County budget shows declining

revenues

Forrest Glyer willitsweekly@gmail.com

At a mid-year budget presentation for fiscal year 2022/23 on March 14, County CEO Darcie Antle and other staff laid out some of the many financial challenges the county is currently facing, with declining cannabis revenues once again at the center of discussions. along with declines in sales tax revenue and difficulties collecting some supplemental property taxes.

While the budget report stated that the "midlyear departmental projections show the General Fund departments collectively coming in on budget for the current year," it also listed five departments which were projected to be over budget by at least \$200,000, due to escalating costs or declining revenue.

The cannabis department led the way projected at \$662,000 over budget, followed by the sheriff's department at \$503,000, animal care at \$329,000, facilities costs at \$239,000, and the executive office at \$226,000.

There was also a decline

Read more of Declining

Over on Page 11

Mark Beebe WUSD superintendent

Margi Gomez Guhde

margi@willitsweekly.com

Born and raised in California, Mark Beebe, the superintendent of Willits Unified School District, lived in Fresno for 48 years. The son of a blind father and a mother with muscular dystrophy, Beebe became a star athlete in high school, excelling in both basketball and football.

He received a scholarship in middle-distance track to Fresno State. He graduated from college with a major in English, and after some early employment as a school custodian and bus driver, he became a teacher at Fresno Unified High School.

"I spent almost 30 years working in almost every facet of education," Beebe recalled.

After a few years at Fresno Unified, he joined the Army and the National Guard. In his late 20s, Beebe was recruited by Chowchilla Union High School for an open position for an English teacher who would also serve as a track and basketball coach.0

After five years, he was again recruited by a new Fresno-area school,

Read the rest of Beebe

Over on Page 5







Above, from left: Tattoo artist Kiki Burghardt carefully applies a stencil. The shop's decor reflects Burghardt's cheerful, clean and fun aesthetic. Before it becomes a tattoo, Burghardt spends time sketching the perfect design. Below: The Electric Floral Shop owner, Kiki Burghardt looks up from her work placing a stencil to smile for the camera.



The Electric Floral Shop

Fun, floral and girly tattoos now available in Willits from past Bay Area artist Kiki Burghardt

For over a decade, Kiki Burghardt has been adorning the legs, arms, knees, backs, hands, collarbones and shoulders of clients across northern California with her

Maureen Jennison Graphics & Photographress maureen@willitsweekly.com

quirky kind of spunky, stylized, feminine tattoos, and she is now doing so from her cozy studio in downtown Willits.

Burghardt and her husband, Tom, moved up to Willits in 2017 to be closer to his family, but after moving north, Burghardt commuted down to Oakland for a few years, where she was still actively tattooing at a Bay Area shop. With concerns of the growing pandemic, and traveling becoming an inconvenience, she decided to open the doors of The Electric Floral Shop here in Willits in 2021.

Many of her clients from Modesto, Tracy, the Oakland area, and Santa Rosa still come to Willits to continue to be tattooed by her, but she is also looking to develop more local clientele now, too.

"My mom is an artist, and I've been drawing since I was a baby," laughed Burghardt. "I've had lots of art in my life! Tattooing really became a great avenue for me to make money at creating art, and allowed me to do what I wanted to in the art world."

After growing up and attending school in Santa Rosa, Burghardt moved to the Bay Area where she attended art

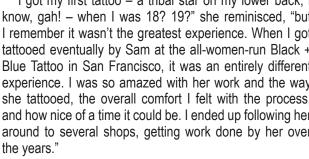
"I got my first tattoo - a tribal star on my lower back, I know, gah! - when I was 18? 19?" she reminisced, "but I remember it wasn't the greatest experience. When I got tattooed eventually by Sam at the all-women-run Black + Blue Tattoo in San Francisco, it was an entirely different experience. I was so amazed with her work and the way she tattooed, the overall comfort I felt with the process, and how nice of a time it could be. I ended up following her around to several shops, getting work done by her over

With her love of drawing ever present, Burghardt was of the process, and become a tattoo artist herself.

"It took me a little while to get on board to actually learn of girly traditional work. So I decided to give it a go."

Burghardt learned how to tattoo in the simple and clean style of American Traditional, but enjoys adding her own

Over on page 11



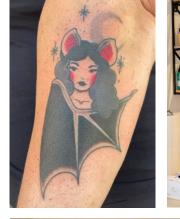
already designing images for her own tattoos, creating the patterns for tattooers to ink onto her skin. Friends started asking for her to draw designs for them, too, and eventually the suggestion came for Burghardt to learn the second-half

to tattoo," said Burghardt. "It is a big deal! But there weren't a lot of other shops around me at the time offering my kind

flair to the designs.



Read the rest of Tattoo









Above, left and right: Some of Burghardt's color tattoos.

Photos by Kiki Burghardt

Above, center: Burghardt holds up three of her favorite colors of ink.

At far left: Kiki smiles with her husband, Tom Burghardt. At left: The Electric Floral Shop is open by appointment only and is located in downtown WIllits.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

WUSD classified workers

get 17% raise

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reported willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits Unified School District board of trustees unanimously approved labor agreements giving classified employees a 17% raise at a March 16 special meeting.

The vote came after closed session negotiations, and then about 50 minutes of public comment from a crowded room of attendees. The agreements are with Classified School Association, Employees

Read the rest of Raise

Over on Page 13

Brooktrails board

to consider benefit assessment

Barbara O'Reardon willitsweekly@gmail.com

Even though Brooktrails Township General Manager Tamara Alaniz had no written report to present at the March 14 meeting, she had a few announcements to make.

The most significant news was about the next board meeting, Tuesday, March 28, where discussion will take place regarding the engineers' study for the fire department benefit assessment. At meeting, the board will make a determination on

Read the rest of Brooktrails

Over on Page 13

Willits **Rail Trail**

workshop, March 23

Submitted by City of Willits

The public is invited to an Open House and community workshop on the Willits Rail Trail on Thursday, March 23, from 6 to 8 pm. This in-person, drop-in meeting at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, is jointly hosted by the City of Willits and the Great Redwood Trail Agency.

The Willits Rail Trail project is a 1.6 mile Class I separated bicycle and pedestrian pathway that will be built within the rail corridor in the City of Willits. Through previous engagement and planning,

Read the rest of Workshop

Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

This is an acknowledgment of gratitude and a big "Thank you!" to Beda Garman – who snowplowed us out at Timberline Road – not once, but twice during the recent snowstorms.

It was a cold, wet job, and we so appreciated him coming in his big

CAT to clear our roads and driveways so we could get out for lifesaving food, supplies, and gas for our generators (no power!).

Thank you Beda! All of us at Timberline Road appreciate and love

Barbara Willens, Willits

Library roof still leaking

To the Editor:

Friends of the Willits Library welcome you to come check out books, DVDs, read a newspaper, use our computers, bring your children, do some research - but wear a raincoat!

And try not to trip over the rain buckets. Measure 0 and earmarked state funding does allow Willits Library to have a proper roof, and even with solar panels. Thank you to our County Supervisor John Haschak and others who have been advocating for our local

We needed a new roof years ago, and this latest storm has literally made its mark. Mendo County officials: Please hear this call, feel this drip.

> Melinda Clarke, board president, Friends of the Willits Library

Main Street 'flushing'

Posted by City of Willits

Beginning Tuesday night, March 21 at 9 pm, the City of Willits Public Works / Water Department will begin the fire hydrant / water valve exercising and night water main flushing on Main Street. The night schedule is to minimize any impacts to the business corridor throughout downtown

This program will take three nights consecutively to complete. Customers may experience low or no water pressure in the water system briefly while the valves are being exercised. Please use caution while the flushing is taking place, as standing water may occur and for the safety of the City of Willits crews that will be exercising valves in the right of way on Main Street.

Schedule as follows:

Tuesday, March 21: Brown's Corner to the Baechtel Creek Bridge / South Main intersection, 9 pm to 2 am.

Wednesday, March 22: Baechtel Creek Bridge / South Main intersection to the Post Office on East Valley Street, 9 pm

Thursday, March 23: Post Office on East Valley Street to Glen Mark Storage north of town, 9 pm to 2

Submitted by the Office of Senator Mike McGuire

California Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire announced March 21 that a new comprehensive economic and community impact study shows the remarkable impact the Great Redwood Trail will have on the North Coast.

McGuire releases study on

benefits of Great Redwood Trail

"We know that outdoor recreation is booming and one of the Golden State's largest economic drivers – worth an estimated \$54 billion per year. The Great Redwood Trail is no different. This landmark project will have a lasting positive impact on our local communities, but candidly, no one could have predicted these numbers - they're huge!" Senator McGuire said. "This trail will help transform our communities, but now we know just how positive it will be for our economy as well. A hundred million dollars a year positive!"

"The Great Redwood Trail is already being built and this astonishing report just makes us work all the harder on it," said Caryl Hart, chair of the Great Redwood Trail Agency. "The analysis shows just how valuable this trail is and why it has such incredible support up and down the North Coast.

The data-heavy 50-page Economic & Vitality Benefit Assessment was researched and drafted by Alta Planning & Design, a nationally renowned firm focused on active transportation. It was released by the Great Redwood Trail Agency, as part of their work in master planning, designing, and building the Great Redwood Trail.

Highlights from the Impact Study:

The Great Redwood Trail will be a transformational economic engine in Northern California.

• Total annual benefits from the trail: \$102,568,000

New recreational, tourism and retail economic benefits:

 Average trip on the trail will generate: \$64 in food/meals, \$60 in retail, \$93 in lodging

· New annual tax revenue coming to our communities: \$5,490,000

• Total new walking/hiking trips per year: 5.3 to 7.9 million

• Total estimated new bike trips per year: 900,000 to 1.3

• Annual trips generated by local residents: 4.1 to 6.1 million • Annual trips generated by visitors: 2.1 to 3.1 million

The immense scale and scenic beauty of the completed trail will create new recreational experiences that will become

destinations for the entire state and beyond. The above figures do not include local hiring, construction, materials, and maintenance of the trail, and represent only the portions of the trail in Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt counties. The southern portion of the Great Redwood Trail, in Marin and Sonoma counties, is being built by the SMART Train and will have significant additional economic benefits for the

"The Great Redwood Trail is giving us a fantastic opportunity to help expand opportunities for residents and our local economy," said Ukiah Mayor Mari Rodin. "The economic and community impact report carefully details the far-reaching benefits this world-class trail system will have on the North

"The North Coast has needed an economic shot in the arm for a long time," said Humboldt County Supervisor Steve Madrone, vice-chair of the Great Redwood Trail Agency. "This trail is creating major new opportunities for neighbors and visitors alike to enjoy the great outdoors and this amazing place we all call home. It's crystal clear the trail will generate new economic vibrancy along the entire corridor.'

The Great Redwood Trail Agency has begun the master planning process for the trail and is holding community meetings this spring to discuss all the design, engineering, environmental, management, and community aspects of the trail. Information and meeting schedules can be viewed here: www.GreatRedwoodTrailPlan.org.

The community meeting in Willits is set for Thursday, March 23, from 6 to 8 pm, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. More info or to RSVP: www.eventbrite. com/e/great-redwood-trail-grt-community-workshop-willitstickets-530691541687

Several segments of the Great Redwood Trail are already built and open to the public in Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Blue Lake, and Ukiah, and more are underway in Willits, along Humboldt Bay, and more.

The Great Redwood Trail was created by the state of California, through the efforts of Senator McGuire, who represents the North Coast. It's replacing the crumbling railroad tracks that have been out of service for decades in Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino counties. In Sonoma and Marin counties, the Great Redwood Trail will run alongside SMART's modern new passenger rail service.

