

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

Thank you so much for your wonderful article about Scout Annalee Gonzalez and her Eagle Scout project of feeding our community. [Mathew Caine's "Scout Pantry" in the March 23, 2023 edition.]

A young woman of action! She saw a need in our community and she is doing something about it.

What an amazing, inspirational young woman. She will hold the distinction of being the first female Eagle Scout in Willits. With the help of her Scout troop, they constructed these food pantries.

She did all of the leg work of clearing it with the city. She spoke to local organizations and churches to rally support. She is responsible for maintaining these pantries, stocking them, and keeping them clean and tidy.

As a community let's rally our support and donate non-perishable food items to Daily Bread located at the St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church at the corner of Main Street and Commercial Street. You may go there between 3 and 5:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

You may also donate directly to the pantries themselves at the Rec Grove or on Coast Street, a block south of the Catholic Church. While you are there, how about tidying it up if it is disarray?

No one should have to go hungry in America. Many of us have well-stocked pantries of our own at home. We can afford to do our part in taking care of those who don't.

Barbara Holmes, Willits Lions Club

A message from the new Willits Chamber coordinator

By Susan Mahoney, coordinator, Willits Chamber of Commerce

Greetings to Willits Chamber of Commerce members! My name is Susan Mahoney, and I am the new Willits Chamber of Commerce coordinator. I am from Marin County where my husband and I owned and operated a lumber business for 34 years. I know firsthand the challenges of owning a small business, and I'm excited to work to promote and support the business community in Willits.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, ideas or suggestions you may have. And, as always, volunteering at the Chamber is welcomed!

The Chamber is ramping up with new events, mixers and outreach to our business community. In an effort to encourage membership, the Chamber is offering free membership for 2 years beginning January 2023. That means no dues until January 2025!!

The fact that you have received this email means you are a current member. If you would like to provide updated contact info, change your membership status, or just have a question answered, please call the Chamber at 707-459-7910 or drop by the office at 299 East Commercial Street. We'll be happy to assist you!

The first event of 2023 was a financial strategy workshop for small businesses held at the Community Center. Presenters included NC Financial Group, EDFC, Blue Zone, and Councilwoman Madge Strong. The workshop was well-attended, and it was a successful start to the new year.

Our first member mixer will be jointly sponsored by the Rotary Club and the Willits Furniture Center. The

mixer will be held at the Furniture Center, 775 Central Street, from 5 to 7 pm on Friday, April 14.

May will bring mixer #2 – hosted by the Lions Club at the "Scout Hut" in Recreation Grove Park. It will be held on May 18 from 5-7pm.

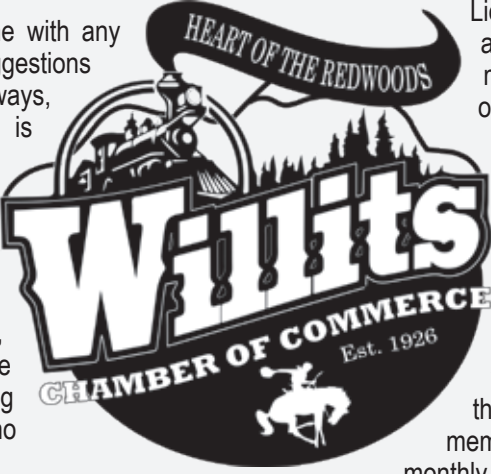
The annual Willits Car & Bike show is Sunday, May 28 in Recreation Grove Park from 10 am to 3 pm. The Lions Club will again be hosting a breakfast starting at 7 am. The museum will be open and Roots of Motive Power will have free train rides. We will have a fine array of entries this year, so come on down!

The Chamber is in the process of updating our website and strengthening our social media presence. Please bear with us as we make progress on these projects. As always, Chamber members are welcome to attend the monthly Board of Directors meetings at the Chamber office, every 4th Thursday at 6 pm. If you'd like to attend, please contact the Chamber office to ahead of time.

As a final item, the City of Willits is undergoing the General Plan Land Use Element Update. Last updated in 1992, this process will frame the growth of Willits for the next 20 years. The website to learn more is: www.willitslanduseupdate.com

You will find information about the process, and can take a survey to provide feedback to the city. It's important for everyone to share their input!

Thank you to all Chamber members for your continued support in making Willits a better place to live, work and play.



Above, left: Members of the Friends of the Laytonville Library, seen here, worked over 10 years to open a local branch. Above, right: Branch Manager Denise Jessie puts the finishing touches on the library for the grand opening. Below, left: Two members of the Friends of the Laytonville Library, Jayma Shields Spence and Shawna Haven, cut the ribbon while Third District Supervisor John Haschak looks on. Below, right: After the ribbon-cutting, the library fills up with new patrons and well-wishers.



Laytonville Library

An official Mendocino County branch opens after a decade of hard work

"Finally!" "About time!" "A welcome addition to Laytonville." These are some of the comments that could be heard in the crowd waiting to enter the new Laytonville Library site at 44960 North Highway 101, Suite D, as Library Branch Manager Denise Jessie and Shawna Haven, head of the Friends of the Laytonville Library, prepared to officially open this much-needed North County facility.

Over 10 years of efforts have finally paid dividends as the store-front library, a satellite of the Willits branch of the Mendocino County Library System, was finally able to admit patrons and begin its journey to provide library services to this under-served community.

Jayma Shields Spence, executive director of Harwood Hall and Laytonville Healthy Start, as a charter member of the Friends of the Laytonville Library, has been working with several others for a long while in order to create this space where people can check out books, access WiFi, use the computers, and order books and materials from other libraries in Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma counties.

"Our Friends of the Library group here in Laytonville is so excited that today is our grand-opening celebration of our Mendocino County Library Laytonville branch today," said Spence. "The library will be open three days a week, Wednesdays 11 am to 4 pm, Thursdays 1 to 6 pm, and Saturdays 1 to 6 pm.

"It took our Friends group about a decade long to create this library from start to finish," said Spence. "Our Friends group was a small-but-mighty group under the fiscal sponsorship of our local non-profit Harwood Park and Healthy Start. I've been here since the beginning. It's just been such an exciting project to bring to the community."

Don't let the small size of the store-front facility fool you. All of the resources of the entire library system can be accessed from the location.

"We have a nice selection of books," Spence continued. "We're actually part of the Mendocino County Library system, so these are official county library books. There are also DVDs, public computers with a printer. People can come in with their laptops and utilize the WiFi. There's high-speed internet. If you don't find a book you're interested in here, you can request a book through the library system."

"As of Tuesday," explained Jessie, "I am managing the Willits branch and therefore also this one. We've been working hard to get this branch open. We don't want the people of Laytonville to think they don't have a branch

manager. I will be coming up here weekly. Alison is the dedicated employee of the Laytonville branch and she's a library assistant. We are so lucky to have a Laytonville local to be the dedicated employee for this branch. She knows a lot of the people. She knows the community."

