

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Willits cleanup on Saturday

To the Editor:

Well folks, it's that time again. The California Coastal Cleanup is happening at 8 am, Saturday, September 17.

This year, rather than concentrating on specific problem areas, we will be addressing the areas you think need work. I'm hoping we can spread out and cover the day-to-day problems throughout town. Main Street and Baechtel Road have needed some work for a long time.

As we have in the past, we'll be gathering in the east parking lot of City Hall, forming work parties and moving out from there. We'll have pickup trucks and dump trailers to come to your work areas to load whatever's been collected.

You should dress appropriately: long sleeves, long pants, sturdy shoes and a hat to protect from the sun. We will supply the gloves, trash bags and we have a limited supply of tools.

Let's get together, have some fun and do some good for our town.

If you have any questions please call me at 707-459-7122.

John Sherman, code enforcement, City of Willits

Funny how things get

To the Editor:

I read the letters to the editor most weeks. Some interest me and some amuse me. So here are a few of my thoughts on a couple subjects. First the bypass: Too bad it was not done 40 years ago as planned, but we have to deal with it now. I keep reading anti-bypass letters and for some reason people have it in their minds that this bypass will bring more pollutants in the air. Well spending most of my life working around and on cars I can tell you this is not true. Cars have cleaner emissions at higher engine speeds than idling through town, so the bypass will help rid us of these type of pollutants.

Second is wetlands and ruining of valley land. From what I have seen, grass hay is about the only thing I have ever seen growing. Many people in the valley have gardens of different varieties. In the valley they had to bring in dirt to make anything grow. (notice all the trucks going through town full of dirt). So moving dirt from the valley, has done much to deter gardening.

I must admit I do not know much about wetlands, only that when it rains land gets wet, no matter where the land is.

Now for the downtown plans for "After the Bypass." I have seen plans and all the talking from friends and family going to meetings. Willits has always had a traffic concern. Seems the last couple years it has gotten worse. We have always had a problem getting from one end of town to the other at certain times; one reason is this town was built with only one road from

end to end, so we do not have much of a choice. People use side streets to go the long way around through neighborhoods when traffic is backed up.

Even with the bypass, this is not going to change. Hopefully less traffic, but that is still to be seen. All these plans to change Commercial and Main Street sound like it will hinder traffic. Big rigs and trucks towing trailers still have to turn down Commercial Street to get out to the valley or deliver to stores. Trucks with cattle and delivering dirt to the valley still need to turn. Congesting the area is not the answer. I feel if we do these type of changes we will stop any type of future industry or growth our town needs.

Last point. We need to find a reason to bring people to downtown. Showing my age, the Skunk Train used to attract many people. At the time the train was in town you could not find a seat in a restaurant. People were buying souvenirs from downtown merchants (redwood buris, clocks, shirts, etc.)

Right now people have no reason to stop and they are forced through town, so I am not sure why disrupting local traffic is going to make a difference to get people to stop. Making the downtown look better is a great idea. Parts of the town have been painting and remodeling and looking good, but parts still look rundown.

As far as downtown I think we need to wait and see what the effects of the bypass are going to be. Planning all these changes without a clue of how things are going to be just makes no sense. Like I said earlier, Willits is like no other town and cannot be patterned after any other town from people that are not from here. We need to do what is best for this town so we can enjoy what we have and make room for the future.

Michael Horger, Willits

Open letter to Ellen Drell

To the Editor:

Dear Ellen: I've known you for decades and consider you a lifelong friend. I have great respect for you and for your tireless work as a defender of the natural world.

But I have to say that your recent criticism of the Farm-to-Table-on-the-Bypass Dinner planned by the Willits Chamber of Commerce is sadly misguided.

Your letter to Willits Weekly casts this event as a "celebration of the bypass." I have read the C of C press release carefully, and that is NOT the intent. May I quote? "The purpose is to bring people together and raise funds to benefit our community. It is a celebration of the homecoming of Main Street and a movement forward into a prosperous future."

Ellen, are so vehemently against that?

All of the points in your letter are about what Caltrans has already done. Fait accompli. Like you and many others, I opposed the Caltrans bypass as being too expensive, too damaging, too detrimental to the town's economy, and a bad design compared to more sensible options. They did what they

wanted to do anyway. Further fighting is not going to make it go away. We lost this one.

There were Japanese soldiers on certain Pacific islands, who clung to their guns many years after August of 1945, and continued to fight the war from the jungles. Their dedicated bravery was, in a way, quite noble. But it was also utterly pointless, irrational, and self-destructive.

The C of C release also acknowledges the negative history of the bypass struggle. And it affirms that "the chamber's goal is to demonstrate the community's resilient ability to thrive" despite all that strife.

Ellen, as an environmentalist, it behooves you to support the efforts of those who are now seeking to heal our community. To condemn those efforts will likely alienate the very people whom you will want on your side come the next environmental issue. Diehard bitterness does not win friends.

It is now time for making peace and moving forward. Your strength, intelligence, and energy should be used more wisely.

Gary Owen, Willits

Jail Garden Project

To the Editor:

In 2015, the Jail Garden Project produced over 14,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables for the meals inside our correctional facility. These fruits and veggies were grown within the confines of our jail, under the coordination of John, a part-time employee who is very dedicated to produce fruits and veggies without chemicals. A team of hard-working inmates enjoy being part of the garden crew.

This is the time of year that I am always so impressed. Do you have any idea how many tomatoes are required when you give 304 people 2 good slices?

Our kitchen staff uses everything (and I mean everything) they possibly can to produce healthy meals.

As we know, healthy food helps people think clearer and feel better. While our jail keeps people incarcerated, we should never forget that our revolving door should slow down. Reducing criminal recidivism is important, but let's not forget to reduce mental illness recidivism, also.

Sorry for the long segue, but this type of action helps mentally ill inmates improve. The fact that allowing mentally ill inmates to socialize with other mentally ill inmates allows our staff to help with the necessary stabilization of some of society's most fragile citizens. Gardens are very good places to socialize and see how your work is rewarded with produce.

Please support Measures AG and AH in this upcoming election. It will allow families

Correction | In photo captions for the September 8 "WCA 'Generations'" story, Willits Weekly misidentified one of the Willits Cultural Arts board members. The photos were of WCA board member and treasurer Carole Aleshire.

to have closer resources and local services. It will allow our courts to get some of our non-violent inmates some improved mental health services.

Sheriff Tom Allman, Willits

Feedback on Main Street Plan

To the Editor:

Due to a prior commitment, I will be unable to attend the Wednesday, September 14 Willits City Council meeting, but I'd like to provide the following feedback on the concepts of the Main Street Plan.

1. Removal of center left turn lane (north town only): As cars turn left, they will stop traffic on Main Street, impacting flow. As cars on side streets attempt to make a left onto Main, they have no center lane to use, and will have to wait for clearance from both directions. Just as fun as the goofy island by McDonalds; woe to folks leaving the inn and wanting to head north.

2. Crosswalks: Hopefully, they will be consolidated to only have one crossing Main Street at each intersection instead of the current two.

3. Jaywalking: With all the measures being implemented to calm traffic and increase pedestrian safety and access, I hope that jaywalking will have a severe crackdown, no tolerance for lawbreakers leaping into traffic mid-block. I currently stack my groceries in a special manner to withstand slamming on the brakes at 10 mph mid-block.

4. Bicycles: With all the specialty bike lanes and access, I hope some education will be implemented to alert cyclists of all ages that bicycles are vehicles and must obey the same vehicle code cars do, red lights, stop signs, peds in crosswalks. With a lane, comes responsibilities, And tickets. Even helmet tickets for under 18 without helmets?

