FEMA Disaster Relief Center at community center

Mathew Caine mathew@willitsweekly.com

"FEMA has come to Willits to establish a disaster recovery center to assist people who have been damaged by the flooding and storm events of the last three or four weeks," stated Patrick Boland, public information officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

disaster national declaration was granted to the state of California by the president," said "Mendocino Boland. County has been added that declaration so individuals have suffered losses or damage to property, renters included, are eligible for

Read the rest of FEMA

Over on Page 10

Work on **Brooktrails** fire assessment study ongoing

Barbara O'Reardon Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Township Board of Directors met on February 14 at 7 pm. Present were: Directors Ralph Santos, Ed Horrick, Joanne Cavallari, Board President Rick Williams and Township Counsel Chris Neary. Director Tina Tyler O'Shea had informed the board in advance that she was not going to be able to attend.

Director Santos announced that the Mendocino Association of Fire Districts was set to meet for a regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting on February 15 in Boonville, and he was planning to attend via zoom.

General Manager Tamara Alaniz reported that the Brooktrails Fire Department's muchanticipated new squad vehicle's development is on schedule for a March delivery.

Alaniz also reported that the work with SBI Consulting to develop an engineered study for a fire assessment was near completion, but still ongoing. "We did have a draft copy of the study and had some changes that needed to be made," she said. "We expect that the board will have [the updated draft] to review in March with a goal of getting the assessment resolution at the April 11 meeting."

The Brooktrails Fire Department has also hired

Read the rest of Brooktrails

Over on Page 11







Above, from left: Rainbow carrots from Mariposa Market made the Rainbow Soup even more colorful. Maybe the best part of the soup? Smelling the sautéing onions, shallots and garlic together. Tomatoes, greens and colorful veggies make this a totally non-boring vegetable soup. Below: Eat the rainbow ... zucchini, celery, basil, carrot, shallot, tomatoes, sweet potato, rainbow chard, garlic, parsley, potatoes, parsley, asparagus, and corn ... we didn't want to add any blueberries.



Rainbow Veggie Refrigerator Soup

Whether it's the store's refrigerator, or your refrigerator, most any assortment of veggies will do to make this delicious meal

Refrigerator Soup is more of a soupmaking concept than a recipe, but with a few guidelines. Basically, it's a great way to use up whatever is floating around the fridge, pantry, farmers market or supermarket and turn it into a tasty meal.

It's the process which yields the success. Mandatory ingredients include what the French call "mirepoix" (meer-uhpwah) which is onion, celery and carrot. This is the base to any good soup ... well, to most anything, but soup, indeed. Add garlic to that, and you're really in business.

Chopping the aromatics (onions and garlic) first, and sautéing them in olive oil until browned is essential for developing delicious flavor. Here's the place to add in some shallot to the mix, too.

Then, it's time to add the hard, longercooking veggies: This includes sweet and fingerling potatoes and carrots. Then pour

in liquid to cover the contents of the pot by a few inches. This can be stock, broth, or even just water.

Hardy herbs and spices come next, fresh-chopped rosemary, sage, peppercorns, salt, garlic powder, and dried oregano are all good options.

Once the liquid boils, and hard veggies soften after 15 minutes or so, add in the soft veggies and leafy greens (zucchini, rainbow chard, corn, asparagus), and simmer another few minutes until cooked, but still colorful. Chickpeas, beans, vams. squash, green beans, or green peas At top: Step 10: Gather a sprig or would all also be tasty additions.

Lastly, add delicate fresh herbs like parsley and basil and top with Parmesan cheese if you're feeling feisty. Serve and enjoy!





two of still-hanging-in-there sage and rosemary from the garden by flashlight since you forgot to pick it during the daylight hours. Above: Some low-sodium vegetable broth provides added flavor instead of just water, but fear not, just water

- Maureen Jennison will do just fine, too.









Above, from left: Don't worry - greens always cook way down. To make easy work of cutting unruly or large, flat leafy greens, lay the leaves atop one another like pancakes, then roll, and slice crossways (like cutting cinnamon rolls or sushi), and you're rewarded with lovely ribbons of greens - called cutting "chiffonade." All the chopped veggies look lovely mixed in the pot. The "Smash Test" is an easy way to tell if the first group of added veggies are ready - just spoon out a potato or carrot and try to mush it on the cutting board with the spoon. If it smooshes, you're ready. Below: From spoon to bowl, the Rainbow Soup is ready to serve.





BOS to ask state AG about federal legality of pot

program

Forrest Glyer Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

Towards the end of a February 7 meeting heavily on cannabis focused issues, the county Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to direct County Counsel Christian Curtis to inquire with the California State Attorney General to get some assurance on the federal legality of their Cannabis Equity Grant program.

Those equity grants come from a state originated and funded program, and have been in effect for around 18 months now in the county. The stated intention of that program is to provide funding to help those impacted by the "war on drugs" transition to becoming legally licensed cannabis operators.

Based on the February 7 BOS discussion, it seems Counsel Curtis issued an official legal opinion to the board which raised alarm with some supervisors about potential repercussions from the federal government, although what that legal opinion from Curtis specifically says is not available for public viewing.

Read the rest of Program

Over on Page 11

COVID emergency orders to end February 28

Margi Gomez Guhde margi@willitsweekly.com

Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr, Andy Coren and Mendocino County Social Services Deputy Director Rachel Ebel-Elliott were both featured at Public Health's monthly press conference on Friday, February 17.

Dr. Coren spoke to general Public Health issues, but also to the expiration of both the county and state Health Emergency COVID orders, which end on February 28.

Dr. Coren reported that all respiratory infection rates have decreased for all age groups compared to last month. Numbers of combined respiratory infection deaths have fallen dramatically since the highest rates in 2020-21, and hospitalization rates are down as well, with influenza and RSV rates falling almost

Although there is likely an underestimation due to a reduction in testing data, Coren stated that COVID cases in California have now passed the 12 million mark. Test positivity has

Read the rest of COVID

Over on Page 11

Fire Department provides critical services to us all

Submitted by Bill Bruneau

State fire code requires a smoke alarm to be placed at the highest point in a building. That smoke alarm must have a battery backup installed by hand every few years, and when it needs changing, it makes an annoying chirp as a reminder.

Little did we realize when we built our straw bale church that our forty-foot ceiling would be such a problem. The last time we changed the battery we were lucky and could borrow a hi-lifter for that (and

and then re-installing it. This time we had no good or lucky solution and the beeping was getting really

to ask the firefighters for advice. I walked in the door and told Jeff Donaldson our problem and he was already out the door to see for himself!

huge ladder that required four firemen (Harry So. Bill Carter, Eric Alvarez and Mike Cornwall) to carry and easily reached the alarm.

small public-service act into a training mission; they reviewed every step before sending Harry So aloft to perform the replacement, leg curled in safety pose for the dangerous moments.

Continuing in their training mode. Jeff Donaldson

of community in action. Some of the best of our community are providing critical (and not so critical) service to us all. Our diverse community has diverse public situations that our beloved fire department finds

MCDoT: Avoid unnecessary travel

■ Posted by Mendocino County Department of Transportation

February 22 – With the forecasted storms expected to bring low-elevation snow and ice, Mendocino County Department of Transportation asks that residents avoid any unnecessary trips.

If you do have to travel, PLEASE SLOW DOWN and expect icy conditions.

MCDoT crews will be plowing snow and sanding roads beginning at 4 am and working till 7 pm. Crews will be focused on main paved roads first. Gravel and smaller roads will be done as time allows.

We thank you in advance for your patience.

Visit the "Mendocino County Department of Transportation" page on Facebook to keep up with announcements.

Blue Zones celebration at Dahvi's Kitchen, February 24

Blue Zones Project Mendocino County is excited to announce Dahvi's Kitchen as the first Willitsbased Approved Blue Zones Project Restaurant in Mendocino County and our second in the county.

Dahvi's Kitchen provides delicious Cambodian food and burgers to our Willits and Mendocino residents. There will be a ribbon-cutting and celebration on Wednesday, February 24, from 2 to 3:30 pm, followed by a sampling of her delicious Blue Zones approved dishes. We applaud Dahvi Hooper for her strengths as a restauranteur and are grateful for her passion for offering healthy food options for our community to

More information about the Blue Zones Project Mendocino County is available at mendocinocounty. bluezonesproject.com. For updates on the latest events and local happenings, follow us on Facebook and Instagram at @bzpmendocinocounty.

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

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

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

Monday, February 27: Ham & Scalloped Potatoes,

Tuesday, February 28: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Wednesday, March 1: Turkey Amish Noodles.

Thursday, March 2: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf,

Friday, March 3: French Dip with Au Jus, Fries,

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

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.

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

Delivered throughout Willits.

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

Historic Stay

New B&B opens at Seabiscuit Carriage House, proceeds go toward restoration and preservation

Imagine waking up on a clear sunny morning, looking also a trundle bed for children, who stay for free. The unit out the window to see a view of distant hills covered with green trees and a herd of white deer, while your own personal chef creates a sumptuous breakfast in the next room, ready for you and your partner's rising.

Mathew Caine

bed and breakfast at Ridgewood nathew@willitsweekly.com Ranch, couples can craft the perfect

"We have repurposed the building," explained Tim

On Wednesday, February 15, residents of Ridgewood

"Mr. Howard housed his employees here," Jacqueline told the visitors, "and it was established roughly around the same time as Howard House, which was built in 1905 by

"We updated it and are very pleased to be able to provide a stay for visitors at the ranch," she beamed. "All of the proceeds are in support of ongoing historic preservation and restoration projects here on the ranch. It's a joint project by Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation and Golden Rule Church Association.

The single-bedroom unit has a queen-size bed. There is B&B could be the perfect solution.

also features a small kitchen, a dining table, and a deck overlooking the scenic vallev.