Alison Wild, library assistant, will be in residence at the Laytonville Library and is extremely excited about the new opportunity. "I've been training at the Willits branch for the last two months just to get this computer program dialed in," Wild explained. "It's called Horizon. It's what we use for the library system. This is where the magic happens, where I can check books out to people, reserve books, request them from other branches, get them sent over. I love this space. It's beautiful."

In addition to books and other literary material, the library will maintain the seed-sharing program that was begun at the Book Room, a facility of the Friends of the Laytonville Library, located at the old high school. The Book Room was set up in 2018 as a place to buy books inexpensively, the proceeds of which were one of the funding mechanisms for the new library.

Once preparations were completed, Spence, along with Third District Supervisor John Haschak, Haven, Jessie, all of the members of the Friends of the Laytonville Library, and about 50 members of the public participated in the ribbon-cutting to officially open the facility.

"The idea to bring a library to Laytonville happened, most recently, about 10 years ago," said Spence, addressing the crowd. "Before that, we know of other attempts to make it happen. I got roped into this idea because our former Third District Supervisor John Pinches and then-library board advisor / president Mark Komer made a call to my office, and then I heard from my kindergarten teacher, Susan Bradley.

"It was obvious at the time," said Spence, "forces were at play and the stars were aligning at the right time. Looking back on this journey from where we stand today, there were times in the process of bringing a public library to an unincorporated community in Northern Mendocino County felt like a comedy, a tragedy, or at other times, a children's book.

"Our Friends group learned a lot of lessons along the way. There was no book on the shelf entitled 'How to Bring a Public Library to Laytonville.' Rather, we learned everything along the way. This project really defines what I like to call 'the spirit of community.' Through partnerships, friendships and collaboration, we have arrived at this beautiful destination," Spence concluded.



Above, left: Denise Jessie, library tech and branch manager, will be managing both the Willits and the Laytonville branches. Above, right: The new library has a robust complement of seeds to share. At left: Alison Wild is the Laytonville Library assistant and will be in the facility three days a week. Below, left: The principal of Laytonville High School attends the opening with his two daughters. Below, right: Jayma Shields Spence displays one of the Friends of the Laytonville Library T-shirts.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: The library has books on many subjects.

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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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Please feel free to visit our office for brochures, maps and additional information about the area

(707) 459-7910

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 building."

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."

CalFresh

Is a food assistance program. You can be on Social Security, have money in the bank, own cars and still receive CalFresh benefits.

Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment to see if you qualify.

707-459-6826

HARBOR SENIOR CENTER

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

What's Happening Around Town

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: Folk-based country and blues and unique vocals and harmony by Sonoma County based multi-instrumental duo Hilary & Christiane. Shanachie Pub on Friday, March 30 at 8 pm. 50B South Main Street.

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 Street.

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 Street.

"Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household": New hands-on, family-friendly exhibit opens April 1 at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits: "Various gadgets, both recognizable and strange, will be on display illustrating how industrialization transformed every American household in the 19th century." In addition to the widely known inventions in this traveling exhibit from Exhibit Envoy, the museum will highlight 20th century and contemporary local inventors, such as Ed Burton and Richard Jergensen. Group tours, with a selection of hands-on activities, can be requested online or by calling 707-234-6365. Exhibit runs through August 13. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Free admission on first Saturdays, including April 1, otherwise \$5 adults; \$2, ages 6-17; free under 2. Info: www.mendocinocounty.org/museum, 707-459-2736 or museum@mendocinocounty.org

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.

BACE Presents

Willits is GRATEFUL

8 April

Pete Sawyer and the LEFT HANDED MONKEY WRENCH GANG

Nate LaPointe (Phil Lesh, Cubensis)
Murph Murphy (Poor Man's Whiskey and Stu Allen)

Anna Elva (Sunshine Becker, Mark Karan)
Scott Guberman (Phil Lesh, The Gilmour Project)

Opening act **ShovelMan**

+18 +35 +40
advance door

Doors 8pm
109 N. Main St. Willits

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 Stichey and Pour Girls Coffee.

Tuesday, April 4

WHS Golf at Brooktrails: Willits High School Golf Team at Brooktrails Golf Course, 24860 Birch Street, Tuesday, April 4, 11 am.

Wednesday, April 5

Art Night at the Library: Bring your own project to work on in the company of fellow artists; geared towards adults. Starts Wednesday, April 5 and continues first Wednesday of each month, 4:30 to 6:45 pm, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Light refreshments.

Thursday, April 6

Twining Time at Brickhouse: Twining Time, John Wagenet and Anita Wagenet Blu, perform at Brickhouse Coffee the first Thursday of the month, from 12 to 2 pm, Thursday, April 6 this month. "There will be many new tunes, as well as our usual mixture of songs with two-part polished vocal harmonies, acoustic guitar, and keyboard." 3 South Main Street, on the corner of Main and Commercial, 707-459-1598. Visit <https://twiningtime.weebly.com>.

Photos with the Easter Bunny at J.D. Redhouse: The Easter Bunny himself will be making an appearance at J.D. Redhouse & Company on Thursday, April 6 from 5 to 7

pm with his live furry friends and Mphotographress - Photos by Maureen (Moore) Jennison! No appointments – just drop in and smile for the camera! Digital photos are \$5 per group, and will be available to download at <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/easterbunnypotos>. Will move inside if it's raining. Questions? 707-972-7047 or maureengetsmail@gmail.com

Please Support Our BIGGEST FUNDRAISER Of The Year !!

Willits Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner

Friday April 21st, 2023

Tickets may be purchased at: Cat's Meow 29 S. Main St. Willits

PRE SALE ONLY !

Or Call :
Linda Matz 459-6201
Karen Thiel WHS 459-7700 ext. 1504

Dinner Includes: Complete meal for 4 people, Marinated, BBQ'd Tri-Tip, Baked Potatoes, Salad, Bread, Cookies, and a Beautiful Rose Donated by Flowers by Annette.

Willits Sober Grad is a non-profit organization that works each year from September through June to raise funds which are used to put on a safe, sober party for graduating Seniors of the Willits Community Schools on Graduation Night. These schools include: Willits Charter School, Willits High School, San Hedrin High School, La Vida Charter School. Since it's inception in 1986, no High School Senior has died on Graduation Night.

APRIL FOOLS SPRING FLING

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SHOW AT 8 PM
\$20 ADVANCE
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Friday, April 7

WHS Baseball: Willits High School varsity baseball team faces Cloverdale at home. WHS, 299 North Main Street. Friday, April 7, varsity game, 4 pm.

WHS Softball: Willits High School softball team faces Cloverdale at home, Friday, April 7 at 4 pm. WHS, 299 North Main Street.

