

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013



Groundhog Day
2022: Punxsutawney
Phil sees his shadow
predicting 6 more
weeks of winter!



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 437

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Supervisors open up Phase 3 pot cultivation

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to open up "Phase 3" for cannabis cultivation on Tuesday, which will allow those without "prior proof of cultivation" before 2016 to apply for permits for the first time.

The board had passed a moratorium on Phase 3 in March of 2021 while attempting to get their new ordinance – Chapter 22.18 – passed and put into motion, but with Tuesday's vote they overturned that moratorium.

The Phase 3 permit structure will remain under the 10A17 ordinance passed in 2017 which allows a maximum size of 10,000 square feet for cultivation.

Chapter 22.18 which was passed last July would've increased the maximum cultivation size to up to 10% of a property, but that ordinance was repealed in September after The People's Referendum turned in enough signatures to force the supervisors to either repeal it or put it on the ballot.

Read the rest of
Phase 3
Over on Page 11

Brooktrails lobbies BOS for local service area

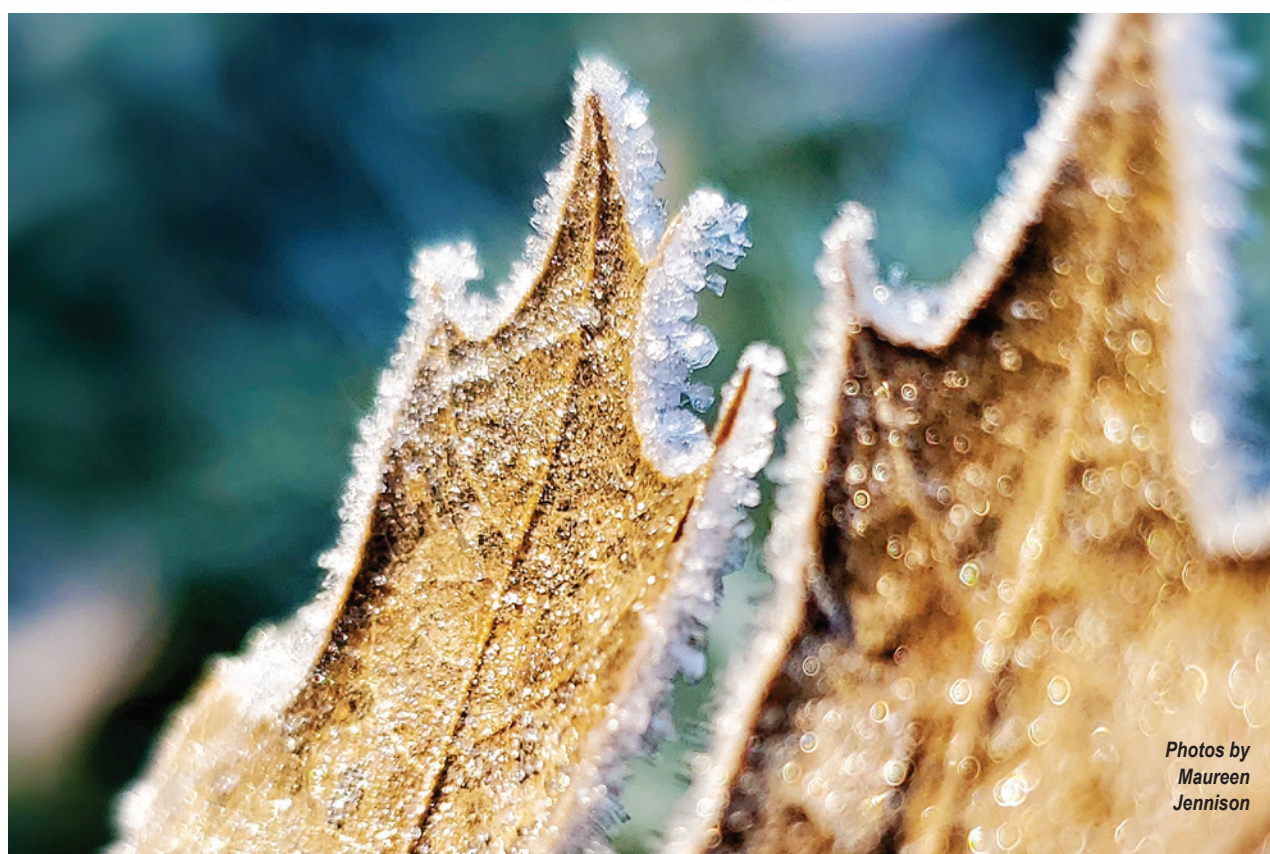
Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Community Township Board of Directors met on January 25, with the exception of Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea who was unable to attend. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Jon Noyer and Counsel Chris Neary.

Consent calendar items were addressed first. Accounts payable in the amount of \$84,115.52 received full board approval. Also noted was the Fourth Quarter 2021 Golf Report. Total fees received during the quarter were \$12,011, and board members agreed and were glad that disc golf had been generating 50% of the revenue in the past months.

General Manager Tamara Alaniz presented a template letter in support of County Service Area 3 – CSA3. She said, "This letter represents a lot of the discussions that we've been having for several months regarding CSA3 and, of course you, will recognize most of this language because our esteemed colleague Mr. Tony

Read more of
Brooktrails
Over on Page 4



Photos by
Maureen
Jennison

Above: Oak leaves showcase frosty spikes along their edges. Below, from left: Rosehips still shine red under the frost. This spinach is smoothie-ready in its already frosty state. The water in the fountain traps leaves and more beneath the solid layer of ice.

Frosty Mornings

Cold winter weather is upon us, but only in the mornings, it seems! While we wait for winter to stick around all day, and cross our fingers and toes for more rain, we can at least appreciate the lovely iced ambiance the morning has to offer.



Edie Ceccarelli is turning



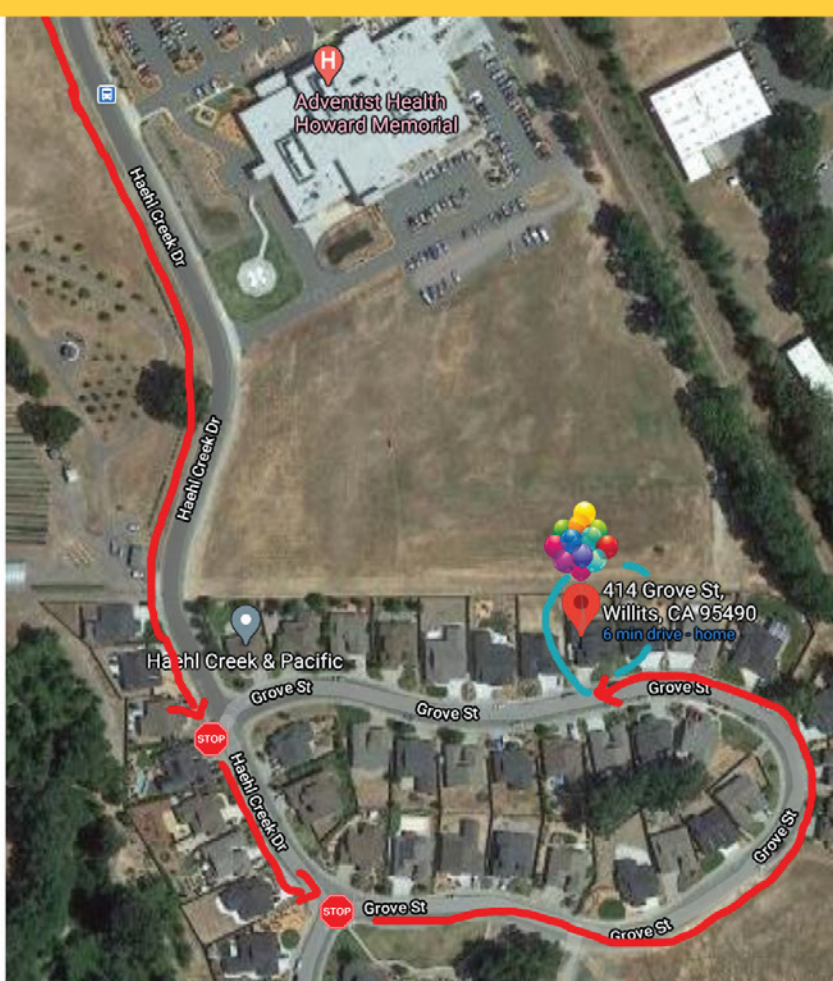
Come celebrate from 1:30-2 pm on
Saturday, February 5
during a drive-by parade!

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



Council OKs public art at Highway 20 Park

B.B. Kamoroff
Reporter
bb@willitsweekly.com

Two special proclamations, an airport hangar, and an imposing steel sculpture were on the agenda at the January 26 Willits City Council meeting, and the council showed remarkable nimbleness in moving along what could have been a more measured proceeding.

