

Join KLLG Radio

To the Editor:

Citizens! More and more Willitsians are aware that KLLG Radio is on the air in "test mode"; this allows our technicians to fine-tune our signal and mark on a map our signal's reach. We are pleased to announce that our signal goes much further than expected.

During this "test period," our programming is limited – basically easy-to-listen-to music separated by our important messages to you. These prerecorded shows are broadcast in a loop to maintain presence on the air while we complete the construction on a state-of-the-art broadcast studio. We should be able to broadcast live by the middle of October.

Go to our website to join: www.kllg.org. Or mail \$30 for adults, \$45 for a family or organization, or \$20 for seniors, students and Grange members.

To support KLLG by becoming an underwriter, contact me, 367-1812 or lanny@kllg.org. 100 percent of our local listeners are potential customers of local businesses. That's the beauty of a low-power radio station.

KLLG is also looking for some key people to become part of our core team:

- Music librarian (10,000 tunes in our library needs cataloging!).
- Automation software maven (controls the Starship-transmitter's scheduling).
- Underwriting co-director.
- Membership co-director.
- Fundraising events co-director.

These are the furiously fun founding years of KLLG, Willits Hometown Radio. Throw in with us now. Your grandchildren will be grateful. We'll all be grateful!

Lanny Cotler, Willits

A terrific show at WCT

To the Editor:

The one-woman show "Red Hot Patriot, the Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins" is absolutely terrific. The script is both funny and profoundly moving; Mary Burns is fabulous as Molly Ivins. It's only playing one more weekend (at Willits Community Theatre), and today's matinee was almost sold out, so I strongly recommend you get your tickets and go!

Madge Strong, Willits

'Socks and Undies' drive

To the Editor:

The Willits United Methodist Church is collecting new socks and undies for Willits school-age children in need, children ages 5 to 12 years old. We will also be gathering new socks and undies for foster children ages 12 to 17. We need men's and women's undies in medium, large and extra-large sizes. Socks for both women and men should be regular adult sizes, 9-11.

We open our doors to the community and invite people to help with our collection of underwear for these two groups of children. On Sunday, October 16, shortly after worship service ends at about noon, we invite the community to help us box up the socks and undies. Let's spread the word among our friends and neighbors. This is

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

an event that our community embraces. Call 459-2855 for more information.

Lynn Williams, Brooktrails

Proposition haiku

To the Editor:

My nephew, Damian Carroll, wrote these haiku to describe each of propositions on the California ballot this November. I find them useful and wanted to share.

Proposition 51

Nine billion dollars
Of bond funds for school buildings
Term: thirty-five years

Proposition 52

A hospital fee
Matched with federal dollars
Funds Medi-Cal boost

Proposition 53

Bonds for big projects
(Like high speed rail and Delta)
Would need people's vote

Proposition 54

Bills must be posted
On the web, for three days straight
Before they are passed

Proposition 55

For high-earning folks
An income tax that funds schools
Would remain in place

Proposition 56

The cigarette tax
Would go up, two bucks a pack
E-cigarettes, too

Proposition 57

Earlier parole
Of prisoners serving time
For non-violent crimes

Proposition 58

Kids learning English
Won't need a waiver to take
Bilingual classes

Proposition 59

Asks to overturn
Citizens United, but
Shucks, it's non-binding

Proposition 60

Adult film makers
Would have to require condoms
Or risk a lawsuit

Proposition 61

In theory, lowers
The cost of some state-bought drugs
(But it could backfire)

Proposition 62

Vote for this one if
You want to eliminate
The death penalty

Proposition 66

If you want the state

To execute more people

This one is for you

Proposition 63

Requires a permit
Issued by the DOJ
To purchase ammo

Proposition 64

Legalizes pot!
Also raises some tax funds

(Perhaps a billion?)

Proposition 65

Plastic bag makers
Put this one on the ballot
To punish grocers

Proposition 67

To ban plastic bags
Vote "yes" on 67
"No" on 65

Liam UiCearbhaill, Willits

No on Measure AF

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in hopes that the voters of Mendocino County will take a serious look at Measure AF, the so-called Mendocino Heritage Act, and realize what a very bad thing it would be for our county if Measure AF passes. Measure AF, 60 pages in length, was written by an out-of-county lawyer and signatures were gathered to qualify it for the ballot by paid signature gatherers.

Measure AF would:

1. Shield growers from neighbor's complaints about odor as marijuana grows would now be protected by the county "Right to Farm" ordinance. The same would apply also for the sound created by generators.
2. Remove the sheriff and other local law enforcement agencies from the marijuana enforcement process by the wording in Section 6.22.150(A)(1); "No violations of this chapter shall be subject to criminal enforcement."
3. Reduce the setback requirement from schools and parks to 600 feet for marijuana grows and dispensaries, significantly increasing our children's exposure to marijuana, odor and the drug trade.
4. Greatly increase the size of marijuana grows and allow them in any zoning district.
5. Authorize the highly flammable butane processing of marijuana in any industrial zone.

I want to continue living in Mendocino County. It has been my home for 35 years. Measure AF would turn Mendocino County over to the growers to use as they see fit. The needs of regular residents would not be considered. Mendocino County will then have a hard time finding qualified people to staff its hospitals, schools and government. Businesses not associated with the drug trade will leave our county.

The timber industry does not regulate itself. Nor does the wine industry. Nor the fishing industry. Why should marijuana growers be able to regulate themselves?

As of the writing of this letter, six civic agencies are recommending a No vote on Measure AF: Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association, Mendocino County Board of Education, Mendocino County Farm Bureau, Brooktrails Township, Peregrine Audubon Society and the Mendocino County Blacktail Association.

Please join me in voting No on Measure AF. Measure AF was written for growers. Marijuana growers would become self-regulating. It would effectively eliminate any restrictions.

Jeanne King, Willits

Yes on Measure AF

To the Editor:

The voters of Mendocino County have the opportunity to make their voices heard on the issue of cannabis regulation in the November election. For citizens to

make a clear choice, some misconceptions need to be addressed.

It has been claimed that the Heritage Act was written by and for cultivators and there has been little community input. Opposition voices suggest that Measure AF only reflects the narrow interests of a few people, rather than the long, civic process to gather many points of view that actually took place.

Starting over two years ago many elements of the community came together to claim a seat at the table for the creation of laws and ordinances regulating the cannabis industry. Numerous public meetings were held at the various Granges, at Harwood Hall, at Healing Harvest Farms and elsewhere in Boonville and on the coast. These meetings included farmers, nursery owners, dispensary owners, edible, tincture and concentrate manufacturers, distributors and transporters as well as stakeholders from the general agricultural, wine, tourism, and real estate communities, as well as the legal arena. These meetings were open to the public for anyone interested.

Within county and state government, there were many meetings with the Farm Bureau, various county supervisors, as well as county counsel, county CEO, the sheriff, the ag commissioner, the state Water Resources Board and state water discharge agents, Board of Equalization officers, and even the Blacktail Deer Association.

Members of the pro-Measure AF community have written letters to the board, to newspapers and appeared at public board meetings. We have been interviewed on numerous radio and television programs and have established a presence on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and other websites.

After years of work collecting feedback for the content of our Initiative, a team of people wrote the language, had it checked by legal experts, ran it by county counsel, and then gathered over 4,000 signatures from citizens who want to vote on this issue.

With Yes on Measure AF, community involvement is guaranteed. The other option is to allow only four supervisors (one recused himself) to make the decision for us. Four people who seem to be against protecting the very industry which brings in more than half of Mendocino County's annual revenue.

These same supervisors have had since January 2015 to craft a comprehensive cannabis regulation ordinance. So far they have come up with the same old 9.31 program, only even more restrictive. This, while surrounding counties are increasing cultivation limits in their regions. In our county, however, new proposed ordinances do not include any mention of the seven non-cultivating categories of the cannabis industry identified by state law.

The board was presented with copies of the Heritage Act in April as part of our outreach for dialogue and as a blueprint for going forward. They never responded. In American politics it is standard practice for an industry to work with legislative bodies, submitting legislative drafts, lobbying and making campaign contributions. Who better than industry experts to consult in writing regulation? What industry ever asks for regulation, as we are doing?

But let's talk about what Measure AF will do. It will bring all aspects of the cannabis industry into compliance with all the state-designated types of cannabis enterprise. Measure AF assigns each type of activity to its appropriate zone.

Measure AF defines cannabis cultivation as an agricultural crop, thus moving it out of the nuisance category in the county code. This means that cultivation will be confined to zones of the county where row and

Read the rest of **Letters** | *Over on Page 15*



Across top, from left: Fans at Friday night's game, from left: Taylor Quinliven, the Wolverine mascot Savannah Southwick, Troy Walters, and Emmalee Harmon. Junior varsity coach Billy Arms huddles with his team. Wolverine fans Hope Curtis, Jeanelle Aldrich, Taylor Pardue, and Rachel Hageman pose for the camera in the stands.

Above: Senior quarterback Tyler Vesey (#2) leads his team onto the field for their first home game, with Colten Doak (#11) and Colten Horger (#57) following close behind.

At right, top: WHS cheerleaders and Wolverine mascot.

At right: WHS band teacher Chris Olds leads the band and the crowd in a rendition of the national anthem.

Below, from left: Triston Martin (#21) avoids a tackle, with Mitchell Hollingsworth (#77) looking to give him some help.

Jacob Arms, #20, runs to the right side for positive yardage.

Colten Doak (#11) looks for his block, to help give Tyler Vesey (#2) time to run.

Photos by Mathew Caine



WHS Wolverines

Willits football teams take losses at their first home games this year

The Willits High School Wolverines had their first home football games Friday night, and while both the varsity and junior varsity teams lost against Clearlake, the Willits players demonstrated "a lot of hard work and a lot of heart," said head coach Mike Colvig. There was a big crowd, with over 300 spectators at Maize Field.

"Overall, even though we lost the game, our team is not defeated," Colvig said. "They want to go out and play more football and play hard. It's really great to see the fire in their eyes is unquenched. I love their tenacity."

The Willits varsity team is small in number of players this year, compared to the other teams in the league. "We had probably nine to 10 players that played every single play," Colvig said. A larger team has offensive and defensive players, so team members can rest throughout the game. "Our kids are in great shape, but it's hard when the other team can put in new players." Colvig said. "We call it 'smash-mouth football,' when you play both sides of the ball. We're a small school, so we make do with what we have."

Colvig said his team "played an excellent first half" – the score was 22 to 33 at halftime, with the Wolverines behind by 11 points – but during the second half, [Clearlake's] depth gave them a competitive edge. There was a point where we had only 11 players; the rest of the players were injured."

Some of the stand-outs Colvig mentioned: "On defense Colten Horger had probably the best game I've seen him play, tenacious on the defensive line, and he made the majority of tackles. On offense, Triston Martin had a number of fantastic carries. He's our workhorse – we put a lot on his shoulders – and he did really well the first half, and in the second half, when he started to get tired, he still ran the ball incredibly well."

"Our senior starting quarterback, Tyler Vesey, made a number of key passes early in the game, resulting in big yardage. We're really excited about his throwing ability. He was quick out of the pocket and earned some rushing yards."

Colvig wanted to emphasize the WHS football program "truly appreciates all the support from parents and the community, supporting these kids as they play the game of football."

