

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 505

Thursday, June 15, 2023

22,500 pot plants seized in June 7 busts

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Mendocino County Marijuana Enforcement Team served search warrants on nine locations in the county last week, Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall posted on Facebook on Friday.

The locations of the search warrants served on June 7 ranged from Redwood Valley and Willits to the Bell Springs area in northern Mendocino County.

"Working with our state and local partners, we seized over 22,500 marijuana plants, along with 1,656 pounds of processed marijuana," the post reported. Also seized were 17 firearms.

"Serious environmental damage including stream alterations, trash in the waterways, and water diversions were documented, and investigations into these matters are continuing," Sheriff Kendall posted. "One arrest was made and several subjects were detained. I anticipate several more charges will be filed against others following further investigation."

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

WPD finds pipe bomb after domestic arrest

By Sgt. S. Gray, for WPD

On Sunday, June 11 at about 9:02 am, Willits Police Department officers were requested to assist the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office in responding to a reported possible domestic violence incident involving Kristoff Suba (44, Willits) at a residence in Brooktrails.

WPD officers contacted Suba, and the victim, and Suba's parents at the residence. The victim alluded to a history of domestic violence by Suba and stated she was attacked this morning by Suba. The victim told WPD officers she was able to prevent further attacks from Suba by warding him off with a stun gun.

Statements from the victim, witnesses, and evidence on scene supported the victim's account.

The victim also advised WPD officers she had found a suspected pipe bomb in Suba's belongings, which was likely still in his father's vehicle. Officers obtained consent from the owner of the vehicle and located a suspected improvised

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



Above: Sober Grad volunteer veteran and "M&M Queen" Betty Meineke came prepared with ear protection for the booming music at Friday's party. Many hands make light work including from this capable group of volunteers. Alice Ford helped supervise the carnival game area. Below: Retiring Sober Grad organizers Rachel Cash, left, and Davina Sentak, right, smile for a photo at their last event.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Above: Sober Grad's Rachel Cash, far left and Davina Sentak, far right, smile with the two \$1,000 scholarship winners, Grant Forrester, left and Penelope Maidrand, right. Below, from left: Gerry Gonzalez, left and Tom Allman, right, checked bags and welcomed graduates to the Sober Grad event. Graduate Alyssandra Garcia Carrillo won the M&M jar count with a guess of 1,280, only 51 off, and the closest to the total of 1,229. Graduate Chris Skaggs amazed DJ Ken Steely, the adult volunteers, and all the fellow students by singing several songs of some very impressive the '90s country karaoke, which even encouraged some dancing mid-song. Graduate Jayden Vargas is ready for summer with his prize of a sun hat and sun block.

Grad Night Party

It was another fun all-nighter for members of the Class of 2023 who came to the Willits Charter School to celebrate at Sober Grad on Friday, June 9, where they enjoyed music, entertainment and prizes for staying until 4 am Saturday morning. The party is held to offer grads a drug- and alcohol free alternative the night of graduation and has become an annual tradition for Willits schools. Congrats, grads!

— Maureen Jennison



Congrats to the Grads of 2023

Graduates of the Class of 2023 celebrate achievements with annual commencement ceremony and Main Street parade

Above, from left: Dane Jennison smiles with his diploma after the Friday ceremony. Salutatorian Shelby Perez Bowen speaks to the gathered crowd. Jaron Schrage holds his diploma after walking across the stage in front of family and friends. Student speaker Megan Nava gave a humorous and inspiring speech before receiving her diploma. Below, from left: Ella Garman and Valedictorian Sahil Mohan had fun walking up to the stands before the ceremony. The parade that was held after the ceremony featured many of the 2023 graduates in the backs of decorated vehicles, and proceeded down Main Street and the western portion of town to let family and friends cheer and celebrate. Brandon Ludwig, history teacher and Willits Teachers Association president, gave the double thumbs up showing his excitement for the Class of 2023 as he walked up to the bleachers alongside Thomas Fardig, biology and science teacher, at left.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

BOS passes \$421.6 million budget

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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After three hours of public comment, staff presentations, and discussion at their June 6 meeting Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to approve the proposed \$421.6 million budget for fiscal year 2023/24.

To achieve the balanced budget required by California state law – balanced between local revenues and local spending – the 2023/24 budget uses \$7 million in one-time funds and county reserves.

As explained by the budget staff report, one-time funds include \$1,256,056 of unspent PG&E Disaster Settlement Funds and \$3,218,277 of American Rescue Plan Act set-aside funds.

During public comment, county employees and union negotiators asked the board to include a cost of living adjustment in the 2023/24 budget, but although the board had some discussion about the option, they declined to add a COLA.

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

Fire Safe Council funds local safety projects

Submitted by MCFSC

In fulfillment of its mission to improve wildfire safety throughout the county, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council is pleased to announce this year's Micro-Grant awards.