Jacqueline, "which Marcela Howard was very fond of. This

"There are a lot of requests by community members and their families to come and stay. The Seabiscuit artwork - limited-edition prints - were originally donated by Colonel Michael Howard, grandson of Charles. The prints are available for sale. The sink and toilet fixtures in the bathroom are original as are the hardwood floors."

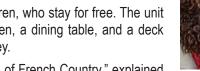
A beautiful painting of Seabiscuit adorns the wall over the couch in the lounging area. The painting, donated by Jackie Merrill, is by Frank McCullum, painted in 1938.

during the season, June through September.

A local chef and caterer, Caroline Radice, is available, for an extra fee, to provide a freshly cooked meal to those

"We'll have local chocolates and maybe something from Schat's Bakery, Black Oak Coffee," said Tim. "The wine, a Seabiscuit wine, will be purchased from The Bottle Shop

The Carriage House itself is available for events, parties and weddings. For those couples who would enjoy a getaway with beauty and solitude, the Carriage House



At left: The B&B's queen-size bed looks out onto views of Ridgewood

the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center. Below: Visitors to the open

Ranch. Above: Occupants can enjoy the beautiful views of the ranch and

house of the new Carriage House Bed and Breakfast enjoy refreshments

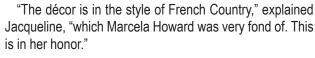
on the room's attached deck. Further below: Longtime Ridgewood Ranch

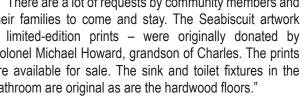
residents Tim and Jacqueline Cooper, of the Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation.

spearheaded the renovation. Even further below: The unit is decorated in a

French Countryside style. At bottom: The west side of the Carriage House

has been converted into a lovely bed and breakfast for couples' weekends.





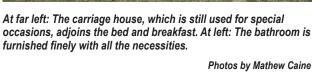
"People who stay here can enjoy many of the things here on the ranch, including spring nature hikes, historic guided walking tours June through September," said Jacqueline. "They can also take walks to White Deer Lake, which is a great picnic spot, or the old-growth redwood grove. The view of the valley facing west is a great view to wake up

Visitors are welcome to use the Howard swimming pool

Reservations can be made at www.seabiscuitheritage. org, under the tab "Stay at the ranch." Rates are \$250 per night with a two-night minimum. Special rates are available for locals. The stay includes a complimentary bottle of wine and commemorative Seabiscuit glasses.











Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery



Now, with the completion of a new

weekend getaway, with views, tours and relaxation. The unit is located on the west side of the old carriage house, where the horse-drawn transportation vehicles were stored back in the 1920s and later where Charles Howard kept the Buicks he drove and sold.

Cooper, who, along with his wife, Jacqueline, spearheaded the project. "Originally, there were two apartments where the caretakers would have lived, a hundred or so years ago. We've converted both of those rooms into a bed and

Ranch and Golden Rule, and those whose generosity and service helped complete this stunning conversion, were invited to enjoy refreshments and snacks on the deck of the new B&B. Jacqueline Cooper gladly led the attendees on tours of the facility, pointing out the décor and artwork.

William Van Arsdale.

Founding Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation board member Tracy Livingston worked extensively on repairing the building's foundation and added a wood deck before his passing in 2021.









THRIVE YOGA





2023 Willits Science Fair Special Awards Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic recognizes • Clarah Lacy; Grade 10, Willits Charter

School, Blood Sugar Experiment • Penny Morgan; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Painful

 Taytem Wake; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Spooky Fears Brown's Corner recognizes excellent science projects related to transportation and energy. Winners will receive a certificate and a cash prize.

· Kobi Hall Jimenez and Hux Dukeshier; Grade 6, Willits Charter School, Charge and

· Aiden Jones and Davin Swensen; Grade 6. Baechtel Grove Middle School, Phantom School, Rocks

 Vada Morgan; Grade 8, Willits Charter Elementary School, Taste of Salt How does a Four-Stroke Engine School,

• Deyvis Puche; Grade 6; Baechtel Grove Middle School, The Electric Car

• Wyatt Wolf; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Hoverpower Elementary Charter School, Comparing JD Redhouse recognizes creativity in

science. Winners will receive a gift certificate for ice-

> Arya Allenbrand, Bronach Bowles. Dana Arkelian; Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary School, Octopuses Life

 Ayden Andrade and Payton Carey; Grade 6, Sherwood School, Animal Cells Legend

 Winter Geremia; Grade 3, Sherwood School, Can we live without satellites? • Izabella Leal; Grade

8, Willits Charter School, Hologram Box · Riley McFadden; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter

School, Speedy Plants Izzy Sims and Micaella Williams; Grade 8, Willits School, Candy Charter

Craze

George's Geodes and Gems recognizes creativity and excellence in science, especially in earth science related fields. Winners will receive a gift certificate to Georges Geodes and Gems.

· Cali Anne; Grade 11, Willits Charter School, Grief for Teens

· Corrina Bacci; Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary School, Solar System

 Basil Flannagan and Kassi Lopez; Grade 8, Willits Charter School, Magnets • Starla Henderson; Grade

4, Willits Elementary Charter School, Sugar

Making Crystals with Different Liquids Brody Lamprich and Phoenix Hernandez; Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School,

• Grayson Lawson and Christian Flores: Grade 9, Willits Charter School. Pine Pitch

Elijah Mattson; Grade 7, Willits Charter

Olivia McCartney, Hope Johnson and

Middle School, Borax Crystals Arabella Mondo and Clara Aguilar; Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School,

 Lane Quinliven, Eduardo Rubio and Jadrian Partridge; Grade 5, Blosser Lane

Elementary School, Volcano School, Crystal Formations

in animal science. Winners will receive a certificate and a cash prize.

Aurora Beebe; Grade 5, Willits

Abigail Sherf; Grade 8, Willits Charter School, Brand vs. Off Brand

 Travis Hodgin-Wolfe and Jerett Nelson; Grade 6, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Popsicle Bridge

Grove Middle School, Pick a Hoof • Jameson Matheson; Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary School, What Kind of

Madison Lawrence; Grade 6, Baechtel

 Jay Muller; Grade 4, Sherwood School, Do domesticated cats camouflage

Charter School, Effects of Music on Animal

Charter School, Liquid Switch Up

 Timothy Southwick, Sofia Vaccaro, and Kendra Mottern; Grade 8, Willits Charter

The Padula Lumber Company recognizes outstanding projects in science. Winners will receive a certificate and a cash prize.

 Emmalee Burcell: Grade 6. Baechtel Grove Middle School, Race to the Top

Species Through Sounds Aiden Jones and Davin Swenson; Grade

 Daksh Patel: Grade 4. Willits Elementary Charter School, Doodle Bot

Winners will receive a certificate and a Visa Elementary School, What is the most

 Annaleis Wolf; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, Roots Up,

outstanding projects related to natural resources and the environment. Winners

receive a certificate and a cash prize. · Brian Bowles: Grade 8. Sherwood

School, Sampling the Elements

projects that exhibit good application of the scientific method. Winners will receive a

Elementary Charter School, To Cut or Not Elementary Charter School, Recipe for a to Cut – Do Different Tree Species Grow at the Same Rate?

> School, Psychotic Mnemonics The Book Juggler recognizes outstanding projects in each grade range. Winners

> receive a customized prize. High School Project – Outstanding Project Relating to Environmental Science: Josh Pacheco, Grade 12, Willits Charter

> Enthusiasm for Science: Donavin Parlagreco, Grade 6, Willits Charter School, Thirsty Plants

in Science: Estella Sims, Grade 4, Willits range. Winners receive a rosette ribbon and

Sherwood School, Sampling the Elements

 Grades 9-12: Triniti Alvarez, Grade 10. Willits Charter School, The Best Hand

This worked but entailed emptying half our sanctuary So I went next door to the Little Lake Fire Department

I was so impressed with his alacrity and his immediate response. But then, that is what firefighters do: respond quickly and intelligently. Two other firemen were already following us with a ladder, but it was quickly sent back once they saw how high the smoke

They had to roll out the ladder truck to remove this

I was further impressed when they turned this

reminded us that the whole alarm has to be changed every 10 years, and that is good for all of us to know. Our fire department is such an excellent example

a way to solve, daily.

creativity and excellence in science, especially in health-related fields. Winners will receive a gift certificate to the Book Juggler. Aram Abajian; Grade 4, Willits

Elementary Charter School, Wood or

• Sorin Bryant; Grade 4, Willits Elementary

Aluminum Bats - Which is Better? • Michael Ballou; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School

Charter School Declan Cameron: Grade 5. Willits Elementary Charter School, Planets of the

 Alyssa D'Orazio; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, Amazing Paints Energy Nefera Fisher: Grade 5. Willits Elementary Charter School, Dark – Death

Elementary Charter School, A Super Long Marble Run Madalyn Keeton; Grade 4, Willits

· Austin Herreshoff: Grade 4. Willits

The Rules: LETTERS

Capacities

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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 Fisher Kuhn and Darell Simmions; Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School,

 Landvn Martin: Grade 5. Blosser Lane Elementary School, What's the Eruption

• James Mattson; Grade 5, Blosser Lane

Sophia Miya; Grade 8, Baechtel Grove

 Saya Simonis: Grade 3, Sherwood Mobile Equine Veterinary Services recognizes excellence in science, especially

 Lysander Aguire; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, How Loyal are certificate and a cash prize.

Amelia Franco, Chloe Wright, and

Mask is Best for the OR?

Cali Norbury; Grade 4, Willits Elementary

 Aybrie Whitehurst; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, Purr-fur-ed Cat

• Iliana Evans and Jade Mueller; Grade 6, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Finding Bat

6 Baechtel Grove Middle School, Phantom

 Irene Weatherhead: Grade 4. Willits Elementary Charter School, Trash Trove California Forestry & Vegetation Management recognizes excellent science projects in the field of plant sciences.

· Amiel Hult: Grade 3. Blosser Lane important plant food?