A copy of the full Economic Benefit Assessment can be found here: https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org/#documents

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor

Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 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 11 am. and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$7.

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

Friday, March 24: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes w/

Gravy, Veggie, Roll Monday, March 27: Fish Tacos, Rice & Beans

Tuesday, March 28: Spinach Lasagna, Veggie, Garlic Bread

Wednesday, March 29: Chicken Chow Mein

Thursday, March 30: Breakfast Burrito, Fruit Salad Friday, March 31, Turkey Dinner, Dressing w/ Gravy, Cranberry, Veggie, Roll

Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm.

Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, 8 to

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



Willits Weekly

Read Willits' local paper online and in print www.WillitsWeekly.com

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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

Volume 10, Number 493 3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor /

willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633 Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographress /

maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047 Jackie Cobbs, features editor

Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer /

willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

mathew@willitsweekly.com Forrest Glyer, reporter / features writer / forrest@willitsweekly.com

Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter / willitsweekly@gmail.com Danya Davis, Police Log / danya@willitsweekly.com

Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter / margi@willitsweekly.com

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707- 972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com

Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

Correction from Public Health

Mendocino County Public Health has issued a correction for a press release from their department that Willits Weekly printed in the March 16, 2023 edition: "The press release issued last week about changes to COVID orders erroneously stated that 5 days of isolation was 'recommended' for COVID patients. The 5-day isolation period is still mandatory for all who test positive or are diagnosed with COVID by a provider."

see the updated press release in www.mendocinocounty.org/ home/showpublisheddocument/56716/ 638149067051832335

SUBSCRIPTION FORM In the mail: 1 year - \$100 Additional donation included \$___ Home delivery: 1 year - \$75 (Home Delivery only available in Willits, Brooktrails & local areas) Make checks payable to Willits Weekly | No invoice sent - please just send in payment | P.O. Box 1698 in Willits, CA 95490 Locally Owned | Independent | Editions Every Thursday | Online & In Print QUESTIONS: 707-459-2633 | 707-972-7047 Web: www.willitsweekly.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/willitsweekly Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com









Above, from left: Trays labeled with the animals' names contain medications and info for each of the day's surgeries. Dale Levasseur, left, and Briana Lawrence, prep a shelter dog for surgery. "Anika," a female pup from the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, recuperates in one of the vet's office crates. At left: Dr. Chana Eisenstein, left, and Briana Lawrence are ready to operate on a shelter dog, making her adoptable very soon to a new home. Below: An antiseptic betadine solution is sprayed onto the surgery area as a part of the pre-surgery prep. Further below: Willits High School senior Ava Kelly was on site for this surgery day, learning about the veterinary industry for her senior project. At bottom: Dr. Chana Eisenstein expertly stitches up the incision while talking to Kelly about her process.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



Helping to 'fix' a problem

East Hill Vet Clinic donates surgery days so Humane Society can offer more adoptable pets

It was like watching a well-oiled machine, became even longer due to the current witnessing the team at East Hill Veterinary

Maureen Jennison through

patients who would grace the surgery table Thursday, March 9 during one of the EHVC surgery

Since February 2022, EHVC has allotted space in their Thursday schedule to work in as many pets from the Humane Society animals in need. of Inland Mendocino County possible, performing vital spay or neuter services for the non-profit.

The shelter delivers the dogs and cats animals come out of surgery late, or are not keeps them overnight and sends them back the following day.

"I have been the shelter veterinarian for HSIMC for over a decade." said East Hill Veterinary Clinic owner Chana Eisenstein who bought the practice in 2010 along with partner Holly Bennett from the late Frank Grasse D.V.M. who passed away in November of that same year. "Shelters cannot adopt out animals which have not been spayed or neutered and, when COVID hit, the waiting list for spay and neuter

New Hours:

TALLTREE

ENGINEERING

CIVIL & GEOTECHNICAL

Willits Weekly | March 23, 2023

Sunday: 9am - 5pm

veterinary crisis [the lack thereof, basically] crisis. Adoptions were delayed, creating a significant negative impact on the animals, the shelter, and the community."

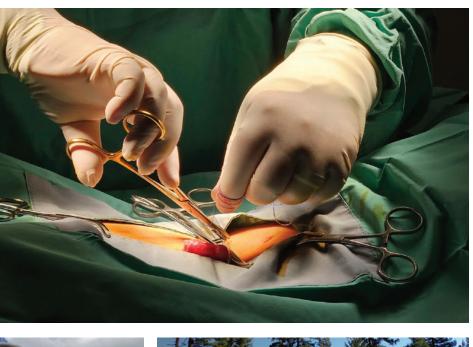
Eisenstein continued, noting that HSIMC utilizes volunteer foster care for dogs and cats to keep them out of the shelter and because of this program, there are fewer animals housed at HSIMC, which allows them the space to rescue and house more

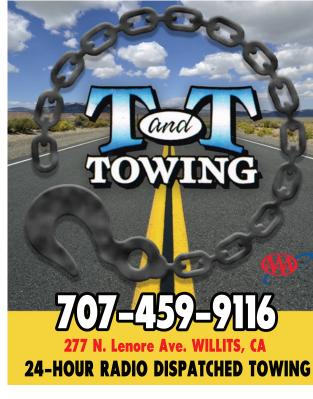
"The bottleneck on getting the animals adopted out to new homes is actually doing the spay/neuter surgeries themselves all adoptions hinge upon this," explained on Thursday morning, and then they come Eisenstein. "We do this because we love back in the afternoon to pick them up. If any animals, we love HSIMC, and we love our community. And we can help, so we do. It awake enough to go at pick-up time, EHVC is what we spent our lives training to do. We, in the veterinary profession and in the sheltering profession, are in a crisis situation; it is incumbent upon us to step

Each surgery day, many cats and dogs receive this necessary operation, allowing them to then become adoptable from the shelter, keeping the cycle of new animals being able to be accepted, and those now

Read the rest of Over on page 10 EHVC|

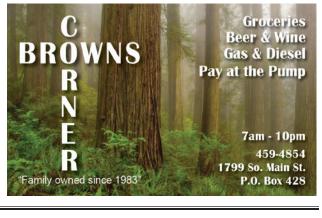






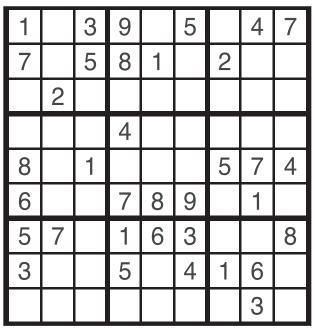






Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



SUDOKU

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

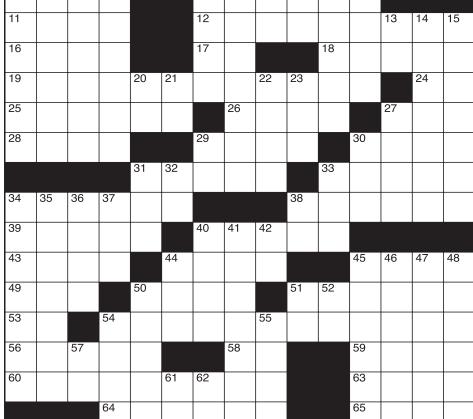
GNVGGGHLYEXPERIMENTT CXSNEMERGINGASONAVTW

ARTISTIC BRAINSTORM BREAKTHROUGH BUSINESS CANVAS **CHALLENGING COLLABORATE DESIGN**

EMERGING EXPERIMENT FRAMEWORK IDEAS INDUSTRY INFLUENTIAL INNOVATION INVENTION

MODEL **PORTFOLIO PROTOTYPES SOFTWARE SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY THEORY**

MARKET



CLUES ACROSS

1. Influential American political family

5. __ Chantilly, __ de Menthe 11. Within

12. Pleasure seekers 16. Computer manufacturer

17. Home to college sports' Flyers

18. Fungal disease 19. Sleepwalk

24. Spielberg sci-fi film

25. Seasonable 26. Taxis

27. Radio direction finder (abbr.)

28. Thin, narrow piece of wood 29. 'Mystic River' actor Sean

30. Ingenuous 31. Musical composition 33. Turkish surname

34. High or hilly area 38. Wilco frontman 39. Pour it on pasta

49. Boy

40. Electric car company 43. Sea eagle 44. Walk with difficulty 45. Sign of healing

51. Washington city 53. Individual portion of TV series (abbr.) 54. Thought over

50. Protein-rich liquid

23. Airborne (abbr.) 27. Level 29. Atomic #94 30. Born of 31. Midway between

northeast and east

32. Northeastern bank

34. Having no purpose

37. Earn a perfect score

33. Defunct airline

35. A low wall

36. Swedish city

38. Atomic #81

42. Incorrect letters

44. Telecommunication

service provider (abbr.)

40. Beginner

41. Give off

56. Scads 58. News agency 59. Standard

60. Deadlock 63. Pre-Columbian empire 64. Removed

65. French commune

CLUES DOWN

1. Large, dangerous animals 2. Straighten out 3. Family tree 4. Large stinging paper wasp 5. European river fish 6. Cut down in size

22. Path

45. Idyllic 46. Popular beer 7. Denotes past 8. Larry and Curly's partner 9. Samoyedic ethnic group

47. A way to fine 48. Evildoer 50. More withered 51. Seventh note of a 10. Male parent major scale 13. Specific gravity

52. Commercial 14. Demeaned oneself to 54. Abnormal breathing 15. Rigidly 55. Moved more quickly 20. Yankovic is a "weird" one 57. City of Angels 61. Partner to Pa 21. Belonging to me 62. Equally

HOW TO

The officers of the Willits Police March 2 Department handled 76 incidents in this Sudoku puzzles are 6-day reporting period. **Summary of Active Investigations** February 27 100 block of Baechtel Road and issued a

9:33 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main 9:50 am: Officers conducted a stop in the

and Arrests

February 28

11:14 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the March 4 800 block of South Main Street and issued 4:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop in

the 1200 block of South Main Street and 8:11 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Main Street and issued

March 1

12:49 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

4:21 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:30 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

of suspicious activity in the 500 block of East Commercial Street. 10:07 pm: Officers responded to a report

6:15 pm: Officers responded to a report

of a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

10:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Sherwood Road and North Main Street and issued a citation.

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

February 27 to March 4 By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

> 12:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Barbara Lane and Central Street.

5:04 pm: MARINCARRILLO, Abraham Jesus (22) of Willits was contacted in the 2100 block of Valley Road. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order).

March 3

11:02 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation

2:06 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East Commercial Street and issued a

12:16 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and Central Street and issued a

12:47 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

3:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of Locust Street.

5:09 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Poplar Avenue and Holly Street and issued a warning.

7:24 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:35 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1500 block of South Main Street and

7:53 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:19 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

9:51 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 400 block of Mill Street and issued a

IRS extends tax deadlines again due to storm disasters

Posted on www.irs.gov

WASHINGTON - Victims of severe winter storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides beginning December 27, 2022, now have until October 16, 2023, to file various individual and business tax returns and make tax payments, the Internal Revenue Service announced on February 22.

IRS automatically identifies taxpayers located in the covered disaster area and applies filing and payment relief.

Following the disaster declaration issued by the Federal Emergency Management individuals and households affected by severe winter storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides that reside or have a business in Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Diego, San Francisco, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, and Yolo counties qualify for tax relief.

The declaration permits the IRS to postpone certain tax-filing and tax-payment deadlines for taxpayers who reside or have a business in the disaster area. For instance, certain deadlines falling on or after December 27, 2022, and before October 16, 2023, are granted additional time to file through October 16, 2023.