A towering stainless steel sculpture proposed for Highway 20 Park, the city-owned grassy strip just before the corner of Main Street and Highway 20, brought out over 20 civic-minded art lovers, corralled by the Willits Art Center's dynamic curator Gary Martin, to voice support for the project.

The sculpture, a striking 17-foot-tall showpiece with three spinning metal pin-wheels spanning 6, 8, and 9 feet, is a gift to the city from Jane Camp, a long-time Willits area resident. The work, now in the design stage, is the creation of Oakland-based sculptor Cjay Roughgarden, who estimates that it will take about eight weeks to com-

Read the rest of
Council
Over on Page 4

COVID closes BGMS for 3 days

Jennifer Poole
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Willits Unified School District is having a bit of a coronavirus surge, with Baechtel Grove Middle School closing for three days last week, as they had too many students who tested positive for COVID.

The closure, BGMS Principal Maria de los Munguia announced on Tuesday, was due to the new WUSD Omicron protocol that calls for a school to close "when 15% of the students have a confirmed test of positive for COVID. We are closing our school and moving our students to independent study beginning tomorrow, January 26, 2022.... Lunches will be available from the BGMS cafeteria in a drive-up manner in front of the school car and bus circle.... We will resume classes on Monday, January 31."

The WUSD COVID dashboard is reporting a total of 72 COVID cases for the week of January 24 to 28, with Brookside Elementary reporting 18 cases, Blosser Lane Elementary reporting 13 cases, Sherwood

Read the rest of
COVID
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters
from our readers

Willits Food Bank needs our support

To the Editor:

The Willits Food Bank continues to provide food to hungry people in Willits. We also give out socks and other warm clothing, blankets, laundry soap, lotion, bath tissue, toothpaste and other personal toiletries, and masks and hand sanitizer to help slow the COVID virus.

We're serving over 200 people per week, a high number compared to recent years.

Our two additional programs continue to be very successful: the elder food delivery service to vulnerable people over 60 and motel nights for homeless or underhoused.

We purchase food from Redwood Empire Food Bank, a nonprofit free or low-cost food supplier to five counties, from Sonoma north to Del Norte.

They bring food boxes to the Willits ball park, then drive their 64-foot-long truck to the food bank to leave several pallets of produce, frozen and shelf-stable foods that we buy at very low-cost or for free to give out on Wednesdays and Fridays to vulnerable folks.

Willits is fortunate to be receiving significantly large amounts of necessary goods for the needy.

It is expensive yet necessary to place cold and unsheltered people into motel rooms for a maximum of two nights per month – 19 rooms last week alone. We are seeing more families who are living in their vehicles during winter months, surpassing the expected summer migration numbers. Parents with a grandparent, babies, young children and older children are suffering during frigid Willits winter nights. We are told that job and home loss due to COVID are primary causes.

The food bank needs warm clothes and bedding, also money for motel rooms, food and other needs for our hungry and food-insecure neighbors. We are at 229 East San Francisco Street across from Sparetime Garden Supply. Checks can be made out to "Willits Community Services," and mailed to 229 East San Francisco Street, Willits CA 95490.

Volunteers are needed to help with handling increased demands – must be vaccinated against COVID. Your help is sincerely appreciated.

**Ruthanne Volz, executive director,
Willits Community Services**

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center's indoor dining room has reopened, as of January 17. The Senior Center will continue serving 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 \$5 through March 31, 2022.

Celebrate Valentine's Day with See's Candy, available at the thrift store in fancy and Valentine's Day packaging, or call 459-6826 to arrange for drive-thru pick up at the senior center.

Thursday, February 3: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Cornbread, Veggie, Coleslaw

Friday, February 4: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie, Roll

Monday, February 7: Country Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Country Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Tuesday, February 8: Western Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Chips, Green Salad

Wednesday, February 9: Carnitas Burrito, wet with Green Sauce

Thursday, February 10: BBQ Rib Sandwich, Baked Beans, Green Salad

Friday, February 11: Beef Stroganoff, Veggie, Roll

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

Friends of the Willits Library hosts Valentine's week Pop-Up Book Sale

In celebration of Valentine's Day, the Friends of the Willits Library will have Pop-Up Sale Tables inside the library February 8 through February 15! Come and find some great deals, support your library, and check out all the wonderful things the Willits Library offers.

All Book Sale proceeds support the library by helping to fund programming, materials and supplies.

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm, and Thursday, 1 to 7 pm.

Willits Branch Library is located at 390 East Commercial Street. For more information about the Willits Library, visit www.mendolib.org/visit/willits or call 707-459-5908.

– submitted by *Friends of the Willits Library*

Online class on herbal antimicrobials

Submitted by the School of Adaptive Agriculture

Join author William Bruneau for an exploration into the health benefits of genus Sida and Bidens, considered by many herbalists to be two of the most powerful herbal antimicrobials in the world, but virtually unknown in this country. Both herbs are exceedingly easy to grow, and Bruneau will explain how he has grown these tropical plants outdoors in Willits for the past eight years.

The class will be available on Zoom on Saturday, February 5, from 2 to 4:30 pm. The cost is \$30; \$20 with discount code.

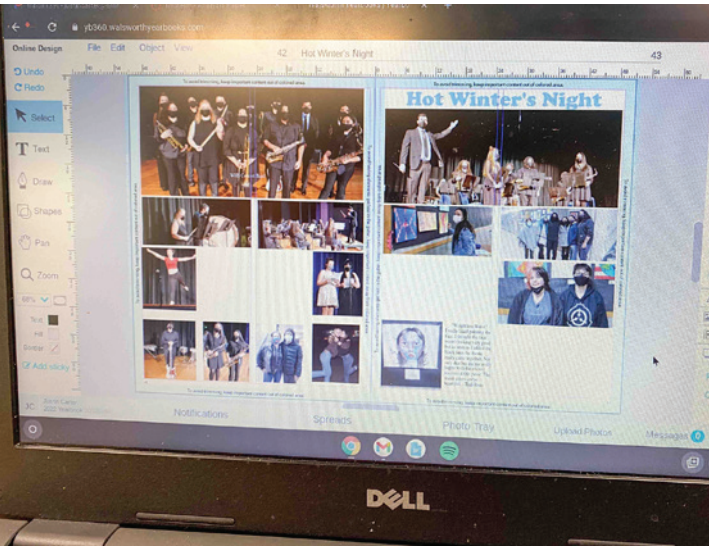
Sida and Bidens have been used to treat a range of ailments from staph to Candida, and the class will explore their many uses, with questions from participants welcomed.

The class will begin with genus Sida and Bidens similarities. Even though they are completely different plants, they operate medicinally much the same. Both have an impressive list of medicinal actions and many, many health benefits.

Then we will explore genus Sida, followed by an exploration of Bidens. Much material will be presented to you in the form of a lecture, with ample time for questions / clarifications. The goal of the class is to inform you of everything these two herbs can do for you and your health.

Instructor's bio: Bruneau wrote the definitive, all-encompassing book on the genus Sida as well as a practical handbook on Sida cultivation. He is currently heavily researching the genus Bidens, and has so far logged over 1,300 peer-review studies. He credits Sida / Bidens with keeping him alive for the past eight years; his second thought in learning of these herbs was, "These will keep my community from being decimated." They at least are an excellent start for all of us.

Register online at: <https://schoolofadaptiveagriculture.org/product/sidabidenshealth>.



At far left: Victoria Hernandez, center, and Aleli Zuniga, right, give teacher Carolyn Bakewell, left, receipts from businesses advertising in the yearbook. At left: This is a glimpse of what Nicole Keough's "Hot Winter's Night Show" layout looks like for the yearbook.

Below, far left: The WHS yearbook committee gathers for a group photo: from left, Carolyn Bakewell, Justin Carter, Lily Barrett (not on yearbook), Hector Torres, Victoria Hernandez, Nicole Keough, Mariah Rodriguez, Aleli Zuniga and Eric Rodriguez as the Wolverine (not pictured: Jayna MacDonald and Lucy Vargas).

Photos by Ree Slocum



Above, left: Mariah Rodriguez explores last year's yearbook to find inspiration for one of her pages this year. Above, right: Victoria Hernandez, who enjoys how creative she can be with the design elements, photos and wording of the yearbook, peruses last year's 2021 edition, "Life on Pause," for inspiration designing this year's senior ads.

Below: Nicole Keough works on the JV football page – she likes getting all the photos, making the stories, and getting the quotes. At bottom: Bakewell called for "Thumbs up if you like working on the yearbook!" Some are more enthusiastic than others and all have something they enjoy about being on staff.

Memory Keepers

The WHS 2022 yearbook committee gives a shout out for community support – buy an ad to help support this award-winning publication

A mere seven weeks ago, art teacher Carolyn Bakewell took on the yearbook class after Mrs. Nord, who taught English, Spanish and yearbook, went on maternity leave. While Nord's Spanish and English students went to other teachers, the yearbook students were assigned to Bakewell. Being the art teacher and having had four years' previous experience teaching yearbook, she was a perfect choice and her enthusiasm is infectious.