5. Parking space loss: With two different groups and two different plans, there are two sets of lost parking spaces, totaling over 20 spaces lost, or at least a 13 percent reduction in parking downtown. With bulb-outs and curb lane breakups, this will also limit large spaces for trucks with horse trailers and RVs. If people cannot park their vehicles, there will be fewer pedestrians to visit business. If loading zones are marked on side streets, these are even more large spaces lost to oversize vehicle access. Folks in RVs have money to spend, and if they can't park easily, they will continue driving past town. Will they use the internet to flag Willits as RV friendly? I think only Burger King will win that business.

6. Freeway signage: Where's Willits? Without decent signage several miles away, passing drivers will not be able to plan to use the exits to obtain food, gas and groceries, Laytonville and Ukiah get their business,

Read the rest of Letters | Over on Page 13



Above, from left: An information booth at the brunch with a slide show of photos describing daily life at the school. Flowers provided by Fortunata Farm and Black Dog Farm. Student Lyndsey Burns talks about learning how to handle and care for the free-range meat chickens.

School breakfast

Grange School of Adaptive Agriculture hosts farm-to-table brunch and tour

A diverse, curious and hungry group of more than 50 people gathered at the historic Carriage House on Ridgewood Ranch Saturday morning to be wowed by the Grange School of Adaptive Agriculture, with an informational presentation and a brilliantly crafted brunch catered by Jason Pluck and Caroline Radice from Black Dog Farm.

The GSAA, formerly the Grange Farm School, decided to offer a free Sunday brunch to local supporters and their friends interested in helping sustain the school. Believing in an ever-changing world which consistently affects and challenges farmers, the school changed its name in spring to the "Grange School of Adaptive Agriculture" to reflect their beliefs in integrating and adapting new or renewed forms of agriculture to keep current with the needs and challenges of farming biosystems.

Before and after the brunch, very lively, informative and inspiring talks were given by Tim Ward, GSAA's director of Fundraising and Programming, Ruthie King, director of Operations, AJ Barrett, member of the Leadership Team, and Hunter Flynn, a second-year farmer at Tequiuo Farm.

During King's talk she informed us that the GSAA is a pioneer in the new farming

movement. "We're attracting world-renowned agriculturists who are coming from around the world; they're cutting edge in their field. They're coming here to teach because we offer a platform for really progressive thought," King said. Because of this, Mendocino County is becoming home to many graduates of the GSAA – which poses a set of needs for the new farmers: places to farm and ways to produce income from their hard work. The GSAA has become a resource for these people because it is widely integrated into the farming, ranching and food distribution community in the county and beyond.

During Barrett's talk, he introduced us to the concept that many of the students are "leavers." They're people who've had one or two college degrees, jobs or life experiences and felt unfulfilled in their careers. Many have chosen to leave those situations and learn about farming or one of the many food-related businesses to study and experience.

Doug Mosel, a "leaver" himself – from a farming family to consultant to farmer again at the Mendocino Grain Project – conducted a humorous set of interviews with current students Lyndsey Burns and James Bording, and former student and

Read the rest of Grange | Over on Page 11

At right, from top down: Doug Mosel with microphone, interviews Joshua Sternberg, a former student and current GSAA field manager, and students James Bording and Lyndsey Burns. People from different communities in the county came together, sharing some of the tastiest and freshest food found in Mendocino County. Brunch servers, GSAA students and staff: Eva King, Bari Alon, Daniel Spiro, James Bording, Lyndsey Burns, Ruthie King. Below, left: Ruthie King, director of Operations, speaks to the GSAA's leadership role in the new farming movement. Below, right: Brunch menu. At bottom: Platters of newly harvested vegetables topped with Tres Bien goat cheese.



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5 - 8 pm: Wine Tasting
7 pm: Apple Bowl

SATURDAY, 9/17:
12:30 & 3:30 pm:
Singer Andrea Pearson
8 pm: CCPRA Rodeo
9:30 pm: Dance featuring Singer McKenna Faith

SUNDAY, 9/18:
10 am: Sheep Dog Trials
10 am: Vintage Car Show
Noon: Parade
2 pm: CCPRA Rodeo

See Full schedule of events online:
<http://mendocountyfair.com/>

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The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

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Willits Weekly

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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

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

Level: Advanced

How To Sudoku:

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

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

GARDEN WORD SEARCH

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

CLUES ACROSS

- Employee stock ownership plan
- Teaspoon
- Type of IRA
- Restore courage
- Pet Detective Ventura
- Discount
- Where rockers play
- Light Armored Reconnaissance (abbr.)
- Computer manufacturer
- Nomadic people
- Liquefied natural gas
- Steps leading to a river
- Benign tumors
- In an early way
- Type of wall
- Pop folk singer Williams
- Greek Titaness
- Expresses purpose
- Type of school
- Least true
- Delighted
- Church building
- Replacement worker
- A sign of assent
- Semitic gods

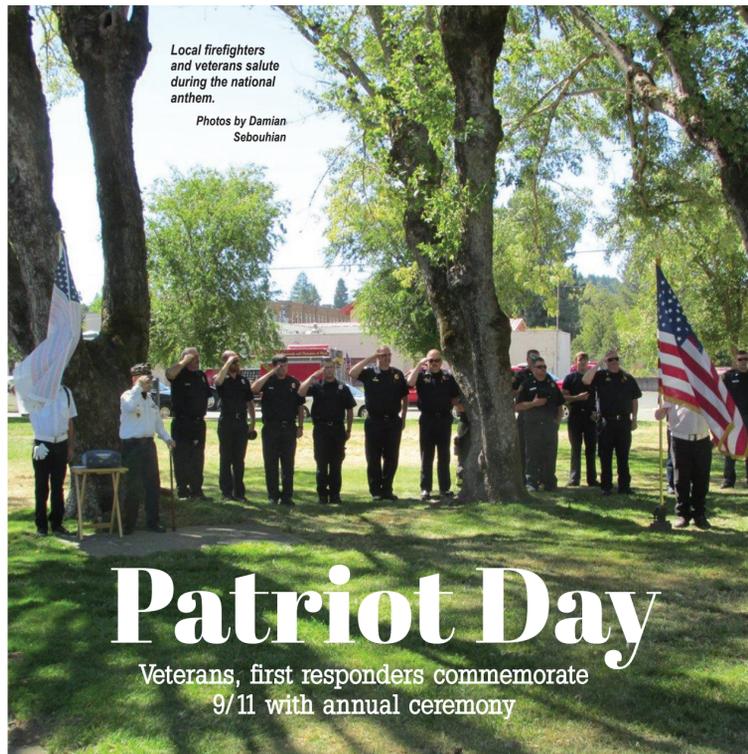
CLUES DOWN

- Major division of time
- Withered
- Portends good or evil
- Single sheet of glass
- More long-legged
- Scrutinized
- Archway in a park
- Oliver __, author
- Ancient Greek City
- Type of shampoo
- __ King Cole
- Adventure story
- Church building
- Disappointment
- Evergreen shrub
- Parts per thousand

CLUES ACROSS

- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Partly digested food
- Fevers
- Genus of trees
- Midway between east and southeast
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Gallivant
- Hideaway
- Source
- (abbr.)
- Young snob (Brit.)
- Midway between northeast and east
- Chinese surname
- Poplar trees (Spanish)
- Electron scanning microscope
- Actor DiCaprio
- Equal (prefix)
- Cartoon Network
- Revealed
- Remove lice
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Whale ship captain
- Baited
- Bleated
- Swedish rock group
- Air pollution
- Carbonated drink
- Swiss river
- Ottoman military commanders
- Type of job
- One point east of southeast
- Sex Pistols bassist
- Vicious

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| ACID | CONIFER | FROST |
| ACRE | COVER | GERMINATE |
| AERATE | CROP | GRAFTING |
| ANNUALS | CULTIVATE | HERBACEOUS |
| ARBORETUM | CUTTINGS | HYBRID |
| BEDDING | DIGGING | LAYERING |
| BIPINNATE | DIVIDING | MANURE |
| BONSAI | DORMANCY | PERENNIAL |
| BOTANICAL | EVERGREEN | PLANTS |
| BUD | FERTILIZER | PRUNING |
| BULB | FLAT | ROOT |
| COMPOST | FROND | VARIEGATED |



Local firefighters and veterans salute during the national anthem.
Photos by Damian Sebouhian



Above: American Legion member Matt Dearing plays the bugle. Below: Deputy Fire Chief John Thomen discusses the loss of firefighters during 9/11.