Micro-Grants of \$2,000 to 8,000 are being given to selected local Fire Departments and affiliated Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils who organized to determine their highest priority risks, and proposed solutions to improve community wildfire safety.

Local organizing is one of our most effective strategies of all for identifying and reducing hazards to our communities. Fueled with a bit of Micro-Grants funding, our local communities can achieve small but key strategic projects and help replace fear and danger in our local communities with proactive planning and action. The PG&E Corporation Foundation agreed, and matched MCFSC's \$50,000 funding, to double the amount available this year.

This year's Micro-Grants
Read the rest of **Grants**
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Hope to see you around

To the Editor:

It has been my pleasure to participate in the emergency, medical, and surgical care of the people of Mendocino County for the past 45 years.

Willits has been a great place to live and raise my family and now in which to retire as of June 30, 2023.

I will miss the personal contact with patients and families in the office but hope to see you around town.

Tedd Dawson, M.D., Willits

A wild quilt show this year

To the Editor:

Wow, what a wild wet quilt show this year!! [May 27 and May 28 in Laytonville]. Saturday gave us perfect weather. Sunday started out beautiful, and ended with rain, hail, lightning, wind, hail – did I mention hail? The billowing clouds and sheets of rain stitched their way across the sky.

This made for the shortest but most memorable quilt show in the 17 years of the show's history. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the Bowles grandchildren and others, the quilts were taken down so quickly.

Fire Roasted Pizza was available both days. Erin, Christina, Will, Dusty, and others were busy baking delectable mouth-watering pizzas. Such a welcome addition to our show.

The 4-H sewing club displayed many projects

created by our local youth. We were happy to include their works and hope they continue to sew and share their creations with us in the future.

The Basket Raffles were won by: Youth Themed Fabric: Daya Maguile; Tea and Coffee Basket: Linda Ingles; Dog and Cat-Kerry Olsen; Fabric Baskets: Sherry Keyes, Davy and Crystal Bowles, and Jane Ellen.

The Raffle Quilt was won by Dorje Bond.

Now for the ribbon winners.... This is a show where all guests vote for their favorites in several categories. Best Home Décor: Mary Lamm's Koi Comfort pillow; Best Bag/Clothing: Lynn Schardt's Pink Carry On Travel Bag; Best Wall Hanging: Lisa Bowles' Gidget's Day Out; Best Use of Color: Sherry Keys' Around the World; Most Playful: Deb Kvaka's It's A Dogs' World; Quilt You'd Most Like to Sleep Under: Nancy Davis' Blue Ridge; My Favorite: Lisa Bowles' Gidget's Day Out; and Best Quilting by Trudi Molina on Pat Grisham's Rolling Wood Hills. Congratulations to all the winners! We want to congratulate everyone who entered the show. The quality and workmanship of each entry was so impressive that it was quite difficult to choose.

Thank you again to all who helped with the show. This year we earned enough to present 3 scholarships to graduating seniors in Laytonville. It would not have been possible without all the dedication and participation of the community.

Deb Kvaka, member of Long Valley Quilters

Willits Art Walks start July 1

Submitted by WCA

June 8 – Willits Center for the Arts and Mendocino County Museum along with our business/organization venue partners and the Chamber of Commerce invite you to join artists, musicians, dancers, artisans and other creatives for three 2023 First Saturday evening strolls July 1, August 5, September 2, at 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Experience art, music, dance, crafts, and food as you walk (or bike) from one venue to the next along East Commercial Street in Historic Downtown Willits.

The Mendocino County Museum and the Willits Center for the Arts will have free opening receptions and special events on these dates. Willits Art Walks is the perfect way to relax, connect and enjoy the showcased arts and creativity between the Mendocino County Museum and the Willits Center for the Arts. This enjoyable evening promises to delight your senses while enjoying the company of others.

Complete your evening with unique world music and art at BACE "afterparties" (located conveniently next to Northspur Brewing Co.). The Willits Center for the Arts homepage www.willitscenterforthearts.org and the Art Walk Facebook event page will have more details for each date.

What's your creative thing? Want to share it with our community?

There is also a call for creators, artists, dancers, musicians, et al. whether individual or an organization to pop up and share inside and outside venues along East Commercial Street on one or all three dates. Email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org with Willits Art Walks pop up request in the subject line. Describe your "thing" ... show, sell, tell ... dance, sing, paint, share a craft or skill. Venues along East Commercial can provide a space for you! Share with your neighbors in creative community. Children must be accompanied by an adult guardian to have a pop up.

Venue participants currently include: the Mendocino County Museum, Kemmy's Pies, Willits Chamber of Commerce, Imagination Station, and the Willits Center for the Arts.

Scholarship Luncheon

Rotary Club awards 19 academic and vocational grants to Willits graduates

Graduating high school is a turning point in the lives of most young adults. Some have a great idea of their future plans and goals, maybe future schooling with an eye to their chosen life path. Others just want to enjoy the freedom from 12 years of school and prefer to begin their lives in a job or just travel for a while. Still others have no concept of their next moves and will wait and see what life brings to them.