"It's fun to do the yearbook," Bakewell said. "We've got a finger on the pulse of the school, all the stuff that's going on and cool things happening in the classrooms. It's all about school spirit with this class. It's uplifting and makes you feel good. Then you get to know all the kids, or as much as can be expected."

This year she's encountered some problems.

"My second [teaching] round is just six weeks in," she said last Friday, January 28. "We had a 40-page deadline for going to the printer today and we got a week extension," relief permeated her voice. She also said that absences due to Omicron took a toll, sometimes radically decreasing her already-small class of eight students who were working on the project.

"We're assigned a new page a week and have been working on getting the pages ready for today," said Mariah Rodriguez. "We were kind of stressed out figuring out how to get it done. We're pretty on top of it, though. I think we have about 37 pages done." She also talked about the collaboration that happens in the class: "If someone needs a little bit of help, we'll put someone else on the page to help them get it done faster."

It sounds like the next three pages will be done to meet the first deadline tomorrow, February 4.

But there's another glitch in the works. According to Bakewell, "We have to raise all the money to print the yearbook and it's quite expensive. I don't even know yet how much it's going to cost," she lamented and added, "There are also a lot of little businesses that want to get their names out and the yearbook's a great way to do that."

Each student is asked to get ads. Not everyone takes it seriously ... yet.

"All around Willits we've been handing out fliers to try to raise money," Rodriguez said. "We really need money right now."

Read the rest of
Yearbook Over on Page 9



Willits Weekly

'Strong and Competent'

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.

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Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047
or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

Proclamation of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

RECOGNIZING EDITH RECAGNO
KEENAN CECCARELLI

WHEREAS, Edith Recagno Keenan Ceccarelli celebrates her 114th birthday on February 5th, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Edith Ceccarelli was born in Willits, California in 1908 as one of seven children to Augustino and Maria Recagno, immigrants from Italy, who helped to build the Willits railroad; and she was raised and currently resides in Willits, touching the lives of many around her; and

WHEREAS, Edith Ceccarelli is known for her love of dancing, walking, gardening and dedication to the community where she has been actively involved in fundraising, volunteering in the community, and has always been ready to help a neighbor in need; and

WHEREAS, there are very few supercentenarians living in the world, and Edith Ceccarelli is now part of this elite group of which there are only 4 people older than Edie in the United States, and none older than she in the State of California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby proclaims February 5th, 2022, as a day to celebrate the 114th birthday of Edith Recagno Keenan Ceccarelli.

Dated: January 25, 2022



– Ted Williams, chair, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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WILLITS FFA

Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Feb 4th, 2022

EACH \$15 MEAL COMES WITH:

PULLED PORK SANDWICH

HOMEMADE COOKIE

BAG OF CHIPS

DRINK

Sandwiches are delivered to businesses. So if you are a company and interested in a delivered lunch please email kbrackett@willitsunified.com or call 707-459-7700 ext 1540

WILLITS SOBER GRAD

★★★★★ ★★★★★

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

PRE-SALE ONLY

To-Go Pulled Pork Sandwich Lunch

Lunch Includes - Pulled pork sandwich by Scoops, coleslaw, chips & a cookie!

Contact Willits Senior Class Members to Buy Tickets

Pre-Sale Tickets \$15 per lunch \$50 family 4 pack

Pick Up Sunday, February 13th Noon - 2 pm WHS Ag Farm

Tickets available at Scoops & Cat's Meow

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

CHILLY WEATHER WORD SEARCH

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

AIR MASS	CLIMATE	FREEZING	MERCURY
ALTITUDE	COLD	FRONT	SNOW
ARCTIC	CONDENSATION	FROSTBITE	TEMPERATURE
BAROMETER	CRYSTALLIZATION	FROZEN	VISIBILITY
BLACK ICE	DEGREE	GALE	WINDCHILL
BLIZZARD	FOG	HYPOTHERMIA	WINTER

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	53	54	
55		56						57				
58								59				

CLUES ACROSS

- ___ de Mornay, actress
- Surrenders
- Omission
- The white poplar
- They become butterflies
- Used to chop
- Select
- Volcanic craters
- Consumer price index
- Utilize
- 'True Blood' actress Paquin
- Got up
- Sank in
- Retail
- Giants
- Most bald
- Changes color
- Unit of loudness
- Undresses
- Fathers
- Learned skill
- Remove qualification
- Covered with frost
- Speak up
- Nowhere to be found
- Part of surgery (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- Get back
- Pass or go by
- Having a sharp taste
- Midway between east and southeast
- Cairo Regional Airport
- Peace officer
- Brings to life
- Automotive vehicles
- One point south of due east
- Football position
- Goes by
- Most attractive
- Road divisions
- Not the sea
- Small, faint

- Type of wrap
- Church seating
- Mathematical figure
- College football conference
- Turkish officer title
- Organized body of knowledge
- Smooth and glossy
- Left
- constellation
- Cabbage
- Least frequent
- Change slightly
- A country in NE Africa
- Metric units of measure
- More coherent
- Make uninteresting
- Nausea
- Institution of Oceanography
- Of little value
- Hindu model of the ideal man
- Biblical exclamation
- You throw it at a board
- Be about to happen
- Brutal
- Opened one's mouth widely
- 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- Saturate
- The woman
- Someone who is highly skilled
- A way to launch an attack on
- Where golfers begin
- Atomic number 58

The rest of
Council

From Page 1

plete. The city would cover the cost of installation, approximately \$3,000.

The city, being a city, needs to consider a boatload of factors and issues other than how wonderful this project will be for Willits. City Manager Brian Bender pointed out that a public work of art, particularly one of this magnitude, needs to be safe, sturdy, trouble free – and, well, insured.

City Attorney Jim Lance discussed the project with the city's insurance agent, and reported that before a work of art is acquired or even considered, most cities first develop a public art policy: how they select a piece of art, an application process, safety concerns, and "a whole host of issues." After establishing a public art policy, which the city of Willits does not currently have, a specific proposal is referred to a committee to make a recommendation that is then passed to the city council to act on.

Lance pointed out, "In case of some liability claim or loss, it would be helpful to the insurance carrier to know that this piece of art was not haphazardly approved." Lance, probably sensing the collective groan from the Zoomed-in art lovers, quickly added that the city can address some of these concerns in the wording of an agreement with the artist rather than first adopting a policy.

Willits Weekly talked to Amy Northam, the city's insurance agent, who said that the sculpture would have to be approved by the insurance carrier and specifically added to the city's insurance policy under what's called "scheduled" coverage. Northam said that she did not anticipate any problems, but said it was up to the insurance company to make that decision. If approved, the cost of the additional coverage should be minimal.

City Attorney Lance told Willits Weekly that there are several communities across the country that have installed similar pinwheel sculptures and have had no problems.

Council members and the city manager expressed interest in developing a public art policy sometime in the near future, but not wanting the project to be trapped in the quicksand of bureaucratic delays, voted unanimously to authorize an agreement to accept the work.

Judy Fisch, a board member of the Willits Center for the Arts, expressed what was probably on everyone's mind (except maybe the city's insurance carrier): "This is a first step. We are very fortunate in our town to have tremendous support for the arts, to build up the image of our town as a place that supports art." Councilmember Greta Kanne summed it all up: "This is to get the ball rolling. Let's get this off the ground."

A proposed airplane hangar at Ells Field, the city's municipal airport located 3 miles northwest of town, was approved despite a significant issue that troubles one council member. The airport is located adjacent to Brooktrails but the airport property and most of the buildings on it belong to the city.

A local pilot and long-time member of the county's aerial fire patrol, Mike Smith (not to be confused with the Mike Smith who owns Willits Furniture Center) applied to the city to construct a 60-foot by 80-foot hangar to park and maintain his aircraft

Orth has been diligently and responsibly participating and driving a lot of the conversation on this matter to get us to where we are today. So, thank you for that, Tony.

"Ben MacMillan with the Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts is going to disseminate this template letter following this discussion. I wanted to discuss: Does this board support the enactment of the powers of fire, water and transportation for the County Service Area 3? Those are the three latent powers that CSA3 could address and could deal with more effectively than the county."

Board president Rick Williams asked, "Can we safely assume that our district counsel, Chris Neary, has played a role in the drafting of this letter?" Counsel Neary responded: "No, I haven't, but this letter is absolutely perfect for its purpose, and it's basically a letter of support [for CSA3]. I agree that we obviously have water and fire power, but we don't have transportation power. And, when we've looked at the transportation issue that's something that has always been sort of a problem. The idea of going to the county as a whole, we've tried it for 20 years. I think that a newly formed district, with specific powers, might well be getting it off the ground."

"Just listening to [general manager] Tamara talking," Neary continued, "you cannot understate how much the establishment of this CSA3 and perpetuation of it and funding of it will mean

and possibly to rent out part of it to an aircraft repair business. The hangar would be owned by Smith, who would pay rent to the city for the land the hangar sits on. The city council voted to authorize a contract to be drawn up that meets federal aviation requirements.

