

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 451

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Supes discuss defunding county museum

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

There was more bad news regarding the county's budget at the last board of supervisors meeting on May 3, and during a presentation, Interim CEO Darcie Antle asked the board to consider some big cuts for the upcoming fiscal year 2022/23 for "non-core mandated services" like parks and the county museum.

Despite being allocated around \$16.8 million in federal help from the American Rescue Plan Act passed in 2021 for COVID

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

Promotions at Willits City Hall

Two longtime employees of the City of Willits – both started in 2005 – moved up in March. Cathy Moorhead was promoted from Deputy City Manager to Assistant City Manager, the first assistant manager in the city's history. Delores Pedersen, most recently Administrative Specialist, is now City Clerk.

Thanks to the City of Willits for providing the below press releases on both promotions.

– Jennifer Poole

City of Willits has named its first Assistant City Manager

On March 9, 2022 the Willits City Council unanimously approved the very first Assistant Manager position in the city's history. In March 2022 City Manager Brian Bender promoted Cathy Moorhead to be the Assistant City Manager after serving as

Read the rest of **Promotions**
Over on Page 8

City water use reported incorrectly

In the May 5 edition of Willits Weekly, in the "City council deals with packed agenda" story, total annual water use for the City of Willits was incorrectly reported as 2.6 million gallons. The correct figure for total City of Willits water use in 2021 was 226 million gallons – all from the city's two reservoirs. The 8 million gallons of water sold from the city-owned Park well amounts to 3.5% of 226 million gallons. Willits Weekly regrets the error.



Above, from left: Friends having fun and making memories at the annual Willits High School prom that was held last Saturday at the Little Lake Grange, including, from left: Gracie Bouthiller, Hannah Bouthiller, Mattea Butler and Madison Bouthiller; Kyra Gibbons, Isabella Lopez, Cloey Sierra, Willow Daun-Widner, Audrey Sherf, Ariel Herz-O'Brien and Andrew Moratti; and Lilli Sussmann and Eric Rodriguez.



Photos by
Maureen
Jennison

Above: The 2022 prom court smiles together before the announcement of the winners, including, from left: Tiana Dalton, Jered Thurman, Cody Escobedo, Victoria Hernandez, Nicolo Anderson and Kyra Gibbons. Below: Friends pose for a photo including, from left: Kyra Gibbons, Angel Homampha, Jason Cox, Sebastian Beauseau, Arie Ochs, Madison Carter (behind) and Rosemary Grieve.



Above, left: Emma and Ella Garman. Above: The hall at the Little Lake Grange was decorated with twinkle lights and balloons. Below, from left: Prom Queen Victoria Hernandez and Prom King Nicolo Anderson hold their flowers and wear their crowns. The other pairs of the prom court who received prince and princess titles were Tiana Dalton and Jered Thurman, and Cody Escobedo and Kyra Gibbons. Friends Angelina Nemeth, Destiny Laurent and Kasey Adams smile. At bottom, from left: Emily Maxwell, Elden Kendall, and Halia Mora; Shyra Greenberg, Aidan Holder, Hailee Lopez and Kaylen Thom; Alex Bradley, Jack Lebert and Bryce Cavender.



Prom Party

Willits High School's spring dance harkens back to pre-2020 fun

The return to normal was almost in full effect last Saturday night at the Little Lake Grange for Willits High School's annual Junior/Senior Prom when over 100 students came to celebrate for the evening.

"The prom was really fun this year," said junior class treasurer Ella Garman. "It was great to see everyone all dressed up looking so beautiful. It was especially nice that we could be together and celebrate our Junior/Senior Prom without our masks. I loved seeing everyone's smiling faces!"

Ensuring it was OK to see those smiling faces, earlier that same day, all the attendees were tested for COVID at Willits High School to ensure a safe environment.

Students and parents spent Friday and

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

City council approves Willits Rail Trail

B.B. Kamoroff
Reporter
bb@willitsweekly.com

Happy trails to you...

Roy Rogers himself, and Dale Evans who wrote their famous theme song, couldn't have been happier than the city council, who at their April 27 meeting approved the design and construction of the Willits Rail Trail. This public pedestrian and biking trail is planned to go along the railroad tracks from East Commercial Street to East Hill Road.

A \$6.326 million grant from the California Transportation Commission's Active Transportation Program, awarded to the City of Willits in 2019, is expected to cover design and construction costs. The state's Active Transportation Program grants are intended to "encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as walking and biking."

The 1.6 mile trail will be a 10-foot-wide, paved, ADA-accessible path, flanked by 2-foot-wide unpaved shoulders with tree plantings, landscaping and irrigation, benches, and lighting.

There will also be three

Read more of **Trail**
Over on Page 8

Mail ballots out this week for June 7 election

Submitted by the
Mendocino County
Assessor-County Clerk-
Recorder's Office

Mail ballots (aka vote by mail or absentee ballots) for the statewide June 7 primary election were mailed to all active registered voters in Mendocino County, Monday, May 9, 2022, according to Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomie. Ballots are also available at the County Clerk's Office, located in Room 1020 of the County Administration Building located at 501 Low Gap Road, in Ukiah.

The normal mail delivery is five to seven days; if you do not receive your ballot within one week, please call our office at 707-234-6819 for a replacement ballot. If you have moved since the last election, please re-register at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>

Sample ballots (local voter information booklets) were mailed by our vendor and should be arriving in your homes within the next few days, if you do not

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

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:
Regarding Dr. John Glyer's letter to the editor: "Was it Worth It?"
We have no doubt that the vaccinations we received for the COVID virus were necessary and vital for our well-being.

Thank you to Dr. Glyer for his perseverance in wanting to keep the citizens of Willits healthy and also to the nurses and volunteers who gave their time.

YES, IT WAS PROFOUNDLY WORTH IT! And appreciated!
Lena and John Hofmaister, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:
I want to thank Dr. John Glyer for his helpful and insightful letter, "Was It Worth It," in which he detailed our experiences in Mendocino County dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. Not only did our county do better than most, I believe our community in Willits did better than most.

The truth is we were confronted with a novel virus that the world had never seen before. Everyone in the world was impacted, and our world-community had to address problems we had never experienced before.

I remember going to the first open vaccination opportunity at the high school in Willits and seeing our community coming together after having been inside for so long. Before the vaccine, the best protection was to stay away from people. It was so good to see my doctor, nurses, and other health-care providers taking time from their busy lives to give us the shot that started the process of protection that has enabled us to get back to our lives.

That said, there is certainly more our country could have done to respond more effectively from the beginning. The good news is that we have learned important lessons that can help us all as we face health challenges in the future.

The truth is humans are out of balance with the community of life. It is inevitable that until we learn that we cannot isolate ourselves, see humans as separate from the rest of nature, that we will face another pandemic in the future. If we learn what the coronavirus has to teach us – i.e. that we are all connected, no life form is separate from the community of life – we have a chance to be a species that is around for millions more years.

In the meantime, I'm glad to live in Willits and have health-care providers, like Dr. John Glyer, as my neighbor.

Jed Diamond, Willits

Support Michelle Hutchins

To the Editor:
We are supporting Superintendent Michelle Hutchins for reelection to the office of superintendent of Mendocino County Office of Education.

As Michelle's neighbor, I see her generous and caring spirit as a friend. She remembers to ask about our family and things of concern to them. She is an asset to our street, and we appreciate having her here.

Michelle Hutchins has accomplished much for our county since she became Mendocino County Office of Education superintendent. Here are only a few of the reasons I am supporting her for reelection:

She is a leader, which was clearly demonstrated by how she organized our county office to help everyone

during the pandemic. She and her team arranged for necessary supplies to fill the needs for each district to fulfill local, state and federal orders, as well as generally working to be available to everyone who needs help. Our staff and administration are trained in finance, business administration, and educational services, so MCOE can reach out to the small districts, aiding them in any way necessary.

Michelle is a "people person"! She loves meeting students, teachers and parents, and anyone else involved in education in Mendocino County. She also helps individuals who are not in any area of education, which shows that she values folks in whatever situation brings them together.

These are only a few of the reasons we are voting for the reelection of Superintendent Michelle Hutchins. We hope you'll join us!

