

Thursday, March 23, 2023

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 life-saving food, supplies, and gas for our generators (no power!).

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

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 essentials.

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

Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, March 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.

Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.

Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am.

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

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willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633

Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047

Jackie Cobbs, features editor

Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer / 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

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 to 2 am.

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

McGuire releases study on benefits of Great Redwood Trail

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.

"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: \$61,693,000
- 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 million
- 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 entire region.

"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 Coast region."

"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-willits-tickets-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>

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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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, witnessing the team at East Hill Veterinary Clinic work through some of the 12 patients who would grace the surgery table Thursday, March 9 during one of the EHVC surgery days.

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

The shelter delivers the dogs and cats on Thursday morning, and then they come back in the afternoon to pick them up. If any animals come out of surgery late, or are not awake enough to go at pick-up time, EHVC 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 became even longer due to the current 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 animals in need.

"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 Eisenstein. "We do this because we love animals, we love HSIMC, and we love our community. And we can help, so we do. It 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 up and help."

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 EHVC Over on page 10

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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

1		3	9		5		4	7
7			5	8	1		2	
	2							
			4					
8		1				5	7	4
6			7	8	9		1	
5	7		1	6	3			8
3			5		4	1	6	
							3	



HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

CREATIVITY WORD SEARCH

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

ARTISTIC
BRAINSTORM
BREAKTHROUGH
BUSINESS
CANVAS
CHALLENGING
COLLABORATE
DESIGN

EMERGING
EXPERIMENT
FRAMEWORK
IDEAS
INDUSTRY
INFLUENTIAL
INNOVATION
INVENTION

MARKET
MODEL
PORTFOLIO
PROTOTYPES
SOFTWARE
SUPPLIES
TECHNOLOGY
THEORY

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10												
11					12						13	14	15									
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34	35	36	37										38									
39								40	41	42												
43							44										45	46	47	48		
49																						
53																						
56																						
60																						

CLUES ACROSS

- Influential American political family
- ___ Chantilly, ___ de Menthé
- Within
- Pleasure seekers
- Computer manufacturer
- Home to college sports' Flyers
- Fungal disease
- Sleepwalk
- Spielberg sci-fi film
- Seasonable
- Taxis
- Radio direction finder (abbr.)
- Thin, narrow piece of wood
- 'Mystic River' actor Sean
- Ingenuous
- Musical composition
- Turkish surname
- High or hilly area
- Willco frontman
- Pour it on pasta
- Electric car company
- Sea eagle
- Walk with difficulty
- Sign of healing
- Boy

- Protein-rich liquid
- Washington city
- Individual portion of TV series (abbr.)
- Thought over
- Scads
- News agency
- Standard
- Deadlock
- Pre-Columbian empire
- Removed
- French commune

CLUES DOWN

- Large, dangerous animals
- Straighten out
- Family tree
- Large stinging paper wasp
- European river fish
- Cut down in size
- Denotes past
- Larry and Curly's partner
- Samoyedic ethnic group
- Male parent
- Specific gravity
- Demeaned oneself to
- Rigidly
- Yankovic is a "weird" one
- Belonging to me
- Path

- Airborne (abbr.)
- Level
- Atomic #94
- Born of
- Midway between northeast and east
- Northeastern bank
- Defunct airline
- Having no purpose
- A low wall
- Swedish city
- Earn a perfect score
- Atomic #81
- Beginner
- Give off
- Incorrect letters
- Telecommunication service provider (abbr.)
- Idyllic
- Popular beer
- A way to fine
- Evildoer
- More withered
- Seventh note of a major scale
- Commercial
- Abnormal breathing
- Moved more quickly
- City of Angels
- Partner to Pa
- Equally

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

February 27 to March 4

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **76 incidents** in this 6-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

February 27

9:33 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

9:50 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

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 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:55 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

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

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.

6:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of East Commercial Street.

10:07 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.

March 2

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 warning.

March 4

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

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 issued a citation.

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 citation.

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.

The 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 Agency, 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 and April 18, 2023.