The vote was 4 to 1, Councilmember Larry Stranske being the lone dissenter. Stranske told Willits Weekly that his opposition is because he envisions possible future disputes over structures on city property that do not belong to the city. Stranske pointed out the many problems the city has had with the former county courthouse located next to city hall, currently housing the city police department.

The land belongs to the city but the building belongs to the county, which, according to Stranske, has been less than cooperative in their dealings with the city. Stranske has no complaints about Smith, but feels strongly that the city would be best served if all future buildings on city property are owned by the city.

In 1908 William Howard Taft was elected president of the United States. Henry Ford brought out the first Model T automobile, and William Hoover brought out the first upright vacuum cleaner. Wilbur Wright flew his airplane in France, and Orville Wright crashed his airplane in Virginia. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid met their fate in a shootout in Bolivia. And Edith Rose Recagno – our own Edie Ceccarelli – was born in Willits, California.

This Saturday, Edie celebrates her 114th birthday, and she was honored with a heartfelt proclamation from the city council: "Continue to wine and dine, dress to the nines, and love the sounds of the big band music each and every day.... Your lifelong love of people has enriched all those whose lives you have touched over your lifetime."

1908 was also the year that a professor of Agriculture at Tuskegee University in Alabama was working on a pervasive problem vexing the cotton farmers in the southern states. Cotton, at the time grown everywhere in the south, consumes the nutrients in the soil, leaving the soil sterile and unable to sustain another year's crop.

The professor discovered that legumes, particularly peanuts, replenish the lost nutrients. Alternating crops, cotton one year, peanuts the next, will let the land continue to produce year after year. The professor's discovery of crop rotation was one of the most important agricultural discoveries in modern history, and he was lauded and honored for his work throughout the world.

The professor was George Washington Carver, born a slave in 1864, and one of many distinguished but too often overlooked black men and women who contributed so much to our country and to all of mankind.

In honor of these remarkable people, the country, and the City of Willits, celebrate Black History Month every February. The Willits City Council acknowledged this vital occasion with a "Proclamation Recognizing Black History Month 2022" ... "to honor the history and contributions of African Americans in our community, throughout our state, and nation."

More of
Brooktrails

From Page 1

to the county. It's probably the most exciting tool that the county will have to deal with specific problems. I'm fairly excited about the concept of this going into effect because it will give flexibility, like we haven't seen before, without the attendant complexity of dealing with the whole county. The idea that we can now create benefit zones and have a focused attention is going to be an immense tool available to the county that we haven't seen before."

Director Tony Orth, who has been a driving force in regard to the formation of CSA3, complimented the general manager. Through the support of the Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) which Director Orth now heads up, the Board of Supervisors budgeted \$15,000 to fund and support efforts to bring CSA3 into active use. Orth said: "Thank you for the kind words from a wonderful writer who is our general manager. I really want to compliment her on this template letter that is going to move us forward. CSA3 is pointed at funding sources.

"Ten years ago I tried to get an energy authority started and sponsored through MCOG," Orth continued, "and that moved forward today as well with the board of supervisors. Don't take your eyes off the many things that the board is currently starting to engage in. The public has been really vocal at saying we need certain

Read the rest of
Brooktrails

Over on Page 11



Above, from left: Dean of Centers Amanda Xu, PhD, is excited about all the courses that the school has to offer. Rose Mehtlan is the operations supervisor at the North County Center. Nine-year-old Finn Shipp enjoys singing with his dad in Marilyn Simpson's voice class.

At left: The plaza at the North Campus is empty now but hopefully it will soon be filled with students.

Below: Jeff Shipp is a student in the voice classes taught by Marilyn Simpson.

At bottom: Students in the voice class are masked and distanced as much as possible.



Back on Campus

Mendocino College's North County Center is open for in-person classes and is currently expanding their vocational offerings

It was a bit lonely in the main room of the Mendocino College North County campus. Although students have steadily been returning to "on ground" classes, the bulk of learning has been predominantly online.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
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"We've all had to shift in the direction of online learning whether we like it or not," explained Amanda Xu, dean of centers for the four school campuses. "There's definitely been an increase in acceptance of online learning. There are some disciplines we never thought we would have to do online, like [English as a Second Language.]

"It's actually been a good option for students," she said, "because we have lots of folks who don't necessarily have the time during the regular day when they're getting things done or working or in the evenings when they have childcare needs. Having the online classes means they can pick up the language but still have the flexibility to do all the other things that life involves."

According to Xu, online education does seem to have some advantages. "One thing that has advanced due to COVID is the college's ease with technology," Xu explained. "One thing that limits us at the North County Center is the breadth of courses that we are able to offer because we are a smaller region. We need a certain number of students for a course to run, but with the college having online Zoom classes, we have actually been able to offer some courses that are taught in one center to be Zoomed to the other campuses.

Read the rest of
College

Over on Page 9



Above: The Mendocino College North Campus is a beautiful facility that is currently underutilized due to remote-learning COVID protocols.

At far left: Each student receives a goody bag filled with fruit chews, a granola bar, helpful information, and a survey.

At left: The North County Center of Mendocino College, built in 2013, is located at 372 East Commercial Street.

Photos by Mathew Caine



At left: Grant Forrester shoots over the Lower Lake opponent. At left, below: Acting head coach Cody Pederson, in the blue mask, talks strategy with the Wolverines with the help of assistant Shevan Patel. Above, from left: Freshman Hayden Finley, 115 pounds, attempts to get his opponent into a position where he can get a pin. Grant Forrester makes a contested shot. WHS Principal Michael Colvig streams the game to the school Facebook page to allow parents and supporters to see the game. Sophomore Deon Smith, 121 pounds, squares off with his opponent from Middletown. Below: No. 10, Sahil Mohan, defends against the Lower Lake player. At right: MaryAnn Bertolino, 108 pounds, shakes hands with her opponent prior to beginning her match. Far right: Shaun Stockley shoots a free throw after being fouled during a shot attempt.



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Ecology Action offers online workshop on 4 Saturdays

Submitted by Ecology Action

Ecology Action is excited to announce we are holding a 4-Day Introductory GROW BIOINTENSIVE Workshop, online via Zoom, over four consecutive Saturdays this spring: February 26, March 5, 12, and 19.

Our in-person workshops are usually held over a single weekend, requiring ravel and more time from participants. This year, everyone with an internet connection can participate from the comfort of their homes and gardens, while enjoying the same informative curriculum from our in-person workshops, over a relaxed 4-Saturday time frame.

In place of live demonstrations on topics like double-digging and bed preparation, we have prepared demonstration videos detailing these methods, with question-and-answer sessions after we watch together as a group. Many of us use Zoom to connect with friends, family and work; for those new to the program, Zoom is about as simple to use as YouTube.

GROW BIOINTENSIVE Sustainable Mini-Farming is the original regenerative, sustainable, organic agriculture, rooted in heritage farm-craft and proven with science. John Jeavons and Ecology Action developed GROW BIOINTENSIVE over 50 years of field research and teaching, based on centuries-old agricultural principles that enable you to feed yourself by feeding your soil with healthy, nutrient-rich compost grown right in your garden.

John Jeavons wrote the best-selling book on the subject: "How to Grow More Vegetables, Fruits, Nuts, Berries and Other Crops Than You Ever Thought Possible with Less Water on Less Land Than You Can Imagine!" and he leads the workshops, assisted by Matt Drewino, garden manager for Ecology Action's Biointensive research and demonstration site Victory Gardens for Peace on the Mendocino Coast. Both are Certified Master-Level GROW BIOINTENSIVE teachers.

Peace on the Mendocino Coast. Both are Certified Master-Level GROW BIOINTENSIVE teachers.

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This is an introductory course where we discuss a range of topics, from seed-starting and compost- building to harvesting crops and saving seeds. The program provides a strong introduction to Ecology Action and the GROW BIOINTENSIVE method of sustainable and regenerative gardening and farming.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn simple yet powerful techniques that will keep you growing food for a lifetime, right where you are! Cost is \$380 per person and includes an electronic workshop manual. Other required publications need to be purchased if you do not already own them. Get more information at growbiointensive.org/workshop.html and start a new chapter in your sustainable life today. Registration closes February 23, 2022. We hope to see your smiling faces in this spring!

Ecology Action is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, established in 1971. Our mission is to teach people worldwide to better feed themselves while building and preserving the soil and conserving resources.



WHS Athletics

Despite strict COVID protocols, the Wolverines are playing sports this winter, and they're having a great season

Friday was a great day for Willits High School sports. The wrestling team took on four other schools in a multiple meet and beat most of them handily. The WHS grapplers bested Middletown 48-30, Fort Bragg 51-21, Cloverdale 48-33, and Clearlake 39-37. Even the girls won against some of the opposing boys. The team is once again a juggernaut in the sport and a force to be reckoned with.

