

Supes support Brooktrails benefit zone

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On Tuesday the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to urge the Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission to allow them to move forward with plans to fund emergency access roads in Brooktrails.

While nothing is finalized at the moment, the board is asking that LAFCO allow a group of 1,547 property owners in a designated "Zone of Benefit" in Brooktrails to

Read the rest of **Benefit**
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Creekside Cabins FAQs

Submitted by County of Mendocino

January 24 – The County of Mendocino has received numerous questions and concerns about the conditions at Creekside Cabins and will attempt to answer the most frequently asked questions below:

Question: Why can't the temporary bridge be in place longer?

Answer: The temporary bridge must be able to cross the sinkhole, which has grown in size due to the erosion caused by the storm and the delay of the property owner to schedule a timely repair. Unfortunately, this extends the bridge into the adjacent Highway 101, which requires one-way controlled traffic and would create a safety hazard for

Read the rest of **Q&As**
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COVID, winter viruses down significantly

Jennifer Poole
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The occurrence of COVID and other winter viral illnesses in Mendocino County is down significantly from the end of the year, and down from winter peaks in recent years, reported Public Health Officer Andy Coren, MD at his January 20 press conference.

"Of course we can't see far into the future of the COVID variants and surges," Coren said, "and COVID seems to be a virus that will be around for a while, but now we have a set of proven preventive practices that we advise people of and we have effective vaccines and treatments, so we are transitioning from a public

Read the rest of **COVID**
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Above, from left: A Cloverdale player in blue looks for an opening in the cloud of white of the JV Lady Wolverines including Lyly Herman, #10, Lisa Arkelian, #3 and Kate Winters, #12 at right. WHS' Arion Martin, #21, jumps up to sink a basket above the group. Wolverine Kate Winters, #12, gets ready to shoot through the sea of blue of Cloverdale. Below: Jazmarie Henson, #20, throws the ball to a teammate on the home court during Thursday's game



Photos by
Maureen
Jennison

Lady Wolverines on the Court

Willits High School junior varsity team wins nail-biter basketball game against Cloverdale

Folks in the stands of the Steve Short Gymnasium were cheering for green and gold or blue and gold last Thursday as the Willits High School Lady Wolverines took on the Cloverdale Eagles on the court.

Maureen Jennison
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The January 19 game was the first of round 2 NCL league games, and for the young team – all players on the team are freshmen – they came to the court with experience that helped them to a win on the scoreboard of 41 to 39 and finishing the game with a 4 - 4 record.

Team members Lyly Herman and Kate Winters played for Eagle Peak Middle School in sixth and eighth grade; eight of the team played in eighth grade for Baechtel Grove Middle School including Evie Kale, Gloria Guterrez, Estrella Mendoza, and Gracie Jennison; four more members, Jazmarie Henson, Arion Martin, Ava Holmen and Lisa Arkelian played at Baechtel Grove Middle School for sixth and eighth grades; and the one new player on the court this year, Danielle Agenbroad, is happily learning from her teammates and coaches Dawn McClelland and Lucy Kyne.

"On Thursday night they came out fighting hard against Cloverdale," explained McClelland. "Right from the

Below, left: Arion Martin, #21, drives the ball down the court. Below, right: Kate Winters, #12 makes her way around a Cloverdale player. At bottom, from left: Jazmarie Henson, #20, maneuvers around the Cloverdale's defense, looking to shoot to the hoop. In the center of the pack, Gracie Jennison's long reach allows her to keep a hold of the ball above the heads of the other team. Lisa Arkelian, #3, jumps high in hopes of blocking the Cloverdale toss.



beginning of the game, Willits' press worked really well, causing many turnovers that allowed them to take an early 11-8 lead. Cloverdale shot better in the second quarter, making 17 points and taking the lead 21 - 25."

McClelland continued, noting that Cloverdale outscored Willits by two points during the third quarter, making the score 30-36. Willits proved, in the fourth quarter, how important free throws are -- and that they can win games. With only two baskets, and five free throws already made, Willits tied the game at 39-39.

"I called a timeout and told the girls that the ball needed to be in the hands of one of our best free throw shooters, either Kate Winters or Jazmarie Henson," said McClelland. "Just as we hoped, Cloverdale fouled Kate. She calmly sank two free throws to take the lead. Our press worked so well we stole the ball again, and they instantly fouled her again with only seconds left on the clock.

McClelland noted that although Winters missed the free throw, the team was able to prevent Cloverdale from shooting again to take the win.

Read the rest of **Basketball**
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Creekside Cabins closed as 'a public menace'

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The County of Mendocino announced Saturday it was closing Creekside Cabins as "a public menace" after an inspection team – armed with a warrant – found raw sewage from "many" RVs on the ground.

The January 21 health order closing the trailer park stated that during the January 20 inspection Code Enforcement and Environmental Health inspectors also found "that many RV systems are

Read more of **Closed**
Over on Page 2

County to sue Creekside owners

Submitted by County of Mendocino

On January 24, 2023, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors met during closed session to discuss the Creekside Cabins property, where a sinkhole has cut off residents from the adjacent Highway 101.

After deliberations, the board voted unanimously to direct County Counsel to initiate litigation against Houser Holdings LLC, and property owner Teresa Thurman, to address ongoing hazardous conditions at the site.

On January 20, 2023, after obtaining an inspection warrant,

Read the rest of **Suit**
Over on Page 11

Armed robbery of residential pot business

By Sgt. S. Gray for WPD

On January 22, 2023 at about 12:30 pm, Willits Police Department officers were detailed to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office's Willits substation on a report of a robbery of marijuana at a nearby address on Creekside Drive.

WPD officers interviewed three victims who told the investigating officers they were robbed at gunpoint by five adult males of approximately 40 to 50 pounds of processed marijuana bud.

The location of the robbery is a marijuana-related business at a residence. The business had approval to operate as

Read the rest of **Robbery**
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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

I want to thank Willits Weekly very much for printing the [statement] from [former police chief] Alexis Blaylock. Being able to be transparent and aware of problem areas allows us to find solutions.

I have hope that we can make positive changes. Blaylock sounds like a courageous woman who is encouraging us to work on the problems. I look forward to reading your paper each week.

Pat Cougar, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

Thank you for printing former Police Chief Blaylock's statement about her settlement with the City of Willits. In it, Blaylock states that former Police Chief Scott Warnock said that the behavior of the former city manager could not be due to issues of race because her husband is Black. Similarly, he denied racially motivated charges against the

WPD because they have had a Black officer.

These defenses are myths. It is ludicrous to assert that because someone is married to or has hired a Black person that necessarily means that his/her behavior could not be racially motivated and discriminatory.

People hire workers and marry spouses for a variety of reasons. Do you think that if a man hires a woman he is definitely not sexist? That has not been my experience. And there are interracial marriages where underlying prejudices are acted out. Loving or working with someone does not erase years of racial conditioning.

Finally, although racist acts and attitudes harm people, they do not make someone a "bad" person. Labelling someone "bad" usually leads to shame and shuts down dialogue. We all have assumptions and behaviors that can hurt others. Instead of denying racist actions or calling people "bad," we need to listen to others' experiences and learn more about how to operate in ways that align with our values.

Robin Goldner, Willits

More of Closed

From page 1

draining sewage and grey water from small hoses directly into and towards the creek running through the affected area, and that such emits an odor characteristic of coliform and other pathogenic bacteria."

The situation arose after about 50 residents in the trailer park about seven miles north of Willits were stranded after a sinkhole that started with the December 30 storm eventually took out the entire width of the driveway, the only access to the location.

Not only were the residents stranded without a way to get vehicles in and out, important vehicular services like sewer pumping, trash pickup and emergency response were also unable to access the location.

The property owner claims the driveway is part of the "state highway public right of way property," i.e., fixing it should be Caltrans' responsibility, but Caltrans says the driveway is on private property.

The county announced last week a temporary bridge would be installed so stranded residents could move out on January 25 and 26, but that the bridge would be taken out on Friday, January 27.

"Residents may remain until Thursday, January 26 at 5 pm only for

the purposes of evacuating or preparing to evacuate themselves and their possessions or otherwise remediating the hazards," the press release said. "Nonresidents may enter for the same purposes with prior permission from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. Persons seeking permission to enter should call 707-510-5324."

During Tuesday's board meeting County Council Christian Curtis said one reason for installing a temporary bridge instead of a permanent bridge was the issue of permits – and steelhead spawning season.

Curtis said the county's understanding was "still evolving" but according to what they've heard from state agencies, "there was a brief opportunity ... while the storms were still happening, for the property owner to obtain certain emergency permits that would have allowed for the repair and restoration of access to the property.

"Our understanding is also that that window has probably passed," Curtis continued, "and because of the steelhead spawning season, even if the

Read the rest of

Closed

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County Winter Storms Damage survey

January 23 – The County of Mendocino has begun the transition from response to recovery for the 2022-2023 Winter Storms event.