As a result, affected individuals and businesses will have until October 16,

2023, to file returns and pay any taxes that were originally due during this period. This includes 2022 individual income tax returns due on April 18, as well as various 2022 business returns normally due on March 15

Among other things, this means that eligible taxpayers will have until October 16 to make 2022 contributions to their IRAs and health savings accounts.

In addition, farmers who choose to forgo making estimated tax payments and normally file their returns by March 1, 2023, will now have until October 16, 2023, to file their 2022 return and pay any tax due.

The October 16, 2023, deadline applies to the quarterly estimated tax payments. normally due on January 17 and April 18, 2023. This means that individual taxpayers can skip making the fourth quarter estimated tax payment, normally due January 17, 2023, and instead include it with the 2022 return they file, on or before October 16.

The October 16, 2023, deadline also applies to the quarterly payroll and excise tax returns normally due on January 31, 2023, and April 30, 2023. In addition, penalties on payroll and excise tax deposits due on or after December 27, 2022, and before January 11, 2023, will be abated as long as the tax deposits were made by January 11, 2023.

To see the full IRS press release, which includes information about other tax relief offered due to the storm disasters, visit www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-announces-taxrelief-for-victims-of-severe-winter-stormsflooding-landslides-and-mudslides-in-



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Willits Weekly - the local paper







Above, from left: Juniors Nicole Keough and Kiley Bozzo put finishing touches on their artist trading cards. Sophomore Ashlyn Alvarez with her fun sunflower birdhouse that she made in woodshop. Junior Nevaeh Jones shows off the motorcycle she made in welding. Senior MaryAnn Bertolino with her Ukiyo-e woodblock print.

Below: Seniors Reece Greenberg, Adrien Rabano and Kayla Jimenez create their mixed-media artist trading cards in the Willits High School Art Studio.



24th annual exhibit celebrating talented

Art Under 20

high school student artists

Submitted by WHS Art Department

proud to present the 24th annual Art Under Twenty student art exhibition at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial

High school artists from Willits High School, Willits Charter School and Potter Valley High School are exhibiting their work for family, friends and the greater community.

This show will be the gallery debut for many of these exceptionally talented artists You will see works in painting, printmaking and drawing, and also in woodworking and

Ninth-grade artist Sophie Andersen's work is on this year's Art Under 20 poster.

Please join us for the opening reception Friday, March 31, from 3:30 to 6:30 pm. You

ap.pi.ness

Beebe points to

happiness" as his

ighest aspiration.

Photos by Margi

Gomez Guhde

The Willits High School Art Department is will have a chance to meet the artists, see their work, and have refreshments.

Some quotes from the Art Under 20

"This is my last art class in high school, and I'm stuck having fun and creating little masterpieces with Reece and Adrien!" -Kavla

"I love art!" - Reece

recommend Ms. Bakewell as an art teacher.... She's the best!" - Adrien "I just finished printmaking, and now I'm taking

a mixed media class and I'm loving it!" - Kylie "It's fun to make little, intimate works of art"

For any questions, please contact carolynbakewell@willitsunified.com.



From page 1

Sunnyside High School, as their head

basketball coach. In the 12 years he was at Sunnyside, the men's team that he coached won the championships three times, and Beebe was named coach of the year for 12 years.

Beebe began to focus on work in administration about 10 years ago, taking a position in Natomas High School in Sacramento for two years. He was hired as a principal at Chico High School where he worked for three years, and from there, he took a position with EN High School for three years as both principal and as district superintendent. He spent a year as the director of student services at Yuba City High School. Beebe's next move was to Willits.

"I wanted to work in a small town in a rural community, in a place where people know one another, and relate to one another with kindness," Beebe said. "That's what brings me joy and what I saw here in Willits when I came to interview."

every student's education at the forefront of their efforts. "My mission is to give people the confidence and tools to do their job. I have a rock-star staff, and I have full faith in their abilities," he beamed.

Beebe believes that his team here in Willits does put

As Beebe sees it, one big challenge is getting everyone on the same page, or at least on the same chapter.

kindness, for the good of the students and their community." "We are emerging from the chaos of the COVID era, and

there is still some adjustment taking place. I want to work towards an open, transparent environment, where ideas from both the staff and from the community are heard and nurtured." he said.

"I try to focus on a collaborative messages, and my interest is in communicating vertically, from the kindergarteners to the seniors. Twenty-first century teaching presents complex challenges, which I know our team can meet." Beebe said that for him, one of the most unexpected

things about Willits has been the cold weather. "I've discovered that I'm decidedly NOT a cold-weather person," he exclaimed. "It really took me by surprise." Winter weather aside, Beebe said that he is thoroughly

enjoying living and working in Willits. "Life events like snow come and go, and can actually make the community stronger," he said.

Beebe said he considers himself a servant / leader, and

he believes that everyone else's needs are more important "I'm very heartened to see how willing to work the district staff is," he declared. "They work together well, and with



Best WILLITS

Fax: 707 459-6369

707-459-5859

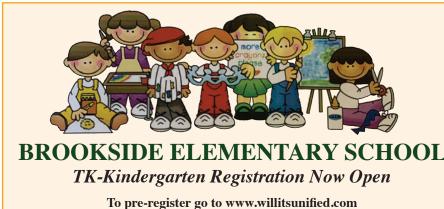
900 N. HWY 101 IN WILLITS 707.459.5193

Environmental Restoration - Ponds

Septic & Water Systems - Site Development

Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery





Para registrar a su estudiante ve a www.willitsunified.com Kindergarten - age 5 by September 1, 2023

Transitional Kindergarten - age 5 between Sept. 2, 2023 and April 2, 2024 Kinder - 5 años antes de Septiembre 1, 2023 Trancision de Kinder - 5 años en medio de Septiembre 2, 2023 a Abril 2, 2024

Once you have completed the online registration, please bring the following documents to Brookside: • Birth Certificate • Certificado de nacimiento

• Registros de inmunización (vaccunas) • Immunization records If you have any questions please call the Brookside office at (707) 459-5385 or visit our Website at www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside

Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame a la oficina de Brookside al (707) 459-5385 or visite nuestro sitio web www.willitsunified.com/o/brooksid



MARCH MADNESS SALE

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org

Story Time: Tuesday through Friday each week, 10:30 to 11 am. "Start your morning listening to a story. Join us in the children's area of the library."

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

Open Source Design, Artistic Expression, and Engineering Club: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3 to 4:30 pm. "Open to everyone with an interest in open source and everyone who wants to develop their creative and engineering skills."

LEGO Club: Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start

Writer's Block Group: Wednesdays, from 11 am to noon. "Open to young-adult and adult writers to share their ideas and writings in an environment of supportive and creative suggestions and feedback." Hosted by Librarian Benjamin MacBean. Willits Library meeting room.

Games at the Library: First and third Fridays of the month (and fifth Friday, March 31, this month!). 4 to 5:30 pm. "Calling all board, card and tabletop role-playing game players! All ages and player levels welcome. Bring your own games to add to the fun!"

Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library from 1 to 4:30 pm. "All skill levels welcome! Spinning circle 1 to 2 pm, Knitting circle 2 to 4:30 pm."



Thursday, March 23

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Arts for an evening The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious Distillery of Redwood meals, tasty treats, live music, the Valley, on Saturday, new edition of Willits Weekly, and March 25, from 6 more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story to 8 pm, including time from 3:30 to 4 pm. Thursday, a tasting of their March 23, 3 to 5:30 pm. lovingly distilled local Mendocino Spirits.

WHS Swim Team: Home meet vs. St. Helena / Calistoga. Thursday, March 23 at 4 pm. Willits Pool, 429 S Main Street.

Willits Rail Trail Community Meeting: Open House hosted by the City of Willits and the Great Redwood Trail Agency, "a joint meeting to provide input on the Willits Rail Trail and learn about the larger Great Redwood Trail Master Plan." Thursday, March 23 at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Drop in from 6 to 8 pm. "The Willits Rail Trail project is a 1.6 mile Class I separated bicycle and pedestrian pathway that will be built within the rail corridor in the City of Willits," funded by a \$6 million Active Transportation grant from the state. More info or RSVP at www.cityofwillits. org/285/Rail-Trail-Project

Foster Jonathan Shanachie: Folk-Country-Americana "with a strong vocal presence woven with imaginative lyrics, rootsy acoustic guitar, harmonica, and engaging songs that make you feel at home." Thursday, March 23 at 7 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main.

Friday, March 24

WHS Baseball: Willits High School baseball teams face Fort Bragg at home. WHS, 299 North Main Street. Friday, March 24; JV game starts at 3:30; varsity at 5 pm.

WHS Softball: Willits High School softball team faces Fort Bragg at home, Friday, March 24 at 4 pm. WHS, 299 North Main Street.

Blu Egyptian at Shanachie: West Coast indie groove sensations out of Chico - a "youthful quartet ... creating a unique fusion of funk, bluegrass, reggae, world music, rock, EDM and more – play Shanachie Pub on Friday, March 24 at 8 pm. 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, March 25

Photos with the

Easter Bunny

and his live

furry friends

April 6

Photos with the Easter

Bunny and his live, furry

friends!: The Easter Bunny

himself will be making

an appearance at J.D.

Redhouse & Company on

Thursday, April 6 from 5

Maureen (Moore)

appointments

Look forward to seeing

you all there! Please pass

the word and cross your

WHS Baseball: Willits High School baseball teams face Healdsburg at home. WHS, 299 North Main Street. Saturday, March 25; JV: 11 am / 12:30 pm; varsity game starts at 2 pm.

New Laytonville Library Grand Opening: "Join us in celebrating the opening of the new Laytonville Library Branch," 44960 North Highway 101, Suite D, in downtown Laytonville Grand opening / ribbon cutting on Saturday, March 25 at 2 pm. "We appreciate all who made this dream a reality!" More info: 707-984-8089.

WILLITS

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 29TH

VILLITS COMMUNITY CENTE 111 E. COMMERCIAL STREET

Two Sessions

AFTERNOON

11:30 am - 2 pm

EVENING

5:30 - 8 pm

WILLITS RAIL TRAII

'The Art and Craft **ART & CRAFT of DISTILLING** of Distilling' Tasting and Talk: Willits Center for the

Tamar

What's Happening Around Town



(a) ARTS

Distiller Crispin 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. A benefit for the WCA: Tickets are \$20 to \$50 sliding scale, and available online at www.willitscenterforthearts. org/ or, if still available, at the door. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 707-459-1726.

Blue Luke Concert at WCT: Blues guitarist Luke Andrews brings three-chord classic blues with runs of jazz improv, rock riffs, and funk rhythms, backed by popular Mendocino County

trumpeter Jim Dooley, Israeli-born drummer Roni Zadik, Michael Cantwell on keyboards, and Derek Soderquist on bass. Tickets \$20; available at www. wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door until sold out. Saturday, March 25 at 7:30 pm at Willits Community Theatre Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. Serving Mendocino Spirits, Bonterra Winery, Northspur Brewery.

Donnie "Mississippi Saxophone" at Shanachie: Local harmonica

Let's Talk About Sex

"Mississippi player Donnie saxophone) friends fellow musicians play an improvisational variety Chicago style Blues, Rock, Funk, Latin & West African music. Saturday, March 25 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Sunday, March 26 Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: Monthly breakfast at the Grange is set for

Sunday, March 26, 8 to 11

am. "\$10 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes and local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Choose our sourdough wholegrain, gluten-free, or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic fresh eggs made to order, real butter, orange juice, organic coffee or tea." \$10, \$9 for seniors, \$5 for children under 10. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street.

