

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Thursday, April 27, 2023

School board hears reports

Margi Gomez Guhde
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The Willits Unified School District board of directors meeting was gavelled in at 5:10 pm on April 19.

Students of the month Aaron Adams and Chad Douglas from Sanhedrin High School were honored by Principal and Director of Student Programs Arora Chavez. She also spoke about the school and its varied programs.

Chavez then reported on the status of a number of WUSD student programs, beginning with the English Language Proficiency Assessment. Initial scores will be ready in the coming week, with full data available sometime in May, allowing students to be reclassified by the start of the 2023-24 school year.

Next was the Flexibility Integrity Assessment program. Discussion followed regarding engagement, attendance, and graduation rates, and the need for analysis on root causes and potential interventions.

Chavez presented the Federal Monitoring Update, indicating that the WUSD is in full compliance with regards to Title 1 and

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

Burn permits required May 1

Submitted by CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit

Beginning on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 12:01 am, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit will require residential burn permits for residential burning within Mendocino County.

Required burn permits are available online through CAL FIRE at <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov>.

Property owners can access this website to obtain a burn permit, free of charge, by watching a short educational video and submitting an application. Permits must be printed, signed, and on hand while burning.

The process provides the necessary information needed to conduct the burn safely, while minimizing the chance for fire escape. Permits are valid for the calendar year in which they are issued and must be reissued annually on or after January 1 of each year.

Permits can also be obtained through Mendocino County Air Management District at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd/burning-information.html.

Read the rest of **Permits**
Over on Page 2



Above, from left: Plant starts were on sale and ready to head home during Mariposa Market's Earth Day sale. Mariposa employee Sarah holds one of the reusable bags given to all shoppers on Earth Day. Wildflower packets are always a nice way to easily plant any day. Below: Mariposa employee Kayti smiles with a bunch of carrots while preparing the colorful veggies for a restock on the fridge shelves.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Celebrating Mother Earth

Shoppers enjoy sales, samples and raffles at Mariposa Market's annual Earth Day sale and celebration on April 22

It was a wonderful day to celebrate Earth Day on April 22, and the staff at Mariposa Market did their best to encourage awareness of the environment, and give shoppers some great deals, and chances at great prizes, too.

Mariposa has been celebrating Earth Day for more than four decades, and this year's sale matched the day's date; customers shopping for produce, in the bulk section and for earth-friendly cleaning products received 22% off their purchase.

For the past several days, shoppers received two raffle tickets at the register that were to be placed into one (or

two) of the colorful and themed raffle baskets – or into a separate box to win a potted plant. Shoppers also enjoyed samples, seeing vendors, and shopping in the decorated store.

Store manager Marc Adley noted his belief that every day is Earth Day at Mariposa Market. "We promote local farmers and ranchers by offering them a retail pathway, we have a commitment to organic and natural products, and our mission statement is simple: 'to sustain and nourish our community.'"

– Maureen Jennison



Above: Mariposa Market employees Celestial, Bella, Riannah, Sarah smile for the camera, while Lisa peeks in from the back center.



Below, from left: Gift baskets and potted plants were available to win with raffle tickets earned at the check stand. Maggie approved of the honey and Reza's Bakery bread samples. Fresh flowers were as colorful as the produce at Mariposa Market.



BOS committee plans cannabis streamlining

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
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At a pair of recent General Government Committee meetings, county supervisors and staff laid out plans to streamline the cannabis licensing program by ceding more control to the state for environmental reviews, regulations, and enforcement, among other changes.

At an April 14 GGC special meeting the committee recommended the full board of supervisors consider an ordinance amending the county's Chapter 10A.17 cannabis ordinance, with the goal of making it more directly in tune with state procedures, and getting rid of duplicative steps currently required by both the state and the county.

County Counsel Christian Curtis and Deputy Counsel Matthew Kiedrowski ran through the numerous changes they were proposing in the 47-page ordinance, as members of the public such as attorney Hannah Nelson gave suggestions on how they might modify those changes.

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

Local wildfire season is underway

Jennifer Poole
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Forward progress was quickly stopped Wednesday afternoon, on the Sky Fire near the 27551 block of Skyview Road, up Sherwood Road north of Willits.

The wildfire was first reported at 1:34 pm, as "bushes and a tree" on fire, according to Mendocino County Action News on Facebook, as per the emergency scanner.

According to the Watch Duty app, firefighters were on scene at 1:49 pm, and observed: "Mixed fuels. Fire has started into timber. Trees torching. Spotting up hill. Firefighters taking action. Near old Oak Fire scar."

More resources responded, including a fire crew from Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp.

While firefighters were working on the main fire, a new spot fire was observed, and all resources were requested to continue in.

Forward progress was reported stopped on the

Read the rest of **Fires**
Over on Page 4

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Five years later

To the Editor:

It wasn't until after the Redwood Complex fire of 2017 that destroyed so much of Redwood and Potter Valley and threatened to move into Willits and Brooktrails that the Sherwood corridor communities were told that the several emergency travel routes shown on the official evacuation map were no longer considered viable.

Years of no vegetation maintenance along the established dirt road access routes had resulted in loss of these critical emergency infrastructure components.

The fire and loss of access routes inspired many residents in the Sherwood corridor to come together to create a safer community, and that group formed Sherwood Firewise Communities in April of 2018.

Over the past five years many of the strategic goals set forth by the founding group, such as reopening emergency access routes, have been accomplished, and many more are under way with new activities every season.

On May 6, from 1 to 5 pm there will be an in-person Sherwood Firewise meeting at the Brooktrails Community Center to review past accomplishments, discuss current activities, and develop plans for the next five years. Everyone with an interest in the Sherwood corridor communities is invited to join us.

While implementing fuel reduction and home fire hardening programs is of critical importance, the most important aspects of creating a safer community involve personal relationships from a few households to neighborhood groups to entire subdivisions.

Our community is also dependent upon relationships with surrounding communities as well as with local, county and state government, non-governmental organizations, and the huge variety of local business and social groups.

Sherwood Firewise owes a huge debt of gratitude to the Brooktrails Township board and Brooktrails Fire Department for helping with the process of reopening the access routes as well as to CAL FIRE, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, Community Foundation of Mendocino County, and so many local businesses and individuals that have kept the organization going and accomplishing important public safety goals.

Please join us on Saturday, May 6 to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Sherwood Firewise, learn about what has happened over that five years, and be part of planning what to do over the next five years.

Keith Rutledge, Sherwood Firewise, Brooktrails

Thank you

To the Editor:

I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the amazing community I live in.

An awareness that one of our beloved residents, Greg Schindel (the Train Singer), was in need started a whirlwind of planning for a fundraising event. Sixteen days from start to finish, our community members were able to pull off something amazing.

We were able to pull this event together in record time. Our community sharing event details online and all the free publicity donated inspired local musical talent, writers, painters, and all aspects of our community to donate.

This event titled "Feel the Love" was for Greg with the purpose of letting him know how much our community loves him. This was one of the most amazing events I have attended, because it truly lived up to its name, from the initial idea to the actual event.

The final number of cash raised is \$20,000. The generosity of this community is truly amazing. We are blessed to live in such a wonderful place.

This could not have happened without each and every one of you. Thank you to all who gave their talent, goods, and services and to all who attended and co-created such a heartfelt event.

The community we have in Willits is unique, and it is why we choose to live here.

