragg FFA who stands with his buyers from the Savings Bank of Mendocino County.

Congratulations!



The Grand Champion rabbit meat pen was raised by Quinton Powis from Potter Valley 4-H who stands with his buyer from Geiger's Long Valley Market.



The Grand Champion goat was raised by Morgan Riley of Willits FFA who stands with her buyers from Mendocino Roofing.



The Grand Champion hog was raised by Garrett Dailey of Potter Valley FFA who stands with his buyer from Thurston Auto Plaza.

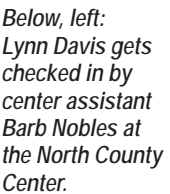


The Grand Champion lamb was raised by Chancelyn Johnson of Potter Valley 4-H who stands with her buyers from Mendo Mill.

Additional Thanks

An additional Thank You goes out to the Mendocino County Farm Bureau, Geiger's Long Valley Market and Ukiah Taco Bell for their sponsorship of the buyer's hats and to the Savings Bank of Mendocino County for all of their hard work throughout the event.

Photographs by Maureen Moore / Mphotographs.com



Fall semester 2017 classes at Mendocino College start on Monday, August 21, and the North County Center in Willits has dozens of classes lined up. A roster of business-oriented classes includes a popular American Sign Language class, classes in typing, Microsoft Word, electronic spreadsheets and "Entrepreneurial Management."

Then there's voice, art, theater arts, and jazz dance classes, too, as well as the more academic English, sociology and math classes.

"We try to think about our students who come in different cohort groups," said North County Center Dean Debra Polak. The North County Center offers classes "for students who've graduated from high school and are embarking on college degrees, or working on credits to transfer to a four-year school," she said. "And then we think about our students who are reentry students, or coming to college a little later, to earn a degree or take a course that can help them be employed at a higher level or move up within their employment."

High school students, too, are welcome at the “dual enrollment” Mendocino College classes. “We have high school students trying to get some of their high school graduation requirements done with us,” she said, “or getting a head start on college requirements.”

Some dual enrollment classes are taught at the Willits High School, Laytonville High School and Sanhedrin High School campuses, too.

This semester's North County Center classes in the Sustainable Construction and Energy Technology program are dual-enrollment classes, including "Construction Documents 1: Understanding Blueprints," taught by Willits local Noel Woodhouse at Willits High, and "Introduction to Woodworking" taught by Woodhouse at Laytonville High.

"I enjoy the mix of ages in the college classes," Woodhouse said, "both the experience and focus of the older students and the energy of the high school students. The students seem to thrive with the hands-on nature of the classes."

Longtime Willits art teacher Kathleen Kirkpatrick teaches a dual-enrollment drawing class on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at Sanhedrin High School this fall. One class that isn't offered every semester is an Earth Science class, "Weather and Climate," which is taught by Skip Beale on Thursday mornings at the Mendocino County Museum. Also offered at the museum this fall is a Native American History class on Monday evenings, taught by Logan Silva. As the flyer for the class says: "American History without Indians isn't history – It's mythology."

"We have our Child Development classes, too," Polak said, "offered Friday mornings and Tuesday evenings. We often get people already working in the field, who are working toward a degree and need the units to keep going."

Voice teacher Marilyn Simpson is offering a beginning/intermediate/advanced voice class Tuesday afternoons at the North County Center. "The focus is on gaining confidence in singing in front of other people," Simpson said, "and to that end, you will find a very safe and encouraging atmosphere in the class, even if you think you can't carry a tune. It's open to everyone, no matter how skilled or unskilled. I guarantee that you will finish the class a better singer than when you begin!"