John Ford, Willits

Willits Food Bank update

To the Editor:
The Willits Food Bank recently closed our seasonal winter shelter motel rooms program for the local homeless individuals and families. We served 251 during a five-month period that spanned from November 2021 through April 2022, housing them in local motels for one or two nights per month. This was a costly endeavor, yet essential to those in need.

The Food Bank purchases food from Redwood Empire Food Bank in Santa Rosa twice per month. We are fortunate to provide discounted foods that would otherwise be unavailable to our recipients.

We distribute these items along with some local donated food that helps us to add to the food bags that are handed out on Wednesdays and Fridays at 229 East San Francisco Street in Willits.

Also, elder food deliveries are made three times per week to those who are 60 or older and generally home-bound. While the big truck food purchases are costly to the food bank, they are essential in our efforts to feed hungry and food insecure people in the Willits community.

It's time to plant summer and fall produce to donate to the food bank. Last year we gave out over 6 tons of beautiful local organic produce to folks in need. Please keep us in your gardening plans this season. Your efforts are deeply appreciated.

The food bank is in the early stages of a probable move from our present home of 35 years to our future location at 364 Railroad Avenue, the original Sparetime garden supply store. Plans are underway that will allow us to occupy that building after upgrades are completed to make it ready.

There is a kitchen at the new site that may provide a means for a part-time soup kitchen. There are other advantages to the new place that will be shared as we gradually approach a possible move-in date.

We are excited! Our ad hoc committee is working at overseeing each detail. We are very grateful to Mike Griggs and his family for their thoughtful generosity to the food bank in this new home plan. Thanks Mike!

Donations are needed and always accepted to help pay for food, motel rooms, operating costs and other necessary expenses. Please bring in or drop your donation into our locked mailbox at 229 East San Francisco Street, or mail it to this address. Your help is sincerely appreciated.

Ruthanne Volz, executive director, Willits Community Services and Food Bank

May is National Foster Care Month

Submitted by the Mendocino County Executive Office

With over 407,000 children and youth in the foster-care system across the country, foster care is a vital program supporting children, youth and families. It is intended to be a short-term intervention to ensure the safety of a child that has been removed from their home until they can be reunified with a

Read the rest of Foster
Over on page 4

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT May 2022 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

Exciting times with the June 7 primary approaching.

As part of our democratic process, the primary for all California elections is on June 7. It is coming up very quickly.

With the Supervisorial and Superintendent of Schools elections, there are only two candidates for each position. The candidate who wins the majority of votes is the winner, and there will be no election for these positions in November.

Several positions including the Sheriff, Assessor/Clerk/Recorder, District Attorney, and Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector have only one candidate. Unless a write-in candidate appears out of nowhere, they will win by default.

There will be several debates between the candidates for Third District Supervisor. I want to thank the many people and organizations who spend countless hours organizing these events. This type of civic engagement makes our communities stronger.

The first debate will be on May 12, Thursday, from 5 to 6:30 pm at Harwood Hall in Laytonville.

The next debate will be at the Willits Grange on May 15, Sunday, from 2:30 to 5 pm. This debate will also include the candidates for Mendocino County Superintendent of Education and the lone candidates. It will also be broadcast on Channel 3 in Willits at later dates.

The Third District Supervisorial debate will also be on KZYX on May 23 from 6:30 to 8 pm.

These are opportunities to learn about the candidates and communicate with them about county issues. The local papers will also have information on the elections and candidates.

As they say, elections matter. My hope is that people get out and vote by mail before June 7 or in person on June 7.

You can always contact me at haschaki@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.

Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, May 12: Spinach Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, May 13: Beer Battered Cod, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll

Monday, May 16: Fish Sandwich, Potato Wedges, Pickle

Tuesday, May 17: Chicken Fritter, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Green Salad

Wednesday, May 18: Stuffed Peppers, Rice, Veggie, Roll

Thursday, May 19: BBQ Chicken, Beans, Veggie, Cornbread, Green Salad

Friday, May 20: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll

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

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

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



Above, from left: Country Quilts has a wide variety of fabrics in matching colors. An unobtrusive storefront belies the variety of fabrics offered within. Many Western-themed fabrics are available for crafting.

At left: Owners of the shop, Briana Servantes and Chris Ceresa, show one of the many quilts that they have made.

At right: Briana Servantes demonstrates the method of constructing a rag quilt.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Country Quilts and Fabrics

Mother-and-daughter-run store opens, selling a wide variety of colorful material in addition to patterns, tools and notions

If Chris Ceresa and her daughter, Briana Servantes, have their way, their new store, Country Quilts and Fabrics, would be a mecca for all things that involve this historical and utile art form. Their ultimate goal, beyond running a successful business, is to help people get started with an understanding of how quilting works, teach them how to create using the materials and tools, and to get people to a point where they know the techniques well enough to be only limited by their imaginations.

Although the art of quilting is over 2,000 years old, its basics have remained the same. It is the process of putting at least three layers of material together through manual sewing or with a long-arm quilting machine. The layers consist of a quilt top, a backing material, and a batting layer (insulating) in the middle. The technique creates a puffy, three-dimensional fabric that is both warm and aesthetically pleasing.

There are two basic types of quilts that Ceresa and Servantes deal with, piece quilting and rag quilting. Piece quilting is the technique that most people are familiar with. All the stitching is hidden inside the layers to make a smooth top. In rag quilting, the squares are sewn individually and then stitched together in such a way that the edges are exposed and allowed to fray, creating a soft, shabby look and feel. Servantes specializes in the rag technique.

"People make quilted table toppers in an array of sizes," explained Ceresa. "They also make table and bed runners (a piece of a quilt that will go across the foot of the bed) if they don't want to make a full-size quilt. Wall hangings. People will make a whole scene out of fabric and it's not pieced but has appliques. I've seen people use the long-arm machines to make 'thread art' using the negative space on the quilt to make a whole other design with the thread and stitching."

From the reactions of the customers who wandered in, this is a business that they were hoping would show up in Willits. "I'm in heaven right now," said one delighted person wandering through the rows of brightly colored fabrics and notions and tools.

Linda Loman, a veteran quilter, has been waiting for a quilt shop to open in Willits. She commented to Ceresa and Servantes: "You have a great variety of patterns here and you're willing to go beyond your comfort zone. I've gone in quilt shops where the owner will only buy what she likes, but you can't do that. You have to think about the people who come in. I stopped going in there. I felt bad because I wanted to support her."

"Linda is the epitome of every customer that has walked through the door," said Ceresa. "It has been so amazing to get that response from people. People are just so thirsty for community. I have a friend who doesn't live close by and doesn't even sew. She says, 'I don't even sew but I

Read the rest of Fabric
Over on page 9



Above, left: Briana Servantes prepares to pre-cut fabric into usable squares. Above, right: Country Quilts and Fabrics offers sewing implements and tools.

At left: Customer and longtime quilter Linda Loman loves the variety of fabrics to be found in the shop.

Below: Briana Servantes and Chris Ceresa offer many Western-themed fabrics, which they fabricated into this stunning quilt.