Thank you again to those too numerous to mention individually,

Cyndee Logan, Willits

Calling All Songbirds

To the Editor:

The Just For Fun Choir, directed and conducted by Nancy New, is starting up again! Come join us!

The Choir had a long and happy run of about 10 years – until the COVID lockdown, and many of its members are ready to have fun singing again. And you are invited to join.

New members of all ages and experience are welcome, and reading music is not required. We'll be singing secular songs from Irving Berlin and Frank Sinatra to Ray Charles, the Beatles, Peter, Paul, and Mary, and much more.

Weekly rehearsals will be at the Senior Center from 1:30 to 3 pm starting Monday, May 1. Call Nancy at 459-1276 for more information.

The rest of **Permits**

Joanne Moore, Willits

New solar projects for Laytonville, Ukiah

Submitted by SCP

Renewable Properties, a developer and investor in small-scale utility and community solar projects, and Sonoma Clean Power, a community choice aggregator, have signed power purchase agreements for new solar projects in Laytonville and Ukiah.

One of the projects, located in Ukiah, will include energy storage, with a 4MW/16 MWh battery that will primarily be used to capture solar energy generated during the middle of the day and redeploy the energy in the evening hours when customers need it most.

Both projects will contribute to SCP's local resource plan for its EverGreen service, the first and only California community choice aggregator to offer subscribers 100% renewable, locally generated energy 24/7 through solar, energy storage, and geothermal power.

The solar and storage projects will complement the baseload energy generated by The Geysers, SCP's existing local geothermal power plant and one of the largest geothermal plants in the world. The combination of local solar, local storage, and local geothermal energy will allow EverGreen subscribers to receive 100% of their power from renewable energy at all times, avoiding the need to import gas-generated power during times of peak energy use.

"Renewable Properties is committed to developing small-scale utility renewable energy projects that directly serve the

communities we operate in," said Brian von Moos, chief operating officer at Renewable Properties. "We're pleased to support Sonoma Clean Power, a pioneer in delivering locally generated renewable energy, with these projects that provide renewable energy when their customers need it most."

The projects, both located in Mendocino County, will commence construction in March 2024 and are expected to be completed by early 2025. The 4.99 MWac Twin Pines Circle Solar project in Laytonville will produce enough energy to power 1,108 homes per year and offset 9,700 tons of CO2 annually. The 4 MWac Redemeyer Road Solar project in Ukiah will incorporate a 16 MWh battery that will produce enough energy to power 934 homes per year and offset 8,171 tons of CO2 annually. The Redemeyer project will also be the first locally sited solar + storage project for Sonoma Clean Power.

"These Renewable Properties projects will be instrumental in helping SCP to bring our customers the many benefits of generating locally sited renewable energy," said Deb Emerson, managing director, Power Procurement, at Sonoma Clean Power. "By combining solar and energy storage with our geothermal plant, these groundbreaking projects can serve as a model for other regions seeking to achieve local renewable energy goals."

For more info, visit www.renewprop.com or sonomacleanpower.org or call SCP at 1-855-202-2139.

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 27: Chicken Salad Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Pickle

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

Monday, May 1: Turkey Tetrazzini, Veggie, Garlic Bread

Tuesday, May 2: Western Bacon Burger, Chips

Wednesday, May 3: Portuguese Rice w/ Linguica, Roll

Thursday May 4: Lasagna w/Spinach & Meat Sauce, Veggie, Roll

Friday, May 5: Sirloin Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, 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.



40th Anniversary

Sparetime Supply celebrates four decades in business with vendor day and sale

"It's been a long time. Forty years," mused Mike Griggs, Sr., seemingly mystified by the success of this Willits institution. "I couldn't envision this large a business when we started. My wife, Dianne, who died 15 years ago, never would have wanted this."

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

"It's been good for the community and good for our employees. She would have preferred that I had done more parenting and family stuff. I like the company because it's been good for a lot of people. We never tried to be rich. We just tried to be OK and share."

"In 1980 Dianne and Mike, Sr. borrowed money from Dianne's parents and with their two small children, started selling mushroom compost out of the back of an old beat-up flatbed truck. Dianne and Mike both had full-time jobs, while working to grow this nursery supply business, all of their spare time was put into opening a retail store, hence the name Sparetime Supply," according to their website, www.sparetimesupply.com.

Sparetime Supply and Garden Center celebrated its 40th year in business in Willits (and now nationally) with a massive sale, featuring many vendors, music, free swag, and incredible discounts, up to 40 percent off on selected items.

As customers entered the lot, they were efficiently greeted by an employee who made sure that they could find a parking spot. Company CEO and President Andrew Hosford handed out free plant starts and seeds at the entrance to the event area, after which, customers could begin to wander in the warm, sunny day, down the road lined by vendors, where they could discover the newest in growing equipment, soils, fertilizers, and other desired gardening supplies.

The KWNE FM truck out of Ukiah played the day's soundtrack as people strolled from booth to booth. Each booth dispensed samples and knowledge about terpenes, fertilizers, microbes, and all things related to maximizing agricultural potential.

"Sparetime started in Mike, Sr.'s garage, back in 1983," said Hosford. "That's what we're celebrating. He got his business license back in 1980 but he became a retail store in 1983, the third week of April. That's why we celebrate every third week of April. We've been going strong for 40 years, and we're happy to see how busy we are and all the customers back."

Although the sale was aimed at the weekend and small gardener, a large percentage of Sparetime's business is in supplying the cannabis industry and many of the attending vendors reflected that area of the customer base, with names like Cutting Edge, E.B. Stone Organics, and Fox Farm. Fertilizers, soils and nutrients were there to compare

as the vendors told the tale of how their products could enhance the ability to provide a great final product.

"It's our big vendor day," said Hosford. "We have vendors from many locations, from Oregon, Southern California, manufacturers from a lot of places that come and give out free samples of nutrients and fertilizers, potting soil, so they can answer any questions that customers might have."

Knowledgeable vendors answered inquiries and deftly extolled the virtues of their products. Dave Sanders of Hawthorne Gardening Company, showed a great depth of knowledge about the products that his company promoted, as did all of the other vendors.

"We rep Mother Earth, Devito Horticultural Lighting, General Hydroponics fertilizer, Botanicare fertilizer, Hydrologic purification systems, reverse-osmosis systems, Titan Controls," said Sanders.

"We are cannabis-based," said Jose of Cutting Edge, a family-owned business since 2001. "This is our Louder Powder. As soon as you open that bag, the [terpenes] are talking loud. That's what I'm showcasing today, along with our Sugaree (organic sugar cane, blueberry extract, and others in a fermentation process). It boosts terpenes for smell and taste. It works well with the Louder Powder."

Joseph from E.B. Stone Organics wanted people to know about their products, too: "We're a soil and fertilizer manufacturing distributor. We're located out in Suisun, East Bay. We do all kinds of soil and fertilizer mixes. We've got E.B. Stone Organics, Greenall, which is a more traditional synthetic line and our new line, which is our 420 line, which is designed for the cannabis industry."

In addition to the soils and fertilizers, there were machines to control temperature, water flow, "pH levels, electric conductivity, valves, solenoids, check your water content, things of that nature," offered by Renata Varga, of HRG Distribution Horticultural, which also sells machines to help separate and trim cannabis.

