

# Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 440 **Thursday, February 24, 2022**

## Fire board hears updates on firehouse, more

Joanne Moore  
Reporter  
joanne@willitsweekly.com

February's meeting of the Little Lake Fire District's Board of Directors consisted mostly of reporting on current projects, acquisitions, and activities.

The new, and now inhabited, firehouse still awaits final construction completion; the new fire truck is still a ways off; the young person Explorer/Scout program is close to launch; regular firefighter training continues to be interesting and challenging; calls for help are holding steady; and hurry on down to Mazahar for your very own, limited edition, Little Lake Fire T-shirt.

Willits' big beautiful red firehouse is now occupied, but still not finally complete when it comes to contractual obligations.

Board President Tony Madrigal, Board members Skip Lucier and Tom Herman, Training Chief Eric Alvarez, and Chief John Thomen have been utilizing their collective and considerable knowledge of

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

## Fairfield man arrested for unlawful guns, burglary tools

By Sgt. Wells for MCSO

On February 18, 2022, at about 9:30 pm, a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy stopped a vehicle for a vehicle code violation in the 28000 block of North Highway 101 in Willits.

The deputy contacted the solo occupant and driver, who was identified as Darryl Jason Dempsey, 31, of Fairfield.

The deputy conducted a records check and found Dempsey was on federal probation and prohibited from owning or possessing firearms or ammunition.

The deputy noticed Dempsey's behavior was odd, and he was very nervous. The deputy conducted a search of the vehicle due to probable cause factors and consent.

Inside the vehicle, in reach of Dempsey, was a backpack that was found to contain a loaded semi-automatic handgun.

Also in the backpack, the deputy located a full ski mask, gloves, a

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



Photos by  
Maureen  
Jennison

## Quince Flower & Fruit

Along with the first daffodils starting to emerge, another sure sign of spring's approach is the bud-covered spikes of the quince bush which dot fence lines, fields and yards around town this time of year.

While both the flowering and fruiting varieties bear the same name, Quince, they're related mainly as cousins with the flowering variety (*Chaenomeles speciosa*) being the one to have the showy bush of blooms, and the fruiting variety (*Cydonia oblonga*) as the one to produce the apple/pear type edible on its apple tree-like branches.

The flowering variety grows in zones 4 to 9, requires basically no maintenance, enjoys sun to partial shade, is very hardy against deer, and comes in pink to red to orange to white varieties. Branches can be used in cut flower arrangements with other spring or colorful flowers, or to make a statement on a table with several quince branches placed in a tall vase.

When kept as a landscaping addition, the quince's spiky thorns can also make a nice security barrier and provide a safe haven for birds and critters who nest in their branches. The branches also leaf out into green glossy leaves for much of the summer, creating an attractive second round of ambiance once the blooms fall.

The fruiting variety has several varieties to choose from, too. These trees usually grow about 8 to 15 feet high and include varieties like: Orange: a fragrant fruit best enjoyed raw; Cooke's Jumbo: a pear-shaped fruit best for baking, poaching or making preserves and jellies; Champion: fruit has a lemon-like flavor; Pineapple: one of the most common, which is used for baking and cooking; and Rich's Dwarf: a smaller tree, but with a large fruit.

— Maureen Jennison



## Drought ad hoc hears county water concerns

Forrest Glycer  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

After glimpses of hope appeared for drought relief in Mendocino County with some heavy rain in late 2021, concerns have again begun to escalate following a very dry start to 2022.

While the City of Willits and City of Ukiah remain relatively stable in their ability to withstand some drought thanks to good planning and water infrastructure, other areas such as Fort Bragg are not so fortunate and are already beginning to brace for the worst.

Mendocino County's Drought Task Force met via Zoom on February 10 and discussed the situation and some of the plans moving forward. These included potentially again trucking water from the City of Ukiah to Fort Bragg as they did last year, and an ordinance in the works to crack down on those hauling water illegally, particularly aimed at non-permitted cannabis grows.

As for Willits, Director of Public Works Scott Herman said in an email Tuesday

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

## WPD arrests man after robbery at Chase Bank

By Sgt. S. Gray, for WPD

On February 16, 2022 at about 2:40 pm, Willits Police Department officers were dispatched to the Chase Bank at 234 South Main Street for a reported robbery in progress.

A description of the male suspect was broadcast, and he was last seen fleeing the bank on foot. An undisclosed amount of money was taken. No weapon was observed, but the bank employee, in fear for their safety when the money was demanded, handed over cash from her drawer.

Upon WPD officers' arrival at the bank, they heard a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy request immediate assistance about a block from the bank, as he was out with a subject, later identified as Jonathan Martin Sales, 38, of Willits.

Sales matched the robbery suspect's description. When the deputy made contact with the suspect, Sales assaulted the deputy, who deployed his taser. Sales was subsequently handcuffed and detained.

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



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters  
from our readers

## Farmers market moves downtown

March 10

To the Editor:

Due to renovations at the Grange, and public demand, Willits Farmers Market is moving back outside and downtown starting Thursday, March 10. We will be in the parking lot next to the old Rexall at the corner of Main and West Mendocino.

The market will remain outside, rain or shine, through the season at our usual hours, every Thursday from 3 to 5:30 pm.

Michael Foley, manager, Willits Farmers Market

## Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center's indoor dining room is open, and the Senior Center continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$5 through March 31, 2022

**Thursday, February 24:** Stuffed Peppers, Roll, Green Salad

**Friday, February 25:** Turkey and Dressing w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll

**Monday, February 28:** Chicken Enchiladas, Rice, Beans

**Tuesday, March 1:** Turkey Curry, Rice, Green Salad

**Wednesday, March 2:** Ground Beef, Tacos, Rice, Beans

**Thursday, March 3:** Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Roll, Green Salad

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

It's easy.

We print letters from residents of the 3rd District, just email us yours: [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

## Report from WELL Town Hall with Haschak

By Madge Strong, WELL

WELL (Willits Economic Localization) has hosted a series of Town Halls with Third District Supervisor John Haschak over the past three years. The latest event, February 3 on Zoom, featured lively discussion on topics ranging from Mendocino County governance to water policies and cannabis.

Haschak led off with brief updates:

- The BOS recently approved building a Psychiatric Unit in south Ukiah, at a cost of \$19.5 million (Measure B funds). The project is expected to take three years to complete.

- The county is undertaking a strategic planning process (with an ad hoc committee of Haschak and First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty) to proactively identify where they want to head.

- Haschak and McGourty are also on an ad hoc on water issues. The county has hired a consultant to propose an agency to coordinate and provide resources to the county's 42 separate water agencies. The ad hoc is also drafting a water extraction ordinance, requiring water sellers to have business licenses and new wells to do a hydrologic study.

- Cannabis continues as a major topic, with Haschak trying to expedite legal permits.

- Haschak is also very concerned with safety of roads, especially for emergency access.

Several county staff attended the Town Hall, including Sheriff Matt Kendall and Emergency Coordinator Brent Blaser, and over 20 members of the public. Brief highlights:

**CEO vs. CAO:** Asked his thoughts on a chief executive officer (as Carmel Angelo has been) vs. a county administrative officer, Haschak expressed concern whether the five disparate BOS members could adequately supervise all county department heads (under the CAO model). Several attendees urged further research and to assure more accountability and transparency if continuing the CEO model.

**Merger of Treasurer/Tax Collector/Auditor/Controller:** Haschak, the only supervisor who voted against the merger, agreed with many comments that this merger seemed hasty and without justification. Unfortunately, it is a "done deal," with uncertainty as to who will run for this new office in the June 7 primary or how the combined offices will be organized (especially with key long-time staff resigning or retiring).

**Water Issues:** Several people were concerned about a replay of last year's crisis to supply water to the coast. The coast needs solutions now – it can't wait for a new water agency to form, and priority should be to supply residents, not just businesses.

Others suggested that the current draft water extraction ordinance doesn't go far enough: For example, it should limit quantity of water sales from existing as well as new wells and include enforcement.

An animated discussion involved the water truck industry: Could we crack down on them for supplying illegal cannabis grows? Sheriff Kendall responded: Trucking water (if the truckers themselves are legal – and there are hundreds who are not) isn't criminal, and he doesn't have enough staff to follow trucks to identify the illegal grows. This segues into next item.

**Cannabis:** Sheriff Kendall said he is actively seeking help from the state to enforce illegal grows, including cleaning up toxic messes at abandoned sites. He praised Haschak's efforts to enable licenses for legal growing, which might help suppress the illegal market.