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

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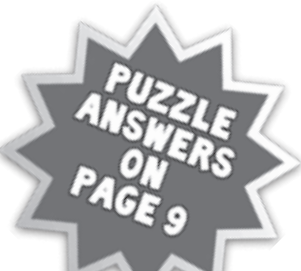
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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Intermediate



HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		
	10	11						12					13	
	14						15						16	17
18							19			20		21		
22					23				24		25			
26					27				28		29		30	
		31	32						33		34			
35	36									37				
38						39			40					
41				42		43		44				45	46	47
48			49		50		51					52		
53				54		55						56		
57			58		59				60	61	62			
	63	64						65						
		66						67						

CLUES ACROSS

1. Amounts of time
5. A ship's place at a wharf
10 Point a finger at
12 Large, burrowing rodent
14. Raises the stakes
16. Measure of illumination
18. Cast out
19. One who is staid
20. A word used for emphasis
22. Military missions
23. Wet with rain
25. Selling at specially reduced prices
26. Word element meaning ear
27. ___ student,
28. Blood relation
30. Make into leather
31. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
33. Containing salt
35. A seat
37. A type of fine pottery
38. You're caught red-___!
40. 'Heat' director Michael
41. Expression of creative skill
42. Title of respect
44. Crony
45. Payroll experts

CLUES DOWN

1. Old EU money
2. Some put it on steak
3. Sign language
4. Sowed on the ground
5. Tags
6. Everyone has one
7. Arguments
8. N. African capital
9. Midgame (abbr.)
10. Change as needed
11. Functioning as a consonant
13. An island in the north
48. Actress Remini
50. Famed consumer advocate
52. Indigenous Thai person
53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two
55. Cooking tool
56. Decorate a cake with frosting
57. The seventh note of a major scale
58. Transfer from private to state ownership
63. A set of five
65. Removes
66. Foolish persons
67. Lower parts of a wall
Atlantic
15. Carpenter's tool
17. Small football player
18. Ghosts say it
21. Explain through logic
23. Having ten
24. Criticize
27. Arms of the sea
29. Belonging to a bottom layer
32. ___ Caesar, comedian
34. Licensed health care pro (abbr.)
35. Swiss cottage
36. Cleft lip
39. Loud, unpleasant noise
40. Disfigure
43. Kayakers traverse them
44. Authored
46. Small freshwater fishes
47. Macabre poet
49. Carthaginian statesman
51. Principle underlying the universe
54. Common Japanese surname
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. Small constellation
61. Chap
62. Equal
64. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)

ENTERTAINING WORD SEARCH

D	I	N	E	R	E	L	W	G	K	F	X	V	M	B	Z	F	D	Z
A	S	I	U	I	B	X	C	N	T	E	R	T	A	P	R	N	A	F
M	I	S	K	E	P	R	N	T	K	I	P	S	N	C	E	I	V	H
B	O	L	E	P	R	N	T	K	I	P	S	N	C	E	I	V	H	E
I	N	Z	I	T	E	A	B	C	V	T	A	Y	I	G	V	O	P	G
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N	O	N	E	E	V	O	C	R	E	H	A	M	T	L	X	M	P	F
C	M	F	O	O	P	C	H	W	E	R	Z	F	E	Y	E	P	I	O
E	T	E	H	I	D	V	D	S	K	V	E	H	N	N	E	O	K	G
C	D	M	E	N	T	X	V	C	G	L	L	O	U	T	T	K	F	U
N	L	O	T	L	S	A	S	W	Z	N	W	I	I	T	T	P	T	E
N	W	E	C	A	L	U	M	R	T	R	H	I	Z	S	A	S	I	K
Z	Y	A	E	B	V	C	G	U	O	E	C	E	R	I	G	I	V	N
Y	A	E	B	V	C	G	U	O	E	C	E	R	I	G	I	V	N	T
Y	D	W	E	U	A	I	H	A	E	E	S	U	D	T	Y	U	B	E
N	I	S	L	V	R	T	D	P	Z	Y	R	S	G	Y	A	X	Z	N
N	Y	L	C	E	O	F	A	T	V	F	W	Z	P	H	Y	L	C	B
R	O	V	C	O	D	E	R	H	A	N	U	Y	X	G	P	E	N	W
D	H	E	Z	W	R	S	P	S	D	U	F	K	U	L	F	N	G	L
T	D	K	L	T	W	H	P	H	O	P	S	E	T	T	I	N	G	T

AMBIANCE	EVENING	PARTY
APPETIZER	EXCITEMENT	PLAYLIST
CATERING	FAVOR	PREP
CELEBRATE	GUEST	SEATING
COCKTAILS	HOLIDAY	SETTING
DECOR	HOSTESS	SILVERWARE
DINNER	LEFTOVERS	VENUE
ENTERTAIN	MENU	WELCOME

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

May 1 to May 7

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **89 incidents** in this 7 day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 1

8:40 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:23 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

May 2

4:41 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

9:32 pm: BARNES, Michael Alan (51) of Redwood Valley was contacted in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue. He was arrested on felony charges of bringing controlled substances into prison or jail.

10:21 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Wood Street.

May 3

11:51 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

May 4

9:27 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street.

10:46 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

2:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

May 5

1:10 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Wood Street.

11:26 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 20000 block of

Baechtel Road.

12:14 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 500 block of Central Street.

2:11 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.

3:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

May 6

10:28 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:57 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

7:59 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of South Street.

10:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Bittenbender Lane.

11:56 pm: DELBELLO, Jonathon Andrew (31) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 148 PC (Resisting Arrest), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia.

May 7

11:56 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

12:05 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of West Highway 20 and Coast Street.

10:29 pm: PETERSON, Shadin Mathew (21) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of West San Francisco Avenue and McKinley Street following a pursuit. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of resisting an officer.

10:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of Railroad Avenue.

The rest of Foster From page 2

parent or placed in a permanent adoptive or guardianship home.

"It's about meeting every family where they are at, helping to make temporary solutions to keep children safe until parent(s) can get their life back on track, and helping strengthen and support the families in our community," shares Tracy Miller, Mendocino County Family & Children's Services social-worker supervisor.

As of April 2022, Mendocino County has 194 children and youth in foster care with Family Reunification or Permanency Placement programs. Approximately 30 percent are with relatives or someone close to them. This type of placement helps maintain family and school connections, cultural traditions, and can minimize the trauma of family separation.

This year, National Foster Care Month is focusing on the relative and family-friend connections that provide children and youth with the stability of being with someone they know while in foster care. This provides a deeper sense of security and connection, and often times allows for siblings to stay together.

This month is a time to recognize the care all foster families provide for our children

and youth and raise awareness as to the need for more community members to come forward to be placement resources. Supporting and maintaining community connections makes a positive difference in the lives of children and youth and can shift the foster-care system to one that fully supports healing.

Mendocino County, as most counties, is experiencing a severe lack of available homes for the children and youth in need of foster-care placements. "Resource parents who open their homes can provide the stability and nurturing youth need to heal from a difficult situation," says Lindsey Coke, Mendocino County Family & Children's Services resource-family approval supervisor, encouraging community members to consider becoming an approved resource family.

For more information on foster care and the process of becoming an approved resource parent, please contact Mendocino County Family & Children's Services Resource Family Approval Supervisor Lindsey Coke at 707-467-5893 or visit: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/social-services/children-s-services/foster-care. Or contact Willow Anderson at 707-367-3369 or via email at andersonw@mendocinocounty.org.

USDA, SBA loans available after drought disaster designation

Submitted by County of Mendocino

On April 8, 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture granted a secretarial disaster designation for 58 California counties experiencing drought intensity levels of D2, D3, and D4 in the ongoing drought, including Mendocino County

The designation makes USDA assistance available in the form of emergency farm loans for both physical and crop production losses as a direct result of the disaster, up to a maximum of \$500,000. The application deadline is December 8, 2022, and the assistance is available to farmers and ranchers who conduct family-sized farming operations.

To apply: Contact the local Farm Service Agency office in Ukiah at 707-468-9223. Hearing-impaired individuals should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600. Additional information can be found at the USDA website: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index

The Small Business Administration is also making Economic Injury Disaster Loans available pursuant to the USDA disaster designation. The SBA application deadline is also December 8, 2022, and assistance is available to small, non-farm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and most private non-profit organizations of any size. Small businesses include those that do business directly with the growers, such as truckers and suppliers of agricultural equipment or services.

To apply: Contact SBA at 1-800-659-2955, or visit SBA's website at: www.sba.gov/disaster, or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov Hearing impaired individuals may call 1-800-877-8339.



At far left: The teams display good sportsmanship, congratulating the opposing team. At left: "Run to first base," encourages the coach.

Below, left: The teams get to play on well-manicured and maintained fields. Below: Camden holds the bag of goodies each of the kids gets after the games.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Let's Play Ball!

Willits Little League is now in its fifth week – the kids are 'warmed up' and 'learning to win and lose'

"If you're having a bad day, just come down and watch the kids," one of the many parents in attendance was heard to say amidst the cheers and laughter. Although this Little League Saturday was for the players to learn the game, enjoy friendships with their teammates, breathe some fresh air, exercise, and generally have a great time in the outdoors, the parents also had a great time watching the little ones trying to play some baseball. They encouraged the young kids from the bleachers or on the field as coaches, trying to create the best players out of the inexperienced children.

