

Willits Weekly

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Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 442 **Thursday, March 10, 2022**

It's time to Spring forward

Don't forget to put your clocks ahead an hour before you go to bed Sunday night - Daylight saving time begins at 2 am on Sunday, March 13.

Does this mean it's now spring? The beautiful flowers, shrubs and trees blooming in Willits sure look like spring, despite the frosty nights, but it won't officially be spring until March 20.

We'll be seeing the sun rise and set an hour "later" through the agricultural season, until we fall back on November 6.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Above, from left: Soroptimist International of Willits members, including, from left: Fran Schatz, Marilyn Harden, Heidi Ahders, Vicki Ham and Barbara O'Reardon, hold a copy of the cover of the new 2022 Soroptimist Phone Book. Below: Many hands make light work of a big fundraising project like the 2022 phone book.



MCSO arrests Willits man on weapons charges

By Sergeant Wells, for MCSO

On March 4, 2022 at about 7:40 pm, a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy was patrolling the 500 block of Cropley Lane in Willits.

The deputy noticed a male, identified as William Roylee Goforth, 54, of Willits, standing next to a vehicle. The deputy noticed Goforth was prying a metal object into the door frame of the vehicle. The deputy believed the subject was possibly trying to break into the vehicle and contacted Goforth.

When contacted, Goforth advised he had a pistol in his pocket. The deputy located and removed a fully loaded .380 handgun from Goforth's jacket pocket. The deputy also located three concealed knives on Goforth's person.

Sheriff's Office Dispatch confirmed Goforth was prohibited from owning or possessing firearms or ammunition. Goforth was found to be on probation in Mendocino County with a term to obey all laws. Williams was further found to be addicted to and had recently used a controlled substance.

Goforth advised he owned and lived in a motor-home which was parked near the location. Goforth consented to a search of the motor-home.

Read the rest of **Weapons**

Over on Page 11

50 Years of Phone Books

Soroptimist International of Willits celebrates half a century of providing residential and business listings to the Willits community with their big fundraising project

It's almost spring, and that means it's time for the annual Community Telephone Directory from the Soroptimist International of Willits non-profit club to make its appearance.

This year's book is the club's 50th edition and continues to give residential, business, mobile, and other helpful phone numbers for locals and advertisers all conveniently located in their special publication. Advertisers who choose to place ads in the book's pages help provide the finances that allow the Soroptimist club to give out scholarships and awards to women and girls in the community.

Since there is no longer a service to provide the listing information, the club depends on the community to reach out and let them know if persons or businesses wish to be

included, removed or edited in any way each year.

Now (why not??) is the time to let the club know if a change is necessary to your listing or business to make sure it is included for the 2023 book.

Now is also a great time to sign up to be an advertiser, too; just fill out the form below and send it in to be in the "ready pile" for next year. Changes can be made easily by emailing willitsphonebook@gmail.com.

Interested in joining the Soroptimist club? They're looking for new members! The club is meeting virtually for now on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 12 noon. Contact 456-9858 or email for more information.

- Maureen Jennison



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 For info: willitsphonebook@gmail.com. Prices subject to change.



SOROPTIMIST®

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Local indoor mask mandate rescinded

Jennifer Poole
 Editor & Reporter
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mendocino County Public Health Office Dr. Andy Coren rescinded the county indoor mask mandate last week, effective March 4, but the new order still has "a strong recommendation" to mask up in public indoor spaces.

Coren explained, in a "Letter from the County Health Officer" (see Page 2), that the change was due to a dramatic fall in the number of local COVID cases in the last two months, and also because "the stress on our hospitals is coming under control."

The state of California rescinded its indoor mask mandate for vaccinated people as of February 16, with masking still required in some situations, for example public transport, schools (the state will drop its mask mandate for schools on March 16), and health care settings. But local jurisdictions are allowed to have more restrictive rules.

Mendocino County was - and is - still considered a "high-transmission" county - one of less than a dozen

Read the rest of **Masks**

Over on Page 11

Willits man arrested after shooting on Locust Street

By Sg. S. Gray for WPD

On February 2, 2022 at about 2 am, Willits Police Department officers were dispatched to the 1000 block of Locust Street regarding an assault with a firearm.

The reporting party stated there had been an altercation at the above location involving several family members, causing the victim and her family to leave the residence.

As the victim, her boyfriend, and two children were attempting to leave in their vehicle, suspect Riley Rogers-Wood, exited the residence and shot at them three times with a bolt-action rifle.

At least one round struck the passenger side rear view mirror, narrowly missing the reporting party's husband.

Rogers-Wood then retreated back into the residence, which was occupied by his girlfriend (an adult female) and their newborn child, effectively

Read the rest of **Shooting**

Over on Page 11

Notice from the Little Lake Grange

Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, in Willits will be closed from March 7 through March 21, 2022.

We are conducting asbestos remediation under the building.

We recently began a project to update the water pipes under the building, and many years ago it was commonplace to use insulation around the water pipes that contained asbestos, so to continue the work on the pipes, this must be done.

Closing the building is a requirement dictated by OSHA – there is no asbestos in the building and all people who have used the building have been safe.

It is an expensive endeavor....

If anyone would like to make a donation to help with this \$150,000+ project we would be very appreciative. For large donations, we have a 501(c)(3) foundation – please contact us at willitsgrange@gmail.com for information. Other donations can be mailed to 291 School Street, Willits. If you'd like to have an official receipt for tax purposes, please let us know, and we can get that to you.

Thank you for always supporting our Grange as we continue to support this community with our building.

– Erica Bruce-Kroessen, Little Lake Grange #670

Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, March 10: Ortega Chicken Sandwich, Onion Rings, Green Salad

Friday, March 11: Beef Tips & Noodles, Veggie, Roll
Monday, March 14: Fish Sticks, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll

Tuesday, March 15: Spaghetti in Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Wednesday, March 16: Carnitas Tacos, Rice, Beans

Thursday, March 17: Corned Beef & Cabbage

Friday, March 18: Chicken Rice Casserole, Veggie, Roll, Green Salad

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

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

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

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

March 2022 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

We had an interesting, informative Northern Mendocino County Town Hall with Senator McGuire, Sheriff Kendall and Supervisor Gjerde. Senator McGuire is the second-ranking senator in the State Senate. His efforts on behalf of Mendocino County, whether it be water, safety, cannabis policy, or economic development, have been stellar and having him in that Majority Leader position will continue to serve us well.

Topics that we discussed were water, safety, cannabis, and the environment. I appreciate that Senator McGuire helped secure \$600,000 in additional state funds to help deal with the illegal cannabis grows in our county.

Together we have been working on workforce development and CTE – career and technical education. Working with Mendocino College and the Mendocino Office of Education, together we have helped get programs on construction, medical, and EMT/paramedic training started.