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-tax-relief-for-victims-of-severe-winter-storms-flooding-landslides-and-mudslides-in-california

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Art Under 20

24th annual exhibit celebrating talented
high school student artists

Submitted by WHS Art Department

The Willits High School Art Department is proud to present the 24th annual Art Under Twenty student art exhibition at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

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 welding.

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

will have a chance to meet the artists, see their work, and have refreshments.

Some quotes from the Art Under 20 exhibitors:

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

"I love art!" – Reece

"I 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" – Nicole

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



The rest of
Beebe | 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."

Beebe believes that his team here in Willits does put 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.

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

"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 kindergartners 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 than his own.

"I'm very heartened to see how willing to work the district staff is," he declared. "They work together well, and with kindness, for the good of the students and their community."

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.



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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
- Immunization records

At right: With the installation of the lettering in the reception area, the office is officially open.

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 house.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

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

Church of Christ
"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
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, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
459-2252
Sunday Mass inside:
9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
707-459-5714
Friendly, open worship
Saturdays
Bible Study- 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 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 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@willitsonline.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook willits umc

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



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 "Premier Office - Gold" plaque is in place.



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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
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

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 finger-foods.

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



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.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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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/mendocinoca
EOE

Willits Weekly

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW420
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GLADIS ARDELLA SHANNON
Case No. 23PR00015
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of Gladis Ardeella Shannon: A Petition for Probate has been filed by Thelma Lucille Shannon in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino.
The Petition for Probate requests that Thelma Lucille Shannon be appointed as Personal Representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval.
Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The Independent Administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: April. 21, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. In Dept. E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N State St., Ukiah, California 95482.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the Court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor.
You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a request for special notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and in Probate Code, section 1250. A request for special notice form is available from the court clerk.
Petitioner in pro per: Thelma Lucille Shannon, PO Box 1642, Willits, CA 95490, Telephone (707) 483-0741.
Publication Dates: March 9, 16, 23, 2023

WW421
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2023-F0093
The following 501c3 non-profit corporation is doing business as Golden Rule Gardens, 11725 Orchard Lane, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Golden Rule Church Association, 11725 Orchard Lane, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a 501-c3 non-profit corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 1, 2022.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 16, 2023.
/s/ Cody Bartholomew, President, GRCA
Publication dates: March 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023

WW419
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2023-F0108
The following person is doing business as Willits Power Equipment, 1600 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Michael Garrity, 22928 Davidson Road, Willits CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on December 20, 2012.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 23, 2023.
/s/ Michael Garrity
Publication dates: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023

WW422
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2023-F0094
The following 501c3 non-profit corporation is doing business as Headwaters Grazing, 300 Seabiscuit Drive A, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Golden Rule Church Association, 11725 Orchard Lane, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a 501c3 non-profit corporation..
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2023.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 16, 2023.
/s/ Cody Bartholomew, President, GRCA
Publication dates: March 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023

WW424
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2023-F0101
The following corporation is doing business as Little Lake Auto Parts, 1571 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Cave Investments Inc., 1571 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on October 24, 1985.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 22, 2023.
/s/ Ida Catherine Bouthillier, President.
Publication dates: March 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 2023

CLASSIFIEDS

Brookside Registration Open
Brookside Elementary TK / Kindergarten registration is now open. To register go to www.willitsunified.com. Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2023. TK: age 5 between Sept. 2, 2023 and April 2, 2024.

Garage Sale / Moving Sale
Saturday, March 25, 8-4. Rain or Shine. Guitar's, Amp's, Treadmill, Womenswear, Shoes, lots of misc.... 1481 East Hill Road. Park on street and walk to backyard.

'Have You Had A Spiritual Experience?'
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 & Mendocino Counties.

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

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

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

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

For Rent
Cottage, in town, 800 sq feet, W/D and upgraded kitchen, small private backyard, no smoke, no drugs, must have job, avail now. \$1,000/mo. 707-972-6333.

