

**It's  
Real Estate  
Section  
Thursday!**





# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Student Debt Assistance Program

To the Editor:

In 2020, Rotary Club of Willits recognized the problem of college graduates leaving college with sometimes huge student loan debt. To help alleviate the pressure of these loans on Willits area residents, and encourage professionals to stay in our community, our club created the Rotary Club of Willits Student Debt Assistance Program. We found the need was greater than expected. For the past two years we have awarded recipients \$300 per month for one year.

We have decided to continue this worthy program for 2023. Applications are available, and the deadline for the completed applications is February 28, 2023.

Our club welcomes donations to this fund so we can serve more Willits area residents in need of student loan assistance. You can send checks, with a notation that they go to the "Willits SDAP account." Rotary Club of Willits is an IRS 501(c) (3) charitable foundation.

For more information contact Jenny Senter at 707-888-7834

To donate, please send checks to: Rotary Club of Willits, P.O. Box 787, Willits, CA 95490

For applications, please send an email to: willitsdap@gmail.com

Joe Bratt, program chair, Willits Rotary

## Time to renew Art Center memberships

To the Editor:

Greetings, patrons of the arts: It is that time of year again when Willits Center for the Arts asks you to renew your membership, make donations, and continue sponsoring and supporting YOUR Art Center.

Your generosity has maintained our building and our educational and creative programs for 23 years.

2022 has been a challenging, yet hopeful year for us. We began the year still recovering financially from the pandemic and being closed for two years. We have gradually opened our doors and, thanks to your generous support, we look forward to delighting and inspiring our community in 2023 and into the future.

Our dynamic, hands-on board of directors, along with our cadre of beloved volunteers, have been working hard to

expand our programming in these challenging times. We continue our historical offerings, such as our ever-popular monthly gallery openings and exhibits, and the Art Talk series with Gary Martin and special guest speakers, which offers an opportunity for adults to learn about, or brush up on, the history of art.

Beginners are always welcome to our Life Drawing class, which has been a Thursday tradition for 17 years and to the high-energy African dance class which has been meeting at the WCA for the past 23 years!

Our newly refurbished ceramic studio is presenting a variety of pottery classes with Nancy New and Sofia Alaoui. We pay artists to teach their craft to adults and children and offer scholarships to those in need. We present free crafting events like this summer's Express Yourself workshop and the Winter Wonderland that took place at the Crafts Fair.

2022 saw other new fundraising events that brought back the joy of sharing to our artists and art appreciators and sparked the imagination of our community, including eclectic afternoon concerts and our successful and lively first Halloween Gala.

We continue to subsidize a variety of performance arts classes and workshops like Qigong, Brazilian Dance, Ecstatic Dance, Yoga, kids dance classes, and more. We reach out to area youth in Willits, Covelo, and Laytonville schools with engaging art presentations and offer a wide variety of artistic opportunities for community members of all ages.

Please join or renew your membership with a donation envelope or donate online or become a member online at [www.willitscenterforthearts.org/membership-1?](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/membership-1?)

Sign up to receive our weekly email newsletter at the bottom of the home page [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org) to keep in touch with all the latest happenings at the WCA. Other ways to support the WCA include taking classes, or shopping for gifts/gift cards online or in person in our galleries and gift shop or from our Online Gallery.

Help the Willits Center for the Arts remain one of Mendocino County's most valuable arts venues by becoming a member, renewing your WCA membership, making a tax-deductible donation, or sponsoring an exhibit or an event.

Thank you for your continued support!

WCA Board of Directors members Sandy Strong, Emmy Good, Laura Wiecek, Judy Fisch, Lisa Kvasnicka, Gary Martin, Alexis Halleck, Eric Ward, Eric Hart and Margi Gomez Guhde

## Soroptimist International Willits 2023 phonebook

Submitted by Soroptimist International of Willits

One of Willits' special gems, the Soroptimist International of Willits' Community Telephone Directory, is once again on the minds of the service club's members who put together the publication every year.

2023 marks the 51st edition of the book, which features local residential, cell phone, and business phone numbers along with advertising, too.

These advertisements help fund the creation of the phone book, but also make available funds to donate to several women-and-girl focused projects, including scholarships, book programs, and cash awards.

The accuracy of the book relies on the community's input – if you have a change, want to be included, excluded, or make other adjustments, please let the club know before the February 10 deadline. We can't make changes after the book prints; we need to know now!

Advertising is available including a range of prices from \$100 for a business card, to \$350 for a full page. Ads are out for the whole year! Deadline is February 10 – please contact us right away via email: [willitsphonebook@gmail.com](mailto:willitsphonebook@gmail.com) for info, questions and more.

## Help shape the future of your Mendocino County Museum

The Mendocino County Museum is launching a Community Engagement Series of meetings and posting an online survey to ignite discussion about its future direction. Through extensive planned outreach efforts, staff are venturing forth to build relationships with our stakeholders and gain insight from community members that will help shape the future of our museum.

The digital survey is available now on the Mendocino County Museum website at [www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum). The survey requires only a few minutes of time to complete and provides valuable data for the Museum. The survey closes on April 28.

Community Forums will begin on February 15, and Museum staff, along with members from the Museum Advisory Board, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Friends of the Museum, will tour the county to

Read the rest of Museum Over on page 11



Above, from left: Rod Jamison's "Desert Sky," metal canvas with mixed media and resin finish. "Mycos Chess" set by Sofia Alaoui. "U.S. Flag," metal canvas with translucent ink and resin finish by Rod Jamison. At left: The attendees listen to Sofia Alaoui talk about her trip to Morocco, her family home, and her inspiration for the exhibit. Below, left: "Over and Under the Rainbow" bookends from Sofia Alaoui. Below, right: "Martil Morning Tagline" by Sofia Alaoui.



At left: The opening was well-attended after a slow start due to the rain. Below, left: WCA ceramics instructor and artist Sofia Alaoui received this bouquet from a friend and admirer. Below, right: Rod Jamison poses with his translucent "U.S. Flag."

Photos by Mathew Caine

## Earth and Metal

### Sofia Alaoui's ceramics and Rod Jamison's resin-coated metal canvases on display at Willits Center for the Arts this month

Take two very disparate artists, ceramist Sofia Alaoui and metal artist Rod Jamison, give them space at the Willits Center for the Arts, and the result is an intriguingly creative show which will be in residence throughout the month of January, closing on the 29th.

Walking from one gallery into the next is akin to stepping into different worlds with completely different visions and techniques, one metallic in its use of manufactured materials, the other earthy, utilizing the basic stuff of the earth. Both are dynamic, like walking through the ages of man's development, Stone Age to Iron Age.

Alaoui, a young artist whose experience in ceramics spans much of her lifetime, recalls her Moroccan family heritage to create a collection of pottery that is at once ancient in its origin and modern in her approach. Her creations are both as utile and tactile as they are beautiful. There is a woody chess set with various mushrooms as the pieces, furniture with ceramic tiles, lamps, tea sets, and many other fascinating ceramic objects.

"All of the pieces in the show are inspired by a trip that I took to Morocco this summer," Alaoui explained. "My dad's family is from there. I was inspired by a lot of the pottery there as it is a big part of the culture. Everything in the exhibit has been made in the last four months. I've been working very hard."

She mused on the allure of ceramics as an art: "I really like making art with my hands. I love getting the tangible

Read the rest of WCA Over on page 15



## Changing of the guard at Dr. Kerr's dental office

Submitted by Willits Modern Dentistry

Folks can expect to see new faces at 12 West Valley Street, aka Willits Modern Dentistry, as Willits dentist Dr. Alfred Kerr, DDS, prepares for retirement in the upcoming year.

Adrian Dumitrescu, DDS and Nate Poenaru, DDS have purchased the practice and have already begun seeing patients, old and new.

With them they bring a renewed energy, extended office hours, and a selection of services previously referred out to specialty offices in Ukiah and beyond, including: root canal treatments, extractions and even implants.

Although little ones have always been welcomed at Dr. Kerr's office, there will be a new focus on pediatrics as well. Please help us welcome Dr. Adrian and Dr. Nate as they continue to provide excellent care and treatment in our community, with the office's new name: "Willits Family Dentistry and Implants."

Please call to schedule a new patient appointment: 707-459-2163. Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm, Friday 9 am to 1 pm.

Above: Longtime Willits dentist Dr. Alfred Kerr, back row, left, celebrates Christmas at Roland's Bistro with staff and the new owners of his dental practice, Dr. Nate Poenaru, DDS, back row, right, and Dr. Adrian Dumitrescu, DDS, middle row, right. Staff includes, front row: Nicole Fraser, Michal Williams, Kathy Graves, and Pooja Jivan; and middle row: Taylor Buzzard, Gayle Lewis, and Karla McDonald. Not pictured: Arianna Palmerin-Morfin.

## Congrats | Happy 7th Birthday Alaska

She's good with dogs. She's good with cats, A gymnast, a pianist, she wears many hats.

Our dear sweet Alaska is an angel from heaven, And today we will celebrate her turning SEVEN!

Happy birthday sweet pea!

Love, Mom, Dad, River, Stinky, Mittens & Lilo



Do you have a congrats announcement you'd like to send in? Birthdays, babies, weddings, promotions and more. Email us short and sweet at [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

## Congrats | Happy 11th Birthday Roxie

Happy 11th birthday to my beloved, first-born sidekick, the hairball of my heart and my best furry friend! I love you, Roofus! A hand-carved ham "11 ♥" to celebrate the best puppia ever!



## Watch your loose livestock

Posted by Mendocino County Animal Protection Unit

The Mendocino County Animal Protection Unit has had a run of calls regarding cattle being loose in several areas of our county.

While we understand the occasional accident, there are some that need to be reminded of the large animal estray laws and lawful fence laws in our state and county.

We will begin issuing citations for livestock owners who repeatedly have their animals found in the roadway or on neighbors' property.

Please feel free to call us with any questions! 707-463-4427. Follow "Mendocino County Animal Protection Unit" on Facebook.

## The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

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

Willits Weekly

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Online & Print

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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DO NOT PLACE THESE IN YOUR RECYCLE CART!!!

The State of California has ordered MANDATORY quarterly audits and fines for CONTAMINATED RECYCLE CARTS. The biggest contaminants are these items. Do not place them in your cart or you can be fined, skipped, and/or reported.

NO PIZZA BOXES

NO STYROFOAM OF ANY KIND

NO PLASTIC BAGS OF ANY KIND

## Extra yard waste pickup for City of Willits customers

Attention: Willits City Limits customers – If you already have Green Waste service, this message is for you. For the next few weeks we will be picking up green waste every Friday (instead of every other Friday) for everyone cleaning up after the storms.

Visit <https://swowservices.com/> to see the 2023 Newsletter with info about what should go in to your green yard waste cart and your blue recycling cart.



Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



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!

CAREGIVER WORD SEARCH

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

ACUTE	CUSTODIAL	AIDE
AGENCY	DIRECTIVES	HOSPICE
ASSISTIVE	DISABILITY	INDEPENDENT
CARE	DISCHARGE	INFORMAL
CHRONIC	FACILITY	MEMORY
COMORBIDITY	FAMILY	MOBILITY
COMPANION	GUARDIANSHIP	PROXY
COMPETENCE	HOME HEALTH	SUPERVISION

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

- CLUES ACROSS
- Not invited
  - Whale ship captain
  - One point south of southwest
  - Small cavity in a rock
  - Reclivists
  - City of Angels hoopster
  - A way to mark with one's signature
  - OJ trial judge
  - Rice cooked in broth
  - One point east of due south
  - One point east of southeast
  - Complements an entree
  - Grouped by twos
  - Disfigure
  - Woods
  - Political action committee
  - Longer of 2 bones in the forearm
  - Kin groups
  - Philippine Island
  - Contrary to
  - Bluish-gray fur
  - Comprehend the written word
  - Natural depressions
  - Felines
  - Breathe noisily
- CLUES DOWN
- Green and yellow citrus fruit
  - A bright color
  - Thicket
  - Journalist Tarbell
  - A place to work or relax
  - Sharp mountain ridge
  - Helicopter
  - Mimic
  - Suggests
  - More musty
  - Large, flightless rail
  - Make beer
  - Soviet Socialist Republic
  - People who can account for you
  - Taunt
  - South Dakota
- CLUES ACROSS
- Cover the entirety of
  - Kids' favorite visitor
  - A way to save for retirement
  - Fencing swords
  - C. China mountain range
  - Type of sandwich
  - Team
  - Paddle
  - Partly digested food
  - Most cagey
  - Shoppers make one
  - Cathode-ray tube
  - Food supplies
  - Backbones
  - Concern
  - Blood group
  - Broadway songwriter Sammy
  - Dutch colonist
  - Full-grown pike fish
  - Deity of a monotheistic cult
  - Type of bread
  - S. Nigerian people
  - Scottish tax
  - Young women's association
  - Brazilian city
  - Hide of a young animal
  - Midway between north and northeast

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE LOG

December 5 to December 15

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **149 incidents** in this 14-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

December 5

No incidents to report.

