

Willits Weekly

Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 497

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Supes say 'no' to no confidence vote

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

A preliminary budget discussion for the upcoming 2023/24 fiscal year took a wild turn at the April 11 county Board of Supervisors meeting, with Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams calling for a "vote of no confidence" for Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector Chamise Cubison due to what he saw as inadequate financial reporting over many months.

Williams repeatedly

Read the rest of

Vote

Over on Page 11

Girl, 15, charged with murder of Covelo teen

By Capt. Gregory L. Van Patten for MCSO

On April 15 at 11:25 am Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to the presence of a deceased person in a vacant field located to the north of the 23800 block of Howard Street in Covelo.

Upon arrival deputies contacted the uncle of the deceased person, who was identified as being Ruby Sky Montelongo (16-year-old female from Covelo). Deputies learned Montelongo's uncle had been searching the area for her after she failed to return home the previous evening. During that search effort, Montelongo's uncle found her deceased in the vacant

Read the rest of

Murder

Over on Page 4

Willits man resists arrest for sexual assault

By Sgt. S. Gray for WPD

On April 11, at about 6:18 am, Willits Police Department officers were detailed to 209 Bonnie Lane for a report of a woman screaming. Upon their arrival, the officers contacted one male subject outside the residence who claimed he had heard the screaming. The male, also the homeowner, provided the officers a key into the residence and consented to their entry into the residence.

The officers announced their presence and demanded entry. The suspect, Owen Kenny (35, Willits), responded by cursing at the officers, and refused to open the

Read the rest of

Assault

Over on Page 4



Above, from left: Fun patterns and bright colors are telltale signs of "It's in the Bag" quilted goods. Each item has a tag noting its locally made status. Along with the traditional square pot holders, "It's in the Bag" also creates heart-shaped ones, too. Below: Karen Gridley, owner of "It's in the Bag," shows off her tongue-in-cheek "pot pot holders" available to purchase at Cat's Meow in Willits.



Photos by
Maureen
Jennison

What, it's a pot holder!

Karen Gridley makes quilted creations including her amusing cannabis leaf 'pot holders'

Looking for the perfect gift to celebrate any occasion? Don't overlook the humble pot holder – and if you're feeling particularly celebratory on this 20th of April, "It's in the Bag" has the perfect gift: a cannabis leaf ... you guessed it ... pot holder!

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

"I started making pot holders about 26 years ago, basically to use up scraps of fabric I had left over from making my bags," explained "It's in the Bag" owner and Willits local Karen Gridley. "The bags lasted too long though; people would buy one and love it for years, so the bread and butter of my business really became the pot holders. People wreck them, people want new patterns, they're great gifts, everyone uses them, and it turned out to be a great sellable and re-sellable item."

However, the idea for a cannabis-patterned pot holder came from Willits' Peggy Randrup.

"Peggy told me that it would be funny if I made a pot-themed pot holder," laughed Gridley. "So I spent a long time looking for the right fabric and went ahead and did it, and people just love them."

Now, one of her most popular sellers, the pot pot holder is the perfect gift for someone looking to bring back a locally made, of-the-area item from their travels to and through Willits and greater Mendocino County or as a way to just enjoy as a little humor in their local kitchen.

If chickens, succulents or dragonflies are more your aesthetic jam, "It's in the Bag" has you covered there, too, with a large selection of fun colors, patterns and shapes of other hand-saving heat assistants.

Read the rest of

Pot holder

Over on page 9



At left: Karen Gridley models one of her six-pocket Travel Totes available at Cat's Meow and the annual Holiday Craft Fair in December. At left, below: The bags are available in several colors and have a washable bottom layer. Above: Clothespin bags hold extra pins for the clothesline. Below: Why do they call it a "roach clip?" Because "pot holder" was already taken!



City offers workarounds to rodeo grounds fixes

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits Frontier Days representatives brought their worries about delayed repairs to bathrooms and other rodeo grounds facilities damaged by winter storms to the Willits City Council's April 12 meeting.

"This last December a tree at the Recreation Grove fell onto the rodeo grounds leased by WFD, damaging two buildings, which if not repaired will require cancellation of the

Read the rest of

Fixes

Over on Page 11

Brooktrails board OKs beginner bike trail

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Township Community Services District board meeting on April 11 had the full attendance of all directors as well as several additional individuals present in the audience.

District Counsel Chris Neary remarked, "The recent annual meeting / workshop of Brooktrails staff and board [Saturday, April 9] to work on the draft budget for the coming year was particularly informative, productive and went very well."

Read the rest of

Trail

Over on Page 2

Parolee arrested for robbery, threats, drugs

By Sgt. S. Gray for WPD

On April 12 at about 8:25 pm, the Willits Police Department received a 911 call from a woman claiming that suspect Luis Hernandez (41, Willits) had just taken her cell phone from her by threat of violence, threatened to harm her, and brandished a pistol while making threats to harm her.

The victim told WPD officers she and Hernandez (on parole for a conviction of lewd acts with a child) had been dating for about two or three months. The victim stated she and Hernandez engaged in an argument because she was not answering her phone despite his repeated calls.

Read the rest of

Robbery

Over on Page 4

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Willits Frontier Days vs. City of Willits

To the Editor:
First of all I would like to mention that, in my opinion as well as that of others, we believe the Willits City Council has good intentions concerning the future of the Willits Frontier Days organization. The main issue that is being discussed is how to deal with the storm damage that occurred during the winter storms.

From what I gathered at the most recent city council meeting on April 12, Willits Frontier Days had submitted the request to start repairs on the "Margarita Hut" as well as the restroom that was damaged by a large tree that fell and partially collapsed one side of the building. The permits were approved by the city and shortly thereafter, prior to the start of repairs the city placed a stop construction order on the project.

The argument /explanation from the city was that the restroom building as well as the entire rodeo /fairgrounds were city property and, as such, could be considered public. Because the facility is considered public, there are laws in place that, according to the council, must be followed to complete construction repairs in order to insure proper structural, safety, and ADA standards are met.

There is also a requirement to open the project up for outside construction companies to bid on the project. The bidding process alone will take 30 to 90 days. With the WFD Rodeo on the 4th of July, the timeframe is not practical. Therefore, the city council has offered to place a temporary roof on the Margarita Hut and supply Frontier Days with approximately 20 "Porta Potties," three wash stations, and, I think, four ADA compliant stations, all to be serviced once a day.

The projected cost of the portable facilities will be estimated at around \$12,000 to \$15,000 paid by taxpayer money. I am deeply concerned about what the cost of the restroom could possibly be. If the public restroom on the playground in the Bay Area is any example, that project could cost the city close to \$1,000,000. (See: "Cost of SF's proposed \$1.7M public toilet significantly reduced with donations," KGO, January 26, 2023.)

Don't misunderstand me, I am not saying that the restroom shouldn't be built. I am just concerned that the taxpayer will have to pay even more money on top of what is already projected for the Porta Potties.

The Willits Frontier Days argument to this is that they have been continuously

running and self-sufficient for 96 years (longest continuous rodeo in the state of California) and have rarely, if ever, asked the city for financial assistance. As a matter of fact the Frontier Days organization has provided financial assistance to the city for various projects including, but not limited to, the hospital and the new fire station.

So they should be able to continue to repair and maintain the rodeo / fairgrounds on their own, as they have done for so many years without the city getting involved, and paid for by Frontier Days and NOT the taxpayers or any other outside entity; not including the generous donations and contributions made by their supporters.

My argument to the Willits City Council was if the restroom is considered public property and the city owns the property and they make policies for the city's property, why can't they vote to allow Frontier Days to complete the repairs? I added that they can have city officials oversee the construction to ensure all standards are met.

This would allow Frontier Days to fund the construction and repairs and not make the city taxpayer fund the project, plus have the facilities repair completed before the 4th. Their response was that they must follow the laws concerning construction projects on public lands, etc. There are other reasons brought up, but for the sake of brevity you can watch the meeting on YouTube.

