

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Please leave the fawns alone

To the Editor:
Springtime is here and with that comes all the newborn wildlife. We started Mendocino Fawn Rehab in 2018 and have since released 21 fawns back into the wild. Unfortunately, many of these fawns are likely not true orphans.

Well-intentioned people find these adorable, helpless fawns alone, curled up in the grass. With no mother in sight, the fawns are taken by the finder, thinking the fawn has been abandoned. Most of the time the fawn does not need help and the mom is somewhere nearby.

A newborn fawn has only one defense-camouflage. They lay perfectly still and flatten their body to the ground, hoping the predator will pass by without spotting them. It is common for mothers to leave the fawns for hours at a time while she browses for food. You usually won't see a deer near the fawn at all.

This defense mechanism makes it very easy for humans to pick them up in the first couple weeks of life. If you find a fawn in this situation, leave the fawn alone and leave the area. The mother will return to her fawn when she feels safe.

It is a myth that mothers will not accept their fawn after humans have touched it. There have been many successful stories of reuniting fawns with mothers even up to 48 hours after being removed from the wild.

There are a few situations where these little creatures do need human intervention, though. If you find a fawn with open wounds, laying flat on its side, crying out for several hours continuously, if it's wet or dirty, or has obvious broken bones, please immediately call Mendocino Wildlife Association at 707-984-6363 for advice.

Caring for these fawns is time-intensive, and they sometimes require 24-hour care. Please think twice before scooping up the cute sleeping baby, thinking it needs help.

Olivia Grupp, Willits

Why not desalination?

To the Editor:
Our tech humanity seems to be able to plan, invest and intend to have a "jump off" space travel base on the

moon, where space travel – without having to blast the way through Earth's atmosphere each trip to the stars – can proceed forward with much less destruction to our environment.

Yet living on a mostly saltwater planet, we are unable to have massive desalination plants cleaning ocean saltwater and filling reservoirs with clean water to distribute to humanity for: agriculture, communities and industries. Massive amounts of water....

Having this on a worldwide basis changes this planet ... this humanity.

Why is this not a goal? Perhaps because this may cost as much as going to Mars ... or a highspeed train system. It probably "costs too much."

Thinking like that is this planet's biggest problem: Accepting Wall Street's and wealth's philosophy of profit and damn the environment, poor people pay taxes and can clean up after we take the profit. This is draining the life out of the people and economy of the world.

Billions from the government infrastructure fund should put a start on filling reservoirs in California with desalinated ocean water, clean for human consumption. Global consumption of seawater might even slightly slow the ocean rise and land flooding a tiny bit.

David Pollin, Willits

Summer of Soccer

To the Editor:

At Mendocino County Soccer Academy, we create safe situations for young players to try new things without the fear of failure. When we put kids in safe environments with caring, educated coaches, our players develop into creative artists with the soccer ball. Our goal is they do this while falling in love with the game.

MCSA offers soccer opportunities to meet the physical, social and emotional needs of children at all levels of experience and interest. Some kids enjoy the social aspect of playing with their friends. Others want to play the game at high levels and are interested in earning a college scholarship. We have pathways to meet the needs of all children that want to play.

Founded in Ukiah in 2013, MCSA is serving over 450 children this spring across Mendocino County. In Willits, we started with 12 kids in 2019. This spring, we're happy to have over

120 children playing on the fields graciously provided by Willits Frontier Days.

The club offers a complete training and support program for new and volunteer coaches. The training is rooted in the real-life experiences of our Director of Coaching Shane Huff. He's a Mendocino County native who won a collegiate soccer national championship and has coached youth through Division 1 for over 25 years.

Another of our founders, Joe Munoz, was National Player of the Year in college and played professionally for the New York MetroStars. Our training program builds upon their vast experience to train coaches and create positive soccer experiences for kids and families.

MCSA's Summer of Soccer kicks off on June 14. We're offering a 1-week soccer camp with a full-day and half-day option. In addition, our 6-week Grassroots Academy has kids practicing two to three mornings per week. You can choose one or both programs. Learn more by visiting MendocinoSoccer.com/Summer-of-Soccer or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Scholarships are available. We're committed to offering our programs to any child that wants to play regardless of the family's ability to pay.

Email questions to lan@MendocinoSoccer.com. Se habla espanol.

Ian Fitzpatrick, MCSA director and lead Willits coach

The rest of **Fatal** From Page 1

a silver 2018-20 Hyundai Accent, which was identified as traveling westbound on Sherwood Road east of Birth Terrace' in Brooktrails at 1:20 am on Friday morning.

According to the original May 7 press release: "The driver of the Hyundai crossed over the solid double yellow lines, across the eastbound lane of Sherwood Road, and collided head-on into a male pedestrian resulting in fatal injuries. The driver fled the scene in the Hyundai westbound on Sherwood Road."

This collision remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol Garberville Area. *This report was based on press releases from the California Highway Patrol Garberville Area.*

COLUMN | MCOE: A Perspective on Education

Teacher Appreciation Day, Week, Year

By Michelle Hutchins, Mendocino County superintendent of schools

This has been a year we won't soon forget. As the current school year comes to end, it's important to take a moment to reflect, not only on the challenges but also on the many successes. Having just celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week during the first week of May, this seems like a good time to reflect.

When the pandemic hit last spring, many of us thought school would return to normal by August. Little did we know things were just getting started. With very few resources, school districts did everything they could to maintain academic standards while teachers constantly adjusted to new ways of sharing information with students – from distance learning to hybrid to both concurrently.

Change was the name of the game.

As a former teacher (for more than 15 years), I can tell you that teaching is probably one of the toughest professions on Earth. If you enter the profession thinking your only job will be to educate children, you'll be stunned by the volume and variety of "other duties as assigned."

