

[illegible]

Donations Accepted Edition No. 446

Thursday, April 7, 2022

B.B. Kamoroff
Reporter
bb@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of
Council
Over on Page 11

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Read the rest of **COVID**
Over on Page 11

Read the rest of
Burglary
Over on Page 11



Above, from left: Mendocino College's Sustainable Construction Instructor Noel Woodhouse, left, smiles with power tools and potential construction student Karan Patel. Amanda Fox Xu, Mendocino College's Dean of Centers, checks over a student's participation passport sheet before spinning the prize wheel during the College Day event last Thursday. Future nursing students Lynette Juarez, left, and Faith Carter, right, smile alongside a learning tool. Aud Young gets her photo taken for a student ID by Markus Pfitzner, Digital Arts teacher at the Mendocino Coast center. Below: Jonathon Dyer hands an application to Center Assistant Tammy Carlson at the North Coast Center during Mendocino College's College Day event.



Learn more about Mendocino College's course catalog and how to apply to attend by visiting www.mendocino.edu or by calling 459-6224. **– Maureen Jennison**



Above, from left: Mendocino College's Center Assistants Lisa Caito, left, Machiko Shimada, right and Tammy Carlson, center, smile for the camera. Griffin wins a Mendocino College sweatshirt on the prize wheel. Karen Cavanaugh, Mendocino College's Financial Aid Coordinator and Juvenal Vasquez, the Special Population Outreach Specialist for Financial Aid/EOPS, hold welcoming college pamphlets. Below, left: Firefighters from several local departments look to recruit new members at College Day. Below, left: Students gather around one of the outdoor tables at the North County Center during College Day.



From far left: Mendocino College's Outreach Specialist Monica Whipple holds info for new students. Pizzas from Slam Dunk Pizza give nourishment to the crowd. Mendocino College's scholarship coordinator Eliza Fields, left, and the college's Executive Director Julie McGovern smile for the camera. Below: Students speak with teachers of different departments, including art, left, and automotive, right, to learn more about their programs.



Forrest Glycer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Read the rest of
Assess
Over on Page 11

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Read the rest of
Removal
Over on Page 5

Read the rest of
Possession
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

April 22 Sober Grad tri-tip dinner tickets on sale

To the Editor:

Happy spring, everyone! It's come upon us quickly as time seems to do. One of the great events of spring is the Sober Grad Take-Home Tri-Tip Dinner for four!

This is the original tri-tip dinner ... the one with the incredibly delicious baked potatoes! And, of course, it includes a huge, barbecued tri tip, along with a mixed veggie salad, a loaf of Emandal bread, four cookies, Mariposa-made salad dressing, butter, sour cream, and a beautiful rose from Flowers by Annette.

Tickets are now on sale for the Friday, April 22 dinner, at Cat's Meow, Willits High School office, Willits Charter School, Flowers by Annette, and from many members of the senior class. This dinner always sells out, so be an early bird and get your ticket soon.

This is Sober Grad's biggest fundraiser of the year. The cost is \$60, a very reasonable price of \$15/person for a complete tri-tip dinner! So, when you buy your ticket, you will also be supporting the Sober Grad Party for the Class of 2022! Thank you!

Joyce Waters, friend of Willits Sober Grad

Filing a claim over damage by PG&E contractors

To the Editor:

As I'm sure folks in the area are aware, PG&E contractors have invaded the area like a plague of locusts. Just since January we have had 10 of those contractors appear on our property marking trees to be cut, some as far away from the lines as 100 feet.

One of their contractors drove into my driveway with a pole setting truck and trailer with pole, crushing the culvert at the end of my driveway. There was no reason for them to enter my driveway as the place where they were to set the pole was 100 yards up the hill with direct access at that location.

I filed a claim against PG&E and its contractor and after battling with the contractor's representative for some time, I received a check from PG&E to pay for replacement of the culvert.

The point of this letter is to provide folks in the area with a telephone number to obtain a claim form to get the process started if PG&E's contractors have damaged their property. That number is 415-913-4548. Be sure to provide pictures, dates, etc. with your claim.

You will be dealing with PG&E's senior claims investigator who seems to have it together; however, my experience dealing with the contractor was very negative and required constant attention to get status reports. In the end PG&E's rep decided to pay the damages to me directly and then go after the contractor for compensation.

So be aware, if you file a claim, you will have to hang in to win out. Good luck!

John Henson, Willits

American Legion asks veterans to join

To the Editor:

I am reaching out to military veterans in the greater Willits community who are not currently a member of a veteran's service organization to consider becoming a member of the American Legion Post 174 in Willits.

Every day, more and more veterans and American Legion Posts are needed to step forward to volunteer and coordinate community service events. We need you on our team!

My goal when I retired to Willits was to make a conscious effort to reach out to fellow veterans in an act of comradeship and to give back to them and this community. Yes, the local post is and has endeavored to be an active participant in both areas. I believe that our values are supported by the Four Pillars that our organization was

founded on that are just as important today as they were in 1919 when it all began: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth.

I am sometimes asked by veterans, "Why should I join the American Legion?" or the underlying question, often unsaid, is "What's in it for me?" There is the opportunity to become a part of a group of men and women that have the commonality of military service to our country, whether in a time of peace or that of war. Comradeship.

Together, we veterans can help instill in our community's youth the meaning of patriotism and the obligations we have as Americans.

When it comes to our fellow veterans who have sustained injury or illness as a result of their military service, the American Legion, along with other veteran service organizations, are your advocates, working with (or convincing) the Department of Veteran Affairs to acknowledge their responsibility in assisting us. We have representatives in Sacramento and Washington D.C. who meet with the various committees that affect the well-being of our veterans.

Two years ago it was the enactment of the "Blue Water Navy Act" that affects Vietnam and Korean War veterans, and last year "Burn Pit" and "Gulf War Syndrome" legislation. And locally, we provide veterans with information about the benefits they have earned and action needed to be taken.

So when you see the flag of our country lining the streets of Willits, or the Legion Color Guard leading off the July 4th Parade or Frontier Days Rodeo opening or Patriots' Day ceremony, it reminds us who we are and what we stand for. Come join us.

See our ad in the Willits Soroptmist telephone book.

The Post meets the second Tuesday at 7 pm, monthly at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 189 North Main Street, in Willits.

Roger Ham, adjutant,
American Legion Post 174

Planning for the future of our libraries

By Lynn Zimmerman, for Citizens Initiative for the Library

The revival of programs and services in all branches of the Mendocino County Library system over the last decade is the direct result of the passage of Measure A in 2011 with 75% voter approval. Measure A was passed for a period of 16 years and will sunset five years from now in 2027.

The Citizens Initiative for the Library is a countywide volunteer group formed for the purpose of building on the success of Measure A by passing a citizens' initiative in November 2022 to provide stable and permanent funding for all library branches and the Bookmobile.

Signature gathering began April 2 in Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Round Valley, Ukiah and Willits. We need 6,000 signatures of registered Mendocino County voters by mid-June, a requirement for a citizens' initiative to be on the ballot.

Measure A currently provides for 60% of total library funding with a sales tax of 1/8th of 1 cent. The remaining 40% of library revenues are generated by a property tax. The Mendocino County General Fund contributes nothing to the library budget. There has never been a reserve set aside for building improvements such as new roofs.

We want to continue the present level of Mendocino County library services and programs and also provide stable and secure funding for needed building improvements.

We want to renew Measure A funding permanently and, at the same time, increase the countywide sales tax by 1/8th of 1 cent, for a total of 1/4th of 1 cent.

Don't worry: your sales tax will not increase. That's because our initiative is timed to take effect at exactly the same time that a 3/8ths of 1 cent sales tax, part of Measure B, will end.

The language in the initiative states that the revenues will be deposited in a special fund that only the Library can access. This has worked very well in the 10 years since Measure A taxes have been collected. The Library Advisory Board, a volunteer board representing the five supervisorial districts and four cities, regularly reviews the Library budget to ensure that the funds are spent appropriately.

We welcome your participation! For information call: 462-4870.

Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, April 7: BBQ Chicken, Beans, Veggie, Cornbread, Green Salad

Friday, April 8: Beef Stir Fry

Monday, April 11: Bacon Breakfast Burrito, Fruit

Tuesday, April 12: Chicken Alfredo, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Wednesday, April 13: Beef Fajitas, Rice & Beans

Thursday, April 14: Pepperoni Pizza, Green Salad

Friday, April 15: Tuna Casserole, Veggie, Roll

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

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments. Senior Center Thrift Shop: 459-2176

The Senior Center is in need of volunteers to help with the many activities here at the center, including volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers. "Volunteers are one-third of our workforce, which allows us to offer many services to our members and community." To learn more about volunteering: 459-6826

Do you want to submit a letter to the editor?

It's easy. We print letters from residents of the 3rd District, just email us yours: willitsweekly@gmail.com

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

April 2022 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

Spring is here. As I drive around our county, I continue to be in awe of the beauty that abounds. I drove up to Covelo twice in the last two weeks and totally enjoyed the redbud, wild flowers, Eel River, and the green hillsides. Be Here Now ... but we need to prepare with summer right around the corner.

The Board of Supervisors will again be open to the public starting on April 15. I am very happy that we can get back to in-person democracy and that the pandemic is under control. When we reopen, the meetings will be hybrid, meaning the chambers will be open in person and accessible by zoom. Since our county is so big, it is a real advantage to offer people the choice of attending in person or zoom in to the meeting and make public comments from the comfort of their homes.

I want to thank the Willits Economic Localization (WELL) group and Madge Strong for organizing the "Fire: Are you Ready Town Hall." Sheriff Kendall, his brother Luke Kendall who is now the CalFire Chief for Mendocino County, CalFire Battalion Chief Drew Rhodes, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, Office of Emergency Services, and Sherwood Firesafe Community all gave their time and expertise to help us better prepare.

They gave updates on what each of their groups is doing in preparation for the fire season. While each one of us needs to take responsibility for our families, homes and properties, there are many people working every day to make our communities safer from wildfires. MendoReady.org has sign-up information for emergency alerts and evacuation Know Your Zone information. The Town Hall will be available through Channel 3.