"The majority of the money we make stays in our community, going to employee wages and donations to various organizations," says the Sparetime website. "We believe in the power of relationships. We pride ourselves in always being straightforward and honest. Know that when we tell you something, we mean it. Our humble beginnings remind us to take care of our customers and vendors to the best of our ability, because without them, Sparetime would never be what it is today."

Sparetime has been an incredibly generous member of the Willits community, always to be found lending a hand (and equipment) at fundraisers and other local events.

Sparetime Garden Center can be found at 475 East San Francisco Avenue. They are open 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday; 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday; and 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday. For more information, call 459-3576.

Above, from left: Sparetime Supply and Garden Center, which has been in business since 1983, is a storefront familiar to many Willits residents. Mike Griggs, Sr. attends the anniversary sale with his furry driver. A sign greets visitors as employees efficiently direct people to open parking spaces on Saturday. Below, left: Jose of Cutting Edge, out of White City, Oregon, sells a terpene-aiding product, Louder Powder. Below, right: Joseph shares information on soils and fertilizers by E.B. Stone, which has been in the agriculture business since 1916.



At top: Customers chat with vendors at the Sparetime Supply anniversary sale on Saturday. Above: Top-40 station KWNE 94.5 FM provides the sounds of the day. At left: The vendor area of the event is pet-friendly, a great way to spend an hour on a beautiful afternoon.

Photos by Mathew Caine

From page 1

Burn Permit Requests



1. Scan the QR code above by using your phone's camera app to easily apply for a burn permit online or visit: BurnPermit.fire.ca.gov

Wildfire is coming... are you ready? Learn more at: ReadyForWildfire.org

For inquiries or if you are having trouble accessing the request form, please contact: CALFIREDSISupport@fire.ca.gov

IMPORTANT: CAL FIRE burn permits are only for residents who live in the State Responsibility Area, or where CAL FIRE has jurisdictional authority. It is the responsibility of the landowner to check with local agencies to determine any additional permits that might be required and if there are any additional burning restrictions for their area.

Before you burn, call Mendocino County Air Management District at 707-463-4391 to confirm that you have all the required burn permits and to ensure it is a permissive burn day. Burning can only be done on permissive burn days and is prohibited on non-burn days.

CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit reminds everyone that it is their individual responsibility to use fire safely and to prevent fires.

Anyone with questions is urged to contact the Mendocino CAL FIRE Howard Forest Headquarters at 459-7414, or their nearest CAL FIRE Station. The Mendocino CAL FIRE Unit will implement a burn suspension when weather conditions warrant.

For more information about how you and your family can prepare for wildfire, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

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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Tell us what you think about a transit center in Ukiah!

Scan the QR code to take our Survey

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) and the Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA) need your help in planning for a transit center in Ukiah!

www.mendocinocog.org/ukiah-transit-center

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 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!

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TOSSED SALAD WORD SEARCH

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| ARUGULA | CROUTONS | RADISHES |
| AVOCADO | KALE | SEEDS |
| BEANS | LETTUCE | SPINACH |
| BEETS | NUTS | SPROUTS |
| BERRIES | OIL | TOMATO |
| CELERY | OLIVES | VINEGAR |
| CHICKEN | ONION | |

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48									50	51	52	53	54
55										57			58
59											61		
62												64	

CLUES ACROSS

- It's all over the beach
- A cirque
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- Influential report author
- Satisfaction
- Recurring only at long intervals
- Islamic calendar month
- Neither
- Gelatinous substance
- American electronic music producer
- Old computer system
- Professional organization
- Malaria mosquitoes
- Not composed of matter
- It's in the ocean
- Peyton's little brother
- French commune
- Eyelashes
- Equal (prefix)
- Quality of little or rain
- One who beheads
- Sung to
- Influential punk artist
- Amount of time

- Polio vaccine developer
- Abba __ Israeli politician
- Job
- Flat-bottomed sailboat
- Japanese wooden clog
- Folk singer DiFranco
- FL city
- Naturally occurring solid
- Language of indigenous Asian people
- Dark brown

CLUES DOWN

- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- Venomous snake genus
- Uninteresting
- Straightforwardness
- Expression of wild excitement
- Arrange in order
- East Indian cereal grass
- Hillsides
- Bird beak covering
- Baseball stat
- Edge of a surfboard

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

March 26 to April 1

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **82 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

March 26

11:09 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Coast Street and Raymond Lane and issued a citation.

2:14 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:38 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

8:43 pm: HENDERSON, Skylar Ty (24) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and violation of probation.

March 27

6:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:00 pm: MUNSON, Steven Len (65) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

9:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 800 block of South Main Street.

March 28

8:55 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

March 29

12:25 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street.

4:17 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

12:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1300 block of Poppy Drive.

March 30

1:26 am: MEDLIN, Jeremiah Dean (43) of Ukiah was contacted in the 400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on

The rest of **Fires** From page 1

Sky Fire at 2:14 pm.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office resources were clear at 2:29 pm, though mop up was expected to take at least an hour.

Although temperatures were in the mid-80s Wednesday, the winds were reported as only 5 mph.

On Tuesday, smoke was visible from Willits and throughout the area from a prescribed burn in the hills west of Potter Valley and northeast of Redwood Valley.

A new fire later Wednesday afternoon, the Eel Fire, was reported at 17543 Eel River Road in Potter Valley. As described in Watch Duty's 4:14 pm post, the Eel Fire was "1/4 acre, slow rate of spread, heavy

misdemeanor charges of domestic battery and violation of a protective order.

8:12 am: SPIKER, Desmond Ray (39) of Willits was contacted in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order) and on felony charges of violation of probation.

5:12 pm: STARRETT, Joseph Roy (50) of Kelseyville was contacted at an undisclosed location in Willits. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

March 31

11:40 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of School Street.

2:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

4:12 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

8:07 pm: BRIGGS, Martin Christopher (52) of Laytonville and PATEREAU, Mark Richard (51) of Willits were contacted in the 200 block of Sherwood Road. Briggs was arrested pursuant to 602 PC (Trespassing), on felony charges of conspiracy to commit crime, and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a suspended license for DUI and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Patereau was arrested pursuant to 602 PC (Trespassing), on felony charges of conspiracy to commit crime, and on misdemeanor charges of driving without a license and possession of drug paraphernalia.

April 1

10:38 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Redwood Avenue and Maple Street and issued a citation.

12:01 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:31 pm: NELSON III, Charles Owen (52) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol) and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher.

11:20 pm: BOLTON, Joshua Eugene (26) of Willits was contacted in the 1000 block of Locust Street following a disturbance. He was arrested on felony charges of resisting an officer and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

understory," and resources were continuing to respond.

Now that fire season has started, make sure to get a burn permit and check whether it's a Permission Burn Day at <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd/burning-information.html>

Keep up with information about local fires at "Mendocino Sheriff" on Facebook, at "Mendocino County Action News" on Facebook, and via the Watch Duty app, <https://www.watchduty.org/>. Watch Duty can also be used in a browser window.

Sign up for local Nixle emergency alerts from the Sheriff's Office and other agencies at <https://www.nixle.com/> or by texting your zip code to "888777" to opt in.

Looking for something to celebrate?