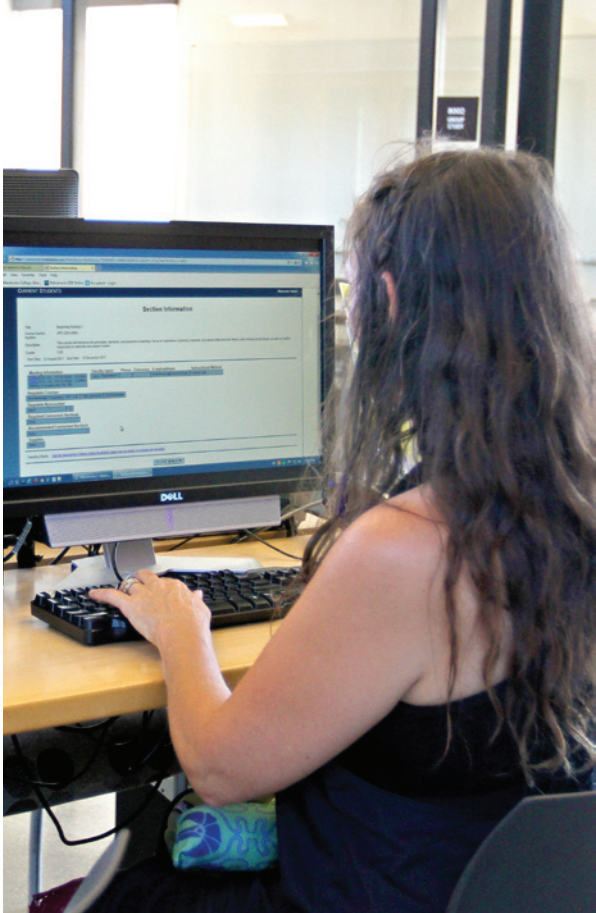
The beautiful North County Center is located at 372 East Commercial Street in Willits, and is open from 8:30 am to 6 pm Monday through Thursday, and until 3 pm on Fridays. Prospective students are welcome to drop by and get help with registering, or visit Mendocino College's website, www.mendocino.edu, for more information about registration or an online application.

To see all the classes Mendocino College is offering this fall, look for the "Class Schedule" link at the top of the home page – the North County Center classes start on page 26.

To reach the North County Center, call 459-6224.

– Jennifer Poole

The image shows the Mendocino College North County Center building, a modern two-story structure with large glass windows and a flat roof. The building is surrounded by tall grass and trees. In the top left corner, there is a logo with the letters 'MC' inside a circle. To the right of the logo, the text 'MENDOCINO COLLEGE' and 'NORTH COUNTY CENTER' is displayed. Further to the right, the text 'YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR COLLEGE YOUR SUCCESS!' is written in a smaller font.



At top: Dean of Centers for Mendocino College Debra Polak. Above: A student checks her schedule on one of the computers at the North County Center's Learning Commons. Below, left: Mendocino College's North County Center, located at 372 East Commercial Street in Willits. Below right: The Learning Commons area inside the college's North County Center.



Pg. B3

The Principal of Willits High School



Michael Colvig

Dear Willits High School parents and community:

As principal of Willits High School, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for a great year at WHS. We are all excited to have students back in our classrooms and hallways, filling them with energy and enthusiasm for learning.

We strive to challenge each student to grow in his or her academic abilities and to be college- or career-ready by the end of four years. At Willits High School, student success is the goal of every staff member. We believe our new trimester structure and dedication to high-quality instruction will ensure that students learn at their full potential.

To help support us in achieving this goal, we ask that you guide and support your child's learning by making sure that he/she:

1. Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience.
2. Completes all homework assignments given by teachers.
3. Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life.
4. Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject.
5. Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school.

With your help, we can ensure all students succeed at Willits High School and become positive members of our community.



Bonnie Hinton, instructional assistant; Devon Jones, student intervention tech; Tiffany Klee, instructional assistant; Jennifer Randrup, instructional assistant; Monique Smith, special education instructional assistant; and Daniel Haley, daytime custodian.

Brookside teacher Michelle Kluskiewicz recently attended professional development where she studied "Guided Reading" with Jan Richardson. Teachers Katie Cooley and Melanie Hernandez attended training at the Mendocino County Office of Education, on teaching handwriting. They look forward to sharing their learning with Brookside faculty.