As this was the fifth week of the season, with a couple rainy weeks off in April, the young ones were beginning to understand the ins and outs of America's pastime as well as honing their physical skills with this time away from all the electronics available to kids today. The real world of the outdoors seemed as fun as the latest version of the hottest current computer game.

"I bring my son, Camden, here for the experience, to learn the game," said Alison Muriah, parent of three. "Look at them. They're building teamwork. He's excited about it. He's learning the game, the rules, and how to be a part of a team. It teaches them to show up for practice. They have to pay attention to their teammates and be considerate of the other team as well."

And Camden, who had just finished his game and was holding his bag of treats and goodies given out to each of the players, explained: "What I like about baseball is that you get to have fun and run around. I kinda like to hit more than field. I'm kinda good at hitting but not too good at sliding at the base. I don't know what I'd be doing if I weren't here. I think we have one loss and two wins," he added, demonstrating that scores and records were not the reason to play.

"The season's here. We're in the deep of it," said Andrew Hosford, president of the board of the local Little League. "The kids are warmed up. They're learning the game. Things are going better. Everybody's hitting better. The parents are super supportive. It's nice to see the community showing up and supporting the kids. This is the fourth or fifth week. The first couple weeks went pretty slow. The games dragged on and on. There were lots of balls called, but the kids' arms are getting warmed up. They're getting stronger. They're learning how to get the ball across the plate."

There were two fields being utilized during the day, which had been prepared and maintained by parents and community members who were interested in supporting Willits' youth. Both fields were well manicured and surprisingly dry after the recent rains. "We have a really good group of volunteers that show up day to day to help clean up the fields or do shopping for the snack shop, deal with umpiring," added Hosford. "Whatever happens, they get it done. I really appreciate their help. None of this gets done without community participation."

The Snack Shack was in full operation, serving pancakes for breakfast, and hotdogs, burgers and nachos later in the day, in addition to the usual snack foods. It seemed busy most of the day, adding to the funds which enable the league to provide equipment and other necessities.

"Our league is very inexpensive," Hosford offered. "We charge \$100 per kid with a discount of \$15 for additional kids in a family. Other leagues can charge \$150 to \$300. Most of our funding comes from companies sponsoring the league. They have banners on the outfield fence. That's what gets us the really nice hats and the

Read the rest of Baseball Over on page 9



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Above, left: Almost all of the youngest kids make it to third base. Above, right: A tee-ball player makes his way to a base.

Below: The littles require a bit of coaching to keep running.

At bottom, from far left: The team sings "Happy Birthday" to Vance (No. 15). The youngest players learn the game and coordination by hitting off a tee. Casandra Patro's T-shirt echoes the sentiment of many of the parents.



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Above: Willits City Hall management staff, from left, Assistant City Manager Cathy Moorhead, City Manager Brian Bender, and City Clerk Delores Pedersen. At right, top: Cathy Moorhead, now Assistant City Manager for the City of Willits, works at her desk. At right: Delores Pedersen has been promoted to City Clerk.

Photos by Mathew Caine

More of Trail

From page 1

pedestrian bridges – prefabricated steel truss bridges with span lengths of up to 120 feet – over Broadus Creek, Baechtel Creek, and Haehl Creek. The trail will hook up on the south end with the existing Haehl Creek Trail, near Howard Memorial hospital.

Security cameras and 42" high fencing between the trail and the railroad tracks are also planned. Construction, expected to take 8 to 12 months, over one or two construction seasons, is anticipated to start in November 2023.

So ... who is going to pay for ongoing costs? The design and construction of the trail is funded entirely by the \$6.326 million CTC grant, but after construction is complete, ongoing maintenance and repairs will be the responsibility of the city. Inspections, trash and debris removal, vegetation management, upkeep of lights and fencing, repaving and restriping will require, according to the study, "the equivalent of one to two new fulltime employees."

Nothing in the agenda report mentions how the city will fund the costs of ongoing maintenance. Although the question about how the City of Willits will pay for the ongoing costs of the Willits Rail Trail has been raised before, the question is still open. None of the councilmembers or staff brought up this issue at the April 27 meeting.

The Willits trail would be part of the envisioned 320-mile-long Great Redwood Trail along the defunct Northwestern Pacific Railroad right-of-way through the remote and rugged Eel River canyon. The planned Willits trail is neither remote nor rugged, but nonetheless, potential environmental and

other pitfalls and potholes required study.

After the proposed biological mitigations, city planner and project manager Dusty Duley told the council, "building a trail in a railroad right of way is going to have no significant impact on the environment," and he had 400 pages of studies, surveys, research and analysis to support his claim. Mitigations for biological impacts include "protections for special status plants, bats, nesting birds, willow flycatcher, amphibians, reptiles, water quality, and compensatory mitigation for disturbances to riparian habitat, tree habitat, and wetlands."

And cultural impacts. "We're in Willits," Duley astutely noted. "Anywhere is Willits is a cultural resource." The project included a cultural resource survey. A Sacred Lands File search was negative, and local Native American tribes were consulted and had no objections. "Nothing was discovered," added Duley, "but we do have archaeological monitoring. Should anything be discovered during construction, construction ceases in that area until any problems be solved."

Willits still has one working railroad, the California Western Railroad, aka the Skunk Train, and the overgrown tracks (and memories) of another. One cultural consideration was how the trail will enhance or possibly obscure the proud history of both railroads that, before automobiles and semi-trucks clogged the highways, brought visitors and goods to Willits every day of the week.

The Northwestern Pacific Railroad ran from the San Francisco Bay to Eureka, with Willits the mid-point and a major port of call for connections, maintenance, and crew changes.

The California Western carried lumber, passengers and the U.S. mail between

Willits and Fort Bragg every day. Today, the NWP is long abandoned: Love of the automobile and better roads ended passenger service in 1971, and a decline of the lumber mills ended freight 27 years later. The Skunk, of course, still carries tourists and keeps a proud history alive, offering an onboard taste of how things used to be. How can you sleep when the whistle don't moan?

Trail construction will involve removing three unused railroad sidings, but leaves all of the old mainline track and bridges intact, so the many railroad buffs who visit Willits can walk down the rail trail to see where the NWP trains used to go. The

Read the rest of Trail Over on Page 11

The rest of Promotions

From page 1

the Deputy City Manager from September 2018 to February 2022.

City Manager Bender said: "The realignment allows leadership to commit more resources to explore how the organization is going to address future opportunities. The appointment of Ms. Moorhead clearly demonstrates the commitment of the city to invest in our team members."

Cathy Moorhead's extensive knowledge and commitment to the Willits community is evident throughout her 17-year career.

Cathy began her career at the City of Willits in August of 2005 as an Office Assistant-II in the Community Development Department working with Alan Falleri, Frank Howard and John Sherman, until November 2009 when she assumed the role of Office Assistant-III, Utility Billing Clerk.

Cathy continued to work with the Finance Department and learned several facets of this department. In July 2012, Cathy was promoted to the City Clerk's Office as the Administration Assistant/Deputy City Clerk, upon the appointment of City Clerk Adrienne Moore to the City Manager's position.

In July 2015 Cathy was appointed as City Clerk and has taken on several other roles within the city, such as Facility Coordinator, Swimming Pool Supervisor, and Airport Manager. Upon the arrival of City Manager Stephanie Garabrant-Sierra, Cathy was recognized for her commitment to the City of Willits and was promoted to Deputy City Manager in September of 2018.

Ms. Moorhead is committed to continue serving our residents and community and is very grateful and excited to take on this new position.

Ms. Moorhead commented that "I am incredibly honored to take on the position of Assistant City Manager for the city that

I have called home for the past 50 plus years. I consider the City of Willits as a big part of my family, and we have a very talented and committed family-team within this organization, and I look forward to continuing to support them in making our city stronger. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the City Council, City Manager Bender, and staff for their support as I take on this new opportunity!"

City of Willits appoints new City Clerk

In March 2022, Delores Pedersen was promoted to the position of City Clerk for the City of Willits.