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Earlier in the week, they topped Kelseyville 54-6 and Upper Lake 38-32. "What's happened with wrestling is that they've had a number of teams having to cancel their league dual meets," said Michael Colvig, principal at Willits High. "We're trying to figure out logistically how to make the league still happen because all these dual meets have to happen. We came up with a scenario where, as long as the coaches and wrestlers get tested and they're negative on the day of the meet, they can wrestle. Today, we have six teams in the gym. We're doing dual meet after dual meet after dual meet."

The team is coached by WHS Athletic Director Brian Bowles, who explained: "We had four dual meets today to make up two tri-meets. There were nine teams here today. Each one made up two tri-meets. We won them all. We're the only undefeated team right now. We go up against Lower Lake and Saint Helena on Tuesday. We'll find out who go to the playoffs. If they win the next two matches, they'll be seeded first in the North Coast Section team duals on February 5. We're the returning champions on that."

The varsity basketball team, which played later in the evening, also came up a winner, a position that is not quite as familiar to them as it is to the wrestling team. As of Friday, January 28, they had only managed to win three games, having been defeated in eight. But they stepped it up this night and eked out a win over Lower Lake, 54-51.

The team was coached that night by Cody Pederson with the assistance of Shevan Patel, standing in for regular head coach Tim Conrad, who was unable to attend. The WHS Wolverines came out of the gate strong, with a brilliant display of outside shooting, putting together a lead of as

much as 14 points.

Due to their lack of ability to get inside for layups, the team, however, allowed Lower Lake to pull within one point in the fourth quarter, but managed to win by three points by the final buzzer, although Lower Lake had a chance to pull off a three-point shot with .6 seconds to go. The win was all the more satisfying by the fact that the Wolverines could only suit up seven players for the game to nine for Lower Lake.

COVID protocols are ever-present in today's WHS sports programs. The stands were devoid of parents, families and supporters due to the COVID restrictions, however, Principal Colvig, sitting on the last row of the bleachers, was able to stream the basketball game on the WHS Facebook page through his smart phone.

"One of the short-term things we've done is that we've just reduced our crowd size at our home games, with no spectators," explained Colvig. "Ultimately, going to school is the most important aspect. Extracurriculars are the addition to. We've live-streamed the games so that parents and the community can watch on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Willits-High-School-404563892936195). I'm looking at the numbers and I'm hoping we can have our basketball game with parents in the stands. I work with the superintendent to decide how we approach spectators. Are the numbers good enough to allow it? We're constantly evaluating."

"It kind of comes across as a practice game without the crowds but we're trying to be able to finish the league play," said Superintendent of Willits Unified Joe Aldridge. "The CIF [California Interscholastic Federation] have some really extensive rules about having to play every school within your league at least one time to have a valid season. Our sports have been surviving despite all the challenges."

The school itself has had to navigate the many challenges of remaining open during the pandemic, including frequent testing of staff, finding substitutes for those who were positive or exposed, testing of students in classes where exposure was possible.



At left: The Wolverine varsity team sets their defense.

"The school year has been challenging," said Colvig. "We're trying to find creative ways to make it work, whether it's in the classroom or extracurricular, we're just trying to find ways to make it work because I hate the word 'no.' When I hear that word, I think to myself that we have to find a way to adjust. Knowing protocols by heart: If you're vaccinated, unvaccinated, masked, if you're masked at school, school exposure versus home exposure. The county health officer, Dr. Andy Coren, in conjunction with all the county superintendents, put these out to come up with a uniform protocol. We're all doing the best we can to provide a safe learning environment."

That the school has been able to continually stay open and available for education and extracurricular activities in the current pandemic situation is a tribute to the efficient work of the administration, teachers, and the cooperation of the students themselves.

Go Wolverines!

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If you want to be included in this column please call:

April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

'The King's Man'

The Story: World War I era hero saga. The flick features sword play, gunplay, derring-do cliffhangers (with actual cliffs), and Savile Row haberdashery. And biplanes. And lovely Gemma Arterton as Polly. All in the service of common decency, British manhood, and the British Crown.

It seems there is an unnamed cabal of death-dealing spies (not unlike James Bond's SPECTRE) dedicated to the destruction of Great Britain, and to fomenting wars among the European states. The first action of this sinister cabal is the murders in public of Archduke Ferdinand and Duchess Sophie in Sarajevo in 1914; twin murders which started the first world war.

Orlando, Duke of Oxford (Ralph Fiennes) organizes an unlikely gaggle of counter-spies to foil this really quite unpleasant cabal of assassins, and (with the proper clothes) set the world straight.

My Thoughts: Orlando, Duke of Oxford is a proto-James Bondian hero, a British archetype of manhood. He has impeccable taste in tailors and behaves admirably under fire. To behave bravely, in his final analysis, is no more than good manners, and courage itself is not what one feels, it is what one does. Thus, the King's man. All quite chill.

This flick has surprising action sequences and thrilling death-defying comradery which will delight the audience. It is likely some cheering will be involved. I suggest watching this flick on the biggest screen possible. That noted, I, myself, was rather fond of the narrative.

Parents: Some slimy sexual innuendo and the deaths of main characters, one of them a caring mother, tell me this is not a movie for little children. So, ages 13 and up.

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

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Friendly Herbert

Herbert is a sweet 3-year-old kitty who loves people and is curious about new things. He appreciates head scratches and cuddles, and boy does he love to be brushed. We think Herbert would do well in a home with children, and he gets along well with other cats. Herbert is FIV positive, so any other feline friends in his new home will need to be fully vaccinated.

For more info about Herbert or to see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter's canine and feline guests, and for information about services, programs, events and updates about COVID-19 and the inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: www.mendocinanimalshelter.com. For information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

Spirited Sully

Sully is a lovable, active boy looking for the right home! This 2-year-old, 38-pound sweetie is extremely wary of strangers. He will need a fun, energetic home that is dog-savvy and rural – he is not suited to apartment living or urban / suburban environments. So please only apply if you have space for him to run and are not in a heavily populated neighborhood. He will need an adults-only home with people who have had plenty experience with cattle dog breeds. He needs more work on training and socialization as he has low bite-inhibition.

To learn more about Sully 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.

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Meet Dawn! This delightful little low rider is a transfer from the Ukiah Animal Shelter and she is ready to head right back out into a loving home. Dawn is a very sweet girl who will give you the best kisses and who loves everyone, especially her humans. Dawn walks very well on leash, does well with other dogs when introduced properly, is intelligent, makes eye contact, and has many more wonderful traits. Dawn learns quickly and is very food-motivated. Dawn is extremely gentle, loving, and is quite aware of her heftiness. She is not a bull in a china shop. Everyone who comes in contact with this beauty falls in love. Don't miss your chance to make this lovely lady yours! Apply today at www.mendohumanesociety.com.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Great news! We are opened back up, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday 1 pm to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday 11 am to 3 pm. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.peffinder.com.

The rest of College

"For a specific course we have on child development that is being taught in Spanish," she continued, "we have four people here, one person in the Coast Campus, people in Anderson Valley. It wouldn't be possible to run this course in any of the locations alone but with Zoom we can offer the course to all the locations. Some of these Zoom courses will continue on even after COVID has subsided. It's going to be a real advantage to our community to be able to offer this wider array of courses. We can offer courses from the location that has the particular skill set."

The courses at the Mendocino College system are designed, basically, for three types of students: those who plan to go on to earn a four-year degree or further from a college or university, those who wish to follow a technical or vocational track where they can acquire the skills to go directly into well-paying jobs after graduation from the two-year college, and those who simply wish to enhance their life and artistic skills in courses such as ESL, music, arts, etc.

Many of the courses offer the choice of online or on-ground learning; although there are some that do not easily translate to online. "For pretty much all classes, the students get a choice of on-ground or online courses," said Xu. "There are a few courses that don't make much sense to try and do online, like auto repair. You're not going to be able to change a tire online. Some of our science labs would be impossible to do online. We don't always have an online option but we've found it to be a good offering to some of our students."

Mendocino College has been reaching out in order to further involve the community and other institutions of education in order to enhance and offer access to courses that would otherwise not be available. "One of the things we've been growing is dual enrollment," she said. "We're offering college classes at our high school partners, including Willits High School, Willits Charter School, Sanhedrin High School. The North County Center also supports Laytonville High School, Leggett, Whale Gulch, Round Valley, and Anderson Valley.

"When you take into account all those students, it's actually a pretty robust number that are supported through the North County Center," said Xu. "We're building, at Willits High School, a computer-science and digital-arts pathway. With the ease of students' familiarity with computers that has been forced on them through all the online learning, we were more easily able to integrate that pathway."

"Career technical education is kind of what we are focusing on at the college, which meshes with the expanded vocational tracks at WHS," added Xu. For example, the North County campus is planning to build garden beds for an agricultural program. "We have a spring fruit and vegetable course that's going to be offered this semester for the first time in Willits," shared Xu. The North County campus is also working on a culinary program. They are partnering with Sanhedrin High School, which already has a kitchen on site. "We were able to utilize college funds," explained Xu, "to outfit the Sanhedrin kitchen to be able to not only offer it to their students but community members as well."