Pine Mountain Firewise Community organized a forum with representatives of PG&E's Enhanced Vegetation Management program. Concerns were raised about the amount of trees being cut down around power lines, the rights of property owners, and what will happen to the debris left on the ground. Communication between PG&E and property owners has been sporadic and inconsistent. If you have issues with the PG&E program or contractors, contact the PG&E Wildfire Safety hotline at 1-877-295-4949 or Wildfiresafety@pge.com.

You can always contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.



Above, from left: Uma and Mila found ways to play with the Ukrainian flags provided by the Skunk Train. Ori Barker shows off her knit hat with the colors of the Ukraine flag. Conductor Malakai Schindel welcomes passengers to the Train for Ukraine.

Far left: Passengers were masked as per railroad regulations except when drinking or eating.

At left: A special Mai Tai-inspired drink made with Ukrainian vodka and the colors of the Ukrainian flag.

Below: Kids love the Skunk Train's open-air car.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Train for Ukraine

Special Skunk excursion from Willits to Crowley raises funds to aid the besieged Ukrainian people

Nearly 30 people rode the Train for Ukraine from Willits, including some very excited and grateful kids who spent the afternoon waving their Ukrainian flags (provided by the Skunk Train).

Mathew Caine, Features Writer, mathew@willitsweekly.com The kids and other passengers enjoyed looking for the owl who on most days can be seen in a particular tree, were awed by the giant lightning-struck "Wolf" tree, sampled Ukrainian treats (cakes and candy), played games at the Crowley stop, and generally had a great time.

Although the special ride was not full-up, those who did opt to join the 4:30 pm, 2-hour trip, in addition to enjoying the fresh air, were glad for the opportunity to help the people of Ukraine. The Skunk Train donated 100 percent of the proceeds to the International Red Cross, with the proviso that the money was to go to aid the people within the country itself.

Why did the Skunk Train agree to share their train with the besieged people of Ukraine? According to Robert Pinoli, president and CEO of the Skunk Train or, as he calls himself, "Chief Skunk," the Skunk has long helped all kinds of local events and charities. "It's just something that made a lot of sense," Pinoli said. "What struck me as odd is how many people in Mendocino County are connected to people in Ukraine, people who actually live there. That's how the idea was born.

"We're always helping schools, non-profits, etc. The people in that part of the world can really use our help right now. We're trying to do it in such a fashion that money can get there as soon as possible. They need help now," Pinoli emphasized.

"This is not a dispute between two countries that were equally to blame. This is a case where there's a bully, and it's very clear that this is a one-sided and very evil thing that is happening to the people of Ukraine."

It is fascinating how world connections occur. Pinoli's mother made a friend in Ukraine just last summer. "My mom said: 'I just got some bed linens, and they were made by this really lovely lady in Ukraine. They are really well-made, and the lady included a lot of extra things above and beyond the order for which she didn't charge me in appreciation for the business I sent her.'"

"My mom was very touched by this," Pinoli continued, "and had been corresponding with this 'really nice lady' ever since. They had formed a relationship over the products. It goes to show how small the world really is."

With this type of connection in mind and wishing to do

something more than just watch the news, Pinoli and his associates created the Train for Ukraine in order to raise money to support the humanitarian efforts in the country. In addition to a beautiful ride through the wonderland of Mendocino, the Skunk provided the riders with a bag of Ukrainian candy (mostly toffees, gummies, and lollipops), a sweet and savory Ukrainian bread called "Paska," a Ukrainian flag, and two wooden drink chits which entitled the participants to imbibe a special cocktail (with no name as yet) based on a Mai Tai, employing Ukrainian vodka which, when created carefully in a glass, separates into yellow and blue layers, reminiscent of the Ukrainian flag.

Pinoli has an interesting world view about serving ethnic food on the train. "I think the thing that is interesting about these types of conflicts that occur in the world is that when good people get hurt, you learn about them and their culture. As humans, we often find that our connection to other humans from different parts of the world, are made through food and beverage, because it is something that is very nourishing, satisfying, and comforting. People can be polar opposites but the one thing they have in common is the need for nourishment.

"As a result," he continued, "we see sometimes, the best way to understand people from all parts of the world and have a connection is through food and beverage. Getting together over food or drink has the possibility to ease some of the discomfort people have with others from different cultures.

"We don't have a clue as to what these people in Ukraine might be going through, but yet it puts our nerves at ease by creating connections through culture, food, and beverage and a sense of community.

Although the Skunk Train hasn't been able to go from Willits all the way to its other terminal in Fort Bragg due to a hopefully-soon-to-be-repaired tunnel cave-in, Pinoli says that the shorter trips work well for many of the riders who don't want to commit an entire day to one activity.

The wildly successful rail bike program which is currently operating from Fort Bragg on the patent pending electric-assist machinery developed by the Skunk Train, will be available from Willits in the near future after a slight redesign which will allow for the tighter turns on the east side of the coastal hills.

For information on the history of the Skunk Train, available trips, special events, or to make reservations, visit www.skunktrain.com or call 707-964-6371.

The Skunk Train Willits Depot is located at 299 East Commercial Street.



Above: At the Crowley stop, passengers detained to stretch their legs.

At left: Noel tries his hand at Jenga, one of the games available to play at the Crowley stop.

Below: Support for Ukraine was demonstrated in many ways.



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.

Volume 9, Number 446

3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633 / 707-972-7047 willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

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

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

Mathew Caine, photographer / calendar editor / features writer / mathew@willitsweekly.com

Forrest Glycer, reporter / forrest@willitsweekly.com

Joanne Moore, reporter / features writer / joanne@willitsweekly.com

Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter / willitsweekly@gmail.com

B.B. Kamoroff, reporter / bb@willitsweekly.com

Ree Slocum, features writer / ree@willitsweekly.com

Danya Davis, features writer / police log / danya@willitsweekly.com

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

Jackie Cobbs, features editor

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

CROWNS CORNER

Groceries
Beer & Wine
Gas & Diesel
Pay at the Pump

7am - 10pm
459-4854
1799 So. Main St.
P.O. Box 428

Family owned since 1983

707.459.5193

JOHN FORD RANCH

RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Presents

ART TALKS

THE AGEAN AND RISE OF THE GREEKS
APRIL 8TH 2022, 6:30 PM.
71 E. COMMERCIAL ST. 44095

THIS IS A FREE EVENT

T and T TOWING

707-459-9116

277 N. Lenore Ave. WILLITS, CA

24-HOUR RADIO DISPATCHED TOWING

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21				22						
23							24	25					26	27
		28					29				30			
31	32					33		34	35	36				37
38					39	40							41	
42					43					44	45			
46		47	48					49		50				
51					52	53	54			55			56	57
			58							59				
60	61						62	63					64	
65						66							67	
68						69							70	

CLUES ACROSS

- Midway between south and southeast
- Celebrations
- Pulpits
- Pin
- Rare laughing
- Parts of the circulatory system
- Financial term
- Pearl Jam frontman
- Cores of vascular plants
- Strong sharp smell or taste
- City in S. Korea
- One from Damascus
- Short message at the end of an email
- It cools your home
- Towards the mouth or oral region
- Intestinal pouches
- Boys and men
- The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- Former CIA
- A way to arrange
- Body cavity
- The Great Lake State
- A type of seal
- Stop for a moment
- Ancient kingdom

CLUES DOWN

- An involuntary muscular contraction
- PA transit system
- Leaves a place
- Sweet greenish fruit
- Lends support to
- Chap
- Singer Di Franco
- Border river between India and Nepal
- Millisecond
- Revolutions per minute
- They ___
- ESPN broadcaster Bob
- Characterized by unity

- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Way to analyze video (abbr.)
- Nonclerical
- Tree resin
- The academic world
- Khoikhoi peoples
- Infer from data
- Arrives
- Apart
- Takes on cargo
- Beloved Hollywood alien
- Takes apart
- Dorm official
- Secondary or explanatory descriptor
- Relating to wings
- Speaker
- Situated in the middle
- Loop with a running knot
- Alaska nursing group (abbr.)
- Beloveds
- Establish by law or with authority
- Border river between India and Nepal
- Millisecond
- Revolutions per minute
- They ___
- ESPN broadcaster Bob
- A place to stay

MAKE THE GRADE WORD SEARCH

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

AVERAGE	GRADUATE	RANKING
CLASSROOM	HOMEWORK	REMEMBER
COURSE	KNOWLEDGE	REPORT
EDUCATION	LEARNING	RETAIN
EXAM	MEMORIZE	SCHOOL
FAIL	PASS	SUPPLIES
GOALS	PROFESSOR	SYLLABUS
GRADES	QUIZ	TRAJECTORY

COLUMN | The Medicine Chest Garden

Neighborhood Tea

String Creek Road is a rural neighborhood northeast of Willits, where I have had the good fortune to live for the past 35 years. For about 20 of those years, I have been getting together with a group of women who live on the road to help one another. We have worked in our gardens, stacked firewood, brushed roads, etc. – all of the tasks to be done when living on the land.

As we are now all in our 70s, we have shifted our focus to making an herbal tea together that we call “String Creek Tea.” During the spring and summer seasons, we each collect and dry herbs from our gardens and from the wild around us. Then in the fall, we get together for a fun afternoon of putting the tea together.

Choosing a clear day allows us to do this outside, eliminating a lot of sweeping and cleanup. We organize the herbs on a big table and review what we have. Then we start combining the herbs in big bowls, beginning with the “good tasting” herbs, and then adding in the more medicinal tasting herbs in smaller quantities.

This year, each of us took home a gallon of String Creek Tea. We all agree that this has become a wonderful tradition and an enjoyable way to spend time together, and, that the tea is imbued with our friendship and shared love for our neighborhood. It is simply delicious!

Here are the main herbs we have used each year, starting

with the “good tasting” herbs: Lemon Balm, Spearmint, Peppermint, Red Clover, Chamomile, Milky Oat, Cornsilk, Plantain, Bee Balm, Elder blossoms, Horsetail, Raspberry leaves, Blackberry leaves, Nettles, Mullein leaves, and flowers (Rose petals, Violets, Calendula).

