

Over on Page 15



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## No on commercial marijuana

To the Editor:

I wrote the following letter to Holly Madrigal and Ron Orenstein as council members leading the Commercial Industry Policy Workshop. I also sent it to the other council members and those citizens of our community who were running for city council. I would like it reprinted as a letter to the editor.

Dear Holly and Ron: I probably will not be able to come to the Commercial Cannabis Industry Policy Workshop on October 18 to voice my opinion regarding commercial marijuana within Willits, as I have out-of-state guests. Please consider this letter as my opinion on the subject.

Why is the city even considering allowing the commercial development of an agriculture product within the city limits? Marijuana is a drug, not a foodstuff or feed for animals. If someone wanted to raise pigs commercially in the city limits, would you let them raise them in industrial zones? Why are industrial zones being considered for an agricultural product?

Marijuana may have some medicinal use, but you and I all know that most marijuana grown is used by people to get high. It is a drug, a very potent drug. Marijuana grown in this town commercially will end up in the hands of people all over this country, who will get high off of it. Teenagers, motorists, parents, workers. Is this really what you want Willits to contribute to?

Please do not forget about the regular folks who still live in this town – the people who don't grow dope, don't trim it, don't smoke it, don't transport it. I hope you, in your decision-making process, continue to keep us in mind. Because if you don't, and this town ends up reeking more than ever of marijuana, and more and more dopers end up here, more of us regular folks will leave. You will find it harder and harder to attract quality teachers, hospital workers and professionals. Humboldt County recently made the news regarding the possible closing of three skilled nursing facilities. One reason given by the parent company, Brius Healthcare Services, was the difficulty in finding employees due to the high wages offered by the local marijuana industry. Is that what you want Willits to become?

**Editor's Note:** As stated in Willits Weekly's letters policy, printed on the Letters page every week, "Letters focusing on Willits and 3rd District issues, activities, events and people have priority." And we usually have plenty of letters on local issues to publish. Due to the national election, we have several letters this week focusing more on national issues than local issues – and fewer local letters than usual – so we are publishing the non-local letters. In general, however, Willits Weekly's "local issues first" policy will remain in effect.

## The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

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A place that can't provide workers for its schools, its hospital, its seniors?

Because commercial marijuana may fill city coffers does not, in and of itself, make it a good thing. Slavery, I am sure, made the South successful commercially, but slavery was not a good thing. I hope that desire to make money does not blind the city to using its moral compass.

Jeanne King, Willits

## Benefit for Manzanita Services

To the Editor:

Dear Friends and Neighbors: Manzanita Services Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair and Breakfast Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, December 3 at Ukiah United Methodist Church Social Hall, 270 North Pine Street in Ukiah. Breakfast will be from 8:30 to 11 am. Breakfast includes pancakes, eggs with bacon, sausage, fruit, orange juice and coffee. Tickets for breakfast are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. All proceeds go directly to Manzanita Services. For tickets and more information please contact Manzanita Services at 463-0405.

Manzanita Services Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving those living with mental health challenges.

We have two peer support wellness and recovery resource centers in Mendocino County. The center in Ukiah is at 410 Jones Street. The center in Willits is at the Methodist Church on School and Pine Streets, and is open from 10 to 2 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair and Breakfast Fundraiser is hosted in Ukiah, but it welcomes friends and families from all around the county. The proceeds go toward arts and crafts materials for both resource centers. Please call 463-0405 for tickets and info!

Carol Orton, board member of Manzanita Services, Willits

## Beware: A new phone scam

To the Editor:

I just got a call, a new scam from India. He said, "I am from the Medicare back brace department. Since you have back, shoulder and knee pain, you can get a free brace. All you have to do is verify your address." Then he read me my address. He asked me if that was correct.

I said "I do not verify anything over the phone." Then he asked me again to verify. I asked him, "When did Medicare move to India?" and he hung up. It sounded like all of India talking in the background in a huge room. I called the Sheriff's Office to report it. They confirmed they knew about it. Also, unlike what we have read, the IRS scam is going strong. I read that many people had been arrested; that was wrong. Love to all,

Judy Taddei, Willits

## Lack of civility

To the Editor:

We are living in a time of extremes in entitlement,

narcissism and lack of civility. Bad behavior is becoming the norm. Now we find this in the political stream, where a candidate feels a compulsion to say whatever erupts into the mind, as if to assert, "I'll say whatever I damn well please," as if all civil barriers can be removed. We may think this is the way many self-centered adolescents carry on, but amazingly, millions of adults are intoxicated by someone who crashes through all the civil restraints we have adhered to over time to blast opponents, whether individuals or nations, in their us vs. them world.

I have been trying to find ways to better prepare and hold myself through all this strange behavior erupting all around us and have found two helpful books in our wonderful library: "The Narcissist You Know," by Joseph Burgo, and "Saving Civility," by Sara Hacula. Perhaps others as exasperated as I am about these issues would like to meet up, even if it's just for laughs.

William White, Willits

## Protesters and politics

To the Editor:

I am very disturbed by the actions of some in this country who are showing their unhappiness by the election of Mr. Trump, by protesting, burning the American flag, destroying property, private and public. There were those of us who weren't happy other presidents have been elected that didn't have our support, but, I don't remember myself going out and protesting the way these people are doing.

This is not the only reason I am writing this letter. My personal feeling is that politics have been allowed to become a part of our school systems. I don't think that teachers should be sharing their political views with the students. I have no problem with the students having open debates on the issues concerned in the elections, but with the instructor being the neutral person.

Many years ago when I was in high school, and we were in the midst of a presidential election, I approached my civics teacher – I have no idea if that is what it is called now – anyway, I asked him who he was voting for, and he told me that when he crossed onto school property he had no political viewpoint and taught his students what was in the textbook.

Children generally receive their political views from their families and, as they get older, they grasp the workings of the world and realize what their political views should be. When you look at the colleges and the fact that if a student doesn't have the same political viewpoint as the professor holds their grades may be at risk.... The genie has probably been let out of the bottle, but I don't think it is right for this to continue.

Carlin Horger, Willits

## Election reform

To the Editor:

Many of us are reeling at the results of the national election. But whether you agree or disagree with the outcome, there are fundamental questions about the fairness and integrity of our election process.

First, while Donald Trump swept the electoral college, Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. The electoral college is a relic of two centuries ago. It gives a handful of swing states all decision-making power, while voters in over 40 states are essentially

ignored. One person, one EQUAL vote!

Second, every American must be able to vote: restore the Voting Rights Act. We should also have national standards, for example that (a) all ballots have an audible trail; (b) any voters purged from the rolls be informed in advance; (c) adequate voting places proportional to population exist in each area; (d) no onerous ID requirements nor intimidation of voters; (e) all "returning citizens" – those who served their time for felonies or misdemeanors – regain the right to vote; and (f) oversight to eliminate gerrymandering of districts.

Third, we must eliminate the "super-delegate" system and reduce the monopoly of the two major parties on the debates. Ideally we should institute ranked choice (or instant run-off) voting, so voting your conscience is no longer a "spoiler" vote.

Fourth, reverse the Citizens United decision that corporations are considered "people" and unlimited campaign donations are considered "free speech." Require that ALL significant funds (say over \$300) influencing elections be public record.

Fifth, reduce the election season from over a year to something like four or five months (including all the primaries). Enough is enough!

The ideals of our representative democracy need a major tune-up, and it has to come from we the people!

Madge Strong, Willits

## Willits: A welcoming city

To the Editor:

All across America our neighbors, of various ethnicities, have been experiencing harassment and violence, their children terrorized by arrogant threats. We have neighbors and visitors to Willits who represent all minorities: Hispanic/Latino, Black/African, Native American, Middle Easterners. These people worship in many different ways, but share love with us as equals when they are interacting in our community. Willits is a welcoming place and needs to encourage that quality in all its citizens to draw the public to shop in our stores and eat in our restaurants.

I propose that Willits should show sensitivity and discourage open displays of hate and aggression, and advise that such flags and posters are better kept out of the public sight. I also suggest that people be encouraged to report any occurrences of violence or frightening confrontation of any minority person, on the basis of their ethnicity. Those could be reported to the Willits Weekly, guaranteed that those stories will appear in print as public notice of those offenses. (I saw two Confederate flags in vehicles on my last visit downtown; they represent pain and hatred. We can't wait till the KKK parades down Main Street.)

A friend from another town tells me of how his child's teacher had traumatized his little son for speaking a few words in Spanish, saying to his son that he wouldn't be there long now, because his parents were being deported (under Trump), and that he, the little defenseless child, would be put into foster care as an orphan. That little boy is still traumatized, as I myself would be, with that threat. It is very important that Willits Weekly set up a safety net so that our city can put up a sign on the bypass that we welcome ALL, and really mean it.

Thank you very much for listening to my concerns as a citizen.

Betty Spence, Willits



Above: John Frankum, left, and Tom Moore show off the hearty breakfast of ham, pancakes and eggs that was free for all veterans.

## Bench and breakfast

Veterans Day at the Legion Hall and the county museum

Veterans Day 2016 in Willits was a busy day: Not only did the local American Legion Post 174 offer their annual breakfast, they also hosted a dedication ceremony for the new "Reflection Bench" accompanying the Mendocino County

Fallen Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Willits museum.

The breakfast is free to all veterans, military and emergency response personnel, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and Boy and Girl Scouts – the Scouts also help serve breakfast: pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham, orange juice and coffee.

"It's our opportunity to give back," said Roger Ham, commander of the Willits American Legion post, who thanked this year's breakfast organizers, Tom Moore and Dee Wolfe: "They did a fantastic job," he said.

Ham also mentioned the annual Veterans Day BBQ Sheriff Tom Allman has at the county jail for inmate veterans: "The Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Ukiah serves that BBQ,

and we, the American Legion Post 174, pick up the bill for the groceries."

Veterans groups from around the county also helped with funds for the Reflection Bench, too, which is intended to allow visitors a place to sit as they reflect on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Sponsors included American Legion posts from Willits, Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Leggett, Covelo, Hopland and Boonville, Veterans of Foreign War posts from Ukiah and Fort Bragg, and the Sons of the American Legion, Fort Bragg Squadron.

Veterans from around the county attended the dedication ceremony, attended by a crowd of about 45 people, including representatives from the Leggett and Ukiah posts, and "a large contingent from Fort Bragg," including the "Legion Riders" from Fort Bragg, motorcyclists who are part of the American Legion.