Last week, I visited the California Conservation Corps as they worked on Blue Lakes Road northwest of Willits. The 20 young adults were creating a shaded fuel break along the road. This is work that the Sherwood Firewise Council helped organize with Fire Safe Mendocino to provide greater safety to our communities in case of a fire.

Fire Safe Mendocino just finished two months of fuel reduction work in the Brooktrails Greenbelt. They also have programs for free defensible space work for qualified seniors and persons with disabilities and free community chipper days. Go to their website at <https://firesafemendocino.org> for more info. People helping build stronger community. The county is planning fuel reduction programs in the Laytonville and Covelo areas.

At the March 15 board of supervisors meeting, Supervisor McGourty and I are proposing rules around water extraction and water hauling. I have received too many calls from people without enough water for residential uses or who fear the effects on our groundwaters from excessive pumping. We want the board to give direction to enforce existing rules, add some restrictions to water hauling, and create a regulatory program to reduce these activities for illegal purposes.

You can always contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.

Do you want to submit a letter to the editor?

It's easy.

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

'Recalled' infant formula found in county

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

Staff with the Mendocino County home visiting program recently identified "recalled" cans of infant formula in local communities.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration is warning consumers not to use certain powdered infant formula produced in Abbott Nutrition's facility in Sturgis, Michigan. Contaminated infant formula may have contributed to one infant death and four illnesses across three states. FDA is advising consumers not to use Similac, Alimentum, or EleCare powdered infant formulas if:

- the first two digits of the code are 22 through 37; and
- the code on the container contains K8, SH or Z2; and
- the expiration date is 4-1-2022 (APR 2022) or later

You can learn more about the recall on the FDA website, <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-warns-consumers-not-use-certain-powdered-infant-formula-produced-abbott-nutrition-facility>

Letter from the county health officer

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

Today, March 4, 2022, Mendocino County Public Health is lifting the universal indoor mask mandate. This is happening now because COVID-19 infections have fallen dramatically in the last two months of the Omicron surge, and the stress on our hospitals is coming under control.

Yet the CDC shows that we are in a HIGH TRANSMISSION community where wearing masks indoors is STILL STONGLY RECOMMENDED at this time.

So why lift the mask order now? Because our community has learned and continues to learn to cope with the pandemic.

While we are all happy to have made this progress, it is important to know that we are not done with COVID-19. We expect that there will be more surges in the future. Another more contagious variant is already spreading through the world and more are expected. So, it is NOT OK to go without a mask to most indoor public spaces.

Also important is to acknowledge how much we have learned in such a short time. This has been a very difficult two years, with almost a million deaths due to infection in the USA alone, over 120 souls lost in Mendocino County, with many more sickened and some continuing with symptoms of Long Covid. Health systems were overwhelmed, businesses closed, organizations, schools, and recreation were all affected. We do not want to repeat that experience. But we cannot turn back the clocks.

Our community has learned the advantages of masking, vaccinating, increased ventilation and distancing, which have gotten us to this point. And we must pass this on to our children to learn, just as we teach them other ways to protect themselves, without being ashamed or bullied for doing what is right for themselves and the most vulnerable members of our community.

So, as we go forward we have to be aware of our health risks and intelligently respond. Public health organizations from Centers for Disease Control to California Department of Public Health to our local Mendocino County Department of Public Health exist to investigate and inform us of the risks we face and how best to protect ourselves.

Speed limits, seatbelts, avoiding tobacco, testing for cancer, protecting our children with vaccines, and other advisories are researched carefully before making recommendations or laws. And they have saved millions of lives.

And Public Health is continuing to learn through research in the laboratories and the field. Research takes time. To protect ourselves against COVID, advice has included getting vaccinated, increasing activities outdoors, and improving ventilation indoors including distancing when practical. It also includes masking. As uncomfortable as they are, they save lives. The California CDPH has taken the lessons of the past two years and created the SMARTER plan (Shots, Masks, Awareness [to protect ourselves], Readiness, Testing, Education [keeping schools open], and Rx [new medications]) to go forward.

Also, please remember that by federal and California state laws, masks are still required for everyone in some settings such as public transit and health care facilities. Masks are still strongly recommended in indoor settings for all at this time, especially if you are unvaccinated or if you have medical conditions that put you or your household at increased risk.

Thank you Mendocino County, for your continued hard work in fighting this pandemic.

– Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren



Above, left: Colorful smoke bombs add verisimilitude to the conflagration. At right, from top: A participant takes a shooting stance as he searches out the enemy. Mackenzie O'Donnell and Chuck Gruber, the producers of Mendo Paintball and "Love is a Battlefield," pose for a photo. Two teammates try to advance from the barriers they are hiding behind.

'Love is a Battlefield' Paintball tournament at Laytonville's Mendocino Magic is a tactical experience loaded with eccentric fun

As the dust and the clouds of colored explosions cleared, the Cannibals emerged victorious. This band of mostly local friends and comrades, with their hopper-fed, semi-automatic weapons scored higher than the Benatars (named for the theme, "Love is a Battlefield") in a series of maneuvers, holding positions and forts, stealing flags, and such zaniness as firing their taxes or engaging in tea time in the middle of the battle.

Paintball is a popular pastime for people of all ages and genders. It's an activity in which they can dress up in military garb, camouflage, and survivalist gear. They can equip themselves in the latest innovations in armaments, rifles, pistols, and hand grenades which make lots of noise but are otherwise harmless, especially with the adherence to the myriad of safety protocols designed to allow for the fantasy of war without the blood or loss of life.

Chuck Gruber and his partner, Mackenzie O'Donnell, of the 600-acre camping and event space Mendocino Magic outside Laytonville have created a grownup military-simulation playground that is updated weekly in addition to the regular camping, weddings and music events presented periodically. Their hope is to create two major paintball tournaments per year. This month's tournament, "Love is a Battlefield," took place over three days, with most of the participants camping with their teammates, enjoying meals created by the facility's go-to chef, Sean Lackey. Saturday evening additionally had a talent show of mostly untalented performers.

"I want to do two of these scenario games a year," stated Gruber. "The other one is called 'End of Days' which is going to be in October and I hope to do 'Love is a Battlefield' every year as well. There is a permanent paintball area in the back that will stay up all year round. I don't have to take that down. It's usable almost every weekend. I just launched a website where people can go in and book any date that they want, including weekdays. As long as we have enough people, we'll play. I'd like to start doing a big game once a month which will be just a one-day, three-or-four-hour event with an ongoing scenario battle."

In order to keep the events as entertaining as possible, safety of the participants is of utmost concern. "Our number one important thing is safety. We take a lot of measures to ensure no one gets hurt," Gruber continued. "We have a mandatory safety briefing before we start anything. The number-one rule is 'don't take your mask off during a game.'"

"There are signs posted in many places saying where you can or cannot remove your masks," he continued. "There are netted areas, safe zones, places where the balls can't come through. If you get hit by a paintball, it stings a little but you'll still be fine. The face and eyes are the only things you need to protect. I have about eight referees out there to make sure everyone is following the

rules and being safe."