'Meteor Shower' opens

at WCT: Comic Steve Martin's play on marriage and infidelity, "Meteor Shower," opens at the Willits Community Theatre on Friday, April 7 for a three-week run of saucy madcap fun, with adult themes. "A unique and astonishing comedy made even more unique by Steve Martin's non-stop wit and word gags." Plays through April 23, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm, except no show on April 9, Easter Sunday. Tickets are \$20; available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org, or at the door. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

Eric McFadden at Shanachie: Guitar virtuoso/songwriter/vocalist Eric McFadden performs with Kate Vargas and Calvin Turnbull! Friday, April 7, at 7 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street

Saturday, April 8

Edward Loudermilk Band: Bluegrass Concert benefit for Rotary Club of Willits. Joining Edgar Loudermilk (upright bass and lead vocals) are musicians Zack Atty (mandolin), Jamey Pittman (lead guitar), and Anthony Howell (banjo). Saturday, April 8 at Bruce's Barn, 350 Sherwood Road. Doors open 6 pm, show at 7 pm. \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. Light refreshments by Willits Sober Grad. To reserve tickets: 707-489-0155 or 707-841-1315. Visit www.edgarloudermilk.com for info about the band.

FREE Eye Care Clinic in Ukiah

Assemblymember Jim Wood is partnering with VSP Vision and local eye doctors to bring a fully furnished mobile eye care clinic to Ukiah

No-cost comprehensive eye exams for children and adults

A complete diagnostic and fitting lab so that many patients can receive that new prescription glasses the same day.

Thursday - April 13
Friday - April 14
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Ukiah Valley Conference Center
200 S. School Street

PATIENT QUALIFICATIONS: We want to assist patients with family income within 200% of federal poverty level guidelines who haven't received FREE eye care through a VSP program during the last 12 months. Space is limited, so sign up early.

To schedule an appointment: (707) 463-5770

First Friday at Grace Hudson Museum

April 7

On Friday, April 7, from 5 to 8 pm, Grace Hudson Museum will be open for First Friday. Live music and refreshments will be on offer. The current exhibit, "The Curious World of Seaweed," will be on display. Featuring the extraordinary layered artwork of Josie Iselin, the exhibit explores the surprising science and history behind seaweed, its longstanding connections with indigenous peoples, and the human impact that threatens its existence.

The exhibit includes Pomo seaweed gathering baskets, and a few other surprises. First Fridays are also a great opportunity to discover or get reacquainted with the museum's core galleries and Wild Gardens. As always on First Fridays, admission is free.

The Grace Hudson Museum is at 431 South Main Street in Ukiah. For more information go to www.gracehudsonmuseum.org.

'Meteor Shower' at WCT: comic Steve Martin's play on marriage and infidelity, Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, April 8 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20; available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org, or at the door. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

'Willits is Grateful' at BACE: Pete Sawyer & The Left Hand Monkey Wrench Gang "will be throwing down two fat sets of 'all killer, no filler' Grateful Dead classics, deep cuts, and unexpected jewels!" Featuring Pete Sawyer (Brightshine), Nate LaPointe (Phil Lesh, Cubensis), Anna Elva (Sunshine Becker, Mark Karan), Murph Murphy (Poor Man's Whiskey and Stu Allen), and Scott Guberman (Phil Lesh, The Gilmour Project). Opening act, ShovelMan. Saturday, April 8, doors open 8 pm, BACE, 109 North Main Street. 18+, tickets \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door.

Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: "Come out and let your creative juices flow as we embark on a musical journey through the Universe. Sharing songs of Love and Life while cultivating joy and peace." Saturday, April 8, at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Sunday, April 9 Happy Easter!

Easter Sunrise Service: Sunday, April 9, at the Rec Grove in Willits. Service begins at 6:30 am with prayer, worship, and a short message of encouragement. A breakfast will be served at Agape Bible Church just down the street at 290 South Lenore Street, after the service.

Ongoing Events

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Sack 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 and community organizations.

Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl: "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: Twice-monthly 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 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.

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 Street.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

‘John Wick: Chapter 4’

The Story: John Wick is a nice professional assassin who just wants to be left alone. "The Table" – the brutal, relentless murder-for-hire secret society – still has a price on his head. Wick (Keanu Reeves, with some gray in his goatee) is looking to get all these rabid death-dealing professional killers off his back.

In Chapters 2 and 3, Wick killed (quite deftly and gracefully) a small army of thugs. As I remember, the last time we saw Wick, his colleague Winston (Ian McShane) shot him out of loyalty to The Table. Again, as I remember, Wick is wounded and falls off the side of a four-story building. Of course, after a non-stop conveyor belt of gun-toting, knife-wielding, samurai-sword-swiping, blood-spattered attempts on Wick's life, one expects him to survive. He does.

My Thoughts: John Wick is a killer. He kills a lot. The numbers keep going up. He's the McDonald's franchise of killers. Because the wholesale slaughter of movie stunt men and women was guaranteed, I challenged myself to count the number of bad guys maimed and/or killed. I quit somewhere around 17-18. The mayhem was too much and too fast. Call me a quitter, but I just couldn't keep up.

Also, I've wondered just what The Table is doing when they're not sending out killers to kill other killers. It seems that's all they do. If The Table were on the stock exchange, I sure wouldn't invest because of the limited demand for their limited services. It can't possibly be a growth stock. It's too niche. And I would imagine that there is a big turnover in all the company's job categories; recruiting qualified talent must be a real bitch.

Also, the continued survival of John Wick has to be a black mark on the company's professional bona fides. Not to be negative, but it's a bad luck when a group of so-called professionals can't succeed at the one thing that's at the very heart of their business. Just a thought.

Parents: This is a comic book with amoral good guys and bad guys. Children don't need to see it. Hit men ain't heroes.

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

'Once' at Mendocino College, through April 2

Mendocino College presents "Once," a Tony Award-winning musical that tells the story of a guy who gives up on love and music, and a girl who inspires him to dream again. Thursday, March 30, Friday, March 31, and Saturday, April 1 at 7:30 pm, and closing matinee at 2 pm on Sunday, April 2. Center for the Visual & Performing Arts, 1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah. \$20, \$15 students and seniors. Info: call 707-468-3172 or visit www.mendocino.edu/the-arts/theatre.

Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household

Showing at the Mendocino County Museum April 1, 2023 - August 13, 2023

Electric Percolator 3-egg type, \$5.00
Hawkins Electric Co., Ltd., Phone 343

SEWING MACHINE

QUEEN OIL RANGE

CRUISER

Exhibit envy

Newspaper images courtesy of Ukiahville area businesses in May 1913. Copyright Editors. Courtesy: University of Hawaii at Manoa and Library of Congress. Shells: Trade Card Collection, Walter Hargrave Special Collections and University Archives, Mount Union Univ.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: HONOR AMONG THIEVES

(PG13) 2 hrs 14 mins
Friday: 4:15 & 7:15pm
Sat./Sun.: 1:15, 4:15 & 7:15pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 7:15pm

SHAZAM 2: FURY OF THE GODS

(PG13) 2 hrs 10 mins
Friday: 4:45 & 7:45pm
Sat./Sun.: 1:45, 4:45 & 7:45pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:45 & 7:45pm

Masks Optional

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 unexpected surprises."

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 genres and explore your creativity!"

Tyler Grass & The Sherwood Mountain 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 of the area may drop in!"