We use less of these stronger tasting herbs: Comfrey leaves, Dandelion leaves, Catnip, Motherwort and Skullcap.

If you want to try making a Neighborhood Tea, it can, of course, be any group of friends, not just neighbors. Here are some suggestions and guidelines:

First and foremost, be sure of your plant identification, especially with plants from the wild.

Most herbs are best collected late morning after the dew has dried and before the heat of the day. Then, in a shady spot, separate the part of the herb you are going to use from the part you are not going to use. (For example, separating the leaves from the stems.) There is a name for this process – garbling.

Once the herbs are garbled, spread them out in a thin layer on flat baskets or screens. Some herbs are so high in protein that should be dried not touching or they will turn black on the edges. (Plantain, Comfy and Nettle leaves fall into this category.)

Place the screens in the shade or inside away from direct sunlight. I prefer inside drying because I can more easily turn and fluff the herbs as needed.

How to determine when the herbs are dry? This is an important point to consider, because any moisture left in the plant matter will cause the herbs to mold in their storage jars. Most herbs will be “crumbly” when fully dry. However,

only crumble enough of the plant to determine dryness.

Herbs should be stored as whole as possible, in glass jars (preferably dark glass if you have it), and the jars kept in a cool, dark place. These guidelines will allow the herbs to remain at their most potent for up to a year, or possibly more, depending on the herb. Heat, light and air all degrade herbs.

The herbs mentioned in the above lists are all aerial parts of the plants, not roots, so when making tea, do not simmer or boil the tea, as this will destroy the phytonutrients.

To get the most from your tea, try this method: Using a glass quart canning jar, fill the jar 1/4 to 1/3 full with the dry herb mixture. Pour boiling water over to fill the jar. Stir the contents to wet all the plant matter and put the lid on. Let this steep 4 to 6 hours and then strain out the plant matter. (The long steeping time allows all of the minerals to come out into solution.)

Return the tea to the jar and drink throughout the day, warmed or iced, and sweetened if desired, with honey or Stevia. Instead of using a canning jar, I have found it very convenient to use a coffee press. This allows the herbs to be easily pressed down and separated from the tea, with fewer utensils to be cleaned afterwards.

In the wine industry, the French word “terroir” refers to the unique influence that the soil, water and weather of a place has on the grapes and thus, the taste of the wine. There is also a terroir of the plants that grow where we each live that translates into a special medicine for us, and even more so when all of this is shared with friends.

Donna d’Terra is an herbalist and herbal educator.

Eric McFadden at Shanachie April 9

Saturday, April 9 will be a truly memorable night with P-Funk Allstar Eric McFadden, featuring Kate Vargas and special guest Aaron Ford! The show starts at 8 pm; cover charge is \$10.

McFadden is a guitar virtuoso / songwriter / vocalist. He has toured the world both as a solo artist, as well as with funk-legend George Clinton (Parliament / Funkadelic), and rock-legend Eric Burdon (The Animals).

Visit www.ericmcfadden.com for more info.

Shanachie Pub is located at 50 B South Main Street.

At right: Eric McFadden will perform with Kate Vargas and Aaron Ford at Shanachie Pub on Saturday, April 9 at 8 pm.



Above: Timber faller Walter Smith explains that, according to code: “It says that any tree that’s ‘diseased or infected shall be removed.’ Then it says ‘If it leans towards the lines,’ but everybody leaves that out. It actually has to have the ability to hit the lines.” Above, right: Lauren Robertson stands at some trees cut down by PG&E and says: “We’ve asked [PG&E’s contractors] repeatedly to clean this up and pull these logs up out of this draw. It’s a wind tunnel here and has been ldd as the most likely path of a fire into our neighborhood.” At right: Concerned Pine Mountain landowners met to talk with Willits Weekly Friday, from left: Susan Monteleone, Walter Smith, Cynthia Raiser Jeavons, and Lauren Robertson. Far right: This Hill Top property was cleared of trees threatening power lines. Landowner Tom McCann was involved in the selections and happy with the work done by the PG&E subcontractors.



Photos by Ree Sloum

The rest of
Removal | From Page 1

number of people are angry, frustrated, and fearful about how PG&E and their subcontractors have been handling the tree removals.

Some owners say they hadn’t gotten notices nor warnings of trees being cut on their property. “Maybe one or two people said they knew they were coming. But there were no town halls. No meeting notices. No warning,” stated Susan Monteleone. According to her: “There were so many different companies. There was massive confusion.”

One person mentioned that people are getting different stories from the subcontractors about owner liability or their rights to refuse having some trees saved. Timber faller Walter Smith was told by a contractor supervisor, “In actuality, PG&E owns all the trees that can strike the line and they can take them down if they want to: I realized this is what they’re telling landowners.” He says that statement isn’t true.

Smith also told of a neighbor’s experience: “He’s elderly and also handicapped. He could barely walk up to greet us and said that [PG&E’s subcontractor] came in and told him what trees they were going to mark. He said he went away for his son’s graduation and came back and they’d cut trees already. Some were far away from the lines. He said 150 feet. He’s pretty upset. Besides they left a mess and haven’t cleaned it up yet.”

Lauren Robertson, who has studied fire behavior for about 20 years, said: “From a fire science perspective, I want to know how many fires have been started by trees falling on lines? How many have started by faulty PG&E equipment? We have that data. We know that in recent years most of the big fires attributed to PG&E are started by faulty equipment, not by trees falling on the lines. So why are they focused on blaming the trees?,” she asked.

“What strikes me about [the situation] is that we know,” Robertson said, “when an area is cleared, in a couple of years there’s going to be brush coming up creating a new fire hazard that needs mitigation.

“In Pine Mountain, because of our Fire Safe Council, we’ve been trying to deal with shaded fuel breaks, ladder fuel, accessibility, escape routes. That’s what we’ve been focusing on for the last 20 years. So, when I see a big swath cut down, I know this is going to have grass and brush growing up with ladder fuels which will create problems down the line.

“We know that Southern California Edison has taken a different route,” she said. “They’ve insulated and put breakers on their lines. They’ve moved lines underground. They did research and got together and have apparently stopped their Enhanced Vegetation Management program.

“That’s what gets me. We know what can be effective, and we’re watching something being done that is not effective. We’ve got to ask; Are these effective mitigation tactics?”

The people concerned with what’s happening have been trying to get answers and accountability, and it’s frustrating. Robertson explained that she’s been trying to get to someone with authority to listen to their concerns: “We have contact with the tree cutters but they don’t have any authority. So, we’ve tried to go up the ladder to CNUC [CN Utility

Consulting] then to PG&E, and we’re being told that PG&E is just doing what the California Public Utilities Commission had told them to do under a judge’s ruling. We’re trying to learn more about that. Somewhere in there CalFire is also over this.”

But timber faller Smith says: “Not anymore. Right now, PG&E is just saying they don’t have to have permits from CalFire.”

Smith expressed some of what the group is wanting: “It’s just the way these contractors have approached landowners. Depending on how forceful you are, how much you know about your trees, or whether you’re capable [in some way], depends upon how many trees they’re going to cut down.” Smith has stopped some of his healthy and non-threatening trees from being cut. “I’m advocating for PG&E to stop this program all together and re-evaluate what [the program] is.”

Smith also sees that: “No one is regulating [PG&E]. Their lawyers are beating off CalFire. They’re not using any agency people, that’s done by another private company they’ve hired. Our legislators aren’t doing anything about it. The governor could stop it.”

After talking with PG&E’s regional manager for enhanced management, a frustrated Smith said: “They just are not in control of regional contractors. They hire other contractors to oversee the contractors who fell the trees. All PG&E is worried about is if they’re meeting the removal criteria, and [they’re] not supervising the contractors, as far as I can see, not at all,” he concluded.

“This isn’t about individual property owners,” expressed Robertson, “This is about practices they’re using and the infrastructure that hasn’t been dealt with for decades.”

Not everyone is dissatisfied with what’s been done on their property. Hill Top landowner Tom McCann told this reporter: “I had a lot of madrone

and oak that were hanging over the lines. The CNUC group came here in January and came by to cut the trees a few weeks later. This needed to be done. You can see the power lines over there. This cleared out a lot of fire-burning fuel.”

The crew cut down over 40 trees that McCann OK’d. “They were nice guys. They cleaned up after themselves and all that. They didn’t damage any buildings or anything like that. I was really impressed about how they worked the trees.”

The following is a statement from Deanna Contreras, PG&E’s North Bay and North Coast media rep: “We understand there have been some misunderstandings and confusion among some of our customers in Mendocino County about our Enhanced Vegetation Management work. We are listening to our customers and have attempted to improve communication by ensuring that we make at least three points of contact with the property owner (in the form of a letter, an automated call and a knock at the door) before performing this important public safety work. We also leave materials at the door if we aren’t able to reach anyone.

“PG&E also offers wood removal with the program. Because trees are considered property of the landowner, it is their choice if they’d like PG&E to remove the wood we felled for safety in a high fire-risk area. If a landowner wants us to remove the wood we fell, we seek their written approval to remove the wood.”

Search “Enhanced Vegetation Management” at PG&E’s website for more information about the program: www.pge.com

The Pine Mountain group requests concerned landowners to speak up and contact Regional Vegetation Program Manager for PG&E, Ethan Bell, Ethan.Bell2@pge.com, 707-499-1457, and Third District Supervisor John Haschak, haschak@mcn.org, 707-972-4214, who’s already been meeting with landowners.

