

Donations Accepted Edition No. 130

**Damian Sebouhian**  
Reporter  
damian@willitsweekly.com

Since a fire destroyed John's Place on Commercial Street in November 2014, the Chessers have been seeking a temporary location for their business while reconstruction gets underway.

Supes OK  
**Dollar  
General**

**Mike A'Dair**  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

According to Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg, a recommendation by members of the county counsel's office that supervisors not oppose construction of Dollar

Santa Cruz  
man dies in  
solo 101 crash

A recent rain had left the roadway wet, according to Jeremy Lozensky, a special duty officer with the California Highway Patrol.

A 66-year-old Fortuna man, William Johnson, driving north at the time,



**Jennifer Poole**  
Editor & Reporter  
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and the Round Valley Indian Tribe filed the action on October 30 for violations of the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. The tribes are being represented by the law firm Cotchett, Pitre

County Air  
Quality  
**fines Grist  
Creek**

**Mike A'Dair**  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

According to an October 21 notice of violation: "On October 20 ... a district inspector observed a Crumb Rubber Heating and Blending Unit operating at the Grist Creek Aggregates facility, located at 37342 Covelo Road, without benefit of permit, a violation of district regulations and state law and the conditions of the Authority to Construct issued to the facility.

Some may  
need flood  
insurance due  
to new FEMA  
maps

**Damian Sebouhian**  
Reporter  
damian@willitsweekly.com

John Sherman, floodplain administrator for Willits, presented the revised Federal Emergency Management Agency maps at last week's city council

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

Incumbent Paul Ubelhart has been elected to another term on the Mendocino Lake Community College Board of Trustees, representing the Willits area.

**Jennifer Poole**  
 Editor & Reporter  
[jennifer@willitsweekly.com](mailto:jennifer@willitsweekly.com)

Final Election Night results show Willits resident Ubelhart with 56.78 percent of the vote (649 votes), with Willits resident Rick Kale, principal of Round Valley Elementary/ Middle School in Covelo, coming in second, with 24.15 percent (276 votes). Challenger Perri Kaller, also of Willits,

Only 209 votes remain to be counted in the Mendocino College board election, said Voter Registrar Sue Ranochak. About 1,200 ballots countywide remain to be counted, with 6,159 ballots countywide already counted. Voter Registrar Sue Ranochak said there weren't a lot of ballots dropped off at the polls this election.

With ballots counted so far, voter turnout in the Mendocino College race is only 14.9

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

***Above: The poll volunteers at the Willits Community Center pose for a quick photo between assisting voters.***

***Below, from left: Ballots were dropped into boxes at the Community Center, left, and the Brooktrails Community Center, right. Brooktrails poll workers Jeanette, Judy and Evie smile in front of the cozy fireplace at the Brooktrails Community Center.***

*Photos by Maureen Moore*



After a "10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1" countdown from the crowd, HMM CEO Rick Bockmann and Director of Emergency Services Amy Buckingham unveil the "Emergency" sign at the new hospital early Thursday morning.

***Below: Eddie Black, the last patient out of the old hospital before it closed its doors after 87 years.***

**At bottom: Hospital construction project engineer Amy Ford and HHM CEO Rick Bockmann give each other a heartfelt high five.**

**Photos by  
Melissa Cramer**

**By Cecilia Winiger, for HMH**

At exactly 6 am Rick Bockmann, HHM president and CEO, declared the new hospital officially open. "There is a special spirit that lives here, the collective power of over 350 people, working together for quality care and excellent patient experience," he said. "May that spirit live on. May this hospital be a beacon of hope well beyond our future."

As soon as the hospital was opened, and the signs lit and unveiled, the first patient left the old hospital. The ride took about 10 minutes, and the patient was immediately wheeled to her room on the second floor. After this, the whole process moved along smoothly, with patients being transported to their rooms at the new hospital within 10-15 minutes. A few minutes before 8 am, the last patient left the old hospital on One Madrone.

Read more of **HMH** | *Over on Page 7*

Read more of **HMH** |  
Over on Page 7



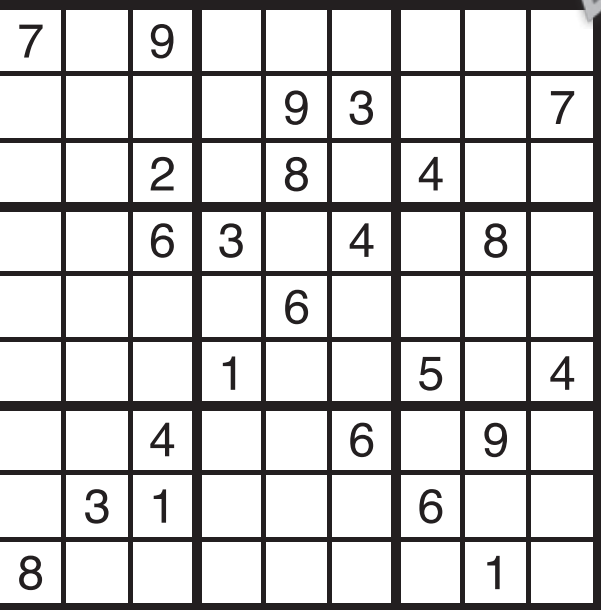






Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

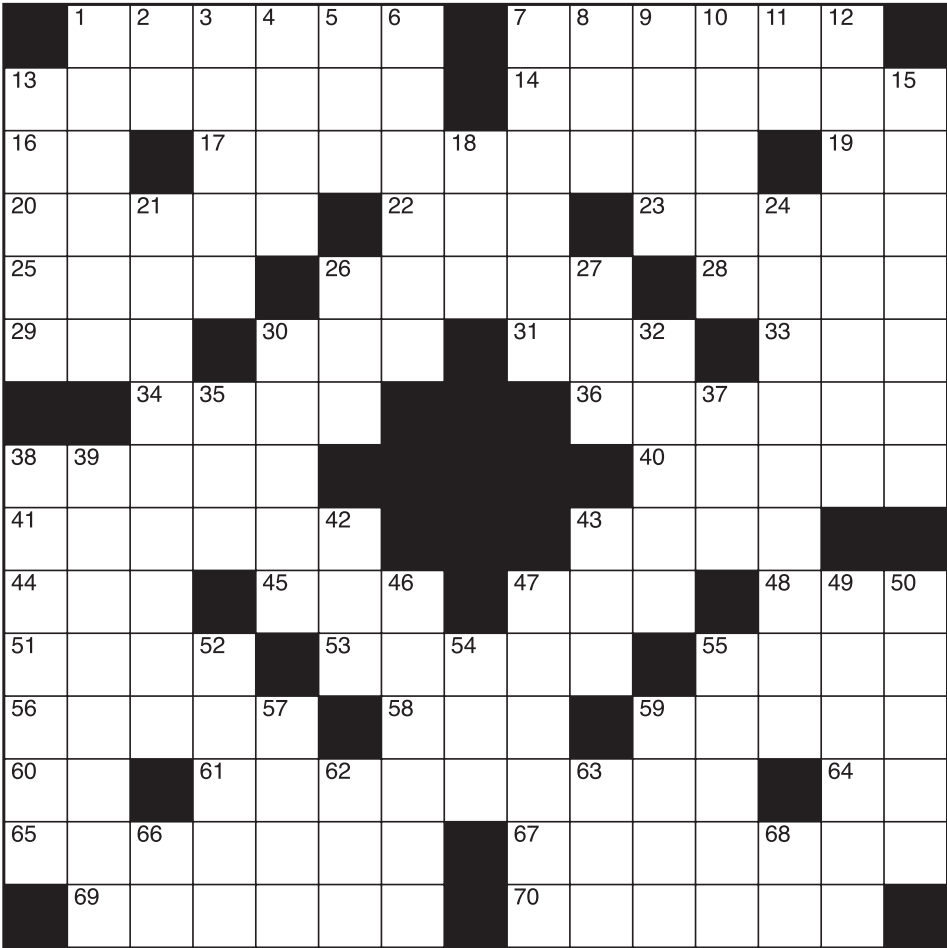
PUZZLE
ANSWERS
ON
PAGE 13



Level: Intermediate

How To
Sudoku:

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



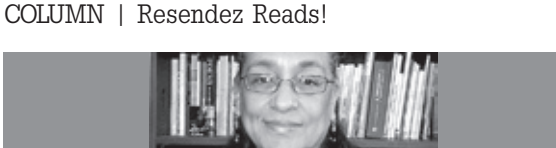
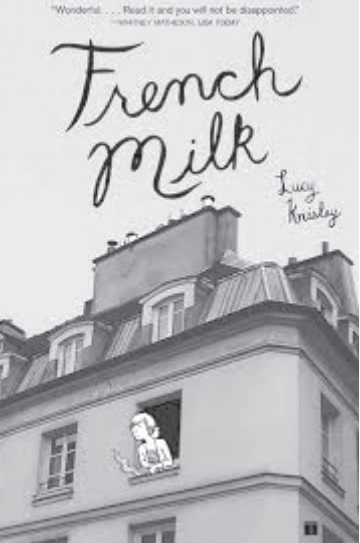
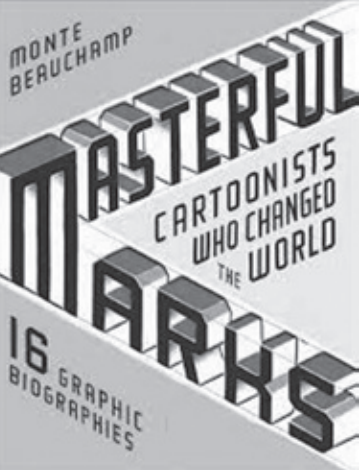
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Owed
- 7. Shawl
- 13. Slow tempo
- 14. Bodily structure
- 16. Sun-god
- 17. Franklin or Eleanor
- 19. Degree
- 20. Norwegian poet
- 22. Local school organization
- 23. Consumer
- 25. Brews
- 26. Hero
- 28. To clear or tidy
- 29. 9th month
- 30. Hit lightly
- 31. Pinna
- 33. DoD computer language
- 34. One Direction won at 2014 awards
- 36. No. Am. peat bog
- 38. Clear wrap
- 40. Napped leather
- 41. In a way, takes
- 43. Transported
- 44. Back muscle
- 45. Unhappy
- 47. Wrong
- 48. Chit
- 51. Epic poem

CLUES DOWN

- 53. Capuchin genus
- 55. \_\_\_traz: The Rock
- 56. Weight unit
- 58. Foot (Latin)
- 59. Egg-shaped nut palm
- 60. A radioactive element
- 61. Roosevelt V.P.
- 64. Railroad track
- 65. More dense, less liquid
- 67. Block, Fire & Reunion
- 69. A set that is part of another set
- 70. Hair product
- 13. Opera songs
- 15. Cloth measurement
- 18. 7th Greek letter
- 21. Extractor
- 24. For boiling water to make tea
- 26. Possesses
- 27. Edible tuberous root
- 30. Glass window sheets
- 32. Tactics
- 35. More (Spanish)
- 37. Our star
- 38. Makes a choice
- 39. Great Plains indians
- 42. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 46. Diverge
- 47. Adherent of Islam
- 49. Defer
- 50. Semitic gods
- 52. Indian term of respect
- 54. 10 decibels
- 55. Surface regions
- 57. Small amounts
- 59. Liberal rights organization
- 62. Teeny
- 63. Volcanic mountain in Japan
- 66. Atomic #71
- 68. Canadian province

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Graphics, travelogues and more!

If you read the funny pages as a kid, or enjoyed reading comic books in your youth, or currently enjoy political cartoons in the papers or online, then you are a perfect candidate to enjoy the pleasures of graphic novels, travel journals or even graphic biographies that combine storytelling with drawn art.

There's a whole new generation of graphic artists to explore. But the author that I want to recommend to you today is an intelligent and charming young artist named Lucy Knisley (pronounced "high-slee").

She is an award-winning author who has published several graphic books and contributed to comics anthologies. I've recently read two of those books, both autobiographical journals kept during two separate trips to Europe. Knisley is an American raised in New York, who attended art school in Chicago. Her perspective revolves around visual stimulation, food (she was raised by a chef), and friendship.

The first book is titled "French Milk" (2008), which refers to Lucy's unquenchable thirst for Parisian dairy products - which tasted so much better to her than American. Her graphic style is pared down to visual essentials, but manages to be engaging and to portray herself and her surroundings with honesty and humor.

Her journal records her sojourn to Paris with her mother to celebrate both her 22nd birthday and her mother's 50th. They rent a small apartment and set out to leisurely soak up classic French experiences over a period of five weeks. We are treated to the atmosphere of the streets and cafes, images of their delightful meals, descriptions of the art at various museums, and even flea market shopping. It all seems so fresh and delightful as seen through her eyes.

In the second book, "An Age of License" (2014), Lucy returns to Europe to attend a comics convention in Scandinavia. She goes to France for more culinary adventures and for some romance as well. The title of this book derives from a French phrase that defines this period of one's youth as a time for exploration and experimentation before the commitments of adulthood seize hold.

I found this volume even more engaging and certainly more emotionally complex than the earlier. It also seemed that Knisley's visual style had grown. I look forward to reading more of her autobiographical comics, as she has two other

Read the rest of Reads Over on Page 6

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Cross Country | Kyleena Amador, age 15, Junior

Position: Cross country
Breakfast of Champions: Mini-Wheats cereal with banana
Love for the Sport: "I love traveling everywhere!"

Kyleena is the only girl on the team who has competed in every race this season. She continues to improve each week and just set a PR (personal record) on her home course in Brooktrails by running her fastest time yet.



Volleyball | Beatriz Gandarilla, age 18, Senior

Position: Captain, defensive specialist
Breakfast of Champions: Oatmeal with raisins
Love for the Sport: "I love the feeling volleyball gives me."

My "Amazing Athlete" for this week is team captain Beatriz Gandarilla. Bea has been an asset to the team for years. She never stops hustling and working to improve her skills. She also continues to show immense support for her teammates and coaches.

- Coach Dave Smith

- Coach Holli Walton



Methodist Church to raffle quilt and Christmas basket

Willits United Methodist Church is selling raffle tickets for two big prizes for a raffle to take place on the first Sunday in December, December 6. No need to be present to win!

One of the prizes is a "Disappearing Nines Quilt," handmade and donated to the Willits church by a Methodist Church member in Eureka. The lovely quilt, mainly in tones of blue and yellow, highlighted by squares with red and pink flowers, is 70 inches wide by 94 inches long, perfect for a full-size bed.

The other prize is a Christmas basket, filled with 26 holiday items, including an apron and table runner, two tea towels, a Christmas bowl, a candy-cane striped candle and holder, 10 Christmas ornaments, Christmas tea lights, an activity Advent calendar, a Christmas cookie cookbook, a cookies-for-Santa plate, Christmas cards, and a variety of snacks.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each and six tickets for \$5. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Valley Fire victims. Tickets are available at the church office, 286 School Street, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am to noon, and at the November 14 concert by Just Enough (6 pm at the church), or by calling the office at 459-2855.