The county is seeking assistance from the public to self-report damage resulting from the severe weather storms that occurred from December 2022 to January 2023.

This information will be used to assist the county in understanding the severity of the private property damage and request assistance from nonprofit, state, and federal partners.

The "Winter Storms Damage" survey can be found here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/MendoWinterStormDamageSurvey

Please complete the survey by no later than close of business on Friday, February 3, 2023.

At this time FEMA has not authorized individual assistance to private property damaged by the winter storms.

As more recovery resources become available, we will publish the updates on the county's social media below.

Mendocino County Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/mendocinocounty/>) and Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/countymendocino>.)

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 26: Western Chicken Sandwich, Potato Salad, Pickle

Friday, January 27: Turkey w/Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Veggie, Roll

Monday, January 30: Chicken Parm Noodles, Veggie, Garlic Bread

Tuesday, January 31: Ground Sirloin, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Wednesday, February 1: Ground Beef Tacos, Rice & Beans

Thursday, February 2: Baked Chicken Stuffing w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Friday, February 3: Pepperoni Pizza, Boneless BBQ Wings, Green Salad

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

Volunteers sought for annual homeless count

Submitted by Mendocino County Department of Social Services

The Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care will be conducting its annual unsheltered Point-In-Time Count which begins at sunset on January 26, 2023, and runs through the following week.

The Point in Time Count is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is used by the State of California and multiple federal departments to calculate allocations of homeless services funding.

The data received through the PIT Count will help our local community to identify needs and develop planning to engage and support those persons experiencing homelessness throughout Mendocino County.

The Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care is a group of agencies that consist of service providers, non-profits, faith-based organizations, community members, and Mendocino County staff. These individuals and agencies come together to help address the needs of those who are experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of homelessness.

This undertaking requires a lot of individuals performing many different tasks in preparation for this event, as well as surveying individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout Mendocino County. We need volunteers to count along the Coast as well as Southern and Northern Inland portions of Mendocino County.

If you would like to volunteer, please sign up at <https://Mendocino.PointInTime.info/>. If you have questions or would like further information, please contact Veronica Wilson at hometeam@mendocinocounty.org or (707) 468-7071.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, from left: People of all ages enjoy the library, including these two in the kids literature section. The Willits Library has many nooks and crannies where people can read in serenity. Miles Mattson challenged Tobin Steiskal to a game or two of traditional analog checkers. At far left: The adults, Tobin Steiskal and Karen Mattson, confer as the kids play chess. At left: In addition to books, the Willits library has computers and plug-ins.

More than Books

After school game sessions are just one of many entertaining activities offered at the Willits Library

The Willits Library is not only a place for checking out a good book, but is also a place for digital downloads and streaming, DVDs, computers, and community activities. One of the popular activities for kids is "Games at the Library," an hour and a half of board, card, and table-top role-playing games, like Apples to Apples, chess, and checkers, amongst others.

The sessions are on the first and third Fridays of each month, 4 to 5:30 pm, and stewarded by library assistant Tobin Steiskal.

"The library has a lot of board games and card games that we can offer the public, materials that can be checked out for use outside the library," explained Steiskal. "We've also advertised that families are allowed to bring board games of their own so they can teach others how to play. No digital games, no X-Box, all analog games. Games where you can actually interact with other people, learn a new game, hone your skills in a game that you might already know."

Steiskal also reads stories to kids of all ages each Thursday at the Willits Farmers Market. Although the story time has experienced a lower participation after moving indoors at the Grange, Steiskal is still enthusiastically continuing the program.

"If I can help a young one with reading or comprehension or literacy in some regard – as I'm reading with some complex ideas in parenting or social – if I can change one life, we can change the world."

"Even if one kid comes to the story time, I'm absolutely elated," said Steiskal. "We're always hoping for more, of course. Luckily, the

library is not a quantity-based or product-based enterprise. It's a public space to be shared and enjoyed by all.

"People come to story time or games because they want to be here. We're not trying to sell a product," said Steiskal, explaining his philosophy concerning educating and entertaining the youth of Willits.

On Friday, January 20, three enthusiastic young teens, Miles Mattson, Justin Craig Krugerlord, and Emmet Veilleux, who are classmates at Baechtel Grove Middle School, entered the library and began to play a spirited game of Apples to Apples.

"One person – the judge – puts down a green card," said Krugerlord, attempting to explain the rules to the adults in the room. "The other players put down a red card that matches the green card, and, like, try to make it humorous. Then the judge, without knowing whose is whose, chooses a card and the winner of the round. Then the winner takes the green card."

After finishing a couple of rounds of the game, with vigor and humorous commentary, The trio tried their hands at a huge chess set and some checkers, with the same gusto.

"If I weren't here, I'd probably be at Kids Club, on my phone, doing nothing, which isn't enjoyable. This is a lot more fun," said Mattson, and was joined by the other two who expressed their enjoyment at having a place to play some games and enjoy each other's company rather than going home or going to work with their parents.

In addition to the games session at the library, the Willits branch offers many other activities.



Above: Assistant Librarian Denise Jessie runs several of the programs. At right: Justin Craig Krugerlord and Emmet Veilleux play on an oversized glass chess set.



The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to 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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The rest of COVID

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health emergency response to more a traditional medical response to this illness."

Some California data shows that Influenza and ILIs (influenza-like-illnesses) peaked early in flu season, with the highest state numbers reported in fall of 2022.

Coren reported that, as of January 18, the cases per day in Mendocino County, averaged over a week, were 5 per 100,000 population, and COVID hospitalizations, averaged over two weeks, were 6 per day. "That was down 24% from two weeks before," Coren said.

Test positivity, the rate of positive COVID tests, is at 7.9% in Mendocino County, currently higher than California as a whole, which is at 6.1%, although Coren said the numbers change frequently. He cautioned that given the rise in home testing where results are not reported, test positivity is not as reliable as the hospitalization rate for analyzing COVID rates in a community.

Dr. Coren reported only one current COVID outbreak, "in a skilled nursing facility.... It is resolving, it's not a large outbreak."

The total of Mendocino County residents whose deaths are attributed to COVID has risen to 139 deaths from 136 deaths. This rise does not indicate a trend, Coren emphasized, but was due to late notification of three deaths of county residents that

occurred out of county.

"Now in the last month Ukiah wastewater surveillance [for the COVID virus] is occurring," Coren reported, "and just in the last week or so, Fort Bragg has added that on, and we hope Willits will also add it on. It will be a great way for monitoring and situational awareness."

Although schools reported a "huge rise in absenteeism" after Thanksgiving, "no significant rise in absenteeism" was seen after winter break, and no COVID outbreaks have been reported from our schools since schools came back into session," Coren said.

The overall county's community risk is considered "intermediate" at this point.

Mendocino County also announced January 19, that the OptumServe COVID testing and treatments sites at the Ukiah fairgrounds, and in Fort Bragg are closing. This is "due to lack of utilization" and is happening all over California, Coren said.

In Willits, according to the county's Vaccination information page, vaccines are available at the county Public Health offices at 474 East Valley Street on Mondays, from 1 to 4:15 pm. Flu and COVID vaccines are available, including updated bivalent boosters. Take-home rapid tests are also available. Sign up at MyTurn, <https://myturn.ca.gov/>, and walk-ups also welcome.

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



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!

SPORTS PLAY WORD SEARCH

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

ADVANTAGE	GAME	PLAY
BENCHED	HANDICAP	POSITION
CALL	HUDDLE	RECORD
CONTACT	LEAGUE	RULES
DEFENSE	LOSING	SCORING
DIVISION	OFFENSE	SPECTATOR
FAN	OFFICIAL	TEAMMATE
FOUL	PITCH	WINNING

1	2	3							4	5	6	7
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36										37		
38										39		
40										41		
42										43		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Tax collector
4. Fishes without the line touching water
8. Brooklyn hoopsters
10. Actress Lathan
11. A metric for athletes
12. Food storage location
13. Colossus
15. Desolations
16. Accustom to something unpleasant
17. ___ Kubrick, filmmaker
18. You might ask this at Thanksgiving
21. Arkansas city
22. Gave food to
23. Request
24. V-shaped open trough
25. Make lively
26. It accompanies feather

27. Blonde bombshell
34. One who revolves
35. Bluish greens
36. Charity
37. Having the shape of a cube
38. Unwind
39. Believed by some to be the supreme being
40. Checks or guides
41. Leak slowly through
42. Top-quality
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Part of your foot
2. It's at the back of the eyeball
3. Where things stand
4. Offered
5. Contains pollen
6. Boisterous get-together
7. Asserts out loud

9. They're in the sky
10. Canonized
12. A politician's official stances
14. It can catch fish
15. British thermal unit
17. Helps little firms
19. Where patients go for treatment
20. Large red deer
23. Pokes holes in
24. 'Star Wars' hero Solo
25. One in a hospital
26. Scandinavian god of battle
27. Famous cat
28. ___ Angeles: City of Angels
29. Type of drug (abbr.)
30. City along the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. Martini ingredients
33. Get away
34. Rare species of rodent
36. Suppress

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

December 25 to January 7

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **136 incidents** in this 14-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

December 25

No incidents to report.