December 6

12:34 am: **WHYBURN, Alec Ryan** (22) of Ukiah was contacted near the intersection of Sherwood Road and North Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance for sale, transportation of a controlled substance for sale, felon in possession of a firearm, and violation of parole.

5:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Walnut Street and South Main Street.

8:20 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 29000 block of North Highway 101.

December 7

9:29 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Sanhedrin Circle and East Hill Road.

10:33 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:47 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:21 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

7:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

9:37 pm: **AMADOR, Manuel Steven** (47) of Willits was contacted in the 1200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance, marijuana cultivation, driving with a suspended license for DUI, driving with suspended privileges, violation of probation, and failure to appear.

December 8

6:06 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of School Street.

7:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

December 9

11:37 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of North Main Street.

11:44 am: **GOFORTH, William Roylee** (54) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street following a report of suspicious activity. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance, and on misdemeanor and felony charges of violation of probation.

Looking for something to celebrate?

Learn more about these, or see a list of other days at <https://www.listofnationaldays.com/>

**January 12:** Kiss A Ginger Day, National Curried Chicken Day, National Marzipan Day, National Pharmacist Day, Poetry At Work Day.

**January 13:** National Peach Melba Day, Korean American Day, National Rubber Ducky Day, National Sticker Day, Stephen Foster Memorial Day, Public Radio Broadcasting Day, Make Your Dream Come True Day

**January 14:** National Dress Up Your Pet Day, National Hot Pastrami Sandwich Day, Ratification Day, Organize Your Home Day, International Kite Day

2:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.



Alec Whyburn of Ukiah.

3:19 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of North Main Street.

December 10

9:12 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Sherwood Road and North Main Street and issued a warning.

12:30 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of North Main Street and East Commercial Street.

3:57 pm: **DEGURSE, Jerry Paul** (62) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of South Main Street and South Street. He was arrested pursuant to 14601.2 VC (Driving with Suspended License for DUI) and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Parole).



Noel Wickstrom of Willits.

December 11

8:01 pm: **WICKSTROM, Noel August** (54) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue. He was arrested on felony charges of domestic battery and violation of probation.

December 12

No incidents to report.

December 13

9:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of Holly Street.

December 14

3:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

3:47 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

5:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

December 15

12:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

2:32 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of Shell Lane.

3:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of South Main Street.

December 16

5:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

6:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street.

December 17

No incidents to report.

December 18

7:58 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1000 block of Locust Street.



Above: Amy Buckingham, new associate patient care executive at Adventist Health Howard Memorial.

Photo by Maureen Jennison

Amy Buckingham named associate patient care executive for Adventist Health Howard Memorial

Submitted by Adventist Health Howard Memorial

Adventist Health Howard Memorial is pleased to announce Amy Buckingham as associate patient care executive. Buckingham brings more than 15 years of experience to this role in which she will oversee nursing practices, quality, safety, and infection-prevention initiatives.

"We are very excited to welcome Amy into this role," says Linda Givens, administrator of Adventist Health Howard Memorial. "Her profound clinical experience paired with her passion for our Planetree efforts of patient-centered care will help us build on our strengths and continue to improve the quality of care we provide to our community."

Buckingham has served with Adventist Health Howard Memorial for many years, most recently as emergency services directory, overseeing the emergency department and respiratory therapy at the hospital. Her extensive experience in patient care pairs well with the relationships she's established within the community and our team that she has supported.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to continue to support our team and the amazing work they do caring for our community," says Buckingham. "I'm incredibly proud of the excellent care we deliver in our facility and I'm looking forward to working with each of our departments, providing compassionate care that focuses on the continuous improvements of our patient's experience."

Buckingham graduated from Western Governors University

with a master's degree in nursing leadership and management and was a part of the first graduating class from the Mendocino College nursing program in 2007.

She holds such professional certifications as a nationally certified emergency nurse, trauma care, emergency nurse in pediatrics, neonatal resuscitation, is certified in clinical incident stress debrief management, sexual assault forensic nursing both for adults and pediatrics and is BLS / ACL / PALS certified.

Born and raised in Covelo and a mother of two, Amy currently resides in Willits with her family.

About Adventist Health: *Adventist Health is a faith-inspired, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii, with over 400 sites of care. Founded on Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care agencies, hospice agencies, and joint-venture retirement centers in both rural and urban communities.*

*Our compassionate and talented team of 34,000 includes employees, medical staff physicians, allied health professionals, and, volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission; living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope. We are committed to staying true to our heritage by providing patient-centered, quality care. Together, we are transforming the health care experience with an innovative whole-person focus on physical, mental, spiritual and social healing to support community well-being.*



Mendocino County's first baby of 2023 is a girl

By Cici Winiger, for Adventist Health

While Mendocino County's first baby of the year waited well until after the fireworks and festivities to make her grand entrance, her arrival was still met with lots of fanfare and excitement both by her parents and the nursing staff at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley's Family Birth Center.

Baby Alani Maribel Garcia was born on January 2, at 12:58 am to proud first-time parents Perla Garcia and Alexis Lopez from Fort Bragg. Born two weeks earlier than her due date, Baby Alani weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 18 inches long.

Although her actual due date was not until the middle of January, Garcia said she started feeling contractions early in the morning on New Year's Day, so they decided to make the drive that morning, but Baby Alani did not make her entrance until later the next day.

Baby Alani's arrival is already special as the first born in her family, but it holds a special meaning for her mom, Perla, as her middle name is from her mother

who passed away four months ago.

"I always knew I was going to name her after my mom," Garcia said. "It's a great way to honor her memory and a great way to welcome this little blessing after the tough year we had."

The little lady's arrival just after the holidays also makes it extra special as she comes just a week before her mom's birthday.

"She's the best gift I could ever ask for," shared Garcia.

As is the tradition, the labor and delivery team at the hospital welcomed the first baby of the year with a gift basket complete with a handmade quilt, a stocking fit for the best present ever, a knitted hat, books, the cutest outfits, and other baby necessities. The team also gifted Baby Alani her first box of diapers, which she will need a lot of! According to experts, a baby will go through more than 2,000 diapers in their first year.

Read the rest of **Alani** Over on page 10

At right: Perla Garcia of Fort Bragg looks down at her new baby, Alani Maribel Garcia, who was the first baby to be born in Mendocino County in 2023.

# THRIVE

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Willits disputes those allegations, the city council determined that the settlement, which avoids a potentially lengthy, uncertain and expensive jury trial, is in the best interest of the community of Willits.

Under the terms of the agreement, Blaylock releases all of her claims. In consideration for the settlement and dismissal of the lawsuit, the city's insurer will pay to Blaylock the sum of \$250,000.

The council met in closed session on December 14 and by unanimous vote "conditionally" approved the proposed settlement agreement that had been presented by Blaylock's counsel. The approval was conditional because, under the terms of the agreement, Blaylock retained the right to reconsider her agreement and to withdraw her approval for a seven-day period following her signing. That period has expired, resulting in the removal of the condition to the council's acceptance. The agreement is now fully executed effective December 22.

The entire settlement proceeds will be paid by the city's insurer.

As is the city's practice involving personnel matters, no further comments will be made.

*Editor's Note: Willits Weekly has asked former Willits Police Chief Alexis Blaylock if she'd like the opportunity to have a statement published, and she plans to send it for the January 19 edition.*

residents have access to food, medical supplies (including oxygen), and emergency services.

On December 31, 2022, the Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services was notified by Caltrans that maintenance, repair, and replacement of the culvert was the responsibility of the private property owner.

The owner/manager of the business was promptly contacted and informed of the need for both permanent repairs and temporary access and was referred to multiple contractors capable of performing this work. The owner selected a contractor, who met with Caltrans to arrange to start work. Responsible State of California authorities have authorized the owner's contractor to perform repairs on an emergency basis.

Since that time, however, no repair work has begun on the property, and it appears that the owner does not intend to address the situation. The county has been informed that the property owner declined to engage their chosen contractor. The owner has not communicated any plan or intent to repair the encroachment and has made recent statements suggesting unwillingness to perform the work.

This matter has now been referred to Mendocino County Code Enforcement, the state licensing authority over the business ("HUD"), and Caltrans for appropriate enforcement action.

Mendocino County Social Services continues to assess the needs of and provide assistance to the tenants on the property, but the county does not have legal authority to gift a private business with resources to meet the landlord's obligations.

The county is evaluating the need and ability to expedite enforcement and abatement action.

roles throughout 2023.

The board agreed to several proposed fee increases to water, garbage and golf course rates for 2023 – see details further down in this story.

The full board as well as counsel Chris Neary noted that former Director Tony Orth who served for 34 years on the board was going to be greatly missed by all in the coming year.

"I first met Tony when he was about 25 years old," Neary said. "I vividly remember he was sweeping the floor of the firehouse, as a volunteer. I watched him as he became engaged in district affairs and was ultimately elected. I've been involved in public affairs for over 50 years, and I have never seen a local politician ending up having as great an impact as Tony."

"I observed Tony as he became quite a catalyst for change," Neary continued. "He single-handedly came up with the idea of creating the Fire Districts Association. It became the vehicle by which the board of supervisors started paying attention to emergency providers. We owe him a great debt of gratitude. He served as a very effective elected official, and served our district well and helped us look good."

Board President Williams said, "I don't think there's been anyone on the board who has reached out and had impact all over the county with many elected officials like Tony had. He was an amazing member of the board, and he will be missed. There's no one who served on the board as long as Tony served."

New board member Cavallari took a moment to thank the voters of Brooktrails



At left: New WUSD board member Jennifer Sookne gets sworn in at the December meeting, as Board Clerk Diane McNeal and Trustee Alex Bowlds look on.

Photo by Margi Gomez Guhde

Trustees Paula Nunez and King were then reinstated as board members. King was nominated and elected as president of the WUSD board for the 2023-24 school year. Diane McNeal was elected as board clerk, and Superintendent Beebe agreed to continue as board secretary.

Board members volunteered to report from the various WUSD school sites. King chose Blosser Lane, Alex Bowlds chose Willits High School and Sanhedrin High School, McNeal chose Baechtel Grove, Sookne chose Brookside and Sherwood, and Nunez took on a general representation of all school sites.

Student of the Month awards were presented to sixth-grader Kylie Yokum, seventh-grader Jordan Amador, and eighth-grader Daylin Richerson, all described as bright and polite, and as great assets to their school communities.

Superintendent Beebe then introduced members of the Blue Zones project, who gave a Power Point presentation on the Mendocino County Community Well-Being Initiative, supported by Adventist Health. They presented commonalities within Blue Zone areas, and the implementation and encouragement of positive lifestyle habits. The five-year Blue Zones project intends to tackle childhood obesity, motivational curricula, street safety for pedestrians, health and stress prevention, and the importance of workplace well-being.

In response to questions from trustee Nunez, project reps emphasized that their mission regarding schools is to create opportunities and provide resources to teachers rather than to ask more of them. King, Nunez, and McNeal expressed their positive impressions of the project.

Trustee Bowlds added that despite his initial approval, he would like to discuss more with teachers and labor representation before any decisions are made. Superintendent Beebe concurred, suggesting more research be done before requesting teacher buy-in. Blue Zone representatives assured the board that their presentation was strictly informational at this point.

Leaders from the three different charter schools in the Willits area, Willits Charter School, Willits Elementary Charter School, and the LaVida Charter School, gave reports expressing progress, mostly related to the return of in-person instruction. They thanked WUSD for their support and expertise, inviting Superintendent Beebe to visit their respective campuses.