Free Garden Seed Giveaway: Free seeds available to all, Sunday, March 26 from 9 to 11 am, during this month's Pancake Breakfast at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

GENERAL PLAN

LAND USE ELEMENT UPDATE

COMMUNITY

WHAT SHOULD THE FUTURE

OF WILLITS LOOK LIKE?

TAKE OUR

Scan the QR cod

ith your phone t

fill out our online

survey and share

your input.

SCAN ME

Join us for an IN-PERSON

the Willits Rail Trail!

Drop in 6:00-8:00 pm

Community Meeting on

Thursday, March 23rd, 2023

111 E Commercial St, Willits, CA

Willits Community Center (City Hall)

Scan the QR code to visit the Project Website and

🌑 🕮 alta 🚾

Willits Weekly | March 23, 2023

RSVP to the event.

OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, March 28

WHS Softball: Willits High School softball team faces St. Helena at home, Tuesday, March 28 at 4 pm. WHS, 299 North Main Street.

WHS Baseball: Willits High School baseball teams face St. Helena at home. WHS, 299 North Main Street. Tuesday, March 28. JV game starts at 4 pm; varsity at 5:30 pm.

SCAN ME

Wednesday, March 29

City of Willits Land Use Open House: What should the future of Willits look like? The City of Willits holds a Community

Open House on the General Plan Land Use Element Update. Two sessions on Wednesday, March 29: Afternoon Session from 11:30 am to 2 pm, or Evening Session from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, at the Willits Community

Center, 111 East Commercial Street. "Speak with planners and learn about the project; share your ideas and provide feedback; enjoy free snacks and beverages!" More info, visit https:// willitslanduseupdate.com/ To take the survey, scan the QR code in the poster or visit www. surveymonkey.com/r/willitslanduse survey1

'Let's Talk About Sex': Avenues to Wellness resumes its in-person monthly speaker series with a talk by Doris Wier, certified relationship

coach on Wednesday, March 29, from 6 to 7 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street Free admission, donations appreciated. Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit www.avenuestowellness. org to view Video Archives of previous talks.

Thursday, March 30

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market at the Little Lake

Grange, 291 School Street. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm. Thursday, March 30, 3 to 5:30 pm.

Hilary & Christiane at Shanachie: Folkbased country and blues and unique vocals and harmony by Sonoma County based multiinstrumental duo Hilary & Christiane. Shanachie Pub on Friday, March 30 at 8 pm. 50B South

Canine Adoption Deals

at the Ukiah and Fort Bragg

Animal Shelters

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

and older. All adoption fees waived for eligible long-stay

dogs! "To see our adoptable dogs, and for information about

the adoption process, visit mendoanimalshelter.com." Ukiah

Shelter, 298 Plant Road, 707-467-6453. Fort Bragg Shelter,

19701 Summers Lane, 707-961-2491.

Free Grief

Support Group

starts March 23

Avenues to Wellness, a

orogram of the Frank R.

Howard Foundation, is offering

a free-of-charge, in-person,

8-week grief support group.

With group facilitators Susana

Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-

Johnson. Begins Thursday,

March 23, 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

Participants

in this group

opportunity to

process their

loss in a small-

group setting.

This group is

appropriate for

folks who are

approximately

6 months or

loss.

interested

707-456-9676

time of

the

the

please

Suzanne

have

Friday, March 31

Art Under 20: 24th annual exhibit celebrating student artists, this year from Willits High School, Willits Charter

School and Potter Valley High School. Works in painting, printmaking and drawing, and also in woodworking and welding. Reception is Friday, March 31, at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, 3:30 to 6:30 pm. Meet the artists, see their work, have refreshments.

WHS Softball: Willits High School softball team faces Fort Bragg at home, at 4 pm. WHS, 299 North Main

Saturday, April 1

Easter Vendors Event: Mendo Crafts presents the monthly Vendor Fair and Easter event, April 1, 2023 from 11 am to 5 pm. 11 North Main

Spring Fling in Laytonville: Laytonville Lioness Club presents an April Fools benefit for Laytonville High School. Music by Kingsnakes, 8-piece band plays New Orleans funk and blues. Seafood Gumbo by "Sho' Nuff Dat Gumbo." Saturday, April 1 at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue. 21+ over. Doors open 7 pm, show at 8 pm. \$25 at the door; \$20 advance at Weathertop Nursery, Long Valley Feed & Supply, The Stichery and Pour Girls Coffee.



Ongoing

Art under 20

2023

Brown Bag Lunch Program: lunches served at the City Park (or across the street in case of rain) every Saturday from 1 to 2 pm. Come early to be assured a lunch! Provided by various churches organizations.

at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl: or older), and diapers.

"Garraoke" at Diggers Bar: Karaoke night the second and fourth Friday of every month, with host and DJ Garrett Moore, "From 8 pm to midnight, then get down until closing!" Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street.

Willits Boules Club, Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 pm: The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: bbruneau@bbruneau.com.

Events

superheroes in adult bodies in a Philadelphiawrecking battle that pits Shazam! (Zachary Levi) and his super-powered buddies versus three ruthless Dan Essman community want to destroy "the

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Shazam! 2:

Fury of the Gods'

The Story: Return of the DC Comics teenage

Shuffleboard Sunday

"Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Game starts at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee, teams of two, winner takes the pot! We'll have the games on all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we've got everything you need!" Flying Dog Wood Pizza, 65 South Main Street. The Redwood Empire Food Bank: Twicemonthly drive-thru food distribution in Willits, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, located in the parking lot of the soccer and baseball fields, 9:30 to 11:30 am. Groceries to go, senior basket (for low-income seniors 60

Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym: Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers a free karate program for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, , Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 pm. Beginner to intermediate group, youth 7 years old and above. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). For more info call or text Mike Tobin Sensei at 354-0565. Body Works Gym,1511 South Main

demi-goddesses: Hespera (Helen Mirren), and Kalvpso (Lucv Liu) aka the Daughters of Atlas. It seems the Daughters

world as we know it" and resurrect the Ancient World of Greek Gods.

This delicious pot roast of a movie offers its audience: a furious and crusty dragon, magical power bolts, a wizard named Wizard (Djimon Hounsou), badtempered all-black unicorns, and also all sorts of other grotty creatures who don't seem to like much of anyone or anything (not even Philly cheesesteaks!) and just want to break things and kill people. And there's a wizard's staff topped with a glowing jewel. And there's a kitten.

My Thoughts: As they say again and again in "Shazam!" and the Fast and Furious franchise, and I don't know how many other current movies: It's all about Family. At the center of this flick are the struggles of teenagers to know their place in the world and fight supernatural bad guys.



are foster kids with a loving mom and dad who have a secret magical clubhouse / hideout and are supportive of each other despite having spats and growing pains. Also, there's a kitten. It's a wonderful fantasy world, and I recommend it as a model for our own fractured existences. Just say Shazam!

Parents: A-OK. It's about courage, sacrifice, brotherly and sisterly loyalty and love, and love for our neighbors as ourselves. And it's a kids movie. So bring 'em. And the good guys win.

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

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street

Open Mic Night. Every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20-minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of

Saturday Scramble: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, hosted by Tyler B. Bring any instrument you can play and sign up to perform a 15-minute set with other local musicians. "Meet new musicians, discover new of the area may drop in!"

Boys: Held third and fifth Thursday evening in March at 7 pm. "Come check out some of our favorite locals playing bluegrass & more!"

Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, "so you never know which members from out

genres and explore your creativity!"

unexpected surprises.

Tyler Grass & The Sherwood Mountain

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES SHELTERS Foster = Adopt



Bluegrass Concert Edward Loudermilk Band



Saturday April 8, 2023

Bruce's Barn

350 Sherwood Rd - Willits CA Doors Open 6:00 pm Show Starts 7:00 pm Tickets \$25 each \$30 At The Door To Reserve Tickets

707-489-0155 or 707-841-1315 Willits Sober Grad Will Offer Light Refreshments

Rotary 💥 Proceeds to Benefit

Starts Friday, March 31:

Comedy benefit for WHS Class of 2023 April 1

North Coast Comedy presents call 707-367-2370.

'Once' at Mendocino College March 23 to April 2

Mendocino College presents "Once," a Tony the 2nd annual Comedy for a Award-winning musical that tells the story of Cause, Saturday, April 1 at Rivino a guy who gives up on love and music, and Winery, 4001 Rivino Ranch Road a girl who inspires him to dream again. Pay in Ukiah. Headliner is Steve what you wish preview, March 23; opening Ausburne, also featuring Cody night Friday, March 24, plays Thursday, Smit, with host The Bern Man, and Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, with a 2 DJ Steve Sims, and a big raffle pm matinee on Sunday, April 2 closing the with lots of prizes. Doors open run. Center for the Visual & Performing Arts, for dinner at 6 pm, food available 1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah. \$20, \$15 for sale from local vendors. Show students and seniors. Advance tickets are from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Admission available at the Mendocino Book Company \$20; tickets at Mendocino Book in Ukiah, and online at www.ArtsMendocino. Company, www.totalbern.com or org. Info: call 707-468-3172 or visit www. mendocino.edu/the-arts/theatre





JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4



SHAZAM: FURY OF THE GODS (PG13) 2 hrs 10 mins Friday:

4:45 & 7:45pm Sat./Sun.: :45, 4:45 & 7:45pm Mon.-Thurs.: 4:45 & 7:45pm Tightwad Tuesday Title for March 28 is in RED. All tickets at just \$6!



Friday: 5:00 & 8:00pm Sat./Sun.: 2:00, 5:00 & 8:00pm Mon.-Thurs.: 5:00 & 8:00pm OVER 21 CLUB -**Luxury Recliners**

SCREAM IV

Flowers by Annette.

(R) 2 hrs 3 mins

(R) 2 hrs 49 mins Fri.-Thurs: 4:00 & 7:30pm

vie Times for March 24 thru March 30

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

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

At right, below: Tara Moratti, owner of Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, loves owning her office building.

At far right: Almost all of the Coldwell Banker Mendo crew is in attendance at the open

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 dult Sunday School 9:00 a. Info? 707-459-1905 ww.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 unday Bible Study-10:00 a.n Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service-6-7:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study-7-8:00 p.m.

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

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

Eckankar: The Pat f Spiritual Freedo

 Sound of Soul events Membership Discourses Spiritual Discussions ECK Light & Sound Service Call 530-224-8703 www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church

enjoying the Celebrating Life In Christ new location. 25 Hazel Street, Willits Far right: The Coldwell **Modified Worship Service** Banker Mendo 10 a.m. Other ministries suspended Realty new for now location in For appointments call: Willits sits (707) 459-3106 at 100 South

At right:

Assistant

Marybeth

Durman is

Street, across

from Safeway

and Willits

Furniture.

Administrative

Catholic Church 61 W. San Francisco Ave.

Willits, CA 95490 Father Agron Bandanadan Mass times: Confessions by appointment 459-2252 Sunday Mass inside: 9:00 a.m. English 10:30 a.m. Spanish Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m. Covid guidelines apply.

St. Francis **Episcopal Church** 1 North Main Street, Willits

707-272-0177

We welcome All Walks of Faitl

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

St. John Lutheran Church Church Service:

Sunday 10:00 to 11:00 (707) 459-2988 24 Mill Creek Drive ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day **Adventist Church** 707-459-5714 Friendly, open worship

Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:45 a.m. Zoom Transmission Available Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m. 399 W. Mendocino Ave. All are welcome!

