Brooktrails hears update on

### alternate access route

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The April 22 Brooktrails Township Community Services District board meeting began promptly at 7 pm with Vice-President Rick Williams conducting the roll call. Directors Mary Ziady and Ed Horrick were present. Attending via zoom was Director Susan Mahoney. Board President Tina Tyler-O'Shea was absent. Also in attendance was General Manager Tamara Alaniz and Counsel Chris Neary.

The one item on the Consent Calendar was the Review of the Accounts Payable Report, and the board unanimously approved payments totaling \$190,370.69.

There were three items on the evening's agenda, and first up was "Consideration of CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Willits Airport to FirCo Road Trail Clearance."

Some background: In 2024, the County of Mendocino held a special benefit assessment election to collect a property-related

Read the rest of Brooktrails

Over on Page 11

# CHP investigating MCSO deputy after off-duty collision

By Capt. Quincy Cromer, for MCSO

April 28 – On April 24, 2025 at around 6 pm, a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office sergeant arrived to work at the Willits Substation and noticed damage to a county-owned patrol vehicle.

Upon investigating the damage, the MCSO sergeant learned an MCSO deputy had not reported the damage to his assigned county vehicle pursuant to Sheriff's Office policy and procedures. The deputy has worked for the Sheriff's Office for over three years and has held assignments in the Patrol and Corrections divisions.

Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles are equipped with video-recording devices, and the footage was reviewed by the MCSO sergeant to determine how the vehicle was damaged.

When reviewing the video footage from the damaged patrol vehicle, the sergeant learned the MCSO deputy had operated the vehicle while off duty and drove the county vehicle to a bar in the city of Willits. While

Read the rest of Investigate

Over on Page 9





# Ready to Run

## Two sweetheart contestants prepare to start running in the 2025 Willits Frontier Days contest starting May 6

There's two women who are hoping to win the title and be crowned WFD Sweetheart for the upcoming 99th annual celebration of Willits Frontier Days: Willits' Lisa Arkelian and Potter Valley's Kristen Helms.

Starting May 6, the contestants will be selling tickets to the upcoming annual festivities which will include the California Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association and Junior Rodeos, the breakfast and barbecue lunch, the truck pulls, tickets to the Sweetheart raffle and more.

A combination of ticket sales and scores on poise and personality and horsemanship will all factor into who will win the 2025 title.

As always, Willits Frontier Days reminds the community to contact the candidate they would like to support directly, as it is the contestants' responsibility to make the sales. The winner will be crowned during the Sweetheart Dinner on Saturday, June 28.

Potter Valley's **Kristen Helms**, 17, is a junior at Ukiah High School, where she enjoys participating in JV softball and is president of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America. She is also a member of the Ukiah Future Farmers of America and Ukiah 4-H, and plans to take a market lamb, three rams, one ewe, one dairy goat, and one Boer goat to the county fair this year, as well as entering pictures in the Junior Building.

During her time in FFA, she has been able to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is also the past 2023 Potter Valley Rodeo Queen.

"I'm not just a part of a community, but I am part of a family within 4-H and FFA, and also being this year's JV

softball captain for my school team," said Helms.

"I also love to show livestock," continued Helms. "I show horses, dairy goats, Boer goats, and sheep."

Along with her love of livestock, Helms also is an avid reader, and is currently enjoying reading "Forever Never" by Lucy Score.

In the rodeo arena, Helms enjoys participating in barrel and pole-bending events. She also enjoys gathering cattle with her family in Potter Valley, and riding her quarter horse, Thumbtack.

"My plans for when I graduate from high school are to go to Feather River College in Quincy to get my Agriculture Business degree and my teaching credentials," explained Helms. "I'm running for Willits Sweetheart because I would like to be the face of a hard-working and supportive community, especially since they are always kind and caring."

Helms is available by phone at (707) 380-4703, or by email at: kt.dopers26@gmail.com.

Willits' **Lisa Arkelian**, 17, is a junior at Willits High School and is excited to run for Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart this year.

She is supported by family members including mom Sam, and dad Dan; siblings Elena, Dana and Joe; and grandparents Marty and Debbie.

Arkelian enjoys being on the softball team at Willits High School, where she plays in the pitching position. She also loves participating in rodeo events and working at John Ford Ranch.

"I'm also is a member of the Willits Frontier Days Juniors Club," said Arkelian. "We volunteer and help put on several barrel/poles series events and also hold roping nights along with helping Willits Frontier Days put on all the rodeos."

"I love to do team roping," explained Arkelian. "I'm a header in the team roping events, but I also love to do breakaway, too."

After her graduation next year, Arkelian notes her interest in a career and schooling in the ranch management field.

"I've always wanted to run for Sweetheart," said Arkelian. "I grew up watching all the girls and some of my closet friends compete, and I'd love to join the list of winners which includes my sister who won last year."

Arkelian is available by phone at (707) 354-3114 or by email at lisaarkelian19@icloud.com

See a full schedule of events, and get entry forms and more information online at www.WillitsFrontierDays.com or email willitsfrontierdays@gmail.com for more information.

Maureen Jennison





Council votes for

### Allman as new mayor

B.B. Kamoroff
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits has a new mayor. At the April 23 city council meeting, Larry Stranske resigned as mayor due to health issues, but will remain on the council. The council unanimously elected Tom Allman to be the city's new mayor.

Allman stepped right in, saying: "Thank you for your trust. This wasn't part of my plans, but right now the city is pretty important to me, and I'm honored by the unanimous support of this." Allman also thanked Stranske: "Larry, we're very appreciative of you. Thank you for what you've done, your family has done. Larry's been on the city council, his wife has been on the city council, his son has been on the city council. The Stranskes have made their mark on the city of Willits."

Willits also has a new interim city manager. On March 21, former city manager Brian Bender reached a separation agreement with the city, and he has departed. At the April 23 council meeting,

Read the rest of Allman

Over on Page 9

### Burn permits required

as of May 1

Submitted by CAL FIRE MEU

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit has announced effective Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 12:01 am, all hazard reduction burning in the State Responsibility Area will require a permit in Mendocino County.

Burn permits must now be obtained online at https://burnpermit.fire. ca.gov/. Applicants can access the website to obtain a burn permit which involves watching a short educational video and submitting an application. The process provides the necessary information needed to conduct the burn safely, while minimizing the chance for fire escape. Permits must be in possession either by printed copy or digitally.

Permits are valid beginning May 1 of each year and require annual renewal. Permits are issued free of charge. Property owners conducting hazard reduction burning are responsible for checking the burn day status.

Read the rest of

Permits | Over on Page 9

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

### Winter shelter motel room program

success To the Editor:

The 2024-2025 Willits winter shelter motel room program has successfully provided 291 motel rooms to unhoused people over the past five months.

WELL has graciously provided financial management including receiving donation checks and writing eight payment checks to the Redwood Inn totaling \$24,791.88 and one payment to the Upper Lake Super 8 Motel for \$264. Donations totaled \$25,763.88.

The remaining balance of \$708 was paid to Willits Shelter Action Group who will continue to pay for any needed

### Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, Monday through Friday, from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Drive-through lunches are available from 12 to 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501

Thursday, May 1: Turkey & Dumplings

Friday, May 2: Chicken Salad Sandwich, Pasta Salad, Pickle

Monday, May 5: Pork Tacos, Rice and Beans Tuesday, May 6: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic

Wednesday, May 7: Southern Fried Pollock, Rice

Pilaf, Veggies Thursday, May 8: Chicken Bacon Ranch Wraps,

Pickle, Chips

Friday, May 9: Port Chops, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Mother's Day Breakfast: Buffet breakfast feast from 9 to 11 am, Sunday, May 11, with Pancakes, Waffles, Biscuits & Gravy, Vegetarian Breakfast Casserole, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Ham. Fresh Fruit Cups, Hot and Cold Beverages, and Fruit Syrups. Complimentary mimosa to all moms 21+. \$10 mothers; \$18 adults; \$10 children 6 to 12, children under 6 free, 1501 Baechtel Road,

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

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

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

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.

### The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Willits Weekly prints letters and commentaries about Willits and Third District issues, activities, events, and people. We print letters to the editor from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices. Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. Deadline is end of day Monday for each Thursday edition. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be



Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

### Volume 13, Number 590

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

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You made this program happen!

Sincerest gratitude to WELL and Madge Strong with Sonia Burgal for their efficient and timely oversight that allowed the program to succeed during December through April, the coldest months. Thank you for everything!

> Ruthanne Volz, program manager volunteer Jannie Longcrier, motel support volunteer

### Mom rides the Skunk Train for free on Mother's Day

Submitted by Mendocino Railway

Willits / Fort Bragg - Are you ready to give your mom the Mother's Day surprise she truly deserves? Get ready for a laugh-filled, adventure-packed journey through the majestic redwoods with the Skunk Train's "Moms Ride Free" extravaganza on May 9, 10 and 11.

Picture this: You and your mom, cruising through the California redwoods, breeze in your hair, laughter echoing through the historic train cars. It's the perfect getaway to show her just how much she means to you. And the cherry on top: buy one ticket, and your mom rides free! That's right, double the fun for the price of one!

But wait, there's more! Guests can elevate their experience with a choice between two exclusive onboard kits: the Mother's Day Mimosa Kit, featuring a split of Roederer Estate Brut, a bottle of orange juice, two custom GoVino cups, and a Skunk-branded insulated lunch bag, or the Mother's Day Wine Kit, which includes a full bottle of Skunk Train Red Cuvée along with the same custom

Whether toasting with bubbly or sipping a smooth red, guests can raise a glass to Mom while soaking in the beauty of the redwoods, because on this ride, laughter flows and memories sparkle.

From the heart of Willits to the charming coastal town of Fort Bragg, our trains offer flexibility to suit every mom's schedule. And whether she's a thrill-seeker or a relaxation aficionado, this journey promises to be an unforgettable experience for all

So, what are you waiting for? Grab your tickets. gather your squad, and let's make this Mother's Day one for the books! To book your tickets, visit the Wolf Tree Turn out of Willits at www.skunktrain. com/wolf-tree-turn or the Pudding Creek Express out of Fort Bragg at www.skunktrain.com/puddingcreek-express/

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

California Western Railroad / Skunk Train located in the redwood forests of Northern California's Mendocino County, is a heritage railroad that has been operating both freight and passenger service since 1885. The Skunk Train journey covers 40 miles of scenic delights and 30 bridges, all while retaining its original charm - minus the historic pungent aroma that once preceded its arrival. Operating year-round, this multi-generational experience welcomes passengers to bring along their families and even their dog, ensuring a memorable and inclusive adventure.

### THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

### May 2025 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

The budget process rolls on to the June deadline. What started as a \$28 million deficit was reduced to \$17 million. Cuts have been proposed which would bring it down to \$2.5 million. These cuts will hurt. It is one thing to say that we agree to a hiring freeze but when that freeze affects County operations whether it be public safety, processing of building permits, or the ability to respond to a social service crisis, this will be felt by Mendocino County residents

I have proposed to rescind the supervisor salaries undoing last year's raise and cutting out of state travel and education line items. While these are important, we just can't afford them right now.

FEMA eliminated the BRIC grant program which would have funded fuel reduction, home hardening, and defensible space projects for the Brooktrails, Sherwood Road and City of Willits airport. This will NOT make our communities safer or stronger or more resilient. We will continue to look for other funding sources.

On a 3-2 vote with me and Supervisor Cline dissenting, the Board voted to go ahead with cannabis expansion due to a technicality in the ordinance. Supervisor Cline and I wanted to keep the original intent of the ordinance at 10,000 sq. ft of cultivation per parcel. With the vote, two permits per parcel are allowable which will allow the doubling of cannabis cultivation.

As a cancer survivor, I have had annual appointments at Stanford for the last 34 years. I have had the same doctor who has been the department head for many years. We always talk about the newest breakthroughs in cancer research. Last month, he said that the breakthroughs will come at a much slower pace since federal funding has been cut. This is just not right. Medical research is critical for our health now and into

We all live in a beautiful county with incredible people. The diversity of our county is a source of strength, a credo of live and let live, and appreciation for each other. Mendocino County is a place where our differences are celebrated and encouraged. As neighbors and community members, all are welcome to be who they

The County regularly recognizes months for volunteers, social workers, Veterans, Gay Pride, public safety officers, Black heritage. To truly recognize and appreciate who we are as a people is a source of community and County pride. I am co-sponsoring resolutions honoring Poppy and Memorial Days in May and Gay Pride in June.

The Talk with the Supervisor will be on Wednesday, May 14, at 10 am at Brickhouse Coffee. As always, you can communicate with me at haschaki@ mendocinocounty.gov or 707-972-4214.

### Brooktrails firefighters seek vendors for June 28 flea market and craft fair

Submitted by Brooktrails Firefighters Association

The Brooktrails Firefighters Association is pleased to announce a flea market and craft fair on Saturday, June 28, from 7 am to 1 pm.

Joining us this year. Sherwood Firewise will be providing information about fire safety community

Hosted in the parking lot of the Fire Department and Community Services District building, at 24860 Birch

If interested, please contact 707-459-4441 to book space or for more information.

### S.O.S. Streetcorner Choir is back

The S.O.S. (Singers on Streetcorners) Choir is back!

the first Wednesday of each month songs of peace and joy. Song big sequoia trees, at 5 pm on May 7 throughout the summer, starting sheets will be provided, and the Wednesday, May 7, and all are lyrics are simple enough for anyone

invited to join the fun. Gather to to jump right in - perfect for first-

Harmonies will be ringing lighten hearts and brighten the day time singers! Find the S.O.S. Choir through the streets of Willits on for everyone passing by, singing at Bud Snider Park, under the three and then June 4.

- S.O.S. Choir

# A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits SUBSCRIPTION FORM A NAME: SUBSCRIPTION FORM SUBSCRIPTION FORM A NAME: SUBSCRIPTION FORM SUBSCRIPTION FORM SUBSCRIPTION FORM A NAME: SUBSCRIPTION FORM Make checks payable to Willits Weekly | No invoice sent - please just send in payment | P.O. Box 1698 in Willits, CA 95490 Locally Owned | Independent | Editions Every Thursday | Online & In Print OUESTIONS: 707-459-2633 | 707-972-7047 Web: www.willitsweekly.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/willitsweekly Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com







From far left: Ben and Lance receive Thrift Store donations on Mondays and Thursdays – the bins become full to overflowing by the end of the morning. Sherry Bixler helps senior clients with their financial needs. Lunch meals are ready for drive-through pickup. Below, from left: Leslie Challenger and Dorcas Potter greet customers and keep the sales going at the Thrift Store. Chef Nancy Middleton and Alex Sierras make all the nutritious lunch meals for the seniors. Harrah Senior Center Executive Director Richard Baker deposits tickets into the revolving bin of raffle entries.







# **Drawing Support**

Willits Senior Center sells raffle tickets to help pay for the many essential services they provide

Mathew Caine

Meals On Wheels to bring food to shut-ins. There would be no extremely low-cost transportation

services to bring seniors to their medical appointments or to shop for groceries. There would be no free loaned in CalFresh." medical equipment. There would be no place for seniors to meet, exercise, congregate, play bingo, and go to not feel alone. Luckily, and by the grace of grants, volunteers, and donations, the Willits Harrah Senior Center does exist and provides quality services for seniors, one of the most vulnerable slices of the local population.

In order to maintain the Senior Center, it takes funding, much of which is being truncated by the current federal situation to the tune of a loss of about \$50,000 – a large chunk of the operating budget. In order to make up for shortfalls, the Senior Center relies on the aforementioned grants and donations and several fundraisers. The biggest fundraiser each year is the Funding Raffle with four grand prizes and about 68 other valuable prizes, all donated by the generous citizens of the county.

There is a two-night stay at Beehive House (sleeps nine), \$750 worth of services at The Mane House (includes hair color services and hair care products), 23 tons of drain / base rock from Northern Aggregates, and a \$500 car detail and wash from Carstar Kreations. The winning tickets (six for \$20, one for \$5) will be pulled from the bin on Friday,

"The money will be going to support all of our various services," explained Richard Baker, executive director of the Senior Center. "We'll probably put some of it towards the cost of our senior transportation service, our specialized door-to-door service. We don't just pick a client up. We will actually help you carry your groceries inside your able to get around and garden in the raised beds. house. Our nutritional department, which includes Mealson-Wheels, indoor dining, and drive-through dining. Our Meals-on-Wheels serves between 45 and 60 meals a day.

"We'll put some money towards outreach services,"

Imagine Willits without the Senior Center. There would Baker said, "getting people connected to Social Security, be no outreach services where seniors could receive help Medicaid and Medicare, housing. Joanne Moore is here. in obtaining CalFresh, Medicaid and Medicare. There on site, Mondays and Fridays, but she's also available by would be no daily lunches and no phone any time during the weekdays to help. Joanne also helps with Heat Energy Assistance Program applications, through PG&E. If they get behind on their heating bills in the winter, it helps wipe out outstanding balances. She does a lot of those every year. She's also enrolling people

> The Senior Center also has a financial representative service for clients susceptible to financial abuse, in other words, scams. "We actually take care of all their finances," said Baker, "we make sure all of their bills are protected, and they get some money at the end of the month. We have a lot of different things we do in our outreach program. That's where most of the money is going to go."

> Baker believes that the Senior Center provides more than just services to seniors who have lost close friends and spouses and are lonely, or are just unable to get around easily. "I think we're like an extended family to all the seniors that come here," Baker continued. "Before I was the director, I was transporting a lady (who is no longer with us). Her name was Marsha. She loved to go to the chiropractor, go grocery shopping every week. She liked to stop off and get a newspaper. She loved gardening, so she would go to Sparetime and get gardening supplies."

Baker explained how Marsha began to have health problems that prevented her from getting out and about as much as she used to. "Stacy (one of our previous drivers) and I were always out and about, so we'd take a newspaper to her and put it on her doorstep so she could read it. We made sure she got her groceries, take them in, and put them on her counter for her. Her front yard was all raised garden beds, and we would go over and get the soil for her at Sparetime. We would get it set up. We'd get a chair out there with all her stuff and set it up, so she was physically

"Her health began to deteriorate very quickly," Baker

Over on page 9

1799 So. Main St.

P.O. Box 428

Read the rest of Raffle

707-459-5859





At top: The Senior Store is one of of funding for the Senior Center. Above: Jolianna is in charge of the volunteers and Meals-on-Wheels among her other duties. At left: The Senior Center Thrift Store has clothing for every taste.







Cantua Insurance Agency 16 W. Valley St. Willits CA 95490 786 Redwood Drive Garberville, CA 95542 Tel 707.459.3276 Tel 707.923.2179 Fax 707.923.9550 rcantua@farmersagent.com

**SINNERS** 

0C67822

Randall Cantua, LUTCF



1600 S. Main St.

Willits, CA 95490

willitspower@gmail.com

Above: The dining hall serves as a meeting place for various

POWER & HARDWARE

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organizations and events, such as the Willits Rotary.

57 East Commercial Street - Willits 707-459-6660 www.noyotheater.com Mid week promotions: Wednesday -

Matinee prices to all shows all day.

4:15 & 7:00 1:30 & 4:15 & 7:00 Wed -Thur: 4:15 & 7:00 Movie Times for May 2 through May 8

**THUNDERBOLTS** 

Family owned since 1983"

4:30 & 7:15 2:00 & 4:30 2:00 & 4:30 & 7:15

**MEGAMIND** 

THE TERMINATOR TERMINATOR 7:15

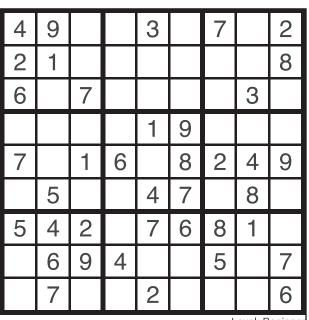




Thrifty Thursday: \$8.00 tickets. Thrifty Thursday films this week in red.

## Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



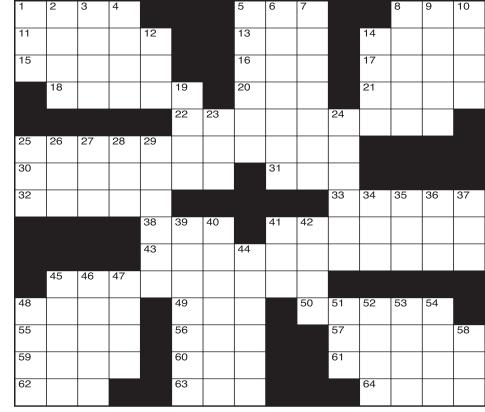
### HOW TO SUDOKU

the puzzle!

