

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Thursday, October 19, 2017

Due to the fires last week, Willits Weekly did not publish edition #227 on October 12, 2017

Willits schools ‘big players’ during fire crisis

Joanne Moore

Reporter
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Willits' schools may not readily come to mind as big players on the team that responded so effectively when fire threatened. But they were there – along with CalFire, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, and Willits police and fire departments – providing support and critical services during the disaster. The schools' role in the aftermath and recovery is equally important.

Willits Unified had busses and drivers at the ready 24/7 when evacuation was a possibility at Howard Memorial Hospital. The cafeteria crew provided

Read more of **Crisis** |
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Trustees pass ‘Safe School Zone’ resolution

Joanne Moore

Reporter
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Willits school students will have a safe place to learn, regardless of their immigration status, the district's board of trustees declared on October 4. The "Immigration Safe School Zone" resolution adds that information concerning students will not be shared with anyone, except by court order.

Willits Teachers Association President John Haschak told trustees the Willits Teachers Association Executive Committee unanimously approved the resolution, sharing with board members a letter signed by a dozen teachers at Brookside Elementary School.

Read the rest of **Zone** |
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What is ‘Healthy Mendocino’?

Mike A'Dair

Reporter
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Healthy Mendocino, a public-private partnership formed to address five of the most pressing long-term needs in Mendocino County, held an October 8 orientation meeting in Willits, and will hold a countywide summit on Wednesday, October 25 at the Willits Community Center.

The orientation meeting was held at the Hub (formerly the Willits Environmental Center) and hosted by Willits City Councilmember Madge

Read the rest of **Healthy** |
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Photo by Mary Fonsen

Above: The view seen off a deck on Walker Road in the morning hours on Wednesday, October 11. Below: The colors of the leaves, the color of the flames, and the color of the retardant mixed into a welcome – and unwelcome – autumnal hue. See more photos on page 6.



Photo by
Maureen
Moore

Ablaze

Redwood fire burned close to Willits

The Redwood fire that devastated Redwood Valley and other areas south of Willits was at 80 percent containment as of CalFire's Wednesday evening incident report. The fire killed eight Mendocino County residents and destroyed 447 single-family residences and seven commercial structures, and drew firefighting resources from around California and the western states.

Jennifer Poole

Editor & Reporter
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including Potter Valley, Redwood Valley, the Tomki area, Pine Mountain southeast of Willits, and Ridgewood Ranch, were being told to evacuate. With phones and internet down due to damage caused by the fire – and with Highway 101 closed south of Willits due to fire on both sides of the grade, residents were cut off, isolated and starved for information.

Although CalFire says the cause of the Redwood fire is still under investigation, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reported that an MCSO sergeant on routine patrol in Potter Valley observed severe wind gusts which downed trees and power lines around 1:10 am, and "shortly thereafter the sergeant witnessed a ground fire which quickly traveled to the west towards Redwood Valley."

For Little Lake Fire Department Fire Chief Chris Wilkes, the crisis began at 11:45 pm Sunday night, when LLFD was dispatched for an "immediate need" strike team to the fires in Santa Rosa. One LLFD engine and strike team leader Deputy Fire Chief John Thomen were headed to Santa Rosa, when "we got a report of a vegetation fire on Ridgewood Road on the top of Pine Mountain," Wilkes said. "At that point we dispatched a second engine out of Willits to Santa Rosa" and Thomen and team headed to Pine Mountain. When they discovered that "what people were seeing was the fire in Potter Valley and Redwood Valley," the local engine was rerouted to Potter Valley and then rerouted again to Redwood Valley.

Not long after that, LLFD sent another engine and personnel resources to Pine Mountain to help with evacuation, and when that was done, the LLFD firefighters

became "part of the incident" working for CalFire. Brooktrails Fire Department also sent resources to help evacuate Pine Mountain.

No residences burned in the Pine Mountain subdivision, Chief Wilkes confirmed, but there were three homes burned in the Little Lake Fire Protection District – all three parcels on Mariposa Creek on the very edge of the district. Areas of Tomki Road are also part of the Little Lake district, but all the homes that burned in Tomki were further to the south.

LLFD also sent a water tender out to the Redwood fire, but could not spare more apparatus. "With 12 personnel out," Wilkes said, "we had our hands full in the district."

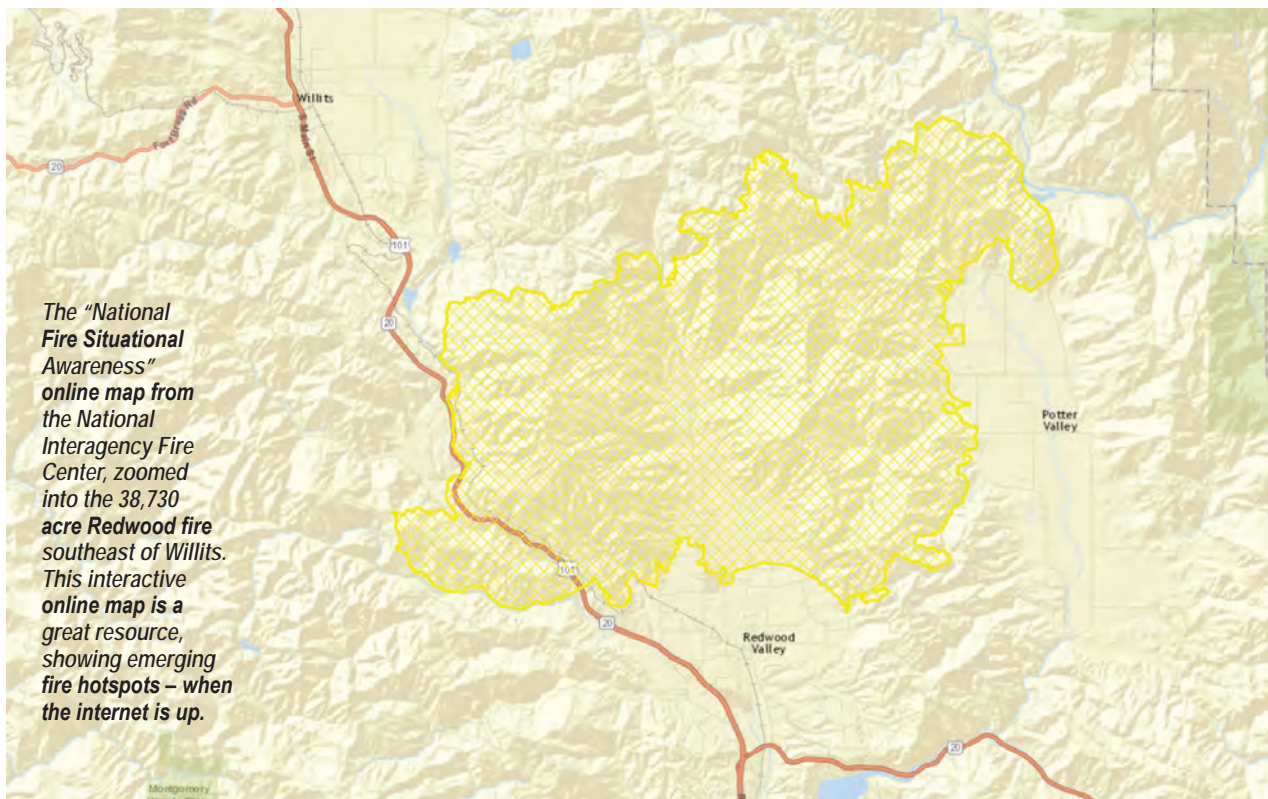
All the Little Lake firefighters "knew what was going on at that point," Wilkes said, "and people starting filtering in. We immediately tied in with the City of Willits. My first contact was with Councilwoman Saprina Rodriguez. She had family that suffered a loss in the Redwood Valley / Tomki area, and she was aware people were coming to Willits, some escaping up the back way through Tomki."

At that point the Community Center was opened to evacuees, and city's emergency operations plan began to take effect, although with the phones and internet down at that point, Wilkes said: "We had to use unconventional methods of getting ahold of city staffers."

Stakeholders like city staff, the fire and police departments, and representative from the hospital and the school district began holding frequent emergency meetings. "We worked very well together locally, but we were very isolated, because [with the communications grid down] we didn't have the choice. We were in the same boat as the public," Wilkes said, "we weren't putting out any information because we had nothing to give out other than what we were doing locally, especially in the beginning."

When asked how close local officials came to issuing evacuation notices to residents of Willits proper, Wilkes said: "I would say it was close. I have to tell you, those folks up there in Pine Mountain and in Mariposa Creek should've

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



Council, staff discuss city's fire response

Forrest Glycer

Reporter
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At their meeting last week the Willits City Council discussed the response by city staff and local agencies in the initial days of the Redwood fire crisis when many of those evacuating fled to Willits, and phone and internet services broke down as the fire drew near.

The council and staff explored how the city was successful and also where it could improve in its preparation for future emergency situations.

Councilmembers Ron Orenstein and Madge Strong both emphasized the need for a plan to alleviate confusion in the event

Read the rest of **Response** |
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County opens assistance center

Mike A'Dair

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County CEO Carmel Angelo told supervisors on Tuesday that the Local Assistance Center – a one-stop shop for county, state and federal assistance for those whose lives have been affected by the Redwood fire – opened that morning at Mendocino College.

Angelo said the LAC offers assistance to county residents in the following areas: agriculture, Department of Motor Vehicles, vital records, food assistance, public health and environmental health concerns, Social Security, employment, disaster recovery support, counseling, state contractors licensing board, and other state agencies and county departments.

Read the rest of **Center** |
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Cannabis facilities ordinances adopted

Mike A'Dair

Reporter
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Two new sections of the Mendocino County Code affecting the cannabis industry were adopted by supervisors on Tuesday. The first section, Section 6.36, governs how business licenses will be purchased by owners of cannabis-related businesses. The second, Section 20.243, also called the "cannabis facilities code" or CFC, regulates land use and administrative procedures for cannabis-related activities, excepting cultivation.

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

Yes on Measure B

To the Editor:

The disastrous fire will soon be placed into the history books, and our county will face the next chapter of rebuilding. To the family and friends of those fire victims who perished, there are no words of comfort that I can give that haven't already been given. I am truly sorry. My heart aches and my eyes water at the thought of what you have experienced. It is very difficult to say encouraging words when you have lost a family member in such a horrific disaster. Know that we, as a county, mourn your loss and offer our support.

A huge part of our rebuilding process will be the mental health of our county. The fires will soon be out, the lumber will soon be delivered to start rebuilding the structures, and our county will once again try to return to a sense of normalcy. As we do, please do your part. Offer to help a victim, stop by the Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire Station and hug a firefighter, and please think about next year's fire preparedness. 100 feet of defensible space must be discussed.

To our entire county, please please please consider voting Yes on Measure B. We needed improved mental health services long before this fire started, and now the need is stronger than ever before. Ballots have been mailed out. For most of our county, Measure B is the only initiative on the ballot. It should only take two to three minutes to complete the process.

Vote Yes on Measure B for better mental health. Together, we will get through this.

Tom Allman, Willits

Fire contributions

To the Editor:

If you're looking for a way to help others who have been affected by the fires, Savings Bank is accepting monetary donations on behalf of the Community Foundation, check memo: "Mendocino County Disaster Fund" as well as North Coast Opportunities, check memo: "Lake County fire relief."

Those who would like to make a monetary donation may stop by Savings Bank or mail the contribution to Savings Bank, P.O. Box 3600, Ukiah, CA 95482.

Our thoughts are with everyone affected by the fires in our communities and the brave first responders.

Katie Kight,
Savings Bank of Mendocino County

The Redwood fire

To the Editor:

Thought you might appreciate these sentiments.

Day 2
October 10, 2017
A cool day, clear blue skies
a gentle wind from the North
How calm and innocent this day
two miles from anti-war's inferno
That pure celestial blue of God's realm
punctuated by low flying bombers
buoyed on by joyous cheers from below

The enemy here is fire indiscriminate
neither ideology nor nationality matters
fire burns and consumes all that it touches
Our Mendonesia encore unique in the world

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

Willits covers local community news

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area..

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

with eight month summers devoid of rain
punishing million acres of trees with aridity

Disaster is last year's luscious growth of now dry shrubs and grasses, desiccated fuel loading promises nightmares of monsters Out of nowhere punishing gusts everywhere straight from Southland's Santa Ana winds Snapping poles scattering electrical splinters into multitudinous fires of unimaginable ferocity California is going down in flames

The single worst disaster in California history despite supposed catharsis containment two miles too close to immolation encore surrounds all of us with fear, even with a chimera of safety, a supposition of safe A cool day, clear blue skies, not even clouds, a gentle wind from the North as fickle Nature lies to us with the normal sounds of life

Bill Bruneau, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

We would not be here today if it were not for the local firefighters who are the true heroes to me!

Thank you for the ultimate act of caring: risking your lives to save lives!

I would like to express my gratitude to KLLG and the Willits Library as well.

KLLG started to broadcast live around the clock, with "all nighters" to keep people informed, which was especially helpful when phone and internet services were not available.

Thank you very much to the dedicated programmers at our local radio station, what a wonderful resource we have!