Learn more about these, or see a list of other days at <https://www.listofnationaldays.com/>

April 27: National Babe Ruth Day, National Prime Rib Day, National Tell-A-Story Day, Morse Code Day

April 28: National Blueberry Pie Day, National Braveheart's Day, National Great Poetry Reading Day, Worker's Memorial Day, National Superhero Day, Biological Clock Day, Cubicle Day

April 29: World Wish Day, National Peace Rose Day, National Shrimp Scampi Day, National Zipper Day, International Dance Day, World Veterinary Day, Go Birding Day, Save The Frogs Day, International Astronomy Day, National Do A Kickflip Day

April 30: National Military Brat's Day, National Preparedness Day, National Adopt-A-Shelter Pet Day, National Bugs Bunny Day, National Hairstylist Appreciation Day, National Honesty Day, National Kiss Of Hope Day, National Oatmeal Cookie Day, National Raisin Day, National Sarcoidosis Day, Pinhole Photography

Day, International Jazz Day, World Tie Dye Day, National Bubble Tea Day

May 1: Law Day, National Loyalty Day, National Chocolate Parfait Day, Silver Star Service Banner Day, National School Principal's Day, Purebred Dog Day, Lei Day, Executive Coaching Day, New Home Owner's Day, School Bus Driver's Day, International Worker's Day, National Mother Goose Day, International Sunflower Guerrilla Garden Day

May 2: National Life Insurance Day, National Truffle Day

May 3: World Press Freedom Day, National San Architect Day, National Textiles Day, National Chocolate Custard Day, National Garden Meditation Day, National Lumpy Rug Day, National Paranormal Day, National Raspberry Popover Day, National Specially-Abled Pets Day, National Two Different Colored Shoes Day, Maker's Day



Above, from left: Dustin Gregg, co-owner of MD Tree Management, Ltd., trims down one of the excavated trees. Dustin Gregg and Michael Quinliven of MD Tree Management take a photo with Kevin Bouthillier, who they sub-contracted to work with the crane. Dustin Gregg moves the suspended tree into position after it's been cut.

At left: Michael Quinliven tops off one of the trees to be removed. Below: The tree removal is not as aesthetically pleasing but much safer for kids and families.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Out on a Limb

Meet the owners of MD Tree Management as they explain why several Rec Grove trees needed to be removed for safety reasons

Michael Quinliven loves trees. He revels in their powerful beauty, and enjoys his time high in their branches, inspecting, trimming, helping them to be as healthy as possible. His 4-year-old son, Bennett, who wants to be like his dad, climbing amongst the limbs, likens his dad to a very agile monkey, or other creature who makes their home high off the ground.

Quinliven, along with his partner in MD Tree Management, Dustin Gregg, are quick to express their respect and affection for the entities in their care. But sometimes, sadly, the trees must come down.

"Michael's been working on trees since he was 19, about 15 years. He owned his own tree company when he was younger and then he was a supervisor for a CalTrans tree crew. Then he owned part of Family Tree Resource. Now, he and Dustin have opened MD Tree Management last August. The tree business is good right now, with all the storms and the drought," explained Tree Wife (her designation) Erika Quinliven.

"When Michael worked for CalTrans," Erika explained, "he did this big tree job out on the highway up north. He swung around in the trees like Tarzan. He loves it. Not many people get to enjoy their job anymore."

Currently, MD Tree Management has been contracted by the City of Willits to mitigate the danger from older, out-of-balance, compromised trees in Recreation Grove Park after the destruction of part of the Willits Frontier Days grandstand and restrooms by a large tree that fell across the fence between the park and the rodeo grounds.

There have been other instances of such occurrences. A few short years ago, a tree

crashed through the Scout Hut on the eastern side of the park. Luckily, none of the scouts were hurt but it easily could have been worse.

According to Quinliven, there are several factors that create the hazardous arboreal situations in the park and necessitate the removal of some of the trees near the rodeo grounds.

"I was called down and did an assessment of the weight distribution and overall health of the trees," Quinliven said. "All of these trees had from 70-to-100-percent weight distribution towards the grandstands. That means in this section you have the eastern sun that these trees reach for. If they're going for the western sun, they can't because they're being blocked off by the trees in the back. So, they continue to grow east from this section. That creates all the weight leaning towards the grandstands.

"I assessed all the trees and we created a plan to remove all the trees that are leaning. There are a couple trees here that I have been up in and have had major defects; rot, holes in the upper canopy. These are older trees. There's a lot of ground saturation which has caused some of the trees to uproot. We've had a lot of rain this year.

"I was called in when that tree fell through the grandstand," he said. "They called me the next day. I spoke with Marcy Barry of Frontier Days when I was here on site. I met up with the city public works. Their plan was to go through the trees and see which ones we think need to come out, give the reasons why.

"Historically, we've been picking and choosing trees in this park," continued Quinliven. "I've been working in here for 13 years. Every couple of years, I come through to take out deadwood,

weight reductions to keep the trees that are in the park healthier and safer. I've been in this park about nine times, doing all of these trees, taking the deadwood, reducing weight. We didn't take all of them out. We're limbing them up to a certain point to reduce the weight of its lean. Some of the trees near the grandstands have been topped to reduce their weight and we're trimming two more of the trees to reduce their weight."

Quinliven pointed to a dark place on one of the trees, stating, "It's hollow. Water gets in there and gets trapped and it starts to decay. With the weight that's above that, it can easily break off. Those are the things we look for when we're doing assessments in the park."

Unfortunately, it was not possible to save all the trees. The ones that are compromised, due to ground saturation or weight distribution, needed to come out to ensure a safe environment for the people who utilize the park or rodeo grounds.

"There's a lot more to trees than people think," Quinliven mused. "They are like a puzzle. You have to take it apart in your head. It's a puzzle that if you mess up on, people can get hurt. It takes a professional with experience and knowledge. Trees are living beings. When they become sick, whether from disease or age or soil problems, they sometimes need to be removed in order to create a safe environment for people and buildings. Our goal isn't to clear out the park, but rather to take the unsafe ones out and do some maintenance on the ones we want to keep.

Michael Quinliven also owns a construction company, D Grade Construction, through which he works on excavations, etc. He can be contacted at: 707-972-0675.



At left: Michael Quinliven sets his safety lines high above the fence between Rec Grove Park and the rodeo grounds.

Above: Bennett Quinliven, with his mom, Erika, displays the company hat.

At right, above: MD Management, Ltd. has an extensive set of equipment including this bucket truck and chipper.

At right: Young Bennett Quinliven dreams of someday working with his dad, Michael.



Photo by MD Tree Management

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SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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Willits, CA 95490
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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 Jeremic
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

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

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

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• Membership Discourses
• Spiritual Discussions
• ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
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www.eckankar.org

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
459-2523
Sunday Mass inside:
9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
We welcome All Walks of Faith

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

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

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

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

If you want to be included in this column please call:

April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Mike Oglesby
707-489-0755



Above, from left: Thomas Rano and fifth grader Pedro Landa cook cockroaches in Wilderness Survival class. WECS teacher Ashkan Nahreini helps fifth graders with circuit boards in Intro to Engineering. Student Leadership class paints rocks for the school's Zen Garden. Kassi Lopez samples a roasted roach. At left: Roe Weidaw shows no fear when tasting a cockroach.

Fun Fridays

Fifth graders attend Friday Academy classes at Willits Charter: Some learn fashion design, some eat bugs

By Becky Button for WCS

One drizzly Friday morning, 22 fifth graders set out from Willits Elementary Charter School and marched across town with their teacher and some intrepid chaperones to attend Friday Academy classes at their middle and high school counterpart, Willits Charter.