Patriot Day

Veterans, first responders commemorate 9/11 with annual ceremony

"Please help us to never forget those who died on September 11, 2001," pronounced Reverend Mike Smith during this past Sunday's Patriot Day memorial ceremony, held at Willits City Park on a pleasantly warm afternoon.

Organized by the American Legion Post 174 and Commander Roger Ham, members of the Little Lake Valley Fire Department, Willits City Police Department, the Sheriff's Office and the Brooktrails Fire Department, as well as various members of the public, gathered to honor those who lost their lives during the attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001.

"When you read about tragedy in a history book that happened before your time, it's not the same [as] when you see it happen in your lifetime," said Little Lake Fire Deputy Chief John Thomen. "To me it seems to hit home a lot harder because of that."

"I'm sure everyone here remembers

that day and what they were doing," said Brooktrails Fire Chief Daryl Schoeppner. "I myself was getting ready for work and turned the news on in time to see that a plane had struck the north tower. Three hundred and forty-three of our brother firefighters were lost during that day. Let's all continue to remember and bless them."

Said Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez: "We need to stay vigilant and always remember."

During the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York City, the Pentagon and over Pennsylvania, 2,996 people were killed, and more than 6,000 others were wounded. It is widely considered to be the deadliest terrorist act in world history and the most damaging attack on American soil since the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

On September 4, 2002, President George Bush, Jr. proclaimed September 11, 2002, as the first Patriot Day.



At left: Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez addresses attendees. At left, below: American Legion Post 174 Commander Roger Ham salutes during opening ceremonies. Below: The "Flag of Honor," made of the names of all those lost on 9/11.



Congratulations Birth Announcement **Henry Oliver Haschak**



Welcome, Henry Oliver Haschak, born August 11, 2016. We love you so much and are happy to finally hold you in our arms! With love, Mom and Dad (Jackie Cobbs and Kale Haschak).

Find a Willits Weekly at:
101 Drive-In, Scoop's Deli, J.D. Redhouse, Willits Post Office, Village Market, Ardella's Downtown Diner, Buttercups Children's Boutique, Willits City Hall, Willits Library, Mariposa Market, the old Country Skillet, Old Mission Pizza, Gribaldo's Cafe, Brewed Awakening, and Ace Copy and Shipping. NEW BOXES at Mendo Mill, the senior center and Grocery Outlet in Willits, Geiger's in Laytonville, and the Post Office in Talmage.



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9/25: Drawings 2-7pm
Kawasaki Teryx Giveaway Drawing Saturday, September 24 at 10pm
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



From Page 1

tors have been working hard since the program was closed to new applicants as part of a legal settlement between the county and the Mendocino County Black-tail Association.

On June 22, the final day 9.31 was open to new candidates under the provisions of the settlement, the Sheriff's Office received 200 applications to join the program, Johnson said.

Since the beginning of the year, he noted, 337 growers have applied to join 9.31. Six dropped out of the program, and three were removed because of violations of the law or complaints. Of the remaining 328 program participants, 25 were in the 9.31 program in 2011.

Forty-six inspections are still pending, Johnson said, and 76 permits have been issued.

Relations between the Sheriff's Office and 9.31 applicants have been positive, Johnson said. "Overall, the applicants have been very cordial, very compliant."

Laytonville attorney Hannah Nelson, who specializes in cannabis-related legal issues, praised the work of Johnson and his officers.

"They've done a tremendous job," Nelson said, especially considering the "last-minute cramming in of a lot of changes."

"I just want to have that on the public record," she said. "I have a lot of ongoing contact with the office, and every single time they've been nothing but helpful."

"I've heard from a lot of my clients and other community members," Nelson added. "And they have told me the same thing, completely unsolicited, so that is the word on the street. Everybody is really quite happy."

The 9.31 program has had a colorful and checkered history. It was adopted by the board of supervisors in January 2008 and suspended in March 2011 under threat of legal action by the U.S. Department of Justice.

After the September 2015 adoption of the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act by the California Legislature, the 9.31 ordinance was revised by the board of supervisors' medical marijuana ad hoc committee and by the board itself. It was adopted by supervisors on May 17 as an urgency ordinance.

The Mendocino County Blacktail Association filed the lawsuit on June 8, alleging the county did not follow California Environmental Quality Act rules when it adopted the revised ordinance.

The urgency ordinance was adopted in tandem with creation of a permanent medical marijuana cultivation ordinance, currently in the process of being written. County legal and planning staff have indicated the process of drafting a permanent ordinance that will comply with CEQA regulations will take a minimum of eight to 10 months, measured from the start of the planning process in April.

The CEQA process of noticed public hearings and a thorough and responsible environmental assessment of the impacts of the project was not followed in adopting the urgency ordinance.

Deputies had stopped Rocky Gene Boccaleoni after discovering him walking along the road in the 45000 block of Highway 101, according to a Sheriff's Office press release.

The deputies "observed a hatchling lying next to Boccaleoni's feet," and then found the dagger tucked in his clothing.

Boccaleoni was arrested for possession of a dirk or dagger and booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was held in lieu of \$15,000 bail.

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

City of Ukiah to enable local citizens, including McCowen himself, to vote in person in the county seat.

McCowen also requested that Ranochak issue one or more interim reports on election results to the public during the weeks-long canvassing period. Currently, the public has no idea how candidates or ballot measures are faring in close elections.

While Ranochak did not specifically agree to McCowen's requests, she did not say she would not do them.

"Am I supposed to be providing more updates?" Ranochak rhetorically asked the supervisors. "I'm willing to look at it. Am I gonna change my mind? Maybe not." Ranochak also told supervisors: "Races typically don't change from the results on election night."

Ranochak, formally the county's assessor-county clerk-recorder, holds elected office, so she does not work under the direction of the board of supervisors. However, supervisors do control the budget for her department, which includes that of registrar of voters.

The focus on Ranochak and the local voting process came at the request of Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, who requested a discussion with her several months ago. At the time the request was made, Woodhouse said he wanted to know why Ranochak's office was so slow in getting election results out.

Ranochak said her department was affected by both the county's geography and state mandate.

"Mendocino County is a large county, and our road system is... well. We have a lot of two-lane roads. It takes a lot of time to get some of those votes in to Ukiah," Ranochak said.

And by virtue of a 2007 order by former California Secretary of State Debra Bowen, Ranochak said, her office must conduct a hand count of the results instead of a machine count. Bowen issued her order so Californians would be spared the electoral fraud that allegedly has occurred in states where electronic voting machines are used to count votes.