Taxes* | Investments | Insurance
Real Estate* | Payroll & Bookkeeping*

Nicholas Casagrande, EA
855.240.6606
675 S Main St, Willits, CA 95490
105 W Clay St, Ukiah, CA 95482
nicholas@ncfinancialgroup.com
nicholas.casagrande@ceterafs.com**

NC Financial Group

EA # 00105934 • CA DRE # 01854336 • CA Insurance LIC # 0H68496
Advisory services offered through Cetera Investment Advisers LLC. Securities offered through Cetera Financial Specialists LLC (doing insurance business in CA as CFGFS Insurance Agency), member FINRA/SIPC. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity. These services are not offered through Cetera Financial Specialists LLC. **Investment email

BUD GARMAN
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC.
LIC# 679517

707-459-5859

Environmental Restoration - Ponds
Septic & Water Systems - Site Development
Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery

24900 N. HWY 101 IN WILLITS GARMANCONST@GMAIL.COM

Harrah Senior Center
1501 Baechtel Road, Willits, CA 95490
707-459-6827

DRIVE-THRU PANCAKE BREAKFAST
APRIL 10, 2022
9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

MEMBERS - \$7
NON-MEMBERS - \$8

TICKETS ARE PRE-SALE ONLY.
YOU CAN PURCHASE THEM AT THE
SENIOR CENTER

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
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.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

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

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

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

**St. Anthony of Padua
Catholic Church**
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadham
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
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 Services - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Brunneau

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

**Willits Seventh-Day
Adventist Church**
707-459-5714
Friendly, open worship
Saturdays
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
399 W. Mendocino Ave.
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist
A Christ centered, progressive church
ALL ARE WELCOME
286 School St. (at Pine)
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor
Worship Celebration
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com
If you want to be included in
this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Pg. 4 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | April 7, 2022 Willits Weekly | April 7, 2022 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 5

On the edge at WCT with ‘Deathtrap’

By Steve Hellman for WCT

At a recent matinee showing of the comedic thriller “Deathtrap” at Willits Community Theatre, audience members were literally on the edge of their seats over what was about to happen next.

Jane Camp of Willits said: “The first surprise was bad enough, but the second one had us out of our seats – really scary. It was totally unexpected. I couldn’t think where it would go next.”

Jim Williams of Willits said: “The timing of it all is delightful. The surprises make for the entertainment. The actors are so good, they’re putting it right over the top for us.”

Asked if the show was funny, Williams said, “There are funny moments, but the other parts of it make you wonder just how funny it is. I think it’s like real life.”

Lisa Shoemaker of Ukiah said she came to enjoy the twists and turns. “The suspense is totally amazing,” she said. “The most remarkable moments are between the married couple. Really, I was on the edge of my seat. It’s amazing.”

Ari Sunbeam of Willits also echoed the feeling that the show was filled with surprises. “I was kind of expecting the one character to come back as a ghost. But then I was thinking no, it wouldn’t work. Not the right kind of play for a ghost. Then what did happen was so unexpected.” Asked if the show was funny, he said, “It’s quite hilarious.”

Angela Van Patten of Ukiah said she enjoyed the show for how elegantly the action was layered. “It’s well-woven together and not predictable.” She added, “The characters feel more than real. And rather than be tethered to real experience, the show itself is larger than life.” Van Patten said she plans to come back a second time to catch all the little nuances.

Showings of “Deathtrap” will continue through April 10, with performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$15 and \$20 and available through the WCT website at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org. Audience members will be asked to show proof of vaccination and the wearing of facial masks is recommended inside the theater.



At top: Starring in “Deathtrap” are: from left, Christopher Martin, Kelly Keesey, Rod Grainger, Eddie Haehl and Virginia Hanley.

Above: Patrons Ari Sunbeam, Angela Patten, and Dagen join Eddie Haehl, second from right, who stars in the show.

Below, from left: Jane Camp: “The first surprise was bad enough, but the second one – really scary.”

Lisa Shoemaker: “The most remarkable moments are between the married couple.”

Jim Williams: “They’re putting it right over the top for us.”



Far left: Very little snow remains on the ground for the California Department of Water Resources’ fourth snow survey of the 2022 season at Phillips Station in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. At left: Sean de Guzman, manager of the California Department of Water Resources Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit, announces the collected data from the April 1 survey. The orange tape at the top of the aluminum snow survey pole is where the snow should be on an average year. Above: California Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth and Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot watch as de Guzman conducts the snow survey.

April 1 snowpack survey at Phillips Station finds little snow

Submitted by CDWR

Sacramento – The Department of Water Resources conducted the fourth snow survey of the season April 1 at Phillips Station in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Following three straight months of record dry conditions, the manual survey recorded just 2.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 1 inch, which is 4 percent of average for this location for April 1. Statewide, the snowpack is just 38 percent of average for this date.

The snowpack at Phillips Station has plummeted since the beginning of the year. On December 30, the snowpack stood at 202 percent of normal for that date. In a normal season, the snowpack depth would be about 5 feet deep at this time of year. The Phillips Station is at an elevation of 6,800 feet, about 90 miles east of Sacramento.

The snow water equivalent measured at the snow survey shows the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of DWR’s water supply forecast, including anticipated runoff into the state’s reservoirs.

April 1 is typically when the snowpack is at its highest; however the statewide snowpack likely peaked in early-March this year, and the Northern Sierra snowpack peaked in mid-January.

“The conditions we are seeing today speak to how severe our drought remains. DWR has been planning for the reality of a third dry year since the start of the water year on October 1,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “While DWR has made significant investments in forecasting technology and other tools to ensure we make the most out of the snowmelt we do receive, water conservation will remain our best tool in the face of this ongoing

drought and the statewide impacts of a warming climate. All Californians must focus on conserving water now.”

“With the exceptionally dry conditions during the past three months, our latest statewide snowmelt forecasts are only 44 percent of average,” said Sean de Guzman, manager of DWR’s Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit. “Most of the snow accumulation this year came from just two storms in December that were followed by the driest January and February on record in the Sierra, and unfortunately March only brought a few weak systems.”

“Today’s snow survey reinforces what we’ve all observed – California just experienced the driest three months on record, and drought is worsening throughout the West.” California Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot said. “Climate-driven water extremes are part of our reality now, and we must all adapt and do our part to save water every day.”

While the state continues to take necessary actions to help extend the state’s existing water supply, all Californians are also encouraged to do their part now to conserve as much water as possible to make it last. Governor Newsom has called on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent with simple measures to protect water reserves.

Individuals looking for information about reducing water consumption at home can visit SaveOurWater.com for water-wise tips. A new website, “California Water Watch” – <https://cww.water.ca.gov> – has the latest water conditions for California, including snowpack, precipitation, and reservoir data. Californians can also use the new website to check out watershed conditions in their own neighborhood.



pierre bensusan
live in concert

*“This is beautiful... Pierre is one of the GREATS!!!!”
Tommy Emmanuel*

MAY 1st, 2022
WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

20,000 Eggs!
FREE!

EGG STRAVAGANZA

April 16th 11-1 Willits HS Football Field

Food – Games – Jump Houses – Prizes – Music

In Celebration and Anticipation of Easter

Willits Ward

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

is hosting an Open house
April 9, 2022 @ 11am-3pm

Come meet the

Primary Relief Society

Aaronic Priesthood Young Women

Elders Quorum Sunday School

We will be available to answer questions
also

Community Resources that are available:

Just Serve and Family History

Come join us at
125 Margie Drive, Willits, CA 95490
Free BBQ lunch available
wwslds@yahoo.com

JOIN US FOR A Career Fair

Explore if healthcare is the right career for you. Join us to learn about our clinical and non-clinical opportunities in Ukiah and Willits. We offer competitive wages, flexible schedules and excellent benefits!

- Housekeeping
- Customer Care
- Food Services
- Nursing
- Clinical Support: CNA, Phlebotomist, Medical Assistant
- Clinical Laboratory Scientist
- Physical Therapist
- Radiology Technologist
- Patient Access
- Respiratory Care Practitioner

Adventist Health
Howard Memorial
1 Marcela Drive, Willits
April 6
12-5 p.m.

Ukiah Valley Conference Center
200 S School Street, Ukiah
April 21
12-5 p.m.

Please plan to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccine or negative test.

Contact Jolee White, whitej@ah.org, 707-963-6588 for more information on job opportunities in Mendocino County.

HOME CENTER & LUMBER CO.

MENDO MILL

••WILLITS EXCLUSIVE ITEMS••

\$3.00 off
SMALL BAGS
ALL RECIPES

ASTRO LOYALTY

Fussie Cat

BOSS TACTICAL™ PET GEAR

DIAMOND PRO89

SALE \$39.89
\$49.89 REG PRICE

ASK US ABOUT OUR NEW FREQUENT BUYER PROGRAM!

Stay Local. Go Often. Get Free Stuff!

Frequent BUYER

ASTRO FREQUENT BUYER

It pays to be a loyal customer. Stick with us, and the more you purchase, the more FREE pet food and supplies you earn.

WILLITS
305 East Commercial
707.459.4631

UKIAH
1870 North State Street
707.462.8806

CLEARLAKE
5255 Old Hwy 53
707.994.1014

FORT BRAGG
125 South Main
707.964.0215

LAKEPORT
2465 South Main Street
707.263.8400

Michael England

Michael Allen England was born on May 7, 1982, to Bennie, Pam, and big brother Bennie Jr.

He passed away tragically on March 24, 2022, in an automobile accident in Idaho.

Michael grew up in Willits and graduated from Willits High School in 2000. He was a strong athlete and played baseball and soccer. He also participated in wrestling and rodeo.

Michael loved all sports starting at age 3, always trying to keep up with his brother and the big boys. He also enjoyed gardening and fishing. One of his favorite experiences back in the day was going on the annual all-male England hunting trips. What happened on the mountain, stayed on the mountain, except for an occasional slip up from a then 4-year-old Mike.

Michael had a huge heart and will be dearly missed by all his family and friends.

Michael is survived by his mom, Pam England (Denny Hiatt); his brother Bennie Jr. (Natalie); his daughters Jessa (Michelle Mack) and Zoë; his nephew, Hayden; his niece, Harlow; his grandmother, Jean Holmes; his grandfather, Bill England (Melita); his lifelong family friend, Joe Whitlock; and his lifelong childhood friends, Matt Bozzo and Jesse Barnett, along with numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Michael is preceded in death by his dad, Bennie Sr.; his grandmother, Bernell Amick; his uncles, Edward England, Lenny Spaggiari and Andy Stone; and his cousins, Pete, Cricket, Louis and Brennan.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, April 8, 2022, at 12 pm at the Little Lake Cemetery, 875 East Hill Road, in Willits.