Art Under 20 2023

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

March 31-April 30
Opening Reception: March 31, 3:30-6:30
Hours: Friday-Sunday, 11am-5pm
Still life by Sophie Anderson

Willits High School • Willits Charter School • Potter Valley High School
www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Bluegrass Concert featuring Edward Loudermilk Band Saturday April 8, 2023

Joining Edgar Loudermilk (upright bass and lead vocals) are musicians Zack Atty (mandolin), Jamey Pittman (lead guitar), and Anthony Howell (banjo). The Edgar Loudermilk Band tours coast-to-coast and throughout Canada. Follow the band at www.edgarloudermilk.com, as well as on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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

Proceeds to Benefit **Rotary Club of Willits**

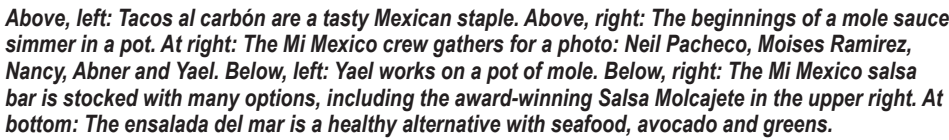
Comedy benefit for WHS Class of 2023

April 1

North Coast Comedy presents the 2nd annual Comedy for a Cause, Saturday, April 1 at Rivino Winery, 4001 Rivino Ranch Road in Ukiah. Headliner is Steve Ausburne, also featuring Cody Smit, with host The Bern Man, and DJ Steve Sims, and a big raffia with lots of prizes. Doors open for dinner at 6 pm, food available for sale from local vendors. Show from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Admission \$20; tickets at Mendocino Book Company, www.totalbern.com or call 707-367-2370.

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4

(R) 2 hrs 49 mins
Fri.-Thurs: 4:00 & 7:30pm
OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners



At top: Mi Mexico is located at 144 North Main Street. Above, left: The Mi Mexico dining room is large and bright and can accommodate large families. Above, right: Neil Pacheco and Moises Ramirez of Mi Mexico sit down to chat about their new restaurant. Below: Chicken Mole is a staple of Oaxacan cuisine.



The response from the community has been important to our business," said Neil Pacheco, multi-media and customer service head of Mi Mexico, a new restaurant in Willits. "We're very surprised how the community responded to our

Mi Mexico is truly a family business. The cooks are Ramirez's nephews who attended school in Berkeley in order to improve their English. They work long hours (over 16 hours a day) to create the flavors for their customers, although, Ramirez is still the undisputed authority in the kitchen.

like they like it so far. Aside from Oaxaca, you're going to find a lot of food from Jalisco, Michoacán, Sinaloa, Mazatlán.

"From Oaxaca we have the mole. From Sinaloa we have a lot of seafood. Our food is a combination of different parts of Mexico. That's why [Moises Ramirez] called it 'Mi Mexico' because it is a blend of different dishes and flavors from the different parts of Mexico. Then, of course, we have the burritos that are mostly from this country."

Pacheco and Moises Ramirez, owner of Mi Mexico and his flagship restaurant, Tacos al Carbón in Santa Rosa, consider their food, although inspired by the tastes of various Mexican states, to be a fusion, a creative blending of traditional and modern, with a nod to American sensibilities.

The portions are more than generous with doggie bags required in most cases to allow the customer to enjoy the entire feast of flavors. The dining room itself, at 144 North Main Street, is large and airy and a pleasant place to enjoy the ample-sized tables that can accommodate families and large parties, while at the same time, intimate enough for a dinner for two.

The colorful and well-stocked menu was resurrected from Ramirez's first one at Tacos al Carbon and is well-populated with a plethora of items, ranging from simple *la carte* items to full meals. There are many seafood (*mariscos*) and vegetarian dishes so people of all tastes and diets can enjoy the variety of choices. The menu is a work in progress that will continue to evolve as Ramirez discovers what works in the Willits area.

One of the ingredients that makes Mi Mexico stand out amongst the number of local below-the-border restaurants is their use of mole in several of their Oaxacan dishes. Mole is a traditional sauce made with a chocolate base that can be utilized with many different types of meat and seafood. It is a specially, inspired, along with the rest of the foods, by the cooking of Ramirez's mother in Oaxaca.

To love to invite all of the community to come and give it a try, to taste our flavors, our foods, our traditions," said Ramirez. "This is our traditional culture and you'll have the good tastes of different parts of Mexico. I want to thank the community for all the support they have brought to this family business."

For more information, visit their Facebook page or call 707-841-3006.

MARCH MADNESS SALE

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LEGAL NOTICES

<p>WW421</p> <p>Fictitious Business Name Statement</p> <p>2023-F0093</p> <p>The following 501c3 non-profit corporation is doing business as Golden Rule Gardens, 11725 Orchard Lane, Willits, CA 95490.</p> <p>Registered owner: Golden Rule Church Association, 11725 Orchard Lane, Willits, CA 95490.</p> <p>This business is conducted by a 501-c3 non-profit corporation.</p> <p>The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 1, 2022.</p> <p>FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 16, 2023.</p> <p>/s/ Cody Bartholomew, President, GRCA</p> <p>Publication dates: March 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023</p>	<p>WW422</p> <p>Fictitious Business Name Statement</p> <p>2023-F0094</p> <p>The following 501c3 non-profit corporation is doing business as Handwaters Grazing, 300 Seabiscuit Drive A, Willits, CA 95490.</p> <p>Registered owner: Golden Rule Church Association, 11725 Orchard Lane, Willits, CA 95490.</p> <p>This business is conducted by a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation..</p> <p>The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2023.</p> <p>FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 16, 2023.</p> <p>/s/ Cody Bartholomew, President, GRCA</p> <p>Publication dates: March 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023</p>
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WVW424

**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.

The 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

WW425

**NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS
TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed under the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and Provisions of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell by competitive bidding online at [storageauctions.com](#) starting April 10th @ 9AM and ending April 20th @ 9AM.

The following said property stored at Cougars Closet II Mini Storage, 317 Robert Drive, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California.

Lorna Allen F-4, F-5
Joshua Bollinger D-35; Jordan Campbell B-28;
Laura Douglas C-3; Javier Garcia D-34; Elizabeth Hull B-22;
Richard Guevara A-13; Marjorie Kelly D-22;
Colleen Kenny D-24; Wayne Murray B-22;
Donavan Parrish C-32; Dwayne Rodriguez B-32;
Christopher Schrabel B-34; William Thomas E-34;
Jeff Walker F-1; Sara Waras C-14

The goods are described as miscellaneous household items & boxes (contents unknown), clothes, furniture, tools and miscellaneous articles. Purchases must be paid for and picked up within 72 hours of winning bid by credit/debit or cash.

All purchased items sold as-is, where-is and must be removed within 72 hours of sale.

Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

Dated this 30th day of March & 6th Day of April 2023
by Cougars Closet II Mini-Storage, 707-259-0159.