Ranochak also noted her office completed its canvass (a process that involves checking,

the ordinance, McCowen said.

The project description is important because it creates the "first impression" for state and federal resource agencies, as well as the public, about the project. Comments from the agencies and the public help the county to determine whether or not an environmental impact report for the project is necessary. A misleading project description doesn't help agencies draft meaningful comments.

McCowen noted three areas of the project description he called misleading. The first was a section called "Prior Effects of Cannabis Cultivation" found on page 5 of the document. In this section, LACO wrote, "For the purposes of this initial study, the lead agency assumes that existing operations which qualify for permits under the proposed ordinance are generally physically indistinguishable from those which do not qualify."

McCowen said LACO got that wrong, and growers who do not qualify for permits are distinguishable from those who do qualify.

This led to a highly nuanced philosophical debate between McCowen and county Planning and Building Services Lead Planner Andy Gustafson.

"I would suggest we've heard the comment that we need to define 'baseline.' But we need to define it in the context of what can be supported by case law," Gustafson said. "We aren't obligated to analyze the impact of unpermitted grows, but we can look at it, above and beyond what the illegal grows are today."

Gustafson said CEQA case law had established that illegal conditions can be ignored when trying to establish the baseline of an environmental situation.

McCowen, however, argued that including the unpermitted and unpermissible marijuana grows in the county's baseline for this project would be helpful in showing that the proposed ordinance will improve the environment.

"Illegal activity is part of the baseline," McCowen said. "All the marijuana that is being cultivated now – whether it is totally compliant

Laytonville man held for carrying weapon

A 60-year-old Laytonville man was arrested Saturday morning shortly after 9:30 am when sheriff's deputies discovered a 10-inch-long dagger concealed in his clothing.

Deputies had stopped Rocky Gene Boccaleoni after discovering him walking along the road in the 45000 block of Highway 101, ac-

double-checking and triple-checking) of votes cast during the June 7 primary election on June 30. For that election, she said, Mendocino County was in the top 20 counties in the state in terms of early completion of the canvass.

McCowen urged Ranochak to provide the public with additional updates that would reflect the totals as late-arriving votes, mail-in votes, and provisional ballots are added to the total.

"Given the shift to vote by mail, we have also had a shift to a great majority of votes not being reported on election night, [and that may] call into question the results of the election," McCowen said. "I do think we could provide an earlier update. I think the benefits of that would outweigh whatever liabilities would accrue from not doing this."

Ranochak said she and her elections staff frequently discuss how the election and canvassing process could be improved. "We are constantly talking, analyzing, how we can do better," she said.

However, the elections wing of her office is short-staffed currently, down to three people from five, she said.

Ranochak added she has considered the benefits of enhanced training and believes increasing staff salaries would help employee retention.

A relatively small amount of money, between \$2,000 and \$3,000, could enable her to add another team of canvassers to her office during the canvassing period, she said.

Assistant CEO Flora said he could find the money somewhere and would make it available to Ranochak.

Ranochak accused of hostility to observers

Three women decried their treatment at Ranochak's hands during the June 7 primary and thereafter, while they were observing the canvassing process.

Cynthia Raiser Jeavons, Aleshanee Akin, and Deborah Moore said Ranochak was hostile toward them and made it difficult for them to observe what was happening in the elections office.

with state and local law, or totally out of the box – that all, collectively, is the baseline.

"It's a challenge," he admitted. "We don't have precise listings of all the locations where this is happening. But there are thousands of sites – many legally compliant and many not. All together, this is part of the baseline."

"And no matter how illegal it is, it's still part of the baseline condition. So, when we are analyzing the project, I believe the impacts of our project are far less than the baseline [impacts] if we couple the regulatory framework with effective enforcement."

McCowen also criticized two later sections of the project description in the penultimate section of the report, "Anticipated Project Impacts." Both referred to anticipated future phases of the cannabis cultivation ordinance.

Phase 2, as described by LACO, was an open-ended phase in which the county would deal with site clearance and grading, soil preparation and pesticide application, grading for roads, installation of water pumps, ponds and irrigation equipment, power-generating equipment and lighting for security and growing, and other issues, presumably throughout all of the various zoning types regulated by the ordinance.

This might lead the reader to conclude that Phase 2 would have a large, but indeterminate, impact on the county's environment.

McCowen said this was wrong. He clarified that Phase 2 would apply only to medium- and large-sized indoor grows in industrial zones.

McCowen said the LACO consultant made a similar gaffe in the description of Phase 3, set to begin on January 1, 2020. LACO characterized this phase as expanding "the potential intensity and location of new cultivation sites to include all permit types and several additional zoning classifications."

According to McCowen, that characterization was misleading. McCowen said, in the view of the majority of the board of supervisors, Phase 3 will apply to people seeking new permits. That much is true. But new permits will be granted only for applications for parcels designated "Ag"

ording to a Sheriff's Office press release.

The deputies "observed a hatchling lying next to Boccaleoni's feet," and then found the dagger tucked in his clothing.

Boccaleoni was arrested for possession of a dirk or dagger and booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was held in lieu of \$15,000 bail.

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

"We felt a concerted effort was made to ensure the observation process was as difficult as possible," Jeavons said. "Our view of the canvassing process was blocked by several boxes. So we couldn't see what was happening. We finished the process really wondering about the accuracy of the vote count."

"The very first experience that I had was, I was told to 'step away from the window,'" Moore said. "We were not given the feeling we could ask questions. We can't say there is something wrong going on in the office. We can't say that because we don't know, because we can't see."

"At the very end, when it seemed there was a break in the canvassing, Aleshanee and I sat in the hallway and waited for the break to end and for work to resume," said Moore. "We had been there for a long time. Aleshanee had been there for two weeks, and I had been there for one week. To go into the office and to ask, 'When are you resuming work?' and to be told, 'The process is complete' – and to have a feeling of being stone-walled."

"We were not told we could ask questions. We were simply told the process was done. And from our perspective, it was very difficult for us to believe what we were being told."

That is why, when the reporter came down, we discovered the process was not done. We had been lied to.

"I have a very unfavorable feeling about this," Moore said. "I don't care to be lied to, especially by a county official in a process that is supposed to be open."

Akin claimed Ranochak had threatened to call the sheriff to have the observers removed from the premises, a charge Ranochak denied.

Ranochak also said when Moore and Akin had asked her what was happening at the end of the process, she had replied, 'The counting was done,' not 'The canvassing was done.'

Part of the reason why Ranochak did not want observers in the room may have to do with the configuration of the office in which the canvassing took place. Flora said he wanted to talk with Ranochak about the possibility of altering the configuration of that space to better accommodate election observers.

Ranochak agreed to meet with Flora.

or for those parcels for which applicants are willing to undertake a watershed assessment to determine if there is enough water to support cultivating marijuana without adversely affecting the water supply. The LACO project description failed to mention those limitations.

McCowen initially asked for the board's permission to sit down with Gustafson and work out the differences between his version of the ordinance and LACO's. But Supervisor Carre Brown said she didn't want McCowen to do that. Board Chairman Dan Gjerde suggested McCowen could draft a memo to Gustafson, outlining his views and recommendations. McCowen said he would do that.

After considerable discussion, Gustafson invited McCowen to have a personal discussion with him and a LACO representative. McCowen agreed to that, and Brown and Gjerde agreed McCowen could do so.

During marijuana discussions on Tuesday, only three supervisors were present: McCowen, Gjerde and Brown. Supervisor Dan Hamburg recused himself because a family member is enrolled in the county's 9.31 marijuana program. Supervisor Tom Woodhouse was absent from the day's proceedings.