Many attendees walked into the museum – admission was free for veterans – to view the "Veterans History: Personal" display in the main gallery of the museum, which features

Read the rest of Veterans | Over on Page 4



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(PG13) 2 hrs 13 mins  
Fri: (2D) 6:30, (3D) 8:30pm  
Sat thru Thanksgiving: (2D) 11:30am & 5:30pm, (3D) 2:30 & 8:30pm

**TROLLS**  
(PG) 1 hr 32 mins  
Fri: 4:10, 6:15 & 8:20pm  
Sat thru Thanksgiving: 12:00 noon, 2:05, 4:10, 6:15 & 8:20pm

**DOCTOR STRANGE**  
(PG13) 1 hr 55 mins  
Fri: 5:15 & 8:00pm  
Sat-Tues: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15 & 8:00pm

**Disney's MOANA**  
STARTS WED., NOV. 23<sup>RD</sup>.  
(PG) 1 hr 53 mins  
Wed & Thanksgiving: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15 & 8:00pm

Movie Times for 11/18 thru 11/24

This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

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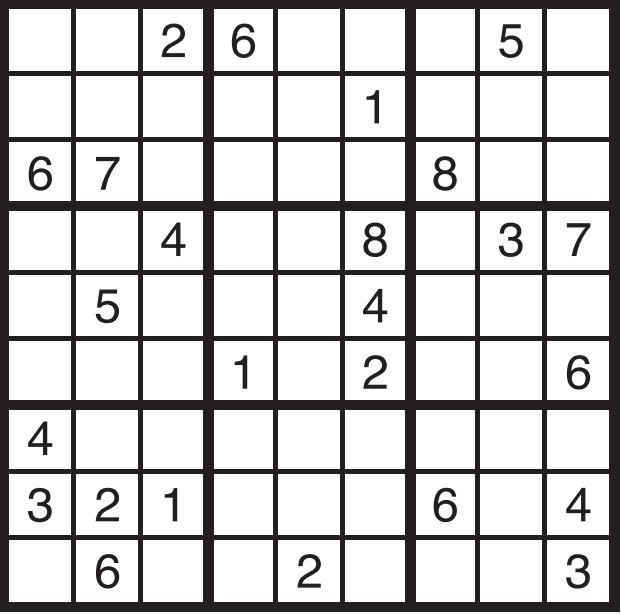
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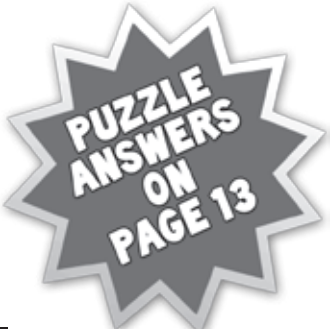
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Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku



Level: Advanced



How To
Sudoku:

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

GOBBLE, GOBBLE WORD SEARCH

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

ACORN
APPLES
AUTUMN
BAKE
BREAD
CASSEROLE
CENTERPIECE
COLONISTS
CORN
CRANBERRY
DESSERT
DRUMSTICK
FAMILY
FEAST
FOOTBALL
GIBLETS
GRATITUDE
HARVEST
HOLIDAY
LEAVES
LEFTOVERS
MAYFLOWER
MEAL
NATIVE
NOVEMBER
PECAN
PIES
PUMPKIN
RECIPE
ROAST
SETTLERS
STUFFING
THANKFUL
TURKEY
YAMS

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Adenosine triphosphate
4. Plane
7. Plant cultivated for its tubers
10. Wreath
11. Equal, prefix
12. Type of fish
13. Measuring instrument
15. High-pitched crying noise
16. Chilean seaport
19. Make in advance
21. Where planes land and take off
23. Nicaraguan capital
24. Reprint
25. Evergreen genus
26. Vale
27. Not the most dry
30. There are four of them
34. Pie \_\_ mode
35. At or near the stern
36. Attached to the side of a motorcycle
41. Soft-bodied beetle
45. 'Rule, Britannia' composer
46. \_\_ of March: rough day for Julius Caesar
47. A way of

CLUES DOWN

- 1. John \_\_, Pilgrim settler
2. Drink table on wheels
3. A canoe
4. Baseball player nicknamed 'Kitty'
5. Midway between east and southeast
6. Direction of attention
7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
8. Cadavers
9. Farewell
13. Revolutions per minute
14. Small constellation
17. Vineyard
18. Consumed
20. Pitchers need to get them
22. Educational assn. (abbr.)
27. No longer is
28. Peyton's little brother
29. Small amount
31. An awkward stupid person
32. Popular pro sports league
33. Pigpen
37. Type of head pain
38. 'Jiminy' is one
39. Dianist Frank
40. Boat race
41. Can be split
42. Thought
43. Staggering
44. Baltic country
47. Sunscreen rating
48. Paddle
49. Togetherness
51. Beat-influenced poet Anselm
52. Midway between northeast and east
53. Fall back, spring forward
58. Afflict

Bouncy Gilbert

At 2 years old, Gilbert has got some pep in his step!

This friendly, bouncy Chihuahua mix loves to run and play, and gets along well with people and other small dogs. Gilbert would love a well-fenced yard, his very own treat jar, and a lap to fall asleep in. For more information on Gilbert or our other adoptable animals, call us at 707-485-0123, or visit at 9700 Uva Drive. in Redwood Valley.



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, where you can come visit, play with and/or adopt dogs and cats, is open to prospective adopters from 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday, and from 11 am to 3 pm, on Saturday and Sunday. Visit www.mendohumanesociety.com for more info.

Adorable Barnaby

I am adorable Barnaby. I am a male pup who is just about 3 months old. I love people and of course my toys! If you are ready to add fun to your life, I am ready to make you laugh. Like all pups I will need a person who has time to spend with me and help me become the very best doggie ever.

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



'That's the
Way It Was'

The Life and Times of
Standish Curtis Hulse

Jennifer Hulse Watts, author of "They Said It Couldn't Be Done" - a biography about the author's mother, Lucile Hulse - has just released a new book titled "That's the Way It Was," a compilation of writings composed by Watts' father, Standish Curtis Hulse, whose life spanned the majority of the 20th century, from 1906-1997.

Watts gave an intriguing, well-organized, and thoroughly captivating slide show presentation of the book last Thursday at the Willits Library, explaining to the roughly two dozen audience members: "When my dad was in his late '60s, he sat down and started writing his memories of growing up in San Jose. After he died, I came across those writings, and many others of his, and decided that they deserved to be published."

Watt's presentation proved her point beyond a doubt. Not only has Watt's efforts as editor and publisher resurrected the life and times of a remarkable man, but she has revealed the work of a fine writer.

Hulse's prose demonstrates the thoughtfulness and honesty of one capable of paying deep attention to the events that surround him. He captures those moments and paints vivid pictures for the reader, essentially transporting you into his world.

Take this description of a scenic area outside of Salzburg during World War II: "The beautiful color of the woods and the fields seemed somehow intensified. And the city seemed to float past under you, as though you were watching a miniature on a revolving stage. The river and the canal that flowed thru the city seemed to cut in into segments and to provide points of focus to add to one's enjoyment. And then, in the distance behind the city, providing a perfect background, stood the Alps, peak after snow-capped peak into the distance."

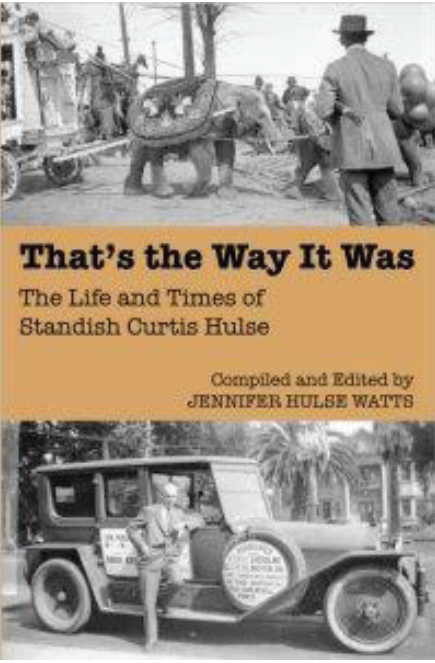
Hulse, who was a U.S. Army sergeant during the war in 1944, was later, in March of 1945, made a commander of an M7 tank, the 105 mm Howitzer Motor Carriage. As part of the 91st Cavalry, he and his company marched through Germany. He recounts the destruction of the cities as well as the beauty of the Alps in vivid and sometimes frightening detail.

Read the rest of
Hulse | Over on Page 13



That's the Way
It Was

The Life and Times of
Standish Curtis Hulse
1906-1997



The rest of
Veterans
From Page 3

six exhibit cases of items gathered from local veterans that were used by soldiers in all the wars of the last century and this century. "The one quality that all the objects have in common is that they were worn by, used by, and belong to, people for whom they have become personal, a reminder of past experiences and distant places." Willits American Legionnaire Robert Ireland coordinated that exhibit with the help of his fellow veterans.

Ham added that the Fallen Vietnam Veterans Memorial "touched close to home," for some viewers, including Rick Cooper, the American Legion commander from Fort Bragg, and his wife, who together knew three of the names on the memorial from their school days in Fort Bragg.

The Mendocino County Museum is now open regular hours, after being mostly closed in June after a bout with mold. The museum, located at 400 East Commercial Street, is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 am to 4:30 pm. Admission \$4 per adult, \$1 for ages 6 to 20, and free for age 5 and under. Call 459-2736 or visit www.mendocinomuseum.org for more information.



At top: The "Flag of Heroes."

Above: The Veterans Day breakfast at the Veterans Memorial Building.

At right: From left, Carol Deuel, Dee Wolfe, and Dori Grauer of the American Legion Post 174 Auxiliary.

Photos by
Matthew Caine

Fish and game

project grants available

The Mendocino County Fish and Game Commission is seeking grant applications for projects that will benefit local fish and game.

Some \$25,000 has been allocated for the current fiscal year to fund projects.

Projects focused on wildlife and habitat restoration and rehabilitation "will be prioritized," the commission said in a press release this week. The commission will submit its recommendations to the board of supervisors for awarding of grants.

All projects must comply with California Department of Fish and Wildlife guidelines and codes.

Granting guidelines, application forms, and additional information are available on the commission website: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/dfg/

Deadline for receiving proposals is December 31.

Proposals may be submitted by email as a pdf, .doc, .docx, .txt, or zip file to the commission at: mendofishgamecommission@gmail.com. Applicants also may mail or hand-deliver eight double-sided copies to the commission c/o County Planning & Building Services.

Grant applicants are encouraged to attend the 5 pm Tuesday, January 17, 2017 commission meeting of at a location to be announced to make a five-minute presentation regarding their proposal.

Applicants without personal computers or internet access to the commission website can request assistance from county branch libraries in Willits, Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Point Arena, and Round Valley to download and print application materials. County library personnel can also assist with scanning and emailing completed proposals, the commission says.

For more information, call 234-6094, or email the commission at mendofishgamecommission@gmail.com.

This report was based on a press release from the Mendocino County Fish & Game Commission.



Willits
Weekly
Deadline
reminder:
End of day
Monday for
Thursday
publication!

Divora Stern
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Guess what's in your neighborhood?
A new community pharmacy offered by the same hospital you know and trust.
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Howard Pharmacy
A service of Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital
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Suspect Frederick Gaestel.



Suspect Amanda Wiest.



Suspect Michael Kane.



Suspect Jesse Wells.



Suspect Gary "Giggles" Fitzgerald.



At right: Zachary Ryan Wuester, who was arrested Monday night in Willits.

## The rest of Arrested

From Page 1

with Wuester and convinced Wuester to surrender himself to authorities," said Detective Sergeant Andrew Porter.

Wuester was booked into county jail Wednesday morning on suspicion of murder and being a fugitive from justice, jail records show.

Bail was set at \$650,000.

Investigators also discovered Wuester was wanted on outstanding New Jersey and Virginia felony warrants for narcotic-related offenses.

"The out-of-state warrants have a 'no bail' status," Porter said.