My other concern/ question was that for 96 years Frontier Days has taken care of itself. Why now, after all these years, does the city council want to be involved? Surely there have been repairs needed during that time. Was the City of Willits responsible for repairs during that time or did Frontier Days take care of themselves? Finally and, in my opinion, most importantly, since the beginning there has been a lease agreement between the parties concerned; that being the City of Willits (represented by the city council) and the Willits Frontier Days organization. I am not privy to the specifics of rent, etc.

However, it was brought to my attention that stated within the lease agreement that Willits Frontier Days is solely responsible for maintaining and the repair of the WFD Rodeo/ Fairgrounds NOT the City of Willits or the taxpayers. This alone makes any involvement by the City of Willits a breach of contract and also makes their arguments moot.

The rest of **Trail**
Brian Kunka, Willits

Vendors needed for Shanél Valley Academy's Cinco De Mayo fundraiser

Shanél Valley Academy in Hopland is looking for vendors for their annual Cinco De Mayo event being held on Saturday, May 6. SVA is a culturally responsive, community school where all students are valued and supported. Their fundraisers help support their mission to restore equity within the community for all children and families.

Shanél Valley Academy is a non-profit organization. All proceeds raised from vendor space rentals go directly towards students' extra-curricular activities.

For more information, or for vendor registration application, please contact Julie Alvarez, Community Liaison, 707-744-1485 or julie@shanelvalleyacademy.com



Have something to say?

Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcome to send in a letter to the editor. Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, April 20: Mini Pepperoni Pizza, Chicken Nuggets, Green Salad

Friday, April 21: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Monday, April 24: Italian Sub, Chips, Green Salad

Tuesday, April 25: Chicken Burrito w/Green Sauce

Wednesday, April 26: Sausage Mushroom Stromboli, Green Salad

Thursday, April 27: Chicken Salad Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Pickle

Friday, April 28: Turkey Dinner, Dressing w/ Gravy, Cranberry, Veggie, Roll

Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am. Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am; May pancake breakfast is set for Sunday, May 14.

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

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

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

MCSO IDs human remains found north of Willits in 2021

By Capt. Gregory L. Van Patten for MCSO

On September 20, 2021 the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office was notified of the presence of human remains underneath Underpass Road at the intersection of North Highway 101 in Willits.

A motorist who was traveling through Mendocino County had stopped at the location and located the human remains while walking their dog.

Sheriff's detectives were summoned to the scene, and a coroner's investigation was initiated to determine the identity of the human remains and the cause / manner of death.

Sheriff's detectives collected a DNA sample from the human remains and submitted the sample to the California Department of Justice Jan Bashinski Laboratory in Richmond.

On April 11, 2023 the sheriff's office was notified by the California Department of Justice

that a DNA match had been made on the human remains submission.

The DNA analysis identified the human remains as being that of Thaddeus Keegan Bradley, a 27-year-old male from San Antonio, Texas, who had been living a transient lifestyle prior to death. His mother reported Bradley missing to the Arcata Police Department in July 2022.

Familial DNA samples were obtained during that time and entered into the National Combined Missing and Unidentified System by the Arcata Police Department.

On April 11, 2023, after official identification of Bradley's remains, the coroner's investigation was concluded with his death being classified as an accidental death due to acute methamphetamine toxicity.

may be a few minor changes to the configuration needed to make it work with district infrastructure and the surrounding environmental setting.

The 3 mile beginner trail zone is proposed in an accessible area off of the Par Course bridge and to the south of the water-treatment plant. District staff will work with the Willits Area Cyclists to ensure that there are no negative impacts to infrastructure, greenbelt areas, or Willits Creek.

Providing a beginner trail zone in this area will give people an opportunity to improve their mountain-biking skills on lower grades, whereas the majority of Brooktrails trails are steeper and not as easily traversable.

The proposal presented by Sherf was that the Willits Area Cyclists are proposing the beginner trail zone of easy-to-access, short, loop-able trails to be built on a small unused hill near Lake Ada Rose. This hill sits right between the Par Course, the water treatment plant, and Primrose Drive. This area is ideal for its ease of access and connectivity within the existing trail network.

There is an existing small gravel turnout off of Primrose Drive for parking and direct access. There will also be connection points with the Nutmeg Trail, so people parking at the Par Course lot can easily get to these trails after checking out the kiosk map. It would also fit very nicely into the existing network. In addition to the Par Course connection, there would also be links to Mike's Trail (to Mossy Rock / Rockefeller), and LeBrun (to Ohl Grove, or Jurassic Inlet / Rockefeller).

Sherf explained that the project would be separated into two phases. The first phase would be, hopefully, completed by the end of this coming summer and the second phase would be completed in the coming year.

He further explained that the idea behind the proposal was conceived to enable people to enjoy the trails more. He said, "Brooktrails has a lot of trails but they're steep and most people don't hike them or bike them because it takes a good amount of skill to do so. This proposed trail will make it easy for kids and people who are getting started, not fitness freaks, to go out and enjoy the trail."

Following a brief discussion of the proposal, the board gladly voted unanimously to approve it.

At right: Bill and Fran Gardner attend to pay their respects and to help raise money for the Schindel family. Jacob Foley speaks with Ree Sloucum. The Great Room at the Willits Center for the Arts is filled to capacity for the Greg Schindel event. Below: Malakai Schindel, Kyle Madrigal, Forrest Glycer, and Hal Wagenet perform one of Greg Schindel's favorite songs.

Photos by Mathew Caine



'Feel the Love'

Hundreds show support for Train Singer Greg Schindel while enjoying unique auction items and live music

As befits a person who has meant so much to so many people, whose name evokes melodic memories of frenetic bi-polar zanyness and music, the fundraiser and show of love and respect for the "Train Singer" Greg Schindel was an epic event, filled with songs, remembrances, and colorful citizens who have known the man over the span of decades.

The only people who could not attend the festivities were the guest of honor and his wife, Donna. Schindel, as should be expected with his cancer diagnosis, was not feeling up to a gathering. However, his aura was very much in evidence as almost all conversations were about him.

Attendees talked about how they knew him and for how long, and discussed their hopes for him to have a speedy recovery so that everyone could once again enjoy his unique brand of entertainment, stories, and unbridled jocularity.

Although no statistics were available at the time of this article's writing, it was estimated by organizer Cyndee Logan that over 300 local denizens attended at least part of the proceedings, which went from 2 to 7 pm on Saturday in the Great Room at the Willits Center for the Arts.

In addition to the \$10 admittance charged at the door, there were plenty of extras to purchase, all of which would go to the Schindel family to help pay for his treatment and other related expenses.

There were approximately 75 generously donated silent auction items, ranging

from simple art items to major kitchen appliances. From the number of people who were placing bids, it seems that the silent auction must have done rather well.

The big-ticket items were sold at a live auction, with some bidders even bidding against themselves to drive up the prices. A brightly costumed Pooba took on the role of auctioneer with Dickey Weinkle doing the spotting.

Two guitars were offered at the live auction. The first, a Dean JCR Sweetwater guitar with case, went for \$675, and the Ovation dreadnaught was bought for a bargain \$250 price. A fairly complete Pacific drum set was sold for \$250.

Local singer Nicole Aguilar brandished an antique Argentinian Model 1891 Mauser bolt-action rifle, which she showed to the attendees from the aisle. The rifle, after some enthusiastic bidding, went for \$500, to Lee Perisco.

A two-night stay at the newly refurbished bed and breakfast at Ridgewood Ranch sold for \$500. A 10-person staycation at John Wagenet's lake (including swimming, fishing, boating, and a campfire, with meals from Brickhouse, John Ford, and Kemmy's Pies) was won by Wagenet himself, who announced that he was authorized to bid for a friend.

A package of a backpack cooler, Bluetooth outdoor speaker, an insulated cup, and a sweatshirt hoodie, was sold for \$225. A series of djembe drums were

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



At top, left: Allegra Foley spends time with Scott and Rosebud of the duo Bug Guts. At top, right: Nicole Aguilar shows an auction item, an antique Argentinian bolt-action rifle that sold for \$500.