Of course, paintball, like most sports, has its legends. Sixty-year-old but physically fit Los Angelino David Justin is known internationally as "The Reaper," a moniker embroidered on his black fatigue shirt. Working for G. I. Sports, the world's largest paintball company, he is paid to attend major tournaments. "They fly me all over the world to do this," declared Justin. "Chuck and McKenzie did an amazing job here.

"I'm super happy to support paintball," continued Justin. "That's what I do. I've promoted in North Carolina, Germany, Mexico, Israel. I've been everywhere supporting this amazing sport. We get together and are instantly bonded. I play on both sides during the day." Justin, although giving the appearance of a dyed-in-the-wool survivalist, enjoys the fact that the players are just regular men and women who "are not really militaristic, compound white supremacists."

General James "Grubby" Grider of the Cannibals is one of the players who enjoys the game each weekend with his bonded Willits crew. "The general," explained Grider, "is a guy who, hopefully, has read the storyline of the event, knows specifically how to get points, how many points.

"The objective today: there are multiple flag stations and bases," continued Grider. "There are three flag stations out in the middle of the field. You need to control them. By control, you just need to be in that bunker on every hour-and-15-minute mark. If you can hold it for an hour and 13 minutes but the other team is in there on the hour and 15, they get the points.

"Players with experience," he said, "can look at a field and know which areas are going to be high-intensity focal points that you have to have strategically to win the field. You need to have corners and high ground. You break off your guys in squads."

Ultimately, the game is about fun, and although the game play can be quite intense with thousands of non-lethal well-causing rounds going off in a short amount of time, no one takes the game so seriously that they lose sight of the entertainment value.

There are moments of inspired eccentricity, especially in the scoring. Chef Sean Lackey dresses up as the Tax Man and wanders the combat area having players fill out their returns. There are points for having tea time in the middle of the conflagration. Other points are awarded for having the most canned tuna, doing a dance on the Christian Bale (a hay bale with a cross), most collection of MOOP (Materials Out Of Place, trash in other words), and other non-sequiturs.

To find out more about this incredibly fun and physically challenging sport, go to the Mendocino Magic website www.mendocinomagic.com or to their paintball site www.mendopaintball.com or email paintball@mendocinomagic.com or call 215-527-2433.



Above: A player lays down cover fire as he attempts to find a barricade to hide behind. Below: Two teammates cover each other's backs as they lay down some rounds.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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At right: Mike Griggs, Sr. turns over the fourth card in one of the many hold-'em hands.

Waldorf School Director Spring Senerchia comes ready to play.

Mike Griggs, Sr. observes Andrew Hosford's dealing.

At right, below, from top: Willits High School Principal Michael Colvig passes out the cards at his table.

Joe Bratt, center, considers whether to pass, raise or fold.

Kelly Mayhew teaches first-time poker players how to maximize their game play in order to stay in the tournament longer.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, left: Pearl Marill used markers and acrylic paint pens to create "Hi I've Missed You," inspired by the quote: "Let us be thankful for the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls bloom," by Marcel Proust. Above, right: This piece by Nancy McHone titled "Earth Abides 1" catches Kayley Middleton's eye as she visits the gallery. At left: Donna d'Terra stands next to the Quote Board, which contains sayings that she has gathered and written on black paper as well as comments from visitors of the show on white paper.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.
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Other ministries suspended for now.
For appointments call:
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Father Aaron Bandanadam
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If you want to be included in this column please call:
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Texas Hold 'Em

Players vie to win all the chips at benefit poker tournament held to raise money for Waldorf School of Mendocino County

Seven hours after the start of the game, the last man standing possessed all the chips and the grand prize. The Waldorf School of Mendocino County benefit poker tournament, in its sixth year (with a couple years off for the pandemic), sponsored by Sparetime Supply, was held in the new warehouse of the Sparetime distribution division. The players convened in a cavernous but surprisingly homey and well-heated corner of the building on Saturday, with over 56 players vying to have the last of the chips. This night's tournament was won by Tulu Mayberry. Second place was Tara Moratti, third was Scott Sideshow, and Kelly Austin made fourth place.

The buy-in to receive an assigned value of \$5,000 in chips was \$60, all of which went to the Waldorf School in Calpella, which has not been able to produce their usual lucrative dinner and auction for the last two years. At the entrance, players could also purchase an additional \$5,000 in chips, which would cost \$50 at any point prior to the supplied taco dinner later in the evening. At 4:30 pm, as the players filed in and registered, Kelly Mayhew provided a short seminar on how to best maximize one's winnings and generally how to play the game, Texas hold 'em.

When the actual game play began at 5 pm, the players were arranged, eight to a table, the dealers, some notable Willits residents, including Mike Griggs, Sr. of Sparetime Supply; Andrew Hosford, VP at Sparetime; Michael Colvig, principal at Willits High School; and Jeff Yokum of Yokum's Body Shop.

Both novice and expert players vied to retain and grow their piles of chips, designated as \$25 (white with a Sparetime logo or a lotus in honor of Dianne Griggs), \$100 (red), \$500 (blue), \$1,000 (green), and \$5,000 (orange). Some were judicious with their placing of bets, some wildly throwing in chips to intimidate their table mates into folding, no matter the value of their hands.

As the night wore on, the blinds (the amount of chips that players needed to throw in to begin each hand) grew exponentially in order to keep the play exciting and to induce the players to stay in for the larger pots. "Blinds are like the ante," explained Hosford. "It's the initial bet. There's a 'half blind' and a 'full blind.'" It goes up every 30 minutes. That escalates the game as we go. You can't just hang out if you don't have a lot of chips. You have to be able to ante."

Soon after the start of play, the piles of chips would grow in front of some players and diminish in front of others, but that often shifted as the players became more savvy and learned each others' strategies and

"tells" (facial tics, smiles, eye movements that could give away whether the player was bluffing or actually had the cards that their betting betrayed).

According to Griggs, the well-built, sturdy, and perfectly topped tables were built several years ago by Fred Barry for Sparetime for the use of whomever needed them to raise money for their organizations.

In attendance was Larry Richmond, one of the two founders of the tournament, an alumnus who had children at the school. "I graduated in eighth grade in 1985," explained Richmond. "Both of my daughters went through the school. I befriended another dad in the school who was an avid poker player. Both of us came up with the idea to start this event as a fundraiser. We saw quickly that it was a pretty lucrative event with great potential. His name was Paul Hendy. He couldn't be here today. He's in Portland, Oregon. We figured we probably made over \$30,000 for the school over the years that the tournament has been run. Tonight, I get to play rather than deal."

"I like the school because of the exposure to the arts and music," continued Richmond. "Since I went through the school myself, I appreciate the exposure to the humanities. It made me want to give back to the community and to the school itself. Waldorf gives a great outlook on life and how to help your fellow humans and do something that is meaningful in life. It really helped me. Having a background in music and art is always beneficial."