Colvig also reported a "catastrophic" injury – a broken leg – to Wolverine Noah Southwick, who had his leg broken on the field. "This is his first time playing football," Colvig said. "He's the kind of kid who wants to earn a starting role – really he's pushed everybody else to bring up their level of practice. He went into the game as one of our captains this time – he earned it in practice. It's

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

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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner



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			

PET OWNERSHIP WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| ADOPTION | LICENSE | QUICK |
| BREED | LITTER | REGISTERED |
| CANINE | MANGE | REINFORCEMENT |
| COMPANION | MITES | SHELTER |
| CRATE | NAILS | SIRE |
| DYSPLASIA | NEUTER | SOIL |
| EXERCISE | NUTRITION | SUPPLIES |
| FELINE | PAPERS | TRAINING |
| FUR | PARASITE | VACCINATION |
| GENETICS | PEDIGREE | WASTE |
| KINDNESS | PUREBRED | WHISKERS |

CLUES ACROSS

- Essential floral oil
- Boast
- A way to travel on skis
- Austrian capital
- Sensationalist journalism
- Taxidrivers
- Atomic mass unit
- A rock-boring tool
- Actress Farrow
- The trunk of a tree
- Satisfy to excess
- Cleopatra's snake
- Single-reed instrument
- Volcanic mountain in Japan
- Bon ____ : witty remarks
- Competitors
- Republic of Ireland
- Late Show host
- Parrot nostril membrane
- Moves into action
- Back talk
- A pointed end
- British Air Aces
- 1st weekday

CLUES DOWN

- N.M. National Lab: Los ____
- In columns
- Inclusive
- Underground plant part
- Top part of an apron
- Confederate soldier
- Make lively
- Metamorphic rock type
- Thrust with a weapon
- Russian space station
- Rotates showing wind direction
- As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- Desalinate
- Marcus Porcius
- Perching bird order
- Citizen rejects
- Missing soldiers
- Cantankerous
- German river
- Fed
- Large Australian flightless bird
- Lasso users
- Spanish saloon
- Common cracker
- Glided high
- Draws from
- Deceptive tactics
- Conductance units
- Unit of loudness
- Steins
- Express pleasure
- A large amount
- Talk
- Belonging to a thing
- Language spoken by the Khonds

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WPD Activity Report

September 17 to September 23
Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 204 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

- September 17**
9 am: VERVILLE, Robert (48) of Willits was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.
4:20 pm: Hit-and-run collision reported in the 10 block of Alameda Street.
- September 18**
11:40 am: Officers responded to a collision in the 200 block of South Main Street.
8:30 pm: Officers investigated a dog bite in the 1200 block of Locust Street.
- September 19**
8:40 am: Officers initiated an investigation of a theft from a business in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

- 9:10 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.
10:40 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive, where they contacted ACKERMAN, Leah (49) of Willits. Following an investigation, Ackerman was issued a citation pursuant to 415(1) PC (Challenges to a Fight).
1 pm: Officers responded to a traffic collision in the 800 block of South Main Street.
- September 20**
6:20 pm: Officers contacted BAILEY, Skyler (22) of Willits during a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street, and issued him a citation pursuant to 490.5 PC (Shoplifting).
8:10 pm: Officers responded to a hit-and-run collision in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
- September 21**
12:30 am: Officers contacted BETTEGA, Jeanie (21) of Covelo in the 800 block of South Main Street

- and arrested her pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.
4:40 pm: Officers contacted BAILEY, Jerry (39) of Willits during a traffic stop on the grade and placed him under arrest pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.
- September 22**
8:35 am: Officers contacted BAILEY, Skyler (22) of Willits in the 300 block of South Main Street and arrested him pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.
5 pm: Officers contacted NESBITT, Jesse (39) of San Francisco in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and arrested him pursuant to an active California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation parole hold.
- September 23**
1:15 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.
4:55 pm: Officers contacted CAVINO, Richard (53) of Willits in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued him a citation pursuant to an active Sonoma County warrant.

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 Bottle Shop Deli at the county buildings in Ukiah



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in your
neighborhood?

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connected to Measure AI, the cannabis business tax written by the board of supervisors.

Several questions have arisen in connection with these measures. Why does AG need a two-thirds majority to pass, and why does it have an enacting measure accompanying it? Why does AI – which like AG is a tax measure – only need a simple majority to pass, and why does it have, not an enacting measure, but a non-binding advisory measure to accompany it?

Let's start with mental health. Measure AG was proposed by and put on the ballot through the initiative of county Sheriff Tom Allman, who told the board of supervisors he coordinated drafting the measure because he was tired of hearing county administrators tell him there was no money to build a county mental health facility.

Measure AG would add a half-cent sales tax to all purchases – both in the unincorporated areas of the county and in the incorporated cities – for a period of five years, to develop a "one-stop shop" mental health facility at an as-yet-unknown location in the county.

Because Measure AG is for a special, definite purpose, it is a special tax and requires a two-thirds affirmative vote to pass.

The companion ballot measure, Measure AH, is an "enacting measure" that became a stand-alone ballot measure due to an oversight by Mendocino County Counsel Katharine Elliott.

At the August 2 board of supervisors meeting, Elliott explained how Measure AH came about.

"When we were reviewing this, the thing that we reviewed for was only whether there were any illegalities about the item," Elliott told supervisors. "This was coming from outside of our office, and we didn't look at implementation or anything along that line. It was brought to my attention that, if it were to be passed by the voters, this was unusual – a people's initiative voting in a sales tax. In order to implement what the voters would approve, the [state of California] board of equalization requires the board of supervisors to take an action. So we brought forward a companion item to the item that is going on the ballot. [i.e., Measure AG]. If the voters were to vote in the mental health initiative, this would allow the county to actually implement that tax."

Because Measure AH enacts a special tax, it also requires a two-thirds majority to pass. If Measure AG passes with two-thirds of the vote, and Measure AH fails to pass, then Measure AG cannot be enacted and, in effect, would fail too.

The cannabis ordinances

Three other county measures, each having to do with marijuana, are also on the ballot. They are Measure AF (the Heritage Initiative), Measure AI (the county's Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance), and Measure AJ, an advisory measure connected to Measure AI.

Measure AF is a citizen-written initiative that regulates all aspects of the local medical marijuana industry, including cultivation, processing, testing, distribution, transportation, delivery, dispensing and taxation. It applies to all the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County, but not the four incorporated cities: Willits, Ukiah, Fort Bragg or Point Arena. It does not contain enacting language or an enacting subsection and does not have an associated ballot measure containing enacting language.

At a board meeting in early August, Elliot told the board of supervisors Measure AF does not need enacting language. Because it is an initiative that came from the people, she explained, AF is held to a lower

standard than a ballot measure that comes from government.

This seems contradictory, since Measure AG also came from the people and yet needed enacting language.

On August 16, Elliott told supervisors measures AF and AI could be combined by a court order. "When you have two competing measures, one wins and the other loses," Elliott said. "When one gets knocked out, it would go to the court to determine what part of the losing measure remains, because both have severability clauses.

"So, it could be, for example, if the Heritage Initiative were to pass, and ours not, but we have some language on how those taxes were to be gathered, and we have some minimums [i.e., minimum taxes] and the Heritage Initiative does not, it could be the court could decide those two elements could stand together. That's for a court to decide, and I wouldn't make that determination, but that's how it could occur," Elliott said.

Contacted on Wednesday, Elliott added a fresh explanation as to why Measure AF doesn't need enacting language. "Most taxes don't have an enacting clause, except for a sales tax. There is nothing that mandates exacting language, except for a sales tax," Elliott said.

Measure AF proposes that people who cultivate medical marijuana pay 2.5 percent of their gross receipts in taxes to Mendocino County. The measure also has language providing for a 5 percent tax to Mendocino County for cultivation of non-medical marijuana. Measure AF provides that any future tax hike needs to win the approval of the electorate in an election.

Because Measure AF does provide for the assessment of taxes from various sectors of the marijuana industry, and because it does not specify what those taxes are to be used for, AF is considered to be a general taxation measure and therefore does not need to win a two-thirds majority to be approved. All it needs for approval is a simple majority, 50 percent plus one vote.

Being offered in competition with Measure AF is Measure AI, the Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance, drafted, approved and submitted for the ballot by the board of supervisors. Like Measure AF, Measure AI proposes to tax medical cannabis cultivators at the rate of 2.5 percent of their gross receipts. However, Measure AI explicitly states the 2.5 percent tax rate will only obtain for the first three years. After January 1, 2020, the tax rate may be increased in increments of 2.5 percent by a vote of the board of supervisors.

Like Measure AF, Measure AI applies only to the unincorporated portions of the county.

The board of supervisors also drafted and approved Measure AJ, which advises the public the board of supervisors intends to spend a majority of revenues derived from the taxation of medical pot on four areas of county responsibility: enforcement of marijuana regulations; repair of county roads; enhanced mental health services; and increased fire and emergency medical services.

The ballot measure analysis written by Elliott states Measure AJ is advisory only and does not control the actions of the board of supervisors, either now or in the future. Since it doesn't specifically say what all the money will be spent on, and since it is advisory only, it is considered a general taxation measure and therefore, like Measure AF and Measure AI, it only needs a simple majority to pass.

However once the item was brought up for discussion and action, Burton joined the rest of the council in supporting the resolution, albeit with doubts Caltrans would comply.

"They're not going to do anything," Burton said, adding: "We're probably the last generation that's going to use highway signs to get where we're going."

"Unless your cell phone doesn't work," Councilwoman Holly Madrigal quipped.

City Planner Dusty Duley, who recently spoke to Caltrans staff, echoed Burton's skepticism.

"Essentially Caltrans has established all the signage they're required to install by law," Duley explained. "In talking to their staff about these other types of sign requests, their staff will consider them after the bypass is open and all the established signs have been completed."

Strong argued the service signs currently located on 101 south of Willits are "inadequate" – only a generic sign 14 miles south of Willits and then one saying "Willits" right at the northbound off-ramp.

Strong reasoned it was vital to urge Caltrans to install at least one more sign before the bypass opens in November, and that an official resolution signed by the Willits City Council just might serve to "get a fire lit under them. It doesn't hurt to have the word of the council telling Caltrans this is the least they can do."

Councilman Larry Stranske was harsher in his criticism of Caltrans.

"If we need to stand in the middle of the road, we need to do that," Stranske nearly shouted. "We've got to get their freakin' attention. I'm tired of Caltrans doggin' it. You can tell them from me that I'm tired of them doggin' it."

The original resolution did not include the hospital in its signage request, until after Bill Barksdale made the suggestion.

"People who are on the highway and having medical issues, that's important information to know," Barksdale said.

the city of Willits. Both resolutions passed 4-1, with Burton voting "no."

Although Vice Mayor Orenstein ultimately voted for approval of the proposals, he questioned the "opt-out" nature of public participation.

"It says customers who do not wish to receive power purchased or generated by Sonoma Clean Power, may opt out and continue to receive power by PG&E," Orenstein reported. "This opting out clause troubles me. What that means is you will be signed up with Sonoma Clean Power unless you make the effort to opt out. I think a lot of people are going to miss the opt out clause, and they may not want Sonoma Clean Power."

Burton agreed, adding: "That's very clearly part of their strategy. If it's an opt-in situation, they don't get near the participation."

Moore assured councilmembers the public will "absolutely be notified" if they want to opt out.

Orenstein asked Strong, who had brought the resolutions to the council as part of the urgent off-agenda items, what the benefit was in Sonoma Clean Power.

"The Sonoma Clean Power Authority is generally and consistently less expensive by a small amount than PG&E, and it gives you more local control over where you source your energy," Strong said. "Sonoma and Mendocino counties are trying to encourage more local or regional production of energy, so we don't have to buy all our power from PG&E."

Madrigal concurred. "I generally support more options for our citizens. When it's opt-out time, we can have [representatives of SCPA] come in front of the city council and do another presentation so that people are clear on whether they want to be a part of it."

Burton voiced his suspicion that SCPA was a shady organization.

"I think this is a bunch of suede-shoed guys getting access to a bunch of customers through this process where you have to opt out," Burton argued. "If you want choice, the choice is to opt in, not opt out. Choice is wanting to buy your product. I think it's based on a little game of smoke and mirrors."

Burton compared SCPA with the city's water plant, which is run on solar power.

"How much money have we saved?" he asked, almost rhetorically.

Orenstein answered immediately: "Three percent."

Madrigal corroborated. "It's a set rate."

"I don't believe it," Burton insisted.

Perpetual Energy Systems designed and built the solar system for the Willits water treatment plant, turning it on in November of 2008.

"As a city, if we could save money for two years [with SCPA], that makes good business sense," Madrigal said.

To find out more about SCPA, go to <https://sonomacleanpower.org>.



