

## Supes to 'streamline' pot permit process

Forrest Glyer  
Reporter  
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On Tuesday the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved moving forward with a plan to "streamline" their cannabis application process, asking California's Department of Cannabis Control to take a more active role in oversight of regulations with the frequently criticized county program.

Specifically, the item approved unanimously by the board on March 14 was to "remove or streamline the requirement for issuance of local permit for cannabis cultivation while retaining all

Read the rest of **Permit**  
Over on Page 15

## City asks residents to weigh in on land use update

Submitted by  
City of Willits

The City of Willits is currently working on an update to the General Plan Land Use Element. This element has not been comprehensively updated since 1982. State law has established the General Plan as the "constitution" for developing land within a city for a planning period of 20 years or more.

As part of this update, the City of Willits will also be looking closely at development potential outside of the City that could be added to its "Sphere of Influence." Together

Read the rest of **Update**  
Over on Page 13

## Recent changes in COVID health orders

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

March 15 – The California Department of Public Health recently ended many of the COVID-19 orders that have been in place since the pandemic began in 2020. In recent months, Mendocino County has deferred to CDPH health orders, so this advisory is meant to inform our community about recent changes.

Starting March 13, 2023:

1. Close contacts without symptoms are recommended to test as soon as possible after day 1 of exposure. If they test positive, they are infectious and should isolate. If they are within 30 days of a prior infection, testing is not recommended. Health care workers who are close

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

Soroptimist International of Willits members gather together to show off the 2023 phone book including, from left: Heidi Ahders, Vicki Ham, Barbara O'Reardon, Marilyn Harden, Kitty Norris and Fran Schatz.



Photos by  
Maureen Jennison

# Bee the Dream

## Annual copy of the Soroptimist International of Willits' Community Telephone Directory out now

2023 marks the 51st annual printing of the Soroptimist International of Willits' Community Telephone Directory. This year's theme: "Bee the Dream" reflects on the cover. Advertisers fund the book each year, making scholarships possible to give out to the community helping the non-profit to encourage women and girls to "Bee the Dream" and reach their goals. Get copies of the book at the Willits Library, the Savings Bank of Mendocino County and inside today's edition of Willits Weekly!


Below, left and center: Bejeweled and buzzy bees on pins and scarves and watchbands all bring home the idea of this year's theme: "Bee the Dream."

Below, right: Vicki Ham's "Bee the Dream!" Soroptimist Founder Region Governor pin.

Photo by Vicki Ham



# For the Love of Lemon



## Luscious Lemon Bars

These were a hit at Zarya's wedding. There were many requests for the recipe, so here it is. It's great with or without the lemon glaze. Making two pans is a good idea because they don't last long!

**Crust:**  
1/2 cup butter, softened  
1/4 cup brown sugar  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1 cups flour

**Filling:**  
2 eggs, beaten  
1 cups sugar  
1/4 tsp. baking powder  
2 Tbsp. flour  
2 Tbsp. lemon juice  
zest of one lemon

**Glaze:**  
1/2 cup powdered sugar  
2 Tbsp. lemon juice

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

For the crust, combine all of the ingredients well. Press into an 8-x-8-inch pan. Bake for 20 minutes.

While the crust is baking, mix all the filling ingredients until smooth. Pour over the top of the hot crust. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes until the filling is set. Remove from the oven and cool.

Mix the glaze ingredients together until smooth. Drizzle over the lemon bars. Allow the glaze to set. Cut into 15 squares.

Like everything that comes from the kitchen of Emandal - A Farm on a River, the Luscious Lemon Bars recipe from their "Sweet Times at Emandal" cookbook is no-surprise fantastic and the perfect way to celebrate the lemon season we're smack dab in the middle of now!

If you're feeling brave, knock on the door of a house with an overflowing lemon tree and ask if they'll share (personal experience is almost always a yes!) or get local lemons at Mariposa Market, or order lemons from the Mendo Lake Food Hub.

Emandal's Tam Adams noted: "We've found that if you beat the eggs and sugar well ... for a couple of minutes ... before adding the rind and juice, they tend to solidify a bit better. Kashaya took some cookies to a friend the other day, and their 13-year-old son said: "You can leave the chocolate chip with my mom and dad, but you've GOT to leave the lemon bars with me!"

They're that good.  
– Maureen Jennison



Photos by  
Maureen Jennison

## School board pauses on labor agreements

Margi Gomez Guhde  
Features Writer  
margi@willitsweekly.com

After a closed session, the public portion of the Willits Unified School District board meeting was gavelled in at 5:04 pm.

Board President Paula Nunez began with tenets of behavior mutually agreed upon by the board, including maintaining ethical standards and trust, working as a team for the common good, engaging the public, and staying focused on student

Read the rest of **Agreements**  
Over on Page 13

## Willits projects included in Caltrans' local safety funds

Submitted by Caltrans District 1

On March 9, Caltrans District 1 announced more than \$225 million in awards for local projects in District 1, designed to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries on city and county roads. Funding is provided through the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program.

"Safety is always Caltrans' top priority," said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. "These projects will enhance systemwide safety features, including enhancing safety for people who walk and bike, and move us closer to our vision

Read the rest of **Caltrans**  
Over on Page 13

## Smoke alarms in working order save lives

Submitted by CAL FIRE HQ

Sacramento – On March 12, Californians turned their clocks forward, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is taking the opportunity to remind everyone to check their smoke alarms and replace the batteries in older alarms.

While new smoke alarms now come with 10-year batteries, CAL FIRE recommends that Californians test their smoke alarm monthly to ensure they are in good working order. Replace all smoke alarms after 10 years.

A study done by the

Read the rest of **Alarms**  
Over on Page 13



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Thank you

To the Editor:

On behalf of the activists who braved January's atmospheric rivers to save the Potter Valley eagles' nest tree, Redwood Nation Earth First! would like to thank Mary Anne Trevey and Mariposa Market for her generous donation of food supplies to the effort.

The nonviolent activists, including elders of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Potter Valley neighbors and many local Mendocino supporters, as well as volunteers from Humboldt and Sonoma counties, greatly appreciated the produce and other items she sent to the site. The hot veggie soups they made helped them stand strong through the torrential rains and kept their spirits high.

The good news is, after the PG&E crew that came to cut down the occupied nest tree was nonviolently turned away and U.S. Fish and Wildlife rescinded the permit under pressure from Congressman Huffman, and lawyers for EPIC and Center for Biological Diversity weighed in, PG&E top executives saw the light and decided not only to save the tree but also to put the offending power lines underground at company expense, a win for all parties!

Eagles have been maintaining and embellishing the nest in this tree for almost four decades and by now have built a veritable mansion in its branches! As of this writing, the tree is still standing and the prospective eagle parents are sitting on the nest.

Thank you, Mary Anne! Community support makes such miracles possible.

Naomi Wagner, Willits

## Savings Bank to transform Willits Banking Center

**Submitted by Savings Bank of Mendocino County**

The excitement is building at Savings Bank of Mendocino County! On Friday, March 31, the Willits Banking Center will be temporarily closed for one day as the transformation of the lobby begins. Regular hours will resume on Monday, April 3, 2023.

The walk-up and drive-up ATMs are available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week, and the drive-up Video Teller is available from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Thursday and until 6 pm on Fridays. The hours of operation in the lobby will remain unchanged during the remodel.

"We are proud of the transformation that will soon be underway and are excited about the new space we're creating", said Denise Roumbanis, Savings Bank chief operations officer. "We feel it will be a more comfortable and efficient environment for customers and employees and will allow us to provide a new brand of personalized service by spending more time focusing exclusively on our customers' needs."

The new lobby will feature the removal of the physical barriers between staff and their customers, creating a more open, comfortable space to do

Read the rest of SBMC Over on page 13

## The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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## Senior Center menu for the week

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

**Thursday, March 16; Tuna Salad Sandwich, Macaroni Salad, Pickle**

**Friday, March 17:** Corned Beef and Cabbage for St. Patrick's Day

**Monday, March 20:** Chicken Bacon Ranch Sandwich, Chips, Pickle

**Tuesday, March 21:** Carnitas Burrito, wet w/Green Sauce

**Wednesday, March 22:** Corned Beef Hash, Eggs, Biscuit

**Thursday, March 23:** Philly Cheese Steak, Mac & Cheese, Veggie

**Friday, March 24:** Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll

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

**Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am; March pancake breakfast is set for Sunday, March 12. Menu choices:** 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them, and choice of sausage or bacon. 2. Biscuits & Gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them. \$8; \$7 Senior Center members; \$6 children under 8. Extra meat sides: 3 slices bacon, \$2; 3 sausage links, \$2.

**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.

## 'Building Community #2,' March 19

About four dozen community-minded folks met on Feb. 5 at the new Firehouse, for the first "Building Community" meeting, exploring ways to cross-pollinate among diverse groups and issues.

Meeting #2 is set for Sunday, March at 4 pm at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. We expect to focus on several issue areas:

- Housing (especially the immediate need for a Warming Center)
- Health (more accessible & affordable options)
- Local Food/Agriculture
- Youth & Senior Resources; and
- Business Support

Together with community partners, we'll be identifying what's already underway, do-able next projects, and how to move those forward. Come join in building the resilience and health of our community!

For more info contact Jane at Janemccabe1944@gmail.com or Madge at mstrong@willitsonline.com

## Almost out of the woods?

**Posted by Mendocino Sheriff**

March 13 – The latest round of winter weather has brought some extreme challenges to Mendocino County. Although we aren't out of the woods yet, I am hopeful we are getting close.

I am always grateful for the support our communities show our deputies. Today I am very grateful for the support our residents have shown each other.

From the Department of Transportation to our local and state fire agencies, we have all been stretched thin during trying times.

Our community volunteers and several good stewards bridged many gaps for us.

They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb – I hope that old saying holds true this year.

Again thank you from all of us at the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

– Sheriff Matt Kendall

## Los cambios recientes de las órdenes de COVID-19

Presentado por El Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Mendocino

15 de marzo – El Departamento de Salud Pública de California (CDPH, por sus siglas en inglés) canceló en días recientes muchas de las órdenes de COVID-19 que habían estado vigentes desde que comenzó la pandemia en 2020. En los últimos meses, el Condado de Mendocino ha aplazado las órdenes de salud de CDPH, por lo que este aviso es dedicado a informar a nuestra comunidad sobre los cambios recientes.

A partir del 13 de marzo de 2023:

I. Se recomienda a los contactos cercanos sin síntomas que se hagan la prueba lo antes posible, después del primer día de exposición. Si resultan positivos, son infecciosos y deben aislarse. Si están dentro de los 30 días de una infección previa, no se recomienda realizarse la prueba. Los trabajadores de la salud que son contactos cercanos (sin síntomas) deben hacerse la prueba los días 1, 3 y 5 (pero sin restricciones laborales).

II. Se recomienda que las personas que resulten positivos o sean diagnosticadas con COVID por un médico se aislen durante cinco días. Si no hay fiebre durante 24 horas (sin uso de medicamento) y los síntomas son resueltos, pueden regresar al trabajo o a la escuela usando una mascarilla bien ajustada hasta el día 10 (el primer día es desde la prueba positiva o la aparición de síntomas). Pueden dejar de utilizar la mascarilla después de dos días consecutivos de pruebas negativas, después del quinto día. Si los síntomas regresan, vuelva a realizarse la prueba y, si es positivo, comience el aislamiento nuevamente.

