

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Pizza and Parenting

To the Editor:
Hello families! Are you a parent or guardian feeling discouraged or frustrated with your child's behavior? Have you found the strategies you have tried are not working to help your child respond to you and others without excessive emotion?

Willits Unified is offering parent support and training through our Early Intervention and Engagement Program at Brookside and Blosser Lane Elementary Schools. There are currently two future sessions scheduled with more planned. Our trainer, Jackie Herz, is a school counselor with a behavioral background. Jackie is also available to provide individual ideas and support. We look forward to seeing you there!

Join us for FREE pizza, salad, and discussion, Wednesdays at Brookside Elementary, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Open to ALL families. Free childcare is available; you must call to confirm.

April 24: "How to miss a childhood": Raising children in the digital age

May 1: Behavior is communication": What are kids telling us by their actions?

Call or text with any questions: 707-518-0055.

Kelley Labus, Special Education director,
Willits Unified

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. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

Thursday, April 18: Shrimp Fettuccini w/White Wine Sauce, Garlic Bread

Friday, April 19: Carnitas Burrito, w/Green Sauce

Monday, April 22: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread

Tuesday, April 23: Italian Sub, Pickle, Chips

Wednesday, April 24: Pepperoni, Sausage & Olive Pizza, Green Salad

Thursday, April 25: Breaded Pork Chop, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Friday, April 26: Turkey, Stuffing, Cranberry, Veggies, Roll

Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.

Pancake Breakfast: every second Sunday, May 12 next month, 8 to 11 am.

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Joliana 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.

Thank you to the Frank R. Howard Foundation for their unwavering support

Submitted by Howard Memorial Hospital

It takes a village to care for our community, and we could not be more grateful for the team we have here serving with us and caring for our loved ones, friends, and neighbors. Everyone who walks through our doors in need of help is tied to us in our community. We work and live in a unique place that allows us to care many times for those we know and love and create a difference in someone's life that's close to home.

As we create an environment centered around patients and the care we provide, our continual work to improve, increase, and surpass the level of care we can deliver grows with each passing day, and today we would like to thank one organization for their invaluable contributions to our team and community – the Frank R. Howard Foundation.

The foundation, tied deeply to our roots in this community, is a vital part of the work we do at our hospital and Redwood Medical Clinic each day. Established in 1987 as the owners of our regional hospital, the foundation's objectives have remained the same, guaranteeing high-quality hospital services for Willits and our Northern California communities through advancement in healthcare, education and more.

With these efforts, the Frank R. Howard Foundation continues to provide for our team and community with complete trust and assurance that what they provide our team continues to be used for the greater good, as we keep excellent care local, close to home, and accessible to all those around us in our rural environment.

Over the last few years, the foundation has provided a series of gifts to us which have been an increased help for providing to our community. These gifts have included our new medical office building standby generator which was provided to ensure that in times of need we can continue to remain open and able to serve our patients; a surgical microscope used for adjusting magnification; brightly illuminating a space with a clear visual of the surgical field in the operating room; CAPRS which are respiratory headgear used to protect against aerosolized and airborne particulates which came exceptionally handy to keep our team safe during COVID-19 as we cared for patients; a top of the line Ares Manikin used to provide in-depth education for our clinical team; paint to fix up our solar arrays; and a state of the art Mamava lactation pod for lactating parents in our facility to use. These gifts have resulted in nearly \$500,000 in assistance from the Foundation that we are eternally grateful to have.

We are also appreciative of the Foundation's work each year as medical staff and the Frank R. Howard Foundation jointly donate funds to the Howard Community Healthcare Foundation for the purpose of funding nursing scholarships. In an effort to remedy the shortage of registered nurses over the years, with this scholarship following the nurses' completion of their program they are provided a career with our hospital.

We are increasingly thankful for all that the Frank R. Howard Foundation does for our team, collaborating with us as we build a better tomorrow for those we serve, and for this we want to give the very biggest THANK YOU for all they do to support us!

Redding Air Attack Base more than doubles firefighting capacity

Submitted by U.S. Forest Service

On Thursday, April 25, 2024, the USDA Forest Service and partners, including the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Redding, will celebrate the completion of Phase 1 in a five-year, \$28 million project to expand airtanker loading capabilities by 132% at the Redding Interagency Air Attack Base. The upgrades allow for simultaneous loading of five aircraft, up from two previously. This base is vital in providing initial and extended attack for wildfires across the Western United States.

In 2021, the base loaded 3 million gallons of fire retardant. The new configuration offers the potential to load over 6 million gallons. Plus, airtankers will no longer have to wait to be loaded, with direct access from the taxiway to reduce turnaround times. "Completing this phase is a huge milestone, greatly increasing our ability to accommodate five Next Generation airtankers and fill them at the same time. Our firefighting crews and the communities we serve will directly benefit from these efficiencies," said Yolanda Saldana, deputy director of Fire, Fuels, and Aviation Management for the Pacific Southwest Region. "And now onto next steps — Phase 2 to replace the 70-year-old hangar — giving firefighters a safe, efficient place to operate from. Lots to celebrate being done, lots of work ahead."

Originally opened in the late 1960s, the Redding Air Attack Base has long served as a critical hub for wildfire suppression by loading airtankers with fire retardant to support aerial firefighting. In its early days, the base served as a modest facility for a limited number of aircraft and firefighting operations. Small fixes have improved existing buildings over the years but, until now, had not kept up with expanding operational needs.

Airtankers are a vital resource supporting firefighting efforts nationwide. These planes are only one piece of the wildland firefighting tool kit that assist firefighting efforts on the ground.

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Willits Weekly prints letters and commentaries about Willits and Third District issues, activities, events, and people. We print letters to the editor 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.

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.



Mendocino Railway wins Visit California's prestigious Poppy Award

Submitted by Mendocino Railway

Fort Bragg, California – Mendocino Railway – The Skunk Train is thrilled to announce its victory in Visit California's esteemed Poppy Awards. The company has been awarded the top honor in the "Best Influencer Campaign: Business" category, highlighting its dedication to excellence in tourism marketing and innovation in engaging with travelers.

Visit California, the state's official tourism organization, received an overwhelming response this year, with hundreds of submissions for its biennial Poppy Awards, which recognize outstanding achievements in the industry. After a thorough evaluation by industry judges, Mendocino Railway - The Skunk Train emerged as the winner in its category.

"We are beyond thrilled to receive this prestigious award, and thus be recognized by our peers for excellence. The competition is still, and our category finalists were top-notch," said Melodie Hilton, marketing director of Mendocino Railway - The Skunk Train. "This award speaks volumes about the impact of our influencer campaign and the hard work of our team in providing unforgettable experiences to our passengers. We are deeply honored to be selected by Visit California for this recognition."

The award ceremony took place on March 12, at the Poppy Awards Gala, marking the culmination of the Outlook Forum in Greater Palm Springs. This gala celebrates the best work in the tourism industry and honors those who have made significant contributions to California's travel landscape.

The winning campaign, titled "Journey Through the Redwoods: The Skunk Train Influencer Adventure," showcased the company's innovative marketing approach by sending influencers on a captivating journey through the redwoods to The Glen Blair Bar. This initiative yielded remarkable results, including triple-digit growth in social media channels, double-digit increases in site traffic and gross revenues, and the brand's single biggest revenue day ever. These achievements underscore the effectiveness of Mendocino Railway - The Skunk Train's marketing strategies in engaging travelers and promoting its unique experiences.

Mendocino Railway - The Skunk Train extends a huge thank you to Visit California for this prestigious award.

For a full list of winners, please visit: <https://industry.visitcalifornia.com/more/newsroom/2024-poppy-awards-finalists>.

For more information about Mendocino Railway - The Skunk Train and its unforgettable rail adventures, visit www.skunktrain.com or call (707) 964-6371.

California Western Railroad / Skunk Train, located in the redwood forests of Northern California's Mendocino County, is a heritage railroad that has been operating both freight and passenger service since 1885. Initially used to move redwood logs to the Mendocino Coast sawmills from the rugged back country, the Skunk Train has become a beloved institution touted as one of the "10 Best Rail Tours in the Country" (USA Today), and a "Top 10 Family Activity in California" (National Geographic Traveler).

The Skunk Train journey covers 40 miles of scenic delights and 30 bridges, all while retaining its original charm—minus the historic pungent aroma that once preceded its arrival. Operating year-round, this multi-generational experience welcomes passengers to bring along their families and even their dog, ensuring a memorable and inclusive adventure.

More about the Poppy Awards: Crafted by California artisan Nicholson Blown Glass in Auburn, Poppy Awards are bestowed every two years to acknowledge the best of California's tourism promotion. Programs started January 1, 2022 or after were eligible for the 2024 Poppy Awards. Submissions were reviewed by Visit California staff, then blind-judged by California travel industry experts.

More about Outlook Forum: Outlook Forum is the premier travel industry conference for California, the No. 1 tourism destination in the United States. Outlook Forum brings together C-suite executives and industry decision-makers from California's hotels, rental cars, attractions, restaurants, retailers and other travel businesses, as well as representatives from Visit California's global network of offices.



Above, from left: Kate Magruder's Amanda is both humorous and tragic. Joshua Sternberg and Schuyler Marcier share a memory outside. Budding writer Tom, played by Joshua Sternberg, tries to get a moment of peace without the nagging of Amanda, played by Kate Magruder. Below, from left: Before the show and at intermission, the patrons can watch or buy the program, eat mini-pies, and drink wine, beer or spirits from local vendors. Tom is frustrated by the shyness of his sister, Laura. "The Glass Menagerie" director, Michael Ducharme, has been involved in theater for many years in different locations. Further below: Amythyst Romero, managing director of the Willits Community Theatre, checks the guest list. At bottom: Kate Magruder as Amanda and Sonja Bursal as Laura light up the stage with their presence.



Memory Play

WCT presents Tennessee Williams' 'The Glass Menagerie' through April 28

There are still many residents of Willits who are not aware of the fact that the town has an excellent, small, 74-seat theater. The Willits Community Theatre has consistently produced quality productions for the past 47 years. Last Friday, the theater opened its latest offering, "The Glass Menagerie," written by Tennessee Williams and directed by seasoned professional, Michael Ducharme.

The show will run Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2 pm, through April 28. Judging by the audience reactions, the play is an artistic success, with stirring, heartfelt performances by veteran performer Kate Magruder as Amanda, novice but brilliant Sonja Bursal as Laura, Joshua Sternberg as Tom, seasoned actor Schuyler Marcier as the Gentleman Caller, and the uber-expressive Aris Vellis as The Narrator.

The WCT has recently gone through some changes in key supportive positions. Amythyst Romero has taken over the role as managing director, and Jeff Shipp is the new production manager. With the help of Michealle Havenhill, the new house manager, they have created a new working paradigm which promotes the enhanced flow of creative and management systems. They work in conjunction with various committees who choose the plays and other entertainments which occupy the stage, promote various musical and poetry nights, and generally oversee the flow of creative juices while keeping the theater functioning.

