Firehouse contract almost ready to 'close out'

Joanne Moore joanne@willitsweekly.com

It's all running smoothly is one way to describe the discussion at the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors' April meeting.

The finish line is on the horizon for some long-term projects. And the rest of it, the daily business that keeps the fire department functioning and the public safe, is moving along at a steady pace.

The contract for the biggest longest-term project, the new firehouse,

Read the rest of Firehouse |

Over on Page 13

Brooktrails board hears water appeals

Barbara O'Reardon willitsweekly@gmail.com

Water usage issues were at the forefront at the April 12 Brooktrails Community Township Board of Directors meeting. On the agenda were two appeals from two Brooktrails residents about water disconnection notices at their homes. Both residents had spoken at the previous board meeting.

At the March 22 meeting, 28-year Brooktrails resident Roger Patereau appeared before the board to dispute the meter readings that indicated water over-usage at his 1759 Hawk Lane residence.

Patereau shared with the board that he and his

Read the rest of Brooktrails

Over on Page 13

Public Health eases COVID exposure rules

Submitted by Mendocino **County Public Health**

Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren announced Monday he is rescinding the local isolation and quarantine requirements for COVID-19 for the general public who've been exposed but don't test positive themselves.

As of April 18, persons who have been in close contact with someone infected with COVID-19 but who have no symptoms and who test negative - are no longer required to quarantine after their exposure, regardless of their vaccination status, unless they live or work in a high-risk setting.

This change in local

Read the rest of COVID Over on Page 4





Above, from left: Adventist Health Howard Memorial Volunteer Marla Schroeder holds a Sudoku puzzle book available for patients from the book cart. HMH volunteer Diana Franceschini shows potential shopper, Holly, a coffee cup made locally by artist Jan Hoyman. Fort Bragg volunteer Norma Holmes arranges jewelry in the Adventist Health Mendocino Coast gift shop. Below: The wonderful group of volunteers who help out at Adventist Health Howard Memorial including, back row, from left: Michael Ward, Leigh Austin, Sandy Smith, Lois Edwards, Pat Wilson, Paul Haley, Peggy Klier, Aileen Gaynor, and René Rodriguez. Front row, from left: Marla Schroeder, Millie Lehrman, Beverley O'Ferrall, Sharon Gaynor, Regina Valente-Payne, Becky Hope, Bev Roach, Diana Franceschini, Jennifer Sookne, Diane Collins, and Laura Azevedo



Making a Difference

Hospital volunteers provide care and comfort

By Adam Istas, for Adventist Health

In recognition of National Volunteer Week (April 17-23), Adventist Health in Mendocino County would like to honor and thank the dozens of volunteers who donate their time so generously to the hospitals in our community. Volunteers play a critical role in everyday operations at each of our campuses, and we are extremely grateful for their time and commitment to our community's well-being.

At Adventist Health Howard Memorial hospital in Willits, volunteers are often the first face a visitor sees when entering. From greeting each visitor warmly to helping them find their way, the Howard Auxiliary exemplifies the selfless spirit and dedication to patient care that the hospital is known for. Volunteers work in other areas of the hospital, too, providing information, assistance and good energy to both visitors and staff.

"We're so grateful to our volunteers for the work they do

every day," says Rebecca Hope, volunteer coordinator for Adventist Health Howard Memorial and Adventist Health Mendocino Coast. "Our volunteers are members of our care teams and members of the community, and we can't thank them enough for their compassionate contribution to patient care."

Far beyond the front desk, members of the Howard Auxiliary can be seen providing care and comfort throughout the hospital. Patient Ambassador volunteers spend time visiting with patients, inquiring about meal satisfaction, helping patients understand room amenities and sharing the gift of time and attention. Other volunteers tour the hospital with a well-stocked hospitality cart, providing coffee, tea and snacks to both patients and visitors, as well as hospital staff often too busy for a break.

> Read the rest of Volunteers

Over on page 15







Above, from left: One of the junior volunteers, Katherine Wang, helps at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley. AHUV volunteers Dale Herndon, left, Vicki Bitonti-Brown, Richard Towle, Amy Burke and Tony Marsh smile for a group photo. Volunteer Liz Crook has been working with AHUV since 2014. Below, left: At HMH, volunteer Aileen Gaynor checks in patients and visitors near the front desk. Below, right: Wilma Woods and Assistant Supervisor Michael Hervilla volunteer at the registers at the Fort Bragg thrift shop. At bottom, left: Wireman Bill Westfall handles all the electronics at the thrift shop in Fort Bragg. At bottom, right: Trio of volunteers Judy Griffin, left, Norma Holmes and Carol Steele volunteer on the coast campus.









City council OKs groundwater plan

B.B. Kamoroff Reporter bb@willitsweekly.com

Water and the contentious Elias well were back on the agenda at the April 13 city council meeting. And like an old steam-powered locomotive roaring down the tracks, the water was boiling and the pressure building for two hours of intense discussion, disagreement, and trust or lack of it - in the city's plan for the future of the Willits water supply.

Willits gets all of its

Read the rest of Council

Over on Page 6

Supes to look at reducing cannahis tax

Forrest Glyer willitsweekly@gmail.com

The board of supervisors directed staff to make multiple changes to the cannabis tax code in Mendocino County on Tuesday in an effort to lighten the burden on some of those in the industry, while at the same time tightening up enforcement.

The supervisors asked that staff craft an ordinance to reduce county cannabis taxes levied on operators, possibly by 50%, but also asked that those who are delinquent on taxes be

Read the rest of Cannabis

Over on Page 6

Willits attacker pleads guilty, to serve

15 to life Posted by Mendocino

County DA on Facebook Defendant Jose Miguel

Perez, age 24, of Willits, was convicted by guilty plea Friday morning of two felony offenses and one special allegation.

Pursuant to a negotiated disposition, defendant Perez entered guilty pleas to kidnapping for the purposes of rape, a felony, and assault by force likely to cause great bodily injury, a felony.

The defendant also admitted a sentencing enhancement that he personally inflicted great bodily injury on the victim by "causing the victim to

Read the rest of Guilty

Over on Page 6

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

Thank you to Willits Weekly and Mathew Caine for the coverage of our Experimental Aircraft Association chapter #1027's Spring Fly-in on Saturday, April 9. That was a nice write up and pictures.

year, and we very much appreciate your articles inviting the public up to the airport to enjoy them, which creates good community relations and enables the community to learn about local aviation and to enjoy a good barbecue.

Paul Trexel, EAA chapter #1027,

Demand the plan

To the Editor:

Neighbors dismayed over the hazards and messes left by some of PG&E's contractors are justified in demanding better practices for fire prevention. How to get the demands met? Walter Smith, a faller and landowner in Willits, points to a need to see

documentation when a contractor comes.

Do they have a timber harvest plan that shows what trees will be cut? PG&E can cut trees 12 feet, 6 inches from their center line. The rest, legally, belong to the landowner. Does the THP include cleanup so the slash doesn't create a fire hazard? Will the trees to be cut affect a water EAA plans to have two more events this course shared by neighbors? Damage to water affects everybody and everything

> Perhaps more than a THP is needed. Several local environmental groups are calling for EIRs when large old trees are to be cut. We can call on our representatives Jared Huffman, Mike McGuire and Jim Wood for help putting environmental impact reviews in place. They all have offices at 200 School Street in Ukiah.

The time it takes to implement EIRs might slow things down. Those who plan to make money cutting big trees might complain that slowing down could affect the economy. However, it's becoming more and more obvious that the environment IS

Sheryl Smith, Willits

Seeking medicines, more for direct aid to Ukraine

Willits area resident Michelle Glover posted on Facebook about her husband Dave Caspino's volunteer efforts in Ukraine in March. "Hey it's Dave, an EMT/ex-Army medic," the post started. "I volunteered for two weeks in the Ukraine last month. I hurt my back from a land mine, and returned home. I was able to bring about \$60k worth of donated medicine and supplies, body armor, and VHF radios to Northern Kyiv.

"Nightly I would teach battlefield medicine and prehospital care. Daily I would exfiltrate orphans, families, and young girls (401 total) susceptible to sex trafficking and deliver them to Poland via the Red Cross. After an MRI confirmed my back will be better in two weeks, I will be returning to Eastern Ukraine for the same humanitarian work. Russians are targeting hospitals, schools, churches, etc. - there's absolutely no medicine left in Eastern Ukraine.

"We all have medicine cabinets with expired or no longer needed medicine that would save so many lives in Ukraine. If you could donate anything that is non-liquid (insulin, which is in high demand is the only liquid I can take), I will personally fly it to Warsaw, then drive it to Eastern Ukraine.

"Michelle will be in charge of Nor Cal drop-offs (Willits/Ukiah, 3691 Blackhawk Drive, and I will be taking So Cal drop-offs in Los Angeles (Woodland Hills) 22736 Erwin Street (April 23 to 26 for Woodland Hills, 9 am to 6 pm). Please find it in your heart to help these innocent people in these distressing times. God bless.

