

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 495

Thursday, April 6, 2023

## BOS 'clarifies' tree rules for pot grows

Forrest Glyer  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted 4 to 1 to approve an amendment last week to provide "clarity" on tree removal regulations for cannabis applicants, which could loosen the restrictions for cultivators and provide more leeway for some currently held up in the application process.

Essentially the new "vegetation modification" guidelines would open up to allow the removal of trees for development of

Read the rest of **Rules**

Over on Page 13

## Panel discusses cannabis tourism, economy

Forrest Glyer  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

During a March 17 forum called "Cannabis and Tourism: Moving the Economy Forward" at the Mendocino County Museum, guest speakers from various backgrounds generally struck a positive and hopeful tone about the future of cannabis in the county despite the current struggles of the industry.

Among the topics of discussion were efforts to draw visitors to the county for canna-tourism types of activities, the long and fruitful legacy of cannabis

Read the rest of **Tourism**

Over on Page 6

## MCSO seeks Covelo murder suspect

Submitted by Mendocino County Sheriff's Office

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office has announced that Lee Anthony Joaquin is currently wanted in connection with the recent homicide of Nicholas Shehli Whipple, 20, of Redwood Valley that occurred in Covelo in the early morning hours of Wednesday, March 29.

Joaquin is an adult male standing 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighing approximately 180 pounds. Joaquin has shoulder-length hair that is sometimes pulled back in a ponytail.

Joaquin is considered armed and dangerous.

Anyone with information

Read the rest of **Wanted**

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Photo by Maureen Jennison

## Happy Easter Sunday

Spring holiday is Sunday, April 9

## Hoax 'shooter' calls lock down county high schools

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits High School was locked down on Monday afternoon, April 3, in response to hoax calls claiming an active shooter and multiple injured students - first allegedly at Fort Bragg High School, and later at Ukiah and Willits high schools.

The first call, received at 1:11 pm by Fort Bragg Police Dispatch on a non-

Read the rest of **Hoax**

Over on Page 15



Donna and Greg Schindel, married 45 years, are amazed, overwhelmed and humbled by the outpouring of support from the Willits community.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

## Brooktrails budget, fire tax meetings set for Saturday

Barbara O'Reardon  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

All directors were in attendance at the March 28 Brooktrails Township Community Services District board meeting. Board President Rick Williams attended remotely via zoom. Vice-President Tina Tyler-O'Shea conducted the meeting.

Director Ed Horrick noted that he'd attended the recent Recreation-Greenbelt Committee meeting. The committee had a Trail Work Day on Sunday, March 23. The group will meet again on April 27.

Read the rest of **Meetings**

Over on Page 15

## Show of Support for Schindels

### Cancer diagnosis for well-loved Willitsian opens hearts and pocketbooks of community

For the past 40 years, Greg and Donna Schindel and their family have been a part of the Willits community sharing gardening, music, art, and warm-hearted spirits with the town.

Now, they're in need. Recently Greg Schindel, who also goes by the well-known moniker and persona "Train Singer," singing and entertaining on the Skunk Train, was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

"This diagnosis means he will need to start hormone therapy and radiation treatments to slow the cancer and relieve the bone pain. With only MediCare and no supplemental insurance we have quickly exhausted our savings," explains Donna through their Go Fund Me page. "Donations would help us with medical expenses and with transportation to treatments. We are grateful for any donation. If you are unable to donate, please consider sharing this link: <https://gofund.me/dfa79198>.

If you prefer, you may send checks, payable to Greg or Donna Schindel, PO Box 1376, Willits, CA 95490."

At presstime, \$34,000 has been raised.

An event is also planned on Sunday, April 16 to continue raising funds for the Schindels. The event will be held at the Willits Center for the Arts, and coordinators are hoping for donations of items to be auctioned at the event.

Items can be dropped off at Shanachie Pub or Flying Dog Pizza during their business hours: Wednesday through Saturday from 3 to 9 pm by Friday, April 14.



Above: Even with the diagnosis, Greg Schindel, center right, keeps his spirits up with the petanque players, including Tim Gregory, John Wagenet, holding the leash of mascot Barlow the dog, and Tony Orth.

"We are so overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from the community," said the Schindels. "We're speechless, and it's just unexplainable how amazing this community really is."

For more information about the upcoming event, contact Cyndee at 707-972-3736.

- Maureen Jennison

## WPD makes animal cruelty, trespass arrests

By Sgt. S. Gray for WPD

On March 30, 2023 at about 8:23 pm, Willits Police Department officers were dispatched to 283 Sherwood Road in Willits for a report of unwanted subjects. The address has been previously condemned ("red tagged"), and signs are posted advising "No Trespassing."

Upon their arrival, the WPD officers contacted Jason Gower (31, Willits) and Haley Tyrrell (30, Willits) in a shack at the rear of the main residence after they attempted to barricade themselves inside. Gower immediately became combative and resistive,

Read the rest of **Cruelty**

Over on Page 13

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Support for Brooktrails Fire Department

To the Editor:  
I am writing to you regarding a proposed Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment for Brooktrails Township CSD.

The Brooktrails Fire Department has served our community for over 50 years. To continue providing a full-time staff of three firefighters, maintain and replace aging apparatus, and respond to increasing numbers of calls for assistance from the community, we will be asking for additional contributions from the Brooktrails community.

Current contributions from the community are less than \$10 per month per parcel (\$99 per year). The Brooktrails Township Board of Directors will be asking the community to support an approximately \$6 per month increase to provide sustainable revenues for maintaining current staffing levels and preserving the critical equipment and services provided by the Brooktrails Fire Department.

All of the funding from this assessment ballot measure will be kept in Brooktrails and only spent on the Fire Department. We will ask Brooktrails residents to agree to the benefit assessment and contribute a total of \$16 per month per improved parcel for continued service by the Brooktrails Fire Department.

R. Rick Williams, board president, Brooktrails Community Services District

## 'Feel the Love' for Greg Schindel

To the Editor:  
Many of us are now aware that Greg Schindel, our Train Singer, needs help with the cost of medical treatment.

I met Greg in the late 1970s at a country party. As I watched him dancing with the children and entertaining the grownups with his charming songs and dynamic guitar playing, I thought "This is an exceptional human being." More than 50 years later, that initial impression has been reinforced many times over.

As a substitute teacher, Greg has been a perennial favorite of students and teachers alike. He has graced many a benefit and concert with his contagious personality and wit. Greg has been the music master at the St. Francis Episcopal Church since it was built, and he faithfully tends the gardens there as well.

And he has done something no other could do: He further elevated our internationally known Skunk Train to greater heights by creating the iconic Train Singer persona, now a registered trademark.

Today Greg and his family need our help. On Sunday, April 16, from 2 to 7 pm, the Willits Center for the Arts presents "Feel the Love," a benefit for Greg Schindel.

There will be entertainment by top musicians and poets, food from Emandal and drink from local providers, a classy silent auction, and a superior live auction.

Please join us with \$10 each to enter and more in your pocket for the special items in the auctions.

If you can't make it that day, you may contribute to the GoFundMe page. Type GoFundMe.com, then search for "Greg Schindel" or "Train Singer."

You can find information on live and silent auction items that you can acquire at the event, how to give your items to the effort, and other show details on Hal Wagenet's Facebook page.