Garden lessons

Parents and kids help get the Willits Preschool Garden ready for fall

School gardens have become a welcome addition to many local school campuses – and there's plenty of good reasons why gardens are useful in academic curriculums. But for preschoolers, said Jessica Ruff, school garden coordinator with North Coast Opportunities:

"The most important thing with preschoolers in the garden is that there's a lot of opportunity for self-directed learning on their own, just to allow them to explore and observe the garden. At that age, that's how they are learning. The garden is a fun and educational natural space where they can observe all of the cycles and see where their food comes from."

Kids also "just love watering the garden," Ruff laughed, "and they love finding bugs! But watering is their favorite activity."

Ruff coordinates preschool gardens at four different sites in Mendocino County, including the Willits Preschool Garden behind Brookside School, for Willits Head Start and the Willits State Preschool.

Of course kids love to harvest and eat from the garden, too, Ruff said. "One of the other goals of the preschool garden is to really encourage healthy eating habits from a young age. Their taste buds are just really open to new foods, and if they are eating veggies at a young age, they'll develop a good taste for them. If they grow it, they'll eat it! Or they'll at least taste it. They're really proud of what they grow! And they'll eat [a vegetable] outside of the garden, if they've seen it grow. That's one of the best things about the garden."

Ruff said preschool teachers are encouraged to use the garden as an outdoor classroom with more structured lessons, too: "however they feel it fits into their curriculum," including teaching science and math or doing art projects or reading stories in the garden.

The Willits Preschool Garden had a

Saturday morning "Family Day" at the garden recently, inviting parent volunteers to come help harvest and to plant winter crops in the beds. Carrots – in a rainbow of colors – and tomatoes were abundant, and many were seen rapidly disappearing into little kids' mouths.

Pumpkins and acorn squash filled some beds, along with collard greens and watermelons, a couple of which were ready to harvest, too.

New winter garden starts the kids helped plant that Saturday included cabbage and broccoli, and Ruff said they were planning to add snap peas and lettuce from seed, "and maybe more kale."

"It's been great having Jessie," said Willits Head Start teacher Josh Swearingin, who's been helping maintain the garden as well use it with his lesson plans. "She's been a good spearhead for the garden and has pulled together a lot of resources for our garden, like weed cloth and wood chips."

Other preschool gardens Ruff coordinates are at the Mendocino College Child Development Center at the Ukiah campus, where they have "a great little garden," and South Ukiah Head Start and Peachtree Head Start both in Ukiah. Her position is funded by SNAP, the USDA's Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, through SNAP's education and obesity prevention branch program. SNAP, formerly "food stamps," is now known as CalFresh in California.

One of the benefits for parents who volunteer their labor at the preschool gardens is gift certificates that they can exchange for tokens to spend at the county's farmers markets. Ruff says having parents involved in their kids' preschool gardens "is a really positive community connection with the schools." Children whose parents are more involved with activities at their kids' school tend to have higher success later in life, she said.



Above, from left: Douglas holds up a red carrot harvested out of the garden. Garden coordinator Jessica Ruff works in one of the raised beds. Lindsey offers up some orange tomatoes, and Jed hugs his carrots. Photos by Jennifer Poole

Above, right: Ruff and a fellow garden-lover get their hands dirty in the garden this spring. Photo by Thomas Delgado



Above: Volunteers at the Willits Preschool Garden, from left, back row: Josh Swearingin, Sarah Coon, garden coordinator Jessica Ruff, and Rosie; front row: Jed, Jonas, Douglas and Lindsey. Photo by Jennifer Poole

Below: Students walk into the Willits Preschool Garden earlier this year. Photo by Thomas Delgado



Below, from left: New broccoli starts join pumpkins in one of the raised beds at the Willits Preschool Garden. A gift certificate to the Willits Farmers Market, earned by volunteers at the preschool garden. A bucket full of colorful carrots. Collard greens and white cosmos in one of the raised beds. Photos by Jennifer Poole



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Thursday, September 29

Willits High School Volleyball Games: at WHS home court against Fort Bragg on Thursday, September 29. JV at 5 pm (coach Tim Miller), and varsity at 6 pm (coach Jill Walton).

“How to Produce a Radio Music Show: KLLG-LP, Willits’ new low-power radio station, 97.9 FM, offers a free class on “How to Produce a Radio Music Show,” Thursday, September 29, from 6 to 7:30 pm in Room 4 of the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. “Experienced radio programmer Dan Ramsey will cover how to design and build a unique digital music program using free tools including Audacity, Windows Media Player, LAME mp3 encoder, and others to produce a professional-level radio program, focusing on pre-recording all or parts of the program. Also covered are basics of broadcasting including definitions of common terms and information on working cooperatively with the Federal Communications Commission.” The free class also will feature Michelle Cummins, KLLG’s program coordinator, answering questions on developing local programming. Info: visit www.kllg.org.

‘Red Hot Patriot’: “Red Hot Patriot – The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins” as presented by Mary Burns, at Willits Community Theatre. “The one-person show celebrates the amazing wit and power of the famed Texas political satirist who for nearly four decades poked fun at American foibles. Actress Mary Burns brings her considerable talents to portraying the wit of Molly Ivins after appearing on the WCT stage in numerous acting roles over the years.” Directed by long-time WCT veteran, Mike ADair, the show is a second-stage production with limited sets and props, while the focus draws on the work of one amazing human being.” Performances continue Thursday, September 29 at 7 pm, Friday, September 30 at 8 pm, and Saturday, October 1 at 8 pm. \$10.

Shanachie Pub: Dennis Chrisp & Friends play Thursday, September 29 at 8 pm. “The show will feature many local talented musicians coming together for a night of original, improvised, and rare moments in acoustic music.” 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, September 30

Willits Photography Club at WCA: The 15th annual show featuring photographic artwork by members of the Willits Photography Club will open with a public reception Friday, September 30, from 7 to 9 pm, with music, snacks and wine. “Members Hour” from 6 to 7 pm, includes a talk by the artists. Show will run through October 30; gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. Info: 459-1726. Visit <http://willitscenterforthearts.org/> for more info, including how to become a WCA member.

‘Red Hot Patriot’: 8 pm for “Red Hot Patriot – The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins” as presented by Mary Burns. 8 pm. Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, September 29 listing for more details. \$10.

Shanachie Pub: John Underwood & Friends, “a multi-instrumentalist solo artist from Reno, NV with an unusual setup. He’s placed six instruments around him all running into a loop pedal, so he can create a full folk band sound live in front of the audience with banjo, acoustic guitar, trumpet, trombone, bass, and an acoustic style drum setup with cajon, washboard and some cymbals.” Plus

What's Happening Around Town

several friends playing, too. Friday, September 30 at 9 pm. No cover. Visit www.reverbnation.com/banjohunderwood. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 1

Fit-n-Fabulous Fitness Grand Opening: New Fit-n-Fabulous, formerly Curves, holds a grand opening Saturday, October 1 from 7 am to noon. Regular hours: Monday through Friday, 7 am to 7 pm, and Saturday, 7 am to noon. 726 South Main Street, Evergreen Shopping Center. Info: 456-0751.

Girl Scout Yard Sale: Yard sale to benefit Willits Girl Scout, Saturday, October 1 from 9 am to 5 pm at the dirt parking lot next to Flyers on Highway 101, to raise money for a June 2018 trip to Japan. Unwanted sellable donations can be dropped off the day of the event or pick-up can be arranged by contacting Sarah 367-7594 (Willits) or Emily 489-3222 (Laytonville).

5th annual Ranch Rodeo: set for Saturday, October 1 at the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds. Come watch real-life cowboys and cowgirls in teams of three show their skills in on-the-ranch tasks including horse calf branding, ranch doctoring, team sorting, dalli calf roping and trailer loading. Check-in will begin at 9 am and the event will start at 10 am. The Calcutta auction will be held at the beginning of the event; spectators can bid/bet on which team will win and enjoy a 30/70 split of the proceeds if their team wins. The barbecue cook-off will also be held during the event; tasting tickets are \$10 each; entry fee to compete in the cook-off is \$75. Admission to rodeo is free of charge. Fun Kids Dummy Roping Event at 2 pm. Ranch Rodeo and barbecue cook-off entry forms are available online at and must be postmarked by September 23. Questions? visit <http://willitsfrontierdays.com/yeararound.html> or call Willits Frontier Days at 272-5395 or Robbie Burgess at 489-0476.

St. Francis Church Blessing of the Animals: Annual Blessing of the Animals at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Saturday, October 1, at 11 am. “All animals large and small are invited to come to the garden at the church, at the corner of Main and Commercial streets in Willits. The garden and parking lot are just north of the church. Each animal will receive a blessing. All animals and their humans are welcome! All animals must be restrained in a carrier or cage or on a leash. Children who do not have a live animal in their family are invited to bring a favorite stuffed animal.”

Auditions for “A Christmas Carol”: Last day of auditions for the Willits Community Theatre production of the classic Charles Dickens story. Saturday, October 1 at noon. Director Dawn Jacobs is seeking five men and two women, 20s to 60s, and two boys and a girl about 10 years old. Auditions are scheduled at the WCT Playhouse, 37 Van Lane. Call director Jacobs at 548-6225 for more info.

“Scare Yourself Silly”: October fun at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, starting Saturday, October 1, 2 to 4 pm in the community room for a showing of “Hotel Transylvania.” More scary movies Oct 15, 22 and 29.

“Freedom from Stress Forever”: Inner Resources Institute presents this fifth class in the Spiritual Boot Camp 101 series, Saturday, October 1 from 2 to 4 pm at 1500 Hearst Road (at Valley Road). “In this free class we teach simple practical spiritual technologies which dissolve stress at its source and support you in living a balanced and peaceful life. This course is taught by Chinmayan, who has trained intensely with some of the great, living, spiritual masters of our time and who has practiced meditation for more than 50 years.” All classes include meditation training and practice in a supportive group setting. Preregister by calling 707-357-4676 or emailing info@innerresourceinstitute.org

Willits Youth Football & Cheer Game 4: The WYF Cougars face the Middletown Colts at this home game at the Willits High School field, on Saturday, October 1. Game start times: Peeewe 4 pm; JV 5:30 pm; Varsity 7 pm. Visit “Willits Youth Football and Cheer” page on Facebook to keep up with Youth Football happenings.

‘Red Hot Patriot’: 8 pm for “Red Hot Patriot – The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins” as presented by Mary Burns. Closing performance tonight, 8 pm. Willits Community Theatre. See Thursday, September 29 listing for more details. \$10.

Shanachie Pub: House of Mary, 3-piece Indie rock band. “Their style is fun, flirty, clever, sexy, and unique. The band features locals Aubrie Amoux - vocals, harmonica, and Blair Mullen - drums, with new transplant from Sacramento, Spencer Byrnes - guitar, back up vocals.” Saturday, October 1 at 9 pm. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/Houseofmarymusic>. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Hawaiian Slack Key Guitarist: Willits Community Theatre presents Hawaiian slack key guitarist Landoairina, Patrick Kahakauwila Kamaholelani traexanda, playing “traditional Hawaiian music with a Berkeley twist.” Sunday, October 2 at 2 pm at WCT Playhouse, 37 Van Lane. Advance tickets, \$15, are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

Monday, October 3
Measure AF Town Hall Meeting in Willits: The Yes on Measure AF (the Heritage Initiative) presents one of a series of Town Hall Meetings around the county on Monday, October 3 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 6 to 8 pm. “Measure AF is a citizens initiative to regulate cannabis that is on the ballot for Mendocino County voters this November. Find

resources can help us to achieve a meaningful life, despite our chronic pain? Clark is a Clinical Social Worker and Psychotherapist with over 20 years of experience working with people with a variety of chronic illnesses, disabilities, pain and life limiting conditions. She has a private practice in Ukiah. She also consults with local hospices, community resources, doctors and the Red Cross.” Info 456-9676 or visit avenuestowellness.org

Shanachie Pub: seasonal World Music Monday is back starting, Monday, October 3. “Open Mic event catered to our world travelers who bring with them an eclectic and diverse cultural experience through music!” Starts at 8 pm, through November. Sign up throughout the day for a 7-30 pm sharp raffle for 20-minute time slots for musicians or any other live performance. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Tuesday, October 4

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays for all ages, all showings. This week’s Tightwad movie: “The Magnificent Seven” and “Storks.” For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Twining Time at Brickhouse Coffee: Join Twining Time (John Wagenet and Anita Blu) for lunch or afternoon coffee on the first Tuesday of every month, October 4 this month, at Brickhouse Coffee at the corner of Highway 101 and East Commercial Street. Enjoy live easy listening Folk/Americana music from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Menu includes espresso drinks and freshly brewed coffee, tea, ice cold drinks, real fruit smoothies, soups and salads, sandwiches, flat bread wraps, and fresh baked goodies. 3 South Main Street, 459-1598. Visit Twining Time on Facebook or www.reverbnation.com/johnwagenet.