Some students learned gardening techniques, some learned to use a sewing machine, some performed improvisational theater, and some ate fried cockroaches. There's always something new and exciting to experience at Friday Academy.

This semester, Willits Charter School students have opportunities to take Friday Academy courses like Set Design, Rock Band, Supernatural Literature, Crochet Club, Printmaking, Driver's Ed, and Theater Olympics. The visiting fifth graders were able to sample some classes as well, but Driver's Ed will have to wait until high school.

"In Wilderness Survival, we started a fire with a flint, and we cooked cockroaches over it and ate them," commented Raylan Bartow, enthusiastically. "They tasted like chicken, but they smelled like French fries."

"I wouldn't eat them again, unless I was really trying to survive in the wilderness. But the chocolate covered bugs were really good," Bartow added.

Teacher Patrick Bryant said he was impressed with the fifth graders' curiosity and willingness to try new things – like the roasted roaches.

"I took Intro to Engineering and we worked on circuit boards and learned about levers," said Michael Ballou.

Fifth graders who attended Student Leadership class painted rocks for the school's Zen Garden, took a tour of the school, and learned how the students plan school events like dances and fundraisers.

Lucia Button and Cayleigh Balthrop "broke a leg" in Theater Olympics with Billy Heatherington. They had

to closely observe the set of a scene from a zombie apocalypse scenario and recreate all of the aspects of the scene, from props to costumes and positions of the actors, including Button playing a zombie victim.

"It was pretty fun playing a dead body but the wig was really awkward," said Button.

Taytum Wake was excited about joining Fashion Club, taught by Dean of Students Sarah France. "We got to use a sewing machine and I made a bag!" Wake said.

In Supernatural Literature, students heard folktales about werewolves and shapeshifters from around the world and learned various superstitions on how to repel these fearsome creatures and keep from turning into one. You never know when that information might come in handy.

Friday Academy has become a tradition at Willits Charter and offers students a chance to partake in elective classes in a myriad of topics that change each semester. Some classes are taught by teachers and staff, while others are taught by community members with special skills or interests. Each Friday, instead of the usual core classes, students attend four 70-minute electives that give them a chance to try out new skills like archery, gardening, baking, crocheting, dance, and stage makeup, or delve deep into topics like supernatural folklore, creative writing, art marketing, or Indigenous studies.

In 2020, Willits Charter School won the Jack London Innovation in Education Award for their Friday Academy program. Even if you'd take a hard pass on eating bugs in Wilderness Survival, there truly is something for everyone at Friday Academy.

To learn more about this program and others offered at Willits Charter School, the public is invited to attend an open house on Friday, April 28, from 4 to 7 pm at 1431 Main Street.



Above: Fifth graders join the Rock Band in Mr. B's Friday Academy class. At right: Snakes are welcome in Willits Charter's Gardening class.



LEGAL NOTICES

WW427

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2023-F0154

The following person or persons are doing business as SoMendo Co Labs and SoMendo Co. Registered owner: Southern Mendocino Company, 10100 Eastside Potter Valley Rd., Potter Valley, CA 95469. Mailing address: 75 N. State St. #118, Ukiah, CA 95482.

This business is conducted by a corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 19, 2018.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on March 21, 2023.

/s/ Jon Orantes, COO

Publication dates: April 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023

WW429

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2023-F0142

The following person or persons are doing business as Coursey Communications, 109 W. Perkins St., Ukiah CA 95482. Registered owner: Jendi Coursey, Inc., 109 W. Perkins St. Ukiah CA 95482.

This business is conducted by a corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on February 5, 2018.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on March 14, 2023.

/s/ Jennifer D. Coursey, President / CEO

Publication dates: April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 2023

WW428

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: WALTER RONALD HAYNES

Case No. 23PR00044

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate of both of Walter Ronald Haynes:

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Robert A. Sanchez in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino.

The Petition for Probate requests that Robert A. Sanchez be appointed as Personal Representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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 personal 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 follows:

Date: May 12, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. in Dept. E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State St., Ukiah, California 95482.

If you object to the 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, or (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 in Probate Code, section 1250. A request for special notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner in pro per: Robert A. Sanchez, PO Box 616, Laytonville, CA 95454, Telephone (832) 557-1965.

Publication Dates: April 13, 20, 27, 2023.

WW431

BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Brooktrails Township Community Services District will conduct a public hearing and ballot tabulation on the Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment.


The public hearing will be held in person and remotely on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. 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 mail in their completed ballot or appear personally and submit their mail ballot at the public hearing. All received ballots will be tabulated at the public hearing.

Property owners will receive a mail ballot to vote on the proposed Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment. If approved by the voters, the Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment would become effective on July 1, 2023. A copy of the mail ballot notice and information guide 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 19, 2023

Tamara Alaniz, General Manager/ Secretary to the Board of Directors

Publication Date: April 27, 2023



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 I/II
\$41,038 - \$52,353

Corrections Deputy
\$54,184 - \$65,873

Custodian
\$37,544 - \$43,472

Department Application Specialist
\$49,878 - \$60,632

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

Employment and Training Worker I
\$48,672 - \$59,155

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

Legal Secretary II
\$44,304 - \$53,851

Mental Health Clinician I/II
\$59,737 - \$84,011

Probation Assistant
\$45,260 - \$55,016

Program Administrator
\$73,320 - \$89,128

Senior Community Health Worker
\$42,390 - \$51,542

Sheriff's Services Technician
\$37,065 - \$42,889

Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D
\$48,942 - \$92,206

Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C
\$70,387 - \$99,028

Vocational Assistant
\$37,024 - \$38,875

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

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

'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.

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!

Willits Center for the Arts opens a traveling show, 'High Off the Land'

Submitted by WCA

Cannabis has a long and colorful history in Mendocino County, and it affects both residents and visitors in diverse ways. It has fueled our economy for years and has recently become legal. With 20/20 hindsight on half a century of local cannabis cultivation and use, it's time to speak about the different aspects of how it speaks to all of us.

For the "High Off the Land" show, Willits Center for the Arts asked artists to visually interpret their own experiences with cannabis. How has it affected you or your environment? We asked artists for either two-dimensional or three-dimensional art.

We are very pleased with the results. Those deciding on pieces for the show will be David Burton of the Grace Hudson Museum and Alyssum Wier of the Arts Council of Mendocino. The producers and creatives who organized the show are Gary Martin of Willits, Laura Fogg from Ukiah, and Kendra Stillman of Gualala.


This show will be May 6 through May 28, at Willits Center for the Arts. Then move to Art Center Ukiah for June 2-25, and Gualala Art Center July 14-August 6.

The opening reception at WCA will be Saturday, May 6 from 6:30 until 9 pm. You can meet the artists at this time. Gallery hours are Friday-Sunday, 11 am until 5 pm.

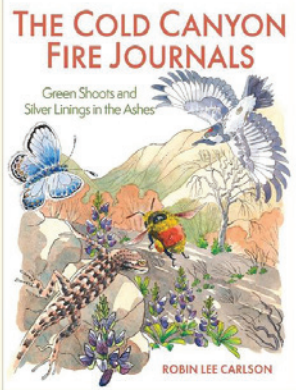
The Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street. Info: visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org or call 707-459-1726.

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

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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.