Publication Dates: March 30 and April 6, 2023

WW426

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Willits City Council acting as Willits Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on April 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

PROJECT: Conditional Use Permit No. U-22-01

REQUEST: To consider a Use Permit No. U-22-01 to allow for construction of a singlefamily residence on a parcel currently zoned for Multiple-Residence (R3). The approximate 1,800-sq. ft. modular home will be constructed upon a permanent engineered foundation. The project also includes 600 sq. ft. of proposed landscaping, and paving a 600-sq-ft. driveway with 2 parking spaces.

LOCATION: In the City of Willits, positioned southside of Coast Street, approximately 900 feet east of its intersection with CA Hwy 20, 150 feet down a private driveway; Address not yet assigned; APN 006-120-45.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Categorically Exempt from CEQA, pursuant to Section 15303 (Class 3 - New Construction of Small Structures) of the CEQA Guidelines.

MEETING LOCATION: Council Chambers at City Hall located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490.

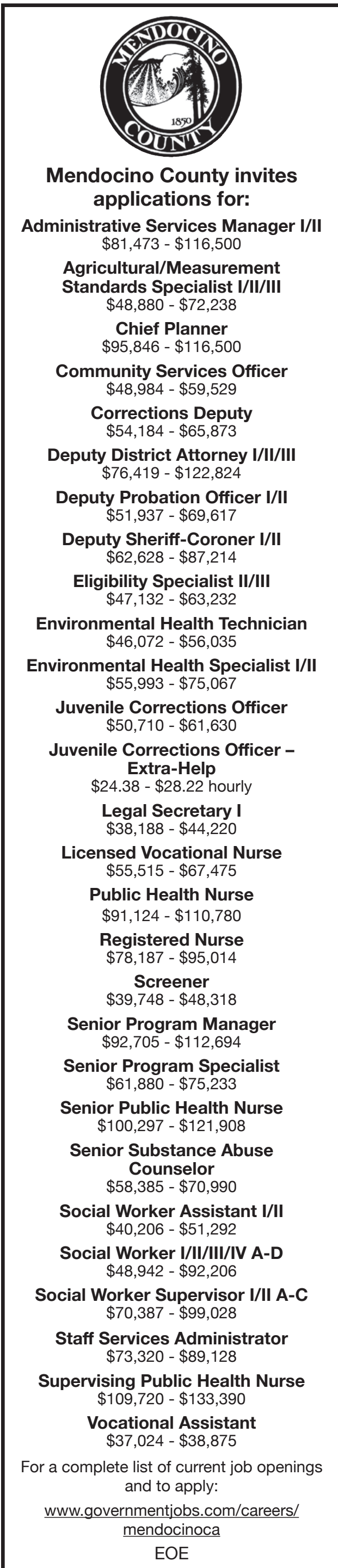
HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Prior to the meeting, electronic copies of the staff report and agenda will be available on the City's website at <http://ca-willits.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/City-Council>.

- Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Taylor Perry, tperry@cityofwillits.org or the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, April 11th, 2023. All public comments received will be provided to the Council and uploaded to the City's website in advance of the meeting.
- Oral comments may be presented to the Willits City Council, acting as Planning Commission, during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits Community Development Department or the Willits City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the public meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 459-4601. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

/s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk

Publication Date: March 30, 2023



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 (707) 467-7642

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

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CLASSIFIEDS

<p>Brooksie Registration Open</p> <p>Brooksie Elementary TK / Kindergarten registration is now open. To register go to www.willitssunified.com. Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2023; TK: age 5 between Sept. 2, 2023 and April 2, 2024.</p>	<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>Wanted and needed: A handyman experienced in plumbing, and we need a brick chimney taken down. Please call 707-459-1043.</p>
<p>Inscripción abierta en Brooksie</p> <p>La inscripción para TK / Kindergarten de Brooksie Elementary ya está abierta. Para registrarse, vaya a www.willitssunified.com. la edad para Kinder: 5 años antes del 1 de septiembre de 2023; TK: 5 años entre el 2 de septiembre de 2023 y el 2 de abril de 2024.</p>	<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>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 wsdirector@willitsseniorcenter.com</p>
<p>Computer Help</p>	<p>John Ford Ranch Beef</p> <p>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.</p>

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

For Rent

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

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.oaknvine.net/lp>

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 a.m. Questions? Call April at 707-972-2475. Sponsored by Eckankar of Lake & Mendocino Counties.

Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for 2 weeks!



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Above: Easels with graphics were set up around the room at the trail workshop; this one simulates a completed trail entrance between Sparetime Supply and Ken's Auto Repair on East Valley Road. Below, left: The Willits Rail Trail Community Workshop at the Community Center last Thursday was well-attended. Below, right: A diverse group of Willits neighbors shared their opinions on the rail trail plan.



Roots of Motive Power

Steam Safety Class this weekend

Would you like to volunteer with Willits' one-and-only Roots of Motive Power? All volunteers must first complete Roots' Steam Engineering and Operating Safety Class, which is happening Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2.

The two-day class at the Roots facility, 420 East Commercial Street, goes from 8 am to 5 pm both days. "We will do classroom in the morning both days and hands-on after lunch," Roots of Motive Power posted on Facebook on Thursday.

"Wear boots, thick gloves and long sleeves. You will be working with live steam. Cost is \$75 per person, and you must be a member, which is only \$35. You can sign up online via our website <https://rootsofmotivepower.com/> using PayPal or show up the day of and pay. Just let us know you're coming so we have materials for all."

Roots of Motive Power is "an all-volunteer organization founded in 1982 to preserve and restore steam- and diesel-powered equipment used in the California north coast logging industry from the 1850s to the present."



THE BUNNY IS BACK!

PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

from 5 to 7 pm at J.D. Redhouse

Digital images by Maureen Jennison are just \$5 each!

No appointments, just come by and get in line!

The snuggly, live bunnies are back too!

The rest of **CSA** *From page 1*

CSA helps farmers focus on "flavor and taste, not just growing for quantity." Some fun items the Golden Rule Gardens CSA looks to include are ginger, sweet potatoes, unique melons and blackberries.

Not only does CSA subscription give buyers their weekly box of seven to 12 items valued at about \$30 – and a complimentary bouquet in each hand-crafted box, customized with the subscriber's name – but also invitations to events and parties planned at the farm including a burger and salad party, a potluck dinner, and a pumpkin patch.

Managing all the moving parts of a working farm is no small task: Golden Rule Gardens has four field managers, Keith and Jessica Michalak, Francisco Hernandez, and Eric Buteyn. The rest of the team includes Rachel Lasse and Aaron Bellomo and a host of volunteers who help with everything from weeding to planting to digging to harvesting.

Along with food planted for members of the CSA (six years ago, the farm had seven subscribers, last year they had 45, and now they're looking to ramp up to 50 subscribers!), the Golden Rule Gardens also plans and produces food for the 30 to 60 seats at the Ridgewood Ranch dining hall, and to donate to non-profit organizations including the Willits Senior Center, Plowshares, Caring Kitchen, and Willits Community Services and Food Bank.