III. No son recomendables las pruebas de detección de rutina.

A partir del 3 de abril de 2023:

IV. No se requieren vacunas ni refuerzos, pero aún así son recomendables para todas las personas mayores de seis meses, ya que han sido muy eficaces para prevenir enfermedades graves. Los requisitos de vacunación continuarán para algunos trabajadores de alto riesgo y en los lugares de trabajo cubiertos por MediCal/Medicare.

V. CDPH ya no exige el USO DE LA MASCARILLA, pero debe considerarse su uso entre las personas de la tercera edad, los inmunocomprometidos y los miembros de su hogar. Es recomendable el uso de la mascarilla cuando el Nivel Comunitario (NC) de los CDC es intermedio y se recomienda enfáticamente cuando el NC es alto.

VI. Para las escuelas, no hay nuevas órdenes: Los estudiantes están cubiertos como lo estaría el resto de la comunidad. Los maestros y el personal deben seguir las normas de Cal-OSHA.

VIII. Los trabajadores de la salud en centros de atención médica y enfermería especializada están cubiertos por AFL 21.08.9 y AFL 22.13.1, respectivamente.

VIII. Las pruebas rápidas en el hogar no necesitan ser reportadas.

IX. Tratamientos: Comuníquese con su proveedor médico, visite Sesame Care o llame al 833- 686-5057.

El Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Mendocino y CDPH han utilizado la ciencia para guiar nuestras estrategias de salud durante la pandemia. Los esfuerzos de Salud Pública y de la comunidad para comprender esta pandemia están ayudando a prevenir infecciones graves y proteger a las personas vulnerables, por lo que ahora es posible realizar cambios en las órdenes de salud.



Above, from left: Post Bill Ray recites poetry and remembrances of the life of Mary Korte. One of the photographic memories of a young Mary Korte. Iris Cushing reads some of Mary Korte's poetry.

At far left: Deni O'Shea, Korte's niece, and Marla Korte, Mary's sister, came to pay their respects. At left: Mary Korte was an ex-nun and her interest in native culture was in evidence in this collection seen here.

Below, left: Approximately 50 friends and admirers attend the gathering.

Below, right: Attendees of Mary Korte's memorial reminisce and watch photos of her life.

Photos by Mathew Caine



# Mary Korte Memorial

Local poet and activist remembered for a life well-lived by many friends and family

The pieces of a beautiful, creative and dynamic life were in evidence at the memorial for poet and activist Mary Norbert Korte. They could be heard in the memories of all of her many friends and associates as they spoke to each other about her life. They could be seen in the books and snippets of her work that were displayed at the tables.

The old photos, of her past life as a nun and Earth First member, added to the puzzle of her life that came together on this rainy Sunday at the Little Lake Grange. Although all who knew her were saddened by her passing, there were not many tears as the attendees chose to focus on the positive aspects of Korte's life and work.

Old and new friends mourned her passing but found strength and beauty in her words and the example of how she lived her life, on her own terms, with humility and humor, an inspiration to all who had the honor to have their lives touched in proximity to this creative force.

"I was Mary's good friend, caretaker," said Brittney Johnson. "I've known her for about 13 years and I've been taking care of her for about five years. I know Mary from her home. A lot of these people know a Mary that is famous. The Mary who is in between is the one we are all celebrating. She was everything. I am blessed to have had her in my life and to be a part of it. She has a big part of my heart."

Korte was a nun, until she found a different calling in the '70s, with the hippies and activists who were trying their best to save the planet from pollution, war and greed. She

ended up living on several acres on Irmulco Road at a complex she called Sanctuary Station, a place she shared with many friends in symbiotic relationships, friends who would help her work the land in return for a space in which they could reside.

"Mary has been a good friend of mine for about 15 years now," said Chris Cichacki. "I've lived on her land, Sanctuary Station, the land she bought back in the 1970s. Fifteen years ago, I ended up at Irmulco for a trim job and we ended up helping her do some things in her garden. Mary offered to give us a place to live if we helped her with the land.

"I'm a musician," said Cichacki. "Seeing how other people share their view of the world through songs and poems and stories was really inspiring. I'm very grateful for everything I shared with her. She inspired her students at Sanhedrin to be themselves. 'So what if you're not doing very well in school,' she would say. 'What about art? What about poems? What about music? What are you good at? What's your passion?' She was good at finding people's gift and pulling it out."

Iris Cushing heard about Mary Korte as a graduate student in New York and made it a goal to meet and get to know her. Cushing and Jason Weiss edited her latest book of poetry, "Jumping Into the American River."

"Her poetry is magical because it is a document of a life lived but at the same time it is a poetry of ancestral forest

Read the rest of Memorial Over on page 15

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707-459-6826





Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page
Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

9x9 grid for Sudoku puzzle

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

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

BAKING TREATS WORD SEARCH
Grid containing letters for word search puzzle

BAKING ICING SIFTED
BROWN INGREDIENTS STIR
BUTTER LEAVENER SUGAR
CAKE MIXER SWEET
CONFECTION OIL TASTE
COOKIES OVEN TEMPERATURE
DESSERT RISE TEST
EGGS SHEET WHIP

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-60

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Belonging to a thing
4. Pass or go by
10. Partner to cheese
11. Subjects
12. U.S. State (abbr.)
14. Bits per inch
15. Forest-dwelling deer
16. Illinois city
18. A salt or ester of acetic acid
22. Wholly unharmed
23. Cuddled
24. Bane
26. Global investment bank (abbr.)
27. Oh my gosh!
28. Arrive
30. Famed Spanish artist
31. Home of 'Frontline'
34. Group of quill feathers
36. Keyboard key
37. Army training group
39. Detail
40. Pole with flat blade

- 41. Football play
42. Makes unhappy
48. Island in Hawaii
50. Back in business
51. Of an individual
52. Painful chest condition
53. Tropical American monkey
54. Matchstick game
55. For instance
56. Even again
58. Popular beverage
59. Evaluate
60. Time units (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Stain one's hands
2. Nocturnal hoofed animals
3. Back condition
4. Popular movie alien
5. City of Angels
6. Peaks
7. Infantry weapons
8. Left

- 9. Atomic #99
12. Told a good yarn
13. Vale
17. Resistance unit
19. Aquatic plant
20. Bluish greens
21. About some Norse poems
25. Reinforces
29. Egyptian mythological goddess
31. Supportive material
32. Subatomic particle
33. Expired bread
35. Cereal grain
38. Goes against
41. Walkie \_\_\_
43. One who does not accept
44. Beliefs
45. Indicates near
46. Brazilian NBA star
47. Grab quickly
49. Romantic poet
56. College dorm worker
57. Set of data

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

February 19 to February 26
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 71 incidents in this 8-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

February 19
7:27 pm: M C G H E E , Douglas Carl (63) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Sherwood Road and North Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 Percent or Higher), 23578 VC (Enhanced DUI Penalty for Excessive Blood Alcohol Content or Test Refusal), and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher.



Keir Ramos of Willits.

1:43 pm: RAMOS, Keir Gesten (51) of Willits was contacted in the 1200 block of Locust Street. He was arrested on felony charges of lewd or lascivious acts upon a child under 14 years of age, molesting a victim under 18 years of age, touching of intimate parts of another against their will, willful cruelty to a child, and on misdemeanor charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

7:40 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:27 pm: SAWBOH, Amber Dawn (41) of Myers Flat was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 148.9 PC (Providing False Identification to an Officer), 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

10:18 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Nancy Lane.

February 20
2:26 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

7:26 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

February 21
1:09 pm: FACKRELL II, Robert Frederick (36) of Ukiah was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11377 (A) HS (Possession of Methamphetamine), 11364 (A) HS (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), 11350 (A) HS (Possession of a Controlled Substance), and 30305 (A) (1) PC (Felon in Possession of Ammunition).

9:09 pm: BOTELLO, Juan Alfonso (30) of Sacramento was contacted near the intersection of Holly Street and Magnolia Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 21310 PC (Carrying a Concealed Dirk or Dagger) and 14601.2 VC (Driving with a Suspended License for DUI).

February 22
5:23 pm: DONAHUE II, Roland Eugene (36) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 200 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of causing a fire and damaging property belonging to another.

February 23
4:21 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

The rest of COVID From page 1

contacts (without symptoms) must test on days 1, 3, and 5 (but no work restrictions).

II. People who test positive or are diagnosed with COVID by a clinician are recommended to isolate for 5 days. If no fever for 24 hours (without medication) and symptoms are resolving, they may return to work or school wearing a well-fitting mask until the 10th day (Day 1 is positive test of onset of symptoms). They may test out of masking with two consecutive days of negative tests after day 5. If symptoms return, re-test and if positive start isolation again.

III. Routine screening tests are not recommended.

Starting April 3, 2023:

IV. Vaccines and boosters are not required but still recommended for all people over 6 months old as they have been very effective at preventing severe disease. Vaccine requirements will continue for some high-risk workers and in MediCal/Medicare-covered workplaces.

V. MASKING is no longer required by CDPH but should be considered for the elderly, the immunocompromised, and their household members. Masking is recommended when the CDC Community Level (CL) is intermediate and strongly recommended when CL is high.

VI. For schools, there are no new orders: Students are covered as the rest of the community would be. Teachers and staff must follow Cal-OSHA regulations.

VII. Health care workers in acute care and skilled nursing facilities are covered by AFL 21.08.9 and by AFL 22.13.1 respectively

VIII. Home tests taken by the individual themselves do not need to be reported. Tests performed by health care providers will continue to be reported.

IX. Treatments: Contact your provider, visit Sesame Care, or call 833-686-5057.

Mendocino County Department of Public Health and CDPH have used science to guide our health strategies throughout the pandemic. The Public Health and community efforts to understand this pandemic are helping prevent serious infections and protect vulnerable people, so changes to the health orders are now possible.

Editor's Note: Mendocino County's Public Health Officer Andy Coren holds his monthly online press conference on Friday, March 17, starting at 2 pm. It can be viewed on the "Mendocino County Public Health" page on Facebook or on the "Mendocino County Video" page on youtube.com.



Above: Maureen, Maggie and Matthew Jennison and their kazoos were ready to see Raffi. Below: Raffi, now 74, played in concert for multiple generations of fans.



Jennison Journeys |

Voyage to Vancouver
A children's concert to delight new 'Baby Belugas,' and us old 'Beluga Grads' alike, creates Canadian adventure weekend

There we stood, kazoos in hand at the doors of The Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver, Canada on a Friday afternoon. The toddler was full of pre-game applesauce and in a generally good mood, the husband was finding his highest level of tolerance for the 65-minute concert ahead, and the toddler inside me was brimming with excitement to hear "Baby Beluga" from the mouth of the originator – my favorite childhood singer.

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

1:16 pm: SIMMONS, James Keith (32) of Laytonville was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole and on misdemeanor charges of providing false identification to an officer.

February 26
11:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and West Highway 20 and issued a citation.

11:56 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the South Willits Bypass and issued a citation.

"Yes? Can I help you?" he said.
"We're here to see RAFFII!" I almost screamed in excitement.