# PHOTO TIME WORD SEARCH

USVNDETNAIFU R S I S E E E U G L E F X H D P L C D C 0 E H P F E X S I D X F S T 0 P T V Z E

ANGLE			ISO			SETTING				
APERTURE		LENSES					SHOOT			
CAMERA		l	Τ			HUT	UTTER			
DEPTH OF FIELD		LIGH	IT ME	METER SMIL						
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EXPOSURE		Р	OSIN	IG		TELEPHO1				
FOCUS		Р	RINT	S		VIEWFIND				
F-STOP		PF	R001	FS			ZOOM			
1 2 3 4		_	5	6	7			8	9	
11 12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18	19		20				21			
	22	23				24				



50. Expressed pleasure

56. Beverage container

57. Night monkey genus

59. Lace bugs

62. Keyboard key

63. Greek goddess

of the dawn

**CLUES DOWN** 

1. A place to unwind

2. Helped (archaic)

3. Razorbill genus

4. Bleached

5. Continent

freedom

12. Golf score

64. Influential Korean

independence figure

6. Fruit preserved in syrup

7. Impediment to one's

Nocturnal rodents

9. Earthy pigment

10. Relieved oneself

55. Ancient Greek sophist

26. NY Giants legend

27. Sports radio host

somewhere

29. French seaport

35. Rocker's accessory

37. Influential American

40. Great Plains people

42. Soluble ribonucleic

46. Behind the stern of a

47. Dough made from corn

54. College's Blue Devils

and southeast

58. Midway between south

28. When you hope to get

Patrick

34. Thai river

36. Extra charge

president

41. Consumed

44. Improves

ship

48. Fallow deer

51. Swiss river

53. Engrave

52. Grayish white

45. Secret clique

39. Pain in the head

**CLUES ACROSS** 

1. Herring-like fish

5. Perform on stage

8. Soda

11. Small growth

60. Hogshead (abbr.) 13. In support of 61. Frameworks

14. Step taken when walking

15. Hollyhocks

16. Returned material

authorization (abbr.) 17. Feel pain

18. San Diego ballplayer 20. Inches per minute

(abbr.)

21. Fat from a pig's abdomen

22. Create again

25. Honors once more

30. Thin coating of gold 31. Welsh river

32. Japanese novelist Mizumura

33. Husks of corn 38. Green vegetable

41. Showing guilt 43. Soldier 45. Photographers

48. Language spoken in Nigeria

14. Tech hub \_\_ Alto 19. Sportscaster Andrews 23. Records electric currents 49. Mimic 24. Popular Hitchcock film

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

Sudoku puzzles are

10:51 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 500 block of South Main Street and

9:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the

100 block of North Main Street and issued

**Summary of Active Investigations** 

and Arrests

11:04 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Blosser Lane.

11:22 pm: VAZQUEZCENDEJAS, Saul (29) was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent

April 21

No incidents to report.

12:16 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road.

12:26 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:41 pm: Officers responded to a report of unwanted subjects in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road and issued a warning.

9:13 pm: NEAGLE, Richard Jay (45) of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of carrying a concealed dirk or dagger, and misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol), public intoxication, and possession of drug

9:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of

### April 24

8:41 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of South Main Street and East Oak Street and issued a warning.

The officers of the Willits Police 8:49 pm: Officers conducted a stop in Department reported 68 incidents in this the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a citation

9:16 pm: AMADOR, Manuel Steven (50) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of East Oak Street and South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of forging or altering vehicle registration, and on misdemeanor charges driving with a suspended license and unlawful operation of a vehicle without a license.

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**POLICE LOG** 

April 21 to April 27

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

2:24 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 800 block of South Main

8:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of

8:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

10:46 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of Coast Street and issued

1:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of South Main Street and West Mendocino

4:53 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Williams

5:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of North Main Street.

5:55 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South

9:02 pm: GOUBER, Jack Edward (57) of Ukiah was contacted in the 1200 block of Locust Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of violation of a court order and resisting an officer.

9:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of South Main Street and West Highway

### April 27

1:35 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Creekside Court and Creekside Drive and issued a warning.

### Brooktrails fire resiliency grant gets DOGE'd Submitted by Mendocino County Fire Safe Council

A federal grant for large-scale fuels reduction and home hardening in Brooktrails has been canceled, along with the entire program that funded it, as part of the federal government's cost-cutting efforts. The Building Resilient Communities and Infrastructure, or BRIC, fund was a FEMA grant that was supposed to "promote climate adaptation and resilience" in the face of "growing hazards associated with climate change," according to the Cal OES

Mendocino County was expecting close to \$50 million which would have gone to retrofit 750 homes with ignition-resistant construction materials, hire crews to reduce fuels on about 1,500 acres, reduce invasive plants, and put grazing animals to work on another 300 acres, all in and around the Brooktrails area.

County leaders and residents are now looking for other ways to fund the improvements, which they think would have provided a significant boost to fire safety and workforce development.

"It was a key grant that was finally orienting money the way we think is most important," said Scott Cratty, executive director of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council. "The most vulnerable thing in a wildfire is our homes. So if we make them resilient to wildfire, that's the most effective way to save lives and structures."

Fire awareness has long been a part of life for residents of Brooktrails, who Read the rest of 25. Revolutions per minute mounted an exemplary evacuation in

Over on page 11 DOGE'd

### Shanachie Pub **Ongoing Events**

Shanachie Pub. 50 South Main Street

Saturday Sessions at Shanachie: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, Tommy G and Gustavo Amaral will host an open jam at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main street. "You're invited to bring any instrument, meet new musicians, discover new genres, and explore your creativity!"

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

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

### **Ongoing Events** at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908. Open hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm; Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Closed Sunday and Monday.

Story & Playtime: Friday mornings each week, 10:30 to 11 am. In the children's area of the library. Start your morning listening to a children's story, then join us for a short playtime Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to 1 pm. We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while

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

enjoying a "cup of joe."

**Tech Help:** Saturdays from 11 am to 12 pm: Tech Help Saturdays, 11 am -to 12 pm. Is your computer on the fritz? Can't figure out how to open your email? Want to install a new app on your system? Bring your questions here.

Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. All skill levels welcome! Spinning circle 1 to 2 pm; Knitting circle 2 to 4:30 pm.

### Thursday, May 1

May Day Rally: Willits Indivisible holds a May Day Rally on Thursday, May 1 from 12 to 2 pm, at Babcock Park. South Main

Willits Farmers Market: Farmers Market moves to City Park/ Bud Snyder Park this week, Thursday, May 1. Join your neighbors on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm for the freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, hot dinner, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Every first Thursday of the month: May 1 this month, Meet the Library at the Farmers Market, 3 to 4:30 pm, with library card signups; information about library services and events, and an activity for the kids to enjoy.

### Friday, May 2

Democracy Vigil: Every Friday evening from 5 to 6 pm, at Babcock Park, South Main Street.

H AUGS Y TO YY

Karaoke at Tastebudz: Karaoke with Garrett Moore is set for first and third Fridays, Friday, May 2 this week, from to 10 pm, at Tastebudz Restaurant, 349 Main Street. "For kids from 9 to 99 (with exceptions) audience welcon

"Serenity House" opens at WCT: The world premiere of this original play written and directed by Schuyler Marcier, is Friday, May 2 at 7 pm, at Willits Community Theatre. "Set in a group home for individuals navigating addiction and mental health recovery. 'Serenity House' offers an unflinching yet deeply compassionate exploration of the relationships, struggles, and small triumphs that unfold behind closed doors." Runs through May 18, with shows on Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available at the door and online at: www.

Big Sticky Mess with Selassie at Shanachie: "Big Sticky Mess is a band that features original funk music that you feel in yo' booty." Conscious Hip-Hop artist, social justice activist, and event producer Selassie is out of the Bay Araa. Friday, May 2 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

### Saturday, May 3

wctperformingartscenter.org.

'Visual Jazz' opens at the Art Center: an exhibition of creative assemblage from Esther Siegel, Spencer Brewer, and Leslie Rich, along with work from their Assemblage workshop students. Meet the artists for the May show on Saturday, May 3, with art, finger foods, and beverages of your choice from 6 to 8 pm. Runs through Sunday, June 1. 71 East Commercial Street. Galleries are open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm.

"Serenity House" at WCT: this original play written and directed by Schuyler Marcier, set in a group home for individuals navigating addiction and mental health recovery. continues Saturday May 3 at 7 pm, at Willits Community Theatre. Runs through May 18, with shows on Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. See Friday, May 2 listing for details and ticket info.

Nectar at Shanachie: Nectar brings you to your feet with wel known Country, Blues and Old School Rock tunes from the past and present,

STRONG

THEIR \$100 = \$10.000

FOOD + DRINKS A GREAT CAUSE

AT THE WILLITS BRANCH

SATURDAYS

@ 11:00 AM

LIBRARY

TECH HELP



'A Bit and a Bite' at the Friends of Museum

A-Bit-and-A-Bite WCS STUDENT LEADERSHIP IS **GIVING A BIG APPRECIATION** FOR SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS



### Lead Vocalist Necole Aguilar Barnes, lead guitar, Jeffrey Brooks; Bass, Aaron Luedemann; drums, Andy Robertson; and Paul Haley on keys and rhythm guitar. Bring your dancing shoes! Saturday, May 3 at 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Mushroom Planter Workshop:

Friends of the

707-234-6365.

Sunday, May 4th

Free Event-Donations Appreciated

### Sunday, May 4

Friends of the Mendocino County Museum presents a Mushroom Plante Workshop on Sunday, May 4 from 12 to 4 pm at the Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Choose your succulents; take home a mushroom shaped planter; plant on site or take home a kit. Reserve you planter: email FOTMCM@gmail.com.

85th Anniversary of the Novo Theater:

> of Willits' movie theater: Sunday, May 4, 1 to 6 pm, with live music at 3 pm by Soul Circus Band. Party now planned for the City Parking Lot next to Flying Dog Pizza. A free event; donations appreciate. kicks off the Noyo's Next Stage

anniversary

Fundraiser Help Bring Live Performances to the Noyo. More info:

'Serenity House" at WCT: this original play written and directed by Schuyler Marcier, set in a group home for individuals navigating addiction and mental recovery. continues Sunday May 4

www.gofundme.com/f/

novos-next-stage-help-

ring-live-performances-

with a 2 pm matinee, at Willits Community Theatre. Runs through May 18, with shows on Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. See Friday, May 2 listing for details and ticket info.

Tuesday, May 6 Raise Your Spiritual IQ: "Past Lives - Present Lessons: Share your nsights and experiences just listen." All are welcome to join this free sponsored

by Eckankar, or just listen. Tuesday, May 6 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial and Innovation," located St. Questions? 707-367-3777. on the National Mall in

### Wednesday, May 7

S.O.S. Choir is Back: The Singers on Streetcorners Choir is back! Harmonies will be ringing through the streets of Willits on the first Wednesday of each month throughout the summer, Wednesday, May 7 this month. All are invited to join the fun. Song sheets provided, with simple lyrics, perfect for first-time singers. Meet at Bud Snyder Park under the three big sequoia trees, at 5 pm on Wednesday, May 7 and next on Wednesday, June 4.

### Thursday, May 8

Museum: the Mendocino County presents

### Biologist Marisela de Santa Anna shares her experience leading tours of the Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands, authoring a wildlife blog. Thursday, May 8 at 12:30 pm. 400 East Commercial Street. More info: at www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or

refreshments,

history

and

Willits Farmers Market: Join your

neighbors

Thursday, May

8, from 3 to 5:30

pm at City Park

Bud Snyder Park,

produce, local meat,

dinner, tasty treats,

live music, the new

edition of Willits

Nuestra Alianza at

**Methodist Church:** 

Weekly, and more.