Michelle Glover's cell is 805-857-7303 and David Caspino's cell is 818-307-6723

To see pictures of Dave in Ukraine, and to learn more, visit www.facebook.com/ michelle.glover.5680/posts/10228810119417366

CSEA endorses Glentzer in county superintendent of schools race

Submitted by CSEA

California School Employees Association is proud to announce the endorsement of Nicole Glentzer for Mendocino County superintendent of schools. After careful review of the two candidates' professional histories and qualifications, Glentzer's endorsement was supported by all eight Mendocino County chapters of CSEA.

Lisa Rantala, CSEA Chapter 194 president, explained that before a decision was made, Mendocino County chapter leaders interviewed both candidates for the office. "After discussing the reputations of each candidate and getting to know them better through our endorsement interview, it was clear that Nicole is the right person to lead Mendocino County Office of Education," said Rantala. "Nicole has a history of working collaboratively with school employees and serving children in Mendocino County. Her integrity and experience make her the clear choice for county superintendent of

The more than 500 school employees represented by CSEA join the more than 100 teachers, principals, administrators, school staff, and Mendocino County Office of Education employees who have already endorsed Nicole Glentzer for superintendent

"There's a reason Nicole is the educator's choice for Mendocino County superintendent of schools," said Maggie Butler of the Potter Valley Education Support Professionals, the only chapter of California Teachers Association to endorse a candidate in this race.

"We need a superintendent who respects teachers, administrators, and staff – who makes our schools work better and takes the time to foster success for our kids. Anyone who has worked with Nicole understands that she is the right choice for our schools."

Fort Bragg CSEA Chapter President Martha Lopez also voiced strong support for Glentzer's candidacy saying: "She's the right leader to provide the support our schools need. She understands the incredible dedication our educators have shown to keep our schools running. She respects our efforts and will hear our voices."

Glentzer has stated several times along the campaign trail that schools are continually faced with complex problems that can best be solved by working collaboratively with the principals, teachers, administrators, and staff who keep our schools running.

"School employees who work most directly with students, from driving the bus, preparing the food, or teaching in a classroom have a perspective that needs to be heard," said Glentzer. "Schools are facing new challenges: staffing shortage and recovery from COVID. As county superintendent I will ensure that students, staff, community members, and families are heard as we do the work of improving our

To learn more about CSEA visit CSEA.com

To learn more about Nicole Glentzer visit ElectNicoleGlentzer.com

'The Struggle for Civil Rights" online lecture at Mendocino College

Submitted by Mendocino College

The next lecture in the Mendocino College Symposium series is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. In his free online lecture, attorney and longtime civil rights activist Charles O. Prickett will discuss "The Struggle for Civil Rights: From Dr. King to Current Voter Law Reform."

Prickett is a civil rights worker, lawyer, judge, and educator. He attended the March on Washington in 1963, was a project co-director during the Mississippi Freedom Summer in 1964, and helped organize the Selma-Montgomery March in 1965.

He is the author of "Remembering Mississippi Freedom Summer" and was honored by the NEA with their

Read the rest of Rights

Over on page 4

Willits Weekly Online & In Print

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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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 21: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, April 22: Carnitas Burrito, wet, w/Green Sauce

Monday, April 25: Ham and Scalloped Potato Casserole, Veggie, Roll

Tuesday, April 26: Chinese Chicken Salad

Wednesday, April 27: Country Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Thursday, April 28: Ruben Sandwich, Pickle, Chips, Green Salad

Friday, April 29: Turkey w/Stuffing and Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Veggie, Roll

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

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

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

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bluegrass band, practices on the patio.





Pub Anniversary

Shanachie celebrates 20 years in business with free food, musical performances, and an art show

"It's been a great 22 years and there's a whole lot more to come," said Pete Swanton, owner and proprietor of Shanachie Pub (also known just as "the Mathew Caine Pub"). "The friendships and the relationships – the Pub has turned into more than I could ever have imagined. It's not just one person

doing it. I was fortunate to have all the pieces of the puzzle together with the help from friends and staff. Like the song, I've gotten by with a lot of help from

The Pub threw a party last Friday to celebrate its 20th anniversary, albeit two years late due to the rigors of the COVID restrictions, which jeopardized the Pub, but did not lead to its demise. Twenty-two years of music, beer and relationships have made the Pub the go-to venue for music in the town of Willits, especially on Wednesday evenings with the open-mic events that attract musicians from around the world to share their music with the accepting crowds. An eclectic array of performances, mostly with a down-home folksy, bluesy vibe, has delighted the Pub-goers for many years in the small but warm room where people go to be with their friends.

Of course, the other draw is the beer. Swanton keeps the robust beer menu fresh with local and international

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Anniversary

Over on page 13





At left: Pete Swanton, behind the bar, helps to take orders and greet his quests.

Below: The intimate venue tends to get packed with dancers and music lovers. At bottom, left: Pub owner Pete Swanton smiles with friend Deb Schwartz. Jazz-Minh Moore does a quick sketch of Clay

friends are the first to entertain the attendees. Tyler Balthrop, of the Sherwood Mountain Boys

Photos by Mathew Caine













Graduation Night.







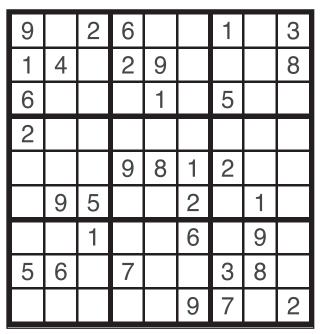
Flowers by Annette.

SELFIE BOOTH

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

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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 which the numbers will appear by using the clues already numeric provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve

			1	2	3	4	5	6				7	8	9
	10	11									12			
	13									14				
	15									16				
17									18					
19			20						21					
22				23	24	25	26		27					
	28							29			30	31	32	
				33			34							35
			36								37			
		38										39		
	40								41	42	43			
44						45	46	47						
48						49								
50						51								

44. Previously

48. Metrical foot

Mondays

49. Days that follow

50. Small European viper

51. News shows have one

CLUES DOWN

2. Resembling wings

5. Extinct flightless bird

9. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

11. A colorless, odorless

10. South American nation

of New Zealand

3. Form of Persian

1. Inspiration

4. Consumed

6. Sea eagle

7. Jaguarundis

8. Poker stake

12. Disturbance

45. Minor

E C N A I 3	1 3 3 A I B L	IAFAI			
ASSISTANCE	EMERGENCY	RELIEF			
BLOOD	FIRE	SAFETY			
COMPASSION	FIRST AID	SHORTAGE			
CPR	HEALTH	TRAINING			
CRISIS	HUMANITARIAN	URGENT			
CRITICAL	LOST				
DISASTER	MISSION	VICTIM			
DONATION	READINESS	VOLUNTEER			

From page 1

requirements comes after the California

Department of Public Health ended its

quarantine recommendation for the general

public. Exposed persons should still get

exposure and wear a mask around others

diagnosed by a provider. Isolation can end on

day five with a negative test, and if no fever

is present and symptoms are resolving. For

those with a positive test on day five, isolation

may end after 10 days if there is no fever and

"I am rescinding the local quarantine order

in order to align with California Department

of Public Health guidance and to reduce

confusion around quarantine requirements in

"This change recognizes that transmission

levels are decreasing, and that safe, effective

vaccines and oral treatments are available

We know the pandemic will continue to

evolve, and we will continue to monitor the

"It's important to get tested early and

continue with isolation protocols if you test

positive for COVID," Coren said. "We want to

limit transmission and protect our vulnerable

California Department of Public Health

recommend quarantine for employee and

resident close contacts in certain high-risk

the populations served are at increased risk

of severe COVID-19 disease. These settings

include homeless and emergency shelters,

healthcare settings, correctional facilities, and

County Public Health website at: www.

long-term care facilities.

mendocinocounty.org/covid19

community members as much as possible."

after their incubation period ended.