Sheriff's officials are also seeking six others in in the Veterans Day killing: Frederick "Freddie" Gaestel, 27, of Clifton, New Jersey; Gary "Cricket" Blank III of Elgin, Illinois; Gary Lynn "Giggles" Fitzgerald, 23, of Roanoke, Illinois; Jesse Wells, 32, of Binghamton, New York; Michael Kane, 25, of Pleasantville, New York; and Amanda Weist, 26, of Fairfax, Virginia.

One additional suspect has yet to be identified, Porter said, "This person is only known as 'Richie,' a black male adult, approximately 25 years of age, thought to possibly be from the San Diego area."

Investigators believe the seven killed Settler sometime before dawn on November 11, while he was sleeping in a pot shed on the property. Settler's body was found later that day by another worker, who walked several miles into town to report the crime.

After killing Settler, investigators believe the suspects – who had been hired as trimmers at Settler's commercial marijuana grow – fled in at least three vehicles loaded with more than 100 pounds of processed marijuana, Porter said.

"There are currently two outstanding vehicles associated with the suspects," he said, "a 1999 Honda Accord, California License 7LPN823, and a 2005 Volvo XC70, California License 7TVT318."

The Sheriff's Office also announced it would not be releasing the cause of Settler's death "at this time."

Anyone with information about the crime or the current whereabouts of the suspects is urged to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Investigative Services Unit at 463-4421 or the Sheriff's Office Tip Line at 707-234-2100.

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

## The rest of Pot

From Page 1

advantage of that legalization.

The working group, which consists of council members Orenstein and Holly Madrigal (who is vacating her seat at the end of the year), as well as city staff, agreed that rather than holding a third meeting, the draft ordinance will be released to the media for stakeholder review before January's council meeting.

Other working group members present at the meeting included Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez, Code Enforcement Officer John Sherman, and City Planner Dusty Duley. City Manager Adrienne Moore was absent.

While the cannabis industry is made up of a number of interlocking facets – such as distribution and manufacturing – the first priority of the working group is to establish an ordinance that handles cultivation, because of the several industrial-zoned properties with owners eager to turn on the lights and start growing.

By meeting's end, based on a lively back-and-forth discussion, it appears the draft ordinance will allow a limited amount of first-come, first-served licenses. It's likely the maximum number of licenses allowing for 22,000 square-foot cultivation spaces will be limited to three. More licenses are likely to be granted for smaller spaces – the exact size yet to be determined.

While stakeholders unanimously support commercial indoor grows in appropriate, industrially zoned areas, there was disagreement about what kind of structures should be allowed for licensing and how big those structures should be.

Several stakeholders felt the structures should be secured greenhouses that would use sunlight rather than electricity-gobbling grow lights like typical indoor operations. Their concerns were both environmental and reputational.

It was suggested by more than a few that Willits could rise above the competition if its cannabis was branded as 100 percent organic and grown under the sun by small mom-and-pop operations.

When asked by working group members if greenhouses can be secured to control odor emissions, some stakeholders claimed a simple carbon filter system would address the issue.

Language could be written into the ordinance that would make odor control the responsibility of the cultivator; failure to adequately contain odor from neighbors would result in fines, with the operation eventually being shut down, if not abated.

Others argued that both greenhouses and traditional indoor systems with grow lights should be allowed because the industrial structures are already in place and should be used, instead of leaving them vacant. The working group appeared to accept this argument.

### Ancillary businesses

Micah Anderson of Anderson Development provided a concept design map for the working group as an example of what a complete cannabis operation could functionally look like.

Using a Google map printout of the industrial site at North Lenore Avenue next to T&T Auto Dismantlers, Anderson titled his design "Canopy," displaying an eight-structure site that includes three cultivation greenhouses, a processing office, a testing lab building, a distribution building, a manufacturing building and a community meeting area.

Other stakeholders agreed with Anderson that Willits should embrace all aspects of the cannabis business, as shown in Anderson's design, to remain viable well into the future.

The benefits for such ancillary businesses are many, they argued. With distribution centers, farmers could cut out the middle man.

One stakeholder, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "That money that goes to the middle man is anywhere from \$25 to \$1,000; it's what they're getting and they have no job other than to sell someone else's weed. That money can go to our community, to taxes, to you guys, to whomever."

Anderson added "If you're a farmer," if the ancillary business are all in place, "you then take your product to a licensed distribution center, which takes it to testing, testing returns it to distribution, and from there it can go into retail."

Mike Adams advocated that dispensaries also be added to the mix.

"Having a dispensary in town to provide for the needs of the people in town is one thing," Adams said. "There are also the needs of the cultivators in and around town who would really like to have a central hub where they can come and aggregate and have their product sent out from. There could be a once-a-week auction."

Other stakeholders believe that with a manufacturing plant available in town, a plethora of other uses could be developed for cannabis, from paper to clothing.

After hearing all the ways ancillary businesses could add to Willits' economic well-being, Orenstein wondered if cultivation itself was even necessary within the city limits, that Willits could simply benefit from testing labs and distribution centers.

Madrigal disagreed, emphasizing the working group has a mandate from the city council to draft a cultivation ordinance, and before any ancillary businesses could be developed, that ordinance must first be in place.

Stakeholder Syracuse Goldenghost explained that only by allowing cultivation first will any significantly timely economic benefits be generated.

"Revenue from the ancillary businesses wouldn't ramp up nearly as quickly as cultivation," Goldenghost said. "Cultivation revenue could be available very, very quickly. The other businesses would take time, and probably wouldn't have the profit margin early on that would be necessary to justify taxes and fees that would be comparable."

After being asked for further clarification, Goldenghost explained that a testing lab, for instance, could cost upwards of \$1 million to get up and running.

"It definitely will have its benefits later," he said. "But not immediate revenue."

As far as the distribution side of things goes, Goldenghost argued it will be at least another year before "track and trace" is put into place and the California Highway Patrol will have proper "guidance" in dealing with distributors moving cannabis product from place to place.

"Distribution companies still run the risk that every time they run down the highway they could be potentially stopped and even [have their product] seized," Goldenghost said. "There are a lot of risks they run that make profit margins tighter. They also don't have the benefit of the state licensing program yet, which means their revenue isn't as tightly watched with, say, 'track-and-trace' systems, so taxing them is difficult."

As the working group considers all these complicated factors, led by Orenstein, they are currently researching both Arcata's commercial cannabis ordinance and the new cannabis manufacturing ordinance passed by the Fort Bragg City Council at its Monday meeting this week.



Above: Ayla Decaire, Max Havland, and Leonello Simmons in the "Laws of Nature" dance video.

Right: Melany Katz and Claire Vargas in "Tang."

Below: Oscar Montelongo Medina in "Reunion."

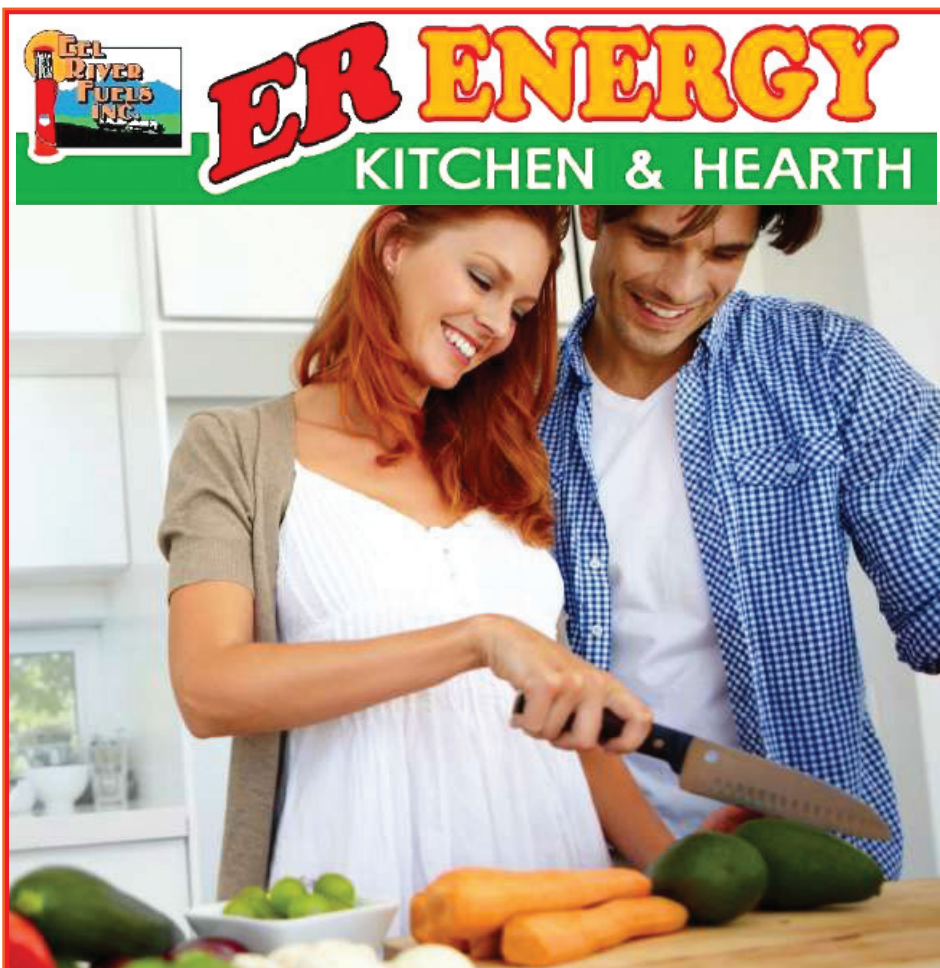
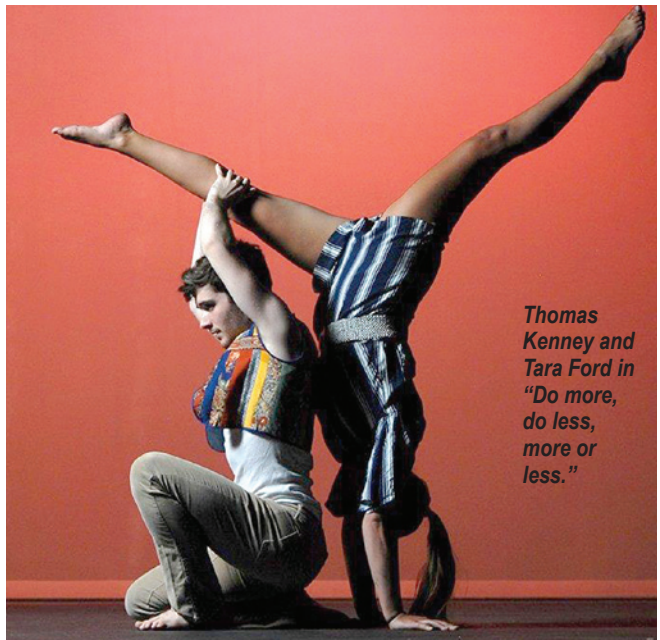
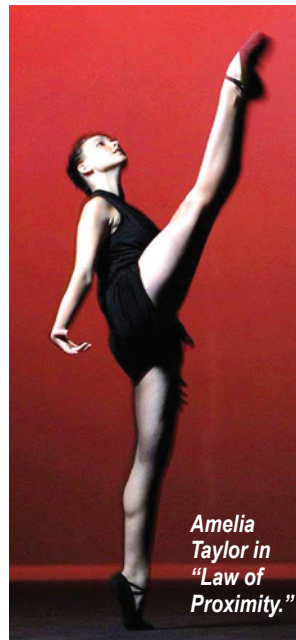
## 'Laws of Nature'

Mendocino College Repertory Dance Company, November 18 to 20

The Mendocino College Dance Department's Repertory Dance Company will present "Laws of Nature: Dancing the inevitable phenomena of life!" November 18 to 20, in the Mendocino College Center for Visual and Performing Arts theater. Under the direction of Willits' Eryn Schon-Brunner, Mendocino College Repertory dancers dive into works choreographed by guest artists Rebecca Levy and Samuel Fulk as well as works by assistant directors Tara Ford and Miriam McNamara, and director Eryn Schon-Brunner.