One of the courses that Xu and colleague Rose Mehtlan, operations supervisor at the North County campus, are excited about is Native American studies. "We also support courses in Covelo," explained Xu. "We have Native American courses that are taking place out there and we're offering Pacific Coast Indian Cultures here, in Willits. It's a good mix of native and non-native students interested in the course."

"We're very excited to have a special event," said Mehtlan. "On March 31, we are going to be having College Day. We will be having booths with representation of full-time faculty, our student services, our foundation to speak about various scholarship opportunities. We're inviting all our high school partners to bring students to the event. It's a great opportunity for students throughout our district to come together."

The North County Campus offers financial counseling five days a week. The schedule, along with the classes, is Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am to 6 pm; Friday, 8:30 am to 2 pm and 5 to 8 pm; and Saturday, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

The Mendocino College North County campus is located at 372 East Commercial Street, and can be reached at 459-6224 or nccenter@mendocino.edu. For a schedule of classes, visit: www.mendocino.edu/schedule.

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The rest of Yearbook

Yesterday, Nicole, Shaelynn and I went to the businesses downtown like Mazahar, Cat's Meow, J.D. Redhouse, and TnT. It went pretty well. Some of them are a little hesitant because they've never [advertised with us] before. Others were, 'Sure, yes, of course! We want to do anything to support you.'"

Students are also spreading the word about the popular "senior pages."

Victoria Hernandez, one of the students working on senior pages, reported: "Seniors who are graduating, or their families, can purchase an ad that's dedicated to them. Usually in our yearbook we pick a theme for all the pages and we stick to that theme. When it comes to senior ads, we get to do whatever we want! So, all of these ads are very different. There are different fonts, different colors. People can request a certain color. Sometimes two friends can request to be next to one another's page. They can also split a page. Right now, we're still selling senior ads." Bakewell said they'll be taking requests for them until February 15.

Of course, purchasing one of the 450 yearbooks – past yearbooks have won prestigious awards – will also help raise the much-needed funds.

What struck this reporter when looking through the 2021 Mistletoe Yearbook "Life on Pause," is how creatively the publication is designed and laid out. There are themed colors and fonts and copious, well-composed and curated photographs for each section. The writing is relaxed, timely and interesting. The senior pages are totally worth the price, in themselves.

If you want to know more about Willits High from a student and teacher perspective, this is a yearly got-to-have.

For further information about business ads, senior pages, or purchasing a yearbook, call the art studio at WHS, 459-7700 extension 1533 or email carolynbakewell@willitsunified.com.

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Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist
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Planner II – Cannabis Program
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Registered Nurse
Senior Department Analyst
Senior Deputy Clerk of the
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Senior Planner- Cannabis Program
Senior Program Manager –
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Due to health concerns in Mendocino County, John Ford Ranch will be taking meat box orders (not individual package orders) for pick-up: Rancher's Choice Box - 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: 25 pound box of hamburger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and we'll call back.

Help Wanted

Wellness Center in Willits seeks individuals committed to working with vulnerable populations. Human service care managers and mental health rehab specialists receive supervision and training. sydney@manzanitaservices.org or call 707-391-9688.

Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, February 12** – 8 am to 4 pm.

Remedial Forestry

Call Jon 707 621 0724. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Help Wanted

Wellness Center-Willits seeks individuals wanting to make difference in lives of others and build careers in human services. Care Managers, Street Outreach, Housing and Rehab Specialists. sydney@manzanitaservices.org or call 707-391-9688.

Help Wanted

Seeking people to change lives, find solutions to housing/homeless issues for community members. If interested in working in Outreach or Housing Navigation in Willits, contact sydney@manzanitaservices.org or call 707-391-9688.

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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: \$50 for home delivery in the Willits area; \$75 for a year's subscription in the U.S. mail. Visit <http://www.willitsweekly.com/61915582053153> for a sign up form and more info.

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Pg. 8 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | February 3, 2022

Willits Weekly | February 3, 2022 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 9

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE
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of
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FEBRUARY
4TH

6:30 PM.

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willitscenterforthearts.org, 707-459-1726

Gary Martin to discuss 'Art of the Cradle of Civilization' this Friday at WCA

Submitted by the Willits Center for the Arts

The Willits Center for the Arts is presenting an art talk this Friday, February 4 at 6:30 pm. This month's presentation is the "Art of the Cradle of Civilization."

The one-hour presentation highlights artifacts and treasures from Mesopotamia throughout 10 centuries BCE. On the big screen, Gary Martin will show the empires over the centuries that gave us agriculture, domestication of animals, writing, law, and many other fascinating precedents for human civilization. Visually, the fabulous treasures from Ur's Royal Tombs, dated between 3800 BCE and abandoned in 500 BCE, will show fascinating fashioned artifacts of gold and other precious materials.

The Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street (next to the Noyo Theatre). The Great Room seats 175 but will be limited to 60 people to allow for social-distancing of chairs.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE
ARTS

Appalachian Style Basket Workshop

February 12

with Katrina Sky Weaver

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At left: Rickie Emilie Farah (Hermia), Alex Marsh (Lysander), Dakota Laiwa-McKay (Demetrius), and Gwendolen Van Wyk (Helena) star in the Mendocino College production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Below, left: Stacey Sheldon (Titania), Bryan Arnold (Oberon), Alex Marsh (Lysander), Rickie Emilie Farah (Hermia), Dakota Laiwa-McKay (Demetrius), Gwendolen Van Wyk (Helena), Billy Hetherington (Bottom), and Jasmine Byerley (Puck) pose for a photo to promote the production.

Below, right: Bryan Arnold (Oberon), Jasmine Byerley (Puck), and Stacey Sheldon (Titania) star in William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Photos by Ilana Yeru Pegan

The Mendocino College Theatre Arts Department presents 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Submitted by the Mendocino College Theatre Arts Department

After a two-year wait, due to COVID, the Mendocino College Theatre Department presents Shakespeare's magical and romantic comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

According to director Reid Edelman, "This is one of Shakespeare's most magical, charming and accessible comedies. Our production, featuring an original musical score, is set in an imagined world of dreams, magic and love."

Performances will run for two weekends only – February 3 through 13 at the Mendocino College Center Theatre, in

the Center for the Visual & Performing Arts, located at 1000 Hensley Creek Road in Ukiah.

Tickets are \$20: \$15 for students and seniors. A pay-what-you-wish preview is on Thursday, February 3. And a special discount show will be on Thursday, February 10; all tickets are only \$10. Advance tickets are available at the Mendocino Book Company in Ukiah, and online at www.ArtsMendocino.org. For additional information, call 707-468-3172.

Note: COVID restrictions are in place. Valid ID, proof of full vaccination, and a mask are required to enter the theater. No exceptions.



Schedule of performances:

- Thursday, February 3, 7:30 pm ("pay-what-you-wish preview")
- Friday, February 4, 7:30 pm (opening night)
- Saturday, February 5, 7:30 pm
- Thursday, February 10, 7:30 pm (special-discount show, all tickets \$10)
- Friday, February 11, 7:30 pm
- Saturday, February 12, 7:30 pm
- Sunday, February 13, 2 pm

Appalachian basket workshop at Willits Center for the Arts

Submitted by the Willits Center for the Arts

Katrina Sky Weaver is offering an Appalachian basket workshop at the Willits Center for the Arts on Saturday, February 12. The fee is \$150 and includes the materials needed.

About the instructor: Weaver, a Willits resident, is a mother, artist, herbalist, basket weaver, dancer, and lover of life. She learned to weave baskets in 1991, and has been joyfully weaving ever since. Her love for plants and gardening has been woven into her basket adventures. As she learned about local weaving plants, she planted them at her home and elsewhere to propagate nature's weaving wonders.

Weaver has two children and has been weaving for over

20 years, and has devoted her energy to creating a home-based business. <https://joyworksbest.com>.

Her love for sacred-plant allies and herbs has led her to medicine-making. She is also a beekeeper, and is in flow with the season's energies, as she sows seedlings, nurtures plants, harvests, weaves, and teaches. She also spends lots of time doing African-inspired dance.

Weaver is also a co-producer of The Goddess Crafts Faire – a local fair that features women artists and performers in Sebastopol. She has been an artisan at this fair since its inception 25 years ago, and has been involved in the production of this event since 2005.

Register at www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

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and get your business included this year!

The rest of COVID From Page 1

School reporting 4 cases, BGMS reporting 17 cases, Willits High School reporting 20 cases, and Sanhedrin High School reporting 0 cases.

All of these January 24 to 28 cases are reported in the "Undetermined" column, which the dashboard identifies as: "If contact tracing does not determine the source of exposure, it will be reported as Undetermined."