Lanae Lamkin

On March 1, 2022, Lanae (Shuster) Lamkin, beloved mother, friend, and daughter passed away at the age of 50.

Lanae was born in Ukiah on December 7, 1971. As a child, Lanae was outgoing and spunky. She loved putting on gymnastics shows with her friends and playing pretend in the creek by her home.

Throughout her life, Lanae was driven and strong. She swam competitively from a young age on both the Ukiah Dolphins and Willits Otters swim teams. She set local records that remain to this day and eventually placed top 10 in the state freestyle competition.

Lanae also thrived on horseback. She attended a multitude of horse shows, from jumping at Cow Palace to the Frontier Days show where she won multiple trophies throughout the years. In 1991, she was crowned Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart like her mother before her. To round out her multifaceted personality, Lanae also had a flare for fashion, winning her "Best Dressed" during her time at Willits High School.



Lanae married Luke Lamkin in 1996, and they had three daughters: Lijia, Hayden, and Blighe. During this time, Lanae shifted her focus from horses and swimming to helping her children and staying active by running. Many Willits locals can attest to seeing her push a stroller for miles through the valley, alongside her dear friend Sharon Sasso. Due to her athleticism and unyielding determination, she went from running local 5ks to participating in marathons.

Lanae was a devoted mother and taught her daughters many valuable lessons. She modeled what it means to be compassionate, how to be part of a family, a supportive friend, and showed them the meaning of "a force to be reckoned with."

Lanae will be missed by all who had the joy of knowing her. She is survived by her daughters and husband; father Steven Shuster; mother Leslie and stepfather Robert Scaglione; brother Curtis and wife, Kate Shuster; mother-in-law Lauren and husband, Barry Campbell; and sister-in-law Rachael Lamkin and wife, Ali Fenn.

A memorial will be planned by the family at a later date.

Little Lake Fire Dept.

Local School Fundraisers

Bounce House

Humana Society

Local Vendors

Easter Family Fun Fair

Saturday April 16, 2022

11:00 - 5:00

The Easter Bunny

Raffle Prizes

Join us at Coast Hardware

Beverly Wise

Beverly J. Wise quietly passed away on March 22 in Willits, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She was born April 21, 1932 in Wheatridge, Colorado, the youngest of eight siblings.

Beverly graduated with a degree in elementary education from the University of Nebraska, Kearney. She enjoyed her teaching career with young children.

Beverly was preceded in death by her parents, siblings, and son Jeffery D. Wise. Beverly is survived by her husband of 67 years, Dean Wise, her oldest son John, daughter-in-law Lisa, grandson Grant and granddaughter Johnna, her middle daughter Amy, and her youngest daughter Kelly.

She was an avid bridge player and partner in several businesses with her husband, Dean. She served the Willits community for several years as a volunteer for the Howard Memorial Hospital Thrift Store and Gift Shop, also the Willits Senior Center Thrift Store. She attended Agape Bible Church.

A celebration of life will be held at Calvary Chapel Church in Willits on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 11 am, followed by a reception. The family suggests charitable contributions to the Alzheimer's Association in lieu of cards or flowers.

Roberta Cockrall

Roberta Sota Cockrall, our beloved mother, sister, grandmother and great grandmother, passed peacefully on January 31, 2022.



her family with love. She had a heart of gold and will be deeply missed.

In lieu of flowers, please consider sending a donation to Mendocino Coast Audubon Society in memory of Roberta Cockrall. Berta loved nature and spent many hours studying the local birds and sketching them.

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

Randy Cantua
Insurance Agent
Lic. #0C67822

FARMERS

CANTUA

INSURANCE AGENCY

16 W. Valley Street • Willits, CA 95490
Bus: (707) 459-3276 • Fax: (707) 459-3298

www.NorCalQuote.com • rcantua@farmersagent.com

Auto • Home • Life • Health • Business

Do it Best

WILLITS

POWER & HARDWARE

HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT

Lawn & Garden Equipment • Generators

Sales, Parts & Service • Pick-up & Delivery

1600 S. Main St.
Willits, CA 95490
willitspower@gmail.com

Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420
Service: 707 459-0596
Fax: 707 459-6369

CITY OF WILLITS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

PROJECT NO. 2022-02

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed bids for:

The work shown on the project plans entitled:

CITY OF WILLITS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PROJECT PLANS

For:

Blosser Lane Rehabilitation Project, Phase I - Project No. 2022-02

This project includes the following work on Blosser Lane, between the city limits to the south and the railroad tracks to the north: removal of existing AC sidewalk and concrete curb and gutter; construction of approximately 5,000 SF of new concrete sidewalk, including bulb-outs, corner ramps, and driveways; construction of approximately 1,500 LF of new curb and gutter; construction of a new concrete center median and bulb-outs for traffic calming; construction of approximately 1,900 SF of new stamped, colored concrete; installation of new signage; installation of two new storm drain inlets and construction of approximately 80 LF of new storm drain pipe; installation of three new water services; relocation of one existing sewer lateral and clean-out; construction of approximately 500 LF of new PVC irrigation line; planting of 12 new street trees with deep root watering devices for each; removal of approximately 43,000 SF of existing roadway at a depth of 17" and replacement with new subgrade fabric, base, and AC; and new paint and thermoplastic traffic markings.

IN

City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California &

The work described in specifications books entitled:

CITY OF WILLITS - BID BOOK & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

CITY OF WILLITS - PROPOSAL PACKET

CITY OF WILLITS - AWARD PACKET

For:

Blosser Lane Rehabilitation Project, Phase I - Project No. 2022-02

IN

City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California will be received by a designated representative, of the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, until the hour of 2 p.m., April 27th, 2022, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers, of the City of Willits, located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California.

Bid forms for this work are included in a separate book entitled:

Proposal Packet For:

City of Willits

Public Works Department

Blosser Lane Rehabilitation Project, Phase I - Project No. 2022-02

Example award forms for this work are included in a separate book entitled:

Example Award Packet For:

City of Willits

Public Works Department

Blosser Lane Rehabilitation Project, Phase I - Project No. 2022-02

THE ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS IS: \$944,492.00

Key Dates:

- Pre-bid Meeting: April 14, 2022, 9:00 a.m. (on site)
- Final Questions from Bidders: April 19, 2022
- Final Addendum Issued: April 21, 2022
- Bid Opening: April 27, 2022, 2 p.m.
- Project Start Date: May 31, 2022
- Project length: 45 calendar days

Interested bidders should contact the following in order to obtain electronic copies of plans and other bid documents:

Brandy Sanderson
Public Works Administrative Assistant
bsanderson@cityofwillits.org
(707) 459-7143

Plans will be distributed electronically free of charge.

Hard copies of plans, specifications, and other bid documents are available by request for a non-refundable fee of \$40.00. Requests for hard copies should also be directed to Brandy Sanderson.

Plans and specifications are also available for review at the following Builders Exchange offices:

Construction Bidboard (Ebidboard)
11622 El Camino Real, #100
San Diego, CA 92130
Phone: 800-479-5314
Email: support@ebidboard.com
Website: www.ebidboard.com

Dodge Data & Analytics
830 Third Avenue, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10022
Phone: 877-784-9556
Email: support@construction.com
Website: www.construction.com

Humboldt Builders Exchange
1213 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 442-3708
Website: www.humbx.com

North Coast Builders Exchange
1030 Apollo Way
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
707-542-9502
707-542-2027
Website: www.ncbeonline.com

CITY OF WILLITS: s/Cathy Moorhead, Deputy City Manager/
City Clerk
DATED: 03/30/22
Publication Dates: March 31, April 7, 2022

Tom Wake

Plumbing

Serving in Mendocino and Lake Counties

Full Service Residential, Commercial

•Faucets & Tubs •Garbage Disposals •Toilets •Pipe Repairs •Gas Lines •Fixture Replacement

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

For Fast Service Call

707-391-4343

Lic: #84811

Round Valley

Volunteer Market

Saturday April 9, 12 - 3pm

Hosted by MENDOCINO COUNTY Library

Come and meet the local organizations that are looking for volunteers or offering internships in 2022.

Learn about a volunteer job that fits your skills and abilities: Emergency response? Administrative work? Radio announcing? Food preparation? Mentorship with youth?

Sign up for an upcoming workday, training, or volunteer program.

SAVE THE DATE!

RVAMAC

NATIVE WAY

SALES TIRE

MAA

pub lic li brary

GOVELO

CITY OF WILLITS

Employment Opportunity:

Accountant

Annual salary is \$43,701 to \$53,119/Annually DOQ/DOE

Position Summary: Performs accounting and analytical work assignments including the analysis, maintenance, reconciliation and verification of financial records; works with accounting, budgeting, cost analysis and financial reporting using financial management information systems; and performs related duties as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics: Requires knowledge of accounting principles and practices and skill to readily apply this to accounting systems and software. Incumbents are expected to independently perform the work to completion.

Application Deadline:
Friday April 15, 2022, by 4:00 P.M.

Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org

MENDOCINO COUNTY

Current Job Openings:

Air Quality Management District
Administrative Coordinator

Assistant Director of Social Services
Chief Planner

Chief Planner – Cannabis Program

Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV

Deputy District Attorney I/II/III

Deputy Probation Officer I/II

Deputy Public Defender I/II/III/IV

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II

District Attorney Investigator

Eligibility Specialist II

Environmental Health Technician

Juvenile Corrections Officer – Extra-Help

Legal Secretary II

Nutritionist-Extra-Help

Program Specialist I

Public Health Nurse

Registered Nurse

Senior Business Systems Analyst

Senior Planner - Cannabis Program

Senior Program Manager – Family Children's Services

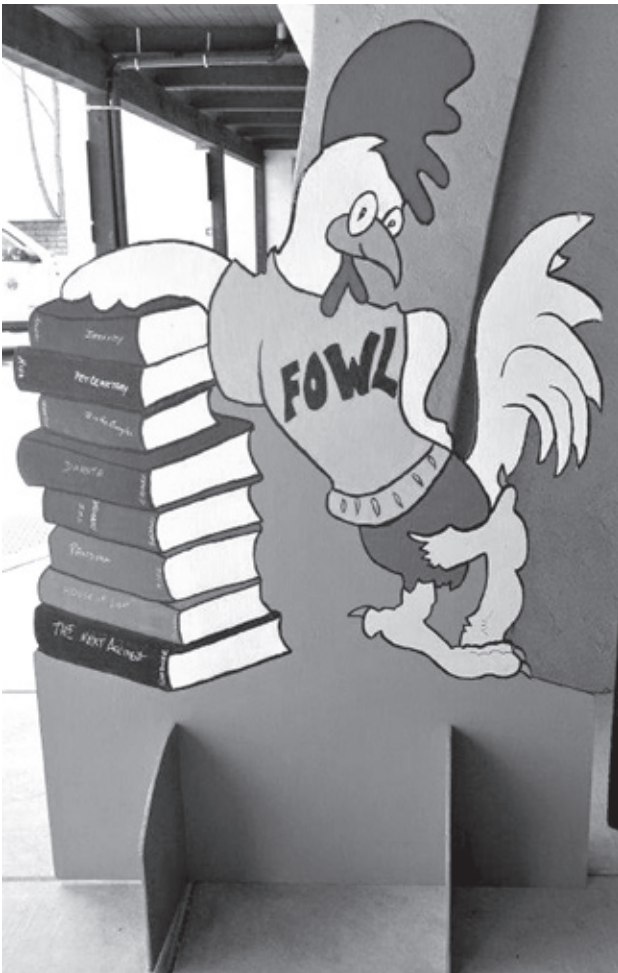
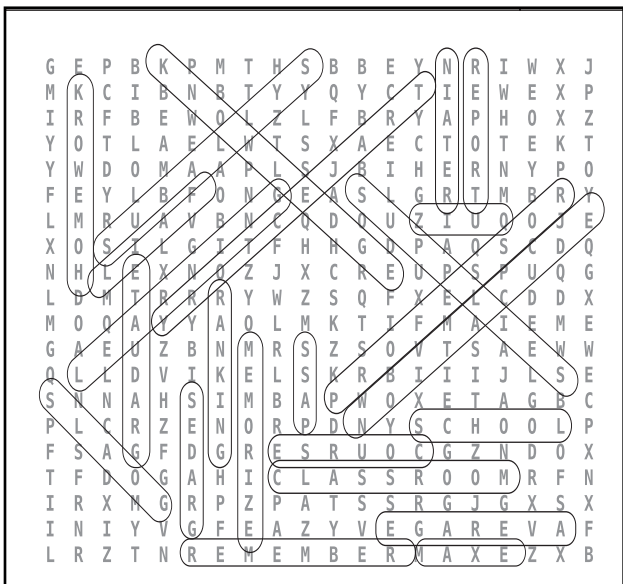
Senior Program Manager – Nursing

Senior Public Health Nurse

Supervising Public Health Nurse

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca

EOE



FOWL Spring Pop-Up Sale

Friends of the Willits Library's Spring Pop-up Sale; inside the library from April 12 through April 23.

Come and find some great deals, support your library, and check out all the wonderful things the Willits Library offers.

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm, and Thursday, 1 to 7 pm.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW381

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 on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provision of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 8th day of April, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at GLENMARK NORTH 395 North Main Street, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California the following:

Dawn Bruton	419
Vicki Chambers	427
Dan Hendleman	416
Dan Hendleman	612
Mark Narvaez	717
Krista Switzer	314
310	

The goods are described as: Furniture, sporting goods, tools, household items, misc totes

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of the sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and the obliged party.

Glen Green
Bond-#70784656
(707) 459-4628

Publication Dates: March 27, April 7, 2022

Willits Elementary Charter School

Kindergarten spots open!

Willits Elementary Charter School is accepting applications for the lottery to join our school in 2022-2023. We will hold the public lottery on Tuesday, May 3. Applications are available on our website and in the school office.

All applications due by Friday, April 29.

Questions: 707-459-1400

The Electric Floral Shop

45 West Mendocino Avenue
Willits, CA 95490
www.kikibattoos.com

@kiki_tattoos

Appointment Only - Sunday through Tuesday

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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 uicearbhail@gmail.com

Estate Sale

Call 707-459-5464 for information (land line, so can't text) about this ongoing estate sale. Call in afternoons to late evenings. Lots of kitchen stuff, furniture, appliances, tools, tool boxes, etc.

Freezer Empty? We can help!

Due to health concerns in Mendocino County, John Ford Ranch will be taking meat box orders (not individual package orders) for pick-up: Rancher's Choice Box - 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: 25 pound box of hamburger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and we'll call back.

Moving Sale

Moving Sale: Everything must go. Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10. 9 am to 5 pm. 24322 Birch Terrace, Brooktrails.

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>

Help Wanted

Medical Scribe Needed. Full-time, onsite in Willits, self-motivated, organized, and professional medical scribe with experience in orthopedics, Spanish speaking. Willing to train. Please send resume/questions to Daisy at MaesTopNotchNotes@gmail.com.

Help Wanted

Thrift Store Merchandise Processor /Stocker. \$15.00 Hour Full Time (40 hours weekly). Send resume, including 3 references to wsidirector@willitsseiorcenter.com or pick up application at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd. or call Richard Baker at 459-6826 for more information. Must be able to lift furniture and have valid CA driver's license.

Food Bank Open

Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the front office at 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits CA 95490 – knock or leave in the locked mailbox in front. Food distribution is available at the back door on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.

Spiritual Food? No Money Needed!

Come Hungry. . . Leave Happy

Church of the Nazarene
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.to 12:00 noon
20690 So. Main St. & Muir Mill Rd.
Willits, CA

Come As You Are.

Marc Komer

Legal Document Assistant

An Affordable Non-Attorney Service

(707) 459-2775

245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.

S	S	E		G	A	L	A	S		A	M	B	O	S
P	E	G		R	I	A	N	T		V	E	I	N	S
A	P	R		E	D	D	I	E	V	E	D	D	E	R
S	T	E	L	E	S				A	C	R	I	D	
M	A	S	A	N		D	A	M	A	S	C	E	N	E
			S	I	G		A	C			O	R	E	A
C	A	E	C	A		M	A	L	E	S			M	U
O	S			G	R	A	D	A	T	E			S	A
M	I			E	A	R	E	D		P	A	U	S	E
E	D	O	M				M	E			A	L	B	
S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S		R	A	T	E	S
		A	D	O	B	E			M	A	R	I	N	A
R	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	I	S	T			T	A
P	R	O	A	S		R	E	N	E		L	C	D	
M	E	R	L	E		S	Y	N	C	S		E	T	A

Willits Airport Spring Fly-in April 9

Submitted by EAA

The Willits Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 1027 invites the public to the Willits 10th Annual Spring Fly-in at Ells Field, the Willits Municipal Airport, on Saturday, April 9 from 11 am to 3 pm.

There will be an opportunity to see the planes and mingle with the pilots, and enjoy a great barbecue with fresh grilled sirloin burgers and wild Alaska ocean-caught salmon burgers, with all the trimmings, and Häagen-Dazs ice cream for dessert for a \$10 donation. Lunch served from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

For more information on the Willits Experimental Aircraft Association, which is now in its 17th year, visit <http://www.eaa1027.org/>. For more information on the airport, located at 1320 Poppy Drive in Brooktrails, visit <http://willitsairport.com/>



Above: A row of planes to admire at a previous year's fly-in at the Willits Airport.

Willits Golf Team update

By Coach Jeff Yokum

On Tuesday, March 29, the Willits High Wolverine Golf Team hosted their third tournament of the year at home. The tournament was hosted at Brooktrails Golf Course.

Teams from neighboring High schools competed to qualify for the Coastal Mountain Conference North championships to be held later this year. Attending teams included Fort Bragg High, Mendocino High, Clearlake High, and Willits High.

Each year high schools compete in the CMC North league in the spring. The teams are lucky to play several beautiful golf courses here in Northern California. Courses on the schedule to play this year include: Little River Golf Resort, Buckingham Country Club, Brooktrails Golf Course, Sea Ranch Golf Links, and Adams Springs Golf Course.

In May, the team is planning a team building field trip to the Sacramento Valley. We will be attending Top Golf, a training facility where golfers use a multi-floor driving range to play games and hone their skills. We will also be playing a round of golf at a premier golf course in the area.

Willits High has a long history of playing high school golf. Willits has managed to have a golf team every year since the early 1980s. We are looking forward to many more years of this great tradition.

At left: The 2022 Willits High Golf Team. From left: Kayla, Sheyla, Coach Jeff, Alexa, Maci, Coach Nolan, Ethan, and Luka.

NOYO
THEATRE Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-NOYO (6696)
www.noyotheatre.com
NEXT WEEK:
**Fantastic Beasts:
The Secrets of Dumbledore**

**SONIC THE
HEDGEHOG 2**

(PG) 2 hrs 2 mins
Fri.:
4:45 & 7:30pm
Sat.-Thurs.:
2:00, 4:45 & 7:30 pm

MORBIUS

(PG13) 1 hr 44 mins
Fri.:
5:30 & 8:00pm
Sat.-Thurs.:
3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm
**No 5:30 show on Tues.*

THE LOST CITY

(PG13) 1 hr 52 mins
Fri.:
5:15 & 7:45pm
Sat.-Thurs.:
2:45, 5:15 & 7:45pm

**Roofing applications available
to fit any roofing need.**
Office: (707) 462-4514
Mobile: (707) 367-3786
Online:
www.basroofing.com
Ca. Lic. #927007
Email:
basroofing@live.com
W.C. & G.L. insured

Residential & Commercial
Serving areas of
Mendocino, Lake and
Sonoma Counties

**The
CHOSEN** at the **NOYO
Theater**
Tuesday, April 5, 6-8PM
Tuesday, April 12, 6-8PM

Come see the first ever multi-season show about the life of Jesus. Created outside of the Hollywood system, *The Chosen* allows us to see Jesus thru the eyes of those who knew Him. A non-denominational, non-church backed production completely paid for by donations. Over a million views on Facebook alone!
Refreshments next door in the Center for the Arts after the showing, plus receive a **FREE** copy of the most requested book on the life of Jesus from the Library of Congress (while supplies last).
No admission fee! Limited seating. See more of The Chosen on Facebook.