Above: Kyle Madrigal shows the Dean JCR Sweetwater guitar to the crowd for auction consideration.

At right: Richard 2Trees Jeske and his band play old favorites.

Below, left: Attendees browse the silent auction, which had about 75 generously donated items. Below, right: Musician Mitchell Holman opens the entertainment.



The Rules: LETTERS
Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.
Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

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Sherwood Firewise Communities' 5th Anniversary
Saturday, May 6 from 1 - 5 pm
Brooktrails Community Center
We'll review the accomplishments of the last five years
Discuss what to do in the next five years
Enjoy finger food, bbq, cake and ice cream
Door prizes, 50/50, raffle tickets for July 4th drawing
Hear from Tamara Alaniz (BTCSD), Supervisor Haschak and invited speakers
Many thanks to our sponsors...
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Tell us what you think about a transit center in Ukiah!
The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) and the Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA) need your help in planning for a transit center in Ukiah!
Scan the QR code to take our Survey
www.mendocinocog.org/ukiah-transit-center

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



HOW TO SUDOKU

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

GET COOKING WORD SEARCH

S F P B G L H E D A N H M A O C Y W N H X
 J C H O L A L A C J T T U K E H B D A X Y J S M H H
 R D O L A L A C J T T U K E H B D A X Y J S M H H
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- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| ADJUST | GARNISH | PLANNING |
| BREAKFAST | HOLIDAY | POT |
| CHOPPED | INGREDIENTS | PRESENTATION |
| COOKING | KITCHEN | RECIPE |
| CULINARY | LUNCH | SEASONINGS |
| DESSERT | MEALS | SLOW |
| DINNER | MEASURE | SNACK |
| FOOD | MIXING | TASTE |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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60				61				62		63		
64				65				66				
67				68				69				

CLUES ACROSS

- Dylan and Marley are two
- Makes healthy
- The Who's 'O'Riley'
- Side sheltered from wind
- Flat-bottomed sailboats
- Egyptian supreme god
- Advice
- Mass of small, loose stones
- Online learning services provider
- Lords in Northwest Semitic languages
- Of she
- A place to relax
- Critical and mocking
- Consumed
- You get one in summer
- Bath
- Luxury automaker
- Spiders spin one
- Guy (slang)
- Greek personification of Earth
- Hungarian instruments
- Domestic cattle genus
- Appetizer
- Oil group
- Where to put groceries
- Speak incessantly
- Popular color

CLUES DOWN

- One-liner
- Evergreen genus
- College in Rome
- Prevents from seeing
- Cycles/second
- Mischievous child
- Less common
- Honorably retired
- Midway between south and southeast
- Appetizer
- Oil group
- Where to put groceries
- Speak incessantly
- Popular color
- Egyptian cross
- Satisfies
- Founder of Babism
- Bar bill
- Chicago ballplayer
- Performer
- Hairpiece
- Partner to flowed
- Aircraft formation
- You have 3 per day
- Goes into
- College athletic organization
- Wet, muddy ground
- Talk
- Witty conversation
- Gurus
- 'French Price of ___ Air'
- Sports equipment
- Try to get
- Flower cluster
- Sea dwellers
- Palmlike subtropical plant
- Polio vaccine developer
- Baseball's Ruth
- Gelatinous substance
- Hungarian violinist
- Leopold
- Offered
- Ancient Greek City
- A way to derive
- Touch lightly
- Witnessed

The rest of Murder

field, prompting a call to the sheriff's office.

Sheriff's detectives were summoned to the scene and began investigations into the circumstances of Montelongo's death.

During those initial investigations on April 15, sheriff's detectives learned Montelongo had been socializing with a 15-year-old female during the evening of April 14. The pair knew each other as they both lived in Covelo.

During the evening of April 14, the 15-year-old female physically assaulted Montelongo in the vacant field. Sheriff's detectives developed probable cause which led them to believe Montelongo's death was related to the physical assault.

Sheriff's detectives arrested the 15-year-old female on April 15, and she was subsequently booked into the Mendocino

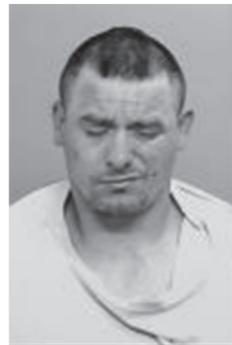
The rest of Assault

door. While screaming at the officers from the other side of the door, Kenny would immediately reengage the door locks the officers had unlocked with the key. After the officers made several attempts to open the door, a different subject opened the door for the officers.

The officers conducted a protective sweep of the residence and located several subjects inside. Kenny, highly intoxicated, was detained, and the female victim was located hiding under a trailer in the garage.

While speaking to the female victim, the officers learned that Kenny had followed her into the bathroom and prevented her from shutting

the door. Kenny had blocked the doorway, she said, but she was able to escape past him. As she exited the bathroom, Kenny grabbed the victim by the arm and pulled her into a bedroom where he sexually assaulted her. The victim was able to escape and ultimately hid from Kenny.



Owen Kenny of Willits.

Kenny was transported and booked into the Mendocino County Jail for violation of felony kidnapping, felony false imprisonment, sexual battery, and resisting arrest.

Editor's Note: As of press time, Kenny was still being held at the

The rest of Robbery

The victim was driven by a relative to Hernandez's residence to pick up her belongings. While inside the residence, Hernandez told the victim that if she left him that he would kill her. Hernandez reportedly brandished a large silver pistol at the victim to prove his point.

Hernandez then ordered the victim to exit the residence and tell her relative to leave as she was staying. Hernandez ordered the victim to leave her phone with him, intimating that he would harm her otherwise, the victim told WPD officers.

The victim exited the residence and fled the scene with her relative to the WPD station.

Hernandez agreed to meet the victim at a closed shopping center to return her phone. Hernandez, still under direct surveillance, parked in the shopping center, at which point the WPD officers conducted a high-risk traffic stop and

arrested Hernandez at gunpoint.

A search of Hernandez's vehicle revealed methamphetamine and the victim's cell phone. As Hernandez has been convicted of a sex crime, possession of methamphetamine is a felony. A thorough search of Hernandez's residence revealed drug paraphernalia and a pistol holster, but no firearm.



Luis Hernandez of Willits.

Hernandez was transported and booked into Mendocino County Jail for the following charges: robbery by fear, criminal threats, parole violation, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of stolen property, all of which are felony offenses, as well as the misdemeanor offense of brandishing a firearm.

Editor's Note: As of press time, Hernandez was still being held at the county jail on \$170,000 bail.

Willits Weekly

Online & In Print

www.WillitsWeekly.com

Looking for something to celebrate?
 Learn more about these, or see a list of other days at <https://www.listofnationaldays.com/>

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>April 20: National Cheddar Fries Day, National Lima Bean Respect Day, National Look Alike Day, National Pineapple Upside Down Cake Day, Chinese Language Day, Volunteer Recognition Day</p> <p>April 21: National Yellow Bat Day, National Chocolate Covered Cashews Day, National Kindergarten Day, Tea Day, Bulldogs Are Beautiful Day</p> <p>April 22: National Earth Day, National Girl Scout Leader's Day, National Jelly Bean Day</p> <p>April 23: National Cherry Cheesecake Day, National Lost Dogs Awareness Day, National Picnic Day, National Take A Chance</p> | <p>Day, National Talk Like Shakespeare Day, English Language Day, World Book Night, World Book Day</p> <p>April 24: National Pigs In A Blanket Day, Teach Your Child To Save Day, Firefly Day</p> <p>April 25: National DNA Day, National East Meets West Day, National Hug A Plumber Day, National Telephone Day, National Zucchini Bread Day, Malaria Day</p> <p>April 26: National Audubon Day, National Help A Horse Day, National Kids And Pets Day, National Pretzel Day, National Richter Scale Day, Get Organized Day, World Stationary Day, Hug An Australian Day, International Guide Dogs Day</p> |
|---|---|

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Lively Shelby

Shelby is a lot of fun and a bundle of energy! She is friendly and loves to run and play like it's her job! She will need an active home that will provide the proper training to help her grow into the best dog she can be. Shelby is in a foster home, so call ahead to arrange to meet her.