WUSD Director of Student Programs Arora Chavez gave a Power Point presentation on the results of the mid-year Star Reading Grade Level Assessments, which showed substantial gains in every grade. Some of the grades that have been having the hardest time with reading fluency have made the most gains, and Chavez thanked teachers for their crucial role. She shared that parent surveys are beginning to come in, with guidance in understanding report cards, financial aid, and college scholarships reflecting top areas of need.

Willits Teachers Association comments were made by science teacher and union organizer Amanda Laslovics, reporting that after nearly 6 months, negotiating parties are at an impasse, with hard-working teachers frustrated and still demanding professional pay for professional services.

She addressed the destabilizing effect of the loss of teachers to nearby school districts, reminding the board that competitive salaries are in the best interest of both students and parents, and are needed to keep experienced teachers in the system, and to attract more qualified educators to WUSD in the future.

Trustee Sookne spoke out in favor of arts and music education in the schools. Trustee McNeal congratulated Sookne on her election, thanking department board member Chavez for his years of commitment to the WUSD. McNeal also praised the Christmas play at Blosser Elementary.

Trustee Bowlds also made the appropriate congratulations to Sookne, Nunez, and King on their recent elections, and reported on an exciting wrestling season. King thanked the Willits community, and commended Chavez for the understanding and dedication that he brought to WUSD. Nunez thanked those involved in her reelection, and congratulated the Willits Teachers Association on their presentations during recent board meetings.

Superintendent Beebe welcomed both new and returning board members, commending all staff for their adaptability, creativity, and hard work. He expressed his excitement regarding grade-level progress, wishing everyone a relaxing and happy holiday.

Nikki Agenbroad, director of Fiscal Services, shared that both enrollment and hiring have risen since the original budget was written. She described state agency communications as "mixed," confirming the creation of many new programs, many of which should be helpful to WUSD, including small school funding and a new block grant. Agenbroad emphasized that not enough is known yet about the exact impact of these programs, and the budget was approved.

Superintendent Beebe advised the organization of a negotiating group with respect to the pending WUSD contract. He suggested a committee consisting of two board representatives, two union representatives, and two administration representatives. Trustee Bowlds concurred, with suggestions for greater transparency about programs, expectations, priorities, and outcomes down the road.

Public comments came from a parent with children at Baechtel Grove. She entreated the board to reconsider the closed campus policy, citing the importance of playground access and the positive results of parent participation.

Cafeteria manager Joyce Donaldson thanked everyone in the room for their civic participation, wishing all concerned a wonderful holiday season.

Discussions ensued, including how to encourage more consistency and public accessibility for future school board meetings. Superintendent Beebe recommended looking into California Board of Governors guidance with respect to the WUSD board's legal responsibilities. Board President Jeanne King confirmed her belief that the board would benefit from ongoing governance training.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed at 7:50 pm.

become an issue."

Consent calendar items were then addressed, and the board voted unanimously to approve Accounts Payable in the amounts of \$102,071.82 and \$85,373.34 for November 22, 2022 and December 13, 2022 respectively.

Next, Brooktrails resident Matt Foster, from Birch Place, appeared before the board to request utility bill forgiveness. Foster's residence had a significant leak that wasn't repaired for many months. Overusage notices were sent to Foster from November 2021 through September 2022.

Foster asserted that the overusage went undetected because it was caused by a leak under his driveway. Foster had recently signed an agreement with General Manager Alaniz to pay back the entire balance owed on the utility account, including the overusage penalty fee (\$1,000), and he'd agreed to pay \$122.15 per month for two years in addition to his current bill.

Water shutoff had been delayed until Foster could address the board to ask for forgiveness because it was a hardship for him to pay the agreed-upon monthly amount. After some discussion, the board voted unanimously to reduce the overusage fee to \$500 and came up with another plan whereby Foster agreed to a 3-year plan to pay \$67.54 monthly.

The board then focused attention on the Consideration of Resolution 2022-06 Amending Resolution 2019-07 and 2021 to Establish Rates and Fees for Water and Sewer Utility Connections and Other

Services. A 2.467% increase to the water base rate (\$60.00 to \$61.50 per month) will provide revenues to meet Water Division expenses through 2023-24. An increase of 8.714% to the water use rate, the largest percentage increase proposed, will cover water treatment expenses. In addition, a 2.23% increase (\$75 to \$76.67 per month) to sewer base rate beginning in January will make the use of reserves unnecessary for cash funding capital projects through 2023.

Parks and Recreation Department Rates: for Golf Rates/Green Fees, an increase of \$3 to daily green fees for both ball and disc golf was proposed. Annual membership is increasing by \$100, and the creation of a new fair weather membership from May to October is proposed for \$500, as well as new senior annual membership of \$650/\$450.

The board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2022-06 establishing the utility and golf rates to be effective January 1, 2023.

Finally, the board considered Resolution 2022-07 A Resolution Establishing Rates for Solid Wastes of Willits, Inc. SWOW – Solid Waste Franchise Services. A 10.01% increase was proposed and was deemed necessary based on the increased cost to provide services, especially fuel costs. General Manager Alaniz explained that the typical increase for the average Brooktrails customer will be approximately \$4/month. Jerry Ward, president of SWOW, was present to answer questions regarding the proposed increase. Following a brief discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve the rate increase effective January 1, 2023.



Above, from left: Outdoor activities indoors allow kids to have a full play day without the weather factor. Put kids together and they will create games to play with each other. Books are always an educational distraction. Below, from left: Two-year-old Bo and his mom, Kids Corner owner Emily Smith, stand in front of some of the myriad of toys available. Natalie enjoys playing with the colored balls in the basketball pit. Melody prepares to feel the speed on the indoor roller coaster as her sister, Lily, looks on.



## Kids Corner

### Indoor playground opens, offering kids a place to run around and parents a chance to get things done

Put some kids together with a seemingly unlimited amount of toys, bumper cars, chalkboards, playground equipment, books and projects, and they will most likely make friends, involve each other in their fantasies, and surely have fun.

Opening the week before Thanksgiving, Emily Smith's Kids Corner, at the site of the old Rollin' Dough in the Evergreen Shopping Center, is an oasis of all things that can delight and occupy the young for hours while their parents shop, take care of business, or join in the fun.

"This is an indoor playground," explained Smith. "There are not a lot of things for kids to do in this town, especially now with the weather. They can't go to the playground or do outdoor hiking, biking, and so on because it's too wet. It's muddy. It's cold. People don't want to bring their kids outside in this weather."

"The Kid's Corner gives them someplace to go inside," she said, "to still have room to run around and burn off that energy, swing and go down slides, and do all the activities they would be doing outdoors that they can't do right now because of the weather. Even in the summer, it gets so hot they can't be outside for a long period of time before the kids become uncomfortable."

In addition to all of the brightly colored, noisy, and delightful toys and games, the Kids Corner additionally offers movie nights on Fridays.



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At top: Even under-2-year-old Lily can navigate the ultra-fun bumper cars. Above: Melody plays some melodies on this Dumbo device.

At far left: The electric Batmobile is a favorite distraction for the kids. At left: A temporary sign is up at the old Rollin' Dough location next to Grocery Outlet in the Evergreen Shopping Center

Photos by Mathew Caine

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COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

## ‘The Fabelmans’

**The Story:** This sort-of-true autobiography of Steven Spielberg as a boy and young man is directed by Spielberg, the script by Spielberg and Tony Kushner.

Young Sammy Fabelman (Gabriel LaBelle) is spellbound by motion pictures. From the very beginning, Sammy films stories with an 8mm camera. Mitzi, his mother (Michelle Williams) encourages his passion. Burt, his father (Paul Dano) is an electronics engineer and inventor, and he worries that Sammy’s movie “hobby” is getting in the way of a “real” career.

Burt’s best friend Bennie (Seth Rogen), while no actual relation, is part of the family, along with Sammy’s two sisters. The Fabelman family is filled with joy and creativity, but there are unspoken shadows which will have to be confronted.

**My Thoughts:** I was completely captivated by this family drama. The acting is first-rate. The characters feel real, and their conflicts are real, and their celebrations feel like an invitation to join them in celebrating.

Yes, there is sadness and there is drama, but I rooted for everyone. It is especially thrilling to watch a flick that isn’t based on good guys versus bad guys, though there is some (enough) of that.

I’m not really spoiling anything for the audience when I note that we all know, more or less, how the flick will end. Not perfectly for all the Fabelmans because it’s about real life, but good enough.

**Parents:** I don’t recommend this for children because it’s about adult issues. I heartily recommend it for teens and up.

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

### Closing reception for ‘Gathering Time, Pomo Art During the Pandemic’

**January 14, Grace Hudson Museum**

The Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah presents a closing reception on Saturday, January 14, from 2 to 4 pm for the exhibit “Gathering Time, Pomo Art During the Pandemic.” Including an artist panel on Pomo regalia and traditional art with “Gathering Time” contributors Vince Brown, Patricia Franklin, Robert Geary, Clint McKay, and exhibit curator Meyo Marrufo. Also, a performance from the Elem Indian Colony dance group. Gathering Time closes on Sunday, January 15. Admission to the closing panel is free with Museum admission: \$5 general; \$12 per family; \$4 for students and seniors. Info: [www.gracehudsonmuseum.org](http://www.gracehudsonmuseum.org), or call (707) 467-2836. Grace Hudson Museum, 431 South Main Street, Ukiah.

THAT’S RIGHT! IT’S BACK!

# What’s Happening Around Town

**Thursday, January 12**

**Sherwood Firewise Communities Online Meeting:** If you live along the Sherwood corridor, please join the Sherwood Firewise Communities quarterly online meeting on Thursday, January 12 at 6 pm. Agenda: Supervisor John Haschak updates; special topic: Home Hardening Data and NEW inspections for 2023; team reports; Planning for the Sherwood Firewise Expo on May 6, 2023; Open Discussion - Ideas for 2023. Join Online Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85625036304?pwd=dWVpYXpnSkwrQkkwbXdRRzd6T3E5dz09> Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304; Password: 918795; Join by Phone only: 669-900-6833

**The Inland Mendocino Democratic Club Zoom Meeting:** “Join us and Katrina Bartolomei, Registrar of Voters, for an informational discussion on how elections are done in Mendocino, and how you can contribute to the process.” Thursday, January 12 at 6:30 pm. Zoom meeting ID: 825 6635 3751. Passcode: 518110. Dial in numbers: +1 669 900 6833.

**Farmers Market:** The weekly Farmers Market at the Little Lake Grange. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Thursday, January 12, 3 to 5:30 pm. Enjoy “Tobin’s Tales,” story time from the Willits Branch Library and the Farmers Market Association, from 3:30 to 4 pm. Tobin will be offering readings of children’s books for the community at large. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

**Willits High School Girls Basketball vs. St. Helena:** The WHS Varsity and JV girls teams take on St. Helena at home. JV at 5:30 pm, Varsity at 7 p m. Willits High School, 299 North Main State.

**Shovelman: 5 pm happy hour set at Shanachie Pub:** “Shovelman is a junkyard beatnik, a shovel guitar wielding surrealist folk superhero. Armed with a collection of pawnshop effects pedals and an old barn-shovel turned slide-guitar, Shovelman plays ol’ fashioned folktronica-grooves looped straight out of the ground.” Thursday, January 12, 5 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**Sherwood Firewise Communities Online Meeting:** If you live along the Sherwood corridor, please join the Sherwood Firewise Communities quarterly online meeting on Thursday, January 12 at 6 pm. Agenda: Supervisor John Haschak updates; special topic: Home Hardening Data and NEW inspections for 2023; team reports; Planning for the Sherwood Firewise Expo on May 6, 2023; Open Discussion - Ideas for 2023. Join Online Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85625036304?pwd=dWVpYXpnSkwrQkkwbXdRRzd6T3E5dz09> Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304; Password: 918795; Join by Phone only: 669-900-6833

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**Friday, January 13**

“Rome, Part II, The Hellenistic period, 321-31 BCE”: One of the Willits Center for the Arts monthly “Art Talk” series with Gary Martin and special guest speakers, which offers an opportunity for adults to learn about, or brush up on, the history of art. Free, sponsored by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County. Friday, January 13, 6:30 pm. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street.