Important change to cannabis ordinance

The board confirmed Tuesday that permit types for cannabis cultivation will be based on square footage of the growing site. That's a shift from previous iterations of the ordinance, which were based on plant count. A memo from Gustafson and county Agriculture Commissioner Chuck Morse clarified the change was made to bring the ordinance into alignment with state law.

"The issue has not been discussed by the board in the context of the cultivation ordinance, but staff continues to recommend alignment with state law, which relies only on square footage, except for the cottage-type permit. Square footage is used in this draft," the memo from Gustafson and Morse said.

The board unanimously approved the future use of square footage in the cultivation ordinance.

Tomahawk lands Covelo man in jail

A 25-year-old Covelo man is being held without bail after sheriff's deputies found him in possession of a tomahawk while on county probation.

Daniel Taylor was arrested at about 11 am on August 31 in the 24000 block of Agency Road in Round Valley.

After discovering Taylor with the tomahawk, deputies contacted Taylor's probation officer, who told them Taylor was violating his parole by possessing the weapon.

The probation officer added Taylor was also in violation of his parole by not properly reporting to his parole office, resulting in his immediate arrested for violation of county parole.

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



Year Two for 'Completely You'

Main Street Message studio and day spa offers new services in second year

May 15 marked the one-year anniversary of Beth Bashore's massage studio "Completely You," located just across Main Street from Chase Bank in downtown Willits.

The name "Completely You" exemplifies how Bashore wants customers to view the studio's offerings.

"We want everyone to be able to customize each session to meet their specific needs," explained Bashore. "After a thorough intake process with your therapist, the session can include just what you want to focus on. We can focus on specific areas, or offer head-to-toe relaxation."

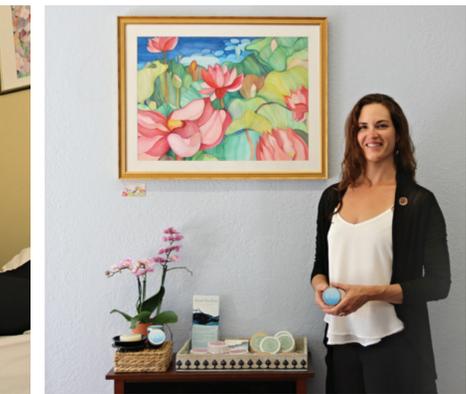
Bashore's studio is now established with new staffers who offer a unique selection of techniques. The shop is also now more consistently staffed, too, making walk-in availability more possible.

"We like to say, whether you're a construction worker with a schedule change, or a group of six with plans for a spa day, we can accommodate you!" said Bashore.

Bashore herself is able to provide massages that range from soothing to full-strength which also focus on joints and connective tissue, offering relief and relaxation for hips, ankles, wrists, shoulders and other overworked areas. She also offers cleansing and rejuvenating facials.

Laura Gielow brings a gentle energy and soothing nature for her clients and can find and work out problem areas clients may not even know they had. She is able to recognize energies and return a calming experience for her clients.

Kelly Foutz has a background in yoga instruction and has picked up some special massage techniques



from her time in Hawaii. She is able to bring these techniques to the mainland and provide a unique, energetic experience.

Sally Pringle is a Tuina (balancing of the chi) specialist. She went to a school of Oriental medicine and provides an invigorating yet relaxing, percussion-like massage to the

Read the rest of **Massage** Over on Page 13



Pretty Girl

Pretty has been at the shelter a very long time, since March 28, 2016, and she longs for a home to call her own. As we have gotten to know Pretty, we believe she will do well in a home where there are not a lot of visitors as she tends, at times, to get nervous meeting new people. She warms up to people she knows, and she is walked by many volunteers at the shelter. But she'd also be a wonderful best friend for a single person or adult couple. All this gorgeous girl – 6 years old and 53.7 pounds – wants to do is be loved and please her people. What more could a dog parent want?

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of more of the wonderful adoptable animals, please visit www.mendoanimalshelter.com or visit the shelter. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

Please join us the 2nd Saturday of every month, September 10 this month, for our "Empty the Shelter" pack walk, and help us get every dog out for some exercise!

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COYOTE VALLEY

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

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

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

REDWOOD MEADOWS
Senior Apartment Community

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



Roots of Motive Power

Annual September steam-up shows off the collection

A surprise visit from George Atkinson, great-grandson to Guy F. Atkinson – the original owner of the Bucyrus Erie steam shovel – was just one of the many highlights of this past weekend's successful Roots of Motive Power annual Steam-Up Festival.

"Guy F. Atkinson was a contractor, and his company used [the Bucyrus] up and down the coast," George Atkinson told Willits Weekly while witnessing the fully restored, 75-ton machine in action for the first time in his life.

Atkinson, a contractor himself out of Los Angeles, said that a visit to Roots of Motive Power was a long time coming.

"I really appreciate the work that's been done here," said Atkinson. "[The Bucyrus] was a worn-out machine that they kept for historical purposes, but nobody had taken the effort to put it back into working condition except for [Roots of Motive Power]. They've

At top, from left: Jill Peacock holds her original woodpecker steam-roller-printed art. Chad Johnson and Rick Olson of the San Francisco Center for the Book. Fran Gardner displays her original print, a "backwards "G" and dragon for "Gardner's Rest." At right: Roots volunteers Eli, James, and Jesse hang out on the Kelly Springfield roller. At right, below: George Atkinson, great-grandson of Guy F. Atkinson, original owner of the Bucyrus steam shovel with his wife, Sue. Below: The Bluestone locomotive pulls the passenger cars around the bend.



done a huge amount of work, and it's really remarkable."

The Guy F. Atkinson Company bought the steam shovel from the Bucyrus-Erie Company of Wisconsin in 1932 and immediately put it to work on the Gabriel Highline Road project near Axusa, California.

In its day, the Bucyrus steam shovel was used for many major projects, including help with constructing the 1939 World's Fair Exposition buildings in San Francisco and the Tower of the Sun structure on Treasure Island. The Bucyrus was also instrumental in the construction of the Panama Canal.

The old giant machine was on full display for the festival in the back of the Roots yard, as it periodically moved mounds of dirt from pile to pile.

Another steam-engine machine with a lot of history up and running for the festival was the 1916 Heisler 2-truck steam locomotive. The train ran both Saturday and Sunday, pulling a car and a caboose full of visiting passengers on tracks that loop around the Roots property.

The Mondo family took the train ride on the insistence of their two daughters Bella and Zandria. Julie and Tony Mondo's daughters had become interested in trains after the family won the Roots Christmas raffle two years ago.

"The prizes included a train set that we put up around our Christmas tree," Tony Mondo said.

Read the rest of **Roots** Over on Page 13



Above, left: The Mondo family, from left: Bella, Julia, Zandria, and Tony, ride the Roots train. Above, right: Martha and Jerry Cover visiting from Cover's Apple Ranch in Tuolumne, where they have a miniature train. Below, left: Finnegan Lyon-Harris and Basil Frew work on the 1928 Buffalo Springfield gasoline road roller. Below, right: Eric Hansen operates the Kelly Springfield steam roller. At right, above: Lee Bryant, left, and Phil Jacques, fireman and engineer on the Bucyrus Erie 50 B steam shovel. At right, below: Ric Martin in his Roots shirt keeps the fire going for the steam donkey.



The rest of Letters | From Page 2

7. Electric vehicle charging stations: Willits is in a prime spot for recharging stations, being situated in the middle of the long grade from Ukiah to Laytonville. Capitalize on this golden opportunity to attract these drivers to park and re-charge downtown. EVs are the future: Even local residents may want to recharge before returning to 3rd Gate or Pine Mountain.