Mendocino County," Dr. Coren said.

as long as they have no symptoms.

symptoms are resolving.

situation closely

CLUES ACROSS 1. A woman of

refinement 7. Body part

10. One who imitates 12. Tropical Asian starlings

A type of delivery 14. W. Australian capital

15. Many wombs 16. Wings

17. Expression of amusement

19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese 21. Mild expression 22. Solitary

27. Distance to top 28. The rebirth of a soul in a new body 33. Police who investigate

police (abbr.) 34. Begrudged

36. Popular sports league 37. Autonomous republic of Russia

38. Double-headed drum 14. Artist's tool

17. Polish peninsula 39. Type of light bulb 18. Ottoman military 40. Czech River

leaders 41. Male servants (Span.) 20. Bird-like dinosaur

> 23. Drinking glass 24. Central Florida city

25. One's mother 26. To do it is human

29. Atomic #10 30. Used to write

31. The branch of medicine concerned with the ear 32. Adversaries

35. Have already done 36. One of conspicuous

38. It flies over sporting

events 40. Geological times

41. Net

42. Musical phrase

43. Chadic dialect 44. Private Internet Access (abbr.)

45. Lizard genus 46. Woman of the church

47. Having ten

COVID cases at Shanachie Pub tested for COVID three to five days after an Submitted by Mendocino County

Public Health

confirms

for 10 days, but can continue to work, go to In an April 20 press release, school, and participate in normal activities -Mendocino County Public Health has confirmed more than one positive The statewide COVID-19 isolation order COVID-19 case in Willits that is linked remains in effect for people who have a to Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main positive test, COVID symptoms, or been Street,

> Members of the public who visited this facility on Friday, April 15, 2022 may have been exposed to COVID-19, and are advised to seek COVID-19 testing. For information about testing, visit www.mendocinocounty.org/community/ novel-coronavirus/covid-19-testing

> Effective anti-viral treatments are available but must be taken soon after becoming infected. Contact your health care provider if you test positive either by a home test or PCR.

> The facility's management is responding quickly to the positive case. We appreciate the cooperation to find those who could be exposed, and Public Health only publishes the business names and locations because it is impossible to specifically identify everyone in the public who could have been exposed.

Despite the lessening of prevention As the incubation period of circulating mandates, masks are still strongly COVID variants has grown shorter (now recommended indoors to prevent virus averaging two to three days), quarantine transmission. Public Health urges the has become less useful, with many exposed public to exercise their best judgment persons receiving notification of an exposure when making decisions that might affect their own health, that of their close contacts, and the health of the quarantine instructions continue to

Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren would like to emphasize the importance settings where transmission risk is high and of staying home from work and social events when exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 and getting tested.

Common symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Other symptoms may include chills, muscle COVID-19 information and various data pain, headache, sore throat, fatigue, dashboards are available on the Mendocino congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste

From page 2 Rights |

At Mendocino College, part of our

mission is to be an intellectual, economic and cultural anchor for the region, and in a leading public role in the district. Many Americans today are standing up demanding change throughout the U.S. and in our own communities. This is not an easy time, but it is an important one. Change, and open, honest discussions are needed.

To better serve our community, we have launched a public lecture series focused on our social and community challenges. This series features our professors speaking symposium

Carter G. Woodson Memorial Award in on topics of interest/research for them and invited speakers from the community or outside sharing their experiences and

it is our responsibility and honor to act students and our community to explore the challenges facing our home and our country. We hope this provides a chance to learn, examine and grow in positive and meaningful ways as we strive for a more equitable world where we come closer to achieving the promises of the American Dream for equality, justice and opportunity.

For direct links to the lectures and for ongoing updates about the series, visit: https://www.mendocino.edu/ please

PROCLAMATION OF THE

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Recognizing April 17 – 23, 2022 as Volunteer Appreciation Week in Mendocino County

WHEREAS, National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 17 - 23, 2022, is a time to honor the thousands of individuals who take action year round to strengthen their communities: and

WHEREAS, during this week all over the nation, volunteers will be recognized for their commitment to service: and

WHEREAS, established in 1974, National Volunteer Appreciation Week has grown exponentially, recognizing the incalculable contributions that volunteers make every day across the country and challenging all Americans to step forward to help wherever

WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino volunteer force is a great treasure, with 309 volunteers giving over 3,996 volunteer hours to the Mendocino County community by assisting in county departments and offices, and during the COVID-19 pandemic by creating cloth facial coverings, grocery shopping and delivery of foods to those quarantined, assisting with contact tracing and at vaccination sites, and surveillance

WHEREAS, National Volunteer Appreciation Week reflects our appreciation for County of Mendocino volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors encourages all citizens to volunteer in their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby proclaims April 17 - 23, 2022, as:

"Volunteer Appreciation Week"







Field Trip Fun

Imagination Station students learn life lessons and have a good time visiting local attractions

Hurray for field trips! Young students at Imagination Station Preschool and Childcare Center have been resuming local field trips now that COVID pandemic restrictions have eased.

Jennifer Poole

"We have always done field trips," said Imagination Station Director Saprina Rodriguez, "but have had to hold off on many of the traditions during COVID.

As evidenced by these heartwarming photos, posted by Imagination Station on their Facebook page, the students are loving it.

In recent weeks, they've visited the Post Office, taken a tour of the County Museum and Roots of Motive Power facility, and enjoyed a nature exploration at the Rec Grove.

Kids from pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade watched "Sonic 2" at the Noyo Theatre last week. Then the K-5 students went to the Mendocino County Museum and Roots of Motive Power for special tours.

For their trip to the Post Office, pre-K students learned about how the postal service works. They "wrote letters to themselves or parents," the Facebook post explained. "They learned the importance of knowing the parents' full name and address. They learned how to address an envelope and letter, what kind of special stamp is required, and the process of how it goes from their hand to the mailbox at home."

Amy Wolitzer from Mendocino Land Trust led a nature exploration for the kids at the Recreation Grove Park. "Thank you, Amy," Imagination Station's post with those photos read: "Our students were so engaged and asked many inquisitive questions."

Teacher Juan Salinas gave a presentation on the art of archery in the school's backyard, discussing "the

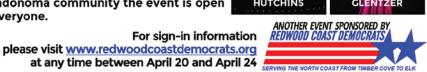
Read the rest of

VIRTUAL FORUM • SUNDAY, APRIL 24 10:30 AM-NOON WITH MENDOCINO COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT CANDIDATES MICHELLE HUTCHINS AND NICOLE GLENTZER

Please join us for a Virtual Forum with the two candidates for Mendocino County School Superintendent. The Zoom event will feature a panel of local educators who will interview Michelle Hutchins, the incumbent Superintendent and Nicole Glentzer, the current Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Ukiah Unified School District. As a service to the Mendonoma community the event is open









Above, far left: The nature exploration at the Rec Grove included using a magnifying glass to look closely at a feather. Above, left: This girl reaches for the top slot to mail her letter.

Above: Students enjoyed a special tour of the Mendocino County Museum. At left: Imagination Station pre-Kindergarten students line up under the Willits Post Office sign during their field trip.

Photos by Imagination Station Director Saprina Rodriguez and teacher Adalyd Gonzales



Above, left: The Tooth Fairy from Little Lake Dental Program demonstrates proper tooth brushing technique. Above, right: Feeling the moss and bark on a tree at the Rec Grove. Below: The Imagination Station crew lines up for a photo at the Noyo Theatre.









become comatose due to brain injury or suffer paralysis of

a permanent nature. The overall disposition also required the defendant to stipulate that he will serve a state prison sentence of 15 vears to life, the sentencing equivalent mandated by law for second-degree murder.

A formal sentencing hearing has now been calendared for Wednesday, July 13, at 9 am in Department H of the Superior Court's downtown Ukiah courthouse

As background, in October 2021, the Willits Police Department responded to a 9-1-1 call of a person needing help, "unresponsive with blood everywhere," at the Evergreen Shopping Center at the south end of Willits, behind Grocery Outlet.

Upon their arrival, the WPD officers discovered a 61-yearold woman on the ground bleeding and unconscious. She was taken from the crime scene to Howard Memorial Hospital by ambulance. From there she was airlifted to UC Davis Medical Center due to her injuries

The ensuring law enforcement investigation identified Perez as the sole suspect. The evidence collected pointed to defendant Perez having brutally attacked the woman for the purpose of raping her.

DA investigators ultimately confronted the defendant and, after obtaining a waiver of his Miranda rights, obtained

will be required to register annually for life with local law enforcement as a convicted sex offender if and when he is ever approved by prison authorities for release back into the community on parole supervision.

The law enforcement agencies that developed the evidence underlying the convictions were the Willits Police Department and the District Attorney's own Bureau of

The prosecutor who has been handling the case from well – the well will be shut down. the very beginning and who will see it through to the end is Assistant DA Dale P. Trigg.

Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Carly Dolan accepted the defendant's guilty pleas late Friday morning. She will also preside over the sentencing hearing in July. Editor's note: According to the Mendocino County Jail online booking log, Jose Miguel Perez has been in jail since he was booked on October 14, 2021, and held on future city council wants to. \$402,500 bail.

From page 1

The reservoirs are filled by From page the Eel River, surface runoff, and rain. Those two reservoirs supply 2.6 million gallons of water a year (800 acre feet) to Willits residents and businesses. Until the Elias well was dug in 2014, Willits had no backup water supply

drinking water from two

reservoirs southeast of town.

The original intent was to use the Elias well only for flushing, backup and emergencies. But in 2017 the city council voted to allow its use full-time as part of the water system. The city water department says that regular use of the well never happened, and that the city has no plans to use the well on a regular basis. Plans, however ... change. And that was the crux of the matter at the city council

The Elias well has the capability of pumping 400 acre feet a year (1.3 million gallons, a six-month supply based on current use) which has raised concerns that the well will draw down adjacent wells and that the well will bring uncontrolled population growth. Several residents were also troubled that the well will enable more water trucks to expand illegal marijuana operations.