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Out to Lunch with Maggie & Dick
Roland's Bakery & Bistro

A very distinct pleasure of living in this town is the wealth and variety of great local eateries. We've had such fabulous lunches out lately, I got excited about sharing some of them with you.

Visiting Roland's Bakery & Bistro in the Evergreen Mall one lovely day this fall, we chose the outside seating. People-watching as shoppers strolled by, I remarked: "I feel so sophisticated - as though we are in Paris!"

The menu offers many choices and remembering that this is a bakery and that all the breads and pastries are made on site, it was difficult deciding what to order. They have a full range of appetizers, salads, sandwiches, quiches, plenty of vegetarian choices and various coffee drinks. The breakfast menu lists quiches, bagels, scrambled eggs & cheese or breakfast burritos which are served from 8 am to 11,

and then lunch kicks in from 11 to 4 pm. I did hear the waitress say they were thinking of being open some evenings for dinner? Speaking of our server, she was an added bonus, friendly, cheerful and helpful.

I settled on the "Quesadilla, with pork, jalapeno, onion, black beans, cheese, salsa and sour cream." Great choice! It was divine. I loved every unique bite, right to the very last one. Dick chose the "Cubano, on panini with pork, pickles, mustard and Swiss cheese." As we swapped tastes, it was hard to decide whose was best. Both dishes incorporated flavorful, distinctive tastes.

With iced tea as our beverage, we topped it all off with a pecan pastry each. Yum, and groan.... It's a good thing we had skipped breakfast that day, and a very light supper that night was all that was needed.

Watch for another installment of "Out to Lunch." With so many great places to pick from, which will be next?

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‘Grief, History, and Healing’  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
honors fallen Mendocino  
County servicemen

by Roberta Werdinger,  
for the Mendocino County Museum

The Mendocino County Museum will host the unveiling and dedication ceremony of the Mendocino County Fallen Vietnam War Veterans Memorial at 2 pm on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11. The public is invited to attend and families of the veterans will be present.

The museum will be open free of charge during its regular hours of 10 am to 4:30 pm in honor of the occasion; visitors can view personal effects and photos of the servicemen who died. The schedule of activities includes the reading of names and hometowns of the 22 Mendocino County servicemen who lost their lives during that war and will be the first time these 22 residents have been honored as a group.

"When America goes off to war, our families go off to war too," observes Dennis Miner. Born in Willits, the 5-year-old Miner viewed actor Audie Murphy in the World War II movie "To Hell and Back" at the Noyo Theatre. According to Miner, "That set my career."

At age 19, he enlisted in the military and spent 20 years in the service, achieving the rank of sergeant. After leaving active service he attended college with the help of the Vietnam Era GI Bill and retired as a Major. Having never been sent to Vietnam, Miner felt naturally connected to and curious about the servicemen in his area who had fought there, many of whose families he knew.

With the 50th anniversary of American involvement in the war approaching, Miner wrote a letter to the now-deceased mother of Kenneth Allan Butler, Jr., a Willits resident killed in the war in 1968 at the age of 20. In the letter, Miner expressed his grief for the life that Butler did not live, as well as the pride his mother should take for her son's sacrifice for what he thought was right.

Writing this letter prompted Miner to embark on a quest to learn the names and stories of the other Mendocino County servicemen who had died. As he reflects: "In rural Mendocino County the news [of a serviceman's death] traveled mostly by word of mouth.... Usually no one could answer the question that followed: 'What happened to him?'"

To fill in these gaps, Miner collaborated with veterans' groups and the Mendocino County Museum to produce testimony and photos which he collected in a booklet that will be available at the memorial service; this research also extends the "Veterans History: Personal" exhibit that is on permanent display at the Museum.

Miner spearheaded the project to create the memorial, approving design plans, scouting locations, and gaining endorsements from the Willits City Council and, with the support of Museum Director Alison Glassey, from the Mendocino County



Above: A crew from Bell Memorials & Granite Works, out of Clovis, California, installing the new Mendocino County Fallen Vietnam War Veterans Memorial at the Mendocino County Museum last week.

At left: Lifting the memorial into place.

Photos by Holly Madrigal

Below: A mock-up of the design for the memorial, honoring 22 fallen Mendocino County servicemen, which is to be unveiled at a 2 pm ceremony on Veterans Day, November 11.

The rest of  
Reads | From Page 4

published titles and two books in the making. Check out her website, luckynisley.com to see examples of her work and watch an excellent video on how you two can create your own travel journal.

Lastly, I chanced upon an excellent graphics biography of influential cartoonists called "Masterful Marks: Cartoonists Who Changed the World in 16 Graphic Biographies," (2015) by Monte Beauchamp. The author pays homage to a mixed bag of cartoonists from Walt Disney, Edward Gory and Charles Schultz to R. Crumb, Dr. Seuss and the grand old man of Japanese manga, Osamu Tezuka.

Each short biography is drawn by different contemporary artists with widely varying styles, but all are an interesting portrayal of the creative mind and the many barriers that commerce sets up to getting one's work "out there." My only criticism is the lack of women cartoonists as both subject matter and contributing artists – only one female illustrator is included. That means we've got to go forth and seek out our own!

Whether you read by page or device, please utilize our library system and patronize independent bookstores both new and used.

Local poet, Fran Resendez, is retired from 20 years of bookselling at the former Leaves of Grass Books in Willits. Getting her first library card was one of the happiest days in her reading life.

The rest of  
Hot Buttered Rum | From Page 3

Keeping with the theme of sustainability, Zocalo Collective provided farm-to-table food for the concert-goers, including ribs from John Ford and goat meat raised on a local private farm.

Pooba has been making good use of the grange for music events and has the venue booked for several more shows in the future, each show put on as a benefit. "We're doing benefits for Montessori School, for the Senior Center, North Coast Opportunities ... a bunch of different charities," Pooba said. "Except for the Valentine concert, all the shows we do here are family events," he added. "Children 12 and under are always admitted free of charge." Pooba's daughter, Kaya, is an important part of the family production company, he said: "She outranks me!"

When asked about Willits mayor Bruce Burton's involvement, Pooba explained that they've been on each other's radar for some time, but didn't connect until recently. "Last February [the last time Hot Buttered Rum was in town], we were planning shows simultaneously without realizing it. When he found out he asked me if we could join forces."

Pooba stressed the importance of people from differing spheres of influence using music as a bridge to find common ground.

"My view is that if we can get people together and play music together, then the advantage of that is we can talk together, and if we can talk together from different camps, then we can do it in town. And hey, maybe we can realize we have more in common than we thought."

Burton has been playing banjo for more than 35 years. A 2014 CD, "Let's Take the Long Way Home," features Bill Evans and other well-known bluegrass players. As stated in his album notes, "I love a beautiful melody, and the banjo has a unique tone to express it." Friends who played with Burton Friday included his son, Ernie Burton, on guitar, Bear Kamoroff on stand-up bass, and Jon Mather on keyboards.

Sponsors for the Grange concert included Lagunitas Brewing Company, Frey's, J.D. Redhouse, North Coast Opportunities, KZYX&Z, and Ancestor Radio Productions.

The next Grange concert is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, and features the bands Rising Appalachia and The Real Sarahs, playing as a benefit for Montessori Tree of Life Charter School's gardening project. A New Year's party is also on the schedule, with a Brazilian Carnival theme. featuring Samba Da, Pura Vida and Mystic Sol.