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

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

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

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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 "Holly" for Dr. Chana Eisenstein during a Thursday surgery day at East Hill Veterinary Clinic.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



The rest of EHVC

From page 3

ready for adoption to be placed in their new homes.

EHVC charges the shelter a very low fee for the surgeries, as the office still has to pay their staff, pay for supplies, medication, anesthesia, equipment, utilities, as well as the other costs of owning and operating a physical business.

"But not only do we not profit from it, we take a substantial hit doing it," explained Eisenstein. "but it is very important to me, and so I continue to do it despite the fact that it looks bad from the business' financial perspective."

EHVC's other staff veterinarian, Dr. B.G., handles the regular office appointments on Thursdays so Eisenstein can spend the day concentrating on the shelter surgeries.

"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 fun day."

Two of those team members include Dale Levasseur and Briana Lawrence.

"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 clean and sterilized, and keeps us laughing all day."

"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 their temperature recorded. He keeps things rolling by cleaning and sterilizing surgical equipment, helping to get animals into – and out of – surgery, and helping to monitor them afterwards, and then loading them back into the vans for transport back to the shelter."

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 patients under anesthesia."

"She also manages our in-house laboratory and ensures that all equipment is quality-controlled, running properly, and she keeps us stocked with the

supplies we need for our lab. Those are just a few of her daily activities. She is invaluable in the running of this practice."

Watching the team in action and present that 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.

"I've grown up with pets and really feel 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 get a job here, being a kennel assistant while doing my schooling. It's such a nice environment here, and I think I would really enjoy the career and move up in the world."

"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 I 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 more information.

See the list of available pets now up for adoption at HSMIC at <https://mendohumanesociety.com/> or call 707-485-0123 or email info@hsmic.org for more information.

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 510-900-2275.



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.



The rest of Tattoo

From page 1

"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 pre-designed 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.kikibattoos.com/>.

The website also has a form to fill out which includes requested details like location of tattoo, budget, and subject matter and also possible appointment dates.

The rest of Coldwell

From page 8

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 their goals.

"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 give that possibility to kids though. We let



Above, from left: Black-and-grey works done by Kiki Burghardt of The Electric Floral Shop showing her fun floral style. Below, left: Burghardt works on a piece for her husband, Tom, at her Willits tattoo shop. Below, right: Burghardt shows the sketch, left, and the stencil, right, that will become her husband's tattoo.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

The rest of Workshop

From page 1

the City of Willits was successful in winning a \$6 million Active Transportation grant from Caltrans.

While the design and implementation of the trail is currently underway, the City of Willits will be reaching out to the community throughout the process to continue to gather input on the design and programming details for the trail.

Once completed, the Willits Rail Trail will be the latest segment in a larger statewide effort to build the Great Redwood Trail.

This will be a joint meeting to provide input on the Willits Rail Trail and learn about the larger Great Redwood Trail Master Plan. For more information, visit <https://thegreatredwoodtrail.org/>

Howard Hospital wins awards for knee replacements and outstanding patient experience

Submitted by Adventist Health Howard Memorial

Adventist Health Howard Memorial 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 Experience places Howard Memorial in the top 10 percent in the nation for overall patient experience, and the Total Knee Replacement Five-Star Award reflects Howard Memorial's dedication to delivering the best clinical outcomes for knee replacements, distinguishing the hospital as one of the nation's leading hospitals for specialty care.

"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, community-oriented approach to health care that we use at Howard Memorial works together with our facility's Planetree roots and we're very proud of that."

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.

More of Declining

From page 1

of \$125,000 in sales tax projections for 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 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 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,



Photos by Kiki Burghardt



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 of 2023.

The new logo features redwood trees, with a nod to the Willits Arch and its "Gateway to the Redwoods" slogan, and "a stripe inspired by the Skunk Train."