The dynamic coalition of your friends and neighbors is spearheaded by Cyndee Logan. Call her at 707-972-3736 for good answers about all things related to "Feel the Love."

Hal Wagenet, Willits

### 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

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

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# A PROCLAMATION

OF THE WILLITS CITY COUNCIL

## Recognizing National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, April 9-15, 2023

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire or emergency medical services, and, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of Police Officers, Firefighters and Paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and,

WHEREAS, the safety of our Police Officers and Firefighters is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Willits Dispatch communications center over 11,000 times for calls for service annually; and

WHEREAS, professional Public Safety Dispatchers are the first and most critical contact our community members have with emergency services and they play a vital role within the Police Department to protect and provide service to our diverse community with professionalism, integrity and respect; and

WHEREAS, our frontline first responder Dispatchers are dedicated, highly trained individuals who perform as a vital link between our Police Officers and community members by monitoring their activities over the radio and telephone, providing responders with key information, ensuring their safety and the public at large; and,

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Dispatchers of the Willits Police Department work in conjunction with field personnel to preserve and uphold the law with compassion and fairness and who have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, and facilitated with suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and,

WHEREAS, each Dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greta Kanne, Mayor of the City of Willits, along with Vice Mayor Gerry Gonzalez, and Council members Madge Strong, Saprina Rodriguez and Larry Stranske, do hereby proclaim the week of April 9th through 15th, 2023, to be National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Willits, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our city, residents and visitors safe.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the CITY OF WILLITS, to be affixed this 22nd Day of March, 2023.

Greta Kanne, Mayor  
City Council of the City of Willits

## Community Foundation grant to fund home hardening inspections

Submitted by Sherwood Firewise Communities

Sherwood Firewise Communities of Willits has been awarded a \$7,500 grant by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, from the 2022 Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund.

The funds are for a continuation of Sherwood Firewise's successful free home hardening inspections, or Home Hardening Inspection Program 2.0.

The Home Hardening Inspection Program gives residents the opportunity to learn how to make their home safer from fire. This free program for residents provides a non-judgmental assessment of their home; no hard sell is involved.

Residents who benefited from the first Home Hardening Inspection Program found the information received to be invaluable and many made the suggested improvements, so their homes are better prepared in case of a wildfire.

Sherwood Corridor residents can apply for the free program at [www.sherwoodfirewise.org](http://www.sherwoodfirewise.org).

Sherwood Firewise Communities thanks the Community Foundation of Mendocino County for their continued support.

## WCT auditions coming up

Submitted by Willits Community Theatre

Auditions for "Hymn to Her," an original play written by Mike A'Dair, will be held Saturday, April 15 at noon, and Wednesday, April 19 at 7 pm at the Willits Community Theatre.

"Hymn to Her" explores the evolution of romantic love in the United States over the past 400 years. It is composed of seven short one-act plays, each set in different decades, and sometimes in different centuries. The play extends in time and place from 1640 in Springfield, Massachusetts to 2017 in Oakland, California.

The call is for four women and four men, ranging in age from 16 to 35. In most of the plays the characters are in their early 20s. There is also a small role available for a woman who is between the ages of 50 and 60.

For this play, WCT has recruited three young directors and one veteran director. The younger directors are Jeff Shipp, who directed a video production of "Heliocentric" in 2021; Garrett Moore, who directed the 2022 reading of "You've Got Hate Mail," and Elk McCarthy, who will be making his directorial debut. These three will be directing two short plays each. The seventh play will be directed by the playwright.

Playwright/producer A'Dair encourages young actors to audition for the play. "Because these plays are shorter, the rehearsal schedule will be lighter, at least in the beginning. This is a good way for younger actors to try out their wings and hone their acting skills without committing to the standard, sometimes grueling, rehearsal schedule," said A'Dair.

People wishing to read the script should email the playwright at [michaeldair69@yahoo.com](mailto:michaeldair69@yahoo.com). The Willits Community Theatre Playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane, just one block west from Smokey's Barbecue, in beautiful downtown Willits.

## What now? Current COVID-19 advisory

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

California and the nation have ended many COVID Emergency Orders, and many people and institutions are wondering what to do. Mendocino County has no current COVID orders, and no new orders are planned after receiving feedback from clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, and the general public.

Public Health has used the best scientific evidence to preserve the health of our communities. Orders were required when the pandemic was raging and health care resources were threatened. But COVID rates have fallen into the range of a bad year for influenza, for which we do not write general orders. Nevertheless, no one size fits all and, for those who are vulnerable, or who live with or care for more vulnerable people, additional precautions can and should be taken.

So, what are the current recommendations to avoid COVID,

Read the rest of COVID | Over on page 6

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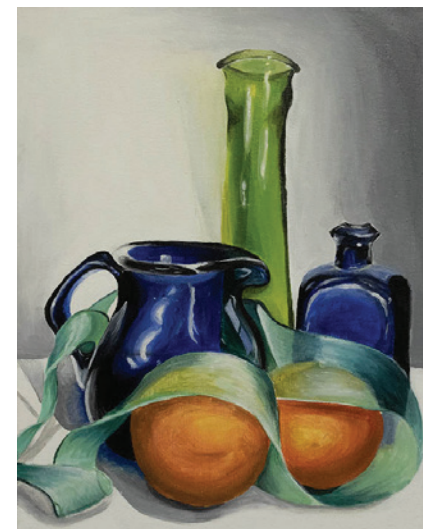
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Above, from left: Aliyah Benjamin would like her viewers to "Live Beautifully." Lorean Meza, inspired by "Avatar," created this moment of beautiful fantasy. Audrey Sherf displays a fine understanding of the qualities of glass and reflective items.

At left: Gary Martin, Willits Center for the Arts curator, and Carolyn Bakewell, WHS art instructor, pose for a photo at the "Art Under 20" exhibit.

Below, left: Tiah Ross did this painting of her boyfriend, Juan, who came to enjoy the exhibit. Below, right: Haileigh Gregg, a senior at WHS, wants to make a living as an artist.



# 'Art Under 20'

Talent abounds at Willits Center for the Arts' April exhibit which showcases the creative works of local high school students

"I chose the most powerful, well-done pieces for the show," said Carolyn Bakewell, art instructor at Willits High School. "On a lot of the pieces, the message was really clear but they hadn't quite finished the assignment yet. Certain pieces just pop out at me. You can see a lot of potential for beautiful art in the future."

Indeed, that is what the 24th Annual "Art Under 20" exhibit at the Willits Center for the Arts is all about. Inside all humans, especially the young, there is a propensity for creating visual representations of either what they see or what they feel inside, and sharing those visions with others.

Participants from three institutions: Willits High School, Willits Charter School, and the Potter Valley Schools offered their work for all to see, whether their intention was to continue in the art field in some manner or simply to derive an understanding of the creative process and the techniques that make it possible.

All three art teachers, Carolyn Bakewell (WHS), Caroline Hambright (WCS), and Rossi Jensen (Potter Valley Schools), encouraged their students to attend to take their kudos and explain the processes involved in the creation of their pieces. The students who did attend, spoke quite intelligently about how they created each piece, the assignment that gave them the parameters within which to work, and their own personal reasons for selecting various subjects.