Visit [www.grangefarmschool.org](http://www.grangefarmschool.org) or "Grange Farm School" on Facebook for more information about the school.



At top, left to right: The first patient moved in to the new Howard Hospital, Dorothy Bettencourt, with hospital construction project engineer Amy Ford on her left, and Howard Hospital CEO Rick Bockmann on her right. HMH staffers pose behind the counter in the entrance hallway. Howard Foundation President Margie Handley writes on a "Remembrance Wall" in the old hospital conference room.

Above: Jamie Bailey, LVN, at left, Amy Ford, center, and Rebekkah Steinbeck, RN, with Dorothy Bettencourt, the first patient to take a ride on one of the fancy elevators at the new hospital.

Below, left to right: Eddie Black, the last patient at the old hospital, enjoys his moment in the spotlight. The new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Staffers pose for one of many photos taken on opening day.

Photos by Melissa Cramer



More of  
HMH | From Page 1

Among those transferred to the new hospital was Dorothy Bettencourt, a resident of Ukiah for 42 years, who underwent hip replacement surgery at the old hospital two days before the move. Bettencourt, who went on a tour during the open house last month, says she had no idea she would be the first patient. "I was blown away by the new hospital. But I didn't know I would get to be an actual patient so soon."

While Bettencourt was the first inpatient, Wayne Workman was the first outpatient, walking in a few minutes after the hospital officially opened to get labwork done. "I came to the old hospital and was told they were closed," he said. "So I came here. I didn't expect all of this."

Eddie Black, the last patient at the old hospital, also had hip surgery at HMH's Orthopedic Joint Center program. At age 50, he does not fit the typical patient profile of a hip replacement patient, but an active lifestyle has taken its toll. "But I would rather have it here than anywhere else," Black said. "It's a better choice than going to a big hospital in the city. They definitely have the small-town spirit here and they treat you like you're family."

Black, who was discharged later that day says he "will definitely be back, to get my other hip replaced," he said. "It has been a great experience."

As the last patient was moved out, there were cheers and tears as Bockmann led the staff in

saying goodbye to the hospital that has served the community for 87 years.

"If you are tempted to resist the urge to mourn this, I say, don't," Bockmann said. "Babies have been born here, hips, knees, and shoulders renewed; physicians have come, some have gone, many have stayed, lives have been lost and many have been saved."

There were more tears and tissues passed out as he ended, "This flame of compassion and healing will continue to burn in each of us. It is with a mixture of joy and sadness that I officially declare this location of HMH closed. Goodbye One Madrone."

Amid the tears there was also a feeling of excitement and joy. Longtime HMH employee Cindy Bodensteiner, who has worked at HMH for almost 40 years, said: "I will miss this place. It's hard not to cry. But this is good for us, our community needs this. I'm excited to continue the tradition of great care."

The community came together to make the transition from the old hospital to the Marcela Drive facility successful. VeriHealth/Falck provided six ambulances and more than 25 personnel to help transport patients. Little Lake Fire Department, Brooktrails Fire Department and the Willits Police

Read the rest of  
HMH | Over on Page 15

Read the rest of  
Veterans | Over on Page 11

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**Saturday November 7 & 14**

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**Hot Seats (20 Winners)**

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2P to 3P - 1 random winners per hour  
3P to 4P - 1 random winners per hour  
4P to 5P - 1 random winners per hour  
5P to 6P – 2 random winners per hour

6P to 7P – 2 random winners per hour  
7P to 8P - 2 random winners per hour  
8P to 9P - 3 random winners per hour  
9P to 10P – 3 random winners per hour  
10P to 11P – 4 random winners per hour

Hot Seat winners will choose one balloon (that will be located at the Players Club). Inside each balloon will have a slip of paper that will determine how much Free Play or Cash the customer has won.

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Thursday, November 5

“The Cannabis Hour” Radio: Mendocino County District David Eyster will be Jane Fletcher’s guest on the pledge-drive edition of “The Cannabis Hour,” Thursday, November 5 at 9 am, on KZYX radio, 91.5 FM or www.kzyx.org. They will talk about cannabis and the law in Mendocino County – past, present and future. There will be time for a few call-ins toward the end of the hour at 895-2448. To hear programs you may have missed, visit [jokebox.kzyx.org](http://jokebox.kzyx.org)

**Shanachie Pub:** Dennis Jones Blues Band, on Thursday, November 5. “High-energy stage performance. Sizzling hot guitar solos. Smooth and soulful vocals. Backed by a rhythm section that is second to none, this IS Dennis Jones.” Visit [www.dennisjonescentral.com](http://www.dennisjonescentral.com) . 8 pm, \$7. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Dennis Jones

Friday, November 6

**Q&A on Foster Care:** Love children? Redwood Children’s Services offers a Q&A presented by Rebecca Diaz, to learn about foster care and how you can make a difference in your life and the life of a child. 5:30 to 7 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: [www.RCS4KIDS.org](http://www.RCS4KIDS.org) or 467-2000.

**Shanachie Pub:** Desert Warehouse, Dub/Tech, “travelling electronica DJ,” on Friday, November 6. 9 pm. No Cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, November 7

**B.R.E.W. Club Beer-Making Demo:** in conjunction with “Learn to Homebrew Day,” starts at 10 am at Coast Hardware, 113 East Barbara Lane. Free and open to the public, 21+, but reservations are recommended: call 459-1338 or email to: [rchewett@aol.com](mailto:rchewett@aol.com). “Home B.R.E.W. club members will be brewing a 5-gallon extract beer kit donated by Coast Hardware. All steps in the brewing process will be demonstrated. All raw ingredients will be on display and equipment will be available for inspection. Home B.R.E.W. (Home Brewing Research Engineers of Willits), dedicated to all forms of fermentation and slow food including beers, ales, wines, ciders, meads, preserves, pickles, bread and more, meets the first Friday of every month at 7 pm at Peter’s Sushi & Chinese House, 383 South Main Street. Info:



**“Silk & Iron”:** the November show at the Willits Center for the Arts opens tonight with an artists’ reception from 6 to 9 pm. The show features work by Malanyon Adams, Sarah Adams, Brian Bowles and Lisa Bowles. Runs November 7 through 29. Gallery hours: Thursday through Friday from 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sundays from 12 to 3 pm. See article on page 12 for more details.

Ongoing Events

**Willits Winter Farmers Market:** from 3 to 6 pm every Thursday at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. **First day at the Grange on November 5.** Fall and winter produce, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**The Emandal Chorale:** ongoing rehearsals on Wednesdays, 5 to 6:30 pm, for the Chorale’s 21st season, at the Little Lake Grange great hall, 291 School Street. No auditions: Open to all who love to sing.

**Inner Resources Institute:** three just-started free programs at the new Inner Resource Institute, 1500 Hearst Road (at Hearst and Valley roads in the old Grace Baptist Church building). • **Morning Meditation:** Every morning at 6 am. • **Kirtan:** Every Thursday at 7:30 pm. Devotional singing and chanting led by Chinmayan. • **Sunday Morning Service:** 10:30 am. Satsang and fellowship consisting of a short talk on practical spirituality; meditation; Kirtan and worship; and a prayer service in which we pray for individual, family and humanity’s needs. Info: 707-357-4676 or [innerresourceinstitute@yahoo.com](mailto:innerresourceinstitute@yahoo.com).

**Thursday Night Bingo:** Potluck dinner and bingo every Thursday at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. 6 to 8 pm; \$5 buy-in; 50 cents per card. Info: 459-6826.