THE BUNNY IS BACK!
PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!
FRIDAY, APRIL 15
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!

NOW AVAILABLE:
COVID-19 Vaccine for Kids Ages 5-17
GET VACCINATED TODAY!

(707) 456-9600
LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER
45 Hazel St., Willits
We accept Medi-Cal, Medicare, Partnership
and other insurance. SE HABLA ESPAÑOL.
MCHCINC.ORG - MCHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

The rest of
Assess | From Page 1

"It's become apparent to me that a significantly large number of homes in Mendocino County may not be on the tax rolls, meaning we're picking up pennies for vacant land rather than fully developed homes," said Williams.

"And we have a really outstanding assessor, but I know she hasn't had proper staffing in a number of years, has a huge multi-year backlog, and there may be a lot of parcels outside of her backlog not even on the radar."

Williams said in the agenda summary: "Taxpayers are not receiving the services and infrastructure they deserve due to a significant pool of structures remaining untaxed.... Public safety, roads, and so much more depend on the fair collection of taxes."

He said that he advocated using some of the county's American Recovery Plan Act money for the contractor, and that the "return on investment" for the county would likely be substantial.

"This may be an opportunity where we spend \$1 to \$2 million and we see \$10 million a year ongoing revenue," he said at the meeting.

During the discussion, County Assessor/ Clerk Recorder Katrina Bartolomie said she was supportive of the idea of hiring a contractor to help with property tax assessment.

"Our whole objective is to find as many, what we call 'discoverables' within the county," said Bartolomie. "And we've started doing some of it, but we could definitely use some help. It would be amazing if we could get some extra funding to get this done.... Our assessments go right into the revenue of the county so I just can't see how it would not be a win-win solution."

Bartolomie said that currently their department is very understaffed, with three unfilled appraiser positions open, as well as an auditor appraiser and clerical staff.

She talked about how the county's new satellite imagery program with its Geographical Imagery System, GIS, is helping their efforts.

"With the cannabis grows, there are so many places that are completely inaccessible to us," she said. "There's locked gates, there's mean dogs, there's guns. So we have to tread very lightly on this as well. So that's where our new GIS systems that we have do come into play. We can look at that, we can make an educated estimate on what the assessment might be, and send it out. And then that way the owner can respond to us."

Williams emphasized that the goal of this proposal was not to pursue code enforcement against all unpermitted structures, but just to tax them for their share.

"The scope of this item is not about permitting, and there may be structures that are not permitted but are assessed," he said. "And I believe there's a firewall around the Assessor's Office, and so they may receive data, perform assessments, and cause taxation that doesn't trigger awareness by code enforcement."

Bartolomie essentially agreed with this point, saying they do sometimes receive information from code enforcement, but don't typically send any information their way when they're doing appraising.

"We are not code enforcement, we are appraisers," she said. "And most of the information on our appraisal records is not public record, it's for the owner only. So we do not include code enforcement with what we have... We dance on a fine line. We can't share our discoveries with Planning & Building."

"I don't want to red tag what could be 10% of structures in our county," Williams added later. "We already have a housing crisis. I think the worst thing we could do is exasperate it by red-tagging structures. Yes they should have been permitted, but it may be so widespread that we need to envision something like a clean slate 2.0. I see that as separate from the tax issue."

Williams said that he hoped the county would continue looking into possibly rezoning some areas to allow for higher housing density which could lead to more houses being able to get permitted.

Local resident Redhawk Pallesen was invited by Williams to present his findings to the board, based on some volunteer research he had done on unpermitted houses and other related matters.

"Based on my research Mendocino County has approximately 3,000 unpermitted homes," said Pallesen. "Using current tax rates this means that there's about \$15 million annually in lost revenue for the county."

Pallesen didn't go into much detail about how he found the unpermitted home numbers, saying only "I used resources available to any member of the public".

He said that he first began looking into the issue after noticing large discrepancies in the 2020 census data compared to what he was seeing firsthand in his neighborhood regarding the number of houses.

According to Pallesen, he then extended his research and found large numbers of un-permitted housing that exist throughout most of the county, with many of them being medium to high in value.

At one point Williams asked Bartolomie, "Would you be surprised if 10% of structures are untaxed in Mendocino County?"

"Honestly I don't know, [but] I would not be surprised if it was that high," she responded. "There's a lot of places that are off the grid. There are a lot of places that maybe aren't off the grid, but are so rural that we have no idea unless we happen to discover it, or unless code enforcement gives us a heads up on it."

"Or unless we see it when we're looking for stuff on our GIS as well," she added. "If something's been brought to our attention, the first thing we do is look at the GIS and see what's up there."

Williams also talked about how the satellite imagery program may help their efforts in pursuing property assessments.

"I did do a little bit of research about other counties that have used contractors," said Williams. "It seems like the satellite imagery may not give us everything we need, but it could give us an initial snapshot to understand how widespread this problem is."

"Imagine if you were to develop a 'mask' of all the parcels that we know have development," Williams continued ... "[and] overlay it on top of the satellite image – you would look at that remainder and say, 'Hey there's a lot of houses here that we think are vacant land.'"

During public comments Ron Edwards of Willits called in and noted that there had been a lot of "pushback" on social media about the proposal, and felt the board should have done more to educate the public about it.

"I really need to cry foul on this one," said Edwards. "On this item on the agenda, there was no attachment about this presentation.... This has some real serious consequences, and I think that a workshop should be opened up on this. There's just endless problems that can come from this. Not justifying what the people did, but I think it needs to be a much better approach than just going and using this satellite."

Supervisors responded that there would be an opportunity for more public input as the proposal moves forward since it was still in its initial stages.

Williams was somewhat dismissive of the social media negativity saying: "The pushback is almost like [they think] property tax should be optional."

"This is not just about revenue for the county and the services the county provides," he added. "This is also about funding our schools, funding health care on the coast.... It's about funding fire departments. We have 21 fire districts, and they're all struggling."

Supporting Ukraine

On the consent calendar, the supervisors approved a "Proclamation Supporting and Standing in Solidarity with the People of Ukraine," and First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty gave a statement at the meeting.

"Thank you fellow board members for supporting the people of Ukraine," he said. "I'm second-generation Ukrainian American. This item is a small token of support for the people being subjected to the horrors of yet another vicious person who has created a vain glory war."

"People of conscience must speak out to condemn this awful situation and an affront on humanity, rights, dignity and democracy," McGourty said, "and that's what we now have. So I thank you very much for your consideration of this item."

The rest of
Council | From Page 1

At the March 23 city council meeting the council postponed a vote on the ordinance, awaiting a similar countywide ordinance being discussed by the county supervisors. The council decided that to avoid conflicts, a city tobacco ordinance should be identical to any county ordinance. City manager Brain Bender anticipates seeing a completed county ordinance sometime in April.

(Editor's note: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted 5 to 0 at their Tuesday, April 5 meeting, to move forward with the county ordinance banning flavored tobacco.)

The stated purpose of the proposed law is "to prohibit the marketing and availability of flavored tobacco products to minors." The ordinance, however, will outlaw all sales of flavored tobacco products, regardless of the age of the buyer. Presently, no one under the age of 21 can legally purchase flavored tobacco or any other tobacco products.

The Willits ordinance, as well as the push for a countywide ordinance, is spearheaded by a citizens advisory board known as the Mendocino County Tobacco Prevention Coalition. The TPC works closely with the county Tobacco Control Program but is not a county agency and has no legal authority to make or enforce laws.

The coalition, according to chairman Larry Olson, is a self-appointed group of individuals. Anyone who wants to be on the coalition can join it whether he or she lives in Mendocino County or not. Olson, who lives in Ukiah, said that there are members of the Mendocino County Coalition who live and work elsewhere and have no connection to our county. Coalition member and former Willits City Council member Karen Oslund said there are two Willits area people active in the coalition, herself and a woman from Brooktrails.

One longtime employee at a Willits convenience store (who has a son in Willits High School) told Willits Weekly that the real problem with flavored tobacco is vape pens, which manage find their way to high school students. The employee said that sales of menthol cigarettes and sweetened cigars are minimal and mostly to older smokers and "country people."

Two other retailers interviewed by Willits Weekly, who own their stores, were opposed to outlawing flavored tobacco sales to adults. The retailers questioned the need for another law to protect minors that are already protected by current laws. The retailers (and customers chiming in) were aggravated about losing yet another right for adults to make decisions for themselves – and, admittedly, losing a major source of income.

Coalition chair Olson expressed no sympathy for the store owners. "If you've chosen to sell a product that's dangerous to health...." and let the rest of his opinion speak for itself. One local retailer suggested that the voters in Willits should decide if stores can or can't sell flavored tobacco, instead of the legislators, which he said he realizes isn't going to happen.

The mysterious Life Ray compound at the corner of Main and Walnut streets – with the gnome-like little dome and the troubling talk about a radiation laboratory – came up once again during a discussion about the city's new vacant commercial building ordinance, which is not accomplishing much in the way of intended results.

Community Development Director Dusty Duley told the council that the list of vacant usable commercial buildings is "smaller than what we first anticipated. All commercial buildings that appear

The rest of
Possession | From Page 1

heroin at the time of her arrest.

A search of the residence was conducted, and more methamphetamine, heroin and fentanyl was located. Deputies further located three digital scales and packaging material along with a firearm.

Additional felony charges of possession for sale of controlled substances (11378 HS and 11352 HS) and being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm (29800 PC) were added.

House was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where she was to be held in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

The rest of
COVID | From Page 1

is approved for boosters for anyone age 18 and older, while the Pfizer vaccine booster is approved for those age 12 and older. Immune-compromising conditions should be confirmed by a provider before getting a second booster.

