

Willits Weekly

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Online & Print

Willits Weekly newspaper

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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BOS allocates more PG&E funds for EMS

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At their February 7 meeting the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved moving forward with plans to fund emergency medical services in the county with around \$2.5 million in PG&E settlement money. The BOS also approved a "retroactive agreement with Sonoma County" for \$343,358 "for the provision of Emergency Medical Services" for the fiscal year 2022-23.

And based on statements by Social Services Director Bekkie Emery, it appears that the county is planning to enter a renewed multi-year contract with the Sonoma County company Coastal Valleys in July for EMS oversight in Mendocino County.

It also sounds as if the county is close to entering a joint powers authority agreement with the City of Ukiah and Ukiah Fire for an ongoing contract to dispense EMS in the county, and will be using \$1 million of PG&E money to complete that plan.

According to Emery, after discussing and hearing

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

FEMA to open Disaster Recovery Center in Willits

Submitted by County of Mendocino

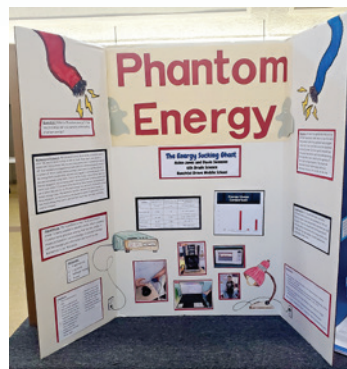
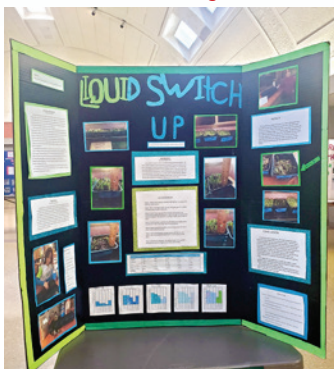
The Federal Emergency Management Agency is opening full Disaster Recovery Centers in Mendocino County for Mendocino County's winter storms – one in Willits and one in Point Arena.

FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers are accessible facilities and mobile offices you can visit to learn more about FEMA and other disaster-assistance programs.

FEMA is working in Willits right now with a Mobile Registration Intake Center that opened February 11 and will operate through February 17, 9 am to 7 pm daily, at the Willits Branch Library, rear parking lot, 390 East Commercial Street.

Residents who were affected by severe storms and flooding that began December 27, 2022 can register, update their FEMA applications, and learn about state and community programs and other available assistance at the centers.

Read the rest of **Center**
Over on Page 4



Above, from left: "Liquid Switch Up" by Liliana Schneider-Elliott, 6th grade, Willits Charter School. Erin Vaccaro, Willits Science Fair Coordinator, left, stands with project judges and mother-daughter duo Jessica and Sheri Cronin. "Phantom Energy" by Aiden Jones and Davin Swensen, 6th grade, Baechtel Grove Middle School. Below: Jessica Cronin, recent University of California, Berkeley grad, has judged the fair several times and enjoys seeing the youth in the community participate, including Prisila, Autumn and Ariana's 8th-grade project from Baechtel Grove Middle School titled "Hungry, Hungry Skittles."



Photos by
Maureen
Jennison

Inquisitive Minds

Willits holds annual science fair and has past participant and recent college grad as judge

The Science Fair comes around every February, and while some dread the task – and scrubbing the overflowed, red-colored vinegar off the carpet, post-experiment – others cannot wait for a chance to put their questions to the test, and showcase their results to the community.

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Recent University of California, Berkeley graduate, Willits native, and science aficionado, Jessica Cronin, was certainly a student in the second category, and is even returning home to help judge the projects now, with mom and local veterinarian, Sheri Cronin.

Jessica Cronin graduated from Willits Charter School in 2018 and enjoyed participating in the fair since the 4th grade, through the-then, non-mandatory participation of her senior year. She noted she was already working on a question of her own regarding density gradients and their use in helping her cleanly isolate parasite eggs from fecal matter using liquids found from her mom's veterinary supply closet.

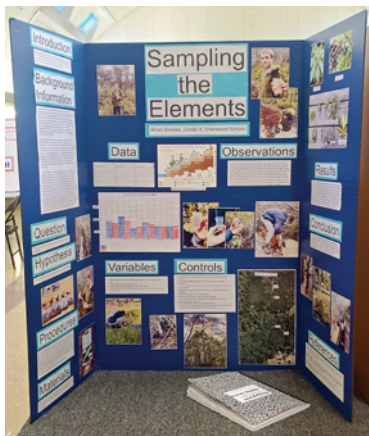
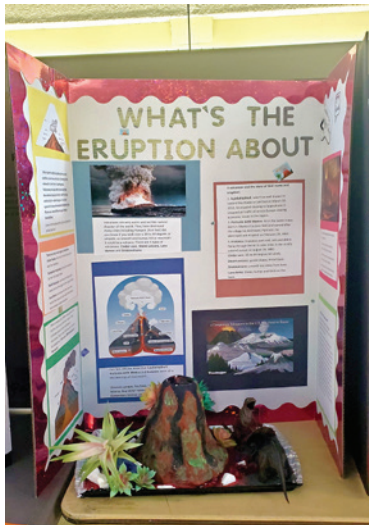
"I was already working on the question myself, so I figured I would go ahead and make it into a science fair project that year, too!" she laughed.

Cronin made it through the local and county levels to the state competition several times over the years.

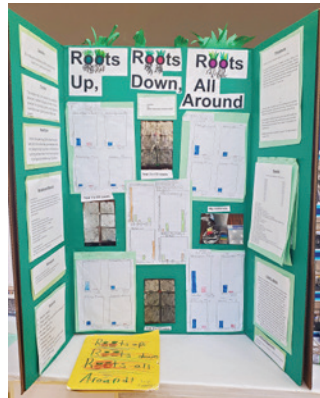
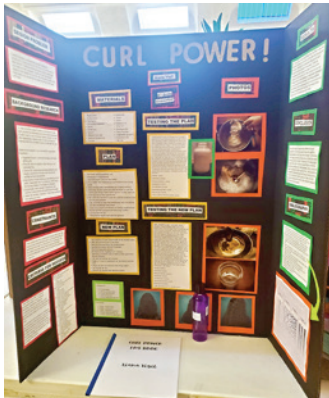
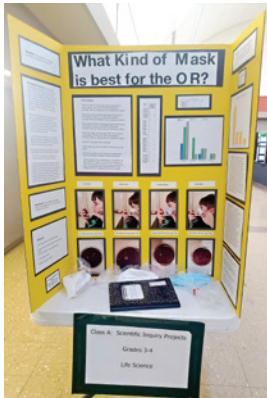
Recently, Cronin graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, where she received a degree in integrative biology and now is looking to move forward with a graduate degree in forensic anthropology.

"The science fair was so helpful to prepare me for what to expect in college," explained

Read the rest of **Science**
Over on page 11



At top: "What's the eruption about?" by Landyn Martin, Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary School. Above: "Sampling the Elements" by Brian Bowles, 8th grade, Sherwood School.



Above, from left: "What kind of mask is best for the OR?" by Xiana Vigil, 4th grade, home school. "The Purr-Fur-ed Cat Toy" by Aybrie Whitehurst, Grade 4, Willits Elementary School. "Roots, Roots, Up, Down, All Around" by Annaleis Wolf, 4th grade, Willits Elementary Charter School. Below, left: Jessica Cronin, left, and mom Sheri discuss Wyatt Wolf's fifth-grade project from the Willits Elementary Charter School "Hoverboard" during the Sunday judging. Below, right: "Taste of Salt" by James Mattson, 5th grade, Blosser Lane Elementary School.