December 26

2:14 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

9:44 pm: GOMEZLOPEZ, Gerardo (26) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol) and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher, and driving without a license.

December 27

7:34 am: CHORLEY, Shaleen Nicole (28) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 490.5 PC (Shoplifting), 29805 PC (Unlawful Possession of a Firearm), 30305 (A) (1) PC (Unlawful Possession of Ammunition), 25850 PC (Carrying a Loaded Firearm in a Public Place or Vehicle), 25400 PC (Carrying a Concealed Weapon), 484 PC (Petty Theft), and on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and drinking alcohol in public.

8:48 pm: WILDE, Devin Travis (19) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of discharging a firearm from a vehicle.

9:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

December 28

9:19 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of North Main Street.

December 29

11:24 am: Officers initiated a hit and run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of Manor Way.

12:48 am: BOLTON IV, John William (46) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol) and 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication).

December 30

4:46 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

10:39 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Holly Street.

December 31

8:58 am: SHACKELFORD, Don (51) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Manor Way. He was arrested pursuant to 69 PC (Resisting an Executive Officer) and on misdemeanor charges of battery against an officer.

January 1

7:54 am: Officers initiated a theft

investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:19 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of Holly Street.

January 2

2:08 pm: SHAFFER, Cletis Lane (29) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Manor Way. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order).

January 3

10:37 am: BALLOU, Reef Joseph (23) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery) and 591.5 PC (Damaging a Wireless Communications Device).

8:36 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

8:56 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

January 4

6:41 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Sherwood Hill Drive.

8:17 pm: CAVINO, Richard Kevin (59) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 Percent or Higher), 23154 (A) VC (Driving While on DUI Probation), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence of alcohol with prior felony conviction.

8:17 pm: CAVINO, Dustin Michael (31) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

January 5

7:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Margie Drive.

January 6

12:06 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:01 am: STEPHONSON, Joshua Ian (34) of Modesto was contacted in the 400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 Percent or Higher), 23578 VC (Enhanced DUI Penalty for Excessive Blood Alcohol Content or Test Refusal), and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher.

4:02 pm: SALAMONE, Ronnie Ira Pack (34) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Lenore Avenue following a disturbance. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole and on misdemeanor charges of battery and trespassing.

January 7

No incidents to report.

Looking for something to celebrate?

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

JANUARY 26: National Green Juice Day, National Peanut Brittle Day, National Spouses Day, Australia Day, International Customs Day, Lotus 1-2-3 Day, National Green Juice Day, National Peanut Brittle Day, Spouse's Day, Toad Hollow Day Of Encouragement

JANUARY 27: International Fun At Work Day, National Big Wig Day, National Chocolate Cake Day, National Geographic Day, Do For Your Country Day, Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day, International Day Of Commemoration In Memory Of The Victims Of The Holocaust, National Preschool Health And Fitness Day, Punch The Clock Day, Vietnam Peace Day, World Breast Pumping Day

JANUARY 28: Data Privacy Day, National Blueberry Pancake Day, National Have Fun At Work Day, National Kazoo Day, International Lego Day, Visit Your Local Quilt Shop Day, Daisy Day, Global Community Engagement Day, National Gift Of The Ladybug Day, Pop Art Day, Rattlesnake Roundup Day, Thank A Plugin Developer Day

Willits Weekly | January 26, 2023



Above, from left: Leda Jones works the day shift at Kelly's Diner. Fortino Diaz, the new owner of Kelly's Diner, wants to serve only the highest quality fresh food. Cook Jasmine Mann prepares food in the tidy kitchen at Kelly's Diner. At left: A loaded cheeseburger and garlic fries are ready to be delivered to a lucky customer. Below, left: Grilled salmon with rice and vegetables is elegantly plated. Below, right: A side salad topped with garbanzo and kidney beans comes with all of the dinners. At bottom: Fortino Diaz makes all his own condiments, including the mayonnaise.



Dinner at
Kelly's Diner

New restaurant owner serves breakfasts, lunches and dinners cooked from scratch with fresh ingredients

Kelly's Diner owner Fortino Diaz has an obvious love of cooking and feeding others. Diaz is constantly experimenting and working on providing the tastiest, freshest, and most authentic foods possible.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

His love for food extends to his daughter, Kelly, a 27-year-old nursing student, who sometimes comes up to help in the restaurant named after her. Kelly plans to move to the Willits area after her schooling to become a nurse is complete and will help with the restaurant's paperwork and administration.

"This restaurant has been mine for a year," explained Diaz, who worked as a cook for the previous owner, in Willits at Café 77, and also in Santa Rosa. "I opened as Kelly's Diner on November 1, 2022.

"I'm from Oaxaca, Mexico," Diaz recounted. "My mother sent me up to the States. I'm glad I came. When I came here, I loved this country. I said I didn't want to go back and I stayed here. There are more opportunities. I learned how to cook in Santa Rosa, working in Adele's Restaurant, beginning 31 years ago.

"I really didn't learn very much with them," he admitted. "Their food was always quick and easy. They used canned stuff, took shortcuts. Here, what I'm doing right now, I am doing everything from scratch. When I opened Kelly's, I practice every single day, wasting, wasting food, trying new things by myself and giving it to the neighbors to have them try it."

Most of the meals at Kelly's Diner are from scratch and Diaz continually aims to improve them. He watches YouTube videos in order to learn more as he experiments and perfects his creative recipes.

Diaz is extremely concerned with the freshness of his materials and will not use frozen or canned foods. "For dinner, I've added pastas like shrimp pesto, fish like salmon and halibut, rib eye steak,

Read the rest of
Dinner

Over on page 8

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COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

‘A Man Called Otto’

The Story: A human comedy of joy and deep sorrow. Otto (Tom Hanks) is alone, he’s a widower. He seems grumpy and selfish, but he’s much more complicated than just being the neighborhood grouch. The love of his life is gone. He’s very very sad. Over the course



Dan Essman
Columnist

Cat). Because this picture about joy and sorrow is also a cat picture, it has a super high heartwarming quotient.

My Thoughts: Grownups and teens, this flick is a good time at the theater. What makes Tom Hanks so effective as a dramatic lead? When I view him onscreen, or in person (I once spoke with him and a steelhead fishing buddy), I feel him. He projects subtly yet clearly, as easy to read as a large print novel. He shares a slight squint or a curved lip and you feel like you know him.

His co-star in this fine flick is the brilliant Mexican actress Mariana Treviño. She’s effervescent. She switches easily from comedic to dramatic. All in all she’s perfect for her part as the new neighbor who just wants to be friendly and brings chicken mole in a Tupperware to say hello. And a special shout out to method actor Sméagol the Cat in his screen debut. Brilliant!

Parents: Not really for kids. It’s about kindness and helping one’s neighbors, but (spoiler) the possibility of Otto committing suicide is also a significant part of the plot.

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

‘One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest’ at Willits Community Theatre

February 10-26, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

“One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest’ is the classic play that pits human freedom against institutional order and conformity. In this play, the zombie-like routine of a mental hospital is upset when con-man, womanizer and gambler R.P. McMurphy is institutionalized. When McMurphy starts a one-man campaign to help the patients recover their sanity, he comes into conflict with Nurse Ratched, who is intent on maintaining discipline and power in her institutional world. The conflict between McMurphy and Ratched is one of the classic stories in American theater. “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” was written by Dale Wasserman and is based on Ken Kesey’s 1962 novel. It is directed by Billy Hetherington and features Joshua Sternberg as McMurphy and Kelly Kesey as Nurse Ratched. The play opens on Friday February 10, Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7:30 pm, Sunday matinees begin at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 for all shows and are available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org

What’s Happening Around Town

Thursday, January 26

Music at Brickhouse Coffee: Join Guitarist/Vocalist Dave Pierce at Brickhouse Coffee in Willits, Thursday, January 26, 11:30 am to 2 pm, for an afternoon of songs in a variety of styles - Light Jazz, Americana, ‘60s & ‘70s Pop-Rock, Singer/Songwriter, Folk, and originals. 3 South Main at Commercial.

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 26, 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.

“2023 Financial Strategies for Entrepreneurs & Business Owners” at the Willits Community Center: Brought to you by the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Topics will include Chamber of Commerce resources, tax requirements & strategy, how to plan for retirement, business loan opportunities, employee requirements & wellness strategies, health insurance options, and how to properly invest for growth. This event is complimentary but attendees were asked to RSVP by January 19 to 707-459-7910 or info@willits.org. January 26, 5 to 8 pm. Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street.