A weekly email goes out, announcing the contents of the new week's box, and also includes recipe ideas for inspiration to use that week's contents.

Over the summer, Golden Rule Gardens entered produce into the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show in Boonville,

raking in over 40 ribbons. They now love to note that it's "award-winning" produce that will fill the boxes this year.

The produce is grown with biodynamic and closed-loop practices, the farm trying to be as self-sufficient as possible. The compost is all made on site – with the contributions of the horses of the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center just down the road – the water from springs on the property, seed saving efforts from previous years, and more.

The crew wants to also share the farming experience with the subscribers too – building more of a relationship between grower and consumer, and letting the community see what they are supporting. CSA members are able to see the ranch first-hand when they come to pick up their weekly boxes from the cooler behind the farmstand located in the restored Seabiscuit Stud Barn. "Veggies stay fresher in there, thus allowing our pickup time to range from Wednesday to Sunday!" said Michalak. The farmstand fills one of the barn's stalls and has other offerings available for purchase including meats, grains, beans, dried flowers, olive oil, eggs, wool, jam, and even horse-hair jewelry.

Can't wait to get started? Signing up is easy: Log onto www.goldenrulegardens.com, call or text 1-428-249-2885, or email Goldenrulegardenscsa@gmail.com to get signed up. Ideally, the farmers are looking for a full season commitment (one payment of \$900, two payments of \$450, or three payments of \$300 for weekly boxes, or one payment of \$450, two payments of \$225, or three payments of \$150 for every-other-week boxes). But payment plans and flexible arrangements are available if needed – just reach out directly with any questions. Remember – your first payment is what officially reserves your spot.

Boxes will be available starting in May, and the CSA will conclude in November.

More of **Meeting** *From page 1*

Transportation Commission's Active Transportation Program, which is expected to pay design and construction costs for the local trail project.

As part of the process the city and representatives from the Great Redwood Trail Agency co-hosted the community workshop on March 23 at the Community Center next to City Hall. With a goal of engaging the wider Willits community, workshop organizers filled the room with interactive presentations inviting citizens to give feedback on a number of topics in play for the Great Redwood Trail project as a whole, and the Willits Rail Trail project specifically.

Comments were gathered on such wide-ranging issues as restroom access, prevention of homeless encampments along the trail, identifying businesses who could potentially benefit from the trail, and more.

The mood at the workshop ranged from excited and enthusiastic to skeptical and concerned. Questions about increased fire danger and problems with trash, which could potentially increase as the trail opens up to the public, were expressed, especially by property owners directly affected

Many voiced approval for the project in the more urban areas such as Ukiah and Willits, citing the potential to grow the Willits economy and increase recreational opportunities, while ranchers and others who live in the more rural areas of Mendocino County were concerned about privacy, and critical of tax dollars being used for recreation and tourism, rather than for maintaining existing roads and funding other critical infrastructure.

A number of representatives from the Great Redwood Trail Agency were on hand to answer questions and gather information from community members, along with Supervisor John Haschak and members of State Majority Leader Mike McGuire's team. Senator McGuire wrote the 2021 legislation that established the Great Redwood Trail Agency, shutting down the North Coast Railroad Authority.

City of Willits staff offered graphs, timelines, and maps superimposed on to photographs of different areas within Willits. An 8 foot long printout of the Willits

Read the rest of **Meeting** *Over on page 11*

The rest of **Resigns** *From page 1*

director of Code Enforcement, he's been over there because he's a real systems guy. And he's been working over there for the last month or so, and he'll continue on. And then Steve Duncicliffe who's the deputy CEO – he used to be the Director of Planning and Building, and he's going to help out.

"And then some of the fiscal team, because there's been some problems with the numbers coming from the cannabis department," he continued. "And so their budget was \$662,000 out of whack. And the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program, there was a \$3.2 million mistake made, and so we're cleaning those things up.... Part of the fiscal team from the Executive Office will be working to straighten that stuff out."

The "\$3.2 million mistake" Haschak was referring to was a reporting error that Nevedal acknowledged she had made, where the state came to believe that LJAGP money had been spent by the county even though it hadn't. She talked about the error at the March 14 BOS meeting, and said she had cleared it up with the state.

Also at that March 14 meeting, the board approved a plan to request help from the state in processing cannabis applications, and California's Director of Cannabis Control Nicole Elliott had already informed the board they were supportive of that idea in a March 13 letter.

In that letter Elliott had asked that "the county refrain from disbursing additional funds under the LJAGP" to "allow the department to re-assess how remaining LJAG funds can best support the goals of that grant program."

The county was allotted \$17.5 million in LJAGP money by the state to help applicants obtain annual licenses, and Haschak estimated that around \$2 million had been spent so far by the county.

Haschak also said an update on state involvement with the county cannabis program had been given at Monday's General Government Committee meeting.

"The CEO and the county counsel and Kristin Nevedal went over to Sacramento and met with Nicole Elliott ... and her team," he said. "And so what they want the county to do is to perform an environmental impact report for the state program in Mendocino County. And what that would do is it would allow people to not have to do the Appendix G, and they could go straight from the county-issued permit to the state."

Appendix G is the lengthy environmental checklist which every county cannabis applicant currently has to complete prior to getting fully licensed.

"The problem is we don't know how long it would take to do the EIR," added Haschak. "But the state is offering to extend those provisional licenses another year so that we can try to make it work with that route too."

If not extended, the upcoming deadlines currently laid out by the state are July 1 of this year when "provisional renewals become subject to additional requirements," and January 1, 2026 which is the "last day for any provisional license to be in effect."

An EIR is something that environmental activists in the community have pushed for in the past, but the county never ended up pursuing it due largely to its high price tag and lengthy timeframe for completion.

Haschak said that while an EIR would be quite costly, "the state is allowing the county to use the LJAGP money for that."

"So," he noted, "it's just a question of how do we modify the budget because we're going to have to do some changes to the budget to make that work for an EIR. And it could cost a couple million dollars, and certainly the timeline is a consideration."

Haschak also gave an update on the \$1.6 million contract with 4Leaf, Inc., approved by the board on February 28 to hire planners with the company to help process applications in the county.

He said that they were moving forward with the plan, but at a slower pace than he had hoped.

Haschak said that at Monday's General Government Committee meeting, Nevedal had informed him that they were going to begin the training of the contract planners this week – a month after contract approval.

In addition, there were only 14 planners being hired, as opposed to the 20 which he was told the county needed to process applications in time.

"So kind of we lost a month, and I don't understand why, and we still aren't hiring the number that we needed to make the plan work," he said. "So that's the kind of things that I think the new administration of the department will be able to sort out."

Haschak said that Burkes will essentially serve as the de facto interim Mendocino Cannabis Department director while they assess what the best plan for the department is.

"What we're going to do is he's going to kind of be the interim, and then we're going to take a couple months to see what the issues and needs are of the cannabis department before we decide what the new structure will be," he said. "But in the meantime I think we're in good hands with John Burkes and Steve Duncicliffe and the executive office fiscal team."