Willits teachers, district OK tentative contract

Margi Gomez Guhde
Features Writer
margi@willitsweekly.com

Willits Unified School District Superintendent Mark Beebe began the February 8 school board meeting with a short presentation on Sherwood School, commenting on the unique organization of its mixed-grade classrooms. Three teachers presented certificates to a number of children, remarking on their kindness to others, their perseverance and hard work, and their willingness to go above and beyond what is asked of them.

An appreciation of the Willits wrestling teams saw a large group of student athletes join the meeting, as their Head Coach Brian Bowles related the successes of the season, which culminated in a big win at the Division 1 playoffs. He also praised the girls' team, which won a number of competitions while often competing with as few as four teammates. He thanked the teachers. The board, and coaches Dana Karkar, William Dunaway and Quinton Bowlds, praising the

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

City water flushing started this week

Posted by City of Willits

The week of February 13, 2023, the City of Willits Water Department will begin our annual water system flushing program.

We will start at the base of Pine Mountain and work our way toward the city.

We anticipate flushing on Main Street will begin approximately three weeks after flushing begins. Businesses on Main Street will be notified prior to the start of the flushing. The flushing will be done at night in the hope of causing as little disruption to you and your business as possible.

By flushing the system, we will be "re-routing" the water flow in order to pick up and remove all accumulated sediment in the Water Distribution System. This may cause the water to appear dirty and discolored but it is SAFE! It was been disinfected, and chlorine residue ensures that no bacteria can survive within the system.

Here are several hint to
Read the rest of **Flushing**
Over on Page 11

Former Willits police chief donates \$5,000 to Nuestra Alianza

Submitted by Wilder Herbertson, business manager, for Nuestra Alianza de Willits

Former Willits Police Chief Alexis Blaylock was touched by the mission of Nuestra Alianza de Willits, and met with Alianza staff to present a donation of \$5,000 at their office in Willits on January 16, 2023.

“Your dedication to the well-being of children and your commitment to providing a better, safer, and healthier place to live truly touched my heart,” she said in her donation letter which accompanied the visit. “Assisting disadvantaged community members in attaining academic success is often an overlooked component among community services.... Nuestra Alianza fills that gap.”

In addition to providing a Spanish-language summer program for children called Plan Vacacional, multi-cultural after-school enrichment through the Willits Kids Club, math tutoring for high school students, and parenting classes for parents of young children, Nuestra Alianza has many programs that support adults as well.

These services include: tax preparation, a bi-monthly food bank, COVID-19 testing five days a week, mental health counseling, translation services, English as a Second Language classes, and assistance with or referrals for immigration, CalFresh, or social services needs.

Nuestra Alianza has been a registered non-profit since 2002, when a group of Latinx students in Dina Hutton's ESL class decided to incorporate and provide the services they felt their community was missing. All services are free to all Willits and Mendocino County residents, but Nuestra Alianza makes a special effort to fill the gap in social services for the Latinx and undocumented members of our community.

“It is my desire,” said Alexis Blaylock, “that the community come together and match these funds.”

To donate to Nuestra Alianza, visit nuestraalianzadewillits.org or send a check to:: Nuestra Alianza de Willits, 291 School St, #1, Willits, CA 95490.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Rumor is wrong

To the Editor:

I am writing to provide factual information to the community about my sister. I recently received a heartfelt condolence from a Willits friend because she heard a rumor that my sister had died. My sister did not die, she is living in Holy Child Care Home in Ukiah. I saw her this week.

She's doing fine considering her declining health. She has early onset Alzheimer's disease. She is 62 years old. Her days are numbered, but they haven't run out yet. She is cared for by professional, kind and compassionate helpers who make her life as comfortable as possible.

Please join me in wishing her peace and mercy during this precious and measured time. Her name is Deborah Vest. Thank you.

Ruthanne Volz, Willits

Be aware of scams

To the Editor:

I want everybody to be aware that a scam is happening.

You will be sent an email from somebody close to you asking for help.

They will say they are trying to send a gift card to somebody and are having problems with their card, please help.

Just be aware and do not get scammed like I did.

Never send any gift cards or money without physically speaking to the person. Best to all,

Laura Schuette, 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.

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Cannabis Alliance letter requests state intervention, cites failure of county pot program

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, the trade association representing cannabis operators in Mendocino County, submitted a 16-page letter on February 8 to Governor Gavin Newsom, Department of Cannabis Control Director Nicole Elliott, and California legislative leaders documenting the county's failure to establish a process capable of moving small and legacy cannabis cultivators towards state annual licensure.

Nearly six years into its local permitting process, Mendocino County has transitioned just six local cannabis farmers to state annual licensure: less than 1% of all cultivators in the county. For comparison, 62% of cultivators in Humboldt County, 58% of cultivators in Nevada County, and 23% of cultivators in Trinity County have obtained a state annual license.

With state deadlines for permit processing approaching on July 1, 2023, MCA's letter documents how nearly all small cannabis cultivators in Mendocino are now at imminent risk of losing their state licenses, threatening to undermine the promise of Proposition 64 to provide a just transition for legacy operators.

The letter documents how nearly six years after passing an ordinance to regulate cannabis cultivation, the Mendocino Cannabis Department has not meaningfully moved forward to process local cannabis permits, cannabis permit renewals, or documents necessary for California Environmental Quality Act compliance.

Recent reports from MCD suggest a plan to transition just 256 "prioritized" operators to annual licensure, implying that nearly 70% of Mendocino's 841 current operators have no path forward to remain in the legal market. Simultaneously, however, statements by MCD indicate that expected staffing resources are just half of what MCD claims would be necessary to process these 256 applications in time to meet state deadlines. Further, among over 500 "deprioritized" operators, MCA has found that a substantial number have been deprioritized incorrectly based on demonstrably false claims of tax delinquency or lack of state licensure.

While the state allocated over \$17 million in grant funding to assist Mendocino's local government with permit processing in 2021, MCA's letter documents a lack of public accounting on how these funds have been spent, inconsistencies regarding the county's proposed work plan in its grant application, and delays in opening an application process for over \$10 million in funds set aside for direct grants to cultivators.

The letter further demonstrates how, rather than working to establish a viable permitting process, the Mendocino Cannabis Department and the Board of Supervisors have repeatedly focused time and energy on topics that raise additional barriers to compliance, including raising contrived legal objections to the county's own cannabis equity program, and threatening operators with denial on "vegetation modification" grounds without due process.

"For years, MCA has been sounding the alarm on the unfolding crisis within the county's cannabis program" said Michael Katz, MCA's executive director. "Throughout 2022, we worked in good faith with the Board of Supervisors' cannabis ad hoc committee to develop policy recommendations to course-correct the program, only to have most of them rejected by the full board.

"We are out of time," Katz continued. "The bottom line is that there is no functional permit program in Mendocino, and no plan to create one. We cannot move forward if the county continues to obstruct local licensees. We need the state to intervene, and intervene now, if our legacy cultivators are to survive."

MCA's full 16-page letter can be read here: https://bit.ly/MCA-Urgent_Intervention_Request

MCA serves and promotes Mendocino County's world-renowned cannabis cultivators and businesses through sustainable economic development, education and public policy initiatives. Learn more at MendoCannabis.com.

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

February 2023 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

FEMA will host Disaster Recovery Centers in Willits for residents impacted by 2022-2023 Winter Storms. Disaster Recovery Centers will open from February 18 to February 24 at the Willits Community Center. A Mobile Registration Intake Center is open until February 17 at the Willits Library rear parking lot from 9 am to 7 pm.

Residents who were affected by severe storms and flooding can register, update their FEMA applications, and learn about state and community programs and other available assistance at the centers.

Anyone interested in case status or registration with FEMA should call 800-621-3362 or check online at www.disasterassistance.gov. The final day for a household to register with FEMA for Individual Assistance is March 16, 2023.