Same goes for the Willits Library, who made it possible for anybody to connect with their family, friends and all they were concerned about, by satellite, extending their hours and really going out of their way to accommodate hundreds who came streaming into the library!

Thank you to the kind volunteers at the shelters, and all the folks who opened their arms wide for all in need of safety.

Claudia Wenning, Willits

Why I support Measure B for better mental health services

To the Editor:

My wife, Carlin, and I have lived in Mendocino County for more than 25 years now. We came because we wanted to get away from the stresses and strains of big city living that we experienced in the San Francisco Bay Area. We wanted to live in a smaller community where people knew their neighbors and where we could come together to solve problems that impact us all.

One of the major problems that all communities face is providing the best health care for its citizens. Fortunately, we have some of the best hospitals and health services that can be found anywhere I've lived. Unfortunately, our mental health services are inadequate.

I've been a mental health professional for nearly 50 years now. I've worked in hospitals, outpatient programs, and in private practice. What I've learned over the years is that a large percentage of people with general health problems, also have mental health problems. I've also learned that a large percentage of people with substance abuse problems also have mental health problems. Good mental health treatment solves a lot of our community health problems.

Passing Measure B will greatly improve our mental health services, which will improve our community in many ways including the following:

- Improving the mental health of our citizens will improve the health of everyone. We all know people who have some form of mental health problem, whether it's anxiety, depression, substance abuse, or overwhelming stress.

- Having facilities that can help people in mental health crisis will allow law enforcement staff and emergency room staff to devote their attention to providing other needed services for our community members.

- Passing Measure B will save money. For 10 years now, I have worked for the Mendocino County Public Guardian's Office that helps evaluate people suffering from serious mental illness for conservatorship. Presently, we send people out of the county for long-term care. Not only is that bad for the patient and family, but it's extremely expensive. We will save money when we treat people locally.

- Treating mental illness as a law enforcement problem is both expensive and dangerous.

Sheriff Tom Allman, as well as other law enforcement staff, have done a tremendous job in responding to mental health crises. They have been there to help when no other services were available. But Sheriff Allman would be the first to tell you that trained law enforcement officers are not the best people to respond to mental health emergencies.

Measure B is a revised version of the 2016 initiative calling for a sales tax increase in order to fund mental health facilities and services in Mendocino County.

The 2016 measure lost by 176 votes. The new version will be on the ballot in the November 7 election. I believe Measure B is a much better initiative than the previous one and deserves a positive vote. It will not only provide money for treatment facilities, but also for staff and training.

Also, the sales tax-created fund will be overseen by an 11-member, community-based commission that will guide how the expected \$25 million in building funds and approximately \$1.7 million a year ongoing funds to pay for additional services, will be spent. This allows for continuous community input.

I can't think of any one thing that would improve the health of our community more than the passing of Measure B. I hope you learn about this important measure, vote for it if you feel it will be helpful, and encourage your family and friends to consider voting as well.

Jer Diamond, Willits

Yes on Measure B

To the Editor:

Please Vote Yes on Measure B in this year's election. I have met many of our community members that were victims or displaced by this disastrous fire. The recovery of our community will certainly require mental health services for many of our fellow citizens.

In the aftermath of disasters, the rate of suicide increases significantly as the victims including, first responders and other caring members of our community, attempt to mentally process their losses as well as survivors' guilt. Please be aware of this and reach out to those that may need a few kind words or a friendly shoulder to cry on.

We are all in this together, and together we will recover. However many members of our community are very vulnerable at this time and may need professional mental health care. Please consider supporting your community by voting Yes for mental health.

Andy Hilkey, Willits

Jump start heros

To the Editor:

I want to thank the two young men who jump started my car by the Dollar Store on Monday [several weeks ago].

I never got their names but I was so grateful.

I was able to drive to Napa Auto Parts and got a new battery.

Bev O'Ferrall, Willits

Yes on Measure B

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County supports an adequately funded mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mentally ill of all ages.

Measure B, the "Mendocino County Mental Health Treatment Act," will provide residential mental health services in Mendocino County. These services will help to stabilize mental health patients and will result in reducing the use of jail for housing and the cost of outsourcing treatment to other counties.

Due to the social benefit and overwhelming need for mental health services in Mendocino County, the League of Women Voters urges a YES vote on Measure B.

~ League of Women Voters of Mendocino County



Repopulating Pine Mountain

After waiting a week, evacuees were happy to get back to their homes southeast of Willits

Evacuees from Pine Mountain began lining up in their vehicles on East Hill Road in Willits as early as 8 am Sunday morning for the noon opening of East Side Road's roadblock. All were anxious to get home and unpack. People stood in clusters or talked with family or community members. Some stayed alone in their cars. Jason, a musician, sat on the trunk of his car and played guitar, providing a calming backdrop for the eager populace waiting to move back into their homes.

Most of the Pine Mountain residents were woken up in the wee hours after midnight on Monday morning. Some had neighbors who knocked on their doors; some were alerted by Mendocino County sheriffs. Very few got phone calls since the phone lines and cell service went down soon after midnight. Others smelled the smoke and sprang into action to evacuate, and some, very few, stayed put on their property watching the fire's progress, hoping to save their homes.

Stories abound, and here are a few from the residents waiting to repopulate last Sunday morning.

Mary was asleep and awakened by someone from the sheriff's office and others going door-to-door. The smoke was really bad, and they lost all communications somewhere around 1 am. When they experienced the big-leaf oak embers raining down around them at about 7 am, they decided to go down the hill to Willits. Highway 101 was blocked to the south, so "we came back to evacuate. We've been gone a week now from our home," Mary said.

Gary and Diana Mann were in Budapest when their daughter, Jennifer, contacted them to alert them to the fire and that their house was in a mandatory evacuation area. The Manns decided it was wise to continue their travel plans for the next week, since they couldn't go home anyway and it would've been expensive to cancel all the reservations. They arrived back, as scheduled, Saturday night, just in time to reunite with family and friends and their home the next morning. While away, they made use of the internet to keep up with fire reports – listening daily to Sheriff Tom Allman's community meetings streamed on Facebook as well as checking other sites.



Above, left: CalFire, CHP, Willits Police Department, and Mendocino Sheriff's Office worked collaboratively to make sure all the areas to be repopulated were secure and inspected for safety. Above, right: This truck was packed to the gills with mother, father, three children and a dog in the cab, as well as goods, a large mastiff mix, and two bunnies in a cage in the back. These returnees had been staying with friends for the week. Below, left: Jennifer Mann, at left, daughter of Gary and Diana Mann, at right, of Pine Mountain, who were on a trip to Europe when the evacuation order was issued. The Manns returned from their trip Saturday night. Robert Bartow, center, waits to check on his mother's house to see what needs doing so she can return home. Below, right: A handmade sign expresses people's appreciation for the first responders' support and services at the junction of East Hill Road and Eastside Road.



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At top, left: Some people experienced difficulties getting shelter from private businesses because of their dogs. Three of these young folks and their canine companions found refuge at the Pine Cone Motel.

At top, right: Gary Mann examines the new "Pine Mountain Fire Safe Area Roads" map, overlaying the larger map of the Redwood fire area and the Sulfur fire in Lake County.

Above: The lineup of vehicles waiting to return home on Pine Mountain was enormous. This view is from the bridge on East Hill Road looking south to Eastside Road.

Below: Mary, in the driver's seat, with her friendly pit bull mix dog, was evacuated for a week.

Photos by Ree Slocum



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Supes approve pot working group suggestions

The board of supervisors on Tuesday voted unanimously to support a list of 11 recommendations submitted to it by the local cannabis working group that is working on state of California license requirements.

The board voted to support the recommendations, and to immediately send an email to working group representatives Hannah Nelson and Julia Carrera, who were at that moment in Sacramento, attending a meeting at which staff people of the state Bureau of Cannabis Control are attempting to draft the final version of the regulations governing the state's cannabis program. The e-mail conveyed the Mendocino County Board of Supervisor's endorsement, in principle, for all 11 of the working group recommendations.

Supervisors also took time later in the day to review and modify details of those recommendations, and to draft a letter of support which was sent to the state's Bureau of Cannabis Control on Wednesday.

The working groups were established in early September. The report from the state license requirements working group marks the first time a working group has presented a report to the board of supervisors.

The 11 recommendations were as follows:

1. Revise definition of canopy to exclude walkways and non-cultivated space.
2. Co-location of microbusiness activities, under separate licenses, for the same licensee.
3. Licensed cultivators in geographical proximity should be allowed to share one

The rest of Ablaze | From Page 1

been very concerned. The fact that the fire stopped where it did was due to some heavy-duty firefighting efforts and that the weather died down. Otherwise, if the fire had gotten into the Pine Mountain subdivision, we could've had some real trouble."

Those efforts included retardant drops from big bombers, Wilkes said. "We did get the 747, and we definitely had DC-10s," but on Tuesday the smoke made it difficult for the bombers to work.

"But the dozers were running hard," Wilkes said, mostly from local CalFire subcontractors like Garman Construction and Hiatt.

This Wednesday morning, one of two Little Lake engines still out on the fire was on its way home, and Wilkes hoped the second engine might be demobilized on Friday.

The chief wanted to thank Brooktrails Fire for their assistance to Little Lake during the crisis. "Just because that fire is going on, our local incidents didn't stop," he said. Those incidents included a multiple car crash on

processing facility.

4. Allow more time for cultivators to report production information to the state's track-and-trace program.

5. Reduce requirement for redundant and costly security equipment for cultivation sites.

6. Reduce requirement for redundant and costly security equipment for dispensaries and cannabis retail outlets.

7. Allow transportation of cannabis and cannabis products, including from farm to testing facility, from farm to processor, from farm to distributor, and from farm to other licensed location, under a microbusiness model for the same licensee.

8. Implement a phase-out of generator use, instead of imposing an immediate prohibition.

9. Create a separate license for delivery of medical cannabis-infused products for people with Prop 215 medical recommendations.

10. Allow local jurisdictions to determine what constitutes "other authorization" for the acceptance of applications and the granting of provisional licenses.

11. Approve the use of an "embossed receipt" for the "other authorization" for an applicant's submittal to the state for the state's provisional license.

The state license requirements cannabis working group includes Freeda Burstad, Karen Byars, Julia Carrera, Ellen Dreil, Hannah Nelson, Casey O'Neill, Del Potter, Corrine Powell, Kevin Shi, Chantal Simonpietri and Jude Thilman.

The rest of Response | From Page 1

phone and internet go down again during another major crisis.

"It was really disturbing to have our communication system basically gone," said Strong, who suggested looking into the technological aspects of which systems failed and why.

Orenstein recalled his experience when someone he knew to be a sheriff's deputy came down his street Monday afternoon telling him and his neighbors to pack up what they could and be prepared to head out of town. But, he noted, residents didn't receive follow-up communication.

"There's a lot of uncertainty and fear," said Orenstein. "Nobody really knows what they're supposed to do.... I think there needs to be a little more prior planning so everybody's prepped."

City Manager Adrienne Moore acknowledged the city struggled, especially the first day, "to establish good communication between agencies," but noted there were bound to be challenges during such an "extraordinary event."

She noted the cell tower in Redwood Valley was burned and damaged the first day of the fire, initially repaired, then burned again an hour later.

"In these situations everyone needs to understand it does take a little bit of time to get a grip on things," she said. "There's always room for improvement, of course. I've shared some thoughts with the county about how we can improve things between county and city communications."

Orenstein said he was told by local agencies that "whatever shortcomings there were are going to be reviewed and fixed," adding he had suggestions of his own he would like to convey to them.

Moore felt that, overall, the agencies handled the situation very well. She said Willits police officers were "at full force," with many essentially on duty 24 hours a day following the start of the fire, and Gonzalez said that Little Lake Fire Department personnel were doing the same.

"Our local resources in the county and particularly in our community are just really outstanding," said Moore. "Our Little Lake Fire Department does such an amazing job.... It really is just incredible that this community pulls together to make sure we can take care of what we need to."

Strong agreed: "The amount of dedication that everyone has shown and the helpfulness people have shown to each other is so heartening. It's nice to live in a small community where we pull together."

Gonzalez said that since he had a headline that was still functioning, the police department was able to get in touch with him at 2:30 am the day the fire started, and he went to wake up Moore so they could begin preparing for the emergency.

Shortly thereafter they opened City Hall as the initial shelter for evacuees. Later on Monday, the shelter was moved to Willits High School since there were cooking and shower facilities there.

City Planner Dusty Duley said seeing how staff handled the emergency in the initial aftermath made him "proud to work for this city."

"Being part of the folks that were in that room making decisions was inspiring," he said. "Very calm, cool, collected, making quick correct decisions with a number of challenges facing them. So, kudos to our crew, and I'm glad to be part of that."

Gonzalez began the meeting by asking for

a moment of silence for the recent tragedies, including those who died in the Redwood fire, the passing of Gabe Madrigal, and the mass shooting in Las Vegas.

Other notes

The council approved an interim city manager for Willits at the meeting, Robert Perrault, who will officially start in the position on November 6.

The move came after Moore announced she will have to leave the job several months before her scheduled date in March 2018, due to a family emergency.