Michael McNevin, Angie Heimann & Jay Brown at Shanachie Pub: “Michael McNevin is a touring singer-songwriter and a stalwart of the California and American folk scene. Angie Heimann of the Blushin’ Roulettes writes earthy Americana folk songs, belting stirring sagas of damsels in their bliss and distress in a clarion vibrato. Jay Brown is a roots music one-man band from Black Mountain, North Carolina.” Thursday, January 26, 8 pm. 50B South Main Street.

“Small-Scale Farming in Mendocino and Lake County – Successes and Challenges” Zoom class: The first of a free four-part series of classes presented by West Center called “Labor of Love: Building and Sustaining Your Farming Business.” This January 26 class will be an open discussion with local farmers and guest speakers Gowan Batist and John Bailey, director at University of California Hopland Research and Extension Center, and facilitated by Sydney Grange of Meadow Farm. Thursday, January 26, 10 to 11 am. Register for this and other West Center classes at www.westcenter.org/training/

Friday January 27

Rotary Club of Willits Crab Sale at the old Rexall building: Live or boiled fresh crabs. Friday, January 27, 9 am to 5 pm. If not sold out, the sales will continue on Saturday, January 28, starting at 10 am. Plus sourdough bread from Reza’s Breadery for sale. 90 Main Street.

Willits High School Girls Basketball vs. Lower Lake: The WHS girls teams take on Lower Lake at home. Friday, January 27, Varsity starts at 7:30 pm, JV at 6 pm. WHS, 299 North Main Street.

Willits Charter Talent Show: “A public display of Willits Charter student’s talent!” Suggested donation, \$5. Friday, January 27, doors open at 6 pm. For more information contact bhetherington@willitscharter.net. Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street.

Hilary & Christiane at Shanachie Pub: “Sonoma County based duo Hilary and Christiane have a wide range of material that is folk-based Country and Blues, which they arrange with their unique vocals and harmony, and support with an array of instruments: harmonica, ukulele, dobro, mandolin, and banjo.” Friday, January 27, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, January 28

Dirty Cello at the Willits Community Theatre: Dirty Cello has added a second 3 pm matinee show, as it’s 7:30 pm showcase at WCT is sold out. “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’.” January 28 at 3 pm & 7:30 pm (sold out). Tickets are \$20, available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org. WCT, 37 West Van Lane.

Sunday, January 29

“The Seeds of Vandana Shiva” at the Little Lake Grange: The Now and Then Film Series presents “The Seeds of Vandana Shiva.” “This documentary tells the remarkable life story of Gandhian eco-activist Dr. Vandana Shiva, how she stood up to the corporate Goliaths of industrial agriculture, rose to prominence in the seed saving and organic food movements, and is inspiring an international crusade for change. More about the film at vandanashivamovie.com.” Before the movie begins, at 2 pm: Jamie Chevalier of Quail Seeds will speak about “The best way to start seeds” with Quail Seeds for sale. Richard Jeske will speak about table

Crab Sale
LIVE
on
BOILED FRESH
Friday January 27th
9 am - 5 pm
Saturday January 28th
IF NOT SOLD OUT
10 am - Sold Out
90 Main Street
Old Rexall Building

Monday, January 30

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

Tuesday, January 31

Willits High School Boys & Girls Wrestling teams vs St Helena and Kelseyville: 4:30 pm start time at WHS, 299 North Main Street.

Thursday, January 26

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 26, 3 to 5:30 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Friday, February 3

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

Saturday, February 4

The Waldorf School of Mendocino County 10th Annual Texas Hold ‘Em Poker Tournament at Sparetime Supply Warehouse: Cash prizes, 21 & older event. \$60 buy in, \$40 add on, limited to 60 seats, dinner and drinks included. Event supports the Waldorf School of Mendocino County! Sponsored by Sparetime Supply. Tickets & information: mendocinowaldorf.org, 707-485-8719. Saturday, February 4. 4:15 pm check-in, 5 pm tournament begins. Sparetime Warehouse, 300 East Commercial Street.

Ongoing Canine Adoption Event at the Ukiah and Fort Bragg Animal Shelters

Half-off dog adoption fees! Spayed/neutered dogs 6 months and older. “To see our adoptable dogs, and for information about the adoption process, visit mendoanimalshelter.com.” Ukiah Shelter, 298 Plant Road, 707-467-6453. Fort Bragg Shelter, 19701 Summers Lane, 707-961-2491.

Willits Branch Library Presents “Who’s Who in Local History”

Thursday, February 16, 5:30 pm

“A monthly presentation and discussion. Join us at the Willits Branch Library as we explore a different character, or characters, from our past and examine what contributions they have made in local history. Denise, our resident historian and Library Assistant will be our presenter. The presentation will be followed by discussion and refreshments. The purpose of this program is to learn how people in our past have made a difference in the world as we know it.” Mendocino County Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

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2023 Graduates
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Willits Sober Grad “Drive-Thru Jambalaya Feed”: Tickets \$15, available at Cat’s Meow or from Willits Class of 2023 Graduates. Sponsored by MetalFX. Pickup 11 am to 1 pm, Willits High School front loop. WHS, 299 North Main Street.

Sunday, February 5

Edie Ceccarelli is turning 115! Come celebrate from 1 to 1:30 pm during a drive by parade! “Parade route: Go straight at stop sign of Haehl Creek Drive and Grove Street. Take a left on Grove Street and continue to Edie’s address of 414 Grove Street which will be on your right hand side. How to celebrate: Drive through with a decorated car (signs, streamers, balloons, flags). Wave as you pass her house to wish her a happy birthday! This event is hosted by the Holy Spirit Residential Care Home and the Frank R Howard Foundation.” Sunday, February 5, 1 pm.

“Building Community Event” at the Little Lake Firehouse: “WELL – Willits Economic Localization – sponsored conversation. Topics include sustainability, art and music, healthy lifestyle, accessible housing and local food. Diverse perspectives for making Willits better!” For info contact Jane: 707-540-3802 or janemccabe1944@gmail.com. Little Lake Fire District. Sunday, February 5, 4 pm. Firehouse, 74 East Commercial Street.

10th ANNUAL TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER TOURNAMENT
Saturday, February 4th
5:00 TOURNAMENT BEGINS
DINNER AND DRINKS INCLUDED
TICKETS & INFORMATION:
MENDOCINOWALDORF.ORG
707-485-8719
LOCATION: 300 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490 (Sparetime Warehouse)

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: Last chance this weekend to see WCA’s first art exhibit of the New Year featuring ceramics by Sofia Alaoui and metalwork by Rod Jamison: The show 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.

“Garraoke” at Diggers Bar: Karaoke night the second and fourth Friday of every month, with host and DJ Garrett Moore. “From 8 pm to midnight, then get down until closing!” The next show will be Friday, January 27. Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street.

Willits Boules Club, Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 pm: The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: bbruneau@bbruneau.com.

Willits Garden Club monthly meeting: Garden-related speakers and programs every month at 11:30 am on the second Tuesday at the Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse (Ridgewood Ranch RV Park). Potluck lunch. Everyone is welcome. Info: www.willitsgardenclub.org and Willits Garden Club on Facebook.

M3GAN

(PG13) 1 hr 42 mins
Friday:
5:30 & 8:00pm
Sat/Sun.:
3:00,5:30 & 8:00pm
Mon.-Thurs.:
5:30 & 8:00pm

Movie Times for January 27 thru February 2

PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH

(PG) 1 hr 42 mins
Friday:
5:00 & 7:15pm
Sat/Sun.:
2:45, 5:00 & 7:15pm
Mon.-Thurs.:
5:30 & 7:15pm

Masks Optional

Tightwad Tuesday Titles for Jan. 31 are in RED. All tickets at just \$6!

A MAN CALLED OTTO

(PG13) 2 hrs 6 mins
Fri.: 4:45 & 7:30pm
Sat/Sun.:
2:00, 4:45 & 7:30pm
Mon.-Thurs.:
4:45 & 7:30pm
OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners

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IN FT. BRAGG
Blueberry
Donald
Kota
Twix

Mendocino County residents pay a \$85 license fee

mendoanimalshelter.com

Historian Dot Brovarney book signing event for “Mendocino Refuge-Lake Leonard & Reeves Canyon”

Mendocino Book Company, Friday, January 27, 5 to 6:30 pm

“The author also will discuss her surprise-filled research process, which enabled her to discover and flesh out the lives of the characters who inhabited this North Coast canyon over time.” For more information, go to www.mendocinorefuge.com. Mendocino Book Company, 102 South School Street, Ukiah.