"Oh?" said the man with mild confusion creeping into his eyebrows. "There's nothing going on here today, ma'am.... It's a dark day."

Panic rushed to my eyebrows as I considered that the entire purpose of insisting we travel internationally with a 19-month-old on a whirlwind weekend north had just lost its main purpose.

I looked at my husband. He looked at me. I looked at the janitor. He looked at my husband. The toddler honked on the kazoo. My husband looked at me.

I looked at the ticket loaded on the phone in my hand.

"Get ready for Live! Let's make sure you're all set!" the ticket announced above an older portrait of Raffi, now 74, on the screen. Just below, the date showed boldly: "Sat, March 4, 2 pm."

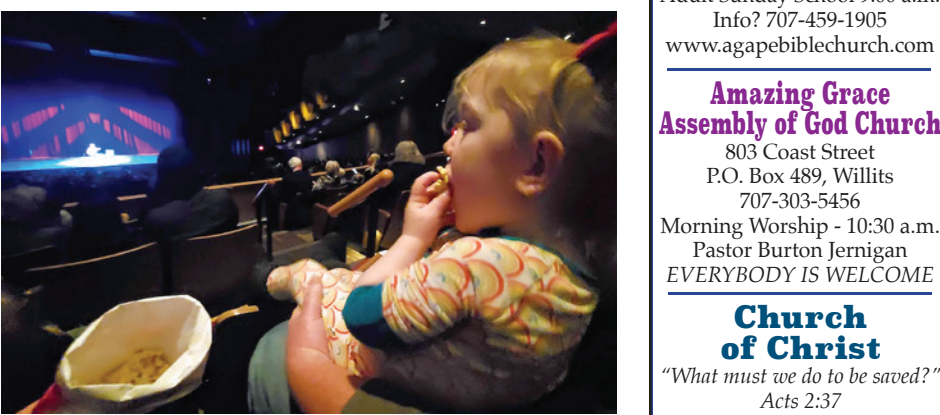
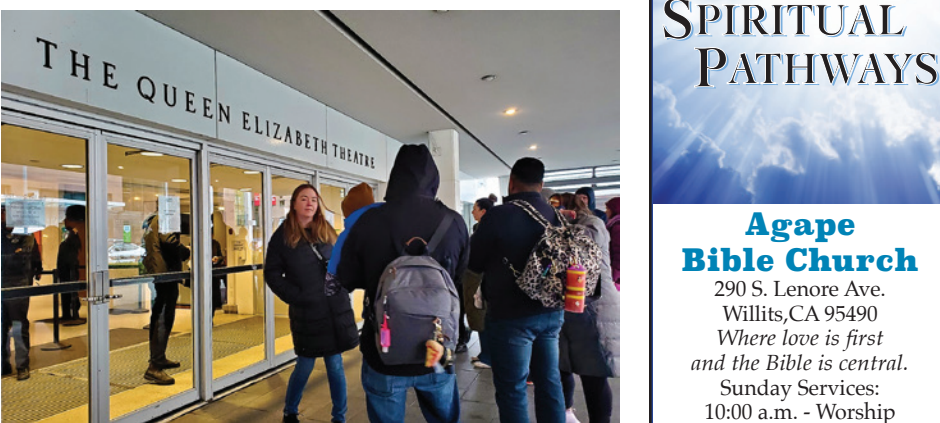
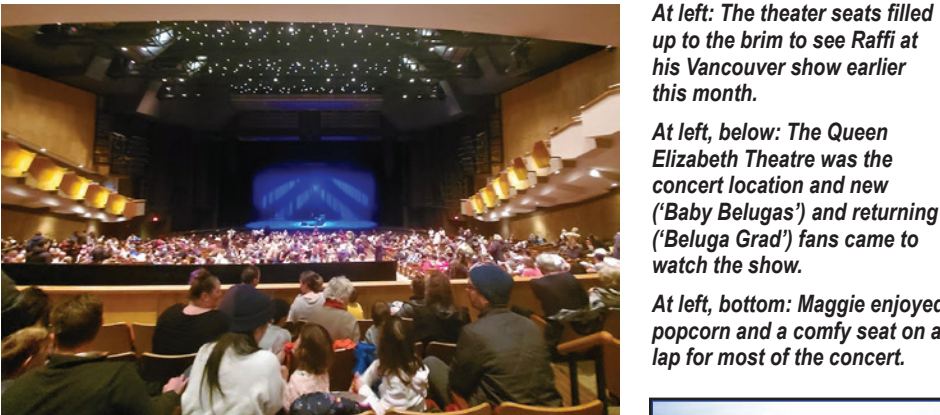
"Please don't divorce me," I half-joked to my husband who, in relief that we hadn't made the switch backwards and REALLY blown the vacation schedule, managed to say to the janitor: "Well, I guess we'll be back tomorrow."

Look, travel makes me anxious. I'm a Capricorn, and I like a level of predictable routine. The prospect of traveling with a (thus far, amazingly behaved) toddler makes me more anxious. Thankfully, my husband's good-natured spirit and willingness to not hold grudges (haha) allowed my mortifying snafu to go by quickly, and we decided to make the best of the second half of the day, feeling assured that Friday's dry run would allow for even smoother sailing Saturday, when the concert actually was.

Just to be clear, yes, Matthew, Magnolia and I did plan a whole trip to Vancouver around seeing a Raffi concert. I know, it's a little crazy, but it was for me and her to enjoy together, and something I would have loved when I was younger after having worn OUT the Raffi cassette that was ever-present in the car.

Read the rest of Raffi Over on page 6

American Legion Post 174 Willits
ST. PATRICK'S DAY FEAST
March 18, 2023
5:00 PM • 7:00 PM
Corned Beef & Cabbage, Spuds, Etc.
Veteran's Memorial Building • 191 N. Main • Willits
Adults \$25 each • Children \$12,00 each 12 & under. Under 5 free.



In addition to the Raffi concert, lots of other fun was had including visiting the Gastown Steam Clock, above, which is powered only by steam; a stand-alone Toys"R"Us store, below, which, despite having lots and lots of items on the shelves still felt a little different than the flourishing American stores of our memory. While the weather was just cloudy during the vacation, snowfall that dropped earlier was still piled up everywhere, including this rooftop parking lot.

At bottom: The dramatic sky and reflective water made the Vancouver skyline a lovely site to see.



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At left: The theater seats filled up to the brim to see Raffi at his Vancouver show earlier this month.

At left, below: The Queen Elizabeth Theatre was the concert location and new 'Baby Belugas' and returning 'Beluga Grad' fans came to watch the show.

At left, bottom: Maggie enjoyed popcorn and a comfy seat on a lap for most of the concert.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadham
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment: 4:59-5:02
Sunday Mass inside: 9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
We welcome All Walks of Faith

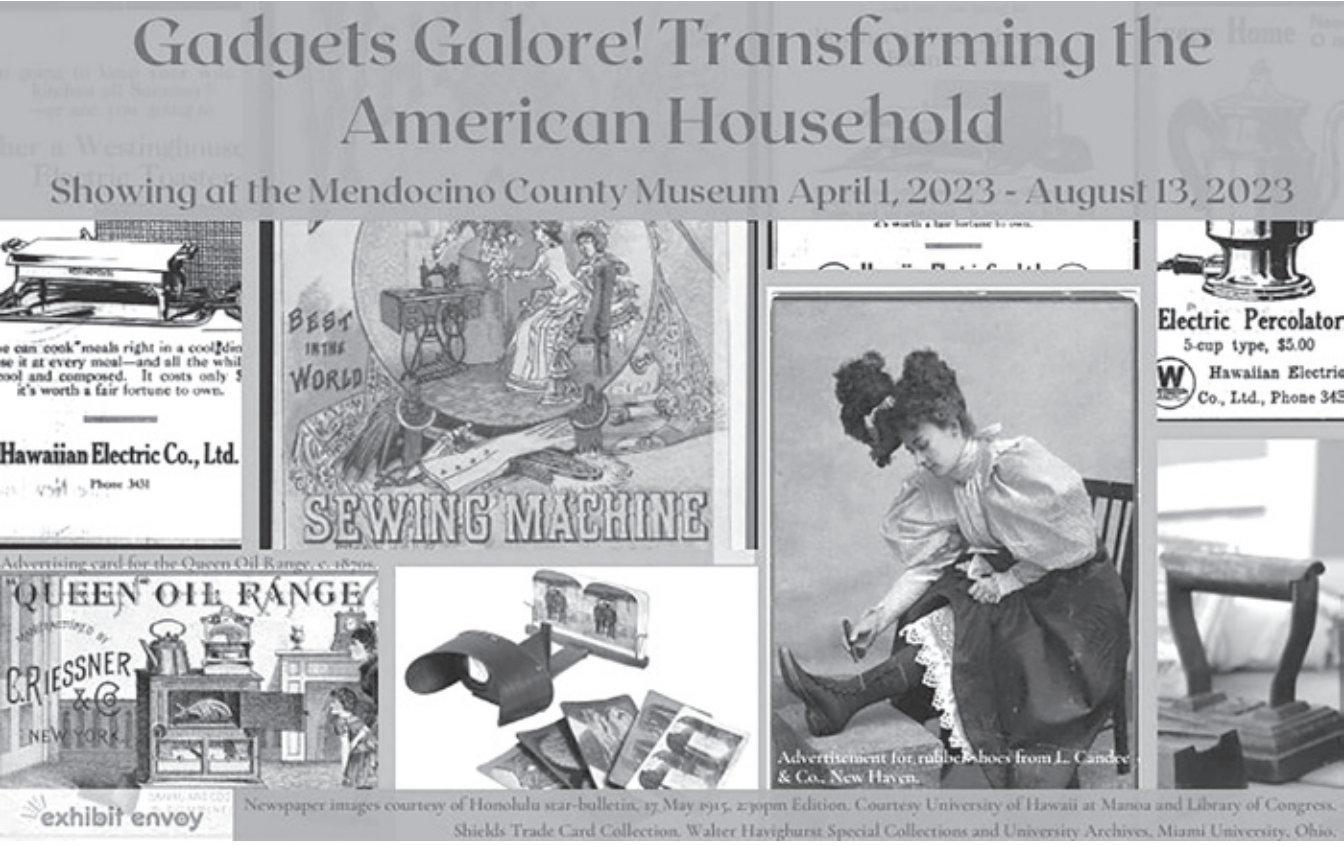
St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-272-0177
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

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
Saturdays
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
399 W. Mendocino Ave.
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort where all are welcome
Pastor Rosemary Landry
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@willitsonline.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook facebook willits umc
If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com





## New exhibition ‘Gadgets Galore!’ opening soon at Mendocino County Museum

**Submitted by Mendocino County Museum**

Our new exhibition “Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household” at Mendocino County Museum reveals hidden histories of everyday objects. Truly a family experience, you won’t want to miss the chance to explore this fun hands-on exhibit!

Possers, stereoscopes, and graphophones? At one time, each of these gadgets was an invention – the latest and greatest item, and one everyone wanted to own. Uncover the histories of these strange objects and learn how their invention led to the gadgets that are integral to our lives today, through the traveling exhibition “Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household” on display at Mendocino County Museum from April 1, 2023, to August 13, 2023.