Tiah Ross, a sophomore at WHS, showed a rather colorful and deftly made painting of her boyfriend, Juan, who accompanied her to the event. "I don't know about doing art as a

profession but I want to keep painting," said Ross. "I also want to keep doing pottery like we're doing in class. I went to the Waldorf School all my life and they're very much into the arts. I did a lot of art work there and it built up my skills. I still use a lot of what they taught me. I like all the art forms: oils, pastels, acrylics, watercolors, pottery, wood craft, printmaking, crocheting."

Ava Kelly created a painting of a tree. But as was evident on many of the pieces, the subject was a metaphor or a spark of a meaningful time in their lives. This painting was called "Personal Growth."

"We had an assignment to draw a tree," explained Kelly. "I kind of took it abstract and it reminds me of someone growing up. It's important to remember your roots as well as your past selves."

Their art was not just about an object or a scene, but rather a deeper understanding that the object represents to them personally or something social or political that they feel deeply about.

Haileigh Gregg, WHS senior class president, wants to be an artist; or rather she wants to make a living as an artist. That she is already an artist is evident in the quality of her work. She enjoys painting suns, moons, and sea life, when not engaging in assignments for Bakewell.

The three art teachers know how to challenge their students with assignments that both stimulate and intrigue.

Read the rest of AU20 | Over on page 15



Above: Students, teachers and family came to see the work by the "under 20s."



At left: Taken from a lesson on Keith Harding, students had to come up with something current and powerful for these paintings.

Above, left: Ava Kelly with her mixed media piece "Peaceful Growth." Above, right: Sophie Anderson's piece "Being Visible" was chosen as the cover art for this year's show poster.

At right: This student, Calvin Loupy, had never engaged in art previously and didn't think he could do something this proficient.

Below: The three art teachers whose classes are represented in the show gather for a photo: Caroline Hambright (WCS), Caroline Bakewell (WHS), and Rossi Jensen (Potter Valley).

Photos by Mathew Caine



## COVID-19 vaccines are here for children 6 months and older.

Help protect your little ones.

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Trail Name	Length (mi)	Trail Type
Huckleberry Trail	2.03	Fire Road
Last Chance Trail	1.24	Fire Road
Thimbleberry Trail	1.12	Fire Road
Robe Trail	0.39	Fire Road
Gooseberry Trail	1.08	Fire Road
Old Log Trail	0.54	Fire Road
Unnamed Trail 1	0.28	Fire Road
Upper 9 Trail	0.47	Single Track
Becker Pond Trail	0.75	Unmaintained Trail
Anchorage Trail	0.29	Single Track
Naming Trail	1.60	Fire Road
Tan Bark Trail	0.52	Fire Road
Chain Fern Trail	1.08	Unmaintained Trail
Dutch Henry Trail	0.37	Unmaintained Trail
Fawn Lily Trail	1.59	Single Track
Rocketfeller Trail	1.76	Fire Road
Jurassic Trail	0.63	Single Track
OHL/Redwood Trail	0.20	Single Track
Inlet Trail	0.96	Single Track
Oregon Grape Trail	0.80	Single Track
Mike's Trail	0.60	Single Track
Le Brun Trail	0.36	Fire Road
Moss Rock Trail	0.85	Single Track
Beaver Trail	0.87	Single Track

Trail Type: Beginner Intermediate Advanced Expert Public Roads

## WAC volunteers 'sign' Brooktrails hiking and biking trails

Submitted by Willits Area Cyclists

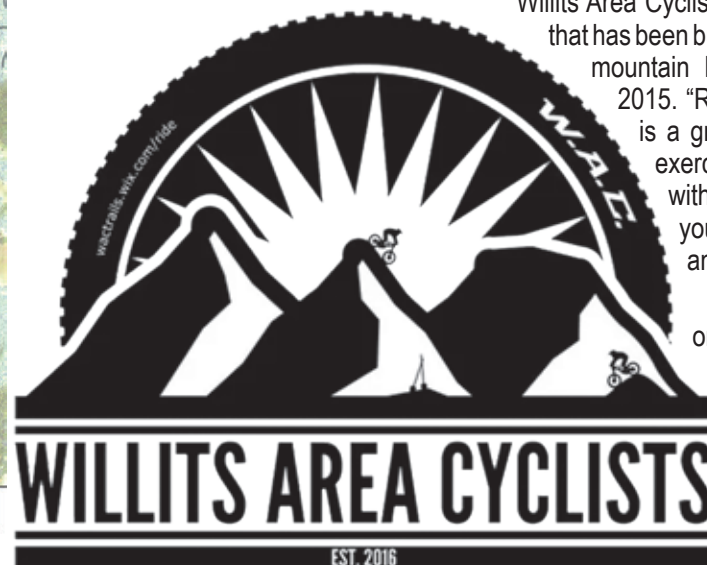
If you have been out on the trails in Brooktrails recently, you may have noticed some new signs popping up. Willits Area Cyclists has been busy signing the trails in the Brooktrails Greenbelt system.

The majority of the signs have been installed, and hikers and bikers should now be able to find their way around the trail system much easier.

These signs were made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County through the Fund For Trails and Open Space. The aluminum signs, designed and created by Adam and Ashley Sherf, include information about trail distances, elevation, connecting trails, and a map with a "you are here" location marker for ease of navigation.

WAC often receives inquiries about where the trails are located in Brooktrails and how to find them. Many locals have often commented that they were unaware that a trail system existed in the Brooktrails Greenbelt area. Signing the trails has been a multi-year project that began with the installation of the Kiosk at the Par Course.

WAC hopes to make these awesome local trails more accessible and navigable with the addition of these new signs. If you have never been on the trails, or are wanting to find some new routes to explore, now is a great time to get out in the woods, with the added perk of not getting lost.



Willits Area Cyclists is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has been building trails and improving mountain biking in the area since 2015. "Riding a bike in the woods is a great way to get outdoors, exercise, de-stress, hang out with friends, and have fun. All you need is a bike, a helmet and some local trail."

For more information, or to download a map of Brooktrails trails, visit <https://wactrails.wixsite.com/ride>. Keep up with WAC activities at the "Willits Area Cyclists" page on Facebook.

Brooktrails provides a great resource for the local mountain biking community. Consider this map a general guide to what's available for riding! Climbing to access singletrack is recommended along fire roads or the public road system. Singletrack trails such as Oregon Grape, Inlet Trail, and Mike's Trail are recommended downhill. Check the Willits Area Cyclist Website for updated maps as the area further develops.  
<http://wactrails.wix.com/ride>



At left: The sign for the Oregon Grape trail in Brooktrails marks it as an "Intermediate" trail for hikers and mountain bike riders. Below, left: The new signs for the Brooktrails Greenbelt trail system are loaded with information, including "You Are Here" notations and icons noting the difficulty level. This sign for the Thimbleberry Trail is marked as "Easy." Adam Sherf of Willits Area Cyclists installs one of the new Brooktrails trail signs.