Public Health told Willits Weekly the actual composition of the second booster shots is the same as the first booster shot made by that company.

"Getting this additional booster is the best way to strengthen your protection against COVID-19," the press release stated. "The additional Pfizer or Moderna booster dose for anyone who received a Johnson & Johnson booster, certain immunocompromised individuals, and people aged 50 and up will help protect our communities and continue to move the state forward."

A list of local vaccine clinics in Mendocino County can be found at: www.mendocinocounty.org/covidvaccine

In Willits, that list includes primary care

to be ready for occupancy – those buildings are being used."

Duley added: "The prominent hindrance is that the vacant buildings are in no shape to where they can be leased out. To the extent that the ordinance allows, we're trying to push and assist property owners in getting their buildings fixed up so they can be used."

As to Life Ray, in response to a query from council member Madge Strong, Duley told the council, "The Life Ray folks, very nice, did come in and obtain a business license for office use, which is consistent with the zoning." Duley added (and started to laugh as he spoke), "City staff went an extra step further to send a written letter as to the limitations that go along with that office use. We've had no issues with that property or the owners."

Life Ray, at the time a nonprofit corporation, purchased the corner property in 2018 and has been fascinating Willits residents ever since. The company's founders, Nancy and John Hutchinson, announced that they were going to build a laboratory to "live out their life's work of eliminating radioactive contamination, sharing innovative ideas and developing devices that will decrease the world's dependence on oil."

The property is not zoned for a laboratory and definitely not permitted to handle any radioactive materials. The city has repeatedly assured the city council and city residents that there is no operating laboratory and no radioactive material on the property.

An independent test conducted by Willits Weekly detected no radiation above normal background radiation in the publicly accessible areas adjacent to the property.

Today, neither Life Ray nor the founders have a listed telephone number, their web site is no longer online, and the State of California reports that Life Ray's corporate status has been suspended.

The REACH medical helicopter is here to stay. REACH Air Medical Services, based in Sacramento, has been using the Willits airport as a base for the last seven years and now plans to make it a permanent home. The city council approved REACH's request to construct a hangar at the airport to house and maintain the helicopter. REACH has been leasing an administration building at the airport but storing and maintaining the aircraft outdoors.

REACH, which originally stood for "Redwood Empire Air Care Helicopter," was founded in 1987 by Dr. John L. McDonald, a Santa Rosa physician. Dr. McDonald's one-helicopter operation has grown well beyond the Redwood Empire, to 50 REACH facilities in California and Oregon and a fleet of over 200 aircraft. Dr. McDonald died in a plane crash in Healdsburg in 2000.

Anna Blair, REACH's vice president of Business Development (and a Mendocino County resident) stated that "REACH is committed to strengthening our presence at the Willits Airport." Both the city and the REACH management are quite pleased with the arrangement, and hope for a problem-free happily ever after.

It's a bus after all. Mayor Saprina Rodriguez announced a brand-new, first in the county, all-electric MTA bus now cruising the streets of Willits, a welcome cut away from diesel fumes and polluting technology and \$6 a gallon fuel. Once the bus completes testing, there will a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Way back in the 1950s, the General Electric Company had a well-known motto: Live Better Electrically. Finally, maybe that'll actually happen.

The rest of
Burglary | From Page 1

of the male subject, and a short time later deputies contacted a subject, matching that description, walking northbound on North Highway 101 about a mile north of the adult female's residence.

The subject was identified as Ryan Okerstrom, 43, of Willits, and he was subsequently identified as the subject leaving the adult female's residence.

Okerstrom was arrested on felony charges of first degree burglary (459/460(a) PC) without incident. He was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

providers, pharmacies, and the Mendocino County Public Health office at 474 East Valley Street offers vaccinations on Mondays from 1 to 4:15 pm, and on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 4:15 pm. Walk-ups are welcome, or sign up at Mytum.com. All vaccines are available, including boosters. Rapid tests are also available.

New COVID 'Data Dashboard'

Public Health gave a presentation about the new online COVID "dashboard" at Public Health Officer Andy Coren's April 1 media briefing.

The main Data Dashboard page on the Mendocino County website is available here: www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-case-data

This page has four categories to click: Vaccination Coverage; Hospitalizations; Cases & Deaths (Overall); and Cases & Deaths (More Details). Each of those category pages present detailed information on the current and past status of COVID in Mendocino County.



‘Morbius’

The Story: Origin story of Morbius the Living Vampire, Marvel Comics’ bleakest and perhaps most saintly superhero. Doctor Michael Morbius (Jared Leto) is a highly empathetic research hematologist who is himself tortured by a fatal blood disease. He discovers a miracle cure through his research into vampire bat DNA. But of course, the cure is (quite

Dan Essman
Columnist

damnable) worse than the disease. The treatment gives him a crippling lust for human blood. It also gives him bat-like superpowers. He can fly. He echo-locates (without squeaking). His handsome face morphs from pretty Jared Leto-ishness into something quite horrific, wrinkled like a shrunken head with a hellbeast mouth full of needle-sharp teeth. And of course, he kills. (But only bullies, and only in self-defense.) And his heart is in the right place. Mostly.

My Thoughts: Jared Leto prefers to obscure his good looks in character parts. Consider his Oscar-ed performance in “Dallas Buyers Club” as a man dying of HIV/AIDS, or his performance as an aging, balding fashionista in “House of Gucci”. In this current flick, he’s a fearsome deformed vampire-monster whose gentle heart is at war with disease-driven bloodlust. “Morbius” has action set pieces, chase scenes, horrifying monster makeup, and unique special effects. But for me, the actor Jared Leto is the most captivating part of the flick, and rooting for him as the morally tortured Doctor Morbius is time well-spent in movieville.

Parents: This flick is too violent and too scary for the little ones. And Doctor Morbius, his visage, is really quite nightmarish. Special Warning: there is the danger that the moral conundrum inherent in blood-sucking for survival might turn your wee children into vegetarians. Vegans even!

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



Beautiful Maria

Maria is the most beautiful girl who just wants to love you! Maria came to us as a transfer from Clearlake Animal Control in Feb and she is ready to make your home hers! Maria is easily a volunteer and staff favorite; she loves people of all shapes and sizes and even recently met some young kiddos who were smitten with her.

Maria has spent all year living in a kennel – we would love to change that for her! This girl is just too sweet for you to pass up! Come meet her soon – she is waiting in kennel No. 12 with her buddy Arnold!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Great news! We are open back up – no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Sweet Athena

Athena, a brown-and-white short-hair tabby, is 2 months old. She is a very outgoing and people-oriented young girl. She loves to snuggle with her siblings Ally, Andy and Annie, also up for adoption as of April 4, but she also likes to explore and get to know people.

For more info about Athena or to see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter’s canine and feline guests, and for information about services, programs, and events at the inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. For information about adoptions, call 707-467-6453.



Willits Car Show seeks vendors

Willits 40th Anniversary Car and Bike Show is looking for vendors. This year’s show is set for Sunday, May 29, 2022 of Memorial Day weekend from 9 am to 3 pm in the Rec Grove.

Applications are available at several locations: Willits Chamber of Commerce, Coast Hardware, Scoops, and Little Lake Auto Parts.

If interested in being a vendor at the Car Show, email coastgloria@yahoo.com or call 707-472-1199.

ADOPTION EVENT

AT THE UKIAH & FT BRAGG SHELTERS!

The Shelters are full of GREAT DOGS! HELP US MAKE ROOM FOR NEW GUESTS during our **Spring Canine Adoption Event!**

HALF-OFF ADOPTION FEES FOR SPAYED/NEUTERED DOGS 6 MONTHS & OVER AT BOTH SHELTERS!

Visit our website to view our adoptable dogs, then call the shelter to begin the adoption process!

FT BRAGG SHELTER
19701 Summers Lane
961-2491

UKIAH SHELTER
298 Plant Road
463-4427

Visit our website at: mendoanimalshelter.com

Earn Entries Daily April 1 – June 26
200 points = 1 entry

Actual model may vary.

3X ENTRIES ON MONDAYS + 10 BONUS ENTRIES for Hot Seat winners on weekends

HONDA PIONEER DELUXE Giveaway

PRIZE DRAWINGS SUNDAY JUNE 26 AFTER 10PM
1st Place 2021 Honda Pioneer Deluxe
2nd place – \$1,000 Free Play • 3rd place – \$750 Free Play
4th place – \$500 Free Play

Customer Appreciation Days — TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS — 10AM – 10PM
Players can stop by the cage and pay \$20 cash to **get \$40 Free Play.**

SUPER SENIOR DAYS — THURSDAYS — 10AM – 8PM
Age 55+. Stop by the cage and pay \$20 cash to get \$30 FP plus a 50% off meal coupon at Creekside Café.

HIGH, LOW, RED, OR BLACK FRIDAYS • 5PM – 10PM
Get 1 entry for every 50 same-day points for a chance to play the “High, Low, Red, or Black” card game and **win up to \$200 Free Play.** Drawings every hour.

HONDA HOT SEATS SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS • 5PM – 9:50PM
Must earn 100 same-day points and play with your card in any machine during drawing times to qualify. Six (6) winners each hour will get **\$50 Free Play plus 10 Bonus Entries for the Honda Giveaway** on June 26.

HOP ON OVER FOR WHEELS & DEALS

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO
WWW.SVRCASINO.COM

Management reserves the right to cancel or modify any promotion at any time without notice. For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

Cold Creek Compost, Inc.

NUTRIENT-PACKED COMPOST, PLANTER MIXES & CUSTOM BLENDS
MADE IN UKIAH, CA

WHY USE COLD CREEK COMPOST?

- CLOSE THE LOOP
- SAVE MONEY
- REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
- GROW MORE

RECYCLING ORGANICS SINCE 1995

coldcreekcompost.com
(707) 485-5966
f @ColdCreekCompost

TO-GO OR DINE-OUTDOOR | 459-5702

WHAT'S SOUNDS GOOD? I KNOW, EL MEX!

166 SOUTH MAIN ST

Restaurant El Mexicano
EST. 1982

10AM - 8:30PM MON - SAT