Council chooses northeast corner for park pavilion

Photo by Maureen

Jennison

B.B. Kamoroff willitsweekly@gmail.com

Plans for Bud Snyder Park (City Park) and the park pavilion were finally settled at the February 12 Willits City Council meeting.

Four council members unanimously approved constructing the pavilion in the northeast corner of the park. Mayor Larry Stranske recused himself because he owns property within 500 feet of the park, a legal conflict of interest.

The pavilion's location generated a lot of debate at prior public meetings and again at the February 12 meeting. The original plan

Read the rest of Pavilion |

Over on Page 9

### Judge dismisses case

against Auditor Cubbison

By Mike Geniella, mendofever.com

Criminal charges were dismissed last week against Mendocino County Auditor Chamise Cubbison, who was, in fact, labeled a "whistleblower" by Superior Court Judge Ann Moorman.

Moorman's February 25 ruling ended a highprofile case that spanned two years, rocked county government, and provoked allegations that District Attorney David Eyster had targeted Cubbison, a fellow elected county official. after she challenged his office's spending.

Tuesday's decision was a stinging rebuke to Eyster and an emotional victory for Cubbison, co-defendant Paula June Kennedy - the county's former Payroll Manager – and the lawyers who represented them.

"The judge did the right thing," said Chris Andrian, a noted Sonoma County defense attorney who represented Cubbison. Kennedy attorney FredRicco McCurry, a Mendocino County Public Defender, had pleaded with Judge Moorman to toss the case "in the interest of justice."

Cubbison's civil attorneys said Tuesday evening that now that she is free of the criminal case, they will push for her return as the elected Mendocino County Auditor/ Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector.

San Francisco attorney Therese Cannata said, "On behalf of Ms. Cubbison, we will be demanding

Read the rest of Cubbison Over on Page 9



We have some exciting things on the horizon right away: Our popular Meet the Merchants booklet (yes, the one with all the photos of the people at local businesses, and more) will be coming out on March 20. Also expect the 2025 Soroptimist International of Willits Community Phone Directory in our paper in the beginning of April. We plan to continue our quarterly-ish Living Well sections, start our Real Estate sections back up on the second week of the month; (March 13 will be section edition #101!), and will be partnering with Willits Frontier Days to bring you their program in June this summer.

chomping at the bit – yes, yes, patiently, thank you!! – for

our return, and we are here for it!

As always, Willits Weekly is able to sustain itself as a free paper due to subscriptions, donations, and of course, advertising. We would love to have this grateful and amazing community help us continue, by supporting our paper in any or all of the following ways:

Subscriptions: Street subscribers are folks who routinely pick up a paper around town themselves each week, but don't have a paid subscription delivered to their address. This is obviously the most cost-effective for us, as we don't have to pay for delivery or postage. You can pick up the paper on our Thursday publication day, too, as paid subscriptions aren't delivered until Fridays. Street subscribers can become Willits Weekly subscribers by making an annual payment, \$75 or \$100 for the year, which helps us meet expenses to keep the paper going.

Willits Weekly loves our paid subscribers, too! We offer home delivery for \$75 a year - the local newspaper delivery crew throws your copy into your driveway early Friday morning. Mail delivery is also available; at \$100 a year, through the U.S. Postal Service, delivered with your mail on Fridays. See the form below to become a Willits Weekly subscriber of any type!

Donations: Just as they sound.... Do you have some extra funds that you want to give to a good thing? While we're not an official non-profit, there's lots of sweat equity and love of the craft that goes into each edition. and we can always put extra finances to good use. With more revenue, we can increase the number of pages in any edition, allowing for more stories each week, or doing more promotion for local events, organizations, and businesses. Willits Weekly has a tip jar at our table at the Willits Farmers Market each Thursday afternoon, and we thank everybody who contributes there, too.

Advertising: Our display advertisers are essential for us and hopefully for you, too. Not only do we try to keep our rates extremely affordable in comparison to other print advertising options, we also include some ad design services. We do post our free newspapers online at willitsweekly.com - just as they appear in the newspaper so all print ads become online ads, too, all for one cost.

People WANT to read our publications, and our free circulation in many locations around town means it's easy to pick up a Willits Weekly every week or just to check it out. Eyes on ads increase considerably with a popular, free circulation publication. Our color printer is amazing, and we love having our hyper-local color feature stories surrounded by vibrant ads.

Another rad thing that anyone can do, and it costs absolutely nothing, is to tell the advertisers that you saw their ad in the pages of our paper. Not only does that mean that, yes, you saw their ad, but also that you saw their ad! They love to hear this, and it encourages them to keep advertising which, again, helps us all the way back around.

A special extra thank you to our every-week, nofail, uber-consistent, ongoing, dependable, amazing businesses who serve as the base to build our paper on each week. There's been some weeks when it's just been you guys - and we REALLY appreciate your commitment to our community newspaper!

We love doing the paper, and will continue to do so as long as we reasonably can – but, as always, we need this amazing community's continued support to do so – and not just in love (which we totally appreciate!!), but in dollars, too! While we sometimes feel like a guaranteed community service, which we are in some regards, we are indeed a women-owned, locally owned, small, independent BUSINESS, too – and we're really proud of all that.

We look forward to another year of wonderful content, highlighting this amazing Willits community which we get to call ours.

Now even easier to donate: Scan the QR code at right with your phone's camera and be taken right to our Paypal donation page. You don't need an account and you can use any credit card or debit card to donate. Below is our subscription form, feel free to sign up to be a mail, delivery or street subscriber today! Want to advertise? Email willitsweekly@gmail.com or

call 707-972-7047. Ads range everv	where from \$32 to \$1200 per week!
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In the mail: 1 year - \$10	OO Additional donation included \$  (Home Delivery only available in Willits, Brooktrails & local areas)  (call for details)
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#### **New Fire** Hazard **Severity Zones** for Willits

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporte willitsweekly@gmail.com

The City of Willits is hosting a Public Forum this Thursday, March 6, starting at 4 pm, on the new map of Fire Hazard Severity Zones for the City of Willits that was released February 24 by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Incorporated cities in California didn't have statedesignated fire hazard severity zones before (maps released last year were for state responsibility areas outside cities), so there's nothing to compare to, but a casual look at the map shows many Willits properties will be in "moderate" fire danger

Read the rest of Zones

Over on Page 7

#### **Brooktrails** appoints **Mary Ziady**

to empty seat

Barbara O'Reardon

willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Township Community Services District board meeting began with President Tina Tyler-O'Shea asking for board approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting of February 11, 2025.

Of note in the recorded minutes was "Consideration of Ordinance 167 Amending Ordinance 76 Section 1-503 by Changing the Utility Bill Due Date from the Twentieth (20th) of the Month to the Last Day of the Month." General Manager Tamara Alaniz confirmed that this will provide customers another eight to 11 days to pay their bill. The board had voted unanimously to approve the ordinance.

The next item on the agenda was "Reports from Directors," and Director Susan Mahoney had a report regarding her attendance at her first Local Agencies Formation Commission, aka LAFCO, meeting in Ukiah. She said: "We had a workshop about the Potter Valley Irrigation District Municipal Services review, and because it involves a complicated situation regarding the PG&E removal of the dams, it took up most of the allotted time for the meeting.... It's a bit of a sticky wicket." so the meeting was set continue with a second half on Monday, March 3.

Brooktrails Counsel Chris Neary informed the board that his office is working on a memorandum

Read the rest of Ziady

Over on Page 9

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

#### Willits Community Phone Book 2025

To the Editor:

Soroptimist International of Willits is in production of the 2025 Willits Community Phone Book. We need the community's help with the updates.

If you have changed your phone number, cancelled your landline, need to add a cell phone number, or if you know of anyone who has moved or their number needs to be fundraising, and warehouse assistance. deleted, please let us know.

be listed, please send us your information.

Our email address is willitsphonebook@gmail.com. Thank you.

Vicki Ham, SI/Willits Phonebook Committee

#### Help us support our community's essential needs

To the Editor:

As we at Willits Community Services celebrate the success of our recent Valentine's Day Murder Mystery Dinner, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors, participants, and local businesses that made this possible. Your support has been instrumental in helping us raise critical funds for our community.

The event, held at the historic Little Lake Grange, was a success, and we are so thankful for the use of their building. We encourage our community to show their appreciation by supporting the Grange's efforts to raise funds for a new

The demand on our organization has been more than ever, and we are now serving in excess of 220 households twice a week. This represents a nearly threefold increase in just a few months, indicating the growing need for your support.

To date, we have raised a little over \$40,000 towards our winter goal of \$100,000; however, with federal aid potentially being cut and grant money increasingly becoming scarce, we need to rely heavily on local support from individuals, local businesses, and community leaders to continue providing these vital services.

We urge our community to come together during these critical times to make a donation and create an awareness of the support that is needed. Any donation, big or small,

will bring us closer to our goal.

 Continue providing essential services to our community's most vulnerable members

 Keep our doors open and our services accessible to those who need it the most.

Thank you again to our donors, participants, and local needs. Please consider making a donation today. Your kindness and generosity will make a tangible difference in

Kim Tippit., executive director, Willits Community Services & Food Bank

#### Winter Shelter Motel Rooms Program

To the Editor:

Welcome back, Willits Weekly! Here is an update on the Willits Winter Shelter Motel Rooms Program:

140 rooms have been rented out during December 2024, January and February 2025. \$11,291.14 was paid to the Redwood Inn so far. We plan to continue through March and April, offering motel nights to unhoused adults and also to families, one or two nights per month. Some families get more nights as it's so difficult for children to be sleeping outside or in a substandard shelter during the

Brown Bag Lunch programs to help them be sure to have food while they're staying in the rooms

WELL. We are anticipating running out of funds before the program is done helping people stay warm and dry. Your donations help us to finish the winter season.