"I picked 'The Glass Menagerie' for two reasons," said Ducharme. "It's never been done at the Willits Community Theatre in its 47 years of existence. I understand it is still required reading for Willits High School students. I read it when it was on my required reading list when I was in high school. All these years later, it's still on the list. The allure of this play, for me, is the exploration of the memory aspect of the play. I find often that it is downplayed, and I wanted to lean into that part of it."

"There is a lot of humor in the play," said Ducharme, "which is in contrast to the darker parts and sets up the ending. These are such iconic characters. Everybody sort of knows them. Another reason I wanted to do the play is that so many people know the play but don't remember much about it. No matter what level of participation that people have in the theater, many of their responses are that they read it or did a production of it many years ago."

Ducharme's husband, Bhavy Ducharme, who just directed the wildly successful "Rocky Horror Show" at the theater, expressed his appreciation for the current production: "This production

Read the rest of Menagerie Over on page 11



Photos by Mathew Caine

We need to feed our hungry

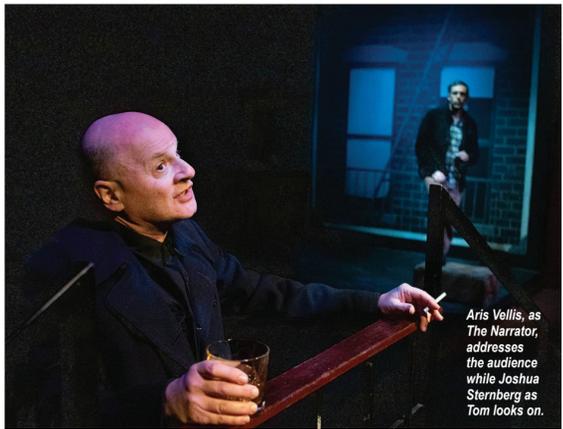
A Benefit to Save Our Daily Bread
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Awesome family-friendly uplifting music

After Show: Soup and Bread, \$5

Donations:
P.O. Box 182, Willits, CA 95490

April 21 • Sunday 3-5 p.m. by donation
Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial



Aris Vellis, as The Narrator, addresses the audience while Joshua Sternberg as Tom looks on.

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Manny Mello of George Peterson Insurance Agency is Little Lake's broker and represents the majority of the fire districts in Mendocino County. Mello says it's definitely hard for departments these days. He referred to a recent article in Politico about a CAL FIRE station that couldn't get fire insurance for its firehouse.

There have also been some reports of small, volunteer agencies suspending services due to unaffordable liability insurance, as in the rural community of Graniteville in Nevada County. This agency was eventually able to resume its work, but it magnifies the strain California's insurance crisis is putting on emergency services. Mello attributed Little Lake's increase purely to its zip code. Willits is not assessed parcel by parcel by insurance companies. Our proximity to nature means, for them, our whole town is one big risk.

Stories like these serve as good reminders to get out and support the fundraising efforts of Little Lake's Volunteer Firefighter Association. Their next event is the Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament, Saturday, April 27 at Sparetime Distribution on 300 East Commercial Street. Sign-ups start at 4 pm and gameplay starts at 5 pm, with dinner at 7 pm. Your \$100 buy-in includes a tri-tip dinner. Little Lake's volunteers are hoping to raise additional money to purchase new turnouts and SCBAs. Turnouts are firefighter's protective clothing and SCBAs are the breathing masks they wear in situations where oxygen is low, or there's the presence of toxic gas and harmful particles.

The Little Lake crew would also like to remind you to help them to help you by posting your home address clearly and visibly, with reflective letters and numbers. The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council has initiated a "Reflect to Protect" program. According to their website, "California code requires addresses be marked by REFLECTIVE SIGNS, clearly visible from both directions on the roadway...for a donation of \$20, you can obtain a custom, two-sided, green-and-white address sign for your home."

See the Fire Council's website: firesafemendocino.org to order. The signs need to be picked up in Ukiah. They don't mail them, so it's a good opportunity to get your neighbors involved, put in an order for your whole street, and designate a pickup person. Everyone knows how frustrating it can be to head up a gravel road looking for the right house, or how hard it is to find an address while driving down a street at night. Imagine having to explain to 911 how to find your home while you're having a heart attack. In an emergency situation, these reflective signs can save lives.

Lastly, on the agenda, three of Little Lake's board members are up for election. Tony Madrigal, Nancy Stipe, and Arnie Mello have all served four-year terms. Administrative assistant Schnitzius explained the election process a little further saying: "If no one chooses to run against them, then they will be able to continue operating on the board. If someone chooses to donate their time to the board and run against them, they will be on the election ballot in November for voters."

Employment Opportunity:
Wastewater Plant Operator in Training, I, II or III

Annual salary is DOQ/DOE:
Operator in Training: \$39,175.55 - \$47,618.27
Operator I: \$44,830.45 - \$54,491.63
Operator II: \$48,196.93 - \$58,583.62
Operator III: \$57,978.13 - \$70,472.69

Candidates must possess a valid California Class C driver's license or higher, verified by current DMV records obtained by appointment of hire. Premium pay of 5% above current rate for employees in possession of a valid Class B or A California driver's license.

Special Requirements:
Wastewater Operator in Training - requires employees to complete a training program and successfully pass examinations to obtain Wastewater Plant Operator I certification within the first 18 months of employment.

Wastewater Plant Operator I/II/III - requires possession of a Grade I/II/III Wastewater Treatment Operator's Certificate issued by the California State Department of Water Resources Board.

Application Deadline:
Friday, May 9, 2024, by 4:00 P.M.
Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org



Employment Opportunity:
Accountant and Sr. Accountant

Annual salary is DOQ/DOE:
Accountant: \$48,680.74 - \$59,171.63

Desirable Experience/Education: Any combination of education and experience which would provide an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and abilities listed. Normally, either possession of a college degree in accounting, finance or business administration with at least 12 semester or 16 quarter units of Accounting, including Principles of Accounting, Intermediate Accounting, Advanced Accounting, Governmental Accounting, Cost Accounting or Auditing; or one year of experience in the accounting field.

SR. Accountant: \$57,689.22 - \$70,121.58

Desirable Experience/Education: Any combination of education and experience which would provide opportunity to acquire the knowledge and abilities listed. Normally, either possession of a college degree in accounting, finance or business administration with at least 12 semester or 16 quarter units of Accounting, including Principles of Accounting, Intermediate Accounting, Advanced Accounting, Governmental Accounting, Cost Accounting or Auditing; OR possession of a Certified Public Accountant Certificate, and one year of experience in a position comparable to Accountant I in a local government agency or one year of experience in a professional level auditing or accounting position which demonstrates exposure to the many different facets of accounting theory and application.

Application Deadline:
Friday, May 9, 2024, by 4:00 P.M.
Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org



who was at that time living in Upper Lake but working in Redwood Valley.

The victim was stabbed multiple times and had his throat cut while he was performing work at the Lake Mendocino water outlet tower.

Troy Harden's brother, Ron Trevor Harden, and another man, John Jensen, were at the scene and convicted of being accessories to the murder.

In one of Mendocino County's worst recorded murder-suicides, Ron Harden killed four family members and himself in 1993 in Willits before he could be sentenced for his involvement in Stephenson's murder and attempted cover-up.

The April 4 parole hearing got off to a really bad start. The obviously confused board members started the hearing by attempting to prevent the Mendocino County deputy prosecutor from appearing to argue against Harden's parole.

Because there had been a change of venue to Humboldt County due to pretrial publicity in Mendocino County, the commissioners were of the mistaken belief that the Mendocino County district attorney had no standing to even appear at the parole hearing (despite having appeared at all prior parole hearings), let alone to argue against Harden's parole.

Delaying the hearing, it was eventually made clear through official records that the Mendocino County DA - not the Humboldt County DA - was the prosecuting agency that handled the murder trial against Harden in Eureka in front of a Humboldt County jury.

Board members eventually had to relent and begrudgingly allow the Mendocino County deputy district attorney's appearance and listen to her vigorous arguments against granting Harden parole.

In brief, Mendocino County Deputy District Attorney Jamie Pearl argued that Harden remains unsuitable for parole because, despite the rehabilitative efforts undertaken during his years of incarceration, he still poses an unreasonable risk to public safety, citing the underlying reasons for this factual and legal conclusion.

It is also noted that members of the victim's family also appeared and argued against parole for Stephenson's killer, the next of kin also sharing their beliefs that Harden continues to pose a public safety risk outside of a structured prison setting.

However, changes in the law undertaken over time by the Legislature in Sacramento have made board findings that convicted murderers serving

life sentences are now suitable for parole an easier result, if not a probable outcome. Because of his age in 1994, Harden has been classified as a "youthful offender" with special parole rights.

A youth offender is an incarcerated person who was under 26 years of age at the time of the crime for which he or she stands convicted.

Parole board members are now required at youthful offender parole hearings to give great weight to factors "specific" to "youthful offenders."

For example, the board is required to give great weight to the non-specific general perceptions of diminished culpability of juveniles as compared to non-specific general perceptions of the culpability of adults, the "hallmark features of youth," and any subsequent "growth and increased maturity" of a "youthful offender" inmate.

Less weight, if any, is afforded the specifics of the crime and the forever impacts on the victim's family, friends, and co-workers.

Given the board's finding that Harden is now suitable and should be granted parole, he will be eligible for release immediately after the decision granting him parole is deemed "final" (which takes about five months).

The board decision granting parole is subject to the board's decision review process and the governor's separate review process.

For those wishing to express their agreement or disagreement with the board's parole suitability decision regarding Troy Harden, letters can be sent to: Board of Parole Hearings, Post Office Box 4036, Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

For those wishing to further express their agreement or disagreement to the final decision-maker regarding Troy Harden's parole suitability and release, respectful letters may be sent to: Governor Gavin Newsom, 1021 O Street, Suite 9000, Sacramento, CA 95814

For those interested in communicating with Governor Newsom via email on the board's Troy Harden parole decision, access to the governor's email portal is available at www.gov.ca.gov/contact/

Once at the portal page, for the topic use "Parole Issues/Concerns" and click on "Leave a comment." When you click and navigate to the second page, you will be asked to check whether you are "pro" or "con" on the parole issue/concern, before being able to type your comments.

Ongoing Events

'Art Under 20' at WCA: The 25th anniversary exhibit of student art from Willits High School, plus Willits Charter School and Potter Valley High School, is featured at Willits Center for the Arts in April. Gallery hours at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, are Friday through Sunday 11 am to 5 pm.

Free Food Pop-Ups: Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program's Food Pop-Up in Willits is now offering two events per month, first and third Thursdays, at 1250 Blosser Lane, from noon to 1 pm, weather permitting. Free food for all! In March these food pop-ups will happen March 7 and 21 this month. Info: outreach@fboodbank.org; 707-964-9404

'In the Field' Exhibit: Mendocino County Museum's latest exhibit, "In the Field: Exploring Botany in Mendocino County," celebrates the study of unique plants that grow in our region, reflecting on the pursuits of Mendocino County botanists from past to present, featuring sketches, illustrations, photographs, and pressed specimens. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, is open 11 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. More info: visit www.mendocinocounty.org/museum

Willits Tennis Club: Meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 11 am at the Willits High School courts. New members welcome. Free. Show up or call 707-484-3385.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every week on Mondays, 6 pm, at the Muse in Willits, 30 East San Francisco Street. More info: 707-354-1866.