Spring Senerchia, retiring director of Waldorf School, is glad that the COVID restrictions are beginning to lift. "School has been challenging this year, a little better than last year. I feel like I'll still be there when it's the end of COVID. I thought I'd be gone before that happened. The kids did great with all the restrictions."

"Some kids left the school," she continued, "because their parents weren't comfortable with that level of risk. We only did two months of remote. We worked really hard during the summer of 2020 and got some lucky timing breaks and were able to open in the fall. It's exhausting and subpar trying to learn at home when the teachers are not there with you."

Although this was a poker tournament and was about who would be the last player in the game, it was really about having a great time with great people and supporting the innovative and art-centric Waldorf School which has been expanding in recent years. To learn more about the school, or to contribute to the ongoing needs of this educational facility, go to: www.mendocinowaldorf.org or email office@mendocinowaldorf.org or call 707-485-8719.



Communicating with Nature

Mendocino County artists interpret 'Voices of the Earth' in WCA fundraising show guest curated by Donna d'Terra

"This show is as eclectic as Willits!" said guest curator Donna d'Terra, who created "Voices of the Earth," a fundraising show for Willits Center for the Arts.

After a year of closing their doors to the public and another year open with masking, distancing, and discontinued opening parties, the Willits Center for the Arts is delighted to step into less-restricted times.

"We're going to have this show two years ago and then: cancel ... cancel. So now it's happening," WCA Curator Gary Martin said happily.

"It is my experience and observation," said d'Terra, "that earth / Gaia / nature communicates to us and through us in ways that are unique to each of us."

These personal experiences inspired her to talk with the WCA Board of Directors and Martin about her idea for the show. In mid-2020, after the go-ahead, d'Terra invited Mendocino County artists to participate in "Voices of the Earth."

"We're very excited about this show! It's a fundraiser and the first one we've had since 2019. It's an important show, both in the fact that it's a beautiful show with fine artists as well as being a fundraiser," said Martin, who added, "We need the money right now."

He explained further that the 2021 Holiday Craft Fair was small this past holiday and that the closure in 2020 didn't bring in any revenue. And yet, "We paid our bills for a full year, but it topped us out."

The proceeds from the March show are divided between the artists and WCA. "Sharing the sales 50 / 50 helps support WCA to keep it open and thriving, and also helps support the artists who stepped forward to be part of this benefit show," said d'Terra.

D'Terra lives outside of Willits on land she named Motherland. To

get an understanding of d'Terra and how she's lived, worked and transformed with Motherland, she wrote: "Over those 35 years, my relationship with the land has changed from 'owner of the property' to 'steward of the property,' to 'grateful student and collaborator with the land.'" These life-changing experiences, coupled with inspired quotes she's collected, motivated d'Terra to create a show with local artists.

D'Terra sent artists "three dozen quotes that speak to how earth / Gaia / nature communicates to us and through us. They were invited to choose one quote and interpret it visually, in any medium. The result is an eclectic artistic expression that is the 'Voices of the Earth' show."

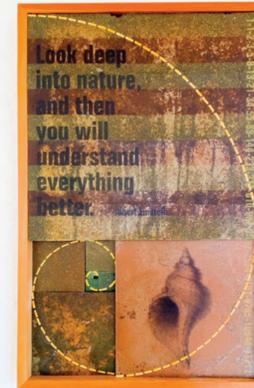
Inspirational quotes have been collected by d'Terra for years. Their handwritten and displayed monthly at Mariposa Market's outside bulletin board. Many are from people culturally different and all are inspired by each writer's relationship with nature. Examples of these are hanging in WCA's hallway and on the artists' show label under their creation.

It's fascinating to see each art piece illustrating the artist's interpretation of the quote. One can gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the natural world through the beautifully crafted pieces by local artists in combination with quotes from people around the world.

There's a "Meet the Artists" closing night event on March 26 from 6 to 9 pm. Masks are required. Lisa Davis from Scoops Frozen Yogurt and Deli is making food for the event that will be really delicious and individually packaged. There will be wine and beer for a donation.

WCA is located at 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Friday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.

For more information or to volunteer, visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-1726.



Above, left: Graphic artist Michael Mills used salvaged metal and paint to create this three-dimensional piece with quote by Albert Einstein: "Look deep into nature and you will understand everything better." Above, right: Leanne and James of British Columbia appreciate one of Bonnie Bell's whimsical sculptures: "The exhibit is tourist approved!" laughed Leanne. At left: This is one page of 18 collected descriptions by individual student artists at WHS. The quote they chose is, "All is Alive, all is speaking, all is loud." Here, Tiah Ross describes her process around painting the elk in the background. Below: Some of the artist expressions can be seen on this wall in the front gallery, including the detailed watercolor on the right titled "Counterpoint - Richardson Grove State Park" by Linda MacDonald.

Photos by Ree Slocum



FREE COVID-19 Testing
Willits Community Center
111 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA
MONDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY
9AM - 12:30PM

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Nuestra Alianza de Willits
Questions
707-841-7909
Promotores de Salud de N.A.W
promotoresdesalud@nawfrc.org

Free COVID testing moves to the Community Center
Posted by Nuestra Alianza
Because the Grange building (where our Nuestra Alianza office is located) will be undergoing renovations, we will be working out of the Willits Community Center beginning March 7 until further notice.
We will offer our free testing service there, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Visit <https://my.primary.health//nuestra?locale=en> to register and for more information, including about the kinds of tests offered.
Thanks for your understanding. If you have questions, please call us at 707-841-7909.

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<https://my.primary.health//nuestra?locale=es>

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Tiah Ross
WHS 10
Acrylic Paint
"Chilly Elk"

I really enjoyed making this piece. It was challenging to get everything to meet my standards. I tried my hardest to make the elk look realistic and I'm happy with how it turned out. I picked this piece because Elk are a big deal in my culture. Honestly, I wanted to make an art piece that would make my Mom and Grandma proud.



“Deathtrap,” a clever and realistic comedy thriller, opens March 25 at Willits Community Theatre

By Steve Hellman, for WCT

In its return to live stage shows, Willits Community Theatre will open on March 25 with Ira Levin's much heralded "Deathtrap," a very clever two-act dark comedy that, to this day, has been the longest-running comedy-thriller on Broadway, while also garnering four 1978 Tony award nominations.

The play, directed by Jason Edington, features five true-to-life characters caught up in a series of plot twists and deadly intrigue.

"Obviously, it's a thriller, with twists and turns," says Edington. "I also think that the ensemble performances of the cast, the impulses we see, the way they interact – the audience is going to forget they're in a theater. It becomes a real-life moment unfolding before their eyes."