To learn more about Shelby 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 due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.

Loveable Pretzel

Are you ready to add a lifetime friend to your family? Then you should definitely come check this adorable boy out. Pretzel is a senior gentleman who loves people and really enjoys the company of other dogs. He has been pretty lucky and found himself a wonderful foster home. As much as he loves his foster home, he really wants to find his home. Don't let him spend his golden years at a shelter; come bail this handsome guy out!



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumaneociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Tons-of-fun Bill

Bill is an outgoing, confident puppy who loves to be around people. He walks well on a leash and enjoys going for walks. Bill has very nice indoor manners. Bill was ready to play when he met Jade, a female shelter guest!



The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Bill or our other feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com.

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS



FLOWERS WITH PIZZAZZ WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP WITH NANCY COLLINS

REGISTER ONLINE www.willitscenterforthearts.org

June 2-3 \$250+ supplies



June 2-3 \$250+ supplies

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THIS CLASS IS ABOUT HOW TO MAKE TULIPS POP OFF THE PAGE AND DRAW YOU IN. PAINTING PETALS WHITE, RED, BLUE, OR WHATEVER COLORS YOU WANT CAN BE A LOT OF FUN. WE WILL EXPLORE FRENCH PARROT TULIPS AND THEIR DANCING PETALS AND LEAVES. YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN PHOTOGRAPH AS YOUR REFERENCE MATERIAL AND/OR USE THE DRAWING I WILL PROVIDE. LEARN WHAT REALLY WORKS FOR PAINTING ALL KINDS OF FLOWERS AND HAVE FUN WITH THE PROCESS.

ALL LEVELS WELCOME!

Self Portrait as a Flower Fairy!

with Mariangela Le Thanh

June 25

In this fun class you will create your own gouache portrait or character as a flower fairy from sketch to finish on a wooden panel. You will be surrounded by beautiful flowers to inspire you and farewell the Spring and you'll be encouraged to think about character and color and design. The consumption of tea and biscuits throughout the class will be also encouraged.

All levels welcome, children under 12 must attend with an adult.

Partial Scholarships Available.

\$125 register online www.willitscenterforthearts.org/

'Time for Art' registration now open for classes at WCA

Submitted by the Willits Center for the Arts

It's time to register for Spring/Early Summer Visual Arts Workshops at the Willits Center for the Arts. You can register online at www.willitscenterforthearts.org/.

Classes on offer May through June include "Nature Journal Boot Camp," May 20-21, two days of Boot Camp including nature walks, with instructor / guide Laura Corben, artist and educator. "Journaling will take you down a path whether your curiosity leads you. Become more observant, have a record of what you have seen, have a creative response to the natural world. Simple tools, notebook, pencils, colored pencils, watercolor, pens, a ruler. Some apps to help you identify things. Tools to last a lifetime of explorations. Your journal can't be ruined - it is a record of your learning experiences. Crossed out words and imperfect drawing allowed!"

"Flowers with Pizazz," a Watercolor Workshop with Nancy Collins is offered June 2-3. "Welcome summer by painting flowers! ... Learn what really works for painting all kinds of flowers and have fun with the process." \$250 plus supplies. All levels welcome.

"Self Portrait as a Flower Fairy" with Mariangela Le Thanh is offered June 25. "In this fun class you will create your own gouache portrait or character as a flower fairy from sketch to finish on a wooden panel." \$125, all levels welcome, children under 12 must attend with adult, partial scholarships available.

To register and see more info, visit willitscenterforthearts.org

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(707) 459-7910

Ongoing Events

Art Under 20: 24th annual exhibit celebrating student artists, from Willits High School, Willits Charter School and Potter Valley High School. Works in painting, printmaking and drawing, and also in woodworking and welding. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Show runs through April 30; galleries open Friday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.

Living Jukebox at Brickhouse: Join Richard "Tootrees" Jeske and Don Willis for some songs you might know, from rock to country to R&B. Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 12 to 2 pm at Brickhouse Coffee, corner of Main Street and Commercial.

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

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

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

"Garraoke" at Diggers Bar: Karaoke night the second and fourth Friday of every month, with host and DJ Garrett Moore. "From 8 pm to midnight, then get down until closing!" Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street.

Willits Boules Club, Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 pm: The outdoor boules course is located across the street from the Willits Skate Park. Info: bbruneau@bbruneau.com.

Free Kids Karate Classes at Body Works Gym: Sheriff's Youth Activities League offers a free karate program for kids at the Willits Body Works Gym, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 pm. Beginner to intermediate group, youth 7 years old and above. There is an annual \$20 SAL insurance/registration fee (waivable). For more info call or text Mike Tobin Sensei at 354-0565. Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street.

Spring Market 2023 on Health and Wellness

April 30

The Spring Market 2023 on Health and Wellness is set for Sunday, April 30 at the Little Lake Grange, from 11 am to 3 pm.

Vendors will be present with health and wellness-related items and services, freshly prepared food, music, a raffle, and special presentations.

We are excited to announce the inaugural presentation of the Mobile Apothecary /Free Clinic, in collaboration with the Mendocino County Herb Guild, and a keynote speech by Dr. Terry Turner, DO about Access Health Choices, focusing on current primary health concerns, and on creating a network of accessible health care options locally.

Additional talks to be announced soon. Providers and vendors will have talks and presentations at their booths throughout the day.

Lunch options, plant starts and vegetables will be available for sale.

There will be ample opportunity to connect with one another and see what our community offers to improve our health and wellness.

The event is a fundraiser for the Little Lake Grange building repairs.

Please note: we still have some spaces available for practitioners and vendors.

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street

Open Mic Night: Every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20-minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises."

Saturday Scramble: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, hosted by Tyler B. Bring any instrument you can play and sign up to perform a 15-minute set with other local musicians. "Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!"

Tyler Grass & The Sherwood Mountain Boys: Held third and fifth Thursday evening in March at 7 pm. "Come check out some of our favorite locals playing bluegrass & more!"

Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm—welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, "so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!"

Sherwood Firewise 5th anniversary meeting

May 6

Sherwood Firewise Communities is having its 5th anniversary meeting on May 6, from 1 to 5 pm at the Brooktrails Community Center. Participants will have the opportunity to look back on the accomplishments made during the past five years and offer their ideas for what to do over the next five years to continue making the Sherwood Corridor a safer community.

The meeting includes speakers, exhibits, contests, food, cake and ice cream, plus important discussions about emergency preparedness. Info: For more information email info@sherwoodfirewise.org

What's Happening Around Town

Thursday, April 20

WHS Swim Meet: Willits High School swimmers face teams from Tech / Credo / Grace on Thursday, April 20 at 4 pm at the City Pool, 429 South Main Street.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm. Thursday, April 20, 3 to 5:30 pm.

Friday, April 21

Friends of the Willits Library's Spring Book Sale: This weekend at the Willits Library conference room from 10 am to 5 pm on Friday, April 21, Saturday, April 22, and Sunday April 23. On Sunday all books will be only \$3 a bag. Come browse our garden and home project books, as well as children's, fiction, and non-fiction titles, with an abundance of specials. Books are priced at 50 cents to \$1. Volunteer cashiers are still needed. If you can help with a 2-hour shift, please sign up at the library, 390 East Commercial Street, or call Melinda: 707-456-9525.

Dave Pierce solo at Brickhouse: Guitarist/Vocalist Dave Pierce does a Third Friday of the month solo show at Brickhouse Coffee, Friday, April 21, 11:30 am to 2 pm. An afternoon of songs in a variety of styles – Light Jazz, Americana, '60s and '70s Pop-Rock, Singer/Songwriter, Folk, and originals. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.

WHS Tennis: Willits High School tennis teams goes up against Mendocino High at home, on Friday, April 21 at 4 pm. WHS, 299 North Main Street.