Each year, the Willits Rotary Club gifts deserving high school seniors with scholarships which will help make a dent in their school expenses, pay for trade schools, or contribute to their living expenses while they continue to discover how they fit into the ever-changing world.

"Willits Rotary is entering its 75th year," said Tara Moratti, chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. "As long as I can recall, when I was in high school in 1997, they've been offering scholarships. I've been a part of the Scholarship Committee since 2018 when Tim King was the committee chair. He stepped down this year due to family commitments. He remained on the committee, but I said I would take over as chair as long as he was there to assist. The other members are Holly Madrigal, and Shawna Handschug.

"These are one-year scholarships," Moratti explained. "I think there's value in any support you can provide to kids going off and trying to venture into full-time work and jobs and housing, all the things, the culmination of costs that they are jumping into. I think any financial support we can provide them is going to be beneficial, so to be able to offer \$1,000 per young adult is pretty substantial."

In addition to the 15 \$1,000 educational scholarships, an additional selection of four recipients of vocational trade scholarships of \$500 were chosen. Two of these were provided by the King family. Jolene Carrillo donated another of the scholarships in the name of Bill Carrillo.

Moratti explained the process of choosing the recipients. "The information they provided is pretty dynamic. We didn't base it solely on their academics. It's a spectrum of their community involvement, their interests. It's a balance.

"You might have kids that are heavily into the academics and might have a job," she said. "On the other hand, you might have kids that are engaged in a lot of activities and clubs. They might have a GPA of 2.5 or 3 but might also do sports or outside community involvement.... We really try to pick from a diverse group of kids and spread it out to as many different options as possible by offering both vocational and academic scholarships."

Here are the 2023 Rotary Scholarship recipients: Educational: Sahil Mohan, Anya Schwebbs, Shayla Sanchez, Grant Forrester, Harless Lukenbill III, Laila Britton, Shelby Perez Bowen, Jose Pena, Isabella Lopez Mora, Megan Nava, Alexa Nunez, Kayla Jimenez, Mariah Ochoa, Emily Maxwell, and Jared Dunham. Vocational: Jady Arnold, Jayden Vargas, Ava Kelly, and Jaquelin Mercado-Mendoza.

The scholarship recipients were introduced to the Willits Rotary members in a luncheon, in the engine bays of Little Lake Fire's Station 54 with plenty of pizza and sweets (provided by Ann Alumbaugh). Each student, in turn, stood up and gave a short talk, stating their names, what they would like to do with their lives, where they would go if there were absolutely no barriers, and their further educational and life plans.

Their answers showed them to be an extremely diverse group of young adults who are serious about their future plans, having taken their 12 years of schooling to discover their passions and to formulate a reasonable plan on how to reach their goals.

The students were both personable (introducing themselves to the Rotary members and engaging them in conversation) and intelligent (expressing their plans and visions). It was refreshing to spend quality time with these exceptional youths.

"It's interesting," mused Moratti. "Some live in this space where they don't plan to ever come back to Willits, maybe they'll visit or come back sometime in the future. I always like to ask if they have no financial or geographical boundary, what would be their ultimate dream place to live and what would they like to do. Jose Peña said he would like to explore other planets.

"Four or five of them really wanted to be on country property and live off the land. There were others who said they would just like to travel. I thought that these were the kind of kids that might just come back. One wanted to be a medical social worker. There's a nice array of opportunities that the kids are exploring," Moratti said.

"I think it's important to remember, these kids came in in their freshman year and got sent home because of COVID and had to spend the majority of their high school years behind a computer screen for their education. This was the first full year back without the restrictions that they had on them the last three years. Now we're asking them to go out into the world and be the next generation of hope."



Above: Members and friends of the Willits Rotary Club posed with the scholarship recipients in Little Lake Fire's Station 54. Below, from left: Sheyla Sanchez, academic scholarship recipient, wants to be a lobbyist for Native Americans. Jayden Vargas is the recipient of one of two King Family vocational scholarships. Isabella Lopez Mora, recipient of an academic scholarship from the Rotary Club. Further below, from left: Jose Pena told the attendees that he would like to explore other planets. Academic scholarship recipient Kayla Jimenez was a member of the Latino Club, among other activities. Jady Arnold, vocational scholarship recipient, is studying to become a lineman. At bottom, from left: Ava Kelly received a Rotary Club vocational scholarship awarded in the name of Bill Carrillo. Sahil Mohan, recipient of one of Rotary Club's academic scholarships. Rotary Club academic scholarship recipient Anya Schwebbs.