Willits High School Soccer Games: at WHS home field against Lower Lake on Tuesday, October 4. Boys game at 4 pm (coach Noel Woodhouse); girls game at 5:30 pm (coach Tatiana Cantrell).

‘Chronic Pain: Beyond Pills & Potions’: Avenues to Wellness series October talk by Brenda Flynn Clark, LCSW on Tuesday, October 4 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Free to the public; donations appreciated. “Over 100 million Americans have chronic pain, which is more than Cancer, Heart Disease, and Diabetes combined! Yet suffering with chronic pain is often a frustrating, overwhelming and lonely experience. Besides seeing our doctors for medications, how else can we help ourselves? What

resources can help us to achieve a meaningful life, despite our chronic pain? Clark is a Clinical Social Worker and Psychotherapist with over 20 years of experience working with people with a variety of chronic illnesses, disabilities, pain and life limiting conditions. She has a private practice in Ukiah. She also consults with local hospices, community resources, doctors and the Red Cross.” Info 456-9676 or visit avenuestowellness.org

Shanachie Pub: Tracy Hui, genre-defying itinerant folk artist/songster/composer/improviser, formerly of Them Travelin’ Birds “breathes fresh invigorating air into traditional Jazz, Appalachian, Folk, Rock and original compositions.” Tuesdays, October 4 and October 25 at 8 pm. No cover. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/tracyhui>. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Wednesday, October 5

International Walk to School Day: Brookside Elementary School’s K-2 students, parents, and staff members will be participating in International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 5. Meet at 8 am at Mendocino and School streets in the parking lot, at the north/west end. We will walk together from there. All walkers must be with a parent/guardian for safety reasons – no dropping off students at parking lot, please. Leaders in orange vests will lead and follow the group, and cross the walkers at intersections. Info: www.walkbiketoschool.org/ready/about-the-events/walk-to-school-day or call the Brookside School office at 459-5385.

Willits High School Cross Country Match: in Willits against Cloverdale, Kelseyville and Clearlake on Wednesday, October 5 at 3:30 pm. Coach Michelle Kluskiewicz.

Thursday, October 6

Willits High School Volleyball Games: at WHS home court against St. Helena on Thursday, October 6. JV at 5 pm (coach Tim Miller), and varsity at 6 pm (coach Jill Walton).

Measure AF Town Hall Meeting in Laytonville: The Yes on Measure AF (the Heritage Initiative) presents one of a series of Town Hall Meetings around the county on Thursday, October 6 at Harwood Hall in Laytonville, from 6 to 8 pm. “Measure AF is a citizens initiative to regulate cannabis that is on the ballot for Mendocino County voters this November. Find out more about this grassroots initiative drafted to protect community safety, natural resources, family farms and local businesses. Town Hall meeting will feature presenters and audience Q & A.” For more info, visit www.yesnaf.com or the “Yes on Measure AF: The Mendocino Heritage Act” page on Facebook or contact mendocinoheritageinitiative@gmail.com



Brenda Flynn Clark

Hometown Celebration promises amusement for all ages.

New this year! The Future Farmers of America will take over the parking lot between Tiger Lily’s Boutique and Moon Lady and showcase the talents of our future farming leaders. For the first time ever there will be a Petting Zoo! And lots of activities for kids of all ages! Plus demonstrations on canning, etc.! Don’t miss out on fun activities ... Bounce House, Pumpkin Decorating, Face Painting, and more. Plus Harvest Moon Fall Photos with Willits Weekly’s Maureen Moore in front of J.D. Redhouse. The audible pleasures of the local musicians are sure to bring smiles to all as you stroll throughout the event. Remember, Shop Local! Be Local! Think Local! ... and Party Local!

– Willits Chamber of Commerce Local First Committee

With a wide range of activities, this

or 707-200-8239.

Shanachie Pub: Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford plays folks, Americana and blues every first Thursday of the month; this month, Thursday, October 6. 8 pm. No cover. Pick up a copy of his latest EP, “Where Have You Gone” or visit www.cdabby.com/Artist/AaronFord. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, October 7

Measure AF Town Hall Meeting in Covelo: The Yes on Measure AF (the Heritage Initiative) hosts one of a series of Town Hall Meetings around the county on Friday, October 7 at Mina Burger, 239900 Howard Street in Covelo, from 5 to 7 pm. “Measure AF is a citizens initiative to regulate cannabis that is on the ballot for Mendocino County voters this November. Find out more about this grassroots initiative drafted to protect community safety, natural resources, family farms and local businesses. Town Hall meeting will feature presenters and audience Q & A.” For more info, visit www.yesnaf.com or the “Yes on Measure AF: The Mendocino Heritage Act” page on Facebook or contact mendocinoheritageinitiative@gmail.com or 707-200-8239.

Saturday, October 8

Brooktrails Flea Market: Brooktrails Lodge and Prosperity Club host this Brooktrails Flea Market, Saturday, October 8, from 9 am to 2 pm. With close to 40 vendors in September, spaces for this market are still available but limited: to reserve a space call Jason at 707-489-4726. Food vendors, plus Jumperz hosts a free jump house for the kids.

Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration” the 10th annual Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration is set for Saturday, October 8 from noon to 4 pm in downtown Willits. Presented by the Local First Program of the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Live music, food, and family fun (Bounce House, Pumpkin Decorating, Face Painting, and more) plus, new this year - Willits Future Farmers of America exhibits. Local participating businesses and restaurants along Main Street in the downtown corridor will have special sales for the event. Harvest Moon Fall Photos with Willits Weekly’s Maureen Moore in front of J.D. Redhouse. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

“Exploring Boundaries through Creative Discipline”

Friday, October 7
The Waldorf School of Mendocino County presents “Arms Wide Open and the Security of ‘Knowing’: Exploring Boundaries through Creative Discipline.” A presentation by author, artist and master teacher Nancy Poer and Waldorf early childhood educator Lauren Hickman “about creative ways to work with the ‘independent thinkers’ we are privileged to raise. Explore a new parenting approach based on Rudolf Steiner’s insights into child development, current research, and the practical experience of parents and teachers. Consider the ‘gift of no.’ Open to parents, grandparents, caregivers, teachers, assistants, or anyone who has a young child, birth to 7 years of age, in their life.” 7 pm. Waldorf School, 6280 3rd Street, Calpella. Info: 707-485-8719 or visit www.mendocinowaldorf.org

Ukiah Election Forum

Thursday, September 29
The Mendocino Women’s Political Coalition and the Ukiah Saturday Afternoon Club invite everyone to a forum on the California propositions and the Mendocino County and City of Ukiah measures, Thursday, September 29, from 6 to 8:30 pm at the Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Serrano Avenue. “The purpose of the program is to provide citizens with a better understanding of the issues and candidates before they vote in the November 8, 2016 election.” With Sheriff Tom Allman, DA David Eyster, Supervisor John McCowen, Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Public Defender Jonathan Opet, Cloverdale Chief of Police Stephen Cramer, and David Weiss and Linda Fox from Repeal the Death Penalty. Open to the public, no charge. With Q&A. Info: contact Val Muchowski at 895-3543 or vjmuchowski@gmail.com

Ongoing Events

Willits Summer Farmers Market: the Willits Farmers Market is now in Bud Snyder City Park, from 3 to 6:30 pm every Thursday afternoon. Vegans, strawberries, cherries, flowers, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Grateful Gleners: Do you have more orchard or garden produce than you can use? You can help feed hungry families in our community. Call the Grateful Gleners at 367-9759 to harvest and deliver your unsprayed fruit, nuts and vegetables to local agencies such as Willits Community Services & Food Bank, Willits Daily Bread, the Kids Club, Nuestra Alianza, etc.

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.

Artist Nancy Adair at Re-Evolution: Nancy Adair is showing her paintings at the Re-Evolution gallery/shop through September. Re-Evolution is a gallery and fair trade clothing and accessories emporium located at 15 West Mendocino, 11 am to 6 pm. Tuesday through Saturday. Call Re-Evolution at 234-0607 or Nancy Adair at 459-5239 for more information or to set a special time to meet the artist at the gallery.

Free Bridge Lessons at the Library: Saturdays, 10 am to noon, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, continuing through November 5. Come alone or come with a friend. If you didn’t make the first meeting or two, that’s fine. The lessons are ongoing, and late-comers are accepted. For more information call Donna, 459-9035.

KLLG Radio Action Group: meets Mondays at 5:30 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Learn about and participate in building Willits Hometown Radio. Volunteers needed. More information is available at www.kllg.org or by calling Lanny Colter at 367-1812.

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

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

Library Coloring Club: Want a little color in your life? Then by all means, come to the library! The Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, is hosting a Library Coloring Club, every Tuesday at 6:30 pm for ages 14 and up. “We’ve got the crayons and the paper – you bring the imagination.”

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

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

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

Smoking Cessation Program: Free “Freedom from Smoking” class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the MHM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. 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: Kids aged 5 to 10 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

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

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

Laytonville Summer Farmers Market: Mondays, June through October, 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, garden bouquets, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

COLUMN | At the Movies



“The Light Between Oceans”

The Story: A taciturn veteran of the Great War (Michael Fassbender) lives with no small measure of survivor’s guilt. He becomes a lighthouse keeper on a small island off the coast of western Australia. He meets a passionate and willful young woman (Alicia Vikander). She restores in him a joy for living. They marry and move to the island where they have goats and chickens and driftwood fires on the beach. Their life is idyllic, sad and romantic.

My Thoughts: Somehow “chick flick” doesn’t do justice to this two-and-a-quarter hour tale of romantic love and sacrifice. In the 1930s and ‘40s this would have been called “a woman’s picture.” Old-fashioned women’s pictures were rated (somewhat mean-spiritedly) by how many hankies were needed to sop up the weepies. This love story is a true 10 hankie tear-jerker. I think most guys won’t get it. But some will. So, ladies, there’s hope.

Parents: Children will be bored. Don’t bring ‘em.

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

Willits Farmers Market
October in City Park
The Willits Farmers Market is in City Park on Commercial Street for one more month, Thursdays starting at 3 pm through October 27. The market will close at 6 pm in October. More info: check the “Friends of Willits Farmer’s Market” page on Facebook.

Worship Time Change: As of Sunday, October 2, the time of worship service for the Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street, will change back to 11 am.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of October 3 through October 7

Monday: Salisbury Steak
Tuesday: Roast Pork
Wednesday: Chicken Salad
Thursday: Tamale Pie Casserole
Friday: Baked Cod
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, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.



Above: Zach and Sandy Mireles at the farmers market.

Skunk Train’s Pumpkin Express

Saturdays in October

Celebrate fall by climbing aboard the Skunk Train’s Pumpkin Express! A beautiful round trip to an autumnal wonderland and pumpkin patch at Northspur Station. Once there, kids will be able to choose their own pumpkin and enjoy tasty fall treats. 9:45 am from the Willits Depot, 299 East Commercial Street, every Saturday morning in October, starting October 2. \$59 age 13 and up; \$34 kids 2-12; \$10 for dogs; free for kids under 2. Visit <https://www.skunktrain.com/experiences/pumpkin-express/> for tickets and info.