Friday,

May 9

Fundraiser

Support the cultural activities and social

services provided by Nuestra Alianza.

Enjoy a huge feast of Mexican food and

a delightful silent auction, Friday, May

9 at 5 pm, with musical performances

to include the Harmony Keepers

and Keily Pecera with Mexican

ranchera music. Speakers

include Supervisor John

Haschak and Nuestra Alianza

organizers. 286 School Street.

Art Talk at WCA: Willits Center

for the Arts' Art Talk this month

is on the National

Gallery of Art, "A Living

Monument to Art, History

the nation's preeminen

Talk by art historian

Gary Martin on Friday

May 9, at 6:30 pm at

the Art Center, 71 East

Commercial Street. Free

Info: (707) 459-1726,

or Gary Martin at 707-

972-3326 or visit www.

willitscenterforthearts.org.

and ticket info.

institutions

"Serenity House" at WCT: this original

play written and directed by Schuyler

Marcier, set in a group home for individuals

navigating addiction and mental health

recovery. continues Friday May 9 at 7

pm, at Willits Community Theatre. Runs

through May 18, with shows on Friday and

Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at

2 pm. See Friday, May 2 listing for details

conversation. Project May 10 Interpreter and Wildlife "Serenity House" at WCT: this original play written and directed by Schuyler Marcier, set in a group home for individuals

Proudly sponsoring the calendar section

www.visitwillits.com

299 East Commercial Street | Willits, CA | 707.459.7910

Saturday,

and mental health recovery. continues Saturday May 10 at 7 pm, at Willits Community Theatre. Runs through May 18, with shows on Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. See Friday, May 2 isting for details and ticket info.

A Very Special Mothers Day

Breakfast!

8am-11am

Sunday, May 11th, 2025

Buffet Style Menu

Syrups.

Prices

Mothers- 510

Adults- 518

Children 6 to 12- 510

Children under 6- Free
4561 Raeched Rd. Willen, CA 9540

for the freshest local Sunday, farm fresh eggs, hot

May 11 Mother's Day Breakfast at Senior Center: Enjoy a buffet breakfast from 9 to 11 am, with Pancakes,

Waffles Biscuits & Gravy, Vegetarian Breakfast Casserole, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Ham, Fresh Fruit Cups, Hot and Cold Beverages, and Fruit Syrups. Complimentary mimosa to all moms 21+. \$10 mothers; \$18 adults; \$10 children 6 to 12, children under 6 free. 1501 Baechtel Road. Gifts, including See's Candy, will be given away; breakfast will be prepared by, served by, and cleaned up by our male

"Serenity House" at WCT: this original play written and directed by Schuyler Marcier, set in a group home for individuals navigating addiction and mental health

recovery. Sunday, May 11 at 2 pm. Runs through May 18, on Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. See Friday, May 2 listing for details and ticket info.



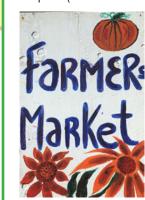
Friday, May 9, 6:30 PM WCA, 71 E. Commercial Ct Willits, 95490
This is a free event
For More info: 707-972-332

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE

### Farmers Market now at City Park for the summer

Willits Farmers Market moves back to Bud Snider City Park this week, May after nine years away. The market will set up, as in the past, along State Street on the north side of the park, starting at Humboldt. Hours are the same year 'round: 3 to 5:30 pm, every Thursday.

There is limited parking around the park (and none on State Street in the block



but there's parking City lot across Commercial down the street Skunk Train

parking lot

the

occupied by

nark)

(which is City-owned), and the north end of that lot abuts the end of State Street, just a short walk to the park.

The market brings you the freshest produce available, local meat and eggs, hot food and cold from small, local businesses, many of them sourcing ingredients from local farms. There are crafts, too, from soap to colorful shifts. And music every week. The market honors EBT and WIC cards and matches benefits with Market Match, to double your food dollars.

> - Willits Market Manager Michael Foley

JOIN THE MEMBERSHIP



Ladies, Take Charge

Join us for PAP-A-PALOOZA

at Care For Her, Hillside, and protect yourself against

Early detection can save lives — don't wait! Take advantage of these

NEXT EVENT DATE: Saturday, April 12th. We will have the Saturday

cervical cancer with a Pap test!

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL:

(707) 468-1010

1-855-FOR-MCHC • mchcinc.org

special events and make your health a priority.

clinic the second Saturday of each month for PAPs.

Call now to schedule your appointment and protect

WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE

yourself today. Together, we can fight cervical cancer!

of Your Health!







# Becker's names Adventist Health's Willits and

### Submitted by Adventist Health Howard Memorial

Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital and Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Hospital have been named among the Top 374 Cleanest Hospitals in the United States by Becker's Hospital Review, based on the latest data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Both hospitals earned a prestigious 5-star cleanliness rating, a distinction awarded to only a small number of facilities nationwide and just 16 hospitals in California.

collected through the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey - a nationally standardized tool used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to measure patient experiences during hospital stays. Cleanliness is one of several key indicators evaluated by the survey and is critical to ensuring patient safety, comfort,

"We are honored by this recognition."

The achievement showcases the dedication of Adventist Health teams to providing an exceptional standard of care

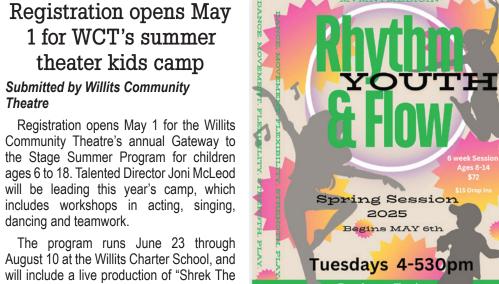
"Our teams take immense pride in their work, and this recognition is a testament to their attention to detail, their compassion, and their commitment to excellence," said Jeff Mock, Operations Executive for Mendocino County. "This is a celebration of their efforts to ensure our hospitals are safe, clean, and comforting places to receive care."

For more information about the Becker's Hospital Review list and the CMS HCAHPS ratings, visit www. beckershospitalreview.com.

About Adventist Health: Adventist Health is a faith-based, nonprofit, integrated health system serving more than 100 communities on the West Coast and Hawai'i with over 440 sites of care, including 27 acute care facilities

Founded on Adventist heritage and values. Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care, and hospice agencies in both rural and urban communities. Our compassionate and talented team of more than 38,000 includes employees, physicians, Medical Staff, and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope.

Grateful Gleaner annual plant sale, May 10



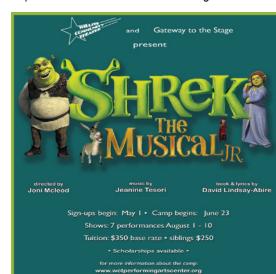
mvmntmedicin@gmail.com Willits Center for the Arts 71 E.

### Submitted by WCA

willitscenterforthearts.org.

Activities have included Street Art, still life draw/ paint-along, plein air painting, butterfly symmetry monoprints, radial symmetry, mandala block printing, paper sculptures, papier mâché ice cream cones, collage, assemblage, and read-aloud, as well as park playtime.

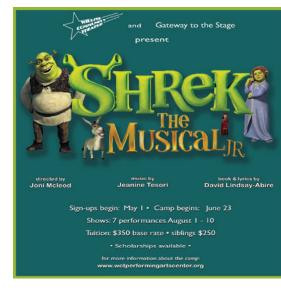
accomplished fine artist, who now teaches junior high and high school art at Willits Charter School in Willits. Hambright's recent work was born out of a passion for creating art that captures the beauty of nature, expresses the wonder of childhood, and inspires internal peace. Visit https:// carolinehambright.com for more info. Register at https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org



### Registration open for Kids Art Camp at WCA

Registration is now open for the 3rd annual Willits Center for the Arts Kids Art Camp this summer with Caroline Hambright, art teacher at Willits Charter School. Camp is for kids age 7 to 12; dates are Monday, July 7 through Friday, July 11, from 10 am to 3 pm. Tuition is \$325. Register at www.

Santa Barbara native Caroline Hambright is an



### **DUETS at WCA** for Mother's Day, May 11

### Submitted by WCA

Don't know what to do for Mom on Mother's Day? Looking for that one-of-a-kind experience? Look no further! Treat her to a musical world tour at the Willits Center for the Arts presenting "DUETS," a musical adventure featuring four different "duets" from the region's finest musicians. Spencer Brewer and friends return to the WCA for this unique musical journey

It's sure to be an amazing concert as area musicians pair up on WCA's grand piano, violin, saxophone, vocals, and traditional Chinese instruments. Performers include Ben Rueb & Margie Rice. Barney McClure & Roseanne Wetzel, Spencer Brewer & Wenbo Yin, and Katrina Hu, Lita Li & Hannah Cheng.

Well-known Ukiah musician and producer Spencer Brewer finds great satisfaction in putting unique musical events together. "Finding the right artists across a myriad of styles and matching them with a great venue allows for wondrous moments to happen," Brewer remarks, adding that the DUETS concept showcases musicians' talents in new ways.

"When a duet or small ensemble come together, each player brings to their sound, their life experience, and their voice to the table. An ensemble allows for moments of brilliance between the players." He continues, "Coming up with the concept for a Mother's Day concert composed of different styles with a variety of artists and instrumentation was a blast! This fun afternoon of exceptional classical music, jazz, funky boogie, soulful renditions, and original compositions will leave listeners enriched."

Enjoy this musical afternoon with friends, neighbors, and good cheer, all to benefit the Willits Center for the Arts. Charcuterie and special pastries from Willits' own Craft House Baking and the Cheesecakery will be served, along with sparkling wine and other

Presale tickets are \$25 online at willitscenterforthearts.org and at the gallery desk, and \$30 at the door the day of the concert. Doors open at 3:30 pm on Sunday, May 11, and music begins at 4 pm in the Great Room at the Willits Center for the Arts. 71 East Commercial Street. in Willits. For more information call 707-459-1726.