Roots Down, Roots All Around Sara Hanna Consulting recognizes

• Enzo Vaccaro: Grade 10. Willits High School, Funguys TD Hanna Consulting recognizes science

· Grady Fonsen; Grade 5, Willits

 Mariah Lavine, Dulce Angulo and Irene Almonte; Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle

School, Begone Carbon • Middle School Project - Outstanding

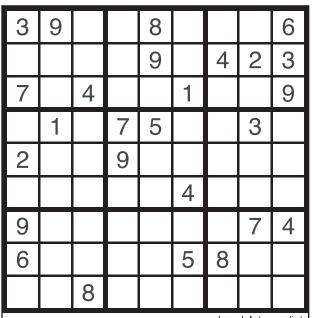
 Elementary School Project – Creativity Elementary Charter School, Bubble Trouble outstanding young scientists in each grade

• Grades 3-5: Xiana Vigil, Grade 4, Homeschool, Curl Power • Grades 6-8: Brian Bowles, Grade 8,



Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



IHYHKEVENINGTNO

LOW

MEALS

MOIST

POT

QUARTS

SET

SETTING

SLOW

SOUPS

STEWS

TENDERIZING

UNATTENDED

10. Advice or counsel

12. Protein-rich liquids

11. Badness

14. Not moving

18. Poetry term

20. Not wide

24. Pastries

28. Satisfies

26. Turns away

30. Gift adornments

35. Check or guide

42. Unproductive

of success

47. Feel bad for

49. Enclosure

50. Assert

43. Electronic counter-

45. Attack with a knife

51. Geological times

and southeast

55. Midway between east

countermeasures

37. Dogs do it

38. Chilled

40. Scorch

32. San Diego ballplayers

34. Manufacturing plant

15. Call it a career

N K Y C I D R S W S A Y N Z R S L Z M L

DIGITAL

EVENING

FLAVOR

HEARTY

HEAT

INGREDIENTS

41. Kansas hoops

coach Bill

44. The first sign of

the zodiac

46. Appetizer

52. A bacterium

54. Cheese dish

56. Combines

59. Dried-up

Gastropods

2. Confusing

57. In an inferior way

CLUES DOWN

3. Romanian monetary unit

something proceeds

6. Asked for forgiveness

4. The rate at which

5. A prosperous state

of well-being

7. Makes less soft

8. Part of speech

9. Outside

58. Colors clothes

43. The longest division

of geological time

48. Link together in a chain

53. In a way, forces apart

APPLIANCE

CHILIS

COMBINE

COOKWARE

COUNTERTOP

CROCK

CLUES ACROSS

health group (abbr.)

13. Ancient heralds' wands

1. Sea grape

5. European public

9. A way to delight

15. Make a booking

19. Spider genus

16. '__ death do us part

17. Pearl Jam frontman

21. Fill with high spirits

of geological time

25. An independent ruler

26. Electronic music style

27. Influential Spanish

cubist painter

29. Illegally persuades

31. A way to derive

33. British School

34. Appear alongside

36. Surely (archaic)

38. Harsh cry of a crow

39. A day in the middle

22. A major division

or chieftain

(abbr.)

23. Catch

11. Appetizers

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

3:30 pm: CURTIS, Rickie Allen (49) of Willits was Enrique Gonzalez of Willits. contacted in the 1700 block

of South Main Street. He was arrested

7:00 pm: GRUBER, Julius Eugene (60) block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of violation of

7:42 pm: GARMAN, Corey Cristin (39)

of Ukiah was contacted in the 300 block of South Main armed with a loaded firearm. and unlawful possession of appear.

of vandalism in the 100 block of Hazel

January 31

3:39 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

5:32 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation near mile marker 52 Highway

8:15 pm: AITON Jr., Rodney Andrew (31) of Blue Lake was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street following a disturbance. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of carrying a concealed dirk or dagger and failure to appear.

Eureka man booked after fire at Ukiah auto body

Main Street.

February 5

Main Street.

By Sgt. M. Vazquez for MCSO

On February 17, 2023 at approximately 10:58 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to an alarm call at G&C Auto Body located at 51 Kunzler Ranch Road in Ukiah.

Shortly after, the alarm company called into the business, and a male subject answered the phone stating he needed help. When deputies arrived, they observed apparent evidence that someone had broken into the business. Deputies looked

inside the business and observed at least

five separate small fires inside Deputies also observed a male subject, later identified as Benjamin Dimmick, 26, from Eureka, standing inside the business next to the fires, attempting to light another

Dimmick had barricaded some of the

doors and refused to come to the front door when verbally asked to do so. Dimmick had locked himself inside the business and was refusing all verbal requests to comply.

Deputies without hesitation had to force their way into the burning building while trying to apprehend Dimmick

Dimmick was ultimately taken into custody and pulled out of the burning building which quickly filled with heavy smoke as the fire began to spread.

Deputies deployed their fire extinguishers in an attempt to extinguish the fire until Ukiah Valley Fire Personnel arrived on scene for further suppression efforts.

While on scene MCSO deputies learned

Read the rest of Over on page 11 Arrest |

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT **POLICE LOG**

January 29 to February 5

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

HAMMOND,

intersection of

Denise (41) of Fort Bragg

was contacted near the

Lane and West Highway

20. She was arrested on

felony charges of elder

abuse resulting in great

bodily harm or death, and

on misdemeanor charges

of violation of a protective

6:59 pm: HAKE, Chad

Tyler (34) of Willits was

contacted in the 600 block

of Coast Street. He was

arrested on misdemeanor

charges of possession of burglary tools

11:16 pm: Officers responded to a report

of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of

5:47 pm: CORTEZ, Martin Anthony (31)

of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of

School Street following a disturbance. He

was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC

8:43 pm: Officers responded to a report

of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of

February 3

11:54 pm: SANDERS,

Jason Robert (41) of Willits

was contacted in the 800

block of South Main Street

following a report of a

suspicious vehicle. He was

arrested on misdemeanor

charges of failure to appear.

8:15 pm: RAMOS, Todd

Refino (51) of Ukiah was

contacted in the 21000

block of Meadowbrook

Drive. He was arrested on

felony charges of carrying a

concealed dirk or dagger and

unlawful possession of tear

gas, and on misdemeanor

charges of driving with a

responded to a report of a

suspicious vehicle in the 600

block of East Commercial

Street and issued a warning.

1:00 am: SHORT, Britany

Lea (33) of Covelo was

contacted in the 300 block

of Sherwood Road. She

Officers

suspended license.

12:34 am:

February 4

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 a penalty for a second offense within

9:29 am: Officers initiated a theft

9:34 am: Officers initiated a theft

8:42 pm: Officers responded to a report

of illegal camping in the 1700 block of

South Main Street and issued a warning.

investigation in the 1500 block of South

investigation in the 1200 block of South

10 years with prior convictions for DUI.

and appropriating lost property.

South Main Street

(Domestic Battery).

South Main Street.

Corey Garman of Ukiah.

February 2

Shelby

Blosser

The officers of the Willits Police 11:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop near Department handled **90 incidents** in this the intersection of Franklin Avenue and 8-day reporting period. South Main Street and issued a citation.

Summary of Active Investigations February 1 and Arrests

January 29

11:02 am: GONZALEZ, Enrique (45) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to felony charges of 368 PC (Elder

2:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued

pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol)

of Laytonville was contacted in the 1200 probation and failure to appear

11:50 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

Street. She was arrested on felony charges of possession of a firearm, possession of ammunition by a prohibited person, carrying a prohibited concealed weapon, carrying a loaded handgun (not registered owner), possession of a controlled substance while tear gas, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance, violation of probation, and failure to

7:42 pm: CZYZEWSKI. Misty Ann (35) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on felony charges of carrying a loaded handgun not registered owner), and possession of a controlled substance while armed with a loaded firearm, and on misdemeanor charges of Misty Ann Czyzewski of carrying a concealed weapon Willits in a vehicle, possession of

a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

9:25 pm: Officers responded to a report





me print classics featured at the "Cannabis in

and Emmy Good.

chose as home."

panel at the Willits Museum was too cool for words. They had to tear the paper off the wall to make room for all the people in the hall. I felt honored to be

able to share a few anecdotes about the move Annie and I made from San Jose to Bell Springs Road, more than 40 years ago. Much thanks to all who had a part in making this

"Yesterday I had the deep joy of attending the first in a three-part series of events at the museum in Willits entitled 'Cannabis in Mendocino County: Our Story.' Pops and I sat on the panel for 'Back to the Land Generational Storytelling,' along with Don and Chiah Rodrigues and Emmy Good.

"The event is in conjunction with the life work of Richard Jergenson cataloging and archiving the counterculture. Thanks to Museum Administrator Karen Mattson and the museum for holding the space and history of Mendocino County!"Going to the panel with Pops was a special experience that we shared, and I will never forget.

'Cannabis in Mendocino County - Our Story at the Museum in Willits "I love hearing stories of the early days of our homestead. and I find in myself a joy at

hearing the tales from elders of

their arrival here in Mendocino

County, and of the shared efforts

in community and homestead

building. The older I get the more

I treasure the elders, deepening

into a respect for the past and an

appreciation for the stories they

"Living in community fosters a

transmission of knowledge down

through generations. Respect for

our elders creates fertile ground

for learning, and I am grateful

for the time that so many have

spent to offer lessons to me over

the years. A hearty "Thank you!"

to the elders, some gone on and

"The event yesterday was

a mix of poignant moments,

hilarious anecdotes, stories

of shared efforts and the trials

and tribulations that came with

homesteading here in the era of

"One of the main commonalities

find in the back-to-the-land

generation is that they came

here because it is a special place

that allowed for connection to the

land and freedom of expression

in many forms. Cannabis was an

integral part of the experience,

but it wasn't the driving force that

"In the early days, cannabis

was a means to an end, a way

for people to be on the land

and earn some income to help

support the homestead, as were

the many other undertakings.

Some were tradespeople, some

developed other skills, some had

town jobs, all in service to the

budding homestead, family and community."

many still willing to share.

have to tell.