Saturday April 22

Sparetime 40th Anniversary Sale: Sparetime Garden Center's biggest sale in 40 years to celebrate their 40th anniversary, Saturday, April 22. Sparetime's awesome vendors on site from 9 am to 3 pm, plus a free drawing, good food and entertainment. 208 East San Francisco Avenue; 707-459-6791.

Friends of the Willits Library's Spring Book Sale: 10 am to 5 pm Saturday, April 22 at the Willits Library. See Friday, April 21 listing for more details.

Mariposa Earth Day Celebration: "Come join us in celebration of Earth Day at Mariposa Market on Saturday, April 22 from 10 am to 4 pm. Specials on bulk foods and produce, plant starts and seeds. Raffles, vendors, information and food samples will be part of the celebration." Mariposa Market, 500 South Main Street; 707-459-9630; www.mariposamarket.com

Covelo Earth Day Celebration: Live music, workshops, food, kids activities, student art show and more. Saturday, April 22 at the Library Commons, 23925 Howard Street, Covelo. 11 am to sunset, rain or shine.

WHS Boosters Club Quarter Auction: A Dinner & Quarter Auction plus a no-host bar fundraiser for the Willits High School Boosters Club. All-in paddle \$40; \$5 paddle only, paddles are purchased at the door. Taco Dinner, \$15/plate; hosted by Baechtel Grove Eighth Grade Class. Saturday, April 22 at the Willits Senior Center, 2502 Baechtel Road. Dinner: 6 pm; Auction: 7 pm.

Helene Eve at Shanachie: Singer / Songwriter / Guitarist Helene Eve plays "Bluesy, jazzy, funky, contemporary pop, country, folk and many originals – a variety of styles – all in one night." Saturday, April 22 at 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, April 23

Grange Pancake Breakfast: Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast, Sunday, April 23 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

Friday, April 28

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WHS Baseball: Willits High School's baseball teams face Clear Lake High at home, Friday, April 28. JV team at 4 pm; varsity at 5:30 pm. WHS, 299 North Main Street.

"Spaghetti and Movie Night" at BGMS: Baechtel Grove Middle School hosts a "Spaghetti and Movie Night" on Friday, April 28, featuring "Puss and Boots: The Last Wish" and a spaghetti dinner with garlic bread, salad and a drink. Dinner, served 5:30 to 7 pm, \$12. Kids under 6 eat free. Movie starts at 7 pm, with free admission. Pillows and blankets are encouraged. Drinks, desserts from Kemmy's Pies, and popcorn will be available for purchase. Family portraits by Shailyn B. Photography, available by donation. Advance tickets at 101 Trailer & RV Supply, J.D. Redhouse & Company, Pizza To Go, Buttercups Children's Boutique, and Nor-Crawl. All are welcome!

Fruit Leather Jacket at Shanachie: "Spawned from the depths of Willits Wednesday Open Mic nights comes Fruit Leather Jacket, a fruit-based, funk-rock power trio from the future with Isaac Frankle (Shovelman) on guitar, Kyle Madrigal (The Dirt Floor Band) on bass, and Sean Smith (Funkacillin) on drums. Special guests may be featured. Friday, April 28 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, April 29

Bobby Parks at Shanachie Pub: Singer-songwriter from Oklahoma Bobby Parks has been playing around California since 2011 or so. His "rough, gravelly, emotion-filled voice sets him apart.... His self-penned tunes are honest and open." Saturday, April 29-8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, April 30

Willits Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner: Friday April 21st, 2023. Tickets may be purchased at: Cat's Meow 29 S. Main St. Willits. PRE SALE ONLY! Or Call: Linda Mats 459-6201 or Karen Thiel WHS 459-7700 ext. 1504. Dinner includes: Complete meal for 4 people, Marinated, BBQ'd Tri-Tip, Baked Potatoes, Salad, Bread, Cookies, and a Beautiful Rose Donated by Flowers by Annette.

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One Day Only Sale 22% OFF

All Produce & Bulk Items

Starters, Salads & Snacks

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Fruit Leather Jacket at Shanachie: "Spawned from the depths of Willits Wednesday Open Mic nights comes Fruit Leather Jacket, a fruit-based, funk-rock power trio from the future with Isaac Frankle (Shovelman) on guitar, Kyle Madrigal (The Dirt Floor Band) on bass, and Sean Smith (Funkacillin) on drums. Special guests may be featured. Friday, April 28 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, April 29

Bobby Parks at Shanachie Pub: Singer-songwriter from Oklahoma Bobby Parks has been playing around California since 2011 or so. His "rough, gravelly, emotion-filled voice sets him apart.... His self-penned tunes are honest and open." Saturday, April 29-8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Sunday, April 30

Willits Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner: Friday April 21st, 2023. Tickets may be purchased at: Cat's Meow 29 S. Main St. Willits. PRE SALE ONLY! Or Call: Linda Mats 459-6201 or Karen Thiel WHS 459-7700 ext. 1504. Dinner includes: Complete meal for 4 people, Marinated, BBQ'd Tri-Tip, Baked Potatoes, Salad, Bread, Cookies, and a Beautiful Rose Donated by Flowers by Annette.

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Saturday April 22 10-4

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Come join us and our vendors for Fun & Raffles

Saturday April 22 10-4

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
707-303-5456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jerimian
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)
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-6:700 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-7-8:00 p.m.

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
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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 Anron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
459-2252
Sunday Mass inside:
9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

St. John Lutheran Church
Church Service:
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
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Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
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Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
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www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willitsumc

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

Renfield

The Story: Gross-out scary movie satire featuring the immortal vampire super-villain Count Dracula and his co-dependent servant Renfield who is immortal too, and also kind of nice. The Count (Nicolas Cage) has suffered serious sunburnt burns. Poor Renfield (Nicholas Hoult), the innocent-faced Eater-of-Bugs, is quite stressed-out.

He is having the darndest time finding high-quality blood for his picky and bad-tempered Master, who suggests high school cheerleaders (of course). Meanwhile, Renfield is in a whiny support group for people who feel trapped in toxic relationships with narcissistic partners.

Along the way, Renfield falls in love with an earnest and honest policewoman (Awkwafina) who's sabotaged in her job by all the corrupt cops at her precinct. Troubles and conflicts are inevitable. And much too blood-letting. And gross-out over-the-top dismembering. And disemboweling.

My Thoughts: So much killing and butchery in the movie. It reminds me of the John Wick franchise. The dead are actually piled up in pyramids. In fact, in one particularly brutal scene, that body-piling becomes a plot point.

Actually (and I know this will sound peculiar), there's so much trashing of body parts that I (Your Always Gentle Reviewer) kind of got into the spirited "hip hooray" of all the dismembering, and found the bloody screen imagery so much fun that I ate my whole bag of popcorn without even noticing. It gave me that rarest of movie experiences known as a "popcorn gone!" moment. So kudos for that.

Parents: Unequivocally: Not For Children. Teens and up.

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



Please Support Our BIGGEST FUNDRAISER Of The Year !!

Willits Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner

Friday April 21st, 2023

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

PRE SALE ONLY!

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

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

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Covelo, California Earth Day CELEBRATION

APRIL 22, 2023

11am - Sunset Rain or Shine

Located at The Library Commons 23925 Howard Street

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AN AUTHOR TALK BY ROBIN LEE CARLSON AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR OF THE COLD CANYON FIRE JOURNALS: Green Shoots and Silver Linings in the Ashes

~WILLITS CENTER for the ARTS~

Friday May 5th ~ 7m to 9pm

Learn more about the post fire landscape and how nature regenerates after wildfires. With the insight of a scientist and the eye of an artist, Robin brings words and illustrations to share her understanding of and hopes for the California environment.

PLUS ~JOIN Robin Saturday May 6th for a nature walk, exploring our local post-fire landscapes 10am~2pm

Please register in advance by calling Ellen Dreil at 707-459-2643

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street

Info: www.mendolibrary.org

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

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

Open Source Design, Artistic Expression, and Engineering Club: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3 to 4:30 pm. "Open to everyone with an interest in open source and everyone who wants to develop their creative and engineering skills."