According to director Schon-Brunner, Laws of Nature explores elements of human nature and physical nature

Read the rest of Dance Over on Page 13



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# Thursday, November 17

**Cannabis Hour Radio:** Emerald Cup founder Tim Blake of Laytonville is host Jane Fletcher's guest on the November 17 "Cannabis Hour" show at 9 am on KZYX/Mendocino County Public Broadcasting. "Tim will talk about this year's "Cup," including the workshops, demonstrations, booths, food and entertainment, December 10 and 11 at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa. Tim and I will also do some post-election analysis of local and statewide cannabis measures."



**Dangerous Puppets** performs "The Jabberwocky" with "puppets meticulously hand crafted from found dead-standing hardwoods local to Northern California. Visit [www.dangerouspuppets.com/](http://www.dangerouspuppets.com/). Plus Bug Guts, acoustic guitar duo featuring Rosebud and Scott Ireland. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

# Friday, November 18

**Shanachie Pub:** Some Of The Truest, Laytonville hip hop trio "will make your body dance while opening your mind with their lyrical flow." 9 pm. No cover. Visit them on Facebook. 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

# Saturday, November 19

**Open House with Karen & Wolfgang:** Saturday, November 19 from 10 am to 4 pm. "Discover great gifts: salves, totes, and unique potholders! Special Order (larger print) gifts from a

**OPEN HOUSE**  
with Karen & Wolfgang

**Saturday Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>**  
10:00 to 4:00

Discover great gifts: salves, totes, and unique potholders!  
**SPECIAL ORDER GIFTS**  
From wide selection of fabrics.  
900 Exley Lane (extension of W. Mendocino)  
459-2101

wide selection of fabrics. 900 Exley Lane (extension of W. Mendocino). Information? 459-2101.

**Shanachie Pub:** Dan Martin, solo singer/songwriter from Tulsa, OK: "his songs possess an acoustic comfort, blending poetic melodies into Folk/Americana luminosity." Tuesday, November 22, at 8 pm. No cover. Visit [www.danmartinband.com](http://www.danmartinband.com). 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

# Sunday, November 20

**Shanachie Pub:** Congo Sanchez, "an array of sounds and rhythms, paying homage to the roots of music with thick layers of percussion, signature to the Congo Sanchez sound ... [and] a conscious message." Special Sunday show, November 20, at 7 pm. \$7 cover. Visit <https://soundcloud.com/congosanchez>. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Congo Sanchez

# Monday, November 21

**Willits Dances of Universal Peace:** "Come join us as we hold hands in Sacred Unity, as transmitted to us through the world's mystery schools." Monday, November 21 in Room 4 of the Grange, 291 School Street. 7 to 9 pm. 459-9085.

# Tuesday, November 22

**Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre:** All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre

# Thursday, November 24 Happy Thanksgiving!

**27th annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner:** Annual free Thanksgiving feast (donations appreciated) from 11 am to 3 pm, Thursday, November 24 at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Dinner prepared by the Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp and served by community volunteers. "Come give thanks and

celebrate this holiday with our community!" For more info or to sign up as a volunteer: 459-3333.

# Friday, November 25 Black Friday!

**Shanachie Pub:** Schindig, "a band of homegrown Mendocino County boys playing a unique eclectic blend of folk, rock, country, blues with a jolt of world music thrown in for good measure," play their annual day after Thanksgiving show at the Pub. Friday,

for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movie: "Trolls" and "Dr. Strange." For showtimes: [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com). 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

**Shanachie Pub:** Dan Martin, solo singer/songwriter from Tulsa, OK: "his songs possess an acoustic comfort,

blending poetic melodies into Folk/Americana luminosity." Tuesday, November 22, at 8 pm. No cover. Visit [www.danmartinband.com](http://www.danmartinband.com). 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

November 25, at 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

# Saturday, November 26 Small Business Saturday!

**Small Business Saturday:** Check your local merchants for sales and specials. "November 26th marks the seventh annual Small Business Saturday, a day dedicated to supporting the local businesses that create jobs, boost the economy and preserve neighborhoods around the country. Small Business Saturday was created by American Express in 2010 in response to small business owners' most pressing need: more customers." Visit <https://www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/shop-small> to learn more about the benefits of shopping locally.

**Shanachie Pub:** an intimate acoustic show with Donovan I-taweh Cunningham, the singing bassist, guitarist and studio musician from St. Ann's Parish, Jamaica, who's toured and played with Sugar Minott, Gregory Isaacs, the Mystic Revelation of Rastafari and more. Visit [www.i-taweh.com](http://www.i-taweh.com). Friday, November 25, at 9 pm. \$10. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Volunteers Pat Norris, at left, and Diana Hoyt, with WCS board member John Wagenet at the 2015 Willits Community Thanksgiving dinner.

# Sunday, November 27

**Willits Toy Run:** The 24th annual Willits Toy Run, the kickoff for the Willits Children's Christmas Program each year, is set for Sunday, November 27, rain or shine! Motorcyclists, accompanied by Santa and Mrs. Claus and fire engines from the Little Lake Fire Department, gather at the Evergreen Shopping Center and ride through town to the Little Lake Grange, for an afternoon of music (featured band this year: Il Big); food by the Willits Rotary Club (also event sponsors); no host bar by the Willits Lions Club; and great raffle prizes. Everyone is invited! Admission to the party is one unwrapped toy, for ages 1 to 17, to be distributed through the Christmas program. Info: [HOG@bellsprings.com](mailto:HOG@bellsprings.com) or call 707-489-3313.



Rich Venturi tosses a football into the present box at the 2016 Toy Run. Entry into the 2016 event is one unwrapped toy.



# 'A Christmas Carol'

Opens December 2 at WCT

Ebenezer Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas are coming to the Willits Community Theatre in a stage adaptation of "A Christmas Carol," the classic Charles Dickens tale of personal transformation. Visiting Director Dawn Jacobs leads an all-star cast in presenting this holiday tale about the greedy, curmudgeonly miser who ends up realizing the worth of his fellow human beings and gaining the true joy of living.

Starring in the WCT production are Rod Grainger, Dave Watts, Randa Craighead, Christopher Martin, Mike A'Dair, Sylvia Wartell, Robert Ford, Soren Pinelli, Kathy De Bane, Amarah Potter, and Spencer Copperfield.

Because these 11 actors play a total of 40 different roles, this play within a play is wonderfully challenging. The mood of the scenes shifts back and forth from dark and spooky to holiday laughter and back again. Along the way, the action conveys how a closed-off, self-absorbed man whose only God is money ultimately finds redemption and ends up doing significant good with his wealth.

The show is designed to be engaging for adults and children. As a special treat at the end of each show, the cast will conduct an interactive sing-along with the audience, with the accompaniment of Robert Ford and Greg Schindel on guitars, in renditions of old English carols, including among others, "Silent Night," "Deck the Halls" and "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing." The intent is to send patrons back home in good holiday cheer and with warmed hearts.



The cast of 'A Christmas Carol.'

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**WILLITS HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR**

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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**  
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– Steve Hellman, for WCT

# WCA call for artists

Call for artists! The December show at the Willits Center for the Arts is "Small Works." It will run throughout the month of December and should be perfect for holiday shopping.

Willits Center for the Arts members can submit up to six pieces, no bigger than 24" x 36" and priced no more than \$200 per piece. We want these beautiful artworks to sell! Jewelry, ornaments, and small ceramic works are all welcome. Be creative!

Drop off submissions Thursday, December 1 between 12 and 3 pm. Acceptance will be determined by size and space availability. If you are not yet a member, it is not too late to join. Contact the WCA at 459-1726 for more information.

The WCA Holiday Crafts Fair, December 9, 10 & 11 at the Willits Center for the Arts, will have additional booths upstairs in the great room. Contact Bonnie Belt for information about the crafts fair. 459-1726.

– Willits Center for the Arts

# Senior Center Lunch

Week of November 21 through 25

Monday: Spaghetti/Meat Sauce  
Tuesday: Pork Chops  
Wednesday: Ham/Sliced Pineapple  
Thursday: Thanksgiving Day Dinner provided by Food Bank  
Friday: Center Closed

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.

Do you have an event to include in the Willits Weekly calendar?

Email us!

[willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

Remember: deadline is end of day Monday for Thursday publication!

**Sunday November 27, 2016**

The Willits Wild Bunch presents the 24th Annual

**WILLITS TOY RUN**

Food & No Host Bar  
Great Raffle Prizes  
Everyone Invited  
Rain or Shine

Run leaves Evergreen Shopping Center, Noon Party at Little Lake Grange  
291 School Street, Noon to 3 pm  
Admission: One Unwrapped Toy (for ages 1 to 17)

Benefit for the Willits Children's Christmas Program  
Sponsored by the Willits Rotary Club  
Special thanks to Willits Lions, the Grange, Little Lake Fire Dept and Printing Plus  
Information: [HOG@bellsprings.com](mailto:HOG@bellsprings.com) or call 707-489-3313

# Seeking Thanksgiving volunteers!

Willits Community Services seeks volunteers to help serve at its 27th annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 11 am to 3 pm, November 24 at Harrah Senior Center. More info or to sign up: 459-3333.

# "Working Through Loss & Grief: Finding Light in the Darkest Time"

Tuesday, December 6

Avenues to Wellness presents its December speaker event, Tuesday, December 6 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, with Roland Hulstein, MSW, therapist and spiritual care provider at Phoenix Hospice. "Learn the common elements of the grief process. Discover the misconceptions related to grief, and ways to move through and perhaps beyond our loss. Explore the idea that loss can lead to opportunities to grow and change." Presentation includes: The steps of the grief process; learning about hospice and bereavement care; early, delayed & complicated grief; and managing the holidays with sadness. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Free to the public; donations appreciated! Wheelchair accessible. Info: 456-9676, [atwforhealth@gmail.com](mailto:atwforhealth@gmail.com) or [www.avenuestowellness.org/](http://www.avenuestowellness.org/).

# Jr. Boosters Holiday Bazaar

Vendors Needed!

Willits High Schools Jr. Boosters Club is in need of crafty community members to come and sell their crafts, candy, or baked goods at the Jr. Boosters Holiday Bazaar, Saturday, December 3, from 10 am to 2 pm at the WHS Food Center. \$20 table fee for vendors will be donated to WHS Boosters and all other proceeds go to the individual vendors. "We encourage all to come and sell or buy for your holiday needs!" Info: Christy Wisdom , 459-7700 ext. 1554 or Jennifer Barrett, 707-540-4208.

# Dual Auditions

## at Willits Community Theatre

The Willits Community Theatre will hold auditions for two plays, Neil Simon's "The Sunshine Boys" and Yasmina Reza's "God of Carnage," on Saturday, December 3 at noon and on Tuesday, December 6, at 6:30 pm.