Teachers Cyndi Pfingsten, Carol Brinkerhoff, Dawna Allen, Anne Hammond and Sandy Lucier piloted our exciting new board-adopted mathematics curriculum, "Everyday Math." Our teachers are looking forward to an Everyday Math publisher training on August 17, as well as a Benchmark English/

Read the rest of **Brookside** | Over on Page B6

A letter from ...

The Principal of Blosser Lane Elementary School

Nancy Runberg

Dear students, parents and friends:

On Monday, August 21, students will begin the 2017-2018 school year. I am humbled and honored to be the principal of Blosser Lane Elementary School. The staff and I are looking forward to seeing your wonderful children!

Our custodians and groundskeepers have been working diligently all summer to ensure that classrooms were cleaned and facilities are ready for students on the first day. Varied activities are scheduled throughout the year for our students. Awards assemblies, cultural assemblies, student performances, academic challenges, theme days, field trips, and other activities will continue to be an integral part of our programs.

At Blosser Lane Elementary, school begins each day at 8:15 am with dismissal time at 2:55 pm, except on Tuesdays when students are dismissed at 1:35 pm. Due to the traffic on Highway 20 and Blosser Lane, bicycles, roller blades and shoes, skates and scooters are not allowed at school, and walking students are not allowed to cross Highway 20 at Blosser Lane. Bus transportation is provided by the district before and after school.

Blosser Lane wishes Dianne McNeal all the best in her retirement. This year we will have four third-grade classes, five fourth-grade classes, four fifth-grade classes, one English language development teacher, and a school counselor. A full range of special education services will continue to be offered. Teachers for the new school year are: third-grade teachers Carrie Bauer, Margaret Bender, Alexandria Curry and Jordan West; fourth-grade teachers Amy Grooms, Janice Haschak, Lisa Mey, Margo Singleton and Jennifer Valenzuela-Watkins; fifth-grade teachers Samantha Arkelian, Eileen Travis, Beth Sonnenberg and Jennifer Nunez-Ward; English language development teacher John Haschak; special education teachers: Hopie Wise, Amanda Franco, Tom Minjiras, Mike

Read the rest of **Blosser** | Over on Page B6

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A letter from ...

The Principal of Brookside Elementary School

Kathy Crossman

Dear family and friends of Brookside students:

The staff and faculty of Brookside Elementary School have been busy this summer preparing to welcome our students to another exciting year! Our returning team and new staff members will focus on teaching all learners to read and understand math at grade level and above, and will continue to support our students to develop their love of learning. We are attending professional development, learning to teach our newly adopted language arts and math materials, and orienting our new staff members to Brookside!

Brookside has a wealth of eager new teachers and para-educators, as well as a school nurse, psychologist, and custodian joining our staff. Please join with us in welcoming to the Brookside family:

Rochelle Fink, kindergarten teacher; Tina Novelli, first-grade teacher; Hannah Turner, first-grade teacher; Jolene Beebe, second-grade teacher; Angella Ostrowski, second-grade teacher; Meghan Kimsey, English language development and intervention teacher; Laura Hudgins, R.N.; Karey Spivey, school psychologist; Chrystal Carter, special education instructional assistant; Brookside teacher Michelle Kluskiewicz recently attended professional development where she studied "Guided Reading" with Jan Richardson. Teachers Katie Cooley and Melanie Hernandez attended training at the Mendocino County Office of Education, on teaching handwriting. They look forward to sharing their learning with Brookside faculty.

A letter from ...

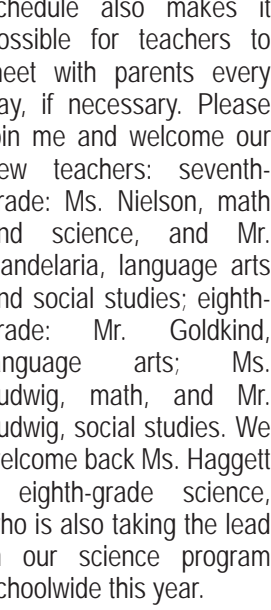
The Principal of Baechtel Grove Middle School

Maria Munguia

Welcome to our new families, welcome back to our returning families, and prepare to experience the new transformation at Baechtel Grove Middle School! This year we are moving to a true middle-school bell schedule. This new schedule will allow teachers more time to provide the best instruction, better support our students, and communicate with parents.