Delores began her career, as an Office Assistant, at the city on December 19, 2005. Early on in her career, Delores worked closely with Leah Oberdorf and Laura Knispel, providing back-up for Laura in Accounts Payable. Her main duties in the beginning were opening mail, customer service, answering phones and transcribing the dictation of then-City Manager Ross Walker, for agenda topics for City Council meetings. Delores has always been willing to take on any task that was needing to be done, even stepping in and helping in payroll on multiple occasions.

In August of 2009 when Laura Knispel retired, Delores became the Accounts Payable Clerk; in 2018 she took on more duties and became the Administrative Specialist. This title gave her the opportunity to learn more, not only in Finance but in the Administrative departments. She became back-up for the then-City Clerk, Cathy Moorhead. She still helped with customer service and anything else that was needed within the City of Willits.

Delores is excited for this new opportunity and the ability to give back to the city she loves being a part of.

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The rest of Fabric

From page 3

want one of everything you have."

Although they have a wide variety of fabrics, the mother and daughter would love to be able to expand their small shop, in order to be able to carry more.

"Fabrics range from super-modern to super-traditional and everything in between," said Servantes. "There's no way to know what is most popular.

"When we're purchasing fabric, we buy something that speaks to us in some way, either we know it's going to appeal to somebody in a certain way or it just makes us feel good," she explained. "We have a whole section on Western prints, barbed wire, ropes, tack, boots, wagon wheels, cow prints, and farm animals. We're going to keep that section as long as we can. There you go with the 'Country Quilts and Fabrics.' We're going to stay true to us and our vision. It was hard for us to find country and western fabrics. If we didn't buy enough of it, it was not always available to buy more."

Although they had an online presence for about a year, the physical shop, which is located on the parking lot between Busters and Moon Lady, was opened on April 1 and has been doing so well that they are already thinking about how they can expand. Future projects under consideration include classes to help crafters get started in the art form. In addition to selling fabrics, tools and notions, Ceresa and Servantes also sell pre-cut kits for those who wish to jump-start their projects and several patterns, as well.

The owners of Country Quilts and Fabrics love to help people and are always available to talk and offer pointers. They are open Tuesday 10 am to 5 pm, Thursday 10 am to 6 pm, Friday 10 am to 5 pm, and Saturday 10 am to 3 pm. Stop in and say hello. They would love to speak with you.

Country Quilts and Fabrics is located at 154 South Main Street. For more information, call 707-841-1683, visit their Facebook page or www.countryquiltsandfabric.com.

The rest of Baseball

From page 5

jerseys. Our Snack Shack also is a source of funding."

By far, the cutest set of players were the little ones (4 to 6 years) who hit the ball off of tees, although many of them missed the ball and beat up the tee itself. Each kid gets to hit (or try to hit) each inning and the field is full of parent-coaches and several more than the usual nine players. The ball often was ignored while the kids were looking at their friends or even the grass. Somehow, they were still learning the game, and having a great time.

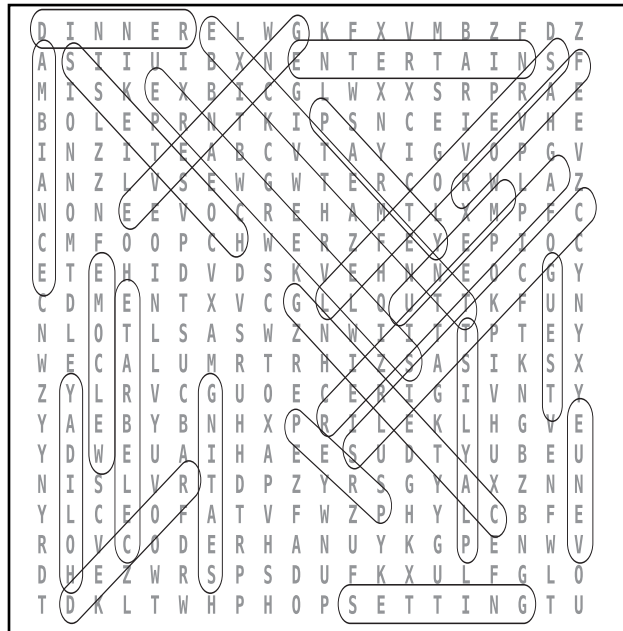
The divisions available are: Tee Ball – 4 to 6 years old, Coach Pitch – 6 to 8 years, Minors – 8 to 10 years, Majors – 10 to 12 years, Juniors (who get to travel to other areas for games) – 13 to 15 years. Seniors are of an age to play in high school and are not represented in this league.

"The kids benefit from getting out there and getting their hands dirty, learning to win and lose, learning life isn't always fair. That's a good lesson. Things may not go your way but that means you have to learn to do what you need to do. Striking out and having to walk back. But also winning and celebrating. Being part of a team. Just getting out in the sun and playing," said Hosford.

Registration is closed for the year but for information on games and next season, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Willits-Redwood-Little-League-341415739238532> or <https://wrl.sportsignup.com/site>.

Below: Willits Little League President Andrew Hosford checks in at the scorer's table.

Photo by Mathew Caine



LEGAL NOTICES

WW385 Fictitious Business Name Statement 2022-F0188 The following person is doing business as Second Chance Enterprises, 3590 Hearst Willits Road, Willits CA 95490. Registered owner: Lawrence Allen Lucier, 3590 Hearst Willits Road, Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 5, 2022. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on April 11, 2022. /s/ Lawrence Allen Lucier Publication dates: April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 2022	WW387 Fictitious Business Name Statement 2022-F0232 The following person is doing business as Root Wisdom, 9021 Hearst Willits Road, Willits CA 95490. Registered owner: Kirra Swenerton, 9021 Hearst Willits Road, Willits CA 954900. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on March 1, 2022. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on March 3, 2022. /s/ Kirra Swenerton Publication dates: May 12, 19, 26, and June 2, 2022
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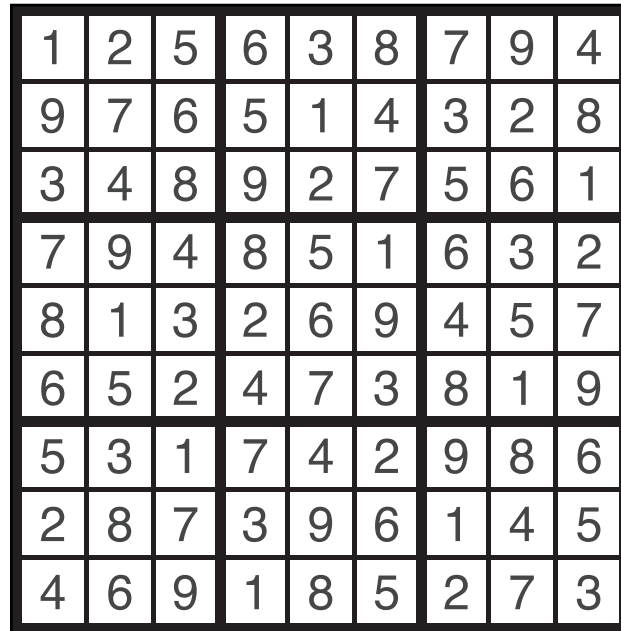
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CLASSIFIEDS

Brookside Registration Open

Brookside TK / Kindergarten registration now open. To register go to www.willitsunified.com. Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2022; TK: age 5 between Sept. 2, 2022 and Feb. 2, 2023.

Computer Help

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At right: Red lettuce adds color to the garden and extra nutrients to your plate. Hyper Red Ruffled Waved lives up to its name.



COLUMN | The Medicine Chest Garden

Local garden tours!

The foolish run.
The clever wait.
The wise go into the garden.
— *Tragore*

The longer days and unpredictable weather remind us that it is indeed spring, and time to go into the garden. The month of May begins a series of local Garden Tours to educate, delight and inspire. Here is a rundown, with further details at the end of this article:

Donna d'Terra
Columnist

On May 15, the annual Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale takes place at its usual location on Tuttle Avenue in Willits, where you will find vegetable, herbal and flower starts for sale, as well as seeds, garden art and more.

This year, herbalist Beth Riedel will be leading Plant Walks from this location, looking at the herbal treasures found in the gardens around the neighborhood. Beth has been leading Plant Walks in Willits for over a decade and loves sharing her extensive knowledge.