Another major public worry, which was widespread enough to scrap a previous version of the plan, is arsenic contamination. Arsenic, one of the most potent poisons on earth, is present in some wells in the Little Lake Vallev including an unused city-owned well adjacent to the Elias well. Testing of the Elias well repeatedly shows no detectible arsenic, but there is apprehension that pumping Given the nature of the convictions, defendant Perez from the Elias well could pull arsenic-contaminated water from the nearby well.

> All of these issues are addressed in a Groundwater Operational Use Plan presented to the council at the April 13 meeting. The plan limits the well's use mostly to flushing and emergencies, although what constitutes an emergency is not defined in the document. The plan requires testing the well for arsenic every three months. If any arsenic is detected – and none has ever been detected in the Elias

> The best-laid plans often go awry, or something like that, but the issue with the Elias well is that guite a few people think that the operational use plan is nowhere near the best that the city can, and should, do. The main problem with the plan, pointed out by council members Greta Kanne and Madge Strong, is that the plan can be revised any time in the future that the city council or any

Kanne and Strong both wanted the plan for the well's unlimited pumping and unwanted growth.

use added to the accompanying mitigated negative declaration, which is the underlying documentation that an environmental impact statement is not needed for this project. The negative declaration is a complex legal document that is much more difficult to change than the

Many local residents agreed with Kanne and Strong. Ten people, including a hydrologist and a representative of the Mendocino County Farm Bureau, spoke against the plan. Devon Boer of the Farm Bureau stated: "The negative declaration does not fully account for or even explain the totality of the project. The negative declaration should fully describe the project [including] the groundwater use. The use plan should find some way to be memorialized within the negative declaration.

Council member Kanne said that more people have contacted her about the well than any other city council issue. "What I've heard is that residents do not want groundwater to be used for regular everyday functions They want it reserved for emergencies."

Kanne is also concerned that no one knows how much water is in the aquifer. Studies over the years have come up with widely different estimates.

Council member Larry Stranske vehemently disagreed with Kanne and the other speakers. Stranske thinks that the city should not limit its use of well water in Little Lake Valley because none of the wells outside the city limits are limited. "How many wells has the county approved in the valley that pull out of the aquifer someplace? Nobody knows anything about that, how deep or anything else, because the county is not giving any of that out if they even know it. Our supervisor has no idea.

Stranske made no attempt to hide his irritation with the county administration. "If that's the way it is, if the county can do whatever they want to do, and obviously that's what they do, then the only one that's held accountable to anything is the city. I think that's wrong."

Neither city engineer Rod Wilburn who is in charge of the project nor city manager Brian Bender were receptive to changing the mitigated negative declaration or the operational use plan. In the end, the old locomotive lost its steam, and three city council members, Gerry Gonzalez, Larry Stranske, and Mayor Saprina Rodriguez, rejected any more changes to the project.

On a 3 to 2 vote, the operational use plan was approved to permit occasional and emergency use of the well, with hope that future city councils will not revise the plan and expand the usage of the well to open a floodgate of

The rest of Cannabis

From page 1

prohibited from renewing their permit.

The board did request that a payment plan be considered as an option for those who owe tax money, a suggestion made by Second District Supervisor Maureen

Currently the minimum cannabis tax for cultivators in the county ranges from \$1,250 to \$5,000 per year depending on the size of the operation, and the excise county tax based on gross sales is 2.5%.

Board Chair Ted Williams, who sponsored the cannabis tax proposals, suggested a 50% reduction in the special taxes for two years beginning in 2022. However, Third District Supervisor John Haschak asked that the board first be given some data from staff on how the tax reduction would affect the budget before deciding on the percentage to reduce it by.

In what will likely be a separate ordinance, the supervisors also asked that cannabis permit holders have a "fallowing" option. where they can declare that they are not operating for the year and pay a small fee and no minimum tax, but still retain their permit for future years.

Haschak asked that the fallowing ordinance be done as quickly as possible since cultivators will need to make this decision very soon given the time of year.

County Counsel Christian Curtis said they may be able to have a draft ordinance by the next meeting May 3, but more likely it would be the middle of May.

Curtis noted that any tax changes required an ordinance to be passed, but that reductions in taxes don't need to be put on the ballot for approval by voters.

The county is also looking at making some changes to the appeals process for those who are denied cannabis permits, though this wasn't discussed much at the

These changes from the county come as many in the local legal cannabis industry face a barrage of challenges including plummeting prices, high taxes, a difficult permitting process, and steep competition from other counties.

County Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector Julie Forrester estimated that since 2019 there's been at least \$6.8 million in unpaid cannabis taxes from those in the county

"Now some of those unreported we don't have a dollar amount on because they're just unreported, so we have no way to determine what their receipts would be," she added.

Forrester said that "there hasn't been any further delinquent collections of defaulted cannabis taxes to date" in the county since the program started, and talked about

some of the reasons why she felt that had

"The issue with prior year collection on delinquent taxes had a lot to do with not trying to punish the operators that were trying to get into compliance in the program," she said. "And I think that was an open discussion and feeling with not only the tax collector, but with the board as well.

"So I don't know about going back and wondering why this wasn't collected in the past," Forrester continued, "because we were trying to set up a program that would operate well for our community.... These into the program and follow the rules and regulations. So pursuing the penalty and interest and delinquent taxes on them while the ordinance continued to be changed just didn't seem in the right vein of what was happening in those years.'

Forrester said that for 2021 only about half of the county's roughly 1,200 cannabis permit holders had made quarterly reports for any taxes, but there was a "true up" due date of May 31 approaching, where some may pay for the whole year at once.

She estimated that a little over \$3 million in taxes was still owed for 2021, and said, "in my understanding historically we've collected half of that true up."

Interim CEO Darcie Antle said that the county had received around \$1.4 million in cannabis taxes for 2021 so far through the quarterly reports.

Williams said that he believed it was necessary as an enforcement tool to start requiring that all cannabis taxes be paid in order to keep receiving a permit.

"My concern is today, imagine I'm a cultivator," he said. "I've been in the program for three years, I see that I haven't paid any of my taxes, and my permit keeps getting renewed. Am I going to pay it in year four or five? What's the incentive? We've created a dynamic where the tax is almost optional.

Haschak suggested that the county consider changes which would emphasize the cannabis excise tax more, focusing more on the total sales by the cultivators. He pointed out that state Senator Mike McGuire had introduced legislation at the state level recently with a similar theme.

However, other supervisors pushed back on this idea, saying that cannabis sales in the county were still too difficult to track given the current state of the industry.

"I think that would work if we knew the dollar value of what was being transacted, but the county doesn't," said Williams. "That's what's been problematic. And you touched on dropping the minimum tax [entirely]. Last I looked, if we were to drop

the minimum tax we would lose more than 90% of our cannabis business tax revenue."

"I generally support it," said First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty of focusing on the excise tax. "The problem is that we don't have good controls on what people are bringing in since a lot of it's a cash business and it's just hard to track. The alcohol business does it that way, but they have really great controls because they know for instance how many grapes go into a winery and how much wine comes out, and it's very closely watched."

Haschak inquired as to whether the were people that were trying to come reduction in the minimum tax would be harvests a crop, he sends it off to a winery. retroactive for those who still owe back a month or two or three months later they taxes, or come in the form of a rebate for those who paid, but Williams argued against that idea as well.

> "I think it would be problematic if we were to rebate, and [that's] the reason this item focused on the year ahead," he said, "That trying to track people down to give rebates for a retroactively lower rate doesn't seem realistic for this county."

Former Ukiah-area supervisor John McCowen, who played a major role in crafting Mendocino's cannabis ordinance, spoke during public comments, saying that the county should seek to "expand the universe of the people you're actually collecting the tax from.

"What we're talking about so far is this shrinking pool of current applicants," he said. "And unless there is an allowance for expansion you're going to see a dwindling amount of tax collected no matter how you slice it.... This time you would have to pay for an [environmental impact report], but to continue to limit cultivation in Mendocino County to less than a quarter of an acre per applicant ... with current market conditions, the cannabis industry in Mendocino County is going to be a fraction of what it legitimately could be and should be."

Michael Katz, executive director of the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, said they supported the reduction in the minimum tax but felt that 50% was not enough, and was clearly frustrated with some of the talking points by the board.

"It's very disappointing to see this conversation wind up around, 'What about the people who lie?" he said. "It's always going back to the assumed criminality of operators who are struggling. And looking at the numbers it all pretty much makes sense that there have been more and more people driven out of this program by the onerous regulations, by the over-taxation.

"And so the need to be able to fallow is largely around the taxes, yes," he continued. "But the 50% reduction is not anywhere near the amount that we would need to be effective for people who actually

have to stop cultivating. That would need to be at zero, or \$10, but definitely not in the \$1,500 to \$2,500 range."