Willits United

Methodist Church Labyrinth and Peace Garden A place to find comfort where all are welcome Pastor Rosemary Landry Sunday Worship at 10:30 an 286 School St. (at Pine) 707-459-2855

wumc@willitsonline.com www.willitsumc.org Facebook: facebook willits umc

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









At top: Cards of experienced agents waiting to help clients buy

and sell real estate are on display at the front desk. Above:

Administrative Assistant Marybeth Durman makes sure the

Coldwell Banker

Deep-rooted real estate agency moves to new, more-accessible location

For the last 45 years, Coldwell Banker, through its several iterations, has become a fixture in Little Lake Valley, as it is in Ukiah. The office was located on South Main Street which was easy to miss for those driving by.

Mathew Caine

Since February 6, the real estate agency has been ensconced in their new location at 100 South Street, across from Safeway and Willits Furniture, a smaller but much more workable situation for the several real estate agents who work out of the building. They feel

that they are more visible and safer now, in a spot that is easier for many of the Willits residents to access

Last Friday, March 17, on Saint Patrick's Day, the facility finally had its open house to introduce the location to the public. The clean, accessible office was filled with foods of various kinds, including mini pies from Kemmy's, various dips, and other tasty fingerfoods.

Visitors were treated to tours and could meet with most of the agents, in order to know which agents were available for their next real estate requirements. After a slow start, the action picked up and the offices became filled with curious residents and perspective buyers and sellers.

"One of the reasons I like this office is that I'm renting from myself now,"

Read the rest of Coldwell

Over on page 11











Email: basroofing@live.com

Residential & Commercial Serving areas of Mendocino, Lake and ROOFING **Sonoma Counties** License #927007



Above, left: Margie Handley and Jolene Carrillo take time to visit

with Lee Persico. Above, right: Randa Craighead is enjoying her





new open office space.

Providing Residential & Commercial Services Burglar & Fire Alarm Systems **CCTV** Surveillance Access Control

Phone: (707) 462-5200 ax: (707) 462-1478 Email: sales@deepvallevsecuritv.net Alarm Lic. #ACO3195 Contractor's Lic. #638502

2010 Industry Rd Ukiah, CA 95482 **Javier Moreno**

LEGAL NOTICES

Mendocino County invites

applications for:

Administrative Services Manager I/II

\$81,473 - \$116,500

Agricultural Field Inspector

\$19.33 - \$22.39 Hourly

Agricultural/Measurement

Standards Specialist I/II/III

\$48,880 - \$72,238

Chief Planner

\$95,846 - \$116,500

Community Services Officer

\$48,984 - \$59,529

Corrections Deputy

\$54,184 - \$65,873

Custodian

\$37,544 - \$43,472

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

Employment and Training

Worker I/II

\$23.40 - \$31.31 hourly

Environmental Health Technician

\$46,072 - \$56.035

Environmental Health Specialist I/II

\$55,993 - \$75,067

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

\$55,515 - \$67,475

Mental Health Clinician I/II

\$59,737 - \$84,011

Network Systems Analyst II

\$78,187 - \$95,014

Public Health Nurse

\$91.124 - \$110.780

Registered Nurse

\$78,187 - \$95,014

Senior Program Manager

\$92,705 - \$112,694

Senior Public Health Nurse

\$100,297 - \$121,908

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

Staff Services Administrator

\$73,320 - \$89.128

Vocational Assistant

\$37,024 - \$38,875

For a complete list of current job openings

and to apply:

www.governmentjobs.com/careers/

<u>mendocinoca</u>

EOE

Willits Weekly

X (E T A R O B A L L O C) (S)

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 Ardella 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

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as

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,

Publication Dates: March 9, 16, 23, 2023

Willits, CA 95490, Telephone (707) 483-0741.

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

01-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

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.

23, 2023

Publication dates: March 2, 9, 16

/s/ Michael Garrity

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

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 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 vestments 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

and April 2, 2024.

Brookside

2 de abril de 2024.

The Chamber

needs YOU!

getting involved? We

people to help with all

ask for Lou Celaya, the

volunteer coordinator.

enthusiastic

Saturday, March 25, 8-4. Rain or Shine. Guitar's, Amp's, Womenswear, Shoes, lots of misc.... 1481 East Hill Road. Park on street and walk to backvard. 5 between Sept. 2, 2023

Inscripción abierta en

inscripción para TK / Kindergarten de Brookside Elementary ya está abierta. Para registrarse, vava www.willitsunified.com la edad para Kinder 5 años antes del 1 de septiembre de 2023 Mendocino Counties. TK: 5 años entre el 2 de septiembre de 2023 y el

> Help Wanted Wanted and needed: A handyman experienced in plumbing, please call

707-459-1043 Willits Chamber of Commerce is looking for volunteers to help answer phones, meet Senior Center Thrift and greet the public, with fundraising Store is hiring a merchandise processor/ and mixers, and much more! Interested in

stocker/ cashier (35 hours weekly). Call Richard Baker for more information at 459-6826. Or email resume 3 references wsidirector@ willitsseniorcenter.com

John Ford

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

For Rent Cottage, in town, 800 sc feet, W/D and upgraded kitchen, small private backyard, no smoke, no drugs, must have job, avail now. \$1,000/mo.

707-972-6333.

For Rent Clean Studio Apt. for upstairs unit, Facility on hand garbage paid. Close to downtown. \$750.00 per mo. Armco 707-459-

No pets. No drugs. \$600 including utilities. Available now. 707-354-

RV/Trailer Space

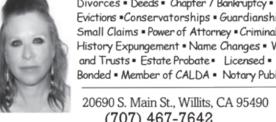
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at http://www.

Marc Komer Legal Document Assistant

Non-Attorney Service

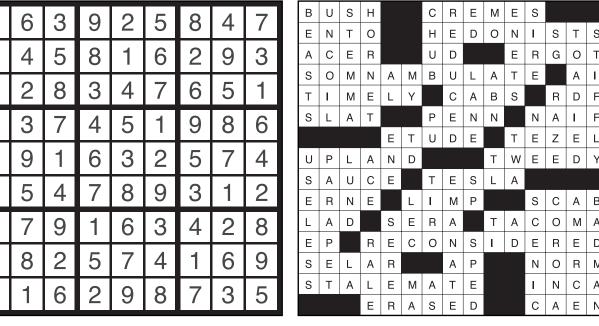
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Christina McCluskey's Paralegal Service Certified Paralegal, Legal Document Assistant, Notary Public



Bonded . Member of CALDA . Notary Public 20690 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490

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



3

Brookside Registration Open Brookside Elementary

Moving Sale TK / Kindergarten registration is now open. To register go to www.willitsunified.com. Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2023; TK: age

> 'Have You Had A Spiritual Experience?'

Garage Sale

Treadmill.

Join us for a lively discussion on spiritual experiences with a starter topic on Animals Are Soul, Too. Come share or just listen! Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Saturday, April 8, 10 to 11 am. Questions? Call April at 707-972-2475; Sponsored by Eckankar of Lake

Help Wanted

energetic and excited the Chamber needs. For info: (707) 459-7910 and

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.

for Rent

oaknvine.net/tp

9601

An Affordable (707) 459-2775

245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction

> Divorces . Deeds . Chapter 7 Bankruptcy . Evictions *Conservatorships * Guardianships Small Claims - Power of Attorney - Criminal History Expungement . Name Changes . Wills

(707) 467-7642

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

Pg. 8 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

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

Willits Weekly | March 23, 2023

||T||U||I||I||L M I X K L W P D

TPTTNMGA

(Y G O L O N H C E T)

EY(SEILPPUS)VVLIGLRR GNVGGGHLYEXPERIMEN

C X S N (E M E R G I N G) A S O N A V

V C B W (N G I S E D)

USAVNACNSX







At top: Willits High School senior Ava Kelly, left, watches the pre-op process performed quickly and thoughtfully by Dale Levasseur, center, and Briana Lawrence, right.

Above: No more puppies for this one! Dr. Chana shows the swiftly removed reproductive organs from a young female dog.

At left: HSMIC's "Chloe" the cat takes a quick moment for self-care. getting in a final bath before going into pre-op.

At bottom: Dale Levasseur, left, and Briana Lawrence work to ready their temperature recorded. He keeps things rolling "Holly" for Dr. Chana Eisenstein during a Thursday surgery day at East Hill Veterinary Clinic.

Photos by Maureen Jennison loading them back into the vans for transport back



ready for adoption to be placed in their new homes. supplies we need for our lab. Those are just a few of her daily activities. She is invaluable in the running of EHVC charges the shelter a very low fee for the

From page 3

surgeries, as the office still has to pay their staff, pay

for supplies, medication, anesthesia, equipment,

"But not only do we not profit from it, we take a

EHVC's other staff veterinarian, Dr. B.G., handles

"The number of animals we get through each Thursday varies," said Eisenstein. "Sometimes we

have five dog spays, five dog neuters, and eight or

10 cat spays, and eight to 10 cat neuters; sometimes

more, sometimes less. Cat neuters are super quick;

we can do a dozen in less than an hour. My team

is incredible. We move like clockwork, and we just

get things organized and set up and then go back-

to-back all day until we are done. It is actually a very

Two of those team members include Dale

"Dale started as environmental services (cleaner)

about 10 years ago, but quickly, due to his amazing

energy, skills, dedication, and array of talents became

indispensable," said Eisenstein. "Dale comes in at 5

am, five days a week, and cleans the entire building

from the HVAC filters to the floors and everything in

between. He also paints, he fixes things that break,

solves problems, walks dogs, cleans cages, assists

technicians placing IV catheters, draws blood,

ensures that the surgery rooms and equipment are

"On surgery days, he takes a break after morning

cleaning, grabs a cup of coffee and then returns

to help receive shelter dog and cat drop-offs," she

continued. "Each dog and cat is weighed and has

by cleaning and sterilizing surgical equipment,

helping to get animals into - and out of - surgery,

and helping to monitor them afterwards, and then

Briana Lawrence is a registered veterinary

technician, Eisenstein said. "She has worked at

EHVC for 10 years during which she attended Santa

Rosa Junior College's veterinary technician program

and graduated with her RVT license many years ago.

She is our lead technician and oversees everything

that happens 'in the back' of the clinic. She performs

dental cleanings, places IV catheters, administers

medications, takes radiographs (x-rays), runs blood

work, preps patients for surgery, and monitors

"She also manages our in-house laboratory and

ensures that all equipment is quality-controlled,

oatients under anesthesia.

clean and sterilized, and keeps us laughing all day.

Levasseur and Briana Lawrence.

substantial hit doing it," explained Eisenstein. "but it

EHVC

operating a physical business.

financial perspective.

fun day."

Watching the team in action and present that utilities, as well as the other costs of owning and Thursday for surgery day was Willits High School Senior Ava Kelly, who was there completing her last five hours of observation of a field of interest, as required as part of her senior project and portfolio.

is very important to me, and so I continue to do it "I've grown up with pets and really feel despite the fact that it looks bad from the business' compassionate towards animals," said Kelly, 17. "I feel like I would really like to work in the veterinary field and want to get my veterinary technician credentialing after graduating in June. I would love to the regular office appointments on Thursdays so get a job here, being a kennel assistant while doing Eisenstein can spend the day concentrating on the my schooling. It's such a nice environment here, and I think I would really enjoy the career and move up in

> "Ava and one of her teachers reached out to me to find out if we would accommodate her in this requirement, and we were happy to do so in order to give her the opportunity to see what we do and what a typical surgery day looks like," explained Eisenstein. "She was attentive, professional, courteous, and asked lots of good questions. She is a smart, motivated person and we wish her success. We were impressed with her drive and attitude – exactly what you would hope your daughter or your student would be like in such a situation.

> Eisenstein also benefitted from early on-the-job training and experience when she was just a teen.