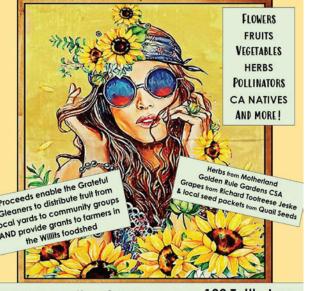
## Coast hospitals on 'Cleanest Hospitals' list

This honor is based on patient feedback

which reflects the daily commitment of our Environmental Services and Facility Management teams and every caregiver who contributes to a healing and welcoming environment," said Eric Stevens, Chief Operating Officer and Northern California Network President. "Cleanliness is more than aesthetics – it's a cornerstone of quality care and patient

### Grateful Gleaners **PLANT SALE**

\* Saturday May 10th \* 10 am to 3 pm \*



LOOK FOR SIGNS BY THE WILLITS POST OFFICE, POINTING TO 130 Tuttle Lane

### Submitted by Karen Gridley, Grateful Gleaners Surprises await you at the Grateful Gleaner plant sale, which is happening Saturday, May 10 from 10 to sign up for their CSA program which will provide am to 3 pm at 130 Tuttle Lane, one block north of the you with a basket of delicious fresh produce every Post Office off of Humboldt Street. The Gleaner sale is an all-volunteer effort to bring

you a range of vegetable, herb and flower starts as well as perennial flowers, herbs, fruit, and landscape plants and trees. You may discover a flowering ground cover for a shady spot that requires no maintenance; drought-tolerant and deer-resistant landscape plants; old-fashioned flowers that spread by seed, like money plant and love-in-the-mist; and flowers and herbs that attract bees and butterflies. Set aside enough time to explore all the plants set out on tables in the garden.

Special guests and vendors return again this year to expand the options. Jamie Chevalier of Quail Seeds will be present to share her heirloom and opensourced seeds. Two of Donna d'Terra's caretakers at Motherland will offer over a dozen different herbs, both culinary and medicinal, hoping to promote "herbs in every garden." Richard Tootreese Jeske also has been tireless over the years in encouraging local backyard gardeners to grow table grapes. He will sell starts of table grapes that perform well in our climate.

Golden Rule Gardens CSA will have a table for you week from May through November. Doing that saves you a lot of work and promotes local food production

Registration opens May

1 for WCT's summer

theater kids camp

"We're thrilled to have Joni Mcleod

running the camp this year," says WCT

Production Manager Jeff Shipp. "The other

real highlight – the kids are going to adore

The popular program fills quickly so early

registration is encouraged. Information is

available at:www.wctperformingartscenter.

Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Named Among Cleanest Hospitals in U.S.

TUTUS & TOES

A project of Gateway to the Stage

fun and engaging program of dance for children 3 - 8

being in a production of 'Shrek.'

Submitted by Willits Community

dancing and teamwork.

This community event is a fundraiser for the Grateful Gleaner group that strives to support local food sustainability. Their primary mission is to "glean" or rescue fruit or vegetables that would normally go to waste. Over a decade ago, the group initiated the plant sale to encourage home gardening and to raise grant monies to help enterprising local growers to produce food more efficiently for our community.

If you are interested in helping to further the activities of the Gleaner group, come to the plant sale and speak with current volunteers who can answer your questions. For more information about the Gleaners or the plant sale, contact their voice mail 707-367-7391 or gratefulgleanersofwillits@gmail.com

Browsing for plants can begin at 10 am sharp and continue through 3 pm. Dogs are not allowed in the garden. Please bring cash, preferably in the form of small bills. Checks are accepted, but no cards



Hot Seats





**Kids Art Camp July 7-11** Monday-Friday, Ages 7-11, 10am -3pm painting - print making - street art - mixed media playtime **REGISTRATION** www.willitscenterforthearts.org Facebook: facebook willits umo

SPIRITUAL **PATHWAYS** 

Agape **Bible Church** 

290 S. Lenore Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Where love is first and the Bible is central. Sunday Services 10:00 a.m. - Worship dult Sunday School 8:30 a.m Info? 707-459-1905 www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church 803 Coast Street

P.O. Box 489, Willits Worship Service - 5:00 p.m Pastor Kris Strickland EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

### Church of Christ Vhat 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.n 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, ČA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

### ckankar: The Path f Spiritual Freedor A University for Soul

Spiritual Living Courses Spiritual Discussions ECK Light & Sound Service More information? Call 530-224-8703 www.eckankar.org

### **Grace Community** Church

Celebrating Life In Christ 25 Hazel Street, Willits **Worship Service** 10 a.m. 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: Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. Saturday-5:30 p.m. Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English 10:30 a.m. - Spanish Confessions on Saturday 4:45 - 5:15 p.m. Or by appointmet at

707-459-2252 https://stanthonywillits.org/ saintanthonywillits@gmail.com Ne welcome All Walks of Faith

### St. Francis **Episcopal Church** 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

Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. (707) 459-2988 24 Mill Creek Drive Tacebook.com/stjohnswillits

### 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 astor Jaime Rogers-Fairchile Sunday Worship at 10:30 am 286 School St. (at Pine) 707-459-2855 wumc@outlook.com www.willitsumc.org

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













Above: Caring Kitchen's Chef Jason prepared these locally sourced lamb

At left: Many of the attendees take the opportunity to partake in the hearty meal of lamb skewers, potatoes, salad, soup, and ice cream sandwiches.

At left, below: Carson Elmer brought a demonstration bee hive to fascinate the

At left, at bottom: Ridgewood Ranch is an idyllic setting in which to farm and ranch. Below: Leyna came in a colorful costume to help her mom, Emily Ward, with her booth which told of the Ridgewood Ranch

Photos by Mathew Caine



TK-Kindergarten Registration Now Open

To pre-register go to www.willitsunified.com Para registrar a su estudiante ve a www.willitsunified.com

Kindergarten - age 5 by September 1, 2025

Transitional Kindergarten - age 4 by September 1, 2025

Kinder - 5 años antes de Septiembre 1, 2025

Trancision de Kinder - 4 años de Septiembre 1, 2025

Once you have completed the online registration,

please bring the following documents to Brookside:

our Website at www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside

nuestro sitio web www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside

Birth Certificate

• Immunization records

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

• Certificado de nacimiento

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com









At top, far left: Rachel Britten of the Mendocino Grain Project, and auctioneer for many events, shows off several of her wheat, quinoa, bean, and rice products. At top, left: Sean Rippin explains how the CSA program works and sells starts to help gardeners get a head start. At far left: Jes Michalak demonstrates the art of wheat weaving as she makes art from the staple. At left: Ruthie King of Headwaters Grazing is an expert shearer and sheep rancher and imparts her knowledge to interested students. Above: This ranch kid finds out how difficult it is to get the sheep to do his bidding as he chooses one of them for shearing.

# Flock Together

Headwaters Grazing and Ridgewood Ranch host community event with sheep shearing demonstrations and farm-to-table food

It was a day filled with all things sheep. All morning, Ruthie King, who organized the Flock Together Festival at Ridgewood Ranch, and her crew from Headwaters Grazing sheared their sheep down to the skin as fascinated kids and adults watched with amazement. Anyone who asked could feel the soft, spongy raw wool in their hands, fresh from the shearing. The event was a showcase for the many activities that go on at the ranch.

Included were demonstrations of the aforementioned shearing, sheepdog herding, wheat threshing, and more. The youngsters were invited to shoot water from the Ridgewood Fire's water tender under the watchful eye of Fire Captain Brian Bartholomew. At noon,

a hearty meal of locally sourced lamb skewers, potatoes, salad, soup, and ice cream sandwiches was served at the mare's barn with the diners sitting at a long communal table, adding to the sense of community.

"Today we're having a Flock Together Festival," explained Rachel Britten of the Mendocino Grain Project. "It's a celebration of ranch work and coming together as a community. The whole event is centered around shearing sheep. That used to be like threshing wheat, something that the whole community would come together to do. Ridgewood Ranch has come together around Ruthie [King] shearing her flock, along with her team. They're coming in to shear the sheep.

"In the meantime, we're showing off some of the other great things we have going on

In addition to the sheep demonstrations, the very attractive main barn had several booths with information and sales from local vendors and programs. Emily Ward represented the Event Association of Ridgewood Ranch, promoting the ranch's beautiful venue locations

Sara Travis brought a variety of her handmade, soy-based nontoxic candles with subtle scents in recycled vessels. Melissa Hand of Ravinto Bakery in Willits brought a sample of her cottage-based bakery, with buckwheat chocolate chip cookies, rhubarb strawberry crisps with cardamom, sugar cookies with violet frosting, and rhubarb cardamom cookies. Stephanie Wallis brought product from her Triskele Organics Lavender Farm. Jes Michalak performed demonstrations of wheat weaving, creating small sculptures for the kids.

Sean Rippin and Makenna Youngdale represented the Golden Rule Gardens community supported agriculture memberships and sold vegetable starts. "The CSA memberships are for people who want to support the farm and get a nice box of vegetables, either weekly or bi-weekly," said Rippin. "It's a really good deal and you can get a flower bouquet add-on. Biodynamics is farming as a self-sustaining organism. It's not taking too many inputs from outside itself and is able to sustain itself from its own manures and other materials. Also, it's working with medicinal plants, preparations that make the compost more potent for the plants that we grow. We plant with the cycles of the sun and the moon."

McKenna added, "The boxes are \$30 per week for 30 weeks. We do the pickups from Wednesday through Sunday. We have a cooler, so we keep the boxes in the cooler to



# Festival

Mathew Caine

at Ridgewood. The Golden Rule Gardens are here. Mendocino Grain Project is here. A lavender vendor, called Triskele. We have a little farmers market portion and there are activities throughout the day. You get to see every step of the wool process. We'll have a threshing demonstration of wheat later today. There will be an amazing farmto-table lunch that is done by Black Dog Farm and Catering. Mendocino Grain Project, Black Dog Catering, Headwaters Grazing, Golden Rule Gardens are all on the Ridgewood properties. This is the whole team coming together."

offer more flexible pickup times. The pickups are located right behind the Read the rest of

Seabiscuit barn." To sign up for a

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Festival

Over on page 9



Air Pollution Control Officer

\$115,731 - \$140,691 Community Services Officer \$49,483 - \$60,132 Corrections Deputy \$58,136 - \$70,678 Deputy Probation Officer I & II \$55,577 - \$74,505 Deputy Public Defender III/IV \$112,424 - \$161,158 Deputy Sheriff-Corone \$84,323 - \$102,460 Director of Nursing - Public Health \$127,753 - \$155,292 Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist \$58,843 - \$71,510 Program Specialist II - Fort Bragg \$56,721 - \$68,931

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

Real Property Appraiser

\$59,779 - \$72,654

The rest of Raffle

From page 3

recalled. "We received a call one day from her hospice worker stating that Marsha wanted me and Stacy to come and sit with her when she was dying. That tells you that we're family. I think it says that we care, more than anything. When someone wants you there during their last moments of life, it is very impactful. We get the opportunity to positively impact lives, and we get to feel the gratitude and appreciation for that.'

To purchase raffle tickets to support the many needed services at the Senior Center, stop by the Willits Harrah Senior Center at 1501 Baechtel Road or call 459-6826 to receive tickets in the mail. For more info about the Senior Center, visit www.facebook.com/WHSCTS or www. willitsseniorcenter.com/

### The rest of Festival

From page 8

Golden Rule Gardens CSA box, visit hwww.goldenrulegardens.com/.