Moore had high praise for Perrault, who in his 25 years of experience has served as city manager for three other small cities, including Cloverdale before, during and after the bypass around that city was constructed.

"He's going to take the reins of the city at a very challenging time," said Moore, "but he is well-equipped to do so. And I can't think of anyone I would have more peace of mind with than bringing Bob on board to take over for me."

When asked by Orenstein why he wanted to work as manager for Willits, Perrault spoke of his affinity for working with small towns.

"I'm very passionate about it," he said. "I find them challenging, and more rewarding than larger communities."

"I think I was very helpful in Cloverdale in particular," he continued, "as well as Grover Beach, in dealing with some of the same issues [Willits has] – the downtown issues, the economic development issues, negotiating with Caltrans, which can be very difficult.... I believe what small cities need is good management, and I believe I have that expertise."

The move means there will be three major city positions operating on an interim basis, including the interim police chief and interim finance director currently on staff. The city is in the process of looking to fill all three positions permanently.

Duley gave an emotional thank-you to Moore for her service to the city.

"It's been a pleasure working with you," he said. "Your moral compass, your leadership, your selflessness is unmatched in my eyes, so I really appreciate having the opportunity to work for you."

Duley also announced the city had hired Jim Robbins to be community development specialist, a position approved by the council at a previous meeting. Robbins will focus on grant writing as well as assisting Duley with administrative tasks in the planning department.

Orenstein and Gonzalez volunteered to sit on an ad hoc committee formed at the meeting, tasked with developing a new joint powers agreement between the city and the Little Lake Fire Department.

Moore said this was necessary given developments in recent years, including new state mandates that increased fire marshal duties in the community, and the additional services Little Lake Fire will provide following implementation of the city's new cannabis ordinance this month.

The council also adopted a resolution establishing the city's priority project list for the Road Repair Accountability Act of 2017. Adopting the list means the city will receive \$100,000 in matching funds from the state for the projects, thanks to the act (also known as SB 1), as well as another \$32,200 in matching funds through a local streets and roads program.



Far left: District and school staff who ran the kitchen and helped feed and care for the carloads of evacuees who visited the Willits High School cafeteria during the fire evacuations, including, back row, from left: Lisa Rhine, kitchen manager at Baechtel Grove Middle School and William Cresswell, cafeteria sub at all the district schools. Front row, from left: Julie Vassar-Madsen, Willits High School cafeteria manager; Tina Cresswell, assistant cook at Willits High School; Lisa Reed, district food service clerk; and Christy Wisdom, food service director for Willits Unified School District. In front: Joseph Wisdom, the "Willits High School kitchen mascot," who was also on scene during the past week, hanging out and playing with all the kids, helping keep them occupied and spreading some cheer to the center. "I even learned how to ride a scooter, and I made a lot of new great friends!" he said.

At left: Willits High School junior Jorge Carrillo, 16.

Willits High School 'Heroes of the Week'

"I would like to nominate Jorge Carrillo, a junior at WHS, for a 'Hero of the Week' award," said Willits High School Principal Michael Colvig. "On Monday he showed up at the high school, serving as an evacuation center for those displaced by the Redwood fire, and just started helping out where ever we needed it. This included five hours of working at the school farm taking care of the displaced animals, setting up cots in the gym for the Red Cross, unloading truckloads of donations, etc. His willingness to just give of himself was truly wonderful to watch. Jorge showed up Monday through Friday to help out."

"I understand what it's like to be having a hard time," Carrillo, age 16, told Willits Weekly, "and that's when people need help. I like to help people and enjoyed talking with them, trying to understand how they're feeling and to assist them in any way I could while they were at the high school."

Carrillo will continue this spirit of helping his community after he returns from the Marines after graduation, when he plans to join the California Highway Patrol.

"I have been a part of the Highway Patrol Explorer program which prepares kids to go into the academy," Carrillo said. "I met David Gerstenkorn, a CHP officer living in Ukiah at the time, who not only mentored and inspired me, but encouraged me to get involved with the program where he was also teaching. He's turned into a great friend

now, too."

"Our other 'Hero of the Week' award," Principal Colvig said, "goes to the entire food service crew at Willits High School, who from Monday morning at 5:30 am through Friday night, provided food to all the displaced citizens of the Willits area and beyond," including senior citizen evacuees from the Golden Rule community on Ridgewood Ranch, and monks from the Abhayagiri Monastery in Redwood Valley, who escaped the flames up the back way through Tomki. "The kitchen crew kept everyone well fed and cared for with a smile and a helping hand," Colvig said.

Sentiments from the kitchen crew circled around the joy they received from being able to help those who came to the evacuation center and what an amazing community we have: "There was so much community support!" "The donations were overwhelming!" "Business owners and the individuals who donated were so generous!" "It was so nice to offer those in need a little bit of comfort!" "There were so many people ready to help and volunteer!"

Initial donors the first day included Peter Mann of TNT Market, who cooked up a couple big pots of soup and some of his delicious steamed jasmine rice, and Jill Persico, who donated fresh rolls, lunch meat and cheese for sandwiches. Food donations from other businesses, included take and bake pizza from Papa Murphy's, continued to pour in. And farmers and gardeners, including the Grateful Gleaners



At left: The Milo Foundation's dog evacuees at the Willits High School ag farm. Above: Monks from the Abhayagiri Monastery in Redwood Valley took refuge at the Willits High School shelter.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



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THANK YOU

Willits Weekly offers a huge heartfelt thank you to all of the firefighters, first responders, law enforcement personnel, volunteers, community members, businesses, groups and organizations who helped our community stay safe during the Redwood fire.

You are all so appreciated ♥

Pg. 4 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | October 19, 2017 Willits Weekly | October 19, 2017 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 5



From far left: A member of the Ridgewood Ranch Fire Crew battles a hot spot. Eliot Hartley, Ruthie King, Cody Bartholomew and Daniel Ryberg of the Ridgewood Ranch Fire Crew, geared up and ready to fight fires. The fire crew checks a map. A rare moment of respite while looking for hotspots.

Photos courtesy of the Ridgewood Ranch Fire Crew

At left, below: A fire engine on loan to the Ridgewood fire crew from the Little Lake Fire Department.

Photo by Mathew Caine



Above, from top: Happy diners enjoy a home-cooked meal. A sign intended to fend off looters. The Garza family are grateful for the generosity of the Golden Rule and the work of the fire crew.

At left: The Golden Rule lunch crew takes a moment from their busy day to gather for a photo.

Below: Lucy Kramer, donation manager, organizes supplies in the donation center.

Photos by Mathew Caine



That glow wasn't the sunrise seen peeking over the pond on Walker Road on the morning of Monday, October 9.

Photo by Maureen Moore



At right: View of the line of fire seeming to creep into Little Lake Valley from the south.

Below, left: Skies showing the clearing up of smoke from the Redwood fire as winds from the southeast blow the smoke westward. Photo taken off of Black Bart Road looking south on Saturday, October 14.

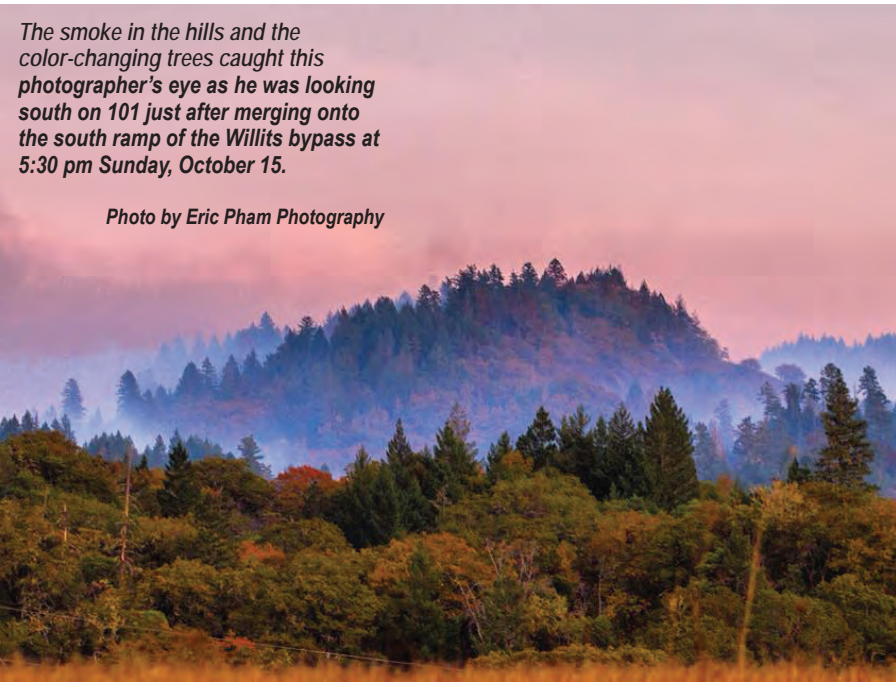
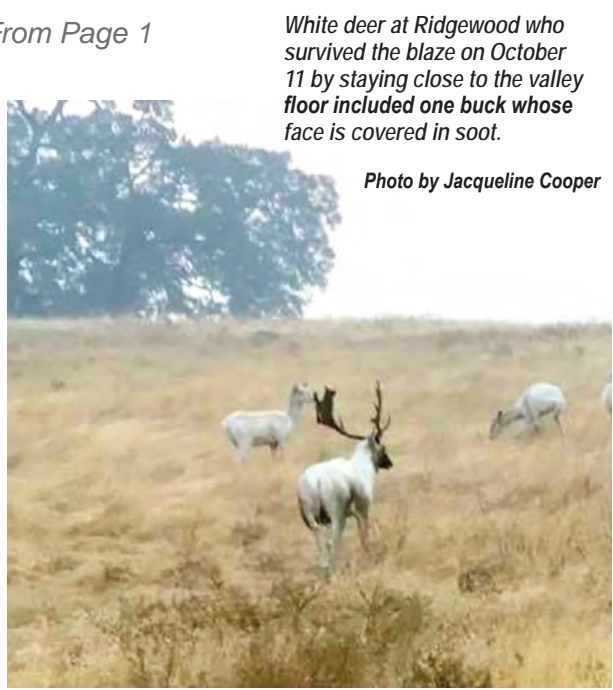
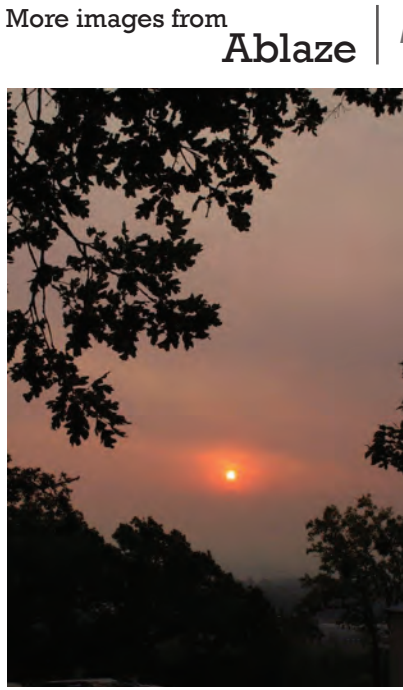
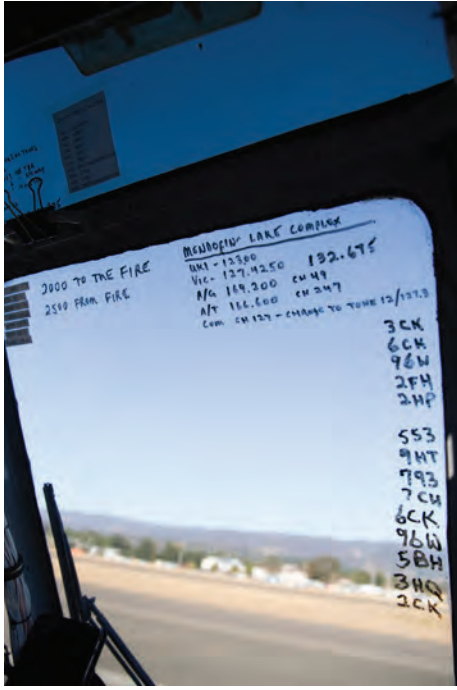
Below, right: The Crowman is a cargo helicopter. When fighting fires the spacious cargo area is kept empty.

At bottom, left: Notations on the windshield keep track of information.

Photos by Ree Slocum

At bottom, right: The air quality produced by the fires was not great for the lungs, but did make for some amazing sun photographs. The smoke was so thick that the entire sun could be seen as a glowing red orb with the naked eye.

Photo by Jenny Senter



Above, from left: The thick smoke over Willits as seen from the southern-facing hills of Brooktrails. Communications were out in Willits starting early Monday morning October 9 but came back up sometime in the wee hours Wednesday morning. "Cash only" signs showed up on business doors, as credit cards were unusable. This set of signs at Brown's Corner gas station Tuesday afternoon showed they were out of regular and mid-grade gas due to the 101 highway closure. The fire jumped 101 from the east and headed down to the road paralleling 101 on Ridgewood Ranch. One of the big bombers, an Erickson Aero Tanker, flying over Eastside Road on Wednesday afternoon.