We are working hard to create a welcoming and supportive environment for our sixth-graders where they can quickly acclimate to the middle-school goal of eventual high-school readiness. Our focus this year is assuring that every student achieves a state of high-school readiness through continual monitoring of their individual progress. We welcome Ms. Toni Bravo as our new academic counselor to help accomplish this goal.

Teachers will now have only one grade level that they teach. They will collaborate daily with fellow staff members to address student learning styles and focus on curriculum. The master schedule also makes it possible for teachers to meet with parents every day, if necessary. Please join me and welcome our new teachers: seventh-grade: Ms. Nielson, math and science, and Mr. Candelaria, language arts and social studies; eighth-grade: Mr. Goldkind, language arts; Ms. Ludwig, math, and Mr. Ludwig, social studies. We welcome back Ms. Haggett, eighth-grade science, who is also taking the lead in our science program schoolwide this year.



Read the rest of **BGMS** | Over on Page B6

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Aug. 22
High School
Aug. 24

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lavidaschool.org

A letter from ...

The Superintendent of Willits Unified School District

Mark Westerburg

Summer has whizzed by, and I'm happy to report that we're ready for the 2017-18 school year to begin in the Willits Unified School District. We've put all the building blocks in place to achieve the goals we set as part of our overall improvement plan. If you'd like a refresher on those details, visit www.willitsunified.com and click on the link titled "WUSD School Improvement Plan" at the top of the sidebar.

When it comes to our faculty and staff, we have a great blend of new and familiar faces. We have finetuned staffing so people can teach their favorite subjects and work with the age and level of students they enjoy the most. We've enhanced our facilities, including a \$25,000 upgrade to the pool for our high school students, a new building at Sherwood School, and repairs at Baechtel Grove's gym. And we've established Sanhedrin as a career technical education – CTE – site.

When I think about the diversity of our students, I'm proud to say WUSD can offer an environment that fits just about everyone. I can't imagine why a parent would send

A letter from ...

The Principal of Sanhedrin Alternative High School

Jeffrey A. Ritchley

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. My name is Jeffrey Ritchley. It is my honor to be appointed the new director of Alternative, Career Technical, and Adult Education at Sanhedrin Alternative High School. It is great to be back, as I was the principal here from 2014-2015. So much has changed for the better, and I am motivated to build the best school in the Willits Unified School District.



We have been working all year to create a new environment at SHS. The first major change is the school academic structure. Sanhedrin students only need 180 credits to graduate high school. Career technical education and vocational education will be the focus of studies for each student. Intertwined within those 180 credits, each student will need to take 20 to 30 "pathway" credits of CTE in any CTE class, art, band, or college pathway.

Next, we have moved away from traditional semesters with eight grading periods, to a trimester schedule with six grading periods. Each grading period, students will earn 2.5 credits per scheduled class. Each class period is 79 minutes with a four-period day.

Joining us this year is Heather Miya, our new

Read the rest of **SHS** | Over on Page B6

their child anywhere else when they can get so much from our public schools.

Parents offer a variety of reasons for sending their kids to other schools, but it usually boils down to this: their child isn't succeeding – either socially or academically – and they hope a new school will change that.

Fair enough, but I'm here to tell you WUSD can offer everything the local alternatives can offer, and way more. At WUSD, we've got options for kids whether they like big schools or small ones, whether they like art or sports or welding, whether they struggle academically or are on an accelerated path to college.

Kids can attend our bigger schools, where passionate, well-trained teachers use traditional approaches to great effect. Students meet classmates who sometimes think and act differently than they do, and they learn to get along with them, while figuring out their own strengths and weaknesses.