Haschak said that despite all the challenges, he's hopeful that with some of the new developments the cannabis program can get back on track.

"I think there's a lot of opportunity," he said. "There have been problems with the department, and I think that with the effort that the county's putting in that we'll be able to get this moving again."

"We're looking at all the paths forward," he added. "And I think it's a good thing that the state's willing to help us, and they realize that we're not in a good situation right now as far as getting the permits and people to their annual licensure, but that we have a couple paths forward now.... I'm hopeful."

Willits Weekly asked the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance for comment about the resignation of Nevedal, and while Executive Director Michael Katz didn't respond to it specifically, he did sound a note of optimism about other recent developments.

"MCA acknowledges the herculean effort and considerable resources being allocated to address our local crisis, and we remain committed to working together with the county and the state to get our operators their annual state licenses," he said. "We are cautiously optimistic that recent progress indicates a new chapter of constructive collaboration in Mendocino County."

Willits Weekly also reached out to former director Nevedal via email for comment regarding her resignation, but did not receive a response.

Cannabis items

A couple of cannabis items of note were passed at the Tuesday BOS meeting, both of which Katz said that MCA approved of.

One was regarding clarification of tree removal prohibitions which some supervisors hope will allow more applications to move forward more quickly.

The other was a cannabis business tax relief plan which will cut the rate in half for two years, grant amnesty on interest and penalties for back taxes, and allow a payment plan for those who owe back taxes.

The tree removal item passed 4-1 with Haschak dissenting, who said he was fearful it would result in a lawsuit and felt they could have achieved the same goal without risking litigation.

The cannabis tax relief item passed 3-2 with Supervisor Ted Williams and Supervisor Dan Gjerde dissenting, due to fears of losing much-needed tax revenue.

Other supervisors said they expected the back taxes that would get recovered with the plan would help offset any lost revenue.

The rest of **Meeting** *From page 10*

leg of the rail trail presented a detailed vision of how the project will impact the city. Lighting, signage, shade trees and benches are all planned as part of the project.

Supervisor Haschak engaged neighbors and constituents in conversation about the rail trail plan. He said he's looking forward to having another safe place to recreate in Willits, adding: "The Willits portion of the Great Redwood Trail will provide residents and visitors an opportunity to walk, ride bikes, and socialize."

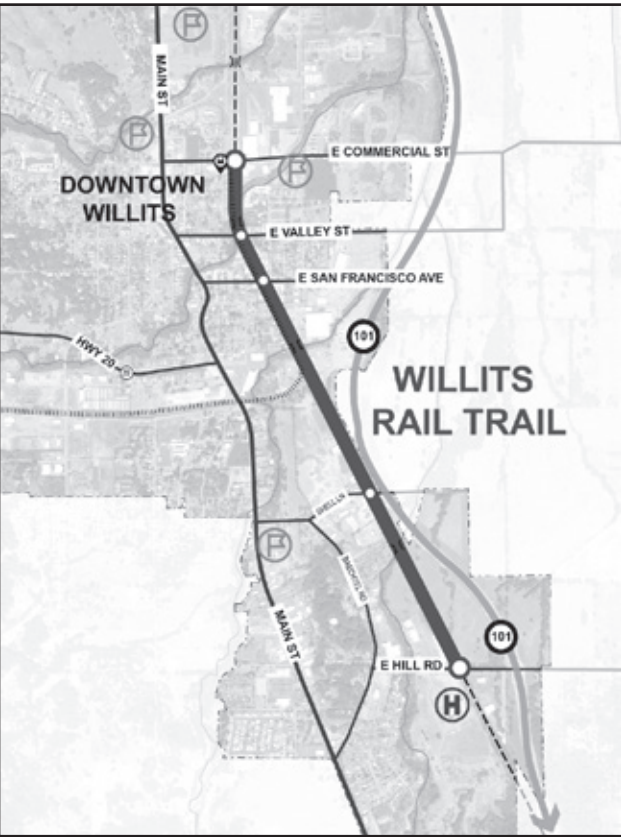
Community Development Director Duley was also on hand to inform and take questions from area residents. He said that the city applied for the state grant twice before winning it on the third round. "The community, the city council, and city staff have been working on this for many years," he noted. "The grant process was highly competitive. At this point we are still in the design phase."

Duley anticipates that most of the construction will take place during 2024 and 2025, adding that he anticipates the project will wrap up by late 2025. He explained that the Skunk Train has been supportive of the project, and that local firms having sufficient capacity will be invited to submit bids for the construction.

"The Willits trail will be paved, 10 feet wide with 2 foot wide shoulders, and ADA compliant for wheelchair access," Duley stated.

When it is completed, the Willits Rail Trail will be the latest segment in a larger state-wide effort to build the Great Redwood Trail.

Senator McGuire called the Willits workshop "a huge success," in a statement sent to Willits Weekly. "It drew nearly 100 folks who were able to get their questions answered, look at area-specific maps, and give their input on trail design, priorities, wildfire prevention, construction, and more," McGuire said.



The Great Redwood Trail is envisioned as a 316-mile rail trail project connecting California's San Francisco Bay and Humboldt Bay, and passing through Mendocino, Humboldt, and Trinity counties. Most of the initial build-out has taken place in small cities like Eureka and Ukiah, following the old North Coast Railroad Authority rail corridor.

The project is seen by the Great Redwood Trail Agency as a transformational economic engine for northern California, as well as a recreational opportunity for residents of and visitors to the northern part of the state.

As plans become reality, the Willits community will be able to walk or bike from one end of town to the other along a shady trail, tracing the path of its history.

Check out these links to learn more about the Great Redwood Trail in general, and the Willits Rail Trail project in particular, and to participate in a survey, go to: <https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org/> or <https://www.cityofwillits.org/285/Rail-Trail-Project>

Fire Department update to the Willits City Council

By Little Lake Fire Chief William Carter

Editor's Note: This update is the monthly report provided to the Willits City Council at their March 22 meeting by Little Lake Fire Protection District Fire Chief William Carter

Calls to Service

54 calls during the month of February. The recent snow/rain events kept us pretty busy. Numerous calls regarding trees and power lines down. Some minor mud slides and traffic accidents. We currently have a Polaris UTV on loan while ours is being completed. This unit was used successfully to rescue a hypothermic patient stuck in the snow.

Around the firehouse

The new cover has been installed over the fuel station at Station 541. Station 54 had some HVAC issues, the contractor came through and did a moderate reconfiguration to mitigate the concerns. The station still has a small punch list of concerns we are working out. We are currently in bid process for a solar installation project to be installed at Station 54.

Our Fire Explorer program is moving forward with three youth candidates scheduled for interviews next week. This program is intended to be a springboard for youths interested in joining

the emergency services. We have 10 spots available annually, and ages are 14 to 18 years old and must have completed the 8th grade.