8. Volunteer firefighter parking: Somebody with a large SUV or full-size pickup, please try parking in the diagonal spaces east of City Hall [being considered to replace the designated firefighter parking across from the fire station]. Park four of them next to each other, if you can: I foresee lots of building wall repairs from rear bumpers.

I fear that way too much emphasis is being placed on sidewalks and bikes, and not enough on getting folks parked and out of vehicles to use the sidewalks. Somebody driving five to 10 miles into town for supplies, and finding parking only in Safeway's lot, is not going to be buying local.

Michael Burgess, Willits

County budget online

To the Editor:

The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Mendocino County Adopted Budget book is now available to the public. The book is available to view or download at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/administration/budget.htm. [637 pages and 25.5 MB]. A limited number of hard copies are available for purchase at the Mendocino

County Executive Office, 707-463-4441.

This year's budget was prepared based on three additional budget preparation workshops, held in March, April and May and adopted after two days of budget hearings in June. This process was critical in developing a budget that is responsive to community needs, as well as an entirely re-envisioned budget document format that provides more information to the public, in a way that is easier to understand.

The budget addresses the needs of the citizens of Mendocino County with a focus on maintaining and improving county services, investment in employees, investing in critically failing infrastructure, continued long-term debt reduction, and building and maintaining the general reserve.

The county budget is also available through the County Budget Portal at <https://comendocinoco.opengov.com/transparency>. The portal was launched in the fall of 2015 in an effort to provide a more inclusive and transparent budget. Mendocino County partnered with OpenGov.com to provide a new web-based financial transparency and business intelligence tool that dynamically presents the county's revenues and expenses, from multi-year trends to line item level details.

By using the OpenGov platform, residents and staff can use this website to have access and a better understanding of the county's budget.

Carmel J. Angelo, CEO, Mendocino County Executive Office

The rest of Massage | From Page 7

table. She has a medical emphasis and also offers acupressure and cupping.

Jezara James has an athletic background and specializes in sports massage, using a broad pressure which helps reduce and release the lactic acid and buildup that can be present in muscles.

While individual massages are always an option, Bashore noted a new trend is emerging: group and couples massage. With four separate rooms, each equipped with heated beds, robes and slippers, several people can come and enjoy a relaxing experience together.

"It's become a popular thing to do," said Bashore. "We have had people with out-of-town company come together, we've had families, and of course couples. It's something fun to do in Willits that groups can do together."

The clean, professional and inviting atmosphere extends out from the private rooms and into the waiting area. Infused water and comfortable couches sit under art on the walls by local artist Margaret Prouette. The heating and air conditioning throughout the studio

makes it a great place to cool down or warm up while relaxing year-round.

The studio is open from 10 am to 6 pm Monday through Saturday. Appointments can be made easily by calling or texting 972-4368, and day-of appointments are available, too, though Bashore says that a heads-up request earlier in the day is helpful in their scheduling, but not required.

Completely You's basic rates for basic services are \$70 for a 60-minute European relaxation massage, \$100 for a 90-minute massage, \$80 for a 60-minute deep-tissue massage, and \$120 for a 90-minute deep-tissue massage. Foot and sugar scrubs, hot towels for the feet, facials, and much more are also available.

Contact Completely You for more information or to schedule an appointment: 972-4368 or stop by 225 South Main Street in downtown Willits.

The staff will also be doing free five-minute massages at Mariposa Market on Monday, September 26 to introduce the community to the new therapists.

The rest of Roots | From Page 12

Other Roots festivities took place at the Rec Grove park and included more steam-powered machines on display and a screen-printing activity for the public, featuring the pressing work of both the Buffalo and Kelly Springfield steam rollers.

Participants created etchings of their own devising using the provided materials of linoleum sheets and chisels. Sebastopol Artist Rik Olson and Chad Johnson of the San Francisco Center for the Book were on hand to help ink up the etchings, and position them to be steam-rolled and pressed permanently onto paper.

Both Olson and Johnson have a long history with the Center for the Book, a non-profit organization that incorporates the art and craft of letterpress printing, bookbinding and artists' bookmaking.

The company will be borrowing the two Roots steam rollers – the Kelly and the Buffalo Springfield – for this coming weekend's Annual Roadworks Steamroller Printing Festival in San Francisco.

"We'll put these puppies on a flatbed truck and drive them down to San Francisco," Olson said of the rollers. "They close off one block of Rhode Island Street for the festival. It's a huge turnout of people. There will be 20 print booths on display for the public, and the steam rollers will provide the ink pressing."

Olson has been an artist since 1953 and specializes in wood engraving and other etching mediums. Find his work on the web at www.rikolson.com

To learn more about Roots of Motor Power and the approximately 100 pieces of restored pieces of train and logging equipment onsite at its East Commercial Street property, go to www.rootsofmotivepower.com.

For more about the San Francisco Center for the Book, visit <https://sfcb.org/home>.

Don't forget to attend Roots' next family event, the Holiday Express on December 3, which features Santa Claus arriving on a steam locomotive, Christmas trees, trains, carolers and refreshments.

The rest of Fire | From Page 1

Laytonville resident California Highway Patrol officers assisted with voluntary evacuations in the 900 block of Woodman Creek Road.

Six air tankers and two helicopters initially battled the fire, but were released Saturday night, according to a Santa Rosa Press Democrat report.

There were no reports of property loss.

CalFire and inmate crews were joined by Laytonville Fire Department volunteers, and assets from Little Lake Fire Department, Leggett Volunteer Fire Department, the Ukiah Valley Fire District and Potter Valley Fire Department to battle the blaze, according to CalFire Fire Prevention Specialist Lesley Smith.

Laytonville resident Chris Darr told blogger Kym Kemp at Redheaded Blackbelt "and a crew from JW Morrison, Inc. helped save the home of one of his boss's neighbors."

"I was cruisin' back from town to get ready for a wedding," Darr said, when he saw smoke from the fire.

"I pulled into my boss's," Darr told Kemp. "We go on fires sometimes with our dozers."

Darr's boss had a water truck, Kemp explained, and they piled in, then drove towards the flames.

"The fire was blowing so it was spotting all over the place," Darr told Kemp. "We just took the water truck to a neighbor's and made sure she got out safe." The men helped her get her animals and property out of the house, then "started working to save the house."

At one point the fire "came about 50 feet to 100 feet from her house," Darr said.

"We got the lady's water system going," Darr told Kemp. Then firefighters showed up. "Once they all showed up, we took off to make sure our boss's house didn't burn down."

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Editor's note: Kym Kemp's Redheaded Blackbelt blog out of southern Humboldt County, <http://kymkemp.com>, specializes in live-blogging fire reports, and is a great source for anyone seeking details on fires in the region.

The rest of Measure | From Page 1

well the industry is doing," McCowen said. "Many people expect that with the increased legalization, the price of marijuana will fall.... I think it makes more sense to wait and see what's really going on in terms of the economics of this new industry as it comes further above ground."

The county's Measure AI also would implement a \$2,500 flat tax on all non-cultivation-related cannabis businesses, such as distribution, manufacturing, delivery or testing.

Both measures have stipulations for "non-medical" cannabis in the likelihood that Proposition 64 (the state measure that would legalize adult recreational use) passes this fall, or something similar passes later.

Measure AF would tax non-medical cannabis at 5 percent, while the county's AI would tax it the same as it does medical cannabis, starting at the 2.5 percent level.