**Willits Frontier Twirlers Square Dance Club:** Monday night workshops at the Willits Center for the Arts, upstairs in the great room. Newer dancers from 7 to 8 pm; plus dancing from 8 to 9 pm. Lawrence Johnstone, caller. Guests always welcome! Info: Jenny Watts, 459-9526.

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

**Drop-in Knitting Circle:** Due to popular demand, the Willits Library is holding the drop-in knitting circle every Saturday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. “Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects – we’ll supply the coffee! Sign-ups are

<http://willitshomebrew.weebly.com>.”

**Annual Souper Luncheon and Bazaar:** at the Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street (across from the Grange) is set for Saturday, November 7. The Bazaar is from 10 am to 2 pm, and the Soup Luncheon is from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. \$7 for soup, bread, and dessert for adults and \$3.50 for children. For pie and coffee only, \$3.50.

**Mendocino County Museum Heritage Lunch:** this 6th annual event features an afternoon of food, drink, and mushroom, wine and beer inspired talks with local connoisseurs; “Celebrate Mendocino County’s Annual Mushroom, Wine & Beer Festival with the Mendocino County Museum. 1 to 3:30 pm. \$35, proceeds benefit museum exhibits, events and education programs. Sulin Bell of Kitchen Capers will be providing a sumptuous lunch of mushroom-themed dishes, including freshly baked rolls from Emandal Farm and a variety of Shamrock Artisan Goat Cheese, served alongside complimentary wine and beer. Merry Winslow and Alison Gardner of “The Wild Mushroom Cookbook” will present on foraging for, and cooking with, local wild fungi. Mark Beaman, associate winemaker at Mendocino Wine Company will talk about the history of Parducci winery, as well as discuss its current ownership and focus on quality and stewardship. Jonathan Passow, president of the Willits Homebrew Club, and barrel aging operations manager for Anderson Valley Brewing Company, will present a brief journey into the history of beer, touching on subjects ranging from beer ingredients to what beer used to be like 9,000 years ago, all the way up to recent events such as Prohibition and the Craft Beer Movement in America. Acoustic musical accompaniment will be provided by Anita Blu and John Wagenet of Twining Time. The museum’s collections of historical equipment will also be on view, from a complete still to the first wine-bottling machine in the county. Visit [www.mendocinomuseum.org](http://www.mendocinomuseum.org).



Photo by Nathan DeHart

monologue event held last year at WCT. Tickets for this year’s event are \$5 and will be available only at the door until sold out. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

**Shanachie Pub:** Hannah Kile Trio, Saturday, November 7. 8 pm. No Cover. “Hannah Jane Kile is a 20 year old songbird [and guitar player] who embraces her robust yet sweet voice to convey vulnerability & strength in each of her songs.” Visit: [www.hannahjanekile.com](http://www.hannahjanekile.com). 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Hannah Kile

Sunday, November 8

**Senior Center Pancake Breakfast:** 8 to 11 am Sunday, November 8, at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, eggs any style, and your choice of sausage, ham, or bacon. Adults \$7,

Thanksgiving Dinner Volunteers Wanted

Willits Community Services is requesting volunteers to help with the 26th annual Willits Community Dinner at the Harrah Senior Center. Those interested can call 459-3333 to sign up or for more info.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of November 9 through November 13

**Monday:** Mac/Beef Tomato Bake

**Tuesday:** Chicken Fried Steak

**Wednesday:** Meat Loaf

**Thursday:** Chicken Salad on Lettuce

**Friday:** Baked Sole

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

Actors Needed!

As part of Willits Community Theatre’s production of Scripted, I’m looking for three actors ages 20-40, two men and one woman, for a short 10-minute play called “No Sound of Music” by Seth Freeman. The play is about “the mostly true story of the creation of the world’s favorite Christmas carol.” Witty, clever, touching. Directed by Damian Sebouhian. For more information contact Damian at 707-599-5621 or [dsebouhian@yahoo.com](mailto:dsebouhian@yahoo.com).



Members \$6, Kids \$5. Info: 459-6826.

**Willits Kiwanis Club & WHS Football Gun Raffle & Spaghetti Dinner:** fundraiser for Willits High School football safety equipment, November 8, from 5 to 8 pm. Raffle tickets are on sale now. Guns for raffle – “a Remington 870 mag 12 gauge, Ruger American 243 cal, Ruger 10-22, and a 50 caliber Hawkins black powder – are sponsored by Pacific Outfitters. Raffle tickets are \$20 each, three for \$50, or seven for \$100. Winners will be drawn at the Spaghetti Dinner; need not be present to win. Dinner tickets are \$10, and dinners can be picked up to go. For tickets or more info, call Matt Rountree at 707-841-7052 or Dean Verdort at 707-367-2603.



photography by steve eberhard one neighbor's perspective of mendo county

Outfitters. Raffle tickets are \$20 each, three for \$50, or seven for \$100. Winners will be drawn at the Spaghetti Dinner; need not be present to win. Dinner tickets are \$10, and dinners can be picked up to go. For tickets or more info, call Matt Rountree at 707-841-7052 or Dean Verdort at 707-367-2603.

Monday, November 9

**Willits Garden Club Meeting:** The free monthly Willits Garden Club meeting features guest speaker Beth Brennerman taking about “Fall Gardening.” Monday, November 9 at the Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse, 16100 North Highway 101, 6 miles south of Willits, west of 101, south of Ridgewood (Sea Biscuit) Ranch. Social time starts at 12:30 pm, with coffee and refreshment. Presentation starts at 1 pm. Guests are welcome. Info: Lucille Garcia 459-9995 or Gary Bodensteiner 459-2708.

**Pie & Ice Cream Social:** 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. This month’s entertainment is Erin Fisher, singing. Games, drawings, pie, ice cream, music, friends and fun. Adults \$1.50; members \$1. Info: 459-6826.

Tuesday, November 10

**Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre:** All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week’s Tightwad movies: “Bridge of Spies.” For showtimes: [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com). 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.



men killed in action during the Vietnam War more than 40 years ago. Family and community will gather to honor and reflect.” Refreshments will be served after the ceremony. The museum exhibit “Veterans’ History: Personal” is “currently focused on the 22 men from Mendocino County killed in the Vietnam War.” 400 East Commercial Street. Open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 am to 4:30 pm.

An evening of music with Just Enough

Saturday, November 14

Enjoy an evening of music on Saturday, November 14, with acoustic trio Just Enough, at the Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. 7 to 9 pm.

This Willits-based trio is made up of friends Kate Black, Clancy Rash and Helen Falandes. Each has played and sung in a variety of musical configurations as long as any of them can remember, reaching back to roots in Oklahoma, Washington and Maine. A little over two years ago they fell into playing some tunes together and found a sound and mix

that made them feel happy. Close harmony vocals, acoustic guitars (and the occasional ukulele) mix up a variety of tunes: some folk, some blues and Americana roots music. Just Enough is sure to play at least one song that you will love – something dear and familiar from your past or something rare and obscure that you’ve never heard before. Refreshments available for purchase after the show. Admission is a \$10 suggested donation at the door.



Cooking with Mushrooms at the Willits Library

Are you a mushroomer? Wonder what to do with your bounty? Getting tired of your old recipes?

Join the Friends of the Willits Library on Thursday, November 12 at 7 pm for an evening with Alison Gardner and Merry Winslow, authors and chefs who have just published “The Wild Mushroom Cookbook, Recipes from Mendocino.” No charge for admission.