On June 11, there will be a Garden Tour at Motherland, where I live, located 25 minutes from town. In addition to touring the gardens, participants will make a healing herbal

Read the rest of
Garden
Over on page 11

Below, from left: Winter squash store well at room temperature, making them an easy crop for storing all winter. Nasturtiums are an edible flower that grows in shade in our climate. Try planting them underneath corn this summer. These bloomed through the summer because they got morning sun only. Pumpkins aren't just for Halloween and pie. Kakai is a variety grown for its hullless seeds, or pepitas. The King City Pink Bean is a California heirloom with creamy texture and mild sweet flavor. Bekana is a super fast-growing, mild-tasting green for spring salads.



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Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame a la oficina de Brookside al (707) 459-5385 or visite nuestro sitio web www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside

At far left: For pesto in summer, start planting basil now indoors. You can scatter more all summer for a continuous supply. Plan for companion planting this summer. These marigolds make a good companion for tomatoes. Below, left: Moist and ultra-sweet, Candystick Delicata Squash tastes almost like dates. Below, right: Beefy Resilient Beans got their name because the broth and the beans themselves have a distinctive flavor like beef.



Photos by Jamie Chevalier

COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

May: Enjoying spring and rethinking summer

This year, we've been lucky with our spring weather. Cool days and late rains have given us a green spring, with the best show of wildflowers I've seen in years. Conditions have been perfect for peas, lettuce, greens, and all the other spring delicacies that love cool moist weather.

As the weather starts to warm, remember that the soil is still cool. Nights are still cold. This is a golden opportunity to sow late carrots, chard, beets, collards, peas, turnips, parsnips, cabbage, radishes, Brussels sprouts, lettuce, and greens while there is still lots of natural moisture in the soil.

Jamie Chevalier
Columnist

Carrots particularly need moist soil for sprouting. Covering the soil with a sheet after sowing can help keep them from drying out. Watch carefully, water as needed, and remove the sheet when you see sprouts. Try planting a pot of peas for clipping as salad; by clipping the top 3 inches every week, you will get several harvests before summer.

We also have a chance – while we wait for our last frost date at the end of the month – to rethink the summer garden.

Are you going away this summer? You can have a garden that welcomes you back with joy instead of discouragement. Plan for a reliable watering set-up, deep mulch, and large plants that can hold their own against some weeds (tomatoes, squash, pole beans, okra, chard, collards, and corn are all good.)

Timing is important too; salad crops can be harvested in 4 or 5 weeks if you have that long before you leave. Choose varieties and planting times so the harvest brackets your trip. Consider storage crops like dry beans, polenta corn, and winter squash that aren't harvested until fall.

With drought ongoing, many gardeners are cutting down their irrigated area. Many are switching to no-till or minimal-till because tillage opens the soil to evaporation. A key part of successful no-till gardening is to provide enough organic matter on the surface so that worms will proliferate and

aerate the soil.

One very successful method is to layer 2 inches of compost on top of the soil and plant into that, then mulch around all the plants. This uses a lot of compost on one small, very productive, area. One small area is all you have to water.

In vegetable gardening, flavor is what makes the effort worthwhile. It's worth finding out which varieties have the flavors and textures that you like best. Tomatoes have terms most gardeners already know and use: tart vs. subacid; juicy vs. solid. Etc. But when it comes to squash or beans or lettuce, how do you know which one to plant?

It starts with knowing the lingo. Most seed catalogs, for example, will describe winter squash as either "dry" or "moist." To get the squash that you love to grow and eat, you need to know what those words mean in your mouth. (Dry is more like a baked potato. Moist is more like a yam.) All vegetables have key characteristics of flavor and texture, and key words to describe them.

Last year was a high point in my gardening life. I finally found seed for a dry bean I had fallen in love with decades ago, the King City Pink Bean. The creamy texture and mild flavor amazed me all over again. It is just the style of bean that I love best.

The fact that it's a pretty pink color is secondary. But when people buy seed for dry beans they are drawn by the amazing colors and patterns. They don't realize that some beans have a texture and flavor that can sub for potatoes; some are firm and assertive for chili; some are creamy; and there are even some that taste like beef! Pick the right bean for your recipe.

Another way to make the work and water worthwhile: Find varieties that produce top-quality results in your climate. For example, everybody's familiar with kale, and many people are planting it now. But kale is really a winter crop that needs cold weather to make it sweet and tender. For spring and summer you want collards. They're milder and more tender than kale, and are the most heat-resistant of the cabbage family. They're so happy here that one variety has turned perennial in my garden!

When you know what you like to eat, you give the soil what it likes to eat, and you plant when your garden likes to grow it, you maximize quality, quantity, and delight.

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in both Alaska and California, as well as teaching, homesteading, and working with several national seed organizations. She started Quail Seeds in 2018 as a locally focused seed company. Her website quailseeds.com offers over 400 varieties of seed adapted to the Northern California climate, as well as extensive how-to information.

The rest of
Museum
From page 1

relief, the county is still scrambling to find more than \$3 million in cuts to avoid a projected budget deficit.

"So we're looking for \$3.3 million," Antle said of the cuts. "And if you close the museum that reduces it [the museum allocation in the 2022/23 budget would be \$555,772 if not defunded], and then if you don't fund the parks at [\$1.6 million], that would reduce the [\$3.3 million] even further. So at that point you're down to needing an additional \$2 million. And so then we sort through these other items as you would like."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak said that even if the county museum located in Willits were closed to the public, there would still be around \$400,000 needed for basic maintenance of the facility and artifacts there, and he seemed to push for the county to look elsewhere for cuts.

"I've been active with the museum, they've got a 'Friends of the Museum' group that got formed about a year ago," said Haschak. "They're working on a strategic plan ... and I think that they're moving in the right direction. In the last couple years they made great progress."

"This past year, we've seen some programs that were very well received from people throughout the county," he continued. "And the museum is what connects our county together, it's our history. And whether you're a Pomo Indian, or you're a homesteader on the coast, there's something representing you ... in the museum. And so it's hard to say it's just a financial decision, because it really

The rest of
Prom
From page 1

Saturday morning decorating for the prom, including using balloons and twinkle lights to create a feeling that was fitting for their "In the Clouds" theme.

"We want to thank our dedicated crew who did a great job decorating," continued Garman. "And we'd also like to thank the parents who helped make the night a success, our chaperones, the Grange for letting us have our party in their space, Taqueria Bravo for catering, Maureen Jennison for taking photos, and our amazing DJ, Jake Bernie."

The prom is put on by the junior class and the 2022 officers, who include: President Laila Britton, Vice President Aily Chavez, Treasurer Ella Garman, and Secretary Kayla Jimenez.

"I've enjoyed being class advisor to these girls since they were freshmen," said student officer advisor Carolyn Bakewell. "They are a no-nonsense team and can be trusted to get any job done. I love these girls! They're amazing, and I can't wait to continue this journey with them next year when they're seniors."

The rest of
Garden
From page 10

oil to take home, and hear various herbalists speak about composting, native plants, and distilling essential oils. Further details are available at www.Motherlandherbs.org, or contact Donna at 459-5030.

Green Uprising Farm, located in the Willits valley, will offer a tour on July 16. The day will include a tour of multiple gardens, orchard spaces, hoop houses, propagation houses, barns, and pastured goats and poultry. The herbal tonic bar and farmstead will be open, and there'll be an opportunity to invent a few on-the-spot creations with whatever is fruiting or blooming, has an alluring perfume, or captures our fancy. Contact Sara at 216-5549.

There are two tours offered in August:

On August 13, Ridgewood Ranch hosts a tour to showcase the several unique farming entities currently there.

Golden Rule Gardens is a collaboration of Buttercup CSA and Golden Rule Gardens. Together their small team offers biodynamically grown veggies, herbs and flowers that are used in their community dinner program, and strategically donated to local organizations like The Caring Kitchen, Willits Senior Center, and the Willits Food Bank.

Headwaters Grazing is a business that grazes sheep across all sorts of landscapes, striving to achieve a variety of goals including soil fertility, fuels reduction for fire resiliency, grassland health, and species composition.