The 1.5 hour session ended with thanks to John Haschak for being so responsive to the public, and with Haschak thanking WELL and the many citizen volunteers who help make the county function and thrive. The Sherwood Firewise group (and Keith Rutledge) were singled out with praise for their work on fire preparedness and evacuations.

Haschak can be reached at [haschakj@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:haschakj@mendocinocounty.org) or 707-972-4214.

Contact WELL (Willits Economic Localization) via [mstrong@willitsonline.com](mailto:mstrong@willitsonline.com) or 707-459-1493.

## CORRECTION

In the list of 2022 Willits Science Fair results printed in the February 17 edition of Willits Weekly, the Grade 5 Physical Science results were incorrect, mistakenly repeating the Grades 3-4 Earth Science, Space, and Technology winners.

The 2022 Grade 5 Physical Science winners are:

- Kobi Hall-Jimenez, Homemade vs. Store Bought-Who Will Win?
- Aidan Hult, Erupt Much?



Photos by Mathew Caine

## Door Dash

Food delivery app has increased restaurant sales in Willits, created income for delivery drivers, and become a much-loved service among customers

The COVID-19 pandemic has compelled us to create new paradigms in the manner in which we do business and socialize, and even in the ways we obtain the necessities. Some of these have created new opportunities for enterprising entrepreneurs who can discover new niches to be filled. One successful, national company, Door Dash, offers one of these opportunities and is currently experiencing growing use and profit in Willits.

There are three components to their business plan. One is the merchant who utilizes their services to deliver their goods, mostly comestibles, to people in their homes, offices, parks, or wherever they are at the moment. Second, is the consumer who is able to have food or drink delivered at almost any location. Third, is the

group of drivers, known as "dashers," who pick up the orders and deliver them to the customers.

There is a growing group of dashers in Willits, who are finding that they are able to derive a good amount of extra funds in their participation. The restaurateurs have been able to increase their profits from 5 percent to as much as 40 percent through the use of the service, and the end consumers do not have to interrupt their days going out for food or drink, which, if they live in certain areas, involves a minor trek into town or the time spent in preparation of meals.

Kapila Phoenix, owner of La Siciliana Restaurant & Pizzeria on South Main Street, has experienced Door Dash from all three positions. As a business owner, he has seen a 15 percent uptick in sales from people who utilize the sophisticated, complex, but simple-to-use software and online

Read the rest of Delivery Over on Page 9



At left, above: Dasher Alison Muriah picks up an order at Taco Bell. At top, left: Kapila Phoenix, owner of La Siciliana, also a dasher and a Door Dash customer, checks his order pad. At top, right: Sushi chef Tony Melchor and Hatake Farm Kitchen owner Ryo love the convenience of the Door Dash application and service. Above: Safe Aikin and Anna Ponce hold the Door Dash iPad at J.D. Redhouse. Below, left: Door Dash requires the dashers to take a photo to prove they delivered the order. Below, right: Daylee and Camden show the thermal bag that is supplied to the dashers by the company.



## Avenues to Wellness posts video of Edie Ceccarelli's 114th birthday

Posted by Avenues to Wellness

Join us as we spend some time with health hero Edie Ceccarelli on her 114th birthday, celebrated with a drive-by parade, where Willits residents drive by Edie's house to wish her many happy returns on her 114th birthday.

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLgBXxxBzA> to watch a full video of the February 5, 2022 event.

Avenues to Wellness Speaker Series is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation, Willits, <http://www.avenuestowellness.org/> and <http://www.facebook.com/willitswellness/>

The video was produced using facilities of Willits Community Television Inc., California's Cable access station channel 3, 64 & 65 on Comcast in Willits or over 700 videos online at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WillitsCommunityTV>

## Sheriff asks for help with recruitment

Posted by Sheriff Matt Kendall

February 18 – I wanted to reach out to our communities regarding recruitment of deputies, dispatchers, and professional staff. Currently every law enforcement agency in California is suffering in personnel numbers, and Mendocino County is no exception.

We have a large personnel vacuum created due to several factors, which have put Sheriff's Office in a tough position to provide the level of service our communities deserve.

I am currently working towards hiring incentives which will match other agencies within Mendocino County, and I believe this will help with recruitment of qualified applicants.

Hiring incentives are currently being used by other law enforcement agencies in Mendocino County and throughout California, and I believe these incentives would attract qualified candidates to apply with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

I am asking the folks in our communities to assist with helping us recruit qualified applicants. We recently hired three local people to send to the police academy, two from the Coast and one from the Covelo area.

The Sheriff's Office is not just patrol and corrections deputies. We also have need for professional staff such as dispatchers, secretaries, and clerical staff. It is my ambition to hire qualified persons from Mendocino County who will have pride in serving the community where they live.

We love to hire our local people, and with the tremendous amount of support we constantly receive from our communities, I know people coming from outside of our area will be welcomed by our communities as well.

Mendocino County is a great place to live and to work. Please go to the Mendocino County Sheriff website at <https://mendocinosherriff.org/> and click on the "Jobs" section.

There you will find links to job descriptions and our Human Resources department where you can apply for open positions. Thank you.



## The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

**Willits Weekly**  
EST. 2013  
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

Volume 9, Number 440

3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047  
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**'BANK' ON WILLITS**  
Shopping local supports our future, and helps future generations, too!

Shopping and staying local makes an amazing difference to our Willits community!

Keeping money in the community helps make funds available for sponsorships, donations and more!

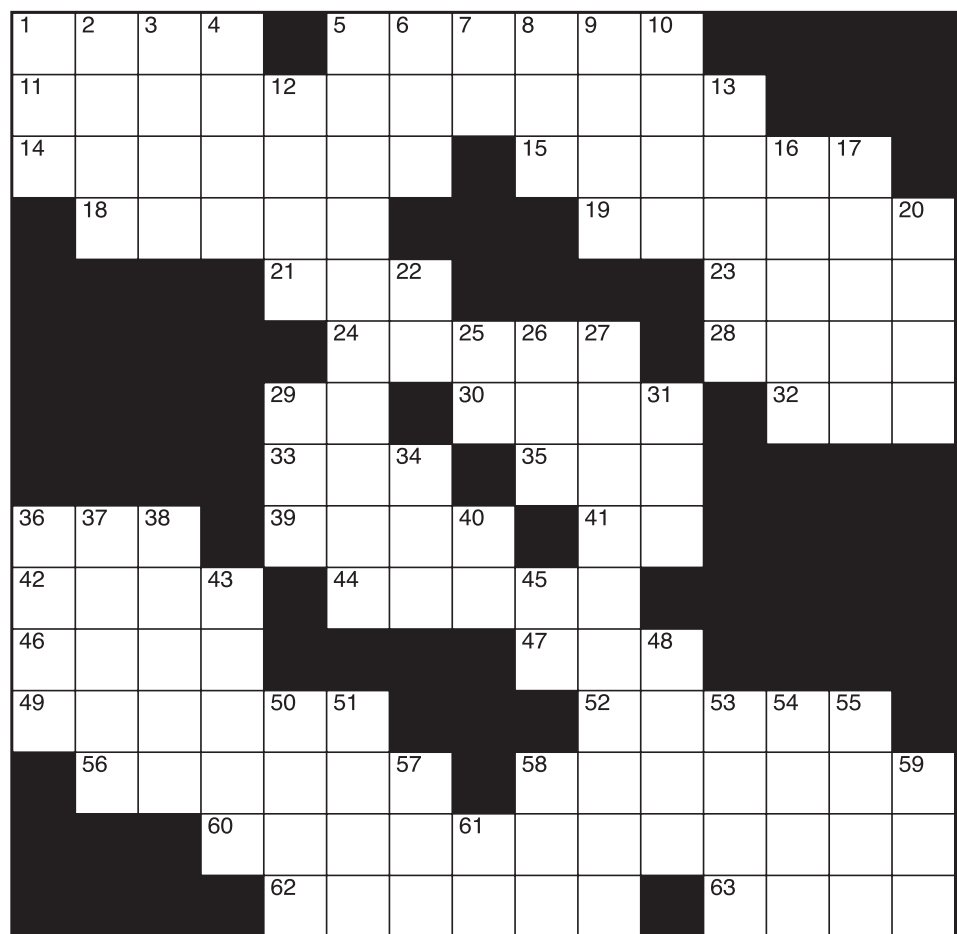


6	1	2	4	9				8
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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

BIRTH	CHICK	GROW	PUDDLES
BLOOM	CROCUS	HATCH	RAIN
BREEZE	DAFFODIL	HYACINTH	ROBIN
BULBS	EGGS	LAMB	SEASON
BUNNY	FLOWERS	MARCH	SHOWERS
BUTTERFLY	GREEN	NEST	SPRING