“Blue Luke at Shanachie Pub: “Blue Luke” Andrews is a prodigy guitarist, born and raised in Dos Rios, Mendocino County. Imagine a band that takes the soul of the blues, the groove of the funk, the grit of rock & roll and the rich harmonies of jazz to create exactly what you’ve always wanted to hear.” Friday, January 13, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**Saturday, January 14**

**Garden Talk and Seed Swap at Round Valley Library:** The Seed Library at the Round Valley Branch hosts a free talk by Fort Bragg area farmer, Julia Dakin, on Saturday, January 14, at 11 am. Dakin will discuss “Landrace Gardening” and teaching participants how they can grow and save regionally adapted seed that will grow plants resistant to drought, pests, and disease. The talk will be followed by a seed swap. Everyone is welcome. Community Room at the Round Valley Library, 23925 Howard Street, Covelo. Info: 707-983-6736.

**Willits High School Boys Basketball vs. Middletown:** The WHS Varsity and JV boys teams take on Middletown at home. JV starts at 6 pm, Varsity at 7:30 pm. Willits High School, 299 North Main Street.

**True Reckoning at Shanachie Pub:** “True Reckoning is a touring coastal dream folk duo based in Port Townsend, WA. Their music draws inspiration from life on the road, wandering between hushed confessionals and clean, open sound.” Saturday, January 14, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

### 30th annual Professional Pianist Concert

**January 21-22, Mendocino College Center Theater**

The 30th annual Professional Pianist Concert features two exciting concerts featuring 11 different pianists. Throughout the performances they trade stories and melodies with two pianos on stage to accommodate impromptu collaborations. “The musical styles range from classical to jazz, boogie-woogie to Cuban, Broadway to ragtime – each performance will be completely different!” The Saturday, January 21 show begins at 7 pm and features Spencer Brewer, Wendy DeWitt, Chris James, Frankie J, Elizabeth MacDougall and Barney McClure. Sunday, January 22 show begins at 2 pm and features Spencer Brewer, Elena Casanova, Tom Ganoung, Ed Reinhart, Ben Rueb and Charlie Seltzer. Tickets: \$25 general, or \$30 for “I wanna see the hands” seats. Advance tix at Mazahar in Willits, Mendocino Book Company in Ukiah, and [www. UkiahConcerts.org](http://www.UkiahConcerts.org). Info: 707-463-2738.

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“I Wanna See the Hands”: \$30

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[www.UkiahConcerts.org](http://www.UkiahConcerts.org)

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Saturday 1/21 7:00 PM	Sunday 1/22 2:00 PM
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Wendy DeWitt	Elena Casanova
Chris James	Tom Ganoung
Frankie J	Ed Reinhart
Elizabeth MacDougall	Ben Rueb
Barney McClure	Charlie Seltzer

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**Coming Soon:**

## A Man Called Otto

Movie Times for January 13 thru January 19

Masks Optional

Tightwad Tuesday Title for Jan. 17 is in RED. All tickets at \$6!

**S.R. Laws at Shanachie Pub:** “Originally from California, S.R. cut his teeth as a songwriter in Austin, Texas. The fertile landscape of the “Live Music Capital of the World” and a thriving music scene yielded a bounty of musical and life experiences like no other – wry lyrics, energetic rhythms and memorable melodies!” Visit [www.srlawsmusic.com](http://www.srlawsmusic.com). This event follows the happy hour set by Shovelman at 5 pm. Thursday, January 12, 7 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**Kelseyville:** The WHS Varsity and JV girls teams take on Kelseyville at home. JV starts at 5:30 pm, Varsity starts at 7 pm. Willits High School, 299 North Main Street.

**Thursday, January 19**

**Farmers Market:** The weekly Farmers Market at the Little Lake Grange. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Thursday, January 19, 3 to 5:30 pm. Enjoy “Tobin’s Tales,” story time from the Willits Branch Library and the Farmers Market Association, from 3:30 to 4 pm. Tobin will be offering readings of children’s books for the community at large. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

**Willits High School Girls Basketball vs Cloverdale:** The WHS Varsity and JV girls teams take on Cloverdale at home. JV starts at 5:30 pm, Varsity at 7 pm. Willits High School, 299 North Main Street.

**Friday, January 20**

**Adrian + Meredith at Shanachie Pub:** “Adrian + Meredith take their fearless, blistering, and Balkan-tinged Americana to new heights on their sophomore record, ‘Bad for Business,’ a raucous, rebellious and home-spun variety show.” Visit [adrianplusermeredith.com](http://adrianplusermeredith.com). Friday January 20, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**Saturday, January 21**

**3rd Annual Bob Colvig Invitational Wrestling Tournament:** Wrestling starts at 9 am at Willits High School. Entry fee, \$10 per wrestler, \$5 per spectators. “Weight classes will be pooled and we will run 3-4 persons ‘round robin’ format. Satellite weigh-ins must be sent to [willitsgrapplingpack@gmail.com](mailto:willitsgrapplingpack@gmail.com) no no later than January 17.” WHS, 299 North Main Street.

“Telling Your Story, Legacy and Memoir”: Mendocino County Museum presents a special two-part program led by guest author and historian Kim Bancroft. On Saturday, January 21: “The public is cordially invited to join Bancroft for an author talk and afternoon tea at the museum. Bancroft will

**Tuesday, January 17**

**Willits High School Girls Basketball vs Kelseyville:** The WHS Varsity and JV girls teams take on Kelseyville at home. JV starts at 5:30 pm, Varsity starts at 7 pm. Willits High School, 299 North Main Street.

**Thursday, January 19**

**Farmers Market:** The weekly Farmers Market at the Little Lake Grange. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Thursday, January 19, 3 to 5:30 pm. Enjoy “Tobin’s Tales,” story time from the Willits Branch Library and the Farmers Market Association, from 3:30 to 4 pm. Tobin will be offering readings of children’s books for the community at large. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

**Willits High School Girls Basketball vs Cloverdale:** The WHS Varsity and JV girls teams take on Cloverdale at home. JV starts at 5:30 pm, Varsity at 7 pm. Willits High School, 299 North Main Street.

**Friday, January 20**

**Adrian + Meredith at Shanachie Pub:** “Adrian + Meredith take their fearless, blistering, and Balkan-tinged Americana to new heights on their sophomore record, ‘Bad for Business,’ a raucous, rebellious and home-spun variety show.” Visit [adrianplusermeredith.com](http://adrianplusermeredith.com). Friday January 20, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**Saturday, January 21**

**3rd Annual Bob Colvig Invitational Wrestling Tournament:** Wrestling starts at 9 am at Willits High School. Entry fee, \$10 per wrestler, \$5 per spectators. “Weight classes will be pooled and we will run 3-4 persons ‘round robin’ format. Satellite weigh-ins must be sent to [willitsgrapplingpack@gmail.com](mailto:willitsgrapplingpack@gmail.com) no no later than January 17.” WHS, 299 North Main Street.

“Telling Your Story, Legacy and Memoir”: Mendocino County Museum presents a special two-part program led by guest author and historian Kim Bancroft. On Saturday, January 21: “The public is cordially invited to join Bancroft for an author talk and afternoon tea at the museum. Bancroft will

**3RD ANNUAL BOB COLVIG INVITATIONAL**

Jan. 21st 2023

Willits High School 299 N Main Street Willits, CA

Doors Open At: 7am

Coaches meeting: 8am

Check ins close: 8am

Wrestling starts: 9am

Entry Fee \$10 Per Wrestler \$5 for Spectators

Satellite weigh ins must be sent to [willitsgrapplingpack@gmail.com](mailto:willitsgrapplingpack@gmail.com) no later than Jan. 17th 2023

Weight classes will be pooled and we will run 3-4 person round robin format

MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM PRESENTS

## TELLING YOUR STORY LEGACY & MEMOIR

WITH GUEST AUTHOR KIM BANCROFT

Mendocino County Museum presents a special two-part program led by guest author and historian Kim Bancroft.

**Saturday January 21st at One school in the Afternoon**

**Author Talk and Tea** - The public is cordially invited to join Kim Bancroft for an author talk and afternoon tea at the Mendocino County Museum. Bancroft will discuss her book, *Writing Themselves into History: Emily and Matilda Bancroft in Journals and Letters*. The book narrates the story of the two wives of Bancroft's historian and collector great-great-grandfather and how these women portrayed their lives from the 1860s to the 1890s in the San Francisco Bay Area. Guests are encouraged to wear Victorian attire, along with Kim herself.

**Saturday February 18th at One school in the Afternoon**

**Legacy and Memoir: Writing Workshop** – With Bancroft's assistance, aspiring writers and historians will discuss crafting their own stories. Bancroft will provide insight based on her years of experience as a historian and author, and will offer guidance for using letters, diaries, oral history interviews, and other primary sources in one's writing.

Event tickets will be \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 17 and under, and will include admission to the Museum the day of the event. Writing Workshop space is limited, to ensure a place we encourage guests to register in advance.

For more information, please visit [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum) or contact the Mendocino County Museum at (707) 459-2736 or [museum@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.org).

**Dirty Cello**

**Dirty Cello at the Willits Community Theatre**

**January 28, 7:30 pm**

“San Francisco based band Dirty Cello will present their exciting blend of blues, rock and Americana that has been described by Oakland Magazine as, ‘funky, carnival, romantic, sexy, tangled, electric, fiercely rhythmic, and textured, and only occasionally classical’ at the WCT Playhouse, January 28 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20, available at [www.wctperformingartscenter.org](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org).

### Ongoing Events

**Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl:** “Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Game starts at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee, teams of two, winner takes the pot! We'll have the games on all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we've got everything you need!” Flying Dog Wood Pizza, 65 South Main Street.

**Willits Center for the Arts January show:** WCA's first art exhibit of the New Year features ceramics by Sofia Alaoui and metalwork by Rod Jamison: “Rod Jamison began his journey creating art, painting, and welding in Arizona. He was influenced by Southwest arts, especially in Sedona, Arizona where he spent a few years. Sofia Alaoui was born in Minnesota and moved to Mendocino County seven years ago. She has been passionate about working with clay since she first learned how to throw on the wheel at age 15. Her work is inspired by antiques, and minerals and infused with a large influence from her Moroccan heritage.” The show opened January 7 and can be viewed on weekends from 11 am to 5 pm at the WCA, 71 East Commercial Street.

**The Redwood Empire Food Bank:** Twice-monthly drive-thru food distribution in Willits, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, located in the parking lot of the soccer and baseball fields, 9:30 to 11:30 am. Groceries to go, senior basket (for low-income seniors 60 or older), and diapers.

### Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

**Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street**

**Open Mic Night. Every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20-minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. “An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises.”**

**Saturday Scramble:** Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, Tyler B hosts a Saturday Scramble. “You’re invited to bring any instrument you can play and sign up for a ‘band’ to perform a 15-minute set with other local musicians. Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!” The next show will be January 21 at 3 pm.

**Tyler Grass & The Sherwood Mountain Boys!** “Every first and third Thursday evening of the month at 7 pm. Come check out this new event with some of our favorite locals playing bluegrass & more!” The next show will be Thursday, January 19.

**Bluegrass String Jam!** “This new event happens every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm, and welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! This jam is listed as an official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!” The next show will be Saturday, January 21, 3 pm.

### Weekly Events at the Willits Library

**Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: [www. mendolibrary.org](http://www.mendolibrary.org) or 459-5908**

**Story Time:** Tuesday through Friday each week, 10:30 to 11 am. “Start your morning listening to a story. Join us in the children’s area of the library.”

**Penny University Coffee Klatch:** Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. “We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a cup of joe.”

**Open Source Design, Artistic Expression, and Engineering Club:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3 to 4:30 pm. “Open to everyone with an interest in open source and everyone who wants to develop their creative and engineering skills.”

**LEGO Club:** Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. “It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building.”

**Writer’s Block Group:** Wednesdays, from 5 to 6:30 pm. For beginning writers or those suffering from writer’s block. “Open to young-adult and adult writers to share their ideas and writings in an environment of supportive and creative suggestions and feedback.” Hosted by Librarian Benjamin MacBean. Willits Library meeting room.

**Games at the Library:** First and third Fridays of the month, 4 to 5:30 pm. “Calling all board, card and tabletop role-playing game players! All ages and player levels welcome. Bring your own games to add to the fun!”

**Spinning & Knitting:** Every Saturday at the library from 1 to 4:30 pm. “All skill levels welcome! Spinning circle 1 to 2 pm, Knitting circle 2 to 4:30 pm.”