Submitted by Annie Waters, Counter Culture Museum and

Thank you to the "Back to the Land" storytellers who spoke at the Mendocino County Museum on Saturday, February 11, during the "Cannabis in Mendocino County - Our Story" gallery show.

Here are some of their

"This was a dream come true for me today! Seems like it had all been culminating to this moment. It was extremely special for me to sit next to my dad and talk about our lives and back to the land experience. I sat on a panel today for the Counterculture Exhibit on Back to The Land and with my father, Don Rodriques, Casey O'Neill and Mark O'Neill,

"The Willits Museum is hosting this exhibit along with some panels on counterculture like March 4 for tourism! Thanks to Richard Jergenson and Anne Waters for putting this all together and shining a light on the real amazing history of Mendocino County!

- Chiah Rodrigues

"Don't miss the cannabis exhibit at our Mendocino County Museum. It is the history that has helped create this very special place we back to the landers it became later.

- Emmy Good

"Saturday's 'Back to the Land'

community event happen.

- Casey O'Neill, HappyDay Farms Thank you to the Mendocino County Museum for making space and time for this exhibit of our county stories from the past. "Cannabis in Mendocino County - Our Story" will be

on display until March 19 in the Long Gallery. Annie Waters and Richard Jergenson of the Counter Culture Museum and Archive will be present on Wednesdays and Saturdays to

ers at the "Back to

he Land" event at the Villits Museum.

"I carry in my memory and psyche the lessons of the elders, and I am glad for the

reminders that they offer. As always, much love and great success to you on your journey!

ongtime cannabis activist Pebbles Trippet n front of a display

eaturing some pioneers f cannabis, including

Thank you Mendocino, for visiting the County Museum – a treasure that deserves your

Colton Pinson at the 2012 Redwood Empire Fair.

Kyle 'Colton' Pinson Memorial Scholarship

Submitted by Kim Pinson

The Pinson family, working together with the California 4-H Foundation, has created the Kyle "Colton" Pinson Memorial

As many of you know, 4-H was an integral part of Colton's ife. He acquired lifelong skills through the many projects he participated in. We spent many weekends on the road to shows, fairs, presentation days, state field days, or project exhibits of

Colton enjoyed every aspect of learning new skills, joining group projects, and being a junior or teen leader mentoring others. He loved the competition of showing against others, but also enjoyed working with his competitors on projects and special ideas that popped up. Colton enjoyed meeting others with the same interests and acquired many friends throughout Mendocino County, California, and across the United States.

Colton understood the financial investment of furthering his education and how scholarships were a means to help with those

expenses. He was fortunate to receive several scholarships including the Russell Preston 4-H Scholarship to obtain his Associates in Fire Science degree.

Our family believes he would be honored to have a scholarship in his memory to help other 4-H members with their educational

If you would like to contribute to the Kyle "Colton" Pinson Memorial Scholarship, please feel free to send a check, with the scholarship name on the memo line, to the payee and address below. You will receive a tax deductible receipt.

From our family to yours, THANK YOU for honoring Colton in this way. We are most appreciative to everyone for their thoughtfulness.

The California 4-H Foundation

Attn: Kyle Colton Pinson Memorial Scholarship 2801 Second Street Davis, CA 95618





Willits Weekly | February 23, 2023 **Pg. 4** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Ant-Man and The Wasp: **Quantumania**

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

The Story: Marvel Universe super-hero saga featuring super Good Heroes who want to save the Earth from super Bad Guys who just want to mess up the whole world. In this particular case: Ant-Man (Paul Rudd) and The Wasp (Evangeline Lilly) take a whack at evil Kang The Conqueror (Jonathan Majors) who wants to destroy Earth



Dan Essman

There in that multicolored spectacularly implausible Quantum

Realm just about anything a person (or Hollywood) can imagine happening ... happens! All of it crazily thrilling. Death Rays. Homicidal robots. A smooth talking broccoli-headed humanoid with too many eyes. Tough chicks galore. Bill Murray (fabulous) as Lord Krylar. A swarm of over-large techno-ants who are quite inventive as a species (you'll see).

My Thoughts: This movie is a winner. I saw it in 2D and enjoyed it. I saw the flick in 3D and was filled with genuine wonder. Michelle Pfeiffer is in it. Michael Douglas is in it. And they're not just cameos. They, too, are action stars.

Jonathan Majors is a brilliant actor. Absolutely brilliant. His performance as Kang is genius. He's not just a snarling bad guy. He's

mercurial and draws the viewer in. He is gentle, vulnerable, sadistic and treacherous; all the while he seems regretful. The complexity of his screen villainy is truly comparable to Anthony Hopkins as Hannibal Lector.

Parents: The good guys win. Courage prevails. Some of the "quantum" theorizing about a multiverse will almost certainly be too difficult for the younger children (or me) to actually grasp. On the positive side for children, the film celebrates the love and dedication of a father for his daughter.

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

Coming Soon:

Scream VI

What's Happening Around Town

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market at the Little Lake Grange, School Street. The freshest local roduce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, icious meals, tasty treats, live music om. Thursday, February 🏻 🗻

"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 last Thursday of the month, "A Touch of Mendocino County." A variety of topics in olding art, weaving, history, and basketry. "Factors where is is to embrace and celebrate all the solding in the call the solding art, weaving, history, and basketry. "Factors where is is in the month of the county, please join us a constant of the call the solding in the call the solding in the call the solding is limited; first come, first served. Inio: visit www.mendolibrary.org or call the Willits Library at 707-459-5908 Willits Library at 707-459-5908.

Tap.Root at Shanachie Pub: "Tap.Root is an acoustic

to you by the same madcap musical misfit But no shovel here get ready immersed in nprovisational

with deep west-coast roots and a lackadaisical southern drawl." Thursday, February 23, "Happy Hour" set at 5 pm. Shanachie

Friday, February 24

Last Chance for Nancy & Victor Palomino at WCA: Willits Center for the Arts' February show features 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.

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,

Emandal bread, Kathleen Ells Lewis' homemade Saving in Mind:" cookies, and a rose. Pick up from 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: "The classic play that pits human freedom order and conformity. R.P. McMurphy and Norse 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 through February 26: Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, and Sunday at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

Los Guys at Shanachie Pub: Ukiah trio Los Guys, formerly "Those Guys," "came together on the eve of 2020, trading an itinerant and aimless jam for something resembling 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 irst Willits based Approved Blue Zones Project Restaurant in Mendocino the countywide. Dahvi's Kitchen provides delicious Cambodian food and burgers to the community. A

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:

Saturday, February 25 show at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available at www.wctperformingartscenter.org. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. "Planning Your Garden with Seed

oin us for an IN-PERSON

Community Meeting on

Thursday, March 23rd, 2023

111 E Commercial St, Willits, CA

Willits Community Center (City Hall)

This is a joint event between the City of Willits and the

Great Redwood Trail Agency to discuss the Willits Rail Trail and the larger Master Plan of the GRT.

Scan the QR code to visit

the Project Website and

RSVP to the event.

Drop in 6:00-8:00 pm

the Willits Rail Trail!



Planning Your Garden

with Seed Saving in Mind A Zoom Talk with Gina Covina 2:00 - 3:00 PM on Saturday, February 25th



for seed production." Get sign in info on the "Round Valley - Mendocino County" the exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum's Long Library" page on Facebook

Sunday, February 26 Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: Monthly breakfast is set

online Zoom talk

Gina Covina, owner of

Open Circle Seeds in

Potter Valley. Hosted by

Round Valley Library.

"While seed saving is not

a difficult skill, you do need

to take into account which

crops you have, how far

away different varieties

are planted, how many

individuals you allow

to go to seed, and how

much room you give them

for Sunday, February 26, and is a fundraiser this month for the Willits Future Farmers of America, with all proceeds going to expenses for FFA students to attend the state convention. "\$10 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes and local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Choose our sourdough wholegrain, glutenfree, or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic fresh eggs made to order, real butter, orange juice, organic coffee or tea.

Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street. "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at Willits **Community Theatre:** Closing show Sunday February 26 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available at www. wctperformingartscenter.org. WCT Playhouse, 37

\$10, \$9 for seniors, \$5 for children under 10. Little

Thursday, March 2

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.

Friday, March 3

Educational

Blazing Paintballs: Mendo presents Blazing Paintballs, a 2-day Paintbal 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/blazingpaintballs-2-day-paintball-scenario-gametickets-469683936297

Saturday, March 4

"Cannabis and Tourism: Moving the Economy Forward": Panel of speakers on the topic on Saturday. March 4. 1 to 3 pm. Free First Saturday museum admission. Part of

Gallery, by Guest Curators Richard Jergenson

and Annie Waters, who have shared displays and collections from their Counter Culture Museum and Archives. On display through March Curators Jergenson and Waters will be available as docents for the public to engage in conversation Wednesdays and Saturdays. Info: 707-459-2736 or www.mendocinocounty. org/government/cultural-services-

agency/museum Gangspil Live at WCT: Award-winning folk band performs at Willits Community Theatre, Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 pm. "Sonnich

Lydom on fiddle Bugge on diatonic accordian perform a rich variety of Scandinavian folk songs, from wild polkas to happy nopsas and fiery spiced humor and stories from their many years on the road." Tickets are

something to add to

our calendar? Email

us! willitsweekly@

gmail.com

DRIVE THRU

TRI-TIP DINNER

February 24, 2023

Pick up 4 - 6 pm

WHS Ag Farm

Windi Kavasnkicka (707)354-0755

Jenn Drew (707)354-1670

Monkey Wrench Men & Womens Wear

\$60 dinner for 4

Tri-tip, beans, salad,

bread, cookies & a rose

Willits Educational Foundation

\$20 and available online at wctperformingartscenter

org, or at the door until sold out. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Vane Lane. Do you have

Donkey Basketball to benefit FFA

Monday, March 6

Hee-haw, hee-haw, Donkey Basketball is coming to Willits, a benefit for Willits Future Farmers of America: "Local residents prepare to ride real, live donkeys" in this showdown between Willits FFA students and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. Monday, March 6, at 7 pm, at the Willits High School gym, 299 North Main Street. Tickets at the door are: \$10 adults, \$8 students 7-12 grade, \$5 K-6 grade; advance tickets from Willits High School ag students are \$1 off. Donkeys provided by Donkey Sports, Inc. of Entiat, Washington.