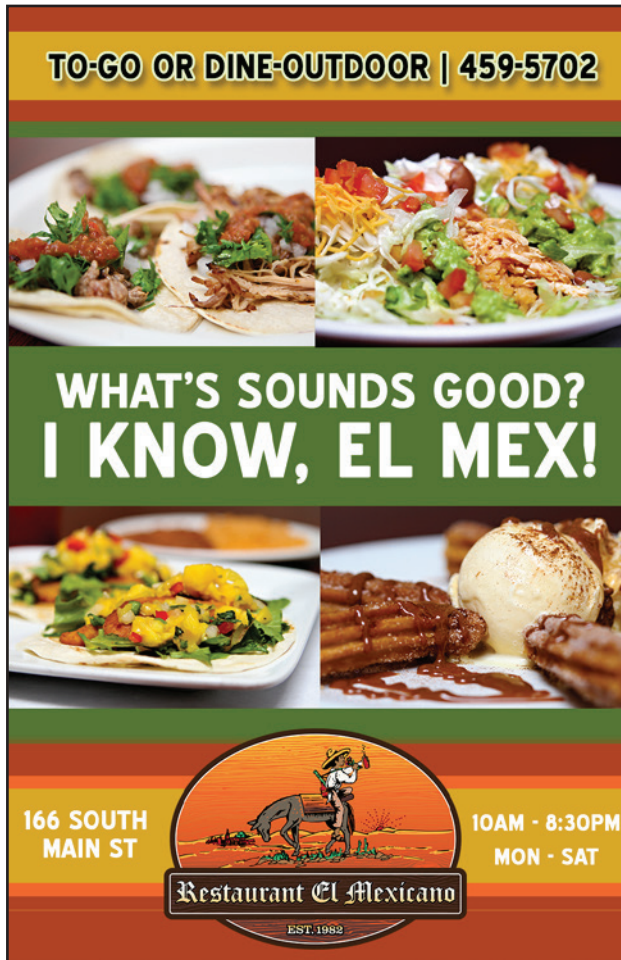
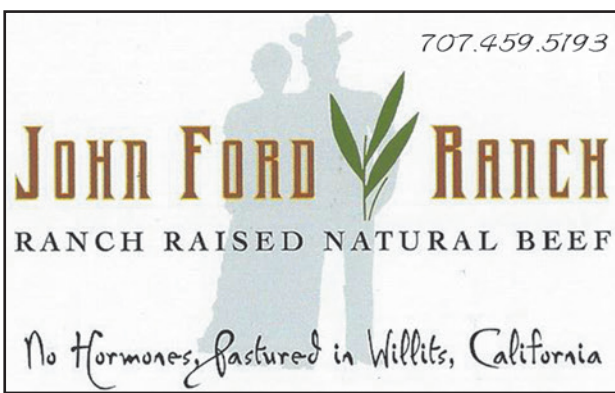
1. Constrictors
5. Abounding in rocks
11. Speed
14. German city
15. Lacking sympathy
18. Visionaries
19. Wastes away
21. One precursor

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| to the EU                                   |                                      |
| 23. Nursemaid                               | CLUES DOWN                           |
| 24. Unconsciousnesses                       | 1. __ Humbug!                        |
| 28. Baby's word for father                  | 2. Devices that alert pilots (abbr.) |
| 29. Equal to 64 US pints (abbr.)            | 3. Grocer                            |
| 30. Senses of self-importance               | 4. One point east of southeast       |
| 32. Midway between south and southwest      | 5. Subjects to hostility             |
| 33. When you hope to get there              | 6. Work unit                         |
| 35. Electronic data processing              | 7. Atomic #56                        |
| 36. Passports and drivers' licences are two | 8. British thermal unit              |
| 39. Fishes                                  | 9. 'Elusive Butterfly' singer        |
| 41. Air Force                               | 10. Fastened over animal's neck      |
| 42. Personal computers                      | 12. Device                           |
| 44. Ecological community                    | 13. Rechargeable power source        |
|   | 16. Ancient sage                     |
|   | 17. Consist of two                   |

1. \_\_\_ Humbug!
2. Devices that alert pilots (abbr.)
3. Grocer
4. One point east of southeast
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7. Atomic #56
8. British thermal unit
9. 'Elusive Butterfly' singer
10. Fastened over animal's neck
12. Device
13. Rechargeable power source
16. Ancient sage
17. Consist of two



Above, from left: Sunshinelives at Green Upspring Farm and made scrumptious cupcakes. She was also selling her "2022 Lunar and Menstrual Calendar" which includes cycle-tracking for fertility and a speculum for self-cervical exams. Annie Waters is passionate about the seed-sharing get-togethers as a way to support community members growing their own food. Gardener and volunteer Karina McCabe takes a moment to smile as she sorts seed packets for the giveaway. Below, left: Jamie Chevalier from Quail Seeds brought her vast collection of over 450 varieties of organic, heirloom, and open-pollinated seed collections. Below, right: Sara Husky from Green Upspring Farm brought these cobs of colorful indigenous corn, which have been grown by native peoples for centuries, to share at the seed exchange.





Property), 12500 VC (Driving without a License), 11377 (A) H&S (Possession of a Controlled Substance), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia.

**February 2**

12:16 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Locust Street.

7:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

**February 3**

6:28 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

1:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Barbara Lane.

7:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of West Valley Street.

**February 4**

10:42 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1000 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

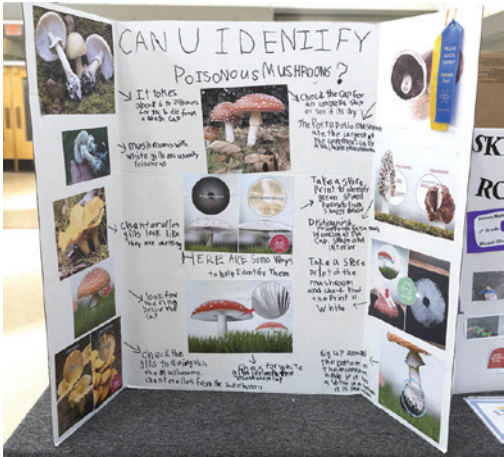
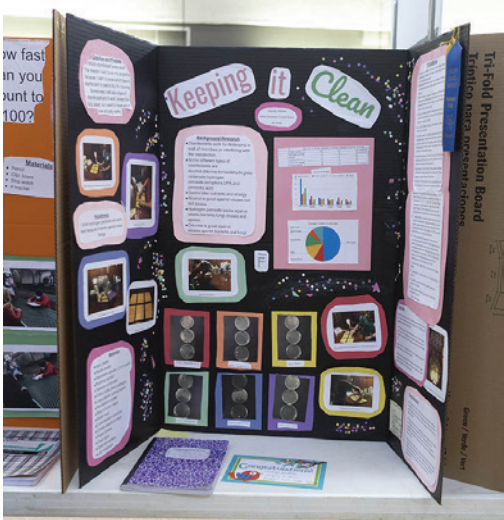
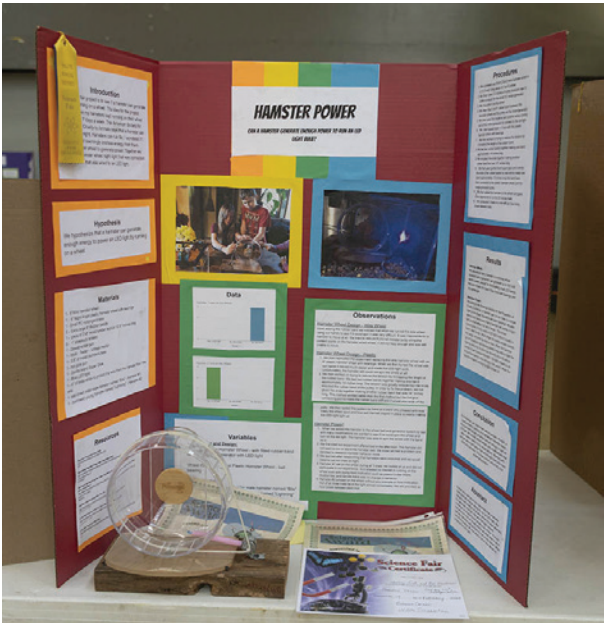
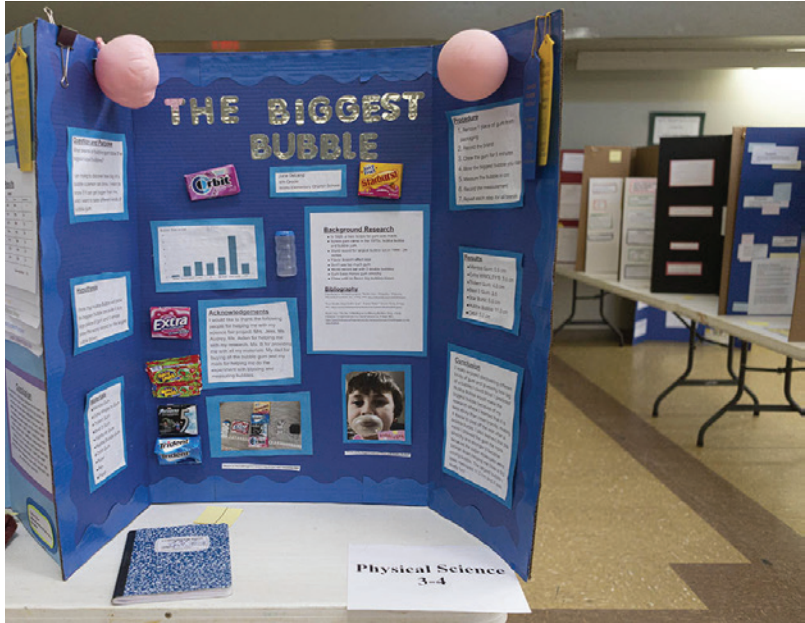
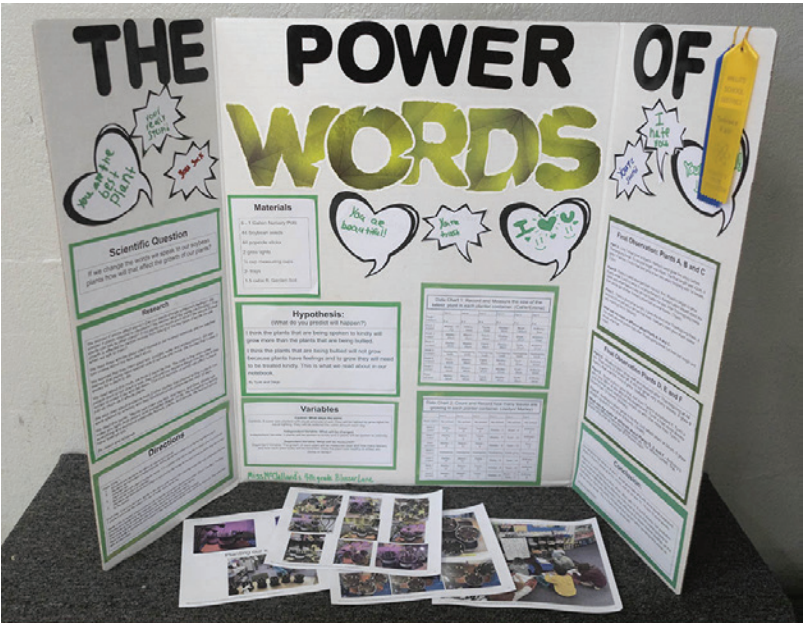
**February 5**

12:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of South Main Street.

*Below: Cayleigh Bathrop from WECS found that her hypothesis was in error but learned a lot through the application of the scientific method. At bottom: This student helped clarify which mushrooms were edible and which were poisonous.*

*At right: This group project explored the power of positive words on the growth of soybean plants. Jace DeLang, a fourth grader at Willits Elementary Charter School, discovered that Hubba Bubba bubble gum creates the largest bubbles. "Can a Hamster Generate Enough Power to Run an LED Light Bulb" by Sterling Scott and Roe Weidraw won an award from Brown's Corner.*

*Photos by Mathew Caine*



**Mathew Caine**  
Features Writer  
mathew@willitsweekly.com

**Willits Science Fair participants use creativity and the scientific method to test their unique theories**

Erin Vaccaro spent days alone in the cavernous Willits Community Center, with over 180 examples of youthful curiosity and wonder. This year's Willits Science Fair was brought to life through the utilization of the scientific method, used for centuries as a means to arrive at conclusions, eliminate untenable positions, and uncover truths about the innate nature of objects, chemicals, methods, and procedures.

Vaccaro, coordinator of the Science Fair for Willits Unified and science instructor at Willits Charter School, is proud of the manner in which over 200 of the town's children, thirsty for knowledge and a path to discovery, adapted the methodical steps and displayed them on their triptych boards.

Although none of the students or parents were permitted to view the exhibits in person, virtual tours were held online for all to see. "This year, due to the most current restrictions, our visits all went virtual," explained Vaccaro. "The teachers signed up for a time slot and we walked them through remotely and showed the students their ribbons, their prizes, and helped them find things."

"We set up Google Meets," she said. "I would have the students and the teacher on one end and they would see me walking them through on the other end. It was different, but it was fun to get to each of the classrooms that way. On our website we put a compilation of videos by school so the parents and community members could find it more easily. We went through and made a video of every project in a particular school."

Judging by the nearly 50 students and class groups who had their projects go on to the County Science Fair, there is great hope for the art of critical thinking among the youth. Additionally, 71 of the displays were chosen for supplemental prizes and honors by local business sponsors.

In applying the scientific method, the students had to come up

with a subject, something that intrigued them, which they wished to prove or disprove. They then came up with a hypothesis (what they predicted would happen) and a procedure by which to discover the true nature of their subject. They also needed to document the materials used in the process, the data derived from their experiments, their conclusions based on the generated data, and finally how they felt that the results could be applied in the environment or life.

Perusing the multitude of exhibits, it was evident that the students understood the use of coherent methodology in deriving results. Most important, though, was their creativity in defining and working the problems. Not all the explorations have actual real-life applications, but no matter, the most important aspect of the exercise was to learn the method by which to make critical discoveries.

Some of the many exhibits that were interesting and / or amusing in a tour through the rows of projects: Finn Shipp created a "very popular" display "about tardigrades which are microscopic. He checked the moss on the trees and also on the ground to see which one would have more tardigrades. He took the moss and soaked it in water and put it under the microscope and found the tardigrades," said Vaccaro. Another popular exhibit was "The Biggest Bubble" by Jace DeLong, a fourth grader at Willits Elementary Charter School, who discovered, through ardent research, that Hubba Bubba is the bubble gum of choice for huge results.

Ember Hetherington and K'Allana Arnold created a method by which to discover the ability of feces to be utilized in creating power, called "Electric Excrement," complete with samples of the materials used (sealed in plastic, thankfully). "The Power of Words" explored the hypothesis that speaking certain positive or negative words to fledgling soy plants could affect their growth. This one, a class project, found that, indeed, positive speech can add to the growth of these plants. Penny Morgan, from

WECS, used calipers to determine the absorptive properties of Orbeez, which are small gel-like beads that grow to more than 100 times their volume when placed in water.

Some of the exhibits had current connections to the life that many of the students have been living for the last two years. "Do Masks Replace a Familiar Face?" by Abigail Sherf explored whether, in the prevailing masking climate, teachers and staff are as recognizable with or without their masks. She found that many of the students could not as readily recognize people sans their masks. "How Realistic is the Grinch," a collaboration of Jaden Hansen, Ricardo Hernandez, and Graysin Dukeshier, utilized a scene from the movie to demonstrate the power of magnets. "Popcorn Explosion" by seventh grader Adriana Alvarez found that varying the amount of butter has an effect on the number of kernels remaining un-popped after cooking.