Ron Edwards, a cannabis business owner in Willits, suggested that the board members should learn more about how the legal cannabis industry worked in terms of money distribution when deciding tax

"It would be really nice if maybe the cannabis program director would walk the board through on how a cannabis cultivator actually gets paid," he said. "I mean it's not like the wine industry where a cultivator get a check back.

"In cannabis." Edwards continued. "it goes to the distributor, and then, a lot of distributors have gone out of business. That cultivator does not get paid for that product, in fact doesn't get the product back. It can go to retail and not get paid. So the payment system coming into the cannabis cultivator is not like any other

Later Mulheren gave a similar description of the industry after being asked by

"As the state regulations have rolled out, there have been unfortunately many unscrupulous distributors," she said. "Some of them have taken the product and not sold it. Some of the product is harvested inappropriately, or perhaps the market is just not into that strain at the moment. There are a lot of reasons why cannabis doesn't sell the moment it's harvested. So the process just takes longer, and every type of agricultural product really is paid

Monique Ramirez, who described herself as a "specialty cottage operator" in the Third District, believed the voters should be allowed to decide how to restructure the cannabis taxes, and said that she supported switching to something based more on a percentage of sales.

She also talked about some of the recent business struggles for her small farm.

"I have only sold 6 pounds of flower in the market so far from my 2021 harvest," she said. "And I am living off my savings, and thank god we have chickens. And I'm trying to be frugal here and there, and I don't know what's going to happen. I'm counting on all the equity funding to help get me through.

"I'm so grateful that I've gotten fees reduced and not had to pay for my permits and stuff through all of this grant funding," she said. "Otherwise I wouldn't be standing here right now. But to pay \$1,250 [minimum tax] when I've only made a couple thousand so far is just crazy.'







a member of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, placed a handprint over her mouth to say "we will not be silenced." Audrey Sherf and Willow Daun-Widner display their design from which the mural was made.

'Voice of the Voiceless'

WHS Interact and Native American clubs complete mural to bring awareness to missing and murdered indigenous women

Hundreds of American Indian women go missing each year, some murdered in acts of family or other violence, some enslaved in the sex trade, and others are never found. This tragedy plays out too often within the community. MMIW, which stands for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, is a movement that has the purpose of bringing this problem to the forefront in order to find these women, stop the violence, or to, at the very least, remember and honor their memories.

Mathew Caine

In order to support this movement, the Interact and Native American clubs of Willits High School, under the guidance of advisors Buffey Bourassa and Lucy Kyne, decided to create a mural honoring these women and bringing awareness to the problem. "It was the WHS Native American and Interact clubs that came up with the idea for this mural, along with Mrs. Barrett, the science teacher," explained Bourassa.

"We were having a conversation right after the unfortunate death of Gabby Petito [a web influencer who went missing and was found murdered]," Bourassa said. "We were talking about that because we were seeing how much media exposure and how much coverage was given for her death and all of the resources that were used to find out what happened to her in a quick fashion. It stirred up a lot of emotion and memories of indigenous people who were missing and murdered who don't get that kind of coverage or resources from the state or federal government.

"It really struck a chord with everyone here, both the students and Mrs. Barrett," continued Bourassa. "We were all talking about it and said 'hey, why don't we do something? How do we do something to make a difference, at least have a voice?' And that's how it all got started, at a club meeting during lunch."

The original idea was a mural honoring Khadijah Britton, a Wailaki member of the Round Valley Indian Tribes, who went Read the rest of missing. However, it was rejected Mural as Britton did not have close ties to



Above: The completed mural is on the west wall

Mathew



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Above, left: Ayla was more willing to participate with just the live bunny sitting next to her at the Photos with the Easter Bunny fundraising event last Friday. Above, right: Lucy Button, granddaughter of Soroptimist International of Willits President Barbara O'Reardon, smiles with a

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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Confessions by appoin 459-2252 Sunday Mass inside: 9:00 a.m. English 10:30 a.m. Spanish Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m. Covid guidelines apply.

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this column please call: **April Tweddell** (707) 972-2475 april@willitsweekly.con



bunny at the end of the event.

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Giovanni and Stephanie Villavicencio, left, hold little Emilia, and smile with Stephanie's brother Tito Duran, right, and his family: Courtney, Kolson and Harper, right. At far right: Besties Nevaeh and Suki perch on the Easter Bunny's knees for a smiley photo.

At left, from top: High fives and hugs were offered to, sometimes, win over reluctant sitters, or upon request for those brave enough to ask. Below: Kassidy

with the Easter

Bunny and one of his live furry friends, too. Below, right: Siblings Emma Jones smile with bunnies durina the fundraising



Lavine smiles

hour event: a whopping \$424. Soroptimist Heidi Ahders (and her daughter,

"We were glad to be back helping make this year's





At left: Honorary Soroptimist member and co-bunny wrangler, Keeley Ahders, left, smiles with the Easter Bunny and SIW members Vicki Ham, Marilyn Harden, Secretary, Treasurer (and bunny-wrangler) Heidi Ahders, and club President Barbara O'Reardon. Above, from left: Colter Basler was all smiles for the bunny. Swayze and Sam Munderloh were half-happy with meeting the big bunny. Skyler and Bennett were happy to sit and smile.



Photos with the Easter Bunny

Fundraising event for Soroptimist International of Willits at J.D. Redhouse raises \$424 for local non-profit

It felt almost like a pre-pandemic party during the annual Photos with the Easter Bunny event held last Friday at J.D. Redhouse. The warehouse of the mercantile was used as the bunny location – as opposed to the usual outdoor setting - due to the wonderful, but complicating rain. Even though a quick location rearrange was temporarily a hindrance during set up, the funky weather sure didn't faze any of the hundreds of kids who came to meet the big

As is the case each year, the event is held as a 50/50 fundraiser, and the Soroptimist International of Willits club received half the proceeds from the two-

Keely – dubbed an honorary SIW member) provided the rabbits for kids to hold on their laps from their farm Ahders Acres. This year, bunnies who joined the party included a black-and-white bunny named "Pence" and a dark grey "blue-coated" bunny named

bunny pictures a success!" said Heidi Ahders.

Kids and the big bunny himself held the live rabbits for the photos, and some kids even opted to just pose with the live bunnies in an attempt to have a less scary experience than sitting with the big bunny.

"I was so pleased to see such a wonderful turnout on a rainy night," said SIW's Vicki Ham. "You can tell both children and parents have missed these events. Soroptimist was honored to be able to help Maureen with the bunny photo shoot again this year. And the kids loved the live bunnies that Keely and Heidi brought.'

Money raised from this event and other fundraisers, including the recent Willits Telephone Directory Community Phonebook, go to help fund scholarships and other women-and-girl-focused support in our community.

Interested in joining Soroptimists? They're always looking for new members. Contact them via email at siwillits@soroptimist.net or call 456-9858. For more information about Ahders Acres and their bunnies, contact Keely Ahders at 707-391-9169 or Heidi Ahders at 925-934-0970.

- Maureen Jennison





At top: Natalie Lippincott smiles with a dark

Above: Jazmin Duarte and her son Oliver smile with the Easter Bunny

Below: Kyana and brother Torin get a cute sibling photo with the bunny.

At bottom: Brothers Callen, Conner and Coltin enjoy a photo (and noogie afterwards!) with the



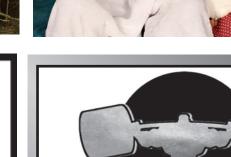












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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Serene Ana Banana

Ana Banana is a shy girl who takes her time getting to know you. This 4-year-old long-haired kitty is mellow and likes her naps but also likes to come out to explore. She appears to get along with other cats. This beauty has her adoption fee reduced for the entire month of April.

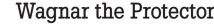
The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Ana Banana or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www. mendoanimalshelter.com.

Ana Banana

Soulful Davey Jones

Meet Davey Jones! This 1-yearold large, mixed-breed dog is a new transfer from our friends at Bones Pet Rescue. Davey Jones has a soulful face, big old ears and eyes that will make you want to be his best friend ASAP! Davey is a must see, so don't wait to meet him! If you would like to foster or adopt Davey Jones, head over to www.mendohumanesociety.com.

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



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To learn more about Wagnar or 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.









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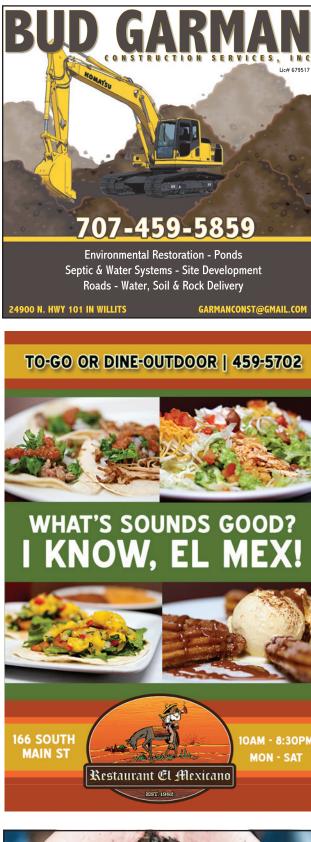
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LEGAL NOTICES

The following person is doing business as Second Chance Enterprises, 3590 Hearst Willits Road, Willits CA 95490 Registered owner: Lawrence Allen Lucier, 3590 Hearst Willits

fictitious business name listed above on January 5, 2022. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorde

/s/ Lawrence Allen Lucie Publication dates:

Brooktrails Township Community Services District will Budget, effective July 1, 2022.