Various gadgets, both recognizable and strange, will be on display in “Gadgets Galore!,” illustrating how industrialization transformed every American household in the 19th century. The invention of mechanical processes and the discovery of electricity and steam power would impact day-to-day life around the world.

Mass production, faster communication, and more widespread transportation systems combined to industrialize the American household by inspiring the invention of the gadgets we rely on today. Some of the most fascinating gadgets on display are almost unrecognizable today. However, as becomes clear in “Gadgets Galore!” – and its scavenger-hunt style display, which encourages visitors to find

the ancestors of many modern-day objects – each gadget we use today can be traced back to the inventions and technology from this period of industrialization.

In addition to widely known inventions, Mendocino County Museum will highlight 20th century and contemporary local inventors, such as Ed Burton, Richard Jergensen, and more! Educators will not want to miss sharing this engaging exhibit with their students.

Group tours with a selection of hands-on activities will be available for the duration of the exhibit. Request a tour online or by calling 707-234-6365.

“Gadgets Galore!” is a traveling exhibition from Heather Farquhar and Exhibit Envoy (<https://exhibitenvoy.org>), a nonprofit. This exhibition is based on the initial iterations at the Hayward Area Historical Society and Los Altos History Museum. Additional exhibit support provided to Mendocino County Museum by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County.

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

The Mendocino County Museum, located at 400 East Commercial Street, is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 pm. Admission for adults is \$5; \$2 for children 6 to 17; children under 5 are free.

OBITUARY |

## Brenda Walker

Brenda Gay Walker passed on February 10, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Clifford Walker Jr., her mother and father Lennie and Olen Cooper, two sisters, four brothers, and grandson Jonathan.

She is survived by her son Danny Walker, daughter Kimberly Walker, granddaughter Alicia Maygani, great-grandchildren Arya and Marco – all of Willits – and sister Barbara Jamieson of Central Point, Oregon.

Brenda loved her family unconditionally. She will be missed very much. She had a great faith in God.

The Celebration of Life will be March 18 at 2 pm at Calvary Chapel of Willits, 145 Wood Street.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

*Did you know? Willits Weekly runs obituaries of up to 350 words plus a digital photo free of charge for Willits residents. We're always sorry to hear of a loved one passing, but hope that providing this service to grieving families offers some assistance during that hard time.*



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The rest of **Raffi** | From page 5

Not sure who on earth Raffi is?

Raffi Cavoukian is a Canadian singer-lyricist and author of Armenian descent born in Egypt, best-known for his children’s music. He started singing for children in the early 1970s and was well-loved by generations born in the next three decades. Some of Raffi’s best-known children’s songs are “Baby Beluga,” “Bananaphone,” and “Down by the Bay.”

Folksy, acoustic guitar, audience participation, and overall fun and cheerful themes are a part of the engaging experience he continues to bring to his songs and shows. He has won many awards and honors and awards and has done many collaboration projects with other singers, activists, and champions of children and social change.

Here’s the video that we’ve played for the last almost two years, and even more frequently gearing up for the concert: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=f29jl4w0UH8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f29jl4w0UH8)

Come Saturday, the platform in front of the theater was indeed filled with lot of other families (many of which were surely also “Beluga grads,” like myself, sharing their first-hand excitement about the performer with their next generation) and excited small faces, which surely would have been a clue on Friday had we’d really thought about it, standing there by ourselves.

The concert was wonderful, albeit noisy with the chatter of half-paying-attention children, as surely many a child’s concert goes if seated behind the first row or two. Raffi played many of the hits: “Brush Your Teeth,” “Peanut Butter Sandwich,” and Maggie’s favorite: “Mr. Sun.”

While the concert was indeed the point of going, Matthew and I certainly enjoy the exploration side of travel, driving around and seeing the touristy things, looking for craft beer, and taking a lot of memory-saving photos.

Exploring Vancouver was wonderful – Matt’s willingness to drive in conditions and cluster messes of cities that would give me a full-fledged panic attack still amazes me. The weather was also laughably warmer there than back here at home; we slept with the window ajar in the hotel room, Matt was mad he only brought thick, tall socks, and Maggie’s snow boots stayed inside the suitcase, that is, until we came home and had to break them out here instead.

We tried to hit many Vancouver/Canada highlights: Tim Bits at a Tim Hortons (Canadian doughnut holes at the country’s Krispy Kreme equivalent); a dish of poutine (which Matt thought was indeed delicious); crossed the Lion’s Gate Bridge from the southern part of the city into the northern part; drove past the Gastown Steam Clock (a clock literally powered by steam that runs underneath); and checked out Granville Island shops and their massive public market (which feels like the San Francisco Ferry building on steroids).

We also checked out Stanley Park, a giant wildlife area featuring beautiful views of the bay, forests, lakes, trails, totem poles, and so much more. Maggie passed out in the car on the way there, so we toured from the window on four wheels, but the sleeping rhododendrons, the golf course, the picnic tables, and more all showed what a fun place it would be to spend a sunny – and awake – afternoon exploring and enjoying.

Stanley Park Brewing Restaurant and Brew Pub is situated right there in the park, and Matt said the best beer on the trip came from that brewery: “The Captain,” a hazy IPA, which along with all their beers, is brewed right there in the park.

Matthew was also very excited to check out one of the now-USA-defunct stand-alone Toys“R”Us stores still holding ground on Canadian soil. We did buy two Raffi books, but tried to keep in mind carrying back on the plane any number of fun toys Maggie (or Matt!) would have enjoyed.

As always, exchanging money (no, their currency is NOT called “maple leaves”) and paying with different coin denominations (they have \$2 coins!) and being so American to not understand the metric system – kilometers and liters and such (gas is only \$1.83 per gallon? No, with the exchange rate and metric measures gas was about the same price as it was here) – is always a fun challenge while traveling out of the country.

There was so much more to do that we didn’t even come close to on the quick trip including seeing the giant Science World museum, crossing the suspension bridge, or seeing the Butchart Gardens. Ah, next time. And now that we know Maggie’s pretty good at even longer-term travel trips, maybe we can head back and hit those highlights, even though Austin, Texas calls loudly now with more assurance of the developing, long-term traveling proof we are slowly seeing in Maggie’s tolerance level.

One of the most helpful items that seemed to really allow a positive experience for the traveling portion of the trip was a \$35 car seat dolly. The dolly looks like a small telescoping furniture dolly, a right angle with wheels at the point, and like magic, the car seat (which you have to have to travel with kids, right?) strapped right to it, allowing not only the seat not to have to be carried, but allowed Maggie to be strapped into it, too, making running through the airports a breeze. It folds flat to be stored in the overhead bins of the airplane, and her car seat buckled right onto the plane, allowing her safe in-air travel and her own seat on the plane, too.

After four days of travel, we were all excited to be home, to sleep in our own bed, and get things back to normal. It was a wonderful time, and highly recommended as a fun destination to experience, with or without Raffi.

See page 6 for more photos.



Above, from left: Airborne baby! Maggie enjoyed looking out the Air Canada window at the passing clouds – in between playing on her Magna Doodle, eating pretzels and watching wildlife videos on the seat back screen. To whoever invented the squeeze pack method of baby food delivery – thank you. Not only do they come in tons of flavors (and some fun new Canadian ones we couldn’t find in the states!), they are the most convenient travel food – even in the back of the car! The stroller dolly in action in the Vancouver Airport. The car seat strapped right to the dolly, and allowed her to be hauled along in most comfortable fashion.

At right: Matthew’s favorite Canadian craft brew find: The Captain made by Stanley Park Brewing Restaurant and Brew Pub. They filled a crowler for him and happily sold him a cup, too.

Below, left: The start of The Lions Gate Bridge, a “suspension bridge that crosses the first narrows of Burrard Inlet and connects the City of Vancouver, British Columbia, to the North Shore municipalities of the District of North Vancouver.” Below, right: Timbits, or donut holes basically, from Tim Horton’s – a Canada standard in the donut shop game.

At bottom, from left: Some of the nine totem poles at Brockton Point in Vancouver. Squish packs were fair game for hunger-busting on the plane, too. The view of the old and new parts of the big city from the 20-story-up hotel room.



Photos by Maureen and Matthew Jennison



## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

### Handsome Jordy

Jordy needs you! This fella was found wondering around Lake Mendocino around a month ago. His finders searched for his home but sadly had no luck. Jordy’s finders were kind enough to house him until we had a space to take him in. Now he is here and searching for his home! Don’t miss your chance to add this handsome boy to your family!

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

### Friendly Cheeto

Cheeto here was found left in a box outside the shelter back in January. Despite her rough start, she is ready for adoption and is looking for her forever family. We don’t know what her life was like before, but we do know that she is a very friendly and sweet, social girl. She wants to be friends with just about everybody she meets, and we see her as doing well in a home with children. Come on down and make this sweet girl a part of your family!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment



to meet Cheeto or our other feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com).

### Agile Dixie

Dixie is a funny one! She had pups and now pups are adopted, it’s Dixie’s time to shine, get comfortable with more people, trust and have FUN!

She is a scamp and an escape artist with wander lust but comes when called, however not to be trusted outside alone. Her curiosity gets the best of her. She loves riding in a vehicle, likes going on hikes but she’s not had a ton of leash walking.

She loves toys and chew sticks and other dogs. She is gaining confidence and social skills. She is clever, and with patience and consistency, could become a mini agility dog, or any number of things, as well as a charming companion.

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



Congrats |

## WHS teens to compete in state Rodeo Challenge

Congratulations to Willits High School students Kevin Rountree, left, and Clayton Cooley, right, who have qualified to compete at the California High School Rodeo Association Challenge of Champions, taking place March 17 to 19 in Plymouth, California.

Kevin Rountree, 16, qualified in the bull riding competition. He also plays football at WHS. Clayton Cooley, 15, qualified in the bull riding, steer wrestling, and team roping competitions. He plays football, basketball, and participates in FFA for Willits High School.

Both boys started rodeoing their eighth-grade year when COVID shut down other sports. They have fallen in love with the sport of rodeo, and have qualified for state level California High School Rodeo Association competition every year. This is their second year qualifying for Challenge.

Challenge of Champions is a CHSRA event that invites the top 27 cowboys and cowgirls in every rodeo event – the top three in each event from every CHSRA district – to compete against other students from all over the state. WHS is in CHSRA District 2, which includes Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Lake, Mendocino, Del Norte and Humboldt counties.

The rodeo will be live-streamed through the California High School Rodeo Association Facebook page.



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For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.







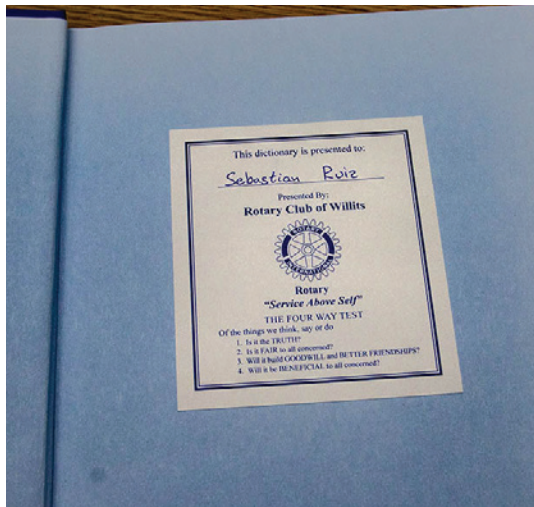
At right: Veronica smiles as she receives her first dictionary. Far right: Teacher Tessa Ford, dressed as Captain Underpants, passes out the first dictionary.