Elementary and middle-school students who are easily distracted or feel uncomfortable in bigger settings can choose a school like Sherwood School, where small, multi-grade classrooms allow more one-on-one time with teachers. Sherwood really caters to kids who enjoy the arts, and it allows students to move between several academic levels in math and English without having to change classrooms.

Read the rest of **WUSD** | Over on Page B6

Room To Bloom Preschool

Where the love of learning grows

239 South Main Street - Willits

Morning & School Day Programs
8:30 am - 5:30 pm
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Deep Valley Christian Education Center

FREE KIDS' SWAP MEET

Sell, Swap, and Buy

Children's toys, clothing, baby equipment, books, bikes, and more

When: Saturday, August 19 – 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Where: Deep Valley Christian School
8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, CA

How to Participate: Reserve a table – free – contact
Sandy Peters – (707) 367-5748 or DVCS – Peggy at (707) 485-8778

Deep Valley is enrolling for Fall 2017 with Kindergarten, music, and Spanish classes. Call for more information.

Young entrepreneurs and parents are invited to participate by reserving a table – you keep the money from your sales.

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL

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Call now to schedule an appointment. We'll make it easy!

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Moreno, Cara Tuttle and Yvonne Winter, and school counselors Lorenzo Sandoval and Jeff Cramer.

Parents and guardians are an important part of the educational process, and we welcome your participation and encourage input, questions and ideas about our school and our programs. Volunteers are important to the classrooms, with class, grade level, and school activities during the year. If you can spare any time during the week to work with students, please contact your child's teacher.

The School Site Council and PTO are two important and fun ways for parents to become involved. Elections for seats on our Site Council will be held during Back to School Night on September 19. We hold our PTO and Site Council meetings once a month.

The Blosser secretaries, Sharen Reinier and Leslie Cooke, will be able to provide you with information about our school and answer your questions. The school office will be open between 7:30 am and 4:30 pm.

The entire staff at Blosser Lane Elementary School is committed to providing a safe, challenging and exciting program for our students, and we are looking forward to a successful school year. If you have any questions about Blosser Lane, please call the school office at 459-3232 or drop by and see us. I am looking forward to a wonderful year.

Language Arts publisher training on August 16, before beginning the year with students.

Custodians Ted and Daniel are back at Brookside and are preparing the school to look its best when our students arrive on their first day of school, August 21 at 8:25 am!

Office teammates Erica Buzzard and Lisa Koller are still enrolling last-minute registering kindergarten and TK - transitional kindergarten - students. Hurry in and register with them!

Thank you for your continued support of our Brookside Bobcats! Our focus is student learning.

I call it our "Disney school" - it's the happiest place in education. Middle-school students can also choose independent study, which is managed through Sherwood.

High school students who don't attend Willits High can choose the vocational emphasis of Sanhedrin and graduate with marketable skills in one of 14 focus areas, or select independent study and develop a personalized program that includes some computer-based education, some direct instruction, and some participation in sports or other extracurricular activities, depending on the student's goals and preferences.

For example, I know a student who took chemistry and physics with other high school students because he wanted the benefit of learning those subjects in a science lab with classmates, but who opted to complete many of his other courses online.

If students require special education, we provide it. If they need free or reduced-cost lunches, no problem. If they need transportation to and from school, they can hop on our school busses. If they need materials, we equip them with materials.

If they want to learn what it feels like to get up on a stage and perform, they can. If they want to run around a field during recess, they can. If they want to participate in an assembly in a big auditorium, they can. If they want to learn to swim in a pool, lift weights in a weight room, play basketball or volleyball in a gymnasium, or run around a track, they can. If they want to participate in Future Farmers of America or Odyssey of the Mind, they can. This is the beauty of public schools.

I understand that school is not everyone's favorite place to be. Some students thrive, while others merely cope. But wouldn't you rather explore the options available to your student through WUSD before you give up all the benefits of public school?

To learn more, consider coming to our upcoming events. Sherwood School will be hosting an Open House for families of all incoming kindergarteners through eighth grade on August 17 from 6 to 8 pm. On August 18, we have freshman orientation at Willits High School from 8 am to noon and a sixth-grade orientation at Baechtel Grove Middle School from 8 am to 12:30 pm. If you have questions, call the district office at 459-5314.