The WCT Playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane, just a block behind Niko's Gyros and Shanachie Pub in downtown Willits.

"The Sunshine Boys" is a classic Simon comedy that tells the story of two old vaudeville comics who have not worked together for years. They get back together to do to a "tribute to vaudeville" for television and when they do, the two gents discover that the old animosities and character quirks that split them up originally are still there – and then some! "The Sunshine Boys" opens February 10.

For "The Sunshine Boys" we are looking for two older guys who have comic timing and who can remember a lot of lines. In addition we also need two women and two men, 20 to 60 years old. One of the men can be an older gentleman who has only a few lines and one of the women should be a younger woman who can play a Marilyn Monroe/ Kim Kardashian starlet type.

"The Sunshine Boys" will be directed by Christine Dill, who directed "Same Time, Next Year" in 2013 and "The Angel of Chatham Square" in 2014. For inquiries about the play contact Dill at 462-4015. .

"God of Carnage" is a dark comedy by the popular French playwright Yasmina Reza. In it, a playground altercation between 11-year-old boys brings together two sets of parents for a meeting to resolve the matter. At first, diplomatic niceties are observed, but as the meeting progresses, tensions emerge and the gloves come off, leaving the couples with more than just their liberal principles in tatters. In the process, much of the hypocrisy of modern civilization is exposed.

For "God of Carnage," we are looking for two men and two women, between the ages of 30 and 50. They need to be able to play the parents of the boys.

God of Carnage will rehearse in March and will open on April 7. It will be directed by David Partch, who recently directed "Leftovers," one of the one-act plays in the recent WCT production of "To Couple, Or Not To Couple?" For inquiries about the play contact Partch at 459-7054.

People who come to this audition may try out for either play or for both. Scripts of these plays are available at the front desk of the Willits Library.

# Ongoing Events

**Willits Winter Farmers Market:** the farmers market has moved inside for the winter, starting October 27, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. 3 to 6 pm (October hours) every Thursday afternoon. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**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.

**"The Women's Book Club":** The November exhibit at the Willits Center for the Arts features "lush renderings of the female form and complex origami forms fashioned from books," created by artists Dianna Hinkle and Laura Wiecek. WCA, at 71 Commercial Street, is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm. Info: 459-1726.

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

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

**Free Seeds for your Winter Garden:** "Check out" flower, vegetable, and herb seeds to plant in your garden. After the plants are done, save the seeds , label them and return them to Will Minor at Willits Public Library. Heirloom seeds only. No GMO and no hybrids! Questions? Call Will at 459-5908, e-mail him at [minerw@co.mendocino.ca.us](mailto:minerw@co.mendocino.ca.us), or see him at the library desk.

**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."

**Morning Tranquility Meditation:** every weekday 8 to 8:30 am at the Inner Resource Institute, 1500 Hearst Road. Open to all, this simple, blissful silent meditation is suitable for beginning (instruction included) or experienced meditators. Info: 357 4676.

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

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

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

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

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

**Smoking Cessation Program:** Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the MHM Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

**Free Sheriff's Activity League programs:** at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 10 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: [www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague](http://www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague) or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

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

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

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



At right: Guitarist Skip Cherryholmes of Sideline. In front, Sideline's virtuoso fiddle player Nathan Aldridge. Steve Dilling, banjo player and bandleader for Sideline.

Below: A full house at the Willits Art Center enjoyed the North Carolina bluegrass sound of Sideline.

Photos by Mathew Caine




At right: Shira McGaw, concert promoter Bruce Burton's step-daughter, helps out at the ticket table.

Far right: Ashby Frank, left, on mandolin, and Jason Moore on stand-up bass.



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Above, from left: Jason Moore, Brad Hudson, and Skip Cherryholmes of Sideline. The crowd at the Willits Art Center for the bluegrass benefit for Willits Rotary Club scholarships. Gary Martin of the Willits Center for the Arts. Below, left: North Carolina's Sideline plays bluegrass at the Willits Center for the Arts. elow, right: Skip Cherryholmes, Nathan Aldridge, Ashby Frank, and Steve Dilling of Sideline get ready to play. At bottom, from left: Sideline's virtuoso fiddle player Nathan Aldridge. Bruce Burton and Joyce Thompson at Sunday's bluegrass concert. Willits City Councilwoman Holly Madrigal, left, and Carole Aleshire at the bar.



## The rest of Bluegrass

From Page 10

today. Before noon."

Frank sparked some laughter from the audience by comparing his native small town of Tyro, North Carolina with California.

"You all may have passed a marijuana referendum here in California," and pausing for effect, Frank added: "but we got beer. No longer a dry county. It's exciting."

The youngest member of Sideline is still in high school, virtuoso fiddle player Nathan Aldridge, whom everybody calls Clifford.

"He just looks like a Clifford, doesn't he?" Dilling chaffed. After introducing Clifford,

Dilling asked him about his two weeks of being away from school.

"How have the women in Southern Alamance High School been faring without you?"

Clifford's response: "I have no idea."

"Clifford to the audience that 'Clifford is maintaining a solid D average' from missing so much school, he addressed the fiddle player again.

"Tell the people how happy you are to be in Mendocino County," said Dilling.

Clifford's response as he approached the mic: "Yup."

"Clifford doesn't talk much; he lets his

fiddle to his talking," said Dilling.

Introducing dobro player and overall instrumentalist Brad Hudson, Dilling informed the crowd: "He's been working with Dolly Parton over the last five years. We couldn't figure out why in the world he would leave her to come work with us. I asked him and he said: 'Man, I need to get in a lower tax bracket.' I said: 'Then you are in the right place for that.'"

As was clearly evident by the musical chemistry displayed by Sideline, each band member is highly proficient with their respective instrument, and most have decades of experience in performing with other bands.

Although they've been together for only

three years, they have released three CDs: "Session 1"; "Session 2"; and their newest, "Colors & Crossroads."

To purchase any of those CDs or to find out more information about the band, including tour dates, visit [www.sidelinebg.com](http://www.sidelinebg.com).

According to Burton, Sunday's event raised just over \$1,000 for the scholarship fund.

"There is a bit more to come in," Burton said. "This event does not raise the larger amount; some other Rotary-sponsored events do, but this brings in some top bluegrass talent to our community, and it's not always about the money."

## The rest of Turkeys

From Page 1

bag of yellow onions to the camp on Highway 20 and started working to prepare the items that will be served for free to the Willits community on Thanksgiving day.

This is the 27th annual dinner, and it will be held at the Willits Senior Center located at 1501 Baechtel Road here in Willits. Meals are offered completely free of charge to anyone who would like to come enjoy a hot dinner, and plates will be served from 11 am to 3 pm on Thursday, November 24.

Donations will be accepted, however, and will go to Willits Community Services and Food Bank to help their "continuing effort to provide essential human services in our community."

Helping to round out the turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes, the rest of the meal will include giant bowls of salad, made from 25 pounds of carrots, two cases of celery, eight pounds of green onions, and dozens and dozens of tomatoes. Dressings to top include eight gallons of ranch, and a gallon each of Italian, balsamic vinaigrette and French.

The list of supplies also includes 900 pounds of canned cranberries, yams and green beans to accompany as side dishes, plus eight gallons of milk, 25 pounds of butter, 15 pounds of flour and four pounds of salt, that will become part of the mashed potatoes and gravy. Desserts to finish the meal include 50 pumpkin pies, 25 apple pies and 25 cherry pies—with 36 cans of whipped cream on hand to top all those slices.

Buying the supplies on these long grocery lists is only possible thanks to the generous donations from community members, business owners and major supporters like 101 Drive-In. Dinner will be served by community volunteers, and anyone interested in learning more, or helping with the event is encouraged to contact 459-3333.

## CalFire Mendocino Unit transitions out of fire season

Recent rains and cooler temperatures across the region have lowered the threat of wildfires allowing the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Mendocino Unit to transition out of fire season as of Monday, November 14.

Acting Unit Chief Eric Hoffmann encourages all residents to take advantage of the cooler months ahead to prepare for the 2016 fire season by creating 100 feet of defensible space around your home. Detailed information on defensible space is available at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov) or contact CalFire Mendocino Unit Headquarters at 459-7414.

As drought conditions continue to have a hold on California, CalFire is maintaining staffing to meet the current threat, as well as strategically moving resources to areas that remain at a higher threat level. CalFire will also continue to monitor weather conditions closely and still has the ability to increase staffing should weather conditions change or if there is a need to support wildfires or other emergencies in other areas of the state.

The 2016 fire season has been an extremely active year, even more so than in 2015. Statewide, CalFire and firefighters from many local agencies battled over 5,585 wildfires within the State Responsibility Area that burned nearly 148,000 acres. This is over 1,170 more wildfires this year than normal.

In the Mendocino Unit, CalFire responded to 136 wildfires that charred approximately 248 acres.

During the cooler winter months, CalFire will be focusing efforts on the implementation of fire prevention and fuels treatment activities as guided by the state's Strategic Fire Plan and localized unit fire plans. These activities are aimed at reducing the impacts of large, damaging wildfires and improving overall forest health.

Residents are urged to still take precautions outdoors in order to prevent sparking a wildfire. A leading cause of wildfires this time of year is from escaped landscape debris burning. Before you burn, ensure it is a permissive burn day by contacting the Mendocino County Quality Air Management District and then make sure you have any and all required burn permits.

For more information regarding burning regulations go to the MCQAMD web site at [www.mendoair.org](http://www.mendoair.org) or call the district office at 707-463-4354. Recorded burn day status is available 24/7 on the Burn Information Line at 707-463-4391.

During burning, make sure that piles of landscape debris are no larger than four feet in diameter, provide a 10-foot clearance down to bare mineral soil around the burn pile, and ensure that a responsible adult is in attendance at all times with a water source and a shovel.

For more ways to prevent sparking a wildfire visit [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org).

— Submitted by the Mendocino Unit, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## Human trafficking report ends in Willits man's arrest

A November 7 tip about possible human trafficking ended in the arrest of a Willits man on suspicion of battery against a peace officer and weapons charges.

At around 3 pm, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office received information about four people inside a red Toyota inhaling nitrous oxide from a container while parked in the 1300 block of North State Street in Ukiah, according to sheriff's Sgt. Scott Poma. Two females also were seen getting out of the vehicle and going into different hotel rooms for short periods of time for what the reporting person "believed to be a situation of human trafficking."

Responding deputies observed the Toyota pulling out of the hotel parking lot, being driven by 31-year-old Edward Esquivel of Willits, whose driver's license had been suspended. There was also a female passenger in the car, who was later determined to be a juvenile, the Sheriff's Office said in a press release.

Esquivel pulled into oncoming traffic and crossed the street to a Shell gas station, where deputies conducted a traffic stop.

As he was approaching the Toyota, a deputy observed numerous nitrous oxide canisters between the seats and a machete laying on the back seat, Poma said.

An uncooperative Esquivel was ordered out of the car. During a pat search, he reportedly "pulled back" from the deputy, then became combative as other deputies arrived.

A struggle ensued, and both Esquivel and the deputies ended up on the ground, Poma said. Regaining his feet, Esquivel tried to flee, "forcing a deputy to deploy his Taser, incapacitating him until he could be handcuffed."