Previous COVID cases reported on the WUSD dashboard were almost all reported as "Community-Based Staff and Student Cases": "If contact tracing determines that the positive COVID-19 case may have been contracted outside of school, it will be reported as Community-Based."

In the previous week's January 17 to 21 data, BGMS did report 22 cases in the "Undetermined" column, while cases at other schools were reported as "Community-Based": Brookside with 21 cases, Blosser Lane with 5 cases, Sherwood School with 2 cases, BGMS with 13 (in addition to the 22 reported in the "Undetermined" column); Willits High School with 20 cases, and Sanhedrin with 0 cases.

The third option to report COVID cases on the dashboard is "School-Based": "If contact tracing determines that the positive COVID-19 case may have been contracted at the school site, it will be reported as School-Based." But there have been only 4 cases reported as school-based since the dashboard was started at the end of August, which were 4 cases at Brookside Elementary determined to be due to school-based transmission during the week of September 27 to October 1.

New surge plan

WUSD Superintendent Joe Aldridge announced a new "WUSD Omicron Surge Response Plan" on January 25: "Due to the unique nature of this variant of COVID," Aldridge posted, "we need to put some additional measures in place."

To read the new plan in full, visit <https://sil.co/14qwu>

Measures include requiring "each person on campus" to wear either a three-ply surgical mask or a N95/KN95 mask, as "cloth masks are not sufficient to stop the spread of this particular variant." The required masks "will be provided in the classroom and in the school office for anyone who needs one."

Students, however, will no longer be required to wear masks outside, as last year's contract with the Willits Teachers Association with that requirement is no longer effective as of February 1.

There are also new requirements in the plan regarding testing – tests are offered to students daily, free of charge, in school offices – and information about what the schools are doing as far as cleaning and sanitation on campus.

County COVID update

There has been no update from Public Health Office Dr. Andy Coren this week, but Mendocino County Public Health has announced four more deaths attributed to COVID. Death #114 was an 80-year-old man from the North Coast area, vaccinated with comorbidities, announced January 27.

On January 31, Public Health announced three additional deaths: Death #115 was a 92-year-old man from the Ukiah area; vaccinated with comorbidities. Death #116 was a 76-year-old man from the South Coast area; vaccinated with comorbidities. Death #117 was an 80-year-old man from the North Coast area; vaccinated with comorbidities.

Monday's after-the-weekend COVID case update reported 144 new COVID cases, with 582 cases currently in isolation, 11 in the hospital, and 4 in the intensive care unit. The Tuesday, February 1 update reported that 96 additional cases of COVID-19 were identified in Mendocino County, but no other details were released.

Public Health also announced Friday that they'd received an additional 67,980 nucleic acid amplification COVID-19 tests. These NAAT tests are rapid tests (20 minutes) that are more sensitive than the rapid antigen tests (Binax and iHealth) that are already widely available. The NAAT tests were provided by the federal government because of the rural nature of Mendocino County's communities.

The NAAT tests are being distributed to clinics, skilled nursing facilities, and the Mendocino County Office of Education and can detect the Omicron variant in smaller concentrations, which might be missed by an antigen test.

Call Public Health with any questions, or if support is needed for COVID isolation, at 707-472-2759. Visit www.mendocinocounty.org/covid19 for more info.

The rest of Phase 3 From Page 1

Mendocino Cannabis Program Director Kristin Nevedal said that those who have applied previously under Phases 1 and 2 will be given priority for processing their applications over the new applicants in Phase 3, as long as they have provided all the necessary information to move forward.

She said she didn't have any way to really know how many new applications the county would see come in after opening Phase 3.

"We do get some inquiries, but we do not have a high volume of inquiries coming in about Phase 3," said Nevedal.

Board Chair Ted Williams asked Nevedal to do what she could to let the county know that the opening up of Phase 3 was a necessary step by the board due to the language in the 10A17 ordinance.

"Community members that hear the county is opening Phase 3 thinking that there was a referendum and Phase 3 is over [should know] we have two different Phase 3s," he said. "And it sounds like legally we're forced to open the old Phase 3 passed in 2017. People who aren't tracking the play by play may be confused by this, so I would appreciate it if the program could in plain language explain what just happened."

According to a memorandum from County Counsel the moratorium on Phase 3 was set to expire on February 27.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde said he was worried about "blowback" from the community when they hear that Phase 3 will be moving forward.

"I do think it's not inconceivable that we're going to get some feedback from community members that they're wanting some of the protections that we had in fact put in the other [Chapter 22.18] ordinance that has since been repealed due to voter activity," he said. "So it's sort of a contradiction there that there were environmental protections in the new ordinance that were not in this ordinance, and I think we're going to hear at some point that people are going to want those environmental protections and just sort of community notification protections that were in the new ordinance put into this ordinance."

"I don't know if anybody has the energy to work on revising this ordinance," Gjerde continued. "We've spent so many years working on ordinance revisions. Maybe it's just the way it is, and there'll be complaints because people will feel they weren't notified, but it does seem like we're likely to get complaints due to the imperfect notification process and [less] protections that are in this older ordinance."

County Counsel Christian Curtis and Deputy County Counsel Mathew Kiedrowski both said the county could add amendments to the ordinance increasing environmental protections, but anything that would have significant environmental impacts would have to undergo a review process which could take quite a bit of time.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak suggested that they consider some sort of ban on water hauling, and also asked about a previous idea of "a moratorium on new projects that require water" until the drought emergency in the county is over.

Curtis responded that a drought urgency ordinance passed by the board as well as stipulations in Phase 3 should both provide some protection on water use, though he wasn't sure how much.

"My recollection was that the urgency ordinance imposed a requirement for a discretionary permit that included a finding

The rest of Brooktrails From Page 4

"Now, CSA3 in this letter has three powers listed," director Orth continued. "And, those powers are very important for Brooktrails: Water power, of course, is very important, and we've all been in a drought, and the ability to coordinate water services throughout the county is critical as we're all seeing the impacts of climate change upon our communities; whether it be fire storms, or lack of water or floods.

"There are a lot of emergencies that are kind of headed our way that we really need to prepare for and CSA3 can do that for us – working with the board of supervisors when they act as a board of directors of their dependent district which is CSA3.

"Many other counties, such as Sonoma County, use county service areas to deliver specific services that enhance community well-being in their counties.... We're not going to be the first to do it but we will mold these services to fit Mendocino County and the needs that the public identify such as emergency access for the one-way-in and one-way-out communities here [i.e. Sherwood Road].

that essentially it would not be authorized at the time if there was a finding that the water wasn't available," said Curtis. "I don't believe it was a blanket ban on all types of construction or all types of development, or anything that might use water. I think it was an additional layer of review and findings that the board required staff to undertake.... I believe that's still in place. I'm not certain how that would apply in Phase 3 because there is already a requirement I believe in Phase 3 ... for a water availability study. So I think we'd have to take a little bit of a look as to how those two pieces would fit together."

Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group representative Monique Ramirez called in and said their organization supported opening up Phase 3, but asked that the county do all they can to prioritize Phase 1 applicants.

"It's just really important that the 990 applicants who have already applied get their licenses," she said. "And I really hope that the board works with the Mendocino Cannabis Program director and their staffing to ensure that they are suited to be able to process all of the potential new applications that come forward. That is a big concern of ours."

Later at the meeting, Cannabis Program Director Nevedal gave a general county cannabis program update, saying that she was optimistic that the \$2.2 million awarded by the state to Mendocino last year to help cannabis applicants get through the permit process would be distributed soon.

She also said that the state had officially approved around \$17.5 million more in grant funding to be allocated to Mendocino County this year.

However, Ramirez voiced frustration that last year's grant money had yet to make it out to any of the applicants yet.

In a Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group memo to the board Ramirez spoke about some of the ongoing "dysfunction" of the permitting and grant funding process in the county that she and others have continued to see.

"The [Mendocino Cannabis Program] report fails to acknowledge many of the issues we are facing," Ramirez said in the memo. "The equity grant for instance has been a nightmare to say the least. There have been constant delays for many applicants with communication with their underwriters and management. This is unacceptable. No one knows if or even when they will receive this important grant funding. How is it February and still no funds have actually been given out?"

At the meeting, Ramirez also talked about her own struggles in getting the equity funding.

"I submitted my own personal story and it was 19 pages worth of back and forth emails and this process to get through this funding," she said. "And I didn't expect anybody to even read past my first page, but I just wanted to highlight how inefficient, how just dysfunctional it has been. And how frustrating to ask for clarification on an item so I could submit the proper documentation for my equity grant. And then to have no response for weeks on end and then finally get a response – and then they didn't answer the thing correctly, or asked for duplicative stuff they already have, and you just keep going down this rabbit hole....

"And as I'm sitting here right now," Ramirez continued, "I have no idea what's going on with my application, and I speak for so many applicants in this process. I'm just using my story as one example to highlight the inefficiencies and the concern that we have for the new application process that will start with the new direct

grant. We cannot repeat this again. We just can't. Cultivators can't afford that."