Photos courtesy of Willits Area Cyclists

## LEGAL NOTICES

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, 1995.  
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

WW427  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2023-F0154  
The following person or persons are doing business as SoMendo Co Labs and SoMendo Co.  
Registered owner: Southern Mendocino Company, 10100 Eastside Potter Valley Rd., Potter Valley, CA 95469. Mailing address: 75 N. State St. #118, Ukiah, CA 95482.  
This business is conducted by a corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 19, 2018.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on March 21, 2023.  
/s/ Jon Orantes, COO  
Publication dates: April 6, 13, 20, 27, 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](http://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; Dwayne Murray B-26;  
Donavan Parrish C-31; Fabian Rodriguez B-32;  
Christopher Schrabel B-4; William Thomas E-34;  
Jeff Walker F-1; Sara Warras 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

**Brooktrails Fire Department Open House, April 8**  
Join us on Saturday, April 8 at 12:30 pm to see how your local Brooktrails Fire Department, 24860 Birch Street, continues to provide emergency first responder services to Brooktrails.

We are asking the community for additional contributions to maintain current service levels. Board members, staff and the consultant who completed the Engineer's Study for the Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment District will be there to answer questions and share current issues with the public.

- Brooktrails Community Services District

**This could be an ad for your business next week!**  
**Just \$42**  
gives you this 3.25" wide x 3" tall black-and-white ad space in Willits Weekly!

**FOWL Spring Book Sale coming soon**  
Friends of the Willits Library's annual Spring Book Sale is coming soon to the Willits Library! The sale will be held in the Willits Library conference room from 10 am to 5 pm on Friday, April 21, Saturday, April 22, and Sunday April 23.  
On Sunday all books will be only \$3 a bag.  
Come browse our garden and home project books, as well as children's, fiction, and non-fiction titles, with an abundance of specials. Books are priced CHEAP - 50 cents to \$1.  
Volunteer cashiers are still needed. If you can help with a 2-hour shift, please sign up at the library or call Melinda: 707-456-9525.

- Friends of the Willits Library

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**Mendocino County invites applications for:**

**Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures**  
\$125,112 - \$152,068  
**Chief Planner**  
\$95,846 - \$116,500  
**Community Health Services Specialist II**  
\$43,076 - \$52,353  
**Corrections Deputy**  
\$54,184 - \$65,873  
**Deputy District Attorney I/II/III**  
\$76,419 - \$122,824  
**Deputy Probation Officer I/II**  
\$51,937 - \$69,617  
**Deputy Public Defender I/II**  
\$76,419 - \$105,227  
**Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II**  
\$62,628 - \$87,214  
**Eligibility Specialist II/III**  
\$47,132 - \$63,232  
**Juvenile Corrections Officer**  
\$50,710 - \$61,630  
**Juvenile Corrections Officer - Extra-Help**  
\$24.38 - \$28.22 hourly  
**Legal Secretary I/II**  
\$38,188 - \$53,851  
**Licensed Vocational Nurse**  
\$55,515 - \$67,475  
**Office Services Supervisor**  
\$48,880 - \$59,404  
**Public Health Nurse**  
\$91,124 - \$110,780  
**Public Safety Dispatcher**  
\$53,102 - \$64,542  
**Registered Nurse**  
\$78,187 - \$95,014  
**Screener**  
\$39,748 - \$48,318  
**Senior Planner**  
\$82,555 - \$100,360  
**Senior Program Specialist**  
\$61,880 - \$75,233  
**Senior Public Health Nurse**  
\$100,297 - \$121,908  
**Senior Substance Abuse Counselor**  
\$58,385 - \$70,990  
**Staff Assistant II/III**  
\$38,792 - \$49,524  
**Supervising Public Health Nurse**  
\$109,720 - \$133,390  
**Supervising Staff Assistant**  
\$42,785 - \$52,020  
**Tobacco Education & Advocacy Intern (Work Experience Trainee)**  
\$17.77 Hourly  
For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca)  
EOE

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**  
City of Willits RESIDENTS: Do you live within the city limits and want to share your love of the arts with the community? Be a volunteer on the newly formed **Art in Public Spaces Committee (Three Vacancies)**. We are accepting applications now through April 20, 2023, at 5:00 PM.  
**(3) Terms ending 6/30/2026**  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM.  
Join us in promoting Willits as a vibrant and stimulating environment for artists young and old.  
For more information or to apply, please visit or call the City Clerk's office at (707) 459-7113, or email: [dpedersen@cityofwillits.org](mailto:dpedersen@cityofwillits.org)

**God Has Provided Our Foundation**  
Come Thank Him. And Stay Grounded.  
**Church of the Nazarene**  
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
20690 S. Main St. • Willits, CA  
(Across from Brown's Corner)  
**Come As You Are**

## CLASSIFIEDS

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

**Help Wanted**  
Wanted and needed: A handyman experienced in plumbing, and we need a brick chimney taken down. 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 [wslidirector@willitscenter.com](mailto:wslidirector@willitscenter.com)

**Inscripción abierta en Brookside**  
La inscripción para TK / Kindergarten de Brookside Elementary va está abierta. Para registrarse, vaya a [www.willitsunified.com](http://www.willitsunified.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.

**Indoor Yard Sale**  
Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, April 15 - 8 am to 4 pm.**

**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](mailto: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.

**'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.

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

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

WILLITS CROSSWORD

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Above, left: Kindergartener Ava Guerrero and second-grader Ivan Tepale Duran are students of the month at Brookside Elementary School. Above, right: First- and second-grade students of the month: Rheagan Oferrall, Ty Beckstead, Lindsey Lucier, Juan Carlos Silva Candejas, Zebediah Hincker-Tye, Macy Lawrence, Cynthia Silva Pulido and Tim Walker.

## Brookside Elementary: March students of the month

By **Jaclyn Luna, Brookside School**

Brookside Elementary School students of the month are chosen for exemplifying the school rules of being safe, responsible, respectful and kind. By grade, March students of the month were:

Transitional kindergarten: Jaxson Williams and Lorena Sanchez Garcia.

Kindergarten: Ava Guerrero, Aksha Bansal, Zoey Sizemore, Kane Hood and Francisco Gomez.

First grade: Rheagan Oferrall, Ty Beckstead, Juan Carlos Silva Candejas, Lucille Barden and Lindsey Lucier.

Second grade: Zebediah Hincker-Tye, Tim Walker, Ivan Tepale Duran, Macy Lawrence and Cynthia Silva Pulido.

March was a busy month at Brookside. Students and staff wrapped up the second trimester and began the third trimester. Leprechauns visited several classrooms on St. Patrick's Day, wreaking havoc and leaving glitter behind.

The Parent Teacher Organization generously hosted a book giveaway where every student got to choose a book to take home and enjoy. Second-grade students took the Ravens Screening, a pathway to the Extended Learning Program. Students in the gifted/talented and

high-ability program engage in learning with greater depth, complexity, and rigor through differentiated curriculum and instruction.

Brookside staff is proud of students' hard work and especially the students of the month, who consistently are safe, responsible, respectful and kind. Willits Unified School District Superintendent Mark Beebe said: "We are very proud of our WUSD students and staff. Their efforts to learn and educate, challenge themselves, and learn new concepts daily are amazing to witness each day. The Brookside team spotlights our students who have an exceptional month of success. Thank you to all in WUSD for their efforts."



Above, left: Transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students of the month: Lorena, Jaxson Williams, Zoey Sizemore, Francisco Gomez and Aksha Bansal. Above, right: First-grade student of the month from Lisa Mey's class, Lucille Barden.