Plan for Services – Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 would become effective on July 1, 2022. A copy of the proposed budget is available for review during normal business hours at the Township Office, 24860 Birch Street, Willits, California 95490 or by request from btcsd@btcsd.org

Dated: April 11, 2022

Fictitious Business Name

Statement 2022-F0188

on April 11, 2022

WW384

BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing will be held in person and remotely on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. Information on remote access to the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda at its time of publishing. At this time and place, interested persons including all people owning property in Brooktrails Township Community Services District, may appear personally or submit written comment on the

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: STEVEN D. METOYER. aka STEVE METOYER

CASE NO. **22PR00052**

estate of the decedent.

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of STEVEN D. METOYER, aka STEVE METOYER A Petition for Probate has been filed by Candace Metoyer in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, The Petition for Probate requests that Candace Metoyer be appointed as personal representative to administer the

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the persona representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as

Date: May 12, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in Dept.: TM of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 700 S Franklin St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

If you object to granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, o (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a

person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court

Attorney for Petitioner: Jennifer M. O'Brien, NEARY and O'BRIEN, 110 S Main St., Ste. C, Willits, CA 95490, Telephone: (707) 459-5551.

Publication Dates: April 14, 21 and 28, 2022

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

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Above, from left: Eva Semisch, Emelia Owsiany, Leah Blakely and Sophie Chavez have fun at the Sebastopol competition. Alexa Williams places second in the 100-yard butterfly. Annalee Gonzalez competes in the 500-yard freestyle. Below: Eva Semisch swims in the 200-yard relay. Below, right: Willits Otter teammates Graham Olson, Emelia Owsiany, Leah Blakely, Sophie Chavez, Annalee Gonzalez and Alexa Williams attend a swim competition in Sebastopol





Willits Otters Swim Team begins the spring season competition in Sebastopol

By Arora Chavez, for Willits Otters

The Willits Otters Swim Club traveled south to the Sebastopol Sea Serpent swim meet. The swimmers were excited to be back into competition waters. Representing Willits were Graham Olson, Emelia Owsiany, Leah Blakely, Eva Semisch, Annalee Gonzalez, Sophie Chavez and Alexa Williams.

The seven Otters placed in nine events and all the Otters improved their individual times in one or more events. Gonzalez placed second in the 50-yard breaststroke and placed in the 500-yard freestyle. Williams placed second in the 100-yard butterfly, placed in the 50-yard breaststroke, and the 50-yard freestyle.

Olson placed third in the 50-yard freestyle. Owsiany placed in the 50-yard breaststroke. Chavez placed first in the 50-yard freestyle, first in the 50-yard backstroke, and second in the 50-yard butterfly. Blakely swam the fastest 50-yard freestyle of the day with 31.98 seconds. Semisch had the fastest 50-yard freestyle in her leg of the 200-yard relay. The Otters had a fantastic meet in Sebastopol with lots of fun.

The Willits Otter Swim Team will be in the pool through the month of July and will return in September and go through January. They are accepting new applicants throughout the season and extend a warm invitation to all children up to age 18. If interested, call 559-417-4157. For more information about the swim team, visit the "Willits Otters Swim Team" Facebook page or www.willitsotters.weebly.com.

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wife, Karen, were hospitalized for

a time between November 2021

and January 2022. He stated that

there were relatives staying in the

home during this time. Following

the hospital stays, Patereau said he

received a water bill indicating that

85,000 gallons of water had been

He stated that "that was

impossible" - that his normal water

usage was between 5,000 to 6,000

gallons per month. Regarding the

possibility of a leak, he said he had

"someone come and look under the

house and it was dry as a bone,"

and he also wondered if the person

performing the reading of the meter

Background information provided

by the township office states:

"California's two year-long water

to ensure compliance with the

California Water Shutoff Protection

Act. Water service discontinuation

occurs when an account has an over

Patereau requested that the water

at his residence be left on and not

shut off for non-payment in March

2022. In a phone conversation

with Patereau, Brooktrails General

Manager Tamara Alaniz said she

had offered forgiveness of half of

the water usage charge, despite his

denial both that there was a leak and

that a leak had been fixed, which are

the regular terms of the district's leak

Patereau refused the account

credit and stated that he will not pay

for the water usage above his "regular

discussion at the April 12 meeting,

60-day past-due balance."

could have made a mistake.

discontinued.

consumed by the household.

the board voted to recommend that the 60-day past-due amount on the account of \$177.10 be paid to avoid

Scarberry also appeared before the board at the March 22 meeting to appeal the water service discontinuation at 1861 Primrose Drive. The owner of the property is Barry Thomas. Thomas was notified by mail that water service would be

shut-off moratorium ended February 2022. Over the past two years Brooktrails has not discontinued customers' water service due to non-payment. With the expiration of the water shut-off moratorium, customers need to pay their utility bills to avoid having water service "In March 2021, the Brooktrails board passed Ordinance 162, amending the district's Utility Code

At the end of March the over-60day past-due balance was \$1,180.59. This is the amount that would need to be paid to reinstate water service to the account. Thomas said he does not have a tenant agreement with Scarberry. But Brooktrails staff will abide by the decision of the property owner to allow service reinstatement with payment of the full 60-day past-

balance is received.

usage" each month. Following

Anniversary

selections. "I'm fascinated by how many different flavors can come things. Some are trendy and some of them stick and some don't.

"As far as the beer goes, this is an IPA-crazed world right now. Everybody loves the IPAs. We're not going to change that," Swanton said, "but we're going to be changing our lineup in terms of beer styles.

"We've just brought in a hefeweizen from Germany which went over well last night. We're going to be putting in non-alcoholic cold-brew nitro coffee on tap in the next few weeks. We're going to go more towards pilsners and lagers and malt-ier beers more than we

"Beer is so complex and there are so many different varieties and so many different recipes and influences from around the world. It's amazing," Swanton said. "We have our Belgian beer tap and it's been taking off really well. I'm thinking that we might want to do a rotating international tap.

The Pub lends itself well to an international flavor. It's a reputation that we've developed. We have a very international crowd at certain times of the year. It's amazing how many different types of beer there

In addition to the beer, unfiltered sake, wine, alcoholic and nonalcoholic kombuchas, and the music, Swanton treated his guests to various free comestibles throughout afternoon and evening. Beginning with pizza from his own Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza, he also brought in Thai food from the Bangkok Pho Thai Food Express in front of the Pub on Main Street, and from Hatake Farm Kitchen behind

As part of the festivities, local artist and teacher Jazz-Minh Moore created a gallery of her musician drawings, gathered from several

water disconnection.

Brooktrails resident Angela discontinued due to non-payment.

Prior to the December and January shut-off notice, Brooktrails staff had multiple contacts with Thomas about problems with squatters at this property. Thomas states that Angela Scarberry is not his tenant. However, Thomas has not asked the district to turn the water off in an attempt to forcibly remove the squatters from

In February 2022 water service was discontinued to 1861 Primrose Drive for non-payment. When utilities department staff made a routine check a week later, they found that the water had been illegally turned back on at the meter, and that the meter was completely removed. There was no water theft penalty applied to the account.

After brief discussion at the April 12 meeting, the board voted to support the staff recommendation that the water service to 1861 Primrose Drive remain discontinued until payment of the 60-day past-due

The board then unanimously voted approval of the March 12 Accounts Payable in the amount of

years of open-mic nights as well as other performances. "I've been out of water and malt and barley coming every Wednesday for the and hops," mused Swanton. "There Pub's open mic and I draw musicians are many different breweries out from the side of the stage," explained there and people are trying different Moore. "I've been doing it for years. Often, I want the musicians to be able to have the drawing in the end. I'm just so grateful that there's live music and I'm grateful for everyone who plays any instrument, and I don't play music at all. I was just letting the drawings slip out the door for years, but Pete said 'we need to have a show' and then I said 'we need to have a show,' and finally we

Throughout the night, several of the town's well-known groups performed, starting with Clay Hawkins with some hard-driving slide-guitar stylings that started people dancing. Greg and Malakai Schindel did a set, as did the Sherwood Mountain Boys bluegrass group. Sarah Rose and Lhasa Summers performed together, culminating in a jam with Jon Thompson, Connor Miller, and Joseph Cognac.