Please help by sending your checks to WELL at PO Box 42, Willits CA 95490. The food sources for those in need are also stretched. Please support them. By helping to keep the most needy in our community as healthy as possible, we strengthen our town's general health. Thank you

Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)							rainfall		
location	Mon Feb 24	Tue Feb 25	Wed Feb 26	Thur Feb 27	Fri Feb 28	Sat Mar 01	Sun Mar 02	weekly total	since 01Oct24
Northbrook Way	0.20	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.35	0.31	0.88	67.05
Brooktrails Dr @ Sherwood Rd	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.33	0.81	62.09
/alley Rd	0.12	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.16	0.43	47.69
Canyon Rd	0.09	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.23	0.42	43.00
Pine Mountain	0.10	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.22	0.43	45.22
South Main @ East Oak	0.23	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.27	0.76	60.53
average	0.16	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.25	0.62	54.26

Mar 05

0.01 - 0.1 | 0.01 - 0.1 | 0.01 - 0.1

Thanks to Tim Hanna, who provides this on the weather this week: "Last week's rainfall in the Willits area exceeded the prediction by just a bit. Looks like we are in for another relatively dry week. At the end of February, average rainfall across the valley was 6.91", 14.7% greater than the same time period last year."

The Rules: LETTERS

from any one writer to once every four weeks.

for the Willits area

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Willits Weekly prints letters and commentaries about Willits and Third District issues, activities, events, and people. We print letters to the editor from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication

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. Deadline is end of day Monday for each Thursday edition. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.



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

#### Volume 12, Number 582

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

P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047 willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

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Your support will help us:

We also invite volunteers to join us in senior deliveries,

\*\*Also ... if you are a new business or resident and wish to businesses. Your support is the lifeline our community the lives of our community members.

We send our folks over to the Food Bank, Daily Bread and

Our motel program receives financial oversight from

Ruthanne Volz, coordinator, Willits Winter Shelter Motel Rooms Program

	Little Lake Valley rainfall totals (inches)								rainfall
location	Mon Feb 24	Tue Feb 25	Wed Feb 26	Thur Feb 27	Fri Feb 28	Sat Mar 01	Sun Mar 02	weekly total	since 01Oct24
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Valley Rd	0.12	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.16	0.43	47.69
Canyon Rd	0.09	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.23	0.42	43.00
Pine Mountain	0.10	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.22	0.43	45.22
South Main @ East Oak	0.23	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.27	0.76	60.53
average	0.16	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.25	0.62	54.26

https://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/precipForecast.php?cwa=EKA&imgNum=1&mobile=0

Mar 04

Enter the Sip Some Soup Contest, March 22 The Willits Shelter Action Group is joining Willits Daily Bread in the return of our long-awaited Sip Some Soup Contest/ Fundraiser to be held on Saturday, March 22 from 5 to 7 pm at the Willits Community Center located at 111 East

> There will be several different soups to taste and judge, along with homemade bread and jam from Tamara Adams at Emandal – A Farm on a River. There will also be a silent auction with many unique items donated by

local businesses and community members. Tickets are \$15 per person, \$25 per couple, and \$5 for children under 12.

To donate auction items, contact Jaynie Smith at 707-

To enter the Soup Contest - \$25 entry fee includes 2 taster tickets and voting ballots - contact Cindy Savage at 707-459-2579 or email her the info below at cindysavage6@

Name of individual, group, or organization; name of contact person; and phone number:

Soup makers should make 3 gallons of soup, and bring a crock pot, serving utensils, and table decorations for half of an 8-foot table. Plan to be at the Community Center by 4 pm to set up and decorate. No hot plates or instant pots allowed due to electrical overload. Soups may be heated in the Community Center kitchen as needed.

#### Library seeks public input for new Bookmobile

Submitted by Mendocino County Library

Mendocino County has over 3,500 square miles of land, much of it traveled by Mendocino County Library's Bookmobile. The typical lifespan of a bookmobile is approximately 12 years, and the Library's seasoned branch-on-wheels has already celebrated its 12th birthday. Due to the wear and tear of serving our rural county - it covers over 300 miles each week - the Library's Bookmobile needs to be replaced in the next year.

To ensure the new bookmobile best meets the needs of its users, the Library is conducting a survey and hosting public meetings to gather feedback from the community. The final decision on the features and options for the new Bookmobile will be based on public input, utility, safety, and budget considerations.

Below is a sample of the questions for patrons to

• How important is a place to sit on the bookmobile to

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

### March 2025 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

The County, along with Veterans, Seniors, and many others, is concerned about threats to cut essential programs. When Congress passed their budget, it included \$880 billion cuts to Medicaid. This program is MediCal in California. 47% of the residents of Mendocino County (41,000 people) are MediCal eligible. These draconian cuts would have a huge impact on our communities and services

The annual Women's History Gala Celebration was held on March 2. Three women were honored. One was Willits' Saprina Rodriguez for her many contributions to the city and county. Saprina's focus on youth issues, sports, and transportation were highlighted. Fiona Ma, State Treasurer, spoke about the impact of federal cuts on all of us. There were also performances of Chinese orchestra music and traditional Mexican dances.

Val Muchowski has been the organizer of these Women's History events (and many other activities) for 40 some years. She has been a mentor of mine from when we were public education advocates together. Val is an icon in Mendocino County and has always been an energetic, tenacious, passionate advocate of women's issues and community causes. Best wishes to her as she moves to Sacramento to be near family.

Chamise Cubbison is back at work as Auditor/ Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector. Judge Moorman dismissed the case. I cannot say anything else since there is ongoing litigation.

The Board voted 4-1 (I was the dissenting vote) to not continue pursuing an ordinance to regulate water that is sold for commercial purposes. The problem has been that people drill a well, sell the water to a water truck which heads out to the hills. Without proving that the extracted water will not impact the neighbors' wells, neighbors are at the whim of new wells for commercial sales with no oversight. Former Supervisor McGourty and I had worked with community members from around the County on this draft ordinance. There were issues with it but that is why it was a draft. It failed due to fears of costs and lack of ability to enforce. We will see what happens when the next drought arrives.

I will be at the Brickhouse on March 13 at 10 am for lively discussions. As always, you can communicate with me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-972-4214.

#### Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501

Thursday, March 6: Pork Chops, Rice Pilaf, Veggies,

Friday, March 7: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Veggies

Monday, March: 10: Hot Dogs, Chili, Mac & Cheese Tuesday, March 11: Baked Chicken, Stuffing.

Wednesday, March 12: Chili Mac, Veggies, Corn Thursday, March 13: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cole

Slaw. Pickle Friday, March 14: Ham & Scalloped Potatoes,

Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10

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

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

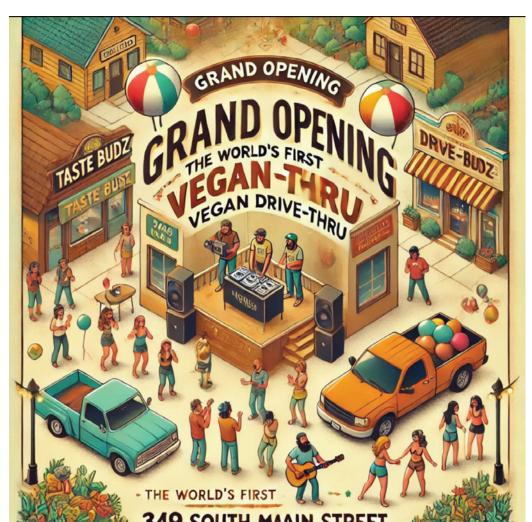
The Senior Center is in need of volunteers to help with the many activities here at the center, including volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers. "Volunteers are one-third of our workforce, which allows us to offer many services to our members and community." To learn more about volunteering: 459-6826.

· Would you like the bookmobile to have a browsable

 Would you like to have a computer station onboard the bookmobile?

Surveys are available on the Bookmobile and online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/book mobile. Meetings will take place at the Willits Branch Library on Friday, March 7 from 1 to 2 pm, and at the Coast Community Branch library on Friday, March 14 from 1 to 2 pm. If you are not able to attend the meetings in person, there will be an online option available.

Mendocino County Library looks forward to your participation in this important community event! For more information or for the online meeting link, please visit www. mendolibrary.org or contact Librarian Nayo Sicard at 707-234-2861 or sicardn@mendocinocounty.gov.





has the world's first (self-proclaimed) vegan open at 7 am daily for coffee and breakfast treats. At left: A menu board displays the many choices that are offered in addition to the hot bar. Below: Taste Budz was the first establishment certified by the Mendocino County Blue Zones.

Photos by Mathew Caine

At far left: Taste Budz









# Taste Budz Opening

Popular vegan restaurant moves from Ukiah to Willits; hot bar, sandwiches, salads, smoothies and more available

On March 1, 2025, the world's first (or so it's believed) drive-through vegan restaurant opened to the delight of vegans and vegetarians in the Willits area. The day began at 7 am, when the window opened for motorists who wished to have some coffee and vegan breakfast treats, smoothie bowls, smoothies and shakes.

Mathew Caine

Taste Budz had been a mainstay of the vegan world in Ukiah since 2012. Six years ago it was purchased by local Willits farmer and entrepreneur

Cody Akin. Akin decided, along with co-owner Carol Laster. to move the operation to Willits, where he could be closer

"I was raised Seventh Day Adventist, so I'm vegan, no dairy, nothing from the hoof, no bottom feeders," explained Akin. "I grew up with that but no meat ever. I was born and raised in Ukiah and went to Ukiah High School. I live down there, but I've been farming here for seven years. I have a cannabis farm here. I sell to the local dispensaries from here to Los Angeles. My brand is Taste Budz as well.

"My mom and my dad were very entrepreneurial. I grew up at a car wash, a detail shop and multiple laundromats. To this day, we have commercial properties. Taste Budz was the first of my own businesses. Even though there is a larger market in Ukiah, I wanted to be up here. The building down there was deteriorating. This is a way bigger location and better. I feel like most of my clientele comes from Willits, about 60 percent. It's about teaching the locals about healthy vegan food."

Many people stopped by for lunch and dinner as well on opening day. The Blue Zones Project (who had designated Taste Budz in Ukiah as their first certified establishment) gave a presentation, and at night, Garret Moore hosted "Garraoke" (karaoke) from 6 to 11 pm.

"Our hot bar menu changes daily. It's all from my mom's home cooking. We also have sandwich and salad specialties. We'll have weekly deals. It's all vegan and organic. We still have some of the Caribbean jerks (which

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environmental and humanitarian concerns, or just for the flavors, Taste Budz seems to be creating a stir amongst the community. Prior to the grand opening, the restaurant opened to the public.