First 5 Mendocino works to strengthen and nurture early childhood systems. I attended the First 5 Annual Conference. It was really uplifting to be with people focused on children and families. First 5 which is funded by Prop. 10 tobacco tax revenue will have over a \$100 million statewide shortfall due to the ban on flavored tobacco products. There was a thoughtful presentation on the disparities of income, home ownership, and health results that have become more pronounced in recent years due in part to the pandemic.

The majority of supervisors sided with me in not spending \$25,000 for outside counsel to tell us whether the Equity Grant the county has been administering for the last year and a half is breaking federal law. This is a state-funded grant so if we are breaking federal law regarding cannabis activity, then everyone from the governor to every county accepting these funds is guilty (which I don't think is the case and isn't worth spending time or money trying to figure out). The others did want to send it off to the State Attorney General for an opinion which could take a year or so.

We had the first "Talk with Your Supervisor" February 9 at Brickhouse Coffee in Willits. We are going to have these open discussions on the second Thursday of each month from 10 to 11 am. In order to keep balance in our lives, whoever wants to walk for half an hour afterwards is invited to join. Bring your ideas and solutions to making Mendocino County a better place for all.

Please reach out to me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.

Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, February 16: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Friday, February 17: Teriyaki Chicken Stir Fry

Monday, February 20: Chicken Parmesan, Veggie, Garlic Bread

Tuesday, February 21: Hot Dog, Chili, Cole Slaw

Wednesday, February 22: Fish Tacos, Rice & Beans

Thursday, February 23: Western Chicken Sandwich, Mac Salad, Pickle

Friday, February 24: Turkey w/Dressing, Cranberry Sauce, Veggie, Roll

Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise

class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am. Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am.

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

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

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



Above, from left: The screen counts down the minutes left until the blind changes. Mary Colvig, president of the Waldorf Board of Directors, is hoping for a good hand. An array of the prizes for the poker tournament are on display. Below: Approximately 60 players vie for the grand prize in addition to donating to the Waldorf School.



At left: Andrew Hosford, vice president at Sparetime Supply, acts as emcee and facilitator. At left: The new Sparetime Supply warehouse plays host to the Waldorf School of Mendocino County Poker Tournament.

Above: Emily Rose Smith, development director at Waldorf School, attends with young William.

Below: Jessy Jane Pope is the new director of the Waldorf School of Mendocino County.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Sixty players – beginners and veterans – compete in annual poker tournament to raise money for the Waldorf School of Mendocino County

"There is some serious poker playing happening right now. We are raising money for the Waldorf School of Mendocino County in Calpella. We need money for all the amazing things that make the superior education for the children happen," said new school director Jessy Jane Pope.

And serious it was, although full of serious fun for the generous participants. Approximately 60 players participated. A startup pot of \$5,000 in chips cost \$60, with the ability to buy another \$5,000 in chips for an additional \$40.

Even more chips could be purchased throughout the evening. Sometimes this was necessary to keep playing, depending on the way the cards fell and the abilities of the players, as well as their talents in bluffing and keeping their poker faces from giving away what they were holding in their hands.

Some of the players were experienced in the poker arts, but many were beginners, just at the tables to contribute, have some fun, eat an included tri tip dinner, drink some beer or spirits, and try to bluff their opponents.

"We're playing Texas Hold'em poker, two hole cards and five common cards for everybody to use. Highest hand wins," explained poker emcee Andrew Hosford of Sparetime Supply, at whose new warehouse the tournament was staged.

"There are hard rules like which hand wins," said Hosford, "and betting rules like waiting your turn to bet, unsaid rules like you don't fold your hand before it's your turn because you might give away some information. Certainly, experience comes into it but at the end of the day, a lot of it comes down to luck. If you're lucky and get the hands, you could win it all."

In order to keep the tournament progressing and pump up the volume of chips, every 20 minutes, a series of "blinds" were instigated. Blinds are



Above: The champion bracelet is the most coveted prize for the first-place winner, even more than the \$500. Below: A player collects his many chips after winning the hand. At right: Mattie Owen volunteered to help with the tournament.



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3/3/23

STAY TUNED

mandatory wagers that must be placed into the pot before any cards are dealt. They are paid by the players occupying the "small blind" and "big blind" positions at the table.

"The blind is to give the players incentive to put some money out there and get playing," Hosford explained. "The \$50 bet is a 'half-blind' and the 'big blind' is a \$100 bet, which sets the minimum bet at \$100. If you want to call, you have to put \$100 in the pot. To raise, you have to put \$200 or more out there.

"As the timer goes down," said Hosford, "we'll switch to another blind which increases every 20 minutes. The idea of the blinds is to keep the game going and progressing. At the final table, the blind will be about \$5,000 to \$10,000." The blind structure is not for the faint-of-heart and only the heartiest players will reach the final table.

Emily Rose Smith, development director at the Waldorf School of Mendocino, explained the prizes for the final three players: "First place gets \$500 cash, the champion bracelet, a bottle of wine, and a Sparetime-donated backpack. Second place gets \$400, a YETI drink container, and wine.

"Third place and 'The Bubble' – they get cash prizes and Sparetime has donated goodies to go with it. The poker champion bracelet is now the coveted prize. It's what people are actually playing for," said Smith. There was also a winner of the high hand of the evening. She won a YETI ice chest

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



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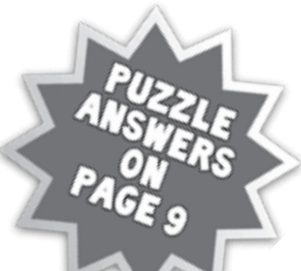
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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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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!

BLOOD CELLS WORD SEARCH

M	O	B	P	V	A	D	A	C	Y	O	A	D	I	S	E	I	B	O	M
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49					50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58					
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

CLUES ACROSS

1. River in Tuscany
5. A way to represent
8. Rocker's guitar
12. Civil Rights group
14. Brew
15. Scratch
16. W. Asian country
18. The Eye Network
19. Clarified butter
20. Part of the Cascade Range
21. Downwind
22. A way to steer
23. Loop
26. Not ingested
30. Swampy coniferous forest
31. Musician
32. Signing
33. Containing iron
34. Part of a theorem or proof
39. Veterans battleground (slang)
42. Of enormous proportions
44. Italian city
46. Come before

17. Bowling alleys have many
49. Undergarments
50. Male parent
51. Ropes
56. Ear part
57. Investment vehicle
58. Dictator
59. Cain and ___
60. A type of code
61. Border river along India and Nepal
62. It's what's for dinner
63. Consume
64. Christian ___, designer

CLUES DOWN

1. Cuckoos
2. Skin issue
3. City in central Japan
4. Sorrels
5. Twinned diamond
6. Canadian province
7. Monetary units
8. Head honcho
9. Goddess of wisdom
10. Part of a play
11. Get rid of
13. Applicant

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

January 22 to January 28

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **81 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

January 22

2:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

9:11 pm: LOPEZ, Lila Noel (34) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and failure to appear.

January 23

9:29 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Blosser Lane and Franklin Avenue and issued a warning.

January 24

9:27 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of Coast Street and issued a citation.

January 25

3:03 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:08 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of Shell Lane and issued a warning.

January 26

12:52 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

1:35 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of Shell Lane.

8:41 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 600 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

2:11 pm: MORGAN, Renee Elizabeth (51) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue following a disturbance. She was arrested pursuant to 242 PC (Battery) and 594 PC (Vandalism).

9:27 pm: ELENNISS, Jeremy Paul (24) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Crest Drive and Sherwood Hill Drive. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher, and violation of probation.

10:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

January 27

8:57 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the North Willits Bypass and issued a warning.

11:00 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

January 28

1:54 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and Railroad Avenue.

3:19 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Poplar and Holly Street and issued a warning.

10:19 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

11:45 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Monroe Street and issued a citation.