Willits Branch Library Presents:
WHO'S WHO IN LOCAL HISTORY
A Monthly Presentation and Discussion

Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 5:30
Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 5:30
Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 5:30
Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 5:30

Join us at the Willits Branch Library as we explore a different character, or characters, from our past and examine what contributions they have made in Local history. Denise, our resident historian and Library Assistant will be our presenter. The presentation will be followed by discussion and refreshments. The purpose of this program is to learn how people in our past have made a difference in the world as we know it.

Edie Ceccarelli is turning

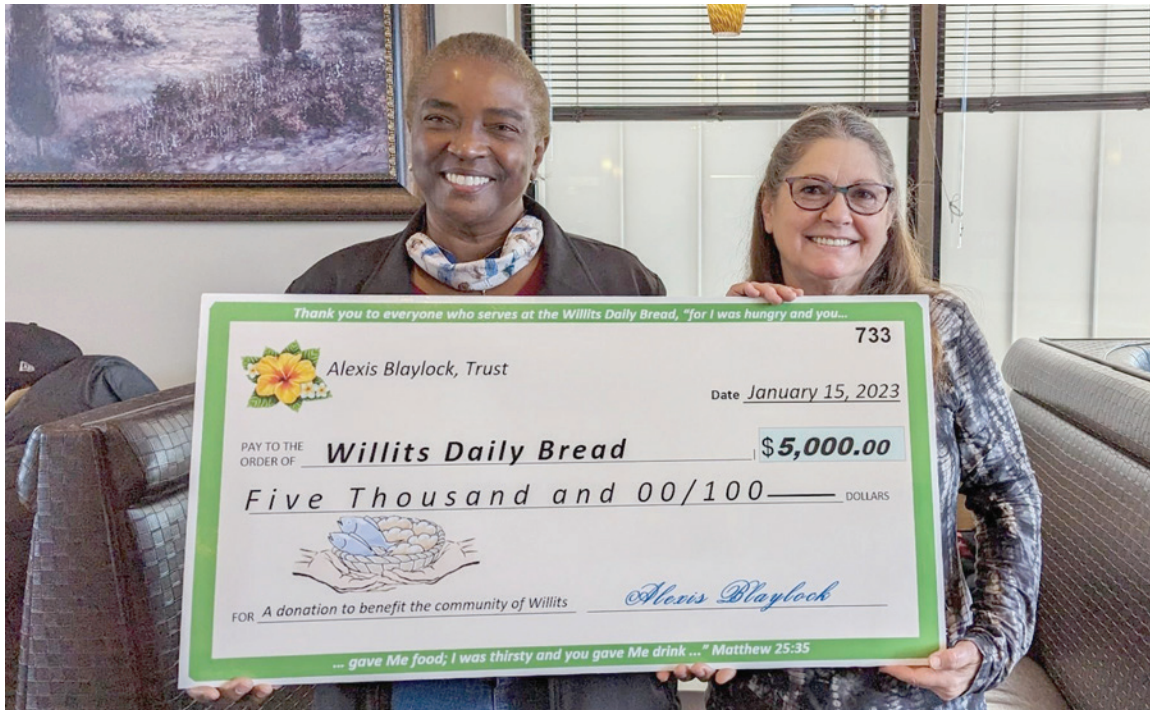
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Come celebrate from 1-1:30 pm on
Sunday, February 5
during a drive-by parade!

Parade Route:
Go straight at stop sign of Haehl Creek Drive and Grove St. Take a left on Grove St. and continue to Edie's address of 414 Grove St. which will be on your right hand side.

How to celebrate:
Drive through with a decorated car (signs, streamers, balloons, flags). Wave as you pass her house to wish her a happy birthday!

This event is hosted by the Holy Spirit Residential Care Home and the Frank R. Howard Foundation



The rest of Dinner

New York steak, BBQ baby back ribs, and more. I'm working on sourcing the meat locally.

"I don't want any frozen stuff, chicken, beef, whatever," said Diaz. "I see other chefs try to get too much mileage from their foods. That stuff belongs in the garbage. I won't use it. If something doesn't sell, it can't be in the walk-in for five days. It needs to be thrown away. I don't keep food too long in the freezer. I want everything fresh."

One of the best signs of a good working restaurant is the attitude of the staff. At Kelly's Diner, since Diaz took over, the servers, bussers, and his cook all express their satisfaction with the working conditions and having a boss like Diaz.

"Fortino is probably one of the best bosses I've ever had," said cook Jasmine Mann, originally from Covelo. "I've been the cook for my family and I cook for my friends everywhere I go. He really helped me out by giving me this job. I like cooking for the joy it brings people. I love to see the smile on people's faces when they eat my food. It's one of my biggest passions. My dad started cooking and I started with him when I was young and it just grew on me."

Diaz would like, one day, for the restaurant to become a family business.

"My daughter and ex-wife live down in Rohnert Park," explained Diaz. "Sometimes, they come to see me. Both of them are interested to come up and help me with the business. I have a good relationship with them. They're learning how to do the paperwork. To be a chef and to run the business at the same time is not easy."



A crisp, fresh shrimp and avocado salad is one of the lighter options on the menu.

Photo by Kelly's Diner

like my father. He was a hard worker, never said he was tired. My son is like that, too."

Kelly's Diner, located at 77 South Main Street, is open every day, from 7 am to 3 pm for breakfast and lunch, and 4 to 10 pm for dinner (closed 3 to 4 pm for cleaning and dinner prep). Kelly's Diner also does catering; for more info, email Diaz at fortino@kellysdinerwillits.com. To find out about specials or to make a reservation, call 459-2233. Orders can also be placed online at <https://sites.google.com/bmaac.com/kellysdiner/home>.

\$5,000 donation to Willits Daily Bread

Former Willits Police Chief Alexis Blaylock, left, presents a "big check" representing her \$5,000 donation to Willits Daily Bread, to Cindy Savage, right, director of the nonprofit, in hopes that the community will join her in supporting Willits Daily Bread's mission to feed the hungry in the Willits community.

Willits Daily Bread serves meals to anyone that needs one Monday through Thursday 4:30 to 5:30 pm, at 66 East Commercial Street. Please send donations to P.O. Box 1826, Willits CA 95490, or call Cindy Savage at 707-367-5669.

— Submitted by Willits Daily Bread

OBITUARY |

Joyce Cader



Joyce Louise Cader, 72, of Willits, California, was called home to our Lord in Sacramento, California on December 31, 2022. Joyce was born March 20, 1950, to Edward and Geraldine Hetzer, in San Francisco, and moved to Willits in 1958.

Growing up on a farm, Joyce loved all animals, she took a liking to milking the goats and cows, as well as raising rabbits. Joyce graduated from Willits High School in 1967 and attended Humboldt State University (Accounting) for a short time before marrying her lifelong sweetheart, Donnie Cader, in February 1968.

Joyce enjoyed cooking for others – she would often bake her amazing homemade sourdough bread for the family. Her enjoyment for cooking led to her working as a cook in multiple restaurants for many years during the '70s and '80s. Joyce loved gardening and rhododendrons; she had a wide variety on display in her yard.

She was an avid amateur radio enthusiast and spent lots of hours under her favorite walnut tree out back with Donnie and their ham radio. She had a passion for hand embroidery and knitting. She loved to make items for her family for many occasions, like knitting Halloween costumes for her great-grand babies, embroidering baby blankets, and hand stitching her amazing Christmas stockings and ornaments.

Joyce was preceded in death by her father Edward, mother Geraldine, and brother Eric.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Donnie; son, Mark (Lisabeth); sisters, Lynn Petersen (Rich) and Karen King (Win); brother; Paul Hetzer (Tatyana); two grandchildren Savannah and William Cader; and two great-grandchildren Arjuna and Dhruva Varg.

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

WW410

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2023-F0012
The following person is doing business as Mendo Timber Construction i Mendo Timber, 3815 Chiquapin Drive, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Eric C Hackney, 3815 Chiquapin Drive, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on January 10, 2023.
/s/ Eric C Hackney
Publication dates: January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2023

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.btcasd.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.

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Sporty Godiva

Godiva is a friendly, outgoing lady.

Athletic, though not hyper, she is a great walking or jogging companion.

She would be a nice addition to a dog-savvy home with adults who can provide consistency and encouragement.

Godiva is what we call a "California brown dog" a mix of shepherd, Lab, and other good things! She is a nice size, walks well on leash and is smart and trainable. Not good with chickens.

To learn more about Godiva or view other adoptable animals, visit 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.