Willits Weekly encountered a vegan meet-up group one afternoon. Organized by Susan Craig, the first three members expressed their love of the restaurant and for veganism in general. "The group is total vegan because I'm seeking my people, seeking my tribe," explained Craig. "I'm just seeking kindred spirits to live according to vegan principles, with veganism as a moral baseline. It's not a diet. It really is about a commitment to not exploit others,

not exploit sentient beings, human and non-human." Another member, Noelle Kueberth, said: "I love this place. I am so happy about it. We have such a difficult time finding the things we want, we need, and desire."

The hot vegan bar changes daily, with such selections as Teriyaki Tofu, Soy Chicken and Broccoli, Buffalo Tofu, Turmeric Mashed Potatoes, Dumplings, Peanut Butter Stew with Sweet Potato, Black Eyed Peas and Rice Garlic Eggplant, Garlic Kale, Zucchini Squash, Sweet Potato Fries, and many other delectable creations. In addition, several varieties of sandwiches, salads, and smoothies are available.

Taste Budz, located at 349 South Main Street (in the old Dahvi's Kitchen building), is open from 7 am for the drivethrough window, with the main restaurant open 11 am to 5 pm Monday through Saturday, and noon to 10 pm on Sunday. More info can be found at www.facebook.com/

"People can phone in orders to 707-463-2253. We'll have Door Dash and other services as well," said Akin.

Taste Budz is a welcome addition to Willits cuisine, and

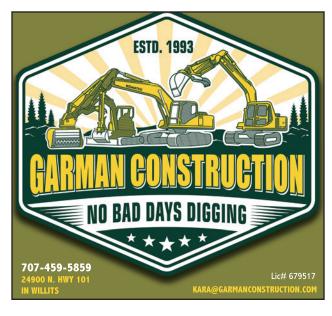


9 am - 5 pm

Above, from left: The hot bar is stocked with healthy options that change daily, with dishes such as tofu, stews, turmeric mashed potatoes, and more. The Taste Budz patio will be open for al fresco dining. Many of the choices from the hot bar can fit on one plate. Below: The Taste Budz crew gathers for photo at their new location on Main Street: from left, Eliza Rios, Cody Akin, Tiffany Stanisloo, Richard Stanisloo II and Richard Stanisloo III





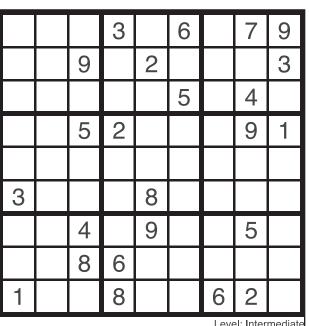




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# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



I Y K E A T L S P P O L O P C G I I E L

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS** 

ANNUAL

**AVAILABILITY** 

**BENEFITS** 

BOSS

CAREER

CASUAL

**CONFERENCE** 

CUSTOMER

**CLUES ACROSS** 

5. Small amount

11. River in Georgia

and Alabama

smell or taste

18. Behave in a way

that belittles

of holy fire

25. Slowed down

30. Nourishment

31. Midway between

33. Comedienne Tyler

38. Standing operating

procedure

east and southeast

22. Conceits

32. Fights

41. Locks

43. Old

16. Fleece

13. Water in the solid state

14. Ancient Greek sophist

15. Having a strong sharp

17. Writer/actress Dunham

20. Comedienne Gasteyer

21. Zoroastrian concept

8. Play a role

1. Greek mythological figure

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

0 J D C 0 N 0 I N U C U F 0 B J E

LOSS

MANAGEMENT

**MARGINS** 

**MEETINGS** 

**NETWORKING** 

NOTICE

**OFFICE** 

**OVERTIME** 

**PAYCHECK** 

MUNSTIFENEBGURECTHPL

49. Moved quickly on foot

55. Large musical instrument

56. Liquefied natural gas

60. A team's best pitcher

63. Prefix denoting 'in a'

**CLUES DOWN** 

1. S. American plant

4. Continent

7. Argues

8. Assists

14. Wings

19. Not odd

5. Albania's capital

6. Poisonous plant

9. Town in Galilee

10. Russian leader

12. Promotional materials

23. Expression of creativity

Soul and calypso song

Fruit of the service tree

a Jewish congregation

61. Spiritual leader of

50. Volcanic craters

57. Ethiopian town

59. Not closed

62. Disfigure

64. Sleep

**DEDUCTIONS** 

**EMPLOYEE** 

**GOALSETTING** 

**GRIEVANCE** 

HIRE

HOURS

**INTERNSHIP** 

JOB

LEAVE

#### 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

#### January 2

5:45 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 800 block of South Main

**Summary of Active Investigations** 

and Arrests

1:18 am: Officers responded to a report

of an unwanted subject in the 100 block

of East Commercial Street and issued a

1:39 am: Officers initiated a burglary

investigation in the 100 block of Barbara

2:10 pm: Officers initiated a theft

investigation in the 100 block of Barbara

2:42 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued

6:16 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued

31-day period.

January 1

9:37 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of West Valley Street.

11:05 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

5:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of West Valley Street and South Main Street.

#### January 4

**PROFIT** 

**PROGRESS** 

**PROMOTION** 

**REFERENCES** 

SERVICE

**SUPERVISOR** 

UNION

WAGES

**WORKERS** 

4:31 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Laurel Street.

8:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and

8:19 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of West Mendocino Street.

#### January 5

7:17 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South

3:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

4:18 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

#### January 6

7:22 pm: Officer responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

7:56 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 600 block of South Main Street.

#### January 7

No incidents to report

#### January 8

9:33 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street. 2:35 pm: Officers responded to a report

of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of

8:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Monica Lane and Margie Drive and

issued a warning.

#### January 9

South Main Street.

9:54 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 600 block of

1:28 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of Coast Street.

5:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of South Main Street.

#### January 1 to January 31 By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

Locust Street.

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**POLICE LOG** 

The officers of the Willits Police January 10 Department reported 292 incidents in this 12:32 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of

> 8:48 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Spruce

9:11 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Van

11:33 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:36 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation near the intersection of East Valley Street and South Main Street

#### January 11

11:13 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation

#### January 12

11:17 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

#### January 13

11:39 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1000 block of South Main Street and issued a citation

#### January 14

12:45 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Walnut Street and issued a warning.

#### January 15

5:51 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

10:53 pm: RAMOS, Todd Refino (53) of Redwood Valley was contacted near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and East Valley Street. He was arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance with prior convictions, and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a license revoked for DUI, unlawful possession of tear gas, carrying a concealed dirk or dagger, providing false identification to an officer, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and failure to appear.

#### January 16

2:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of South Main Street.

3:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 500 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

9:54 pm: PATEREAU, Matthew Len (40) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

#### January 17

9:03 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Penn Street and East Valley Street

10:25 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of Shell Lane. 2:40 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of

North Main Street and issued a warning. 2:53 pm: Officers initiated a theft nvestigation in the 300 block of Railroad

4:11 pm: CURTIS, Rickie Allen (51) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of North Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

10:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

#### January 18

12:47 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

#### January 19

January 20

No incidents to report.

#### No incidents to report.

Read the rest of Over on page 9 WPD

# What's Happening **Around Town**

#### Thursday, March 6

Willits Farmers Market: Join your neighbors every Thursday from 3-5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 391 School local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot

dinner, tasty treats, new vendors, hot drinks, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Every first Thursday of the month: Meet the Library at the Farmers Market, 3 to 4:30 pm, with library card sign ups; information about library services and events and an activity for the kids to enjoy.

City Forum on Updated Fire Severity Zones: The City of Willits Department hosts a Public Forum and Discussion on the updated Fire Hazard Severity Zones for the City of Willits, and how this will affect our community. Thursday,, March 6, 4 to 7:30 pm, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. See the new map at www.cityofwillits org/DocumentCenter/View/2000/ Local-Responsibility-Area-Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zones-Map

#### Friday, March 7

Bookmobile Survey Meeting at the Library: Mendocino County's Bookmobile needs to be replaced in the next year, after 12 years of use. "To ensure the new bookmobile best meets the needs of its users, the Library is conducting a survey and hosting public meetings to gather feedback from the community." The Willits meeting is set for Friday, March 7 at the Willits Library from 1 to 2 pm.. Online survey is available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/book\_mobile. More info: Librarian Nayo Sicard at 707-234-2861 or sicardn@mendocinocounty.

Ju-drum at Shanachie: Ju-drum, original Afrobeat-Reggae from the Heart of Nigeria to the stages of Humboldt County, with Seed-N-Soil, perform Reggae/Afrobeat at Shanachie Pub. Friday, March 7 at 8 pm. "Ju-drum makes music for all the people. young, old, and all walks of life." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main

#### **Ongoing Events** Column

We've updated the Shanachie Pub and Willits Library ongoing events columns, thanks to publicity from those two esteemed Willits event presenters. We'll be updating and making any needed changes to the general Ongoing Events column before getting it back in the Calendar. Anyone with a weekly or twicemonthly event for the Ongoing column, please email your event to willitsweekly@gmail.com

#### Shanachie Pub **Ongoing Events** Shanachie Pub. 50 South

1st and 3rd Saturday of the month

starting at 3 pm – welcomes all

Bluegrass musicians! An official

iam for the California Bluegrass

Association, "so you never know

Wednesday, featuring

be entered for the lottery. Lottery

determines order from which you

pick your 20 minute time slot

starting at 7:20 pm.

Saturday

creativity!"

area may drop in!

Commercial Street. Info: Main Street www.mendolibrary.org or 459-Sessions 5908. Open hours: Tuesday, **Shanachie:** every 2nd and Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 including Saturday, December pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; 15, Kyle Madrigal and/or Closed Sunday and Monday. Gustavo Amaral will host an

open jam at Shanachie Pub, Story & Playtime: Friday 50 South Main street. "You're mornings each week, 10:30 to invited to bring any instrument, 11 am. In the children's area of meet new musicians, discover the library. Start your morning listening to a children's story, new genres, and explore your then join us for a short playtime Bluegrass String Jam: Every

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to 1 pm. We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe."

Ongoing Events at

the Willits Library

Willits Library. 390 East

which members from out of the **LEGO Club:** Tuesdays from 4 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the Wednesday Open Mic Night: library. Bring your imagination Shanachie Pub presents its and start building." popular Open Mic Night every

**Help:** Saturdays from 11 am to 12 pm: Bring your eclectic array of local musicians computer questions here to get and performers from around the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, you can Spinning & Knitting: Every

> 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome! Spinning circle 1 to 2 pm; Knitting circle 2 to 4:30 pm.