All the deputies involved in the struggle with Esquivel sustained minor injuries, Poma added. Deputies later determined Esquivel was under the influence of a controlled substance.

While being searched, deputies discovered Esquivel had hidden a loaded handgun in his pants. As a convicted felon, Esquivel is prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition.

Ukiah police officers, California Highway Patrol officers and Mendocino County Probation Department officers were called in to assist the Sheriff's Office deputies.

The female juvenile in the car was arrested by juvenile probation on unrelated charges, Poma added.

Esquivel was booked into Mendocino County Jail on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance, being a felon in possession of a firearm, possession of ammunition by a felon, carrying a concealed weapon, and battery against a peace officer.

Bail was set at \$95,000.

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







OBITUARY |

## Brandon Maxfield

Brandon James Maxfield of Willits passed away November 13, 2016 at the age of 29. He was born March 12, 1987 in Ukiah, California to Clint and Susan Stansberry. In high school he was a member of Peer Counseling, and more recently the owner of the website, brandonsams.org. Brandon enjoyed his computer, family and music. Most especially treasured times were with his nephews Bobby and Brandon Washburn, and Devin Stansberry; niece Clara Stansberry; and his goddaughter, Trinity Ward, all of whom made him so happy and were dearly loved by him.

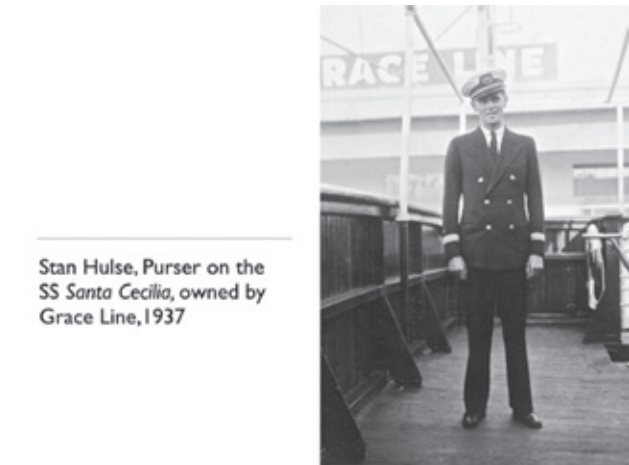
Brandon is survived by his parents, Clint and Susan Stansberry; grandmother Kandy Holder; grandfather Jim McCullough and Sue; grandfather

Charles (Connie) Crowell; aunt Brandi; uncle Larry and Bubba; brothers: Rocky Stansberry and Jenna, and Brian Stansberry and family; sister, Patricia Stansberry, whom he loved beyond words; brother-in-law Bob Washburn; Shannon Stabler; great friend and caregiver, Terry Johnston; and so very many more friends, family and loved ones.

Brandon is predeceased by his great-grandmother Ruby Maxfield, his aunt Dawn, and his "Pops," Gene Holder.

A viewing will be held Friday, November 18, 2016 from 1 to 2 pm at Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel. The funeral services are Saturday, November 19, 2016 at 11 am, also at Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel, followed by graveside services at the Little Lake Cemetery.

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



Stan Hulse, Purser on the SS Santa Cecilia, owned by Grace Line, 1937

The rest of

## Hulse

From Page 5

Hulse, who saw plenty of action at the end of the war, had this worldly lesson to recount, which rings as true today as it ever did:

"May all the thinking Americans consider Germany and, regardless of political ties, look ahead unbiased and unopinionated by those ties. Too much has been spent in blood and tears and sweat in the name of freedom for us to allow any man, or any group of men, to abridge or filch from us one particle of that freedom."

While Hulse spends a number of chapters on his experiences during WWII, the book is vast in scope, and truly captures a life deeply and widely lived.

Not only do readers learn about the exciting life of the author and his family, but they also receive a grand history lesson rarely offered anywhere else. Hulse is a vigilant record keeper, and it shows, not only in his writing, but also with the numerous striking photographs accompanying the stories he weaves.

As expressed on the back cover of "That's The Way It Was:" "Through the eyes of Standish Curtis Hulse – a descendant of Myles Standish and Daniel Boone – you'll experience family tragedy, escape to sea on freighters, work in the engine room with the 'black gang,' and survive shipwrecks and storms ... experience World War II as a superintendent building destroyers for the Navy and commanding an M7 Howitzer tank through Germany in the last days of the war...."

"That's the Way It Was: The Life and Times of Standish Curtis Hulse" can be purchased online at: [www.wattsupublications.com](http://www.wattsupublications.com). For more information, call Jenny Watts at: 459-9009.



George Hulse with one of his automobiles

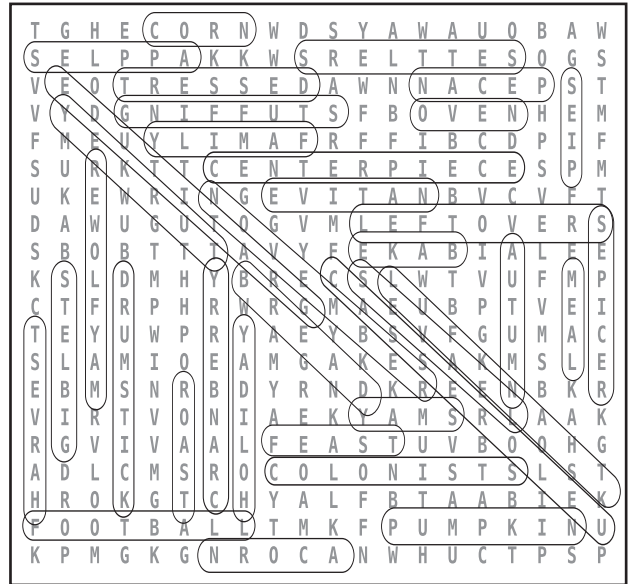
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The rest of

## Dance

From Page 7

through movement and will feature dances that will entertain, mesmerize and induce feeling. More than half the students and artists involved in this performance are Willits residents, Schon-Brunner said.

The evening will include choreography by critically acclaimed guest artist Rebecca Levy, artistic director of Jacksonville Dance Theatre and professor of dance at Florida State University. Levy was in residency at Mendocino College earlier this fall, when she worked with Mendocino College Repertory dancers on the energetic dance, "Do more, do less, more or less," a piece about finding one's voice and trusting it amid the pressure to conform, which will be presented. Returning guest artist Samuel Fulk – a professional ballet dancer who danced with the Utah Regional Ballet for six seasons and now lives in Sacramento – will be contributing as both a guest choreographer and a performer in "Laws of Nature."

The show will also premier the dance video, "Laws of Nature," filmed and edited by video artist Leonello Simmons, directed by Eryn Schon-Brunner and Tara Ford, and choreographed in collaboration with the repertory dancers. The film juxtaposes the sassy nature of jazz with the majestic nature of Montgomery Woods State Nature Reserve.

Laws of Nature will run for one weekend only. Performances are Friday and Saturday, November 18 and 19 at 8 pm, and Sunday, November 20, at 2 pm at the Mendocino College Center for Visual and Performing Arts theatre, 1000 Hensley Creek Road in Ukiah. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$10 for ASB cardholders, seniors and children 12 and under. Tickets are available at Mendocino Book Company, the Mendocino College Bookstore, and online at [www.artsmendocino.org](http://www.artsmendocino.org). As performances often sell out, audiences are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance. Visit [www.mendocino.edu](http://www.mendocino.edu) or call 707-468-3079 for more information.

The rest of

## Gerry

From Page 12

happy to help him out. With Gerry's permission, Bloomquist posted his photo and an explanation of his situation on the store's Facebook page and, almost immediately, donations, support and assistance started pouring in.

Sentiments filled the comments sections of that morning's post: "Oh my heart this man is a good soul! I am saddened to hear of his friend's passing I was wondering about them the other day!," "He has been a best friend to his buddy for many years and it is now time for Willits show this man some help and friendship," and "People of Willits are the best. I feel proud when I see things like this posted on Facebook. We keep it local and help our own, and that's beautiful! THIS is what makes America great!" echoed throughout the 190 shares of the original post.

On Tuesday afternoon, two month's worth of accommodations had been pre-paid for Gerry at the Pepperwood Motel. Pepperwood also offered discounted rates of \$50 per night to help with the fundraising efforts.

However, on Tuesday morning, Bloomquist posted that Gerry had taken a fall and had been transported by ambulance to Howard Memorial Hospital where, she notes, "the staff is taking amazing care of him and has started the process to get him a case worker who can assist in getting him the resources he needs for permanent low-cost housing and medical care."

A donation jar is still set up at J.D. Redhouse, and any and all donations will go to keeping Gerry warm and safe at the Pepperwood Motel.

Gerry would like to thank everyone in the Willits community for their outpouring support, both financially and emotionally, in his time of need.

Bloomquist notes: Gerry is very exhausted and is not able to have visitors at the hospital at this time, so we ask you respect his privacy. I will continue to update on his condition."

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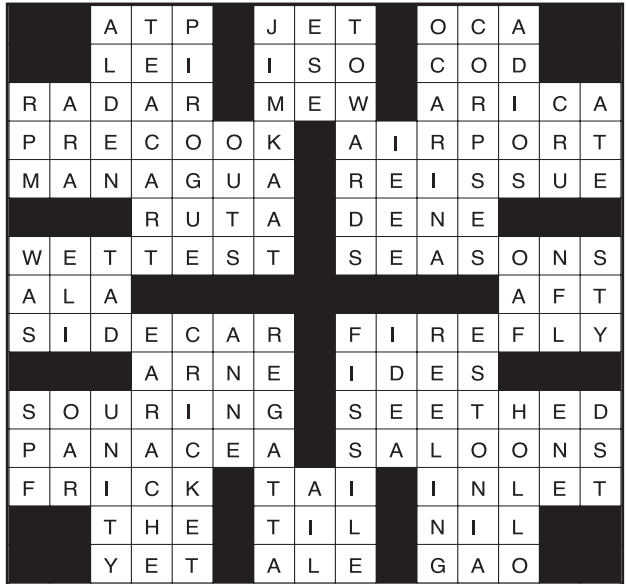
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The Harrah Senior Center in Willits is looking for an individual that is enthusiastic and upbeat and can plan nutritious, balanced lunches using fresh ingredients, order and monitor inventory supplies, maintain a clean & sanitary kitchen, and have a current Food Safety Manager certificate. This individual should be able to work well with others, train volunteers or hired personnel, and be able to lift 40 lbs., stand for long periods of time, and pass a drug test. Please e-mail or fax application/ resume before December 5 to: [wsidirector@willitsseiorcenter.com](mailto:wsidirector@willitsseiorcenter.com) or 707-459-1772.

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#### Thanksgiving volunteers!

Willits Community Services seeks volunteers to help serve at its 27th annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 11 am to 3 pm, November 24 at Harrah Senior Center. More info or to sign up: 459-3333.

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4	9	7	3	1	6	2	8	5
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## A Community of Helping Hands

What can only be described as an outpouring of support has been given to a member of the Willits community who recently found himself very much in need.

Gerry, who many will remember as the one who used to lead his blind friend, Beau, around the streets of Willits for 17 years, has recently become homeless. After the death of Beau, Gerry was no longer able to afford the rent at the Pepperwood Motel where they were staying. Not knowing what else to do, Gerry ended up sleeping on the bench in front of J.D. Redhouse, respectfully and carefully being sure to leave no traces of his overnight visits.