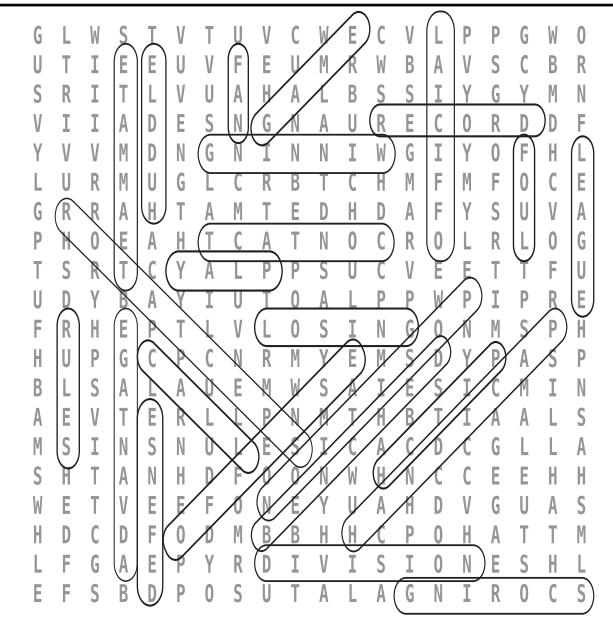
Jovial Dugen



Dugen is our longest resident and we want your help to change that! Dugen came to us in October of 2020 after losing his home after a fire evacuation. Dugen has been in a loving foster home and supported by many wonderful volunteers since then. Our buddy has come such a long way in his time with us, and now we just need to find the home that works for him!

Dugen gets along with cats and friendly dogs, too. He LOVES his people and even has experience with kiddos. Dugen might be 7 years old, but that is not slowing him down. Dugen wants to be with his people and is happiest when he is included. Dugen has a love for life that is unmatched and he is ready to share that with a family of his own. Give us a call to talk about Dugen or come visit us during any of our open hours!

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.mendohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



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Corrections Deputy

Department Analyst II

Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer

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Deputy Probation Officer I & II

Deputy Public Defender I/II

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II

Employment & Training Worker I/II

Juvenile Corrections Officer

Juvenile Corrections Officer – Extra-Help

Office Services Supervisor

Principal Department Analyst

Public Safety Dispatcher

Senior Planner

Screener

Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D

Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C

Staff Assistant II/III

Supervising Juvenile Corrections Officer

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

EOE

CLASSIFIEDS

The Chamber needs YOU!

Willits Chamber of Commerce is looking for volunteers to help answer phones, meet and greet the public, help with fundraising and mixers, and more! Interested in getting involved? We need enthusiastic, energetic and excited people to help with all of the Chamber needs. For info: (707) 459-7910 and ask for Lou Celaya, the volunteer coordinator.

Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, February 11** – 8 am to 4 pm

John Ford Ranch Beef

John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$375.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$160.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.

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 uicearbhall@gmail.com

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.oakrvine.net/lp>

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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.

Help Wanted

NCO Rural Communities Child Care: Recruiting for Ukiah: Program Assistant. Participates as a team member to assure the efficient and professional operation of the office. Two years' experience working in a business office setting required. Salary \$20.72/hour. For full job description details & the required employment application form, go to www.ncinc.org/about-us/jobs or call 707-467-3200 x 302. Open Until Filled. EOE

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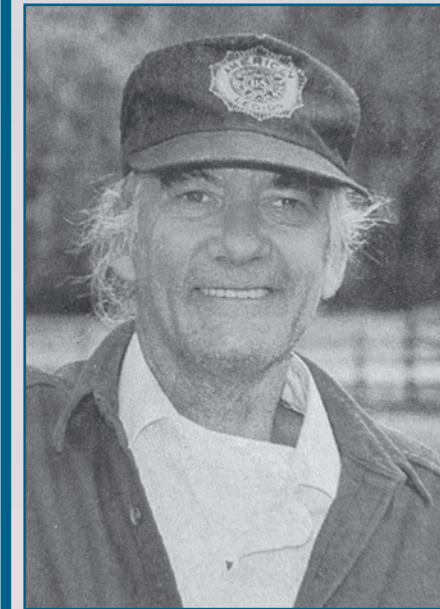
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Playful Boots

Boots here was born in foster care back in May, and has since been growing up in the shelter. He would love to find a forever family soon and be in a warm home during these cold months. Boots loves to run around and play, either with toys, other cats, or with you! Can Boots be a part of your family?

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 Boots or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinoshelter.com.



Earl Stevens

May 27, 1947 -
December 21, 2022

Earl Henry Stevens passed away peacefully on December 21, 2022. He is mourned and will be missed by many.

Earl was born on May 27, 1947 in Berkeley, California to Alice Dillon and Clarence Thomas Stevens, and grew up there. As a small boy, he survived a bad case of polio. While it affected him throughout his life, his vigor and energy disguised his disability from most people. He had a sophisticated understanding of classical music, inherited from his mother, a professional harpist with the San Francisco Symphony, and his grandfather, a bandleader in the US Army.

As a teen, Earl was an active Sea Scout with the SSS Farallon in Berkeley, where his love of the sea was born. He went on to become a competitive sailor in Coronado 15s with friend Del Locke.

Earl enlisted in the US Air Force in January, 1966 and worked as an aircraft mechanic in Vietnam, working on USAF Phantom fighters. In 1968, while in Da Nang, he survived a heavy rocket attack during the first Tet Offensive. He achieved the rank of sergeant before being discharged in May, 1969.

A fully committed member of the hip generation, he moved to Amsterdam, learned Dutch, and worked as a Sound and Light Technician in the famous Melkweg, still an iconic music house, cultural center and coffee house. He lived on a houseboat in the Amsterdam canals.

Back in the US, Earl worked the Renaissance Faires at Black Point and L. A. He drove taxis for a while and lived on house boats and yachts in Sausalito for years. He was well-known for boat maintenance skills and his fancy knotwork; many an international yacht glistened with his varnished bright work or had one of his Turk's Head knots on its helm or fancy knotwork below decks.

In the mid-1980s, Earl moved to Willits, California, to be closer to his sister Lynne Stevens. He was an active member the American Legion, Post 174, where he was known affectionately as "Ponytail" and is remembered as an idea man who inspired the eventual program of giving US flags to children at the annual Willits Frontier Days parade. He donated a cherrywood display case which now holds a place of honor at the Post.

Earl enjoyed entering local darts tournaments and loved the movies and all things sweet. He was known for his colorful story-telling, his generosity, loyalty, kindness, charm, grace and especially his gentle heart of gold.

Earl was preceded in death by his elder sister Lynne Stevens, and his father and mother. He is survived by his niece Sabrina Knemeyer and his cousins Susana Wilson, Sharry Anne Stevens, and Janet Stevens.

The family would like to express their thanks and appreciation to Post 174, to the Veterans Administration, and to By the Bay Health.

Services will be held with full military honors at the Veterans Memorial Building, 189 North Main Street in Willits at 2 pm on April 22.

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At top: The Little Lake Grange artifact shelf reflects 100 years of Grange history. At top, right: The sun shines on the outside of the Little Lake Grange, which has been an important part of Willits history for nearly a century. Above: Community members meet and greet at the most recent Pancake Breakfast. Below: The Grange houses the Willits Farmers Market for the winter season.



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Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde

Little Lake Grange

Community space on School Street has opportunities for all

The Little Lake Grange has been used for a wide range of community events, including farmers markets, seasonal celebrations, movie nights and dances, and of course, the beloved Grange Pancake Breakfasts, all held in its charming vintage auditorium, or Great Hall.

Businesses and organizations also rent from the Grange, holding classes, offering health consultation services, and the commercial kitchen is available for rentals.

"Over the years," said Grange Business Manager Erica Kroesen, who joined the Willits Grange 40 years ago, "we have partnered with the Rotary, Lions, and Sororistomist clubs, the Willits Economic Localization, and others. We've hosted candidate forums, town hall meetings, and health summits.

"We sponsor KLLG 97.9 FM, and of course the monthly fourth-Sunday Pancake Breakfast, a 40-year Grange tradition. We have donated to local fire departments, the Little League, Senior Center, Christmas Toy Run, Youth Soccer, the Caring Kitchen, and the School of Adaptive Agriculture, among others."

The Little Lake Grange dates back to 1938. It grew out of the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, founded in 1867, and the California State Grange, established in 1873.

The current Little Lake Grange building was built in 1922 as the Willits Elementary School, and was purchased by the Little Lake Grange in 1964, which had been housed in another location.

More recently, during the COVID pandemic, Grange participation suffered, Kroesen recalled.

"We had to close for a time, and many Grange elders were unable to help as they had done. Now that COVID is behind us, we are starting to see some much-needed energy again."

Grange Master Annie Brigit Waters and her partner Richard Jergenson joined the Grange in the early 2000s, along with a cohort of area newcomers and a small group of the old guard. Together they helped chart the direction of the Grange into the 21st century.

Waters was intrigued with the spiritual context that guided the Grange, authoring a book called "The Spirit of the Grange." She also takes special pride in the group's efforts to support farmers in growing and distributing organic, local, high-quality foods, hosting seed exchanges and the winter Willits Farmers Market, and presenting a long-running film series highlighting permaculture and other sustainable farming methods.