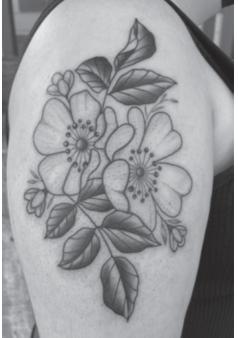
> "When I was 13 years old, I had decided that wanted to be a veterinarian when I grew up," said Eisenstein. "Our family veterinarian allowed me to volunteer there until I was 15 or 16 at which point he hired me to be a kennel kid. I grew up in that clinic. I learned so much about so many things. The volunteer and working time was invaluable to me as a person and later as a professional. The perspective, interest and confidence I gained by spending time, watching, listening and helping continues to serve me in the rest of my life."

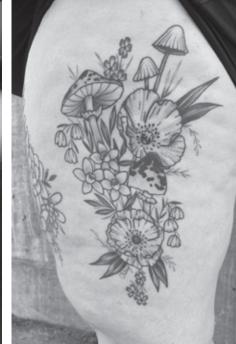
> Now, as the owner of EHVC, Eisenstein noted how she wants to do all she can to support a student's desire to learn, and gain experience in the veterinary field and get a real look at the rewards and challenges the career has to offer.

> "It is critical to have the myths and romantic notions about veterinary medicine dispelled before one invests time, energy and money pursuing something that may be vastly different in real life," said Eisenstein. "How are kids supposed to see what the different professions and trades are like without the opportunity to experience firsthand?"

> If the veterinary field interests you, and you would like to know more about entering the field and helping animals, contact East Hill Veterinary Clinic at drchana@easthillvet.com or call 707-459-5236 for

See the list of available pets now up for adoption at HSMIC at https://mendohumanesociety.com/ or call 707-485-0123 or email info@hsimc.org for more running properly, and she keeps us stocked with the information.





The rest of

Workshop

the City of Willits was

successful in winning a \$6

While the design and

implementation of the trail is

currently underway, the City

of Willits will be reaching out

to the community throughout

This will be a joint meeting

to provide input on the Willits

Rail Trail and learn about

the larger Great Redwood

grant from Caltrans.

From page 1

stencil, right, that will become her husband's tattoo





The rest of

Tattoo

"I love tattooing florals, critters, animals, cats, mushrooms, bugs, ornamentals, anything kind of 'flora and fauna," explained Burghardt. "Love tattoos! I love what I put on my body and how it made me feel, and I want others to experience the same thing."

Burghardt wants to offer that experience from a shop which prides itself on high standards of safety and cleanliness.

Spending time at Diving Swallow, an all-female and gender-queer artist shop in Oakland, helped shape how Burghardt wanted others to feel at The Electric Floral Shop.

"That shop really engrained a sense of comfort and how to treat people," said Burghardt. "I felt so welcome, safe and comfortable there, everyone was so open, but also so mindful of one another, and really showed that people can care about each other, care about their craft, and care about how they make others feel."

Diving Swallow also impressed to Burghardt the importance of cleanliness and environmental consciousness at a tattoo shop

"It's extremely important to me that I have a clean environment to work," said Burghardt. "Everything in the shop is disposable, and the majority is also plastic-free as I try to be as eco-friendly as possible. I do tattoo masked, and require that clients remain masked as well to ensure the lowest possibility of transmission of anything - I don't want anyone to get sick, and as a small business owner, I don't want anyone to get me sick either."

While custom work is always a possibility, Burghardt works hard to have a wide selection of flash pieces available for customers to have inked. Flash is predesigned and usually less expensive than custom work, and Burghardt shows the designs with optimal placement and black and grey or color preferences.

Pricing for work ranges from \$100 for small quick pieces up to around \$800 for larger, multi-sitting artwork, with \$180 being her hourly rate.

Anyone interested in seeing the current offerings of her flash designs can see her posts and stories on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/kiki_tattoos/ or on her website: https://www.kikibtattoos.com/

The website also has a form to fill out which includes Trail Master Plan. For more requested details like location of tattoo, budget, and information, visit https:// subject matter and also possible appointment dates. thegreatredwoodtrail.org/

The rest of From page 8 Coldwell

explained Coldwell Banker Mendo owner Tara Moratti. "We've gone from 2,800 square feet down to 1,600. It was a bit of a reduction in space but visually, it is a better location. People had a problem envisioning where the other office was on South Main Street, even though it had been there for 45 years.

"People drive faster on the south end of town and don't notice as much," said Moratti. "This building has been a real estate office as long as people can remember, most recently, Gateway Realty. It feels like a good, natural fit that Coldwell Banker is here now.'

The building, as stated, has been a real estate office for several years. "Gateway Realty was purchased by John and Loraine Patton from Roger and Arlene Weir," explained Moratti. "They started to do all the work on the exterior with the redwood siding. This was originally a square box building with a flat roof.

"It took a lot of planning to decide where we wanted the walls. It took a lot of planning to figure out where to put offices and walls, trying to give all the offices a window. John Cross, our fellow Rotarian, came over here about a month before he passed. He gave me some ideas verbally, as he had retired. He was such a good visionary. He could really tell where things should go. Of course, we had to be ADA compliant. Jay Fraser, the architect, finally decided to take me on as a client.

Moratti believes in the ethic of hard work leading to success in all things, which she finds more effective than a traditional college education for some in achieving

"My parents were really hard workers, always worked for other companies," she explained. "I was never expected to go to college. My parents never did. I like to

them know that there are other ways to get through life that is not college.

"There are other ways to make it through life without having to go to college and just getting a job. I try to encourage the kids, 'Just whatever job you are doing, do it well and the next experience, no matter what you'll be doing, is the base of your operation to whatever you'll be doing next, whether it's school or a job.

"I like to encourage kids to constantly learn," said Moratti. "If you're interested in something, just go check it out and do it, travel, just take it all in. Everything I've done in my life has led me here. I didn't have to go to college. Every path is different and success looks different on everyone. I like to show them the different options they More of have available."

Moratti is as much a mentor, along with Lee Persico who has been with Coldwell Banker for over 40 years, as she is a boss. Her agents enjoy the working environment and the comradery of their fellow agents and support staff

"Jack Cox, my dad, originally started Coldwell Banker," said Kerri Vau, who along with her husband, John, owned the previous incarnation of the business. "We sold it to Tara in 2020. Tara was always a go-getter. When she began to work with us, she was always a self-starter.

"We knew she would be the one to talk to within the company to sell it to," said Vau. "It was a big commitment and she would be doing it by herself. We knew she had the most amazing energy to run a company like this. We're very proud of her and what she has done with the company. She has done an amazing job with the remodel."

The Willits office can be contacted at 459-5389. For more information, visit www. mendocinocountyproperties.com. company's Ukiah office is at 444 North

State Street, 707-462-5400

Howard Hospital wins awards for knee

replacements and outstanding patient experience Submitted by Adventist Health Howard Memorial

million Active Transportation Hospital is pleased to have received a 2023 Outstanding Patient Experience Award and a Total Knee Replacement Five-Star Recipient for the third year in a row from Healthgrades, an online resource for information about physicians and hospitals, and the leading marketplace connecting doctors and patients. The award for Outstanding Patient

the process to continue to Experience places Howard Memorial in the gather input on the design top 10 percent in the nation for overall patient and programming details for experience, and the Total Knee Replacement Five-Star Award reflects Howard Memorial's Once completed, the dedication to delivering the best clinical Willits Rail Trail will be the outcomes for knee replacements, latest segment in a larger distinguishing the hospital as one of the statewide effort to build the nation's leading hospitals for specialty care. Great Redwood Trail.

"We're very honored to be recognized as one of the best hospitals in the country for patient experience and total knee replacements." said Linda Givens. administrator at Adventist Health Howard Memorial. "We care for our own friends and neighbors every day, that's a part of what makes our situations so unique, and seeing our team take this responsibility to heart is truly special.

"I'm also pleased to recognize our orthopedic joint center for their incredible work and care for patients, making this program such an invaluable resource to our community. While we don't do this work for the awards, it's great to be recognized and see that our efforts are making a difference for our patients. These awards further show that the patient-centered, communityoriented approach to health care that we use at Howard Memorial works together with our facility's Planetree roots and we're very proud

To select this year's Outstanding Patient Experience Award recipients and Total Knee Replacement Five-Star Recipients, Healthgrades used survey data from the hospital's patients to assess satisfaction across 10 patient-experience measures.

From page 1

of \$125,000 in sales tax projections for 4.8% for quick-service restaurants, and 2022/23 and a \$311,000 decrease in "supplemental roll taxes," which had been reduced to \$0 for the year. These are essentially property tax charges which arise due to a change in property ownership or construction upgrades.

However, some county staff did state at the meeting that they believed much if not all of that \$311,000 would likely be collected by the county at some point, though not necessarily in this fiscal year, which ends

decreased in the county by 5.2%, including drops of 7.1% for grocery stores, 4.3% for casual dining, 7.3% for contractors, 7.7% for building materials, 13.6% for wineries,

Adventist Health Howard Memorial Survey questions focused on patients' perceptions of their care in the hospital, including areas such as communication with doctors and nurses, cleanliness, noise levels, discharge information, and whether patients would recommend the hospital to friends or family. Howard Memorial was above the national average in all of the 10 categories.

> "We commend Adventist Health Howard Memorial for their ongoing commitment to providing high-quality care to patients undergoing knee replacement and their work in outstanding patient experience," said Brad Bowman, MD, chief medical officer and head of data science at Healthgrades. "Consumers can feel confident that hospitals with a fivestar rating by Healthgrades and their work in patient experience to have demonstrated their ability to deliver consistently exceptional outcomes."

To see the full list of awardees, please visit: www.healthgrades.com/guality/outstandingpatient- experience-award.

About Adventist Health:

Adventist Health is a faith-inspired, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii with over 400 sites of care. Founded on Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care agencies, hospice agencies, and joint-venture retirement centers in both rural and urban communities.

Our compassionate and talented team of 34,000 includes employees, medical staff physicians, allied health professionals, and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope. We are committed to staying true to our heritage by providing patient-centered, quality care. Together, we are transforming the health care experience with an innovative whole-person focus on physical, mental, spiritual and social healing to support community well-being.

Declining |

June 30.

The budget report at times painted a worrisome picture of the overall economic conditions of the county. In the "financial outlook" section it noted some significant drops in sales for various business types when comparing July through September of 2022 to the same months in 2021.

The report showed that overall sales

14.1% for "light industrial and printers".

Garden and agricultural supplies had by far the highest decline with a whopping 42.1% sales decrease, "due in part to the decline in the cannabis industry" according to the report.

Longtime cannabis attorney Hannah Nelson spoke during public comments, saying that this massive drop was a "house on fire" indication of how the struggling cannabis industry was impacting the local

"And of course we don't know the extent that the loss of cultivators in the system is also impacting some of these other categories," she said. "This is a pretty direct correlation in terms of the expenditures in our communities for garden supplies - and of course that's not only garden supplies that are expended, but it's farming in general. But even compared to wineries

Read the rest of

Declining | Over on page 13

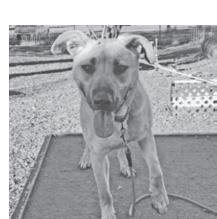
Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Young Red Hawk

Red Hawk is a good-natured, healthy pup. He loves running, playing in water, riding in the car, and getting tummy rubs. This smart 11-month-old is a great listener who knows some commands. Red Hawk is apprehensive of loud noises and needs plenty of outdoor space.