The cast includes a quintet of WCT veterans, with Rod Grainger as the famous but lately unsuccessful murder-mystery playwright Sidney Bruhl; Kelly Kesey as his wife, Myra, and his equal for smarts; Eddie Haehl as a young playwright, Clifford Anderson, with a potential hit mystery script; Virginia Hanley as the meddling psychic, Helga ten Dorp, who rattles everyone's timbers; and Christopher Martin as Porter Milgrim, the lawyer who is supposed to keep it all together.

"The show is funny, sincere, scary and thrilling, both psychologically and physically," Edington says. "All wrapped up, it's the perfect one-set, two-act, five-character money-maker. An amazing two hours of the audience enjoying a very real and yet quite disturbing play."

Edington has previously directed the WCT hit "Clue – The Musical," along with "The Nerd," "Arsenic and Old Lace," and "Fright Night." He says both the cast and crew brought on to produce this opening show of the 2022 WCT season has worked tirelessly to create a great story.

The show will run March 25, 26, 27, 31, and April 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Tickets are \$15 and \$20, and available through the WCT website at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org. Audience members will be asked to show proof of vaccination upon entry and the wearing of facial coverings will be recommended.



Above, from top: The action in "Deathtrap" turns from innocent fun to something possibly sinister when Rod Grainger, left, as mystery playwright Sidney Bruhl has got another playwright, Clifford Anderson played by Eddie Haehl, locked into handcuffs.

From left: mystery playwright Sidney Bruhl played by Rod Grainger teams with his wife Myra played by Kelly Kesey to convince Eddie Haehl as young playwright Clifford Anderson to share his promising play.

Veteran actor Virginia Hanley portrays a meddling psychic, Helga ten Dorp, who complicates the action in the compelling comedy-thriller "Deathtrap."

Photos by Mathew Caine

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- Chief Planner – Cannabis Program
- Corrections Deputy
- Custodian
- Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV
- Deputy District Attorney I/II/III
- Deputy Probation Officer I/II
- Deputy Public Defender I/II/III/IV
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
- Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Human Resources Director
- Juvenile Corrections Officer – Extra - Help
- Public Health Nurse
- Real Property Appraiser I
- Registered Nurse
- Senior Planner - Cannabis Program
- Senior Program Manager – Nursing
- Senior Public Health Nurse
- Social Worker Assistant I/II
- Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D
- Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C
- Supervising Public Health Nurse

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

WW375

SUMMONS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: JETT JENNINGS, also known as LAWRENCE J. JENNINGS; DOES 1-50, inclusive, Case Number: HG21100522

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: CHERIE Y. SONG, THE BAYSIDE COURT OWNERS ASSOCIATION, a California corporation.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: the court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

The name and address of the court is: Alameda County Superior Court, 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA 94544
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: Christopher J. Neary, 110 S. Main St., Ste. C, Willits, CA 95490, Telephone: (707) 459-5551
Publication Dates: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2022

WW377

AMENDED NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: WENDY LEE HILDERBRAND

Case No. **22PR00003**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate of both of Wendy Lee Hilderbrand.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Verle E. Hilderbrand in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that Verle E. Hilderbrand be appointed as Personal Representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: April 7, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in Ten Mile Court of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 700 S Franklin St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: Jennifer M. O'Brien, NEARY and O'BRIEN, 110 S Main St., Ste. C, Willits, CA 95490, Telephone (707) 459-5551.
Publication Dates: March 10, 17, 24, 2022

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW376

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

1. Notice is hereby given that the Governing Board of the Willits Unified School District, of the County of Mendocino, State of California, will receive sealed bids for the WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM BOILER REPLACEMENT up to, but not later than, **1 pm, on March 25, 2022** and will thereafter publicly open and read aloud the bids. All bids shall be received at the Willits Unified School District Office, 1277 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490.

2. Each bid shall be completed on the Bid Proposal Form included in the Contract Documents, and must conform and be fully responsive to this invitation, the plans and specifications and all other Contract Documents. Copies of the Contract Documents are available for examination at the office of the Superintendent, 1277 Blosser Lane, County of Mendocino, California. Documents are also available online at www.willitsunified.com.

3. Each bid shall be accompanied by cash, a cashier's or certified check, or a bidder's bond executed by a surety licensed to do business in the State of California as a surety, made payable to the District, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the maximum amount of the bid. The check or bid bond shall be given as a guarantee that the bidder to whom the contract is awarded will execute the Contract Documents and will provide the required payment and performance bonds and insurance certificates within ten (10) days after the notification of the award of the contract.

4. The successful bidder shall comply with the provisions of the Labor Code pertaining to payment of the generally prevailing rate of wages and apprenticeships or other training programs. The Department of Industrial Relations has made available the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the locality in which the work is to be performed for each craft, classification or type of worker needed to execute the contract, including employer payments for health and welfare, pension, vacation, apprenticeship and similar purposes. Copies of these prevailing rates are available to any interested party upon request and are online at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR>. The Contractor and all Subcontractors shall pay not less than the specified rates to all workers employed by them in the execution of the Contract. It is the Contractor's responsibility to determine any rate change.

5. The schedule of per diem wages is based upon a working day of eight hours. The rate for holiday and overtime work shall be at least time and one half.

6. The substitution of appropriate securities in lieu of retention amounts from progress payments in accordance with Public Contract Code §22300 is permitted.

7. Pursuant to Public Contract Code §4104, each bid shall include the name and location of the place of business of each subcontractor who shall perform work or service or fabricate or install work for the contractor in excess of one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) of the bid price. The bid shall describe the type of the work to be performed by each listed subcontractor.

8. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening for bids except as provided by Public Contract Code §55100 et seq. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding.

9. Minority, women, and disabled veteran contractors are encouraged to submit bids. This bid is is not subject to Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise requirements.

10. The project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the California Department of Industrial Relations. In accordance with SB 854, all bidders, contractors and subcontractors working at the site shall be duly registered with the Department of Industrial Relations at time of bid opening and at all relevant times. Proof of registration shall be provided as to all such contractors prior to the commencement of any work.

11. Each bidder shall possess at the time the bid is awarded the following classification(s) of California State Contractor's license: **C4 and/or B - General Contractor**.

12. Not used.

13. Bidders' Conference. Prospective bidders are invited and strongly encouraged to attend a bidders' conference that will be held at Willits High School, 299 N Main St. Willits, CA on **March 14, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.** for the purpose of acquainting all prospective bidders with the Contract Documents and the Project site. Following the bidders' conference a tour will be held. Bidders must examine and judge for themselves the location, surroundings, physical condition and nature of any work to be done. Submission of a bid shall be construed as conclusive evidence that the bidder has made such an examination.

WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Signed by: Terry McEntee, Director of Maintenance Operations and Transportation
DATED: 2/28/22
Publication Dates: March 3 and 10, 2022

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Indoor Yard Sale
Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler), Saturday, March 12 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Help Wanted
Thrift Store Merchandise Processor/Stocker. \$15.00 Hour Full Time (40 hours weekly). Send resume, including 3 references to wslidirector@willitscenter.com or pick up application at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd. or call Richard Baker at 459-6826 for more information. Must be able to lift furniture and have valid CA driver's license.