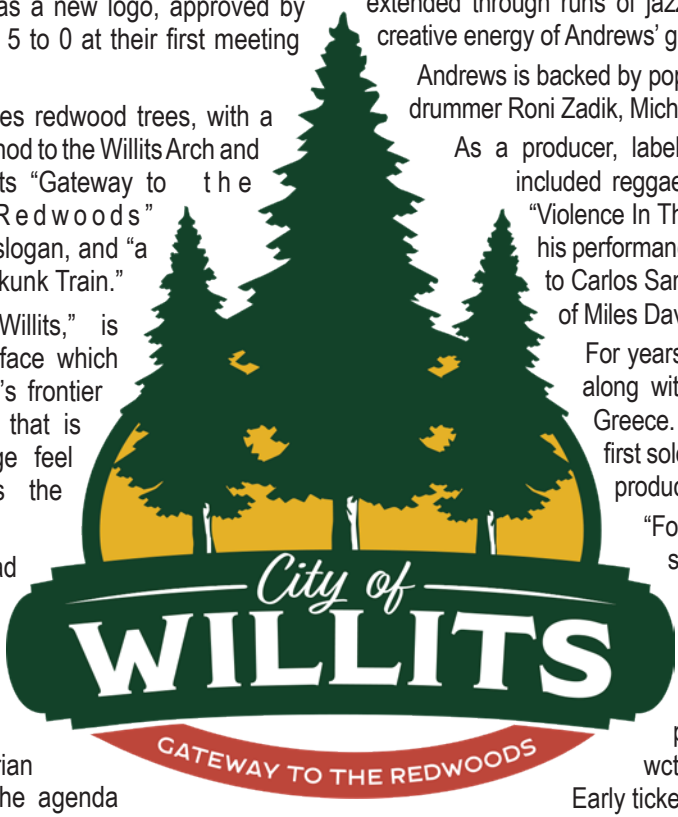
The key word, "Willits," is done in Modesto typeface which "encapsulates the City's frontier roots with a typeface that is modern with a vintage feel that closely matches the Gateway sign."

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."

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



Above: The new logo for the City of Willits. At left: This, the former City of Willits logo, has been used since the early 1980s.



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.



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



Congrats | Birthday Happy Birthday, River!

Reading rhymes
And feeling fine.
A little luck o' the Irish
And River turned NINE!!

Wishing the happiest of birthdays to the pot of gold at the end of our rainbow!

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

The rest of Raise From page 1

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 of our people in our district as much as we can reasonably afford to do so.

"Last board meeting ... MCOE came in and gave us a presentation that said with the structure of our current budget, that we would be in financial crisis in two years, if we went all the way and did exactly 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 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 we don't want to see."

Bowlds did warn that everyone should understand that having a minimum budget reserve comes with significant potential risk, if the economy "takes a significant turn for the worse," he said. "If there's a significant change in state funding, for example, that reduces our budget, it's going to end up having a significant impact on all of us."

The rest of Declining From page 11

which also has 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 showed 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 year.

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 rest of Brooktrails From page 1

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.

"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 process."

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 for questions, will help us move forward to a positive result with the mail ballot."

In other news, Alaniz reported that "a new staff person, Tom Sims, has been hired to fill the finance position vacated by Phil St. Pierre, who retired recently. His start date was March 15."

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 handled in-house.

Director Joanne Cavallari asked if there was a recent rainfall amount to report. Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer 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 can) reached 100 inches at his home on March 13.

Golf Course Manager candidate Tyler Larson went to the podium and announced his willingness to assume the management of the Brooktrails Golf Course after the departure of present managers Marcus and Jacqueline Newby. He was supported by several enthusiastic individuals who were in attendance.

studies" with county executive staff to get a 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 to allow us to do that."

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.

As originally budgeted, the MCD was slated to receive around \$838,000 of the 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 27%.

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 terminations."

"The majority of positions in the recruitment process are in Social Services (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 for this year.

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 departments.

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

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.

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 and county staff have their eye on June 30 as a goal to get the tax bills out, since 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 to the budget item. This total includes 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 for 2022/23.

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 months.

The board unanimously approved the CEO recommended actions of accepting the mid-year budget report and adjustments, and also an action to direct Cubbison to collect supplemental taxes in Fiscal Year 2022-23.

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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 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 Mathew Caine



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