## 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**  
•Sound of Soul events  
•Membership Discourses  
•Spiritual Discussions  
•ECK Light & Sound Services  
More information?  
Call 530-224-8703  
www.eckankar.org

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

**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**  
61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
*Father Aaron Bannandam*  
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 Brunacu*

**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/willitsumc

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

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

infrastructure surrounding a cannabis farm, such as roads and water tanks, but retain the restrictions against removing the trees for the planting area.

The amendment will need one final consent calendar vote from the board in an upcoming meeting before going into effect.

The county cannabis ordinance, 10A17, and its accompanying mitigated negative declaration, restrict many types of trees from being removed "for the purposes of developing a cultivation site," including various pines, oaks, redwoods, madrones, firs, cedars, spruces, sequoias, alders and laurels, among others.

These restrictions apply only to cannabis cultivation in the county, and no other types of agriculture or businesses, but they do allow for exceptions if tree removal is needed for safety reasons.

The definition of "development of a [cannabis] cultivation site" was at the center of the debate at the March 28 BOS meeting, and whether it should include development of the surrounding infrastructure and continue to restrict tree removal for that purpose.

The board voted for the most lenient of three options presented to them at a previous meeting by the Mendocino Cannabis Department.

The Willits Environmental Center opposed the change in definition the board eventually approved, with co-founder Ellen Drell saying at the meeting that it would be in violation of the county's cannabis ordinance without additional environmental review.

WEC and longtime cannabis attorney Hannah Nelson also submitted a joint letter to the board in opposition to the change, and suggested an alternative to get the 30 or so applicants reportedly held up by "veg mod" issues through the permitting process.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak cast the lone dissenting vote against the amendment, which passed 4-1, saying he worried it would lead to a lawsuit, and that there was no data about how many applicants it would actually help anyway.

Haschak said that he would rather the county's General Government Committee, of which he is a member, work with the WEC, the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance and others to find a different path to get the applicants permitted.

"I just think that if we move forward, we're going to get sued," he said. "I think that if we can deal with these 30, as individual, and really look at them, I think we can come up with reasonable decisions that are acceptable. And if we're saving a sizable amount of money in preventing a lawsuit I think that that's something that we need to look for as we look at the budget."

The GGC's other member, Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren, disagreed with Haschak about taking that approach, saying that "we've been over this conversation many many times," and "in the grand scheme of things we've spent already way too long talking about it."

"Mendocino County has changed since the ordinance was originally created," she said. "My concern is about fire hazard and making sure that people's homes are kept safe, that their families are kept safe, and of course that they're able to maintain their business and their productivity. So I do think that we should go ahead and move forward with this item today."

County Counsel Christian Curtis did say at the meeting it was a possibility that the county could see legal action against it if it approved the definition to allow for more tree removal, but he also said there could be legal action if they chose the more restrictive definition – or if they did nothing.

He said that litigation could come from "an environmental group saying you're applying the ordinance wrong," or it could come from cannabis applicants due to long delays in processing applications which have lasted years in many cases.

In fact, towards the end of the discussion, Curtis said that one Phase 3 applicant has already sued the county over delays.

"In terms of the risk of litigation, candidly this is one of those situations where you have people on both sides of the issue, both of whom may have an incentive to sue," he said. "I don't know that I can promise or guarantee any course of action that would avoid litigation."

"This is one of those scenarios where because of the nature of the ambiguity, there is that possibility of that question getting answered by the court, and I don't see a scenario in which the county isn't a party to that litigation," he added.

Still, Curtis advised that the board provide clarity on the definition.

"Just from sort of a risk management perspective, and from a policy perspective, there are some benefits to whatever the answer is in terms of what you think the correct definition is under this ordinance," he said. "Codifying that and giving people certainty on that going forward rather than having this be an open question and a lawsuit that could pop up five years, 10 years in the future."

About 30 or so applicants have apparently been flagged for possible vegetation modification violations, and it has taken months and even years for some to prove that they are not actually in violation since the trees either fell on their own, were dead or dying, or removed for other allowable safety reasons.

Some, like the MCA and Nelson, have termed this situation "veg mod hell" for applicants.

As stated in their letter, the WEC and Nelson both felt that most of the Phase 1 applicants being held up by tree issues could be guided to obtaining their permits by adjustments in the application process.

"[We] are in agreement that the ordinance does not need to be changed to effectuate a path forward for that cohort," their letter read. "We are in agreement that guardrails must be put in place to prevent MCD from obstructing the valid claims of applicants that suspected tree removal was not in violation of the ordinance and that even if it was, in most instances, Phase 1 applicants would be able to satisfy a Compliance Plan that required an evaluation that would, even with the tree removal, determine the impact to the environment ... is less significant, or the impacts will be mitigated within the



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

causing him to be forcibly detained. Barry Martin (34, Willits) was located inside the shack and ordered out. The shack was secured due to an aggressive dog inside as well as a husky breed dog locked in a kennel.

The WPD officers then cleared the main residence, locating five additional trespassers: Frederick Hyre (62, Willits), Bradley McCartney (67, Willits), Brooke Lewis (42, Willits), Tyler Row (28, Willits), and David Byer (39, Willits).

Row is on post release community supervision, a form of parole, with terms to include at least "obey all laws." Row is also the restrained person in a served restraining order with Lewis, the protected party.

Lewis was found to have a local no-cite misdemeanor warrant for her arrest.

A WPD officer cleared the shack and found the husky was emaciated and locked in a kennel far too small for its size. The WPD officer also heard the sound of dogs whimpering behind a door that was blocked with carpet fabric.

time allowed ... to bring it within that threshold."

The letter urged the county to allow applicants to use sworn affidavits as evidence of why the trees were removed to help speed up the process – something that Curtis said the county is currently working on.

Ellen Drell explained at the meeting why the WEC believed the board's change or "clarification" of the cultivation definition would go against the county cannabis ordinance and the mitigated negative declaration – the document which explains measures taken by the county, such as limiting tree removal, to avoid significant impact to the local environment due to the ordinance.

"Developing a cultivation site" is not defined in 10A17," said Drell, "and the [WEC] thinks there's ample evidence in the MND that 'development of a cultivation site' actually meant the inclusion of roads and water infrastructure and other infrastructure developed for the purpose of creating or expanding a cultivation site. And it doesn't make any sense that tree removal for those things would be OK, whereas tree removal for the cultivation site itself would not be OK, when the purpose was to protect forest resources.

"We're looking at possibly the impacts of building a new access road or two, or a parking lot, or an irrigation system, or a pond, [that] could be even greater than the tree removal for the cultivation site itself," she added. "So we can't accept that we just assume that the impacts would be insignificant."

Second District Supervisor Glenn McGourty said with the tree removal prohibition only applying to cannabis cultivation, "it seems like we're creating sort of a double standard here for one industry versus everybody else, and I just think that's a problem."

To that, Drell responded, "I think you're right, there is another standard for cannabis cultivation, and that was evident throughout the development of the cannabis ordinance.

"And that may change over time," she said, "but it was clear from the planning commission at the time and the board at the time that retaining forest cover was a higher priority than developing new cannabis cultivation areas. So the fairness or the rightness of that may want to be reconsidered, but that was clearly the intent of that tree removal prohibition in the ordinance."