Best wishes for a great school year!

Send Willits Weekly a photo of your new or returning student!

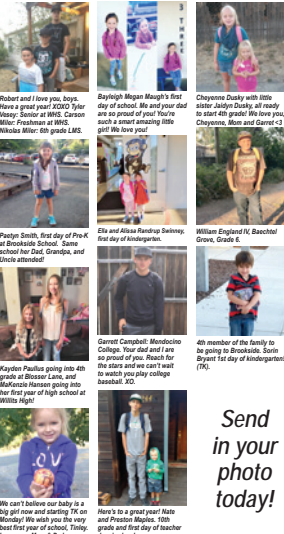
Send well-wishes, a sweet message, or words of encouragement to your new or returning students in next week's Education Edition #2, along with a photo. Sending in your photo is FREE!

We will publish as many as we can in the August 24 edition of Willits Weekly (as we do every year: these are some of last year's featured back-to-school students).

All you need to do is email your photo to willitsweekly@gmail.com with a caption.

Deadline for photos is end of day Monday, August 21.

Questions? 707-972-7047.



Send in your photo today!

now be 60 minutes, providing time for skill building and extension activities. There are also elective courses in art, music, computers and athletics. We are keeping all the great events that students have enjoyed in the past, such as our Spirit Days, rallies, dances, sports, "College and Careers Week," WEB, and many more.

We have a new dean of students, former teacher Ms. Erickson. She brings with her the ability to make deep connections with our students, which will enhance our school climate. Ms. Erickson will also be coaching our new teachers, helping them to build a strong learning environment. With her active involvement in our Willits community and Baechtel Grove Middle School, we welcome Ms. Erickson to our administrative team.

We are all excited about our new changes, and look forward to seeing our students on the first day of school.

site secretary. She comes to us from Brookside Elementary School, where she was a special education para educator. All three of our teachers will be returning this year. This is the fifth year for John Horton, Yuliya Ritchley and Priscilla Dodge. They have worked together to build an amazing program here at Sanhedrin.

This year the students will be rebuilding the farm with help from the community. We will be updating the grounds, and rebuilding the horseshoe pits to create a better environment for our students. Another goal is to build a bocce ball court. Lastly, all students will be allowed to participate in Willits High School sports, graduation and CTE classes. It is our goal to meet the needs of every student through rigorous coursework, to create a family environment, and to locally certify each student in a CTE pathway.

This year we are starting an adult education program at SHS. If you are a parent or a community member who did not graduate from high school, fell a few credits short and would like to graduate from high school, please come in and see me at 120 North Main Street. The SHS staff is able to request your transcript from other institutions, evaluate your credits, and set you up in online classes to finish your diploma. I hope to see you on September 26, for our Back to School Night from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

Go Hawks!

W
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DRIVE-THRU

BBQ PULLED PORK DINNER

Friday • Aug. 18, 2017
5 to 6:30 P.M.

\$12.00 for one Dinner
PRE-SALE TICKETS ONLY
(Purchase at the Center's Front Desk.)

Menu: BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, and Cookie.

Pick up Dinner at the Senior Center:
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JOHN FORD RANCH

RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Willits City Council, at its regular meeting on September 13, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., to be held in Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

PROJECT TITLE: City of Willits Commercial Medical Cannabis Ordinance.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Introduction and first reading of Ordinance 2017-01 repealing Chapter 9.20 of the Willits Municipal Code entitled *Medical Marijuana Dispensaries*, repealing Chapter 17.86 entitled *Marijuana Cultivation*, modifying Chapters 17.06, 17.24, 17.26, 17.28, and 17.29, and adding Chapter 17.85 entitled *Medical Cannabis Activities* relating to the cultivation, processing, distribution, testing, research, transportation, dispensing, and manufacturing of medical cannabis.