Donations Accepted
Books Available for Signing

PLUS ~JOIN Robin Saturday May 6th for a nature walk, exploring our local post-fire landscape 10am~2pm
Please register in advance by calling Ellen Drull at 707-459-2643

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CalFresh
Is a food assistance program. You can be on Social Security, have money in the bank, own cars and still receive CalFresh benefits. Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment to see if you qualify. 707-459-6826




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Willits CA 95490
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Above, from top: Margie Smith partakes in the variety of fresh fruits, cheeses, crackers and sandwiches. As in almost any party, people gather around the food to have conversations. Brooktrails City Manager Tamara Alaniz and fellow Rotarian Kyle Brandon, who is the manager of Willits Furniture, talk with Third District Supervisor John Haschak about business and other subjects.



Above, from top: People from a number of businesses and organizations show up to meet and chat. Allisha Rigano, of Summit Signal, pours wine and beer for the attendees. Kyle Brandon, manager of Willits Furniture, and Mike Smith, owner, speak with Rotarian Dickey Weinkle.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: Chamber Coordinator Susan Mahoney and Willits Furniture manager Kyle Brandon pick the winning raffle tickets.

April Mixer

Willits Chamber of Commerce meets at Willits Furniture to discuss recent news in Willits business life

The new coordinator for the Willits Chamber of Commerce, Susan Mahoney, greeted the attendees as they made their way into the Willits Furniture Center for a mixer produced by Willits Furniture and the Willits Rotary Club. As with most mixers, the participants signed in and made themselves some name tags (in order to make mixing easier).

They were also invited to purchase tickets to a 50 / 50 raffle where the winner would split the proceeds with the host entities. This was eventually won by Jill Persico, who generously gave the money back to the chamber. Additionally, there was another raffle in which one could win up to \$100.

Once done at the check-in table, attendees could make their way to the food table which was filled with appetizing sandwiches, cruditiés, cheeses, and other finger foods prepared by the Safeway deli department. Drinks (beer and wine) were served at an open bar, with the pouring deftly done by Willits Rotarians Allisha Rigano and Rick Williams.

As the afternoon progressed, people gathered in small groups to discuss matters pertaining to business and the city as well as just getting to know new people or cement old relationships, which is what a mixer is generally designed to accomplish.

"Welcome to the first mixer of this year," said Susan Mahoney, greeting the attendees. "We're so honored that Rotary has taken this on at Willits Furniture. The purpose of a mixer is for the host business to promote their business amongst other business owners here in Willits. A lot of people don't know what other businesses are doing. It's a great way to share challenges, experiences, goals, wish lists, relax, and feel the comradery of being in business in Willits."

A substantial part of the mixer was to update business owners on the current happenings in the city, to invite their participation. The chamber of commerce is planning several events and projects.

According to Mahoney, "There are a lot of things going on with the chamber. We are having our car show in May. There's a Lion's Club mixer in May. The car show entrants are having a mixer at Baechtel Creek Inn.

"There's a signage project that the museum is doing - 'Walkable Willits,'" said Mahoney. "It'll be a digital sign system. There will be four sections. You scan the QR code and you look at the section. You can tap it and it will blow up to show you what's in that part and how long it takes to get there from where you are. Hopefully, we'll be able to get laminated cards in businesses that want to display them. There will also be some hard signs around. This is

really focused on walkability. You'll be able to see what's in that zone."

Williams, chairman of the Brooktrails Board of Directors and longtime Rotarian, talked about the club which just had its 75th anniversary in Willits: "Rotary is the largest non-governmental, non-religious organization in the world. We have about 1.2 million members, about 36,000 clubs worldwide, in almost every country and territory in the world.

"Here in Willits," explained Williams, "we raise a lot of money for college scholarships for graduating seniors. We support several non-profits in the community. We participate in the July 4 parade every year, typically with a float. We try to support local businesses. We have our weekly meetings currently at the fire station. We'll probably do another fundraiser for Little Lake Fire sometime in the near future. We are having local businesses cater our meetings every week.

"We helped organize and are currently still partnering with the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center with the Claws for a Cause event," Williams said. "We helped start and are still involved in the children's Christmas Toy Run. We started a new event last summer in honor of John Cross, a longtime member who passed away. It was a golf tournament and tasting event. We raised more than we expected for a first-time happening."

Kyle Brandon, manager of Willits Furniture Center welcomed the crowd: "We're happy to have all our fellow businessmen and Rotarians and the chamber of commerce here. We're proud to be hosting one of the first mixers since COVID. This is for everybody to get back in touch and network a little bit. We're currently having a 'no-tax' sale which will be going through the end of the month. We're paying the sales tax on any sale inside the store. You'll also find some great discounts throughout the store. You can save up to 30 percent on top of us paying the 9.125 percent sales tax."

Rotarian Dickey Weinkle recited "the Four-Way Test," a method for solving many of life's challenges in an equitable mutually advantageous manner. In addition to reciting the test, Weinkle read the "Five-Way Test," a series of questions, from Willits Furniture owner Mike Smith. "1. Do I love my hometown and do I want to make it thrive? 2. Do I make purchase choices to benefit my hometown? 3. Do I know that money spent here will circulate in my hometown? 4. Do I check with local business before I order online? 5. Do I realize that local businesses are the largest supporters of local charities?"

Smith's list succinctly encapsulated the chamber's drive to make buying from local businesses more viable and one of the underlying themes of the evening.

The rest of Streamline | From page 1

An updated version of the amendment ordinance is now expected to go before the full board on May 9, possibly as an "urgency ordinance" meaning it could go into effect more quickly.

The proposed amendments to the ordinance came following direction from the board of supervisors and an offer from the state's Department of Cannabis Control to take a more active role with the local program.

Deputy Counsel Curtis said at the meeting that in talks with the state they have continued to show "a willingness to engage on a solution that would involve essentially allowing the state to take over its own part of the site-specific environmental review and to allow the work that's done on the local side to be a bit more truncated and a little bit more streamlined."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak, who is chair of the GGC, opened up the meeting and explained what the county's goals are with the proposed "administrative" changes in the ordinance.

"We've done a lot of work, and I really appreciate county counsel's work on this, [Mendocino Cannabis Alliance's] work, and the community involvement on providing some ideas about how to streamline the ordinance," he said. "Because that's what the board wants, and I think that to get the cannabis program into a new groove, this is what we need to happen.

"What we're going to do today is look at those changes that are really administrative in scope and really won't have an impact on any of the environmental issues," he continued. "We're going to avoid those, because we feel like we can implement administrative changes and streamline those in a quicker way. If we begin dealing with anything that will have environmental review, then it's going to slow down everything."

Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren, who is also on the GGC, said that they will also be looking at ways "for streamlining the department functions beyond what's in the ordinance.... And so as those changes occur, and we're able to have more opportunities to speed along the application process, we're going to have those additional conversations beyond the ordinance, more departmental," she said. "[We're] happy to accept stakeholder feedback."

While the full room of community members certainly had plenty of public input to give during the two-hour meeting, there seemed to be a more positive outlook than is typically seen at local government cannabis discussions. Many at the meeting, and in other recent statements, have expressed cautious optimism that with the state stepping in to help, county cannabis applicants could finally see some improvement in the speed and efficiency of the local permit process, which has been highly criticized over the years.

At the end of the meeting, Paul Hansbury of Laytonville, who commonly speaks up during such cannabis discussions, expressed his appreciation about how the GGC meeting played out, and many in the room applauded.