Though it's not on the ballot, another factor in the election is the board's own county cultivation ordinance with a comprehensive regulatory and permit structure supervisors have been working on.

The cultivation ordinance is available for public view in its current form at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/publicnotices. It's called the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance, or MCCO.

The county MCCO could go into effect if Measure AF fails, although it still needs to go through an extensive environmental and public review before going to the board for a vote. According to McCowen, Measure AF doesn't have to go through the same California Environmental Quality Act review, since it's a voter initiative.

If Measure AF doesn't pass, there would be no real regulatory framework to implement the taxes in Measure AI (if it passes), until the board passes its cultivation ordinance. However, McCowen, who is strongly opposed to AF, thinks the county MCCO could be in place before the start of the next outdoor growing season in spring 2017, although he admits that depends on how smoothly the environmental review goes.

"I'm very optimistic we will have an ordinance," McCowen said. "The board is completely in support of it. I think it could come back to the board in either December or January for the board to consider. The unknown is, would anyone challenge it with a lawsuit claiming the environmental process wasn't sufficient?"

The current draft county MCCO contains no language regarding the non-cultivation cannabis businesses that the \$2,500 flat tax would address, but McCowen said the board plans to pass an ordinance for these as well.

"The county has committed to developing permits for all of the state license types, and we expect those will all come online in 2017," he said. "Now that the cultivation ordinance is ready to undergo environmental review, I expect we're going to see action on developing those other permit types."

The "state license types" he refers to fall under the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act; it was passed in 2016 by the state and goes into full effect in 2018. MCRSA outlines different cannabis permits which counties can choose to adopt or not.

Both the AF Heritage Initiative and the county's

Coast man nabbed following foot chase

A 45-year-old Mendocino Coast man was arrested September 1 after a sheriff's deputy ran him down when he bolted from his car following a morning traffic stop in the 100 block of Kawi Place in Willits.

Donald Ralph McCloud is being held without bail in county jail on a Texas fugitive warrant. He also is suspected of possessing methamphetamine and narcotics paraphernalia.

The chase began at about 10:20 am following a traffic enforcement stop, according to sheriff's Lt. Kirk Mason.

After pulling his car into a dirt parking lot on Kawi Drive, McCloud bolted from the car and a foot chase began between McCloud and the deputy, Mason said.

The deputy, he noted, ordered McCloud "to stop running on numerous occasions," however McCloud, a Point Arena resident, "continued to run from the deputy."

Finally, the deputy warned McCloud he would deploy his Taser if he did not stop, but "McCloud continued to run." "The deputy then deployed his Taser," Mason said, and "McCloud stopped running and was apprehended."

It was later determined McCloud was wanted on a Texas parole hold, Mason said. While searching him, the deputy also found "a methamphetamine smoking pipe and methamphetamine."

McCloud was taken to county jail, where he also faces charges of driving a motor vehicle on a suspended or revoked license.

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

MCCO draw from MCRSA, and both would adopt its tiered, parcel-size-based permit structure, but there are significant differences between the two.

For example, with the proper permits, AF would allow for parcels over 20 acres to grow up to 1 acre (43,560 square feet) of cannabis, the maximum amount allowed under MCRSA. The county cultivation ordinance would cap it off at 10,000 square feet, for parcels over 10 acres. McCowen pointed out – going by an average plant size of 100 square feet (10 x 10) – the county ordinance would still allow around 100 plants to be grown, four times the amount allowed under the current 9.31 ordinance of 25 plants per parcel.

McCowen, who signed as one of the proponents of the rebuttal argument against Measure AF on the ballot, feels that initiative goes too far in expanding farm sizes and zoning allowances, and its restrictions and regulations are not strong enough, especially given the increase in production it allows.

"I think AF, however well-intended it may have been, is fatally flawed in at least half a dozen critical areas," he said. He cites reduced setbacks from schools, parks, youth-oriented facilities, churches and residential treatment centers, and also allowing increased cultivation in "virtually every zoning district" among these flaws.

McCowen also believes the county MCCO has stronger protections against outside business interests moving into the area. While Measure AF has a two-year Mendocino County residency requirement for anyone to receive a cannabis permit, the county MCCO would require you show proof you've used a parcel for cannabis cultivation prior to 2016 in order to receive any permit for that parcel until the year 2020. It would be possible to transfer your permit from one parcel to another, under certain conditions, into a proper zone.

McCowen said the board's overall goal with the MCCO and county cannabis policies in general is to strike a balance between the business interests of cannabis farmers and the rest of the community, and he feels the county's ordinance will do this better than Measure AF, given a chance.

"It achieves a greater balance between the needs of the industry and the needs of the general community and the environment," he said. "I'm interested in trying to regulate the existing cultivators we have, allow for a reasonable expansion of production, but also balance that with public safety and protection of the environment."

He also believes it's fair to ask cannabis farmers to contribute to the county with taxes, and Measure AI is the right vehicle to do that.

"I think everyone can recognize that marijuana has had significant impacts on the county," he said. "Especially as we're allowing for expanded production and expanded business types, it's time for the industry to start paying its share of the taxes."

Measures AI, AJ and AF can all now be viewed on the county website, exactly how they will appear on the ballot, along with all the other county measures, at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/measure.

Editor's note: Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, who was on the ad hoc committee that developed Measure AI, told Willits Weekly he was declining any further comment on marijuana issues.

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No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

At left, from top: A seaplane on display at last year's Airport Day. The REACH copter and some of the crew. The REACH copter at the 2015 Airport Day at Ellis Field.

Airport Day on Sunday

Take an airplane or copter ride over the Little Lake Valley

This Sunday, September 18, the City of Willits presents the 24th annual Willits Airport Day & Burger Fly-In to celebrate its popular community airport. Airplane and helicopter rides over the Little Lake Valley and 101 bypass will be sold, and a variety of aircraft will be on display.

The Willits Lions Club will offer hamburgers, hot dogs, and sodas, and the Willits Senior Center will sell their popular root beer floats.

Expected exhibitors include REACH Air Medical Services, CALSTAR, CalFire, California Highway Patrol, Willits-Brooktrails Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Brooktrails Fire Department, Little Lake Fire Department, Willits Police Department, KLLG, Willits Hometown Radio, and others.

During the event, REACH employees will hold an open house at their medical services base at Willits Airport with guided tours of a state-of-the-art H135 helicopter and their office and staff quarters. CalFire will demonstrate an emergency lift operation with their helicopter.

Other services will offer displays, exhibits and information booths. American Legion Post 174 color guard will open the celebration with a flag ceremony. Willits Airport Day & Burger Fly-In is scheduled from 9 am to 3 pm on Sunday. Admission is free!

Willits Municipal Airport is located 4.8 miles northwest up Sherwood Road and then 1 mile east on Poppy. Follow the "Airport Day" signs. Additional information on the 2016 Willits Airport Day & Burger Fly-In is available by calling Airport Manager Dan Ramsey at 707-841-6252.

— submitted by Dan Ramsey, airport manager

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Emandal hosts annual fundraiser for Willits Library, Willits Daily Bread

Still in the realm of Not Just Cowboy Poetry, this year's fundraiser for Willits Library and Willits Daily Bread will feature an absolutely amazing piano playing performer, the Queen of Boogie Woogie herself, Ms. Wendy DeWitt! Totally mesmerizing when she is on stage, she's beyond incredible. To add to the afternoon's entertainment: a thought-provoking, whimsical cowboy poet, Dick Warwick, from the plains of eastern Washington. Well-known in Australia, he's come home with numerous awards each time he recites. Yet that's not all! A cowboy band from the foothills of the Sierras, Dust in My Coffee. What a line-up!