Training

We are once again moving into our wildland series. Firefighters received their S-130 refresher training, at our last drill night. We will be training in tactics, equipment, fire weather, firefighter safety, and environmental factors that affect wildfire, over the next few months. The County Fire Chiefs have added a mandatory training for all firefighters wanting to travel in and out of the county, for large-scale fires and events. We will be hosting one of these trainings on April 15.

Equipment

Our new Type 3 Engine is scheduled for final inspection mid-April. We have ordered a new Type 6 Brush Truck. We were able to purchase a demo model: This will speed up production considerably, due to the fact no new cabs and chassis are available for 18 to 24 months. If all goes to plan we should receive our Type 3, Type 6, and the UTV by the end of April to mid-May.

We currently have two engines being repaired. E5480 had a broken piston rings and is nearing final completion now. E5480 lost an alternator and is scheduled for completion by March 17.



MISSING – AT RISK PERSON

Last Seen in Brooktrails, CA on 3/27/2023

Missing Person Info:
Riley John Hsieh
24-year-old Asian American Male Adult

Last Seen Wearing:
Gray robe, blue pants, carrying a light blue or green bag (see picture)

Last Known Sightings:
Monday 3/27/2023 at 11:15 AM: At his home on Hawk Terrace in Brooktrails, CA
Monday 3/27/2023 around noon: At the Willits Airport in Brooktrails, CA
Monday 3/27/2023 3:15 PM: Possibly near his home on Hawk Terrace in Brooktrails, CA



Mendocino County Sheriff's Office 707-463-4086.
Please call if you have information related to this missing person or to report a possible sighting.

April: Spring at last

The first outdoor plantings of spring are peas, lettuce, spinach, radish, and greens. They grow fast in cool soil, are ready to eat in just over a month, and have that juicy freshness that's so welcome after the long winter.

Jamie Chevalier
Columnist

It's also important to plant spring flowers and herbs as soon as possible, so they can be up and flowering quickly. Cilantro, dill, arugula, calendula, chervil, mache, alyssum, poppies, and cornflowers (bachelor's buttons) are all good choices. The flowers forming on overwintered vegetables are especially helpful. You want sources of nectar to attract predator insects before the inevitable spring aphids arrive.

Fast-growing garden plants need adequate fertility and moisture to fuel growth. Lettuce, spinach, and peas (as well as the broccoli, cabbage, and kale you may be transplanting) all like a sweet, rich, non-acid soil with lots of organic matter. A bit of lime or wood ash will restore the alkaline minerals – calcium and potassium – that have been leached out by winter rain. Compost will give them not only the nutrients and soil structure they need, but jump-start microbial activity that is sluggish from cold.

We're not lacking moisture this year! In fact, I haven't been able to work in the garden yet, because the soil is too wet. Digging or walking on soggy ground will damage soil structure all season. Soil should crumble easily, and not ooze water when squeezed. Working soil when it's wet can make it into something like concrete. I found out the hard way: Digging soggy soil one spring gave us stunted tomatoes all season.

No-dig or no-till gardens have an edge. Two, in fact. If you don't need to wait for the soil to dry out enough to dig, you can plant sooner – just spread a layer of fluffy compost or well-rotted manure on top and plant into that. And if you've been using mulches or cover crops over the winter, or have an established no-till garden, earthworms and other soil life will have made a soil structure that drains excess water faster, while the organic matter in the soil holds moisture in reserve for your plants.

Still, wet soil is cold soil, and bear in mind that the soil has to warm before any significant plant growth can happen. Cold springs seem to be the new pattern in our area, and you may need to plant later, or use more protection than you have in the past. Both outdoors and in the greenhouse, many people had slower growth and smaller plants than usual last year. This year appears to be a repeat. Peppers, eggplant, and melons are particularly sensitive to cold – they don't need to freeze to be damaged. Temperatures under 50 will stunt their growth.

Heat mats under your seedling trays are a cost-effective and relatively energy-efficient way of increasing germination and growth. Hotbeds are the traditional method. A hotbed is a pit filled with fresh manure or compost materials, topped with a layer of soil, and a glass cover to hold in heat. You plant into the soil, or set your seedling trays on top, to get an earlier crop.

In the 1800s French market gardeners harvested up to eight crops a year using hotbeds. They were used especially for melons, which love heat and a long season, but also for earlier crops of salad greens. Recently, people have used pallets enclosing a cubic yard of wood chips soaked with water. The chips heat up more slowly than compost piles, but stay warm longer, and provide bottom heat for seedling trays, just like electric heat mats. With our current availability of wood chips, it's an idea worth trying.

Also bear in mind the value of container planting for early crops. For many years now, I've planted early peas and greens in tubs, which give an earlier crop. This also allows me to keep them out of the way while I'm getting the garden beds ready.

For quick results, try some lesser-known greens that grow particularly quickly in cold soil: mache (corn salad), mizuna, erba stella, and miner's lettuce. Closer to the wild, they need less heat, less fertility, and in general less fuss than other spring salads and greens. The champion for fast growth in cold soil is miner's lettuce. If you don't have this mild-flavored winter salad growing wild in your yard, it is well worth planting. It grows quickly when other greens can't grow at all. It blooms early to give beneficial insects their first nectar of the year. And it will grow in spots where other vegetables can't.

I know of no other vegetable that is both shade-tolerant and tolerant of the poisons secreted into the soil by walnut trees. It turns the shade under my black walnuts into a carpet of salad in spring.

Pea shoots are another unusual way to have fresh food fast. You can grow them in a tray of potting mix, like microgreens, but with a higher yield. They will be ready to use along with the first thinnings from your lettuce, and will give several cuttings. Given moisture and good potting mix or compost, all of these fast growers can be on your plate in a month.

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in both Alaska and California, as well as teaching, homesteading, and working with several national seed organizations. She started Quail Seeds in 2018 as a locally focused seed company. Her website quailseeds.com offers over 400 varieties of seed adapted to the Northern California climate, as well as extensive how-to information.



At top, from left: Shirley poppies come in many shades, both double and single. They bloom over a much longer season than breadseed poppies, and are very easy to grow. Their silky petals fluttering on long stems look almost like butterflies in the garden. California poppies are always welcome, and make a great companion plant. They do well in poor, gravelly soil, so are a good choice by driveways and on banks. Now is the time to plant valerian, a medicinal herb with honey-scented flowers.

Above, left: Lemon balm is an easy tea herb for shade, makes a great ground cover under fruit trees, and is a famous honey plant, with nectar-rich flowers over a long season. Above, right: Few plants are less demanding than chives. They tolerate sun or shade, good or bad drainage, and make slowly increasing clumps that last for years and years. The chopped leaves and bright lavender flowers both have a mild onion flavor.

Below, left: The true blue flowers of borage make it look exotic but it's very easy to grow. It's edible, beautiful, and produces nectar over a long season. Below, right: Corn poppies are the original wild ancestor of Shirley poppies. Their bold red color is a dramatic change from the pinks and yellows of other spring flowers.





BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TK-Kindergarten Registration Now Open

To pre-register go to www.willitsunified.com
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
- Immunization records
- Registros de inmunización (vaccunas)

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/brookside



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