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams, as he often has in past meetings, spoke about what he saw as the gloomy prospects of the cannabis industry in the county, saying that any future environmental impacts would likely be minimal from the declining industry, and that the board spends far too much time on the topic.

"We don't have a plan in this county for what that growth looks like when a million people show up [as] climate refugees," he said. "And we're never going to get to it because we're arguing about this weird thing called 'veg mod' ... one or two trees here and there ... I think we're missing the bigger environmental concerns.

"You'd have to be really bad at math and economics to think starting a cannabis farm under our Phase 3 program makes any sense at all," he added. "It's a loser. And it'll become more of a loser in the years to come. So I don't see a huge risk of people going out with chainsaws and trying to develop parcels. They can go to Lake County and buy 80 acres and do an 80 acre cannabis farm rather than 320 quarter acre farms in Mendocino County. There's just no incentive to do business here – and we want to save the forest, maybe that's a good thing."

While more than 800 county cannabis applicants are still vying to get their annual state licenses under Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the county ordinance, CEO Darci Antle said that, at last count, only six had applied under Phase 3, the last phase to open, which allows non-legacy applicants without prior proof of cultivation in the county to apply.

Despite this low number, Drell still disagreed with Williams' assessment.

Above, from left: Haley Tyrrell of Willits. Jason Gower of Willits. Brooke Lewis of Willits. Tyler Row of Willits.

PRCS) 273.6 PC [Violation of a Domestic Violence Restraining Order], and 602(m) PC [Trespass Without Owner's Consent].

Lewis – A no-cite warrant, and 602(m) PC [Trespass Without Owner's Consent].

Gower – 1203.2 PC [Felony Violation of Probation], 182 PC [Felony Conspiracy], 597 PC [Felony Animal Cruelty], 148(a)(1) PC [Resist/Obstruct Peace Officer], and 602(m) PC [Trespass Without Owner's Consent].

Tyrell – 182 PC [Felony Conspiracy], 597 PC [Felony Animal Cruelty], 148(a)(1) PC [Resist/Obstruct Peace Officer], and 602(m) PC [Trespass Without Owner's Consent].

The Willits Police Department would like to thank the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and Mendocino County Animal Control for their assistance.

The decision was made to make the public aware of the conditions from which the animals were rescued, and photos have been posted by WPD. To see the photos, visit the "Willits Police Department" page on Facebook.

"I mean Ted I don't know if there are just going to be 10 Phase 3 growers or if there are going to be 300," she said. "We don't know, the market may change. We can have opinions and speculate, but we don't know. And that to me says that this decision-making body is required to look at the possible consequences down the road."

"I think the idea of streamlining the process for the Phase 1 and Phase 2 growers is great," she added. "If the county wants to amend the ordinance in order to change and make very clear the tree removal prohibition or even reconsider that prohibition that's written into the ordinance, that's fine. That's within your purview and the public's purview, but it requires environmental review."

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance sent a memo to the board saying they largely agreed with WEC and attorney Nelson, that "an ordinance change is not necessary to achieve the desired outcomes, and that the critical issues to be addressed are the implementation of how the vegetation modification evidentiary standards and processes will play out."

MCA added: "However, given that the board felt compelled to adopt language that it thought would clarify the ordinance, we appreciate that the board chose the most reasonable of the definitions presented to it."

### Water priorities

Also at the meeting, the board approved a plan from the recently formed "Mendocino County Water Resources Team Technical Advisory Committee" to prioritize community water needs, with five main projects chosen as the top priorities, and an additional five as next in line.

The main goal will be for the water resource team to find state grants to fund the different projects moving forward.

The board essentially stuck with the recommendations from the water team as far as which projects to prioritize, which were chosen following a meeting in February using 10 different criteria to choose from over 40 potential projects.

The criteria included promoting conservation, capacity for drought response, habitat restoration, education and outreach, and long-term investment in water reliability and resiliency.

The top five projects included two to help the town of Mendocino and the well-known water issues there, and one for Fort Bragg, which has also dealt with water shortages in recent years.

The top priority project was construction of three 45 acre-foot water reservoirs for the City of Fort Bragg to "provide an additional 44 million gallons of stored water."

For the town of Mendocino, the projects were a recycled water system upgrade and expansion and modernization of the wastewater treatment plant; and a Smart Water Meter project to replace 500 water meters on private well heads.

The other two in the top five projects were water treatment plant repairs for the Laytonville County Water District, and a "Gualala River Flow Bank Project" to purchase and install a 36,000 gallon tank to conserve and provide drinking water for residents there.

The county water committee includes consultants from the firm EKI Environment & Water, Inc., five voting members who represent water interests from each of the five county districts, a University of California Cooperative Extension representative, County Department of Transportation Director Howard Dashiell, and Deputy CEO Steve Dunicliffe.

EKI was hired by the county in December of 2022 for \$223,000 to serve as the "water resource specialist" through December of this year.

At the BOS meeting, indications were that the contract also stipulated that EKI help with at least five water projects, though the board was hopeful they would make progress on more than that with the contract money given.



# The Bunny is Back

## Easter Bunny is back for photos at J.D. Redhouse on Thursday, April 6

Come see the Easter Bunny and have your photo taken with him and his live, furry friends on Thursday, April 8 from 5 to 7 pm at J.D. Redhouse in Willits. Digital images are \$5 per grouping of people and will be available to download online at <https://photographress.zenfolio.com/easterbunnyphotos>. There's no appointment necessary, just stop in! As always the Easter Bunny session is a 50/50 fundraiser for the Soroptimist International of Willits. Questions: 707-972-7047 or [maureengetsmail@gmail.com](mailto:maureengetsmail@gmail.com).



# Powering Your Home Projects

Brighten up your honey-do list. Take the first step at [PoweringEverydayMoments.org](http://PoweringEverydayMoments.org).



From left, shocked at what is about to unfold, Kathy and Aris Vellis, along with their dinner guests Haley Morse and Jeshua Holt, witness a game-changing phenomenon in Steve Martin's comedy "Meteor Shower." Photos by Mathew Caine

## Comic Steve Martin's play 'Meteor Shower' delivers madcap naughty fun at Willits Community Theatre April 7 through 23

By Steve Hellman for WCT

For some saucy madcap fun, comic Steve Martin's play "Meteor Shower" opens at the Willits Community Theatre, April 7 for a three-week run. A play on marriage and infidelity, the production takes a hilarious look at what happens when one couple decides to play dirty with another couple, with an unexpected outcome.

Corky and Norm are committed to being the perfect couple when they decide to host another couple for an evening party. As a lark, Gerald and Laura arrive, intending to wreck Norm and Corky's marriage into a "total collapse."

The prospect is looking bleak for the fans of fidelity and love until a meteor shower hits the party, which upsets the normal flow of time, so that events of the evening are jumbled. The four characters begin to re-experience the party under different configurations of reality.

The result is a naughty look at love and marriage, treachery and seduction, as seen through a kaleidoscope of déjà vu encounters – all making for a unique and astonishing comedy made even more unique by Steve Martin's non-stop wit and word gags. The play was a 2017 Broadway hit, with Amy Schumer receiving a Tony Award nomination for her role as Corky.