Pura Vida Harvest Dance Party

Saturday, October 15

The Willits Grange presents Pura Vida Harvest Dance Party, a live music event with food and activities, featuring live dance music by Pura Vida. Doors open at 6 pm for dinner: Empanadas with organic Caribbean Rice & Beans plus mixed salad \$10. Take-out available. Music, 7:30 to 10:30 pm. Children’s Activities include costume making 6 to 7 pm, and a movie at 9 pm. Halloween costume sale, live auction/raffle and more. 291 School Street. Advance tickets \$20 at J.D. Redhouse; tickets at the door \$25, all to benefit the Grange. Children under 12 free (donations welcome at kids’ activity room to support the Grange Youth). Info: 459-9716.

Harvest Moon Celebration

Saturday, October 8

The Local First Program of the Willits Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the 10th Annual Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration to be held in downtown Willits on Saturday, October 8 from noon to 4 pm.
Come celebrate the bounty of our county! Glorious food and family fun! Bring your family, friends and neighbors for a plethora of fun-filled activities, including live music, fresh food, and Willits Future Farmers of America exhibits. Local participating businesses and restaurants along Main Street in the downtown corridor will have special sales for the event.

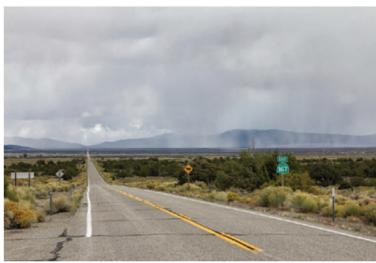
With a wide range of activities, this

Help with ‘Socks and Undies’ Drive

Sunday, October 16

The Willits United Methodist Church is collecting new socks and undies for Willits school-age children in need, children ages 5 to 12 years old. We will also be gathering new socks and undies for foster children ages 12 to 17. We need men’s and women’s undies in medium, large and extra-large sizes. Socks for both women and men should be regular adult sizes, 9-11. We open our doors to the community and invite people to help with our collection of underwear for these two groups of children. On Sunday, October 16, shortly after worship service ends at about noon, we invite the community to help us box up the socks and undies. Let’s spread the word among our friends and neighbors. This is an event that our community embraces. Info: 459-2855.

– Lynn Williams, Willits United Methodist Church



At top, from left: "Velvet Forest," with Ariel Peake as the model, was an experiment by Craig Gardiner in lighting with colored gels. Bruce Haanstra's photo of an approaching storm off of Route 167. Craig Gardiner said the model in this photo wanted to conquer her fear of spiders with Samhain the tarantula. At left: This image of a waterfall in Brooktrails was taken by John Glycer. At right: "Great Gray Owl" by Jack Booth.



Through their lens

15th annual Willits Photography Club show at WCA

The Willits Photography Club has been around for 20 years: a long time for any club to continue being a vibrant part of a community. Find out just how vibrant this group of photographers is by joining them at their opening reception at the Willits Center for the Arts on Friday, September 30, for the Photo Club's 15th annual art show in Willits. While the club members have changed over the years, the common thread with this group is their passion for creating art with their cameras as their medium. Prepare to be awestruck as you experience the world as they see it!

As a benefit of membership, members of the WCA will be able to enjoy the new members-only hour, which offers a chance to meet with the artists from 6 to 7 pm. The reception will then be opened to the public from 7 to 9 pm. The fun evening will include wine, non-alcoholic beverages, appetizers and music – as well as photographic art.

Here's a bit of information about those artists participating in the show who were available at press time to share their stories.

David Smith took the photo of a bald eagle featured on the poster for the exhibit. He came to Willits from southern California about 4.5 years ago. His goal for a long time was to be able to check off his bucket list item: "photo of a bald eagle." When you see this photo, you may think, "Wow, what a lucky shot." And, yes, luck did play a part, but do know that this photography is the result of years of preparation, the purchase of expensive equipment, research and patience, and two trips to a "secret" location in Puget Sound where the bald eagles feed each year. Smith's patience finally paid off this year with a great shot of the majestic bald eagle.

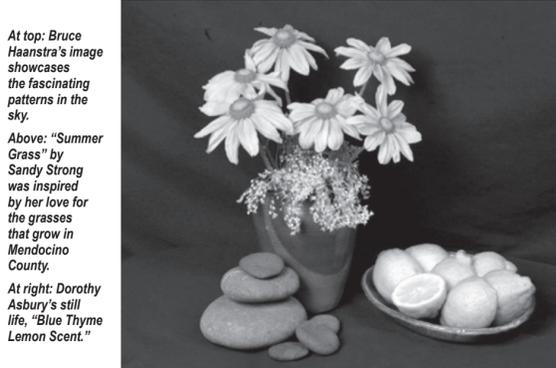
John Glycer, long-time resident of Willits and two-year member of the Willits Photography Club, has found the club helps him keep interested in improving his photography. He appreciates the tips and ideas he gets by attending the meetings. He is particularly interested in nature photography. His entries show his ability to capture nature at its finest.

Jerry Albright has burst onto the photography scene with some amazing shots of the Grand Canyon. He, like many of the club members, got a start in film photography. He used his camera as a tool for shooting photos of his clients on commercial rafting and kayaking trips. After a hiatus, he recently returned to photography, but this time with a digital camera. He says his current goal is to master photo software, such as Photoshop and Lightroom, to enhance his photography. I think after seeing his photos, you will agree he is well on his way to meeting that goal.

Laytonville resident Dorothy Asbury has been a photographer for 40 years and a member of the photography club for many years. Each year she shows in the photography show, we see another side to her creativity. She continues to stretch herself and create new and fresh images.

Bruce Haanstra, who is particularly good at catching nature's amazing patterns in his photography, has also been instrumental in encouraging club members to submit their photos monthly to share at the meetings. Many

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



At top: Bruce Haanstra's image showcases the fascinating patterns in the sky.

Above: "Summer Grass" by Sandy Strong was inspired by her love for the grasses that grow in Mendocino County.

At right: Dorothy Asbury's still life, "Blue Thyme Lemon Scent."

Above: Dorothy Asbury's photo "Sunflower and the Bee." Below: The poster for this year's show features this shot, David Smith's "Bald Eagle," taken in the Puget Sound area in Washington.



The rest of **WCA** | From Page 10

photographers find that sharing and inviting sound and kind critique has improved their work.

Sandy Strong has been a photojournalist and watercolorist for most of the past 30 years. She will have several images in the show. Strong loves the hills and fields of Mendocino County; her image "Summer Grass" features Harding grass (Phalaris aquatica), which is prevalent in our county. She likes being a member of Willits Photography Club because of the friendly and supportive atmosphere at the meetings. "What's really nice about the Photo Club," Strong said, "is we have all ranges of photographers, from professionals to amateurs, and everyone is enthused about each other's work, how to make it better, or just to sit back and enjoy the images."

Ukiah resident Jack Booth started coming to the Willits Photography Club meetings last January. Like David Smith, he enjoys photographing birds, and the two have been on photography trips together. He said he likes being a part of the club because he likes to hear the other photographers' comments about his photos. He also enjoys learning about photography equipment and the work the photographers are doing. He is also a member of the Ukiah Photo Club.

Craig Gardiner has always loved photography and switched to digital photography in 2000. The focus of his work is bodyscapes, and he works in the studio and on location shoots with his models. He prefers staged shoots using off-camera lighting that allows him to have more control over his shooting environment. His use of light is stunning, and his work continues to impress.

The Willits Photography Club meets the second Saturday of every month from 10 am until noon at the Willits Center for the Arts classroom. Come on around to the back door and join us.

If you can't make it to the reception Friday night, do stop by during the month-long show, which runs at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, through October 30. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm. Info: visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-1726.



Current Job Openings:

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- Deputy Probation Officer I & II
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- Equipment Operator
- Mental Health Clinician I & II
- Mental Health Clinical Manager
- Nutritionist
- Parts Specialist
- Public Defender Investigator
- Senior Public Health Nurse
- Sheriff's Technology Specialist
- Social Worker I-V

For more information and to apply: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr EOE.



Above: Jack Booth photographed this Anna's hummingbird near the Willits Skunk Train Depot. Below: "Canyon Walls" was taken by Jerry Albright on a recent trip to the Grand Canyon.



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The rest of **Football** | From Page 3

quite unfortunate he broke his leg, and he'll be sorely missed."

The final score was Clearlake 52 to Willits 22, putting the varsity Wolverines at 0-4 for the season.

Junior varsity coach Billy Arms described his team's 33-8 loss Friday night as "a tough game. Clearlake came to take it to us. But our people actually played really well; they held them to only one touchdown the first half; they played a really good first half."

The JV Wolverines are a young team this year: "We have 24 kids on the team, and only six are sophomores. For a lot of the kids, this was their first home game as a high school player. Most of the other teams are mostly sophomores, so we're competing really well, for the age of our players."

Arms cited freshman Austin Andrade's defensive play, as a game highlight (Andrade is one of this week's "Amazing Athletes," see page TK for more). "DJ Buzzard passed the ball really well, including a touchdown pass to Jacob Arms, and Drake Wisdom got the 2 point conversion."

Next up are away games, set for Friday, October 1 at Fort Bragg, which is Fort Bragg's Homecoming celebration. The next home football games are Willits' Homecoming, set for Friday, October 14, at Maize Field, against Cloverdale.

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Industrial Complex
Openings in industrial complex on Robert Drive, Willits. Secured area. Lincoln Realty: 459-4599.

IGBT Running Club
Mendocino Front Runners, a social LGBT running club, has weekly fun runs in Ukiah and Willits for gay and lesbian runners and walkers and their friends. All levels welcome. Email mendo.frontrunners@gmail.com for times and locations or see our schedule of events by entering the same email address in Google Calendar.

MFT services wanted
Willits USD is accepting proposals for MFT services. Please see RFP under News at www.willitsunified.com for more information.

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Single woman needs a place to rent. Can pay \$350-\$400 + utilities per month. No TV/Cable. Linda Van Horn, P.O. Box 2504, Willits or outreachone@willitsseiorcenter.com.

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WCT Needs You!
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Get your ad included next week!

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

Position:
Defensive tackle
Breakfast of Champions:
Eggs, orange juice
Love for the Sport: "I love the contact and hitting, and also the 'family' of the football team."
How Long Playing the Sport: For five years



My nomination for player of the week is Austin Andrade. Austin is a freshman on the JV football team. He was placed as a starter at the beginning of Friday's game as a defensive lineman. The first play of the game he made a tackle; after that he made nine more, including a quarterback sack, a fumble recovery, and 2 blocked extra points. Austin set the tempo for the Willits defense in that game. Without Austin's play, we would not have been able to maintain the attack we had.

– Coach Billy Arms

Photos by Wayne Waters

Position: Left back (defense)
Breakfast of Champions: Oatmeal

Love for the Sport: "Playing soccer makes me happy, and I enjoy the running."
How Long Playing the Sport: Since she was 6 years old

WHS Varsity Girls Soccer's "Amazing Athlete" this week is freshman Nayeli Rodriguez. Nayeli plays left back (defense) and has done an amazing job so far this season. She also brings great sportsmanship and a positive attitude to the field, and always gives 100 percent to the team.

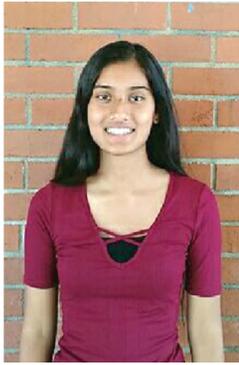


– Coach Tatiana Cantrell

Position: Backspot
Breakfast of Champions: French toast

Love for the Sport: "I love halftime and the stunts."
How Long Playing the Sport: 5 years

I want to nominate Ramneet Mann for Amazing Athlete this week. She shows excellent leadership skills and compassion towards others. She learns fast, works hard, and stays out of trouble and drama. You can tell she has school pride and is passionate about cheerleading.



– Coach Sarah Humphries

Congrats | Newlyweds

Jake & Sheryl McFadden

Congratulations to Jake and Sheryl McFadden, who were married Sunday, September 11, 2016. It was a perfect ceremony at a beautiful ranch in Willits, surrounded by friends and family. The ceremony was filled with love and laughter.