At left: Michael Colvig, departing Willits High School principal, attended as did Tamara Alaniz, Brooktrails Township manager Below: These Willits High School scholarship recipients have a head start on their futures.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Correction

In "Mint Condition," a story in the June 1, 2023 edition of Willits Weekly about the Willits Chamber of Commerce Car and Bike Show, the name of the winner of the "Best of Show" trophy, Dick Walkley, was unfortunately misspelled.



Willits Weekly regrets the error and congratulates Walkley on receiving the "Best of Show" award for his 1940 Ford Coupe.

Road Closure for Hometown Celebration

Notice of Road Closure: Friday, June 30 from 3 to 11 pm: North of the Main / Wood Street intersection to South of Commercial Street.

A portion of East and West Mendocino will be closed as well. Detour available.

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.

Willits Weekly

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Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, June 15: Sausage Rotini Casserole, Green Salad, Garlic Bread

Friday, June 16: Ground Sirloin, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Monday, June 19: Tuna Salad Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

Tuesday, June 20: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Green Salad, Garlic Bread

Wednesday, June 21: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Veggie, Corn Bread

Thursday, June 22: Western Bacon Burger, Pickle, Green Salad

Friday, June 23: Brazilian Sausage, Sauerkraut on Bun w/Mustard, Pickle

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

Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am.

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.

Sherwood Firewise Communities announces its July 4th Firewise EXPO and Raffle

Submitted by Sherwood Firewise

The Sherwood Firewise Communities announces its 2023 Firewise EXPO and Raffle which will be held at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits on July 4th from noon to 5 pm.

This event will have representatives from Sherwood Firewise, CAL FIRE, Mendocino Fire Safe Council, and the Community Emergency Response Team.



There will be presentations and exhibits on Home Hardening and Fire Safety, as well as fun, games, and prizes for the kids.

Raffle tickets will be available at the Sherwood Firewise booth or online at sherwoodfirewise.org. The drawing will be held that night. Winners will be announced at our July 8 Quarterly Meeting. Winners need not be present to win.

More info: info@sherwoodfirewise.org

'Blue Zones Project Story, June 25

Submitted by ATW

Avenues to Wellness presents: a free presentation of "Blue Zones Project Story," Monday, June 26, 6 to 7 pm. Location for this event: the Willits Community Center. 111 East Commercial Street.

Blue Zones Project is a community-led well-being initiative that encourages small changes that lead to healthier choices. The BZ team will share the Blue Zones story, the life habits of the world's healthiest, longest-lived people, as well as explain the importance of our environment in how it impacts our health. Join us to learn how to get involved!

Avenues to Wellness is a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. Visit www.avenuestowellness.org to view Video Archives of previous talks. Call 707-456-9676 for more information.

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

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!

ENTERTAINING WORD SEARCH

D I N N E R E L W E N G K F X V M B Z F D Z
 A S I I U I B X N G L W X X C I R T A I N S F E
 M O S L E X B I C I G L W X X C I R P R A E
 B O I K E P R N T K I P S N X C E I R E V H E
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- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| AMBIANCE | EVENING | PARTY |
| APPETIZER | EXCITEMENT | PLAYLIST |
| CATERING | FAVOR | PREP |
| CELEBRATE | GUEST | SEATING |
| COCKTAILS | HOLIDAY | SETTING |
| DECOR | HOSTESS | SILVERWARE |
| DINNER | LEFTOVERS | VENUE |
| ENTERTAIN | MENU | WELCOME |

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
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19				20				21	
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48				49				50	
53				54				55	
56				57				58	
58				59				60	

CLUES ACROSS

- Understand intuitively
- Two of something
- Not involving computer tech
- Acclaimed
- Undermine
- The condition of being concealed or hidden
- Irritate
- The process of developing a theory
- Ceramic jar
- Not fresh
- Dad's fashion accessory
- Popular review site
- New Mexico county
- death do us part
- Fees
- Takes with force
- One-time Yankees rookie sensation
- Gordon and Snider are two
- Body parts
- Arranges
- Fiddler crabs
- Mimics

CLUES DOWN

- Mangled
- Ruffled some feathers
- Not young
- Lakers legend
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Direction (Scottish)
- Intestinal inflammation
- Spring back in fear
- Owl genus
- Girls
- Unbeliefs
- Force unit

- Witnesses
- They —
- Lasso
- Runs down
- In response to
- Bird-like dinosaur
- Metamorphic stages
- Conditions of incapacity
- Sodas are sold in these units
- Break away from
- Ethereal
- Boggy
- Expired trade agreement
- Went alone
- Animal noises
- Woman who graduated from a specific school
- The very top
- Organs in males
- Earnings
- Z Z Z
- Reddish browns
- A salt or ester of acetic acid
- A place to get off your feet
- More disreputable
- Kidney condition
- Cease moving
- Quick
- Extra seed covering
- 'Survivor: Panama' winner
- Six
- One who inspects lamps
- Small parrot
- Primordial matter of the universe
- fi (slang)