Below: Student Madison Forrester fights through the defense of Deputies Jason Logan and Miguel Vazquez at a previous Donkey Basketball event.



International Wildlife Film Festival

March 3 to 17, **Ukiah Civic Center**

The Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project hosts an engaging selection of award-winning films from the International Wildlife Film Festival of Missoula, Montana, one of the nation's oldest and older. All adoption fees and most-respected wildlife film festivals. Friday waived for eligible long-stay evenings March 3, 10 and 17 at the Ukiah Civic dogs! "To see our adoptable Center, 300 Seminary Avenue. Opening night, dogs, and for information about Friday, March 3, features films that feature bees, the adoption process, visit butterflies and birds, plus live music and snacks mendoanimalshelter.com." Ukiah starting at 6:15 pm with films starting at 7 pm. Shelter, 298 Plant Road, 707-\$10 at the door, \$5 for children; series tickets \$30 467-6453. Fort Bragg Shelter available at Mendocino Book Company. For more 19701 Summers Lane, 707-961info and a full program of films, visit www.rvoep.org 2491

Canine Adoption Deals at the Ukiah and Fort Bragg **Animal Shelters**

Half-off dog adoption fees! Spayed/neutered dogs 6 months

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. Plus 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

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

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@

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

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

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!"

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org

Story Time: Tuesday through Friday each week, with supportive and creative suggestions and feedback." Spanish-language storytime on Fridays, 10:30 to 11 Hosted by Librarian Benjamin MacBean. Willits am. "Start your morning listening to a story. Join us in Library meeting room.

the children's area of the library.'

Open Source Design, Artistic Expression, and Computer Literacy for Everyone: Every Saturday 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 Google products, social media, and more. After an 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 Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library

Games at the Library: First and third Fridays of the

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am month, 4 to 5:30 pm. "Calling all board, card and to noon. "We will meet in the Willits Library meeting tabletop role-playing game players! All ages and room to discuss various topics while enjoying a cup player levels welcome. Bring your own games to add

at the Willits Library, from 11 to 11:30 am. "This program has a variety of topics including email, introduction in the meeting room, the computers will be available so you can practice your new skills." Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, 459-

to noon. "Open to young-adult and adult writers to from 1 to 4:30 pm. "All skill levels welcome! Spinning share their ideas and writings in an environment of circle 1 to 2 pm, Knitting circle 2 to 4:30 pm."











QUANTUMANIA



PG13) 2 hrs 5 mins Friday: 5:10 & 8:00pm Sat./Sun.: 2:20, 5:10 & 8:00pm Mon.-Thurs.: 5:10 & 8:00pm

(PG13) 2 hrs Fri.: 4:45 & 7:30pm Sat.: 2:00 & 7:30pm Mon.-Thurs.: 4:45 & 7:30pm

REVOLUTION

(R) 1 hr 35 mins Friday:

Willits Weekly | February 23, 2023

COCAINE BEAR

5:45 & 8:15pm Sat./Sun.: 3:15, 5:45 & 8:15pm Mon.-Thurs.: 5:45 & 8:15pm **OVER 21 CLUB -**Luxury Recliners

Masks Optional



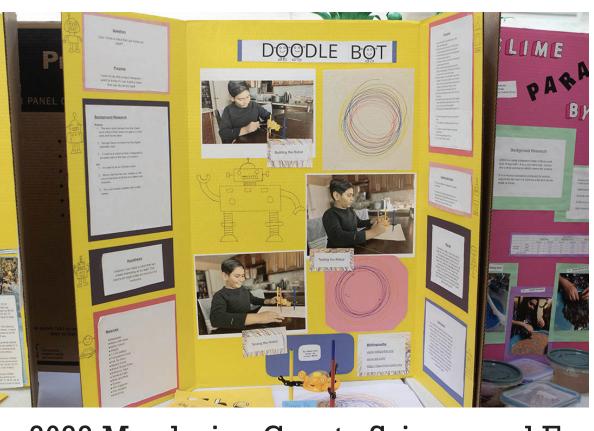
ANT-MAN & THE WASP:



Movie Times for February 24 thru March 2

WILLITS RAIL TRAIL

Sun.: 2:00 & 4:45pm







make doodles. At left, top: Tim Hanna has been judging exhibits along with his wife since about

At far left:

This young

lad created

a machine to

At left: Erin Vaccaro. science teacher. education director, and academic counselor at Willits Charter School, facilitates the Willits Science Fair.

Mathew Cain

2023 Mendocino County Science and Engineering Fair Qualifiers

Class A – Scientific Inquiry Projects - Elementary School (Grades 3-5)

Life Science, Grades 3-4

Amiel Hult; Grade 3, Blosser Lane Elementary School, What is the most important plant food?

Elementary Charter School, The Purr-fured Cat Toy Wolf; Grade 4, Willits Annaleis

Elementary Charter School, Roots Up, Roots Down, Roots All Around

Physical Science, Grades 3-4

Camdyn Hughes Ward; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, The ∞ Race Estella Sims; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, Bubble Trouble

Xiana Vigil; Grade 4, Homeschool, Curl Power

Earth / Space / Technology, Grades

School, Crystal Formations

Seona Slater; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, Our Eroding Planet Irene Weatherhead; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, Trash Trove

Avbrie Whitehurst: Grade 4. Willits Life Science, Grade 5

Lucia Button: Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Generation Fear

Cayleigh Balthrop; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Plating Pro Jameson Matheson; Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary School, What Kind of Mask is best for the OR?

Penny Morgan; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Painful

Physical Science, Grade 5

Raylan Bartow; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Airborne Aurora Beebe; Grade 5, Willits

James Mattson: Grade 5. Blosser Lane Elementary School, Taste of Salt Wvatt Wolf: Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Hoverpower

Class A – Scientific Inquiry Projects - Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Life Science A (Biology, Botany, Zoology, Microbiology, Biochemistry)

Iliana Evans and Jade Mueller; Grade 6, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Finding Bat Species Through Sounds Madison Lawrence; Grade 6, Baechtel

Grove Middle School, Pick a Hoof Liliana Schneider-Elliot; Grade 6, Willits Charter School, Liquid Switch Up

Life Science B (Medicine, Health, Behavior, and Social Sciences)

Alihna Diaz, Angelina Leyva, and Eliseo

Saya Simonis; Grade 3, Sherwood Elementary Charter School, Recipe for a Nunez Lopez; Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Popcorn Amelia Franco, Chloe Wright, and Abigail

Sherf: Grade 8. Willits Charter School.

Brand vs. Off Brand Mariah Lavine, Dulce Angulo, and Irene Almonte; Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Psychotic Mnemonics

Timothy Southwick, Sofia Vaccaro, and Kendra Mottern; Grade 8, Willits Charter School, Boo!

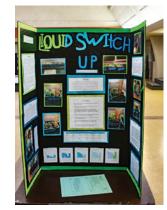
Physical Science (Physics, Chemistry, Aerodynamics / Hydrodynamics, Electronics and

Electromagnets, Mathematics, Software and Computer Science) Logan Devine; Grade 8, Willits Charter

School, Life Beyond the Trash Presley Tuttle; Grade 8, Baechtel Grove

Read the rest of Science

Over on page 9





At far left: This project was an exploration of various liquids that can be used to water plants. At left: "Let's Get Poppin" explores the properties of buttered popcorn, such as "Does buttered popcorn leave less unpopped kernels?" At right: Working in pairs, judges Erin Vaccaro and Suzanne Matheson, consult on some of the projects. Far right: The question, "what is the biggest fear of kids 5 to 11?" is asked in this experiment. Below, left: Sarah France, dean of students at Willits Charter School, joins the judging. Below, right: Some of the exhibits concentrate on colorful presentations of their data.















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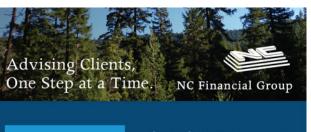
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Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490



LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business

Name Statement

The following corporation is

ransport, 7401 Lorene Road,

Corporation, 7401 Lorene Road,

This business is conducted by a

The registrant commenced to

Redwood Valley, CA 95470.

Registered owner: Rosco

Redwood Valley, CA 95470.

transact business under the

above on January 26, 2023.

Mendocino County Clerk-

/s/ Ross Mavfield III. CEO

fictitious business name listed

FRN statement filed with the

Recorder on February 2, 2023.

Publication dates: February 16,

corporation

doing business as Rosco

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

/s/ Johan Henckel

WW417

Publication dates: February 9, 16

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.

Photos by

23, March 2, 2023 23, March 2, 9, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN on that Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Willits City Council will conduct a Public Hearing at the Willits City Council Chambers, located at 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, California on the following

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To conduct a bi-annual review of proposed changes and charges in City fees and to adopt a resolution establishing said fees and charges, effective April 1,

Information concerning the proposed fees and charges may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk during normal business hours at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, California

All interested persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

s/Delores Pedersen, City Clerk

Publication Dates: February 23, March 2, 2023

WW416

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Willits City Council, at its regular meeting on March 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

PROJECT: Conditional Use Permit No. U-21-01

REQUEST: To consider a Use Permit No. U-21-01 to allow for construction of a 400 sq. ft. single-family residence to serve as an accessory caretaker unit to an existing storage facility. The prefabricated modular home will be constructed upon an engineered foundation, and two new parking spaces will

LOCATION: In the City of Willits, positioned southside of Robert Drive, 431 feet west of its intersection with Blosser Lane, located at 325 Robert Drive; APN 006-200-12.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Categorically Exempt from CEQA, pursuant to Sections 15303 (Class 3 - New Construction of Small Structures) and 15311 (Class 11 -Accessory Structures) of the CEQA Guidelines.