The teaching profession embodies so many other occupations rolled into one. Teachers are counselors, doctors, judges (and juries), life coaches, students, secretaries, reporters, firefighters and more. If you can think of it, a teacher has probably done it! If you get the opportunity to thank a teacher, please do so. I'm confident they deserve it.

As we look to next year, how can we use the experiences forced upon us by the pandemic to grow and learn? This year's disruption wasn't fun, but if it can serve as a catalyst for lasting improvements, that's a good thing.

One of the changes we experienced was an accelerated journey into remote learning, utilizing technology in a whole new way. I am not recommending we stick with distance learning; kids belong in the classroom learning from their teacher and each other; however, I do love the idea that if a student had to spend an extended period away from the classroom for some reason, they may be able to continue to participate remotely thanks to the new technology infrastructure many districts put in place.

We also became more conscious of health and safety protocols – in addition to keeping students safe from COVID-19, it's worth noting that all the handwashing,

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

Mendocino County needs foster care homes

May is National Foster Care Month – learn more at www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/. There is a shortage of foster homes (also called "resource homes") in Mendocino County and statewide.

Mendocino County's Family and Children's Services and its Foster Family Agency partners are in need of caring foster parents. If you love working with children, please call Lindsey Coke at 707-467-5893, to learn more about the rewards of employing your parenting skills in foster care, or visit www.mendocinocounty.org/government/health-and-human-services-agency/foster-care.

– Submitted by Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency

Bike to the Museum Day

Join the Mendocino County Museum in celebrating Bike Month, on Saturday, May 22, for our first Bike to the Museum Day!

Celebrate biking as transportation, recreation, and as a way to explore the wonderful place we call home. Visitors who bike to the museum, 400 East Commercial Street in Willits, on May 22 will receive a special badge. If you don't live within biking distance or do not have a bicycle, you can still participate. Simply enjoy a short walk (minimum 10 minutes) on the museum campus or in one of our neighboring parks as part of your visit.

Starting in June, the museum will feature a Bike/Walk to the Museum Day on the fourth Saturday of each month.

For hours and admission details or more information regarding this program, please contact the Mendocino County Museum at 459-2736 or visit our website: www.mendocinocounty.org/museum.



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



CalFire Heli-training

Firefighters perform practice helicopter-rescue missions in remote areas

Soon they'll be able to go faster, farther, and with a larger payload. The UH-1H Super Huey Vietnam War helicopter that has been utilized by the local CalFire crews will be replaced by a new state-of-the-art Sikorsky S70i with the ability to fly using instruments at night. Currently, from April 26 to August 1, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) Mendocino Unit is conducting basic helicopter operations and safety and air-rescue training, primarily in the Lake Mendocino, Ukiah Valley and Ridgewood Ranch, although other areas may be used for staging the exercises.

"The training for CalFire Helicopter 101 firefighters will include a combination of classroom training and operational exercise with a focus on safety," stated the official CalFire Mendocino press release. "They will learn and practice the skills needed to work specifically as a firefighter assigned to a helicopter."

The Willits Weekly was invited to observe the training on Wednesday, May 5, which was taking place just south of the Golden Rule Trailer Park, on land that had been previously charred during the Redwood Complex Fire of 2017. Use of the property was donated by Brian Bartholomew, ex-CalFire firefighter and captain of the Ridgewood Ranch firefighter unit. Around 20 CalFire trainees were in attendance, some new to the helicopter training and some to recertify as they are required to do on an annual basis.

Captain Nick Sandahl is one of the crew chiefs who control the situation during a helicopter rescue. He coordinates between the helicopter pilot and the ground crew. "Right now, we're doing our air-rescue hoist training," explained Sandahl.

"We're using every device that we have, and we get proficient by the end of the week. The senior instructors come in and make sure we're proficient in communication and verbiage. When we get a call for air rescue, we'll have a crew chief on the skid who is communicating with the pilot.

"We'll lower our rescuer down," said Sandahl, "whatever the chosen device depending on the terrain and what the actual rescue is. They'll attach the patient to the device and they'll bring them up." This is, of course, a simplified explanation of the actions and knowledge required to affect a rescue of patients. "Every one of these guys gets to play the patient. When they're alive we call them patients, not victims," he said.

The current equipment which the teams utilize has the ability "to actually bring the rescue person inside the copter and shut the door, depending on the device we're using and go at a higher speed to an awaiting air ambulance or an awaiting ALS [Advance Life Support] medical ambulance," continued Sandahl. "A BLS [Basic Life Support] unit will have two emergency medical technicians. On the other hand, an ALS unit will have a paramedic apart from the emergency medical technician. A BLS provider cannot use needles or other devices that makes cuts in the skin.

"In the days of short-haul we had a top speed of 60 knots [69 mph]," explained Sandahl. "Now we can go up to 120 knots [138 mph]. It makes a big difference being able to shut the door. The ability to bring the rescuer and the patient inside the helicopter is 100 percent safer than having them dangle from a rope." Once the new Sikorsky helicopters are delivered, these capabilities will be greatly enhanced.

As previously stated, this training is an annual requirement, with the crew chiefs and captains receiving additional training. "We do this every year" said Sandahl. "We do a one-week helicopter-safety training and week two is our helicopter-rescue training. We bring all our guys, even the ones who are alternates, who can potentially come up to the base and we want to get them certified as rescuers. The crew chief, myself, and my fellow captains, we go to a two-week school to become a crew chief. We're the ones on the skid.

Read the rest of **CalFire** Over on Page 9



At left: The crew chief is responsible for positioning the helicopter. Above: The Huey rescue helicopter takes off after rotating the training crew. Below, left: The helicopter hovers above the training crew prior to lowering the cable. Below, right: After playing the patient in a practice mission, this CalFire rescue trainee works on his gear.