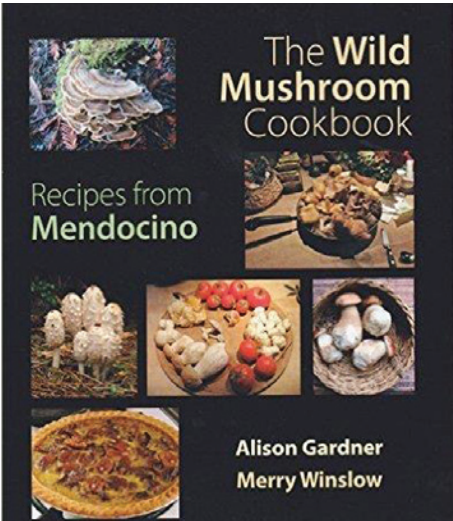
Alison and Merry will be offering sample appetizers and tasty treats representing some of the approximately 275 recipes, in chapters devoted to appetizers, dips, spreads, pickles, sauces and gravies, breads, soups, salads and salad dressings, side dishes, entrees, drinks and desserts. There are recipes for commonly eaten wild mushrooms, like chanterelles,

oyster mushroom and porcini, and recipes for rather esoteric wild mushrooms, also.

There are also recipes for the cauliflower mushroom, sweetbread mushroom, blewits, man on horseback, candy caps, beefsteak mushroom, milk caps, shrimp russula, variegated russula, cocorra, grisetite, matsutake, hawk wing, yellow feet, hedgehogs, shaggy manes, deer mushrooms, volvariellas, and many more. If they are commonly found in our area, and edible, we tried to include them. Many recipes are interchangeable for several or many different kinds of mushrooms, and if you don’t eat wild ones, grocery store mushrooms could be used in many (but not all) recipes.

Don’t miss this fun and mouth-watering evening of fun and information at the

Willits Branch Library conference room, 390 East Commercial Street. Sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library.



Free today; regular prices: \$4 adults; \$1 students 6-18; children 5 and under are free. Info: 459-2736 or visit [www.MendocinoMuseum.org](http://www.MendocinoMuseum.org). See article on page 6 for more details.

Thursday, November 12

**WHS Boosters Club Meeting:** The monthly WHS Boosters Club Meeting is set for 6 pm, Thursday, November 12, at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS!

Friday, November 13

**ShanachiePub:** Congo Sanchez, Friday, November 13. 9 pm. \$7. Featuring Congo (from Thievery Corporation), Haile and Flex: “downtempo reggae mezcla with an obvious hip-hop overtone.... An array of sounds and rhythms, paying homage to the roots of music with thick layers of percussion.” Visit [www.facebook.com/CongoSanchez](http://www.facebook.com/CongoSanchez). 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Congo Sanchez

Saturday, November 14

**Tea & Togs:** 4th annual Fashion Show and Afternoon Tea at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. 2 pm. Featuring fabulous finds from the Harrah Center Thrift Shop. Enjoy scones, cakes, tarts, teas. \$12: a fundraiser to benefit Outreach Department. Tickets available at Harrah Senior Center. Info: 459-6826.

**Just Enough:** acoustic trio Just Enough, featuring Kate Black, Clancy Rash and Helen Falandes, at the Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. 7 to 9 pm. \$10 suggested donation. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more info.



**Don Carlos in Covelo:** Jamaican roots reggae veteran plays a benefit for Friends of the Round Valley Public Library at the Round Valley Library Commons, 23925 Howard Street. Saturday,

COLUMN | At the Movies



‘Bridge of Spies’

**The Story:** It’s the late ‘50s, early ‘60s. It’s the Cold War. James Donovan, an insurance lawyer (Tom Hanks), is asked by the U.S. government to defend the Soviet spy Rudolf Abel (Mark Rylance). After the famous trial, Donovan is sent to East Berlin to negotiate with the Soviet

KGB; his new duty is to arrange a prisoner swap: Rudolf Abel for the captured American U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers. A true story.

**My Thoughts:** Score one for the good guys. No sex, no gratuitous violence. This is a Spielberg movie, a great movie, right up there with “Schindler’s List.” It’s the kind of movie, featuring a decent, ethically rigorous and morally certain hero, that folks are always complaining Hollywood has forgotten how to make. I guess Hollywood hasn’t forgotten.

I loved it. I was captured from the opening shot. Such graceful camera and editing. Also ... the musical score by Thomas Newman is classic, old school ... there when you wanted it, not there when you didn’t.

**Parents:** Not really a movie for younger children; but for mature children and young adults, this suspenseful movie will be exciting, historically educational, and morally and ethically stimulating.

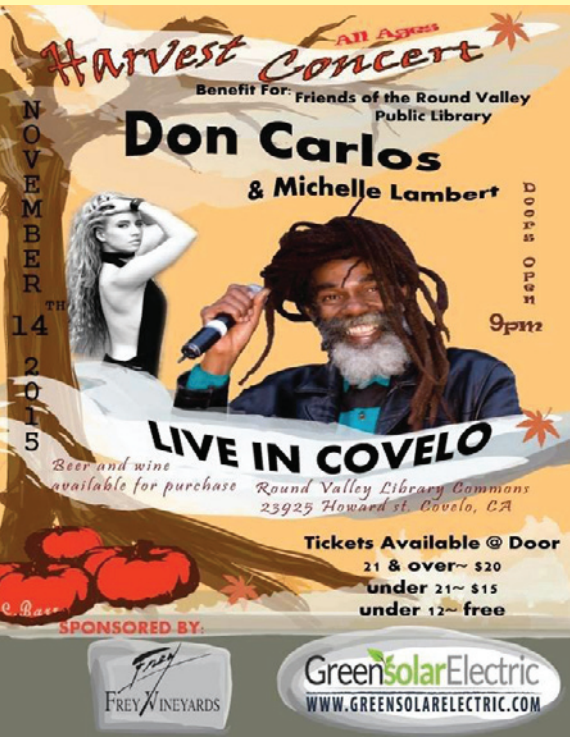
**More For Parents:** “Bridge of Spies” is, without caveat or qualification, a 5-star positive movie.

**Note:** Written by Matt Chapman ... the Coen brothers are listed as co-screenwriters!

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



November 14, 9 pm. All ages. With Michelle Lambert. Tickets at the door: \$20; \$15 under 21; free under 12. Beer and wine available for purchase.



Willits Farmers Market moves indoors this week

Thursday, November 5 is the first Winter Farmers Market of the season, with the market moving indoors to the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Winter produce, eggs, local raised meats, dinner, baked goods, handcrafted jam, holiday gifts, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Winter market hours are 3 to 5:30 pm. Notes from the market: “As we move indoors there are some amazing changes happening this week to our food selections. Robert from Boliver’s Fine Foods & Confections will be bringing his amazing Artisan Chocolates. Along with his fabulous pot pies, tarts, cakes, cookies and so much more deliciousness. Fairall’s Farm Fresh Eggs & Produce menu is changing just slightly by bringing back the ever-popular home-style lasagna. Amanda will have a gluten-free veggie polenta lasagna or her meat lasagna, plus don’t forget about her Italian breadsticks. She will also be continuing her savory wraps, cookies, sweet breads as well.” Visit “Friends of Willits Farmer’s Market” on Facebook for info.















Above, left: Costume winners and their critters pose for the camera. Above, right: Officer McNeley and K-9 Lutz. Below: Walker, Wyatt and Bistardo speak with the judges. Below, far left: Judges assess costumes to determine the winners. Below, left: Costume participants Matt, Jim and Bobbi hold Trigger, Gus and Caynin. At bottom: Matt tries his hand at pumpkin bowling during the Pet Parade event.