Willits Drum Circle: Every second and fourth Fridays at 7 pm. At St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial 7pm. Info: Bill Bruneau: 459-3390.

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

Shuffleboard Sunday at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl: "Sign-ups start at 4 pm. Games start at 4:45 pm. \$5 sign-up fee, teams of two, winner takes the pot! We'll have the games on all day. Beer, wine, pizza, we've got everything you need!" Flying Dog Wood Pizza, 65 South Main Street.

The Redwood Empire Food Bank: Twice-monthly drive-thru food distribution in Willits, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, located in the parking lot of the soccer and baseball fields, 9:30 to 11 am. Groceries to go, senior basket (for low-income seniors 60 or older), and diapers.

Willits Boules Club: Tuesdays and Fridays at 3 pm: The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: bbruneau@bbruneau.com

Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym: Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers free classes for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street, on Thursday evenings. "We teach Matsubayashi Shorin Ryu Karate, Kenpo Youth/Adult Self Defense, Bully and Abduction Awareness/Defense, and Small Child PreSkills." Little Dragons Small Child "PreSkillz" karate class, 6 to 6:30 pm, ages 3, 4, 5, 6 (7) year-olds. Beginner/intermediate class, 7/8 years and above, 6:35 pm to 8 pm. Intermediate/advanced class, all ages, 8 to 8:45 pm. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). More info: call or text Sensei Mike Tobin at 707-354-0565.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.
Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

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

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

LEGO Club: Tuesdays, now 4 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

Willits Walk and Talk: Join the Willits Branch Library staff for a 20- to 30-minute walk around the neighborhood. Come enjoy a little bit of exercise as well as some pleasant conversation. All ages are welcome. Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am; meet at the front entrance to the library, 390 East Commercial

Open Lab / Study Hall: Don't have a decent place to study? Come to the Willits Branch Library's meeting room every Wednesday from 3 to 5 pm for the new Open Lab / Study Hall. The library has plenty of helpful resources including public Wi-Fi, computers with internet and word processing capabilities, and databases to aid you with your research, plus friendly and helpful staff ready to point you in the right direction.

Calming Coloring at the Library: Thursdays, from 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library, An hour of quiet with coloring pages. Supplies provided. All ages welcome.

Chess for Teens: On Fridays, from 4 to 6:30 pm. Teens, ages 12-18 are invited; all skill levels welcome. Library staff will be there to help beginners and those who want to learn. Light refreshments provided.

Tech Help: Now every Saturday from 11 am to 12 pm: Is your computer on the fritz? Want to install a new app? Bring your tech questions and get help from the library's tech savvy volunteer

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



Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center thanks program volunteers

Posted by STRC
April is Volunteer Appreciation Month! Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center is featuring program volunteers on its Facebook page in April.

The April 6 post features volunteers Alice McAlister and Kathy Shuster. "These two beautiful friends bring so much joy to our team. Thank you for all of the creativity, care, and dedication you bring to Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center. We appreciate everything you do!"

The April 10 STRC posted features Volunteer Barbara Burica, who "brings so much dedication, generosity, and equine knowledge to our team. Thank you for all that you share with Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center!"

On April 13, STRC's volunteer appreciation post featured Erin and Ellie Ruiz. "This fantastic mother-and-daughter duo bring so much positive energy, flexibility and equine love to our team. Thank you for all the gifts that you share with Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center. We appreciate everything you do!"

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, the next Volunteer Training at STRC is set for Saturday, April 20 at 10 am. To register message the "Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center" page on Facebook, or text 7073913873. "We look forward to seeing you all soon!"

Read the rest of **Volunteers** | Over on page 11



Willits Elementary Charter School

Willits Elementary Charter School is accepting applications for the lottery to join our school in 2024-25. We will hold the public lottery on Friday, May 3. Applications for entering Kindergarten and grades 1-5 are available on our website and in the school office. All applications due by April 30. Questions: 707-459-1400

Willits Elementary Charter School está aceptando solicitudes para la lotería para unirse a nuestra escuela en 2024-25. Realizaremos la lotería pública el viernes 3 de mayo. Las solicitudes para ingresar al Kinder y a los grados 1-5 están disponibles en nuestro sitio web y en la oficina de la escuela. Todas las solicitudes deben presentarse antes del 30 de abril. Si tiene preguntas, llame al: 707-459-1400



Above, left: Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center board members and fundraiser committee members gather at Ridgewood Ranch to say goodbye and thank you to Mike and Margie Smith. Above, right: Mike and Margie Smith at STRC's event to thank them for their support over the years.
At left: Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center says thank you to mother-and-daughter volunteer duo Erin and Ellie Ruiz, for their "positive energy, flexibility and equine love."
Below, left: Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center appreciates volunteer Barbara Burica, left, for her "dedication, generosity, and equine knowledge."

JOIN US FOR PIZZA AND PARENTING!

Join us for FREE pizza, salad, and discussion. Open to ALL Brookside and Blosser Lane families. Free childcare is available; you must call to confirm.

BEDTIME and MORNING ROUTINES
How to make routines that work for your family
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

HOW TO MISS A CHILDHOOD
Raising children in the digital age
Wednesday, April 24, 2024

BEHAVIOR IS COMMUNICATION
What are kids telling us by their actions?
Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Brookside Elementary 5:30-6:30 pm
Call or Text with any questions (707) 518-0055

AVENUES TO WELLNESS
— YOUR HEALTH MATTERS —

A PROGRAM OF THE FRANK R. HOWARD FOUNDATION

Bereavement Support Group

This facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the symptoms of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward.

Beginning Thursday May 2
Time: 2-4pm
Willits Senior Center
To register call:
Suzanne at (707)456-9676

FREE OF CHARGE **Space is Limited: Register NOW**

Susana Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-Johnson
Group Facilitators

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

Church of Christ
"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-
6-7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-
7-8:00 p.m.

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
•A University for Soul
•Spiritual Living Courses
•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 Bandandam
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at
707-459-2252
https://santhonywillits.org/
santhonywillits@gmail.com
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
707-459-5714
Friendly, open worship
Saturdays
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
399 W. Mendocino Ave.
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort
where all are welcome
Pastor Rosemary Landry
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
www.willitsumc.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook willits umc

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

Thursday, April 18

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market moves outdoors for the season, on Thursday, April 18, to the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street. Hours are still 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Spring Library Book Sale: The Friends of the Willits Library Spring Book Sale is set for April 18 to 21 at the Willits Library, 391 East Commercial Street, in the conference room. Admission to the sale on Thursday, April 18 is reserved for members of FOWL only and is open from 5 to 7 pm; you can join at the sale. Open to the public on Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 from 10 am to 5 pm. On Sunday, April 21, the sale runs from 10 am to 3 pm. On Sunday all books will be only \$3 a bag! Book prices range from 25 cents for some children's books, up to \$3 for "special" books. Volunteer cashiers are still needed. If you can help with a two-hour shift, please sign up at the library or call Beth at 707-459-6453.

June Star at Shanachie: Star of Baltimore, Maryland, June Star plays Americana roots-rock with electric guitar (lots of 'em), pedal steel, and songs about love... Thursday, April 18 at 7 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Willits Community Theatre's production of Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues Friday, April 12 at 7:30 pm. "The award-winning play delves into the fragile dynamics of a mother and her two children, haunted by the memory of an absent father and their struggle to escape their suffocating circumstances.: Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm, through April 28. Tickets for all shows are \$20 and available at the door or online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org.

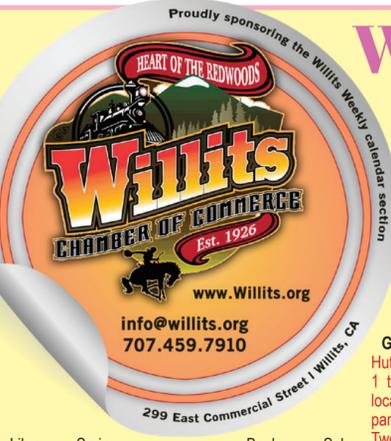
Friday, April 19

Spring Library Book Sale: The Friends of the Willits Library Spring Book Sale opens to the public Friday, April 19, 10 am to 5 pm. Willits Library, 391 East Commercial Street, in the conference room. See Thursday, April 18 listing for details.

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Friday, April 19 at 7:30 pm. See Thursday, April 18 listing for more details.

Saturday, April 20

Spring Library Book Sale: The Friends of the Willits



Library Spring Book Sale continues Saturday, April 20, from 10 am to 5 pm. Willits Library, 391 East Commercial Street, in the conference room. See Thursday, April 18 listing for details.

Spring Saturday Crafts at the Library: Join us at the Willits Library Saturdays in April for a craft to celebrate the spring season. 11 am to noon. Sunday, April 20 features Spring-Themed Wood Cut-Outs. All ages welcome. Held inside at the Willits Branch Library meeting room, 390 East Commercial Street, (707) 459-5908.

Spring Vendors Fair: Mendocino Crafts presents the April Vendors Fair on Saturday, April 20 from 11 am to 5 pm, outside at Imagination Station, 280 East Commercial Street.

Spring Library Book Sale: The Friends of the Willits Library Spring Book Sale continues Saturday, April 20, from 10 am to 5 pm. Willits Library, 391 East Commercial Street, in the conference room. See Thursday, April 18 listing for details.

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Saturday, April 18 at 7:30 pm. See Thursday, April 18 listing for more details.

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Saturday, April 20 at 7:30 pm. See Thursday, April 18 listing for more details.

Clay Hawkins Duo 4/20 Party at Shanachie: "Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart" by slide guitarist and songwriter Clay Hawkins and longtime co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on the upright bass. Saturday, April 20 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.



What's Happening Around Town

Sunday, April 21

Spring Library Book Sale: the last day for the Friends of the Willits Library Spring Book Sale Sunday, April 21, from 10 am to 5 pm is \$3 a bag day. 10 am to 3 pm. Willits Library, 391 East Commercial Street, in the conference room. See Thursday, April 18 listing for details.

Girl Scouts Meet Up, Troll Style: Come to the Scout Hut in the Rec Grove Park on Sunday, April 21 from 1 to 2:30 pm to learn about the local Girl Scouts troop. "Girls will participate in our Trolls It Takes Two Challenge and earn a patch while learning about the Girl Scouts Law. Families will receive a Girl Scout experience and learn why Girl Scouts is empowering for their girls." RSVP at: http://tinyurl.com/WillitsGirlScouts. Questions? Contact your community manager Deanna Lockhart at DLockhart@gsnorcal.org.

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Sunday, April 21 matinee, at 2 pm. See Thursday, April 18 listing for more details.

A Benefit to Save Our Daily Bread at St. Francis: Willits Daily Bread has been serving the hungry four days a week for over 25 years, no questions asked. The program is running low on funds due to the cancellation in recent years (thanks to COVID) of their annual Sip Some Soup fundraiser. The Cosmic Family Band will be giving an uplifting family-friendly concert on Sunday, April 21, 3 to 5 pm, to raise funds for Our Daily Bread. Soup & Bread offered after the concert for \$5 donation. St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, Main and Commercial streets. Admission by donation. Donations can be mailed to: P.O. Box 182, Willits, CA 95490.