New Agrarian Collective is a small farm that grows vegetables, herbs and cut flowers for sale in CSAs, farmers markets, restaurants, and through the Mendo Lake Food Hub. They are Renegade Certified and strive to use regenerative methods. Contact Eric at Erichuteyn@gmail.com

Also on August 13, there will be a Garden Tour of Fortunate Farm located in the Caspar area on the coast.

The Mendocino Herb Guild has partnered with Fortunate Farm to launch a Community Herb Garden, which will be a source of medicinal herbs for the community, plus an opportunity for education, medicine making, herbal products for fundraising and emergency needs, and a place to rest and communicate with the plants. Your host will be Karin Uphoff, a clinical herbalist and teacher focused on community wellness and resilience. Contact Karin at 937-2798.

The Garden Tour Series is sponsored by the Elderbroads, Weaving and Mending Community, with the intention of energizing the herb, farm and garden communities.

is integral to who we are as a people."

Board Chair Ted Williams seemed more open to cutting funding for things like museums and parks.

"I support the arts, but ... we do have a poverty-stricken county," he said. "The only way that we can use ARPA funds for other purposes to benefit the people is to reduce county spending. What areas do we want to reduce county spending so that we can repurpose ARPA funds? And I'm not hearing ideas for what we can trim.

"I would think that \$550,000 for the museum is important, to me it's not as important as public safety," he continued. "If I had to decide between the two, public safety wins out. If we have people who are hungry who we're not serving, I want to feed them first before the arts and the parks. So there's some ranking in my mind of what's important in this county to look out for the most vulnerable, ensure public safety, and then see what's left."

The supervisors also struggled with the idea of cutting funding for parks, since some of them are reportedly so lacking in basic maintenance that they could be a danger to the public.

"The staffing model represented for a park system our size recommended approximately 32 [fulltime employees] to support our parks," said County General Services Director Janelle Rau. "Currently right now you have one [fulltime employee] – a landscaper that serves your parks. The support for maintenance is shared throughout our maintenance crew who are also supporting your 60-plus owned real property."

Rau said their recommendation was to increase to six fulltime employees for the parks.

"What we're trying to be is realistic," she said. "So the proposed budget per the board's direction during the Phase 2 of the park's needs assessment was to come in with what we believe is fair and reasonable, to at least begin to support the parks in a manner that would keep them safe."

Rau added that \$4.8 million over the next three years was needed to fund "capital improvements" at county parks for basic public safety.

"You have some issues regarding safety that need to be addressed in your parks, or you will have to discuss closing them because of our obligation to keep them safe," she said.

Rau also warned against cutting too much of the funding allotted for county facilities, a department that is projected to be more than \$500,000 over budget for the 2021/22 fiscal year.

"If you were to look at any reduction in the facilities operating budget, you would look at either reducing your staff that are currently filled or shutting down buildings, or both," she said. "Because at this point it's just your baseline cost to operate."

Haschak responded that the county needed to come up with long-term solutions to solve these budget issues.

"We're going to have this problem every year from now on, because the county doesn't have the money," he said. "And I just think that we need to be thinking outside the box. We need to be thinking about different approaches to how we can properly fund and provide the services that these parks need.... What we're doing doesn't work right now."

The county's budget woes stem from many different problems, including declining sales and cannabis tax revenues, increasing health care expenses for county staff, and multiple departments being hundreds of thousands of dollars over budget.

According to a 3rd Quarter Report for 2021/22 from the county's "fiscal team" which was also presented at the May 3 meeting, during the months of October through December "overall sales" were down in the Mendocino County by 3% compared to 2020.

Additionally there was a projected Health Plan deficit for county workers of \$4.5 million for the 2021/22 fiscal year, and six departments were projected to be more than \$100,000 over budget.

The county Sheriff/Coroner department was projected at around \$1.4 million over budget, by far the highest. This is a trend that continued from the previous fiscal year, when they were over budget by a similar number.

The budget overages at the sheriff's department have been a controversial issue this last year, with Sheriff Matt Kendall and the county involved in a legal dispute over whether Kendall could be held financially responsible, and whether the county should provide him with outside counsel on the matter.

A Superior Court judge in the county gave a ruling last

The rest of
Trail
From page 8

owners of the Skunk Train are 100% in support of the trail and are cooperating every way they can to make everything run smoothly, on and off the track.

Not knowing where future money to maintain the trail will come from didn't dampen enthusiasm for the new trail. Everyone who spoke at the meeting said they were "excited" about the project, although council member Madge Strong was not excited about 1.6 miles of new concrete, asking if a more environmentally sound surface might be substituted.

The current plan calls for concrete and asphalt surfaces at different locations, but project manager Duley said that the city would look into possible alternatives, although he didn't sound too encouraging. "Logistics, cost, available materials, ability of local batch plants to produce alternative materials, durability and lifespan of materials are some factors that have to be considered before making any informed decision," he said.

Solid Wastes of Willits owner Jerry Ward, at the meeting to request an adjustment in garbage fees due to the price of fuel, asked if there would be trash containers along the trail – trash that his trucks will have to pick up. Duley replied that there will be a number of trash and recycling receptacles. The planned fencing does include access points, ones that hopefully will accommodate trash pickup. "We'll keep you in the loop in the design phase, to try to make life easier for you," Duley said.

All aboard. The city council voted unanimously to approve the rail trail, as cheerfully welcome as the recent spring rains. And like the little blue storybook locomotive, it sounds like most everyone in Willits is tooting the train whistle for the Little Trail that Could.

December with some mixed results for Kendall, saying the county should provide some outside counsel for issues with the IT Department, but not for other budget issues.

In the report from the fiscal team, it appears that the Sheriff's Office will be receiving close to \$1.4 million in ARPA funding to offset the money they went over budget.

According to the report, over \$1 million of that money will be allotted for "vehicles" and "up fitting to vehicles," and \$270,000 will be for "facility modifications."

Another financial attachment for the May 3 BOS agenda showed that the Sheriff's Office had requested \$1.27 million for "salaries and benefits" in fiscal year 2021-22, but that the funding request was "not filled at this time" because "no funding is available to be allocated."

The fiscal team stated that the Sheriff-Coroner department being over budget was "primarily due to overtime costs associated with fires, COVID, quarantine requirements, and crime demands."

Others in the county who are expected to receive some of the ARPA money are the Department of Transportation (\$120,000) and the Probation Department (\$171,000).

The county plans to spend about \$10 million of the ARPA money on county core services and infrastructure, but how exactly all of that portion will be distributed "is still being reviewed and will be brought back to the board at a further date" according to the fiscal report.

The budget workshops for 2022/23 are planned to continue on June 7 and 8.

In addition to the cuts to the museum and parks, the 2022/23 report also suggested that the board consider cuts to the county Facilities Department and the "Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation" Division, which was created to help with disaster preparedness and response.

Interim CEO Antle advised against using much of the county's reserve money to offset the deficit, since it was already considerably lower than what is generally recommended.

She said that the overall reserves were currently around \$20 million, but they should be closer to \$48 million – about three times the monthly spending by the county.

According to the 2022/23 report, the county already secured \$1.2 million in reduced expenses from some departments, including more than \$745,000 from the District Attorney's Office and \$367,000 from Animal Care. This came largely from the departments "reducing staffing plans to fill vacant positions immediately."

Williams, who is on the budget ad hoc committee, said he didn't believe there were many more cuts of this nature for the county to consider in their budget plans.

"You need to find \$2 million to cut," he said. "\$7 million] if you want to free up ARPA funds after all the departments and staff and the budget ad hoc worked to make reductions. So we didn't see anything more in terms of creative or low-hanging fruit. After our work, we're this far off."

Regarding the cannabis tax revenues, Antle said they were still waiting for a May 31 deadline to pass before they would have any specific updates.

But at the previous board meeting the projection was that those revenues would decrease by about half – down from around \$6 million the last fiscal year to \$3 million this year.

Board Chair Williams advised that the county should prepare for the worst with cannabis tax money due to the changes in the local industry.