The Mendocino Cannabis Alliance also submitted a memo with some of their own complaints about the grant equity program, including the allocation of the money.

"Currently while \$10 million is allocated to Direct Grants, the entirety of the remaining funding is allocated to administrative items for [the Mendocino Cannabis Program], most egregiously including over \$1 million for satellite imagery services."

The satellite imagery program is something the county has been pursuing as part of their new ramped-up enforcement plan against illegal cannabis activities.

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance also voiced concern about the slow pace of grant funding being processed, saying that "many of the applicants it is meant to help may have to shutter their businesses" before the funding gets to them, since "these funds are inexplicably spread over the next three four years."

"The vast majority of the funds for this grant should be front-loaded in this calendar year due to the substantial time limits for Provisional Licensees to transition to Annuals," the MCA memo stated.

In another attached letter MCA cosigned with cannabis attorney Hannah Nelson, they warned that the entire cannabis industry in the county is in serious jeopardy.

"The recent cannabis market crash, exorbitant local and state cultivation taxes, the looming deadline for stat Provisional Licenses, the shifted CEQA burden, drought, fire and COVID all are contributing to make this an EXTINCTION-LEVEL EVENT," the memo read.

The memo did acknowledge the efforts of the Mendocino Cannabis Program, saying, "While MCP works tirelessly to rectify problems (some self-inflicted and some due to outside forces), there has been NO clear or consistent communication or guidance to the applicants. Instead, they have been sent notices that their applications are incomplete and that there is no current way to correct the deficiencies or errors.... and are told that they may be denied as a result."

Chair Williams praised the work of county cannabis staff, but hoped there was more the board could do to help it function better.

"I would like to shift the dynamic away from blaming staff," he said. "What I see as hardworking public servants that have a really difficult ordinance without proper tools. I mean this is an impossible task to pull off, and I know some [applicants] will get through, a lot won't. Personally I don't know how to turn it around. And I know we're trying to hire. We probably don't have enough space to hire as many people as we need. We don't have a lot of digital records and we don't even have a good forum for hearing the problems and addressing them.... We should've had proper tools from the beginning but implementing those tools today won't fix where we're at."

Nevedal said that the county Cannabis Program had made some new steps to work more quickly through applications, including hiring a new planner and assistant for the department, although she also noted there were "a multitude of positions still open."

Nevedal also pointed out that there are three county public meetings coming up on cannabis, with the first on February 10 at 4 pm, available through Zoom and YouTube.

She suggested those interested sign up on the county website for "e-notifications" and click on "canna notes" to receive updates.

"None of our districts, or very few, have any transportation authority. Well, our county has that authority, but through CSA3 and the transportation power it can now be enabled to set up specific benefit zones such as for the Sherwood corridor. When we receive state and federal funding and they ask for a local match, we now will have a way to provide that. And, that is a critically important aspect to provide the financial incentives for the county to move forward with that project."

Orth also talked about how the county fire associations were looking for a way to create the office of "Mendocino Fire Warden."

This position could engage with the board of supervisors, to coordinate the activities of the fire agencies and public safety service providers to get grant funding to improve fire prevention efforts or "equipping our fire districts, with mandated equipment that's required by state and federal law; and supporting the volunteer pools that are so critical for our fire services here in rural communities in Mendocino County."

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 February 4: Round Valley Farmers Market, 12-3
 February 5: Fort Bragg Grange, 12-3
 February 19: Willits Little Lake Grange, 12-3
 March 12: Redwood Valley Grange, 1-5

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OBITUARY |

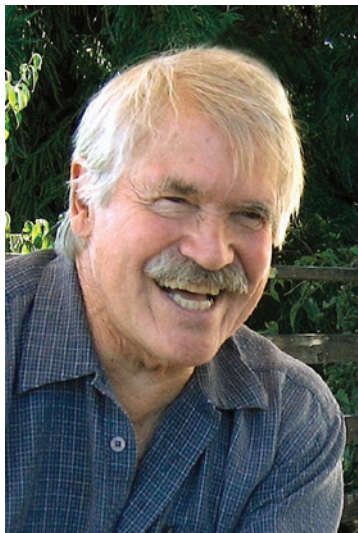
Charlie Hope

Charlie Hope, well-loved husband, father, brother and friend, died on Christmas morning, 2021. He was born in Eureka, California, November 21, 1939 along with his identical twin Hugh. He was the eighth of 11 kids growing up in the woods and sloughs around his home.

He was remarkable for his dazzling Hope smile and joyful zest for life. Charlie possessed an insightful intelligence sweetened with his own brand of humor that really drew you in. After serving in the Navy like all his brothers and one sister, he studied at Humboldt State College, completing way more units than he needed to graduate.

His favorite subjects were theatre arts, cinematography, photography and literature. Charlie loved reading, the operatic tenors, the Giants and 49ers, his many dogs, and his vast family and many friends.

Being a member of the back-to-the-land movement in the early '70s he learned many homesteading skills.



He knew how to design and build beautiful homes, first in Cazadero then in Willits for his wife, Judy, and daughter Diza. He worked as an operating engineer most of his life, mainly in the summer which left winters for his real passions, black and white photography, traveling, and building homes and gardens.

Charlie enjoyed living a simple life out in the country surrounded by nature. He often volunteered his expertise by helping friends build their own homes.

Charlie is survived by his wife of 54 years, Judy, daughter Diza, his twin Hugh, sisters Karen, Barbara and Jane, and many nieces and nephews.

The outstanding impressions that Charlie leaves us with are his sweet and happy nature, intelligence, and beautiful open smile. He was a bright spirit who shared his love deeply and will be greatly missed.

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OBITUARY |

Harry Unangst

Harry Wayne Unangst passed away peacefully in his home December 23, 2021 in Salmon, Idaho, at the age of 71.

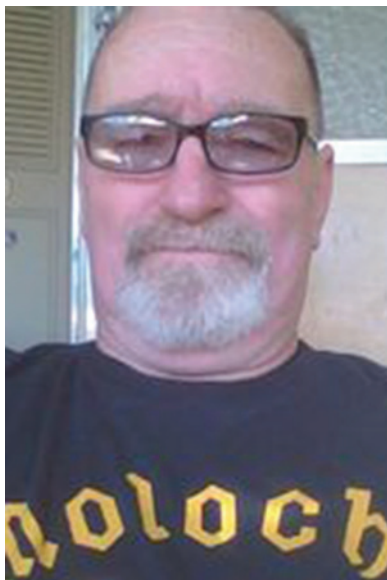
Harry was raised in Longvale, where his parents owned Joe's Place bar. He graduated in the Ukiah High School Class of 1968.

After graduating high school, Harry enlisted in the Navy and served two tours in Vietnam. While there, he received his Navy Achievement medal for his performance as an Aviation Mechanic. He loved his country and stood to always represent it.

Upon leaving the Navy he settled in San Diego, where he started his family and owned and operated a coffee shop. He also worked at Remco in Willits and drove trucks throughout the years.

Harry's lifelong passion was riding Harleys with the crew, living the biker life, attending the classic biker runs, and he cherished his friends that became family over the years.

In 2014 Harry retired in Salmon, Idaho with his wife, Stephanie, and late father. He enjoyed the simple



life, his beautiful view from his home, his wife's good cooking, fishing, and annual hunting trips with his kids and grandkids.

He leaves behind his wife Stephanie Unangst of Salmon, Idaho; brother Bobby Unangst of Tennessee; sons Corey (Sarah) Unangst and Don (Becky) Spicer of Willits; stepsons Richard, Chad, Justin and Jesse; daughter Charlene of Ukiah; grandchildren Shyanne Unangst, Larissa Unangst, Heylee Unangst, Sierra Mayfield/Unangst, Lillie Unangst, Donnie Spicer, Marvin Spicer, Robert Spicer; and great-grandchildren Lucas, Emalynn, Kaziah, Wyatt, Everett, Brendan and Isabelle.

Harry is preceded in to death by his brother Pat Unangst and parents, Lester and Ruby Unangst.

The family is planning a Celebration of Life in the spring followed by a motorcycle ride in Willits. The date will be announced at a later time.

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DOUBLE BONUS SENIOR DAYS

THURSDAYS • 10AM – 8PM

Age 55+. Stop by the cage and pay \$20 cash to get \$30 FP plus a 50% off meal coupon at Creekside Café.

Twice the Love

SATURDAYS • Noon – Midnight

Earn 50 pts for 1 drawing entry to **win \$100 FP** and pick another player to receive **\$50 FP.**

VALENTINE'S GIFT

FEB 14 • 9AM – 3AM

All members receive **\$5 Free Play!**

WINTER WINNINGS WHEEL

FRIDAYS • 5PM – 11PM

Get 1 entry for every 100 points for a chance to spin the wheel and **win up to \$500 Free Play.** Drawings every hour.

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

WWW.SVRCASINO.COM

Management reserves the right to cancel or modify any promotion at any time without notice. For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

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