Above: The CalFire rescue helicopter was given a workout during the training days. At left: Each of the CalFire trainees had a turn rescuing and being rescued. Photos by Mathew Caine

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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The rest of **Bum ban** From Page 1

burning of landscape debris, such as branches and leaves, is allowed.

California is entering its second consecutive dry year and braces for what could be another devastating wildfire season. While wildfires are a natural part of California's landscape, the fire season in California and across the West is starting earlier and ending later each year. Climate change is considered a key driver of this trend. Warmer spring and summer temperatures, reduced snowpack, and earlier spring snowmelt create longer and more intense dry seasons that increase moisture stress on vegetation and make forests more susceptible to severe wildfire.

"Last year, California experienced its most destructive fire season in the state's known history. Together, we must continue to adapt and evolve to be able to withstand the intensity of these fires, keeping in mind that the only way to minimize the damage they cause is through education, prevention and mitigation efforts," said Chief Thom Porter, CalFire state director. "We are relying on the public to be ready."

"Help all your firefighters be successful; prepare your property now," said CalFire Mendocino Unit Chief George Gonzalez.

While outdoor burning of landscape debris by homeowners is no longer allowed CalFire is asking residents to take that extra time to ensure that they are prepared for wildfires by maintaining a minimum of 100 feet of

defensible space around every home and building on their property and being prepared to evacuate if the time comes.

Here are some tips to help prepare homes and property:

- Clear all dead and/or dying vegetation 100 feet from around all structures.
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants and non-flammable ground cover.
- Find alternative ways to dispose of landscape debris like chipping or hauling it to a biomass energy or green waste facility.

The department may issue restricted temporary burning permits if there is an essential reason due to public health and safety. Agriculture, land management, fire training, and other industrial-type burning may proceed if a CalFire official inspects the burn site and issues a special permit.

The suspension of burn permits for residential landscape debris does not apply to campfires within organized campgrounds or on private property. Campfires may be permitted if the campfire is maintained in such a manner as to prevent its spread to the wildland. A campfire permit can be obtained at local fire stations or online at www.readyforwildfire.org/prevent-wildfire/.

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

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Celebrating the Seniors

Willits Weekly will once again be publishing senior photos from the Classes of 2021 of Willits High School, Sanhedrin High School, Willits Charter School and more in the coming weeks leading up to graduation in June. Congrats to all the graduates!

Photos by Maureen Jennison



Cody Chesser



Calen Cole



Nathan Coleman



Jacob Compa



Alyssa Conrad



Martin Coughlin



Ceilia Cramer



Evan Crandall



Emma Crowe



Devon DiFazio



Don Donahoo



Taylor Drew



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At top, from left: Butterflies need nectar all season, as well as shelter and moisture. I put together a collection of seeds for a butterfly garden, including an information sheet about how to attract and keep butterflies in your yard. It's available at quailseeds.com. Navajo Tea needs little water or care, produces lots of blooms, and makes an anti-inflammatory tea. This "Perpetual Spinach" chard produces more meals per year than any vegetable I know, with minimal water. The Eel River Melon is a local treasure, with a very sweet, peachy flavor. It was bred by Humboldt farmer Bill Reynolds, who farms without irrigation. This is one of the local varieties I will be carrying at the Gleaners Plant Sale this month.

Above, from left: Tiger coreopsis or dyer's coreopsis is native to the Great Plains and thrives with little water or care. Its fine-cut leaves and flexible stems take up little space or light, making it a perfect choice to mix in with vegetables. Beans make a lot of food for not much input. This one is Dragon Tongue, a wax bean with great flavor and crisp texture. Each pale yellow bean has purple stripes that disappear when cooked. A butterfly enjoys a meal of nectar from a yellow zinnia. Watermelon is a desert plant that has adapted to use water efficiently. Like peppers, it prefers a lighter soil. If you have heavy clay soil, work in a lot of organic matter.

Below, left: Summer squash is famous for heavy yields all season. San Pasquale is one with genuine Italian flavor, not like the watery hybrids. Sowing direct into the garden soil will give it the deepest possible root system. Late May is a great time to plant squash, beans, and other direct-sown crops.

Below, right: Bronze Arrow is remarkably drought-and-heat-tolerant for a lettuce. The one pictured here grew in a gravel lot with minimal water.

At bottom, from left: Peppers grow wild in the desert, in arroyos and thickets. They need a light soil, small amounts of regular water, good fertility, and light shade at midday. Sage offers a lot to both the gardener and the garden – easy to grow, drought-tolerant, pest-free, and handsome, with flowers that feed pollinators over a long season of bloom. These beautiful beans are Yessica's Inca Bean, grown and adapted to North America by Ellen Bartholomew of Ridgewood Ranch's Golden Rule Garden. I am so happy to be able to carry this at Quail Seeds. Amaranth is easy to grow and loves heat. You can use the young plants like spinach, and the mature plants produce heavy yields of small grains that need no hulling and are easily cooked like polenta or as breakfast porridge.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier



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Please leave me WILD!

- Fawns naturally lie still and lower their head when approached. The fawn is not sick or injured, he is simply trying to hide.
- Mothers will leave their fawn for several hours at a time while she forages for food. She will not return to her fawn if humans are in the area.
- If the fawn is tucked away and laying quietly, leave it alone and leave the area!
- If you find a fawn with open wounds, broken bones, is crying out for an extended time or laying flat on its side, it may need help.
- Please call Mendocino Fawn Rehab for advice before moving a fawn. 951-852-0513 or 707-984-6363.

COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

May: Planning an oasis for summer

The brief Willits spring has been lovely, but windy, and things are drying out. Nobody knows just what's ahead, but one thing I feel sure of – it will be better with a plan than without one.

Jamie Chevalier, Columnist. This might not be the year to grow celery, for example, which needs an awful lot of water. Onions, spinach, cabbage, cucumbers, sunflowers, and cauliflower are also big water users. Zucchini, beans, carrots, peppers, lettuce, and kale are medium users, while tomatoes, cowpeas, mustard greens, chard, winter squash, parsnips, beets, melons, and okra are relatively efficient.

That's not the whole story, though. It's not just how much water the plant uses, it's how much food you get in the end. This is a good year to concentrate on ever-bearing crops like pole beans, tomatoes, okra, summer squash, and leafy greens that can be harvested over and over. You only need a small number of plants to cover your needs if they are well-fed and well-tended. Chard is the champion in this regard. It makes meal after meal, almost year-round, while using little water because of its deep taproot.

Sowing in pots indoors may start the season earlier, but direct-sowing into the garden produces plants with the deepest root systems. From now 'til the end of June, you can plant beans, corn, squash, okra, cucumbers, pumpkins, amaranth, and melons from seed. (As well as zinnias, cosmos, marigolds, sunflowers, and morning glories.)

What your seedlings want most is deep, loose soil with lots of water-absorbing organic matter in it. Loosen the soil as deep as you can with a fork, or spade and work in organic matter. You want absorbent materials that will hold water for the plants to use between waterings: compost, aged manure, worm castings, dead leaves, coir, rotten straw, biochar, coffee grounds, even wet wood.

On the surface, mulches like straw, wood chips, grass clippings, and leaves will keep that moisture from escaping. For permanent plantings, rocks make a useful mulch. When they cool off at night, dew condenses on them and may provide enough water for drought-tolerant plants like lavender or rockrose.

Consider making your paths a bit higher than your beds this year. Sunken beds are a time-tested way to make sure the water you apply stays where the plants are. "Waffle gardens" are a variation on this concept, well-proven in arid climates. Within the beds, allow each plant plenty of water, and use a hoe or cultivator to get rid of weeds as soon as they sprout. Pair deep-rooted with shallow-rooted plants. All of these strategies will reduce competition for water.

Trees bring both shade and moisture into the landscape. Consider siting some salad greens under trees, and using shade cloth, fabric, reed fencing, or other light-filtering devices over plants in sunny areas. Above 80 to 90 degrees, even sun-lovers like tomatoes prefer filtered sun to bring temperatures down and prevent shock.

Finally, I suggest making a worst-case plan. It's usually better to cut some areas off completely so that priority areas can thrive. Permanent plantings may be a priority – but think it through. Those shrubs that keep blocking the path? That tree you're allergic to? Those foundation plantings that are rotting the siding, or the fruit tree that never makes usable fruit? Maybe it's time to let them go.

On the other hand, a flower with personal significance, the fruit trees in their prime – these are worth making a plan for. One drought year, I pulled my favorites through by putting a bucket next to the kitchen sink and another by the bathtub. Any water not totally soapy or greasy went out to the garden.

Drought is hard on butterflies and beneficial insects as nectar sources dry up. It's worth having some blooms as well as your food plants. Coreopsis is easy, fast-growing from seed, and grows well among vegetables. Natives use little water and feed pollinators. If you want to grow one thing that provides pest control, looks great, uses little water, and provides a continual harvest, most herbs are hard to beat.

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in Alaska and California and taught gardening in schools, as well as living in a remote cabin and commercial fishing. She wrote the Bountiful Gardens catalog from 2009 to 2017, and is now the proprietor of Quail Seeds, www.quailseeds.com.

The rest of CalFire | From Page 3

We can move the hoist 250 degrees so we can move it inside and out. We are the ones who actually control the speed of the cable going down and going up."

After the rescuer and the cable have been lowered, "We have a quick-cinch device. It goes around the upper body and cinches up. We use this for our water rescues or a pinnacle where we just have to move the individual a hundred yards instead of bringing them all the way in. We'll bring them up about 10 feet, then the crew chief will move the helicopter with verbal communications to the pilot to a designated area they have already pre-predicted and set up at which to drop them off," explained Sandahl.

These procedures and training protocols have been developed over several years through experience and field usage. They represent the culmination of many hours of practical applications and are continually being upgraded as new knowledge and equipment become available.

The helipad at the CalFire complex on the Highway 1010 ridge between Willits and Ukiah is currently being rebuilt and upgraded to accommodate the new Sikorsky S70i helicopter, which was built only two years ago. It will be able to go faster, carry more, and be able to fly at night with its advanced instruments, greatly increasing its ability to do rescues in adverse conditions.

The helicopter training is fun for the participants, especially those who get to play the patients, but underlying the fun is the deadly serious business of saving lives.

More of Process | From Page 1

president Alex Bowlds if the May 5 meeting would be a time to "share with community the process of hiring a superintendent?"

"I think that would be wise to do exactly that," Bowlds responded.

WTA president Tessa Ford added that "we, WTA and potentially CSEA (classified employees union), would really like to be involved in the selection process for a new superintendent."

"I don't know if that's traditionally something that happens," she continued. "We understand that we wouldn't have any vote or say in it, but it would be nice to be included in the process if that is the purpose of the May 5 meeting."

"That's part of the reason for that meeting," Bowlds responded. "And believe me, we have not forgotten you. You will be getting more information very soon."

Contacted shortly after the April meeting, Westerburg confirmed that "the May 5 meeting is ... about the process they use to hire a new superintendent."

The May 5 meeting came and went, though, with nary a peep about the process of hiring a new superintendent.