10:33 pm: LEWIS, Brooke Angela (42) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

Arson arrest in fire
at Gualala Community Center

By Lt. Joseph Comer for MCSO

On February 13, 2023 at approximately 4:09 am, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a possible arson at the Gualala Community Center located in the 47000 block of Center Street in Gualala, California.

When deputies arrived, they contacted personnel with the South Coast Fire Protection District. South Coast Fire personnel were on scene and still in the process of extinguishing a large structure fire. Reports about the fire say two of the three buildings making up the community center, including the Main Hall, were destroyed.

Deputies received initial information from fire personnel that suggested the fire may have been intentionally set. Deputies initiated an investigation and requested the response from detectives with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and an arson investigator with the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority.

While awaiting that response, MCSO deputies were able to access video surveillance footage that showed a male individual igniting a fire at the location and then fleeing from the property on foot. Deputies observed that the ignited fire spread rapidly within minutes and fully engulfed the structure.

The video surveillance provided deputies with a detailed clothing description of the suspect.

At about 7:52 am, following a review of that footage, deputies located an individual matching the description in the 39000 block of South Highway 1 in Gualala.

The individual was identified as Roland Joseph Eskind Jr., 53, who is believed to be transient, arriving in the Gualala area just day(s) before the arson.

Eskind was arrested and transported to the Mendocino County Jail to be booked for willfully and maliciously setting fire to a structure (451 PC).

This investigation is still ongoing, and additional information may be provided at a later date.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the South Coast Fire Protection District, the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority, and the Gualala community for their assistance in this investigation.

The rest of
Center

From page 1

The full Disaster Recovery Center is set to open at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, on February 18 and continue through February 24, from 9 am to 7 pm daily.

Specialists at the Disaster Recovery Center can clarify information you received from FEMA or other agencies; they can explain the rental assistance available to homeowners and renters; and they can fax your requested documents to a FEMA processing center and scan or copy new information or documents needed for case files.

Mendocino County has been approved

for both public assistance and individual assistance to support recovery efforts related to damage and / or losses from the storms that began on December 27, 2022.

As per a press release from FEMA, residents who had uninsured or underinsured damage and losses resulting from the severe storms and flooding are encouraged to apply to FEMA, although you do not need to visit a Disaster Recovery Center to apply.

Here are other ways to apply: Go to DisasterAssistance.gov, use the FEMA mobile app or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.



Willits Weekly

Online & In Print





Realty Guru

Lee Persico celebrates 50 years in real estate
at party with family and friends

"Lee has been interesting to live with," said Lee Persico's wife, Evelyn, echoing the sentiments of many of the attendees at his gathering celebrating 50 years in real estate at Loose Caboose Cafe.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

"Even with the ups and downs, it's been good," said Evelyn. "We've had 65 years. A lot has happened during that time. We finished growing up together, had a family, probably sooner than we were ready to, but we all survived."

Reminiscing was the order of the day. Fifty years of relationships, events and business create a plethora of memories to share, which the attendees did while eating their salads and sandwiches. Lee munched on his Lil' Buckeroo Hot Dog as he listened and added quips and insights to his past friends and associates.

After lunch, Lee blew out the candles (actually there was just one remaining lit candle as he had some stories to relate before returning to the cake) on a cake that sported a replica of his original real estate license spread over the top. No, there were not 50 candles, just four that spelled out "fifty."

An interesting, dynamic and jovial Lee is obviously well-loved as evidenced by the friends and associates who turned out to enjoy this honorary noontime repast at his sister-in-law Jill Persico's restaurant.

Fifty years of plying any trade is a rare feat, but combine this with the fact that he has also been a rancher, and his has been a life filled with history. He has seen many changes, challenges and joys in Little Lake Valley as has his second cousin, Edie Ceccarelli, the oldest woman in the United States.

Read the rest of
Persico

Over on page 9





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REMOVAL SERVICES**

WE WILL REMOVE YOUR JUNK VEHICLES
AND PROCESS YOUR DMV PAPER WORK

FOR INFO CALL: 707-459-9116

Above, left: Lee Persico is surrounded by friends, associates and family on the occasion of his 50th year in real estate. Above, right: Lee Persico, who has provided real estate services in the area for 50 years, smiles for the camera. At right: Lee Persico blows out the candles on his cake. Below, left: Lee Persico's cake sports a replica of his original real estate license from 1973. Below right: Lee Persico's photos of his past associates and friends are passed around. Below, right, at bottom: Chuck Persico, Lee's brother, reminisces with Tara Moratti, new owner of Coldwell Banker.





**Ride Into Spring
GIVEAWAY**

**EARN ENTRIES
FEB 6 - MARCH 31**

300 Points = 1 Entry

**FRI., MARCH 31
DRAWINGS STARTING AT 8 PM**

2nd - 6th Place
Win \$100 to \$1,000 Free Play

**1st PLACE GRAND PRIZE
New 2022 Honda Fury Motorcycle**

Make and model may vary.



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**100 Kawi Place
Willits, CA 95490
Tel: 707-459-7978**

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.

Official Calendar Sponsor

HEART OF THE REDWOODS

Willits

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Est. 1926

MAKING WILLITS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY

Serving the community since 1926

<https://willits.org/>

299 East Commercial Street
Willits, California 95490

Please feel free to visit our office for brochures, maps and additional information about the area

(707) 459-7910

Blazing Paintballs

March 3-5 in Laytonville

Mendo Paintball presents Blazing Paintballs, a 2-day Paintball Scenario Game "taking it back to the old wild Western times of dusty saloons, cattle runnin', sheriffs and bandits." At Mendocino Magic Campground, 3000 Branscomb Road, Laytonville. Check-in begins at noon on Friday, March 3, with evening welcome party, two days of gameplay, two nights of camping, and "all you can eat compressed air," through Sunday, March 5, at 4 pm. Advance tickets: \$90 for the weekend, \$45 single day entry. Advance meal ticket: \$55. For tickets and more info about "day of" tickets, buying event paint, detailed scenario and points, etc., visit: www.eventbrite.com/e/blazing-paintballs-2-day-paintball-scenario-game-tickets-469683936297

What's Happening Around Town

Thursday, February 16

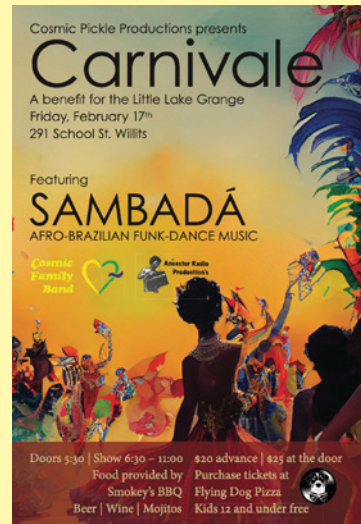
Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm. Thursday, February 16, 3 to 5:30 pm.

"Who's Who in Local History" at the Willits Library: "Who's Who in Local History" is a monthly presentation and discussion at the Willits Branch Library, presented by Denise, library assistant and resident historian. Join us Thursday, February 16 at 5:30 pm "as we explore a different character, or characters, from our past and examine what contributions they have made in local history." Followed by discussion and refreshments. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Friday, February 17

Dave Pierce solo at Brickhouse: Guitarist/Vocalist Dave Pierce does a solo show at Brickhouse Coffee, Friday, February 17, 11:30 am to 2 pm. An afternoon of songs in a variety of styles – light jazz, Americana, '60s and '70s pop-rock, singer/songwriter, folk, and originals. Also the next two third Fridays of the month. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.