### Saturday, March 8

Seed Sorting Party at the Library: Help the Willits Branch Seed Library by sorting and packaging donated seeds. Saturday, Street, for the freshest local produce. March 8, from 10 am to 1 pm, Light

snacks provided. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Sit-N-Sew: Saturdays at the Willits Library, March 8 this month, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in - bring your sewing project and have fun. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org

#### Bryan Bielanski at Shanachie:

Nomad acoustic rock singer-songwriter based in Charlotte, North Carolina, who's been touring the U.S. and the world for the last 10 years, plays Shanachie Pub, Saturday, March 8 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub. 50 South Main Street.

#### Wednesday, March 12

'History Makers!' at the Museum: Wednesdays at the Mendocino County Museum from 2 to 4:30 pm. In March. Women's History Month, enjoy art projects inspired by Mendocino County women artists. Wednesday, March 12, features Basket Weaving Inspired by the Knight Family. Attendance is included with regular Museum admission. 400 East Commercial Street. Enjoy free admission on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library Card. More info: at www.mendocinocounty.gov/ museum, museum@mendocinocounty. gov or 707-234-6365.

#### Thursday, March 13

'A Bit and a Bite' at the Museum: Friends of the Mendocino County Museum present Artist Nancy McHone on the history of the murals at the

info@willits.org

707.459.7910

299 East Comme



#### Willits Gem & Mineral Society Meeting, March 17

Kid's Coding Basics at

the Library: Learn the

basics of coding with drag

& drop tools available

American Legion

**Duane Brown Memorial** 

ST. PATRICK'S

**DAY FEAST** 

March 15, 2025

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Corned Beef & Cabbage

eteran's Memorial Building

\*Children \$12.00

191 North Main • Willits

\$25.00

Sponsored by

291 School St.

Willits CA.

Murphy's (Spuds), Carrots, Etc.

Join the Willits Gem & Mineral Society for a free monthly meeting, on Monday, March 17 this month. Come hang out with local rockhounds, lapidary artists, jewelers, and fellow rock enthusiasts. Bring a green stone or a lucky stone for show n' tell. Free cool rock for all attendees. Bring a snack to share. 7 to

#### ATW presents Wolfgang Ronnefeldt on dreams. March 20

8:30 pm, at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street.

Avenues to Wellness presents "Dreams: Uncovering Their Meaning" in Your Life," a talk by Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, MA. "Although the language of dreams is often symbolic and metaphoric, we can learn this system of communication and bring to the surface its meaning." Thursday March 20, 6 to 7 pm, at the Willits Center for the Arts. 71 East Commercial Street. FREE to the public, chairlift available

#### Sip Some Soup, March 22

Willits Daily Bread and

the Willits Services Action Group host the annual charity event, Sip Some Soup, on Saturday, March 22 from 5 to 7 pm, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. "This event aims to provide food for the hungry in our community and raise funds for a warming center/shelter in Willits. Come taste some soups, try homemade bread from Emandal, and check out the silent auction.' Tickets: \$15 per adult; \$25 per couple; \$5 for children 12 and under. To sign up to make soup, call Cindy Saturday at the library; from 1 to Savage at 707-459-2579, leave a message if there is no answer



or 707-234-6365.

Friday,

March 14

**Library:** Join

'Char Talk' at the

talk on pyrolysis and

gasification by Peter

biocharcoalition.org

month on "The Grand

Egyptian Museum," the

museum dedicated to a

single civilization. Friday,

March 14 at 6:30 pm at the

Willits Center for the Arts,

71 East Commercial Street

The March exhibit at WCA

"Therian Dreams," features

prints and sculpture by

Robert Spies and "INK'd IN,"

works by eight printmakers.

Shanachie: With

South Main Street.

Raven & Goose at

fiddlin' and foot stompin'

piano, this nationally touring

contra duo plays original

compositions and breathes

Saturday, March 15

new life into traditional tunes. Friday,

March 14 at 7 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50

Music Gear Market at the Grange:

Mendocino County Gear Swap has

moved from Redwood Valley to the Little

Lake Grange, 291 School Street, on

Roediger, carboneer. For those who

have made or utilized bio char soil in the

garden, metal forge or anywhere else,

this is for you. Friday, March 14 from 4

to 5:30 pm at the Willits Library, 390

East Commercial Street. Due to limited

space, registration is required: peter@

WCA Art Talk: Art historian Gary Martin

gives the monthly free Art Talk, this

archeological

Courthouse in Ukiah. Join us for light from Scratch. Saturday, March 15 from refreshments, history, conversation, 2 to 3 pm. "We'll be using scratch.mit.

and learn about volunteer opportunities. edu to create games and animations.

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

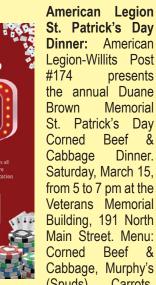
Free for ages 8 to 16.

Registration required: to

register, visit or call the

'Cards for Cooper": Join us for an evening of poker, dinner and drinks. benefitting 8-yearold Cooper Agenbroad. We are fundraising to dog for his medicationresistant

"Cooper loves football and wrestling and has not let his medical condition hold him back from doing the things he loves." Saturday, March 15, at 4 pm at 300 East Commercial Street. \$100 buy-in + add on; dinner 1 drink with cash prizes and silent auction. Donations can also be made via Go Fund Me at www.gofundme. com/f/donate-to-provide-cooper-with-alifesaving-service-dog



3/15/2025 4pm

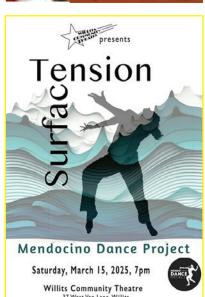
St. Patrick's Day **Dinner:** American Legion-Willits Post presents the annual Duane Memorial St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner. Saturday, March 15, from 5 to 7 pm at the Veterans Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street. Menu: Corned Beef & Cabbage, Murphy's (Spuds), etc. and Dessert

\$25 per adult, \$12 per child under 12, under 5 years old, free. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

"Surface Tension" by Mendocino Dance Project: This evening-length showcase of dynamic and athletic movement explores how we find each other and stay resilient amongst our currently challenging times. Presented by Willits Community Theatre on Saturday March 15 at 7 pm. 37 West Van Lane Artistic Director is Kara Starkweathers performing dancers are: Emily Anthony. Priya Birchard, Jessica Curl, Mackenzie Rain, and Natalie Thiel-Gebheim. Tickets, \$20, are available online at: wctperformingartscenter.org, or at the

Forrest & Friends at Shanachie: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day weekend with local favorites Forrest & Friends, featuring Forrest Glyer and full band of musical colleagues. Saturday, March 15, at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main





# Willits Community Theatre 37 West Van Lane, Willits

### **Music Gear Market** Sat. March 15th

**Little Lake Grange** ttle Lake Grange Willits CA. 10-3

information contact Chris Cichacki 707-459-1099

\$20 per table

Pg. 5

Willits Weekly | March 6, 2025 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

47. Whale ship captain

45. Song sung to one's lover

24. Conceptualize

of sound

29. Owner

34. I (German)

of poetry

37. Sign language

44. Texas ballplayer

45. Type of sword

element

51. Swiss river

in California

54. One point south

of southwest

58. Small island (British)

39. Coincide

25. A digital tape recording

26. Peyton's little brother

27. Cost, insurance and

28. Difference in potential

35. Chinese conception

36. The world of the dead

40. Religious observance

41. Confined condition (abbr.)

42. Polite interruption sound

46. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician

47. Basic unit of a chemical

48. Native American people

52. Hebrew calendar month

53. Easily swindled person

freight (abbr.)



#### Beautiful Rose

Rose is a shy young cat (just under 1 year old) and will need a little extra TLC from adopters to help her build some confidence and come out of her shell. Due to her shyness, we suggest an adult-only home, or a home with cat-savvy children. Rose may enjoy another social feline in her new home!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public

from 9:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays (closed for lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm). Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com, Call 707-463-4427 for more

#### Sweet Shelly

Shelly is a 2-year-old, 61-pound pointer mix who is an affectionate and sweet girl seeking a life of love, where she can star in your home movies and family photos. This beautiful girl is super smart, highly trainable, housetrained, great with other dogs, and oh-so-loyal. She has adorable freckles, a boopable nose, and an A+ body waggle every time she sees her people (we mean it, her entire lower half gets in on the wiggle action)!



Shelly is a go-with-the-flow kind of gal, who can happily scamper along a hiking trail as well as be your weighted blanket on the couch. She is working hard on her leash manners and doubles her efforts for hot dogs or cheese. She gets along well with other dogs, seeking affection in a gentle, non-pushy manner.

She is looking for a family who can continue her training, and give her love and adventures. Shelly's ideal home would include another dog companion to help boost her confidence and a family committed to continuing her training. Bonus points for kids (she loves them!).

To learn more about Shelly, or to 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. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 459-4900.

#### Docile Garfunkel



This cutie pie came to us from Mendocino County Animal Care Services along with his brother. His brother luckily found his home, but now its Garfunkel's turn. Garfunkel is as sweet as can be, and is learning how to be a wonderful dog.

He has been living in a foster home. We have been told he's mellow but still has fun puppy energy. He plays well with other dogs, is learning how to walk on

a leash, has done well with the cat, and sleeps all night in a crate (he will go right in when you tell him it's time for bed). Garfunkel thinks he's a lapdog at times, is very sweet and docile, and has done well with the kids in the home. Garfunkel is ready for his shot at his forever home. Is that with you?

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.













Happy to report I'm out of surgery, out of recovery, and all situated in the UCSF hospital room,

you for all the texts, calls, words of encouragement and support. Hopefully we can head home

sometime tomorrow, depends on how im doing overnight/tomorrow, but no one seems to be

expecting anything but a good outcome! Hooray! 🤎 🌡 💜

where we'll stay for the night. (Matt gets the "dad bed") The surgeons said all.went very well. Thank

Above, left: A hairier Maureen and husband, Matt, smile before the first February treatment. Above, center: Maggie was surprised by the community with this crazy crocodile slide. Above, right: Maureen's post-double-mastectomy surgery post on Facebook where regular-ish updates are being made about her cancer journey over the last 9 months.