Photos by Rachel Belvin



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# Willits Power's Pet Parade

Dressed-up pets and people alike came to celebrate Halloween during Willits Power and Hardware's Pet Parade event on October 31. The event ran from 12 to 4 pm and offered attendees fun games like pumpkin bowling, poke-a-pumpkin, a turn in the Yokum's Body Shop bounce house, and a chance at the pumpkin ring toss.

Many chose to come in costume and to participate in the Pet Parade Costume Contest. Nine awards were given including: Best Ream to Rachel Belvin and Trigger; Best Overall to Walker, Wyatt and Bistardo; second place in Overall went to Bobbi Lippmann and Caynin; third place in Overall went to Carol and Tyson; and fourth place in Overall went to Grady and Cookie Sharkey.

Other awards were given to Alyssa and her one-eyed guinea pig Bisquit for the winner of "Scariest." "Nerdiest" went to Matt and Gus; "Cutest" went to Courtney and Maya; and Willits Police Officer Mark McNeley and his K-9

Lutz received an honorable mention. Three judges helped determine the winning pets and people in costume, including Willits Mayor Bruce Burton, Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman, and Willits Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Epstein.

Willits Power's Melanie Grossman noted she was happy to see a good turnout, and that patrons enjoyed playing the games and seeing the dressed-up pairs.

Three vendors were also on site offering goodies: pet store Tropic Tails had treats and pet products for all kinds of critters; Jacki Pealaterre and her Picaro Gordo booth featured wooden pet memorials, ornaments, puzzles and more; and new Mexican restaurant Taqueria Maria had food options, including some tamales that Grossman noted were "to die for!"

— Maureen Moore



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General was decisive, at least in his mind.

Hamburg voted with the majority on the issue. Voting with him were Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse and Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde. Supervisors Carre Brown and John McCowen voted to deny Dollar General authorization to build a Redwood Valley store.

During a closed session meeting during Tuesday's lunch hour, Acting-County Counsel Katharine Elliott and Deputy County Counsel Matt Kiedrowski told the board if it overturned planning commission denial of an appeal for a building permit for Dollar General, issued in June by the Department of Planning and Building Services, attorneys for Cross Construction would likely sue the county, and the chances of the county winning the case were less than 5 percent.

The key point on the issue, pointed out to the board by Cross Construction attorney Sabrina Teller on October 6, is that building permits are ministerial and not discretionary.

That means if an application to construct a building meets the requirements of county codes, and if the projected use conforms with county zoning laws, then county staff has to issue the permit as a matter of course. The act of doing so is not discretionary; the county has no choice but to issue the permit.

According to Teller and also to the county counsel's office, for the board of supervisors to withdraw the permit would be turning a ministerial act into a discretionary one, which is illegal.

Before casting his vote, Hamburg explained how he got to the point where he was able to vote against the will of Redwood Valley residents and in favor of Dollar General's right to build a store in the peaceful rural community.

"One of the speakers talked about government being 'of, by and for the people,' and it's pretty clear, if you look at where the people are, the people are overwhelmingly opposed to this. At least the people who are in favor of it haven't been showing up in any great numbers," said Hamburg.

"The phrase 'of, by and for the people,' that comes from Lincoln, the Gettysburg Address. A hundred years before that, another American revolutionary, John Adams, talked about a government of laws, and not men.

"And if you look at that theory, and you hold to that theory, Dollar General – as distasteful as they are to me, and as much as my heart is totally with the people in this room. I want to keep [Dollar General] out of Redwood Valley. I still can't get my head around the idea they followed the law. We don't like the law. The law is imperfect. The General Plan written in 2009 was imperfect. There's a lot of really 'wobbly' language in there, including the language about smart growth and aesthetics. As our own counsel said, it's very vague.

"But still, in Mendocino County law, the granting of a building permit in a commercial zone is not discretionary act. It is a ministerial act. And unfortunately for me, hating everything about Dollar General and the type of business they represent doesn't change the fact that it is a ministerial act under the law. And I get back to that question: are we a government of men, and women, or are we a government of law?"

"Here's the other thing. This thing has really been bothering me. If we go down this path, if we approve this appeal and withdraw Dollar General's use permit, we are committing ourselves to a court fight in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. To make a decision to risk hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on a case our own attorney tells us has a 5 percent or less chance of winning ... that's a tough one. That's a tough one for me," Hamburg said.

Before casting his vote, Woodhouse spoke to Redwood Valley residents, several of whom were in the room. "You all heard that each of the speakers is very sincere in their feeling," he said. "They put a lot of thought into this, like you put into your lives. You are going to be potentially paying a penalty that is going to help other communities, because I am going to vote to abide by the laws that hold the whole thing together.

"I care very deeply about you. We do want communities to rule themselves. Thank you for your patience," Woodhouse said.

When Woodhouse said Redwood Valley residents would be "paying a penalty that is going to help other communities," he was likely referring to a vote that took place earlier in the meeting, when supervisors approved extending a moratorium on issuing building permits for "formula businesses."

The question is complex. It represents an effort by supervisors to allow communities to weigh in on issues like that of the Dollar General store in Redwood Valley, and could end up being a kind of template that will be placed over issuance of building permits in cases where large chain stores (or "formula businesses") wish to locate a store in a small rural community, such as Elk, Manchester or Covelo.

Crafting language that would protect small rural communities from corporate invasion, while still allowing the issuance of such permits as ministerial rather than discretionary actions, would be a challenging legal feat, and county staff requested the board extend the moratorium on further permitting of formula businesses for 10.5 months.

The board approved the extension of the moratorium on a 4-1 vote, with Woodhouse casting the lone opposing vote.

Department also helped at both locations.

On opening day, the new emergency department saw 32 patients, a typical day, according to ED director Amy Buckingham. "We're excited to provide more space, privacy and comfort and therefore better care for our community," she added.

"This is truly a new beginning," said CEO Bockmann. "A bigger

## Board of supervisors meet in Willits

The board of supervisors met Tuesday in the conference room at the rear of the Mendocino County Museum in Willits. Conditions were cramped, and there was not enough preparation time to fully plug in all the microphones or make sure all the switches were flipped in the right direction on the sound board. However, these technical shortcomings were eventually overcome.

The morning began on the wrong foot, when county staff realized there was no flag present in the room to pledge allegiance to. An old flag was found somewhere in the museum but, there being no flagpole or flagpole holder, it was draped over the wall of a conference room cubicle. Those present pledged allegiance to the flag, which as always was glorious, but which under the circumstances looked somewhat non-majestic.

Supervisors began the day by presenting proclamations to several groups and individuals. Susan Holli was recognized for her efforts on behalf of low-income people. American Legion members from Fort Bragg and Willits were on hand to observe the board as it named November 11 as Veterans Appreciation Day.

The board also recognized November 11 as National Family Caregivers Month and National Adoption Month. Martin and Saprina Rodriguez of Willits, who have adopted four children, made brief remarks to the board, as did other adoptive parents.

### Supes extend contract for Mendocino Town Plan consultants

Supervisor John McCowen pulled an item off the board's consent agenda, concerning the Mendocino Town Plan. The item amended an existing contract with coastal planners Dall and Associates, hired by the county to offer advice on the update of the Mendocino Village Town Plan, upon which county staff has been laboring for the past four years.