Maureen Moore  
Graphics & Photographress  
[maureen@willitsweekly.com](mailto:maureen@willitsweekly.com)

J.D. Redhouse employee Macy and her boyfriend RJ had seen Gerry there on Sunday evening and, recognizing who he was, brought him food for the night. Just after, Macy posted on Facebook if anyone knew how to offer him help, and the initial ideas and efforts started to get Gerry back on his feet.

The next morning, Monday, November 14, Gerry was still on the bench, shaking, cold and weak after spending his 10th night outdoors, and hadn't been able to leave the bench by the time J.D. Redhouse was going to open.



Gerry in front in J.D. Redhouse

J.D. Redhouse's manager, Ashtan Bloomquist, noticed him that morning and had heard about what happened the night before from Macy. Bloomquist was also instantly concerned that this Willits local was in true need. They brought out tea and a breakfast sandwich to Gerry and told him they were going to try and help raise money to get him back home, cleaned up, warm, dry and able to get some much-needed rest.

Gerry said he'd been waiting for an appointment with the Social Security office and had no other living arrangements while he waited for funds to become available through the government. Redhouse staff contacted the Pepperwood Motel that morning, and the staff readily agreed to put Gerry up in a room overnight free of charge. Bloomquist said the Pepperwood staff mentioned Gerry and Beau had always been quiet, clean tenants and were

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

OBITUARY |

## Elmer 'Sully' Pinches

Elmer Eugene "Sully" Pinches passed away peacefully Tuesday, October 18, 2016. He was 97 years young, born to George Elmer Pinches and Jesse Mabel Purdy-Pinches on November 2, 1918 in Laytonville, California.

He was a lifelong resident of Mendocino County. As a high school student, he had a dairy in the Willits valley. He graduated from Willits High School in 1938, where he played his all-time favorite sport of baseball and was the treasurer of the Willits FFA chapter.

At a young age Sully married the love of his life, Eleanor Shanahan. They made their home at the Prince Ranch in the Willits valley. While building barns for Seabiscuit, Sully received his social security card from C.S. Howard. Later Sully and Eleanor moved their family to the Black Rock Ranch in Laytonville, where they ranched and raised their three children.

Sully was the Mendocino County trapper for 25 years and state/federal trapper for another seven years. He was the loving father to Jim Pinches (Rhonda), John Pinches (Debra), and June Sizemore (Wayne). Grandpa Sully was the loving grandfather to eight grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial will be held 4 pm Saturday, November 19, 2016 at Harwood Hall in Laytonville. Please bring your stories and a dish to share. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions in Sully's name to Harwood Park Association, Laytonville Fire Department, Howard Foundation or Phoenix Hospice of Willits.



OBITUARY |

## James Buzzard

James R. Buzzard, 65, who was born in Quincy, California, September 16, 1951, to Darrell L. and Alma F. Buzzard, died September 21, 2016, in Yuma, Arizona, after a short illness. James moved to Yuma about 15 years ago to help care for his parents and to manage an RV park there.

He was a lifelong resident of Willits, and graduated from Willits High School in 1969. Locally, he worked at Safeway, worked in the timber industry for Dan Chesser Trucking, Jack Kelly, and Don Noland Trucking, and drove longline to the East Coast for Remco.

James is survived by his parents, Darrell and Faye Buzzard, both 90, of Yuma, Arizona; two brothers, Jerry (wife, Marilyn) Buzzard of Ukiah and Larry (wife, Kathy) of Willits; and a sister, Barbara (husband, Jim) Taglio of Ukiah. James was predeceased by his brother Ken (wife, Vicky) Buzzard of Redwood Valley.

James will be laid to rest in Ukiah, California, with a private family service. James loved animals; his dogs were his family. The family requests that any memorial contributions be made to any Animal Shelter or Humane Society.



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Photos by Maureen Moore



At top, left: The "Land of the Free" quilt that will be raffled off at the 2016 Toy Run. At top, right: The antique fire engine leads the procession of bikes down Main Street during the 2015 Toy Run. Above: Suzen Ingle of Willits, who created the "Land of the Free" quilt.

## Toy Run to raffle off quilt to benefit Willits Kids Christmas Program

Award-winning quilter Suzen Ingle of Willits, with the assistance of Marian Dain of Marian's Magic Needle Quilting, has created this "Land of the Free" quilt to raffle off to benefit the Willits Kids Christmas Program.

"I made this quilt to donate to the Willits Toy Run Committee, my buddies (AKA the Willits Wild Bunch) that ride their Harleys and do so much for our kids, for them to raffle at the Toy Run 2016 to help raise fuds for an amazing cause!," Ingle said. "I hope that we can rise a lot to help kids in need."

The Toy Run Committee has taken over the coordination of the whole Willits Kids Christmas Program this year, from longtime organizer Sandy Turner.

The Christmas program, also sponsored by the Willits Rotary Club, helps ensure that every child in Willits has gifts to open on Christmas morning.

"I want the Kids Christmas Program to continue as long as there are children in our community who can benefit from it," Turner said. "The Rotary Club of Willits and the Willits community have strongly supported the program. I have been assured that they will continue to do so during the transition to new leadership."

The Toy Run, scheduled for Sunday, November 27 this year, is the annual kickoff for the Christmas program. Motorcyclists, accompanied by Santa and Mrs. Claus and fire engines from the Little Lake Fire Department, gather at the Evergreen Shopping Center and ride through town to the Little Lake Grange, for an afternoon of music (featured band this year: Il Big), food, raffles and a no-host bar. Admission to the party is one unwrapped toy, to be distributed through the Christmas program.

Those wishing to thank Turner for her years of service, can do so at the Toy Run party: "Stop by and say hi if you wish," she said. "I'll be in the kitchen."

Raffle tickets for the quilt are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. The drawing for the quilt will be held at the Willits Toy Run party; you need not be present to win. If you are interested in purchasing tickets for the quilt raffle, please email "Pops" at roadgildebandit@gmail.com. Arrangements will be made to deliver the tickets to you.

— Jennifer Poole



Above, left: Kim and Rich Venturi accept a gift from Rick Williams at the 2015 Toy Run event. The price of admission to this year's event remains one unwrapped toy. Above, right: Diners enjoy the meal at the event, which is served in the Little Lake Grange's great hall. Below, left: Glen Helton, at left, and other Willits Lions tend bar at the event last year. Below, right: Bikes wait in the Evergreen Shopping Center for the start of the parade down Main Street towards the Little Lake Grange.



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### The rest of Votes

From Page 1

provisional ballots from City of Willits voters; countywide there are 1,160 provisional ballots to review and process.

The deadline for the voter office to release final, certified election results is December 6. In 2014, results from the November 4 election were released on November 21, the Friday before Thanksgiving. But with the election later this year – and Thanksgiving sooner – it's unlikely final results for the 2016 election will be released until after Thanksgiving.

The race for third place on the Willits City Council – there were three seats up for election – is very close. Saprina Rodriguez, owner of Imagination Station, is currently in third place, but only by one vote. Rodriguez currently has 235 votes (17.39 percent), and Councilwoman Madge Strong is in fourth place, with 234 votes (17.32 percent). Mayor Bruce Burton is in fifth place, with 225 votes (16.65 percent of the vote).

With so many votes left to count, even second-place winner (so far) Bill Barksdale, with 269 votes (19.91 percent) cannot assume victory. But Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez (first-place winner so far with 378 votes, 27.98 percent of the vote) is unlikely to slip from first place. Gonzalez plans to retire from his position as police chief to take a seat on the Willits City Council in January.

The only election voter registrar Sue Ranochak said she could recall in recent years where the winners shown in the "Final Election Night Report" changed with the final, certified count was the 2014 Fort Bragg City Council election. The Advocate-News reported on November 5 that Mayor Dave Turner had lost his bid for re-election with "18 percent" (rounded figure) of the vote, but with final results, he came in third, winning the third seat, with 18.98 percent of the vote.

Countywide, Friday's press release stated, there were 25,407 ballots still to process, in addition to the 1,160 provisional ballots. With only 12,032 votes reported already, that's at least 67.86 percent of the countywide vote (not counting any provisionals) that was not reported in the final election night count, a higher percentage than ever before.

Sheriff Tom Allman's mental health facilities initiative, Measure AG, may – in the final count, with so many countywide ballots left to count – gain the two-thirds majority (66.67 percent) needed for the tax measure to pass. Measure AG currently stands at 65.19 percent. The associated "enacting" measure, AH, currently stands at 62.86 percent. County Counsel Katharine Elliot has said if Measure AH does not pass, there is no process by which the tax Measure AG approves can be collected.

Proponents of Measure AF, the Heritage Initiative cannabis measure, are not yet conceding defeat, due to the numbers of ballots still to count, but with 65.19 percent of voters (7,251 votes) saying "No," and 35.89 percent of voters (4,059 votes) saying "Yes," it is not likely results from that initiative will change.

Why are so many Mendocino County ballots uncouned in the "Final Election Night Report"? Because so many Mendocino County voters drop their mail-in ballots off at the polls on Election Day, and all of these ballots must be processed and counted after Election Day.

The "Final Election Night Report" includes the total of mail-in ballots that arrived at the voter office early enough to be counted before Election Day, as well as ballots actually cast at the polls.

### The rest of After School

From Page 1

and Councilman Larry Stranske recused themselves from the proceedings due to potential conflicts of interest. Both have family members that live within 500 feet of the site in question.

Rodriguez is a current city council candidate and owner of the preschool Imagination Station. She plans to call her latest educational program The Learning Depot Academy.

City Planner Dusty Duley had examined the site, and based on his findings as well as feedback from neighbors, he authored the conditional use permit and presented it to the council.

Duley said the program plans to serve up to 30 kids, with "hours of operation from 2:30 pm to 6 pm [during the week], with exception of school holidays where hours would be extended from 8 am to 6 pm."

Duley explained he received an anonymous letter from a neighbor of the site "with a number of concerns, including traffic, parking, water and sewer, land use compatibility, [and a list of] alternative sites that might be more appropriate."

Rodriguez came prepared to answer all those and other concerns, including the central one raised by councilmembers Holly Madrigal and Madge Strong: that the structure might be too small to accommodate 30 children.

Rodriguez read from a letter she received from Little Lake Fire Department Chief Chris Wilkes: "Dear Saprina, thank you for allowing us access. I believe The Learning Depot Academy will be a benefit to our community by providing an outlet to school learning. Upon initial inspection, I was very pleased to see the facility in proper working order. This is a testament to your hard work and knowledge of the requirements for your business. All the safety features from the exit doors, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, etc., are properly sized and placed as to provide safety for the occupants."

"After measuring the usable square footage of the structure, I've calculated the maximum occupancy to be 35."

Rodriguez explained her private residence, which is close to the after-school site, will be used for staff parking, and said there are plenty of on-street parking spaces to accommodate parents dropping off and picking up their children.

The final condition mentioned in the use permit covers securing or replacing the existing fence that separates the backyard property from a neighbor's yard.

According to Duley, "you can see it's leaning over into the project site backyard. The concern is that it's going to be an activity area for the kids; there was a concern that the kids may try to get up on the fence and, if it's not sturdy enough, it could create a hazard."