MEETING LOCATION: Council Chambers at City Hall; located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Prior to the meeting, electronic copies of the staff report and agenda will be available on the City's website at http://ca-willits.civicplus.com/ AgendaCenter/City-Council1.

•Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Taylor Perry, tperry@ cityofwillits.org or the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, All public co received will be provided to the Council and uploaded to the City's website in advance of the meeting.

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

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the public meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 459-4601. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting. /S/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk

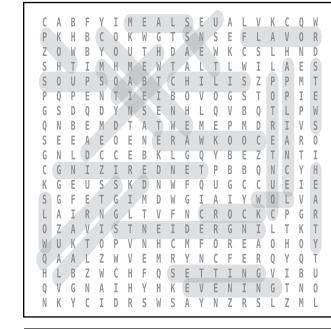
Publication Date: February 23, 2023

Marc Komer Legal Document Assistant

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\$44,324 - \$53,872 Auditor/Appraiser \$67,828 - \$82,451

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

Juvenile Corrections Officer -Extra-Help \$24.38 hourly

> Legal Secretary II \$44,304 - \$53,851

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

Network Systems Analyst I \$74,443 - \$90,459

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

\$53,102 - \$64,542 Senior Auditor/Appraiser \$74,942 - \$91.083

Public Safety Dispatcher

Supervising Permit Technician \$63,689 - \$77,417

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:

www.governmentjobs.com/careers/ mendocinoca

From page 8

EOE

The rest of Science

Middle School, Potato vs. Lemon

Earth and Space Science (Geology, Astronomy, Ecology, Atmospheric Science, **Environmental Science**)

Bryan Bowles; Grade 8, Sherwood School, Sampling the Elements

Mia Chavez; Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Dangerous

Zoeanna Gallups; Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Flood Prevention

Grade 6, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Phantom Energy Class A – Scientific Inquiry

Aiden Jones and Davin Swensen;

Projects – High School (Grades 9-12)

Life Science A (Biology, Botany, Zoology, Microbiology, Biochemistry) Triniti Alvarez-Wilburn; Grade 10,

Willits Charter School, The Best Hand

9

6

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Life Science B (Medicine, Health, Behavior, and Social Sciences)

6

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6

Willits Weekly | February 23, 2023 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Clarah Lacy; Grade 10, Willits and Isabelle Hodge; Grade 4, Blosser Charter School, Blood Sugar Lane Elementary School, Do Planets

Zydyn Rader, Nichole Poor, and Tinley Logan; Grade 5, Willits Evangelynn Kotila; Grades 9 and 10, Elementary Charter School, Why do Willits Charter School, Heart Rate tornadoes form?

Comparison **Earth and Space Science** (Geology, Astronomy, Ecology, Atmospheric Science,

Environmental Science) Enzo Vaccaro; Grade 10, Willits High School, Funguys

Class B – Engineering Projects (Grades 6-12) Travis Hodgin-Wolfe and Jerett

Nelson; Grade 6, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Popsicle Bridge Nikolai Ritchley; Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, !!!Lemon

Class D: Demonstration and Display Projects

Grades 3-5

Power!!!

Landon Agenbroad; Grade 3, Blosser Lane Elementary School, Roman Concrete and Human Bones Declan Cameron; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Planets of the Solar System

Alithea Gallups, Kailaya Benevich, skulls so deformed?

Have You Had a Spiritual Experience?

CLASSIFIEDS

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and

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computer?

configuration

Join us for a lively discussion on spiritual experiences with a starter topic on dreams. Come share or just listen! Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, Saturday, March 11, 2023, 10 to 11 am.

John Ford Ranch Beef John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$375.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger

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For Sale Manufactured Home For Sale. To be moved. manufactured home double-wide twobedroom two-bath. 935 ft located in Willits. \$79,500. Call 559-999-

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

front office at 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits CA 95490 - knock or leave in the locked mailbox in front. Food

Wednesdays

Willits

pm. Info: 459-3333.

Rotate at the Same Speed?

Isao Simonis; Grade 5, Sherwood School, Massive Destruction from a Tsunami

Grades 6-12

Mason Bentz and Aryka Hensley; Grade 8, Sherwood School, Inner Workings of a Hydroelectric Plant

Julian Griffin and Penelope Robertson; Grades 10 and 11, Willits Charter School, Age and Perception

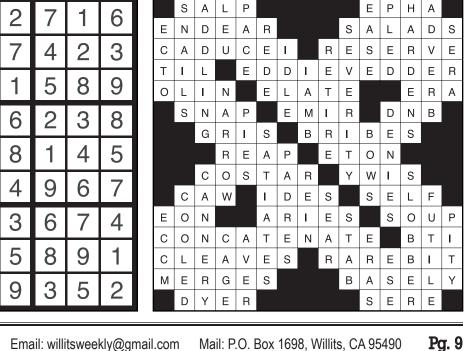
Grove Middle School, Electricity from a Potato Olivia McCartney, Hope Johnson, and Sophia Miva: Grade 8. Baechtel

Suzana Navarro; Grade 8, Baechtel

Grove Middle School, DIY Borax Crystals Nick Miller; Grade 12, Willits Charter School, California Grape -

Vitis californica Josh Pacheco; Grade 12, Willits Charter School, Begone Carbon

Irie Weigt and Cyrus Gray; Grade 8, Willits Charter School, Why are pug









California Department of Social Services and the Mendocino County **Dual Response Unit** share a table. Oscar Salvatier of FEMA is responsible as task force lead for the Disaster Recovery Center. Public Information Officers Cynthia Cowell and Patrick Boland of the SBA and FEMA are available to answer

From far left: The

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 3.00 Adult Sunday School Info? 707-459-1905 www.agapebiblechurch.co

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

803 Coast Street P.O. Box 489, Willits 707-303-5456 Morning Worship - 10:30 a.r Pastor Burton Jernigan EVERYBODY IS WELČOM

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.r. Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6-7:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7-8:00 p.m.

The Church of **Jesus Christ of** Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive Willits, ČA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Pa f Spiritual Freedo •Sound of Soul events Membership Discourses Spiritual Discussions •ECK Light & Sound Services

> More information? Call 530-224-8703

www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church Celebrating Life In Christ 25 Hazel Street, Willits Modified Worship Service 10 a.m. Other ministries suspended

(707) 459-3106 St. Anthony of Padua

for now.

Catholic Church 61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Father Aaron Bandanadam Mass times: Confessions by appointment:

459-2252 Sunday Mass inside: 9:00 a.m. English 10:30 a.m. Spanish Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m Covid guidelines apply. We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis **Episcopal Church**I North Main Street, Willits 707-272-0177

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

St. John **Lutheran Church** Church Service: Sunday 10:00 to 11:00 (707) 459-2988

ALL ARE WELCOME Willits Seventh-Day

24 Mill Creek Drive

Adventist Church 707-459-5714

Friendly, open worship Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.

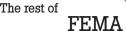
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m. Zoom Transmission Available Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 6:00 p.m. 399 W. Mendocino Ave. All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist Church

Labyrinth and Peace Garder A place to find comfort where all are welcome Pastor Rosemary Landry Sunday Worship at 10:30 am 286 School St. (at Pine) 707-459-2855 wumc@willitsonline.com

www.willitsumc.org Facebook: facebook willits un f you want to be included i this column please call: April Tweddell

(707) 972-2475 april@willitsweekly.com



From page 1

assistance if they have losses related to the storm. FEMA is providing financial assistance."

The agency originally set up their Disaster Relief Center, operating out of their mobile unit, at the Willits Library parking lot, prior to installing their facilities and those of several other federal, state and county agencies in the Willits Community Center. They were scheduled to stay as long as needed by the community.

"So far, we have over 100 registrations since we started this last week," continued Boland. "We also have what we call Disaster Survivor Assistance teams that are out walking the neighborhoods and trying to meet people where they are, in the places that were affected.

"One of the issues with this disaster is that it's not easy to see the damages because it's not widespread like a hurricane or tornado or fire. If we can get a couple hundred people signed up for assistance, that would be a big success. We have these centers set up all across the state. The city is a big part of this. The city and county really supports us.

"FEMA assistance is needs-based," Boland explained. "If you have housing needs, that's important. We can also help with other needs like medical support if they need dental or medical care if they've been displaced from their homes. We look for ways to provide whatever have taken," Cowell said. needs assistance they require.

FEMA provides financial assistance in the form of grants to help make people whole after disasters and can do so within days of applications. Manufactured housing takes much longer due to availability and regulations.

The Small Business Administration is partnering with FEMA to provide low-interest loans to individuals and businesses affected by

floods and other disasters. They can assist with loans for those who either cannot get a FEMA grant or who might need funding over the FEMA

"We work hand-in-hand quite often with FEMA." explained Small Business Administration Public Information Officer Cynthia Cowell, "You need to register with FEMA and then a home owner or renter may be referred to SBA for disaster assistance. We offer low-interest government loans to businesses of all sizes, private nonprofits, home owners and renters.

"For home owners, we can lend up to \$200,000 to repair or replace your primary residence. It does not apply to vacation homes or hunting lodges. If you have a grandma house in the back, the resident is able to get assistance.

"Renters," said Cowell, "are eligible to get up to \$40,000 to replace personal property, which is anything you would take with you when you

"For businesses, we can lend up to \$2,000,000 for inventory, fixtures, etc. Also, for economic losses. You may have a business that wasn't damaged. You would still be eligible for economic losses, for example, your road is closed and people can't get to your business or your customers had to evacuate. You would apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan. We look at the businesses' last three years of revenue to determine how much of a loss they

In addition to the above-mentioned agencies, several state and county entities are also available at the Disaster Recovery Center to assist with various specific needs. The California Department of Insurance has a representative. The California Department of Housing and Community Development is there to help replace manufactured housing.

