# William Online & Print on the Print of the P A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits Thursday, February 11, 2021 Donations Accepted Edition No. 389

### **FBI offers** new \$10,000 reward in Khadijah Britton case

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

County Mendocino Sheriff Matt Kendall, collaboration with Federal Bureau of Investigation, hosted virtual Facebook Live event on February 5, regarding disappearance Khadijah Britton of the Round Valley Indian Tribes nearly three years ago.

Scott Schelble, assistant special agent in charge of the San Francisco Division of the FBI, announced during the livestream that the FBI was offering a new \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction, to add to reward monies offered already, for a total of close to \$100,000.

Sheriff Kendall started off the event by introducing

Read the rest of Reward

Over on Page 11

### Sex assault arrest after Blackhawk Drive party

By Sgt. Wells, MCSO

On February 9, at about 9:50 am, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office received a call for service regarding a possible sexual assault which occurred in the 2100 block of Blackhawk Drive in Willits.

When deputies arrived they contacted an adult male and an adult female the location. The deputies learned there had been a party at the location starting the evening before, where alcoholic beverages had been consumed.

Deputies were told a 28-year-old female, of Ukiah, had gone into a bedroom at the location alone on February 9, and closed the door. This adult female fell asleep fully clothed and was awoken by someone touching her body.

This person was identified as Cody Martin, 27, of Ukiah, who the female had previously dated a couple of years

Deputies learned Martin removed his clothes and had gotten into bed with the female. Martin also removed the female's clothing and began penetrating her genital area with an unknown object or body part without consent.

Martin was contacted at the location and was subsequently arrested on the charge of sexual penetration with a foreign object while a person was unconscious (289(D) PC), upon probable based cause.

Martin was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$50,000 bail.



Happy Valentine's Day, Collin & Mandy Love, Mom.



Happy Valentine's Day, babe! Love you!



Photo by

Love you to the moon and back.



Letter from

former police chief

Blaylock's

attorney

Below is the full text of

the December 15, 2020

letter sent to the City of

Willits by the attorney

for former Willits Police

Chief Alexis Blaylock. The

letter asks for a \$500,000

settlement from the City of

Willits, as well as further

training for city employees,

and advises that the former

chief is "prepared to pursue

litigation" if no settlement

is reached. This letter has

become public information

thanks to a Public Records

Act request by a Willits

attorney, Brandi L. Harper,

a partner at Castillo Harper,

APC, in Riverside, has

Although City of Willits

and

dealing with anticipated

litigation from a former

employee, cannot speak to

the press, or talk at all about

what they discuss in closed

session about this potential

litigation or settlement offer,

City Hall has confirmed no claim or lawsuit has yet

Willits Weekly decided

it would serve the general public to release the

entire text of the letter, as submitted, in part due to

speculation and incorrect

information on social media

and other outlets. When

the City of Willits is able to

make a public statement on

this situation, we will print

- Jennifer Poole, editor

Letter

Over on Page 11

Read the rest of

declined further comment.

Blaylock's

elected

while

resident.

officials

been filed.

representatives,

Love you, babe! David and

# Happy **Valentine's Day**

Willits Weekly celebrates sweethearts in the area with annual community collage

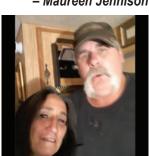
As a wise minister once noted at a late-August, pondside wedding ceremony last year: Love in the time of COVID can be complicated, but it's all possible when the right two people find each other.

Well, Molly "Minister McTwizzle" Andich was right, and this wonderful display of Willits sweethearts shows just how many couples are still enjoying life, and each other, during these difficult times.

Sunday, February 14 is the big day to celebrate that love, and while traditional options might still be coronacomplicated, why not order some takeout, take a walk on a trail, cook something together, or make chocolate-dipped strawberries and homemade whipped cream! Perhaps this year, it's just popping some popcorn, grabbing a big blanket, and watching a movie ("Hope Floats," maybe?). Enjoying some time together is always a wonderful way to celebrate your love – especially if it's with your favorite person.



Happy Anniversary, mi amor! Forever and always your wife, Marcela



Happy Valentine's Day. I love you Kelly always and forever!



Love, Jeanette.

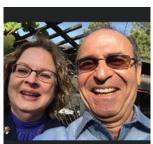


Happy Valentine's Day to my son Tyler Vesey and his wonderful & beautiful girlfriend Nayema Sizemore. I love you.

You're the coffee to my cup.

There's no one else I'd rather

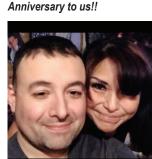
do this life with. Thankful for



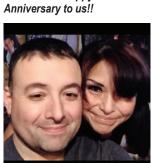
Our life is a party by Ghannadan. Happy



choice! Reza & Debbie

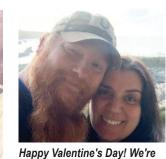


Alma Gutierrez, and my wonderful husband Jerry Gutierrez. Thank you very much for always being there









hella married and are gonna have a baby! I love you!

Thank you to all who submitted images! Happy Valentine's Day!

# **BOS** hears update on COVID vaccinations

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors heard an update on COVID-19 on Tuesday, as part of a 9 am to 7 pm meeting full of agenda items.

Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo started off the COVID report by citing two key areas the county is focused on, "and attempting to improve upon," she said.

"One of course is all things vaccines, vaccines. We do have a challenge, as every other county does in the state, in getting enough vaccine. And at this point in time, public information dissemination, when we don't know if we're getting vaccines or not, and not wanting to put messages out that we're having mass vaccination clinics if we don't know that we're getting the vaccines. So

Read the rest of COVID

Over on Page 9





To many Valentine's together, mv love!! Bruce & Debbie Cartwright.

Happy Valentine's Day to my

Happy Valentine's Day to my

son Carson Miler and his

both so much.

2015!

beautiful & sweet girlfriend

Danielle Campbell. I love you

Me and my sweetheart, in June

Happy 1st Valentine's Day as

my husband; although it's

our 7th one together. I love

you more and more everyday.

Thank you for everything you

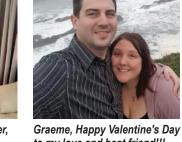
do for me and the boys. I love

you. Robert & Kristin Campbell

girlfriend Alyssa Thornton, and

son Garrett Campbell, his

their dog Odin.



to my love and best friend!!! Love, Natasha.



Happy Valentine's Day to my love, Graham! So thankful for ya and love ya very much!! Xoxoxo - Liv



My husband and I have been married for 7 years. He is the love of my life. I love you to the moon and back. Always and



When I first saw you, I knew you were the one. You are my forever Valentine.



Married for 57 years, and even though COVID got them, they still strong and in love, Gloria León and Ezequiel Torres.



jar opening skills.

Happy Valentine's Day babe, I love you!





Gutierrez, married for 46 years.



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

# Not a secret (anymore)

To the Editor:

Well, it obviously isn't a secret (anymore) that I had a serious heart attack recently. A local paper published the news [last] week, and I was overwhelmed with the love and support from hundreds of people. I thank you.

The story:

On January 4, while assisting at a fatal traffic accident in Humboldt County, a paramedic made "a suggestion" that I get into the ambulance and allow her to evaluate me with what was the onset of a cardiac event. Let there be no mistake, this paramedic saved my life. As I was in back of the ambulance, the "big one" happened, and she was completely prepared to use her skills.

I was not a good patient, mainly because of the extreme pain. I'm anxious to see her again and apologize for my inability to follow her requests, but her professionalism saw past my obnoxiousness and she did her job. I'm very appreciative. I learned a life lesson [smiley face with sunglasses].

Within 90 minutes of the attack, a cardiologist had performed the necessary surgery, and I was treated well at St. Joseph's hospital in Eureka. The nurses and doctors were very good and, once again, I'm very appreciative for the great care. Upon returning to Mendo, I spent a few more days at Howard Hospital and truly believe among the best hospitals in California. Don't believe me? Go ask for a tour. Incredible.

After a four-week recovery, the doctor(s) allowed me to

return to work, and I have worked the past week in Shelter Cove. It's probably the best assignment in the

There were no signs leading up to this incident, nor have I ever experienced anything like this. It was unexpected, and I feel very grateful for the extension of loving life.

To the hundreds of friends and family members who have reached out, I truly thank you. The offers to help, the outpouring of care, and the wisdom which has been sent have all been

Tom Allman, Willits

### Thank you

To the Editor

A heartfelt thank you to Dr. John Glyer, the nurses, Judi Berdis, and the facilitators for an incredible, smoothly run COVID vaccine clinic on Saturday, February 6.

You were so very generous with your time and caring, and we truly appreciate all of you!

Lena and John Hofmaister, Willits

### Thank you

To the Edito

This is a thank-you to the doctors, nurses and all the volunteers who made the vaccinations on Saturday, February 6 at the high school gym go so incredibly smoothly. This must have taken a huge amount of work to organize on everyone's part. We were directed efficiently and cheerfully with no

This is a real definition of community service and commitment. Thank you all.