Director Robert Ford has cast two real-life couples in the roles, with WCT veterans Kathy and Aris Vellis as Corky and Norm, and newcomers Haley Morse and Jeshua Holt as Laura and Gerald.

"The play has a narrative arc," Ford says of the central action. "It also has a dramatic element of going back in time repeatedly, and replaying different instances for the audience."

With its short, fast-paced scenes, the play is easily reachable, while also delivering an intriguing undercurrent of psychological meaning. On a simple level, Ford adds, "It is a racy comedy, or naughty might be the more accurate word." The play does contain adult language and themes.

Shows run April 7 through 23, with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm – with one exception, no show on April 9, Easter Sunday. Tickets are \$20 for all shows and available online at: [www.wctperformingartscenter.org](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org), or at the door.

## The rest of AU20 From page 3

"This one by Audrey Holman," said Jensen, a first-time participant. "It is blackout poetry. You make a poem and then you can black it out or make your own pictures with it. To avoid evil, you must decide for yourself and grow," it says. There were a lot of growth subjects with the blackout poetry."

Art is important to learn at the middle and high school level. Self-expression is needed for a well-rounded human being. The ability to communicate with non-verbal techniques creates a world that is both beautiful and one in which people are accepted for their ideas and views.

"Art is intrinsically rewarding," mused Bakewell. "They look forward to their classes. They come in and they get right to work now in my class. It's like I don't even want to interrupt them with a lesson. In every step of the way, they're using their higher-level thinking skills."

Bakewell, although ostensibly the instructor, learns a lot just by watching the manner in which her students take to their expressive art forms and are able to tell a story through the use of visual media.

Jensen is continuously fascinated by the abilities of her students. "My students are really talented. We had an assignment to do neurographic drawings. We write something we're having an issue or hardship with on the back and then doodle on the front. Wherever there is a hard corner, we round it out so it begins to look like neurons. By doing this and adding color to it, it helps us take control of our issues and our problems."

The "Art Under 20" exhibit can be seen at the Willits Center for the Arts, located at 71 East Commercial Street, through April 30. The gallery is open Friday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.

## The rest of Distillery From page 7

disabled for centuries."

He related that, at one time in the French Cognac region, nearly every farmer kept a still to process the family's small lot. "The big Cognac houses would come each year and buy the best. By selecting from hundreds of different distillations, brandy masters achieved a consistent blend."

Crispin added that the company uses organics whenever possible, emphasizing that they never use GMO ingredients. "We've been able to work with the Mendocino Grain Project for some of our grain, and we also use some local rye to use in our Low Gap Bourbon."

Label designer Long also took the podium, telling the story of his path to Mendocino County, where he now lives with his wife and studio project manager, Aspen. He mastered the art of oil painting, animation and coding earlier in life, and after two decades in the software industry making high-level video games, the couple founded their printing and design studio, the Color Mill in Fort Bragg.

Long's connection to Kaye and Cain has grown one label at a time, beginning with the Captain Fletcher's Private Reserve label, which pays homage to the historical figure, a whale boat captain and ship's carpenter who settled at the mouth of the Navarro River. Other labels followed, many featuring strong women, which Long noted were patterned after the rugged free spirits he has encountered in Mendocino County.

To an audience question, Long answered that, despite the Color Mill's embrace of new technology, he draws every line of each original image himself, in the old-fashioned way. Long's label designs, with their lavish Art Nouveau aesthetic, have made Tamar Distilleries and Mendocino Spirits immediately recognizable.

Long concluded his talk with an offering of fresh-off-the-press first-edition prints of his lovingly created label designs. The four archival prints quickly sold as part of the evening's fundraising, which Kaye and Cain offered in full to the Willits Center for the Arts.

The last and arguably best part of the evening ensued, with lines forming around the beautifully laid tasting table, filled with Tamar's specially distilled whiskey, bourbon, gin and rye. Helpers Rye N. Flint and his friend Merkin answered questions about the nose, the palate, and the finish of the spirits, while serving with good humor and panache.

Flint, who started out hand-bottling and labeling for Cain and Kaye in 2013, has a degree in soil science and environmental technology from CalPoly, San Luis Obispo. He is also a mycologist and permaculture teacher, now serving as a distiller and production assistant at Tamar Distillery.

Sounds of laughter and chatter went up a notch as guests tasted their way through the variety of Mendocino Spirits on offer, including Tamar's extraordinary whiskey, rye, bourbon and gin.

David Weigt and Rose Holcomb also donated their culinary talents to the special event, serving up a delectable spread of their Tapas del Mundo, which paired wonderfully with the distillery's "spirited" offerings. Musician Chris Cichacki added his lively piano playing to the evening's mix of tastes, sights and sounds.

Tamar's Mendocino Spirits are available for purchase around the county, including at Village Market & Liquor in Willits and Harvest Market in Fort Bragg. Contact them directly at [www.MendocinoSpirits.com](http://www.MendocinoSpirits.com), or by calling 707-485-2068. To access Color Mill's design and printing services, email them at [hello@mycolormill.com](mailto:hello@mycolormill.com), or go to [www.mycolormill.com](http://www.mycolormill.com).

## The rest of Wanted From page 1

as to the whereabouts of Joaquin or any information related to this homicide, are urged to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Tip-Line by calling 707-234-2100 or the WeTip Anonymous Crime Reporting Hotline by calling 800-782-7463.

On March 30, a forensic autopsy determined that Whipple had a gunshot wound to his torso, and his death is currently being investigated as a homicide.

On March 29, at approximately 4:34 am the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center received a report of an adult male in need of emergency medical assistance on Tabor Lane in Covelo.

Deputies were dispatched to the location as it appeared the adult male had sustained some type of injury possibly the result of a physical assault.

Personnel from the Round Valley Tribal Police Department arrived first and began providing CPR as the adult male was absent breathing and a pulse. Medical personnel arrived thereafter and after some time the adult male was declared deceased as emergency life-saving efforts were unsuccessful.

Deputies arrived and noticed the adult male had what appeared to be a possible gunshot wound. Sheriff's Office detectives were summoned to the scene and began a death investigation with the assistance of the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office, Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force, and criminalist with the California Department of Justice.

Anyone with information that can assist Sheriff's Detectives with this death investigation are urged to contact the Sheriff's Office Tip-Line by calling 707-234-2100 or the WeTip Anonymous Crime Reporting Hotline by calling 800-782-7463.

## The rest of Hoax From page 1

emergency line, "stated there was an active shooter situation at the [Fort Bragg] high school with multiple students injured," according to a statement released by Fort Bragg Police Chief Neil Cervenka.

Willits Unified School District reported they were first alerted to the claimed emergency situation in Fort Bragg, and "emergency services were activated and the high school went into lockdown."

After first responders in Fort Bragg "thoroughly searched and cleared" the school, they confirmed there were no injuries to staff or students.

The call was determined to be a "SWAT" call – "a prank call into the school and or district suggesting that there is an active emergency on campus," the Fort Bragg Police statement said. An all clear was issued for Fort Bragg and other schools.

"After an all clear roughly 30 minutes later," WUSD reported, "Ukiah and Willits were also called and similar information was conveyed. Emergency services were activated and WHS was searched immediately."

The statement from Fort Bragg Police says the call to the Ukiah Police Department alleging a shooter incident was "from the same caller" who made the original call about Fort Bragg High.