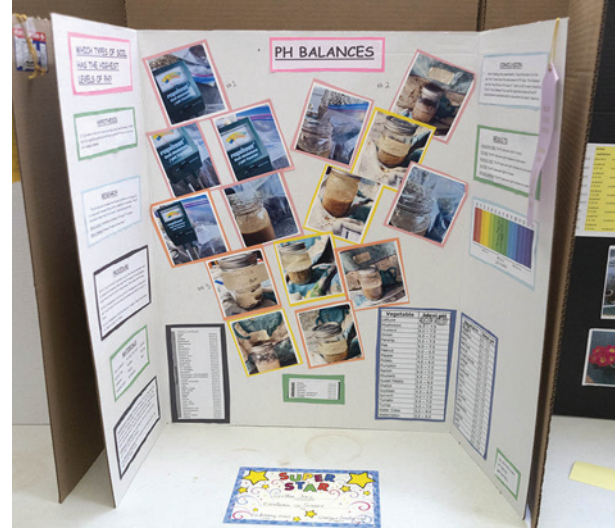
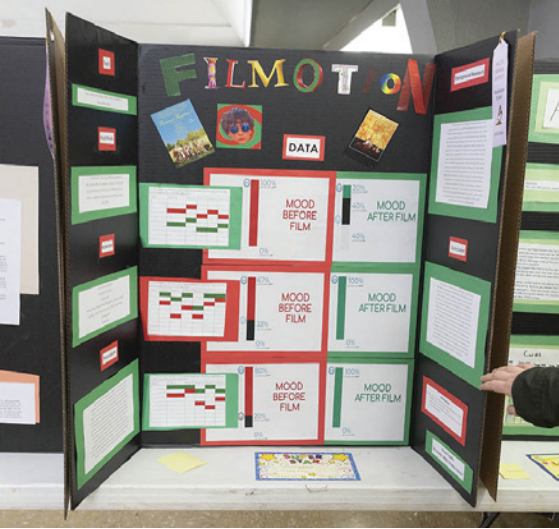
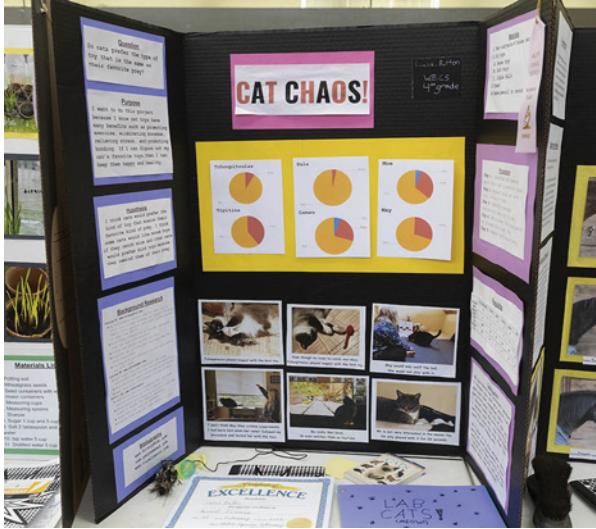
Miles Mattson's "Fun Fruit Tie Dye" demonstrated how viable dyes could be produced with juices from various fruits and vegetables. "Cat Chaos," a project by Lucia Button, showed how toys that cats love to play with do not necessarily correlate to the prey they like to go after.

From here, many of the exhibits will go to the county competition and then to the State Science Fair, which in the past has contained many of the Willits efforts.

These and all the other projects can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/willitsunified.com/sciencefair/home>. They are well worth the time to explore. They are thought-provoking and entertaining and give one hope for the future of critical thinking and methodology.

"My favorite part of the Science Fair is how I'm constantly amazed and impressed by their inspiring ideas," said Vaccaro with obvious pride.

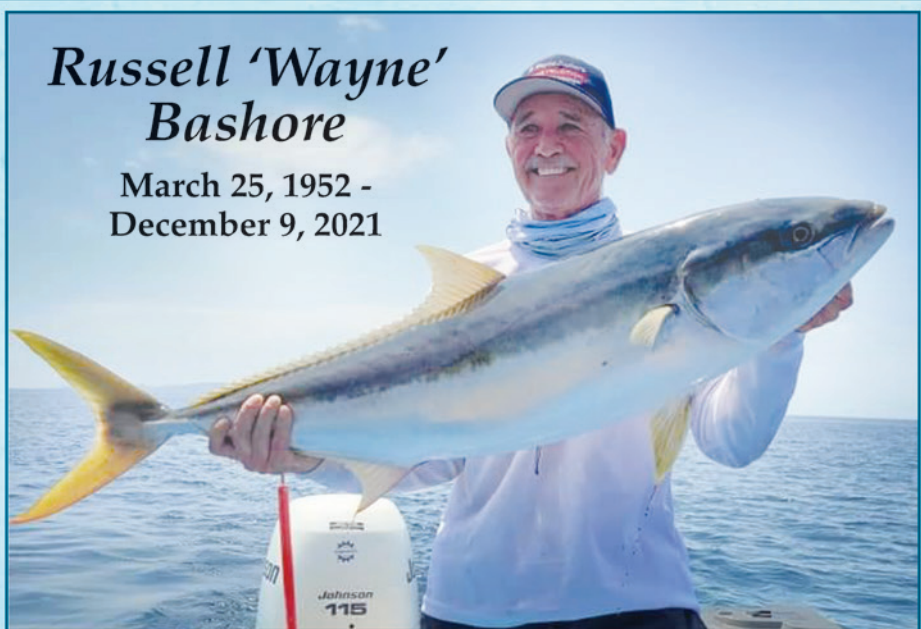
**See the list of special award winners on Page 8**



*From far left: Lucia Button, a fourth grader at WECS, explored whether cats prefer the type of toy that corresponds to their favorite prey.*

*"Filmotion," asked "How does watching a film affect a person's mood / emotions?" and was very popular among the test subjects.*

*Synthia Jara won a special award from George's Geodes and Gems for her exploration of the differing pH factors in various soils.*



**Russell 'Wayne' Bashore**  
March 25, 1952 - December 9, 2021

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Willits local, Russell "Wayne" Bashore.

Wayne was born in Garberville, California on March 25, 1952 and spent his early years in the Wolf Creek logging community before settling in Willits.

Wayne, his parents, and his children don the hall at Willits High School alongside three generations of WHS alumni.

A licensed contractor and, owner of R. Wayne Bashore Construction, you'll be hard pressed to stand anywhere in Willits and not see the craftsmanship of his capable hands. His talents, blended with his passions, led him into lifelong service in the community. He wore many hats including Chockaw tribe member, two-term mayor, city council member, Lion's Club member, WUSD School Facilities Director, coach, father, son, husband, brother, uncle, cousin, friend. He was an avid fisherman and had begun making time to travel, fish, and experience more of the things that brought him joy.

Back in the early 2010s the Willits Unified School District passed a bond, Measure B, authorized to acquire, construct, repair and improve local schools, including replacing portable facilities with permanent classrooms, improving student access to computers and technology, building vocational and technical classrooms, and other needed school upgrades. Wayne was concerned the monies would not be spent efficiently to gain maximum value for the school district. Because he felt strongly about this, he shut down his construction business (at personal cost to him) for about two years to go to work for the school district to oversee all construction aspects of the project.

Many people in the Willits community may not know that Wayne sat on the Little Lake Fire District's Board of Directors (an unpaid position) for over twenty years.

Wayne oversaw all construction and maintenance for the large Buddhist Temple and property in Ukiah.

The Troop 42 Scout Hut located in the Recreation Grove next to the rodeo grounds had fallen into disrepair and was in need of a major renovation. This building hadn't been touched in over 50 years. With Wayne spearheading the renovation, he contacted every subcontractor in the area to donate materials, labor, and money to basically replace everything in the building from electrical, plumbing, a new roof, insulation, sheet rock, painting and installing a commercial kitchen. When the job was completed, it was calculated by Wayne that with the help of many good people and businesses, he saved about \$150,000.00 in regular construction costs.

He "slid into home" the way only Wayne Bashore could and was surrounded with the love of family and friends when he passed on Thursday, December 9, at 10:29 p.m.

In the words of one of Wayne's poker buddies:

"Poker night was on Thursday nights. At 10 o'clock the dealer button would go around the table one more time. The last hand was usually right around 10:30."

Wayne was preceded in death by his sister, Teresa Woertink of Cottage Grove, Oregon, his paternal grandparents, George Arthur Bashore, (AKA: "Art"), and Juanita Bashore, his maternal grandparents, Bernie and Anne Hoskins, his father Norman Bashore, and stepfather Roscoe "Woody" Wood, all of Willits.

Wayne is survived by his mother, Gwen Wood of Willits; his stepmother, Graciela Bashore of Reno, NV, his children, Todd Bashore of Willits and Christine Lannon of Spokane, Washington. Wayne leaves behind three grandchildren: Eden Lannon of Los Angeles, Aya Rose Lannon of Sacramento, and Everett Lannon of Spokane, Washington. Wayne is survived by his siblings Bruce Bashore of Stockholm, Sweden, Ann Wood of Oakville, Connecticut, and Nancy Riggs of Willits, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Celebration of Life will be held at the Scout Hut at the Willits Recreation Grove on Sunday June 26, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.



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  
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
www.agapebiblechurch.com

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

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom  
• Sound of Soul events  
• Membership Discourses  
• Spiritual Discussions  
• ECK Light & Sound Services  
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  
for now.  
For appointments call:  
(707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua 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  
1 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 Brunettu

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
707-459-5714  
Saturdays: Meeting place  
at church located at  
399 W. Mendocino Avenue  
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.  
https://willitsaadventistchurch.org  
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist  
A Christ centered, progressive church  
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286 School St. (at Pine)  
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
Worship Celebration  
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.  
459-2855  
Facebook: www.facebook.com

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

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2022 Willits Science Fair Special Awards

Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic recognizes creativity and excellence in science, especially in health-related fields. Winners will receive a gift certificate to The Book Juggler.