### ‘Ukiah On Ice’

**Through January 15, Alex Thomas Plaza in Ukiah**

Final weekend for the area’s seasonal outdoor ice-skating rink, “Ukiah on Ice.” \$10 per skater, with full concession stand. For details, including operating times and prices, visit [cityofukiah.com/ukiahonice](http://cityofukiah.com/ukiahonice), or call the City of Ukiah at 707-463-6231. Alex Thomas Plaza, 310 South State Street, Ukiah.

Willits Sober Grad

## Drive-Thru Jambalaya Feed

Saturday, February 4th

Pickup 11 am - 1 pm

WHS Front Loop

Tickets \$15

Available at Cat's Meow

or from Willits Class of 2023 Graduates

DELICIOUS JAMBALAYA SERVED HERE

Sponsored by

# METALfx

### Free Kids Karate Classes, Body Works Gym

Mendocino County Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers a free Karate Program for kids at Willits Body Works Gym, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Beginner to intermediate group, youth 7 years old and above. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). For more info call or text Mike Tobin Sensei at 354-0565. Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street.





Above: A nurse poses for a photo with new mother Perla Garcia and the first baby to be born in Mendocino County this year, Alani Maribel Garcia.

Photo by Cici Winiger

The rest of **Alani** From page 5

Labor and Delivery Manager Taff Cheneweth said it's a privilege for his team to be part of such a special moment for families. "We are honored that they trust us with their most precious delivery. It brings us so much joy to welcome new lives into this world and be part of growing our community."

The arrival of the New Year's baby is a much-anticipated event at the Family Birth Center explained Cheneweth. "Our team works very hard to make their experience meaningful. They spend many months putting together the quilt and other handmade items so our babies know how special and loved they already are. It truly is a labor of love for us," he added.

Indeed, it was special and surprisingly easier than she expected, said Garcia of her experience. "I was expecting it to be more challenging and painful, but I was pleasantly surprised. It helped that all of my nurses were amazing. They were very helpful

and kept me and baby comfortable."

Mom and baby are doing well and the trio is excited to start the new year as a family.

If trends hold, Baby Alani will be one of 800 babies that will be delivered at the Family Birth Center this year

*Adventist Health is a faith-based, nonprofit, integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii, with over 400 sites of care. Founded on Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care agencies, hospice agencies, and joint-venture retirement centers in both rural and urban communities. Our compassionate and talented team of 37,000 includes employees, physicians, allied health professionals, and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope*

## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

**Agape Bible Church**  
290 S. Lenore Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Where love is first  
and the Bible is central.  
Sunday Services:  
10:00 a.m. - Worship  
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
www.agapebiblechurch.com

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
707-303-5456  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Burton Jernigan  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
265 Margie Drive  
Willits, CA 95490  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
Sacrament Meeting  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

**Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom**  
•Sound of Soul events  
•Membership Discourses  
•Spiritual Discussions  
•ECK Light & Sound Services  
More information?  
Call 530-224-8703  
www.eckankar.org

**Grace Community Church**  
Celebrating Life In Christ  
25 Hazel Street, Willits  
Modified Worship Service  
10 a.m.  
Other ministries suspended  
for now.  
For appointments call:  
(707) 459-3106

**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**  
61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
Confessions by appointment:  
459-2252  
Sunday Mass inside:  
9:00 a.m. English  
10:30 a.m. Spanish  
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
Covid guidelines apply.  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-272-0177  
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.  
In-person and on Zoom  
Call for information.  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Church Service:  
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
ALL ARE WELCOME

**Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
707-459-5714  
Friendly, open worship  
Saturdays  
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
Zoom Transmission Available.  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting - 6:00 p.m.  
399 W. Mendocino Ave.  
All are welcome!

**Willits United Methodist**  
A Christ centered, progressive church  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
Worship Celebration  
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.  
459-2855  
Facebook: www.facebook.com

If you want to be included in  
this column please call  
**April Tweddell**  
(707) 972-2475  
april@willitsweekly.com




## Willits Rotary bluegrass concert raises \$1,000 for Sober Grad

Willits Rotary Club recently presented a check for \$1,000 to Willits Sober Grad representative, Board Secretary Carrie Lambert.

This check, part of the proceeds from a recent Willits Rotary Club bluegrass concert fundraiser for high school scholarships, was given in appreciation of Willits Sober Grad for providing the delicious refreshments for the evening.

Sober Grad is a great organization that provides a safe and fun place for Willits High School Senior Class members for the evening of graduation.

— Submitted by Willits Rotary Club



**It's time for the 2023 Phone book!**

**Need to update, remove or add a phone number?**  
willitsphonebook@gmail.com

**Deadline for ads & changes is February 10**  
Send an email to:  
**willitsphonebook@gmail.com**  
and get your business included this year!



**Work and School are now compatible!**

*Registration is now open for Spring*

**Take a full-time class load in Willits on weekends only!**

**SPRING 2023 CLASSES**

**FRIDAYS**

**MTH-220 STATISTICS** Section #0222 Late Start (1/27/23 – 5/19/23) Hybrid class with mandatory on-ground (in-person) meetings: 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28, 5/12 from 5:30-8:20 p.m. in Room 8030. The remainder of the coursework will be completed online.

**SATURDAYS**

**AGR-62 SPRING MUSHROOM IDENTIFICATION** Section #0062 Late Start (1/21-5/6/23) Class meets in person on the following Saturdays: 1/21, 3/04, 4/01, 4/22 and 5/06 from 9:00am-12:10pm in Room 8020.

**COM-203 INTRO TO PUBLIC SPEAKING** Section #0213 Late Start (1/28-5/13/23) Hybrid class with mandatory on-ground (in-person) meetings: 2/11, 3/11, 4/15, and 5/13 from 12:30-3:20 p.m. in Room 8030. The remainder of the coursework will be completed online.

**HST-208 WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY** Section #0298 Late Start (1/28-5/13/23) Hybrid class with mandatory on-ground (in-person) meetings: 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, and 4/29 from 12:30-3:20 p.m. in Room 8020. The remainder of the coursework will be completed online.

**PSY-216 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY** Section #0216 Late Start (1/28-5/13/23) Hybrid class with mandatory on-ground (in-person) meetings: 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, and 4/29 from 9:00-11:50 a.m. in Room 8030. The remainder of the coursework will be completed online.

*Hybrid classes are mostly online with on-ground (in-person) meetings.*  
Students who do not attend all the on-ground sessions may be dropped from the course.

**Accelerated Weekend Learning for Full-Time Success!**

## Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$7.

**Thursday, January 12:** Chicken Noodle Casserole, Veggie, Roll

**Friday, January 13:** Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie, Roll

**Monday, January 16:** Shredded Chicken Burrito, wet with Green Sauce

**Tuesday, January 17:** Lasagna with Meat Sauce, Veggie, Garlic Bread

**Wednesday, January 18:** BBQ Brisket Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Pickle

**Thursday, January 19:** Chicken & Dumplings, Veggie


**Friday, January 20:** Ribeye Steak, Roasted Potatoes, Veggie, Roll

Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm; Pancake Breakfast on the second Sunday of each month, 9 to 11 am, February 12 next month, and exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Deb at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments. Senior Center Thrift Shop: 459-2176

The Senior Center is in need of volunteers to help with the many activities here at the center, including volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers. "Volunteers are one-third of our workforce, which allows us to offer many services to our members and community." To learn more about volunteering: 459-6826



**Invites applications for:**

Air Pollution Control Officer  
Community Health Services Specialist I  
Corrections Deputy  
Department Application Specialist  
Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer  
Deputy Director - Public Health Nursing  
Deputy District Attorney I/II/III  
Deputy Probation Officer I & II  
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II  
Employment & Training Worker I/II  
Juvenile Corrections Officer  
Juvenile Corrections Officer – Extra-Help  
Legal Secretary I/II  
Screener  
Senior Community Health Worker  
Senior Program Manager – Family & Children's Services  
Senior Substance Abuse Counselor  
Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D  
Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C  
Staff Assistant I  
Substance Abuse Counselor I/II  
Supervising Staff Assistant  
Tobacco Education & Advocacy Intern (Work Experience Trainee)  
Vocational Assistant

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca)  
EOE

## Willits Weekly



## LEGAL NOTICES

WW407

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

2022-F0627

The following person is doing business as Grant's Goodies, 291 School Street / P.O. Box 712, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Grant Georgios Fisher, 16750 Walker Lake Road, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on December 3, 2022.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on December 13, 2022.

/s/ Grant Fisher

Publication dates: January 11, 19, 26, February 2, 2023

**Willits Weekly can run your legal notices including fictitious business name statements, foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and more. Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@gmail.com**

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW409

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Willits City Council, at its regular meeting on January 25, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., to be held in Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

PROJECT TITLE: Ordinance No. 2023-01 to amend Title 12 of the Willits Municipal Code to provide for a process to review and approve or deny abandonments of City right-of-way.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Introduction and first reading of Ordinance 2023-01 amending various sections of Title 12 of the Willits Municipal Code by adding Chapter 12.10 entitled Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Places.

PROJECT OVERVIEW: The City of Willits proposes to add a chapter to the City Zoning Code (Title 12, Chapter 12.10) to provide a process to abandon City right-of-way and describes the findings by which such abandonments may be approved by City Council. Components of the added chapter include:

- Appointment of City Council as hearing body for reviewing abandonment applications.
- Establishes notice procedures for public hearing.
- Prescribes application requirements for abandonment requests.
- Provides standards for abandonment expiration, renewal, and revocation.

PROJECT LOCATION: Citywide

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: There is no possibility that the adoption of this ordinance will have a significant impact on the environment, and therefore, the adoption of this ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations).

Your comments regarding the proposed project are invited. Written comments should be submitted to the Willits Community Development Department, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

Additional information regarding the above noted item may be obtained by calling Willits City Hall at (707) 459-4601, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Oral comments may be presented to the Willits City Council during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits Community Development Department or the Willits City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

s/ Dusty Duley  
Community Development Director for the City of Willits  
Publication Date: January 12, 2023

**Willits Redwood Little League Sign Up!**

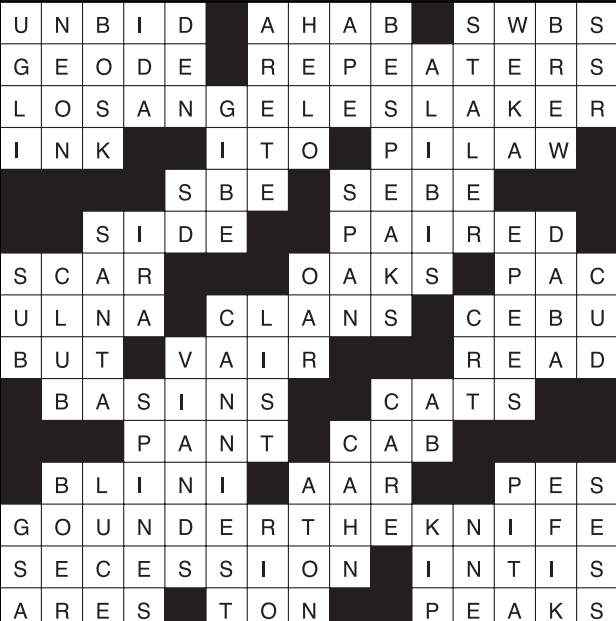
Register Early by December 31st \$100  
Register Dec 31st to January 31st \$120  
Registration closes January 31st, 2023

Find the registration link at  
Willits Redwood Little League Facebook Page

Questions  
Email: wrllbaseball1952@gmail.com  
Phone: 707.841.7651



**Coaches and Umpires Needed, please inquire**



## CLASSIFIEDS

**Computer Help**  
Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearhail@gmail.com

**Willits Food Bank Open**  
Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the front office at 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits CA 95490 - knock or leave in the locked mailbox in front. Food distribution is available at the back door on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.

**John Ford Ranch Beef**  
John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$375.00 and the \$160.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.

**RV/Trailer Space for Rent**  
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oaknvine.net/tip>

**Love Willits Weekly?**  
Help support our free-circulation community newspaper by becoming a "street subscriber"! You send in an annual donation, and pick up the edition on the street each week! We love our regular subscribers too: \$75 for home delivery in the Willits area; \$100 for a year's subscription in the U.S. mail. Visit <https://form.jotform.com/61915582053153> for a sign up form and more info.

**Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for 2 weeks!**



**BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**  
is accepting applications for Deputy Finance Officer. Compensation is Range 35 of the District compensation schedule and includes health, staywell, and retirement benefits.