Carnivale at the Grange with SambaDá: Cosmic Pickle Productions presents a Carnivale benefit for the Little Lake Grange on Friday, February 17. Featuring Afro Brazilian funk dance music by headliners SambaDá. "SambaDá musically unites the Americas, drawing from percussion-based styles of South and Central America, and blending it with that good old funk and reggae back beat." Also the Cosmic Family Band and Ancestor Radio Productions. Doors open 5:30, show: 6:30 to 11 pm. \$20 advance; \$25 at the door; kids 12 and under are free. Advance tickets at Flying Dog Pizza. Food provided by Smokey's BBQ. Beer, wine and mojitos. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.



"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at Willits Community Theatre: "The classic play that pits human freedom against institutional order and conformity. The conflict between R.P. McMurphy and Nurse Ratched is one of the classic stories in American theater." Based on Ken Kesey's 1962 novel, directed by Billy Hetherington, and featuring Joshua Sternberg as McMurphy and Kelly Kesey as Nurse Ratched. Plays Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm, through February 26. Tickets are \$20 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

Saturday, February 18

Seed Swap at the Willits Grange: part of a series of seed-sharing events across the county sponsored by the Mendocino County Granges and the Mendocino County Library. Saturday, February 18, from 12 to 3 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, in Willits. "We encourage all local gardeners to participate by requesting seeds from others and offering seeds they've saved from their own gardens." Also, info about seed saving, including which plants can be saved and shared most successfully, and how to do it.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at Willits Community Theatre: Showing on weekends through February 26. Saturday, February 18 show at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

Helen Eve at Shanachie Pub: A solo show by singer/songwriter/guitarist Helene Eve, who's played eclectic styles of music in many moods – bluesy, jazzy, funky, contemporary pop, country, folk and originals – at music venues throughout Mendocino County. Saturday, February 18, 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Sunday, February 19

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at Willits Community Theatre: Showing on weekends through February 26. Sunday, February 19 show at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

Thursday, February 23

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm. Thursday, February 9, 3 to 5:30 pm.



"A Touch of Mendocino County" speaker series at the library: The Willits Library hosts a new monthly speaker series on the last Thursday of the month, "A Touch of Mendocino County." A variety of topics, including art, weaving, history, and basketry. "For those who wish to embrace and celebrate all that is uniquely Mendocino County, please join us at these talks to learn something new." The February talk, Thursday, February 23, 11 am to noon, is on Rebecca Johnson, a painter and sculptor with a studio in Philo. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Seating is limited; first come, first-served. Info: visit www.mendolibrary.org or call the Willits Library at 459-5908.

Friday, February 24

WEF "Take It and Go" Tri Tip Dinner: Willits Educational Foundation presents a "Take It and Go" Tri Tip Dinner on Friday, February 24. Pick up includes dinner for 4: a whole tri tip, Caesar salad, beans, Emmental bread, Kathleen Ellis Lewis' homemade cookies, and a rose. Pick up from

DRIVE THRU TRI TIP DINNER

February 24, 2023

Pick up 4 - 6 pm
WHS Ag Farm

Tickets available from:
Wendy Kavanagh (707) 954-0955
Jenna Drew (707) 354-1670

or pick up at:
101 Trailer & RV Supply
Monkey Wrench Men & Women's Wear

\$60 dinner for 4
Tri-tip, beans, salad,
bread, cookies & a rose

Willits Educational Foundation

4 to 6 pm at the Willits FFA Ag Farm, Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Advance tickets at 101 Trailer or Monkey Wrench or contact Windi Kvasnicka for tickets.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at Willits Community Theatre: Showing on weekends through February 26. Friday, February 24 show at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.



sculpted songs in the course of their socially distanced sessions." Friday, February 24 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B Main Street.

Blue Zones Celebration at Dahvi's Kitchen: Blue Zones Project Mendocino County names Dahvi's Kitchen as the first Willits-based Approved Blue Zones Project Restaurant in Mendocino County and the second countywide. Dahvi's Kitchen provides delicious Cambodian food and burgers to the community. A ribbon-cutting and celebration on Friday, February 24, from 2 to 3:30 pm, will be followed with a sampling of her delicious Blue Zones-approved dishes. 349 South Main Street. 707-354-6777.



Saturday, February 25

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at Willits Community Theatre: Showing on weekends through February 26. Saturday, February 25 show at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

Sunday, February 26

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am, every fourth Sunday, February 26

this month. "\$10 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes and local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Choose our sourdough wholegrain, gluten-free, or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic fresh eggs made to order, real butter, orange juice, organic coffee or tea. All for only \$10, \$9 for seniors, \$5 for children under 10. Sunday, January 26, 8 to 11 am. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at Willits Community Theatre: Showing on weekends through February 26. Sunday, February 19 show at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

Ongoing Events

"Cannabis in Mendocino County: Our Story": Exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum's Long Gallery, by guest curators Richard Jergenson and Annie Waters, who have shared displays and collections from their Counter Culture Museum and Archives. Also a guest speaker series. The exhibit is on display through March 19. Curators Jergenson and Waters will be available as docents for the public to engage in conversation on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Info: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum

Nancy & Victor Palomino at WCA: Willits Center for the Arts presents its February show, featuring ceramics by Nancy New and paintings by Victor Palomino, an artist born in Bogota, Colombia, and currently living in Ukiah. Nancy New, a Willits resident, has honed her skills as a potter for over 50 years. The show runs through February 26. Gallery hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 am until 5 pm. Info: visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org or call 707-459-1726. WCA, 71 East Commercial

Street.

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

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

"Garraoke" at Diggers Bar: Karaoke night the second and fourth Friday of every month, with host and DJ Garrett Moore. "From 8 pm to midnight, then

21+ COYOTE VALLEY CASINO

NORTH COAST COMEDY

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 18

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 • SHOW STARTS AT 7:30 • ENDS AT 9:00

HEADLINER **JOE HILL**

FEATURING **SHANNON BATTLE**
MORGAN ANDERSON
DJ HOST **THE BERN MAN**

SPONSORS: Cedar River & Associates, Mendocino County, Redwood Empire Food Bank, Willits Center for the Arts

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT MENDOCINO BOOK COMPANY, WWW.TOTALBERN.COM OR CALL 707-367-2870

get down until closing!" Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street.

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

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

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street

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

Saturday Scramble: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, hosted by Tyler B. Bring any instrument you can play and sign up to perform a 15-minute set with other local musicians. "Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!"

Tyler Grass & The Sherwood Mountain Boys: Every first and third Thursday evening of the month at 7 pm. "Come check out some of our favorite locals playing bluegrass & more!"

Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm – welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association. "so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!"

Weekly Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org

Story Time: Tuesday through Friday each week, with Spanish-language storytime on Fridays, 10:30 to 11 am. "Start your morning listening to a story. Join us in the children's area of the library."

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

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

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

Writer's Block Group: Wednesdays, from 11 am to noon. "Open to young-adult and adult writers to share their ideas and writings in an environment of

supportive and creative suggestions and feedback." Hosted by Librarian Benjamin MacBean. Willits Library meeting room.

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

Computer Literacy for Everyone: Every Saturday at the Willits Library, from 11 to 11:30 am. "This program has a variety of topics including email, Google products, social media, and more. After an introduction in the meeting room, the computers will be available so you can practice your new skills." Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, 459-5908.

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

The Mendocino Women's Political Coalition
39th Annual - 2023

Women's History Gala Celebration

Celebrating Women

Who Tell Our Stories

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 12:30 - 2 PM

Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse

107 S. Oak Street, Ukiah Doors open at noon

HONOREES

ELLEN WEED
Actor, director, teacher, one of the founders of the Ukiah Players Theatre

SARAH REITH
Author, artist, and journalist with the KZYX news; working on second novel

DOT BROVARNEY
Author, Historian, and curator - new book explores Lake Leonard and Reeves Canyon

Emcee Mari Rodin
Land Acknowledgement by Lois Lockart

*** Youth Art Exhibit * Refreshments * Socializing * Silent Auction**

MUSIC BY THE REAL SARAHs

FEATURING FIRST NATIONS
with CORINE PEARCE

BUFFIE SCHMIDT

CANINE ADOPTION EVENT

HALF OFF
dog adoption fees!