- Clara Aguilar, How does his or her age affect flexibility?
- Yoel Arreguin, Pump it Up
- Cayleigh Balthrop, Keeping it Clean
- Mia Chavez, Masked
- Liliana Elliot, How 'Bout them Apples!
- Ruby Lane and Taylor Valente, Baby vs Big Words
- Calvin Loupy and Zahyr Lopez, Kick N Curve
- Alexandra Ramos, Toddler Time
- Abigail Sherf, Do masks replace a familiar face?
- Sofia Vaccaro, Boo

Brown's Corner recognizes excellent science projects related to transportation and energy. Winners will receive a certificate and a cash prize.

- Ember Hetherington and K'Allana Arnold, Electric Excrement
- James Mattson, Skateboard Rocket
- Sophia Miya, Soda to the Gods
- Sterling Scott and Roe Weidraw, Hamster Power
- Wyatt Wolf, Hydropower

California Forestry & Vegetation Management recognizes excellent science projects in the field of plant sciences. Winners will receive a certificate and a Visa gift card.

- Aiyana Adams, Soil and Seeds
- Griffin O'Rear, Mendo Mosses

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

- Elijah Ballard, Why do Volcanoes Erupt?
- Leila Bean, Eggshell Geodes

- Sorin Bryant, The Crystal Growing Contest
- Declan Cameron, How Can Erosion be Controlled on the Beach?
- Joceyln Chenier, Wyler Lavenduskey, Cailin Kelsay, What will rust in water?
- Kayli Clark, Tasty Rocks
- Hazel Corey, Making Rain
- Macy Davidson, Can Lava be Blue?
- Tyler Guerra, Energy of Color
- Ricardo Hernandez, Jaden Hansen, Graysin Dukeshier, How Realistic is the Grinch?
- Synthia Jara, pH Balance
- Tessa Klee and Arya Allenbrand, What Chemicals Get the Best Reaction?
- Cole Lane and Ezra dela Fuente, What Works Best
- Blighe Lamkin and Kayla Gonzalez, Bugz Lightyear
- Jocelyn Perez, The Apple Bacteria Project
- Adalia Petersen, Danica Deck, and Trinity Ward, Salt and Sugar Crystals
- Cali Anne Stranberg, Can You See Me?
- Nicole Sylstra, Filmotion
- Lillie Unangst, Dome
- Emmett Veilleux, Gravity Growing
- Aud Young, How many species do Barn Owls eat?

J.D. Redhouse recognizes creativity in science. Winners will receive a gift certificate for ice cream.

- Dana Arkelian and Bronach Bowles, A Seahorse's Life
- Adriana Alvarez, Popcorn Explosion
- Kylie Alvarez, Pepsi Egg vs. Soda
- Kadie Balthrop and Jade Luna, Animal Music
- Dmitri Calderon and Iriana Fagan, The Hidden Light Show
- Ivan Carrillo, Smelly Birds
- Mason Corona, Mystery Water
- Hux Dukeshier, Doge Colors
- Alyssa Herrera, Hair
- Pearl Koskinen and Charlie Atwood, Zoyasia Grass
- Pedro Lando, How Fast Can You Count?
- Hunter Larsen, Fun with Bacteria
- Kaleb Lynn, Music and the Heart
- Hamaz Malikian, Does Music Affect

Your Mood?

- Miles Mattson, Fun Fruit Tye Dye
- Dane McFadden, Soda Eruption
- Kai Schwebbs, Steam Pasteurization
- Mason Valente, Rabbit Memory

Mobile Equine Veterinary Services recognizes excellence in animal science. Winners will receive a certificate and a cash prize.

- Lucia Button, Cat Chaos
- Emmi Hale, Can you identify what horse this is?
- Kyler Hall-Jimenez, A Hair's Difference
- Madison Lawrence, Trotting in Color

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

- Wyatt Wolf, Hydropower
- Raylan Bartow, Does the Breed Affect Reaction?
- Morgan Nolan, The Best Cheesecake Ever
- Griffin O'Rear, Mendo Mosses
- Enzo Vaccaro, Corn on the Com

Sara Hanna Consulting recognizes an outstanding project in Environmental Science or Natural Resources. The winner will receive a certificate and a cash prize.

- Finn Shipp, Tardigrades

TD Hanna Consulting recognizes science projects that exhibit good application of the scientific method. Winners will receive a certificate and a cash prize.

- Sterling Scott and Roe Weidraw, Hamster Power
- Kobi Hall-Jimenez, Home Made vs Store Bought Who will win?

The Book Juggler recognizes outstanding projects in each grade range. Winners receive a customized prize.

- Elementary School Project-Creativity in Science: Aurora Beebe, Second Thoughts!
- Middle School Project-Excellent Science Involving all Things Amazing and Gross: Harbor Cassells, Bacterial Bloom
- High School Project-Outstanding Project Relating to Environmental Science: Ayla Hinman-Foss, Electric Lemons

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LAKEPORT 2465 South Main Street 707.263.8400

The rest of Exchange | From Page 5

on Sherwood Road. She brought her delicious winter-squash seeds to give away. The seeds are from three varieties she's grown for years. One new gardener who had some of her seeds from last year asked if those seeds would still be viable. Rulison responded, "Yes," and added, "The bigger the seeds, the longer they last. That's my theory." Her friend and fellow gardener, Lee Davis, added, "Lotus and corn seeds have been viable after 1 to 2,000 years. They just sprouted a date seed that was 4 or 5,000 years old!" Amazing!

Sara Grusky's indigenous dry corn varieties were there for the taking. "They're all short-season corn. All are good for our latitude. This is dry corn and you want it to dry on the stalk." She added that they keep the plants in the ground and on the stalk until October. "There's Hopi Blue, Abenaki, and Blue Mountain varieties," she said. She had a donation jar for people to donate to the "Indigenous

Seed Royalties." Grusky explained, "It means we recognize the work of hundreds and hundreds of years breeding and seed saving that has contributed to these amazing seed varieties."

Naturopath Claudia Wenning, from Quantum Level Health, had varieties of her tinctures along with materials about naturopathy. Most of the herbs in her tinctures were home grown and prepared by Wenning. She also included packets of Essiac Tea from Jacqueline Morninglight, who prepared the tea for herself as she was living with the cancer that recently took her life. Her husband, Richard Jeske, gave the tea to Wenning to give to the community at the seed exchange in memory of his wife.

People like Melinda Clarke from Willits came to the event looking for something specific. "I'm excited about beans. I grew several varieties. I ate them. Then I dried them and ate them in my soup. I'm going to plant the

Peacock seeds from last year. I've been gardening so long and have never done that before. So now I want to do more!" Clarke said.

"I was very pleased with the attendance, over 150 people came to take away about a thousand seed packets and hand-filled envelopes of heirloom seeds," said Waters, who continued, "We're organizing the seed events and hoping to continue having these important events in different parts of the county that promote growing and sharing open-pollinated, naturalized seeds to our communities."

Whatever your seeds or starts needs are, these events, along with sharing your own seeds and starts with friends and neighbors, and visiting the seed library at the Willits Library are go-tos for all levels of gardeners.

To participate in future seed-sharing events at the Little Lake Grange, phone: 459-9716. For further information, call 707-889-2449.

The rest of Delivery | From Page 3

menus. As a consumer, he has ordered food through the service and has been a dasher before and after his normal workday.

"Basically, Door Dash supplies the merchant with a tablet with its own connection to the internet," Phoenix explained. "You can also opt to have a printer which is Bluetooth connected to the tablet. You can set your own store hours when you want to receive orders. Door Dash looked at my menu online and developed a menu from that for the Door Dash app. Then I have the ability though the merchant portal to make adjustments to that menu, as to the items, wording, prices, or add modifiers like adding extra pepperoni to pizzas.

"When there is an order, the tablet will vibrate," he said. "There's a screen that pops up that says 'view order.' You click on the button and you can view the customer's first name and last initial and their order. I can pick either the preparation time which Door Dash has listed or I can pick 'manual,' to set the time and then confirm the order. Then the tablet will say 'assigning a dasher' with a GPS map that shows where I'm located and once a dasher accepts the assignment, their icon will show up on the map and will tell you when the dasher will be showing up. The tablet will ring again when the dasher arrives. When the order is ready, I can click on 'order ready for pickup.' Then it goes off my screen."