# The saga continues to continue

my last official update to you all, and a lot has happened.

Maureen Jennison

Highlights include: had surgery in January and living a boobless (for now) life has been quite the adjustment. Healing from surgery is going really well; I was already pacing the living room about 10 days after

surgery, ready to get back to work right then. I mean hey, I could surely sit and type pretty easily without much arm

However, pathology that came back from surgery still showed some cancerous tissue present in what was removed, and, also with one of the sampled seven lymph nodes still testing positive, my pre-planned, post-treatment regimen converted from after-care shots back to some IV-

The pathology results also now have the after-care plan including a batch of targeted radiation sessions, too. While the surgery did yield clean margins (a big yay!) they want to be sure nothing else is lurking elsewhere, and that they lessen the chances of any reoccurrence to the smallest amount possible.... Which is FINE by me. Anything to get this process done and over for good, please.

So, the next leg of this crazy journey includes 14 more, once-every-three-week infusions at UVMC. This time of a much less miserable-to-endure, part-chemo medicine called Kadcyla, which, I'm told, targets the HER2 marker of my particular, right-side specific cancer. Left side is good to go.

Sessions are shorter, had the first one on February

## **ELLIOTT EXCAVATION**



707-841-7692 800 Hwy. 20 Willits, CA 95490 Lic# 1041980

Ladies, Take Charge

Join us for PAP-A-PALOOZA

at Care For Her, Hillside, and protect yourself against

Early detection can save lives — don't wait! Take advantage of these

**EVENT DATES: Saturday March 8th. We will have the Saturday** 

cervical cancer with a Pap test!

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL:

(707) 468-1010

1-855-FOR-MCHC • mchcinc.org

special events and make your health a priority.

WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE

clinic the second Saturday of each month for PAPs.

Call now to schedule your appointment and protect

yourself today. Together, we can fight cervical cancer!

of Your Health!

Thanksgiving ... ugh. Hair loss is less likely, extremity and helpers at UVMC, HMH, USCF, MCHC, LVHC and at tingling (neuropathy) and liver issues the things to look for. the radiation office for tolerating my persistency and being but watching labs closely, taking supplements to stave off so patient and helpful; Jill and the Cancer Resource Center the tingles, etc. Thus far, way less miserable. Hopefully that who continues to be an amazing help in so many ways; of continues through the rest of the process.

Radiation will likely take place at the end of this month, only 15 sessions were recommended, half of the potential original count possibly assumed, but they're scheduled once-a-day for five days each week, so really that's basically only (?!) three weeks, and it's done. Treatments are around 20 minutes or so, so not a huge time commitment each day, just must trek back and forth to Ukiah. Side effects are supposed to include irritated skin and fatigue and a host of other "very small percentage" possible issues, but overall sounds tolerable and hopefully highly effective. And, really, whatever is needed is fine, thank you modern medicine for the opportunity, and to doctors who know how to help.

I will also have another PET scan, a crazy whole-body look at things to make sure that the cancer hasn't spread elsewhere – the pre-surgery one I had last year was clear, and there's nothing but full expectations that this one will be just the same, but again, better to check and be sure.

Reconstruction will also happen sometime after all the other things are complete and healed, (2026?) and I get the "all clear" declaration and then, hopefully, I will be able to celebrate with that darn rum ball. too.

I also reestablished my primary care standing with Dr. Jodi Parungao (she's now practicing in Laytonville at the Long Valley Health Center, and is accepting new patients!!), and she is so amazing. Happy to have her careful eye watching over my progress, recommending good next

> the amazing, supportive, caring professional we've enjoyed seeing for the last four or so years. Matt, Maggie, myself, and the rest of the crew are

> steps, working closely with the oncologist, and being

hanging in there - Matt couldn't be more supportive and amazing as a husband, partner and friend. I love you. Again, thank you so much to the USPS Willits office folks who are being so marvelous to let Matt do what he needs to help me; Saprina and Frannie and Danya for all the Maggie help and support; Josh, Judy and Yolanda for all the domestic assistance goodness;

Well.... Feels like many more than three months ago since 27, and last one will be slated for some time around Izzy and Shawna for their magical hands; the docs, staff course to Topah and Gam Gam who are being amazing supports; the AH and all the school families who have been so flexible with me, and continue to do so; and of course to all of you in this amazing community for all of the cards, letters, calls, run-ins, chats, gifts and more. You guys are

> A special thanks to Christina who spearheaded a wild fundraising effort for Maggie to receive a very early birthday present of a giant, blow-up, crocodile waterslide she's been lusting after each time we go to Costco. We posted a comedic photo of Maggie smiling in front of it, and in mere hours, Christina's secret-to-us call to have the community all chip in and donate to fulfill Maggie's wild wish (and 5 months early birthday surprise) was realized and she came to surprise Maggie, dropping it off in our driveway. Maggie will NOT stop asking if "there's enough blue sky and hot sun" yet so that we can blow up the 12-foot, water slide insanity, and is visiting the slide, almost daily, which is still folded up inside the basically-the-size-of-a-Geo-Metro box, waiting for summer, inside the garage barn.

> We were so surprised, humbled, and amazed by the gesture, we have had lots of people asking if we want a Go Fund Me set up, or if there's anything anyone can do to help, and thankfully, we're doing OK – at least thus far – with just all of the love and good juju. However, if anyone wants to send letters, cards, or what have you directly to us, we're always happy to get good things in the mail – P.O. Box 43 here in town is a great spot to send to.

> Thank you again so much to everyone, please, go get an appointment scheduled. It was July 12 when I had that initial mammogram, and I'm so grateful I did as this could have easily been much worse. Please, take the time to just schedule an appointment and get seen, annuals, physicals,

additional poking and prodding, I assure you, it's worth it.

Here's to being back to work, 2025, things looking good, and guess also 2026, too.

From page 1 Zones

zones (in yellow), with a block of westside properties considered to be in a "high" fire danger zone (in orange) and some "very high" fire danger areas on the southeast edge of city limits.

Willits City Manager Brian Bender told councilmembers at the February 26 meeting that although the forum was set for 4 to 6 pm, they'd extend the meeting as needed, and he'd be there until 8 pm to answer any questions from residents, and give out copies of the map and fact

"The guick assessment." Bender said, "is that the fire hazard zones that were depicted for the City of Willits is not as bad as we initially expected, but there are some consequences that this community and this council is going to have to consider as we move forward with this program as depicted or described by CAL FIRE."

Councilmember Bruce Burton noted that many city addresses were in a yellow (moderate) zone. "The question really is," Burton said, "does that [yellow] designation have any trigger on building codes?"

"Right now," Bender answered, "the way CAL FIRE is explaining the situation is that the 'very high' zones, the red areas. in time the city is going to have to adopt some modifications to our existing Planning and Building codes to lessen that risk to development and properties." Bender also said, although CAL FIRE asked the

city to collect public comments on the new fire zones, public comments won't change the new maps. "We can disagree with these boundaries," he said, "CAL FIRE's not going to listen to us."

The forum will be held at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street.

You can also view the fire zones map at this link: www.cityofwillits.org/DocumentCenter/View/2000/Local-Responsibility-Area-Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zones-Map?

OBITUARY |

### **Charles Lamprich**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Charles Richard Lamprich, aged 90, on November 8, 2024. Charles was born on June 4, 1934.

Charles met the love of his life, Billie, when they were just 9 years old. Their paths crossed again in high school, and they began dating, eventually marrying in 1953. Together, they welcomed their son, Charles Christopher, in September 1957, followed by their daughter, Lisa, in 1964.

A devoted husband and father, Charles cherished his family and loved spending time outdoors. In his retirement, he enjoyed the company of his twin brother, Donald, as they spent their days cutting firewood and drinking beers.

Charles was preceded in death by his older brother, Bill, his twin brother, Donald, and his beloved wife, Billie Lamprich. He is survived by his son, Charles Christopher, and daughter-in-law, Marisela Lamprich; his daughter Lisa, and son-in-law, Gary Breen; grandchildren Chris and April Lamprich, Donnie and Beth Lamprich, and Casey Ireland; as well as great-grandchildren Charley, Brodey, Rowdy, Wreyn, and Ryatt Lamprich.

He will be missed beyond measure.

#### **Judi Montalvo**

Judi Montalvo, a wife, a mother, and a friend, passed away peacefully on January 17, 2025. Her life was defined by love, kindness, and an unwavering commitment to her family.

Judi is survived by her loving husband. Jim Montalvo, and her cherished son Mark

She and Jim owned and operated Auto Mart for 37 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents,

Don and Sandy Mork, whose influence

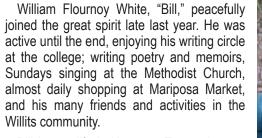
shaped her into the incredible woman she was.

Judi will be remembered for her radiant spirit, her generous heart, the joy she brought to everyone who knew her. She leaves behind a legacy of love and treasured memories that will be forever held close.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date

CITY OF WILLITS - MENDOCINO COUNTY

### **Bill White**



Bill began life in Houston, Texas, the son of William and Katherine White. He served in Korea, graduated from the University of Texas, built homes in Houston as a young man, lived and skied in Aspen, Colorado,

owned two popular restaurants in Santa Barbara, California, remodeled a traditional home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, joined a volunteer building brigade in Nicaragua, built a cabin and tamed a wild horse in Ukiah, remodeled an old stone house and lived in Tuscany, Italy and, in his seventies, with the help of friends, built a unique straw bale home in Willits that incorporated a lifetime's passion for soulful and timeless human habitat. He was a Renaissance man: an idealist, an activist, a seeker, a designer, a skilled builder, and a poet who imagined a very good life into being.

Bill is survived by his wife of 35 years, Susan, his sons Craig, Brian and Alex, his daughter, Lucia, and stepdaughter, Emma, as well as his sister, Ann, first wife, Joan, and eight grandchildren.





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Father Aaron Bandanadam Mass times: Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. Saturday-5:30 p.m. Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English 10:30 a.m. - Spanish Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m. Or by appointmet at 707-459-2252 https://stanthonywillits.org aintanthonywillits@gmail.con

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#### St. Francis **Episcopal Church** l 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 24 Mill Creek Drive ALL ARE WELCOME

#### Willits Seventh-Day **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 - 7:00 p.m. 399 W. Mendocino Ave. All are welcome!