Job description is available at [www.btcstd.org](http://www.btcstd.org).

FILING DEADLINE: Applications must be received by BTCSD no later than Friday, February 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Interested candidates should provide an application and resume to:  
General Manager at 24860 Birch Street, Willits, CA 95490, or by email to [btcsd@btcsd.org](mailto:btcsd@btcsd.org).

**Marc Komer**  
*Legal Document Assistant*  
*An Affordable Non-Attorney Service*  
**(707) 459-2775**

**245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits**  
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

*I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.*



The rest of **Museum** From page 2

collectively gather information to help envision a bright future.

Digital exhibits will be available for all to enjoy, as will refreshments provided by the Friends. There will be three Community Forums held at the Museum in Willits, ADDRESS, February 15, 10 am to noon; March 1, 5 to 7 pm; and March 15, 5 to 7 pm.

Forums will also be held at the Round Valley Branch Library, April 28, from 10:30 am to noon, and in Ukiah, Fort Bragg and Point Arena.

"Our community forums will be an opportunity to listen to the ideas and desires of our community and gain an understanding of how the museum can serve everyone's interests better. We are really excited for this opportunity to engage with everyone," said Museum Administrator Karen Mattson.

The Community Forums are open to everyone, and drop-in attendance is welcome. If you plan to attend or will be sending members from your organization, we would be delighted if you would RSVP.

For more information, visit [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum) or contact the Mendocino County Museum at (707) 459-2736 or [museum@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.org)





OBITUARY |

## Ken Wickstrom

My father Ken Wickstrom died in a tragic car accident on December 2, 2022, when his 2007 Cadillac DTS went off the road 12 miles east of Fort Bragg on Highway 20 and rolled several times down a steep embankment some 50 feet before coming to rest on its roof.

A couple behind him witnessed the accident and came to my father's aid, but he was already deceased. Because there was no phone reception, they had to drive back to Fort Bragg for help.

He was my father and best friend. I will miss him every day.

He is survived by his two sons, myself, Noel Wickstrom, and Jason Wickstrom; his daughter-in-law Rosanna; and his grandson Jayson. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sandra Wickstrom; brothers George and Walter; and parents August and Elsa Wickstrom.

My father worked for Safeway for 39 years and retired in 2003. He was in the Marines Corps from 1960 to 1964. He was involved in Boy Scouts for over 40 years, and the American Legion for over 45 years.

He was the most caring human being I have ever known; he will be missed by all that knew and loved him.

Memorial services were held at the American Legion Hall on December 31, 2022.



Above: Edie Ceccarelli, bottom center, poses with care home workers including Perla Gonzalez, on her left, and cousin Evelyn Persico, on her right, in front of the rest of the care home workers including, from left: Yajaira Contreras, Jessica Razo and Procesa Perez, right.

The rest of  
**Wonder Woman** | From page 1

On February 5, Ceccarelli will turn 115 and will join yet another, even rarer set of people – being one of only around 63 people in recorded history who have ever reached this age, in the world, period, as per Wikipedia.

A January 4 article in the Press Democrat by Chris Smith, announcing Ceccarelli's new standing, noted: "According to scientists with the Gerontology Research Group, the only people on the planet confirmed to be older than Ceccarelli are Lucille Randon of France, at 118 years and 328 days; Spain's Maria Branyas Morera, 115 years, 307 days, and Fusa Tatsumi of Japan, 115 years, 255 days."

Plans for Ceccarelli's very special 115th birthday are already being organized. The celebration is to include a drive-by parade like those held for the last two years, with Ceccarelli perched outside Holy Spirit Residential Care Home in the Haehl Creek subdivision, waving to passersby.

While she still smiles, waves and blows kisses for a photo and very much enjoys chocolate ice cream, Ceccarelli is indeed slowing down from the vivacious and

energetic lady she has been in years past.

"Each year, I worry it could be the last year," said Ceccarelli's cousin-by-marriage Evelyn Persico, who frequents the care home and watches close over Edie. "But she just keeps on going, and each year we get to celebrate is a blessing. We're in uncharted territory here now, though, and to still be celebrating at this point.... Holy moly!"

Perla Gonzalez, co-owner of the Holy Spirit Residential Care center along with business partner Genaro Gonzalez Jr., where Ceccarelli resides, says while Edie no longer walks, she enjoys being in the main room with the hustle and bustle of conversation in the room, watching colorful cartoons like "The Simpsons" and a good bowl of chocolate ice cream – which she always finishes.

"She's an amazing lady, and we are excited to celebrate her 115th birthday in February," said Gonzalez.

More details about the celebration will be printed in upcoming editions of Willits Weekly.

OBITUARY |

## Irwin Cresswell

We are greatly saddened and our hearts are broken, by the passing of Irwin "Chris" Cresswell 83, of Willits. He was born in Falls City, Nebraska on February 17, 1939, to John and Anna Cresswell, and passed away on December 22, 2022. Irwin was at home surrounded by family, with his wife Tina holding his hand as he passed from this life to the next.

Those who knew Irwin, knew him to be a man with great patience, a kind and loving person. One who loved to talk, and tell stories of his youth, and of his many animals, especially all of his dogs. He was also known to be there for you, to listen to you, to give advice if you asked, or just to sit quietly with you.

Irwin was raised in Southern California with his siblings Don and Beverly. He graduated from Van Nuys High School and went on to work at several different jobs. In 1988 Irwin moved to the city of Clearlake where he managed Burger King. There he met and fell in love with Tina.

They were married in August 1992. In early 1997, Irwin and his family moved to Willits where he oversaw the Burger King restaurants in Clearlake, Fort Bragg, and Willits.

In 2005, Irwin retired from the restaurant business, but soon became bored. He then worked for Red Fox Casino in Laytonville, where he worked for several years.

Besides his family, Irwin loved animals and, for a while, he raised and showed Dalmations. Irwin also loved the Lord and attended The Church of Christ in Sebastopol, where he was a faithful member.

Irwin was preceded in death by his mother and father. He is survived by his wife, Tina, and children, John (Kay) Cresswell, Jeanine (Jim) Biasella, Michelle (Robert) Saisselin, Jeffery (Jessica) Johnson, Christina (Harry) Fruzza, Justin (Jami) Johnson, and William Cresswell, and his brother Donald (Sherle) Cresswell, and sister Beverly Wilson. He also had 25 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be Saturday, January 28, 2023, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street at 11 am.

## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home



### Water-loving Flora

Flora here is really quite the fun cat. This 9-month-old wants to be close to you and will follow you all around the room to make sure of it. She is active and likes to play with toys. Flora even appears to like the water, liking to drink out of the sink faucet and play in the puddles left at the bottom.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Flora or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [www.mendocinanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendocinanimalshelter.com).

### Playful Viggo

Friendly, fun Viggo loves hanging out with his buddy, Alma. And, unlike most huskies, he loves the water! He is always up for fun, but he is not overbearing at all. He loves Alma! Though not necessarily bored, Viggo should go to a home with another pal, as he loves to play with other dogs. Come meet Viggo (and Alma) at our sanctuary.

To learn more about Viggo or view other adoptable animals, visit [www.milofoundation.org](http://www.milofoundation.org) or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.

### Mellow John Wayne

John Wayne is back with us, and that's OK. Sometimes that perfect long-term relationship is hard to find! Good news is that JW is ready to start dating again. This guy's old school though, no swiping left for him, he likes to get to know his dates to be sure they have lots in common before committing.

JW's values include time with his people, a solid routine, mellow vibes, quiet time, loves and pets and short walks. This handsome senior is well-mannered, house-trained, sleeps in a crate, and likes car rides. JW is low energy but enjoys getting out to smell the smells on short walks. Help us find JW a place to enjoy his golden years!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: [www.mendocinohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendocinohumanesociety.com), our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).



The rest of  
**Meeting** | From page 1

ongoing series of heavy rain storms which started last month.

First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty will be the new board chair for 2023, his first time serving in that position, and Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren will be the new vice chair. The board's tradition is to rotate chair and vice chair every year, and last year's board chair, Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams, nominated the two supervisors to their new positions.

For committee appointments, one notable development at the meeting was that Third District Supervisor John Haschak switched into the General Government Committee, the standing committee where cannabis issues are now discussed before heading to the full board.

Haschak had served for around 3.5 years previously on the cannabis ad hoc committee, but that was disbanded by the board in favor of the standing committee approach towards the end of last year.

Haschak was originally placed in the Public, Health, Safety and Resources standing committee for this year, but felt it would be appropriate for him to continue working with the community on cannabis issues, given his experience on the topic and all the pressing concerns and deadlines coming up for applicants soon.

He also noted that the county's Third District "has the majority of the cannabis permits for people in the cultivation program.

"We do have an intense six months ahead of us," Haschak continued, "to make sure that the cannabis program is dealing with all the people in the program and trying to get them to their state annual licenses."

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde approved of the idea, and agreed to switch standing committees with Haschak.

The standing committees will meet monthly this year, and the first meeting will be held at the board chambers on Monday, January 23, with the General Government Committee starting things off at 9 am.

### 2 storm-related deaths

Regarding the storms, County CEO/Director of Emergency Services Darcie Antle had already proclaimed a local emergency in the county on January 6, and the county's Emergency Operations Center was activated on December 30.

The board's vote on Tuesday was to officially ratify this emergency declaration.

Additionally, the state and federal governments have also officially declared a statewide emergency due to the heavy storms throughout much of California, which could free up some more resources to help the county.

One of McGourty's first acts as board chair was to ask for a moment of silence for two people in the county who had passed away recently due to storm-related deaths.

While they were not named at the meeting, the county Sheriff's Office issued a press release about the two deaths.

One of these people was Edgar Castillo, a 37-year-old man from Elk Grove who on the morning of January 7 was reportedly driving a tree service boom truck in Manchester that left the roadway and rolled over several times, resulting in his death. Castillo, who had a wife and five children, was employed with a company that was in Mendocino County assisting PG&E with storm-related repair efforts.

The other storm-related death in the

sheriff's report was Susan Lee Stever, a 68-year-old woman from Fort Bragg who died in the early hours of January 9 when she was struck by a tree that fell into her home while she was asleep.

County Sheriff Matt Kendall spoke of the two deaths, and of the commendable efforts of many in the county during the challenges of the recent storms.

"We have had a very tough week," said Kendall. "We've lost two souls in Mendocino County to the storms that are going on. We've had some very good successes, but those came at a cost. I'm hoping that our messaging is getting out, and based on what I'm seeing, I believe that the public is carrying a big portion of this load with us, and I appreciate that.

"We are not out of the woods yet," he added. "The ground is soaked. We still have that burn scar up on Forest Highway 7 and everywhere that was impacted by the August fires, and we don't know how that is going to react as we get further into the year with ground saturation and snow. And so I think that now is a good time for all of us to stay on our toes and really pay attention to these things.

"The Department of Transportation, Caltrans and all of our partners – they're doing an incredible job," he continued. "But they're doing it at a cost where everyone is pretty much working around the clock, as we get battered and then it dries up a little bit."

Several at the meeting talked about some of the impacts of the storms in the county, which has included flooding, falling trees and limbs, closed roads, downed power lines, and power outages.

"What I saw during the storm was with 200 separate power outages, 200 separate causes," said Supervisor Williams. "Both government and private industry crews working hard in cold and wet conditions late into the night. And I also want to remind us that dispatchers were likely also overwhelmed. They had an enormous call volume, a lot of information to keep track of."

Williams and others asked that people stay home if they can during heavy rain storms, but to drive cautiously and slowly if you do need to venture out.

County CEO Darcie Antle said that since December 27 they've been holding meetings with partners to coordinate the storm response, including fire districts, the cities, tribes, Caltrans, CAL FIRE, and PG&E.

"And those meetings were held every day including over the weekend, so we could get updates and have a pulse on what was happening in this county," said Antle. "There's been a great collaboration, and we want to thank all of them for their hard work as we continue to work through the next week or so of these heavy rains."

County Department of Transportation Director Howard Dashiell also talked about some of the county response to the storms.

"The crews countywide have been responding to these storms since the week between Christmas and New Year's," he said. "Today their big effort is working with a contractor ... they're trying to clear Fishrock Road which is our last big obstacle.