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Spacious studio apartment with kitchen and bath for one person. In nature, within walking distance to town. \$900.00 per month plus wood for heating. Call (707) 459-2101 for more information.

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

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

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

Help Wanted
Our program is growing! The Waldorf School of Mendocino County is Hiring Administration and Teaching positions. Visit our website to apply: <https://www.mendocinowaldorf.org/employment-opportunities> Apply today!

Willits Community Theatre presents

STARLIGHT LOUNGE
an open poetry reading

Saturday, March 12, 7 pm

Entry by Donation
no one turned away for lack of funds
Must show proof of vaccination upon entry.
Masks recommended.

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Above: Jules Tavernier's "Indian Village at Dawn," oil on canvas, from the late 1800s. Below: Jules Tavernier's 1878 painting, "Dance in a Subterranean Roundhouse in Clear Lake, California."

Bus outing down to de Young Museum

Submitted by Grace Hudson Museum

On Saturday, April 2, the Grace Hudson Museum offers a daylong outing from Ukiah to San Francisco's de Young Museum to visit the important and locally relevant exhibit, "Jules Tavernier and the Elem Pomo."

Organized by the de Young along with New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the show includes roughly a dozen items from the Grace Hudson Museum's collections of Pomo basketry and material culture.

The outing runs from 7:30 am to 5 pm. The bus departs from and returns to the Civic Center in Ukiah. Tickets are \$100 per person and include: 1) round-trip bus transportation; 2) admission to the de Young Museum; and 3) a complimentary copy of the 48-page color illustrated exhibition book. The deadline for registration is March 15. Pre-registration is essential, as the event could cancel if enrollment is too low.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://grace-hudson-museum-sun-house.networkforgood.com/events/39879-2022-bus-trip> or call the Museum during open hours at (707) 467-2836.

Proof of vaccination and mask will be required before boarding the bus in Ukiah.



"You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man's freedom"

Auditions | March 19th | March 20th
By Appointment only | Ukiah Players Theatre | Willits Community Theatre

Call 707-462-9226 for your appointment slot & to schedule a time to pick-up the script.
This is a one-man play. (Actor portrays a 67 year old.)
Please be prepared to present a 1-2 minute monologue from the script.
Proof of vaccination required.

A Samuel French, INC. Title
Clarence Darrow
Play by: David W. Rintels
Based on Clarence Darrow for the Defense by Irving Stone
Directed by: Jim Williams

September 2nd - 4th - Willits Community Theatre
September 8th - 11th - Ukiah Players Theatre

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Movie Times for March 11 thru March 17 | Masks Required | Tightwad Tuesday Titles for March 15 are in RED. All tickets at \$6!

CalFire announces new state fire director

Submitted by CAL FIRE, Sacramento

March 4 – Joe Tyler has been appointed to lead CAL FIRE, California's statewide fire agency, overseeing an appropriated budget of \$3.7 billion and more than 9,600 civilian and uniformed staff who responded to more than 535,000 emergencies in 2021.

Chief Tyler will be the 22nd CAL FIRE director in the department's 137-year history. He succeeds Thomas Porter, who retired in December of 2021.

"I am honored to have been selected to lead CAL FIRE, and I look forward to serving the people of California while promoting the health and welfare of our employees," Tyler said in remarks to CAL FIRE's leadership upon his appointment. Tyler spent March 4, his first full day as the director of CAL FIRE addressing employees who are graduating as new company officers to operate fire engines and others attending leadership training at the California Fire Training Center.

Tyler is a 31-year veteran of CAL FIRE and most recently served as the deputy director of Fire Protection, overseeing statewide fire protection operations and cooperative fire protection. He began his career with CAL FIRE in 1991, working in several counties and programs throughout California, and has an extensive background in executive level operations and programs.

Prior to his appointment as deputy director, Tyler served as the assistant deputy director of Fire Protection with oversight of law enforcement/civil cost recovery, fire protection operations, aviation management, tactical air operations, and mobile equipment. He has also held managerial responsibility for training, safety, emergency medical services, local/state/federal programs, and hand crew programs.

Tyler serves as the department representative on the California Wildland Coordinating Group, National Association of State Foresters Wildland Fire Committee and Western States Fire Managers. He also served on several statewide committees and cadres and was instrumental in the acquisition of a new fleet of helicopters and C-130 air

tankers. Tyler is a qualified agency administrator and incident commander – type 1. He was a member of CAL FIRE Incident Management Teams from 2005 through 2014, last holding the position of deputy incident commander on CAL FIRE Incident Management Team 3.

Follow Director Tyler on Twitter @CALFIRE_CHIEF

To learn more about CAL FIRE please visit www.fire.ca.gov



Above: Chief Joe Tyler, new director of CAL FIRE.

Willits, Ukiah theaters seek actor for 1-man show on Clarence Darrow

Submitted by Amanda McCarthy for Ukiah Players Theatre

Auditions are coming up for a local one-man show and everyone is asking, "who will be cast as Clarence Darrow?" Clarence Darrow was an American lawyer and leading member of the American Civil Liberties Union. The role requires a person to portray a 60 year old who is a very persuasive storyteller, who can convincingly make numerous, often subtle, transitions in tone and acting objective, and, of course, be able to memorize a lot of lines. Nonetheless, Director Jim Williams is optimistic. "It's a challenge, but for the right person it's a tremendous opportunity and will be a wonderful experience."

Jim Williams has been an active member in the local theater community for 38 years. In recent years, Williams directed the acclaimed productions of "Grace & Glorie," "Off the Map," and "Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church" at Willits Community Theatre. He says this upcoming play by David W. Rintels is based on the book "Clarence Darrow for the Defense" by Irving Stone, and that it is "an important, relevant, engaging, and timely play. By spending 90 minutes with one of our country's most influential trial attorneys, I hope audiences will be inspired to believe that hope is still a possibility even in divisive, contentious times."

Auditions are by appointment only and will be held on March 19 in Ukiah at Ukiah Players Theatre, 1041 Low Gap Road, and March 20 in Willits at Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Proof of full vaccination status is required. Please call 707-462-9226 to arrange to pick up a script and get an audition time.

Performances will be in September, showing one weekend at Willits Community Theatre and one weekend at Ukiah Players Theatre.

"The production is an exciting collaboration between Willits Community Theatre and Ukiah Players Theatre," Williams says. "And I can't wait to discover who our Clarence Darrow will be!"

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counties remaining in that status in California.

"Mendocino has been in the highest level of both high transmission and high community levels," Coren said at his Friday press conference last week. "But I'm hopeful that in the next week or two that we'll pass to a medium risk level."

Dr. Coren said Friday there'd been a total 124 deaths attributed to COVID in Mendocino County. The last press release announcing deaths from Public Health detailed deaths #118 and #119, so specific information is not readily available regarding vaccination status or home location of the last five local deaths.