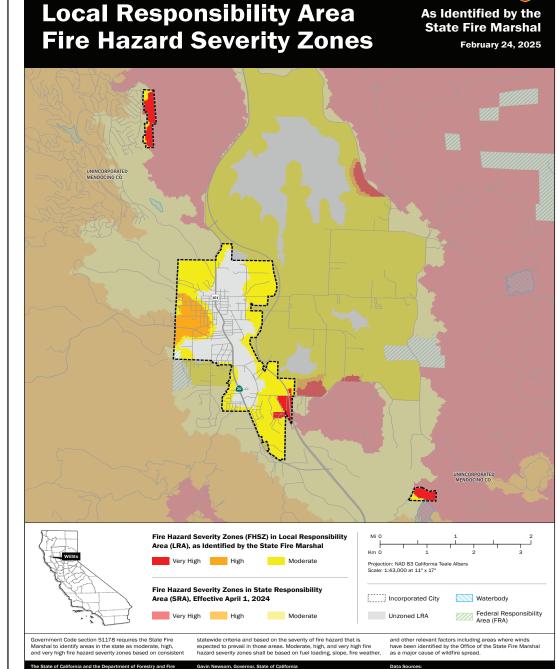
#### Willits United **Methodist Church** Labyrinth and Peace Garder

A place to find comfort where all are welcome Pastor Jaime Rogers-Fairchil Sunday Worship at 10:30 am 286 School St. (at Pine) 707-459-2855  $\underline{wumc@outlook.com}$ www.willitsumc.org

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this column please call: April Tweddell (707) 972-2475

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047



**HEALTH CENTERS** 





At far left: Ava Dockins-Kline proudly smiles on the podium after her tough first-place match for the second year in a row. At left: Gavin McFadden proudly poses on the podium after getting his first-place medal. Below: Ely Bowles looks for the pin on his Kelseyville opponent. At bottom: Ember Hetherington gets in a nice pin against





Below: The girls wrestling team poses with their first-place CMC trophy for the first time, making history: from left, Delia Siderakis, Athena Marino-Defrates, Bella Glenn, Stormie Nowlin, Emma Hulsey, Alison Southard, Dannyka Smith, Ember Hetherington, Emelia Owsiany, Ava Dockins- Kline, Lucero Vargas and Head Coach Dana Karkar; top row, Hanah



TICKET

VALLEY @ CASINO

At left: The boys team holds their first-place CMC trophy at home: from left, bottom row, Head Coach Brian Bowles, Zac Thompson, Zain Marshall, Raymond Campbell, Donald Glenn, Jayden Finley, Eli Rosado, Aiden Punihaole-Figueroa. Pancrazio Bertolino, Willian Burcell and Coach Will Dunaway; top row, Gavin McFadden, Rickey Ramirez, Nikolai Ritchley, Kolten Davis, Brian Bowles.

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COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

#### Willits Wolverines Wrestling wraps up an immensely riveting and successful season

Willits Wolverines Wrestling held several different home duals and tournaments this season, including a home dual tournament for senior night that included hosting a very nice Italian dinner for the other teams, families and seniors on January 22. Willits competed against Sheri Dockins Upper Lake, Credo, and Ft. Bragg. Willits swept the duals with a win against

Willits Wrestling entered the North Coast Sections Dual Team Championships held at Ukiah High School on February 8 with a pristine 10-0 record. They entered the competition, rising to the occasion of making last-minute adjustments due to illness. It was a fabulously entertaining day of wrestling. They wrestled intently, with a purpose.

After winning a dominant first round, they fell just short of winning first place against McKinleyville, bringing home a classy second-place banner as a team. Ely Bowles, Brian Bowles, Donald Glenn, Zain Marshall and PZ Bertolino were all undefeated in the dual championships!

This year's Coastal Mountain Conference Championships was held at our very own Steve Short Gymnasium on February 13. It was a packed, busy and intense atmosphere of competition from our league wrestlers. There were many compelling and consuming matches throughout the day. These driven athletes displayed a huge amount of fortitude. Headstrong to take on anyone, the Willits Wolverines came out on top! We had five wrestlers who took the Gold as League Champions: Ava Dockins-Kline, Bella Glenn, Rickey Ramirez, Gavin McFadden and Pancrazio Bertolino. They also made history with both the boys and girls teams taking home the beautiful first-place trophy! Congratulations to both teams and all placers!

The second-place winners include: Eli Rosado, Lucero Vargas, Aiden Punihaole-Figueroa, Jayden Finley, Emelia Owsiany, Alison Southard, Hanah Keller, Donald Glenn and Ely Bowles.

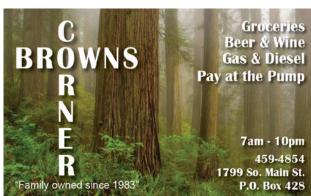
> Zain Marshall and Brian Bowles both placed third. On to North Coast Sections they go!

The Wolverines made a rapid turnaround after the CMC Championships, piled into four vans, and traveled south to Albany and James Logan high schools to compete in the North Coast Sections Championships on February 21 and 22. It was a critically important day of wrestling on Friday to make it to the placement rounds on Saturday.

The two gyms were jam-packed and the battle lines were

Read the rest of Sports

Over on page 9





COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

### **The Brutalist'**

The Story: Pennsylvania, a few short years after World War 2. Laszlo Toth (Adrien Brody) is recently arrived in America. He is a famous Jewish architect and designer who survived



Dan Essman

Harrison Pearce) is a vain and wealthy and highly competitive business man.

the death camps.

He hires Laszlo to design a huge community center. As time passes and the project moves forward, it becomes apparent that Van Buren recognizes and admires, but also resents Laszlo's creative genius. An ambivalence that is a slow-moving poison.

My Thoughts: "The Brutalist" should be seen on the big screen because it's a big movie. This is a male drama, in a man's world. One of the first things I noticed is that the men are quite affectionate with each other, aggressively physical, almost like they are wrestling. compare that to the love interest, female lead Erzebet Toth (Felicity Jones), who is crippled and tenderly ensconced in a wheelchair. And also consider the Toth niece. She is pathologically shy of contact, and almost mute. The filmmaker has decreed, for some narrative reason, that the principal women are to be, guite obviously, "under-touched." (And peculiarly, camera-wise, there are some almost faceless prostitutes.)

Parents: No children. Sex. Violence. Drugs. Dysfunctional family politics. Plus, the flick is a Hollywood epic. It runs 3 hours and 35 minutes, with a 15 minute intermission.

**Special Note:** The flick won 3 Oscars.

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

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**Veteran's Services** 

Representative

\$48,006 - \$58,344

For a complete list of current openings

and to apply:

www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs

EOE

From page 8

drawn on each mat as they fought their way through each match. At the end of the day on Friday, Willits had two boys and six girls still in it, working to get to placement rounds: Ely Bowles, Donald Glenn, Ava Dockins-Kline, Alison Southard, Lucy Vargas, Emelia Owsiany, Bella Glenn and Hanah Keller.

The wrestling family gathered for a traditional night of good food and laughs while Head Coach Bowles played fun card games with the wrestlers, setting the tone for a supportive, lighthearted atmosphere throughout the intensity of competition

After a night of good sleep, the final day arrived. These kids displayed impressive skills and determination in each and every match. Through the literal blood, sweat, tears, and an emotional ending for the seniors, Willits came out with four wrestlers making it to the podium with medals: sophomore Bella Glenn, junior Donald Glenn, junior Emelia Owsiany, and senior team captain Ava Dockins-Kline, who ended her phenomenal four-year high school wrestling career, placing her third time with state qualifier as a sophomore.

Senior team captain Ely Bowles made it through to the blood round (top 12), one match away from placing to finish an amazing four-year high school career. Senior Alison Southard had some notably exceptional matches, leading her to falling only one point short of placing, ending her outstanding high school wrestling career. Senior captain Lucy Vargas had an astounding set of tough matches, getting her far throughout her second day, ending her marvelous three-year wrestling career. Senior Jayden Finley also ended his two-year high school wrestling career with an impressive, hard-fought set of matches.

All of these kids wrestled extensively powerful battles to be proud of. They are all a spectacular group of athletes! We wish our departing seniors the very best this life has to offer. We can't wait to see you excel in life. You all left your legendary imprint on the mat in the WHS wrestling room, and you will be missed. We can't wait to see the remaining students compete again next year!

The Willits Wolverines Wrestling family all work very hard together to create a positive and impactful atmosphere for nurturing and taking care of each kid throughout the strenuous season. This entails very hard practices and long hours spent an unwanted subject in the moving into gyms on the weekends for tournaments.

These young athletes train hard while maintaining their grades and meeting all the other taxing demands of teen-hood. They get up very early in the morning to travel. They leave every bit of their physical and mental prowess on that mat, match after match. It is truly inspiring to watch each personal journey through the rise and fall of it all. Their resilience and mindset really shine.

Wrestling sets these athletes up for success in life. There will be times where they work very hard for something and still fall short. But, because of wrestling, they will understand that failure is not the end, it's just a part of the journey. They endure the

ups and downs, never giving up, and working continuously

There is always another lesson to learn and ways to improve. There is always confidence to gain, not only through medals or trophies, but from perseverance through struggles. They will keep learning and evolving.

Every bit of time and effort is worth it to witness these stellar athletes grow and thrive in their sport, also as human beings. Head Coaches Brian Bowles, Wil Dunaway, and Dana Karkar put in an insurmountable amount of time and effort into each and every one of these kids with a ton of heart and pride. This has changed the lives of many. It shows in each one of them. Congratulations on a strong, rewarding and victorious season, Willits Wrestling! You have made your community very proud! Now rest up to get ready to rumble next season! Let's go Wolverines!

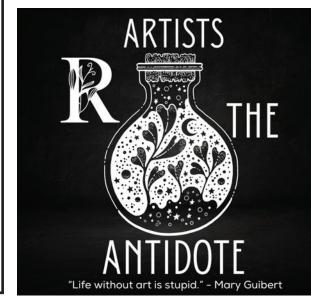
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Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 1-4:30 - Bring an I.D. (707) 459-3333

John Ford Ranch

John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$390.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$170.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.

Room For Rent Room for 1 person for rent. Must work and have references. No pets. No drugs. In town. \$650 / month. Info: 354-0287.