Ridgewood Ranch Fire Crew works tirelessly to keep area safe

Out of most great disasters come stories of those whose instincts and training take over, enabling them to preserve life and property and help others to safety. The Redwood fire which devastated Redwood Valley and burned 38,500 acres of Mendocino County is no exception to this. At Ridgewood Ranch, a small group of well-trained and well-supported firefighters worked tirelessly during the fire to save their homes and those of their neighbors. In the process, they helped preserve

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The five members of the Ridgewood Ranch Fire Crew, Captain Brian Bartholomew, Cody Bartholomew, Ruthie King, Daniel Ryberg and Eliot Hartley, along with the Little Lake Fire Department, the South Coast Fire Company and four fire crews from CalFire, were the initial responders when, early in the morning on Monday, October 9, fire flared up alongside Highway 101. The fire, which started above the Golden Rule Trailer Park and Ridgewood Ranch, quickly jumped the highway and headed toward the complex, which is the home to over 200 people.

Captain Bartholomew, a retired CalFire team member with over 27 years of experience, went door to door, alerting the residents and making sure they were as safe as possible, prior to getting his crew together to join the other fire departments in fighting back the flames and keeping them at bay.

Ruthie King, director of the Grange School of Adaptive

Agriculture, Ridgewood resident, and two-year member of the Ridgewood Ranch Fire Crew, was staying the night in Potter Valley Sunday night. She noticed the winds were blowing extremely strongly when she went to bed that night. "I got a call at 2:30 am telling me to come back," she said. "There was a hard closure on the highway. I drove past a few fires in Redwood Valley and didn't think it would have gone all the way to Golden Rule by then.

CHP stopped me on the highway and wouldn't let me go through unless I could get someone on the phone to verify I was part of the Ridgewood Ranch Fire Crew, so I got Eliot on the phone. I told him, 'Put on your professional voice and tell them I can come through.' I don't look like a firefighter, so I think it was hard for them to believe. When I got here our chief, Brian Bartholomew, had already gone out and was evacuating the mobile village." She found Hartley initially and joined up with him. They found Brian Bartholomew and went to work.

"We joined up with our team and got to have a taste of just about everything. We did vehicle fire, structure fire. We did some back-burning. We found and worked on a spot fire that had started about a half a mile away from the main fire. An ember must have picked up and blown over, and we were able to respond to that very quickly with water and hand tools. Eliot and I were on a crew most of the time. One of us with a hose and one of us with a Pulaski or a McCloud, which are firefighting hand tools."

Hartley, who has been on the crew for only a couple months, got his early baptism by fire. "I was just mostly concerned about human life. It's awful when your life burns up, when all the things you own get destroyed, but all of that is replaceable."

"The fire got really close to the mobile village, a couple hundred

yards or so," said King. "There are over 100 people that live there. It would have been a whole different scenario if it had hit the village, a residential area with propane tanks and gas and all kinds of things that are much more flammable. Every time the fire jumped over a road or a firebreak, we were just looking at where would be the next road we could use to hold it back."

The Ridgewood Ranch Fire Crew was formed two years ago with King and Cody and Brian Bartholomew. They cross-trained with and received a second engine on loan from the Little Lake Fire Department. This is the third fire they have had to fight on the property this year. The first two were vehicle fires on Highway 101. One was just a couple acres, and the Grade fire burned 900 acres. The Redwood fire has burned over 35,000 acres.

The crew has continued to be occupied with residual spot fires, making sure there are no flare-ups that can threaten the ranch.

Lucy Kramer, resident of Ridgewood Ranch, echoed the sentiment of others whose homes had been saved: "The fire team is awesome. They're a really strong team with logical forward-thinking people. They held the line. The fire came a full horseshoe around the perimeter of the residential area, and it burned a lot of the non-residential area of the ranch. But the fire crew was able to hold it down."

As the smoke begins to clear in much of Mendocino County, it is a good time to consider the work of these local crews and local volunteer fire departments, along with the excellent support from fire departments from around the west, as well as all the other first responders whose efforts have helped save lives and property. Thank you.

'Better to give'

Church of the Golden Rule provides help after evacuation order lifted

It is in the ethos of our area that we help those who are not as fortunate as ourselves. Mendocino County's Redwood fire created an environment in which that credo could be demonstrated. The Church of the Golden Rule, owners and caretakers of the Ridgewood Ranch and the Golden Rule Trailer Park, has as its primary motto, "It is better to give than to receive."

The Golden Rule community was evacuated early on Monday morning, October 9, due to the Redwood fire, part of the Mendocino Lake Complex fire, as CalFire dubs it. But since the evacuation order was lifted late in the afternoon on Friday, October 13, the Golden Rule dining hall has been a place of assistance and care for "the displaced and the powerless," providing great home-cooked, homegrown healthy meals for up to 120 people, as well as a place where people can get warm clothes, food to take home, and other necessities.

Ellen Bartholomew, of the Church of the Golden Rule, has taken the helm in this effort to feed, clothe, and generally take care of the temporarily homeless.

According to Lucy Kramer, resident and manager of donations, "This is the community dining hall for the Church of the Golden Rule. They do community dinners here every night for the church community. Since the power went out, they opened up their big dining hall, and they make meals for over 100 people who live out at the mobile village and anyone who's been displaced. We're expecting the power to come on tonight, but it's been really cool having a space where all these people can come. We have gas

and a generator for this building and WIFI so people can keep in touch with those who are concerned about them. It's been a center for people who have no power or connection to the outside world to come and use the internet and power, charge their phones, etc. We had maybe 120 the first day, progressively less on successive days as people became more comfortable back in their homes."

Kramer is administering the donation program where those who are temporarily homeless or without necessities are able to find clothing, underwear, toiletries and non-perishable food.

Additionally, the church has been hosting several evacuees at the White Deer Lodge at the top of the ridge.

Ruthie King, resident, director of the School of Adaptive Agriculture, and member of the Ridgewood Ranch Fire Crew was happy about "having the opportunity to open this place up, to feed people and to host evacuees at the White Deer Lodge and to use this space to support people in need. It's been great to see this place shine and be the most that it can be and used in this really extraordinary way. Ellen's a really special person and she's had a lot of help."

Eliot Hartley of the fire crew added: "Ellen is great at organizing and delegating. It's great to see the Mother Hen at work." Indeed, she ran the meal with incredible energy and humor. All the helpers seemed to derive energy from and enjoy providing their service and bringing smiles to the faces of some of the 200 residents of the trailer park and the ranch who were without electricity and gas for heat.

Bartholomew explained how this service came to be: "Rick, the manager at the mobile home

park, and I got together, and we were talking on Tuesday night. We knew that the generator was here. This is where the electricity was. We had no phone. The evacuation had been lifted. We were talking, and he had all these seniors coming home. They had no food, no way to cook, no way to preserve their food and no way to stay warm. But they needed to come home because they couldn't afford to pay for a hotel room. We told them about our freezer, and people brought their food.

"We have nothing but abundance. We have three gardens here in this valley that are gigantic. Not one of them is less than an acre. Between all of us we had tons of produce. We have Tequio Farm, the School of Adaptive Agriculture, and Golden Rule Garden. We all pulled our food together and said 'Let's grow for the people in the valley.'

"We were the only ones with electricity because of our big generator for this building. We decided to do this until everyone had power. We started Wednesday, and we decided to go at least through the weekend, further if it was necessary. It sounds like we may be getting power tonight or early tomorrow. We will go at least through tomorrow because you might have electricity but not have any food left in the house," Bartholomew added.

"We are going to take some food up to the Redwood Valley Grange. They have electricity but no way to cook.

"We've been really lucky. We've worked really hard to be a sustainable farm, and our purpose here is to prove that you need to be of service to others."



Far left: Ranger Mike Hannah calls over one of the 27 horses evacuated Monday morning, October 9 from the Boy Scouts' Camp Wente.

Above: By Sunday, October 15, only two goats and one mini pony were left for Danielle Barry, daughter of Marcy and Fred Barry, to care for. The 13-year-old took on all of the responsibility of caring for the smaller animals who were evacuated.

At left: Dirty Harry the mini pony enjoys the abundant food.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Animal Evacuees

Willits Frontier Days hosts horses, cows, sheep and more at the rodeo grounds

President and vice president of Willits Frontier Days, Fred and Marcy Barry, were awakened at 4 am Monday, October 9 by a City of Willits police officer. The police department had been alerted by Willits city employee Delores Pedersen of the possible availability of the Willits Frontier Days' rodeo grounds for evacuated large animals. The officer informed the Barrys of the evacuations on Pine Mountain and the Wente Boy Scout Camp due to the threat of fire in those areas and wondered if the rodeo grounds could accept the animals of evacuees.

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Marcy Barry immediately said, "Absolutely, bring 'em down. We'll figure it out!" She felt confident the facility could handle the animals with its set-up of small and large pens and open staging areas. The Barrys went directly to the rodeo grounds, turned on the lights, and opened the gates. Ken Pedersen from the Wente Boy Scout Camp helped after the Barrys left to go to work at 10 am.

Soon people and horses from the Wente Camp arrived. It took about four loads to get the 27 horses, portable pens, and feed to the rodeo grounds and four hours to set up the horse pens and hay, then transfer all the animals to the pens.

"And I thought that was pretty darned good!" said Wente Camp Ranger Mike Hannah. "We have a great support community of Scouters and friends here in the Willits area," he added, "and we had four horse trailers and a flatbed trailer [to transfer stock panels and hay]."

The Wente Camp's 27 horses, who are used to roaming 800 acres at this time of year, had to be sheltered in one pen, so the Hannahs decided to stay with the herd at the rodeo grounds. "It's like having 27 preschoolers," Hannah laughed. Some animals that were more aggressive in the enclosed space needed to be separated. There were little nicks caused by horses' irritations with one another, and the change in feed created diarrhea in some. These issues concerned the Hannahs and needed diligent attention. The family was also evacuated and needed a place to stay, so they set up their motor home right there at the rodeo grounds.

Other evacuated animals arrived on Monday and Tuesday following the Pine Mountain evacuation orders. One sheep rancher brought his flock of sheep and faithful sheep dog.

There was a herd of cattle with calves and a bull that was penned separately. The Barry's 13-year-old daughter, Danielle, accepted the responsibility of caring for 25 goats, four pygmy goats, and one miniature horse called "Dirty Harry." The young Barry fed, exercised and played with the animals twice daily.

The wealth of support for the evacuated animals and their owners made the work of caring for all the animals easier. "We have an awesome board of directors. Every one of our board members checked in and helped with whatever needed to be done," said Marcy Barry. The Willits Frontier Days is a nonprofit organization and dipped into some of the funds reserved for emergencies such as the evacuation of animals. There was an outpouring of donations from the rodeo, ranching and larger communities.

Fort Bragg resident Liv Hayward, who shows her horses at Willits Frontier Days events, made calls immediately on Monday and sat in the Fort Bragg Safeway's parking lot to receive donations of hay, feed, blankets and other necessities. She brought two truckloads over to the Willits rodeo grounds on Tuesday.

Meadow Shere, owner of Long Valley Feed and Supply in Laytonville, sent over a load of hay and was ready to send more if needed. J.D. Redhouse offered supplies and feed, and so did local individuals. People from all over offered necessities, and Barry realized, "We didn't need anything more and I told a lot of donors to keep what they were donating until the next time somebody needs it." Kemmy's Pies donated some of their fruit and meat pies, and Matt Anderson barbequed tri-tip and brought it over for the group. "We've been quite spoiled on this adventure," laughed Hannah.

The evacuation orders were lifted on Sunday, and residents began repopulating Pine Mountain. By midafternoon the rodeo grounds were getting back to normal. The Wente horses were still penned, as were the miniature horse, Dirty Harry, and two goats. By publication of this week's Willits Weekly, the grounds will be quieter, with all the animals and people back home. In spite of the residual smoke from fires in other areas, there is a feeling of quiet and calm from having this well-used safe haven for beloved animals in an emergency.



Above right, from top: Mike Hannah explains that some of the horses weren't used to being with the rest of the herd in such close proximity to each other.

The Wente folks brought all of their own horse equipment, portable horse pens, and hay to the rodeo grounds on Monday.

Above, left: From left, Camp Wente staffer and teacher Lisa Mattern, Camp Wente's Ranger Mike Hannah, Marcy Barry, vice president of Willits Frontier Days, and Bruce Cartwright, board member for Willits Frontier Days help pack up after the evacuation order was lifted.

Above, right: The Wente group painted orange "W"s on the rump of each horse for identification, just in case they got out.

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The rest of Ordinance From Page 1

The vote for adoption was unanimous. Some last-minute work on the cannabis facilities code was completed by supervisors during an October 10 special meeting. On October 17, the two sections were placed on the agenda as consent items, and approved with little discussion.

After some tinkering by the board during the October 10 meeting, it was agreed cannabis processing will be allowed in 10 zones, including the three industrial zones (Industrial 1, Industrial 2 and Pinoleville Industrial), Forest Land, Range Land, Rural Communities, Upland Residential, Commercial 1 and Commercial 2 zones.