The couple wanted to give a special thanks to Ginger Fonsen, Ronnie Miner, Dana and Cody Lewis, Steve Legris, Billy Hetherington, Corey and Brooke McFadden, Adam Sherf, the Hoagland family, Roni McFadden, Kareen James, the Swoboda family, the Stanley family, Preci and Skyler, Liz Carrillo, Melissa Cramer, Michael Tobin, Colby, Mike, and everyone who helped make this day possible.



Congrats | New Officer

Ricco McCoy

Congratulations to new Willits Police Department officer Ricco McCoy. McCoy, a Willits High School graduate and veteran of the U.S. Navy, worked as a tribal policeman in Redwood Valley for two years and for the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office for a total of five years, as reserve deputy, Covelo resident deputy, and North Sector deputy, before joining the WPD.

"On Monday, September 19, 2016, I got to pin a Willits PD badge on my husband, Ricco McCoy, in front of our beautiful family, including our three boys and my father, Michael Tobin, and close friends," said McCoy's wife, Michelle. "I love you, Ricco McCoy, and am so incredibly proud of you."



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California Mentor

Area program seeks supportive homes for adults with special needs

Damian Sebouhian
Reporter
damian@willitsweekly.com

Family Home Agency program, avows proudly, Lawrence works out of Lakeport and serves both Lake and Mendocino counties. Her job: seeking mentor homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Currently there are 30 mentor homes in the area serving clients, but more are actively being sought.

"We desperately need mentor homes, especially in Willits and Ukiah," Lawrence said. "The nice thing about Willits is it's close enough to Ukiah without being in Ukiah. A lot of clients really like that, because it's got a lot more of a rural, close-knit feeling."

Two such clients are Nancy Hoon and Jeffrey Cameron, who both share a home with husband-and-wife mentors Joy and Roger Frink.

The Frinks, who live off of Sherwood Road in Willits, have been mentors for 12 years and have served "quite a few clients [over those years]," Joy told Willits Weekly. Both Cameron and Hoon have been living with the Frinks for the past two years.

"It's a great program for the special needs community," Joy said. "Each client has their own needs and skill levels. Nancy pretty much is a free spirit. She comes and goes as she wants. She's on a little bit of a curfew, but that's about all."

Hoon currently works part-time as a preschool

teacher's aide at Room to Bloom, and is engaged to be married. When asked if her engagement means she'll be moving out to be with her fiancé at some point, Nancy said: "We're going to take things one step at a time."

"They can stay as long as they want," Joy said. "The longest a person stayed with us was for seven years."

While the home setting provides a family feel, the mentor acts more as a friend and coach than a parental figure. The mentors work with program counselors and the clients to come up with a set of goals that clients pursue.

"Every single client, no matter what level of ability they are, has goals," Lawrence said. "[The program] is about helping clients to realize their fullest potential in their lives to the best of their abilities."

Some of Hoon's goals involve maintaining a job and taking control of her finances.

"The goals are there, and if I meet them, I meet them; if I don't, I don't," Hoon explained. "They're not set in stone."

"Once she meets a goal, we take it off the list and add another one," Joy said. "Nancy keeps the bathroom sink and the shower clean in her own bathroom. She keeps her room clean and neat, and she does the dishes. Those are her responsibilities as being part of a family group."

Cameron, who is confined to a wheelchair



Mentors Roger and Joy Frink, in rear, with Jeffrey Cameron and Nancy Hoon, in front of their home off Sherwood Road.

Photo by Damian Sebouhian

Read the rest of **Mentor** | Over on Page 15

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.



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

regulations within the city limits."

Orenstein seconded the motion, and after more debate and comments from the public, the council approved it 4-1, with Burton voting no.

While Lance stressed that only the mayor has the right to form or not form an ad hoc committee, he said: "I don't see anything in the municipal code that would preclude a majority of the city council members from making a motion and directing staff to conduct research on something."

Burton explained his objections to forming the ad hoc committee do not reflect an unwillingness to address the possibility of creating new marijuana ordinances; rather, he communicated his belief that going the ad hoc committee route was flawed.

In fact, Burton brought the agenda item to the council "to establish a structured process to allow all councilmembers and the public to provide input regarding marijuana cultivation within the City of Willits, in lieu of an ad hoc committee."

Burton proposed the council schedule "30-minute discussions on upcoming council meeting agendas, as necessary," so the entire council would be involved, as well as the public.

Later, when it was suggested that 30 minutes was not an adequate length of time for such a complex and controversial subject to be discussed, Burton said it was merely a recommendation and he would be open to dedicating up to a full hour per meeting.

"I suggest we do this in a series of meetings," Burton said. "Have the city attorney bring back some sample ordinances, dissect them here for a period of time. When our time period is up, we go onto other business and reconvene a discussion at the next meeting. That's what I'm proposing, in undertaking to create a new ordinance to replace what we have in existence."

Orenstein, who originally suggested forming a marijuana ad hoc committee during the council's August 24 meeting, voiced his concern that without a specialized committee, the process would drag on and not be thoroughly addressed.

"Ad hoc committees can be and should be open to the public, anyway," Orenstein said, arguing there aren't enough scheduled council meetings in the near future to tackle marijuana ordinances in an effective manner.

"Basically from tonight on we have two meetings to discuss this thing over a two-month period. That takes too much time. We need to do this with a committee that can meet between council meetings."

Tempers flared after it became clear Burton was not going to be persuaded by the other councilmembers.

"I don't get angry very often," Strong said, her voice rising as she continued. "But this really is not fair to the majority of the council, or to the public who have been coming to our meetings and weighing in. And yes, it's a controversial issue, and yes we know that. Let's not drag our feet. When we come to making a decision, let's have the public fully involved, and not put their feet in concrete because of your reluctance. I don't think it's fair."

Burton and Councilman Larry Stranske had both been on a previous marijuana ad hoc committee, which was disbanded earlier this year after it became clear their recommendation to ban all cannabis-related activity in the city limits was not going to win council support.

Strong accused Burton of denying public access to those meetings.

"I was extremely disappointed when the ad hoc committee met six months ago and no public was allowed to come to their meeting," Strong said. "[The committee] came to the council with only one scenario. They did not evaluate any other options and present them at that time."

Burton conceded he had learned from that ad hoc experience. "I think I'm being totally responsive to the fact that we did it and brought back a recommendation that met with quite a fair amount of criticism. So this is my response to that. Let's make it completely open; let's not repeat that process."

Stranske, who has since changed his position from favoring prohibition towards a more open approach regarding cannabis cultivation in Willits, argued for forming a new ad hoc committee in light of a recent investor who is waiting on the city to form its ordinances.

"[The company] is called SWS, and it's at 300 East Hill Road," Stranske said. "This person has been trying to get on the agenda to get his [industrial cannabis cultivation] project heard in front of the council. He hasn't been able to do that."

Stranske then made a motion that the man in question, Kevin Shi, present his full report to the council at its October 26 meeting.

No one seconded the motion, which wasn't on the evening's agenda and, according to Strong: "In order for us to legally review a project, it has to be consistent with our ordinances, and right now the project is not. The whole point of this ad hoc committee is to look at the ordinance so we can consider the project to be legal. If we don't have the ordinance that allows it, it doesn't mean we have to approve it, it just means the ordinance

might allow us to. Right now we are completely stymied by one person – our mayor."

Strong then asked Lance if it was within the council's power to delegate Madrigal and Orenstein to meet and give direction to staff.

Lance consented, although he argued going such a route would be inefficient.

"If you're going to give us direction to take hours and hours [to do] research, that direction ought to be given by the full council members as opposed to two," Lance argued.

Orenstein disagreed.

"In a committee meeting you can really get into the details and hash them out," Orenstein said. "By definition, no decisions are made in an ad hoc meeting. All the information is laid out, and a package is brought back to the council. It's not a complete package. Then the council and the public have something to chew on. That's a starting point."

Burton interrupted Orenstein, earning a rebuke. "See, this is the example of what I'm talking about," Orenstein complained. "Inevitably when we have it in a public session, and it seems like it's going on a little too long, the conversation is going to be cut off."

Burton countered: "Well when it starts to repeat itself for the third time, I think we are ready to hear somebody else."

Madrigal suggested Lance double-check that the council is indeed within its rights to form, for the lack of a better phrase, a non-committee committee. Until then, it's unclear how Orenstein and Strong will organize their meetings, or where they will meet.

Public weighs in

Four members of the public weighed in on the cannabis ordinance controversy, including Kevin Shi of SWS Consulting, which, as Shi explained, "is the investment group that recently purchased the East Hill Road building," the old AM&D site on East Hill Road.

Shi urged the council to act swiftly in formulating its new cannabis ordinances, stressing the importance of allowing cultivation in industrially zoned areas. Shi highlighted the economic benefits of allowing such activity on the property.

"Our plans are to invest more than \$30 million into the city," Shi said. "This will create more than 150 jobs, of which 80 percent will be local. Where else can you find more talent in this resource than right here?"

Shi told the council all the construction that has taken place on the property has been completed by local contractors, and promised all future construction jobs will also be locally sourced.

"Our plans are to contribute \$5 for every operational square footage into the general fund of the city," Shi claimed. "With our current building alone, we would be contributing over 200k per year. If you give us the chance to expand together, we can possibly contribute more than \$1.2 million dollars to the city per year by 2018."

Shi assured the council the building is "secure, OSHA compliant, and more importantly, environmentally friendly," adding: "We even have a plan for combating 'trimmigrants,' if the city can work with us."

Shi explained SWS chose Willits specifically because of its "location, human resources, and cultural advantages. You have the rare and precious opportunity to become the hub for this booming industry. Like Champagne of France, or Napa Valley of California."

Shi said the time to act is now.

"I want to remind you, the industry is not waiting for any city," Shi said. "You see Santa Rosa, you see Fort Bragg, you see Oakland: all jumping in."

Cannabis activist Troy McConnell voiced his concern that by allowing only industrial indoor cultivation, the city could be contributing to rising levels of greenhouse gases and therefore increasing the harm caused by global climate change.

"[Allow for] a medical marijuana cultivation ordinance that creates a legal permitting process for medical marijuana patients in the city of Willits," McConnell said. "Where people can grow a few plants outside in the sunlight, not using electricity, and in accordance with their doctor's recommendation."

McConnell seemed leery of Shi's business proposal, coining a new term in his criticism.

"Rather than creating special zoning for out-of-town 'cannapreneurs' wanting to grow under high-carbon-producing lights, we should be looking at ways to create marijuana cafes and dispensaries, as well as co-ops that represent our unique marijuana culture."

Local contractor Wayne Bashore criticized the city for not jumping on cannabis cultivation sooner.

"Based on what Mr. Shi said, \$200,000 to the city general fund – that's one building," Bashore said. "There are more buildings. With that specific project, we can wait a long time, but I just did the math; it's only costing the council \$4,000 a week to not have an approved project; \$4,000 dollars a week, \$200,000 a year. I suggest you don't take all the time in the world."

the fraudulent charges onto the credit cards," the press release said.

At about 2 pm, deputies located Wilburn and Duerner driving in their vehicle, and made a traffic stop at the intersection of Main Street and Baechtel Road.

They found the two Willits residents "to still be in possession of the victim's credit card," according to sheriff's Capt. Gregory Van Patten.

Wilburn was arrested on suspicion of forgery, burglary, conspiracy, obtaining services or goods under false pretenses, misappropriation of found property, and possession of stolen property.

Both were booked into county jail, where Wilburn was being held in lieu of \$20,000 bail and Duerner in lieu of \$15,000 bail.

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



Far left: Lauren Wilburn and Thomas Duerner, left.

Attorney's Office public information officer.

Arraignment on information includes not only information in the original complaint filed by DA David Eyster's office, but any facts proved during the preliminary hearing by the probable cause standard.

According to a September 22 Santa Rosa Press Democrat report, Kenneth Fisher and Reynolds were "walking side by side outside Boomer's Saloon in Laytonville when Reynolds sucker punched Fisher in the head, causing his death."

Reynolds' attorney Macci Baldock had argued "a single blow didn't warrant the charges," according to the

an initiative measure, "becomes enshrined in law that is virtually unassailable by amendment should the implementation of the regulatory program reveal flaws."

Many "specific flaws" in the measure already have been identified, Neary argues, so "the likelihood this complicated regulatory program is perfect is nil."