Wednesday, April 24

"History Makers!" Program at the Museum: Create, explore, and listen to stories every Wednesday from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. during History Makers! at the Mendocino County Museum. April 24: Wildflower Watercolor Painting. Wednesdays in May: Botany Inspired Collage. Program attendance is included with regular Museum admission; free admission on Wednesdays with your Mendocino County Library Card. Info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.



Thursday, April 25

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues Thursday, April 25 at 7:30 pm. See Thursday, April 18 listing for more details.

Friday, April 26

Book Lovers Discussion Group: Meeting monthly at the Willits Library to discuss books, authors and genres. Come talk about why you love books! All adults welcome. Friday, April 26, from 1 to 2 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Sober Grad Pick-Up: Sober Grad's biggest fundraiser is set for Friday, April 26, from 4 to 6 pm. Pick up is at the Willits



'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Friday, April 26 at 7:30 pm. See Thursday, April 18 listing for more details.

Donnie & Friends at Shanachie: featuring local harmonica (aka "Mississippi saxophone") player Donnie, joined by friends and fellow musicians possibly including Gary Bouley, Jeff Martin, Rasta Sean and Tom G. among others, playing an improvisational variety of Chicago style Blues, Rock, Funk, Latin, and West African music. Friday, April 26 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, April 27

Spring Saturday Crafts at the Library: Join us at the Willits Library Saturdays in April for a craft to celebrate the spring season. 11 am to noon. Saturday, April 27 features Animal Ears Creations with "Paws and Tales!" Animal-Themed Storytime, that includes a special guest, Casey the therapy dog. All ages welcome. Held inside at the Willits Branch Library meeting room, 390 East Commercial Street, (707) 459-5908.

Bees, Blooms, and Crafts at the Library: Join us at the Willits Branch Library when we unveil our new Pollinator Demonstration Garden, Saturday, April 27, from 1:30 to 5 pm. We will celebrate the wonder and magic of spring by highlighting our "Pollinator Superheroes." Including a discussion, a film, crafts, and refreshments. Held inside at the Willits Branch Library meeting room, 390 East Commercial Street, (707) 459-5908.

'Clean Canvas Event' at City Park: Join City of Willits Community Development for the First Annual Clean Canvas Event, "Celebrating Earth & Art," on Saturday, April 27 from 11 am to 3 pm at Willits City Park. A day filled with creativity, environmental awareness, and community spirit! Please submit your artist, vendor and sponsor applications by Friday, April 19. Enjoy Educational Demonstrations and Vendors; Sidewalk chalk painting with Earth Day themes (FREE for all ages and levels of artistic experience); Litter abatement education; Art competition judging at 3 pm; and Opportunities to learn about re-use, recycling, and reducing consumption

Lambs and Gardens Picnic at Ridgewood Ranch: Join us at Ridgewood Ranch for a day of beautiful Spring activities on Saturday, April 27, any time between 11 am and 2 pm. Feel free to bring a sack lunch and eat in the pasture with the sheep or in the field with the vegetables. Dozens of white, brown, black, spotted, and grey lambs will be prancing around, and all of the gardens at Ridgewood Ranch are bursting. Tours of the gardens will feature tastings of the freshest veggies.

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Benefit for Firefighters: Support the volunteers of the Little Lake Firefighters Association at their Texas Hold 'Em Poker and Tri-Tip Dinner Benefit Tournament, Saturday, April 27 at Sparetime Distribution, 300 East Commercial Street. Buy in is \$100. RE Buys until after dinner. Signups 4 pm; game play starts at 5 pm; tri-tip dinner at 7 pm. Proceeds to go to training and other gear for our local volunteer firefighters. Stop by Willits Fire Station 54, 74 East Commercial Street, to get advance tickets.

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 pm. See Thursday, April

Annual Student Show at Mendocino College, April 19-May 19
Mendocino College is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated Annual Student Show, featuring an extraordinary display of talent from budding artists across various mediums. The exhibition will run from April 19 to May 19, 2024, with an exciting artist reception and Draw-a-thon scheduled for Thursday, April 25 from 4 to 6 pm.
The Mendocino College Gallery, 1000 Hensley Creek Road in Ukiah, will come alive with over 200 captivating works of art created by students from diverse backgrounds. From Photography to Ceramics, Painting to Printmaking, this showcase promises to inspire and captivate audiences with works from students hailing from the Coast Center, Lake Center, North County Center, and the Ukiah Campus, as well as contributions from Dual Enrollment students.
The opening reception on April 25 will feature an interactive Draw-a-thon, offering attendees the opportunity to participate in the artistic process. Dancers from the Mendocino College Repertory Dance Company will pose in costume for those who wish to try their hand at drawing from life, with materials provided. Light refreshments will also be served.
Gallery hours for the Annual Student Show are Tuesdays, 12 to 6 pm; Wednesdays from 12 to 3 pm; Thursdays from 3 to 6 pm; and by appointment. Additionally, the gallery will be open to ticket holders of theater performances, providing a unique opportunity for patrons to immerse themselves in creativity before experiencing the magic of live theater.
"This annual showcase highlights the incredible talent and dedication of our students," said Jazzmin Moore, director of the Mendocino College Gallery. "We invite the community to join us in celebrating their achievements and experiencing the diverse range of artistic expressions on display."
More info: www.mendocino.edu/academics/programs/arts-art-gallery or gallery@mendocino.edu.

18 listing for more details.
Cosmic Family Band at Shanachie: A local Mendocino County jam band, "sharing original music that is a reflection of being a part of this amazing community. We're the Cosmic Family Band and so are you." Saturday, April 27 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, April 28

Grange Pancake Breakfast: Join your friends at the monthly Little Lake Grange Breakfast on Sunday, April 28, from 8 to 11 am. "Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods: All you can eat pancakes (choose our Sourdough Wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or Gluten-free), Beeler's Quality Bacon, Organic Local Farm Fresh Eggs, Real Butter, Juice, Organic Coffee or Tea." \$10, \$9 for seniors, \$5 children under 10. Also: extra sides of Organic Fruit \$2, Amish Organic Maple Syrup \$1, Fresh-made fruit syrup \$1, Extra Beelers Bacon \$1, Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of Main Street).

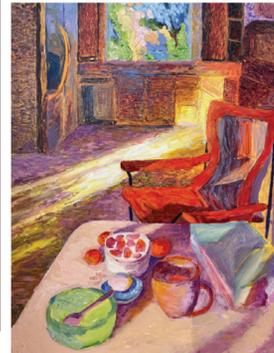


Closing Night for 'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," at Willits Community Theatre, is set for its last performance, with a Sunday, April 28 matinee at 2 pm. See Thursday, April 18 listing for more details.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Saturday Scramble: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, hosted by Tyler B. Bring any instrument you can play and sign up to perform a 15-minute set with other local musicians. "Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!"
Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm - welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, "so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!"

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Shanachie Pub presents its popular Open Mic Night every Wednesday, featuring an eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, you can be entered for the lottery. Lottery determines order from which you pick your 20 minute time slot starting at 7:20 pm



Some of the exceptional artworks showcased at the Mendocino College Annual Student Show this year. Opening reception is set for April 25 from 4 to 6 pm.



Annual Student Show at Mendocino College, April 19-May 19

The opening reception on April 25 will feature an interactive Draw-a-thon, offering attendees the opportunity to participate in the artistic process. Dancers from the Mendocino College Repertory Dance Company will pose in costume for those who wish to try their hand at drawing from life, with materials provided. Light refreshments will also be served.
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More info: www.mendocino.edu/academics/programs/arts-art-gallery or gallery@mendocino.edu.

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Benefit for Firefighters, April 27

With fire season coming up, support the volunteers of the Little Lake Firefighters Association at their Texas Hold 'Em Poker and Tri-Tip Dinner Benefit Tournament, set for Saturday, April 27 at Sparetime Distribution, 300 East Commercial Street. Buy in is \$100. RE Buys until after dinner. Signups 4 pm; game play starts at 5 pm; tri-tip dinner at 7 pm. Proceeds to be used to purchase items for the volunteer firefighters in Willits, such as web gear and training props (propane props and fire extinguisher education) for our community. Stop by Willits Fire Station 54, 74 East Commercial Street, to get advance tickets.

Sherwood Firewise Communities annual meeting, May 4, 2024
Submitted by SFC
Sherwood Firewise Communities annual meeting, "celebrating six years of neighbors working together to create a safer community," is set for Saturday, May 4 - National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day - at the Brooktrails Community Center, from noon to 5 pm.
From noon to 1 pm, Eat & Greet with Taqueria Ramirez Taco Truck, and exhibits of Roadside Fuel Reduction & Home Fire Hardening projects. From 1:30 to 3 pm: Agency Panel Discussion, with representatives from federal, state and county agencies discussing Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan update and Evacuation Preparedness. From 3:30 to 5 pm: Local Fire Safe Councils / Firewise Communities Roundtable Discussion. Forming and maintaining a FIREWISE USA recognized community. More info at www.sherwoodfirewise.org or info@sherwoodfirewise.org.

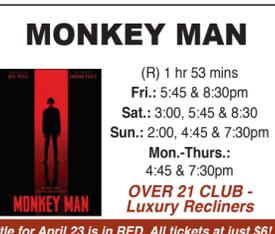


Fair weather is returning, and it's a great time to get outside! Visit a California State Park with a FREE California State Library Parks Pass. There are over 15 participating parks in Mendocino County alone! Just come into the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street, and ask for a parks pass. Each pass can be checked out for 21 days with your library card. Learn more at: www.mendolibrary.org/borrow/california-state-library-parks-pass

Spring Plant Sale April 26th & 27th, 2024



The City of Ukiah is sponsoring Earth Day Ukiah, a free community event, on Saturday, April 20 from 10 am to 2 pm at Todd Grove Park, 600 Live Oak Avenue, Ukiah. Features educational booths, arts and crafts, musical performances from the Instilling Goodness School, and an Electric Vehicle Showcase organized by Climate Action Mendocino. Info: Marianne Aranda at maranda@cityofukiah.com or (707) 467-5723 or visit www.cityofukiah.com/earthday



DON'T LET RIVERS FOOL YOU

Cold water and swift currents can overpower any swimmer

Trees, rocks, and undercut banks trap people under the surface

WEAR A LIFE JACKET

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS 2024 SWEETHEART?

GO TO OUR WEBSITE WWW.WILLITSFRONTIERDAYS.COM OR EMAIL US WILLITSFRONTIERDAYS@YAHOO.COM

Perpetual Chaps

PASSING OF THE CROWN

CELEBRATING EARTH AND ART

JOIN THE CITY OF WILLITS FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL

CLEAN CANVAS

SATURDAY APRIL 27 2024

11AM - 3PM

BUD SNIDER CITY PARK

FREE FOR ALL AGES & ARTISTS

JOIN US IN THE PARK to paint sidewalks with chalk, learn about litter abatement, how to reduce, re-use, and recycle, and enter into an Earth Day theme art competition to win prizes!

Snacks, beverages, and art materials will be available.

COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION BY APRIL 19TH

ARTIST, VENDOR, AND SPONSOR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL

MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS AND COLLABORATORS

The 2024 Willits City Council poses in the council chambers including, back row, from left: Council Member Greta Kanne and Vice Mayor Gerardo Gonzalez, and front row, from left: Council Member Larry Stranske, Mayor Saprina Rodriguez, and Council Member Madge Strong.

Connect with the Willits City Council

Do you know who are the Willits City Council members? Where they meet? If you can attend? How to contact them? Meet the 2024 group, and learn more about them below:

"Willits operates under the city council /manager form of government. The Willits City Council is the elected body that oversees all municipal operations. The city council provides policy leadership and acts as the legislative arm of city government. The five members of the city council are elected to overlapping four-year terms, ensuring that there are council members with experience guiding the city at all times. Council members also

sit as the Willits Planning Commission and the Willits Successor Agency and participate in regional activities," explains the City of Willits website.

The 2024 Willits City Council consists of Mayor Saprina Rodriguez (srodriguez@cityofwillits.org / 707-456-3405); Vice Mayor Gerardo Gonzalez (ggonzalez@cityofwillits.org / 707-456-3404); Council Member Greta Kanne (gkanne@cityofwillits.org / 707-456-3402); Council Member Larry Stranske, (citycouncil@cityofwillits.org / 707-456-3401); and Council Member Madge Strong (mstrong@cityofwillits.org / 707-456-3403).

The council holds regular meetings, when the public is welcome to attend, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 pm in the Willits City Council Chambers, located inside the City of Willits building, 111 East Commercial Street.

Library

Spring Book Sale

April 18th - 21st

at the **Willits Branch Library Conference Room**

Thur April 18th 5 pm to 7 pm
FOWL members only

Fri April 19th 10 am to 5 pm
Sat April 20th 10 am to 5 pm
Sun April 21st 10 am to 3 pm

Sunday all books only \$3 a bag!

Willits Library
390 Commercial Street, Willits
(Sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library)

BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

Joseph Iaccino, DC, MS
Chiropractor, Lakeview

Anne Martin-Ko, MD
Pediatrician, Hillside

Steven C. Wirth, MD
Family Physician

BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

Family Physician
Hillside, Dora Street, Little Lake, Lakeview

BEST OF LAKE & MENDOCINO 2024

Medical Facility
Hillside, Dora Street, Little Lake, Lakeview

Our mission is to provide compassionate, high-quality care for our communities. Your health matters. Call us today.

MCHC HEALTH CENTERS
HILLSIDE | DORA ST | LITTLE LAKE | LAKEVIEW

(707) 456-9600
LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER
45 HAZEL STREET, WILLITS
mchcinc.org

WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE.
MCHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

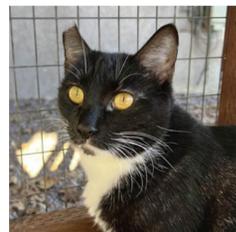
Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Bashful Lady Jane

This beautiful girl is so deserving of a loving home. Lady Jane is sweet and friendly but very nervous and insecure out in the world. She came in with her mom, Ingrid, but her mom was adopted and now it's her turn! She can spook easily, although she walks well on leash once she is comfortable with you.

Lady Jane will be able to blossom in a calm, patient and kid-free household. She would do best in a setting with plenty of room to run around and perhaps a mentor dog. She is very intelligent - she can open doors - and needs training and further socialization. She will be a perfect companion for someone who can be home a lot of the time, and give her the nurturing she needs. Come meet her and fall in love today ... she needs a special home devoted to helping her get settled in the world!

To learn more about Lady Jane, or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 459-4900.



Easy-going Shilo

Shilo is often found up high on top of the cat condos napping. She is an independent lady but enjoys attention when it comes her way.



Shilo spends plenty of time out on the patio and would do well as an indoor / outdoor cat.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Polite George

George ended up at the shelter through no fault of his own. He was a beloved member of the family until his owner passed. George is mellow indoors and he is house-trained. He walks nicely on leash and enjoys going for walks. This sweet dog knows "sit" and "shake." Mr. G needs to shed some pounds, and he's looking for an exercise partner to help him lose some weight!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from noon to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 3 pm (closed for lunch from 1 to 1:30 pm) on Saturdays. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinoshelter.com. Call 707-467-6453 for more information.



LEGAL NOTICES

WW483

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2024-F0196

The following person or persons are doing business as Danny Mihelic Construction Services, 260 Margie Drive, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Summit Signal, Inc., 260 Margie Drive, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 2, 2024.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on April 8, 2024.

/s/ Danny Mihelic, Vice President, Summit Signal, Inc.

Publication dates: April 18, 25 and May 2, 9, 2024.

Willits Weekly can run legal notices including fictitious business name statements, foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and more.

Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@gmail.com

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.



Mendocino County invites applications for:

Agricultural Field Inspector - Extra-Help
\$19.52 - \$22.61 Hourly

Corrections Deputy
\$55,369 - \$67,308

Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV
\$97,260 - \$162,718

Deputy Probation Officer I/II
\$51,937 - \$69,617

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner
\$75,878 - \$93,142

Deputy Sheriff - Coroner in Training
\$25.08 - \$30.48 Hourly

Eligibility Specialist III
\$52,520 - \$63,856

Facility Project Specialist I/II
\$67,870 - \$90,896

Mental Health Clinician
\$60,340 - \$84,843

Social Worker I - IV-D
\$49,441 - \$93,121

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs
EOE

CLASSIFIEDS

30 words for \$15 for 2 weeks

Art's Handyman Service

Art's Handyman Service. I am 68 years old. I live in Willits. Carpentry and more. Also quality weed-eating. Call me. Let's talk. 707-841-1991

Chamber Seeks Volunteers

The Willits Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to be a Volunteer. Our mission at the Willits Chamber is to make Willits a better place to live, work and play. Our purpose is to promote Willits and its economic well-being and quality of life. If you have any questions please reach out to info@willits.org or call 707-459-7910 Monday-Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

What Is the Secret of True Freedom?

You came into this life to spread your wings and live in freedom - heart, mind, and Soul! Come share your thoughts and experiences or just listen. Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St., Saturday, May 4th, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free books and refreshments available. Questions? Call Joy (707) 367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar in California.

INFOWARS Listening & Discussion Party

Friday evenings, time & location TBD, Alex Jones and The War Room. Propaganda Analysis, Citizen Action Network, American Development League, Lucifer's Bane: Church of Christian Mystics. 707-841-0149

Willits Food Bank at new location

Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, pantry staples, hygiene products, and more, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, at their new location at 344 Railroad Avenue. Food distribution is available on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.

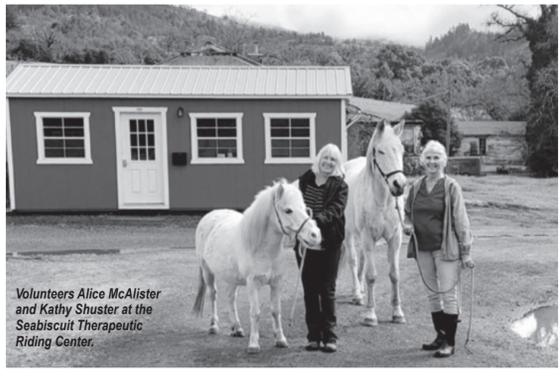
The rest of Volunteers

From page 7

Goodbye to the Smiths

STRC also said goodbye to longtime supporters Mike and Margie Smith, longtime owners of Willits Furniture, with an April 11 post. "What a beautiful evening to say Thank You and Goodbye to this amazing couple, Mike and Margie Smith," the post started out.

"STRC Board Members and Fundraiser Committee Members gathered to honor them for their many years of dedicated service and support to our program. Mike has led the Claws for a Cause Fundraiser from the very first one. He was instrumental in bringing many of the Willits business community members into sponsorships for our fundraisers, helped organize and run the fundraisers, and both he and Margie have been "Champion Supporters" of STRC for over 15 years. We will dearly miss their presence, their support, and their wonderful friendship. We wish them the best in their new Arizona Adventures."



The rest of Menagerie

From page 3

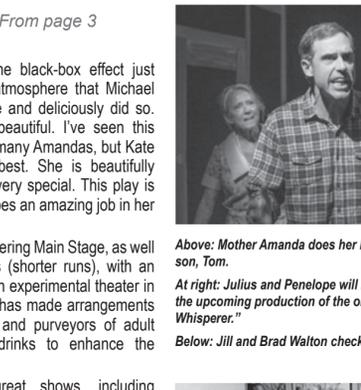
is beautiful in every way. The black-box effect just supports the whole dreamy atmosphere that Michael [Ducharme] is trying to create and deliciously did so. The acting is tremendously beautiful. I've seen this play a lot in my life. I've seen many Amandas, but Kate Magruder's is probably the best. She is beautifully tragic. That is what makes it very special. This play is acted exquisitely, and Sonja does an amazing job in her premiere.

This season the theatre is offering Main Stage, as well as Second Stage productions (shorter runs), with an array of old favorites to modern experimental theater in a cozy, intimate setting. WCT has made arrangements with local brewers, distillers, and purveyors of adult beverages to offer quality drinks to enhance the experience.

Upcoming are several great shows, including "Mothers and Sons" directed by Bill Barksdale, Sam Shepard's "Tooth of Crime" directed by Mike A'Dair, "The Gateway to the Stage" children's production of "The Addams Family" directed by Billy Hetherington, "Steel Magnolias" directed by Lisa Wilcox and Kelly Kesey, and "The Whisperer," an original by Jeff Shipp and directed by Shipp and Mathew Caine. Musical performances include Dirty Cello on May 5, Shovelman on May 10, Clay Hawkins on May 23, and Bug Guts on June 14.

On September 8, the Willits Community Theatre is going to hold a gala to raise money for the continued operation of the theater, which will feature a barbecue dinner and entertainment by songstress Sharon Garner and her band. Inquiries by prospective sponsors and underwriters are welcome.