Waters believes the most important role the Grange plays is that of community service.

"We have hosted many dinners, festivals, social gatherings, and meetings over the years. We hope the Grange will continue to attract a younger generation who will keep the Grange vital and relevant into the future."

Liam UiCearbhaill, current Grange president, has been a volunteer and Grange booster for decades. He joined in the early 2000s, when WELL began meeting at the Grange.

"Joining the Grange gave us opportunities to serve Willits in new and different ways," he recalled. "The Pancake Breakfast was already a long-standing Grange tradition, but we reinvented the menu and saw a big jump in participation."

UiCearbhaill said that some of his warmest memories are

The rest of
Benefit | From page 1

vote on whether to pay a \$30 per year fee for maintenance and improvements to the emergency roads.

Some property owners will also be asked to continue to agree voluntarily to a "revocable license" to allow the road areas on their land to be maintained with the funding so they can be more easily used in emergency situations.

Both Third District Supervisor John Haschak and Keith Rutledge of the Sherwood Firewise Council said that this voluntary arrangement between the parties had been going smoothly so far, and they had seen a lot of support in the Brooktrails community for the idea of the fee to pay for emergency access road maintenance.

However, Haschak said that as they were moving towards putting some kind of a fee to a vote in Brooktrails, LAFCO pushed back on the idea.

"We were all ready to go to a vote, and then LAFCO said, 'Hold on, we have an issue with this,'" Haschak said in a Willits Weekly interview on Wednesday. "And so, it's pretty much ready to go, and just needs LAFCO approval at this point."

"I just hope that LAFCO does the right thing and really moves this forward," he added. "Because like I said it's a life and death issue. It's really important for the community to make sure that these projects are [done] properly and that we have that sense of security."

In the motion made by Haschak and then approved by the supervisors on Tuesday, the board asked county Director of Transportation Howard Dashiell to go to LAFCO with the plan, and request that the \$30 annual fee be allowed to go to a "protest vote" by the property owners in the Brooktrails zone. This would mean that over 50% of the residents in the Zone of Benefit would have to vote against the \$30 fee to disallow it, or else it would go into effect.

In the Wednesday interview, Haschak said that the plan is for the roads to primarily be used to allow emergency vehicles in, but could potentially be utilized for evacuation as well if it was deemed necessary by law enforcement or emergency personnel during a crisis.

During the Oak Fire in September of 2020, an emergency access route along Firco Road was used exclusively for emergency vehicles coming into the Brooktrails area, and Sherwood Road was used as a one-way evacuation route as more than 3,000 people were ordered to evacuate to escape potential fire danger.

Haschak said at the Tuesday BOS meeting that this plan worked very well in that situation.

"It's really important work," he said of the emergency access roads. "And we saw it with Firco Road, when we had the Oak Fire, and like [county Sheriff Matt Kendall] says, that was the best evacuation that he's ever seen in his 40 years of law enforcement."

"And this is a pilot program," he continued. "Now when we did this from the beginning we knew that there were going to be problems, and we knew that we would have to confront those problems – figure out what they were, how to deal with them. And that will be an ongoing process because that's what we're dealing with in this kind of new territory."

"At the same time, we don't have the luxury of not dealing with them," he added. "Because this is really life and death for the fourth biggest community in our county. And so we really need to figure out solutions,

and we can't let the perfect be the enemy of the good."

During his presentation on Tuesday, Transportation Director Dashiell showed a map with five different possible emergency access roads in Brooktrails in addition to Sherwood Road, but noted that only two were currently being used in the ongoing pilot program.

These are the "old Firco logging haul road that connects with Poppy Drive between the Willits Airport and Sherwood Road in the Brooktrails subdivision to Highway 101," and the "Willits Creek Trail ... or Summer Lake Road that traverses two miles of private property from Birch Street in Brooktrails to Mill Creek Drive in Willits" – essentially the road from the end of the Par Course in Brooktrails down to the Northbrook subdivision of Willits.

Among the options Dashiell laid out, one was for the county to pursue easements on parts of the properties with the emergency roads so that they would own them outright.

However, he said that this could cost as much as \$1 million in "threat of commendation" legal fees, which could lead to asking the 1,547 property owners to pay up to \$750 each.

In addition, both Haschak and Sherwood Firewise Council representative Rutledge advised that, based on what they've heard from the Brooktrails community, pursuing the voluntary licenses with the property owners was the right way to go – though Dashiell said that this could lead to some legal complications down the road should transfer of ownership occur.

"So the easements that we have in place are [memorandums of understanding] with those property owners," said Haschak. "They have worked so far in the work that has been done, and the roads are safer... We're getting a lot of feedback that people want to pay this assessment so that they can maintain those roads for as long as possible."

"You know those MOUs – you can opt out after a year," he noted. "But these property owners through kind of the generosity of their own hearts say, 'Hey this is important work and we need to do it,' and so they don't have a real reason to opt out. But at the same time they don't want to grant easements, they don't want to sell their property, they don't want to do this extra part that the bureaucracy says that we should be doing."

Board Chair Glenn McGourty then asked Haschak, "So we already have a system that works, so we don't really need to reinvent something?"

"Right," responded Haschak.

Rutledge said that the Sherwood Firewise Council had already done a great deal of outreach in the Sherwood community, and they had heard a lot of support for the ongoing emergency access road work there.

"We've already discussed this with over 500 individual owners out of those roughly 1,500 property owners up there, and have [heard] zero concerns from people," said Rutledge. "They're more concerned about why haven't we gotten this done already."

"We would intend to do education and workshops, that's part of our mission is to inform the community," he added. "So I think that would be part of what we'd want to do – to have not only the ballots themselves, but also information out there and have a couple of workshops to let people come in and say why they may or may not support this."

Rutledge said that fear of lawsuits was one worry he was hearing from property owners should they allow emergency

access roads through their properties.

"They were willing to come on to a voluntary agreement in particular that would indemnify them," he said. "They were concerned about liability."

Rutledge also pointed out that the sheriff's office and other responders already have the right to use private roads in the event of an emergency.

"Now realize that these access routes can be used by CalFire, or the sheriff, or any emergency personnel with or without maintenance, with or without access agreements, for use for public emergency purposes," he said. "So those routes are there – if they're needed they'd be used regardless of the condition they're in."

"So we're not talking about permission to use for emergency access," he went on. "We're talking about permission to maintain the vegetation along those routes so that they can be used for evacuation."

Rutledge said that if CalFire does damage someone's property during an emergency response their policy is to later attempt to repair that land.

"When CalFire comes through and bulldozes through an area to get access to something they don't currently have, they will come back and repair that typically," he said. "They'll come back and do... the stream restoration – it takes a long time, but they do take responsibility for the damages that they cause."

During Dashiell's presentation, he showed how LAFCO had done a "Sphere of Influence Study" of the Brooktrails situation in July of 2022, and then came up with the "County Service Area Number 3" with the 1,547 property owners there that would be included in the Zone of Benefit.

However, Dashiell also warned that he was unsure of what LAFCO's response would be to the supervisor's requests, even with the approval and direction from the board on Tuesday.

"I do want to say, too, I am not sure if I go back to LAFCO saying 'OK, the board said move forward with licenses,' that they'll say yes or no," said Dashiell. "But maybe you need to do that today, just say, 'Go back to LAFCO and see if they'll let you move forward,' and I'll find out."

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams said he was supportive of the idea for a vote on the fees in Brooktrails, but worried that a "protest vote" could cause some pushback in the community.

"I think it may be a model for other communities, this is the test case," said Williams. "And I can think of communities that may want to use this model to improve their road conditions above what the county can provide. But I do have a concern about the idea of a protest election. I want this to pass because the people have the option, and the majority decided to opt in so it passes for their community."

"The idea of a protest vote where if you don't affirm in the negative that you don't want it to go forward, there's an assessment, I don't think that'll sit so well with folks," he continued. "It may be the law, but maybe we have an obligation to explain it well in advance and be very clear about the process so that people who do want to vote against it know what that process is."

Haschak said that he thought Dashiell and others had already done a good job informing the Brooktrails community about the emergency access road plans and the potential vote.

"Director Dashiell has already prepared the people and informed them that this vote was going to happen maybe two years ago or so," said Haschak. "And I think that the Sherwood Firewise Council has certainly

been very active in informing people.

"And so people know that this is going to happen for the most part if you're paying attention at all," he added. "And so I feel confident that it will pass, and that the people have had a chance to really mull it over and be informed about it."

The rest of
Suit | From page 1

Mendocino County Code Enforcement and Environmental Health conducted an inspection and discovered several health and safety violations. On January 21, 2023 the Public Health Officer ordered the site closed pursuant to Penal Code section 409.5(a) due to a public health menace.