If problems are identified, he says in his memorandum, AF cannot be amended until mid-2018, and then only in accordance with the initiative's intention, which is to permit the "cultivation, manufacturing, testing, distribution, delivery and dispensing" of marijuana and to "enshrine the regulatory process as a citizen-initiative effort."

Any attempted amendment by the board of supervisors, he adds, would be met by the threat of "an expensive lawsuit by a well-funded industry."

AF also would derail the effort by supervisors to write and pass their own cannabis regulation ordinance, Measure AI, Neary claims.

Brooktrails Township, he told the five-member board of directors, has "a unique stake" in the issue. "It has been reported recently that land in Brooktrails is being marketed by real estate agents as a place to farm marijuana."

"The district office has received 'numerous ... inquiries by those desiring to clear-cut their lots to farm marijuana' after being told 'this was permissible and the lots are desirable for that reason.'"

Over recent months, Brooktrails Fire Department officials also have encountered owners in the process of clearcutting their lots, Neary says.

Under Brooktrails Specific Plan regulations, he noted, such clearcutting is illegal, but passage of Measure AF "will ... legalize clearcutting and cultivation of marijuana on residential lots."

While conceding that issue may be "an unintended consequence" by AF's authors, Neary argues those consequences "are likely to occur when there is no systematic environmental review."

Measure AF, he claims, will amend the county's current zoning code and Brooktrails' Specific Plan to allow marijuana cultivation. Brooktrails, as

found property, possession of stolen property, and violating probation.

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Both were booked into county jail, where Wilburn was being held in lieu of \$20,000 bail and Duerner in lieu of \$15,000 bail.

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

Press Democrat report of Reynolds' preliminary hearing.

On the other hand, Fisher's family and friends had petitioned the district attorney's office to reinstate the murder charge under which Reynolds was originally arrested.

Eyster later determined there was insufficient evidence to try Reynolds for murder. He defended his decision to reduce the charge against Reynolds, pointing out: "prosecution is only as viable as the credible evidence available for us to present in court."

If convicted in Fisher's death, Reynolds faces up to seven years in state prison, Geniella said.

a township, has an elected board of directors, but is not a legally incorporated city, so Measure AF – if passed – would take effect in Brooktrails.

Neary said the district would be forced to sue to avoid turning Brooktrails into "a cultivation community authorized by the initiative."

Neary also fears the district's water supply could be viewed as "an irrigation system rather than a domestic supply system" if AF passes, and "it is unclear [if] existing prohibitions on the use of water in quantities to support agricultural production would be sustainable under the initiative."

The Brooktrails board of directors, he argues in his report, "should take the lead by opposing the initiative."

Neary admits he is not unbiased in his views concerning AF. He is an officer of the Vote No on Measure AF campaign, and represented the Mendocino County Blacktail Association in a successful lawsuit to annul the county's urgency ordinance on cannabis cultivation.

The board adopted that urgency ordinance in May of this year. Under the county ordinance, growers granted an exemption by the Sheriff's Office could legally cultivate 99 plants on 10 acres, or 50 plants on five acres, though a 25-plant per parcel limit remained for growers not granted an exemption.

Under the settlement reached with the Blacktail Association, the county agreed to stop accepting new medical marijuana growing permit applications, but continued to process ones submitted before 5 pm on June 21.

In its June 8 lawsuit, the association, comprised of hunters and conservationists, argued the county should have undertaken a full environmental impact report before increasing pot plant limits established under the "temporary urgency" ordinance.

That temporary ordinance would have remained in effect until the county adopted a permanent ordinance, a process slowed by the necessity of an environmental study. That EIR is expected to be completed in October.

OCTOBER 2016 CALENDAR

MONDAY Except 10-31

POINTS DAYS 5X POINTS

All Players Club members will earn 5X Points from 10A to 11P on the days of the promotion!

TUESDAY

SLOT TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 4, 11, 18 & 25

Early Session will start at 1pm (Registration starts at 11:30A for 50 points)
Tournament #1 (Early Session): 1P
1st Prize - \$100 cash / 2nd Prize - \$75 cash
3rd Prize - \$50 cash
4th - 6th Prize - \$25 Free Play Each.

Tournament #2 (Evening Session #1): 7:00 PM
Buy In - 70 Points (Separate from Tournament #1)
1st Prize - \$150 Cash
2nd Prize - \$100 Cash
3rd Prize - \$75 Cash
4th - 6th Prize - \$50 Free Play Each.

Tournament #3 (Evening Session#2): 10:00 PM
Buy In - 100 Points (If played in Evening Session #1, 30 additional points needed, if not, 100 Points needed to buy in)
1st Prize - \$250 Cash / 2nd Prize - \$150 Cash
3rd Prize - \$100 Cash
4th - 6th Prize - \$75 Free Play Each.
3P - 4P (three per hour = 3 Drawings)
7P - 10P (twice per hour = 6 Drawings)
10P - 11P (three per hour = 3 Drawings)

HOT SEATS

EARLY SESSION: 12P ENDING AT 3P
2 RANDOM WINNERS/HOUR (6 TOTAL WINNERS)
EACH WINNER WILL WIN \$30 IN FREE PLAY

EVENING SESSION: 7P ENDING AT 10P
3 RANDOM WINNERS/HOUR (9 TOTAL WINNERS)
EACH WINNER WILL WIN \$60 IN FREE PLAY

10P TO 11P
3 RANDOM WINNERS/HOUR (3 WINNERS)
EACH WINNER WILL WIN \$100 IN FREE PLAY

HOT SEATS

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

BIG WIN

HOT WEDNESDAYS

HOT SEATS

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

THURSDAY

SUPER SENIOR DAY

50% discount food coupon issued (to be used for that day only) when the customer has earned minimally 50 points from 10A to 7P.

BINGO \$100 GAME
11AM, 12PM & 3:50 FOR 1PM & 2PM
\$200 GAME
7PM & 9PM
\$250 GAME
10PM
\$300 GAME
10PM

HALLOWEEN PARTY & COSTUME CONTEST

October 31st

Prizes (in cash)
1st Prize \$500 (Cash)
2nd Prize \$350 (Cash)
3rd Prize \$250 (Cash)
4th Prize \$150 (Cash)
5th Prize \$100 (Cash)
6th Prize \$75 (Free Play)
7th Prize \$50 (Free Play)
No masks or weapons allowed

Saturday Giveaway October 15!

Starting at 1P, Players Club members that earn 90 points on Saturday October 15, could redeem their points for a Sport Duffel Bag (While Supplies Last).

SATURDAY FUN
October 1, 8, 22 & 29

HOT SEATS (FREE PLAY)

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

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

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

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

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

Scratch Card Sunday! 10am-8pm!

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

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

FRIDAY NIGHT

1000 Entry Drawings - 100 Points/Entry
May start in 10 minutes for entries starting at 11A.
Each drawing time has a prize value to it.

PAYDAY!

8:00PM	8:30PM	WIN CASH FROM 7-11!	9:00PM
\$100	\$100		\$125
9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30 PM	11:00PM
\$175	\$200	\$250	\$300

At each drawing except the 10P drawing, an entry will be drawn from the Staff's Bonus. The winning customer will receive an entry valued at 1000 points. In the number 1000 drawing the winning for the specific drawing will be forwarded to the next drawing by the Staff. For example, if the 10P drawing has a winner, the \$100 will be forwarded to the 9P drawing and will be worth \$200.

For the 10P drawing, if there is no draw on the drawing, there will be an additional drawing. The winner will continue until a winner has claimed the cash prize. Customers may win up to 2 times each week of this promotion.

Contestants can earn an entry to the contest by playing minimally \$30 (using their Players Club card) and will receive an entry starting 6P until 9P. Judging will start approx. 9:00P. Winners will be awarded after 9:10P.

Saturday Giveaway October 15!

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

The rest of **Letters** | From Page 2

field crops are currently permitted, subject to numerous inspections and restrictions. It will be predicated on first obtaining permits from various county agencies tasked with protecting the environment in state law. The old 9.31 law had no zoning restrictions.

It assigns the county Agriculture Commission the authority to inspect farms, which is exactly what their job is, and what they are trained to do. This will free up the Sheriff's Office to do what it is best at, protecting public safety. Other agencies such as Planning and Building, and Health and Human Services will be inspecting manufacturing facilities, dispensaries, etc. In fact there will be many more state and county agencies monitoring the industry than the understaffed and overworked Sheriff's Office.

Measure AF states that, once passed, the act can be amended by the board of supervisors. It is not written in stone. Measure AF establishes a Cannabis Advisory Commission to assist the board of supervisors in further creating sensible, equitable cannabis policy for the county and in tracking the economic impact of the evolving cannabis industry.

Measure AF protects the small grower, the economic backbone of the county, with a micro-business category that the state is also creating. State law declares that the number of one acre (208 feet x 208 feet) grow sites will be limited, with which the county permit process concurs. Measure AF allows for fines and an appeal process for anyone caught in a code violation, just like any other legal business activity.

Measure AF restricts manufacturing with solvents to industrial areas, where it should be, and dispensaries are confined to commercial areas. This all makes common sense. State agencies are currently drafting specific regulations for these activities.

Measure AF establishes the same setbacks as state law, but these limits can be changed by a majority vote of the board.

Measure AF creates a 2.5 percent tax on gross receipts from all types of cannabis enterprise. Remember that before now, the cannabis industry has not been regulated at all. The way to protect the environment is to regulate the industry through the agencies already given that job. Measure AF will do just that.

Swami Chaitanya, chair of the Mendocino Cannabis Policy Council and president of the Mendocino Cannabis Industry Association, Laytonville

Loser take nothing

To the Editor:

I write in reference to Willits City Councilman Orenstein's recent letter to Willits Weekly calling for public input towards "an ad hoc committee that would do an in-depth analysis of the marijuana situation in Willits," in the spirit of his "middle-ground" political ethic.

He noted the proponents (the Measure G yes vote) and opponents (the contrary Measure B vote) canceled one another out. Then, while present partisans are biased by

The rest of **Mentor** | From Page 12

and whose needs are much greater than Hoon's, came to live with the Frinks after his stepfather, a man in his 80s, could no longer handle the responsibility of taking care of him.

"We take Jeff down there to visit with him, which makes [Jeff's stepdad] really happy."

Roger said that being a mentor has taught him a lot about humanity.

"It's like with teaching," Roger said. "You learn more from your students than you could ever have imagined. It's the same with mentoring people. I learn a lot from Jeff and Nancy."

Becoming a mentor is a step-by-step process and includes completing an application and undergoing "certification" skill development training.

"There's a lot of criteria," Lawrence said. "It's not an overnight thing. It

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

Animals must be constrained on a leash or inside of a crate for safety. For the blessing, Bruneau gently places her hand on the animal's head or body or crate, and sends her wishes for the animal's safety and gratitude for its existence. Bruneau noted she has also had special requests for nervous, fearful or crowd-shy animals to come just before or after the event, be blessed from a wider distance, or to have Bruneau come to the animal in the car for its blessing.

"I am happy to do whatever is comfortable for the pet and the owner," explained Bruneau. "We also offer everyone the option of bringing a stuffed animal or photo of their animal, which I can also bless."

Offering the stuffed animal option is Bruneau's way of remembering priest Colin Campbell, who offered a similar option at a St. Francis church in Palo Alto where Bruneau once attended.

"I owned goats at the time and

definition - "People [who] just want what they want" - fortunately the councilman occupies the objective "middle ground," right between these extreme contending parties. And he suggested the solution, tabling the issue to an ad hoc committee and starting over again. In a phrase, decide and do nothing.

Setting aside the substantive issue for the moment, I found instruction from the councilman's expressed ethic of democratic leadership: "Whenever my position conflicts with the opinion of the majority of the public, I need to put my desires aside and go with what the public wants, and what's best for the public." The first thought, pure objectivity, may not be possible and the third, what's best, may require profound judgment, but the second, "go with what the public wants" (i.e., regardless of the facts) is an excellent expedient for staying in office.