With two more weeks, everyone should have a chance to see the "The Glass Menagerie." To order tickets, visit www.wctperformingartscenter.org, or they are available at the door



WILLITS WEEKLY CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1. A word that means to be necessary. 2. A word that means to be necessary. 3. A word that means to be necessary. 4. A word that means to be necessary. 5. A word that means to be necessary. 6. A word that means to be necessary. 7. A word that means to be necessary. 8. A word that means to be necessary. 9. A word that means to be necessary. 10. A word that means to be necessary. 11. A word that means to be necessary. 12. A word that means to be necessary. 13. A word that means to be necessary. 14. A word that means to be necessary. 15. A word that means to be necessary. 16. A word that means to be necessary. 17. A word that means to be necessary. 18. A word that means to be necessary. 19. A word that means to be necessary. 20. A word that means to be necessary. 21. A word that means to be necessary. 22. A word that means to be necessary. 23. A word that means to be necessary. 24. A word that means to be necessary. 25. A word that means to be necessary. 26. A word that means to be necessary. 27. A word that means to be necessary. 28. A word that means to be necessary. 29. A word that means to be necessary. 30. A word that means to be necessary. 31. A word that means to be necessary. 32. A word that means to be necessary. 33. A word that means to be necessary. 34. A word that means to be necessary. 35. A word that means to be necessary. 36. A word that means to be necessary. 37. A word that means to be necessary. 38. A word that means to be necessary. 39. A word that means to be necessary. 40. A word that means to be necessary. 41. A word that means to be necessary. 42. A word that means to be necessary. 43. A word that means to be necessary. 44. A word that means to be necessary. 45. A word that means to be necessary. 46. A word that means to be necessary. 47. A word that means to be necessary. 48. A word that means to be necessary. 49. A word that means to be necessary. 50. A word that means to be necessary. 51. A word that means to be necessary. 52. A word that means to be necessary. 53. A word that means to be necessary. 54. A word that means to be necessary. 55. A word that means to be necessary. 56. A word that means to be necessary. 57. A word that means to be necessary. 58. A word that means to be necessary. 59. A word that means to be necessary. 60. A word that means to be necessary. 61. A word that means to be necessary. 62. A word that means to be necessary. 63. A word that means to be necessary. 64. A word that means to be necessary. 65. A word that means to be necessary. 66. A word that means to be necessary. 67. A word that means to be necessary. 68. A word that means to be necessary. 69. A word that means to be necessary. 70. A word that means to be necessary. 71. A word that means to be necessary. 72. A word that means to be necessary. 73. A word that means to be necessary. 74. A word that means to be necessary. 75. A word that means to be necessary. 76. A word that means to be necessary. 77. A word that means to be necessary. 78. A word that means to be necessary. 79. A word that means to be necessary. 80. A word that means to be necessary. 81. A word that means to be necessary. 82. A word that means to be necessary. 83. A word that means to be necessary. 84. A word that means to be necessary. 85. A word that means to be necessary. 86. A word that means to be necessary. 87. A word that means to be necessary. 88. A word that means to be necessary. 89. A word that means to be necessary. 90. A word that means to be necessary. 91. A word that means to be necessary. 92. A word that means to be necessary. 93. A word that means to be necessary. 94. A word that means to be necessary. 95. A word that means to be necessary. 96. A word that means to be necessary. 97. A word that means to be necessary. 98. A word that means to be necessary. 99. A word that means to be necessary. 100. A word that means to be necessary.

WILLITS WEEKLY CROSSWORD

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OBITUARY | Neva Williams Hatfield

Neva Williams Hatfield peacefully departed from this world at her cherished home in Willits, California, on February 27, 2024. She was born in Oak Grove, Louisiana on October 22, 1938, to Warren and Georgia Williams. In 1951, the family relocated to California, where Neva would carve out a life filled with love, resilience, and devotion.

Neva dedicated herself to various roles throughout her life, serving as a cashier at Star Super Market and later as a secretary at Willits Tire Center. However, her true joy came from nurturing her relationships with family and friends. Renowned for her skillful sewing, Neva generously crafted countless treasures for loved ones, weaving her love and care into every stitch.

A cherished daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend, Neva's indomitable spirit touched the hearts of many. Her strength and compassion will forever resonate with those fortunate enough to have known her.

Left to cherish her memory are her beloved husband, Ned (Sonny) Hatfield; devoted son, Kenny (Tabitha) Knight; stepson, Steve (Janice) Hatfield; stepdaughters, Angie Hatfield and Karla (Jim) VanHagen; grandchildren, Matia (Dave) Gerstenkorn and Mandy (HB) Albright; step-grandchildren, Brian, Joshua, Christopher, Justin, Steven, and Ashley; great-grandchildren, Mayson and Silas Albright; and sister, Peggy Bloomquist; along with numerous nieces and nephews. Neva was preceded in death by her parents and older sister, Mary Durupt.

A graveside service honoring Neva's life will be held at Willits Cemetery on April 27, 2024, commencing at 11:30 am. In Neva's memory, contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

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Community Supported Hospice & Palliative Care

Your donations help more than you know...

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Open Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
& Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

We have See's Easter candy on sale now.

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1501 BAECHEL ROAD • WILLITS

OBITUARY | Fred Page

Talented concrete and brick mason, Darrold Frederick Page, age 86 of Willits, California passed peacefully at his home on April 3, 2024.

Fred was born in Willits at the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital on May 26, 1936 to Darrold and Mary Page, the last of three children.

Fred graduated Willits High School and continued his education in the U.S. Navy learning construction and masonry work in their trade school. He returned to Willits and built/ installed an abundance of patios, walkways and fireplaces that are still being used to this day. There was no job too big or small.

Fred preceded in death by his parents Darrold and Mary (Parham) Page, sister Patricia (Page) Campbell, and son Patrick Page.

Survived by his sister Laura June (Page) Banda; his son, Shawn Page (Wendy); grandchildren, Jeffrey Page (Samantha), Mary Page, Kian Page (Rosalee) and Dezra Page (Garry Littleton); great-grandchildren Merrick



Page, Devin Page, Rory Page, Lily Page, Abree Barnard, Emma Neal, Arora Page, Parker Page, Oliver Page, Tobias Page, and Sylvia Page; and nieces Pamela Campbell and Becky (Campbell) Stender.

Fred was a Navy veteran serving in Guam, a member of the Oddfellows, a concrete/ brick mason, a past-volunteer fireman in Willits, a Willits Redwood Little League coach and umpire, a mentor, and a member of the Grange.

Fred was nothing less than a loving Dad, Papa, Papa Fred, and great friend to Ray, whom he faithfully had coffee with, and Percy whom he went to have lunch with at the Senior Center every day. WRLL will not be the same without Fred sitting "in his spot" on the bleachers watching the Little League games.

We cannot sum up the life of Fred Page with words, as there are no true words to accurately describe how kind, generous, caring and loving he truly was.

A Celebration of Life was attended by family and many friends on April 9. Interment is to be held at a later date.



girl scouts

Trolls

Your Year of Friendship

Be a Girl Scout

Explore the Girl Scout Law in a whole new way: from a Troll's-eye view.

Free! Bring your grown-up(s) along.
Sunday, April 21, 2024 from 1-2:30pm.
Scout Hall, Recreation Grove Park, South Lenore Avenue, Willits, CA 95490

Girls will participate in our Trolls It Takes Two Challenge and earn a patch while learning about the Girl Scout Law. Families will receive a Girl Scout experience and learn why Girl Scouts is empowering for their girls.

RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/WillitsGirlScouts>
Questions? Contact your community manager Deanna Lockhart at DLockhart@nsncoral.org

Willits Farmers Market moves outdoors and back to the old Rexall parking lot this week

The weekly Willits Farmers Market moves outdoors for the season on Thursday, April 18, to the old Rexall parking lot downtown, 90 South Main Street. Hours are still 3 to 5:30 pm.

Stop by to check out local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, is from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.



Upcoming Kids' Camps

Registration open for WCT's 'Gateway to the Stage'

Registration for Willits Community Theatre's 2024 "Gateway to the Stage" Summer Camp begins May 1. Under the direction of Billy Hetherington, this summer's 7 week camp begins June 24. 30 campers will rehearse and perform "The Addams Family: A New Musical Comedy." To register, 707-216-1826 or wctperformingartscenter.org

Free Kids Art Camp at WCA, June 24-28

Willits Center for the Arts is offering a free Kids Art Camp this summer, June 24-28, for 7 to 12 year olds, with Caroline Hambright, <https://carolinehambright.com>, and other local artists. Limited space is available by lottery application.

Activities include: painting - printmaking - mixed media - street art - Pomo basket weaving with Buffle Schmidt - games - City Hall visit - nature journaling with Laura Corben - park play time. Twelve spaces available, chosen by lottery. Applications are open now; apply by May 15; notifications by June 3. Apply online at www.willitscenterforthearts.org

Camp Living Waters, July 21-26, open for registration

Submitted by Camp Living Waters Steering Committee
Camp Living Waters 2024 is set for Sunday, July 21 through Friday, July 26 at Cookson Ranch in Redwood Valley. Camp is open to youth ages 9 to 15, and youth ages 16 to 17 serve as counselors.

Join us this year for a week of Real Super Heroes, full of madcap cape adventures, identifying our God-given super powers and discovering the real superheroes all around us. Registration is open at CampLivingWatersHumboldt.org

Camp Living Waters is a week-long Episcopal summer camp open to all. It is a warm, welcoming and joyful community that encourages diversity. It is a non-profit camp based at St. Alban's parish in Arcata and draws its staff members from the faith communities of the North Coast who lead, supervise and encourage campers and counselors.

The week is based around a daily schedule including crafts, outdoor activities, swimming, Bible discussion, worship, and nightly campfire, with additional special activities throughout the week such as stargazing and archery.

Campers aged 9 to 15 make new friendships and explore their faith and ask questions; counselors get to do that and learn leadership skills in a supportive atmosphere. The week is spent living and building a Christian community based on the values of love, service and fun.

Andrew Curtis, who attended Camp Living Waters for six years, described it as follows: "Two words: God's love. This is the entire purpose of the camp. We find it in a multitude of ways: the cool waters of the creek, the fun activities, the delicious food, the support of the staff and counselors. This is the one time in the summer that I look forward to most."

Camp Living Waters is made possible through donations from throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, Episcopal Community Services, Christ Church Eureka, St. Francis Fortuna, Episcopal Foundation of Northern California, and others.

Tuition for the camp is \$200 and includes five nights lodging, meals, and activities. For information or to register go to www.camplivingwatershumboldt.org or call St. Alban's Episcopal Church at (707) 822-4102. Contact St. Alban's if you are interested in a campership (scholarship). We encourage those who would love to send their child to camp but cannot afford it, to apply for a campership. No child should be denied attending summer camp due to lack of funds.

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Benefit for Firefighters, April 27



With fire season coming up, it's a great time to support the volunteers of the Little Lake Firefighters Association at their Texas Hold 'Em Poker and Tri-Tip Dinner Benefit Tournament, set for Saturday, April 27 at Sparetime Distribution, 300 East Commercial Street. Buy in is \$100. RE Buys until after dinner. Signups 4 pm; game play starts at 5 pm; tri-tip dinner at 7 pm.

Proceeds to be used to purchase items for the volunteer firefighters in Willits, such as web gear and training props (propane props and fire extinguisher education) for our community. Tickets

at the door, or stop by Willits Fire Station 54, 74 East Commercial Street, to get advance tickets - advance tickets are always helpful for planning dinner events.

The rest of Workshop | From page 1

to hear a presentation on the project and offer input. The presentation will cover Local Road Safety/Action Plan goals, preliminary collision analysis findings, high injury networks, and the project's online outreach platform.

For Zoom meeting access, to provide online community input, and for additional information, visit the project website at <https://www.mendoroadsafetyplan.com/>.

Updating the Local Road Safety/Action Plans require public outreach in order to improve road safety and reduce traffic

fatalities, and gathering feedback from the community can help ensure the updated plans address their concerns and needs.

Your input is essential for the success of the updated Local Road Safety/Action Plans. Public input is due by May 3.

This project is funded with state grant funds provided by Caltrans. Contact MCOG project manager Loretta Ellard at lellard@dbcteam.net or 707-234-3434 with any questions.

Taller Público Virtual:

Actualizaciones de los Planes de Acción y Seguridad Vial Local para el Condado de Mendocino y sus Ciudades

El Consejo de Gobiernos de Mendocino (MCOG) ha contratado a un consultor para actualizar los Planes de Acción y Seguridad Vial Local para el Condado de Mendocino, y las ciudades de Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah y Willits.