Dasher Alison Muriah has a full-time job with a service organization, but finds, since she lives in town, she can sign in to work with Door Dash and wait at home with her three children. When an order comes in, she can accept the order or not, depending on the money the application says she will make on the run, including a pre-stated tip.

"You have to schedule yourself," Muriah said. "A half hour before your scheduled start they give you a text message saying you're scheduled to start in 30 minutes. You hit 'dash now' when you're ready to start. It gives me a map of the different areas. McDonald's is usually a hot spot. So is J.D. Redhouse, which is near my house, so I can work from home rather than wait in my car.

"They only give you 30 seconds to accept. The app will show you how much you'll make on an order and how much they're tipping. I like that it pays you at the end of your shift. When I'm done, it gives me options. I can pause it, go off the shift, resume. When I end the dash, it will cash me out. If it's really busy, I can extend it past the time. The extra money is nice. It helps buy my own \$8 Door Dash coffee."

In addition to La Siciliana, other businesses currently utilizing the service are Hatake Farm Kitchen, Lumberjacks, Super Taco, J.D. Redhouse, Brewed Awakening, Dahvi's Kitchen, Taco Bell, McDonald's, and Rio's Fish and Chips.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

Help Wanted  
DripWorks is looking to hire a FT Purchasing Coordinator. Purchasing, Excel, AP/AR exp. \$16-\$20. Send resume to employment@drip-works.com

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FREE Golden Retriever Puppies to Forever Homes! 1 Male, 1 Female. Excellent temperament! House trained with very good trainable natures & perfect for families with children and other pets! I will not re home to just any-one. Please email me first at: stephanie.christensen59@gmail.com and Text 828-229-1327

Help Wanted  
Thrift Store Merchandise Processor/Stocker. \$15.00 Hour Full Time (40 hours weekly). Send resume, including 3 references to wsldirector@willitsseniorecenter.com or pick up application at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd. or call Richard Baker at 459-8826 for more information. Must be able to lift furniture and have valid CA driver's license.

Freezer Empty? We can help!  
Due to health concerns in Mendocino County, John Ford Ranch will be taking meat box orders (not individual package orders) for pick-up: Rancher's Choice Box - 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: 25 pound box of hamburger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and we'll call back.

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

RV/Trailer Space for Rent  
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 510-5895. See at "http://www.oakrvine.net/tp"

Help Wanted  
North Coast Opportunities Volunteer Network Program Recruiting for Lake & Mendocino County: Make a difference in Lake and Mendocino Counties by supporting AmeriCorps Senior Volunteer programs. Recruit, coordinate and place volunteers in service and mentoring positions. Must enjoy working independently and with seniors. Up to 25 hrs/week. \$18.09 - \$23.00 per hour (DOE). To learn more and For full job description details & required employment application visit the NCO jobs page, https://www.ncoinc.org/about-us/jobs/ or call (707) 467-3200 ext 302 or 331.

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

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COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

## 'Uncharted'

**The Story:** This is an old-school crowd pleaser. A fortune in long-lost South American gold, in two long-lost Spanish galleons, sought for by two glib wise-cracking treasure hunters, accompanied by two quite lovely, but maybe quite untrustworthy, treasure huntresses. They are pursued by a psychotic billionaire convinced that the treasure was stolen from his aristocratic family five centuries ago.

There are plentiful stunts. Derring-dos. Secret passages. Helicopters. Aforementioned Spanish galleons. Sea battles. Air battles. Parachutes. And notably: one stunning classic bright-red gull-wing Mercedes-Benz (300SL for the cognoscenti of automobilia).

**My Thoughts:** The lead Tom Holland is a charming scamp. His co-lead Mark Wahlberg is a charming rascal. Sophia Taylor Ali is their fetching ally with trust issues and a sharp tongue. Tati Gabrielle is a beautiful and at the same time quite ruthless throat-slasher. Antonio Banderas is a smug, self-righteous villain. Let me put it plainly. I always knew who to root for. And who to root against.

This is a darn fine "movie movie" which means it's one long chase that follows a well-tested movie formula. So yes, you've seen it before, but it's still a good time at the cinema. And honestly, I can't get the Mercedes-Benz out of my head.

**Parents:** It's PG. When I was 10, I would have enjoyed the computer game-style action set pieces. But here I'm conflicted. On the one hand, the flick says human relationships are more important than gold. On the other hand, there is one (relatively bloodless) removal of a "bad guy" by a knife across the Adam's apple. And on the third hand: it's just a movie, and the good guys win.

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

The rest of

## Water

From Page 1

that currently the city's two reservoirs at the surface water plant south of town are at a combined 89% capacity – the same number which was reported by the City of Willits Water Department on November 29 of last year.

And Herman said that they were taking measures to ensure the water supply would remain stable this year.

"We have requested a variance from the Division of Dam Safety to install the Centennial seasonal flash boards for March 1 – typically we aren't allowed to install until April 15 – in hopes of catching any spring rains to bring the reservoirs to 100% capacity," he said. "Fortunately, they have granted this variance in previous years, and it has allowed us to reach full reservoir capacity going into the summer months."

As for the Brooktrails water supply, at a February 8 Brooktrails Community Township Board of Directors meeting General Manager Tamara Alaniz gave a positive assessment, saying that "Lake Ada Rose is not spilling over anymore but Lake Emily is."

While Willits and Brooktrails are looking pretty good for water for the time being, signs of trouble around the county include recent reports that Lake Mendocino is only at about 62% of its target water supply, Fort Bragg has 30% less water than it did around this time last year, and there will be no water available for agricultural use for customers in the Redwood Valley County Water District through 2022.

Bree Klotter, a board member of the Redwood Valley district, said that conservation requirements restricting use to 55 gallons per person per day will also remain in place there.

First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty, who is on the county's drought task force, led off the discussion at their January 10 meeting.

"I'm sorry we're here," he said with a laugh. "I was hoping after December that maybe we would be in a better place than we are, but even then we knew it would take some time – even had the rain continued – for us to build back some of our water supplies. The good news is that a lot of surface water and shallow aquifers have been replenished, but we still continue to have long-term concerns."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak, also on the drought task force, said that he was thankful the county had kept the group intact.

"We got through last year and that crisis, and instead of just abandoning it we realized that we'd probably still have problems this year," he said. "And so we're still working on it.... I think that we really have a good team working on these issues, and we will keep working on them because that's what we have to do."

Other members of the county's drought task force team include County Director of Transportation Howard Dashiell and Deputy CEO Judy Morris.

Dashiell gave a summary and an update regarding the county's project of transferring water from Ukiah to Fort Bragg.

The program began last August when the City of Ukiah and City of Fort Bragg entered a mutual aid agreement and the county began hauling hundreds of thousands of gallons to Fort Bragg where it was desperately needed.

The water was used by Fort Bragg residents and available for short haul to nearby areas such as the town of Mendocino where wells were drying up rapidly.

"We actually got a little ahead and we're still ahead," Dashiell said of the water hauling. "We have approximately 667,000 gallons sitting in Fort Bragg's holding pond ready for use. So maybe we got a little too far ahead, but that water's there, and as the summer goes into the fall we could haul again. We have funding from the [California Department of Water Resources Small Community Drought Relief Program] to continue that through next year."

Dashiell said that even in the rainy month of December, customers were still buying and using plenty of the water that had been trucked to Fort Bragg.

any other source are concerned of over-pumping the only well the city has available for potable water," said Almida. "So they want that for a backup and I'm hoping that they use that for a backup and don't start pumping it hard. Because I'm concerned even if my well doesn't go dry, of having contaminants contaminate it. So I guess I'll be having my well tested every year now."

### Illegal water hauling

In light of the ongoing concerns of water supply and protection in the county, Haschak said that the task force and others have been crafting an ordinance to help prevent illegal water hauling and extraction, with increased regulations, restrictions, and punishments for those in violation.

"We've had a group of about 15 that have been working on this for quite a few months," he said. "And we have something that's still a work in progress, but we're going to present something to the [board of supervisors] on March 15.

"With the drought and increased aridity as ongoing issues in Mendocino County people are increasingly concerned about wells going dry and aquifers being excessively tapped," Haschak said. "Especially in regards to extraction and hauling of water for unpermitted cannabis grows. There are many reports of people with wells selling water that is then transported to distant locations for unpermitted usage."

He then read through several ideas they were planning on bringing forward to the board.

"Anyone selling either potable or non-potable water shall be required to have a county permit and business license to do so," he said. "A hydrology study shall be required for new extraction permits of water for the purpose of sale.... All water providers and water haulers must maintain a tracking log – environmental health, code enforcement and the sheriff's department will monitor the tracking logs.... Penalties for violations need to be substantial to deter unregulated water use."