According to the medical cannabis cultivation ordinance approved by supervisors on April 4, cannabis may be cultivated (until 2020) in 16 zones across the inland part of the county. As currently written, the cannabis facilities code prohibits processing cannabis in Rural Residential 2, 5 and 10, in Residential 3, in Suburban Residential, and in Timber Production Zone zoning districts.

Processing cannabis, as defined in the facilities code, includes the drying, curing, grading and storing of cannabis.

The manufacturing of cannabis products is divided into two types: Manufacturing 1 and Manufacturing 2. Manufacturing 1 involves processing cannabis with non-volatile solvents, or without solvents, or with volatile solvents being used in a non-volatile process.

The CFC allows the non-volatile manufacturing of cannabis products in five zoning districts, including the three industrial zones mentioned above, Commercial 2 zones (with a minor use permit) and in Rural Communities zoning districts (with an administrative permit). The non-volatile manufacturing of cannabis products is prohibited in the other 11 zones of the inland county.

Manufacturing 2 – the more dangerous kind of manufacturing, involving cannabis and volatile solvents (when being used in potentially volatile processes)

The rest of Healthy From Page 1

Strong. The meeting featured talks by Health Mendocino Project Coordinator Patrice Mascolo and Project Manager Thais Mazur.

The effort is reminiscent of several other endeavors undertaken over the last three decades: the early days of the Mendocino County Green Party; One Town, One Vision; and the Willits Economic Localization Group, all of which involved well-informed, sometimes visionary, community members working to influence social and political reality.

Like those other groups, Healthy Mendocino backers are grappling with big issues. Program participants have named five areas they want to improve: poverty, housing, mental health, childhood obesity and family wellness (which are regarded as one issue), and childhood trauma.

Healthy Mendocino is sponsored by well-established and reputable organizations, including the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency, North Coast Opportunities, the Ukiah Valley Medical Center, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital and the Alliance for Rural Community Health.

More of Crisis From Page 1

meals for evacuees at Willits High School, and custodial staff kept the school clean. Schools also kept in touch with families during the crisis.

Now that schools are open again after a week's closure, the emotional and material needs of both students and families are the district's primary focuses.

Willits Unified School District began with a "look at attendance," according to Superintendent of Schools Mark Westerburg. "We are looking at who isn't here today, and trying to make a phone call home ... targeted to help who needs assistance first, make sure we take care of our students first and doing an assessment of what specific families need."

The emotional needs of students on their first day back in class were met in different ways by the school district, depending on a student's age. "Grade K through 5 students had discussions in their rooms.... Baechtel Grove Middle School Students journaled about it.... High school students had counselors talking to them individually," said Westerburg.

Sanhedrin High School Director Jeffrey Ritchley said: "Every student was reached out to. We checked in to make sure everyone was OK.

"Kids are happy to be back in school," he added. "I was standing in the main hallway, and kids were coming in giving staff members hugs."

Charter schools similarly stepped up to the plate, providing support and whatever was needed to their students and families.

Willits Charter School Director Jennifer Lockwood said WCS students were "hugging each other, very happy to be back in school." She described the first day back as "taking it easy as far as curriculum is concerned.

"It was important to get students together right off the bat," she said. "We had two counselors for anyone who needed to talk. The goal was to be together, be supportive, be kind, and hear each other's stories.

"Staff have been affected, too. We're a resource center for everything – information about everything," said Lockwood.

– is permitted in only four zoning districts: the three industrial zones with an administrative permit and in Rural Communities (with a minor use permit).

During the October 10 meeting, supervisors agreed to make the CFC more liberal than had been proposed by county staff. The CFC had come to the board on that day with a provision that cannabis processing in Upland Residential zones would not be allowed. At the recommendation of Supervisor John McCowen, the board agreed to change the language, to allow processing in Upland Residential zones with an administrative permit.

Supervisor Dan Hamburg urged fellow board members to alter the CFC to allow cannabis processing in Commercial 1 zones with a minor use permit and in Commercial 2 zones with an administrative permit. Supervisors McCowen and Gjerde agreed with Hamburg on that one, and the change to the CFC was added without an official vote being taken.

Hamburg also proposed loosening the prohibitions on manufacturing, so that manufacturing with non-volatile solvents could take place in Commercial 1 zones with a minor use permit, but he could not get three supervisors to agree with his proposal. First District Supervisor Carre Brown, Third District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey and Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde told Hamburg they wanted to keep manufacturing of cannabis products banned in Commercial 1 zones.

During the October 10 board meeting, McCowen also pushed his colleagues to accept a more liberal definition of manufacturing as it applies to cannabis. The draft of the CFC, as written by staff, defined the first level of cannabis manufacturing as involving non-volatile solvents, or no solvents. But McCowen proposed the phrase, "or volatile solvents if used in a non-volatile process" be added to the definition. Hamburg and Gjerde agreed with him, and the definition of Manufacturing 1 regarding cannabis products was altered.

With approval of the second reading of the two code sections, they were adopted by the board of supervisors, and will take effect on November 16.

just one or two of the issues.

"What you actually decide to do is up to your team," Mazur said.

She acknowledged the enormity of the five articulated action areas: "It's true that there is no overnight solution [to these issues], and it's also true that things are changing, especially at the national level. But what is also true was well articulated by Margaret Mead, who said, 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.'"

Mazur encouraged members of the public who might like to participate in a "Healthy Mendocino summit meeting" to attend the October 25 meeting at the Willits Community Center from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. People who cannot attend that meeting, but who would like to know more about Healthy Mendocino, or who would like to connect with the group that appeared to be forming at the October 8 meeting at the Hub, should call Patrice Mascolo at 467-3228 or email her at healthymendocino@ncinc.org.

The rest of Center From Page 1

Angelo visited the LAC Tuesday morning, and reported she was impressed with how well it was organized. The Local Assistance Center will be open seven days a week from 10 am to 7 pm for at least the next two weeks.

She also informed the board that fire debris removal was going to be a major issue, adding that residents affected by the fire should not undertake debris removal by themselves. Instead, Angelo said one of several government agencies will remove fire debris. To be eligible for state-funded debris cleanup, which can save residents thousands of dollars, homeowners cannot "alter the footprint" of the debris, Sheriff Tom Allman has also warned. The California Department of Toxic Substance Control would be arriving in the county on Monday and spend the next two weeks assessing local needs. After that, cleanup will begin.

U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman dropped in to board chambers Tuesday to tell supervisors the federal government intends to help the county recover from the disaster. "Count on our continued cooperation," Huffman said.

Huffman added the actual work of debris removal would be undertaken by either Mendocino County, or by the California Division of Recycling, aka CalRecycle, or by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He warned supervisors that – no matter which agency was in charge of the cleanup – it was important they checked with the Federal Emergency Management Authority to ensure the cleanup was done according to FEMA protocols, so FEMA would be able to reimburse the agency for its costs.

"We need to get together and figure out how we are going to do this," Huffman said.

Angelo added she has created a new agency dealing with recovery and rebuilding after the Redwood fire. Health and Human Services Director Tammy Moss Chandler will act as "Department of Recovery" director. HHSA Operations Director Ann Molgaard was named acting director of Health and Human Services.

Supes ponder how to help

Supervisors spent much of Tuesday afternoon discussing what the county could do to assist people negatively impacted by the fire. The board discussed several options, only to learn the Department of Planning and Building Services was in the process of drafting language for an urgency ordinance that would propose many of the same tactics.

Those emergency actions include waiving the one-year time limit for people to live in temporary, mobile housing while they are building a new house. Under the urgency ordinance, which is now being drafted by Planning and Building staff, instead of a one-year time limit, there would be a three-year time limit. The types of mobile housing which would be allowed in the urgency ordinance would be expanded to include recreational vehicles and travel trailers.

Chief Planner Mary Lynn Hunt added that planning staff is looking at drafting an urgency ordinance that would dramatically loosen county restrictions on who can live where in Mendocino County, for people whose homes were destroyed by the fire.

If there is no room on a parcel to accommodate temporary housing while new housing is being built, then the property owner could live in one of various kinds of temporary housing on another person's property, with permission of the landowner.

In addition, contractors coming into Mendocino County from another location to construct housing for victims of the fire would be permitted to live in temporary housing, including mobile homes, RVs and travel trailers, either on the landowner's property or on the property of a neighbor or a friend.

When asked if these provisions would be part of an urgency ordinance, Hunt said: "We are looking at it. I can't promise anything, but we are looking at it."

Board Chairman John McCowen asked if supervisors would support an effort to use vacant industrial infrastructure – such as old lumber mills – as a location for temporary housing. His colleagues agreed.

They also agreed to allow fire victims who were rebuilding to defer payment of fees. However, when McCowen suggested the board liberalize the county's policy on fees so the county would completely waive the payment of fees for people rebuilding due to property loss from the fire and who had some other hardship, he met opposition from supervisors Carre Brown, Georgeanne Croskey and Dan Gjerde.

"We still have to pay for running the county," Croskey said.

Supervisors urged county staff to inquire if the Mendocino County Farm Bureau knew of any farmers who might have available farmworker housing that could be used on a short-term basis. Interim Ag Commissioner Diane Curry said she would check with the bureau.

Other directives came flying off the dais in the two-hour brainstorming session, including writing letters to Air B&B owners, hotel owners and motel owners to encourage them to rent to fire victims and to register with FEMA. Once registered with FEMA, the businesses become eligible for federal reimbursement during those periods when disaster victims stay in their facilities.

The board also directed county staff to reach out to Mendocino County's incorporated cities, so city managers and tourism managers can ask hospitality owners to open up their facilities to the displaced.

Treasurer, assessor to offer help

Assistant Treasurer Julie Forester told the board that Assessor-Clar/Recorder Sue Ranochak has put up a Calamity Disaster Relief Form on her department's website. People afflicted by the fire may fill out the form and mail it to Ranochak's office by December 10.

If they meet the December 10 deadline, Forester said, they will be eligible to defer the first payment of their taxes for the 2017-18 fiscal year. If they mail the form after December 10, they will pay taxes at the current rate for the first installment, but will receive a correction on the second installment of their annual taxes.

Assessor's Office staff will have to visit the property to assess how the fire damage has affected the property value. In instances where the fire has affected property value, the new value will be recorded by the Assessor's Office, and the property owner will pay taxes based on the new assessed value.

To locate the special disaster form, go to www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=12276.

Energetic Slick



This young man is full of energy and ready to go! He needs training in basic commands but really wants to please, he just doesn't know how yet. With the right amount of exercise, love and attention, he will be a great addition to any family. Slick could benefit from having an older dog around to help him learn the ropes, and

older children and a big yard would certainly be great. He's here waiting for the perfect forever home - come see if he would fit your family!

For more information on Slick or other adoptable animals, call Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County at 485-0123, check www.mendohumanesociety.com, or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday.



Sweet Boo Boo

This handsome dog is a 2-year-old neutered, male mixed breed who currently weighs 50 pounds. Boo Boo is a happy dog who knows "Sit" and "Shake." Since he's obviously had some training, he may very well know more commands. He's an absolute sweetheart. His temperament makes us believe he would be good in a home with children.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit online at: www.mendocinimalshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.

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Next Week:
Happy Death Day



Above, left: Sean Payne compacts gravel over the top of the newly installed pipe. Above, right: City of Willits trucks at the bottom of Tattersfield Hill near the south end of Locust Street where the main broke. Below: Payne works in the hole, while Cory Ungast, center, and Kenan O'Shea supervise.

Water main break on Locust Street

It was a chilly night to be out digging in a trench to replace a broken water line on Locust Street on Sunday night, but the City of Willits' four-man crew worked diligently throughout the overnight hours to repair and restore the line by Monday morning, to the residents' delight.

"There was a hole in the pipe and about a 4-foot section had to be replaced before the lines could be back up, pressurized and operational," said City of Willits' Scott Herman. "We were able to turn off the valves at the 120,000-gallon water tank located up the hill on Locust Street and another just near the 21200 Locust Street driveway."

Some nearby residents experienced only low pressure during the water main replacement, as this area also receives low-pressure water flow from the Meadowbrook area. Other residents had no water at all during the replacement time and were issued boil water notices. Notices were lifted at 4 pm on October 17.

"We want to stress that anyone who was affected would have been directly hand-delivered a notice for the 24-hour boil water warning," said Herman. "If you didn't receive a hand-delivered notice, you don't need to worry."

More information: 459-4601.

— Maureen Moore



'Christmas in September'

The Willits United Methodist Church put on a "Christmas in September" event to gather sleeping bags, pads and tents for homeless youth in the Willits area. The Methodist organizers, including Pastor Rosemary Landry, Pat Moller and Jane McCabe, asked youth advocate Aurelie Clivaz, of the Mendocino County Youth Project for a "wish list" of the most-needed items as the cold weather approaches. "They also donated \$185 of laundry vouchers and bus tickets," Clivaz said. "I'd like to say thank you for everyone who contributed," Clivaz said.

At left: Pat Moller, left, Pastor Rosemary Landry and Jane McCabe of the Willits United Methodist Church stand in front of the School Street church with some of the supplies they helped to gather for homeless youth.