Rather, the process, described as "superintendent interviews," is on the agenda for the May 12 regular meeting during closed session. The agenda cites an exception to California's Brown Act, or open meeting law, which allows the board "to consider the ... employment ... of a public employee," in closed session.

What did happen at the special May 5 meeting was the announcement of "a very Willitsy prom," updates on COVID testing and efforts to improve K-3/K-5 literacy, and a resounding no on putting recently rezoned unused district property at Blosser Lane elementary school on the market.

"We're going to have what I call a very Willitsy prom," Westerburg told the board. "We're going to do it in the new farm barn ... open up all the doors. "We've got stall doors that we're

LEGALS

WW318
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2021-F0198
The following persons are doing business as Reza's Breadery, 309 Sequoia Blvd., Willits CA 95490.
Registered owners: Reza and Debra Ghannadan, 309 Sequoia Blvd., Willits CA 95490 / mailing address: P.O. Box 23, Willits CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a married couple.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on April 9, 2021.
/s/ Reza Ghannadan
Publication dates: April 22, 29 and May 6, 13, 2021

MENDOCINO COUNTY

Current Job Openings:

- Account Specialist II
- Chief Planner – Fort Bragg
- Corrections Deputy
- Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV
- Deputy Director HHSA – Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
- Disaster Recovery Field Operations Coordinator
- Eligibility Specialist Supervisor
- Environmental Compliance Specialist
- Human Resources Manager
- Public Health Nurse
- Registered Nurse
- Senior Planner
- Senior Public Health Nurse
- Social Worker Assistant II
- Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D
- Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C
- Staff Assistant III
- Supervising Public Health Nurse

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources
EOE

CLASSIFIEDS

Alteration Business Closing
I'm closing my Alteration Business. It's been a pleasure working with my local community. – Barbara the Seamstress

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

For Rent
Quiet master bedroom and bath. Private entrance. 400 sq feet. Refrigerator. Near town of Willits on Westside. Includes water, electric and garbage. \$650/month. No smoking. Call David: 805-259-9155

For Sale
Gently used 15-year-old coliseum for growing 100 clones indoors or outdoors with natural light or light dep. Call 459-5680 for more info. \$200

Freezer Empty? We can help!
Due to health concerns in Mendocino County, John Ford Ranch will be taking meat box orders (not individual packages) for pick-up: Rancher's Choice Box - 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: 25 pound box of hamburger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and we'll call back.

Willits Food Bank Open
Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

Help Wanted
Willits Senior Center now hiring a PAID Meals on Wheels Driver. Part time (Mon-Fri). 10:30 am to 2 pm. Call Richard Baker @ 459-6826. Or email resume to wsdirector@willitscenter.com. Applicants must pass pre-employment drug test and provide a current DMV print out of clean driving record

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

WORD SEARCH

E	M	U	S	C	R	A	N	E				
S	O	N	A	T	A	A	B	R	A	D	E	
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A steady stream of gardeners stops by the Commonwealth Garden for free plant starts on Saturday. At right: Garden Manager Melissa Bouley greets all the gardeners and keeps a running tally of the number of people and plants. At right, below: A gardener examines some of the available squash plants. Below, left: People took through the healthy array of free plant starts. Below, right: The plant starts are healthy, well taken care of, and ready to put into the ground.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Free Plants

Commonwealth Garden gives out 2,400 vegetable starts to 250 local households at recent giveaway event

The best way to ensure that a family has fresh, organic, healthy and nutritious food is to grow it themselves, either on their own property or at one of the several community garden facilities in the Little Lake Valley area. For the second year, Melissa Bouley and her staff at the Commonwealth Gardens of the Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital have made hearty plant starts available free-of-charge to the public, that can either be put directly into the ground or transplanted to larger pots, to grow larger prior to planting.

The event, held last Saturday and Sunday, May 8 and 9, from 9 am to 3 pm, provided a viable way for families or individuals to begin their gardens. By noon the second day,

almost all of the starts had been distributed. Approximately 2,400 plants had been given away to over 250 households, providing Willits families with a way to begin their 2021 gardening adventure and engage in an activity that is both fun for the entire family and will provide food security.

The Commonwealth Garden provides fresh vegetables to the hospital and to the public when Roots Restaurant is open to the public. Bouley plans to begin the weekly Friday public vegetable stand sometime next month. "I'm waiting for the soil and water analysis to come back, then I can schedule an ag inspection," said Bouley. "After we get the green light from the ag department, we will open the farm stand. I'm hoping for the beginning of June."



Priana Roberts and Maven prepare for the Grateful Gleaners plant sale coming up on May 23.

Grateful Gleaners

Annual plant sale on May 23 features drought-tolerant options

Mark your calendars for the annual Grateful Gleaners plant sale happening Sunday, May 23 from 10 AM to 4 PM. The focus this year is on drought-tolerant landscaping to increase water conservation.

There will be some availability of the California natives that would make up a serious xeriscape including cistus, sage and ceanothus. You will also find many perennials to choose from that require only moderate water like coneflowers, black eyed Susans, penstemons, perennial sunflowers and Shasta daisies. Also available are the lush spring bloomers like violets, iris and bleeding hearts that will die back in the summer and need little or no summer water. So many choices!

The Mendo County Herb Guild will be offering a multitude of medicinal herbs. Richard Tootreesse Jeske will be selling varietal grape stocks and providing tips on dry farming. Pick

up a handout on how to grow more veggies with less water then check out the fountains and chimes from Morgan Rex. Quail Seeds will also be there with open-pollinated seed specifically for our regions. As always, the Gleaners plant sale will offer heritage fruit and veggie varieties not often found in nurseries.