Duley noted the permit calls for Rodriguez to "provide a secure fence to keep the kids from leaving the play yard."

Several members of the public, including neighbors, voiced their support of the project.

Bill Barksdale, current city council candidate who lives in the neighborhood, added his support, but voiced his concern it may be setting a precedent that would allow other such businesses to be run in residential areas.

According to Duley, "the property is zoned Single Family Residence (R1), and operation of an educational program is subject to obtaining a use permit in the R1 zoning district."

Madrigal moved to approve the permit, Strong seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

#### Part-time meter reader

The City of Willits will be recruiting a part-time water meter reader, after the city council passed a budget amendment effectively eliminating a vacant Water Operator III position to make fiscal room for the new position.

The original proposal to reallocate the Water Operator III position to a new full-time meter reader/maintenance worker position was voted down, 3-2. Mayor Bruce Burton and councilmembers Madge Strong and Larry Stranske argued the \$83,565 cost to the Water Enterprise Fund was not worth the potential future savings.

Currently, there are four public works maintenance employees who take turns reading meters, and City Manager Adrienne Moore said the job has been taking those employees from their normal duties. It would be more efficient to have an actual meter reader, she argued.

"It takes two weeks out of every month to read the meters," Moore said, questioning the ability of staff to be able to find someone willing to work those hours, and qualified enough to do the job well.

Although the part-time position would cost half the amount, Burton argued against any hire at all, since the projected budget is already significantly in the red.

Strong motioned for adding the part-time position, Madrigal seconded, and the motion passed 4-1, with Burton opposed.

### The rest of Budget

From Page 1

The \$2.7 million was added on to the June 30, 2016 estimated fund balance carryover of \$6.1 million, bringing the total positive fund balance for fiscal 2015-16 to \$8.8 million.

In addition, several other pots of money were found, including an additional \$820,000 from the Sheriff's Office's 9.31 marijuana program, \$32,000 from the asset forfeiture program, and a \$1.5 million transfer from other parts of the county's budget.

Adjustments to the final budget were needed because this year the county shifted to adopting a final budget in June, only a few weeks before the close of the fiscal year.

Prior to that change, made in 2015, supervisors would adopt an interim budget in June and a final budget in September. The final budget incorporated the changes to revenues and spending that would come to the county each year after the close of the fiscal year on June 30. Now, those changes need to be accounted for in the first quarter budget report.

Assistant CEO Alan Flora told supervisors he wanted to distribute the surplus as follows:

- \$1.58 million to the Department of Transportation for corrective maintenance to the county's road system, bringing DOT's budget for corrective maintenance to \$2 million;
- an additional \$50,000 to the Mendocino County Museum;
- an additional \$712,000 to the county's Department of Buildings and Grounds for replacement of the Administration Center roof, bringing the total for that upgrade to \$1.53 million;
- another \$75,000 to Building and Grounds, for heating, ventilation and air conditioning, bringing that line item up to \$225,000;
- \$241,000 to the state of California's Administrative Office of the Courts as the county's contribution to that office (that sum includes back payment for the past two fiscal years);
- \$25,000 to Information Technology for software and another \$28,000 for upgrades to the system that videos and broadcasts the board of supervisors meetings;
- \$32,000 to the Sheriff's Office for more staffing (a staff assistant III);
- and \$630,740 to the Mendocino County Jail, the county's match for a proposed \$25,000 grant to build a third building, another \$139,261 to cover jail medical costs, and another \$50,000 to cover prisoner transport costs.

The additional \$6.6 million brings the total

### The rest of United

From Page 1

The shift from Ortner Management Group to RQMC – now the county's sole provider of adult, youth and children's mental health services – began after a December 2015 letter signed by more than 50 county doctors, emergency room staff and mental health providers, complained Ortner was failing to do enough to prevent mental health crises from occurring.

The controversy occupied the attention of the board of supervisors for several months.

A February 2016 report by mental health consultant Lee Kemper sharply criticized the county for failing to adequately hold Ortner accountable or give it clear instructions about what it was supposed to be doing.

On March 1, supervisors directed county CEO Carmel Angelo to prepare a draft contract to hire RQMC to provide adult mental health services. The next day, Ortner told the county it would not be renewing its contract to provide county mental health services. Ortner transitioned to RQMC from April through June and, after July 1, RQMC became the sole administrative services provider for the county.

In that role, RQMC subcontracts to various organizations, such as Manzanita Services, Hospitality House, and others.

Miller summed up the past eight months in one sentence: "Everyone has done a really amazing job."

Schraeder reported that from July 1 through September 30, RQMC has provided services to 758 children, youth and young adults and 408 adults and older adults, or 1,166 unduplicated persons.

Of those 408 adults, 212 were medication management patients.

The company also has performed in-person crisis assessments on 62 children, youth and young adults, and on 89 adults or older adults at Ukiah Valley Medical Center, the RQMC crisis center, Mendocino Coast District Hospital, Howard Memorial Hospital, the county jail, juvenile hall, county schools, and in the community.

Twelve persons under the age of 25 and

revenues projected to accrue to the county in fiscal year 2016-17 to \$271.7 million, and total appropriations to \$257.8 million.

In introducing the item, CEO Carmel Angelo told supervisors the budget adjustments and first quarter budget report that she and the executive office staff were about to present to "shows that cautious optimism is a good way to go."

"We have a good reserve, as if evidenced by the information you have. But that reserve isn't even a one-month operating budget," Angelo said.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen questioned the county's characterization of the fund balance carryover as "one-time money." He pointed out Mendocino County has frequently enjoyed large surpluses at the end of the fiscal year, and he asked if it were honest to treat the money as unexpected. His comment brought no direct response from either Flora or from CEO Angelo.

The \$8.8 million fund balance carryover for 2015-16 means the county has had a succession of six years in which the carryover has been more than \$2 million. The county enjoyed a fund balance carryover of \$2.9 million in fiscal 2010-11; virtually the same figure in 2011-12; \$6.8 million in 2012-13; \$8.8 million in 2013-14, and \$11.7 million in 2014-15.

McCowen asked Flora if most of the carryover was from positions in the county's workforce that had been budgeted but not filled.

"I think it is reasonable to assume a large portion of this is due to budgeted but unfilled positions, but I'd be reluctant to call it a majority of the \$8.8 million," Flora said.

McCowen also criticized the way Angelo and Flora had presented the budget changes to the board of supervisors.

"The board – or at least some members of the board – would like to have an open discussion on this issue," McCowen said. "What we see, or at least what I see, is that staff has allocated the fund balance here, down to the last cent, and has presented it to us for a 'rubber stamp' approval. I personally don't like this practice, and I probably won't be supporting it in the future. But because of the necessity of getting four votes to get this approved here today, and because we only have four of us here, I will be supporting it today."

Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse did not attend the board meeting.

23 older persons have been hospitalized. Of those, 13 were sent to Aurora in Santa Rosa, 10 to Restpadd in Redding, and six to St. Helena Hospital in Vallejo.

Supervisor Dan Hamsburg observed RQMC didn't seem to be using any of the facilities owned and operated by Ortner. Schraeder replied RQMC wasn't using them at all, because they did not have a contract with Ortner. When asked why that was, Schraeder said it was because Ortner "did not want to have a contract with us."

Mendocino County Behavioral Health has handled 137 crisis line contacts from people under the age of 25 and 244 contacts from people over that age. In addition, crisis line staff has handled 62 calls from people who didn't give their age, bringing the total number of crisis calls handled from July 1 to September 30 to 443.

Schraeder said in some instances crisis line staff was doing the work of her staff, but she implied that wasn't a big deal. The system has had "a few bumps, and we continue to do each others' work, but all in all it's gone well."

RQMC is expanding outpatient services on the south coast and in Covelo and Laytonville, Schraeder added. The agency also is working with the National Alliance on Mental Illness to make NAMI's peer support and family-to-family programs more widely available in the county.

The heaviest workload has come in crisis assessment for adults, she noted.

"Since July, the primary provider of adult services really has been crisis," Schraeder said. "It's three times what we expected."

Housing remains an important missing component in her efforts to provide effective care, she said. "In order to provide our wrap-around, we need to have our housing. Housing is a challenge for the entire community, but it is a particular challenge for those who struggle with mental health issues."

Supervisors listened to the report from Chandler, Miller and Schraeder without criticism and little comment. Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse was absent.





From left, Gloria Bancarz, Adventist Health's chief nursing officer; Jeff Eller, president of the Northern California Network of Adventist Health; Physician of the Year Dr. Ace Barash; and Rick Bockmann, president and CEO of Frank Howard Memorial Hospital.

## Dr. Ace Barash

named Howard Hospital's Physician of the Year

By Cici Winiger, for HMH

When you ask anyone in the Willits community to name a great physician, there's one name that always comes up: Dr. Ace Barash. For his great work, compassion and dedication to his patients and the community, Dr. Barash was named a "2016 Physician of the Year" by Adventist Health.

Dr. Barash was one of 19 physicians to be honored by Adventist Health this year, at hospitals locations throughout California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

Dr. Barash was nominated by employees of Frank Howard Memorial Hospital in recognition of his 18 years of service and dedication to providing compassionate care to the Willits community.

When he is asked how he ended up practicing at HMH, Dr. Barash can only say: "It was meant to be. I found the perfect place for me." In an attempt to sum up a long story, he says he was working at another hospital and became good friends with a well-known local surgeon who convinced him that HMH was where he belonged. In 1998, he started seeing patients in the Emergency Room at HMH. After years of private practice, Dr. Barash says seeing patients here was a breath of fresh air. And those that work with him feel the same way about him.

An employee wrote: "Dr. Barash is always willing to listen and advise without judgment. He is very approachable and

never makes you feel like your need is any less important than someone else's. He appreciates input and is receptive to others' opinions. He is very concerned about our community as a whole and how to better it."

Dr. Barash wears many hats, including director of inpatient care. Officially, he oversees the care of hospitalized patients and supervises the hospital's nurse practitioners. He also sees patients in the ER and assists orthopedic surgeon Dr. William Bowen in preparing patients for surgery.

Aside from his dedication to his patients, Dr. Barash is also known for his efforts to improve the community. He has been a staunch supporter of improving mental health services in Mendocino County, a cause that is very close to his heart. "Having seen so many patients in the ER with mental health issues, I felt guilty that I could not do more for these patients. I felt like it was my job to not only address their health issues but also address the underlying mental health issues."

This comes as no surprise to his patients and colleagues. "Dr. Barash goes above and beyond for his patients and staff. You can feel that he genuinely cares. He is an amazing doctor and a loving man, and truly exemplifies the mission of Adventist Health," shares an HMH employee.

Rick Bockmann, HMH president and CEO agrees: "Dr. Barash always has a way of making his patients feel like they are the most important person. His patients tell me how approachable he is, and he just makes them feel at ease. His care goes beyond his patients; he truly cares about our community and he is very much involved in initiatives to improve the community, such as advocating for better mental health services."

Dr. Barash's good nature (and his big smile) is a regular fixture at HMH, and he's grateful to be able to practice in such a caring atmosphere. "I'm proud of our team at HMH. One patient described it as a 'culture of love.' She said she never heard one employee say a bad word about another, and she's never been to a hospital like ours. We truly care for each other like a family. And patients can feel that," he shares.

Dr. Barash received his award at the Adventist Health Physician Leadership Symposium held in San Diego last month.



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