Estos planes de seguridad actualizados permitirán a las jurisdicciones locales mejorar la seguridad para todos los modos de transporte y para personas de todas las edades y habilidades, y ayudarán en la obtención de fondos estatales y federales para implementar proyectos prioritarios de seguridad.

MCOG invita al público a un taller público virtual el jueves, 25 de abril de 2024 (6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.) para escuchar una presentación sobre el proyecto y ofrecer sus aportes. La presentación cubrirá los objetivos del Plan de Acción y Seguridad Vial Local, hallazgos preliminares del análisis de colisiones, redes de alta siniestralidad y la plataforma de divulgación en línea del proyecto.

Para acceso a la reunión de Zoom e información adicional, visite el sitio web del proyecto en <https://www.mendoroadsafetyplan.com/>. Este proyecto está financiado con fondos de subvención estatales proporcionados por Caltrans. Contacte a la gerente del proyecto de MCOG, Loretta Ellard, en lellard@dbcteam.net o al 707-234-3434 con cualquier pregunta.

The rest of Cubbison | From page 1

Tuesday, April 9 to formally recuse herself because of her personal and professional ties to a special prosecutor Eyster hired in March to try the Cubbison case.

In a formal filing on Tuesday, Shanahan cited a state code for removing herself as the trial judge. A court spokeswoman declined to offer any specifics on Thursday.

Cubbison's attorney, Chris Andrian, who knows all the parties involved, said the latest delay is disappointing, but "Judge Shanahan did the right thing."

"The judge and the DA's choice for special prosecutor know each other and have worked together in Sonoma County," said Andrian. "Judge Shanahan acted in an abundance of caution. I do not quarrel with her decision."

Judge Ann Moorman will now oversee the Cubbison case, which has been moving slowly in the legal system for six months.

The DA's decision to engage Santa Rosa attorney Traci Carrillo as a special prosecutor is blamed for another delay in the Cubbison case, and it has raised concerns about the financial burden being placed on Mendocino County taxpayers. If the case proceeds to trial as anticipated, the bill could reach tens of thousands of dollars, with Carrillo charging \$400 per hour. A \$10,000 retainer has already been authorized.

Eyster says his department is short-staffed, and the county's former Assistant District Attorney Dale Trigg left on March 1 for a prosecutor post in Sonoma County.

Eyster did not respond to a written request for comment on his decision to abandon his plans to prosecute Cubbison personally and to hire a special prosecutor in a case that has rocked Mendocino County politics and embroiled Eyster in the most serious political crisis of his 13-year tenure.

Eyster's decision to turn to an outside prosecutor in the Cubbison case sharply contrasts with his stance three months ago, when he publicly resisted defense moves to recuse him from the politically charged case. After being challenged for waging a political vendetta against Cubbison because of her questioning of DA office expenses, Eyster received the support of the state Attorney General's Office and eventually Superior Court Judge Keith Faulder, who ruled on January 12 that there was "insufficient evidence" to remove the DA.

However, the case took another twist when Judge Faulder, a month later, was recused from the Cubbison case on a preemptory challenge afforded to the auditor's co-defendant, former county Payroll Manager Paula June Kennedy. Public Defender Mary LeClair, who represents Kennedy, did not have to offer a reason under court rules.

Cubbison and Kennedy, veteran county employees, each face a felony charge of misappropriating public funds, stemming from an estimated \$68,000 in extra pay to Kennedy over three years during the COVID pandemic. Cubbison said former Auditor Lloyd Weer authorized the extra pay before she was elected auditor. Weer and Kennedy claim it was Cubbison who told them to use an obscure payroll code to make the unauthorized extra salary payments, according to Eyster.

As the case bogged down in early legal challenges, Shanahan stepped in as trial judge after Faulder was recused.

But then, another challenge.

DA Eyster's decision to hire attorney Carrillo forced Judge Shanahan to declare her possible conflict because of past personal and professional ties with Carrillo. The two attorneys worked together in the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office, and are friends.

Shanahan, a native of Willits, was a deputy district attorney in Sonoma County from 2007 to 2014. Before that, she served five years as chief deputy district attorney in Mendocino County under the late District Attorney Norm Vroman.

Since taking office in 2011, DA Eyster has clashed with three auditors, including Cubbison, over his use of asset forfeiture funds, including paying for staff dinners at a local steak house around the holidays. Office parties are officially banned under county policies. Eyster labeled them "training sessions" even though spouses and partners of staff members were guests.

Eyster publicly denounced Cubbison before the county Board of Supervisors, succeeding in blocking her interim appointment as county auditor when Weer retired early. The board, backed by Eyster, went ahead with a controversial plan to consolidate the county Auditor/Controller's Office with the Treasury/Tax Collector's Office. A few months later, Cubbison was elected by county voters to lead the consolidated departments despite the opposition of the board and the DA.

Cubbison, in addition to denying any criminal wrongdoing, has filed a civil lawsuit against the Board of Supervisors, declaring she was suspended without a hearing and lost pay and benefits because of Eyster's criminal filing in mid-October. That lawsuit is pending.

Carrillo is well known in Sonoma County for her roles as a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and civil litigator.

The rest of Brooktrails | From page 1

particularly the fire chief's position.

Fire Chief Jon Noyer said, "It's my 40th fire season. I've been here 20 years. It's been up and down. They were going to trade me in for a water tank one year, and the next year I got promoted. But, the way that the fire service is right now, the way that our community is built, it's not conducive to hiring new talent with experience. The last few hires that we've had were off the street, no experience whatsoever. It takes a lot of time to get to that level. To find yourself a chief for this district is not going to be an easy or simple task. You're going to have to reach far and wide.

"We don't offer a very conducive scheduling system for most people," Chief Noyer continued. "We work five days per week, eight hours per day. Currently, right now, I'm working a 14-day duty schedule, so I'm on for 14 days, day and night (mainly answering emergency medical calls). And my second in command, who is 23, is on the same schedule. We are the only two duty officers this district has. We have no other options.

"We need to start finding new options. Something needs to change, whether it's a different shift structure, or finding new talent. I do not feel that what we are doing right now is working. I do not know how much longer I'm going to be able to keep up at this pace. I'm of retirement age. We need to start looking at the future and how we're going to transition," Noyer said.

Board Vice-President Rick Williams asked: "How do we compare to other smaller districts in the county, like Hopland or Mendocino or the others? Are we big enough to compare to them to provide men and women an opportunity to make more money?"

Noyer's response was: "The majority are volunteer. Hopland has paid staff. Fort Bragg has day-time paid staff. Little Lake has day-time paid staff. We don't have a volunteer base. We have eight volunteers, but only three are active. We have three paid employees, and that's all that we have. We are a bedroom community. No one works in Brooktrails.

"Suffice it to say," Chief Noyo continued, "if we have a major incident, a fire, we have to depend on automatic aid from our neighboring fire departments, and they depend on us, because they're in the same boat. Moving forward we need to look at our shift structure, possibly going to 12 hour shifts."

Discussion then centered around how the district could get new volunteers and/or how the district could afford to hire more paid staff. The board will move forward with the discussion regarding the scheduling of a possible volunteer meet and greet sign up event at its April 13 budget planning meeting.

Follow-up on the February 27 meeting resulted in the agenda for the April 9 meeting including the item: "Consideration of Second Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Tamara Alaniz Amending Section 2(b) Adding Chief Administrative Officer of the Fire Department."

The proposed change provides "an additional layer of security to the leadership roles in the Fire Department. As the department moves toward succession planning at the chief level, there may be circumstances where this additional role for the general manager would assist the department in accomplishing its mission in the unanticipated event of a significant change in employee status at the leadership level. This provides flexibility for managing the department staff in the event the chief is not available."

The board voted unanimous approval of the Second Amendment to the Employment Agreement with General Manager Alaniz.

Continuing at the April 9 meeting, General Manager Alaniz reported: "Brooktrails had received 70.8 inches of rainfall so far this season with more to come during the week. A request for proposals has gone out for engineering for a possible Brooktrails Water Reuse project, and we've already received a few inquiries. The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program has ended, as of March 31. Important to note: the district received a total of nearly \$110,000 of assistance since COVID to help our customers' utility bills."

Finally, the board voted approval of the Accounts Payable for April 8, 2024 in the amount of \$108,540.50.

At right: Mariana Mendoza, left, and Jazmarie Henson give it all they got to get ahead of the competition in the 100-meter dash. At right, below: Arlo Jensen fiercely passes up a competitor in the 100-meter dash. At right, further below: Nikolas Bloyd runs ahead of his competitor with intense determination. At bottom: Damian Reiter makes a smooth long jump.

Below: Leo Moratti shows his impressive skills in the long jump. At bottom: Ava Holmen tenaciously sprints in the 100-meter dash.

Photos by Ava Dockins



COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

Willits Wolverines home track meet

Willits Wolverines held their only home track meet of the season on Maize Field at WHS on April 11. Many teams traveled from Santa Rosa, Upper Lake, Anderson Valley and Laytonville to compete against our talented athletes. This year's track team consists of only seven young men and women, who are each gifted in their skills: Ava Holmen, Jazmarie Henson, Mariana Mendoza, Leo Moratti, Nikolas Bloyd, Arlo Jensen and Damian Reiter.

A powerful trio of Lady Wolverine runners set out to perform in their heats with fierce tenacity. There was no stopping these young women from representing WHS and placing. In the girls event of the 100-meter dash, Henson took second at 14.2 seconds. Mendoza placed third at 14.6 seconds; and Holmen sixth at 14.9 seconds. In the event of the 200-meter dash, Holmen placed second at 28.6 seconds, Henson third at 29.4 seconds, and Mendoza placed fifth at 30.6 seconds. In the event of the 100-meter hurdles, Henson took an impressive first place.

The boys also set a precedent of top-notch persistence with running and fixity of purpose with the high jump and long jump. Bloyd and Jensen ran with the spirit of a bulldog, and only continue to improve yearly. Reiter has a spectacular long jump and high jump.

Moratti placed first in the event of the 100-meter dash at 11.3 seconds. He placed second in the high jump at 5 feet 2 inches. Moratti also beat the last record of the longest jump at WHS by athlete Scott Lassey. Lassey held the record at 19 feet 8 inches in 2003 until Moratti made a magnificent leap of 21 feet 11 inches last year. Moratti was second overall in the North Coast Section. He qualified for the state meet, but injured his leg the week before. He scratched in all of his long-jump attempts at this last home meet, but he will be trying to beat his current record this Wednesday at the Viking Classic at Montgomery High School in Santa Rosa. Impressive skills Moratti! Best of luck to you. We hope to see you at the state meet this year!

Congratulations to our untamed and competitive Wolverines track athletes on your placements and achievements. You should be proud of yourselves! Your community is proud of you. We are hoping more students choose to participate in the program next year. It is a fantastic way to stay in shape for yourself, as well as for other sports. It is a great way to stay on track with your body, mind and spirit. Go Wolverines!!