PROJECT OVERVIEW: The City of Willits proposes a comprehensive Commercial Medical Cannabis Ordinance amending the City's Zoning Code to regulate medical cannabis land uses consistent with California State law. The Ordinance will establish specific land use zoning and development standards for medical cannabis land uses.

PROJECT LOCATION: The City of Willits Commercial Medical Cannabis Ordinance would apply to the Community Commercial (C1), General Commercial (C2), Limited Industrial (ML), Heavy Industrial (MH), and Industrial Park (I-P) zoned lands within the incorporated area of the City of Willits.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The City Council will also consider as part of the process a Negative Declaration related to the proposed Ordinance. The document would be adopted at the September 27, 2017 meeting.

Your comments regarding the proposed project are invited. Written comments should be submitted to the Willits Community Development Department, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California 95490, no later than 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, September 12, 2017.

Additional information regarding the above noted item may be obtained by calling Willits City Hall at (707) 459-4601, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Oral comments may be presented to the Willits City Council during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits Community Development Department or the Willits City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

s/ Dusty Duple, City Planner for the City of Willits
Publication Date: August 17, 2017

2:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of North Main Street.

5:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of North Main Street.

5:53 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:23 pm: MORRIS, Dena Darlene (55) of Redwood Valley was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to misdemeanor 11550 H&S (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance) and felony 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

10:40 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

11:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 100 block of State Street.

August 13

8:52 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Madrone Street and issued a warning.

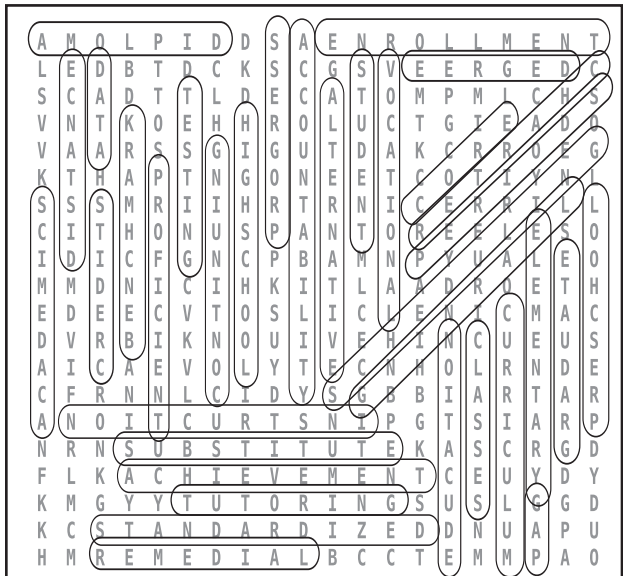
10:20 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1900 block of Lupine Drive.

10:56 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

1:38 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1300 block of Eva Claire Street.

3:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 400 block of North Street.

Tag us! We love seeing our community connect with **#WillitsWeekly**



WW121

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2017-F0583

The following person or persons are doing business as: Water Surveys, 1025 Hearst Willits Road, Willits CA 95490. Water Surveys is conducted by an individual, Donald G. McEdwards, 1025 Hearst Willits Road, Willits CA 95490.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on: 8/1/2017.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on July 31, 2017.

s/Donald G. McEdwards

Pub dates 08/03, 08/10, 08/17 and 08/24/2017

Run your legal ad with Willits Weekly!

Email willitsweekly@gmail.com or call 459-2633 for info

WW120

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: John Arthur Gilfillan

CASE NO. SCUK-CVPH -17-26854

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: John Arthur Gilfillan.

2. A **Petition for Probate** has been filed by Sherrie L. Gilfillan in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino.

3. The Petition for Probate requests that Sherrie L. Gilfillan be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

4. A **hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:** Date: August 25, 2017 Time: 9 a.m. Dept.: E Address of court: Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.