P. J. Mushik, Willits

### 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 Willits Special Color activities | Special Color | Colo

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SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

# February 2021 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

Storm damage has been intense throughout our region. The first responders acted quickly and tirelessly to rescue people, people in stuck cars, dangerous situations, and other life and death situations.

Thank you to the fire departments, police and sheriff's departments, and public works people who slogged through the dangerous conditions to ensure our safety.

I am working with our state legislators, county, PG&E, and local firewise councils to determine how best to deal with the downed trees and branches. All of this fuel will need to be removed or chipped before fire season. There is a lot to do.

Vaccinations are finally here which has been a blessing. Many have received the vaccine, but there is also frustration with the scheduling of appointments, communication, and who is getting the vaccines along with not getting enough vaccines from state and federal governments. The governor changed from the tiering system to a more age-based system. You can sign up for a vaccine notification at https://vaccinatemendo.com.

Sherwood Firewise has been working tirelessly on creating a community safer from fires. The Sherwood Road area is a Pilot Program for the creation of a Zone of Benefit. Many people contributed to getting vegetation management done on the Firco and Schow roads. This was of critical importance as CalFire was able to use the roads for access during the Oak Fire.

The goal of this Zone of Benefit process is to maintain the Willits Creek Trail and Firco roads and manage vegetation so that these roads are available in emergencies. A minor assessment of developed parcels will be voted on by the landowners of this area. Sherwood Firewise is having a Zoom meeting February 11, from 6 to 8 pm. See their website for more info.

You might notice the warning sign on Highway 101 south of the Ridgewood Summit before the S curves. I appreciate the work of Chief Chris Wilkes of Little Lake Fire Department and Caltrans to get the warning sign. When there is bad weather or a traffic accident in the area, it will be activated.

Chief Wilkes says: "We are extremely happy with the first responder operated warning sign on the ridge. We used the sign three times the first weekend it was available. We are happy with multiple aspects of this project. First being the preemptive warning to drivers in poor driving conditions such as rain and fog. Second being the quick response and action from Caltrans when the project was proposed to them. Caltrans quickly understood the need to protect first responders and unknowing drivers going through this area."

Please heed the warnings as our first responders might be out there dealing with emergencies. Much appreciation to Chief Wilkes and Caltrans for being proactive, responsive and looking out for our safety.

Supervisors approved a land use policy for Phase 3 which is open to non-legacy cannabis growers. I voted no because it included the expansion of up to 10 percent of land in rangeland, upland residential, and agricultural zones. This could cause a dramatic change to these lands and our communities.

The steps required to get a state permit so far have been very uneven at the county and state levels and to add this dramatic expansion doesn't seem like sound policy at this point.

Wishing you all the best and feel free to contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214. Stay well.

### Sherwood Firewise online meeting on Benefit Zone, February 11

Submitted by Sherwood Firewise Communities

The recent Oak Fire incident provided clear proof of how important it is to have well-maintained emergency access routes. During the mandatory evacuation of the Sherwood Corridor residents, emergency responders were able to access the fire using the recently cleared FIRCO route, which allowed evacuating resident vehicles full access to both lanes of Sherwood Road.

Sheriff Matt Kendall has stated that this was the smoothest evacuation he has experienced in his 30-year career. Following this successful community-wide effort, other emergency access routes serving the Sherwood Corridor are being developed. A means to fund ongoing maintenance is being considered by the County of Mendocino.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved moving the Benefit Zone formation process forward, with the next steps being a board resolution to form the Benefit Zone, public notice, workshops, public hearing, and a ballot sent to all owners of improved properties in the Zone.

Sherwood Firewise Communities is holding a special Zoom meeting on Thursday, February 11, from 6 to 8 pm to discuss the Emergency Access Route maintenance through the formation of a Benefit Zone. Please join us.

Join by internet – go to https://www.zoom.us/join, and when prompted enter the Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304, then the Password: 918795

Or join by phone: 669-900-6833; Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304; Password: 918795

### Mendocino County Fire Safe Council seeks new members

It's a Membership Drive! We – the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council – have scaled up our effort massively over the last year, including our just-completed program that delivered home hardening assistance to local incomeligible seniors and handicapped residents, providing over 50 free community chipper days in September through November, launching our new radio program, and our home hardening video series, and lots more. See our web site for details: https://firesafemendocino.org/.

However, one target we have fallen short on so far is increasing our paid supporting membership. To get on track, we would like to see if we can add another 70 members by the end of February. Can you join our effort to help Mendocino County residents survive and thrive in a wildfire-prone environment? It is easy to join online, and a year's membership is only \$30 (two years for a bargain \$50). Just go to https://firesafemendocino.org/membership-options/



# Do you want to submit a letter to the editor?

It's easy. We print letters from residents of the

3rd District!

just email us yours: willitsweekly@gmail.com



# A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits SUBSCRIPTION FORM NAME: ADDRESS: PHONE: EMAIL: In the mail: In the mail: In the mail: Description of the print of the







Above, from left: Willits police members drive by with their lights flashing to celebrate the 113th birthday of Willits' Edie Ceccarelli on February 5, in front of her care home in Haehl Creek. Saprina Rodriguez's Imagination Station kindergarten class comes to say "Happy Birthday." Most vehicles are decorated with homemade birthday signs. Below, left: Edie Ceccereli, the 113-year-old birthday girl. Below, right: Bruce Burton and Linda Buletti drive by in one of his antique automobiles.





# Birthday Parade

Annual celebration of Willits' oldest resident, Edie Ceccarelli, 113, takes to the streets

Edie Ceccarelli is a supercentenarian and a living reminder to the people of Willits that age is just a number, for she still exhibits the vitality and much of the independence of many younger souls.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer

Born of Italian immigrant parents in 1908 in Willits, Ceccarelli has lived through the first World War, the Spanish flu of 1918, Prohibition,

the Spanish flu of 1918, Prohibition, the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Great Recession of 2008, and so much more. Beginning with Theodore Roosevelt, she has seen 21 presidents of the United States and lived through many political campaigns.

She is matriarch to a diverse and plentiful family, including her second cousins, Lee and Chuck Persico of Willits. Her great, great grandkids adore her and always try to attend her birthdays. She is much loved in the community.

She is a mere two-and-a-half years younger than the oldest person in the United States, half a year younger than the oldest Californian, and is probably the oldest native Californian. Ceccarelli is the 28th oldest human on the entire planet, the oldest being a Japanese woman, born in 1902. And yet Ceccarelli can still dress herself, put on her own makeup, and insists on her glass of red wine with lunch and dinner.

This year, the annual celebration of her birth by the inhabitants of Willits was very different. Due to the distancing necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, amassing at the Willits Senior Center was not an available option. In order to keep Ceccarelli safe and healthy, as well as the participants, it was decided to create a parade which would wend its way in a loop around her neighborhood at the Haehl Creek subdivision just south of Adventist Health

Howard Memorial Hospital, and finish with a pass in front of her house.

This production was spearheaded by her cousin-by-marriage, Evelyn Persico, and Howard Foundation Avenues to Wellness head Suzanne Picetti-Johnson. "We wanted to honor Edie because we are a health care foundation and she has lived not only a long life but a really healthy life," stated Picetti. "She loved to dance. She loved to really enjoy life. She loved children and gardening. She loves her wine. She has a zest for love that I think keeps you living long and healthy. It makes you rethink what is old."

In front of and on the lawn of Ceccarelli's residence were banners, posters, flowers, a set of pinwheels, and other colorful reminders of Willits' appreciation.

The parade consisted mostly of various vehicles, led by the Little Lake Fire Department, the Willits Police, and the Mendocino County Sheriffs, including retired Sheriff Tom Allman. Their loudspeakers hailed Ceccarelli, who sat outside in the recessed alcove of the entrance to her residence, enjoying the love being sent her way.

Members of Scout Troop 42 carried the flag, followed

orn in 1902. And yet Ceccarelli can still dress herself, put n her own makeup, and insists on her glass of red wine with lunch and dinner.

This year, the annual celebration of her birth by the phabitants of Willits was very different. Due to the several family members on horseback. After this, about 30 automobiles, festooned in colorful banners, homemade signs, and flowers drove by slowly, wishing to catch a glimpse of the venerable supercentenarian.

Some parked their cars in order to safely approach Ceccarelli and personally provide verbal birthday wishes. There was a great variety of vehicles including a few antiques that were not quite as old as the birthday girl.

Read the rest of Birth

Over on Page











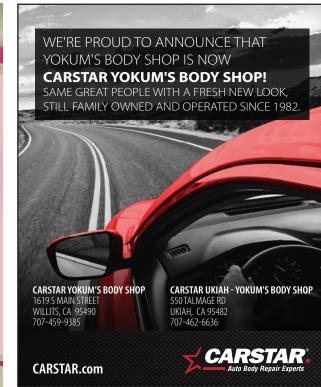
At top: Colorful pinwheels were placed on the lawn to add a festive look to the yard. Above: Edie's second cousins, Lee, Jill and Chuck Persico enjoy the parade.