SPAYED/NEUTERED DOGS 6 months & older.

This is an on-going event at the Ukiah & Ft. Bragg Shelters.

To see our adoptable dogs, and for information about the adoption process, visit our website.

mendoanimalshelter.com

Ukiah Shelter • 298 Plant Road • 707-467-6453
Ft. Bragg Shelter • 19701 Summers Lane • 707-961-2491

Canine Adoption Deals at the Ukiah and Fort Bragg Animal Shelters

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

DAHVI'S KITCHEN

Come and enjoy some delicious food and celebrate their success!

Friday February 24, 2023 2:00 - 3:30pm

Dahvi's Kitchen 349 S. Main St. Willits, CA 95490

DAHVI'S KITCHEN BLUE ZONES APPROVED CELEBRATION

RSVP: RYAN VENESS (707) 227-4862

BLUE ZONES PROJECT POWERED BY: AdventistHealth

North Coast Comedy

February 18 at Coyote Valley Casino

Coyote Valley Casino and Total Bern Productions present "North Coast Comedy," on Saturday, February 18, featuring headline Joe Hill, on his "You Take Care" Comedy Tour. Also featuring Shannon Battle with Morgan Anderson, plus DJ/host The Bern Man. Doors open at 6:30 pm, show from 7:30 to 9 pm. More info and advance tickets (\$20 to \$110) at www.eventbrite.com/e/north-coast-comedy-tickets-515274087667.

BLAZING PAINTBALLS

MARCH 3-5, 2023

MENDO PAINTBALL

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits 707-459-NOVO (6696) www.noyotheatre.com

Starts Friday, Feb 24: **Jesus Revolution & Cocaine Bear**

ANT-MAN & THE WASP: QUANTUMANIA in 2D/3D

(PG13) 2 hrs 5 mins

Friday: (2D) 5:10 & (3D) 8:00pm

Sat/Sun.: (2D) 2:20, 5:10 & (3D) 8:00pm

Mon.-Thurs.: (2D) 5:10 & (3D) 8:00pm

Movie Times for February 17 thru February 23

A MAN CALLED OTTO

(PG13) 2 hrs 6 mins

Fri.: 4:45 & 7:30pm

Sat/Sun.: 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30pm

Mon.-Thurs.: 4:45 & 7:30pm

Masks Optional

80 FOR BRADY

(PG13) 1 hr 38 mins

Friday: 5:25 & 7:45pm

Sat/Sun.: 3:00, 5:25 & 7:45pm

Mon.-Thurs.: 5:25 & 7:45pm

OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners

Tightwad Tuesday Title for Feb. 21 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6!

Hopeful Resolution

This sweet 2-year-old kitty came in just before the New Year and is hoping to find his forever home this year. Resolution came in with a relatively severe abscess on his neck that is now better and healed up. Although he's healthy now, he is still growing some hair back and will have some scarring. He is friendly and playful, and would likely do well in a home with other cats.

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

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

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

Church of Christ
"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
459-2252
Sunday Mass inside:
9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
We welcome All Walks of Faith!

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Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
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ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
707-459-5714
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Sundays
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
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Tranquil Trixie

Trixie is a very special Chihuahua mix who is generally very calm. While she is expressive, she is not a constant barker. She's currently living with a big dog companion and does great with him; she would be fine as an only dog since she likes to be the center of attention!

To learn more about Trixie 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.

Loving Kahlua

Meet Kahlua our newest transfer from the Ukiah Animal Shelter! Kahlua is about 10 months old, and very dog social. Once he opens up, he's ready to play and take all of your treats. He loves playing with tennis balls or just running around with whoever has him. He loves to play and play and play. He is potty trained. We worked on crating and did pretty well. Kahlua loves to snuggle with his person and seems like he would be right at their hip where ever they went. This boy will make a great addition to any home he joins. Come on down to meet your future snuggle buddy!

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

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OBITUARY |

Joanne Wimberly

RIP Joanne Wimberly. March 1941, Missouri to November 2022, Willits, California, via the world. (Too much went wrong, her heart threw in the towel.)



COLUMN | The Medicine Chest Garden

'TO PLANT A GARDEN IS TO BELIEVE IN TOMORROW'

— Audrey Hepburn

Calling all gardeners to the Seed Exchange

The Little Lake Grange will once again host the Willits Seed Sharing on Saturday, February 18, from 12 to 3 p.m. This is a truly wonderful community event for beginning and experienced gardeners alike. A dozen or so tables will offer free seeds of veggies, flowers, herbs, and grains. There will also be seeds from Quail Seeds Co., and plant starts and refreshments for sale.

Donna d'Terra
Columnist

Gardeners are also welcome to bring their seeds too add to the mix. And there are always surprises, such as the bags of lama poop to give away that were brought last year, (they were gone quickly!)

The Seed Sharing is a countywide-Grange endeavor that was started by Willits Grange Master Annie Waters, who wanted to create a project that would bring the community together. A further goal was to teach and encourage people how to save seeds from their own gardens and share with each other.



This Saturday, February 18, 12 to 3 pm, come join local gardeners to celebrate seeds, the rain and our gardening community.

Here's a list of other Seed Sharings and local classes of interest to gardeners:

February 12, 19 and 26: "Herbal Medicine Making from Start to Finish." Contact: office@adaptiveagriculture.org.

February 25, 12 to 3 pm, "Seed Sharing," at the Fort Bragg Grange

March 11, 1 to 4 pm, "Botany and Bees – How to Invite Pollinators Into Your Garden." Contact: Motherlandherbs.org

March 12, 9 am to 12 pm, "Seed Sharing" (and pancake breakfast), Laytonville Grange

March 18 and 19: "Mushroom Propagation for Fire Prevention." Contact: office@adaptiveagriculture.org

Donna d'Terra is an herbalist and herbal educator.

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Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm Sunday: Closed

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW415
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2023-F0051
The following people are doing business as Greenstone Landscapes, 6301 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owners: Johan and Erin Henckell, 6301 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 9549.
This business is conducted by a married couple.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on July 30, 2008.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on January 27, 2023.
/s/ Johan Henckell
Publication dates: February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 2023

WW414
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2023-F0061
The following corporation is doing business as Rosco Transport, 7401 Lorene Road, Redwood Valley, CA 95470.
Registered owner: Rosco Corporation, 7401 Lorene Road, Redwood Valley, CA 95470.
This business is conducted by a corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 26, 2023.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 2, 2023.
/s/ Ross Mayfield III, CEO
Publication dates: February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 2023

WW411
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOANNE WIMBERLY
Case No. **23PR00009**
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of Joanne Wimberly:
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Judy Shelly in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino.
The Petition for Probate requests that Judy Shelly be appointed as Personal Representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: March 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in Dept. TM of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 700 S Franklin Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner: Jennifer M. O'Brien, NEARY and O'BRIEN, 110 S Main St., Ste. C, Willits, CA 95490, Telephone (707) 459-5551.
Publication Dates: February 2, 9, 16, 2023

The rest of Persico | From page 5

"Lee was my mentor from the very first day that I started in the real estate business," quipped Bill Barksdale, recently retired from real estate. "He's one of my very few Republican friends. He's like an older brother to me. Through him, I've met every old rancher and redneck in Mendocino County."

His associates find it amusing that Lee, steeped in the old ways of doing the business, actually participates in Zoom meetings as evidenced by this exchange at the party:

"I thought it was incredible when he, at his age, got on Zoom meetings," said John Lazaro, former owner of Coldwell Banker.

"He doesn't like that secret to get out," added Tara Moratti, current Coldwell Banker owner.