"I for one, and I think I speak for everybody else in this room, we've been involved with this for many, many years, and this is the most productive meeting I think I've ever attended," said Hansbury.

The supervisors and county staff seemed open to considering some of the suggestions regarding how to modify the ordinance changes that came from the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, attorney Hannah Nelson and others in the room.

One of these was possibly extending the length of time from 10 to 30 days for applicants to submit an appeal if they are sent a denial notice.

However, Curtis said that they needed to be cautious with the changes they are implementing, otherwise they could trigger an environmental review which would delay all the streamlining efforts. And with a July 1 deadline where state provisional licenses will be further phased out, time is running out for many applicants to obtain their state annual license.

"It's pretty clear, certainly from the environmental standpoint, we would not want to have any language that would suggest that people are able to do things that would be contrary to state law," said Curtis. "But I do think we can probably improve the language to be clear that if it's consistent with state law, and it's consistent with laws of the licensing agencies, then it's permissible.

"I recognize as lawyers we are sometimes viewed as very risk-averse and paranoid," he said with a laugh, "but we're not having a whole lot of time here to make corrections if a court were to second-guess some of the decisions that get made in this process. So we're probably being even a little bit more cautious than we would most of the time."

Curtis did say that at a later date they could consider more substantive changes to the ordinance.

"I want to thank the technical group and MCA for providing all the notes and the comments they did before we released the ordinance," he said. "There was a lot of very detailed work in all of that. Some of it, a fair amount, goes beyond what I think we're able to tackle right now. And so I do want to be pragmatic about that.

"I believe we were looking at September as a time where we thought having gotten through the first rounds of provisional renewals and having worked out some of the kinks of this, we'd be able to come back and revisit some of those [other recommendations]," he added.

Curtis talked about how he envisioned these initial changes helping those local cannabis applicants who are still working their way through the system to become fully licensed more quickly.

"Part of the intent would be for those that are going through the review process, nothing would really

change in terms of what needs to be submitted, but some of the stuff that they've already submitted might become unnecessary, and [that] might actually speed up the review process of the ones that are in the queue at the moment to allow them to go through more quickly," he said. "So essentially what the department would need to review is less.

"There should be no new things that get added," Curtis went on, "and some of those other things are treated as a compliance issue. You still have to, for example, have your air quality permit, but we might not require that the agency itself go and talk to air quality to consult and figure out exactly which permits are required, etc. So some of the documentation would be shrunk, and we're not looking to put more work on anyone applying."

Some other possible changes mentioned were no longer requiring Livescans and allowing the state to handle the task of criminal background checks, and limiting any cannabis "track and trace" procedures to state guidelines.

The amendments also included swapping out the word "permit" wherever used in the ordinance with "Cannabis Cultivation Business License" - a title more in line with state lingo.

The county has been communicating and collaborating with the state Department of Cannabis Control on the issue of expediting the local permit process for several weeks now, following the state agency sending a letter to the board of supervisors on March 14 offering help.

This came after a scathing letter was sent by the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance to state officials on February 8 documenting the failures of the county's cannabis program in getting applicants licensed, and asking that the state step in and take a leading role in the process.

In their memo prior to the April 14 GGC meeting, MCA sounded more hopeful, but still put pressure on for additional changes.

"MCA feels strongly that more substantial ordinance changes must be undertaken," the memo read. "At this time, we support a more limited approach to ordinance changes in service of the larger goal of a path for continued state licensure for small cannabis businesses. However, we request a commitment to bring forth additional changes in July 2023. We will provide a thorough list of such recommendations, and press for a commitment to bring forth these further changes at that time."

The changes being considered for the cannabis ordinance come as the Mendocino Cannabis Department has seen a shakeup in its leadership positions, with Deputy CEO Steve Dunningcliff recently appointed as interim director following the resignation of former director Kristin Nevedal, and Code Official John Burkes also working to implement changes alongside Chief Planner Elora Babbini.

Cannabis consultant and former county building official Scott Ward had high praise for Burkes, saying "I have 100% confidence in Mr. Burkes and his abilities - he'll do a fine job."

At a follow-up April 17 regular GGC meeting, the county staff and supervisors gave a monthly update and a broader overview of the department's recent activities and goals.

Based on that meeting, there are clearly still big issues to resolve in the department, including a nearly \$1 million budget gap this fiscal year, and deciding how to spend the \$17.5 million in Local Jurisdiction Assistant Grant Program money the county was awarded by the state to help get their cannabis applicants fully licensed.

The state has currently asked the county to pause any plans on spending the LJAG funds until they figure out the best path forward with their local permitting program and just what the state's role will be.

On a positive note, the cannabis department stated in their April report that they are now projecting far less time than the 200 hours per application that former director Nevedal estimated it could take to get people permitted.

Following a "time tracking to study planner time spent reviewing applications," the report states that "the department had projected a need of twenty-seven (27) [hours] to be able to complete [each] review described in the tracking chart that was presented in both February and March's monthly reports."

The report expressed optimism that, based on this number and the number of planners available, they should be able to reach their goal of getting those county applicants with annual renewal deadlines coming up soon to their state annual licenses in time.

"The department has a high level of confidence that with projected average review times based on the time study, the number of available planners compared to the projected, in fact will not prevent the department from achieving its goals on time," the report read. "Despite not having any completed reviews to date for June deadlines, the department believes that, with the efficiency study, those numbers will improve in the coming months."

The report said that the county had six planners working in the MCD, and an additional 12 planners that were hired through the company 4Leaf. However, at the April 17 GGC meeting, county staff said the number of 4Leaf-based planners had actually increased to 17.

The April MCD report also summarized the current status of applicants, saying that out of 844 total applicants in the county, 115 had been issued permits, 91 had state provisional licenses approved by the DCC, while only 7 had state annual licenses.

The rest of Reports | From page 1

English Learners, but reporting some difficulties with the Physical Education component. She and WUSD Superintendent Mark Beebe expressed confidence that compliance would be reached. A full report will be submitted in June.

Chavez reported that parent surveys show that financial and college planning is No. 1 issue for parents. Board member Alex Bowlds and Chavez discussed the need for - and methods used - for effective family outreach, with input from board President Paula Nunez about engaging students in planning for college or vocational programs as early as middle school. Chavez indicated that early planning has begun for the provision of a six-year schedule for post-graduation planning.

The next topic was the Multi-Tiered System of Supports program, a preventative effort to use data and instruction to maximize student achievement and support social and behavioral needs, which includes teacher trainings and parent outreach.

Once again the issues of truancy, suspensions, and low attendance were front and center. Poverty and lack of motivation, transportation, and family support for academics were cited as challenges. Chavez noted the low graduation rates for high school students, which Bowlds described as "tragic." Nunez questioned Chavez as to how outreach efforts had been received in the community, with Chavez responding that she has experienced almost no resistance, with most parents eager to participate.

The evolving Universal Transitional Integration program provides one-time funds from the state to help expand transitional kindergarten. Chavez explained that the district is collaborating with existing pre-school and after-school programs, and currently provides three hours of early education. Start-up funding has been received, with a plan to get to a 1:10 ratio of instructors to young children by the 2025-26 school year.

California State Employment Association comments were given by CSEA representatives. They advocated for the approval of salary schedules, reported from different school sites on progress made on a variety of projects, and recognized classified staff and a recently hired bus driver for their hard work.