To learn more about Red Hawk or view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation. org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption

application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-



Adventurous Chula

Chula is back and looking for her second shot at love! Chula is an active girl looking for an active home. Do you like to be on the go? Have a lot of energy? Like to go on adventures? Well we've got the perfect partner for you! Come meet Chula today!

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

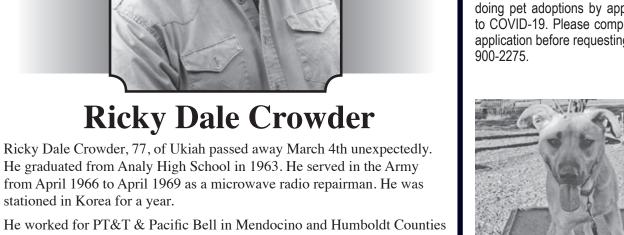
Perceptive Milo

Milo here may be the sweetest boy at the shelter right now. This handsome guy likes

to watch and observe everything, but doesn't always jump right up to interact or say "hi." He is very friendly, he just takes some time to show what a good boy he is, and he sure is worth the wait! You can usually find Milo in his Halloween house that was graciously donated to our cat adoption program.

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





He graduated from Analy High School in 1963. He served in the Army from April 1966 to April 1969 as a microwave radio repairman. He was stationed in Korea for a year.

He worked for PT&T & Pacific Bell in Mendocino and Humboldt Counties as a splicer, Supervisor and engineer retiring at the end of 1991. After retiring he did some contract work, drove truck, including fuel truck, worked as an investigator. He always said if you want a job there is one out there, you just might need to try something different.

Willits Frontier Days always held a special place in his heart. He would spend many hours over decades involved with Willits Frontier Days. While living in Humboldt County he would take all of his vacation together and come to Willits and work at the grounds helping get ready for the annual rodeo & events

He enjoyed spending time at the gun club helping with the CCW classes, going on "Fish Escape" with past coworkers and friends, lots of fun trips on the Harley with close friends. He touched so many lives.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, for 47 years, son Greg (Julie) and grandchildren Morgan, Nate & Zach, special Aunt Rose Arfsten, and his cousins Kae & June. He is also survived by his adopted families, Marcy, Fred & Danielle Barry and Naomi, Brett, Shaunte, & Kyle Carroll.

He is preceded in death by his parents Samuel & Helen Crowder and brother, Sammy.

There will be no service at his request.

give that possibility to kids though. We let

New logo for City of Willits is the first in 40 years

The City of Willits has a new logo, approved by the Willits City Council 5 to 0 at their first meeting

The new logo features redwood trees, with a nod to the Willits Arch and

Jennifer Poole its "Gateway to the Redwoods" slogan, and "a

stripe inspired by the Skunk Train." The key word, "Willits," is

done in Modesto typeface which "encapsulates the City's frontier roots with a typeface that is modern with a vintage feel that closely matches the Gateway sign." The City of Willits had

used the former logo since the early 1980s, "for placement on vehicles, uniforms, and documents, Willits City Manager Brian Bender's report with the agenda item stated. "The logo has served the City well for the last 40 plus years, but ... an updated logo will help to solidify the ongoing efforts to increase the public's awareness

of City actions and encourage a

strategic vision."

Dudek Services was retained "to facilitate the logo design process," which started last summer. "The design went through several iterations with staff providing comments to the designers to refine the composition and color palette," the agenda report states.

Developing a new logo confirms to one of the Willits City Council's 2021 operational goals: "to develop a program to increase public awareness of the City of Willits' efforts to maintain and improve the

City of Willits staff is also working on a revamped website, which they hope to launch this summer, and a monthly newsletter.

Luke Andrews and his band Blue Luke play the Willits Community Theatre, March 25

City of

CATEWAY TO THE REDWO

Above: The new

logo for the

City of Willits.

At left: This.

the former

City of

used since the

Progressive blues phenom Luke Andrews and his band Blue Luke come to the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, March 25 at 7:30 pm. Think three-chord classic blues extended through runs of jazz improv, rock riffs, and funk rhythms and you have the creative energy of Andrews' guitar along with his band's compelling sound.

Andrews is backed by popular Mendocino County trumpeter Jim Dooley, Israeli-bom drummer Roni Zadik, Michael Cantwell on keyboards, and Derek Soderquist on bass. As a producer, label-owner, composer and arranger for projects that have included reggae star Julian Marley's third album and hit single release, "Violence In The Streets," Andrews brings quite the extended pedigree to his performances. He cites his blues-playing influences from Jimi Hendrix to Carlos Santana and Stevie Ray Vaughn, along with the improv styles of Miles Davis, John Mclaughlin and Jeff Beck.

For years Andrews has headlined shows across the United States, along with tours in Europe that have taken him from Ireland to Greece. His love of guitar started at age 12, and he released his first solo album at 18. The Dos Rios native has since established a production, recording and remix facility here in Northern California.

"For me, I'm playing the guitar to tell a story in the tones and the sound," Andrews says. "It's through the emotional expression in the music, I want to take the audience on a journey."

A frequent staple at Shanachie Pub, local outdoor winery shows, and other Nor-Cal venues, Andrews brings his seasoned show for the first time to the WCT playhouse. Tickets are \$20 and available online at: www. wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door until sold out. Early ticket purchases are advised.



Above: Blues musician Luke Andrews plays the guitar with a creative mix of azz, rock and funk rhythms.



Congrats | New Baby **Otto Gessner**

Otto Gene Ash Gessner was born on February 13, 2023 to Nicholas and Angela Gessner of Willits. He was welcomed by siblings Oscar, 7, Hazel, 5, and Ellie, 4,

> What was supposed to be an uneventful birth turned out to be anything but when Otto had to be helicoptered to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital at 12 hours old. He underwent brain surgery at 4 days old to help relieve Obstructive Hydrocephalus.

After 11 days in the NICU he was released to go home and has been happily being a healthy and sweet baby.



Congrats Birthday

Happy Birthday, River!

Reading rhymes And feeling fine. A little luck o' the Irish And River turned NINE!! Wishing the happiest of pirthdays to the pot of gold at the end of our rainbow!

Love, Mom, Dad, Aunt Nan, Lilo, Stinky & Mittens

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From page 1 Raise

Brooktrails

and with Classified Management, Classified Administration, Classified Confidential, and Unrepresented Classified employees.

The 17% raise matches the increase when negotiated contracts for the Willits Teachers Association were approved last month.

Classified school employees include those who don't need a teacher's credential to do their jobs, including office and cafeteria staff, business managers, bus drivers, custodians and others.

At their regular March 8 meeting, board members agreed to seek more information about the financial impact of the proposed raises to the district, after a presentation by the Mendocino County Office of Education recommended that the district "take a pause" before approving the labor agreements.

But after being given more financial information from the Willits district, as cited by both board members Alex Bowlds and Jeanne King as a factor in their decisions, board members all voted to approve the labor agreements on March 16.

"All of us on this board have been very clear in our direction to our superintendent," Trustee Bowlds said, "that we want to pay all for questions, will help us move forward to a positive of our people in our district as much as we can reasonably afford result with the mail ballot.

"Last board meeting ... MCOE came in and gave us a presentation person, Tom Sims, has been hired to fill the finance that said with the structure of our current budget, that we would be position vacated by Phil St. Pierre, who retired recently. in financial crisis in two years, if we went all the way and did exactly His start date was March 15. what we've been talking about.

"We tabled that, and gave direction to our staff to go take a look at our budget and make sure that what we're talking about we can actually afford to do. Since then they've gone back to work. I'm comfortable now with the information they've given us that tells us handled in-house. that we believe we can do this." Bowlds said.

"I am uncomfortable on the other hand with where that will still leave us, assuming everything goes according to plan," he said. "I'm not comfortable with a 3 percent reserve for economic uncertainty. The 3% is the minimum that the state requires us to have before we are in a position where the state may mandate certain changes can) reached 100 inches at his home on March 13. we don't want to see.'

minimum budget reserve comes with significant potential risk, if the the management of the Brooktrails Golf Course after economy "takes a significant turn for the worse," he said. "If there's the departure of present managers Marcus and a significant change in state funding, for example, that reduces our Jacqueline Newby. He was supported by several budget, it's going to end up having a significant impact on all of us." enthusiastic individuals who were in attendance.

whether or not to initiate the Proposition 218 process and ask the community to evaluate how much they are willing to contribute for a full-time fire department.

From page 1

"So, that will be a big meeting," Alaniz reported, "and we are going to advertise the meeting as usual, and if the board does determine that they want to move forward with ballot measure then all of the noticing and other requirements will begin and there will be public hearing notices mailed to property owners and all things associated with the mail ballot process will be discussed at this next meeting. This will definitely be a good opportunity for the public to hear about that

The proposed ballot measure would ask Brooktrails residents to pay \$15.25/month to support a full-time fire department. "They currently pay less than \$10/ month," Alaniz said. "We believe that the engineered study results, having an open house, being available

In other news, Alaniz reported that "a new staff

Alaniz also noted the successful rescue on March 12 where the Brooktrails Township Fire Department utility vehicle / UTV was utilized, after which there was a belt repair that needed to be made to the UTV that can be

Director Joanne Cavallari asked if there was a recent rainfall amount to report. Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Nover answered saying, "Year to date we are at 59.73 inches of rainfall since October 1." Board President Rick Williams noted that the rainfall total (in his bean

Golf Course Manager candidate Tyler Larson went to Bowlds did warn that everyone should understand that having a the podium and announced his willingness to assume

Attorney Alexander Rich, counsel for Jacqueline and Marcus Newby, was attending via zoom and he stated that he hoped that a mutually acceptable resolution would occur during the closed session part of the meeting that would be beneficial for all parties involved

The board then voted unanimously to approve the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$122,769.07.

General Manager Alaniz then provided a review of the March 4 Annual Planning Workshop outcomes. "We talked about some of the financial impacts that have faced the district over the last year and some of the things that we've done to overcome them. Some of the significance of the debt refinancing from 2021 - we refinanced the water department USDA debt saving the rate payers \$1,000,000 over the life of the loan. We have continued to cash fund capital projects like the Primrose Lift Station relocation and the 2nd Clarifier Unit, as well as the squad replacement debt, and the three new employees in the fire department that we've been funding. Those are the priorities that we discussed for budgeting in the next year."

She further stated: "Some of the budget priorities that we are talking about are keeping the same bottom line - keeping a budget that does not increase expenses above the bottom line. We are in the third year of our three year employee agreement wherein employees are not having a raise in their salary and wage ranges this year. Also, reducing our cash funded capital - because we've moved significantly through our projects, we should be able to come to the board and public with the same bottom line this budget year

"A couple capital improvements that we are still going to be addressing is finishing the installation of the 2nd Clarifier as well as the finalization of the Primrose Lift Station. Originally, the budgeted amounts for these two projects were significantly higher than what the final costs were. Ratepayers were saved over \$250,000 by the projects' end." Alaniz stated.

The board also discussed making improvements to the district office.

The rest of From page 11 Declining

which also had a significant decrease, that is a huge, huge jump and should [cause] alarm bells in terms of forecasting.

"Here we have a preview of things to come that are going to trickle down further and further at an alarming rate," she continued. "And so I implore you in your budget decisions, but as well as your other items on the agenda today, to really consider the long-term impacts and what we need to do to turn that around."

The budget report came before two cannabis items were later approved by the board at the meeting - one to try and streamline the application process by asking the state to assume more control of it, and another to offer cannabis tax relief for operators.

The only two county business types highlighted in the budget report which owed increases in sales were hotels and motels (6.3%), and fuel and service stations (7.3%) which was "mostly due to the rising prices at the pumps."