SPARETIME SUPPLY

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WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

October 2 to October 15

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 401 incidents in this 14-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

October 2

12:31 am: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

8:41 am: Officers responded to a report of panhandling in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:50 am: TOBIN, Shannon Lee (39) of Manhattan Beach, California was contacted in the 100 block of Marcela Drive following a disturbance. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of battery against a peace officer and violation of probation.

9:34 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 200 block of Haebl Creek Court.

3:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:43 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

6:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

8:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Poplar Avenue and Walnut Street and issued a warning.

October 3

5:13 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

9:28 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Highway 20 and Coast Street and issued a warning.

11:02 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

3:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of Railroad Avenue.

5:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of multiple unwanted subjects in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:47 pm: NACE, Thommy James (33) of Ukiah was contacted in the 1200 block of Poplar Avenue. He was arrested on felony charges of vehicle theft and misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

October 4

10:35 am: Officers responded to a report of sexual assault in the 200 block of Bonnie Lane.

10:50 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

12:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

1:36 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

1:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of North Lenore Avenue.

2:03 pm: FABER, Scott Andrew (38) of Ukiah, was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 484 PC (Petty Theft) and on felony charges of violation of parole.

4:48 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Baechtel Road.

11:10 pm: TOYOS, Sylvia Paola (26) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of South Main Street following a fight. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of obstructing an officer.

October 5

1:42 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Holly Street and Poplar Avenue.

6:16 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 800 block of Coast Street.

6:28 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:17 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1100 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:01 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of East Commercial Street and North Humboldt Street and issued a warning.

8:28 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

8:34 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue.

10:53 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road and issued a warning.

11:47 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

2:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of North Main Street.

5:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Highway 20 and Coast Street.

5:13 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 20000 block of South Main Street.

7:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

11:39 pm: SOUTHWICK, Bradley Dean (35) of Portland, Oregon was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street following a report of threats. He was arrested on felony charges pursuant to 422 PC (Criminal Threats).

October 6

3:01 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Sanhedrin Circle and East Hill Road.

6:26 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road and issued a warning.

6:42 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 500 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

7:52 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of North Main Street and West Commercial Street and issued a warning.

8:19 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue.

1:45 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Raymond Lane.

5:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

7:24 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of East Hill Road and Hilltop Drive.

8:34 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:10 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

11:11 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 500 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

Read the rest of WPD |

Over on Page B2

The rest of Zone | From Page 1

"We are writing to encourage you to pass the safe school zone resolution in respect to immigration," the letter read. "All students deserve a learning environment free from threats to their safety and well-being. Especially with our current political climate, it is crucial our school have policies that reduce fears around immigration and deportation that some of our students and families are facing.

"Passing a safe school zone resolution will send a clear message to our students and families, and to the community, that the Willits Unified School District will do everything in its power to ensure student safety and security at school regardless of immigration status."

Community member and social worker Robin Goldner encouraged trustees to pass the resolution, saying that "even though an ICE raid seemed a pretty remote possibility in Willits," the resolution would reassure the community "that we support everybody here ... especially children."

Superintendent of Schools Mark Westerburg noted the district doesn't "even ask if [a student] is a legal resident or citizen. We only do what we're required to do -- [if there's] a warrant or something of that nature we [must] comply with. The Community College has to collect data about residency because of FAFSA and student loans. We don't have any of those obligations. We wouldn't even have the data if [immigration authorities asked for it] in most cases."

In other business at the October 4 meeting, Westerburg gave trustees a report on Sherwood School and provided results from new statewide testing.

In addition to being superintendent, Westerburg also is the principal of Sherwood School. He described the school as "exactly what a necessary small school should be" and encouraged board members to visit the school.

Three teachers and 2.5 paraprofessionals teach about 60 students from kindergarten through eighth grade in multi-age classrooms. Sherwood has the "best playground possible," and more than 20 students now take the bus, which gets them back to Baechtel Grove Middle School by 3:15 pm, in time to get on another bus to get home.

It was "a little bit tricky to get internet," Westerburg said, but the district managed and Sherwood "uses a lot of technology." He described it as a "most fun building to be in ... safe and nurturing ... and a great learning environment."

Westerburg also praised the parents'

The rest of Crisis | From Page 9

150, we stay inside."

McClellan said elementary charter students weren't allowed "in the yard as usual" in the morning due to poor air quality.

Kelly, of La Vida, said "smoke damage accumulates over time, and students were staying inside for recess."

Staff will be taken care of, too. Westerburg said hourly employees will be paid for the week schools were closed. "We're going to keep them whole," he said.

He also expects "California will probably excuse the days missed, so they won't have to be made up."

Westerburg noted it was too early to tell the full financial impact of, among other things, staffing the bus depot 24/7 for four days and the high school cafeteria staff and custodial staff all week. "But," he said, "we'll sort it out. We did what we needed to do to get through."

group, Friends of Sherwood School, for providing "unique field trips" and parents willing to help fix things.

The superintendent also addressed recent statewide test results for WUSD students. The test -- "Smarter Balanced Assessments" -- is part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress program (CAASPP), and replaced the Standardized Testing and Reporting system (STAR), which expired in July 2013.

The new, computer-based test is given once a year in May to students in grades three through eight and grade 11, and measures knowledge of California's English language arts/literacy and mathematics standards. Results for all schools in the state, given in the form of bar graphs showing the percentage of students who nearly meet, meet, or exceed standards, can be found online at caaspp.cde.ca.gov/sb2017/Search.

A majority of Willits Unified students have not met the state standards since the test began being administered three years ago.

Westerburg told trustees he was "a little bit troubled by the test to begin with." He noted it was not diagnostic, did not "tell what a student knows and doesn't know," and was "all done on a computer screen." He added there were computer errors which prevented some students from finishing the test.

Blosser Lane fourth-grade teacher Amy Grooms told the board a timed test was hard for students who didn't have computer skills, adding her students don't get much keyboard practice, which puts them at a disadvantage.

Westerburg said what was needed was nationally standardized assessments that had validity, like college entrance tests -- the ACT and SAT. In particular, he cited the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills test, which assesses the acquisition of early literacy skills from kindergarten through sixth grade, as a measure of "how students are doing."

He assured trustees the district was "doing all the right things, and going in the right direction." The focus for the district this year, he added, was graduation and dropout rates. A to G completion, English language students' performance, and assessing high school readiness in eighth grade.

The board's student representative, sophomore Drake Wisdom, gave a brief presentation about the then-upcoming high school Homecoming activities. School board President Christopher Neary noted there used to be a homecoming parade before "Caltrans said 'no.'" He suggested "looking into resuming the tradition."

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Above, left: Ronny Seever sends a steer down the arena after successfully sorting it out of the herd. Above, right: Mike Fonsen heads off a steer from the pack. At left, top: A plate full of barbecue, ready for judging at the Ranch Rodeo contest on October 7. At left, below: Stetson Burgess gets ready to dalli his calf.

Ranch Rodeo 2017

The sixth annual Willits Frontier Days Ranch Rodeo was held at the rodeo grounds on October 7 and gave real-life cowboys and cowgirls a chance to show their skills in a number of practical applications.

The rodeo featured events including calf branding, ranch doctoring, team sorting, dalli roping and trailer loading for competitors to try their ropes in three-person teams. Ten teams competed, and first place went to the Fonsen Cattle team, Mike Fonsen, Stetson Burgess and Anthony McKemy. The winners received engraved belt buckles.

There was a tie for second place between the Fields Livestock team, with Russ Fields, Ronny Seever and Mike Fonsen, and the Seever Livestock team, with Russ Fields, Brian White and Ronny Seever.

Other competing teams included McCattle, with Blair Beeson, Nat Stratton, and Raylene Sizemore; Rock E Cattle, Blair Beeson, Nat Stratton, and Ira Harvey; P/6, with Nicol Kunka, Mike Persico and Kat Willits; Rocking G, with Kat Willits, Nicol Kunka and Raylene Sizemore; Dennis Livestock, with Joe Dennis, Anthony McKemy and Kelley Fonsen; Smiley Face, with Chris Darger, Brian White and Ronnie Seever; and White Oak, with Chris Darger, Brian White and Tracie Tornburgh.

held before the official rodeo, and first place went to Kayla Zilch. Second place went to Tracie Tornburgh and third place to Chris Darger. Tornburgh's horse was also awarded the overall stock horse award, which is given to the best-performing horse of the day.

The barbecue contest also took place during the rodeo, and judges and people's choice awards were given out for ribs, beans and bread. Winners included Garman's Construction for judges ribs and bread; Willits Fire Rescue for judges beans and people's ribs; the Willits Power Thunder Chickens for people's bread; and Folsom Ranch for people's beans and best decorated table.

Barbecue teams competing included Willits Fire Rescue, with Eric Alvarez, Mike Cornwall and John Thomen; Willits Power Thunder Chickens, with Misty Gonzalez, Mary Fonsen and Kinzie Barlow; Folsom Ranch, with Vickie Williams and Dusty McKemy; Garman Construction Peace Love and Ribs, with Kara Garman, Sarah Gijon and Jennifer Barrett; and Redwood Ford, with Kevin Reedy and Jouse and Aaron Ramirez.

Event planners expressed their appreciation to all who attended and sponsored this year's event.

Results and team information provided by Mattie Owen.

– Maureen Moore



Below, from left: Russ Fields, left, and Ronny Seever hold the calf steady while Mike Fonsen "brands" the calf with paint. Kat Willits sends her selected steer towards the barrels. Blair Beeson follows along after his calf, who tries to seek refuge along its penmate.

At bottom, left: A roped calf gets a white paint brand from Anthony McKemy. At bottom, right: Raylene Beeson throws her loop, hoping to catch the heels of the calf, headed by Nat Stratton.

Photos by Maureen Moore

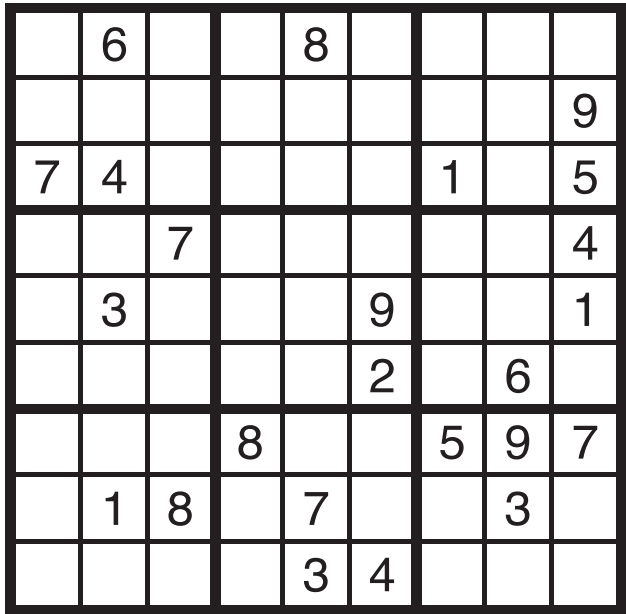
A separate one-rider class, the Working Horse class, was



From far left: Kayla Zilch, winner of the Working Horse class. Tracie Tornburgh on her horse which won the stock horse award. The first-place winning team: Fonsen Cattle with Mike Fonsen, left, Anthony McKemy and Stetson Burgess. Fonsen's son, Grady, in front, holds one of the three silver buckles.