While investigating the site and providing evacuation services, County staff have witnessed illicit discharge of sewage material into the adjacent waterway, and have subsequently contacted the Department of Fish and Wildlife, which will investigate the site for criminal violations.

The rest of
Robbery | From page 1

a medical consultancy. The approval did not authorize the storage and/or handling of marijuana at the subject site.

City officials will initiate a second investigation regarding the unauthorized use.

The five suspects included a client identified by the business owner as Robert Jamison, 28, of Anaheim. The suspects fled the area in a black Jeep Compass with Arizona license plates and an unidentified second vehicle.

The investigation is ongoing. WPD is encouraging anyone with information on the robbery or the suspects' whereabouts to contact Officer Pearson at (707) 459-6122.

The rest of
Q&As | From page 1

motorists if left unattended.

Question: Why can't the county give the residents more time, why now?

Answer: Due to the health and safety conditions at the site, the county needed to close the area. Environmental concerns, such as illegal dumping and illicit discharge into the nearby creek cannot be allowed to continue. Additionally, the unfortunate timing of the appearance of the sinkhole is dangerously close to the salmonid spawning season, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has advised the county of the mitigation and monitoring measures. These measures make activity in an active watercourse impractical.

Question: Many of the vehicles and trailers are not registered, will law enforcement be waiting to issue citations to evacuees?

Answer: The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office has advised our partner law enforcement agencies of the emergency evacuation and subsequent concerns.

Question: Whose responsibility is it to fix the culvert/driveway?

Answer: The private property owner is responsible for restoring vehicle access to the site, whether that is via Caltrans encroachment permit or an alternative route. If access is restored, responsibility for any clean-up or mitigation will need to be managed between the property owner and Caltrans.

and a Health Summit in April. The winter Farmers Market meets every Thursday from 3 to 5 pm until the weather is warmer.

The Little Lake Grange welcomes participants, volunteers and donors. They accept any amount in tax-deductible donations, and look forward to hearing from community members who want to make a difference!

To sign up for the Grange newsletter, to volunteer, or make a donation, email the business office at willitsgrange@gmail.com. Their GoFundMe page can be found at www.gofundme.com/f/green-my-grange. You can also find the Grange calendar on their Facebook page.

Little Lake Grange provides opportunities to enhance our community today and for the generations of tomorrow by working to improve the health and quality of life and encouraging food security, food production, farmland preservation, community self-sufficiency, love of family, education, and grassroots legislative action.

The rest of
Basketball | From page 1

"The gym was electric!"

exclaimed McClelland. "Kate led the team in scoring with a season high of 14 points, including six free throws. She also had six rebounds, five steals and one block."

Arion Martin had 13 points, 10 rebounds, one assist, three steals, and 12 blocks (a triple - double). Jazmarie Henson led in assists with six, also having five points, six steals, and 10 blocks.

Ava Holmen scored four points, with two blocks.

Lyly Herman's defense helped her get five steals and five blocks with two points and two assists.

Lisa Arkelian brought two points, six rebounds, five steals and five blocks.

Estrella Mendoza contributed four rebounds, two steals and three blocks.

Gracie Jennison made her season debut with four rebounds, one steal, and five blocks.

"This all-freshman team has a bright future ahead of them," said McClelland. "Most of the JV teams in our league are composed of mostly sophomores and some juniors. Our JV team plays with a lot of passion, and they are working on scoring more consistently against the older more experienced teams they face."

The Lady Wolverines also beat Roseland University Prep in Santa Rosa Tuesday night to the tune of 55-15. They will face off against Lower Lake at the home court on Friday, January 27 at 6 pm. The games are free to attend.

"It should be another exciting game!" said McClelland.

The rest of
Grange | From page 10

of seeing old friends and newcomers together at the breakfasts, connecting across the big, round tables. "For me, those interactions are really what the Grange was and is all about."

Supporters have made many upgrades over the years, replacing all the large beams under the auditorium, along with the old windows, which had been causing condensation and mold. In early 2022, just as the COVID emergency was abating, the Grange began replacing the old water pipes, and contractors discovered some asbestos in the sub-floor area. Work was stopped, and expensive remediation was mandated.

"The entire building, including our commercial kitchen, had to be closed, causing a big drain on rental incomes," UiCearbhaill recounted. "Money set aside for a new roof was used, plus a new loan taken out to complete the work."

Through a GoFundMe page and other fundraisers, the Grange is slowly repaying the loan, but the need for a new roof continues.

Nuestra Alianza Board President Dina Hutton said her organization has been in the Grange for almost 20 years.

"This old, comforting building has been excellent for us. We use our original room as our office, another for COVID-19 testing and mental health counseling, and a third for our food bank," she explained. "The Grange is definitely a force for good in our community, sponsoring and hosting many events. We love the Grange!"

Music educator Abigail Strock recently began teaching music classes out of the Little Lake Grange, finding the location convenient for her students.

"The space is fantastic," said Strock. "It's large enough for group classes, with plenty of natural light." She also added, "The Grange is a wonderful organization that helps keep people stay connected and engaged."

On January 29 the Grange will present the film, "The Seeds of Vandana Shiva." They plan to hold a Carnival-themed dance in February



The temporary bridge, installed Tuesday, is intended to allow stranded residents of Creekside Cabin to move out of the now-closed RV park.

Photos by Mathew Caine



The rest of
Closed | From page 2

property owner is to take action here, we're likely to not see any permanent [vehicular] access to the property, for a minimum of about 6 months."

Property owner Teresa Thurman appeared at Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting to dispute the county's closure order or that the Creekside water and grounds were unsafe for residents or nearby creeks.

The California Water Resources Control Board issued a "boil water" notice for Creekside water on January 19, due to "extremely high" levels of e. coli in the well water. But Thurman said she'd been told by a water board staffer that, because she had clean tests for two days of the well water, she could take that "boil water" notice down on Monday. But then, after talking to the county, Thurman said, the staffer told her he was "going to err on the side of caution" and keep the boil water notice in effect.

Coren said the county had not received notice of any rescission of the boil water notice, or clean water tests from the state board, and repeated that "the well water is definitely contaminated and raises an emergency for the residents there."

Thurman also claimed sewage that was dripping from overfull RVs had been cleaned up according to regulations.

"We were able to fix the 'honey wagon,'" she said, to pump out residents' RV sewer systems as "everybody was getting full" but "the dribble that came on to the ground was treated properly. We did what we were supposed to do. I don't know of any water that went into the river."

Thurman also expressed her displeasure that the county was "saying the owner hasn't been willing" to work with the county on remedying the situation. "I've been working with the county directly.... I am a property owner that has always taken care of anything that's been brought to me, not only for the safety of the people but because I house people that need a place to stay that are not taken care of by the county," she said.

She also explained that the reason she refused the county's request for an inspection without a warrant was that Creekside Cabins was governed by the California Department of Housing and Community, not the County of Mendocino.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak called the Creekside emergency "a tragic situation," and expressed appreciation "for everyone's involvement in this, from the

county to our first responders to our state officials, who have all been taking this very seriously from the time it happened. And also the nonprofits involved in this.

"It's a situation that we need to fix," Haschak said. "Unfortunately it hasn't been fixed by the private property owner, who is the owner of this RV park, but I think that everyone who's been involved has been working diligently and cooperatively to try to resolve the problem. There have been endless hours that the county and the state have put in trying to resolve this issue, so I totally support the resolution, even though it's very unfortunate, the situation that we're in."

Danilla Sands of the nonprofit United Disaster Relief out of Ukiah spoke to the board during public comment period at the beginning of the meeting. United Disaster Relief has made multiple trips to Creekside Cabins with food and other supplies, most recently a truckload of donated bins, boxes and other moving supplies.

"UDRNC has been onsite since day one advocating and supplying food and other supplies to 50 plus disaster victims. While we appreciate and understand the complexity of installing a bridge, the three-week delay and now only two days for our clients to move is very concerning," she said.

"I understand the public health concern. I understand the red tape and paperwork. I understand the issue regarding whose responsibility it was to fix the culvert or sinkhole," she said.

"I also understand these folks are human beings, our neighbors and part of our community. There are veterans there that served our country, a retired nurse, moms with newborn babies, and residents there dependent on 24/7 oxygen," she said.

"I know this is the only current solution, but it's really not feasible for 90 percent of occupants. There is a layer of help that should've been addressed prior to the bridge install and definitely prior to taking it down."

Sands suggested the board consider working to keep the bridge up longer for residents who'll be unable to pack up in two days.

"Please don't forget about them," she said. "They need time, they need help. Please consider what I said and at least leave them a walkway."

To donate supplies or funding to United Disaster Relief, visit <https://udrnc.org/> donate, call 707-489-3870, or mail to UDRNC, P.O. Bo 662, Ukiah, CA 95482. The UDRNC offices are located at 1240 Airport Park Boulevard in Ukiah.

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