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

May 22 to May 28

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **56 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 22

8:15 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of Margie Drive and issued a warning.
 8:25 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Nancy Lane and Margie Drive and issued a warning.
 10:50 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.
 11:07 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of West Highway 20 and Coast Street and issued a warning.
 11:13 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

May 23

1:42 am: MATTIUZZO, Louis Frank (69) of Comptche was contacted in the 100 block of Kawi Place. He was arrested pursuant to 11370.1 HS (Possession of Drugs while Armed), on felony charges of carrying a loaded firearm while not the registered owner and carrying a loaded concealed weapon on person, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.
 6:16 pm: WICKSTROM, Noel August (55) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation.
 11:55 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

May 24

12:14 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.
 4:42 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Creekside Drive and South Lenore Avenue.
 5:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
 9:15 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

May 25

1:06 pm: Officers initiated a robbery investigation in the 200 block of North Main Street.
 3:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of South Main Street.

May 26

1:13 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:39 am: LAWSON Jr., Zackary Alan (33) of Ukiah was contacted near the intersection of Manzanita Avenue and Hazel Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole and on misdemeanor charges of unlawful operation of a vehicle and driving with a suspended license.

8:36 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of East Valley Street.

10:10 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

3:45 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:30 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

8:58 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

9:17 pm: PRITCHARD, Gabrallia Marie (21) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. She was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), on felony charges of domestic battery, and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

11:11 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of South Humboldt Street and East Valley Street.

11:26 pm: ALEXANDER, Louren Marie (24) of Hayward was contacted near the intersection of West Highway 20 and Coast Street. She was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol) and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher and driving under the influence of alcohol while on probation.

May 27

2:01 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 100 block of Marcela Drive and issued a warning.

2:29 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 200 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

2:54 am: DECK, Frank Sulo (36) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of School Street and West Van Lane. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher.

9:33 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:18 am: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Manor Way and South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:50 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Trembley Court.

10:04 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Bonnie Lane and Sandy Avenue and issued a warning.

May 28

7:25 am: Officers conducted a stop in the 1600 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

9:17 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

11:10 pm: COLEMANDANIELS, John (23) of Los Angeles was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of reckless driving and driving without a license.

Looking for something to celebrate?

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

June 15: National Smile Power Day, National Nature Photography Day, National Lobster Day, Magna Carta Day, Beer Day, Global Wind Day, Justice For Janitors Day, National Electricity Day, National Foam Party Day, National Freelancers Day, National Kiss A Wookiee Day, National Megalodon Day, National Prune Day, Native American Citizenship Day, Worldwide Day Of Giving
June 16: Flowers In Your Hair Day, National Fudge Day, Fresh Veggies Day, Arborist Appreciation Day, Bloomsday, International Day Of The African Child, International Waterfall Day, Ladies' Initiated In Baseball Day, National Flip Flop Day, No Orange Clothes Day, Wish Fulfillment Day, World Sea Turtle Day
June 17: National Apple Strudel Day, National Eat Your Vegetables Day, Quote Famous People Day, Global Garbage Man Day, National Mascot Day, Nursing Assistants Day, World Croc Day, World Day To Combat Desertification And Drought, World Juggling Day, World Tessellation Day
June 18: National Go Fishing Day, National Splurge Day, International Picnic Day, International Sushi Day, Clean Your Aquarium Day, Autistic Pride Day, International Day For Countering Hate

Speech, International Panic Day, National Black America's Day Of Repentance, National Cherry Tart Day, National Wanna Get Away Day
June 19: National Free Bsd Day, National Martini Day, Garfield The Cat Day, Juneteenth, World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, Sauntering Day, International Box Day, National Eat An Oreo Day, National Pets In Film Day, National Watch Day, Take Your Cat To Work Day, World Albatross Day
June 20: National Kouign Amann Day, American Eagle Day, National Ice Cream Soda Day, National Vanilla Milkshake Day, World Refugee Day, International Tennis Day, World Productivity Day, National Hike With A Geek Day, New Identity Day, Nystagmus Awareness Day, Plain Yogurt Day
June 21: National Selfie Day, Go Skateboarding Day, National Peaches 'N' Cream Day, World Humanist Day, Fête De La Musique, International Yoga Day, Atheist Solidarity Day, Make Music Day, National Aboriginal Day, National Cookie Dough Day, National Day Of The Gong, National Dog Party Day, National Smoothie Day, World Giraffe Day, World Hydrography Day, World Motorcycle Day, World Peace And Prayer Day

At left: 2023 Willits Frontier Days volunteers are ready to roll for this year's celebration including, from back row, left: Steven Hoyle, Eldon Miller, Lee Persico, June Sizemore, Jeff Cook, Karen Cavanaugh, Tracy Evans, Rod Cavanaugh, Magnolia Jennison, Marcy Barry, Bruce Cartwright, and Genevieve Magnan. Front row: Catie Spackman, Elena Arkelian, Lisa Arkelian, Danielle Barry, Araya Sizemore, and Hailey Riley.