The report listed some of the biggest reasons for the economic difficulties in the county.

"Mendocino County's economic performance continues to be challenged in the areas of a limited workforce, limited connectivity, housing availability, a decrease in the cannabis market, inflation, natural disasters, unfunded state and federal mandates, major enterprise software updates, and deferred maintenance," it read. "The remaining months of FY 2022-23, as well as future years, the county needs to be conscious of fiscal sustainability.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak expressed unease about the large gap in the Mendocino Cannabis Department budget, noting that \$662,000 was about half of the \$1.2 million cost projected for the department.

"The cannabis department is under the purview of the board," he said. "This didn't come to light until the executive office found the issue ... to be now over 50% off, it's really concerning to me."

MCD Director Kristin Nevedal named several factors which contributed to falling fee revenue at the department, including lack of new "Phase 3" applicants seeking permits ("only six or seven"), delays due to shifting to the "portal" system for applications, and the "fallowing" ordinance which allows cannabis operators to halt operations and pay no fees or taxes. She also cited increased costs, such as

bills from the county counsel's office which are expected to be around \$80,000 for the Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams

responded to Haschak's concerns about the deficit, saying that the county cannabis program wasn't expected to be cost-neutral, and that they've been using cannabis tax money for years to close the gap.

"The dollar amounts don't come

he said. "There's no cost recovery there, where our staff may have done \$10,000 to \$20,000 worth of work and maybe we got a \$700 fee, and that was recognized years ago. And so that department will run at an expense, it's not going to ever break even. But there's tax revenue that's generated

anywhere close to the actual staff time."

from the cannabis business tax - all these years that's essentially been used to backfill the losses in having a cannabis The cannabis tax is projected to bring in

around \$1.5 million in 2022/23 according to the mid-year budget report, down from a peak of \$6.1 million in 2020/21 That tax money goes into the county's general fund, although a companion

"advisory measure" approved by voters in 2016 asked that the cannabis tax funds eventually go towards "marijuana regulations, enhanced mental health services, repair of county roads, and increased fire and emergency services."

Haschak was also alarmed to learn at the meeting about a \$3.1 million reporting error to the state which MCD Director Nevedal had made, related to the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program meant to help applicants obtain state licenses.

Nevedal said that she had cleared up the issue with state officials during statements she made at the California Senate Business. Professions and Economic Development Committee hearing on cannabis the previous day.

"So I was not aware that there was a reporting error that occurred at the end of the first reporting period, and it was solely my reporting error." Nevedal explained. "When we filed in August for the first reporting period for the LJAGP grant funds, I did not zero out the last table which is the indirect and other expenses for the 2021/22 year, because we had applied for a budget amendment. I wasn't aware until I read the Senate Oversight Hearing background that they had assumed that we had spent down \$3.1 million and a little bit of change. So I corrected that with the state yesterday. But the funds weren't spent." "You know. that's a \$17.5 million dollar

budget," Haschak later remarked about the LJAGP funds. "I'm just very concerned about the capacity of the department to handle that budget. I'm wondering about the CEO and the executive office, how much for this year. oversight is happening there because the board is responsible, and so far it doesn't look like the board's done a good job in overseeing this department."

CEO Antle responded to Haschak's inquiries that she and a pair of deputy CEOs were assisting the MCD with their budget challenges every week, including looking into what ways grant money could potentially be used by the department.

Nevedal also spoke about potentially using grant money to close the budget gap, and said MCD staff were working on "time clearer picture of things.

"So what you're seeing in that deficiency currently does not include any of the LJAGP funds which we can use I believe this year," said Nevedal. "But we are doing the time studies not just to kind of back up the amounts that we were awarded for this fiscal year, but also to look at projections going forward should we choose to do a budget amendment, if the board chooses

The issue of how to spend the \$17.5 million in LJAGP money allotted to the county is likely to come before the full board of supervisors at their March 28 meeting, since this was requested by the General Government Committee members, Supervisor Haschak and Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren, during a February 27 meeting.

slated to receive around \$838,000 of the 30 as a goal to get the tax bills out, since grant funding with \$10.4 million going towards direct grants to applicants, but Nevedal and the MCD requested at the GGC meeting to shift millions of those dollars towards the department and contract workers.

Staffing also continues to be an issue for the county according to the budget report, with 408 vacant positions as of the end of 2022, "with active recruitments to fill 252 positions" and an "overall vacancy rate" of

The report showed that between July 1 and December 31 of 2022 the county hired 124 new employees (98 regular, 26 extra help), but also had 105 "employment

"The majority of positions in the recruitment process are in Social Services to the budget item. This total includes (67), Public Health (27), and Transportation (14)," the report read.

County Treasurer-Tax Collector/ Auditor-Controller Chamise Cubbison and County Assessor-Clerk/Recorder Katrina Bartolomie both said at the meeting that the staff in their departments were feeling very strained and overworked.

This came out as they were explaining to the board the difficulties in processing the supplemental property tax bills for the county, as they were getting questioned about whether the county would see the bulk of that \$311,000 originally projected

Cubbison and Bartolomie both asserted that the Aumentem Technologies property tax system the county had switched to in 2021 was very flawed, and greatly increased delays and backlogs in their

"They made some very incorrect assumptions on how some of our data should be converted," said Cubbison, our bills. And so we weren't really able to process corrections until they straightened them out.... So unfortunately it took us Fiscal Year 2022-23.

studies" with county executive staff to get a about a year and a half to get them to deal with that balancing project.

> "So we are still working as much as we can, but unfortunately in both of my offices we do have staff that are reaching a level of fatigue," she added. "They have been working overtime, nights and weekends for almost two years on this project, and they've reached the point where they're starting to not want to do that anymore. Their quality of life is being impacted. So I just want to assure you that we are doing whatever we can to balance those priorities ... but it is taking a toll."

> Cubbison noted that the original projection of \$311,000 was just a rough estimate, and that the bills go back multiple years and also include things like refunds and corrections for property owners.

With a four-year deadline to get out the property tax notices in California. Cubbison As originally budgeted, the MCD was and county staff have their eye on June some of the older ones which date back to 2018/19 could be dropped out of the system at that point.

> Williams asked CEO Antle if previous potential supplemental tax revenue had "fallen off" the books due to delays. "Yes," she replied. "To our knowledge it is

\$1.2 million, and it is for assessed years of 2015 through 2017." Still, Cubbison did say she was pretty

confident that despite the challenges she and county staff would meet the June 30 deadline and get the tax bills out in time.

Property taxes are far and away the biggest non-departmental revenue source for the county, with around \$60 million in property tax-related income projected in 2022/23 according to a chart attached administration fees and the "property tax in lieu of [Vehicle License Fee] revenues' which involves state funds.

The transient occupancy tax, which charges a 10% rate on visitors to lodgings, campgrounds and RV parks, has also proven to be a steady stream of revenue for the county, with \$8.7 million projected

The TOT has brought in at least \$8 million to the county every year since 2020, when voters approved extending it to campground and RV travelers.

Overall non-departmental revenue is projected at \$85.2 million for the 2022/23 year, down around \$200,000 from its original projection, and about \$200,000 less than each of the last two fiscal years. though that could change based on what happens with the collection of supplemental taxes and other factors over the next few

The board unanimously approved the CEO recommended actions of "and they kind of made a mess of some of accepting the mid-year budget report and adjustments, and also an action to direct Cubbison to collect supplemental taxes in

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Willits Weekly | March 23, 2023 Willits Weekly | March 23, 2023 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 **Pg. 12** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Scout Pantry

New food cupboards installed on Coast Street and at Rec Grove thanks to project initiated by Eagle Scout candidate

Annalee Gonzalez needed a project, quickly prior to her upcoming 18th birthday. It was required to become an Eagle Scout, the top rung

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

of the scouting hierarchy. She took a look at Willits and the needs of some of its less fortunate citizens,

those who frequent the Willits Daily Bread four days a week in order to supplement their ability to construct a meal or to receive a prepared hot meal

Gonzalez realized that these people were not being served other than at specific times, Monday through Thursday, 3 to 5:30 pm at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church. While doing her research, she found that other municipalities and organizations were providing pantries at various locations that would allow the homeless and needy to find non-perishable food that they could use to feed themselves and their families at times when other resources were not available.

"The idea of these pantries is that anyone at any time can come and donate non-perishable food and anyone can come and get food," explained Gonzalez. "The idea came to me because I'm a long-time volunteer worker at Willits Daily Bread.

"Last summer, on a really hot, over 100-degree day," recounted Gonzalez, "we were handing out water bottles. I realized that once we closed, that was it. A lot of these people don't have a way to get food or drink after a certain time of the day and we're only open a few certain days and hours a week. The pantries are not much. They're not a solution but they can help relieve the problem a little bit."

Once she decided on the project, Gonzalez proceeded to research the challenges to constructing, finding locations, and stocking the pantries.

"The smaller one is going to be here, in Rec Grove," said Gonzalez, speaking in the Scout Hut where the actual construction was occurring. "The bigger one is going to go on Coast Street. The idea of community pantries isn't unique to Willits. We have one on Coast Street currently that is being managed by [a local resident]. It's pretty small and rudimentary. I was able to get in contact with them and arrange for the larger pantry.

"I contacted the City of Willits," she said, "who was very nice and said they would be happy to

have something like that in the park. I spoke with Kenan O'Shea. We decided on a smaller design for the park. We're on a trial basis at the moment. We don't want people to vandalize the pantries."

She did receive some blowback on the idea from residents who did not want a facility that attracted the homeless in their neighborhoods but she stuck it out and currently has two locations for the trial. The one on Coast Street is about a block south of St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

The pantries, for the time being, will be stocked by volunteers from Willits Daily Bread, however, any citizen who wishes to contribute can bring their canned or non-perishable food to the Daily Bread during the previously stated times.

"We established a program with Willits Daily Bread to have them send people out periodically, as needed, to keep them supplied with canned goods and to keep them clean," said Gonzalez. "The ultimate goal is that the community will adopt the pantries, help supply them, and keep the area around them clean. The City of Willits maintenance team is willing to keep an eye on the pantry in the Rec Grove."

Gonzalez does not wish to take full credit for the project. She has received much help from her Scout troop in helping to construct, paint and install the pantries.

"There were several local organizations," Gonzalez said, "that help with the food drive and this project, and they also donated money. There was the Lions Club which holds our charter. The Rotary Club was super cool. The Calvary Chapel and the Methodist church and the LDS church. The Soroptimist Club donated \$100 to help with the project.

"If someone would like to donate to the project, either money or food, they can donate to the Willits Daily Bread, so we can use it to buy food to keep the pantries stocked. If someone would like to donate food, they can bring it to Willits Daily Bread at St. Francis where they are every Monday through Thursday, 3 to 5:30 pm, or they can just leave canned food in the pantries. This was only possible because of Mendo Mill. They gave us a 40-percent discount on all of the materials," explained Gonzalez.

St. Francis in the Redwoods and the Willits Daily Bread distribution center are located at 66 East Commercial Street.







Above, left: A smaller version of the pantry was installed at Recreation Grove Park as a test.
Above, right: The location of the new and old pantries is on Coast Street, near St. Anthony's Church, which can be seen in the background.

At left: The early Saturday morning crew works at the Scout Hut in Rec Grove Park: from left, Isabella Lopez Mora, Kara Garvin and Annalee Gonzalez.



At left: The old pantry on Coast Street is smaller than the new one but it served its purpose. At right: Scout Isabella Lopez Mora helps to paint the pantry windows.

Below: Scoutmaster Kenneth Pedersen attaches the finished pantry to the pre-set posts.

Photos by







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

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