Come to the concert on Saturday, September 24, not only to have a good time, but to provide funds for both the library and our local food for the hungry. Additionally, Willits Senior Center will have their own Silent Auction ... with proceeds going to their new roof fund.

New this year, Willits Center for the Arts will present their very first "Farm Art Flip" ... which will help keep the new center going. Numerous local artists of the area are donating unique pieces of art, created from things they've found while strolling through "junk" piles on neighbors' farms and ranches. Hence the name ... objects flipped into art Farm Art Flip!

With every ticket comes wood-fired brick oven pizza by Kashaya Adams. It will be served prior to, and after the concert. Apple pie and ice cream? Get that at intermission!

Whiskey tasting? As a VIP (\$125/person) you'll have the opportunity to meet and greet all the performers, as well as taste American Craft Distillery Whiskey from 2 to 3 pm. The concert is at 3 pm. Pizza from 2 to 3 and one hour after the show. Silent auctions from 2 to 4:40 pm. Live auction at the end of intermission. Regular tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the gate; kids under 12 \$15 in advance; \$20 at the gate. Tickets at brownpaperickets.com, the Willits Senior Center, Willits Center for the Arts, Willits Library, at the gate, or by calling 459-9252.

Come early, stay late. Bring a chair or a blanket. Feel free to bring your own picnic! Lots of drinks to purchase. A wonderful day in the country, with plenty of causes to support! Visit emandal.com for more on Emandal-A Farm on a River.

— submitted by Tamara Adams, Emandal

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The rest of Kelsay

From Page 1

Kelsay's sentencing hearing before Superior Court Judge Ann Moorman.

Kelsay had been serving her four-year sentence for embezzling from Geiger's Long Valley Market in county jail before investigators determined she had lied 23 times during her April jury trial, Eyster said. In a pre-planned plea bargain, she admitted to two counts of perjury and a single count of submitting false financial declarations in a separate family law matter, the DA said.

When she is transported to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from the Low Gap jail facility in Ukiah, Eyster believes Kelsay will be "initially housed at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla for classification and final institution assignment."

Moorman also ordered Kelsay to pay \$552,235 in restitution for the money she stole from her employer; the restitution agreement calls for the "legal rate" of 10 percent annual interest on any unpaid balance.

The rest of Laptops

From Page 1

school was "rewired," and new wireless hubs are still going in. Even for those with no internet connection at home, the Chromebook will store materials while at school for them to use when they leave campus, and then sync up when they return.

"A one-to-one [student to computer] scenario evens the playing field for every child," said Westerberg. "The poorest child and the wealthiest child go home with the same technology."

During a presentation to trustees, Westerberg ran through the advantages the Chromebook program will give students, including improved communication with teachers through email; improved computer skills and proficiency at a younger age; less need for heavy, expensive textbooks; automatic internet links if a student is having trouble with a subject; and the streamline effect of every student using the same software associated with Chromebook.

Westerberg said the plan will not add to the school's overall budget since funds already allotted for technology will be used, while savings will accrue to the district on textbooks. The Chromebooks cost about \$220 each, and while the average textbook costs around \$150, he said.

California is a leader in the use of online "FlexBooks," which will be free for the district, Westerberg added. He estimated almost 70 percent of hard textbooks eventually would be replaced with Chromebook-accessed materials.

Every student will fill out a usage agreement before obtaining their laptop, and then return them at the end of the year so they can be reprogrammed and made ready for use by next year's students.

Westerberg said eventually middle-school students in the district would use Chromebooks as well, starting with eighth-graders who would likely get used ones from the seniors when that set is replaced. In the meantime, much of WHS's old computers and technology can soon go to Baechtel



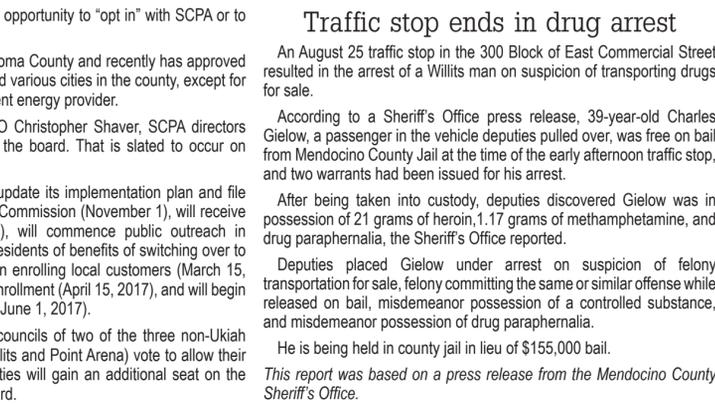
Under construction

Major work is underway at old Vassar's Pizza building

Alert community members driving on Main Street north of Commercial have noticed that major work is underway at the old Vassar's Family Pizza building, which has been vacant for several years. On Tuesday afternoon, a pair of workers were removing the roofing from the southern addition to the building, and a large pile of concrete chunks was stacked out back. The main portion of the west side of the building has also already been removed.

"The owner of the building, Roberto Vasquez, started performing some structural upgrades to the building but as these things go, the more unsound material he removed, the more he exposed," explained John Sherman, code enforcement officer for the City of Willits. "He decided that he needed to replace the roof structure completely and with my approval, removed the remainder. The goal is to rebuild the building and reopen as a retail store for now, with a long-term goal of installing a new kitchen and reopening as a restaurant."

— Maureen Moore



Traffic stop ends in drug arrest

An August 25 traffic stop in the 300 Block of East Commercial Street resulted in the arrest of a Willits man on suspicion of transporting drugs for sale.

According to a Sheriff's Office press release, 39-year-old Charles Gielow, a passenger in the vehicle deputies pulled over, was free on bail from Mendocino County Jail at the time of the early afternoon traffic stop, and two warrants had been issued for his arrest.

After being taken into custody, deputies discovered Gielow was in possession of 21 grams of heroin, 1.17 grams of methamphetamine, and drug paraphernalia, the Sheriff's Office reported.

Deputies placed Gielow under arrest on suspicion of felony transportation for sale, felony committing the same or similar offense while released on bail, misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance, and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

He is being held in county jail in lieu of \$155,000 bail.

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

So we continued to negotiate without a budget person in the room for the district."

He pointed out WTA ended up negotiating for fully paid health benefits, which "helps those making lower salaries disproportionately," such as new teachers.

"This was our attempt to help those new hires when all else broke down," he added.

"WTA feels it has done everything it could in good faith to meet the critical need of enhancing our salary schedule in order to hire the best applicants for WUSD employment," Haschak said. "This has not been reciprocated on the part of WUSD. Please place the blame accordingly.

"You're the school board, and our understanding is that you're overseeing negotiations, the conduct of your negotiators, and the direction. If this is not the case, as it seems like it wasn't, then learn from this situation and correct what needs to be corrected."

Neary acknowledged the somewhat chaotic circumstances of the negotiations, given Johnson's impending resignation, among other things. With a new superintendent in place, Neary said he doesn't foresee the same thing happening next time, which will be soon since the current WTA contract is only for one year.

"We're going to have a much tighter ship on negotiations next year, I guarantee you," Neary said.

Other news
Students from the Willits High School chapter of Future Farmers of America led off the meeting with a slide presentation about their experience at the Redwood Empire Fair in Ukiah in August. Several kids from the group won awards in a variety of different competitions.

WHS Principal Robert Chavez told trustees the academic decathlon program is returning to the high school. History teacher Mary Colvig will teach the class.



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