Photo by Maureen Jennison

Ready, Set, Frontier Days!

The lampposts are donning their rodeo best, and that is a sure sign that Willits Frontier Days is just around the corner! This year's festivities will begin on Friday, June 23 and conclude on Tuesday, July 4.

All the usual favorites are planned: truck and tractor pulls, professional and junior rodeo events, the Hometown Celebration on Main Street, dances, breakfast, barbecue, parade, live music, the carnival and much more.

Make sure to avoid the line, and buy your tickets ahead of time to support the 2023 Sweetheart contestant Hazel Cooke by calling her at 707-354-0985.

Congrats

Willits teens compete in rodeo finals in Bishop

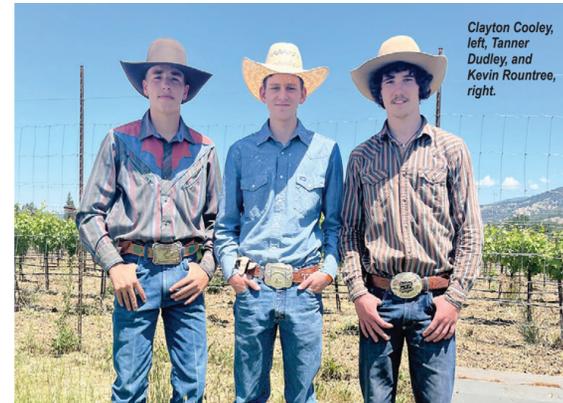
Three Willits boys have qualified to compete at the California High School Rodeo Associate State Finals Rodeo in Bishop, California, June 10-17.

Clayton Cooley, Tanner Dudley and Kevin Rountree are part of the CHSRA District 2 Rodeo team and have spent the last school year competing in their events. At the end of the high school rodeo season, the top six competitors in each event qualify to compete at the state level against other districts from all over the state of California.

Clayton Cooley, 10th grade, will compete in bull riding, steer wrestling, and team roping. Tanner Dudley, 9th grade, will compete in team roping and light rifle shooting. Kevin Rountree, 10th grade, will compete in bull riding.

You will be able to livestream CHSRA State Finals Rodeo from the CHSRA Facebook page or <https://www.chsra.com/high-school-state-finals>.

Congratulations boys, for your hard work and dedication to your sport!



Clayton Cooley, left, Tanner Dudley, and Kevin Rountree, right.

Sherwood Firewise Communities' Firewise Expo and Raffle at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits

Games Prizes Tuesday, July 4, 2023 from 12 - 5 pm Presentations Exhibits

LET'S ROCK! And Much More! ROCK & DELIVERY \$850 ROCK & DELIVERY \$600

TWO YARDS OF BASE ROCK \$106

Over \$5,000 in prizes! RAFFLE TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE at sherwoodfirewise.org

3 for \$10 5 for \$15 8 for \$20 11 for \$25 25 for \$50

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American Legion Post 174 invites you to a

BEER WAGON RAFFLE

Funding our Boy's State & High School Scholarships

Enter to win an ALL-TERRAIN RADIO FLYER WAGON, LOADED WITH CRAFT BEER!

Once the wagon is full, secondary winners will receive the overflow!

TICKETS \$10 EA. (3 FOR \$25)
ON SALE JUNE 12TH • DRAWING JULY 4TH

Tickets can be purchased by contacting one of our Post Legionnaires, or request tickets and have them mailed to you upon receipt of your remittance. Also available at Willits Furniture (see Legionnaire, Curtis Dashiell.) You need not be present to win.

21+ to participate. Please drink responsibly.
American Legion Post 174, P.O. Box 536, Willits, CA 95490
For further assistance call one of the following phone numbers:
Roger: 707-456-9858, Bob: 707-272-1987

COVID-19 vaccines are here for children 6 months and older. Help protect your little ones.

30 years of Caring | MCHC HEALTH CENTERS | (707) 456-9600
LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER 45 Hazel St., Willits
We accept Medi-Cal, Medicare, Partnership and other insurance. SE HABLA ESPAÑOL.

MCHC.ORG • MCHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Official Calendar Sponsor

HEART OF THE REDWOODS

Willits
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Est. 1926

MAKING WILLITS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY
Serving the community since 1926

<https://willits.org/>

299 East Commercial Street
Willits, California 95490

Please feel free to visit our office for brochures, maps and additional information about the area

(707) 459-7910

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Transformers: Rise of the Beasts'

The Story: Hasbro the toy corporation has brought back to the Big Screen its shape-shifting metallic heroes: Optimus Prime and the Autobots. It seems there is a nasty hungry gigantic Being out there in the Vast Dark Universe, and this gigantic Being wants to suck the whole of our planet Earth into its hungry gut. If this nasty hungry Being can get hereabouts in the Milky Way, Earth is toast.