The California Department of Public Health

can replace lost or damaged birth, death, or marriage certificates. The Unemployment Division of the Employment Development Department is there to aid those whose workplaces have been rendered unusable. The United States Department of Agriculture has a home repair loan and grant program

The National Flood Insurance Program can help with Hazard Mitigation Flood Insurance. The Franchise Tax Board is able to provide copies of tax documents that may have been destroyed or lost and advice on how to claim disaster losses on returns. The Contractors State License Board is on hand to give advice on hiring contractors to

The Dual Response Mobile Crisis Unit, out of Willits, is designed to assist other agencies. i.e., law enforcement in the case of mentalhealth crises. The California Department of Social Service can provide a supplemental grant to the FEMA grant. The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration will work with businesses that need tax extensions due to disasters. The Department of Motor Vehicles can replace licenses and IDs at no cost and junk out vehicles if they are considered a total loss.

All of these agencies are currently under one roof at the Willits Community Center and will remain for as long as people are coming in for relief and information, tentatively February 24. The Community Center is open from 9 am to 7 pm daily. FEMA can also be reached at 800-621-3362, from 8 am to 7 pm, seven days a week, or at www.fema.gov/assistance.

Although FEMA is under the Homeland Security Department, they operate with a firewall between themselves and other agencies. No information is shared. The Small Business Administration can be contacted through www. sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance or 800-659-2955.







At left, top: Prior to moving into the Disaster Recovery Center at the Willits Community Center, FEMA had their mobile unit at the Willits Library. At left: Sylvia and Kay, of Hazard Mitigation, are prepared to answer any questions and help fill out the proper forms.

COVID-19

vaccines

are here

children

6 months

and older.

your little ones.

(707) 456-9600

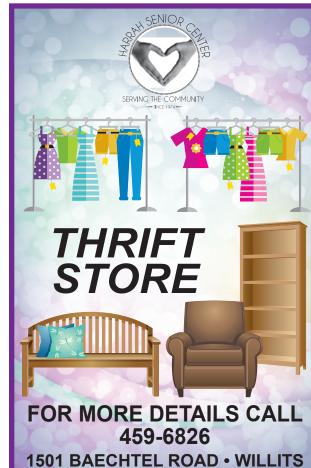
45 Hazel St., Willits

Help protect

for



At top: Several agencies are available to answer questions, help fill out forms, and to point residents to the proper agencies. Above: Several federal, state and county agencies are represented in the Disaster Recovery Center at the Willits





The rest of

From page 1

seen a slight increase, but there are no current COVID surges, and none are expected, at least through mid-March.

Case rates now correspond almost completely to age, with older groups most at risk, unlike former patterns which consistently reflected disparities due to inequities in race and ethnicity. Rates have risen slightly in southern and central California, in contrast to the northern part of the state.

Coren pointed out that although COVID reporting has declined, there are now more resources going to wastewater testing, which has become the most reliable early indicator for COVID outbreaks. Wastewater testing is currently taking place in Fort Bragg and Ukiah, and as resources become available and the technology improves, there are plans to increase wastewater testing across the county.

Coren said that all currently known COVID variants are sensitive to bivalent vaccines and boosters. Public Health continues to recommend that everyone receive their vaccines and boosters. as unvaccinated individuals are twice as likely to become ill from COVID, and three times more likely to die if they contract the

Dr. Coren recommended testing before and after travel, along with masking in crowded places, to prevent COVID-19 and all other respiratory virus exposure. Free testing is available through the Department of Public Health by calling 800-232-0233, and free home tests are still available at many pharmacies.

Dr. Coren added that Paxlovid is advised if you do become ill with COVID, describing the anti-viral as safe and effective, reducing COVID's effects and its transmission. He shared the contact for a Federal hub called "Sesame Care," through which Californians are able to obtain Paxlovid for free. The phone number for Sesame Care is 800 232 0233, and the website address is www.sesamecare.com/

Social Services Deputy Director Rachel Ebel-Elliott reported on the end of COVID-19 flexibilities for both Cal-Fresh and Medi-Cal. She explained that Cal-Fresh allotments have more than tripled since 2019, largely due to rule changes stemming from the COVID emergency. Many Cal-Fresh clients have been receiving an extra Cal-Fresh emergency allotment, which will be ending in response to the official end to the pandemic.

The last benefit month for the extra allotment will be February which will pay out in March. Ebel-Elliott recommends that clients with questions about the change in benefits call their local Social Services office, or contact their worker.

Medi-Cal allotments have remained the same since the COVID emergency began in 2020, regardless of household circumstances. This continuous coverage will end beginning this April. At that time the state will begin a full re-determination process, which will also include Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Mendocino County Social Services will run current household income data through the state system, and many households will automatically renew. Those determined to be no longer eligible will receive Notices of Action, with these benefits ending on June 30.

Deputy Director Ebel-Elliott emphasized the importance of contacting your Medi-Cal eligibility worker as soon as possible if your contact information has changed, to avoid losing benefits unnecessarily. She recommended consulting KeepMedicalCoverage. org for general information, and BenefitsCal.com to apply for Medi-Cal or maintain coverage. For questions about availability, contact Social Services at 707-463-7700 in Ukiah, 707-962-1000 in Fort Bragg, and 707-456-3850 in Willits.

During the Q&A. Dr. Coren clarified that the county's COVID dashboards will continue to be updated, despite reduced testing data and termination of the emergency health orders. He stated that as numbers of cases decrease, the bulk of the responsibility for treatment will transfer to patients and their doctors. He commented on the relatively high numbers of unvaccinated individuals in both Mendocino and Humboldt counties, and the higher rates of illness and death in those populations. He reiterated that vaccines and masking still provide the best defense against the virus, and that treatment with Paxlovid can decrease its intensity, duration, and spread.

Coren also addressed the substantial incidence of Long COVID. even in people who initially experienced mild COVID symptoms. He noted recent data indicating that Long COVID symptoms seem to decrease overall after the first year, but emphasized that there is still much to be learned.

County Social Services Deputy Director Ebel-Elliott advised Spanish-speakers that translators are available by appointment at Social Services, both in person and by phone. For those who believe they have received a Notice of Action in error, the best course of action is to call the number listed in the notice. She reiterated that people should be prepared to see changes in their Cal-Fresh allotments, and urged them to contact Social Services if their contact information has changed, concluding, "Keep an eye out for the bright yellow envelopes that will be coming your way."

Dr. Coren assured the public that Mendocino County Public Health will continue to keep the community informed on COVID and other health issues, stating that a significant corner has now been turned.

"As long as we don't see any more unusual variants, we are on track to resume our normal lives," he concluded. "Get your vaccinations and your boosters, and if you become infected, stay home and take Paxlovid. And if you are feeling well, know that the sun is out and the sky is blue, so get out there and enjoy life."

The February Mendocino County Media Hour is available to watch on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzycKBjlosE. The next Media Day will take place on March 17, 2023.

From page 1 Brooktrails

a new firefighter, Alaniz said, "a person who was on the list from our last hire. He will be coming aboard on Monday, as one of our current firefighters is leaving and Friday is his last day."

The bill for the final wiring of the Primrose Lift Station is ready, the general manager reported. The cost was higher than initially anticipated for the panels and wiring. "We did get the entire building wired, inside and out, including the heating and air conditioning unit. We didn't just get the pump wired. We got the whole building wired inside and out. So, it's complete and we will be running a test on the

LAFCO (the Local Agency Formation Commission) has a vacant special district seat that needs to be filled since former Brooktrails board member Tony Orth had been the representative. Nominees must be board members and, Alaniz noted in asking board members to consider serving, nominations are due March 14.

The board then voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar and the February 15, 2023 Accounts Payable in the amount of \$90,467.72.

From page 1

Third District Supervisor John Haschak was the only one to vote against the motion on February 7, saying that he didn't want to waste more time or resources of county counsel on the federal legality issue.

Haschak did seem to be pleased that the board didn't go with one of the main options presented by Curtis – to spend \$25,000 of county funds for outside counsel to give an opinion on the matter.

In a "February Update" public letter he issued, he talked about the decision by the board.

"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." said Haschak. "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."

In addition to Haschak, cannabis attorney Hannah Nelson and others during Public Comments pushed against the idea of spending more resources on examining the federal legality of the grant program, saying it was unnecessary and somewhat bizarre to be looking into federal law more than six years after the passing of Proposition 64 which legalized recreational cannabis in the state – and more than five years after the county began its own cannabis program.

As she has at previous meetings, Nelson talked about a case she won in 1997, "People vs. Brown," which involved federal authorities trying to step in. where eventually the California Supreme Court ruled in her favor to return seized medical marijuana to a client.

"Every single court, including the California Supreme Court agreed not only that return of medical cannabis was not contraband at that point, but in addition that there was no problem with county personnel returning the seized evidence to the cannabis cultivator and possessor at that time," said Nelson, "Quite frankly this is a state-sanctioned lawful cannabis program funded by the state, and you guys pushing paper to approve the review of contracts from state money to the applicant does not make you a co-conspirator. It does not make you a participant in the cultivation.

However, Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams seemed intent on at least getting an opinion from the state AG, saying that based on that legal opinion from Curtis, they should at least look into it.

The reason why that legal opinion from Curtis is blocked from public access was not made entirely clear.

"It's hard to have the discussion because you haven't seen our existing opinion, and so I don't really know where to go from here," said Williams. "I don't like having that opinion on file and making decisions that the need for urgency by the county due to the upcoming are really counter to it."

"So I would rather have another opinion that tells us that was wrong," he added. "I don't think the issue is the board to move expeditiously to install solar and whether to participate in the equity program or whether the state's equity program violates federal law. I think it's specific to how the funds are allocated and maybe there's a difference between allocating for compliance movement today on this issue as encouraging, and we of a regulated farm versus buying plants so they can want to support that."

from Williams, saying that unlike Curtis, she is an generate, that they put back into the grid, as an offset taken seriously

"Just because you're county counsel isn't, doesn't mean you don't have the benefit of these specific experiences, and somebody who litigated these specific issues," said Nelson. "So that's what I'm offering you.... I can tell you that I do know these issues, and I have the specific 31-year history of litigating this stuff in federal courts, in Mendocino County court, and all the way up PG&E for the electricity they put into the grid, will on to the California Supreme Courts.