Photos by Marcy Barry

Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

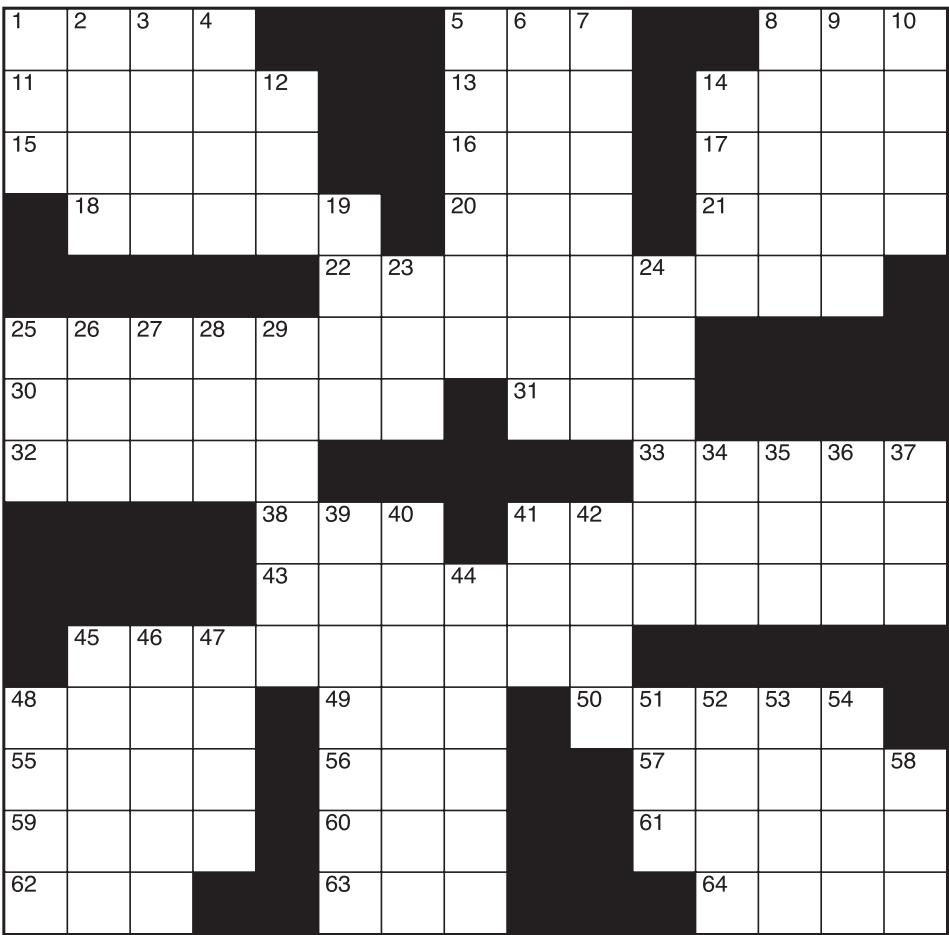


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- Time units (abbr.)
- Cool!
- NY football family
- A way to consume
- Competition
- Monetary units
- Plant in the daisy family
- Ottoman military title
- Small Polish village
- Relatively insignificant lie
- Argument
- Comforts
- Early
- Went on and on
- Type of IRA
- Short musical composition
- Images
- Major component of wood glue (abbr.)
- Observing expeditions
- Used as a lightweight foam
- Recall knowledge
- Afrikaans word for 'language'

- Fried chicken guru Sanders' title (abbr.)
- Caucasian language
- A Spanish river
- Used to pierce holes
- Song of praise
- In bed
- Originally called
- Iron Age Brittonic tribe
- Young goat
- Not even
- Make from wool or yarn

CLUES DOWN

- Current unit
- Bleats
- Soft creamy white cheese
- Opposite of west
- Young female cow
- Deep, narrow gorges
- Freestanding sculpture
- Finger millet
- Hurts
- Unable to hear
- Vast body of water
- Volcanic island in Fiji
- Not early
- Wet dirt



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!

The rest of WPD | From Page 11

October 7

12:56 am: MARTIN, Danny Lee (53) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Highway 20 and Coast Street. He was arrested on charges pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence), and on misdemeanor charges of DUI with blood alcohol over .08 percent, violation of probation, and unlawful operation of a vehicle.

3:11 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:45 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:32 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

6:36 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

6:44 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

11:42 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of Coast Street.

12:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

6:40 pm: COCHRAN, Nicholas Samuel (32) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Bonnie Lane and Sandy Avenue. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

7:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Lupine Drive and Sherwood Road.

11:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

October 8

9:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

October 9

1:00 am: Officers responded to a report of a vegetation fire in the 900 block of Hearst Willits Road.

3:00 am: Officers responded to a report of a fire in the 16000 block of North Highway 101.

10:15 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue.

1:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

6:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of Coast Street and West San Francisco Avenue.

9:17 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

10:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of Barbara Lane and Central Street.

October 10

9:01 am: McCARTHY, Brian Paul (40) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct and interfering with officer and police radio transmissions.

12:56 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

2:46 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

7:26 pm: WILLIAMS, William Jr. (25) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 484 PC (Petty Theft) and on felony charges of first degree robbery and violation of probation.

8:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of a fire in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

October 11

9:48 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

10:47 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

11:25 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of North Lenore Avenue.

1:25 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

2:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of several suspicious people in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:35 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

4:45 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

5:36 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

11:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

October 12

12:05 am: MULLINS, Miranda Marie (23) of Willits was contacted in the 21000 block of Locust Street following a pursuit. She was arrested misdemeanor charges of evading a peace officer, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving with a suspended license, and failure to appear.

11:52 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

7:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

October 13

7:22 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of Williams Street.

10:48 am: BYER, David Wesley (33) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of domestic battery.

11:18 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

4:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

9:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 5600 block of Westview Road.

11:01 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

October 14

9:36 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of North Main Street.

11:49 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

6:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 200 block of South Main Street.

6:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of panhandling in the 100 block of North Main Street.

7:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 200 block of North Main Street.

9:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of a vegetation fire in the 16000 block of North Highway 101.

10:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

October 15

5:04 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

8:14 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue.

11:37 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

4:11 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of North Main Street.

9:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

9:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

At right: Margaret "Magoo" McGill displays the raffle prizes.

Far right: Kim "Sugar B" and Richard "Pops" Venturi, at left, hang with Mylinda "Bubbles" Shaul and Shailyn Brewer, right, organizers of the fundraising spaghetti feed event.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Road to Recovery

Spaghetti feed raises funds for medical expenses for Rich 'Pops' Venturi

One by one, they filed in to the Brooktrails Community Center, friends of Rich "Pops" Venturi, even the friends he was yet to meet. They all had one thing in common – each one of their lives somehow had been touched by the heart, strength and compassion of a beloved and respected citizen of Willits.

The spaghetti feed on October 7 was created by Shailyn Brewer and fellow Willits Wild Bunch member, Mylinda "Bubbles" Shaul to help pay for Venturi's medical bills, necessitated by a second bout with cancer – a very promising prognosis but expensive nonetheless. Shaul expected 40 to 50 people to attend, but by the end of the evening, about 300 people had purchased pasta dinners, bought tickets for the 50-50 and the regular raffle, bid on items at the silent auction, bought homemade desserts, and engaged in spirited live auctions, raising close to \$9,000 to help Venturi on his road to recovery.

"Pops" Venturi is a biker. He rides a Harley. He has a beard. And he wears his colors. If you lived in a city, you might even cross the street to avoid him. But after just a moment with his engaging smile, his intelligence, and his all-encompassing warmth, and you would know Venturi is kindness and generosity personified. Just speak with anyone who knows him.

"Rich is an amazing man," shared Margaret "Magoo" McGill of the Richmond Chapter of the Willits Wild Bunch. "He helped me come back to life. I was going through a real hard time. He

brought laughter back into my life. I love him."

Along with the Willits Wild Bunch, which was incorporated as a charitable organization a couple of years ago, Venturi has led the Willits Toy Run and, more recently, taken a leadership role in the Willits Kids Christmas Program, too. As a probation officer, he was instrumental in helping his cases get back to the straight and narrow. Here's a message received by Brewer about the benefit: "Is this the Rich Venturi who used to be a probation officer? He is an amazing man. When I was younger, he was my probation officer for a while. He was the one who got me onto the right path. Everything I am now I owe to him. I owe it to him that I am a good parent and a good person with a good job. I owe a good life to Rich."

The diversity of the crowd at the spaghetti feed, which included the Willits Wild Bunch, the Old Buzzards Motorcycle Club, the mayor, a judge, business people, and a variety of townsfolk, spoke volumes about the influence he has had on our community. Rich arrived about an hour into the festivities, looking a bit thin but with his warm smile in evidence, beer in hand. He was obviously moved by the outpouring of love and support.

He addressed the crowd: "I have only one thing to say, and that's to coin an old phrase, 'The rumors of my demise have been greatly exaggerated.' Thank you all for being here. This is wild. I was just telling a couple buddies, and you gotta understand cop humor, 'Now I know what my funeral would look like.'"



Above, from left: A card signed by Venturi's supporters is delivered to the man himself. Brooktrails Fire volunteers Scott Bowman, Emily Smith, David Bowman, Britany Keffler, Damian Angell and Albert Hinkle cook spaghetti for the crowd. The Wild Bunch sports "Team Rich" buttons with the acronym "KKFFKK" (Krispy Kreme Forever, Forever Krispy Kreme). Superior Court Judge Keith Faulder and his wife, Jona, showed their support. Kevin "Coach" Tahrir of the Willits Lions Club tends the bar. Les Tarr, radio personality, reads the name of a raffle prize winner as Cat "Tigger" Harris looks on.



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photography by maureen moore

HALLOWEEN

COSTUME CONTEST & PARTY

\$4,500 IN CASH PRIZES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 | 8:00PM - 12:30AM

Wear your Halloween costume for your chance to win great cash prizes. Best Costume gets \$1,500 CASH! Register between 8PM and 9PM to be entered in the contest.

Plus, starting at 8:30PM, enjoy live entertainment with party band "Gotcha Covered," playing your favorite hits from the '70s to today.

Coyote Valley Casino.com | 707.465.9700 | Like us on Facebook

Must be 21 and a member of the Coyote Valley Casino Club membership is FREE. Must have valid photo ID or have a valid photo ID scanned into the Coyote Valley Casino system when checking in. Must be present in a 10-minute window of the event. Please see Coyote Valley Casino website for complete rules and details. Management reserves all rights. Gambling Problem? Call 1.800.426.2527. ©2017 Coyote Valley Casino.

COYOTE VALLEY CASINO



OBITUARY | Gabe Madrigal

Gabriel Madrigal, age 38, of Willits, died suddenly on October 1, 2017. Gabe was born on November 7, 1978 to David and Bonnie (Bays) Madrigal in Fort Bragg, California. He married Holly Brown on September 22, 2002 in Willits.

Gabe was a master craftsman, constructing timber frame and natural buildings throughout Mendocino County and beyond. Most recently, he was working with Garfield Timber Frame Revival with David Bixler and Chris Beebe. Gabe was known for his quiet kindness and generosity. He loved simple pleasures like spending time with family, outdoor adventures and riding his motorcycle.

He is survived by his wife, Holly, grandmother Mary Madrigal, parents David and Bonnie, brothers Mathew and Kyle, sister Morgan, niece Kailana, nephews Matt and Samuel, and a large and loving extended family.

A celebration remembering Gabe will be held at Willits High School, on Sunday, October 22 at 11 am, followed by a reception at the Little Lake Grange for family and friends.

A Go Fund Me account, "Love for Holly and Gabe," has been set up to help Holly through this trying time.



Death Notice

Duane John Swearingner, Sr. of Covelo passed away on October 15, 2017 at the age of 76. A viewing will be held on Friday, October 20 from 3 to 8 pm at Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

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

Thursday, October 19

WHS Soccer: Willits High School vs. St. Helena High School. Thursday, October 19. Girls game at 4 pm; boys game at 5:30 pm (head coach Tatiana Cantrell).

WHS Volleyball Home Game: Willits High School vs. St. Helena High School at home. Friday, October 19. JV at 5 pm. (JV head coach Tim Miller); varsity at 6 pm (varsity head coach Jill Walton).

Help For Fire Victims: The Mendocino County Youth Project is organizing a "give-away" event. This event is for anyone in need of clothes, hygiene supplies, suit cases, and the like. Thursday, October 19. 3 to 7 pm. Methodist Church, 286 School Street. Info: Aurelie Clivaz 489-1258.

WHS Booster Club Meeting: The monthly Willits High School Booster Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, October 19 at the Willits High School Food Center, 299 North Main Street. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS.

Hot Topics in Diabetes: Howard Hospital's Clinical Nutrition Manager Annie Frassinello will speak on the topic, "A Healthy Thanksgiving." Thursday, October 19. 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Seabiscuit Conference Room, Howard Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive. RSVP: Dietitian's Office: 456-3132.

Now and Then Film Series: Little Lake Grange presents "Nothing Like Chocolate," a feature-length documentary about the exploitative chocolate industry, its problems and suggested solutions. The "worker cooperative is the model for the future." Plus trailers & short films, and organic heirloom popcorn. Friday, October 20. 6:30 pm. \$5-\$20 donation will help Willits firefighters. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Shanachie Pub: Dodgy Mountain Men "home-brewed Montana stompgrass." Thursday, October 19. 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, October 20

Willits Senior Center Bake Sale: "Come enjoy homemade baked goodies. Come early for the best choices." Friday, October 20. 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Make Your Costumes at Willits Library: "Ears, Tails, Paws and Claws" costume-making for families. Friday, October 20. 4 to 6 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Lutheran Church Honors 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Wednesday, October 25

Pastor Karl Bliese will be officiating at the special service commemorating the Protestant Reformation which began 500 years ago on October 25, 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on theology and church policy on the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral. This interdenominational service will include brief talks by Bliese and other ministers from several Willits churches. There will be prayers offered for those suffering losses in the recent fires. The focus of the evening will be musical. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Redwood Fire Relief Fundraiser
Shanachie Pub
Friday, Oct. 20th-5 pm
SCHINDIG!
BUG GUTS! PICK & PULL!
THE SHEDS! CLAY HAWKINS TRIO!

WHS Football Home Game: Willits High School vs. St. Helena High School at home. Friday, October 20. JV game at 5:30 pm; varsity game at 7:30 pm (varsity head coach Chris Bickford).

Redwood Fire Relief Fundraiser at Shanachie Pub: Schindig, Bug Guts, the Sheds, Pick & Pull, Clay Hawkins Trio. Friday, October 20. 5 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 21

WHS Freshman Car Wash: The Willits High School freshman class is fundraising with a car wash at Les Schwab Tire Center of Willits on Saturday, October 21. Come get your car washed from 11 am to 4 pm and help support WHS. Cars are just \$5 each! More information: 459-7700.

NOTHING LIKE CHOCOLATE
The competing story of the Graceland Chocolate Company and its visionary founders.
Thursday, October 19 @ 6:30 pm
Little Lake Grange, 129 School St, Willits
All Donations Will Go To Local Fire Relief Funds!