Here I recall a prior issue which may illustrate the same ethical stance, Councilman Orenstein's "middle-ground" approval at all stages of the Willits freeway bypass project. On record that position was: 1) continue to support the project even though it had come to light Caltrans criminally lied from the outset that only its huge, excessive, exorbitantly costly, economically and environmentally damaging structure would be federally supported; 2) take no position when that structure overran the anthropological remains of the civilization which has resided here for millennia; to 3) ignore as irrelevant to Willits proper that a quarter of the Little Lake Valley would be bought up and co-opted in perpetuity as part of the wetlands-destroying freeway plan, and to 4) ignore the 80-90 percent of Willits businesses opposed to the project's effect: a 15-20 percent failure rate in the business community while leaving unchanged some 80 percent of the traffic congestion.

After all this, which did not seem on the surface to benefit the public, I found myself questioning whom and what the councilman and his civic ethics did benefit? Regarding the freeway project, the beneficiaries were transparently clear: the large-scale construction and transport interests with whom he and two of his colleagues co-operated at every turn. Caltrans' boss, the California Transportation Commission, is stacked with development, tire and road-building proxies. Under the inhospitable road-building conditions through Willits, they could overcharge the average per mile freeway construction cost by five times.

Councilman Orenstein's ethics outlined above had one empirical effect in that context, to go along with whoever and whatever had "power," namely Caltrans. This was illustrated by vote and in various other ways: by his summary statement one November of yesterday, "It's gonna happen"; by his praise for the pinecone-patterned cement-molding on the bridges, i.e., "It's classy"; and by his reference to construction company operatives as "gentlemen," who incidentally threatened the city council with a lawsuit if it couldn't run their trucks through Willits city streets and who took upwards of 300,000 gallons a month from the city's wells, according to Orenstein's own statement.

Identification with "power," albeit papered over by self-congratulatory blarney, when facts, law, knowledge and human foresight indicate power's path, is outrageously and irrevocably wrong, and is repugnant to democratic governance, i.e., of, by, and for the people. Is it credible that the councilman "put my desires aside and [went] with what

The rest of **Mentor** | From Page 12

the mentor."

Lawrence said there are many different reasons why people are attracted to the program and become mentors. Some mentors are parents whose children have moved away, some are senior citizens who are fully capable of working but can't find regular work, some, like the Frinks, are retired couples, who wish to give back to the community.

"There's a lot of reasons [to become a mentor]," Lawrence said. "It's very rewarding. Mentors can make a good amount of money from home, and at the same time, feel good about helping someone reach their fullest potential."

For more information about California Mentors, go to <http://ca-mentor.com>, or call Cathy Lawrence at 263-5875.

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

Church about 20 years ago by Mary Fisher. Before the church and gazebo area was built in 2007, the blessing ceremony was held at Dr. Frank Grasse's yard at East Hill Vet Clinic in the valley, and had also been held in the City Park.

"We're really honoring the importance of animals in our lives and giving thanks for them with this ceremony," said Bruneau. "Another way we like to do this throughout the year is by lighting one of the candles hanging in the church. One can request to have it dedicated in memory of a friend or spouse, but we also can light it for animals, too."

As Bruneau writes: "October 4 is the traditional Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, who loved all creation because he saw it as a sign of God's love for all. He called the animals, and all humans also, his brothers and sisters. Francis's faithful life of poverty, service and joy has made him one of the most beloved saints in history."

the public wants, and what's best for the public," when he helped degrade the city of Willits and our beautiful valley for corporate exploitation and gain? The facts say likely not. I am willing to bet real money that, at the bypass's "grand opening," Caltrans functionaries will exchange pleasantries with Orenstein and other cooperative council members, knowing as superior force always does the first fact of power: loser take nothing.

William Ray, Willits

To hunt or not to hunt

To the Editor:

In a study published in the August 21, 2015 issue of the journal Science, researchers found that natural predator species like wolves, coyotes, mountain lions and bobcats serve important ecological functions: by hunting weak and sick prey they cull out poor genetics, contain disease transmissions, and control overpopulation. The researchers also found that due to long term co-evolutionary relationships between predator and prey, natural predators generally don't hunt healthy adult prey animals.

The study, entitled "The unique ecology of human predators," further found that humans, unlike all other predators, specifically target the healthiest adults rather than the weak and sick. Due to this unique hunting pattern, human predators have a very different effect on ecosystems: instead of a sustainable relationship between predator and prey, the study's authors noted that "contemporary human hunters can rapidly drive prey declines, degrade ecosystems, and impose evolutionary change in prey."

The reason humans hunt differently than all other predators is that through the evolutionary process, natural predators developed bodies capable of subduing and devouring their prey. Our human bodies, on the other hand, evolved to walk upright freeing our hands to collect and prepare fruits, nuts, seeds and tubers.

Since humans did not evolve the bodily tools necessary to subdue and devour prey, we had to invent our own tools for hunting and butchering. The first tools made by early human hunter/gatherers were primitive spears, snares and chipped stones, but as tool-making technologies advanced over the millennia, hunting equipment became so sophisticated and efficient that humans became the Earth's first super-predator.

The major advantage human predators have over natural predators is that the tools we use to hunt with enable us to expend relatively little energy at low risk of injury in subduing our prey. Natural predators must expend considerable energy at significant risk of injury. This explains why natural predators concentrate on weak and sick prey, and why humans prey on healthy adults.

As human populations expanded rapidly over the past 10,000 years, populations of prey animals declined around the world and the hunter/gatherer way of life all but disappeared. Over this time, the hunting of wild animals became more the prerogative of the privileged class, where hunting for trophies of the most well-endowed prey animals became the object of the hunt.

According to the authors of the study cited above, "Emerging evidence suggests that the consequences of dominating adult prey are considerable." By targeting trophy specimens: "... the resulting changes can modify the reproductive potential of populations and ecological interactions with food webs." The authors concluded that: "... owing to different behavior (e.g., age-class preference and seasonality of exploitation), [human] hunters cannot likely substitute for carnivores as providers of ecological services."

Here in America there is a hunting tradition that extends back to the first indigenous people on the continent over 13,000 years ago and forward to modern day Indians and people of European descent. Before guns were introduced into the Americas by European colonizers, Indian hunting technologies were limited to traps, snares, and the bow and arrow, but when guns came on the scene, once abundant large prey species such as elk and buffalo were nearly exterminated.

Today in America, individual states manage so-called "game animal" populations by limiting the number of "legal take" permits through the issuance of hunting licenses. This system based on limited take only adds to the hunter's incentive to target the finest trophy specimens, which has the effect of removing the best genetics from the gene pool.

Another finding of the aforementioned study is that humans kill competing predator species at a much higher rate than natural predators do. This human hunting pattern, mostly for the purpose of protecting livestock, has led to the near extinction of wolves, mountain lions and grizzly bears from the continental U.S.

There are now very few people in the world today who depend on hunting for survival. Virtually all of the hunting done these days is for sport, not part of a survival strategy. This situation has led to the obscene spectacle of endangered species being sold off to the highest bidder. That is what happened to the iconic 13-year-old African lion named Cecil who was mercilessly gunned down in 2015 by a would-be great white hunter who in real life was a mild-mannered dentist from Minnesota.

The good news is that hunting is on the decline in the U.S. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in 1955 about 10 percent of Americans hunted, while today that number is down to around 6 percent. The number of hunting licenses purchased has also declined from over 40 million in 1970 down to 12.6 million today.

The only purpose for hunting in this modern world is to carry on traditions whose relevance has long since passed. The ecological cost of human predation is far too great to be justified by continued adherence to these anachronistic traditions. The time has come for we humans to abandon the practice of hunting for good, and leave it up to natural predators who are the true experts in ecosystem management.

Jon Spitz, Laytonville



Fall Photo Fundraiser

It's that time again! Maureen Moore will be setting up in front of J.D. Redhouse & Company for fall family photos during the 2016 Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration on Saturday, October 8.

Feel free to bring your kids, pets, significant others ... everyone is welcome to drop in from 12 to 4 pm. The lines form fast, but we will try and get through everyone as fast as we can.

Digital images will be available for just \$5 and can be downloaded right from the Mphotographress.com gallery site directly to your computer or cell phone. Prints and products can also be purchased from the site, if desired.

As always, these photo events will be held as a 50/50 fundraiser for a group or organization in the community. This time, the Mendocino County Care-A-Van was selected to be the recipient of the fundraising efforts.

The Care-A-Van is a division of the Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency and offers low-cost mobile spay/neuter and healthy pets services around the county.

See photos from 2014: <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/harvestmoonphotos> Also, keep in mind that Santa photos will also be right around the corner! Mark your calendars for December 9, 10 and 11 at J.D. Redhouse.

Above: Aybrie, Ashtan, Jake and Kaleb smile for the camera at last fall's photo fundraiser at J.D. Redhouse. Below: The mobile Care-A-Van provides low-cost spay and neuter services.



Photos by Maureen Moore



Above, left: Amanda Senseman holds farm-grown tomatoes. Above, right: Louis Schnitzler holds his Willits honey. At left: Nicholas Rocha, Allegra Foley and Michael Foley of Green Uprising Farm.



Market in the park

Willits Farmers Market still outside at City Park through October

The Willits Farmers Market is in City Park on Commercial Street for one more month, Thursdays starting at 3 pm through October 27.

If you haven't been by lately, now is the time. Tables are overflowing with peak-season veggies. Staples like eggs and honey are also available, as are tasty eat-there or take-to-go meals and treats.

The market will close at 6 pm in October. More info: check the "Friends of Willits Farmer's Market" page on Facebook.

At left: Sue Clark and Don Willis at the John Ford Ranch booth. Below, left: Robert Goleman of Bolliwer's Fine Foods & Confections holds up a container of his dark caramel sauce. Below, right: Whitney Eads of Buckeye Ridge Ranch sells eggs to Ellen Drell at the market.

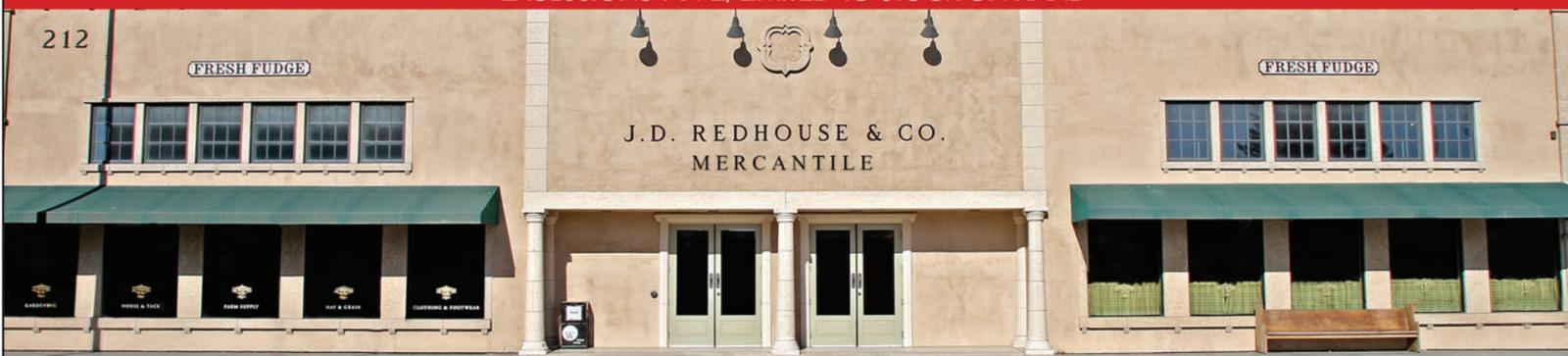


Photos by Maureen Moore



9TH ANNIVERSARY SALE

EXCLUSIONS APPLY, LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

BOUNCE HOUSE | FACE PAINTING | FALL PHOTOS | PIE EATING CONTEST - WIN A \$25 GIFT CARD!

20% OFF
PET SUPPLIES

10% OFF
ALL PET FOOD
TAKE UP TO \$6.50 OFF
PER BAG

10% OFF
FEED

30% OFF
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&
FOOTWEAR

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DOWNTOWN WILLITS

20% OFF
TOYS, GIFTS
&
GAMES