Below: Teacher Tessa Ford uses the dictionaries to teach the kids about books.

At bottom, left: Angel can't wait to begin reading his dictionary.

Below, right: Each dictionary has a bookplate where the students' names are written.

Photos by Mathew Caine



# Book Giveaway

Willits Rotary purchases dictionaries for local third graders

Willits Rotary has a tradition of gifting dictionaries to third graders in Willits Unified School District. This year, instead of Willits Rotary members giving the dictionaries directly to the third graders, the teachers at Blosser Lane Elementary School distributed the books themselves in order to save time and get back on track after all the snow delays.

Mathew Caine  
Features Writer  
mathew@willitsweekly.com

When Willits Weekly arrived at Tessa Ford's class, the teacher was dressed in a Captain Underpants costume to commemorate "Dress as your Favorite Literary Character Day" at the school. The kids seemed delighted to be receiving their colorful, easy-to-read reference books.

"These dictionaries are really designed for someone who's just learned how to read," explained Alexander Rich, a Rotarian who has been heading up the annual dictionary giveaways. "They have lots of pictures. The definitions are easy to understand.

"Teachers in the past," said Rich, "have kept in touch with their students who have told them that they still had the dictionary when they graduated from high school. There is definitely appreciation from the students in having these dictionaries."

This year, the Willits Rotary Club provided 203 dictionaries to local third graders: 24 to Willits Elementary Charter School, 112 to Blosser Lane, six to Sherwood School, 23 to Laytonville Elementary, 27 to Round Valley Elementary, and 11 went to the Eel River Charter School in Covelo.

Third-grade teacher Ford really appreciates that Rotary gives these dictionaries to kids.

"In a lot of cases," said Rich, "kids don't have books at home. This gives them a chance to have something that they can call their own."



## Powering Your Spring Clean

Show those dust bunnies who's boss. Take the first step at [PoweringEverydayMoments.org](http://PoweringEverydayMoments.org).



### Mendocino County invites applications for:

**Agricultural Field Inspector**

\$19.33 - \$22.39 Hourly

**Air Quality Engineer I/II**

\$66,476 - \$92,913

**Air Quality Technician**

\$49,566 - \$60,257

**Chief Planner**

\$95,846 - \$116,500

**Community Health Services**

**Specialist II**

\$43,076 - \$52,353

**Corrections Deputy**

\$54,184 - \$65,873

**Deputy District Attorney I/II/III**

\$76,419 - \$122,824

**Deputy Probation Officer I/II**

\$51,937 - \$69,617

**Deputy Public Defender I/II**

\$76,419 - \$92,913

**Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II**

\$62,628 - \$87,214

**Emergency Services Coordinator**

\$84,531 - \$102,752

**Employment and Training Worker I/II**

\$23.40 - \$31.31 hourly

**Juvenile Corrections Officer**

\$50,710 - \$61,630

**Juvenile Corrections Officer - Extra-Help**

\$24.38 - \$28.22 hourly

**Legal Secretary II**

\$44,304 - \$53,851

**Licensed Vocational Nurse**

\$48,193 - \$58,572

**Program Specialist I/II**

\$50,897 - \$68,244

**Public Health Nurse**

\$76,585 - \$93,121

**Registered Nurse**

\$69,430 - \$84,406

**Senior Program Manager**

\$92,705 - \$112,694

**Senior Public Health Nurse**

\$84,448 - \$102,627

**Social Worker Assistant I/II**

\$40,206 - \$51,292

**Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D**

\$48,942 - \$92,206

**Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C**

\$70,387 - \$99,028

**Vocational Assistant**

\$37,024 - \$38,875

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Willits Weekly

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW420

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GLADIS ARDELLA SHANNON

Case No. 23PR00015

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of Gladis Ardeella Shannon: A Petition for Probate has been filed by Thelma Lucille Shannon in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino.

The Petition for Probate requests that Thelma Lucille Shannon 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. 21, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. In Dept. E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N State St., Ukiah, California 95482.

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.

Petitioner in pro per: Thelma Lucille Shannon, PO Box 1642, Willits, CA 95490, Telephone (707) 483-0741.

Publication Dates: March 9, 16, 23, 2023

WW421

### Fictitious Business Name Statement

2023-F0093

The following 501c3 non-profit corporation is doing business as Golden Rule Gardens, 11725 Orchard Lane, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Golden Rule Church Association, 11725 Orchard Lane, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a 501-c3 non-profit corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 1, 2022.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 16, 2023.

/s/ Cody Bartholomew, President, GRCA

Publication dates: March 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023

WW419

### Fictitious Business Name Statement

2023-F0108

The following person is doing business as Willits Power Equipment, 1600 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Michael Garrity, 22928 Davidson Road, Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on December 20, 2012.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 23, 2023.

/s/ Michael Garrity

Publication dates: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023

WW422

### Fictitious Business Name Statement

2023-F0094

The following 501c3 non-profit corporation is doing business as Headwaters Grazing, 300 Seabiscuit Drive A, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Golden Rule Church Association, 11725 Orchard Lane, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a 501c3 non-profit corporation..

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2023.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 16, 2023.

/s/ Cody Bartholomew, President, GRCA

Publication dates: March 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023

WW424

### Fictitious Business Name Statement

2023-F0101

The following corporation is doing business as Little Lake Auto Parts, 1571 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Cave Investments Inc., 1571 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on October 24, 1985.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 22, 2023.

/s/ Ida Catherine Bouthillier, President.

Publication dates: March 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 2023

## CLASSIFIEDS

### The Chamber needs YOU!

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

### Computer Help

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

### Firewood for Sale

Fir, \$250/Cord; Oak, \$350/Cord; Kindling. Free delivery near Ukiah. \$45 delivery near Ukiah. Call (707) 456-0270 or (707) 354-2244

### For Rent

Clean Studio Apt. for rent, upstairs unit, W/D Facility on hand; garbage paid. Close to downtown. \$750.00 per mo. Armo 707-459-9601.

### Garage Sale

Saturday, March 18 & Sunday, March 19, 8-4. Rain or Shine. Guitar's, Amp's, Treadmill, Womenswear, Shoes, lots of misc.... 1481 East Hill Road. Park on street and walk to backyard

### Help Wanted

Wanted and needed: A handyman experienced in plumbing, please call 707-459-1043

### Help Wanted

Senior Center Thrift Store is hiring a merchandise processor/stocker/cashier (35 hours weekly). Call Richard Baker for more information at 459-6826. Or email resume with 3 references to wsidirector@willitscenter.com

### John Ford Ranch Beef

John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$375.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$160.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.

### Room for Rent

Room for Rent. Must work, have references. No pets. No drugs. \$600 including utilities. Available now. 707-354-0287.

### RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tp>

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I'm not an attorney. I cannot represent you in court.

WW423

### CITY OF WILLITS SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 8, 2023 at their regular noticed meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2023-01.

**ORDINANCE OF THE WILLITS CITY COUNCIL ADDING CHAPTER 12.10 TO TITLE 12 ENTITLED "RIGHT-OF-WAY ABANDONMENT"**

The City Council adopted the Right-of-Way Abandonment Ordinance establishing the authority of City Council to act on an abandonment request, prescribing the application process, and providing the findings Council must make to approve an abandonment request.

A certified copy of the full text of Ordinance No. 2023-01 is posted and may be read at the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA.

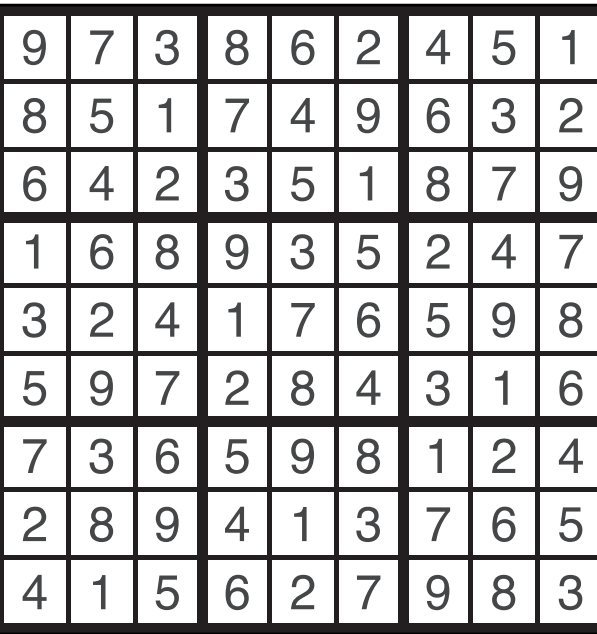
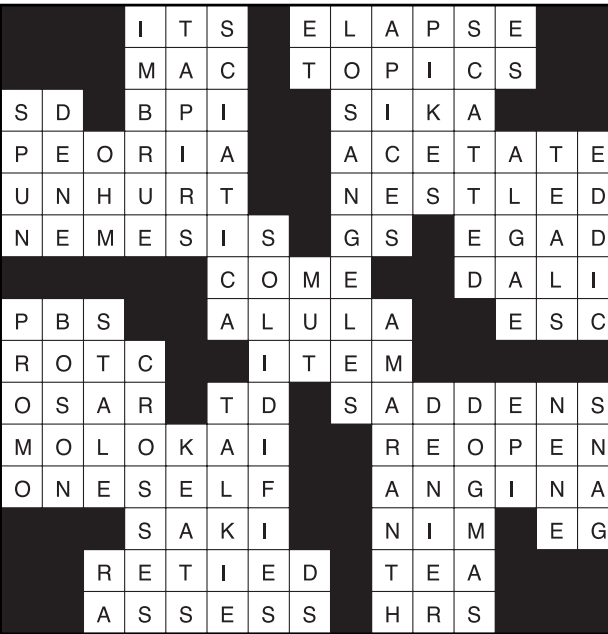
The forgoing Ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting, held on the 8th day of March, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: Rodriguez, Stranske, Strong, and Gonzalez  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Kanne

This summary of the adopted Ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code Section 36933.

/s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk

Publication Date: March 16, 2023





At right: Thrive Yoga's "Best of Lake and Mendocino" award.

Paul, Caroline, and Catherine serve a nice, warming squash bisque, which they sell along with homemade bread and salad. Lucy, Tina and Ryan of Mendocino Blue Zones Project invite visitors to try their smoothie-making bicycle to raise awareness of the advantages of a healthy lifestyle.

Further right, below: Shawna Jeavons, owner of Thrive Yoga, practices a one-leg stand before the open house.

Below, left: Rose Raiser Jeavons, who has studied and practiced tarot readings for many years, performs readings at the open house. Below, right: Michele Rohr, instructor of Buti yoga, and her daughter, Capri, take a moment before opening the doors to the public.

At bottom: Visitors to the Thrive Yoga open house browse the vendor tables set up outside the studio.