Willits Teachers Association President Brandon Ludwig began WTA comments by thanking CSEA staff for their contributions. He spoke to the difficult reality of WUSD's low graduation rates, commenting on the issue's complexity and the need for a sense of urgency. He pointed out that 25% of teaching staff in the WUSD system are not fully credentialed, and that he has heard increasing frustration from teachers with regard to the timely posting of new positions. He gave a shout out to all the young artists who participated in the current "Art Under 20" exhibit at the Willits Center for the Arts, and the teachers and mentors who guided their work.

Superintendent comments followed, with Beebe saying he looks forward to the "big push" in the final seven weeks of the school year. He reported that he and others have been working hard with Mendocino County Office of Education to finalize salary schedules, and expressed gratitude for the many meaningful conversations he has had with staff at all levels.

In board comments, board member Jennifer Sookne explained that recent events had taken her out of town, and that she plans to speak with Beebe about a number of concerns soon. Member Bowlds thanked Chavez for staying on task in her important work, and expressed hope that now that contract negotiations are concluding, focus will center on scholastic engagement and graduation support.

Board member Jeanne King expressed gratitude for the "stellar" response from Beebe regarding many of her concerns. She attended a staff meeting at Blosser Lane, and a workshop on school safety with member Bowlds.

Board Clerk Dianne McNeal spoke on her productive meeting with Superintendent Beebe, and her visit to Blosser Lane, where she attended classes and participated in activities in the cafeteria, library, and with the newly formed Book Club.

Board President Nunez brought up concerns regarding custodial standards and scheduling. She also questioned the success of the current trimester system, requesting a future assessment. Beebe offered to meet with her in the short term for a conversation on the matter.

As there were no public comments, the board moved on to the consent agenda. A change of venue for school board meetings to Willits City Council chambers is under consideration, along with a change from Wednesday to Thursday evenings beginning in August of 2023.

A zoom presentation was given by Michael Ash on WUSD's Audit Report. The district was found to be in complete compliance with all regulations, despite one "minor" issue, which is not expected to create any financial impact.

The tentative agreement worked out with CSEA was approved, as was the 2023-24 Classified Staff Salary Schedule. Director of Fiscal Services Melissa Ragsdale reported on the Mid-Year Revised Budget, indicating that district reserves will be impacted by the budget's third year. Ragsdale pointed out future budgets reflect a very fluid situation. All agreed as to the importance of better school attendance numbers.

Board member Bowlds brought up school safety concerns, focusing on the unfortunate potential for a major emergency such as a school shooting. One of the main takeaways from a webinar that he and member King attended was that WUSD has a very limited response capability due to its small size and remote location. After a great deal of discussion, Beebe declared himself to be "all in" to prioritize the topic going forward.

Superintendent Beebe then introduced an offer by the City of Willits to transfer ownership of the Baechtel Gym and the land it sits on to the district, adding that he will research the situation further and present the topic at an upcoming meeting.

Member King brought up the subject of the rise of artificial intelligence technologies, and the dangers and pitfalls that they present. Beebe agreed that it was a "serious topic" that will need monitoring.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8pm.



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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

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Sally Foltz

Beloved Sally Sue Foltz, 82, passed away surrounded by loved ones at Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits, on April 13, 2023.

Sally was born in Butler, Missouri, on January 30, 1941. After graduating high school, she traveled to California with her family, where she found work at a marble furniture shop.



In 1958 she moved to Laytonville after marrying Charles Duane Foltz. Sally was hired shortly thereafter as the Laytonville School District secretary. She was an intelligent, hard-working resource for her co-workers, the students, and long-time boss, Mr. Smith. She was a faithful employee for 39 years. Also, Sally devoted

herself to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church where she served as secretary and organist for 50 years.

After retirement, Sally received friends and family at her home and continued blessing others with her gentle and kind spirit. She was always quick with a smile and had an easy chuckle to make one feel at home.

Sally was predeceased by parents Charles Knox and Leona Knox of Butler, Missouri. She is survived by her brother Edwin Knox (Elise); nieces Lisa Corey (Richard) and Sarah (Rene); and nephew Colby Knox. She has four great-nephews and one great-niece.

All are welcome to join family at the Laytonville Cemetery where Don Smith from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church will be officiating, on Saturday, April 29 at 1 pm. Afterwards there will be an informal gathering at Harwood Hall to commemorate Sally's life. Refreshments will be offered as we pay tribute to Sally, who lived her life as an example to others to follow.

Flowers may be sent to the Laytonville Cemetery.

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

Helen Turenne

On April 7, 2023, Helen Turenne of Willits passed away peacefully at Victoria Manor at the age of 97.

Helen was born in San Luis Obispo on August 21, 1925, where she attended primary and secondary school. She earned a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and proceeded to have a 35-year teaching career in San Rafael.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Pendleton, and son Charles (Chuck) Pendleton. She and her second husband, David Turenne, moved to Willits from San Rafael where she lived for over 30 years.

David preceded her in death. She is survived by her younger sister, Jacqueline Carroll and her sons, Andrew and Peter. Additionally she was loved by the Ogden family, David her son-in-law, and his daughters.

Helen was an intelligent and loving person with close ties to her church and dear friends. Among her many talents were creating bonsai trees and making many stuffed animals for hospitalized children. Her family thanks Sharon Whipkey, Judy Kay Folkes, and Victoria and her staff at Victoria Manor for their loving support.

In lieu of flowers please donate to a charity of your choice in Helen's memory.

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



Danny Pietila

Danny Liles Pietila peacefully passed away on Saturday, April 8, in Willits.

He is survived by his wife, Janice, of 38 years, Willits; son Jason (Jennifer) and grandsons CJ and Daunte Pietila, New York; mother Wanda Pietila, Willits; aunt Charlene Hoyt, Fresno; nephew Davin Che Pietila (Silvia), Crockett; cousins Lynn McElhanney (Carol), Lake County; Jesse (Bonnie) and Tony Scales, Fresno; Susie Onrat, Ukiah; Joyce (Tommy) Ferreira, Fresno; David Allen, Fresno; and many, many friends in Willits and Ukiah.

Danny was preceded in death by his father Bernard, and brothers Wayne and Tommy Pietila.

See you in heaven, my precious husband.

Services will be held at Anker-Lucier Mortuary on Wednesday, May 3 at 10 am.



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Attentive Lilly

Lilly is a dream dog. She has a stellar personality and she's way smart! Lilly pays attention to things going on around her and likes to be close to people. She's a pretty mellow girl, but may be more active once she's feeling better, and she's settled into her new life. And, oh, did we mention how adorable she is? Lilly needs to gain some weight, so we are doing our best to fatten her up a bit! And she's not complaining.



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 Lilly or our other feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com.

Friendly Trixter

Trixter is a good solid dog who looks to you for direction. He interacts well with people and female dogs. Not sure about male dogs yet as we have had him a short time. He is looking for a family to call his own.



To learn more about Trixter 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.

Charming Hobo

Meet our handsome Hobo! Hobo was lost in Covelo in the pouring rain and avoided capture for weeks by our local Animal Control. Once AC was able to catch him, a whole new dog emerged! Hobo is an engaging, sweet guy who knows some things like "sit" and "shake." Come help us give him a new lease on life by fostering or adopting!

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.mendohumansociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



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