<



At left, from far: Museum Technician Briana Brooks demonstrates the hidden messages inside these textiles demonstrating different fasteners. Sewing machines, like the one seen here, helped to speed up the manufacture of clothing both on a personal and on a manufacturing level. An antique washing machine is on display in "Gadgets Galore!"

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, from left: These Victorias were the forerunners of today's stereos, iPods, and other music-playing devices. Washing clothes became a bit less of a chore with the advent of these washing devices. Here is a relic from the not-too-distant past that many residents may have used.

At right: Briana Brooks, museum technician who was instrumental in assembling the "Gadgets Galore!" exhibit, speaks with a viewer prior to the soft opening.

Below, left: One would have to run clothes through this device several times to squeeze enough water out of the laundry to hang up and air dry. Below, right: This telephone switchboard was for use in a small office.

At bottom: Museum worker Mary Pappadakis shows the gift basket that is up for raffia.



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Read the rest of Gadgets Over on page 11

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Willits Elementary Charter School
We are accepting applications for the lottery to join our school in 2023-2024. We will hold the public lottery on Tuesday, May 2. Applications for entering Kindergarten and all grades are available on our website and in the school office. All applications due by Friday, April 28. Questions: 707-459-1400

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WILLITS WEEKLY
April 20, 2023
Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047
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Mendocino County invites applications for:
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures
\$125,112 - \$152,068
Chief Planner
\$95,846 - \$116,500
Community Health Services Specialist II
\$43,076 - \$52,353
Corrections Deputy
\$54,184 - \$65,873
Custodian
\$37,544 - \$43,472
Deputy District Attorney I/II/III
\$76,419 - \$122,824
Deputy Probation Officer I/II
\$51,937 - \$69,617
Deputy Public Defender I/II
\$76,419 - \$105,227
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
\$62,628 - \$87,214
District Attorney Investigator
\$81,390 - \$98,904
Environmental Health Specialist I/II
\$55,993 - \$75,067
Juvenile Corrections Officer
\$50,710 - \$61,630
Juvenile Corrections Officer - Extra-Help
\$24.38 - \$28.22 hourly
Public Safety Dispatcher
\$53,102 - \$64,542
Sheriff's Services Technician
\$37,065 - \$42,889
Staff Assistant I
\$37,024 - \$38,875
Tobacco Education & Advocacy Intern (Work Experience Trainee)
\$17.00 Hourly

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

The rest of Pot holder From page 1

Currently, Gridley's pot holders can be purchased in several local stores including at Cat's Meow and Mariposa Market in Willits; at the Co-Op and Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah; and at Harvest Market in Fort Bragg and at Mendosa's in Mendocino, with the cannabis print being sold only at a few of those locations.

At Cat's Meow ("they also offer gift wrapping!" reminds Gridley), sets of two of the colorful holders are sold for \$18 for a pair, the pot pot holders are sold individually for \$12, and the heart-shaped holders are sold individually for \$15 each.

"I get new fabrics quilted once per year, and then cut and sew pot holders from that batch," explained Gridley. "As a gardener, I like to have diversity in my plants, and I like to have diversity in fabrics, too. I try to have about 30 or so designs each time, and that makes me feel like I get to enjoy diversity in winter, too, this way."

Gridley noted that she likes to get fabrics that offer a wide appeal: "everyone loves chickens, animals, food and flowers!" she explained. Gridley also looks for batiks and aboriginal fabrics from Australia and New Zealand with some online shopping, but also likes to support local fabric shops including Sew and Sew in Fort Bragg, Village Sewing in Ukiah and Santa Rosa, Fat Quail Quilt Shop in Laytonville, and Bolt in Cloverdale.

Along with the fabric selection, Gridley also takes pride in making her own bias tape (the colorful coordinating

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

Inscripción abierta en Brookside
La inscripción para TK / Kindergarten de Brookside Elementary ya está abierta. Para registrarse, vaya a www.willitsunified.com. La edad para Kinder: 5 años antes del 1 de septiembre de 2023; TK: 5 años entre el 2 de septiembre de 2023 y el 2 de abril de 2024.

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

Indoor Yard Sale
Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). **Saturday, May 6** from 8 am to 4 pm.

'Have You Had A Spiritual Experience?'
Join us for a lively discussion on spiritual experiences with a starter topic on Conquering Fear. Come share or just listen! Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, Saturday, May 13, 10 to 11 a.m. Questions? Call April at 707-972-2475. Presented by Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom.

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

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.oakvline.net/tp>

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

border around the holder, and the hanging loop) - which she applies herself to ensure the straightest border around the holders.

"I think I have a real eye for a straight line and want to make sure that it is applied very evenly!" she said.

Sewing assistant Thea Cohen helps Gridley with cutting out the holder shapes and making the bias tape, but the quilting process itself is left to the industrial-level production and ease of the qualified staff at Fabric Quilt, an out-of-the-area company that can cost-effectively and efficiently make the parallel lines that combine the layers of fabric and heat-resistant batting with a diamond-shaped pattern on up to 50 yards of fabric at a time.

While the pot holders are available year round at local shops, Gridley always has a booth at the annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair in December where she has a large selection available for the holiday season.

However, before things ramp up for the holiday season, Gridley is turning her attention to her volunteer work with the Grateful Gleaners and prepping for their upcoming plant sale on May 21 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Gleaner Garage on Tuttle Lane.

Look for more information about the plant sale in upcoming editions of Willits Weekly, and stop by Cat's Meow located at 29 South Main Street or Mariposa Market located at 500 South Main Street to purchase your very own pot holders.

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New PTO at Baechtel Grove Middle School hosts 'Spaghetti and Movie' night, on April 28

Submitted by PTO volunteer Karen Mattson

There is a new PTO in town! This fall parents of Baechtel Grove Middle School gathered at the school library with Principal Chris Kinney, to discuss how they might help students.

Without hesitation Principal Kinney encouraged the formation of a Parent Teacher Organization. Principal Kinney shared that often parents think of middle school as a time to step away from kids, when really it is a critical time to step-up and support them.

Parents shared their own interest in improving the school environment and expressed a range of hopes for the future of the school, ranging from increased school pride, expanded extra-curricular activities, and a reduction of bullying.

Under the leadership of President Diana Hernandez, Vice President Amanda Hult, Treasurer Colby Friend, and Secretary Angela Tompkins, with the support of dozens of caring parents, a new PTO is up and running. There are a lot of ideas in the works for improving school culture.

Already the establishment of a PTO is helping athletic teams manage funds by providing savings accounts for each team. This is an important service that is a huge benefit to coaches and parents who work hard to provide strong athletic programs for the school.

This year the PTO has hit the ground running to fundraise and greatly appreciates the community's support of multiple bake sales and a basketball tournament organized by Colby Friend. The BGMS PTO's goal this year is to raise funds to support end-of-year field trips for each grade level.

Principal Kinney shared: "A middle school

is not just a place for students to learn, it's a community where parents, teachers and administrators work together to provide a safe and enriching environment.

"The BGMS PTO is the vital link that strengthens this community," he said, "bringing together the collective expertise and resources of parents and teachers to support the academic and social success of our middle school students.

"I am extremely thankful," Principal Kinney continued, "for the group of parents that have been proactive in putting together an effective organization that is already making a difference in our students' education."

'Spaghetti and Movie Night'

The PTO is hosting their first big event, "Spaghetti and Movie Night," which will be held at the Baechtel Grove Middle School Cafeteria on Friday, April 28, with dinner from 5:30 to 7 pm. Tickets are \$12, and each pasta dinner comes with garlic bread, salad and a drink. Kids under 6 eat FREE.

The movie, "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish" begins at 7 pm. Admission is free, and pillows and blankets are encouraged. Drinks, desserts from Kemmy's Pies, and popcorn will be available for purchase.

Local businesses have been extremely generous with donations, and the PTO is especially grateful for their generosity.