## Thrive Yoga

Local wellness studio celebrates winning 'Best of Lake and Mendocino' award with open house

"We're doing an open house to celebrate that we got the Best of Gold Award for [Lake and] Mendocino County," said Thrive Yoga owner Shawna Jeavons. "People voted us the number-one yoga studio in [Lake and] Mendocino [counties]. That's nice for a small business."

Jeavons decided to hold the open house, held on Friday, March 3, due to an abundance of curiosity expressed by community members. All of the yoga and meditation instructors were there as well as several booths that sold products or promoted community organizations.

Thrive Yoga, located in the Evergreen Shopping Center, opened its doors to allow people to come inside and see what the interior looks like, experience yoga, meditation, and sound baths, in heat and black light.

Among the vendors who braved the frigid Friday were the Blue Zones of Mendocino, who brought their smoothie-making exercise bike. "We're going to share information about Blue Zones, how to become involved, how to engage with community and work toward the ultimate goal of becoming a Blue Zones county and city in December of 2026," explained Tina Tyler-O'Shea.

"Our people-work is around engagement, getting people connected to one another, finding a sense of purpose, getting out and moving, and including more fresh fruits and vegetables in their lives. The places we are dealing with are schools, worksites, restaurants, and grocery stores, to adopt best practices or to be recognized for the best practices that they already have in place that create a healthy environment."

The open house also served a delicious meal prepared by Caroline Radice of Black Dog Farms and Catering. A winter-squash bisque with coconut milk and lemongrass was served alongside a farmers market salad with tahini dressing and bread baked with locally grown flour. The soup was a welcome treat on the cold afternoon.

Other vendors in attendance included Cici's Soaps and More, with a fragrant array of colorful aesthetic soaps; The Fry Guys, LLC, who specialize in creating French fries and corn dogs for events and parties; the Community Transition Program, a group who helps developmentally challenged

Read the rest of **Thrive** | Over on page 15



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**Javier Moreno**  
Sales and Design

The rest of **Update** | From page 1

with zoning amendments, the Land Use Element will establish policies and programs to regulate development within the City and will serve to streamline the development approval process.

"The Land Use Element Update will identify available land inside and outside the existing City boundary to accommodate housing, business and employment growth over the next 20 years and beyond," explains Dusty Duley, the City's community development director. "We want to engage landowners to learn about their goals for the development of their property and evaluate whether their desired Land Use and Zoning changes are consistent with our overall project objectives and should be included in this process or be taken up separately by the landowner."

The Land Use Element is one of the most important components of a General Plan and contains policies and maps to identify land for housing, commerce, industry, and public services, as well as for the protection of natural resources, the identification of hazards, and the provision of municipal services for the Planning Area, which may contain land beyond the City boundary.

"The City is looking beyond the City limits to consider expansion of City services to support additional housing and economic development," said Duley. "Land that may be considered appropriate for future development may be included in the City's Sphere of Influence."

A "Sphere of Influence" is a defined area outside of the city that is approved by the Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission and designates the city's probable future boundary and service area. The Sphere of Influence may involve the pre-zoning of lands for potential future annexation to support the planned commercial and residential growth of the City. Annexation is a separate and follow-on process from the adoption of a Sphere of Influence and would likely occur in a phased process or incrementally over time as additional developable land is needed to accommodate growth within the City.

"As part of this project, the City will be amending its zoning regulations to be consistent with the Land Use Element Update, which could include changes such as establishing a mixed-use zone or changes to building setbacks and parking standards," continued Duley.

Zoning is the primary tool to implement the General Plan Land Use Element, and includes a Zoning Map and regulations for what can and cannot be built on land within various zoning districts. Zoning will need to be updated to reflect any changes to the General Plan land use maps, including the Sphere of Influence, or land use policy, and may include provisions intended to streamline the development approval process or allow for mixed use development.

"We are in the very beginning phases of community outreach," said Duley. "The City is very interested to hear from the community and has created an online survey to ensure that the community's responses are available to decision-makers in planning for Willits' future."

In addition, a public Open House on this project is planned for Wednesday, March 29 at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, where you can learn about the project and talk with planners. There will be an afternoon Open House between 11:30 am and 2 pm and an evening Open House between 5:30 and 8 pm.

For more information on the Land Use Element Update, please visit [www.willitslanduseupdate.com](http://www.willitslanduseupdate.com). There you can sign up for project updates by email, take an online community survey, submit a property owner zone change request, and learn more about Willits land use and zoning.

The rest of **SBMC** | From page 2

business in. Additionally, routine operational processes are being moved to the back office to support an enhanced customer service experience.

"The Willits Banking Center staff are excited about the updates that will be made to the Banking Center. The lobby will have a fresh new look, and we'll provide the same friendly service everyone is used to," said Chelsea Evans, Willits Banking Center manager.

"We want to thank our customers for their business and ask that they please excuse the mess while we're open during construction. We can't wait to welcome everyone in when the transformation is complete!"

Savings Bank of Mendocino County is the only locally chartered bank and is a strong independent financial institution which provides Mendocino County and Lake County the dependability of a local community bank.

The rest of **Agreements** | From page 1

success. It was noted that public comments would be heard after the relevant agenda item, with an approximate 3-minute limit to comments.

Director of Student Programs Arora Chavez gave a Power Point presentation called, "WUSD Differentiated Assistance." Data that has been gathered on suspension, graduation, and attendance rates, organized by socioeconomic groups and school sites, will be analyzed and reported on. Chavez focused on the potential for these studies to guide action aimed towards to decreasing suspensions and increasing attendance and graduation rates.

California School Employees Association comments highlighted the work of Superintendent Mark Beebe and the Transportation Department, who spent many wet and snowy mornings collaborating to get students to school safely and on time.

Brandon Ludwig spoke by Zoom for the Willits Teachers Association, thanking both Beebe and district staff for their outstanding efforts to keep the schools open under difficult storm conditions. He also commended the many parent who volunteered to plow roads, especially for Sherwood School, adding that Sherwood has been granted a report card extension because of missed school time.

Student Representative McKenna Thom reported on fundraiser preparations, girls' middle school softball, the coming of the spring soccer season, and the successes of the wrestling teams. She also commented on 2022-23 yearbook preparation now underway, and impending finals.

In "Superintendent Comments," Beebe introduced the district's new director of Fiscal Services, Melissa Ragsdale. He expressed his gratitude to the City of Willits, staff, and parents, who worked together to keep the schools open whenever safety allowed.

Board comments began with Jennifer Sookne, who addressed the issue of what appear to be conflicting regulations around the school district's sharing of records with parents.

Jeanne King welcomed the new Fiscal director, and expressed her appreciation for the smooth collaboration between the superintendent, the staff, teachers and parents during the severe weather. She noted that over 40% of district students live in Brooktrails, and that the willingness of staff and parents to go out at pre-dawn hours to assess and plow roads was crucial. King also made a general request to school administrators for more frequent communications with the board with regards to school site news, events, etc.

Alex Bowlds also spoke to the valiant efforts made to keep things running smoothly during the storms. Dianne McNeal spoke about her recent visits to Baechtel Grove Middle School: "I found the surroundings quiet and well organized, with most students making good eye contact and paying attention to their environment."

Board President Nunez said she, too, was impressed by the group effort made during the snow emergency. She also commended the JV basketball team and the wrestling team for their recent wins.

Public comment came from longtime WUSD employees Rachelle Vandagriff, executive administrative assistant, and Special Education Director Kelley Labus, who spoke urgently about the need for salary raises for Unrepresented Classified Staff, to retain and value experienced, dedicated staff.

The Consent Agenda was passed with minimal amendment. President Nunez questioned some vehicle maintenance costs, leading to a discussion about the current outsourcing of vendors versus the cost of a permanent staff position.

Superintendent Beebe offered to pull the information for future comparison.

Board member Sookne addressed the lack of clarity in policies regarding parents' rights and student records. She read out the two regulations under consideration for clarification, and wondered how factors such as history of domestic violence would affect a given decision.

Member King agreed that the problematic policies were written by the state and passed by the 2019 board. Board member Bowlds suggested that there could be some relief found in coming lawsuits dealing with gender and privacy, agreeing that currently it appears that the two policies are at odds.

Fiscal disclosure regarding proposed salary agreements for CSEA, Classified Staff, Unrepresented Classified, and Certified Administration was the next agenda item. Representatives from the Mendocino Office of Education presented financial data via Power Point, illustrating projected WUSD budgets for the next four fiscal years. They expressed the view that, given the 17% salary raise already granted Willits teachers, and increases considered for remaining staff, the Willits school district would likely be left with no reserve funds by the fourth year out.

They also explained potential legal consequences, including the need to borrow funds, the takeover of fiscal administration by the state Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, revision of current contracts, and enforced budget cutbacks. The MCOE representatives ended with a recommendation that the board "take a pause" before voting to raise staff salaries.

The item to approve the tentative agreements with CSEA, Classified, Unrepresented, and Certified Administration staff followed. Given the new fiscal information presented by MCOE, the agenda item was tabled to allow for validation of the numbers presented by MCOE, and further consideration of budgets before the next regular board meeting.

Discussion followed, with Superintendent Beebe expressing his view that rarely if ever are decisions made based on four years of future budgets, and stating that there is likely room for future budgets to expand to provide the needed funds. President Nunez reiterated her view that grouping all staff as a single group during contract negotiations is not equitable, and that higher-paid workers should not be considered in the same category as those making much less.

Member Bowlds said the key question was, "...can we afford it?" He said that although he supports fairness for employees, he added, "It looks like we have committed ourselves to something that may be unsustainable." He concluded that the board needs to confirm the MCOE budget numbers, and consider reevaluating the tentative contract agreements. King expressed her support for all WUSD employees, but also her anger that, in trying to close salary gaps with other districts, WUSD could now find itself in a financial crisis.

On Monday, March 13, the Willits district announced a special school board meeting for Thursday, March 16, starting with closed session conferences with labor negotiators at 5 pm, and continuing with open session discussion under "Approval of Tentative Agreements" agenda items for the staff groups.

The remainder of the agenda was passed with little discussion, with approvals of School Plans for Student Achievement, Salary Schedules, a Transportation Plan, and a Conflict of Interest resolution. Board members then adjourned to a closed session to consider Superintendent Beebe's yearly evaluation. Upon their return, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.



The rest of **Alarms** | From page 1

National Fire Protection Association in 2021 found that almost three out of five home fire deaths were caused by fires in properties with no smoke alarms or smoke alarms that failed to operate. To help reduce the number of home fire fatalities, CAL FIRE is reminding all Californians to make sure they have working smoke alarms in their homes.

"Smoke alarms give Californians an early warning when there is a fire so everyone can quickly get outside," said Acting State Fire Marshal Daniel Berlant, "Smoke alarms simply save lives, but they must be tested monthly to ensure they are in good working order."

State fire officials recommend Californians pull together everyone in their household and make a home fire escape plan. Walk through the home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of the home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm. Choose an outside meeting place (i.e., neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped. If there are infants, older adults, or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and in the event of an emergency. Tell guests or visitors to your home about your family's fire escape plan.

A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area, on every level of the home, and even in the basement. Smoke alarms should be interconnected if possible so when one sounds, they all sound. Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should anyone ever go back into a burning building.

The risk of dying in reported home structure fires is 55 percent lower in homes with working smoke alarms than in homes with no alarms or none that worked. A working smoke alarm is a small price to pay to help keep you and your family safe.