At far left: The Willits Little Lake

Fire Department comes out to show their love and support.
Colorful birthday wishes are shown on many of the cars.
Third District Supervisor John Haschak brings a proclamation of appreciation from Mendocino County.

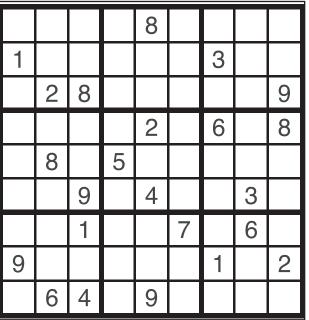






# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

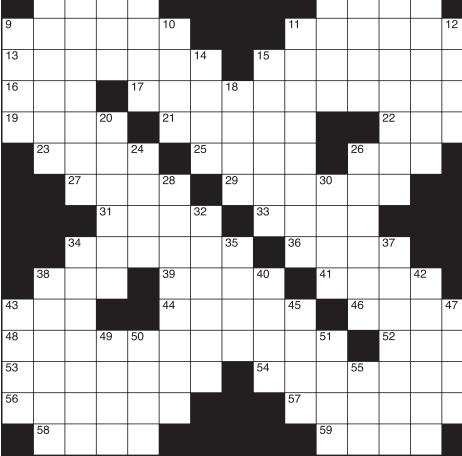


### HOW TO SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles are

TIDAR V P O E M V W K D R C B E L F L O W E R S B L O V E L D

| ANNIVERSARY | DESSERT        | HUG      | RELATIONSHIP |
|-------------|----------------|----------|--------------|
| ARROW       | DOVES          | JEWELRY  | ROMANCE      |
| BOUQUET     | <b>EMBRACE</b> | KISS     | ROSES        |
| CANDY       | FEELINGS       | LACE     | SAINT        |
| CARDS       | FLIRT          | LOVE     | SERENADE     |
| CELEBRATION | FLOWERS        | MARRIAGE | SWEET        |
| CHOCOLATE   | GIFTS          | MEMORIES | TRADITION    |
| CUPCAKE     | HEARTS         | MUSIC    | VALENTINE    |
| CUPID       | HOLIDAY        | POEM     | WOO          |
| 1 2 3       | 4              | 5 6      | 7 8          |



39. Deep-bodied

41. Holy fire

53. Unwinds

freshwater fish

43. Usually has a lid

46. Have a yen for

48. Unknowingness

54. Traveling by sea

52. Dry white wine drink

56. Outdoor entertaining

57. Stringed instruments

58. \_\_ Redgrave, actress

CLUES DOWN

1. Progressive decay of a

bone or tooth

5. A Russian river

7. True statements

10. Masses of fish eggs

8. Most private

9. French city

6. Kiln

2. Burrowing rodents

3. French/Belgian river

4. A professional cleaner

59. Moves earth

44. Being of use or service

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Composed

5. Lesotho currency 9. Ethnic group associated with Hungarians

11. Gains knowledge of

13. Gradual destruction

15. Purchase

16. Pharaoh of lower Egypt

17. Where you're going

19. The 6th letter of the

Greek alphabet

21. Fishing net

22. Midway between south and southeast

23. A way to sort

25. C C C

26. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)

27. Discount 29. Consumes tobacco

31. A way to run 33. Popular musical awards show

34. Pertains to the male sexual organ

36. Supplements with difficulty 38. Green veggie

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 February 2 will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve

### February 1

am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of South Main Street and West Valley Street and issued a warning.

11:40 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 500 block of Raymond Lane.

### February 3

7:41 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue.

10:40 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

6:02 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of North Main Street.

a warning.

Street and issued a warning. to a disturbance in the 100

### February 5

Main Street and issued a warning.

5:51 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of South

disturbance in the 100 block of Marcela

10:56 am: Officers responded to a report disturbance in the 1200 block of South of suspicious activity in the 100 block of

4:23 pm: Officers responded to a report

of illegal camping in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

# in CARES Act funding

Submitted by the Arts Council of Mendocino County

The Arts Council of Mendocino County has regranted \$12.630 in CARES Act funding from the California Arts Council to three Mendocino County organizations. These organizations/ nonprofits share a mission to serve the Latinx and Native American communities in Mendocino County through the arts and culture and include and represent, at a staff or

The Federal CARES Act recognizes that the non-profit arts industry is an important sector of America's economy, and therefore allocated this money to states (California Arts Council) to be regranted by State Local Partners (Arts Council of Mendocino County).

vulnerable populations within their communities that are not eligible for the direct CARES Act stimulus grants. The Arts Council of Mendocino County received three applications for relief funding, all of which were deemed to be eligible by an ad hoc grant committee composed of community leaders of color.

Round Valley Indian Tribe, Sherwood Valley Rancheria, and Flockworks and we thank them for the important work they do for our local community. Additionally, we would like to thank Michelle Frederick for coordinating the grant panel process and Loreto Rojas and Roseanne Ibarra for serving as grant panelists.

of Mendocino County Board of Directors at their December meeting, and the awards were made in January 2021

benefit and enrich the lives of residents and visitors in Mendocino County.

For more information please contact us at 707-463-2727 or email director@





# **POLICE LOG**

### February 1 to February 7

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

8:03 am: Officers responded to a

disturbance in the 1700 block of South

8:16 am: Officers responded to a report

2:09 pm: Officers responded to a

5:06 pm: SMITH, Erycka

Lynnsherice (25) of

Willits was contacted in

the 100 block of Barbara

Lane following a report

of trespassing. She was

arrested pursuant to

602 PC (Trespassing),

11364 H&S (Possession

of Drug Paraphernalia),

496 PC (Receiving Stolen

Property), 1203.2 PC

(Violation of Probation), and

on misdemeanor charges

of disorderly conduct (drugs

and Drugs), 14601.2 VC

(Driving with Suspended

License from DUI), and on

misdemeanor charges of

possession of a controlled

substance, possession of

drug paraphernalia, and

responded to a domestic

disturbance in the 1300

12:07 am: Officers

responded to a disturbance

in the 28000 block of Poppy

Officers

violation of probation.

8:43 pm:

block of Hilltop Drive.

and alcohol).

12:38 am: SANDERS, Rhonda Rennee (60) of Willits was contacted in the 800

block of South Main Street. She was

arrested pursuant to 23152 (F) VC (Driving

Under the Combined Influence of Alcohol

disturbance near the intersection of

Hawthorn Court and Hawthorn Lane.

of vandalism in the 200 block of North

Main Street and issued a warning.

Lenore Avenue.

The officers of the Willits Police 6:58 am: Officers responded to a Department handled 142 incidents in this disturbance in the 1500 block of South seven-day reporting period. Main Street and issued a warning.

**Summary of Active Investigations** and Arrests

2:41 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Barbara

10:17 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of South Main

### February 4

8:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued 8:50 pm: Officers responded

to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main 9:34 pm: Officers responded

Rhonda Rennee Sanders of block of North Main Street. 10:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:53 am: Officers responded to a

Ervcka Lynnsherice Smith

February 6

2:07 am: Officers responded to a Drive and issued a warning.

February 7

# Arts Council re-grants \$12,630

board level, the communities served (at least 50 percent representation).

The purpose of these grants is to aid local arts and culture organizations serving socially

The Arts Council of Mendocino County has awarded relief grants of \$4,210 each to the

The panel's funding recommendations were unanimously approved by the Arts Council

The Arts Council of Mendocino County promotes the arts and cultivates creativity to





Willits Science Fair

now February 23-25

Due to the recent extended power outages, the Willits

This online event will now take place February 23 to 25.

Judging will take place on February 23, and the fair will

be open for virtual viewing on February 24 and 25. Virtual

viewing will be accessible through the Willits Science

Fair's website at: https://sites.google.com/willitsunified.

Any students in grades 3-12 still wanting to register for

If you have questions about the science fair, or if you

are interested in judging or sponsoring an award, please

contact Erin Vaccaro at sciencefair@willitsunified.com or

TOWING

the fair should email sciencefair@willitsunified.com for late

All project entries must be uploaded by February 18.

Science Fair will be happening one week later than

originally planned.

com/sciencefair/home

call/text 707-513-8742.



Images from three of this year's Science Fair projects include:

Above: Daisy Collins (Blosser Lane Elementary). Title of Project: Water Balloons with Household Items. Daisy investigated whether balloons filled with different materials would float or sink.

Far left: Jen Harness, Mingus Gatto, Ayla Hinman-Foss (Willits Charter School) and Evie Artman (Willits Elementary Charter School). Title of Project: Overflow in Covelo. Students feel the thermal reaction of their elephant toothpaste experiment.