"I can see Lee progressing to the point

where he has a tiny solar panel on his saddle bags to charge his phone," joked Lazaro.

Although Lee insisted, "I hate this business," Moratti reminded him that he hated it so much that he spent 50 years at it and is still at his desk (at a recently new location). To which Lee said that it is the people he works with and the fellowship of the business that keeps him coming in to work.

Lee considers himself both a rancher and a real estate agent. "We own the ranch and the ranch is predominant in our family because my parents bought the ranch when I was five and I've been on that ranch for years. It's basically part of an old land grant from Ulysses Grant. The ranch is our home and we raised our family there and our great-grandchildren get to run around and play there. We've got the pond and we've had weddings out there."

Reminiscing on his life, Lee told Willits Weekly that it was almost impossible to make a living on a ranch, so he began by working at a liquor store, Al's Liquor, next to where Mazahar is currently located.

His uncle "bought a construction business, so I started driving a dump truck when I was about 15 years old. We just did whatever it took to make a living. That was around 1952. I graduated school and I went to Los Angeles to art school, which later became Los Angeles Polytech," said Lee.

He bought a surplus sporting goods store where Moon Lady is now situated and had his father run it. He, along with his lawyer, Galen Hathaway, began buying and selling houses.

"We were buying them for \$5,000 and selling them for \$8,000 and thought we were making a killing at the time," said


Lee. He bought an oil company, which his brother, Chuck, ended up with. Finally, he decided to take some time off, go to school, and get his real estate license.

Lee is definitely old school when it comes to the real estate business. "I've never staged a property. I don't believe in it or a lot of the new technology. I believe if a house is vacant, a lot of times, the people who are looking at it can place their furniture in their mind, how they want it to be. I think what we do today is a lot of wasted time and money. I think all this professional photography is uncalled for because it doesn't give a realistic view of the house.

"Boots on the ground sells property. You're not going to buy something from a picture," said Lee.

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LEGAL NOTICES



Mendocino County invites applications for:

Administrative Assistant
\$44,324 - \$53,872

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures
\$122,657 - \$149,094

Air Pollution Control Officer
\$113,464 - \$137,924

Auditor/Appraiser
\$67,828 - \$82,451

Corrections Deputy
\$54,184 - \$65,873

Department Analyst I
\$59,300 - \$72,092

Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer
\$90,896 - \$110,489

Deputy District Attorney I/II/III
\$74,921 - \$120,411

Deputy Probation Officer I & II
\$51,937 - \$69,617

Deputy Public Defender I/II
\$74,921 - \$103,168

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
\$62,628 - \$87,214

Director of Public Health
\$138,673 - \$168,833

Juvenile Corrections Officer
\$50,710 - \$61,630

Juvenile Corrections Officer – Extra-Help
\$24.38 hourly

Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist
\$56,825 - \$69,076

Payroll Manager
\$84,032 - \$102,148

Public Safety Dispatcher
\$53,102 - \$64,542

Senior Auditor/Appraiser
\$74,942 - \$91,083

Supervising Permit Technician
\$74,942 - \$91,083

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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For Sale
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Above, left: The WHS boys wrestling team won the 2023 Coastal Mountain Conference Team Championship on February 10, besting Fort Bragg, and several Lake County teams.

Above, right: The WHS girls wrestling team took second place overall at the 2023 CMC Championship girls competition on February 10 in Saint Helena.



Congrats

Wolverine Wrestlers

Congratulations to the Willits High School wrestling teams! The boys team won the 2023 Coastal Mountain Conference Team Championship February 10 in St. Helena, and the girls team was the second-place finisher in the same competition.

The top three winners in each weight division will go on to the North Coast Section Championships, February 17 and 18 – boys at James Logan High School in Union City and girls at Albany High School.

Thanks to Melissa Cramer, whose Facebook post listed the top three

individual winners for boys and girls teams in their weight classes:

Boys Team: 122 - Jacob Livingston 1st; 128 - Deon Smith 1st; 147 - Corey Rockey 3rd; 154 - Joey Smith 2nd; 162 - Donnie Glenn 3rd; 172 - Eli Smith 1st; 184 - Joseph Sayad 3rd; 195 - Ely Bowles, 2nd; 220 - Jarred Dunham 3rd; and HW - Tyler Dalton 1st.

Girls Team: 113 - MaryAnn Bertolino 1st; 118 - Makiah Carter 2nd; 128 - Lucy Vargas 3rd; 133 - Amelia Franco 3rd; 139 - Liz Meyer 3rd; 152 - Neveah Jones 2nd; and 162 - Ava Dockins Kline 2nd.



Above, from left: Callie Brown of Willits was awarded an American FFA Degree from the National FFA Organization in 2022. Claire Case of Willits, holds her American FFA Degree at the 2022 FFA convention in Indianapolis, with her mother Kelly Case Brackett. Samantha Arms was one of three Willits FFA members to win the prestigious American FFA Degree in 2022.



3 Willits FFA members awarded prestigious ‘American Degree’

Submitted by Willits FFA

Each year, the National FFA Organization honors FFA members who show the utmost dedication to the organization through their desire to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The American FFA Degree is bestowed upon a select group of students in recognition of their years of academic and professional excellence. This year 4,305 American Degrees were awarded. American FFA Degree recipients show promise for the future and have gone above and beyond to achieve excellence.

To learn more about or to contact this private educational institution, visit www.mendocinowaldorf.org.



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The rest of Science Contract From page 1

players not just for their athletic prowess, but also for their mature representation of WUSD.

Executive Director of Student Programs Arora Chavez presented a Power Point on the “Professional Learning Community” development process. The peer-to-peer effort will identify and share teaching successful teaching methods, using data to form instructional leadership teams, to sharpen skills, set goals, and establish appropriate assessments. Chavez emphasized the trust and collaboration needed for this process, adding that those involved are “loving the journey ... and have become re-energized in their roles as teachers.”

California School Employee Association comments were given by Justin Walker, who reported a “positive and productive” beginning to contract negotiations. He thanked Superintendent Beebe and the rest of the board for their participation.

Willits Teachers Association President Brandon Ludwig reported that a historic settlement was reached when members voted unanimously to ratify a tentative contract agreement. He thanked Superintendent Beebe, the contract negotiators, and the entire board for their participation and good faith approach. Walker noted that healthy employee retention will be achieved through the implementation of the new contract, and also thanked CSEA staff for their ongoing support and professionalism.

Student Representative McKenna Thom reported on current events at Willits High School, including an upcoming Valentine’s Day dance as well as ongoing basketball games, and congratulating Willits wrestlers on their recent wins.

Superintendent Beebe echoed the comments of the WTA president, reflecting on what he called the “five month journey” which has culminated in a contract resolution with teachers, which came as a result of “good

The rest of Funds From page 1

proposals from various EMS partners in the county, they are now looking at soon entering into a “memorandum of understanding” agreement with Ukiah for that JPA.

“We looked at four different memorandums and settled on the memorandum that was developed by the City of Ukiah with the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority and have modified that MOU to meet some of the needs of this group and to work as our initial document moving forward,” said Emery. “We are going to be continuing to modify and work on that document as necessary based on the reviews from all the legal input.”

In a presentation at the meeting, Director Emery showed that the county has already spent around \$280,000 of PG&E dollars for “non-transport fire service equipment,” \$559,000 for “EMS transport service equipment,” and about \$470,000 for “Computer Aided Dispatch integration” and “Image Trend” services to help with data collection, coordination and assessment.

The two ambulance agencies who received the most PG&E money were Ukiah Valley (\$143,129) and Laytonville (\$149,056).

Fourteen different fire agencies, including Little Lake Fire District, were all allocated \$20,000.

As described in the presentation, the Coastal Valleys EMS agency is the company currently hired by the county which “provides administrative and regulatory oversight responsibilities for both Sonoma and Mendocino County EMS systems.”