Ryen Wright, a member of Headwaters Grazing, is a shepherd in the business based on Ridgewood Ranch. "The purpose of this event is, first of all, to celebrate shearing," said Wright. "Historically, shearing has been a community event where people come together to help sort sheep and skirt wool and to celebrate that time of year, the bounty that we have from our sheep, land, and the reciprocal relationships we have within that. Previously, we've had we do shearing, and this year, we thought why not make it a party and invite all of our friends. We just wanted to celebrate with more people and more of the greater community in order to connect more deeply. We wanted to share the other aspects of our ranch. We run cattle. We have a volunteer fire department, Mendocino Grain Project, and Golden Rule Gardens. We wanted to bring all these different parts together to payment beyond hours worked. celebrate.

The well-attended event brought and earthy scents of the community of sprinklings of rain could dampen the fun and knowledge imparted at this extraordinary event.

To learn about other upcoming events at Ridgewood Ranch, visit www.headwatersgrazing.com/ ridgewood-ranch

## Allman

the council voted unanimously to hire Rod Wilburn to be the interim city manager.

WW534

hear the Hi-Lo it's time to go!

dispatch during the drill.

Sincerely,

888777 or sign up online at nixle.com.

for Countywide emergency alerts.

Willits Police Department

**Fictitious Business** 

Name Statement

persons are doing business as

Divination Ink / Ink.By.Ry, 158

95490; Mailing address: 20970

95490. Phone: 707-972-8805.

The following person or

S. Main Street, Willits CA

Baechtel Road, Willits CA

Registered owner: Rylee

Vigil, 20970 Baechtel Road,

This business is conducted by

The registrant commenced to

fictitious business name listed

transact business under the

FBN statement filed with the

Mendocino County Clerk-

Recorder on April 2, 2025.

Publication Dates: May 1, 8,

From page 1

Willits CA 95490.

an individual

above on N/A.

/s/ Rylee Vigil

15, 22, 2025

2025-F0168

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

As fire season is upon us, we at the City of Willits Police

Department want to ensure that all residents are aware of

equipped with Hi-Lo sirens which will only be activated in

the Hi-Lo siren's distinct sound. Willits Police patrol cars are

On Wednesday, May 28th at 3:30 pm our Police Department

EVACUATE as this is only a drill. The drill will end by 3:40 pm.

Please do not call 911(unless you have an emergency) or police

In the event of a real Hi-Lo Siren evacuation you will receive a

Nixle Alert of what and where the danger is and directions of

travel to evacuate. To receive Nixle Alert's text your Zip code to

Additionally, we suggest you go to mendoready.org and sign up

Willits Weekly

can run legal

notices including

fictitious

business name

statements,

foreclosure

notices, storage

unit auctions,

and more.

Contact us for

more information

at willitsweekly@

gmail.com

Publication Dates: April 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

cars driving our City streets with sirens activated. DO NOT

will conduct a Hi-Lo Siren Emergency Evacuation Drill in patrol

emergencies that require an immediate evacuation. When you

Wilburn is the former Willits Public Works director, an employee of the city between 2014 and 2016. He is a licensed civil engineer and also holds a law degree. Wilburn will be paid \$3,600 a week, for working approximately 24 hours a week, for a term of up to six

Everyone on the council was pleased with the choice they made. Council member Bruce Burton said: "Rod is local, born and raised here in Willits, has family here. We have a local person that is so eminently qualified, with history with Willits, history with the team that we have here, and has a long-standing high regard for integrity."

small groups of people around when not be hired as a city employee. Wilburn is currently employed by LACO Associates, an engineering firm with an office in Ukiah. The city has contracted with LACO to have Wilburn work as the interim city manager. Wilburn will remain an employee of LACO. This is a benefit to Willits, which will not have to

In an unusual employment arrangement, Wilburn will

add an employee, will not pay any employee benefits such as medical insurance, and will not owe any employment taxes. The agreement with LACO specifies that Wilburn's services to the city can be terminated, at any time, for any reason, with no penalties or additional

Hiring Wilburn through LACO, however, presented a potential conflict of interest. Willits currently has together a group of mostly locals who contracts with LACO for engineering services. To avoid were treated to the sights, sounds, this conflict, the agreement between LACO and the city specifies that LACO will not bid on or participate in any farmers, ranchers, artists, and others new Willits city projects during Wilburn's term as interim of Ridgewood Ranch. Not even the city manager and for six months after Wilburn's term ends. For the duration of two current contracts between LACO and the city, both of which are nearing conclusion, Wilburn will have no involvement.

> And with that hurdle hurdled, Wilburn, to applause from the council and members of the public, quietly stepped up and sat down at his new job. Added council member Burton, "I think it's just what we need right now."

### **LEGAL NOTICES CLASSIFIEDS**

Do you need

food? Willits Food Bank, 344 Railroad Avenue, Willits, CA 95490. Open Wednesdays & Fridays 1-4:30 - Bring an I.D. (707) 459-3333

**Indoor Yard Sale** Giant Indoor Yard Sale Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). Saturday, May 10 - 8 am to 4 pm

Firewood for Sale Firewood for sale Fir. 1/2 cord, \$175.00 Delivered. Call 707-354-

Free Food for All

Pop-Ups

Food Mendocino Network presents food pop-ups with free food for all: In Willits, every 1st and 3rd Thursday, from 10 to 11:30 am at 1250 Blosser Lane. In Laytonville, every 4th Thursday, 12 to 1 pm at 300 Cahto Drive. In Covelo, every 2nd Thursday, from 12 to 1 pm, at 76300 Grange Street. In Leggett: Every first Tuesday from 12 to

French Black Copper Maran

Rachelle@mendofood.

Rooster Have yet to actually hear it crow, but 95% sure it's a rooster, and he's gotta go. Free to good home, bring a crate for transport. Breed is supposed to lay beautiful, chocolatecolored dark brown eggs. 14ish weeks old. 707-972-7047.

John Ford Ranch

Beef John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$390.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$170.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian

Raise Your

@ 459-5049.

Spiritual IQ Past Lives - Present Lessons: We warmly welcome you to share your insights and experiences or just listen. Tuesday, May 6 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial Street A FREE Community Service sponsored by 1 pm at 65100 Drive-Eckankar in California. Thru Tree Road. Info:

org; 707-615-6654. **RV/Trailer Space** for Rent Space for RV's and

Trailers – starts at \$500 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at http://www. oaknvine.net/tp

> Run your classified ad here next week!

From page 1 Permits

Burn day status is regulated by Mendocino County Air Quality Management District Burn Day Information Line: (707)-463-4391, Mendocino County Air Quality Management District (707) 463-4354

Hazard Reduction Guidelines are listed on the permit and must be followed at all times. As a reminder, always have a minimum 10-foot clearance down to bare mineral soil around all burn piles, have a shovel and a water source available, and an adult present during burning.

Failure to follow these simple precautions may result in a citation and fines. For further information regarding residential burning or other fire safety tips visit your local CAL FIRE station, 17501 North Highway 101 in Willits, or go to www. readyforwildfire.org.

Investigate |

driving the vehicle in Willits, at approximately coll1:20 am, the off-duty deputy collided with a guardrail on Sherwood Road causing damage to the passenger side of the vehicle.

This matter was immediately reported to the California Highway Patrol Garberville Office to investigate the traffic collision, damage to the guardrail and county-owned patrol vehicle, hit-and-run incident, reckless driving, and the possibility of the offduty deputy driving under the influence.

The California Highway Patrol is actively investigating this incident with the assistance of an Investigator from the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office.

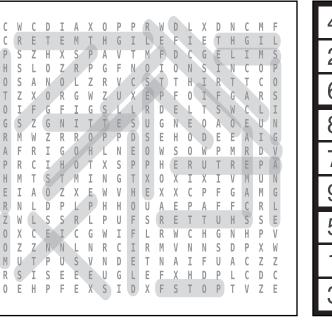
It is the intent and endeavor of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office to maintain transparency and accountability with the immediate reporting and investigation of

The name of the MCSO deputy is being withheld at this time to protect the integrity of the ongoing criminal investigation. The deputy involved in this incident was immediately placed on paid administrative leave with his peace-officer status suspended while this matter is being investigated.

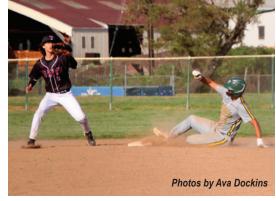
Anyone with information related to this incident is requested to contact the Sheriff's Office Communications Center at 707-463-4086 (option 1). Information can also be provided anonymously by calling the non-emergency tip-line at 707-234-2100.

### Have something to say?

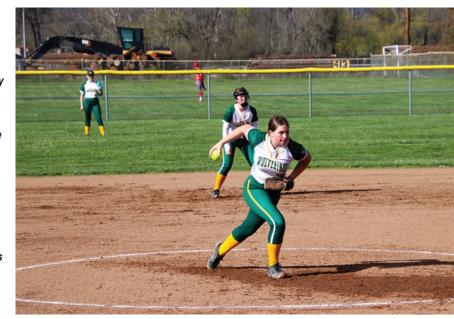
Residents of Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville and Covelo are welcometo send in a letter to the editor. Please email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com



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Above, left: Leah Blakely pounces off the block into the water during the relay. Above, right: Corey Rockey slides into second base. At left: Lisa Arkelian makes a pristine pitch to the batter up. Below, from left: Jade Sneed (all-tourney) and Lilly Glass (MVP) show off their rings. Photo courtesy of Jeff Yokum. Landon Honevcutt prepares for a hit at bat. Kylie Yokum poses proudly with her













after their tournament win. Photo courtesy of

Jeff Yokum. Above, right: Krystina Ojeda flows







Open Monday-Friday Accepting new patients of all ages.

### COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

### **Willits Wolverines spring out** for a successful week of sports

### Willits Swim Team continues lapping them all at every meet

Another successful swim meet was held at the beautifully effervescent swimming pool at WHS. The Wolverines swimmers took to their blocks to compete against Mendocino and Fort Bragg. For these young swimmers, life is better in the water, and every stroke counts.

There were some exceptional races and relays swam by Madison Winters, Leah Blakely and Krystina Ojeda. Once again, the Wolverines came out on top with victories! Final scores were Willits 69, Fort Bragg 62 and Willits 89, Mendocino 13.

Head Coach Mattie Pinon is very proud of her team and gives appreciation to senior Krystina Ojeda. "She did a great job! I am going to miss her!"

### Willits Wolverines Golf clinches CMC North Division with

On April 26, the WHS golf team headed south to the town of Windsor for a tournament on their beautiful golf course. Once again Zahyr Lopez shot the best in the tournament with a phenomenal score of 79. Other top scorers: Cole Lane (81), Torin Fraser (101), Nikolai Ritchley (108), Brodey Bowen (107), and Makiah Carter (131).