Ambria Zenitar, Shanachie's manager, is offering pre-sales on a new sweatshirt commemorating the anniversary. "The Pub hoodies were a great hit," said Zenitar. "We sold about 20. We're still going to take pre-orders for the next week. That hoodie is a perfect snapshot of what the Pub is right now, with Jazz-Minh's art, Malakai, myself, the Sherwood Mountain Boys. Pete was adamant that it just said 'Music Happens' at the bottom. The more I saw it, the more perfect it seemed. He didn't plan the Pub to be what it is. The art, the music, the community, and the people just happened, with the simple phrase 'Music Happens.'

"If there's one thing that I can say about the Pub," added Zenitar, "is that what makes the Pub so unique is the people who come to it and I'm just so grateful to all the people who came to support the Pub. It meant so much to me and to Pete and to the artists and to the community. My

is almost ready to "close out."

Legally, that means the structure is built, all administrative actions are completed, all disputes are settled, and final payment has been made.

"We're really close to closing out the contract with ACGC [Adams Commercial General Contracting, Inc.]," said Board President Tony

"We're really really close," agreed administrative assistant Michelle Schnitzius.

"I've sent out 30 'Notices of Completion,' with 35 days to respond," she said. "If I don't hear anything by April 28, we can close it out."

And delivery of the department's new Wildland Type 3 fire engine is also finally about there.

"We're hoping to get it in June," deputy chief John Thomen told the board. "Two of us go back [to Boise, Idaho] and look at it, and they deliver it and give an orientation.

The new Explorer Scout program is also almost there, with only "some documents in hand to finish up, [and completion of] an online child protective portion by scout troop leaders" left to do.

"It's actually moving forward after all this time," Chief Bill Carter told the board. "Hopefully, next month or so, we'll be there.

Boys and girls from 14 to 21 are eligible to participate in this demanding program.

"We've got to be stringent with these kids make sure they're dedicated, and they know what they're getting themselves into," said Carter. "It's like a new volunteer firefighter. We want to make sure they understand the commitment and the need to move forward with it and take it seriously."

Madrigal asked if there were restrictions on what the scouts could do.

"There's a whole list," said Carter. "They won't be able to participate in any active fire, rescue scenarios until they're well-trained, and that's the right way.... going to be an ongoing process.

"They'll mark off their task book as they train everyone's ready. with us, and when they reach a certain level, they'll get on the engine and duty rig and go with the chief," he continued. "They'll gain those skills and responsibilities as they're in the program."

Training is rigorous.

"We do some IDHL [immediately dangerous to life and health] stuff, but it's not a real environment," he said. "But they do need to dress according to the exercise. Mainly what we're using right now is wildland training-type stuff: friction protection gloves, goggles, things like that.

"Once they're 18, they can start training in what we call Explorer 2 programs," he continued. "Now they can actually go into those environments with proper training once they're ready. And once they're 21, they become full members.

"A lot of these kids, they age out. They don't drop out," he told the board. "It's exciting to think

"Gearing them up is kind of a big deal to make sure they have what they need," he said. "Right now, it's just piecemeal stuff; we're going through some old gear and making sure it fits the criteria, smaller than most of us."

And gear is expensive.

Clothing costs were brought up as part of a look at the district's preliminary budget, which was presented at the meeting by Schnitzius.

She often interspersed the discussion of budget items with phrases like "everything is expensive and it's just going up ... fuel is super high and getting worse.

On the revenue side, there's one thing that isn't going up: That would be payments from the 2018 went right back up."

the high school. The theme was then changed to include all murdered and missing indigenous

Bourassa contacted Shane Grammer, who. through his Hope Through Art Foundation, has been dedicated to creating art to honor and bring awareness to missing and murdered indigenous women. Grammer created a manual and a curriculum on how to build a mural, from concept to execution, and stewarded the students through the process, showing them how to do a design, prepare the surface, which materials to use, the technique, etc.

Students Audrey Sherf and Willow Daun-Widner created the design and were joined by several other students in the painting, which took place over a very rainy week in which there were periods of hail. Luckily, the mural was situated under an overhang, so work could continue. The mural has several elements that have meaning to the Native Americans, a large red hand as a symbol of the missing and murdered women, and roses as homage to Khadijah Britton, among

On Thursday, the painting was completed enough to invite some of the members of local Native American tribes to place red handprints on the larger red hand in order to merge themselves with the cause. This practice continued on Friday when the community was invited to the unveiling of the almost-complete mural.

The Friday ceremony brought out the sponsors

voter-approved Measure I cannabis business tax collected by the city, which the department gets a

Initially budgeted by the department for an expected \$75,000 last year, the amount was

In contrast, money is flowing in when it comes to preparing for wildfires, and Chief Carter described one recent large PG&E grant that "Mendocino County fire chiefs are working on [which will pay for] two big training units, one on the coast in Fort

Bragg and one in Ukiah. It's "a million dollars from PG&E to put in two state-of-the-art training towers, burn rooms, the whole thing," he said.

The fancy new towers, however, will not replace the department's reliance on its own tried and true tower (at the Baechtel Road substation) for training purposes.

"Our own burn room is great because we can plan any exercise we want and move forward with it. We don t have to get permission or schedule a time," Carter told the board "Ours, in reality, is more realistic than the

ones that are custom-built because they're using propane props and making their smoke, where ours, it's like you're in a real structure fire,' explained board member Skip Lucier.

Which is characteristic of the rigorous ongoing training always taking place at the department.

Currently, "we're in wildland training season," Carter told the board.

He described some of the recent training exercises, including a timed "3 mile hike with 50 pound pack, [that] I think almost everybody had

And also a new addition to the training schedule: a "monthly basic operation training, [during which] we do whatever they think they want to work on ... muscle memory, hands-on ... getting that hose off

All of it vital so that when the real deal calls

For example, Carter described a recent "big incident ... [a] multi-family structure fire at Oak Glenn Apartments. "The lower story was fully involved when we

got on scene ... pushing up into the second story

apartment above it and just starting to spread. We had one victim picked off of the balcony. "AB [Aaron Branscomb] went for a quick walk around I asked him to do, while I sized up resource needs," he continued. "And he found a

lady standing on the balcony kind of frozen with smoke and fire around her. "Luckily, a resident or passerby, somebody, came up with him, and they were able to get her off the balcony, [which was] pretty impressive with

flames pushing out over the top of them. "A few more minutes up there could have been a whole different scene, but ... crews contained it to the affected area, with very little spread to the main apartments," he said. "It could have been

really a big deal and luckily it wasn't." The 44 calls for the rest of March included six fires, 14 emergency rescue and medical aids but fitting can be an issue. They're quite a bit 16 traffic collisions, three calls for hazardous conditions not fire-related, four service calls to the public, one false alarm, and one good intent.

> Asked what "a good intent" call was, Carter responded that training chief Eric Alvarez "label[ed] those, but "maybe it could be a smoke alarm ... find out if their batteries are good, something like that."

Or maybe it's like a call that Thomen described. "I still get a kick out of the one you guys got. You got that cat out of a tree, brought it down. And it

of the mural: Sherwood Valley Casino, the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, Willits Rotary Club, the United Methodist Church, Whitney Eads, and others who were honored with signed photos of the mural and the students who worked on it. Tribal members and members of MMIW attended to bless the artwork with prayer and song. Third District Supervisor John Haschak and Superintendent of Schools Michelle Hutchins also attended and placed their handprints on the mural. After the ceremonies were ended, the students went back to work to put the finishing touches to the painting

"We hope that people can start raising the voice of the voiceless," stated Bourassa. "The indigenous people need their voices to be heard and have more resources. Each of us has a part to play in that, even though we don't think we do. I believe we do, even if it's just nudging your spouse or your partner or other family members, saying: 'hey, did you hear about so and so's daughter missing or murdered? What's happened? Where are our resources?' There's a disconnect between local and state and federal authorities. How do we fix that? How do we connect each of us together?'

The mural can be seen on the Willits High School campus on the west end of the Audio-Visual Library.

For further information on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement, visit www.mmiwusa.org, or for more info on the Hope Through Art Foundation, visit www. hopethroughartfoundation.com.

Pg. 13

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Mendo Crafts

First Friday Vendors get a new name and move to the Imagination Station preschool parking lot

explained Shila Bigall, another of the original members.

The group has been looking for a viable permanent home

since having to leave the Evergreen Shopping Center and

the parking lot behind Coast Hardware. Their new home is

now in the parking lot of the Imagination Station preschool

The space was offered by Willits Mayor and local

businesswoman Saprina Rodriguez, who said: "I saw on

Facebook that they were looking for a home, and I was

delighted to provide that space for them. I'm excited about

them being able to come here once a month, and I hope the

Crafts |

Over on page 15

at 11 North Marin Street.

Read the rest of

"I'm loving the new location," at the Imagination Station parking lot, said Santa Calderon, one of the original members of the First Friday Vendors community, newly renamed as Mendo Crafts. "I hope it can be a permanent home for us.'