"I just would like to say for the benefit of the board and the public that people need to drive slow on our roads out there all around the county," he added. "Everything is saturated and just a little bit of soil falling off the bank can plug a ditch, send water

across the road, so you really need to slow down and be prepared for localized flooding."

The county recommends going to [www.mendoready.org](http://www.mendoready.org) for emergency information, and to sign up for MendoAlert and Nixle to receive alerts about emergencies in your area via text or email. You can find a link to sign up for MendoAlert and Nixle on the [www.mendoready.org](http://www.mendoready.org) homepage.

### Jail spending

As for the additional spending approved by the board on the new jail project, the \$1.4 million add-on means that the total cost to the county has jumped from an original estimate of around \$1 million in 2017, to now being projected at more than \$12 million.

The total price for the project has ballooned now to a \$36.9 million projection, up from an original estimate of \$26 million by the architectural firm Nacht & Lewis who were hired by the county.

As described by County Deputy CEO Steve Dunningcliff, the new jail project in Ukiah "is adjacent to the existing jail facility, and it will provide housing, programming, medical and mental health treatment space, along with a new public visiting center."

The state did agree to pay \$25 million of the cost for the project in 2017, but the county has been unsuccessful so far in attempts to get them to cover some of the additional escalating costs.

So the county has been scrambling to find the additional money as Nacht & Lewis has repeatedly reported cost increases over the last few years. Bond financing was used to pay off a significant amount of the shortfall last year.

Antle said that she was unsure of how the county would fund this latest \$1.4 million shortfall.

Eric Fadness, a representative of the Nacht & Lewis, said that the cost increases have been largely due to rapidly rising costs of construction material and labor, and that the inflation impact has been exacerbated by delays in getting state approval at different points during the planning process.

A chart provided by Nacht & Lewis shows that since May of 2021 the total estimated cost of the project has gone up by more than \$7 million, and construction cost increases accounted for more than \$6 million of that.

Gjerde said that it was hard to believe that, even with the high inflation, the cost could increase by that much in such a short period of time.

"So I really wonder about the ethical practices of Nacht & Lewis if they're that far off the mark," he said. "I realize that we are going through a period of unprecedented escalation in construction costs and building materials cost. I still, in spite of that, can't believe that they should've been off by 42%."

Gjerde also said that the county should be doing a "full court press" to get more money from the state for the project, and emphasize to state officials how much the cost has gone up.

He felt that this was appropriate given that a big reason they are making the additions to the jail is due to state policies. He said that the state had asked that the county have a separate unit to help prisoners with "serious behavioral health issues", and that in recent years inmates from state prisons have frequently been sent down to county

jails, increasing the burden on them.

"I feel like the county needs to go back to the state and say, 'Hey, this is your program, you're realigning people from state prisons into county jails,'" said Gjerde. "It's in the best interest of the public that we do that, but it's not bearable for a small, poor, rural county like Mendocino County to pay so much of the share of this project that was really originally a state project.

"It is a good project," he added. "It is in the public interest to build this wing where these clients of the jail will have better service, they'll be safer – jailers working in the jail, the medical staff will be safer. It's an improvement for the public, but really the state needs to step it up and provide a bigger cost share."

Sheriff Kendall said he agreed wholeheartedly with Gjerde and other supervisors' comments, particularly in regards to the state shifting prisoners from state to county prisons. He said he'd been talking with Assemblyman Jim Wood, as well as with other sheriffs from around the state about ways to tackle the problem.

"I think that we all need to sit down and be on the same page and really make our voices heard," said Kendall, "that these are the things that are needed for a lot of different reasons. But a lot of it is because the state has stepped away from some of their standard responsibilities. And if they're going to step away from them, then they need to make the people whole who are going to be doing these things."

Chair McGourty described the situation as "a real horror show of signing up for something that you don't really know the price for and it just keeps escalating, making it very, very difficult for us to meet all of the other things that we want to do for the county including taking care of our employees.

"By the same token, we recognize the importance of taking care of people who are incarcerated because one lawsuit can result in multimillion dollars of liability to us," said McGourty. "So I just want the public to understand the difficult position we're in. We're trying to take a responsible route that's both humane and fiscally conservative, and we may not please everybody.

"But I feel like we have to go forward with this, that there's no other way, especially when you look at the condition of the jail," he added. "Anybody who doesn't like our actions today, schedule a tour and see the conditions that people are presently being held in."

Supervisor Williams agreed with Gjerde and McGourty, and also noted how long the jail has been in need of improvements.

"I recognize that this is more deferred maintenance," said Williams. "This board is cleaning up the mess of previous boards. The county knew back in 1985 that it needed to put money into the jail, and I don't see that that ever happened. It was kicked down the road until finally there's no more kicking at hand, and we're the ones that have to clean it up. And it's really hard because I imagine all five of us came on with ideas of what we wanted to work on, and instead we're saddled with mostly working on cleaning up the legacy."

According to Nacht & Lewis, with the latest delays the county should now expect to send out bids for the new jail project in April of this year, and complete construction by May of 2025.





# WHS Wrestlers

Girls and boys teams compete at several regional tournaments

### Submitted by Willits Wrestling

The Willits High School boys wrestling team competed in Healdsburg at a prestigious two day tournament, December 16 and 17, and the highly touted Middletown tournament, January 6 and 7. The WHS girls team competed at the Napa tournament on January 6 and 7.

There were high-quality teams competing from throughout Northern California at Healdsburg, representing the North Coast Section, San Joaquin, and Central Section.

The team was led by coaches Quentin Bowlds and Will Dunaway. Girls wrestling team members Navea Jones, Ava Dockins-Kline, Maryanne Bertolino, and parent Sherrie Lyn showed up to support the boys due to their tournament being canceled. Their support was appreciated.

### Healdsburg results

Jacob Livingston went 7-1 with one close loss coming by way of decision. If Jacob keeps winning matches at this rate, he will start getting noticed by other teams in our section and league.

Deon Smith went 3-1 having tough matches each time. Deon continues to use his athleticism to his advantage.

Gunner Globe went 3-2 with some very important wins on Saturday. Each of Gunner's losses could have easily gone his way had luck gone his way. You can see Gunner's preparation pay off each time he wrestles.

Cory Rocky went 7-1 over the weekend. As a freshman, Cory continues to beat good wrestlers much older than him. Cory continues to get into a rhythm on his feet.

Donald Glenn went 5-2 over the weekend. Donald had many tough matches throughout the weekend. Donald has been tough on top with excellent pressure.

Eli Smith went 5-0 while dominating all of his opponents. Eli is an interesting riddle to solve for his opponents. Eli has excellent balance and vision while on the mat. Eli continues to improve his game planning for each match.

Eli Bowles went 6-2 this weekend. Eli continues to be very tough off his feet executing smooth takedowns. Eli continues to get into a rhythm and prove a factor in his weight division.

Tyler Dalton went 4-1 over the weekend. His only loss was at heavyweight to an opponent weighing 70 more pounds than him. Tyler should be one of the top eight wrestlers in his division for North Coast Section this year.

Jared Dunham went 6-1 over the weekend. Jared continues to improve each match. Jared is a great talent and even better person to be around on the team.

Jesus Meza went 1-2. Jesus is a first-year wrestler and is picking up the technique quickly.

Asher Vinson, another first-year wrestler, went 2-2. Asher is also picking up the technique quickly.

### Middletown results

J. Livingston 3rd

D. Smith 1st

C. Rocky 2nd

X. de la Fuentes 4th

G. Globe 3rd

D. Glenn 2nd

E. Bowles 1st

T. Dalton 3rd

J. Dunham 1st

At top, left: The Willits boys wrestling team and coaches smile for the camera after the competition in Healdsburg. At top, right: The Willits High School girls wrestling team shows their spirit at the Napa tourney.

At right: WHS wrestler Tyler Dalton goes for a pin at the Healdsburg tournament.

Far right: Willits wrestler Ava Dockins Kline gets the win after her match at the Napa tournament.



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The rest of **Playground** | From page 7

who are willing to volunteer their time and want to use it for their required work experience that is offered by the high school."

Kids Corner offers two ways for parents to utilize its services, either drop off the children or accompany them, remaining at the facility while the kids play. Both are very reasonably priced.

"We usually charge a flat rate the majority of days," Smith explained. "For just general play, it's just \$15. For Friday nights, we charge by the hour, which is only \$5 per hour. For drop-offs, the charge is \$30. They can leave the children for four hours. It's a decent amount of time for the parents to get things done. A lot of them will shop right here in the shopping center or get their nails done or go to the yoga studio. We also do Friday night drop-offs for parents to be able to go out and do things together. We are open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm. We do drop-offs on Tuesday, 11 am to 3 pm."

Parents who have been utilizing the facilities have expressed their satisfaction: "We've been coming here since it opened. Both of my kids love it. The older one, Melody, is four and I have to rip her away from here when it's time to go. She wants to come every day. She has a great time," said Rachel Linebaugh.

Carly Miller, mother of four-year-old Natalie said: "The kids seem to enjoy all the activities. It's nice on days like today, when we're in the middle of a storm system and the kids can't go outside and play. It's a good place to leave the kids when I'm in town. I can run and do my grocery shopping, have some 'mom time,' and do what I have to do. Drop the kids off, do my errands, and the kids get to run off their energy. This is Natalie's first time in here. She's excited, looking at all the toys and figuring out what she wants to do first."

Kids Corner is located at 1722 South Main Street in the Evergreen Shopping Center. Call 707-972-0915 for more information, or visit their Facebook ([www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087056424687](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087056424687)) or Instagram page ([www.instagram.com/kidscornerindoorplayground](http://www.instagram.com/kidscornerindoorplayground)).

The rest of **WCA** | From page 3

thing at the end from the raw materials. I love all things like 3D art. Getting to hold something at the end is so rewarding.

"For me, ceramics are so special because you can eat with them," Alaoui said. "I try to make everything I use out of ceramics. It feels like a ritual when you use something handmade to do something like make your coffee every day. I think people like ceramics because it's part of the earth and we're attracted to real materials. It starts out as dirt and comes up something beautiful. It's super magical. It's alchemy."

Alaoui has taught ceramics, along with Nancy New, at the art center and has a new class coming up, beginning on January 22.

"It's six weeks long," explained Alaoui. "It's on Sundays from 11 am to 4 pm. Ages 13 and older. The cost is \$325 for the six weeks. It's a whole lot of fun. We do the basics of wheel-throwing and hand-building. Everybody comes in with their own idea already of what they want to do. I email them and ask them to think of something beforehand, then I help them make that."

Jamison came to art through a decidedly different route. A helicopter pilot in the Southwest, he loved art and wanted to create what he desired to see in his environment.

"My saga started in Sedona," Jamison recalled. "I was a tour pilot there. I had just bought a house in Phoenix and I needed some artwork, so I started going around the galleries. I really couldn't afford to buy any of the art, so I began to experiment with my own work.

"I started doing reverse Plexiglas, painting on the backside of the material," he said. "I became very fascinated with the colors and what I could do. I was trying to emulate some other artists and how they were creating their pieces. Trying to figure out how they were doing it took me on my own journey of figuring out things that I wanted. This led me to the kind of art that I do."

Although Jamison utilizes steel, he considers his art to be natural and environmental.

"There are a couple different types of things that I do," he shared. "The U.S. flag was done on galvanized steel with a protective layer, which I believe is zinc, which is layered on top of the metal so it doesn't rust. It's similar to the kind of stuff you find in your air conditioning vents and ducting.

"The galvanized steel worked very well for a couple reasons. I could sand it down and it would bring out a nice sheen. As you walk by, you kind of get this 3D holographic effect. I apply different layers and let nature kind of take its course."

For some of his pieces, he uses rusted steel that nature has beaten, weathered and rusted.

"This piece was done on rusting metal," explained Jamison. "I put it in the backyard to let the weather and nature do what they wanted to do. I don't use galvanized steel when I want to work with rust and with the elements. I like the colors of rust and iron oxide.

"I had forgotten about this piece in the backyard," said Jamison. "I found it one day when I was moving. It was just falling apart and I was going to throw it away but I realized it had all this character in it. I took it back to Arizona with me and it sat for another year. Eventually, I took it out and started messing around with it. I added colors to it, the turquoise and some copper."

Together, the two artists, along with curator Gary Martin, have created an intriguing show, both earthy and metallic, tactile and seemingly holographic, dark and bright, with materials ultimately of the earth.

The Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Friday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, call 459-1726 or visit [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org).

## CAL FIRE offering \$240 million in fire prevention, forest health grants

Sacramento – The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has announced the availability of up to \$240 million for Wildfire Prevention and Forest Health grant projects. CAL FIRE is soliciting applications for projects that prevent catastrophic wildfires, protect communities, and restore forests to healthy, functioning ecosystems while also sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program seeks to award up to \$120 million for local projects in and near fire-threatened communities that focus on increasing the protection of people, structures, and communities. Qualified activities include hazardous fuels reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

CAL FIRE's Forest Health Grant

Program will award up to \$120 million to landscape-scale forest restoration projects that restore forest resilience to catastrophic disturbance. Eligible activities include forest fuels reduction, fire reintroduction, reforestation, and utilization of forest biomass. An additional \$50 million is available for post-fire reforestation and restoration, and finally \$19 million is available for Tribal Wildfire Resilience planning and implementation projects.

Wildfire Prevention and Forest Health grant programs are part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.

These programs are designed to complement the 2018 Strategic Fire Plan for California, the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Action

Plan, and the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, which proposes to protect lives, property, and resources of California and increase the ability of our natural and working lands to survive and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Forest Health Grants Program applications are due by 3 pm on February 28, 2023.

Wildfire Prevention Grants Program applications are due by 3 pm on March 15, 2023.

Public workshops will be held both in-person and virtually. Please check the Wildfire Prevention Grants web pages for dates, times, and locations. These workshops will be recorded and made available on the corresponding grants web pages. Forest Health program will only release a recorded workshop.

For more information and to sign up for grant email announcements, visit [www.fire.ca.gov/grants](http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants).

## CAL FIRE releases new fire zone map for public comment

### Submitted by CAL FIRE

Sacramento – CAL FIRE's Office of the State Fire Marshal has begun a public comment period for the regulatory adoption process to update the existing map that captures Fire Hazard Severity Zones, which is a comprehensive map that ranks California's State Responsibility Areas – or rural, unincorporated areas – based on the likelihood different areas will experience wildfire.

After years of work to develop a sound scientific basis and methodology with a range of experts and stakeholders, updates to this map bring this valuable tool and statutory requirement current in a way that accurately reflects today's reality for wildfire hazard throughout the state. More specifically, this process includes a few details to know below:

This current revision only updates areas in California's unincorporated, rural areas where wildfires tend to be frequent—called the "SRA" or "State Responsibility Area." This does not include cities or large urban areas.

This process does not change rules or requirements for homes or properties in these areas related to wildfire prevention, preparedness, and mitigation. The same requirements will remain regardless of whether a particular area is reclassified or not.

The last Wildfire Hazard Severity Zone map was updated in 2007 and required an update. A lot has happened since 2007. Using the best available science with academic researchers and others, this updated map reflects the impacts of a changing climate and includes a variety of other key factors.

This is the beginning of a nearly two-month public process. These maps are being shared for your comments and questions during the regulatory process. A total of 57 public hearings will be held throughout the state with the goal of hearing from you.

An online public toolkit and interactive map is available to help answer your questions. Take some time to explore your address, read the FAQs, learn about the process and where to turn. A hotline is also available to help answer your questions directly and to help increase access.

"Ensuring Californians know the wildfire hazard in their area is critical to ensuring we all take the appropriate steps to prepare for wildfires," said Chief Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE deputy director of Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation. "The updated map is the product of years of discussions and incorporates the latest science to provide a long-term outlook of an area's wildfire hazard."

CAL FIRE's fire scientists and wildfire mitigation experts developed the map using a science-based and field-tested model that assigns a hazard score based on the factors that influence fire likelihood and fire behavior. Many factors are considered, such as fire history, existing and potential fuel (natural vegetation), predicted flame length, blowing embers, terrain, and typical fire weather for an area. These zones fall into the following classifications – moderate, high, and very high.

Working closely with the Department of Insurance and other agencies, CAL FIRE is creating a shared approach to further reduce wildfire risk that assists residents and businesses with accessing affordable insurance. The department's first-ever report on climate insurance recommended updated wildfire hazard mapping to improve public safety. Insurance companies and researchers, along with insurance agents and brokers, have been involved throughout this process to ensure cooperation between all sectors to better support Californians. And while insurance companies use similar methodologies to calculate risk as they price their insurance offerings to consumers, insurance risk models also incorporate many factors beyond this process, and many of these factors can change more frequently than those that CAL FIRE includes in its hazard mapping.

CAL FIRE remains committed to answering all questions from the public and working with the Department of Insurance, the insurance industry, and consumer groups throughout this process.

"Making California safer from wildfires is our top priority, and my Department of Insurance will continue to work closely with the first responders at CAL FIRE to better prepare our communities," said Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, who issued the Safer from Wildfires insurance framework with CAL FIRE and other agencies earlier this year as well as finalizing his new regulation to increase access to wildfire safety discounts and to ensure consumers can learn more about wildfire risks being considered by their insurance company.

"Public education about where current wildfire hazards exist is essential to reducing the threat to local communities and maintaining access to affordable insurance. I encourage

Californians to ask questions in this public process and to learn more about the tools that exist to help communities and governments reduce their local risks."

Overall, the map shows an increased fire hazard, reflecting California's increase in wildfire occurrence and severity because of many factors, including a changing climate. The map has been updated to more accurately reflect the zones in California that are susceptible to wildfire, to help provide transparency for planning and preparedness efforts, and to provide communities a forecasting tool so that the public can take steps to prevent and prepare for wildfire. The hazard mapping process incorporates local climate data and changes in burn probability based on recent trends in fire occurrence. The model was reviewed and validated by members of the science community, as well as with outreach with various stakeholders including insurance, building, fire, and local agencies.

"Counties acknowledge the importance of accurately mapping fire hazard severity zones," said Doug Teeter, Butte County supervisor and incoming chair of the Rural County Representatives of California. "RCRC member counties appreciate CAL FIRE's continued engagement of local governments in this important effort."

The State Fire Marshal is mandated by California Public Resource Code 4202-4204 to classify lands within the SRA into FHSZs and the most recent SRA FHSZ map was last updated in 2007. The FHSZ zones are used for several purposes, including to designate areas where California's defensible space standards, wildland-urban interface building codes, and the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations are required.

They can be a factor in real estate disclosure, and local governments may consider them in their general plan. However, officials stress it is important to note that within the SRA, mitigation requirements already apply to all zones. A designation change for an area does not affect the legal requirements for mitigations since they are already required consistently across the SRA.

"As we continue to focus on addressing California's housing crisis, we support the importance of building so that structures are safely designed and built to mitigate an area's wildfire hazard," said Dan Dunmoyer, president and CEO of the California Building Industry Association. "To build more fire-safe communities in the future, it is critically important for CAL FIRE to update these maps to ensure we all can take steps to build a more resilient California."

As part of the adoption process of the map, CAL FIRE invites public comment on the proposed map through February 3, 2023. The public may submit written comment at the address below or through email at [FHSZComments@fire.ca.gov](mailto:FHSZComments@fire.ca.gov). In addition, CAL FIRE will host a public comment hearing in all 56 counties that have SRA to receive public comment. Information on the hearings can be found on CAL FIRE's website at [osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ).

Written comments may be submitted by U.S. mail to the following address: Office of the State Fire Marshal

C/O: FHSZ Comments  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

To determine the FHSZ of a property, the public can easily search an address using a new FHSZ Viewer at [osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ).

In order to help California residents better understand the FHSZ map and answer questions, CAL FIRE has created a public toolkit on its website to include new and easy to follow sections, including maps, frequently asked questions, and an automated "hotline" to contact for specific information. The new website also includes dates, times, and locations of FHSZ public hearings that will be held in the 56

Counties that have FHSZs within the SRA. For information about FHSZs, visit the program's website at [osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ). The public can also call an automated hotline at (916) 633-7655.

Following the adoption of the SRA FHSZ Map, CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal will begin providing local governments updated FHSZ maps for Local Responsibility Areas. Under California Government Code 51178, the State Fire Marshal is required to provide local agencies with the areas within their jurisdiction that meet FHSZ criteria for their local adoption and implementation.

*Editor's Note: Sadly, CAL FIRE's scheduled hearing for Mendocino County has already happened - on January 4 at Willits City Hall. Willits Weekly didn't get publicity in time to include the meeting in our final December 15, 2022 edition. Reportedly only two people showed up. The local contact person for the Willits hearing is Michael Sachelli at 707-459-7424 and [michael.sachelli@fire.ca.gov](mailto:michael.sachelli@fire.ca.gov).*



Locals posted photos of trees down, flooded parking lots, yards, streets and homes on Facebook. One of the most dramatic incidents was a washout destroying the main driveway to Creekside Cabins off Highway 101 north of town, starting as a sink hole that ate the front half of a car.

A railroad bridge the Skunk Train uses downstream of East Valley Street was damaged by the flooding at some point during the January 3-4 storm. As per a post on the City of Willits Facebook page, the city “would like to greatly thank the Skunk Train, Great Redwood Trail Authority, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as two local contractors, Bouthillier Construction and L.D. Giacomini, for their collaborative efforts in removing an emergency hazard at the railroad trestle between East Commercial Street and East Valley Street.

“Their quick response in removing a debris blockage and a compromised railroad trestle bridge on Broadus Creek helped alleviate a potential significant increase in localized flooding,” the city said.

Listening to the scanner the evening of January 4, there were multiple reports of trees down around the county, some into powerlines. PG&E “stood down” its crews that night, as it did elsewhere in California, due to the danger to crews from the wind and storm.

Late in the evening of January 7, the forecasted thunder hit Willits with a bang, with a very loud and long initial peal, producing comments on Facebook like ‘Man that was some kind of thunder! Wow!’

All this rain is making Lake Mendocino a real lake again. As of January 11, the California Department of Water Resources reports that Lake Mendocino is at 123 percent of average storage for this time of year, with 78,985 acre feet of water. Total capacity at Lake Mendocino is 122,400 acre feet, so the reservoir is at 65% of total capacity. On this date in 2022, Lake Mendocino only had

44,135 acre feet of water stored.

As far as total rain for Willits, it’s hard to say. Not only are there many micro-climates that get quite different rain amounts, the National Weather Service’s Willits station has been reporting “N/A” for current conditions, including precipitation, for the last few weeks. The California Department of Water Resources rain station at the Howard Forest Ranger Station on the top of the grade south of Willits, reports 30.10 inches of rain as of January 11, since the rain year started on October 1, 2022.

In Laytonville, a rain gauge tended by CAL FIRE reports 35.23 inches of rain as of January 11.

Caltrans districts across the state are still “strongly advising the public to avoid traveling if you can at this time. These storm systems have affected the majority of CA in some shape or form. If you have to go out, #knowbeforeyougo at <http://QuickMap.dot.ca.gov>”

In the City of Willits, the storms have affected the city water system. The city has asked water customers to conserve water, so as not to add to all the rain and flooding that needs to drain. Customers have reported a strong chlorine odor with the water coming out of their taps, and some have reported brown water.

An accident breaking a fire hydrant in front of J.D. Redhouse Monday night – which created a geyser spurting 200 feet into the air – also has led to discolored water in the area.

“Please report your brown water issues to City Hall (707) 459-4601,” Willits Mayor Greta Kanne posted on Facebook. “They track brown water incidents. City council has made it clear that solving the brown water problem is a top priority. Please also note that in the past week high levels of sediment in our reservoirs due to storm runoff have created difficulties at our Water Treatment Plant. That’s why many have noted higher than normal levels of chlorine in the water. But the city needs to hear from residents so it can prioritize which areas of the mainline need repair or replacement.”



Photo by April Tweddell

Above: This property on the 600 block of East Valley Street flooded badly during the December 27 storm. Below, left, top: The creek between Mendo Mill and the Willits Elementary Charter School overflowed the first week of the rains. Below, left, bottom: The bathrooms in the Rec Grove were badly damaged by a tree falling during the late December storm. Below, right: The trestle the Skunk Train uses downstream of East Valley Street was broken by the January 3-4 storm, but local contractors and the City of Willits worked to remove the debris to prevent further localized flooding. At bottom: The lake at the north end of the bypass is back.



Photo by Mathew Caine



Photo by Debbie Boone Harry



Photo courtesy of City of Willits



Photo by Mathew Caine

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