Willits' total score was 369, beating Mendocino (399), Clear Lake (414), and Fort Bragg (422). This win clinched their Coastal Mountain Conference

"Amongst clinching our division, last week we were able to coordinate with the Ukiah team, which is not in our division," said Head Coach Jeff Yokum. "But I coordinated with Coach Bernie down there for a practice round / scrimmage. The Brooktrails Golf Course was closed due to maintenance, so I was able to secure a school van to take the team to Ukiah to continue our practice routine. Looking forward to doing that more in the future

"Our final tournament will be next week on the 30th in Ukiah," Yokum said. Then, it looks like we will be moving on to the NCS Championship at Foxtail North in Rohnert Park."

Congratulations on your success WHS Golf! We are so proud of you!

### WHS Tennis rallies in a home meet on Friday

Wolverines Tennis had their last home meet on Friday against Mendocino. Jayden Finley won his match 2 to 0. This was Jayden's first time playing singles this year. He did a great job. Their final match will be at the CMC Championships in Rohnert Park on Friday, May 2.

"I am proud of the whole team, and the way they are doing together. I will miss my seniors next year: Jacqueline Vieyra, Alexandra Suarez, Jayden Finley, and Mason Valente. They are all sweet young women and men. I wish them all good things, and success in their future endeavors." Said Head Coach Kristi Kellar

Great job Wolverines Tennis! Your community is proud of you, and we wish the seniors the very best this life has to offer.

### Wolverines tracking every milestone with impressive performance

Wolverines Track traveled to Lower Lake on April 23 to compete in a meet. All of these athletes are keeping a steady pace with their goals and improvements. They trace every step with tenacity and jump with great fortitude. Coach Kellar works double-time as a track and tennis Coach. She has been doing an amazing job with these kids, and it shows.

A powerful group of young women all ran the relay for the first time this vear, Ava Holmen, Macaella Williams, Amsatou Ndove and Abigail Sherf all got first place in the four by 100 relay with a time of 1:01.25.

Leo Moratti got second place in the varsity 100-meter run with 11.70 seconds, first place in the varsity boys long jump with an impressive 19 feet .75 inches, and second place in the triple jump with 35 feet 9 inches.

Cruz Oltjenburns got first place in the

freshman/sophomore

Read the rest of Sports

Over on page 11









### DOGE'd

2022 during the Oak Fire. Brian Ferri-Taylor says when he moved into the neighborhood in 1981, one of the first things he heard was that "if a fire ever crowns in Brooktrails, we're all toast." He received some sense of security back then, along with a map detailing eight evacuation routes. All was well until 2017, when wind-driven flames raged for weeks in Mendocino and Sonoma counties. At that point, a major discovery was made about the Brooktrails evacuation maps: "There's only one way out," Ferri-Taylor reported. "So 2017 was a real slap upside the head wakeup call."

Since then, Brooktrails has approved an annual assessment to maintain the FirCo Road and Willits Creek Trail, a couple of private routes that emergency vehicles can use to get into the neighborhood and respond to a disaster. In that event, both lanes of Sherwood Road would be available to residents trying to escape.

"Brooktrails is one of the top 13 most dangerous communities in the state,' according to Third District Supervisor John Haschak. He said county staff has been working on the "landscape level" grant for several years. The county recently received approval for \$3.5 million for the planning phase of the grant. "Since we received the first phase, we expected to receive the second and third phases, because that's how these programs work," Haschak reasoned. But earlier this month, FEMA sent out a press release headlined. "FEMA Ends Wasteful, Politicized Grant Program, Returning Agency to Core Mission of Helping Americans Recovering from Natural Disasters." An update on April 21 stated, "As the program is concluding, the Fiscal Year 2024 BRIC funding opportunity is cancelled, no applications submitted will be reviewed and no funds will be awarded." Funds that have not been distributed will be returned to the Disaster Relief Fund or the U.S. Treasury, and only recipients whose projects have started construction will be able to "expend all associated funds."

Haschak says the county has already spent some of the money it received, and he doesn't know if it will be reimbursed. The county also spent about \$50,000 on consultants to write the grant. "The consequences are that we won't have that extra safety that we were counting on, because of the high-risk nature of this area,"

The rest of

Sports

100-meter run with 12.62 seconds. first place in the freshman/sophomore 100-meter run with 26.09 seconds, and first place in the freshman/sophomore shot put, throwing 24 feet 7 inches.

Nikolas Bloyd got second place in the modified 100-meter run with 17.77 seconds.

"We are proud of all of the athletes on this track team." said Head Coach Krist Kellar. "They work really hard. We go to St. Helena on Wednesday, April, 30, then the championships in St. Helena on May 7."

Wolverines Baseball win a head-tohead with Tomales, and sweep Calistoga Wildcats

Willits Varsity Baseball continues to make great strides as a team this year. At home on the Dave Kline Field, on April 15, they took the field with Tomales in a nailbiter with Willits coming out on top!

Corey Rockey and Jakoby Kirby pitched a steady game for the Wolverines. Rickey Ramirez went up to bat, with everyone on the edge of their seats in the last inning, and hit an exhilarating triple and RBI to win the game. The final score was Willits 12 Tomales 11. That's what you call a good ball game!

On Friday, April 25 they traveled to Calistoga where the Wolverines overwhelmed the host, Calistoga Wildcats. The final score was Willits 14-2.

"It was a great game," said Head Coach Shawn Defranco. "Adrian Lopez pitched all five innings. Kolbe Bufardeci hit an insidethe-park grand slam. All the players' bats were on fire and they played great defense. It was exactly what we needed after our last game, where we lost 8-4 to Sonoma Academy.

"We are hoping to finish the season out strong with our last four games being on the road," said Defranco. "Our last home game has been cancelled, so I am hoping to get one more home game in to have Senior Night."

Wolverines Varsity Softball steals a dominant win from Point Arena at home

The Wolverines Varsity Softball team rallied with a grit of determination after two consecutive wins to take a dominant victory over Point Arena at their home game last week. They never let the Pirates get on the board. The girls played solid with batting, as they averaged 8.0 runs over the last three games. Arkelian was steadfast with her intense pitching skills for a 12-0 victory.

he said. Also: "There was going to be an economic development part to it, because we were going to have to have people come in and do the retrofitting of these houses. That is a skill set in itself ... and the fuel reduction on the landscape level was going

long way towards developing a workforce that knows what it takes to make homes more resistant to fire. "A lot of little things," he enumerated: "just changing out the vents we have, enclosing decks and steps, creating a 5-feet clearance around the homes. Caulking and flashing, and replacing wooden fence segments that are right next to the home . Those things are all fairly inexpensive and doable and increase our safety a lot, and we don't have a workforce that knows how to do them, currently." In addition to injecting millions of dollars' worth of work into Brooktrails, Cratty believes the grant would have paid for local workers to get trained on skills that will continue to be in high demand as state regulations about fire safety and building codes tighten up, insurance demands get more strenuous, and homeowners seek contractors who can do the work efficiently and are also savvy about the requirements of working on grantfunded projects so they can help people retrofit their homes. The loss of this grant, Cratty predicted, "is going to deprive us of an economic development step that we

really need to get the whole county ready." Supervisor Haschak says the county has received money for the research phase of a state grant to build a proper paved road in Brooktrails leading to the highway. Ferri-Taylor, the Brooktrails resident, said the community is pursuing small-scale safety projects, including expanding an emergency alert system and maintaining vegetation along Sherwood Road. Residents are all in on Mendocino County Fire Safe Council chipper days. The Brooktrails Fire Department is holding a flea market on June 28, where educational materials about the importance of fire safety will be available to residents. But "there's \$50 million worth of work and local job creation and training that's, we're going to have to find another way," he said. "I don't know what that is yet." For more information about how you can

make your neighborhood more resilient to wildfire or start a neighborhood Fire Safe Council or Fire wise Community, visit the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council at www.firesafemendocino.org.

They headed to Calistoga last Friday to meet the Wildcats with a home-field advantage. Willits came on strong in the first half of the game, but the Wildcats soon

caught up with a successful inning of runs. The final score 13-9 did not dampen Willits' spirit! They'll be back with not one, but three home games this week. See you all there!

The last two games, the girls have played pretty well, beating a good Point Arena team at home, and then losing on the road to Calistoga this last Friday," said Head Coach Ray Britton. "We ended up losing the game by a couple runs, but kept fighting 'til the end of the game."

As always WHS athletes, you are doing an epic job of performing, and excelling each week in your chosen sport! Your community is very proud of you!

WRLL Softball takes championships in Fort Bragg tourney

WRLL Softball took the long, winding road to Fort Bragg on Saturday, April 26 to compete in the Fort Bragg Invitational Tournament. These ladies meant business!

All teams played exceptionally well with the Juniors Team taking the Gold, and coming home as champions. Presley Tuttle and Jade Sneed received all-tourney awards, and Lily Glass received MVP

"I feel grateful to have a team like this, and to have Teanne a.k.a. my coach to look up to and have as a leader," said Glass. "I am also very grateful to get MVP of the tourney. I couldn't have done anything without my team, and it was something earned not given. P.S. like the Frank Ocean song says, 'work hard in silence, let the success do the noise." Willits Team Hotshots took the honorary second place in their division. Baylee Baler and Sophia Linderman received all-tourney awards.

The third WRLL team fell just a bit short of placing, but gave it their all. Their determination, athleticism, and ability to stay in the game were displayed as a team. Daylee Ward and Moon Yates received alltourney awards in their division.

"I am very proud of how these girls played this weekend," said Head Coach Teanne Eden. "They never gave up, no matter what was thrown at them. They are playing some very good team softball right now."

Amazing job WRLL! Your community is very proud of you all. Girl power!

### MCOE offers new Certified Nursing Assistant program

### Posted by MCOE

The Mendocino County Office of Education is expanding opportunities for local residents to enter the healthcare field, launching a new Certified Nursing Assistant program this Cratty says the grant would have gone a

> his program, offered at no cost through June 2026, is funded by a Healthcare Career Pathway grant from Empowered Aging. It joins MCOE's existing Dental Assistant, Medical Assistant, and Phlebotomy courses as part of the agency's broader Medical Pathways

> Designed for students age 16 and older, the CNA program prepares participants to enter the workforce in just four months. The class includes 85 hours of in-class instruction and 100 hours of clinical experience, coordinated with local facilities. With a maximum of 15 students per cohort, the program also provides need-based financial support for transportation, food, and childcare, helping to reduce common barriers to participation.

> MCOE is working in partnership with Ukiah Unified School District to offer a high school section of the CNA course, while also running a summer cohort open to Mendocino County adults.0

> "The new CNA program opens the door to another in-demand job in healthcare," said Eric Crawford, MCOE director of Career and College Programs. "Students will gain handson experience and a strong foundation – whether they choose to build a long-term career as a CNA or continue to pursue nursing training or other medical support professions."