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petty theft and possession

3:39 pm: Officers initiated

a theft investigation in the

1400 block of Baechtel

12:35 am: DISHMAN.

Lewis Andrew (42) of Ukiah

was contacted in the 800

block of Railroad Avenue.

He was arrested on

felony charges of violation

of probation and on

misdemeanor charges of

petty theft, tampering with a

vehicle, disorderly conduct

(loitering), and violation of

responded to a report of

illegal camping in the 300

block of East Commercial

Street and issued a

conducted a stop in the 800

block of South Main Street

responded to a report of

trespassing in the 100 block

of East Commercial Street

12:49 am: Officers

pm: Officers

Officers

of drug paraphernalia

January 26

January 27

probation.

7:20

warning.

January 28

January 29

January 30

8:26 pm:

and issued a warning.

The rest of WPD

From page 4

#### January 21

responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

6:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of 300 block of South Main

#### January 22

Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Spruce Street.

responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of South Main

10:47 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

#### January 23

9:42 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of Pine Street.

8:16 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

#### January 24

7:37 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:50 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

3:56 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East Oak Street and South Main Street and issued a citation.

#### January 25

10:21 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

3:08 pm: MILLER, Jason Lee (43) of Redding was contacted in the 100 block of Barbara Lane. He was arrested on felony charges of petty theft with prior convictions and on misdemeanor charges of

conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and Walnut Street and issued a citation. 7:59 am: Officers initiated

a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Manor Way. 9:10 am: Officers initiated

a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1700 block of South Main

#### January 31 7:10 am: Officers

responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Alice Drive.

Note: From December 16 to December 31, 2024, the officers of the Willits Police Department reported 106 incidents in that 16-day

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(NEIWQRKING)RNJDIP MARGINS) PROFI TIFENEBGUF

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ADMINISTRATION

At top, from left: The Administration **Building serves** as the main headquarters to the CCC Mendocino Center.

Kami Lenn looks at the room-length mural created by a local photographer. A sign welcomes all to the California **Conservation Corps** Mendocino Center. Above: Members of the Willits Rotary

Club and faculty of the CCC pose for a group photo in the voluminous basketball court. At right, from top: **Deputy Director** of Capital Outlay and Facilities Dan

Milsap and District Director of Willits and Solano centers John Button conduct a tour of the new CCC campus for the Willits Rotary Club. The voluminous warehouse has

the corpsmen and faculty. A dormitory room is complete, all it needs is to be

space for all the

equipment used by

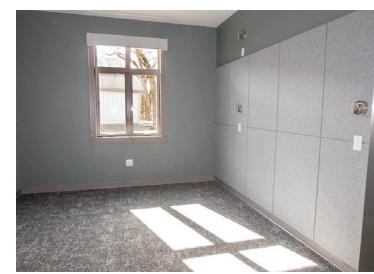
furnished The large kitchen has enough space serve three meals per day to around

100 people. Below: Christine Gonzales is impressed by the size of the basketball court in the Multi-Purpose

FARMERS











#### Randall Cantua, LUTCF Cantua Insurance Agency 16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490 786 Redwood Drive Garberville, CA 95542 Tel 707.459.3276 Tel 707.923.2179 Fax 707.923.9550 rcantua@farmersagent.com 0C67822



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# Tour of New **CCC** Facility

California Conservation Corps campus in Willits is almost ready for young corps members to move in and begin training

Construction is nearly completed at the new California Conservation Corps campus on East Valley Road, just past Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital, on the north side of the street. The 30 acres of innovatively designed buildings,

Mathew Caine

Photos by Mathew Caine

solar arrays, and sustainable landscaping will be the home to approximately 90 to 100 young corps members, between the ages of 18 and 25 (29 if having served in the military).

Several staff members will be housed at the location as well. The young corps members are there to learn several trades and disciplines which will carry them further as they matriculate out of the program and begin their journeys in life.

The CCC, established by Governor Jerry Brown in 1976, was designed to provide young corps members with skills that will benefit their communities and give them training that may otherwise have been difficult for them to attain. As part of their training, they are available to volunteer for both projects and events.

Since their inception, the CCC has been an integral part of several programs, including restoring salmon streams, planting more than 24 million trees, creating over 11,000 backcountry trails, improving rural and urban parks, and providing approximately 11 million hours of emergency services. The Willits campus will be able to have two companies of firefighters, who have worked with CAL FIRE in wildfire suppression.

On February 20, Dan Milsap, who was in charge of the design and building of the campus, and John Button, the district director of the Ukiah (soon to be Willits) and Solano centers, generously gave their time to invite the Willits Rotary Club on a tour of the soonto-be-completed facility. About 20 interested Willits citizens were able to observe the layout and facilities, which are mostly complete, awaiting final updates and landscaping (which will utilize natural local habitat)

"This has been almost six years in process to get to this point," stated Milsap. "It was a vacant lot, as you all know, before we got here. Basically, we have everything to house, feed, educate, entertain and operate our center, which will be open 24 hours, seven days a week, year-round. So, we do not close.

"My thought process on the design team: the exterior is to tie it into the region and the area. I also thought for colors and egress and roots, is to make a center for everyone. There are two tributaries to Haehl Creek. You'll see all these drainages to gather all the rainwater, so it gets collected and goes into the wetland. In another month or so, when it warms up, we will get the landscaping planted. The irrigation is going in right now."

Button, who started out as a corpsman, will be in charge of the facility. He expanded on who the corps members are and what they hope to accomplish in the program: "The CCC is a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps. We're an offshoot of that, except we allow both men and women to be members. It was geared towards non-traditional learners. Maybe they weren't good in school or just didn't want to go to college. It was more of a trade school for those who wanted to work with their hands. That got them a stepping stone to help with their futures

"A lot of corps members came through the program. They could have been couch potatoes and never worked a day, never have a job. A lot of corps members have fouryear degrees. It's kind of a mixed-bag of people. Some are a little younger and need a bit

Button has been involved in "salmon restoration, trail work, fire, etc. That is what is unique about this site. We do a lot of salmon restoration between here and Fort Bragg on the Eel River tributaries. We restore the streams after logging to create habitat. That's one of our special projects that we work on. Another is trail work. We have two type-one fire crews that partner with CAL FIRE.

"Our corpsmen are paid to get trained," added Milsap. "We take a look at corps members and figure out what they want to do. We have different programs: salmon habitat, condition trails, fire, culinary, energy corps. Basically, we help young adults to teach them job and life skills. We're super exited to be part of this community. When the Rails to Trails Project gets completed, we'll have a gate, a perfect way for corps members to walk or ride their bikes into town.

"The corps members get a stipend around \$2,200 per month, at residential centers like this. They get paid to get job skills. I think we charge around \$500 per month at the residential centers for room and board, so they get hot meals twice a day, seven days a week, and free housing."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak, one of the Rotarians on the tour, commented: "It's a great addition for workforce development, for the safety of our community. I think it's a great addition to our city and to Mendocino County. We'll have the workforce that we can really need to do some of the projects we are trying to accomplish, as far as stream restoration, fire safety, fuel reduction. I look forward to having those people come. It's a beautiful campus."

There will be some staff positions open for local people as mentors who will work at night when the administration building is closed.

For more information on the California Conservation Corps, visit https://ccc.ca.gov/.



#### Cubbison

From page

funds

immediate reinstatement.

Cannata said Cubbison, suspended from her \$176,000 post without pay and benefits in October 2023, will also vigorously pursue her pending civil lawsuit against the county Board of Supervisors for denying her due

The court's dismissal of the criminal case increases Cubbison's potential for collecting significant civil damages from the county, including attorney fees, loss of wages and benefits, and professional reputation.

The financial stakes are high.

DA prosecution and county costs defending against the civil litigation are already estimated to be three or four times the \$68,000 in disputed extra pay paid to Kennedy for work during the COVID pandemic that DA David Eyster claimed in October 2023 amounted to felony misappropriation of public funds.

Eyster increased the ante for taxpayers when, within four months of accusing Cubbison of criminal misconduct, he hired outside prosecutor Traci Carrillo of Santa Rosa at \$400 per hour to try the case. Civil attorneys defending the county Board of Supervisors already have billed about \$120,000 in fees and services.

Cubbison had to pay out of pocket to retain Andrian and his investigator, Chris Revnolds, to fight Eyster's criminal charges.

Cubbison and her supporters believe DA Eyster targeted her for challenging him. Eyster initially blocked her interim appointment as Auditor in 2022 and then secretly promoted a plan of some county administrators and members of the Board of Supervisors to merge the county's two key finance offices in hopes of eventually creating a Department of Finance under board control.

Eyster seized the moment when the disputed internal pay issue surfaced about Kennedy collecting \$68,000 in extra pay during the COVID pandemic. The DA turned his team of investigators on the case after the county Sheriff's Office submitted its results. In October 2023, the DA filed felony

The rest of From page 1 Pavilion

was to locate the pavilion in the grassy center of the park. This location was finally rejected in favor of the corner location, which is underutilized and would not break up the central grassy area of the park that gets the most use.

The corner location will require less concrete to access the pavilion. And the corner location was preferred by the farmers market: the manager of the Willits Farmers Market, Michael Foley, who did not attend the meeting, sent an email to this reporter: "I did not want it in the middle of the park."

The pavilion will be a 40 foot x 60 foot steel structure with a concrete foundation. Community Development Director Dusty Duley explained that the rigid requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. liability issues, and maintenance costs left the city with no viable alternatives for the foundation other than concrete. The pavilion will have muted lighting at night to discourage transients from camping there.

The pavilion will be used by the Willits Farmers Market, which will be returning to the park once the construction is completed. The pavilion will also be available to the public for parties and events. The city plans on to put picnic tables in the pavilion that will watch?v=WmnUN VGILI

be removed during market days.

resolved at the February 12 meeting: A prior plan to cover the children's playground in a rubberized material instead of wood chips was, after input from parents and community members, scaled back. The playground will mostly be filled with wood chips, with rubber paths to make the playground more accessible to handicapped children and children with limited mobility.

Additional improvements to the park and crow-deterring trash receptacles.

to the park are being funded - \$2.7 million by a grant from the state's Clean California Local Grant Program. Willits was one of only a handful of cities that received this grant. Director Duley said that only 18% of the cities statewide that applied for the grant were selected.