Proceeds from the sale allow the Gleaners to continue in their mission to harvest extra fruit from our community and distribute it to Willits' schools, the Willits Senior Center and the Food Bank, as well as giving contributions to local farmers who help create our vibrant local foodscape.

Be sure to show up early for the best selection. Look for the signs at the post office to find your way to 130 Tuttle Lane. See you there!

— Submitted by the Grateful Gleaners

WSMC is Hiring!

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Loyal Bosworth

Bosworth is a very sweet and loving shepherd. He is a big goofy 8-year-old boy who loves attention. The ideal home for Bosworth would be in a country setting with dog-savvy folks, either as an only dog or with one other female dog that he has proven to get along well with during a meet and greet. He is easy going, and a good walking partner. Though he pulls initially, he calms down. He's gentle and sweet with children and loves rides in the car. He would be a loving and loyal addition for a family or couple with time to share with their dog.

To find out more about Bosworth, who is currently living at the Milo Foundation Sanctuary in Willits, or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.

Smiley Scout

My name is Scout, and I am a su-paw-star! I was a visitor at HSMC as a puppy about 1.5 years ago. I was lucky to be adopted and live in a home for a while, which was amazing. However, when my human left for college, I was returned. I would love a home with a doggie playmate and people who understand that sometimes I just need to take things slow but I warm up quickly. I am around 3 years old and ready to start the next chapter in life. Can this be with you? Apply to love me at www.mendohumanesociety.com today!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email catteam@hsmc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsmc.org. Visit www.petfinder.com or the "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, visit www.mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.

Burkes said there was no specific timeline for accomplishing the plan's goals due to the uncertainties of how long it will take to hire and train all the new staff, though Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall did give an estimate at one point during the meeting.

"I would imagine somewhere between three to five years before we actually get this issue cleaned up," he said. "This is the long game. This problem did not pop up overnight, and it won't be solved overnight."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak asked Sheriff Kendall how they would figure out which cultivation sites to target using the satellite imagery, and how they could determine things like which had the most dangerous "criminal element."



The rest of **Plan** From Page 1

levels at county departments involved in cannabis enforcement.

As described by Burkes, the new plan — which stemmed from direction by the supervisors — calls for the county to shift to a more "proactive" approach of enforcement, rather than relying solely on the "complaint driven" approach they've been using since 2017.

Burkes said they are seeking a satellite imagery subscription where various county departments will have easy access to the imagery to identify non-compliant cultivators and others in violation so the county can take action.

Another big emphasis of the plan is "interagency collaboration," with a "central communication hub" managed by code enforcement, and also used by the cannabis and sheriff's departments.

The plan recommends adding 17 new positions to four different departments including four more code enforcement officials at Planning & Building, four additional sheriff's deputies, and four positions for a new "Compliance and Enforcement" arm of the Cannabis Department.

The new positions at the Cannabis Department would include a "Data Specialist" to help with the satellite imagery program, which is planned to be "housed" at the department.

While still primarily focusing on processing applications, the Cannabis Department would "utilize satellite imagery for verification and complaint response of in-program cultivation sites to supplement site inspections" according to one slide in the presentation. They would then "refer denied sites to code enforcement and law enforcement."

Burkes said that much of the new county plan follows tactics used by Humboldt County in recent years, which has used a satellite imagery program along with sending violation notices to non-compliant properties warning of stiff potential fines.

"As we got the agencies together and began to investigate and study how Humboldt County models their enforcement, we came up with some core features that really define their success in our opinion," said Burkes.

During his presentation, Burkes outlined five different stages of enforcement for the plan.

In stage one, the county would: "Establish the strategic plan, create the structure, allocate resources, change code as needed, begin recruitment and hiring, [send out] initial contact letters for voluntary compliance, and begin engaging the highest-profile illegal cultivation site targets with the greatest criminal element."

In stage two, the county would "begin engaging... illegal cultivation targets with the greatest impact to the environment," and then in stage three, would target sites with "the greatest impact to the community quality of life."

In stage four, the county would "target remaining sites based on largest-scale environmental impact, and individual people or groups who own multiple illegal cultivation locations."

Burkes said there was no specific timeline for accomplishing the plan's goals due to the uncertainties of how long it will take to hire and train all the new staff, though Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall did give an estimate at one point during the meeting.

"I would imagine somewhere between three to five years before we actually get this issue cleaned up," he said. "This is the long game. This problem did not pop up overnight, and it won't be solved overnight."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak asked Sheriff Kendall how they would figure out which cultivation sites to target using the satellite imagery, and how they could determine things like which had the most dangerous "criminal element."

"We are receiving intel on a constant basis," responded Kendall. "We know that there are various drug trafficking organizations in the county. We see where they go from year to year. Sometimes we're able to catch them, sometimes they're a

step or two ahead of us.... We get calls from people who talk about machine gun fire coming out of certain groves. Things like that we need to get our eyes on because we don't want a code enforcement officer or someone else who is unarmed or ill-equipped to deal with these folks, to go out to these locations."

"There is going to be arguments and issues about legacy growers and things like that," Kendall continued. "And we can say, 'well, these folks have been doing it for years,' but the fact is that they've been breaking the law for years. We have to draw a line in the sand, or we will continue to have this problem."

Though the county already has had the option to send cannabis-related violation notices out to properties, it seems as if they will be leaning more heavily on this tactic with the new plan, with the new satellite imagery allowing them to more quickly identify illegal sites.

Burkes said he hopes that these notices combined with the warning of potential "administrative citations," which currently can consist of county fines of up to \$10,000 per day per violation and \$400 per plant, will be enough to cause many to cease illegal operations without the need for more serious actions.