At left: Griffin O'Rear and Calvin Loupy (Willits Charter School). Title of Project: Chicken Lights. Griffin and Calvin investigated the effect of different colored lights on the amount of eggs their chickens







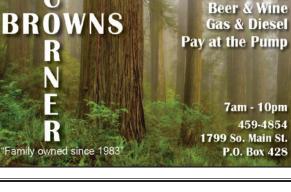


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Willits, CA 95490

Where love is first and the Bible is central. Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. - Worship Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m Info? 707-459-1905 ww.agapebiblechurch.com

SPIRITUAL

**PATHWAYS** 

Agape

**Bible Church** 

290 S. Lenore Ave

**Amazing Grace** Assembly of God Church 803 Coast Street

P.O. Box 489, Willits 707-303-5456 Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m Pastor Burton Jernigan EVERYBODY IS WELČOME

### The Church of **Jesus Christ of** Latter-day Saints 265 Margie Drive

Willits, CA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

### ckankar: The Path Spiritual Freedom

Sound of Soul events Membership Discourses piritual Discussions CK Light & Sound Services More information? Call 707-456-9934 www.eckankar.org

### **Grace Community** Church

Celebrating Life In Christ 25 Hazel Street, Willits Modified Worship Service 10 a.m.

Other ministries suspended For appointments call: (707) 459-3106

### Robert Schloege **Ministries**

Media and Television Ministry, reaching the Nations with the Gospel! Rsmworldwide.org 808-255-6317, Office P.O. Box 614, Willits 95490 Iesus Loves You

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church 61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Father Agron Randanadam

Confessions by appointments 459-2252 Sunday Mass outside: 8:00 a.m. English 9:00 a.m. Spanish

Mass times:

### We welcome All Ŵalks of Faith St. Francis **Episcopal Church** North Main Street, Willits

707-272-0177 Church Services/Communic by Zoom at noon. Call for information ALL ARE WELCOME

### St. John Lutheran Church

The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

Karl Bliese, Pastor Church Service: Sunday 10:00 to 11:00 Bible Stuďy/Sunday Schoo following the service. (707) 459-2988 24 Mill Creek Drive

### ALL ARE WELCOME **Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church** 399 W. Mendocino Avenue

707-459-5714 Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m. Worship Service - 10:45 a.m 4th Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school. 22751 Bray Road, Willits

### **Willits United Methodis** A Christ centered, progressive church ALL ARE WELCOME 286 School St. (at Pine)

Rev. Rosemary Landry, pasto Worship Celebration Sundays - 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m 459-2855 Facebook: www.facebook.com

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

11. Apart from others

14. Nanosecond

20. Flowering shrub

26. Former monetary

30. New Zealand parrot

32. Makes very happy

35. Emerald Isle

40. Commoner

47. Work units

50. Nerve fiber

51. Proclaimed

49. Wagon

43. Belch

42. Large animals

45. Employee stock

ownership plan

55. Japanese delicacy

34. A payment required for

37. The act of terminating

someone's employment

38. Gland in some mammals

not fulfilling a contract

unit of Spain

28. Foodies

15. Film

12. Monetary unit of Samoa

18. Men's fashion accessories

24. North Carolina university



# WCS Winter Fund Drive getting closer to \$35,000 goal

The crew from Willits Community Services updated their Winter Fund Drive signboard on Friday, to show they've raised nearly \$30,000 of their \$35,000 goal for 2021.

Donation checks may be sent to Willits Community Services, 229 E San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, to help the Willits Food Bank to continue to safely serve at-risk families and individuals who are hungry or food insecure in the Willits community.

Questions? Call the WCS office at 459-3333.



Above: Rachel Cash, Alex Maxwell and Zoe Bigelow prepare the lunch bags. Below, left: The annual Sober Grad Pancake Breakfast has been superseded this year by the Pulled-Pork Sandwich Lunch. Below, right: Senior Callie Brown helps to fill the lunch bags with pulled-pork sandwiches, chips,









Above, left: The production line of lunches, with the sandwiches warm in the cooler, proceeds like clockwork. Above: Gerry Gonzalez, left, Rachel Cash, Zoe Bigelow, Carrie Lambert, Davina Sentak and Alex Maxwell, front, gather early at WHS to get the



boxes of lunches to a party who has bought 13 At right: Rose and Bryan Mann look forward to their pulled-pork

Above: Fernando

sandwich lunches.





to the back, western end of the lot, park in a space, and take your boxes up the ramp and toss them into the large dumpster Along with cardboard, SWOW also accepts mixed recycling free of charge at a separate designated bin, and will also pay YOU for aluminum, glass and plastic bottles,

are welcome to recycle cardboard and more

at Solid Wastes of Willits, free of charge,

and in these online-shopping times, that

can be a lifesaver on your garage, or your

Pre-flattened boxes are preferred, and

can be brought without appointment, to the

Willits Transfer Station during their Tuesday

through Saturday business hours of 9 am to

4 pm. While wearing a mask and respecting

social distancing, you just follow the signs

cans and other CRV-designated items – and

Whether you live in the city or county, you up, making a worthwhile trip.

**Copious Cardboard** 

Has a mixture of living the Amazon,

Mariposa and Costco life left your kitchen

and garage inundated with cardboard?

Recycle it all for free at Solid Wastes of Willits

A full list of accepted recyclables - and any of those with applicable fees - for the Willits Transfer Station (or any of their eight other Mendocino County locations) can be found online at https://www.swowservices.

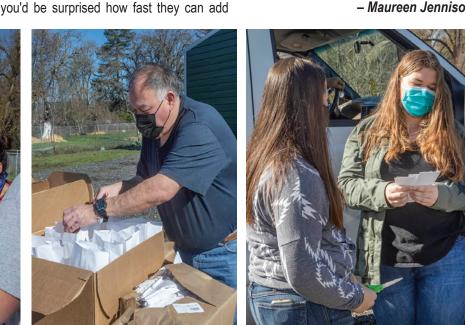
Some items that are accepted with a fee include: appliances, tires, dry wall, vard waste, wood, scrap metal, and trash. Some of the items accepted for free include: plastic bottles and cartons, rigid plastic. tin cans, newspapers, and magazines. It's always a good idea to double check to see if your items are marked with the recyclable designated "cardboard only." No muss, no seal, and when in doubt, you can always ask a friendly yard worker, or call SWOW

> The Willits transfer station is located at 351 Franklin Avenue off of Blosser Lane. For more information, contact SWOW directly at 459-4778.

> > - Maureen Jennison







Above, from left: Rachel Cash doles out hand sanitizer to help keep things sanitary. Gerry Gonzalez counts the bags and makes sure they are properly filled. Samantha Arms and Callie Brown count lunch tickets. Below: With most of the families ordering multiple lunches, the cars were well spaced out during the two hours.

# Sober Grad Lunch

With no pancake breakfasts this year, fundraising for annual graduation party gets creative with Superbowl drive-thru meal

The COVID-19 forced isolation is especially difficult for socially oriented teenagers. In addition to the education received in the classrooms, a huge component of the high

Mathew Caine

school experience is the interaction with friends, the team spirit of sports, dances and parties, and just basic human closeness.

One of the most anticipated events each year is the Sober Grad Night party, which has been going strong for 35 years, having been started in Willits by recently retired board president Ruth Dell'ara.

"Sober Grad has been responsible for keeping kids safe for many years," Rachel Cash, vice-president of the board of directors of Sober Grad, stated proudly. "We haven't had a death since 1986. Look how many lives we probably saved during those 36 years. We just want to continue that tradition and do what we can."

The purpose of Sober Grad is to provide an alternative on graduation night to parties where drinking alcohol is the norm. This organization enjoys the moral and financial support of the Mendocino County Sheriffs, who wish to see the youth of Willits have a safe, fun evening and avoid having to deal with accidents caused by underage drinking.

Last year, after the shelter-in-place protocols were imposed, the Sober Grad Night was recreated as an online event with photos of the seniors provided by Maureen Jennison, displayed with their choice of music, along with several prizes and gifts.

In "normal" years, the Sober Grad organization provides an all-night party at the Willits Community Center with several fun activities and many gifts, prizes and T-shirts donated by local merchants and concerned parents. The teens have to make the commitment to remain on the premises for the duration of the party, thus ensuring that they are not attending less-than-wise events that involve imbibing adult beverages.

This event is normally funded by a series of social events that can raise money for several aspects of the evening that are not donated. One of these events is the annual pancake breakfast, which for obvious reasons would not be possible in this year of COVID-19 distancing.

However, these funds, this year, are being replaced by a simple Frozen Yogurt & Deli, cooked the pork and provided the chips and can make this one happen ... what a gift to them.'

buns for the sandwiches. Davina Sentak, president of the board of Sober Grad, donated and created the coleslaw.

The 21 pork butts from which the sandwiches were crafted were donated by parents. Safeway was selling them for only 88 cents per pound, so each pork butt only ran to approximately \$6 or \$7.

The price of all this good eating was only \$15, most of which was pure profit. A family could pay only \$50 for four lunches. The event will net approximately \$3,500, which is more profit than is made on the pancake breakfast, although many residents look forward to Silveira and Gerry that tasty meal and the social comradery each year.

The group pre-sold 200 of the lunches. As many families bought multiple meals in preparation for Super Bowl family gatherings, there was not a long line of cars but all lunches were sold.