KLLG's First Birthday Bash: "Hill Punk Hoedown" featuring The Dirt Floor Band, Tumble Down House & Greg & The Schindels. No-host dinner by Zocalo Collective. Kids Zone. Raffle and silent auction. Sound by Harry & No Bull Sound. Advance tickets \$20 at Main Street Music and Video, and The Chief in Laytonville. Tickets at the door \$25. Doors open at 6 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm. Music at 7 pm. Saturday, October 21. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. A fundraiser for KLLG

and their emergency generator/disaster relief preparedness plan, as well as for the Community Foundation fire relief fund.

Shanachie Pub: Crosby Tyler: "Blend back-porch bluegrass with Delta blues in a one-man band." Saturday, October 21. 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, October 22

Little Lake Grange Breakfast: Cancelled. "For a variety of reasons, the Grange Pancake Breakfast will not happen this month. Many of us on the crew will be attending the life celebration for Gabe Madrigal that morning (11 am at Willits High School). We



Schindig

Cannabis Hour/Farm and Garden Show on "Cannabis Losses and the Fires." Monday, October 23 at 1 pm on KZYX Radio, 91.5 FM in the Willits area, Listener questions: 895-2448.

Caring Kitchen Project: "Training teens to prepare healthy meals for cancer patients." Orientation meeting for teens and adults who are invited to volunteer. Monday, October 23. 3:30 to 5 pm. St. Anthony's Catholic Church Hall Kitchen, 58 Bush Street. Questions or RSVP: acunningham@ncoinc.org, or April Cunningham 467-3212.

Tuesday, October 24

WHS Soccer: Willits High School vs. Lower Lake High School at home. Tuesday, October 24. Girls game at 4 pm; boys game at 5:30 pm (head coach Tatiana Cantrell).

WHS Volleyball: Willits High School vs. Lower Lake High School at home. Tuesday, October 24. JV at 5 pm. (JV head coach Tim Miller); varsity at 6 pm (varsity head coach Jill Walton).

Pumpkin Carving at Willits Library: Creating succulent centerpieces for ages 10 and up. Tuesday, October 24. 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.



considered alternate dates, but none worked well. We will be back in January and look forward to seeing you then!"

Monday, October 23

"The Cannabis Hour" Special Show: Host Jane Futchler will be doing a special Cannabis Hour/Farm and Garden Show on "Cannabis Losses and the Fires." Monday, October 23 at 1 pm on KZYX Radio, 91.5 FM in the Willits area, Listener questions: 895-2448.

Caring Kitchen Project?
Interested in volunteering with the Caring Kitchen Project?
Join us for our next ORIENTATION TEENS AND ADULTS both invited to volunteer
Monday, October 23rd 3:30-5:00 pm
58 Bush Street St. Anthony's Catholic Church Hall Kitchen behind the church on the south end of the parking lot
Caring Kitchen Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Tightwad movies: "My Little Pony," "The Mountain Between Us," and "Blade Runner 2049." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Wednesday, October 25

WHS Cross Country: Willits High School vs. Kelseyville High School at home. Wednesday, October 25. 3:30 pm (head coach Michelle Kluskiewicz).

Community HU Song at WCA: Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom invites the public to join in the uplifting prayer/mantra for inner calm and divine love called "HU Song." Wednesday, October 25. 6 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 972-2475, or miraclesinyourlife.org.

Commemoration Service at St. John's Lutheran Church: A special service will be held commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation on Wednesday, October 25. Service begins at 6 pm. St. John's Lutheran Church, 24 Mill Creek Drive. Info: Pastor Karl Bliese 513-6128.

MENDO MILL PET COSTUME CONTEST
CALLING ALL DOGS, CATS, AND THEIR HUMANS!
JOIN US FOR A COSTUME CONTEST. A TREASUR BAG FOR YOUR DOGS OR CATS, AND SOME LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
Awards for CONSPICUOUS BEST DRESS ALIKE, FUNNIEST, SCARIEST & MOST CREATIVE.
SATURDAY OCTOBER 28TH 11AM - 2PM

Thursday, October 26

WHS Soccer: Willits High School vs. Fort Bragg High School at home. Thursday, October 26. Girls game at 5:30 pm; boys game at 4 pm (head coach Tatiana Cantrell).

WHS Volleyball: Willits High School vs. Fort Bragg High School at home. Thursday, October 26. JV at 5 pm. (JV head coach Tim Miller); varsity at 6 pm (varsity head coach Jill Walton).

Help For Fire Victims: The Mendocino County Youth Project is organizing a "give-away" event. This event is for anyone in need of clothes, hygiene supplies, suit cases, and the like. Thursday, October 26. 3 to 7 pm. Methodist Church, 286 School Street. Info: Aurelie Clivaz 489-1258.

Friday, October 27

Halloween Carnival at Willits Library: Friday, October 27. 6 to 8 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Senior Center Raffle

Get those tickets back in! The Harrah Senior Center's biggest fundraiser of the year is underway – and you don't have to leave home to participate. A dozen raffle tickets have been mailed to the homes of many Willits residents. This year's "2nd annual FUNDING RAFFLE" drawing will be held on November 3 – there's no need to be present to win – so there's plenty of time to get those tickets returned. With about 50 prizes donated by local businesses, you've got a pretty good chance at winning something fabulous – for a price of \$2 per ticket or six for \$10.

Last year's first FUNDing Raffle raised \$8,263 to support the center's many ongoing programs, including affordable lunches, support groups, Meals on Wheels, transportation services, social and educational activities, and Outreach, which provides seniors with information and advocacy regarding community services, resources and health care options. Call the center at 459-6826 for more info.

KLLG 1ST ANNIVERSARY HILL PUNK HOEDOWN
THE DIRT FLOOR BAND
TUMBLE DOWN HOUSE
THE SCHINDELS
SAT. OCT. 21ST
LITTLE LAKE GRANGE
6PM

MC Youth Project Accepting Donations

Aurelie Clivaz, from the MC Youth Project, is accepting donations through the end of October of hygiene products, school supplies, flash lights & batteries, sleeping materials, tents, suit cases, clean warm clothes that are all in good shape and cleanly laundered. Also, any brand-new socks, underwear or shoes would be appreciated. Aurelie is accepting supplies for fire victims, including adults as well as teens. Call Aurelie Clivaz at 489-1258, or email aclivaz@mcyp.org to arrange a pick up for large donations. Also, the public may drop off donations from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday at the Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street.

There will be two special "give-away days" to anyone in need on Thursday, October 19 and Thursday, October 26, 3 to 7 pm at the Willits Methodist Church, 286 School Street. Anybody in need of these supplies may call Clivaz through the end of the month and beyond. Clivaz runs a free teen clothes collection, accepting teen clothes donations and requests for appointments for both male and female teens all year-round.

Youth Poetry Night: "Behind the Mic" open mic poetry reading at Brickhouse Coffee on the corner of Main and Commercial streets. It's called "Youth Poetry Night," but people of all ages are invited to read poetry, prose, play music, and sing. Friday, October 27. 7 to 10 pm. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 Main Street.

Shanachie Pub: Sista Otis, singer/emcee/songwriter/performer extraordinaire. Friday, October 27. 9 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 28

Pet Costume Contest: Mendo Mill Home Center & Lumber is sponsoring a treat for your dog or cat, and refreshments for their humans. Awards for "Owner/Pet Look-a-like," funniest costume, scariest costume and "most creative costume." Saturday, October 28. 11 am to 2 pm. Mendo Mill Home Center, 305 East Commercial Street. Info: 450-4631.

MENDO MILL PET COSTUME CONTEST
CALLING ALL DOGS, CATS, AND THEIR HUMANS!
JOIN US FOR A COSTUME CONTEST. A TREASUR BAG FOR YOUR DOGS OR CATS, AND SOME LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
Awards for CONSPICUOUS BEST DRESS ALIKE, FUNNIEST, SCARIEST & MOST CREATIVE.
SATURDAY OCTOBER 28TH 11AM - 2PM

Haunted House at the Charter School: "Willits Haunted Asylum" located at the Willits Charter School, 1431 Main Street, will open its doors on two days this Halloween season, Saturday, October 28 and Sunday, October 29 from 6 to 8 pm. Admission is \$5, and 50 percent of the proceeds will go to the SOS Foundation charity (www.sosmission.org).

3rd Annual Halloween Bash at the Grange: Hot Buttered Rum & The Rainbow Girls will be playing in a night of revelry featuring dancing, costumes, a cash bar, and a "funky good time." This family-friendly costume party has sold out the Little Lake Grange every year. Costume contest, silent auction, local beer and wine. Saturday, October 28. 6 to 11 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Tickets: \$30 in advance at JD Redhouse, or \$35 at the door.

Hot Buttered Rum

HOT BUTTERED RUM
THE RAINBOW GIRLS 3RD ANNUAL HALLOWEEN BASH
SAT. 10/28
LITTLE LAKE GRANGE
WILLITS | 6 - 11 PM
DANCING, COSTUMES, CASH BAR, AND A FUNNY GOOD TIME. THIS PARTY IS NOT TO BE MISSED!
TICKETS: \$30 IN ADVANCE \$35 AT THE DOOR
www.halloweenbash.org

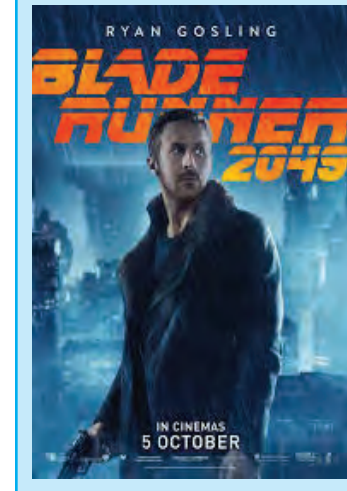


Music and Video, and Shanachie Pub.

Sunday, October 29

Haunted House at the Charter School: "Willits Haunted Asylum" at Willits Charter School, 1431 Main Street. Sunday, October 29 from 6 to 8 pm. See Saturday, October 28 listing for more info.

'Blade Runner 2049'
The Story: Replicants are biological robots who look, sound and are indistinguishable from humans. Usually they are stronger, faster and perhaps more intelligent than humans. We use them as slaves. They are born fully formed adults. They have false memories of a childhood that never happened. Sometimes they realize their memories are not real. They suffer much. Sometimes they go rogue. Blade Runners are replicants used to hunt down and kill rogue replicants. Blade Runner "K" (Ryan Gosling) discovers a buried secret that alters the master-slave relationship of replicants and humans. The world wants to keep him very quiet.
My Thoughts: Director Denis Villeneuve is one of the world's great filmmakers. His movies "Arrival," "Sicario," "Prisoners" are like no one else's. Director of photography Roger Deakins is recognized internationally as a great master of light and camera. Philip K. Dick, quirky-genius author of "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" on which the Blade Runner movies are based, was tormented by the idea that everything he thought of as true, and on which he based his own identity, might not be true, might not be real. P. K. Dick's personal torment inspired his creation ... the replicants. This is a stunningly beautiful movie of action, insight, hope and terrible sorrow. This movie is better than we deserve.
Daniel Essman Columnist
Parents: No kids. Sex, nudity and violence put this well outside of children's understanding. It would bewilder them. And it's two hours and 40 odd minutes long. Intelligent teens and up.
Willisian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.



Shanachie Pub: Moon Lady-Moon Man Halloween Costume Party featuring the Afro Funk Experience playing chunky rhythms and deep soul sounds. Saturday, October 28. 9:30 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194. Advance party tickets available at Moon Lady-Moon Man, Main Street

Ongoing Events

Willits Farmers Market: Outdoor market Thursdays at the Rec Grove Park on East Commercial Street through October 26; moves indoors on November 2. 3 to 6 pm. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

"Seven Kinds of Wonderful": The October show at the Willits Center for the Arts features Esther Siegel (assemblage), Julie Beardsley (assemblage), Laura Fogg (art quilts), Nancy Simpson (art quilts), Mickey Fernandez (mosaics), Elizabeth Raybee (mosaics), and Nan Trichter (art quilts). Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm. Ends October 29. Info: 459-1726.

Karaoke at Little John's Place: Little John's offers free live entertainment including karaoke Wednesday nights from 10 pm to closing. No charge, just come have fun. Info: 459-5636

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

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

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

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

Willits Seed Lending Library: Offering information on seed saving and gardening. Seeds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables are free to seed library members, and seed donations are gladly accepted.

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

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

Soroptimists International of Willits: 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: Baechtel Grove Gym, 1150 Magnolia Street. Sundays 7 to 9 am, and Tuesdays at 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Some experience desired, but not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

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

Evening Meditation Class: Ideal for learning and practicing Tranquility and Om meditation, Tuesdays, 7:30 pm. Sunday Morning Fellowship: Dharma talk, guided silent and chanting meditations, and introduction to Shambhala healing tools. Sundays, 10:30 am. Still Mountain Meditation Center, 1500 Hearst Road. Info: 357-4676.

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 5 pm; Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5:15 to 6 pm; Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 to 7 pm; Teens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

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

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

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