"Code enforcement would issue an initial contact via letter or notice in the hopes that there would be a very short window or correction period," he said. "Putting them on notice that we've identified these violations, and giving them a chance to abate the illegal cultivation and get into some sort of compliance with the infrastructure. And hopefully get [them] on track to remediate the environmental damages if there are any, and code enforcement would assist them in doing so."

"However if we're not able to achieve some sort of compliance at that notification window," he added, "we would move into some of the other tools, one of which would be an administrative citation. And if that is not effective, a [County of Mendocino Marijuana Eradication Team] referral, or we could take criminal or civil court action."

Burkes noted that since the supervisors passed an ordinance increasing fines for violations in January, that out of 111 "cannabis complaints," they've only issued two citations so far.

"I feel and staff feels that once word gets out that there's these heavier penalties in place, compliance becomes a lot easier to achieve," he said. "And so far we're actually seeing that represented in real time right now."

The group recently sent out an email offering to train volunteers to help gather signatures once the ordinance passes, which it is expected to. Those interested in finding out more can contact the group at wece@sbcglobal.net.

"We are mounting this referendum to stop a four-fold, eight-fold, or even greater expansion of cannabis cultivation throughout the county, including in our oak-studded, wildlife-rich rangelands," the group stated in the email. "Cannabis expansion is especially unthinkable during a severe ongoing drought; in the face of the county's failure to monitor and enforce existing regulations. It is irresponsible and reckless."

The email noted that once the ordinance is officially adopted, they will only have 30 days to gather 4,000 signatures to get it on the ballot and hopefully get it passed.

The other referendum being pursued is called "Small is Beautiful Mendocino," and would reportedly repeal only the portion of the ordinance that allows the expansion to 10 percent of parcel size.

Organizers have set up a private "Small is Beautiful Mendocino" group on Facebook. Posts can only be read by members of the group, but the "About" section of the group reads: "This group is exclusively for Mendocino residents who oppose the 10% rule in the upcoming Phase 3 cannabis regulations. We believe small is beautiful — small, sustainable family farms with a small footprint on our environment. Many small farms as opposed to a few large, sometimes multinational, corporate mega grows which are already starting to take root in Lake and Humboldt counties."

As far as leasing, "the biggest issue you face in doing that is the infrastructure to do the water, the plumbing, the sewer, and the road," he said.

In response, Bowlds made it clear that he was "not in favor of selling the property at this point."

"I agree ... it does not look like we will have funds for a new school anytime soon, but if we're talking about our current federal

Phase 1 applicants, she stated: "I don't see necessarily boots on the ground perhaps as being the primary tool that we would use. I think making sure that folks understand what their opportunities are for compliance and permitting, and then making sure they understand the potential consequences if they choose to cultivate without a local permit and a state license."

During public comments, representatives for the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance and the Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group expressed support for increased enforcement efforts, but both strongly urged the supervisors to consider adding more options and pathways for cultivators, particularly for smaller farms, who are not yet in the legal program to enter it.

"I mean those are the things that we need to think about because at the end of the day, because cannabis is a driving economic force of our county whether we like it or not, whether it's commercial or illegal," said Monique Ramirez, director of CCAG. "And how are we going to keep our county viable? We don't want to see all these people just lose their homes, lose their livelihood, lose everything. And then what happens to our county?"

"We reiterate our belief that enforcement without opportunity is a broken paradigm," said Michael Katz, director of the MCA. "And that steps must be taken to allow additional on-ramps for up to 10,000 square feet of cultivation to enter the highly regulated cultivation program, which will result in greater benefit to the community due to increased environmental and community protections. The idea that this is just not possible is just not acceptable."

Referendums in the works

In other cannabis news, due to fierce opposition to the new county cannabis ordinance by many in the community, there are now two different referendums in the works by citizen activists to overturn either part or all of it.

The allowance for expansion of up to 10 percent of parcel size in certain zones is driving a lot of the opposition to the ordinance, titled "Chapter 22.18- Commercial Cannabis Activity Land Use Development Ordinance."

The "Save Our Water, Wildlife, and Way of Life" referendum would repeal the entire ordinance, and is being organized by a team that includes Kate Marianichild, Ellen Drell, Sheila Jenkins, Dennis Slota, Sherrie Ebyam, Steve Decater and Gloria Decater.

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The rest of **Smaller** From Page 1

county cannabis cultivation ordinance at the May 6 meeting at the request of the board, as advised by county counsel, who said the changes supervisors approved on April 27 were significant enough to require additional review by the planning commission.

Planning staff prepared a memo listing 10 main items the board asked commissioners to consider. The most contentious cannabis expansion issue, the proposal to allow up to 10 percent of a parcel zoned ag or rangeland to be planted in cannabis, was not on the memo per se.

But Planning Commission Chair Alison Pernell suggested commissioners start with discussion of Appendix A, which allows that expansion.

Commissioner Cliff Paulson (First District) said he agreed with supporters who said that other factors in the ordinance would limit what would actually "get built out" under a 10 percent of parcel expansion, but that it "still feels like a fairly large number of acres" and "does open up a substantial amount of the county up to cultivation in an area that is not currently cultivated...."

"I don't know if it's even worth sending it back to the supes with that recommendation," he continued; "it seems like they're pretty clear on wanting to stay with that 10 percent cap ... but it is my strong belief that limiting it to 1 acre cap would make a lot more sense."

Commissioner Marie Jones (Fourth District) said she was "not super happy with the 10 percent of parcel area" expansion. "I'd like to see an upper cap on that," she said, "I'm a little bit flexible about what that cap might be, it might be 1 acre, it might be 5 acres. But I don't like the idea of someone being able to put in 30 acres just because they happen to own a 300 acre parcel."