Whether the party is online or in person, the approximately 140 seniors from the Willits high schools can earn multiple chances at prizes by participating in the various Sober Grad activities and fundraising throughout the year. The more they participate, the more times their name gets "placed into the hat," according to Cash. In addition, each senior receives a commemorative T-shirt, which is being designed by a committee of seniors who will also design this year's logo.

"I've been involved in Sober Grad since 2008," said Davina Sentak. "It's a passion for me. I love supporting our kids this way. affirming how important their lives and their futures are and we just want to be sure they get a chance to see their future.

According to Sentak, the Sober Grad program is successful because of its consistency throughout the past 35 years for making something great happen for the graduates. Donations of money and prizes from the community ensure that there are plenty of incentives for kids to participate.

"This year," said Sentak, "things are in flux and we hope that we will be able to find an outdoor venue that would be suitable for a party [on June 11]. We have a Plan A, B and C depending on the prevailing conditions. At this point, I believe the most likely outcome will be some sort of outdoor venue.

"That is our primary goal right now," she added, "to find a way to drive-thru lunch of pulled pork sandwiches, homemade coleslaw, allow the kids to get together. That is what is missing for them. At a bag of potato chips, and a homemade cookie provided by one that age, what matters most is a connection with their friends. All of the parents of a graduating senior. Lisa Davis, owner of Scoops of the traditional senior year activities have been lost to them. If we



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**David Hannon** 





from Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital holds various colored dots which are placed on clothing to indicate that temperature has

At left: The check-in station is the first stop inside the door Below: One of

several stations that those who were to be vaccinated need to stop at prior to inoculation.

At bottom: A Willits resident prepares to receive his vaccine.

> Photos by Mathew Caine

# Vaccinations at WHS

400 Willits seniors 65 and over receive Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at mass-inoculation event

"Have you ever tested positive for COVID-19?" "Have you ever had a reaction to a vaccine?" "Have you received any vaccine in the last 15 days?" "Do you have a weakened immune system?" "Are you pregnant?" asked volunteer Dillon Longmire on the frosty, foggy Saturday morning as Willits citizens, 65 and over waited in an ever-lengthening line to receive their long-awaited first Moderna vaccine.

Mathew Caine

Adventist Health's Cici Winiger, one of the organizers of the mass-inoculation event, stated that they were intending to vaccinate 400 people that morning in Willits and 600 more in Ukiah in a day. Winiger decided to lower the age to 65 rather than the current 75 threshold in order to mitigate seniors "coming up from Ukiah and to get more Willits citizens their first vaccine."

Once inside, the seniors were met at the intake tables, where the process of registration continued through use of tablets and laptops, after which they were directed to another table to "get you into the system," said Winiger. "We are supposed to report to the state every person that we vaccinated within 24 hrs."

Like clockwork, people safely went from table to table and finally to the vaccination station to be given the barely perceptible shot, after which they were directed to another table to be given some literature on the COVID-19 pandemic and the vaccine. The last stop was a socially-distanced seat on the bleachers for 15 to 30 minutes for observation to make sure no adverse reactions occurred.

This was a well-run, efficient event, as evidenced by many Facebook comments later as the seniors arrived back home. Those vaccinated received a card, a "Golden Ticket" with a date of their subsequent second vaccination, and were told not to lose it as it would not be replaceable. Many of the people receiving their shots expressed their gratitude that they were able to begin the process in both protecting themselves and healing the nation.







Above, from left: An Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital employee reads temperatures in the cold air. Nurse Mikaela De Los Santos of Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital checks the registration form. Tom and Sara Mann wait for 15 minutes prior to leaving to make sure they have no adverse reactions. At left: Denise Brown and Jorden Potter of Adventist Health begin the inside check-in process. At right: After receiving vaccines, people are asked to wait for 15 minutes, or longer depending on their allergy history.







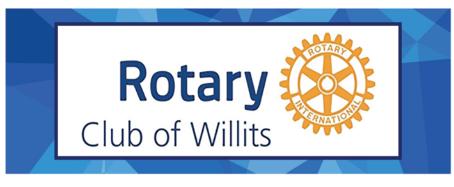




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ADD CHAMPAGNE!



### **ROTARY CLUB OF WILLITS** FORMS STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Rotary Club of Willits Student Debt Assistance Program (SDAP) wants to help Willits area residents who are college and/or career technical graduates. The committee is aware of the increase of student loan debt and has developed this program to help graduates, who are active in this community, pay down their student loan debt.

Applications are currently available and the deadline for completed applications is February 12, 2021. Applications are available by emailing committee chairman Joe Bratt at willitssdap@gmail.com. Please call Joe at 408-718-9260 if you have any questions.

Rotary Club of Willits welcomes donations to this fund so we can serve more Willits area residents in need of student loan assistance. You can send checks, with a notation that they go to the "Willits SDAP account".

Rotary Club of Willits is an IRS 501(c) (3) charitable foundation. To donate, please send check to:

Rotary Club of Willits P.O. Box 787 Willits, CA 95490

The rest of

From Page 1

it's extremely challenging and I'm sure frustrating for this board, and frustrating for the public.

Angelo also mentioned difficulty with "data reconciliation" with vaccine reporting by the county's "community partners" that are administrating vaccines, which is taking "a tremendous amount of effort," she said.

"The effort is not the problem," she said, "we have effort in everything we do. The issue is we have no control over data entry when we distribute vaccines to our community partners and they do not input into the state data system. That's what the state uses to determine county allocations, so it becomes a major issue.

Mendocino County Public Health Officer Andy Coren, MD, issued a new health order Monday, February 6, aimed at encouraging the county's "vaccine partners" to comply with the State of California Department of Public Health directives "regarding the allocation, storage, administration, and reporting of COVID-19 vaccines," as the order stated.

Dr. Coren told the board on Tuesday that "in Mendocino County, our average daily new cases is now 20.14. It is definitely trending down. It fluctuates a little bit between 20 and 25, but basically we are slowly decreasing.

"Our seven-day test positivity rate is 7.38," he continued. "The state's positivity rate is 5.6. This has risen up in our county – I believe it's mostly because of a decrease in testing frequency, that people are doing since the holidays, and now possibly because they're influenced by the vaccines coming out.'

Coren also discussed current local COVID outbreaks. "Outbreaks include the jail, which has numbered altogether over 140 people [including 17 employees]. We are now testing twice a week. There were no new positives on February 4."

"Another outbreak is in Covelo / Round Valley with 33 cases, and they have tested over the weekend. In Fort Bragg, seven restaurants have been involved with 15 people testing positive over a two-week period. There was a lot of non-compliance with our contact investigators, and that, in addition to this being a complex outbreak involving multiple institutions, the notice and recognition of this as one outbreak was not immediate," Coren said.

Dr. Coren also mentioned a new outbreak, at Mountain View Assisted Living and Memory Care in Ukiah, which "involves, so far, 18 cases," 12 residents and six staff people. He said the county was offering technical advice to the care home to get them into a program of twice-weekly testing.

"The causes are still predominantly community spread, due to gatherings, failure to mask and to do social distancing," he said.

He reiterated that testing is decreasing in the county, and said "It is really too early to relax."

"Vaccines in Mendocino County is doing very well; getting out the vaccines, with about 11,163 first doses administered, as of January 29. That does not include the pharmacy contract. So that number is about 15.9 percent of the population over 18 years old here, and we have also vaccinated over 70 percent of our school staff," he said.

"At this time, the hospital and their clinics and our rural health partners are focusing on vaccinating those people

Birthday

From Page 3

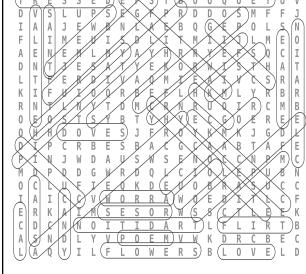
Brad Walton drove his 1930 Model A Ford while Bruce Burton drove what looked to be a Stutz Bearcat or a similar sports model. Saprina Rodriguez's Imagination Station kindergarten class stopped in front of the house to sing "Happy Birthday."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak delivered the annual Certificate of Appreciation from the supervisors. "She's probably my oldest constituent," stated Haschak. "She's someone we should honor for her longevity. It's a life well-lived and a person who's an institution in this community. She gives hope to a lot of people. She's still going strong at 113 years old. It's a great thing for the community to honor a person like this. I delivered a proclamation from the county recognizing 113 years of a

Her caretaker Perla Gonzalez who has been with her for the last five years said, "Edie's doing great! She puts on her own lipstick in the morning. She combs her hair. She walks with her walker. Of course, she gets her red wine for lunch and dinner. Red wine and ice cream. She's doing OK. She has her moments. She comes out here and walks with her walker. She's independent. She seldom calls for help. I have caregivers that are here all the time with her, 24 / 7, day and night.