Mathew Caine

This weekend, on Saturday, April 23, Mendo Crafts vendors will hold a Mother's Day Sale at the preschool parking lot from 11 am to 5 pm, featuring Mother's Day gifts from local artists and makers

Their original concept of staging a craft market on the first Friday of each month has also been changed. "This will be every month. We're trying for the third Saturday, but we are flexible and try to squeeze between other events,"

At left, from top: Mickey DuCharme creates many different cloth products. Stephany Brundage's angora bunnies are a hit with young Scarlett. Breanna Legere can always be found at the Mendo Crafts sales with her mélange of artistic gifts.

Below: Cory Brown, with his shocking-pink beard that matches his girlfriend's hair, creates finely crafted knives. At right: Saprina Rodriguez, Willits mayor and business owner,



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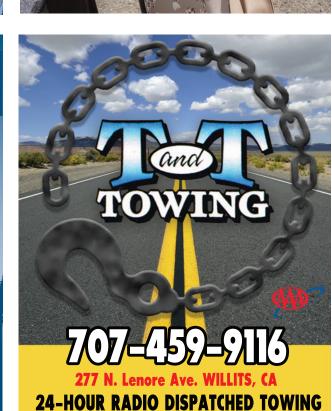
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(PG) 2 hrs 2 mins

SONIC THE

HEDGEHOG 2

Tightwad Tuesday Title for April 26 is in RED. All tickets at \$6!



Above: Many whimsical crocheted creatures are created by Crystal Thompson. Below: A family shops at the new location of the Mendo Crafts vendors.

Photo by Mathew Caine

The rest of Crafts

community finds them. It's a nice space right next to the park and close to downtown."

The vendors love the new space which has a homier feel than previous locations. Shoppers can find deals on handcrafted items, crocheted fantasy animals, bowl cozies, bags for walkers, soaps and body products with the scents of lavender and mint and lemongrass, hand-turned bowls with individual names, crystals, handcrafted knives, lip balms, sugar scrubs, lotions, magnets, and a myriad of other gifts for all occasions.

Calderon is providing a table with baked goods, to be purchased by donation, to benefit the Willits Charter School's sixth grade class in order to finance their class trip to Safari West in Santa Rosa

Prospective vendors can go to https://www.facebook.com/groups/1301766273647499



From page 5 Trips

arrow shaft, knock, and what the fletch does." Students wanted to know how the bow was used, and had many questions, the post said. "Imagination Station strives to broaden students' minds, vocabulary, and thoughts through introducing many new experiences."

A visit to the school from the Tooth Fairy and her dog, from the Little Lake Clinic Dental Program, fascinated the younger students. They got a chance to practice their brushing techniques on the big friendly stuffed doggie and a free toothbrush.

Below, left: Teacher Juan Salinas demonstrates how to place an arrow on a bow to intent students.

Photos by Imagination Station Director Saprina Rodriguez and teacher Adalyd Gonzales





Volunteers

Volunteers also help administer our No One Dies Alone program, a nationwide initiative to provide companionship and support for patients nearing the end of life.

From page 1

Although the COVID pandemic limited volunteer activity within the hospitals, loosening restrictions and a declining number of cases are enabling most volunteers to resume their work.

"We're always thankful for our dedicated volunteers, and their absence during the COVID pandemic was both missed and recognized," says Josanna Kiggins, volunteer coordinator at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley. "I am always inspired to see people using their free time to support others, even more so in a healthcare setting where we're often caring for the most vulnerable members of the community."

Adventist Health hospital volunteers also staff our gift and thrift shops, help tend to the garden, provide music, and serve in

areas such as our Outpatient Nutrition, Street Medicine, and Employee Wellness programs. Most positions do not require specific experience, just a compassionate heart and a desire to help others.

Volunteer applications are available at the hospitals, and everyone – from teenagers to retirees - is encouraged to apply for any of the numerous volunteer positions available at each of our hospitals. Adventist Health Howard Memorial is in specific need of a certified dog therapy team - a trained team to provide patient comfort and smiles as only canines can.

For more information on becoming a volunteer at Adventist Health Howard Memorial and Adventist Health Mendocino Coast, please contact Rebecca Hope at 707-456-3245. For information on volunteer opportunities at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley, please contact Josanna Kiggins at 707-463-7625.



The daycare parking lot across from the park 🛇



YOU ARE INVITED!

Willits 6th Grade Charter School Bakesale

A bake sale to satisfy your sweet tooth.

April 23, 2022 / 11a.m to 5:00pm

Imagination station 11 N. Marin Street Willits ca 95490

* The Daycare Parking Lot Across From Park* Come support the 6th grade class of the willits charter school to earn money to go to Safari West



11th Annual Jesse D. Pittman Fund **5K Race**

Don't Run, Charge!

Saturday June 18, 2022 5K Run & 5K Walk

Recreation Grove Park Willits, Calif.

Starting @ 9 AM

Jesse D. Pittman Fund Memorial Scholarships

This race supports the Jesse Pittman Fund which offers college scholarships for Mendocino County high school students in honor of Jesse Pittman, who died serving in Afghanistan on August 6, 2011.

> Runners, walkers, of all ages, kids too, are welcome!



was a Navy Seal from Mendocino County A native of Willits

For more Information and to Register go online today @: www.jessepittman.run

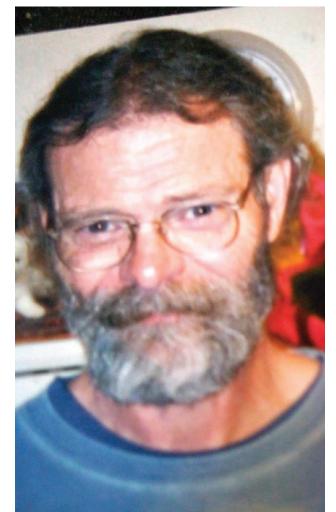
The course is all on flat, paved roads. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome. Strollers too!

To make donations, go to: www.jessepittmanfund.org

On Site Food Vendors: Slam Dunk Pizza & Big Earl's BBQ

EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE

Movie Times for April 22 thru April 28



OBITUARY |

David Ohl

On January 8, 2022, David Ohl passed. To most of the community he was known as "the man behind the counter" at Sparetime Supply. David was employed by them for 32 years.

David enjoyed living on his land, Mustangs, Dodge Darts, hanging out with his family and friends, and most of all, riding his motorcycle.

David was born April 2, 1948 to Virgil and Leona Ohl in Attica, Ohio. When he graduated in 1966, the Vietnam war was happening and so was the draft. He chose to join the Navy and was located in Southern California.

He is preceded in death by his father Virgil Ohl, his mother Leona Ohl, his brother Duke Ohl, nephew Gary Laferty, and great-nephew Dale Laferty.

He is survived by his sister Deborah Besley of Willits, great-nephew Gary Laferty and Kassi, great-great-nephew Damien Laferty, great-great-nieces Kayleigh and Kiera Laferty, and aunt Twila Gardner, all of Ohio, and his friends Dan and Sandy of Alaska.

No memorial service is planned. Please make donations to any animal foundation of your choice.

Fantastic Beasts:

The Secrets of **Dumbledore**'

The Story: Evil is afoot across the J. K. Rowling pre-Harry Potter landscape of Magicks and Muggles. The hero of this tale is magizoologist Newt



Dan Essman

Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), a mage extraordinary

gentleness who is quite adept at handling magical beasties. Some beasties are droll, some nightmarish, and some are almost holy.

The famous sorcerer Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law) gathers a crew of powerful mages starting with Scamander to disrupt the murderous plans of the psychotic mage Grindelwald (Mads Mikkelsen) who wants to control the world and enslave all the Muggles (people like me and probably you). It's a war of good vs. evil. Fantastical beasts are involved, and magic wands, and so many arcane



lightning bolts that the theatre-house is illuminated.

Thoughts: This visually extravagant film is worth several viewings. Firstly, for the basic story and the imagery. Secondly, for the complexities seen in the primary characters. J. K. Rowling (she wrote the novel and the screenplay) has novelistic sympathy for her creations. Most every major character has backstory and motivation. Usually in a fantasy flick, characterization and behaviors are limited to: He or she is just a good person or a bad person.

This film is about Dumbledore's past, his secrets, his heretofore private relationship with a special friend, and his twisty family dynamics. Revelations are forthcoming. We find out who he is, beyond just the kindly and wise Master of Hogwarts. I liked the movie, and I am going to watch it

Parents: Kindness, love and courage are the virtues preached in this flick. It might be confusing, or too nightmarish in parts for the little ones. Great creatures!

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

Art Under 20



71 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490 www.willitscenterforthearts.org



VENDOR DAY SALE Saturday, April 23rd Off Most Items





PROMIX











































Saturday 8 am - 6 pm Vendors 8 am - 2 pm

All Sales Final, Subject to Stock on Hand, No Special Orders, No Deliveries

208 E. San Francisco Ave. (707) 459-6791

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com