"This is apparently part of a multi-county series of phone attacks," WUSD stated. "The FBI has issued a countywide advisory warning of this trend. We will take all calls and reports seriously and respond accordingly for the safety of our students, staff and community."

"We will continue to monitor this situation and will update you with any new information," WUSD stated. "Our counselors [were available Tuesday] to address any issues that our students and staff may feel after an incident such as this."

The Fort Bragg Police Department statement said the FBI has been notified and is "collecting any information."

"It is despicable," Fort Bragg Police Chief Cervenka said, that "someone would cause this much emotional trauma in our community. This event disrupted hundreds of lives and tied up emergency resources from the local, county, state and federal levels."

"Despite this being a hoax, I'm very proud of the partnership among so many agencies to ensure the safety of our community," Chief Cervenka said.

Anyone with information on these incidents is encouraged to contact Officer Frank of the Fort Bragg Police Department at 707-961-2800, ext. 139.

Here are more details of the public safety response to the first of these hoax calls, from the Fort Bragg Police Department statement:

"FBPD and an investigator from the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office were on scene very shortly after, immediately running to the building the caller described. Fort Bragg High School had been placed on lockdown, along with several other schools. The initial responding officers reported there was no evidence of a shooting and nothing was heard."

"Law enforcement officers from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, CHP, State Parks, and Fish & Wildlife arrived and began deploying out in search teams, doing a room-by-room search assisted by school administrators."

"Additional resources of multiple ambulances from Adventist Health, Fort Bragg Fire Department, and Fort Bragg Public Works responded to the scene. Multiple air ambulances had been called and six US Coast Guard rescue helicopters were diverted to Fort Bragg should they be needed."

"The school was thoroughly searched and cleared. There were no injuries to staff or students. After the lockdown was lifted, Fort Bragg High School released the students still on campus after their safety was ensured. Officers are actively investigating this incident."

## The rest of Meetings From page 1

General Manager Tamara Alaniz announced: "Brooktrails staff was finishing drafting the annual budget in preparation for the Annual Budget Workshop Meeting that is scheduled to take place at the Brooktrails Community Center from 9:30-noon on Saturday, April 8."

An Open House on the proposed fire assessments for Brooktrails property owners will follow Saturday afternoon, starting at 12:30 pm.

Alaniz commented on the budget: "We are shooting to maintain or reduce our bottom lines and we are well on the way to doing that. The auditors have begun work on the 2021-2022 audit. The new finance director Tom Sims is prepared and has been working with the auditors on that."

Alaniz also reported the rain total at the treatment plant is at 61 inches for this rain year (since October), and there's more rain on the way.

The board then voted to unanimously approve the Consent Calendar Accounts Payable in the amount of \$31,855.19.

Agenda items for discussion and possible action were next: "Discussion of Engineers' Report from SCI Consulting Group on Ballot Measure and Community Investment in the Fire Department" and "Consideration of Resolutions 2023-03 and 2023-04 to adopt Proposition 218 Assessment Ballot Procedures and Initiate Proceedings, Provide Intention to Levy Assessments, Approve the Engineers' Report, Provide Notice of Public Hearing and Mail Assessment Ballots on the Brooktrails Fire Department Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Assessment District."

The board then focused on discussion of the Engineers' Report from SCI Consulting Group on the Ballot Measure and Community Investment in the Fire Department.

Presently, Brooktrails residents, through their annual property taxes, pay \$99 annually which is less than \$10 per month to support the Brooktrails Fire Department. With this additional assessment request, Brooktrails residents are asked to pay an additional \$5 to \$6, about \$15 to \$16 total per month to support the Fire Department.

It was noted by General Manager Alaniz that the Fire Department has three full-time employees who answer over 500 calls per year covering the 12 square miles of Brooktrails. She also noted that Brooktrails has a population of over 3,700 residents.

"Our fire department has been providing local residents service for over 50 years," Alaniz said. "We have a unique situation here with our forested neighborhoods. We've had all kinds of calls throughout the past year. Those service calls have been for structure fires, vehicle fires, collisions, injuries, emergency medical calls."

"Another big part of our calls are for non-emergency calls," Alaniz said. "We also provide fire prevention, community education and outreach. We work out of one fire station. This board has continued to support apparatus and equipment replacement. The board has provided support for the three person full-time staff."

"The [current] \$99 per parcel is not going to continue to meet the needs of our department," she said. "Owners of undeveloped parcels are not paying the \$99, and we are asking the board to support and move forward to send out the mail ballot to our Brooktrails property owners."

Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea commented: "The current assessment was determined in 2014, and I've lived in my home since 1998. I would have to say that the last five or six years, the fire threat has been more prominent than ever, and this is a time when our fire department needs to be funded."

Director Joanne Cavallari agreed and said: "I don't think anyone in our district wants to see a fire department under-funded. This is critical."

Attending via zoom, to answer questions from the board and residents attending the meeting, were Arcelia Herrera and Susan Barnes with SCI Consulting Group. Herrera has worked closely with Brooktrails staff to put together the data that was necessary to complete the Engineers' Report. She explained that the assessments are determined by the size of the individual parcels and the proximity of the parcel to the fire department.

President Rick Williams asked: "When we have the public hearing on this, will staff from SCI be in the position and prepared to answer questions from residents regarding individual parcels, in regard to different assessments for parcels?"

SCI's Barnes noted: "The ballots are out for 45 days before the public hearing happens. Part of the purpose of that time period is to give the public time to get their questions answered. Residents are encouraged to attend the public hearing before they vote. SCI staff will have laptops and will be available to answer any and all questions regarding individual parcels."

Director Cavallari said: "I want to make it clear to the public that there is a difference between the rates and the assessments. The assessments are calculated based on the rates. The rate is not what individual homeowners will pay. Homeowners will pay the assessment."

The board then voted unanimously to accept the Engineers' Report which was included in Resolution 2023-03.

The Board also voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2023-04.

General Manager Alaniz announced that Brooktrails residents are invited to attend an Open House, following the staff budget planning meeting, in the Community Center, this Saturday, April 8, beginning at 12:30 pm to have questions answered prior to receiving their assessment ballots.



# SALUTE TO SERVICE

Sherwood Valley Casino is giving back in a big way this month not only a huge campaign targeted to all our community service members. On Mondays Sherwood Valley Casino's Salute to Service for all Veterans, Active Military, First Responders, Fire, Medical, Police, Teachers, Utility workers.

**Earn 100 Todays Points to Receive \$25 Free Play and 50% off Creekside Cafe' food special coupon.**

**Must show participating valid ID.**



We Prepared a Special Menu for our Service Members on Mondays in April. Starting April 3rd the Special will be Clam Chowder or Chili Bread Bow; April 10th - Meat Loaf Dinner, followed by Pulled Pork on April 17th and BBQ Ribs and MAC and Cheese on April 24th.

## \$500 SHOPPING SPREE

And Starting April 1st earn and redeem entries to win a **\$500 Dollar Shopping Spree.**

*Drawings Will Be every Sunday Starting April 9th at 4 PM.*

One Lucky winner will win a \$500 dollar Shopping Spree to a local participating Vendor. To see if your favorite hometown stores are on the list you got to come down to Sherwood Valley Casino. All Players Club Members will receive one free entry.



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