"There are days," continued Gonzalez, "that she is very content to just sit in her chair and watch TV. Even when she's not really watching it, she enjoys the talking of the TV. We encourage her to come outside to get some air but she'll say, 'honey, I'm so comfortable here. I'm happy

Indeed, she is happy and content to enjoy life and to keep on living it. Willits is looking forward to celebrating Edie Ceccarelli's 114th birthday celebration, hopefully up close and personal, next year.



who are over 75 years old," Coren continued. "The county Health Department and community rural health centers are focusing on vaccinating those whose occupational exposures - IHHS [In Home Supportive Services] and school personnel as well as agricultural and food service workers, since they are exposed and represent some of the most vulnerable people, and they're also predominately from the Latino population, who are most affected by this pandemic in our community."

The county's vaccination events are now scaled up to do 200 to 300 a day, he said. The Adventist event in Willits last weekend vaccinated 400 people. "We estimate," Coren said, "with all of the clinics, hospitals and Public Health events, we have the capacity to administer 7,500 to 10,000 vaccines per week. The problem, again, is supply."

Those who'd like to be alerted of vaccination opportunities are encouraged to sign up with Adventist Health's notification list at http://bit.ly/ahmendo notify.

# **LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO SELL** 

Willits Unified School District intends to sell the property located mmediately north of property at 1265 and 1277 Blosser Lane, parcel number 006-210-19 and a portion of 006-210-26, approximately six (6) acres, zoned Residential 2 for single or multi-family. Fair market value \$1,360,000. Interested parties may reach Superintendent Mark Westerburg at (707) 459-5314, ext.

Publication Dates: January 28, February 4 and 11, 2021

**ORDINANCE NO. 162** 

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AMENDING ORDINANCE 76, THE DISTRICT UTILITIES CODE **RELATING TO PROCEDURES FOR TEMPORARY** DISCONNECTION OF UTILITY SERVICE FOR NONPAYMENT OF LITILITY CHARGES

The proposed Ordinance will be introduced February 23, 2021 followed by a Public Hearing and Adoption March 9,

/s/ Tamara Alaniz, Secretary to the Board of Directors

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and much more.

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more information

at willitsweekly@

gmail.com

**Fictitious Business** 

Name Statement

The following company is doing

Jewelry, 308 Jones Street, Ukiah

Registered owner: Laura

CA 95482.

an individual

Buckner, 308 Jones Street, Ukiah

This business is conducted by

The registrant commenced to

transact business under the

fictitious business name listed

above on January 13, 2020.

on January 13, 2021.

/s/ Laura Buckner

Publication dates:

FBN statement filed with the

Mendocino County Clerk-Recorde

01/28, 02/04, 02/11, 02/18, 2021

C O N S U M E

P I A N O S

STINATIO

S M O K E S

business as Happy Woman

**Fictitious Business** Name Statement

Publication Date: February 11, 2021

The following persons are doing business as The Woodrose, 1540 South Main Street, Willits, CA

Registered owners: Dipchand Shah and Varsha Shah, 1119 South Main Street, Willits, CA This business is conducted by a

general partnershp. The registrants 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 28, 2021.

/s/ Dipchand Shah Publication dates 02/11, 02/18, 02/25 and 03/04021

WW301 **Fictitious Business Name** Statement 2020-F0616

The following company is doing business as Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl, 65 S. Main St., Willits, Registered owner: Peter Kevin

Swanton, 65 S. Main St., 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-Recorde

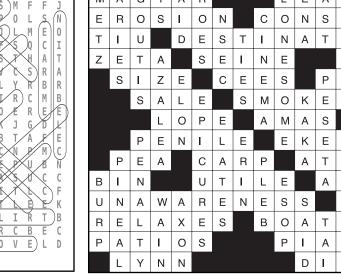
on December 22, 2020 /s/ Peter Swanton Publication dates: 01/21, 01/28, 02/04 and 02/11, 2021

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uicearbhaill@gmail.com

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John Ford Ranch will be

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Rancher's Choice Box

50 pounds: steaks

roasts, and ground beef.

Still \$325 (\$6.50 per

pound). Hamburger Box:

25 pound box of ham-

burger in 1 or 1.5 pound

packages: \$150. Natu-

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fed beef, no hormones

or antibiotics. Call 459-

5193 to arrange pick-up.

Leave a message, and

Help Wanted

Willits Weekly needs

another part-time news

reporter as we start a

new year. News training

or experience preferred.

Any retired journalists

interested in a local beat

with as few as 2 stories

a month? Email a letter

of interest or a resume

to willitsweekly@gmail.

we'll call back.

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Stay Safe I'll be back to help you with your Alterations and Sewing Needs when it is safe to do so. Barbara the Seamstress

Willits Food Bank Open

Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.



### **Current Job Openings:**

Account Specialist I/II

Airport Operations Specialist

Assessment Information Supervisor **Corrections Deputy** 

COVID - Emergency Response Unit -Extra-Help

Deputy Probation Officer I/II Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II

Facility Project Specialist I/II Legal Secretary II

Parts Specialist

Senior Program Specialist

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/

human-resources

EOE

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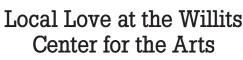
Name Change, etc. www.mendolegaldocs.com 459-2775

104 W. Mendocino, Willits

9 6 6 8 5 9 8 5 2 9 3 6 3 5 4 6 6

\$20





Celebrate February and Valentine's Day at the Willits Center for the Arts with exhibits by two Willits painters, Laura Fargey and Lynn Thompson, new jewelry from Simone River, and as always, lovely original art greeting cards.

The Willits painters exhibit runs through February 28 at the WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are 11 am to 5 pm. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

Be sure to check out the Online celebrating Mendocino with 50 artists offering 400 unique items and potential gifts for sale. https://www. willitscenterforthearts.org/artists.

WCA is hosting an online art talk on Friday, February 12, at 6:30 pm, on "The Baroque, Part I" by WCA Curator Gary Martin, MA.

This broad topic – "The Baroque" is an art term for a period of art - will include some of the most famous artists of the 17th century. We will look at such luminaries as Caravaggio, Artemisia Gentileschi, Rubens, and the list goes on. Part II, to be presented in March, will include the Dutch Masters.

The presentation will run 1 hour and 15 minutes, and can be accessed at this Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86774709687?pwd= VkQ0YzdJaFF6TlhISnZEd0ZZOENuZz09

Meeting ID867 7470 9687 Passcode 658712

### Grants for artists

The California Arts Council recently announced the historic return of direct funding for California's individual artists, for the first time in nearly two

Apply by April 1 for the Individual Artist grant, supporting emerging, and legacy artists through unrestricted grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

> Learn more at: https:// arts.ca.gov/grant\_ program/individualartists-fellowship/

Thank you to those supporting the arts in our community! You can learn more about the Willits Art Center by visiting https://www. willitscenterforthearts. org, and you can donate using the "Donate" link at the top of the home

The Willits Center for the Arts Board of Directors: Sandy Strong, Emmy Good, Laura Wiecek, Barbara Willens, Judy Fisch, Lisa Davis, Gary Martin, Lola Saba, Billy Hetherington, and

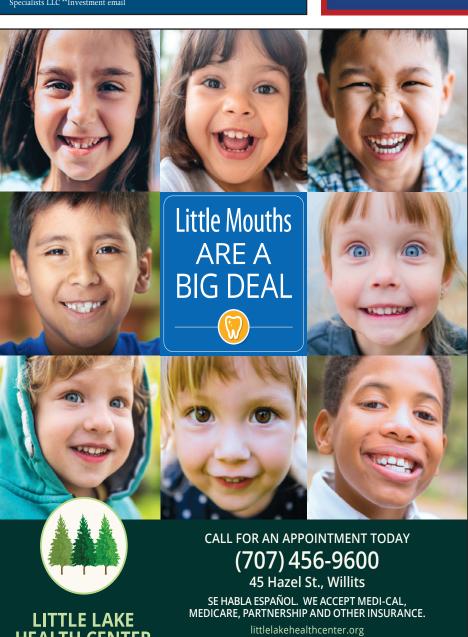














The rest of Letter

December 15, 2020

To the Willits City Council, Please be advised that our office

now represents Chief Alexis Blaylock with respect to legal claims she has against the City of the Willits. In addition to other adverse actions and continuing harassment, Chief Blaylock was subjected to a constructive discharge on or about October 8, 2020 based on her race, gender and reporting of opposition to violations of law, local rules and/or regulations. Chief Blaylock has lost and will continue to lose income because of the City's conduct. The City also subjected Chief Blaylock to mental and emotion distress, humiliation and reputational