Optimus Prime and the Autobots aim to stop the horror of our planet being crunched and eaten. Fortunately, a whole new species of Transformers show up, and they're anxious to help the Autobots. Battles follow. Then more battles.

This is a Hollywood movie, so of course there's a subplot about the loving, but economically struggling, Diaz Family. Young Chris Diaz, who's plucky but very sick, can't get the medical treatment he needs because the Family doesn't have the money.

My Thoughts: Kid will love the movie. I loved the clunky and portentous dialogue - similar but significantly better than the clunky portentous dialogue in "Fast X." Optimus Prime (though he sounds a bit stuffy) is the very soul of nobility. Mirage (the talking Porsche voiced by Pete Davidson) is cheeky. I rooted for the metallic eagle Airazor (voiced by Michelle Yeoh) who sounds brave and sure of herself.

I truly enjoyed this movie. And because all the voice actors were so distinct in character, I believe this Transformers story could have been effectively produced as a radio drama. All it would need is a half-dozen 8-year-olds banging pots and pans for the sound effects. Bang! Crash! Boom!

Parents: The flick honors courage, loyalty and friendship, and a good education. It's a fine movie for kids.

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

NOVO
THEATRE Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-NOVO (6696)
www.novoytheatre.com

Coming Soon:
ELEMENTAL

THE FLASH (2023)

(PG) 13 2 hrs 24 mins
Fri.-Thurs:
1:00, 4:10 & 7:20pm

Movie Times for June 16 thru June 22

SPIDER-MAN: Across the Spider-verse

(PG) 2 hrs 20 mins
Fri.-Thurs:
1:30, 4:35 & 7:40pm

Masks Optional

TRANSFORMERS: RISE OF THE BEASTS

(PG) 13 2 hrs 7 mins
Fri.-Thurs:
2:00, 5:00 & 8:00pm

OVER 21 CLUB - Luxury Recliners

WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS

2023 Schedule of Events

More info and entry forms: www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

Friday, June 23:
TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS
Jack Sharp Arena | 6 pm
Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10
STREET DANCE
featuring Joe Peters
Following truck pulls | Free
Saturday, June 24:
SWEETHEART JUDGING
Appearance & Poise
Noon | Rodeo Grounds
Sunday, June 25:
HORSESHOW
Jack Sharp Arena | 8 am
SWEETHEART JUDGING
Horsemanship:
During Horse Show | Jack Sharp Arena
Wednesday, June 28:
CARNIVAL OPENS
Friday, June 30:
HOMETOWN CELEBRATION
Main Street - Downtown Willits | 5 to 9 pm
Saturday, July 1:
SWEETHEART CROWNED

Sunday, July 2:
LIONS COWBOY BREAKFAST
Rec Grove Park | 7 am
Adult: \$13, Child: \$9
JUNIOR RODEO
Jack Sharp Arena | 9 am
Adult: \$10, Child (2 and under): free
Monday, July 3:
CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO
7 pm | Jack Sharp Arena
Box: \$25, Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10
WESTERN DANCE
featuring The Boondock Boys
Following rodeo | Free
Tuesday, July 4:
HORSESHOE CONTEST
Rec Grove Park | 10 am
PARADE "Wranglers, Boots & Spurs"
Main Street - Downtown Willits | 11 am
COUNTRY MUSIC RODEOLA
Rec Grove Park | Noon
BEEF BARBECUE
Rec Grove Park | Noon
Adult: \$20 & Child/Senior: \$12
CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO
Jack Sharp Arena | 4 pm
Box: \$25, Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10

What's Happening Around Town

Thursday, June 15

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market outdoors for the season on Main Street at the old Rexall parking lot. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.

Meeting to Support the Museum in Willits: Friends of the Mendocino County Museum invites the public to a community gathering of Friends and community members interested in supporting the Mendocino County Museum in Willits.

Thursday, June 15 at 5:30 pm at the Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Meet board members, check out the Museum exhibit area, meet Mendocino County Supervisor John Haschak, share delicious food and drink, and learn about Friends activities.

Friday, June 16

Generifus at Shanachie: Generifus is the music project of Washington state native Spencer Sult who's released around 20 LPs, EPs and compilations since 2005. Friday, June 16 at 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, June 17

Tech Help at the Library: "Is your computer on the fritz? Can't figure out how to open your email? Want to install a new app on your system? Bring your questions here to get help from our tech savvy volunteer." Saturday, June 17, 11 am to 12 noon. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 707-459-5908.