5. If **you object** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

6. If **you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent**, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the **later of either (1) four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

7. **You may examine the file kept by the court.** If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

8. Attorney for Petitioner, Alexander Rich, Carter Morsen PC, 716 South Main Street, Suite A1, Willits, CA 95490; 707-456-9210. Pub dates: 08/03, 08/10, 08/17/2017

Current Job Openings:

Administrative Secretary

Animal Control Shelter Supervisor
(Fort Bragg)

Animal Facility Attendant (Fort Bragg)
(Includes Immediate Openings for Temporary Extra-Help Work)

Environmental Health Technician

Information Systems Technician II

Public Safety Dispatcher

Senior Program Specialist

Sr. Substance Abuse Counselor
(Fort Bragg)

Substance Abuse Counselor II

Welfare Investigator I/II

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
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9	7	3	1	4	8	5	6	2
6	4	8	7	2	5	3	1	9
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2	3	9	5	8	1	6	4	7
4	6	1	3	7	2	9	5	8
7	8	5	9	6	4	1	2	3

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Cannabis Growers!!!
Need a Water Board NOI prepared? Call Don McEdwards. 707 354-4618. The McEdwards Group, Willits.

Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song: Wednesday, August 30 (note: 5th Wednesday this month), at 6 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

Hydrogeologist
Well testing; stream gauging; pond surveys; spring development.
Don McEdwards, HY153 dba The McEdwards Group
707-354-4618

Logging Jobs
527 Grapple Cat operator, Grapple Skidder operator & Water Truck driver wanted. Contact Mike at 530-251-7791.

Computer Help
Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$50/hr. Tutoring \$30/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamergin@yahoo.com.

Dog Classes
Group dog training classes Saturdays in Willits. Core Commands 1 (basic obedience) and Core Commands 2 (advanced obedience): each four one-hour sessions. Skelly Dogs Training: (707) 513-5738; skellydogs@gmail.com

For Rent
2,000 sq ft home on 20 acres. Power, water, \$2,100 a month non-grower. \$4k a month grower. \$4k deposit. Contact Mars at 415-567-6131 between 11am-1pm or 4pm-10pm. Available October 1st.

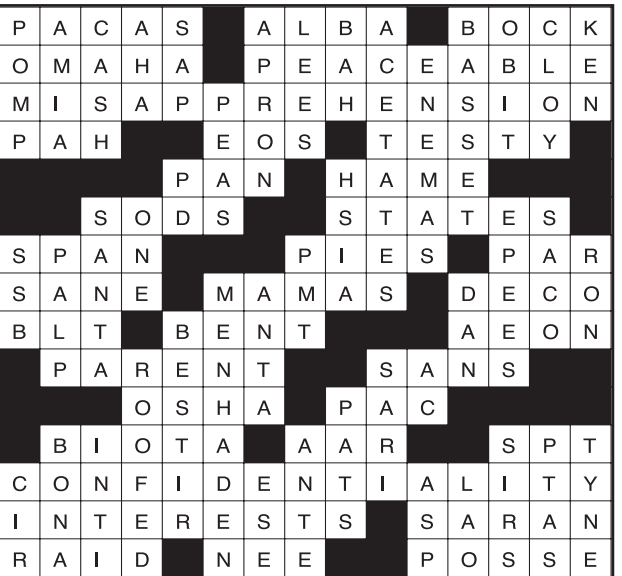
For Rent
Executive office - 2 large offices, 1 small; kitchen, bath and reception. 1,240 square feet. An additional 370 square feet could be added if needed. Call Margie, 459-6874 or Megan, 972-8776.

Garage Sale
Garage sale, Saturday 8/19 from 9-2, 660 Hawthorne Ln, Willits. Lots of baby stuff 0-4T, ride-on lawn mower, propane dryer, household items.

Help Wanted
Shuster's Transportation, Inc seeks Class A Drivers for Full Time Chip Truck position. Benefit package includes medical, dental, and holiday pay. Min 1 year experience and current DMV report required: (707) 459-4131.

Yard Sale
Saturday, August 19 and Sunday, August 20, 9 am to 3 pm. 1100 Exley Lane. Furniture, tools, gardening, electronics, sewing machine, and lots more. No early birds. Follow the signs.

Add your ad!



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