For more information on smoke alarms, please visit the CAL FIRE's website at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).

The rest of **Caltrans** | From page 1

of reaching zero fatalities and serious injuries on roadways throughout the state by 2050."

**Willits projects include:**

- Willits – Install and upgrade regulatory warning signs, new dynamic speed warning signs and center and edge lines on nine roadway segments including portions of North Main Street, Sherwood Road, East Commercial Street, McKinley Street, East San Francisco Avenue, and Hazel Street.
- Willits – Pedestrian safety improvements including upgrades to signal hardware, install and upgrade signs and crosswalks and pavement markings, Accessible Pedestrian Signal buttons and upgrade controllers and ped signal head mounts along Main St at East San Francisco Street, West Valley Road, and Commercial Street.

**Mendocino County projects include:**

- Mendocino County – Upgrades and replace existing guardrails and end treatments along roadway segments on East Side Potter Valley Road, Point Cabrillo Drive, Babcock Lane, Primrose Drive and Compctche-Ukiah Road.
- Mendocino County – Installation of advance curve warning signs, pedestrian sidewalks, pathways and crossing improvements at Branscomb Road, Kenny Creek Road, Eastside Calpella Road/Marina Drive-Route 20 on/off ramp, Compctche Ukiah Road/Route 1-Mendocino Headlands State Park, Mountain View Road between Manchester and Boonville, Crawford Road, Foothill Blvd, and South State Street, Laws Avenue and Beacon Lane.
- Mendocino County – Installation and upgrade of regulatory and warning signs with fluorescent sheeting and the installation of curve signs on horizontal curves, delineators, reflectors, and object markers on roadway segments along Branscomb Road, Eastside Calpella Road, North and South State Street, Sherwood Road, Compctche Ukiah Road, Simpson Lane, Vichy Springs Road, Valley Road, Mountain View Road, Pudding Creek Road, Eel River Road and Henderson Lane.

Local projects were also funded in the cities of Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Eureka, and Crescent City and in Lake and Humboldt counties.

"While Caltrans continues to prioritize safety and sustainability on state highways, the department also recognizes the importance of the local roads connected to those highways," said Caltrans District 1 Director Matt Brady. "We're excited to serve a role in helping to fund these improvements for counties and incorporated areas in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Lake counties."

A total of 282 projects from 155 local agencies will receive HSIP funds for safety enhancements that include pedestrian crossing enhancements, bike safety improvements and new traffic signals, roundabouts, turn lanes, rumble strips and guardrails. Caltrans awards these grants every other year to cities, counties and tribal governments.

A full list of approved projects can be found here: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/fed-and-state-programs/highway-safety-improvement-program/approved-project-lists>



# Spring nature hikes at Ridgewood Ranch

Posted by Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation

The Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation has announced its schedule of 2023 Spring Nature Hikes at Ridgewood Ranch, 7 miles south of Willits, starting Saturday, April 1. Start time is 9 am. Hikes take about 3 hours. Rain cancels (but a drizzle doesn't!). Children 10 and older are welcome. Limit of 10 per walk group. Reservations, including for larger groups: contact seabiscuit@instawave.net. Meet at the La Vida Charter School parking lot, 11785 Orchard Lane.

### Spring hikes include:

**April 1:** "The Lookout": We will venture on the east side of 101 up through the burn area, and have a chance to see the reforestation work, nature's own efforts, wildlife returning, and a great view. Mostly moderate difficulty but a consistent uphill and then down. Option to see waterfall for those able. Bring poles for stability!

**April 15:** "Two Redwood Groves and a Lake": Lichens, sorrel, trilliums in bloom, scenic lake. Moderate, mostly flat 4 to 5 mile round-trip with low-water creek crossing.

**May 6:** "The Saddle Loop": This is a vigorous hike up through meadows, a small creek crossing, a mixed forest, grasslands, across the saddle with some pleasant views. It has some steep portions. Be prepared to complete the whole loop, it is possible to get lost if you decide to go back. 4 to 5 mile trek. This may run over 3 hours.

**May 13:** "Walker Lake Boundary Hike": Hike through redwoods and beyond to lake spillway. Moderate 5 mile round-trip with low-water creek crossing.

Proper footwear is essential; early spring trips can be muddy good fun, and some have creek crossings. Wear appropriate (layered) clothing. Protect yourself from sun, rain, mosquitoes, ticks, and poison oak.

In your pack carry water and energy snacks. You may also want to bring your camera, binoculars, magnifier, and field guide.

Participants are asked to sign a liability waiver. No smoking, no pets. Heavy rain cancels.

For more information visit [www.seabiscuitheritage.org/nature-walks](http://www.seabiscuitheritage.org/nature-walks), email [seabiscuit@instawave.net](mailto:seabiscuit@instawave.net), or call 510-387-6646.

## Avenues to Wellness presents 'Let's Talk About Sex' by Doris Wier on March 29

Submitted by Avenues to Wellness

Avenues to Wellness is delighted to announce they are resuming their in-person monthly speaker series, presenting: "Let's Talk About Sex" by Doris Wier, certified relationship coach on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 from 6 to 7 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, located at 71 East Commercial Street. This event is FREE to the public, donations appreciated.

For many of us, sex is still a hard topic to talk about openly and freely. And yet most of us are active sexual beings all life long, often into our old age. Let's use this time as an opportunity to talk about sex. Hopefully, you will learn something new or deepen your understanding of sex and your personal sexual journey.

Wier from Embrace Conflicts is a certified organization and relationship coach. Since 2006, she has been coaching individuals and couples to navigate conflicts more easily, improve understanding, compassion and communication. She is an insightful guide for couples who want to rebuild connection and intimacy. Her work incorporates findings from neuroscience and from the theory of adult attachment styles. In addition, she has been trained by Martha Kauppi, a AASECT certified sex therapist.

Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit [www.avenuestowellness.org](http://www.avenuestowellness.org) to view Video Archives of previous talks.

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The historic Seabiscuit Stud Barn at Ridgewood Ranch.

## Call for special exhibit docents: Volunteer orientation at Mendocino County Museum

Submitted by Mendocino County Museum

Our new exhibit "Gadgets Galore!" promises to be an engaging experience for museum volunteers and guests alike. This exhibit, brought to us by Exhibit Envoy, explores a variety of well-known inventions such as the telephone and stereoscope. Mendocino County Museum staff have searched the depths of our collection to bring out relics rarely displayed. Radios, phonographs, coffee grinders, and butter churns are awaiting display.

Of course, people are the most important factor in bringing an exhibit like this to life! The museum is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to engage with our visitors. Volunteering at the museum is a great way to meet new people and connect the community to local history. If you have been considering dipping your toes in the community-service world, this is the perfect opportunity!

As a special exhibit docent, you can help by demonstrating our replica gadgets, explaining invention concepts during field trips, aiding with community tours, and supporting special programs. Museum staff will host an exhibit orientation March 28, at 11 am, for anyone interested in becoming a docent. Get a sneak peek at the exhibit and the adventures to come!

We hope you can join us for treats, coffee, and an introduction to the exhibit content! Sponsored by the Friends of the Museum. For more information, please visit [www.mendocinocounty.org/museum](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/museum) or contact the Mendocino County Museum at 707-234-6365 or [museum@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.org).

**GADGETS GALORE! DOCENT ORIENTATION**

**March 28th 11 am**

We hope you can join us for treats, coffee, and an introduction to the exhibit content!



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The rest of **Permit** From page 1

substantive legal restrictions and environmental protection measures for state-licensed operators," and "to also come back with stakeholder input to either the General Government Committee, or for the [county] CEO to report out depending on when the state brings their input."

While details as to what exactly that means for county cannabis applicants in the near future are not very clear, it seemed that the supervisors and many in the cannabis community who spoke during public comments were hopeful that the changes will help in speeding up the county's notoriously slow application process, and allow more applicants to achieve the ultimate goal of obtaining annual state licenses.

A hefty majority of public commenters did approve of passing the item, and commended the board for taking a step in the right direction – somewhat unusual for cannabis discussions at recent board of supervisors meetings.

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams co-sponsored the agenda item and explained what his hopes were in bringing it to the board.

"I want to be real clear," he said. "The goal here is not to change what's allowed or where it's allowed in any way, it's just to cut down on the amount of staff time and dollars we're spending on a program that's been struggling for a long time."

Williams said that when he asked for input from county staff including the CEO, district attorney, county counsel and the sheriff, the general feedback was "Yes, there's a lot we could do to streamline."

"And when I say streamline, I mean keep the environmental document as is," said Williams. "Don't change the environmental protections, don't change where you can grow, the setbacks, how much, any of that. That's all been decided. We don't want to reignite any of that debate."

"But seeing that it's very difficult to process these applications internally and trigger a state license, I think we're in a predicament where we could do nothing and decide this is the ordinance, we're going to let it play itself out," he continued.

"There's probably public money at risk, we're going to have appeals filed. There may be subsequent claims even though the county may be right in all cases, that will be rather expensive, and at the same time it's a failure. That means we didn't get people through a program that was intended to transition them into the legal market."

Williams also said that Nicole Elliot, director of California's Department of Cannabis Control, had given some positive feedback about the state having a more direct role in processing county cannabis applications.

"Nicole heard about this potential opportunity and expressed enthusiasm that she and her department would be there to collaborate with us," said Williams. "To make sure that whatever it is that we do at a local level feeds into the state licensing. And I think there's a lot the state can do that we can't do. We have no control of timelines for example, whereas the state probably could figure out a way to extend provisions if it's in collaboration with the county changing its ordinance."

Williams did point out that he talked with Mendocino Cannabis Department Director Kristin Nevedal about the department maintaining a "parallel track" in their efforts to get county applicants permitted.

"We don't want the department to stop any activity," he said. "Any permit that's approved under the existing scheme is a win. But I did ask [Director Nevedal] for input on, are there elements of the ordinance that she would want to change? Where are they getting bogged down? And I understand she does have a list. But we stopped short of using any staff time without getting board approval."

Board Chair Glenn McGourty was the other co-sponsor of the agenda item, and talked about why he supported it.

"I think shifting some of the responsibility to applicants to work directly with the state on environmental documents makes a lot of sense to me, because we don't appear to have the capacity," he said. "We're talking about having to hire consultants to do that, so why not just let the applicants and the consultants work directly, and us not get in the middle? We need to process faster, and I think it's just taking us way too long. This shouldn't be that complicated."

"I spent the weekend looking at the ordinance, looking at the applications," he continued. "And while they certainly require time and information, they're not the most onerous applications I've ever seen in my life, so I would like to see us get on board and get this finished."

"I hope that we'd have a stable community of somewhere between 200 to 500 growers maybe, kind of similar to the wine industry in size that are stable, feel good about themselves, pay their taxes, have all the necessary papers," he added. "They're growing in the right place, contributing to our economy, contributing to our tax base. That's always been my vision from the time that I started running for supervisor, and it's about time that we got this done."

When McGourty mentioned hiring "consultants," he likely was referring to the approval by the board on February 28 of a \$1.6 million contract with 4Leaf, Inc., to add about 20 planners to help the Mendocino Cannabis Department with processing applications.

The money for that contract was taken out of the \$17 million in Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program funds allotted to Mendocino County by the state.

Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren said that one complication with this new streamlining plan was that the state DCC was asking that there be a "pause" in the county's processing of those grant applications while they figure out what exactly the new plan will consist of.

However, MCD Director Nevedal did say that the 4Leaf contract would not be affected by this state request.

Still, Mulheren warned that this plan of asking for state help and altering the course of the cannabis application process would likely not be as simple as some supervisors were making it out to be.

Mulheren, along with Third District Supervisor John Haschak, is on the General Government Committee, which is supposed to be the first to hear about cannabis issues, although that was not the case for this item.

Williams said that this application "streamlining" item stemmed back from a BOS meeting in May of 2022, when he proposed looking into the matter.

While both Haschak and Mulheren said they supported the proposal "in concept," both had some concerns, including how it might impact LJAGP grant funds for cannabis applicants.

That state grant program was intended to help applicants through their California Environmental Quality Act Review process, and there has been some heated debate at recent county meetings about whether to use most of it for direct grants to applicants or disperse it to the Mendocino Cannabis Department and outside contractors for increased staffing and other needs. The issue is expected to come before the board at their next regular meeting on March 28.

"Thank you for getting the state involved and for their letter," said Mulheren. "Mendocino County, unlike other jurisdictions, really was going to use the [LJAGP] grant funds to support the applicants to the tune of about \$10 million. A lot of other jurisdictions were using that specifically for their own programming."

"So I don't know what that means for our applicants and their abilities to jump through the environmental hoops, whether that's the county or whether that's the state," she added. "I think that this is possibly a really good strategy for well-resourced applicants. I don't know what this does for our equity applicants."

"Certainly we need to streamline the program," said Supervisor Haschak. "We need to get people through, and if the state's willing to work with us it would be a great thing, because before when we tried they weren't, really. So this is a welcome step forward."

"I do have concerns about the LJAGP grant program and how that will be kind of transitioned," he added, "and what it means to the local cultivators who were going to use this money to do some of their work. So I think a lot of things need to be worked out and I'm just trying to figure out, what is that process?"

"We were going to have everything with cannabis go through the General Government Committee – and so is the idea that maybe staff, county counsel, or executive office will be working with the state in this transition? What's the vision for this?"

Williams responded to that question from Haschak, saying: "I'm inclined as one supervisor to see what the state can come up with, with our executive office. And bring us back some ideas, see where they want to go rather than us trying to set specific milestones, because last time we did that it didn't work out so well."

"And I think that given the state's Department of Cannabis Control is working with local government throughout the state, they have some templates of what works," he added. "They have experience on CEQA pathways that are more successful – they see the starting point of what we have and what we may be locked into, and how to transition from that to something more viable."

"So I would hope the starting point would be to show them that we have confidence in collaborating together, and then ask for their proposal."

The county website ([mendocinocounty.org](http://mendocinocounty.org)) still shows that March 31 is the "last day to submit applications" for LJAGP grants, but based on some of Tuesday's discussions it's not entirely clear what the future of the program will be.

Chantal Simonpetrie, who works as a consultant with several county cannabis applicants, said that she'd advised her clients to temporarily shut down any work on applications for the LJAGP grants due to the uncertainties there, but she did support the streamlining of applications plan overall.

"Any sort of streamlining is helpful and smart when you're working with government and permitting processes," said Simonpetrie. "I feel like I've advocated about this annually since 2017, that our local ordinance is duplicative of existing environmental regulations from the state. We have an existing water board general order that is very robust that has been in place prior to us having [cannabis ordinances]. And it's almost as if that's being ignored, that there isn't a water

The rest of **Memorial** From page 3

wisdom," recounted Cushing. "I was introduced to her work by one of my professors at the City University of New York Graduate Center. I was there doing my doctorate in mid-century American poetry. My professor told me about her."

"I thought she sounded amazing," said Cushing, "and I figured out how to get in touch with her, and I came out in June of 2017 and met her and instantly knew I would have to devote my life to writing about this person. It's been such an amazing honor and journey to be so engaged with her work because she was just such an amazing and compassionate poet."

"I was in Earth First with Mary Korte for many, many years," recounted Alicia Bales. "You never did anything in Earth First in Mendocino County without Mary being part of it and bringing her poems, which were like a raised fist at every one of our actions. Her poems were direct action. I remember her on a bulldozer, reading a poem about 'The Lorax.' 'I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees. I take direct action against corporate greed.'"

With each person that spoke, both personally and on stage, another piece of her life came into focus.

"She's my poetry aunt," said Daniel Barth. "She was lively and funny and passionate and could just nail it in a poem, tell it like it is. You'd get the feeling, the pathos, the humor. Mary's work is right where it belongs in the Beat women poetry, and modern American poetry, and Northern California poetry, and environmental poetry. She was a dynamic reader and speaker with a great voice. She could really put it out there."

Each speaker had another quip, another anecdote, another reason to fall in love with the work and life of Mary Norbert Korte.

"Some days, you have to step up," wrote Korte. "Some days, you have to speak up. Some days, you have to dance. Some days, you have to sing. Some days, you have to pray."

board order that all cultivators have to comply with. We also have existing [Department of Fish & Wildlife] provisions that have also been in place prior to there being any discussion of any sort of cannabis regulations statewide."

Simonpetrie advised that the board come up with a plan and stick to it to help applicants have clarity.

"Choose a path, be smart about it and take it from beginning to end and do it quickly, and do it with stakeholder input," she said. "There is a dire need for there to be quality affordable technical support for people that are going through the application process. The cannabis department does not offer that. [Mendocino Cannabis Alliance] is filling a gap, I've been hosting meetings ... about how to prepare your own LJAGP applications so you don't have to spend money on a consultant preparing it for you because that's expensive. We're filling a hole that the county should be providing these services for. The cannabis department is focused on permitting- not issuance but denial."

Simonpetrie said she's lost about half of her local cannabis clients in recent years, largely due to the difficulties in navigating the county permitting process.

"Of those, about 30% of them have sold their parcels and moved out of the region," she said. "Pulled their kids from the school, are no longer contributing to local nonprofits – their businesses have closed, their ancillary businesses have closed.... So please just meaningfully engage with everybody who's involved in this conversation – as elected officials that's your imperative."

It appears that the next step for the board with this new streamlined plan will be either hearing an update in the CEO report at the March 28 BOS regular meeting about feedback from the state, or passing that task on to an upcoming General Government Committee meeting, with the next two scheduled for March 27 and April 17 at 9 am.

### Cannabis tax relief

Another cannabis item passed by the board on Tuesday, which also received a significant amount of positive public comments, was a tax relief plan which includes a 50% "reduction in the Cannabis Business Tax for tax years 2023 and 2024," and also establishes "a penalty and interest amnesty program and a prior year tax payment plan" for back taxes dating back to 2018.

The item came to the board recommended by both GGC members, Supervisors Haschak and Mulheren, and Williams was the only supervisor to vote against it.

Mulheren, who spearheaded the plan, said that the county could potentially receive as much as \$4.2 million in additional cannabis tax revenue if the tax relief plan swayed applicants to getting back into the system.

"Because of the way that our ordinance is written, if some Phase 1 farmers don't get through their local and state licensing, those properties would no longer be able to cultivate cannabis," she said. "Just a reminder that the intention of this item is to be able to keep operators in a legal regulated market, and keep those properties within our system for both property tax and cannabis business tax and [Transient Occupancy Tax] and every other thing that cannabis contributes to this community."

"So the penalties and interest for cannabis cultivation are incredibly high as compared to other crops or businesses," she continued, "and the Treasurer / Tax Collector's Office says we probably have about \$2.9 million in penalties and interest that we have not collected."

Mulheren said that the tax plan she was recommending would give three years for those owing back taxes for the Mendocino County cannabis business tax to pay them off.

She noted that while Local Equity Entrepreneur Program grants did allow applicants to use funds to pay taxes in some cases, there was no allowance to use them for penalties and interest.

"There's a lot of reasons that people may not have paid taxes," she said. "Certainly uncertainty in our local licensing system should be number one on that list in all of our minds, as well as COVID and market conditions."

The rest of **Thrive** From page 12

individuals go from their specialty high school programs to life on their own; and Sator Movement clothing.

Inside the studio, Tasha painted faces in Day Glo colors to augment the black-light yoga sessions while Rose Raiser Jeavons introduced people to the art of Tarot readings.

"I think it's incredibly important to get a good reader," explained Rose. "Tarot is a really helpful self-discovery and spiritual tool when wielded by the right hands. I personally think that we create our whole reality with our subconscious and we have the opportunity to reprogram ourselves through affirmations and manifestations of what we would like. Tarot cards are just showing us a reflection of what we are currently creating with our subconscious."

"Yoga has many benefits," said Shawna Jeavons. "I would say the main benefit right now is community accountability. We've all been staying at home a lot and a lot of people want to get out and move, and sometimes it's nice not to feel alone and get in a room with other people who are doing the same things you are doing."

"Another benefit is the diaphragmatic breathing," said Shawna Jeavons, "which is so beneficial for your organs, and the movement helps trauma move through the body. It's good for your heart, good for all your organs, good for all your muscle groups, all your tendons and ligaments, all your fascia."

"I think, right now, it's good to get people moving and flowing. People tend to get stagnant or depressed and feel so alone. It's nice for people to meet down here; sometimes, just having people with you, doing the same thing in the same room, even if you're not engaging or relating. Even our meditation classes, you're not engaging with other people. You're in the same room with others, you're doing your own thing but you don't feel alone."

To learn more about Thrive Yoga, located at 1726 South Main Street, visit [www.thriveyogawillits.com](http://www.thriveyogawillits.com) or call 707-489-1969. For more on Thrive Yoga's Best of Gold Award, visit <https://bestoflakeandmendocino.com>.





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## 'Art & Craft of Distilling' to benefit WCA, March 25

Join Willits Center for the Arts for a magical evening exploring the "Art & Craft of Distilling: An Equinox Evening with Mendocino Spirits." The event, a benefit for the Art Center, features a tasting experience with Tamar Distillery, on Saturday March 25, from 6 to 8 pm.

Senior Distiller Crispin Cain, Tamar Kaye, and Rye N. Flint will present a sublime tasting of their Mendocino Spirits whiskeys, bourbons and gins, lovingly distilled in Redwood Valley. Cain will talk on the art of distillation, and artist Jeremy Logan will describe his design process for the distillery's beautiful labels.

Tapas del Mundo will be on hand serving tasty small bites, and Chris Cichaki will provide live music for your listening pleasure.

Tickets are \$20 to \$50 sliding scale, and available online at [www.willitscenterforthearts.org/](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/) or at the door on March 25, at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, in Willits. For more information about the event, call the WCA at 707-459-1726.

Above, left: Some of the offerings in the Mendocino Spirits line by Tamar Distillery, including Bourbon, Rye Malt, Aged Gin, and Dry Gin.

Above, right: Tamar Kaye of Tamar Distillery, with Senior Distiller Crispin Cain at their Redwood Valley facility.

Below, left: Crispin Cain, senior distiller at Tamar Distillery in Redwood Valley.

Below, right: Banners featuring the art work from the Mendocino Spirits labels hang at Tamar Distillery in Redwood Valley.



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