Commissioner Macci Morse (Second District) also expressed her opposition to the suggested 10 percent of parcel expansion, although she acknowledged that having missed the last meeting, she was "very late to the game" of figuring out what the proposed changes to the ordinance meant.

"I don't particularly like the fact that people can't grow six plants outdoors unless they have 10 acres or more, and that's not on the table, and we probably can't adjust that issue right now, but somebody who lives out in Redwood Valley and has 1 acre,

administration ... [it's] rattling, making noises like they're going to provide significant amounts of money for certain types of infrastructure, including schools. Until that gets fleshed out, I want to take a more conservative approach and wait and see.

"It would be an awesome site for building a new school to replace something like Baechtel Grove for example," Bowlds continued. "It also is an ace in the hole for the next time we find ourselves in financial difficulties. Hopefully that doesn't happen for many, many more years."

"We're not compelled to sell it. I'm not ready to pull that trigger," he said.

The decision to sell was an action item, so Bowlds asked "if a board member wants to make a proposal to sell that property, lease that property, make a motion."

No motion was made. The ace remains in the hole for now.

The rest of **Brooktrails** From Page 1

Sylvandale areas. The burn ban usually starts June 1, but this year, Chief Noyer announced a temporary ban for May 8, 9 and 10, "due to current and predicted weather conditions," then May 11 was added, then the ban was continued until May 17.

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Bonnie Lockhart, MSW, of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians Tribal Youth Diversion Program.

Soroptimist Third Tuesday Speaker Series

Soroptimist International of Willits invites you to Zoom with us for our Third Tuesday Speaker Series. This month, Tuesday, May 18, at noon, features speaker Bonnie Lockhart, MSW of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians Tribal Youth Diversion Program.

This is a FREE event and everyone, everywhere, is welcome! RSVP to: SiWillits@Soroptimist.net for the Zoom link.

Bonnie Lockhart, MSW (Northern Pomo) was raised on the Pinoleville Indian Reservation and is a member of the Sherwood Valley Tribe. She is a community organizer, program developer, advocate, and artist, nurturing intergenerational healing, community building, culture and social change.

Bonnie's work focuses on culture, wellness and resilience, involving community members in planning, co-training and action. She currently serves her tribal community in her role as Youth Project Coordinator of Sherwood Valley's Tribal Youth Diversion Program.

The Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians Tribal Youth Diversion Program offers opportunities, support, resources, family activities, mentorship, cultural workshops and outings to tribal youth 12 to 18 and their families located in northern Mendocino County, including: Celebrating Families for Wellness, Red Road Circles for Youth, and Inter-tribal Youth and Community Leadership.

— Soroptimist International of Willits

New director for WCT's Youth Theater Summer Camp

Presently in his second year at Willits High School, drama teacher Tim Fischer is excited to be taking over the director's helm for the Willits Community Theatre's four annual Youth Theater Summer Camp.

Camp kids will enjoy six weeks of learning all aspects of live stage production, culminating in their presentation of "Oz!" a musical fantasy. The camp runs June 28 through August 8 at the high school auditorium. Enrollment remains open through May 15. Anyone interested in submitting an application can visit: www.wctperformingartscenter.org.

— Willits Community Theatre



At right: Tim Fischer is the new director of the Willits Community Theatre's Youth Theater Summer Camp.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Godzilla vs Kong'



Dan Essman
Columnist

The Story: Godzilla and King Kong movie, a (literally) thunderous sequel to "Godzilla: King of the Monsters." It's a grudge match. The big ape punches like a bully boy. The big lizard(?) spars and counters with its armored tail, and then hisses blue fire. Cities are stomped. Puny human-types get squished without much (any) remorse. Only Jia (Kaylee Hottle), the little deaf girl is safe.

My Thoughts: It's a rule: you can't have a King Kong movie without "the girl." The big ape used to favor blondes: Fay Wray, Jessica Lange, Naomi Watts. But lately he's been changing, maturing maybe, becoming paternal. In the last two Kong flicks, he dotes protectively on plucky little girls Millie Bobby Brown and Kaylee Hottle. That noted, in this Godzilla/Kong chapter, the other actors are required to look astonished and/or awestruck throughout the saga. I must have had a similar jaw drop, because the gigantic creatures smashing each other and crushing cityscapes really are impressive. The filmmakers promise a spectacle and deliver a spectacular spectacle. So ... crunch on popcorn and enjoy, with the caveat: Ear plugs might be necessary.

Parents: Not for little children. It really is scary. Especially when the humans are threatened by various smaller carnivorous beasts. And scenes where Kong tears the heads off of voracious flesh eaters of uncertain taxonomy, then eats them raw, well, that's too over-the-top graphic and gross for the sensitive ones. My suggestion is ages mature 10 and up

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



SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church

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Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
10:00 a.m. - Worship
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Info? 707-459-1905
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Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

803 Coast Street
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707-303-5456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jernigan
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive
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ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

- Sound of Soul events
- Membership Discourses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?
Call 707-456-9934
www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church

Celebrating Life In Christ
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Modified Worship Service
10 a.m.
Other ministries suspended for now.
For appointments call:
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St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
459-2252
Sunday Mass inside:
9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church

1 North Main Street, Willits
707-272-0177
Church Services / Communion
by Zoom at noon.
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

St. John Lutheran Church

Karl Bliese, Pastor
Church Service:
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
Bible Study / Sunday School
following the service.
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

707-459-5714
Saturdays:
Meeting place at Adventist
School, 22751 Bray Road
Bible Study - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
<https://willitsca.adventistchurch.org>
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist

A Christ centered, progressive church
ALL ARE WELCOME
286 School St. (at Pine)
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor
Worship Celebration
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.
459-2855

Facebook: www.facebook.com

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

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