"So now after almost 24 months in this worldwide pandemic that's claimed almost 1 million lives in the United States alone," Coren said Friday, "we've seen lockdowns of everything but essential workers, when we were totally unprepared in any way to address this virus and the deaths that were coming down in 2020.

"Then whole industries and schools were closed, with gradual relaxation of restrictions, as lab tests became available and we developed more data and a better analysis, we focused our responses as we learned more.

"With the vaccines becoming available," Coren continued, "restrictions were safely lifted more, as more of the population was protected, and now we're getting effective treatments, and the mortality is dropping even further.

"For the most part masking will be a personal, informed decision," he said. "At this time in Mendocino County, while our risk to individuals and community remains high, I strongly recommend universal indoor masking."

Coren showed a slide from the Centers for Disease Control on Friday that compared "cumulative death rates" of populous states as of February 2022, including California, Texas, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois. California's cumulative death rate has been at the bottom throughout all but the beginning of the pandemic, with current data showing roughly 200 deaths per 100,000, compared to the two highest of the high-population states, Pennsylvania and Florida – both over 300 deaths per 100,000.

"The summary is," Dr. Coren concluded, "that we have seen our COVID cases falling remarkably in the last couple of weeks. There are many ways to look at these and other metrics, and other considerations, such as the threat of the new variant of concern, and these many considerations were used to decide and change our orders for universal indoor masking.

"But one of the most important considerations was the growth in our community," he said. "I think we've all learned a lot about the benefits of vaccines and masking and other orders regarding schools. So it's now time to change from orders and requirements to advice and recommendations.

"So today we're changing from the order for everyone to wear masks indoors to a strong recommendation, and that is commensurate with our risk levels, and at the same time we're all staying ready and continuing preparing to work smarter for the health of each other and the community, knowing that COVID is not over, but that we've risen together to meet the challenge."

Latest COVID data

As of the latest update by Mendocino County Public Health, posted Tuesday, March 8, "since last Friday, 38 new COVID cases were identified in Mendocino County," with the daily positive case rate up 1.62 to 14.54 (7 day average figure with a 7 day lag).

The Public Health dashboard reports there are 60,847 fully vaccinated people in Mendocino County, with a total of 1,352 post-vaccinated infections. The dashboard reports the "average vaccine efficacy in Mendocino County" is 97.778%. Dr. Coren reminded listeners at his Friday press conference that these official case numbers are based on reported PCR test results, not home tests which are not generally reported.

As of March 8, there's been a total of 12,931 cases of COVID reported in Mendocino County since the beginning of the pandemic, with 7,897 cases in the Ukiah area; 2,772 cases in the North County; 1,311 cases on the North Coast; 539 cases in the South County; and 422 cases on the South Coast.

Four more free tests

The COVIDtests.gov website announced this week Americans who've ordered their first set of four free COVID tests from the federal government are now eligible to order four more.

Tests can be ordered at <https://special.usps.com/testkits> -- or call 1-800-232-0233 or visit COVIDtests.gov for more information.

The tests available for order:

- Are rapid antigen at-home tests, not PCR
- Can be taken anywhere
- Give results within 30 minutes (no lab drop-off required)
- Work whether or not you have COVID-19 symptoms
- Work whether or not you are up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines
- Are also referred to as self-tests or over-the-counter (OTC) tests

According to COVIDtests.gov, you should take an at-home COVID test:

- If you begin having COVID-19 symptoms like fever, sore throat, runny nose, or loss of taste or smell, or
- At least 5 days after you come into close contact with someone with COVID-19, or
- When you're going to gather with a group of people, especially those who are at risk of severe disease or may not be up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines.

WPD arrests man after domestic violence call

By Sgt. S. Gray, for WPD

On February 12, 2022 at about 7:20 am, Willits Police Department officers were dispatched to the 1700 block of Elm Lane regarding a reported verbal domestic argument.

The female victim advised WPD Dispatch she had been shoved to the ground and her phone taken from her. The suspect, Derrick McCain, 28, of Willits was screaming and yelling in the background. McCain was also reported to have been consuming alcohol.

A WPD officer arrived and heard the verbal argument continuing inside the residence, with McCain making statements that he would violently assault the victim if she kept him from seeing their children. McCain exited the residence on his own accord, at which point the WPD Officer made contact with him.

McCain displayed objective signs of alcohol intoxication and was belligerent while he continued yelling at the victim from the front yard. McCain attempted to walk away, at which point he was detained.

The incident was precipitated due to the victim refusing to allow a heavily intoxicated McCain to take their children to the park.

During the course of the investigation, it was determined McCain had taken the victim's cell phone from out of her hands as she was actively speaking to the 911 operator (WPD Dispatch) before throwing the phone across the front yard. The victim's account was corroborated by a witness.

Two young children were present during the incident and a referral was made to Child Protective Services.

McCain was ultimately arrested and booked into the county jail for violation of 211 PC (Robbery), 422 PC (Criminal Threats), 591.5 PC (Obstructing/Preventing a 911 Call), 243(e)(1) PC (Domestic Battery), and 273a PC (Child Endangerment).

Covelo 17-year-old arrested for attempted murder

By Sergeant Wells, for MCSO

On March 5, 2022, at about 3:05 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a local business in the 76000 block of Highway 162 in Covelo.

The deputies were advised there had been an altercation at the location and a subject had been stabbed in the neck.

Round Valley Fire personnel arrived prior to deputies arriving and transported the victim (a 44-year-old adult male from Covelo) to the Round Valley Airport. The victim was flown to an out-of-county hospital for medical treatment.

The suspect left the scene prior to the deputies' arrival, but deputies learned the suspect was a 17-year-old male juvenile from Covelo.

It appeared the victim and suspect got into an argument and began physically fighting, when the suspect produced a weapon. The weapon was used to inflict the victim's injury.

Deputies were able to locate and arrest the juvenile male for attempted murder (664/187 PC) and assault with a deadly weapon (245(A)(1) PC).

The juvenile male was booked into the Mendocino County Juvenile Detention Center.

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In the motor-home, deputies located a fully loaded 9mm rifle with characteristics of an assault-style rifle. This rifle did not have any serial numbers, and the barrel was only 8 inches in length.

Goforth was arrested on charges of: 25850(C)(4) PC (Possession loaded firearm by prohibited person); 30605(A) PC (Possession of an assault weapon); 11550(E) HS (Possession of firearm while under the influence); 25400(C)(4) PC (Carry a concealed weapon); 33215 PC (Manufacture short barreled rifle); 21310 PC (Carry concealed dirk or dagger); and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation)

Goforth was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$15,000.00 bail.

The rest of **Shooting** | From Page 1

barricading himself inside.

WPD officers, with the assistance of Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies, arrived and attempted to make contact with the suspect via their patrol vehicles' public address system. Rogers-Wood ultimately exited from the house and surrendered about 15 minutes later. He was arrested without incident.