The amendment is for services from Dall and Associates in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

McCowen said he could not vote for the amendment. "This contract is very poorly written," McCowen said. "There is no explanation of how or when they will be paid. There is no statement of how much they will be paid, per hour. What we hired them for was to prepare a spreadsheet on how the town plan conformed, or did not conform, with the California Coastal Plan. But the consultants, with or without the approval of county staff, chose to rewrite the town plan, rather than to draw up a consistency analysis as per the contract. So in effect we are paying the consultant to fix their own mistake. To me, this is unconscionable and I can't support it."

When asked how much money the county has spent on the town plan, Supervisor Dan Hamburg did not cite a figure. "What we have in it is our staff time, plus this contract. We're looking at a lot of money," Hamburg said. "But the other side of the coin is, the county derives a lot of money from the tourism industry, and

& McCarthy, with offices in Burlingame, Los Angeles and New York, along with co-counsel Sharon Duggan in Oakland.

In an October 30 press release, Phil Gregory, counsel for the tribes, said: "Caltrans must not be allowed to demolish cultural resources and sacred sites simply to build a highway bypass. Imagine Caltrans treating a church with such disrespect.

"This case challenges Caltrans' ongoing failure to properly protect the tribes' ancestral sites in constructing the bypass. Caltrans' ground-disturbing activities are devastating ancestral Native American sacred and cultural sites."

Attorney Pete McCloskey, a former Congressman and a partner at Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, stated in the same press release: "It is outrageous for Caltrans to refuse to properly engage in consultation with the tribes over their ancestral lands. These historic properties include archaeological and ethnographic resources, as well as human burial sites. Caltrans has yet to implement a process for identifying historic properties, cultural resources, and archaeological sites, which is incredible to our native California tribes."

Caltrans representative Phil Frisbie, in an October 30 statement, called the allegations "misconceptions and misinformation."

"These statements are factually inaccurate, and are damaging not only to this project – which will link Californians north of Willits to the rest of the state with a safe, reliable, and efficient route through Mendocino County," Frisbie said, "but also to the taxpayers of California, who will ultimately end up footing the bill for this unnecessary legal action.

"All state and federal historical preservation laws are being followed," Frisbie said. "Caltrans has worked closely with state and federal historical preservation agencies, and will continue to do so. All cultural resources identified during project development were avoided," Frisbie continued.

"Caltrans worked with the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo, as well as state and local historical societies, to identify all known cultural resources within the bypass project area. The bypass project was designed to avoid impacting all these known resources.

"Potential cultural areas are being properly handled," Frisbie added. "Potential cultural areas, discovered after construction began, are being handled, following all laws. These resources are being avoided if possible, or further investigations are being performed to clear the areas for construction."

Michael Hunter, chairman of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, said: "Our tribal elders felt it was essential to stand up to the aggressive and resistant manner Caltrans has treated the local tribes. Caltrans refuses to protect our cultural heritage.

"On September 12, 2013, in the dead of night, Caltrans' bulldozers destroyed one of our sacred sites in Little Lake Valley without tribal monitors notified or present," Hunter said. "The

and better facility to match our excellent patient care, and I hope it serves our community for generations to come."

The new hospital, located on One Marcela Drive, on the corner of East Hill and Haehl Creek, is more than double the size of the old one. It offers 25 private rooms with bathrooms, state-of-the-art operating rooms, a spacious emergency department with trauma bays, and a helipad.

a lot of that money comes from the town of Mendocino, which is one of the main attractions in this county.

"It's been 20 years since we've updated the Mendocino Town Plan. It has cost a lot of money, especially when you consider that this is a status quo plan. I mean, we're not trying to turn this into Disneyland," Hamburg said.

He noted the process to rewrite the Mendocino Town Plan began in 2011.

The contract amendment was approved 4-1, with McCowen voting no.

### Supes rank projects on CDBG wish list

Late in the afternoon, after votes on the formula business moratorium and the Dollar General building permit had taken place, Planning and Building Services staff person Jon Moore informed supervisors that, because of a change in state policy on how Community Development Block Grant programs are funded, counties can no longer hold unspent money in a revolving fund, but must spend the money as it becomes available.

As a result, Moore said, Mendocino County has \$1.5 million to spend on community development projects.

During discussions on Tuesday, the board ranked 11 projects, which had survived a first cut administered to the list by Moore.

The projects, in order of preference, are:

1. Access ramp in town of Mendocino, \$128,000; 2. acquisition of approximately three acres of undeveloped land in the City of Ukiah for construction of "tiny houses" for the homeless, a project of Redwood Community Services and a host of other nonprofits, \$410,000; 3. site development on aforesaid land, including water and sewer, but not including house construction; \$605,000; 4. a disabled access ramp for the Willits veterans building, \$150,000; 5. construction of a two-mile-long public trail at Pelican Bluff near Point Arena, \$20,000; 6. construction of an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant fishing platform at Mill Creek Park, near Talmage, \$30,000; 7. a grant to West Company for its work in supporting small and startup businesses, \$100,000; 8. rehabilitation of the Dana Grey School athletic fields, in Fort Bragg, \$200,000; 9. repair and resurface Benson Lane and Hanson Road in the Fort Bragg area, \$520,000; 10. provide the Rural Community Housing Development Corporation with money to provide financial assistance to first-time homebuyers, \$500,000; and 11, paving a segment of trail in the Fort Bragg area, \$54,000.

Supervisors approved the spending package, valued at \$2.71 million, unanimously.

### Supes reschedule meeting with Library Advisory Board

A joint meeting between the board of supervisors and the county's Library Advisory Board, scheduled for 3 pm Tuesday, was rescheduled for the board's December 8 meeting.

National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation referenced the destruction of this ancient village as a 'major violation of federal law.'

"Caltrans refuses to protect ancestral archaeological sites, and we ask other Indian nations and concerned citizens to join in demanding Caltrans protect our sacred sites and that government-to-government consultations with tribes be conducted meaningfully and respectfully."

James Russ, president of the Round Valley Tribal Council, said: "There was a complete lack of tribal consultation, as well as no planning or preparedness to address tribal concerns, prior to starting construction of this project. Since the beginning, Caltrans has known the project area has a moderate to high potential for buried archaeological remains. Because Caltrans continues to proceed in bad faith, such as isolating our tribal monitors, we are forced to look to the court to protect our religious, ancestral, and cultural properties that are being desecrated by Caltrans.

"Our main objection is not the bypass project in itself," he noted, "but the reckless way Caltrans conducts business with tribes and tribal communities. Our tribe does not take lightly the disrespect to our sacred sites and our tribal people."

In response to this point, Caltrans' Frisbie said: "Government-to-government meetings are being held every time a tribe asks. District 1 has the highest concentration of federally recognized Native American tribes in California, and we always arrange government-to-government meetings with tribes and the Federal Highway Administration whenever asked."

The Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, with tribal offices in Willits, was not party to filing the complaint. "We saw a copy of the complaint when everybody else did on Friday," said Lee Clauss, archeological and historical preservation law consultant for the Sherwood tribe. "The tribal council is having their legal counsel review it."

The Sherwood tribe did put out a statement on October 24, detailing the tribe's own frustration that "after 18 months of effort, Caltrans has indefinitely stalled, if not altogether abandoned," the finalization of a programmatic agreement with the Sherwood tribe "that would mitigate the adverse effects to historic properties occurring within the bypass project, as well as set forth protocols for how best to manage any new discoveries of cultural resources during project construction."

For the full statement by the Sherwood tribe, see the Letters page in this week's Willits Weekly. A link to the full legal complaint can be found on the Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy website at <http://www.cpmlegal.com>. Official information from Caltrans about the Willits bypass project can be found at [www.willitsbypass.wordpress.com](http://www.willitsbypass.wordpress.com).



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