Tickets are available at the door or can be purchased in advance at 101 Trailer & RV Supply, J.D. Redhouse & Company, Pizza To Go, Buttercup Children's Boutique, and Nor-Crawl.

Shailyn B. Photography will be on site to capture your family portrait by donation. All are welcome!

SPAGHETTI DINNER AND MOVIE NIGHT
APRIL 28TH

\$12.00 per meal
Garlic Bread, Drink, and Salad
 (kids under 6 eat free)

Baechtel Grove Middle School Cafeteria
Dinner served 5:30-7:00

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish begins at 7:00
Blanket and Pillow encouraged

Admission free
Drinks, Popcorn, and Dessert Available

Sponsored by
Baechtel Grove Middle School PTO
Proceeds to benefit
End-of-Year field trips

Above: Colby Friend, treasurer of the new Baechtel Grove Middle School PTO.
Below: Some members of the new Baechtel Grove Middle School PTO, from left: Diana Hernandez (President), Amanda Hult (Vice President), Angela Tompkins (Secretary), and Jenn Randrup (PTO member).



March Madness may have ended but at Sherwood the fun is just beginning!

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The rest of Fixes From page 1

rodeo this year," WFD Secretary Tracy LeGris said, reading from a statement. "Frontier Days, pursuant to its lease is required to repair damage to leased facilities [and] retained a contractor to make emergency repairs using its own funding."

WFD leases the rodeo grounds from the City of Willits, which owns the property.

"Our contractor applied for a building permit in early March. Our contractor was installing fencing to protect the construction site. City of Willits staff issued a stop work order, which has not been removed," LeGris said.

The City of Willits, under advisement from City Manager Brian Bender and City Attorney Jim Lance, says that as the rodeo grounds is a publicly owned property, any work over a certain financial limit now needs to go through the procedure required by law for any public project, including going out to bid, and paying prevailing wage.

The timeline required for that bid process means the repairs cannot be fully completed by this year's July 4th events. City Manager Bender also mentioned potential difficulties with supply chain issues in getting the projects finished on time this year.

Why now? "Why now all of a sudden is the city concerned?" Brian Kunka commented from the audience. "We've been doing it on our own for 96 years now."

City Attorney Jim Lance commented: "I think the city recognizes that there has been a long history of Willits Frontier Days doing repairs on their own, and without the city jumping in saying, 'wait, stop, this is a public project, and it needs to be a publicly bid situation.' But that's really not the way it should be done. Lance then cited details from Public Contracts Code section 22002 C1, governing any "publicly owned, leased, or operated facility."

"So we should not, even though perhaps we have in the past," he said. "We should not be saying, 'here tenant, you take this on.... Indemnify us from any problems that might arise, and just do a good job, and keep us safe. Make sure you have insurance.' We're not supposed to do that because the whole reason for public contracting laws is to invite competition ... so you put jobs out to the public contracting community to bid on them, so there's not favoritism, there's competition, and that way the city gets the best job for the

The rest of Schindel From page 3

bought for \$25 to \$150. Aguilar offered a show with her new band, which went for \$500, and Ambria Zenitar offered the band The Cult of Ours and a silk aerial show for four hours, which sold for \$500.

The attendees were entertained throughout the afternoon by local bands and performers. Mitchell Holman opened the entertainment with a solo performance, followed by Schindel's son, Malakai, with Forrest Glycer, Kyle Madrigal and other guests.

Hal Wagenet, one of the event organizers, who has known Schindel for many years, played along with Malakai at the end with some of Schindel's favorite songs. The Willits Farmers Market Band, headed by Richard 2Trees Jeske, played several entertaining favorites. Hal Wagenet and Aguilar treated the crowd to a couple of melodies.

Schindel is a man who has touched so many lives in Willits. His accomplishments, his over-sized personality, and his obvious love for the town and its people, brought many together to show their love and try to raise money to help the family cope with his illness and help provide the best possible outcome.

Although the GoFundMe campaign, arranged by wife Donna and daughter Heidi, is now closed, those wishing to make a contribution can send a check to: Greg and Donna Schindel, PO Box 1376, Willits, CA 95490. It will be most gratefully received.

lowest bid.... That's the basic law we have to follow."

Building Official Davey Bowles said the workarounds to allow the WFD rodeo events to go forward this summer would include the installation of Porta Potties and wash stations, the cost of which would be paid for by the City of Willits. City Manager Bender said there had been "internal discussions" about opening the fence between the Rodeo Grounds and the Rec Grove, and placing portable toilets at that end of the Rec Grove, with temporary fencing for security.

The fix to the Margarita Shack includes a temporary but secured roof (security is required due to alcohol storage). The cost of that temporary roof, separated out from other repairs, would not trigger public contracting laws.

Bowles also said, despite the damage to the Margarita Hut, which supplies power to other rodeo grounds areas, the power situation overall would be the same as last year.

WFD representatives were still wary about obstacles in the way of installing and maintaining and stocking the Porta Potties, and noted that in some areas, the portable bathrooms would need lighting, too.

City Council member Saprina Rodriguez said she thought that the latest plan offered by the City of Willits addressed most of the issues, and was a "fair compromise."

She also suggested that city staff work with WFD on a logistics plan for the placement of the Porta Potties, to address WFD's remaining concerns.

"What would be really nice tonight," said Mayor Kanne, addressing the crowd, "would be to come to some kind of agreement to recognize that the city is trying its best to work with WFD to make sure that the events can happen this year.... Get an agreement that you will work with city staff and accept the olive branches that are being put out, to come up with a compromise to make sure you at least have facilities that will work in the interim, until everything is constructed and back and better than ever."

The crowd did not appear to disagree, with a firm "Let's do it" and a "That's what we were trying for all along," among the comments heard from the floor.

"Just to be clear," Mayor Kanne said, "everyone on this council and everyone on staff wants the rodeo to happen this year, wants all of the Frontier Day festivities to happen this year. You guys put on the heart of our community, every year, it's the truth."

The rest of Gadgets From page 8

field trips around the exhibit. To arrange for a class or group tour with hands-on experiences, call 707-234-6365 to make reservations.

In addition to "Gadgets Galore!" which runs through August 13, the museum is currently doing surveys and forums to find out what is the best path for the museum moving forward.

"We are continuing our community forums, which are part of our strategic plan and our survey," explained Brooks. "Excluding the new Laytonville branch that just opened, we're going to most of the branches. We'll be in Ukiah next week. Then Fort Bragg. We'll also be going to Point Arena and Round Valley [Covelo]. We'll be bringing fun things from the collection, photos and different things to share. We will hopefully, be getting some feedback on the future direction of the museum. We'll be getting some community feedback on the things that they would like to see, exhibits and services."

The survey can be filled out in person at the museum or online at the museum's website: 400 East Commercial Street. www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum. Each person who fills out a survey is enrolled in a chance to win a gift basket containing gift certificates, books, and more!

The rest of Vote From page 1

lashed out with some harsh critiques at Cubbison and her department, saying he was "really fed up," and that the lack of proper reporting was due to "an issue with competency," and "frankly unacceptable and mind-boggling."

The other supervisors did generally agree that more clear and timely financial reports are needed by the board, but were not in support of Williams' proposal for the "no confidence" vote.

Williams complained earlier in the meeting about still not having clarity on the amount of "carry forward" money from fiscal year 2021/2022 despite repeated requests from the board for a finalized number, something he claimed should have been completed by Cubbison last year.

According to Williams, Cubbison had reported at a budget meeting the previous week that she had increased her estimate of the amount of 2021/22 carry forward money from around \$2.2 million to \$5.7 million, but it was still not clear how much money would actually be available to the county.

"There's no reporting out of this county," said Williams. "What are we supposed to do? You're asking me to pass a balanced budget, a legally required act of the board. I can't tell you if it's balanced because I don't know how much we're carrying forward from last year. And I get a number and then it changes."

Earlier in the day the supervisors passed a Consent Calendar item directing Cubbison "to provide a written report of fiscal year 2021-22" with its closing numbers, "including final carry forward," within 10 days.