Chief Blaylock will sign a release of claims against the City and applicable individual defendants for a payment of five-hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) and a commitment on behalf of the City to provide workplace discrimination and retaliation training to certain City employees and officials for the purpose of making the City and Police Department more tolerant, effective and honest institutions. Upon her arrival in Willits, Chief Blaylock was met with immediate hostility from subordinates openly resistant to a black female Chief and opposed to accountability. Lieutenant Hendry eventually told Chief Blaylock that he had a problem with a female chief, and that he and other officers were not accustomed to reporting to a woman. Even in the presence of the Human Resources Director, Karen Stevenson, Hendry stated that law enforcement is a predominantly male profession so it is "odd" to work for women. Hendry later revealed to a city employee that Chief Blaylock's race was instrumental in his opposition to her. Hendry proceeded to undermine the Chief at

every opportunity. The situation became worse when Chief Blaylock reported what she reasonably believed to be unproper, illegal and unsafe conduct to her superior. The City Manager, Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra, and the Human Resources director did effectively nothing to address Chief Blaylock's complaints, and worse, undermined her authority to take appropriate corrective, investigatory and potentially disciplinary actions as necessary to address the problems herself Instead of supporting Chief Blaylock, an experienced law enforcement professional, in addressing legitimate concerns, City administrators retaliated

against Chief Blaylock. Further, numerous baseless complaints were made about Chief Blaylock in response to her attempts to implement basic, but essential, procedures. For instance, keys to secure areas were unsecured, unaccounted for, not cataloged, and stored randomly in various places. And not surprisingly, an evidence room key was missing. Someone claimed to have returned it, but it could not be found. An employee on medical leave had the only other evidence room key. There was therefore NO KEY to the evidence room available. There were also no cameras or alarms at the evidence room entrance. There is a camera inside the evidence room, but that would be of little value if a breach is not recognized to prompt a review of the footage. This compromises evidence and jeopardizes court cases. Reasonably and consistent with best practices, Chief Blaylock began a list to catalog the keys, find out what they opened, establish a system of accountability, and keep track of when keys were issued and returned. She also insisted that the evidence room be rekeyed and new keys issued and cataloged. Chief Blaylock's efforts to take these standard measures for station security were criticized as "micro-managing" and focusing on non-priority issues. She was told by the City Manager that her priorities were misplaced.

Several times Chief Blaylock was accused of being unreachable or unavailable. However, when she asked who needed to reach her and when they had called, she would get vague and contradictory responses. Other than during the Oak Fire, during which she spent much of her time between fire briefings, the field, and in the Emergency Operations Center, Chief Blaylock spent most of her time in the station or in the field, often for 12 to 14 hours per day. On one occasion, for instance, the City Manager and Hendry claimed the sheriff and Fire Chief Chris Wilkes had been looking

Blavlock spoke with the sheriff and would be instrumental in evaluating Chief Wilkes, both said they had not Chief Blaylock's performance. Chief been looking for her, were aware of Blaylock requested to meet one-on-one how to reach her if they had been, and with Garrabrant-Sierra. Chief Blaylock had not spoken to Hendry about her as was informed that she would only be allowed a solo meeting with the City Manager AFTER she met with the City On another occasion, the City manager and Hendry together. The Manager accused Chief Blaylock of City Manager also told Chief Blaylock, going to a meeting to nearby Ukiah "In fact, how about you do Lieutenant and not informing Hendry, the Chief's Hendry's job. How about that?" Chief subordinate. Chief Blaylock was Blaylock was clearly subjected to confused because she did tell Hendry disparate treatment based on her race she was going out of the office for and gender. The City undermined a meeting. The City Manager then Chief Blaylock's authority and credited chastised Chief Blaylock for not telling baseless allegation against her while

"could not find" her. But when chief

Hendry with whom who she was going

Many other baseless complaints

workers compensation claim somehow

Blaylock did no such thing.

Blaylock's white male subordinate.

ignoring her own credible complaints

of misconduct. Yet non-black male

employees committed serious were made about Chief Blaylock, misconduct that was ignored. And many of which the City took far more further, Chief Blaylock was retaliated seriously than the complaints of against for reporting violations of possible illegality and gender bias policy, local rules and law. Chief Blaylock reported. For example, Chief Blaylock was hired and sworn on October 5, 2020, Chief Blaylock in on August 26, 2020. On October was presented with a worker's 8, 2020, City Manager Stephanie compensation claim based on an Garrabrant-Sierra called Chief injury alleged to have been sustained Blaylock and told her that she did not by a sworn employee during a use have police powers because the City of force that supposedly occurred on of Willits had not properly completed September 9, 2020. However, Chief the background package as required Blaylock checked the police report for by law and the Commission on Peace the incident, and no use of force was Officers Standards and Training documented. Based in part on the (POST) (11 CCR §1953). Prior to inconsistency between the workers being sworn in, the City advised compensation claim and the police Chief Blaylock that all clearances report, she reasonably believed that a violation of department policy and one were obtained. By failing to properly complete the required background or more state laws had occurred. Chief investigation, failing to submit the Blaylock inquired about the report necessary documents to the California with the employee and asked that a supplemental report be completed Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that included the use of force. Later failing to obtain official clearances from that same day, Chief Blaylock directed DOJ and FBI, and by falsely claiming department supervisors to ensure that that the background investigation all officers document all uses of force process was complete, the City and further to ensure that all injuries Manager subjected Chief Blaylock and are reported in a timely manner in the City to serious liability risks. This accordance with department policy and failure to follow the proper procedures law. The next day, on October 6, 2020, in the hiring process was either the City Manager chastised Chief an intentional discriminatory act or Blaylock for inquiring about these legal grossly reckless conduct. Either way, and policy violations. The City Manager Chief Blaylock has and will continue told Chief Blaylock that checking to to suffer severe and lasting damage to see if the police report documented her career as a result. the use of force mentioned in the

violated the employee's rights. The was constructively discharged. The City Manager then admonished Chief continued harassment and demands Blaylock for directing the Lieutenant that she ignore violations of law and and Sergeant to follow the law and policy by her subordinates and City policy and accused Chief Blaylock of officials, and the requirement that threatening her subordinates. Chief she actively engage in violations of law and policy herself, left her no choice but to leave her position. Chief Blaylock, as the Chief of Staying would have required her to Police, has not only the right, but a duty, commit unethical and illegal acts or be to review uses of force and to ensure that her subordinates are documenting deemed insubordinate for refusing to do so. Moreover, the City's intentional them. Further, she has a duty to and/or reckless conduct with respect take action when confronted with the to Chief Blaylock's certifications and possible criminal and administrative clearances would have necessitated misconduct of her subordinates. It was clear the City Manager did not want to be informed about possible violations peace officer while her status as such was in question. To make matters of law and wanted Chief Blaylock to worse, the City has not paid Chief ignore the same. The City Manager Blaylock all compensation owed at the told Chief Blaylock that in Willits things are done differently and Chief Blaylock time of her discharge. would have to adapt to that. She said Chief Blaylock's race and gender that Chief Blaylock's background in were clearly key factors in the internal affairs was intimidating some City's adverse employment actions of her subordinates. The City manager and harassing conduct. The City's said that because of personnel treatment of Chief Blaylock suggests shortages and budget constraints, the her hiring was mere tokenism. The City just could not be as firm as other

On or about October 8, Chief Blaylock

City of Willits prevented Chief Blaylock agencies about some things. The City from making any real change within Manager appeared to be referring the department. When Chief Blaylock to transgressions ranging from attempted to make necessary and discriminatory statements, inaccurate constructive changes, she was and possibly unlawful police reports criticized and retaliated against. Chief and potential workers compensation Blaylock was not willing to engage fraud, as Chief Blaylock's inquiries in, nor turn a blind eye to, illegal, about, reports of, and attempts to unethical, and otherwise wrongful remedy all of these things were conduct. This caused her constructive met with opposition and resulted in discharge. Chief Blaylock was and continues to be considerably damaged by the City's conduct. She is prepared The City Manager continued undermining Chief Blaylock by to pursue litigation against the City if she is not compensated for her requiring her to tolerate improper losses in the amount of five-hundred conduct from officers and telling her to thousand dollars (\$500,000.00). "let it go." The City Manager ordered This sum is more than reasonable Chief Blaylock to meet with Hendry, considering the lost income, past and her subordinate, every morning to future, Chief Blaylock has sustained, plan out the day. The City Manager told Chief Blaylock she was not in addition to the pain, suffering allowed to make changes to policy or emotional distress, and reputational harm she has suffered. As a condition otherwise without the City Manager's of settlement, Chief Blaylock also express permission. Chief Blaylock demands that every city administrator was informed that she could not "write / department head / director and city anyone up for any reason" or take any disciplinary measures without the City supervisor must complete a course on discrimination, harassment and retaliation in the workplace, and also The City Manager then, on or be trained on their responsibilities about October 6, 2020, directed Chief to report and investigate possible Blaylock to stay home for the rest of workplace misconduct. Further, some the week (October 7-9), ordering her

> - Brandi L. Harper, partner, Castillo Harper, APC

members of the police department

have not completed legislatively

mandated courses on racial profiling,

business on December 31, 2020.