Haschak said the penalties they were proposing were \$1,000 for the first violation, followed by \$2,000 and \$3,000 for the next two.

In addition he said they were proposing that no commercial water hauling would be allowed from 11 pm to 5 am unless authorized by the sheriff's department or fire agencies.

Improving and monitoring water quality is also something that the county is looking into according to McGourty, particularly around the North County and the Covelo region "where we're concerned about the potential of arsenic and other metals ... being in the water."

"The State Water Resources Control Board has a department of drinking water, and they would be the ones working with us on that to kind of remedy it," said McGourty

He said that he inquired with the Mendocino County Office of Education and the superintendent about water quality at schools, who assured him that the water there is tested and treated regularly.

"All of the school districts around the county have that program going on of monitoring and water treatment to be sure that the water for the campuses are all safe for drinking," he said.

McGourty also gave an update on the long ongoing saga of the Potter Valley Project, saying that they were still hopeful it would end with the "two basin solution" which would result in the Scott Dam being taken down and increased water flow into Lake Mendocino.

However, not all of the many agencies, boards and jurisdictions weighing in with a stake in the outcome are supportive of the two basin plan, and there is still much uncertainty surrounding how to fund the \$25 million needed to study the plan, and who will be taking over for PG&E after they relinquish their hydroelectric plant property which is likely.

"This is going to be a long tale by the time it's finished, and it'll take more than my supervisor term to see a conclusion to this," he said.

The rest of

## Updates

From Page 1

construction when it comes to assessing whether contract specifications have been met or something needs fixing.

It's close, but there's still some things that aren't right and "have to be fixed," said Madrigal.

Specifically, there's some "standard ... shoddy workmanship" when it comes to cabinets, some doors out of line, a roof leak in a hallway caused by "an electrician punching up conduit through a roof membrane," and, although not a present safety concern, there are faulty sensors on apparatus bay doors.

And one of those apparatus doors patiently awaits the arrival of the department's new Type 3 wildland fire engine.

But, as has been the case since at least last September's meeting, the board has once again been told it's a waiting game of "delays in manufacturing," mostly due to difficulty getting parts.

It was hoped that the engine would be delivered by next fire season, but now it looks like "we may not be into it until the first part of fire season," said Thomen.

Another department endeavor close to realization, but not quite there as it moves through a myriad of administrative requirements, is implementation of the firefighter "Explorer program," a Boy Scouts of America affiliated career education program for young men and women.

One path that participants take to the program is participation in the high school's "scrubs program," Alvarez told the board.

"We're going to be going back to the high school [this week] ... to teach "fire behavior" and bring a group to the new station for "a little tour," he said. "And then we're going to hit ropes, and then hands on with fire extinguishers.

"After scrubs, [the] next step ... [could be] the Explorers program. ... We teach what Little Lake Fire is all about, what we do, ... pique interest that way, and then you start getting some questions from students about [how to join]."

Alvarez also reported on current firefighter training, including CPR, first aid, SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) review, CGI (combustible gas indicator) review, and completion of "the swift water rescue class ... by three [firefighters]."

The district also hosted "our chief's academy" [in the new] really nice classroom," Alvarez continued, with the "fire dynamics" part held in a "burn room, [where] it feels like it really feels like.

"It's the real deal atmosphere in there ... a real life environment if you're going to go in a structure ... and for nobody to be hurt is always our main objective," he said. "It was good. Everybody had a good time. Everybody was safe. Nobody's equipment got damaged, and everybody got returned home with all the parts they came with."

All that ongoing training gets put to good use responding to the many daily calls for help received by the department.

"Last year, calls were way up there," Thomen told the board. "And ... this year for January there's basically no change. We're up to 40 calls, [including] eight fire, nine rescue/emergency medical services, one hazardous condition, 12 traffic collisions, and seven calls for service."

Finally, if you would like to support this life-saving work financially and fashionably, head on over to Mazahar, where there will hopefully still be some of the 120 "support our local firefighters" T-shirts available for purchase.

"They helped us sell about 50 shirts left over that we had for the opening, and they sold all of them," said Firefighters Association President Aaron Branscomb. "They didn't want anything in return; they just wanted to help us out with fundraising."

The rest of

## Burglary

From Page 1

screwdriver, pliers, and a California license plate that did not belong to the vehicle. The deputy also located bolt cutters, a large sledgehammer, and a large box of black garbage bags.

All these items are consisted with items used in burglaries and/or robberies. The firearm was also not registered to Dempsey.

Dempsey was arrested for Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition by a prohibited person (29800(A)(1) PC & 30305(A)(1) PC), Carrying a loaded firearm (25850(C)(6) PC), Unlawful possession of tear gas (22810(A) PC), and Possession of burglary tools (466 PC).

Dempsey was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$25,000 bail.

The rest of

## Robbery

From Page 1

During the course of the investigation, bank employees positively identified Sales as the suspect. Video surveillance and additional eyewitnesses confirmed Sales was indeed the bank robbery suspect. The amount of money taken from the bank was located on Sales' person. Sales, after being provided with a Miranda advisement, provided incriminating statements as well.

Sales was medically cleared prior to being transported and booked in the county jail for violation of 211 PC (Robbery).

The Willits Police Department would like to thank the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, the bank employees, and the witnesses from the community for their valuable assistance in this case.

*Editor's note: As of press time, according to the Mendocino County Jail Booking Log, Sales was still being held on \$90,000 bail.*

Pg. 10 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | February 24, 2022

Willits Weekly | February 24, 2022 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 11



# Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

## Happy Dawg

The difference love makes! Happy Dawg arrived at Bones Pet Rescue a few months ago and he was a huge mess. When he was transferred over to our shelter we hardly recognized him as the same dog! He looks amazing and he is now ready to start his journey to finding a forever home. Let's give a big thank you to Barb and Ron for being there for Happy Dawg in his time of need!

How did Happy Dawg get his name? Because despite the condition he was found in, he had been nothing but a happy, happy guy. He is just about one year old, loves other dogs, and will take all the cuddles he can get from his people!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Currently we are open by appointment only Wednesday through Friday, and open to the public Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, no appointment needed on the weekends! You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: [www.mendohumansociety.com](http://www.mendohumansociety.com), our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).



## Tommy Boy

Tommy is quite shy with new people but loves his head scratches from people he knows. He is 2 years old and is a neutered cat with short gray hair.

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

## Spunky Buzz

Buzz is still new to walking on a leash and is quite shy around new people, but is full of energy and has lots of spunk! This 2-year-old Chihuahua is sweet but will need a lot of time and patience from the right home before he will open up. Once he does, he will be excited to see you and climb all over you. He is dog-friendly and would enjoy the company of other little dogs, and will definitely need to be adopted with another dog in the home. Buzz would do best in an adult-only home.

To learn more about Buzz or view other adoptable animals, visit [www.milofoundation.org](http://www.milofoundation.org) or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.



# Behind-the-scenes tours of Museum, Roots coming up

*Submitted by Mendocino County Cultural Services*

Did you know that most of the Mendocino County Museum collections are in storage? Our vast collections contain artifacts that tell unique stories about historic events, such as the Frolic shipwreck and the 1906 earthquake. A plethora of early logging tools, historic furniture, and wagons are waiting to be shared and ... wait ... is that? An X-ray machine or a time-teleportation device?

If you have ever been curious to see more of the intriguing and sometimes unusual collections in our care or to learn how we manage and store objects, join us for a behind-the-scenes tour on Saturdays, February 26, March 26 and April 30. Tours are available at 1 pm, 2 pm or 3 pm. To reserve a tour space, please call 707-459-2736 or email [museum@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.org)

The Mendocino County Museum will partner with Roots of Motive Power, who will open the Engine House and provide a closer look at permanent collections and special loans from the community. Explore the cab of a 1916 Steam Locomotive made by Heisler Locomotive Works! Find out more about the Blue Stone Mining and Smelting #1, and the Northwestern Pacific Railroad #13. The 1909 Standard Steel Car Company Caboose will be open for viewing. Don't miss this chance for a personalized tour from Roots members.

These tours are free with museum admission – \$4 adults; \$1 for ages 7 to 18; free for under 6; and \$7 family/household. Space is limited, so be sure to book early, as you will not want to miss this opportunity to explore! The museum is located at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits.

Please note: The museum is practicing social distancing, and facial coverings are required for museum visitors and program participants. This program is recommended for adults and children aged 8 and over.

For more information, please visit [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum) or contact the Mendocino County Museum at 707-459-2736 or [museum@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.org).



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