"So I'm not really sure why it is that that counts for nothing," she added. "I completely appreciate that I am not your attorney. I'm not. I'm just giving you free information. But that free information is based on a lot of experience and having litigated this specific issue. So it just seems a rather absurd thing to not accept that as that PG&E supplies, means that the delay is going to a legitimate way of having something else in your file, cost the taxpayers money," he added. "And so I really so to speak.'

At one point, Supervisor Williams put forward a motion that the legal opinion of Curtis be released to the public, but after hearing some pushback from Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren that the idea had already been discussed and voted down, he withdrew

Monique Ramirez, a longtime Third District cannabis farmer and advocate, did not mince words in describing what she saw as the absurdity of looking into the federal legality of cannabis in general at this point.

"I just think it's so ridiculous honestly that this is even an agenda item, that this is even coming up, all the time we're wasting on it," she said. "I'm glad to hear that it seems like the majority of the board does not want to continue pursuing it, but here's something I want to pursue. I want to understand why this even came up in the first place. Why was an opinion even asked for by our county counsel? Where did this all come from?

"And I feel like there's something bigger at play here," she continued. "I feel like it's just another indicator that somebody or some people in our county government do not want to have a cannabis program that is functioning at all. This equity funding that we've started to see roll out and be given to applicants is helping them continue to stay in business, it's helping them basically pay back taxes that they may not have been able to pay otherwise. Everyone's benefitting from this.

"I would draw the delineation between that and our actual cannabis program and, quite honestly, you guys are in business with us," she added. "You're a business partner with me. And you want to know why? Because I give you 2.5% of my sales in taxes. So we're all in this together.... Let's just stop this nonsense. Can we?"

The frustrations of many in the cannabis community

about the ineffectiveness of Mendocino County's cannabis program seems to be coming to a head as

The day after that February 7 BOS meeting, the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, which represents many local farmers, issued an announcement that they had sent a 16-page letter to the California governor and other state officials "documenting the county's failure to establish a process capable" of getting county applicants to the ultimate goal of state annual licenses for cannabis

The MCA letter described the situation as the county cannabis industry being "on the brink of irreversible

Among their numerous complaints is that only six cannabis farmers have been "transitioned to state annual licensure" in Mendocino so far, and that a plan by the Mendocino Cannabis Department to transition 256 "prioritized" operators by a July 1 state deadline likely won't succeed, and even if successful would still leave more than 500 other applicants without licenses.

According to a February 18 SFGate.com article, it seemed that MCA had not gotten much of a response from the state for their letter at that point

"A spokesperson for [Governor] Newsom's office declined to confirm whether the governor received the [MCA] letter or plans to take any action on the farmers' behalf," the article stated. "David Hafner, a spokesperson for the [California Department of Cannabis Control], confirmed that they received MCA's letter and said the department is 'currently assessing all options' in how it can respond to Mendocino County."

Willits Library roof

During the Consent Calendar portion of that February 7 meeting, Supervisor Haschak pulled an item for discussion "to replace the Willits Branch Library's roof and install alternative energy panels and battery backup in the amount of \$494,080

Haschak was in support of the plan, later approved but wanted to get some clarity on some of the funding

General Services Agency Director Janelle Rau said that the project likely wouldn't meet a deadline to be "shovel ready" in April in order to get the maximum amount of energy cost reductions and revenue, since PG&E will be changing their guidelines on solar panels and money reimbursement.

"Staff did some research into upcoming changes in PG&E's structure for rebates with regards to solar projects," said Rau. "Specifically with regards to this particular project, what we've discovered is that the project would likely need to be ... shovel ready.... We would need to have contract details, specifics on the actual equipment to be installed, which at this late stage we don't have."

Grass Roots Institute representative Peter McNamee said they supported the project, but also talked about changes in PG&E's policy and other factors.

"We have consistently supported and encouraged battery systems and other clean energy approaches to generating the electricity that county facilities need in order to serve the public," said McNamee. "We see your

"What's actually on the table here is the rate that Attorney Nelson pushed back on this point of view solar providers will be paid for the solar energy that they expert" in cannabis law and her opinion should be to whatever they used, plus as a revenue source to themselves, will essentially be reduced substantially for all solar projects that are not already approved for the former rates that are in effect until April 12th," he added.

> "And so what this means for the county is that because of the delays in putting solar on public buildings, the county on average, as all solar electricity generators in the state, will see [that] the amount that they're paid by average fall from about 30 cents per KWH to 8 cents. So you can see there's a dramatic reduction after April 12 in the amount of revenue.

> "So in this case ... delaying on doing the right thing to both reduce the county's carbon footprint and to make the county energy-independent of the dirty electricity strongly encourage the board to examine what efforts it can make to try to get these projects moving as quickly as possible.... This is a win-win-win for the county, for the taxpayers and for the planet."

Supervisor Haschak responded that he and the county had been making a significant effort to move quickly towards more environmentally friendly infrastructure.

"We have been working as quickly as possible after we got notification of the grant for the solar panels on the Willits Library," he said. "I've been working with Director Rau every week – we've been having conversations about how to expedite this process. And we just do have limitations with the bureaucratic process, so we're doing the best we can."

From page 4

Dimmick had just been involved in a nearby hit-and-run incident which was currently being investigated by the California Highway Patrol Ukiah Office.

An arson investigator from the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority arrived on scene and assisted with further scene investigations.

During the investigations, Dimmick was placed under arrest for five counts of 451(C) PC [Felony Arson] and 460(B) PC [Burglary]. Dimmick was subsequently booked into the

of \$25,000.00 bail. Editor's Note: According to the Mendocino County Jail Booking Log, Dimmick was booked in at 1:05 am on February 18, and released on \$25,000 bail at 5:53 pm

Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu

on February 18.

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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Affectionate Chloe

This sweet girl is looking for a new lease on life. Originally coming to us as a trapped "feral," Chloe has been at the shelter since early January. Chloe, at 2 years old, is loving and just loves affection from people, she also appears to get along with other cats.

Chloe.

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

Intelligent Cheyenne

Cheyenne needs experienced an adult-only home that can provide her with a good amount of exercise. She is very responsive and bright. She is looking for a calm, relatively predictable setting. Cheyenne can develop protective habits, and thus needs savvy folks that can reassure her and not let her feel like she needs to be in charge and guarding.

She is doing great with a pack of dogs at Milo founder Lynne's house at the Milo

Sanctuary. She is clever and responsive and tends toward independence, but likes to be nearby, and is quite loving and affectionate, and can be silly, relaxed and charming as well! Cheyenne knows many commands and loves to learn new ones; she is praise and treat-motivated. She is a very smart, loyal and loving companion!

To learn more about Cheyenne 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 petadoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.

My Only Sunshine

Come meet this sweetheart before you miss out! This girl is ready to brighten up your life! Sunshine is excellent with other dogs and knows the rules of the house. Sunshine is housetrained, can use a doggie door, is super snuggly, and could sit next to you on the sofa watching your favorite shows for hours.

However, this gal is only 1.5 years old, so she's also up to go on any adventure with you!

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



Congrats

Happy Birthday, Johnny!

We would love to wish a very Happy Birthday to our boy Johnny who's turning 8!!

We admire the strong, young man you are becoming!

Thank you for brightening our lives! You are the best son, brother, grandson, nephew we could have been blessed with! Hope your special day is as wonderful as you!

Love Mom, Dad, Aleah and Pupis



Donna Marie Day

Our wonderful, beautiful friend Donna Marie Day was always ready to help any friend or pet in need. Born Donna Marie King, Donna moved to Willits in 1985 to be closer to her parents. Prior to Willits, Donna lived in Cupertino and the Bay Area. She worked in the electronics industry primarily in quality control. In Willits she worked at Photron,

Willits Electronics Assembly, and Advanced Manufacturing and Development, Inc. and was a caregiver for adults with special needs.

Donna also generously donated her time to the Phoenix Hospice in Willits and

Mendocino County Sheriffs Activities League among many others. So many kids in Willits were lucky to have been mentored by and loved by Donna.

Donna was a lover of pets, and those that knew her understood she loved our pets

as much or more than us. Donna was also a wonderful caregiver to her parents during their transition, as well as numerous family friends that were blessed to have her care for them. Donna was the daughter of and predeceased by Joe Marie Tripp and stepdaughter of Dale Tripp. Donna was also predeceased by her only son prior to his 2-year birthday, Richard "Ricky" Charles Zimmerman, and her father James Richard King.

Donna is survived by her brother James Richard King, sister-in-law Cathy Reber, nieces Jennifer King, Laura and Mikayla King. For the last 10 years, Donna lived with her dearest family friends, Cindy and Scot Lamon.

To know Donna was to be cared for, supported and loved by her. A celebration of life will be held at the Willits Grange on Saturday, March 18 from 4 to 8 pm. All who were blessed to know Donna are encouraged to come, bring a potluck dish, and share their favorite story (there are a lot)!

In lieu of flowers Donna would like donations made to the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino.

Did you know? Willits Weekly runs obituaries of up to 350 words plus a digital photo free of charge for Willits residents.

We're always sorry to hear of a loved one passing, but hope that providing this service to grieving families offers some assistance during that hard time.









You're made for more advancement. That's why we've created a variety of non-clinical opportunities for professionals of all types who love serving their community as they progress their careers. We're now hiring across our three hospitals in Fort Bragg, Ukiah and Willits. Enjoy generous benefits and a nurturing environment that encourages you to grow every day. The next great step in your career awaits.

Learn more:

AdventistHealthMendocino.org/HealthcareCareers