There were no injuries sustained by any of the individuals involved or by responding law enforcement officers.

Officers recovered shell casings, the firearm was recovered, and two separate bullet impacts were located on scene. As the direction of fire was east towards the Baechtel Grove Middle School fields, WPD officers canvassed the area of the school and were unable to locate the third outstanding bullet impact on the school grounds or elsewhere. School was not in session at the time.

Rogers-Wood was arrested and booked into county jail for multiple felony charges of 245(a)(2) PC (Assault with a Deadly Weapon – Firearm), 246 PC (Shooting into an Occupied Vehicle), 246.3 PC (Negligent Discharge of a Firearm), and 273a PC (Child Endangerment).

The Willits Police Department would like to thank the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office for their valuable assistance in this case.

NARCAN® saves life after mental health crisis

By Sgt. J. Elmore, for MCSO

On March 6, 2022 at approximately 10:33 am, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to an adult male suffering from a mental health crisis at a residence in Hopland.

Deputies were advised the adult male had attempted to commit suicide via various means.

Deputies responded to the location along with a mental health rehabilitation specialist (Mobile Crisis Unit partnership between Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and Mendocino County Mental Health with Measure B funding for crisis workers).

Deputies arrived and contacted the spouse of the adult male, who stated he had ultimately ingested a large amount of opioid pain pills (Hydrocodone). Deputies requested an ambulance to respond to the scene.

Deputies and the mental health specialist observed the adult male exit his residence, and they attempted to speak with him from a distance so they did not provoke any violent reaction from him.

The adult male spoke with deputies and the mental health specialist for a short time.

Deputies then noticed the adult male's physical demeanor change drastically. Deputies noted the adult male became very lethargic and he ultimately began to collapse in the driveway.

Deputies approached the adult male and began to evaluate his condition. Deputies noted the adult male had stopped breathing and only had a faint pulse.

Deputies administered a single 4mg dose of NARCAN® Nasal spray to the adult male and noted his pulse became stronger for a short time, but he was still not breathing.

Deputies then administered a second 4mg dose of NARCAN® Nasal spray to the adult male and again noted an improvement in his pulse. The adult male also began taking shallow breaths.

Medical personnel arrived a short time later and took over life-saving measures on the adult male.

The adult male was ultimately transported to a medical facility for both mental health and medical treatment.

In April 2019 the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office began to issue NARCAN® (Naloxone HCl) nasal spray dosage units to its employees as part of their assigned personal protective equipment. MCSO's goal is in protecting the public and officers from opioid overdoses.

Access to naloxone is now considered vital in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control. NARCAN® nasal spray units are widely known to reverse opioid overdose situations in adults and children. Each nasal spray device contains a 4 milligram dose. Naloxone Hydrochloride, more commonly known by the brand name NARCAN®, blocks the life-threatening effects of opioid overdose (both medications and narcotics) including extreme drowsiness, slowed breathing, or loss of consciousness.

The antidote can reverse the effects of an overdose for up to an hour, but anyone who administers the overdose reversal medication in a non-medical setting is advised to seek emergency medical help right away. The spray units can also be used by Public Safety professionals who are unknowingly or accidentally exposed to potentially fatal amounts of fentanyl from skin absorption or inhalation.

The issuance of the NARCAN® nasal units, thus far, have been to employees assigned to the Field Services Division and the Mendocino County Jail medical staff. Employees are required to attend user training prior to being issued the medication.

Mendocino County Sheriff Matthew C. Kendall would like to thank Mendocino County HHS Public Health for providing the NARCAN® nasal units to the Sheriff's Office free of charge as part of the Free NARCAN® Grant from the California Department of Public Health.

Since the April 2019 issuance, there have now been nine separate situations wherein Mendocino County Sheriff's Office patrol sergeants/deputies have administered NARCAN and saved the lives of nine people in need of the life-saving antidote medication.

In October 2021 the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office received a grant from the California Naloxone Distribution Project through the Department of Health Care Services to help maintain an inventory of the NARCAN® nasal spray.

The 192 dosage units will be distributed to the Field Services Division and Corrections Division as current inventories from Mendocino County HHS Public Health are being exhausted.

Sheriff Matthew C. Kendall would like to thank the California Naloxone Distribution Project through the Department of Health Care Services for awarding the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office with the Naloxone grant to better help protect his employees and the public.

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'The Batman'

The Story: This won't surprise you, but I have to say it: Gotham City is a cesspool of political corruption. Only the gothically bedecked vigilante Bruce Wayne (Robert Pattinson) is chill enough to clean up the city. But unbeknownst to him, to The Batman, he has a fan who shares his disgust, a smirking homicidal ally we all know well: he is The Riddler. A madman who executes his (corrupt) victims in grotesquely sadistic and unsanitary ways. Even bad guys don't deserve what The Riddler does.

Meanwhile, the seductive Selina Kyle (Zoë Kravitz), who has many cats, is searching for her missing party girl roommate, and she's got a "thing" for the ascetic Batman. It seems to me, and I'm not alone in this, that Bruce Wayne prefers suffering to love. But I won't spoil the suspense. Maybe they'll even kiss.

My Thoughts: This amazing flick is three hours long. It's not all Batmobile car chases and fisticuffs. There's lots of plot talk and sneaking about in dimly lit rooms and corridors. And then, there are scenes lit only by the muzzle flashes of automatic and semi-automatic weapons.

Dramatically, Pattinson truly holds the screen. In his face we see a man beyond Fear and maybe beyond Love, just barely enduring the pain-filled world. Happiness? Who needs it! Three hours long, and I was never bored. I was mesmerized. (Shout out to writer/director Matt Reeves!)

Parents: Too brutal for children. And way too long for juvenile attention spans.

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



Dan Essman
Columnist



Clever Roger

Looking for a new best friend? Roger That!

Your search ends here, folks! Roger is new on the scene and a big old lover boy. He comes to us from Bones Pet Rescue and we can't wait to get to know him, or better yet – for YOU to get to know him! So far we have learned he is treat-motivated, learns quickly, and knows a few commands. If you would like to foster or adopt Roger, head over to www.mendohumanesociety.com today and fill out our application!

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



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Friendly Finn

Finn really is a great boy. He is sweet and we think he would do well in a home with children. Finn is 2 years old, neutered, and is a brown and white tabby.

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



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Sugar is looking for her happily ever-after with dog parents who are willing to help train and socialize her. She has a wary side when it comes to strangers, but with the right amount of treats and loving, she is a total delight to have around. This 3-year-old cutie will make sure to be the most loyal and goofy best friend you'll ever need. Sugar does great with commands and is good with most dogs, but would do best on individual play dates to help her warm up to new human individuals. Sugar would prefer an adult-only home with dog experience that can give her the TLC she deserves as she works on becoming the confident girl she strives to be.

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



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