Reward Connie Britton, Khadijah Britton's mother, standing next to him. "Connie's been a friend of mine since we were kids in school. We have Khadijah's father, her brother and her grandparents here with us today, as we're coming up on the three-year anniversary of her disappearance in the Round Valley area." She was 23 at the time. "It's the belief of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office that someone in the Round Valley area has information regarding this crime," Kendall said. "It's the belief of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office that eventually somebody's going to come forward with this information, and we want to be able

that this investigation comes to an end, so we can support "The Sheriff's Office is very supportive," Sheriff Kendall continued, "and has been very supported by the family, as a matter of fact, myself and Lt. [Shannon] Barney, we've been supported by this family since we were children. Khadijah's grandparents, her parents, people we grew up with, people that we know and love, they helped to raise us, that entire community helped to raise us, and that's why it's so important right now that the entire community come

to work together to provide support in order to make sure

together to support this family and support the community. Sheriff Kendall then gave a summary of past events starting with a call about a domestic violence incident on January 30, 2018, between Khadijah Britton and Negie Fallis. (Fallis, a former boyfriend, 37 at the time, has been the primary suspect in the disappearance and is currently in federal custody after being arrested on weapons charges

"A report and a supplemental report was taken on that. Kendall said. On February 10, 2018, another deputy was called "regarding Khadijah going missing. Her family had not been in contact with her.... The investigation continued, and on the 12th, we learned she had not been in contact with her family and she hadn't been in contact with anyone on her Facebook account.

'The Sheriff's Office completed some investigative work on that." Kendall continued, "and they found that she had not been in contact with anyone following the 7th of February At that point, we began to look at this as kidnapping. On the 12th, a Mendocino deputy began checking various locations where Khadijah was known to have been frequently in the past. At that time, we learned that it was possibly a kidnap and she was taken from a residence in the Covelo area.

"Shortly thereafter Mendocino County Detectives Bureau took this case and began working it," Sheriff Kendall said "Detectives began interviewing and completing searches of various areas. We continued with the investigation and spoke with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, asking them for any assistance they could give us regarding searches regarding cell phone downloads, things like that; we began

"Our Search & Rescue team was called out, and we continued to search areas of interest. We put literally thousands of hours of investigative time into this. We have hundreds of documented interviews. We have thousands of hours of searches. We have searched so much that we began to look at the maps where we searched, and started looking for locations that we haven't. We're here today to reach out to 100 percent of the Round Valley community, hoping that you will continue to support the family and to

"We met with the Federal Bureau of Investigations today, and they're going to continue working with us, and supporting us as we move forward, and supporting the family."

Sheriff Kendall then turned the podium over to the FBI's

"I want to thank you for joining us this morning as we approach the three-year anniversary of Khadijah's disappearance, agent Schelble said, "First and foremost I want to express my deepest condolences to Khadijah's family, who have been suffering for the past three years without answers or justice for her. I cannot imagine the pain you are going through during this time – I'm truly sorry.

"Second, I want to share with you some of the information about the FBI's work over the last three years. Since March of 2018, the FBI has been working with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office to follow leads, process evidence and search for Khadijah. We have provided assistance through our Evidence Response Teams, through our specialized forensic and laboratory analysis, and through leveraging expertise in specific technical areas.

"We will continue to dedicate these resources, and other federal resources, to this case, working closely with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, until Khadijah is found,' Schelble said.

"Third, I want to announce the FBI is offering a \$10,000 reward for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of those who are responsible for Khadijah's disappearance. We are encouraging members of the community to come forward. Somebody knows."

Tips can be provided to the FBI, San Francisco Division, by calling 415-553-7400, or online at tips.fbi.gov.

"Tips can remain anonymous," Schelble said, "and again we are asking the public to come forward. The FBI is committed to investigating all leads pertaining to Khadijah's disappearance, and this case has our full support. Together with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, our goal is to find Khadijah, to uncover the truth about her disappearance, and to bring justice to those who are responsible for her

Sheriff Kendall then reiterated his appeal to support the community and the family: "If someone knows something, let us know. You can call the Sheriff's Office at 463-4086: you can get onto our anonymous tip line on our web page (707-234-2100); you can use the "WeTiP" line on our web page as well (800-782-7463). There's a lot of ways to get ahold of us, and if you want to remain anonymous, that's

After an offer to take questions, with no questions materializing, Sheriff Kendall concluded the livestream by saying: "Once again let's support each other to be able to bring this to a resolution, thank you."

and these must be completed. This Due to technical difficulties with the volume during the offer will remain open until the close of livestream, the Sheriff's Office has posted a recorded version of the livestream that fixes the low volume. Find that version of the online event at https://www.facebook.com/ MendocinoSheriff/posts/10158108065462967

to return on Monday October 12, 2020

with a "fresh perspective" and a "new

attitude." Chief Blaylock was told she

would be required to meet jointly with

the City Manager and Hendry every

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday to

assess how Blaylock was doing. It

Manager's express permission.

**HEALTH CENTER** 

# **Furry Friends** Hoping for a Home

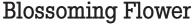
### Huggable Chia

Photos of Ms. Chia do not do her justice, as she is THE cutest dog in the shelter! We had a wonderful time during her evaluation, as everyone enjoyed her friendly, playful personality. Chia likes playing with stuffed toys and sitting in your lap. When Chia came to the shelter, we noticed she did not put weight on one of her rear back legs. Unfortunately, this is still the case even after limited activity, so she will be going for X-rays and a treatment plan will be developed from there. Chia is 2 years old and a svelte 60 pounds of

For more about Chia 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.mendoanimalshelter.com. For information about adoptions, please call 707-

467-6453.



Meet our beautiful friend, Flower! Flower and her friend, Bambi, were surviving on their own on Old River Road in Ukiah. A community member said she saw them get dumped there, sadly. Bambi was caught first and a few days later, Animal Control was able to trap Flower and bring her to us, thankfully. Although these two avoided capture, once they were caught, we were thrilled to find out they are very sweet and love people! Once they got here we promised them they would never have to live on the streets again!

Flower is a medium-size gal, weighing in around 45 pounds (shhhhh ... don't tell her we shared her weight). She is around a year old, so she is still pretty young! Flower currently is living in one of our wonderful foster



homes where she is learning the ropes. She is living with other dogs, is crate-trained, potty-trained, likes to be brushed, and loves to cuddle. Her foster family states she is a sweet, loving and curious girl who has the look that steals their heart every time. If Flower sounds like your girl, you may apply at www. mendohumanesociety.com today!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email catteam@hsimc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsimc.org. Visit www.petfinder.com or the "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, visit www. mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.

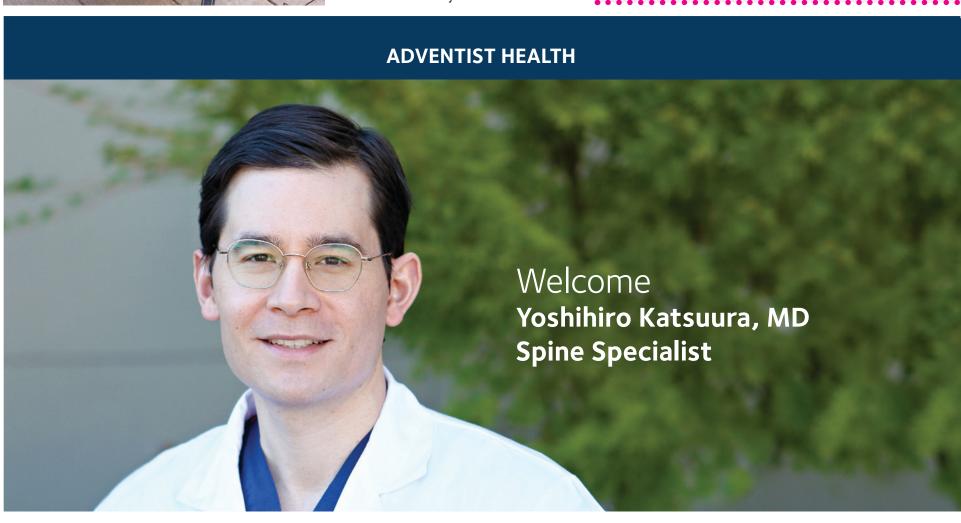




# Congrats **Happy 102nd Birthday!**

Family and friends are wishing Georgia Keesey a very happy birthday as she turns 102 on February 15. Born in Crumpler, NC, she has spent 25 years of her life as a Willits resident. She has three boys, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.





### Joining the experienced orthopedic physicians serving Mendocino County



William Bowen, MD Orthopedics



Paul Charpentier, MD Orthopedics



Jeremiah Dawson, MD Orthopedics



Ephraim Dickinson, MD Orthopedics



Scott Gherini, MD Orthopedics



Brian Gould, DO Sports Medicine

Dr. Yoshihiro Katsuura is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in complex adult and pediatric spine care. He believes in using surgery only when necessary and utilizes minimally invasive techniques for better outcomes.

A graduate of Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Dr. Katsuura went on to complete a residency at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and a fellowship in spine surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery and Weill Cornell Medical College. Having spent time in Willits practicing alongside Dr. Bowen, Dr. Katsuura is thrilled to be back home in California, caring for patients at Adventist Health Howard Memorial.



Now welcoming new patients 707-459-6115 3 Marcela Drive, Suite C, Willits, CA AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org