"This strikes me as a structural deficit, I don't see this as a one-time," said Williams. "We were living on cannabis revenue, average about \$5 million a year. That game is over. And cannabis, now in the legal market, where the price will just be set by marginal revenue intersecting with marginal cost in a county ordinance that only allows 10,000 square feet ... and a declining market price, that revenue's not coming back," he said.

"And so the past couple years we've lived on revenue that we should've treated as one-time but instead it's been used to augment the county for staffing," he added. "This coming year we don't have that revenue. We're probably not going to have it again."

Overall the supervisors seemed to avoid making many specific directions for cuts for the time being, and the motion they passed asked that the county staff and budget ad hoc committee "return on June 7 and 8 with more information regarding possible reductions."

The rest of
Ballots
From page 1

receive your Sample Ballot by the end of the week, please call our office so we can send you one.

Voters in Mendocino County have begun receiving their State Voter Information Guides that include information on the statewide candidates. If you would like to view the Voter Information Guide online, please visit: <https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/>

Katrina Bartolomie would like to remind voters who wish to vote in the June 7, 2022 election, that **the last day to register to vote is May 23, 2022** to receive a regular ballot in the mail. Please call our office for a voter registration card or go to: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/> to register to vote online.

For additional information, please contact the Election / County Clerk's Office by calling 707-234-6819.

Official ballot drop box locations

In Willits, ballots may be dropped off at the City of Willits, 111 East Commercial Street, with a drive-up ballot box available 23/7. Ballots can be dropped into drop boxes around the county from May 9 through 8 pm on June 7. Ballots may also be dropped off in Ukiah at the Mendocino County Administration Building, 501 Low Gap Road, or the City of Ukiah, 300 Seminary Avenue – both with drop-boxes available 24/7. To see the locations of drop boxes elsewhere in Mendocino County, visit www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument/50621/637864958730830000

Third District polling place locations

All polling places are open on Election Day from 7 am to 8 pm. The Willits polling place is at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. The Brooktrails polling place is at the Brooktrails Community Center, 24860 Birch Street. In Laytonville, the polling place is the Laytonville Lions Fire Hall, 44320 Willis Avenue. In Covelo, ballots may be dropped off on Election Day only at the Round Valley Justice Court, 76270 Grange Street.

Soroptimists' Third Tuesday Speaker Series

Submitted by SI/Willits

Soroptimist International of Willits presents its online Third Tuesday Speaker Series on May 17 at noon on Zoom. This is a free event for everyone, everywhere! RSVP to: SIWillits@Soroptimist.net for Zoom link

Featured speaker in May is Tina Tyler-O'Shea, executive director of Blue Zones Project Mendocino County. Tina was the recipient of a Willits Soroptimists Live Your Dream Scholarship in the mid-1990s.

Since graduating from Mendocino College in 1997, community well-being has been the mission of her work, serving youth, children and families in partnership with community organizations and leaders to improve health conditions for low-income and vulnerable populations.

Tina holds a bachelor's degree in Arts, Liberal Studies from Sonoma State University, which she attained in her mid-40s. She has a lived experience with marginalized and under-resourced communities and the impact that policies, systems, and the environment has on personal choice.

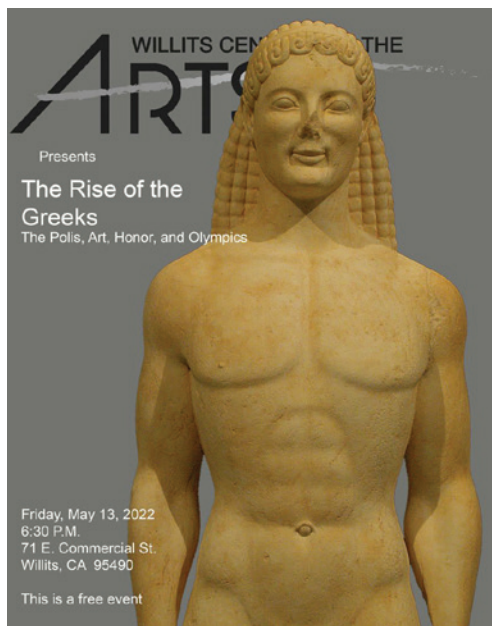
Tina is an athlete, a mother, grandmother, wife, sister, aunt, great-aunt, and mentor. She loves the outdoors, fishing, gardening, cooking, and adventures.



Tina Tyler-O'Shea is featured speaker May 17 for Soroptimist International of Willits Third Tuesday Speaker Series.

Free 'Art Talks' lecture at WCA, May 13

Willits Center for the Arts will present "The Rise of the Greeks: The Polis, Art, Honor, and Olympics," one in the WCA series of "Art Talks," on Friday, May 13 at 6:30 pm. Discussions will be on the beginning of refined sculpture and painting in archaic Greece, and we will discuss the rise of Sparta and Athens and see what artistic practices were taking place between 900 B.C.E. and 480 B.C.E.



The lecture is suitable for all ages. The series is an art history adventure through the ages, including art from prehistory to the 21st century. The WCA and the Community Foundation sponsor Art Talks, and Gary Martin, M.A., presents this free lecture.

In June, Ruby Ming, M.A., will show you how Japanese art highly influenced Impressionism in the 19th century. Ruby is a frequent speaker in the Bay Area, currently teaches at San Francisco State, and is employed at the San Jose Quilt Museum.

Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street, next to the Noyo Theatre.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness'

The Story: Marvel Universe sequel to "Doctor Strange" and "Infinity War" and also, surprisingly, "Wanda Vision." When we sleep, our dreams take place in the Multiverse. It's a real place. We have a "double" there who does things we wouldn't do.



Dan Essman
Columnist

Strange wants to help the frightened (but plucky) America. He thinks the Avenger Wanda Maximov (Elizabeth Olsen) can help him protect America. Strange has allies, but not everyone is trustworthy. And lovely young America, bless her heart, is in peril. The end is in doubt!

My Thoughts: There's no reasoning with evil and there's no reasoning with crazy, and sometimes there are crazy evil monsters from the dark pits of the mind powerful enough to challenge even Doctor Strange, Master of the Mystic Arts. I loved the flick. Shout-out to dynamic director Sam Raimi.

It's not just good guys versus the bad guys. Occasionally the movie is laugh aloud funny. Love and loss motivate the action. What is a person willing to sacrifice in order to achieve a goal? It's a conundrum that confronts the main characters.

Past failures and life choices are a source of conflict. As my suffragette grandmother who raised me used to say, "Choices, Dan, it's all about the choices."

Parents: Ages 10 and up (maybe not in Mendocino County). Wee children are frightened by witches, even pretty ones. Something to do with a "Bad Mother" archetype. The witch in this flick is ruthless and scary. You know your kids.

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



OBITUARY |

Don Fiers

Donald John Fiers passed away early on April 1, 2022, after a long illness.

Born in Minneapolis in 1948, he moved to Spy Rock Mountain in 1973. He built his house, married, and built and ran Mountain Maples Nursery for 25 years.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Marjorie and Alan Fiers, his wife Nancy Fiers, and his son Stephen Lammers. He is survived by his grandsons Luke and David Lammers, his sister Delora Fiers, nieces Jennifer and Rewa, grand-nieces Jaedyn and Genna, and grand-nephew Sam, and many friends.

A talented singer, songwriter, pianist, and guitar player, he was a founding member of the Just for Fun Choir, and the New Blu Trio.

There will be a Celebration of his Life on Memorial Day, May 30, 2022, at 2 pm at the Methodist Church, at 286 School Street in Willits.



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CANDIDATES FORUM
SUNDAY • MAY 15th, 2022 • 2:30 - 5 PM
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Meet the candidates . . . ask questions! Be prepared to vote June 7th.
NOTE: This election will be FINAL in any race where a candidate receives 50% or more of the votes cast for that office.

FOR OTHER INFORMATION:
Judi @ (707) 459-4444

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2:30 PM COUNTY SHERIFF:
1 Seat
Matt Kendall (uncontested)

3:15 PM COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:
1 Seat
Michele Hutchins (incumbent)
Nicole Glentzer

4 PM SUPERVISOR, 3rd DISTRICT:
1 Seat
John Haschak (incumbent)
Clay Romero

Available live on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86886311390?MeetingID=86886311390>
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Will also be available on video afterward via Channel 3 on-line

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