To watch the February 12 WCC meeting, visit Willits Community Television YouTube at www.youtube.com/

accusing them of misappropriating public the preliminary hearing. Ultimately, the judge said she believed Cubbison and Kennedy had been transparent and had For Cubbison, Tuesday's dismissal was not engaged in illegal activities over the pay from the Board of Supervisors.

"If anybody had read the reports, it was clear what she [Kennedy] was doing. She was transparent about serious pay issues that no one at the county management level had resolved," said Moorman.

Moorman also believed Cubbison did not know the details of a likely extra pay arrangement between Kennedy and Weer before she took charge of the office when Weer retired early.

According to Moorman, Cubbison acted as a "whistleblower" when she informed the County Counsel's Office of Kennedy's threatened legal action if her chronic pay

issues were not resolved. Moorman said about Cubbison: "She did the right thing. She did not try to cover

Moorman blamed evidentiary problems on Lt. Porter, who she felt had acted unprofessionally regarding the white-collar crimes issues involved.

"He failed to preserve email evidence when he had access to it before the system collapsed," said Moorman. "The system collapse wasn't his fault, but his failure to preserve evidence when he had access was." said Moorman.

The judge also found that the investigator didn't follow up on questionable issues relating to retired Weer and Kennedy.

Moorman was scornful of Weer's role in the case and his denial on the witness stand that he might have mistakenly let Kennedy think she had permission to use an obscure county pay code to reimburse herself, a salaried employee, for the chronic hours she was putting in.

"I don't believe him," declared Moorman The judge cited Weer's evasive answers as a prosecution witness and his "defensive

Moorman expressed dismay about the "willful ignorance" shown by county officials who testified during the preliminary hearing that they knew nothing about the 470

From page 1

of understanding for Mendocino Firewise Council. He said: "We will have an agreement for you at the next meeting. We will have a series of agreements because there are two other grants. This agreement that we are working on now is the most important because it will provide defensible space throughout Brooktrails this summer. It's all funded, and we probably will see a big change in Brooktrails in terms of fire

General Manager Alaniz announced the upcoming Board Planning Meeting on Saturday, March 8, from 9:30 am to noon. The Annual Budget Meeting will occur after the Planning Meeting at a later date.

The board then unanimously approved the Consent Calendar Accounts Pavable in the amount of \$135.527.42.

Next up: Agenda Items for Discussion and Possible Action - Consideration of Resolution 2025-02 through Selection of One Applicant to be Appointed-in-Lieu of Election to Fill a Vacant Director Seat with a Term Ending in December 2026 from the Following Individuals: (In order of receipt) a) Michelle Duarte, b) Mary Ziady, and c) Helen Simms.

Tyler-O'Shea began by saying that there was a special process involved in the selection of a new board member.

Alaniz explained: "We have three individuals and all three are here this evening. They've submitted their letters of interest to the district for consideration. President Tyler-O'Shea and I worked out some questions" and proposed that each candidate be interviewed separately.

"Each applicant will have an opportunity to give a two to three minute presentation and the Board of Directors will ask the candidate the prepared questions," Alaniz said. "After the interviews are completed all of the candidates can be present as the board has their discussion and works through the nomination process. One individual will be nominated and if that nomination is seconded there will be a call for a roll call vote to determine if that person will be seated in lieu of election."

Alaniz further noted: "Staff member and Registered Notary Lisa Gillespie is here, and we have everything prepared for Lisa to administer the oath to the eventual appointee, and there will be a notarized certificate that will then be passed on to the county."

First candidate, Michelle Duarte, currently on the staff of Blue Zones, LLC addressed the board, stating: "I have a background in problem-solving, organizational skills, strong communication and relationship-building that will allow me to make meaningful contributions to the board. I am passionate about advocating board.

as witnesses were cross-examined during county code Kennedy was accused of using to pay herself. The code is typically used within departments to cover miscellaneous expenses up to \$1,000 without approval

Moorman said the exculpatory evidence turned over by District Attorney Chief Investigator Andrew Alvarado during the final days of the hearing only underscored in her mind how "transparent" the defendants had been about events leading up to Eyster's decision to file felony charges.

The documents showed that county payroll reports detailing Kennedy's extra pay had been distributed twice monthly to top county officials, including Weer and CEO Darcie Antle and her staff over three years, yet no one questioned why.

"It was all there if anyone had bothered to look," said Moorman.

Moorman's decision to dismiss the criminal case brought relief to the faces of Cubbison, Kennedy, and their lawyers. The two exonerated employees showed signs of relief as they hugged their attorneys following Moorman's statement that their criminal case was dismissed.

McCurry earlier pleaded with Moorman on Kennedy's behalf.

"There is no evidence of any criminal intent. There is only evidence that this employee worked herself into a state of exhaustion," said McCurry.

McCurry added, "The taxpayers still owe her for work done under very difficult circumstances.'

Cubbison lawyer Andrian said the prosecution evidence was questionable and, in most instances, unable to be documented beyond any reasonable doubt

Prosecutor Traci Carrillo said she respected Moorman's decision "based on how the evidence came out and the various issues that presented themselves."

"This is exactly the type of case that sometimes needs to simply play out and be challenged at a preliminary hearing in a transparent manner [versus a grand jury proceeding] to further evaluate the totality of the evidence," said Carrillo.

for the well-being of the community and creating positive change. I am confident that my expertise would be an asset to the

Brooktrails Township Board." Second candidate, Mary Ziady addressed the board and said: "I have lived in Brooktrails for over 20 years. I was a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner for Mendocino Community Health Clinic, I am

now retired. "I've served on the board in the past." Ziady continued. "I was involved in the improvements for water storage in Lake Emily and the development of the Greenbelt Plan. My interests include maintaining the community's water and sewage systems. providing for the best fire prevention and fire department possible, and adapting to future water needs. I hope to see this community continue to prepare for the future. I served three terms on the Board of Directors beginning in the late '80s, early 1990s. My last term ended in 2011."

The third candidate, Helen Simms, spoke to the board, stating, "I returned to Brooktrails in 2021. I previously lived here from 1986-91." She also noted that her son, Tom Simms, is on the Brooktrails Township

"I worked for 35 years in operations and administrative management in the legal and securities industries," Simms said. "For the last half of my employment life, I was a private contractor providing corporate assistance, administrative operations, training, mentoring, and office and facility development for private companies."

Each candidate was asked the slate of prepared questions which involved their level of understanding of how the board works, what issues they felt were the most important that the board addresses. how they each felt their skills matched the board's needs, as well as their understanding of the selection process The selection process then began with

Director Susan Mahoney nominating former board member Mary Ziady. She said, "Based on her prior experience on the board, Mary understands the priorities and issues that the district has to address."

Director Ed Horrick seconded the nomination, saying, "Mary's contribution to this district in the past was immeasurable in some ways, especially with the Recreation **Greenbelt Committee** 

President Tyler-O'Shea then called for a roll call vote, and Mary Ziady was unanimously elected. Vice President Rick Williams, said, "Mary, congratulations." Then, all in attendance applauded.

of office, and Ziady took her seat on the

Notary Gillespie administered the oath



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also vindication for being blamed by county supervisors for the tangled state of county finances, mainly without merit.

charges against Cubbison and Kennedy,

Cubbison risked a criminal record after she refused Eyster's original offer to only to face a misdemeanor charge if she resigned from her post.

From the beginning, the Cubbison case was complicated by Eyster's contentious relationship with the auditor and two others who served before her.

Cubbison ran afoul of Eyster after she challenged DA office spending, including for staff dinners he labeled "training sessions."

For 17 months, more questions than

answers were raised as the case moved

sluggishly through the courts. How the original investigation was handled by Sheriff Lt. Andrew Porter, a 30-year law enforcement veteran, was scrutinized during the preliminary hearing. Porter acknowledged during his testimony that he had access to county emails and other documentation when he started to

probe the Kennedy extra pay. However, he

still did not act to preserve them.

Within months, it was discovered that the county archival system had collapsed, throwing case documentation efforts into disarray. Eventually, many documents were retrieved, but no one, including a courtappointed master, could determine how much relevant material might be missing.

In recent days, documentation issues took another turn when it was learned that top county officials and former Auditor Lloyd Weer had been provided regular bi-monthly reports since 2019 showing Kennedy had been open about using a miscellaneous county pay code to add extra money to her paycheck. During testimony at the preliminary

hearing, Weer, CEO Antle, and others said they were unaware of the payments. Still, the internal payroll documents produced by the DA's office at the last minute showed Moorman was critical of what she learned

One other remaining issue was also

will include new playground equipment, remodeled restrooms, a storage area for the farmers market, chess tables, a water bottle filling station, ADA compliant paths,

The pavilion and the other improvements



#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

City of Willits RESIDENTS: Do you live within the City limits and want to serve on the Measure K Committee? There is currently 1 (One) vacancy. We are accepting applications now through March 13, 2025, at 5:00 PM. Volunteer to help guide the allocation of Measure K

Meets quarterly 9:00 AM.

For more information or to apply, please visit or call the City Clerk's office at (707) 459-7113, or email: dpedersen@cityofwillits.org

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Matinee prices to all shows all day.

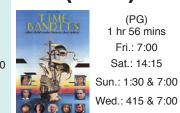


(R) 2 hrs 17 mins Fri.: 3:45 & 6:45 & 6:45

& 6:45

Sat.: 12:15, 3:45 Sun.: 3:45 & 6:45 Wed.-Thurs: 3:45





(PG) 1 hr 56 mins Fri.: 7:00 Sat.: 14:15 Sun.: 1:30 & 7:00

TIME BANDITS

(1981)

1 hr 40 mins Fri.: 3:30, 5:30 & 730 Sat.-Sun.: 1:15, 3:30, 5:30 & 7:30 Wed.-Thurs.: 3:30,

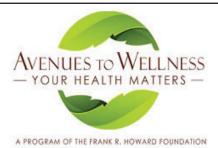
5:30 & 7:30 ater 1 Deluxe - Luxury Recliners, Laser Projection, Ages 16+

Movie Times for March 7 thru March 13

MICKEY 17







## Bereavement Support Group

This facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the symptoms of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move

> Beginning Wednesday, April 2 Time: 5:30-7:30pm To register call: Suzanne Picetti-Johnson (707) 456-9676



Susana Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-Johnson Group Pacilitators



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- Primary Care
- Pediatrics

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Learn more at AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org