At the meeting, Coastal Valleys Coordinator Jen Banks said that some of what local fire districts and ambulance agencies have spent the PG&E money on are defibrillators, rope supports, extrication equipment, ambulances and “routine medical equipment.”

Banks also laid out some of the primary tasks of Coastal Valleys in Mendocino County, which includes oversight of EMS aircrafts, trauma centers, base hospitals, data, specialty care programs, training, education, and certifications.

As for those responding to emergency calls, that breaks down into a larger web of more than two dozen local fire districts and ambulance agencies in Mendocino County.

In two charts shown at the meeting with all the emergency incident responses in the county in 2022, one showed that 10 different ambulance agencies responded to nearly 13,000 total calls, while another showed that 21 different fire agencies responded to 10,438 calls.

As an example, one chart showed that the Willits-based Little Lake Fire District in 2022 responded to more than 150 fire calls, 200 traffic accident calls, 215 medical calls, and 674 calls overall.

That was the second-highest number of calls out of the 21 county fire agencies in 2022, with Ukiah Fire having by far the highest at 4,446 calls.

While the PG&E settlement money is

faith negotiations in the best interest of all concerned.”

Beebe noted that this time period consistently sees a speeding up of activities, with both students and teachers hitting their stride. He commended students, educators, and staff members on their efforts, and praised student athletes as well as their coaches. He also thanked Arora Chavez for her consistent reporting to the board on the wide range of programs taking place in the district.

Board member Jeanne King related to her continuing volunteer efforts reaching to third-graders, as well as her participation in a Brown Act governance training. Member Jennifer Sookne reported on her visit to Sherwood School, which she found informative and enjoyable. Sookne also attended the Brown Act training.

Member Diane MacNeil commented on the excitement of the girls basketball games. Board President Paula Nunez attended an English Learner Advisory Committee meeting, as well as the Brown Act governance training. She is enjoying basketball season, and congratulated the WUSD wrestlers for putting their teams “on the map.” She celebrated the planned elimination of some older portable buildings, and thanked the Willits Teachers Association for their “clear and forward vision.” Member Jeanne King also noted the ongoing need for assistant coaches.

In Public Comments, an educator rose to thank Superintendent Beebe, the board, and all who came together to finalize the contract negotiations, saying, “It makes us want to come to work.”

Consent Agenda items passed quickly, with some questioning from Paula Nunez regarding certain budget items, which Superintendent Beebe agreed to research and report back on. Discussion took place regarding final approval on board policy changes. With an abstention by Jeanne King, all motions were approved.

Also on the agenda was a request from the Principal of Baechtel Grove Middle School,

Chris Kinney, to change the BGMS bell schedule in order to both curb tardiness and to allow teachers more time to plan, prepare, and do staff trainings.

Kinney pointed out that the new schedule would more closely sync with that of the high school, explaining what would be done to keep needed school hours. Discussion followed, with Jeanne King questioning the change, and Board President Paula Nunez expressing her approval. The motion passed unanimously. Other items considered and approved were a decision to hire a new Special Education teacher in an internship capacity, and a decision to continue with the Staywell Health Plan. The resignation of Nikki Agenbroad as director of Fiscal Services was noted by Member King.

The Tentative Agreement between WUSD and the Willits Teachers Association was discussed at length. Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools Nicole Gientzer was in attendance, with cautionary comments about the new contract, but advising that more will be known once CSEA negotiations are completed. Member King once again abstained from the vote, expressing her support for the teachers but also her concern that the new contract may present serious financial problems for the district. The agreement was approved by other board members, 4 to 0.

Policies around transparency between the district and parents were discussed, and the item was placed on the agenda for future school board consideration.

Finally a resolution was introduced for a proclamation honoring the life of the beloved Edie Ceccarelli, who was born in Willits and turned 115 years old on February 5, 2023, making her the oldest person in the United States. The resolution passed unanimously with cheers from the crowd.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. The video of the full meeting is posted for viewing at the Willits Unified School District page on YouTube.com at www.youtube.com/@willitsunifiedschooldistri5651

successful with this joint powers authority, we will be getting, as I understand it, a higher reimbursement rate for the private vendors that are currently operating in our county.

“There’s a lot of money flowing out in the healthcare industry, and I think we need to be a little more entrepreneurial in trying to figure out how we, the county, can capture some of that to eliminate some of our General Fund expenses,” he continued. “So that’s what I’m looking for.... I’m just hoping that staff is hearing that loud and clear, that the objective of the LEMSA and the JPA is not just to create new revenue for somebody else, it’s also to eliminate expenses for the county.”

Brandon Parker, who lives in the Laytonville area, talked during public comments about a personal experience when he needed the local ambulance service, and the overall importance of EMS in the county.

“I’d like to speak on the issue firsthand as someone who’s used rural ambulance,” he said. “I was injured at a festival really bad, and that ambulance took me to Willits and I was airlifted to Santa Rosa. So it’s a big deal, the communities themselves need it.

“The Laytonville ambulance saves lives, and we do need more,” he added. “So getting funding, whether it’s this money, that money, or what for the people that drive them. The people that man the fort to be ready on call at all times, to come out and save somebody – that’s a big deal.

“I can’t thank those people enough,” he continued. “I think about it all the time. Laying there in the gurney and just discombobulated, and getting airlifted out and the ambulance ride. It’s a very traumatic time when somebody’s in a rough situation. You think back on it – you want to go give them roses and flowers. These people saved you.”

The rest of Flushing From page 1

lessen the impact of the program:

- Avoid running water into your house or business until we have cleared the area if possible.

- Always check your washer for clean water before adding clothes and especially bleach. Some of the sediment that we would be flushing out can cause staining when coming into contact with bleach. Several products can remove these stains. We have found that “Iron Out” seems to work the best for us. It is available at hardware stores and supermarkets.

Please be patient and drive carefully around crews. There may be standing water on roadways so try to avoid the area if you can. Contact Public Works at 707-459-7143 with any further questions.

For updates on the water flushing efforts, visit “City of Willits” page on Facebook. On Monday, the update reported, city crews worked at flushing Eastside Road and East Hill to Center Valley Road.

At right: Buses make their way through one of the Tomki Road creek crossings.
At far right: Buses line up for a group photo in Willits.
Photos by Richard Kimbrough



Shasta Snow Trip 2023

Did you notice the parade of Volkswagen buses make their way through Willits over the weekend? The group was a part of the 23rd annual Shasta Snow Trip, an annual event that takes place around Super Bowl weekend and takes drivers on an adventure-filled trip from near Lake Pillsbury ending at Mount Shasta a few days later. Drivers must make the trip in a pre-1968 Volkswagen bus or truck – and

take as many back roads as possible, camping out and performing triage-style, on-the-trail mechanic work along the way. On their way to Willits, the convoy went through Tomki Road, with each bus having to forge their way through the creeks. This year, Tomki Road left one bus with a broken axle, which was repaired on-site by trip veterans who now come

prepared, hauling a various assortment of many possible necessities. The buses stopped by Willits' own Volkswagen Mecca site to visit local aficionado Christopher Moore and have a group photo taken. Drivers come from Nevada, California, Arizona, Oregon – with some even coming from East Coast and Europe and Australia – to share in the experience.

– Maureen Jennison



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Photos by Richard Kimbrough

Above, from left: Christopher's granddaughter, Magolia, brought out her own baby VW bus to join the crowd for some photos. Christopher Moore visits with one of the participants. Lance Armstrong holds one of the broken axle gears off of the bus being repaired. Below, from left: The crowd gathers in the field at Christopher Moore's house, chatting it up before making the next leg of their journey. One of the buses gets almost split-window deep forging through the creek on Tomki Road. Trip participant and photographer, Richard Kimbrough, posed his bus with the perfect reflection.



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