The rest of Pantry

From page 1

The Gardener's Pantry is sectioned into two areas: décor, which is all garden-inspired and includes everything from signs, to planters, to birdhouses, to pottery, to wall hangings; and the other area focuses on the processing side, including cutlery, mason jars, soaps, candles, storage, seasonings and more.

A five-person team of Sparetime Supply employees, including Laurin Hosford, Jaime Wilkes, Brandi Enge, Heather Walker and Lene Vinding, took the reins of creating the store's concept after the closure of the holiday store, which was held in the same building over the winter, offering gifts and items for holiday shoppers.

"We thought, if we're going to do this side store project, let's really do it!" Laurin Hosford explained as she looked at a potting table out front of the retail store which will be raffled off to a lucky winner during The Gardener's Pantry grand opening this Saturday.

"We were excited to open this special curated space that offers things that are helpful to the community for their garden and home; could help create a wonderful space for them to enjoy; and also ways to use the bounty of their gardens, or add elements to a homesteading lifestyle. We're trying to offer products that aren't offered elsewhere locally, and things that customers would otherwise have to travel to purchase," said Hosford.

With such a big project, the shop was split into different sections to allow everyone to help, infuse their own brands of creativity, and for the overall task not to be so overwhelming.

Jamie Wilkes' corner was put together with a theme of "greens and blues,

succulents and cactus." One of her favorite items are the mugs which have funny punny sayings like "Pretty fly for cacti."

Brandi Enge's area focused on the kitchen and pantry selections, choosing "farmhouse-inspired things I felt could also really be utilized," whether as its intended purpose, or just as decorative storage, like crocks, canisters and baskets.

"I love making bread, so we have great supplies for that, and really lots of home-style goods that I feel like really give the feeling of comfort and easy-living to the décor," said Enge.

Laurin Hosford did a sunflower theme for her area: "My husband gave me sunflowers on our first date, and I just love them, they're so happy!" said Hosford. "So I took on sunflowers and bees – we have a local honey vendor, too: Roxy Bees honey from Ridgewood Ranch." Hosford said she loved the sunflower planters on display, and noted that all the items were useful in other ways besides just decoration – they were birdhouses, planters, watering cans, etc.

"You know you can't buy meat processing things anywhere locally!" said Laurin's husband, Andrew Hosford, who, along with Brandi's husband, Scott Enge, also had a hand in helping curate a meat-processing corner where seasonings, casings, grinders and other supplies are now available to the community.

"Now you can!" said Andrew. "If you want to make sausage, jerky, or whatever, we tested things and found our favorite



At far left: The grand prize raffie item: a custom-made potting bench that will be given away to a lucky winner on Saturday, April 20 during the annual Vendor Day sale at Sparetime Supply, and the Grand Opening event for the new store: The Gardener's Pantry & Décor.

Photo by Laurin Hosford

At left, top: The "Man Corner" of The Gardener's Pantry & Décor offers beard grooming supplies made by Cody Swan, among other things in the new shop. At left: The sunflower station was created by Laurin Hosford and offers lots of options to spruce up your home or garden.

Below, from left: Candles make great gifts, including this coconut-wax candle made by Hidden Gem, which is scented with apple, vanilla and spice, and includes a beautiful crystal to enjoy once freed from the wax.

The kids' section includes garden-focused options like small-sized gardening tools, books and more.

Brandi and Scott Enge confirm that the handmade combs are indeed good at taming beards.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



seasonings and production, and can help get you supplies and information knowing it's good."

There's also a "man corner" with metal art, signs, bottle openers and lighters; a kids section with garden-themed toys and products like bug identification kits, mini wheelbarrows, and flower pot crafts; a mushroom zone with wind chimes, garden stakes, prints and more; and a kitchen supplies area where utensils, openers, measuring, trays, trivets and display items are available.

Growing an amazing garden, or raising your own livestock is all well and good, but sometimes, you're left with the feeling of "now what?" when your counters are overflowing with grown goodness.

Along with offering the supplies to turn the raw materials into their next stage, staffers of The Gardener's Pantry also hope to offer classes on processing, canning, preserving and other skills to increase the knowledge of what to do with all the delicious things coming from the garden – also possibly wreath making, painting, seed starting, and more.

The Gardener's Pantry is also looking for input from the community on what they travel elsewhere to purchase along these lines, that could be included inside the new store in the future.

"We will have an ever-changing selection of things," explained Jamie Wilkes. "Just because this is a succulent-themed area now doesn't mean that it will be next month, or that anything that was here will

be here again, necessarily. We're excited to offer an ever changing assortment to keep people coming in and seeing what's new and tailoring our offerings to what the customers want."

One-of-a-kind items are also being offered by many local artisans who are helping to fill the gift and décor side of the new shop with handmade items including: Jam from Emandal – A Farm on a River; Oil and Vinegar from Mi Distinctive Tastes; wooden cutting boards and beard combs by Cody Swan; Noyo Beeswax Wraps; Earth and Fire Pottery; redwood carved bears by Sparetime Employee Mike Woodruff; melted glass decorative bottles by Gail Yde; soaps by Mermazing Scents; candles by Hidden Gem, Misty Made, and Bell Springs Candle Works; Mamas Medicinals products; shower bombs and candles by Mandy Johnston; Ewe So Dirty products; towels and painted cattle skulls from Kenzie Barlow; and all the plants are from Blue Sky Nursery.

The store will be having its grand opening on Saturday, April 20, also Sparetime Supply's annual Vendor Day, and they will be holding raffles – including one for a potting bench - doing giveaways and much more.

The team is also looking to add staff, specifically to run the Gardener's Pantry & Décor store; if you're interested in applying, contact them directly at 707-459-6791.

Come by and see The Gardener's Pantry & Décor store during regular Sparetime hours, Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 6 pm and Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm.

The rest of AU20

From page 5

at the high school for a long time and struggling to find a venue to showcase student art, the Willits Center for the Arts opened in 2000, and Art Under 20 was one of its first shows," said Bakewell.

"I helped with Art Under 20's second year when I was student teaching," Bakewell explained, "and have been onboard ever since. When I formally took over the WHS art studio, I invited all the teenage artists in the community from our local schools, including Laytonville and Potter Valley High. Home-schoolers, independent-study students, and Mendocino College students have also shown their work at Art Under 20 at various times." This year, participating schools were the Willits High School, the Willits Charter School, and Potter Valley High School.

Longtime WCA Curator Gary Martin moved through the crowd of community members, sharing his satisfaction in presenting this Willits tradition at the WCA galleries. "Art Under 20 offers critical creative expression for these young people, instilling confidence and well-earned pride," Martin stated. "Exposure in the gallery experience through Art Under 20 cultivates a passion for the arts, and a deep appreciation for artistic diversity."

Teacher Caroline Hambricht has been teaching art at the Willits Charter School and participating in Art Under 20 for two years. She said that she finds the experience meaningful in the process of choosing their work and their writing a statement about it.

"It gives them a chance to reflect on their process. Seeing their work up in a public space gives them a sense of accomplishment." She expressed her gratitude for Bakewell's efforts over the years as well as those of the Willits Center for the Arts. "It's things like this that boost kids up and perhaps makes them think, 'Perhaps I can be more than I expected.' Experiences like this can motivate them into the future."

Potter Valley teacher Rossi Jensen agreed that seeing the pride that families take in seeing their student's art is

one of the high points of the Art Under 20 exhibit for her.

"Creating art is a way to tap into our feelings and our culture," Jensen said. "Watching students start unsure of their skills and begin to light up with confidence and inspiration is my favorite part of teaching. Having their art shown in a professional setting is part of the process."

Bakewell expressed her enjoyment of the gallery opening experience as well. "I loved meeting the proud families – mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles and friends – and hearing their conversations," she said. "It's important to appreciate the time, effort, and dedication the artists invest in making their art. It's great to see the community show up and acknowledge their effort."

Bakewell also emphasized her pride in all of the students represented. "They surprise and delight me all the time," she said. "It's a beautiful thing to witness their creativity, imagination and ideas come to life, while they become more confident. With each assignment, the students gain more knowledge, skills, techniques and abilities to add to their art 'toolbox.' I think the most important thing is to create a safe place where students feel comfortable and respected, and are encouraged to express themselves. Once they have the tools, every person is an artist."

Bakewell added that she was especially impressed by the crew who worked together to hang this year's show: Audrey Sherf, Kaylee Campbell, Monica Chavez-Mendoza and Sophie Andersen. "They just went to it and did a fabulous job, giving up a day to hang the show on their spring break! Hanging a show is a great learning experience in itself."

Bakewell said she has had dozens of students go on to a career in the arts. "Some have traveled overseas to study, and many have become professional artists, art teachers, and graphic designers," concluding, "Art is life and life is art. We are blessed to have thriving visual arts programs in our Willits schools!"



Above: Willits High art teacher Carolyn Bakewell, left, smiles with WCA Curator Gary Martin. Below: Rossi Jensen proudly shows her Potter Valley students' work.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhdo



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WHS Golf Team tied for first place in their Coastal Conference league

Submitted by WHS Golf

The Willits High School Golf Team is in first place now first place in their Division 2 North Coast Sections Coastal Conference league this season, after a win at the March 27 tourney in Ukiah and a win in Willits on April 9.

The WHS golf team is set for another competition on Wednesday, April 17 at the Windsor Golf Course.

Coach Jeff Yokum has been head golf coach for three years now and assistant coach before that for three years. Assistant coach is Nolan Jergensen, who has been coaching for three years now. "We are proud to coach and try and make golf fun for the kids," Coach Yokum said.

"Golf is unique, in that it can be played for your entire life," Yokum continued. "Nolan is really good with the kids, and they really respect him and his coaching efforts."

Yokum said he played on the golf team all four years of high school, with the team winning the North Coast pendant in 1992.

"I always thought it would be so cool if I could give back and help with the team when my children were in high school," Yokum said. Senior Maci Yokum has been on the golf team for four years, like her classmates Luka Ritchley and Ethan Winter.

"All the kids on the golf team are great kids. We don't have any problems and have a lot of fun," Yokum said

Yokum noted that WHS golfer Zahyr Lopez got the low score out of all the schools at all three tourneys Willits has played so far this year – surely he will make the statewide qualifier even this year. "Only his second year playing, and he is doing really well," Yokum said.

Willits High School has had a golf team for over 35 years. "We really want to bring home that pendant this year, and the kids are working really hard to improve their game. I am proud of them all."

At top, left: WHS golfers during practice at the Brooktrails Golf Course: Ely Bowles, Cole Lane, Zahyr Lopez, Tanner Dudley, Ethan Winter, and Maci Yokum. At top, right: After the win at Ukiah, everyone on the golf team is happy and celebrating. At left, top: WHS golfer Ethan Winter during the Ukiah tournament in March. At left: WHS golfer Zahyr Lopez got the low score out of all the schools at both tourneys Willits has played so far this year. At right: The 2024 Willits High School Golf Team. Back row, left to right: Assistant Coach Nolan Jergensen, Ely Bowles, Brody Bowen, Luka Ritchley, Brian Bowles, Maci Yokum, Ethan Winter, Zahyr Lopez, and Coach Jeff Yokum. Front row, left to right: Nikolai Ritchley, Ryzyn Lowham, Tanner Dudley, and Cole Lane.



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