> Meanwhile, MCOE continues to offer established training opportunities in Dental Assisting, Phlebotomy, and Medical Assisting. These programs combine classroom learning with clinical externships, preparing students for both certification and employment. The next Dental Assisting and Phlebotomy cohorts begin this summer, with applications open through May 16, 2025, Medical Assistant and Certified Nursing Assistant program applications will be available in June.

> The Dental Assistant course runs for six months and meets one day per week on Thursdays, Phlebotomy meets once a week on Fridays and runs for four months.

> "If you've ever had your blood drawn, teeth cleaned, or your blood pressure taken at a local medical office, there's a good chance the person who helped you was trained right here at MCOE," said Tami Mee, MCOE Adult Programs manager. "We couldn't offer programs of this quality without the support of our community. Generous donations from local clinics, clinical partnerships, and scholarships from organizations like the Alliance for Rural Community Health and Empowered Aging make it financially and geographically possible for students to train locally."

For more information or to apply, please visit:http://mcoe.us/medpath

### From page 1 Brooktrails

fee for maintenance of emergency vehicle access routes to Brooktrails. The FirCo Road is one of those routes, upon which the district has entered into an Emergency Route Agreement with affected property

The leg of FirCo Road also known as Meadowlark Trail has been heavily gated off by a property owner with intent to prevent emergency vehicle access to the FirCo Road. Therefore, district staff worked with the City of Willits, CAL FIRE, and the county to identify and secure an alternate route that could still provide important county for election. emergency vehicle access to Brooktrails without involving the property owner previously referenced.

To facilitate the Meadowlark Trail bypass, a proposal to clear overgrown vegetation Park District. along an existing skid trail/road from FirCo Road to the city's airport has been developed. The skid trail was previously used by the logging companies and their trucks for log staging where the airport is now located. It is evident that this proposal is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act, aka CEQA.

The airport property is conveniently situated for staging emergency vehicles in the event they must access Brooktrails if Sherwood Road is diverting both lanes south for community evacuation.

In the event that a wildfire was threatening the east side of Brooktrails, it is natural to presume that emergency vehicles would access the area and stage equipment at

CAL FIRE has agreed to perform the vegetation clearance work on this section of the FirCo Road, as they previously cleared along the whole FirCo Road route in 2021 when the governor placed the route onto a list of CEQA-exempt, critically important vegetation management projects for mitigating wildfire risks to California communities.

Due to the project's location along an existing skid trail, the vegetation clearance work plans, the lack of construction of buildings of any kind with the exception of a gate or two, the absence of negative impacts to the environment from the project, and the cooperative agreement of all parties involved, a categorical exemption was prepared for consideration. Class 4 categorical exemptions are for

projects considered to be minor alterations to the land, and this project involves a minor alteration of land by clearing 2,500 linear feet of overgrown vegetation to facilitate emergency vehicle access to the airport. In 2025 CAL FIRE reclassified the airport

and adjacent areas as being located in a severe fire hazard area. Impacts to the neighborhood from the severe classification and future wildfire could be mitigated with the completion of this minor project.

District Counsel Neary noted, "The option to bring FirCo Road out at the airport benefits both the district and the city."

The board fully agreed and voted to Cyclists

approve the Notice of Exemption for the Willits Airport to FirCo Road Trail Clearance Project and direct staff to file a copy with the Mendocino County clerk.

The board then moved on to "Consideration of LAFCo (Local Agencies Formation Commission) Special District Alternate Seat Ballot.'

Due to a vacancy on the Local Agency Formation Commission in the Special District Alternate seat, a ballot has been circulated to all special districts in the

Two qualified candidates have applied for the seat: Adam Gaska of the Redwood Valley County Water District and Dave Shpak of Mendocino Coast Recreation and

After considerable discussion regarding the merits of both candidates, Director Ed Horrick stated, "They're both very qualified, and we are lucky to have either one of

Although Adam Gaska is a well-qualified candidate, the board opted to vote for Dave Shpak to enable representation from the coastal communities on the LAFCo

Finally, the board focused on "Consideration of First Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding with Willits Area Cyclists: Establishing the Duration of the Agreement. '

On March 25, 2025, Adam Sherf, leader of the Willits Area Cyclists, presented a comprehensive update to the board on the accomplishments of WAC since approval of the MOU to develop and implement a trail adoption program in Brooktrails.

As trail stewards for the community WAC has applied for several grants to help fund their activities, including construction of the Beginner Trail Zone, and other improvements. It was brought to the attention of the Brooktrails board of directors that WAC would be better qualified and given more consideration when there are grant opportunities available if there was a duration of time on the MOU. This item responds to that information by presenting the first amendment to the MOU for consideration.

The amendment to the MOU represents a simple update that changes nothing in the existing agreement but offers a length of duration that WAC can leverage in its grant applications.

General Manager Alaniz said, "WAC is abiding by every term and more of their agreement with the district to be excellent trail stewards." Acting President Williams (in Tyler-O'Shea's absence): "The work they have been doing is wonderful, and we are very grateful for the relationship that the district has with WAC."

Pg. 11

The board then voted to approve the first amendment to the MOU with Willits Area

### COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES



Dan Essman

The Story: Time: 1934. Place: Juke joint in rural Mississippi.

Genre: big

budget horror flick heavily scented with lotsa music and the Delta Blues and lotsa mostly-black folks and the sickly, bloodthirsty, two-legged almost human creatures who make the nighttime such a terrible time to be wandering alone.

Twin hustlers Smoke and Stack (Michael B. Jordan in a dual role) buy an abandoned sawmill to convert into a juke joint (honkytonk) and recruit young Sammie Moore (Miles Caton), an innocent preacher's son who's a singer and guitar virtuoso with the necessary "raise the dead" blues chops, to rock the house.

Smoke's and Stack's everyone's invited juke joint grand opening features beerdrinkin', and boozin' and dancin' and sexin' and some racial mixin' (pretty Hailee Steinfeld). Everything's great but then, wouldn't you know it, there are these creepy vampires and they show up, and they are a problem.

My Thoughts: This flick asks, then answers the question: What's worse, disgusting racism or blood-drinking vampires? If you want to know how Ryan Coogler the director/ producer filmmaker answers, go see the flick. "Sinners" is bloody, gross, scary, and for me, finally, kinda fun. It's a 1930s period piece with great clothes, cars, and darn fine music. No one will be bored!

Parents: Too violent and too sexed-up for children. Rated R.

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

### Happy Mother's Day!



















### It's time again for the Mother's Day photo call for Willits Weekly's annual collage

Mother's Day is coming up (Sunday, May 11!!), and Willits Weekly is ready to honor moms in the community with our annual photo collage feature.

This is something we do FOR FREE for the community, and everyone is encouraged to participate!

All you have to do is email a copy of a current or vintage photo of your mom to willitsweekly@gmail. com. If you only have a print photo, you can bring it to Ace Copy and Shipping, where they can scan and send it to us easily. Make sure to include a caption naming the people in the photograph, from left to right, and any message.

We need to have all images in by end of day Monday, May 5.

The photo collage will appear in the next edition of Willits Weekly, Thursday, May 8.

Questions? Call 972-7047 or email willitsweekly@ gmail.com. We will try and print as many as we can, so get yours in early and get included with this fun way to honor all our mothers.

### **Confident Benny**

Benny loves food. He is always the first to eat and likes to sample some from everyone's bowl. He loves string toys at playtime and likes to climb and explore. He is very curious. Benny is super outgoing and is always the first to greet you with a sweet and easy confidence.



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in

Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

### Laid-back Elliot

Elliott is a sweet and easygoing dog. He loves to play with toys and knows "sit," "down" and "shake." This delightful guy is also easy to walk on leash. Elliott can be shy at first, but once he gets comfortable and trusts you, he will be your best buddy, and you his! Elliot loves other dogs and would do well with another canine buddy in his new home!

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from 9:30 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays (closed for lunch each day from 1 to 1:30 pm). Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www. mendoanimalshelter.com. Call 707-463-4427 for more information.

### Passionate Enzo

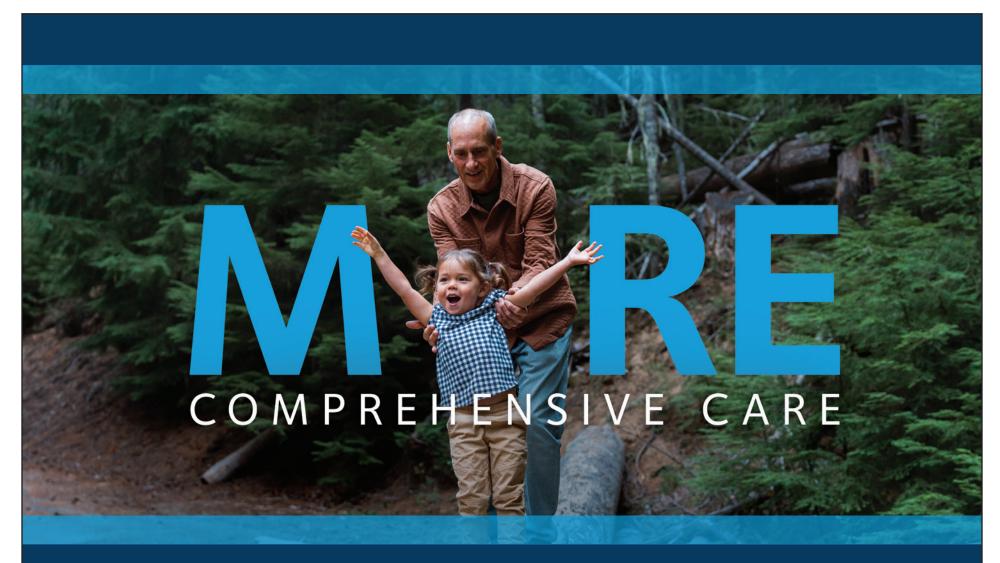
Looking for a smart, energetic, and athletic partner for life's adventures? Meet Enzo, a stunning young border collie with a heart full of love and a passion for staying active. Enzo is ready to channel his high energy and intelligence into a home that matches his drive and enthusiasm. In fact, he's already been practicing at the Milo dog park agility course! He's a fast learner



who has already had daily training and enrichment with a loving foster family. Even better, Enzo is not just athletic, he's also very affectionate and wants nothing more than to bond with his person or family.

Enzo would do best with a patient, breed-savvy adopter who understands the needs of a working dog. He's looking for an active lifestyle, a home free of cats and small animals, and structure and training. He walks nicely on leash and isn't a big puller. The more he's able to work his brain and body, the more confident he'll become. If you're ready for an incredible companion who will keep you moving and bring endless joy to your life, Enzo is waiting to meet you!

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



Adventist Health was made to serve Mendocino County, because high-quality care should never be far from home. Our experts offer compassionate expertise to make you feel comfortable and cared for right here in your community.

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Pg. 12

• Primary Care

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