Eventually, after some back and forth at the meeting, Cubbison agreed to have a written report on the topic done by April 24, just prior to the next BOS meeting on April 25.

In the latter half of the nearly five-hour-long budget discussion, Cubbison entered the board chambers and spoke emotionally in defense of her work and that of her offices, saying that they were doing the best they can considering how swamped they've been with numerous tasks.

She also said she had informed Supervisor Williams, who is on the budget ad hoc committee, and others at a recent meeting that she would be presenting more information at an upcoming May 9 BOS meeting.

"I find it unfortunate that today has been a big spectacle about me not producing information when I indicated I would have a full report ... and it would come forward at the third quarter [meeting]," she said.

"There is a huge amount, as everybody I think would probably acknowledge, that has been placed on my two offices, especially in the last couple of weeks," she continued. "We are trying to process all of the tax payments that came in yesterday. We are trying to get out the Teeter distributions to the special districts and schools which are on time for the first time in probably five years.... We're trying to implement the cannabis tax reduction. We're trying to get out the supplemental tax bills.... So there is a lot of moving parts right now."

Williams also said at the BOS meeting that Cubbison had not yet submitted a budget proposal for her department for the 2023/24 budget, unlike most other departments.

"Going through the budget process we had three days where every department was requested to bring their budget proposal and supporting material," said Williams. "You showed up with nothing. No documents. Zero.... From your office, which should be the role model for every other department in this county, we got nothing, not a page, zero. Not a paragraph, nothing at all. Why is that?"

"My primary budget units are in the finance system," responded Cubbison. "My budget is in Munis. My department is the department that answers the majority of questions for budgets that add accounts at the last minute because every department needs extra accounts.... So if I stopped and made my presentation great, there's probably five or six other departments that wouldn't have been able to get their budget in.

"So I'm sorry that we didn't have time to fill out the full impact statements that every other department does," Cubbison continued, "but we don't have the staff resources to do that. We have one analyst now in my office, one.... So it's not all about making pretty presentations and power points. I don't have the time for that, I'm sorry."

This explanation was clearly not enough to appease Williams, who remained steadfast in expressing his frustrations.

"I'm not asking for a pretty presentation, what I'm asking for is how much money do you plan to spend in the year ahead," he responded. "You may have majority support here, you don't have my support. You're not doing the job, you just ran in an election. You wanted the job, now you do the job.

"And you're giving me excuse after excuse of these tasks that you have to do," he added. "These are all the job, right? Billing, taxes, collecting taxes, working with the schools, this is the job. And so don't tell me that because of that, because you had to do the duties of the job, you couldn't conform

to our annual budget process. It leaves this board in a position where we're going to pass a budget without input from your department."

Megan Difranco, a senior department analyst at the auditor's office and longtime county employee, spoke in defense of her boss and her department.

"It's really difficult for us to hear the way you express yourselves about us and our work ethic essentially," she said. "To hear you say that, 'She wanted the job, do the work.' Chamise stays after 5 o'clock almost every day, she works on weekends, when she's sick she works.

"It's really disheartening to chalk it up to us not doing our job instead of chalking it up to we're having more demands on our time," she added. "There's not enough hours in the day. It's the demands on our time. It's new implementation of things that didn't exist before."

If supported by the other supervisors, the "no confidence" vote would essentially just be a formal statement by the board, since the auditor-collector/treasurer-tax collector is elected to the position by the voters and not subject to removal by the BOS.

While Third District Supervisor John Haschak acknowledged "something is really amiss in the system," he said he thought they should wait until Cubbison submitted her upcoming report and then go from there.

"What I heard was that we do have a commitment [from her] to bring forward this written report of fiscal year 2021/22 close, including the final carry forward," he said, "and that that will be presented at the next board meeting. And so I take Ms. Cubbison at her word, and we will make sure that that happens."

Board Chair Glenn McGourty also didn't support the "no confidence" vote, but didn't seem to rule out the idea in the future.

"I think our condition is shocking, but I don't know that I'm quite ready for it, because I think we need to lay out a more carefully reasoned case," he said.

"We've been wondering this for some time as to why it's so difficult for our county to get financial information when other counties seem to be able to function with this and it doesn't seem to be an issue," McGourty said later. "The only county that had similar problems was Humboldt County, and they had somebody who didn't seem to be able to understand everything that they were supposed to do. Whether that's the case here or not, I don't know."

The supervisors did direct CEO Darcie Antle and county staff to seek out ways for the board to have easier and more direct access to financial documents related to budgets, including any adjustments in the numbers and the reasons for them.

This was one of several directives given by the board after the long budget meeting.

The overall 2023/24 preliminary budget presentation at the meeting by CEO Antle and the "executive office fiscal team" did not present a rosy picture for the county's fiscal condition, with one slide showing an initial \$19 million "general fund deficit" projected along with a \$3 million reduction in revenue.

This was based on the "submitted budgets" of the departments with their "proposed expenses" projected at \$94 million and "proposed revenues" at \$75 million.

Another slide titled, "Must Live Within Means," gave several suggestions of how to close this budget gap, including "reduce economic development expenditures," "downsize facilities," sell Mariposa Park, "repurpose unspent PG&E funds of \$4 million," reduce mileage driven by employees, switch to hybrid vehicles, and consider a "hiring freeze."

Much of the five-hour discussion was spent on looking into these options and other possible strategies to reduce the deficit and to more efficiently run the government departments and programs.

The board ended up giving a dozen or so directives to county staff as it continues to develop the budget.

They did ask Antle to look into selling Mariposa Park, and to explore using some of the \$2 million in PG&E settlement money already slated for "carbon reduction" projects on changes that would reduce energy costs and possibly add revenue for the county, like switching county vehicles over to electric and hybrid cars, and setting up more EV charging stations.

They also asked that the CEO and staff keep looking at ways to maximize outside funding and revenue for the "microwave repeater" communication system the county uses; "to evaluate outside resources and see if the county is making the most of out-of-state dollars that are available"; "to learn which rural counties have modernized, what tools they use and what it will cost Mendocino County to implement similar upgrades"; and "to ensure the county is as energy-efficient as possible" with their facilities.

The next 2023/24 "budget workshop" is scheduled for the May 9 BOS meeting, and the budget is expected to be approved by June 20.



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The Real Sarahs: from left, Sarah Larkin, Sarah Ryan and Jen Rund.

The Real Sarahs and Dry Branch Fire Squad to perform at Willits Community Theatre

By Steve Hellman for WCT

Two rare and special music performances are slated for the Willits Community Theatre stage this coming week. In a much-anticipated return engagement, the popular local ensemble The Real Sarahs will perform at the WCT playhouse on Sunday, April 30 at 2 pm. Sarah "Songbird" Larkin and Sarah Ryan are joined by bassist Jen Rund in bringing their organic sound that enchants and uplifts the spirit, and will share in their special gift of vocal synergy.

Rising stars in the West Coast Americana scene since they joined together in 2010, The Real Sarahs have distinguished themselves as skillful harmony singers and evocative songwriters. The group creates magic with voices in harmony, acoustic instruments, and the energetic connection between artists and audience.

Embracing many genres of music from folk to jazz, blues and bluegrass, and country, they sing from the stories of their own journeys and life experiences. Their

original music is honest, captivating and heartfelt.

Dry Branch Fire Squad

The Virginia traditional bluegrass band Dry Branch Fire Squad brings its authentic sound and high-energy performance to the WCT Playhouse on Thursday, April 27 at 7 pm. For nearly four decades Dry Branch Fire Squad has been one of bluegrass music's most popular bands, renowned for its spry mix of front-porch standards, modern ballads, and the old-time sounds from which bluegrass first sprang.

The band features guitarist and mandolin player Brian Aldridge, expert banjoist and dobro player Tom Boyd, bassist Jeff Byrd, and front-man Ron Thomason who brings his true corpone and hard-cider wit to round out the band's performances.

Tickets are \$20 for each show and available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org and at the door.



Dry Branch Fire Squad.

Photo by Susan Sutherland



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