95th Annual Firefighters Association Open House and BBQ Fundraiser: Your Willits area volunteer firefighters invite you to their 2023 fundraiser, Saturday, June 17 from 12 noon to 8 pm at the Little Lake Fire Protection District Station 54, 74 East Commercial Street. This year's event features the 2nd annual Cornhole Tournament, bounce houses, rides on fire vehicles, and tours of the fire station. The raffle

LITTLE LAKE FIRE OPEN HOUSE

2ND ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
JUNE 17, 2023

\$80 Team Entry Fee

Signup on Scoreholla or at Firehouse on June 17th 2023

2 Brochets Available Social/Back Yarder & Competitive Brochets

Sunday, June 18

Happy Father's Day!

Father's Day Celebration: The Willits United Methodist Church is putting on a potluck luncheon to honor and celebrate all fathers. Lunch from noon to 2 pm. "Please call the church office, 707-459-2855, and leave a message telling us how many will be coming, so that we can set up properly." All are welcome. Methodist Church, 286 School Street.

Little League Allstars Playoffs: Willits Redwood Little League presents Allstars Playoffs, Saturday, June 17, at Loflin Fields, 600 East Commercial Street. Free to watch. Minors Allstars at 10 am; Majors Allstars at 3 pm. Pulled Pork BBQ available from 11 am to dusk. Snack Shack, free parking. Movie Night at dark at the Gallups-Seaton Field to follow.

Dirty Cello at WCA: Willits Center for the Arts presents Dirty Cello Saturday, June 17 for an afternoon fundraiser concert in the beautiful Great Room at 2 pm. Wine and nibbles will be available for sale. "Cello like you've never heard before.... An energetic show described as 'funky, carnival, romantic, sexy, tangled, electric, fiercely rhythmic, textured, and only occasionally classical.'" Tickets, \$20, benefit the WCA; available online at willitcenterforhearts.org or at the door. WCA is located at 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 707-459-1726.

Winterlark at Shanachie: San Francisco Bay Area singer-songwriters Kristin Olson, upright bass, and Sweeney E. Schragg, guitar, bring "urban folk musicality that blends literate lyrics; bossa nova and soul rhythms; and the harmonic, melodic, and improvisatory traditions of jazz." Saturday, June 17 at 7 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Verbal Cardio at BACE: "Come scope out the verbal cardio from local legends Soul Sage, Devi Genuone, Narayan from Zion, and Lemuria. House music set with Aethernaut to close out the night. Saturday, June 17, doors open 9 pm. \$10 at the door. 18+. BACE, 109 North Main Street.

Sunday, June 18

Happy Father's Day!

Father's Day Celebration: The Willits United Methodist Church is putting on a potluck luncheon to honor and celebrate all fathers. Lunch from noon to 2 pm. "Please call the church office, 707-459-2855, and leave a message telling us how many will be coming, so that we can set up properly." All are welcome. Methodist Church, 286 School Street.

WILLITS REDWOOD LITTLE LEAGUE PRESENTS ALLSTARS PLAYOFFS

FREE TO WATCH

MINORS @ 10AM & MAJORS @ 3PM

GAMES TO BE PLAYED ON LOFLIN FIELD (600 EAST COMMERCIAL ST., WILLITS, CA)

PULLED PORK BBQ @ 11AM-DUSK

SNACK SHACK • FREE PARKING • FUN TIMES

MOVIE NIGHT @ 8PM ONLY ON GALLUPS SEATON FIELD

#3 'Building Community' Event: Celebrate Summer, Celebrate Willits at the third "Building Community" meeting, Sunday, June 18 at 4 pm, at Willits Methodist Church, Pine and School streets. Free. All are welcome! Review progress and next steps on Housing, Health, Local Food and more.

Help build the resilience of our community. Hosted by WELL. Info: janemccabe1944@gmail.com or mstrong@willitsonline.com.

Tuesday, June 20

Summer Solstice Farmers Convergence at Ridgewood Ranch: Join fellow farmers and farm supporters for a day of learning, networking, visioning and relaxing (swimming, yoga) at Ridgewood Ranch, Tuesday, June 20, from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Tickets: \$10, includes breakfast snacks and a hearty lunch. Sliding scale, everyone welcome. Hosted by NCO's Mendo Lake Food Hub, Good Farm Fund and Farm to School, School of Adaptive Agriculture, Golden Rule Community, Mendocino County Food Policy Council, and Blue Zones Project - Mendocino County. Pre-registration requested: <https://ncoinc.networkforgood.com/events/57544-farmers-convergence>

SUMMER SOLSTICE FARMERS Convergence

June 20, 2023

Ridgewood Ranch Willits, CA 8:30am - 4pm

Tickets: \$10

Includes light breakfast & lunch, sliding scale, everyone welcome

Join us for a day of learning, networking, visioning, and relaxing

Presented by: NCO, Golden Rule Community, Mendocino County Food Policy Council, School of Adaptive Agriculture, Good Farm Fund, Farm to School

Wednesday, June 21

Mobile Herbal Wellness Clinic at St. Francis: The Mendocino Community Wellness Collective and the Mendocino County Herb Guild's Mobile Clinic offers free and donation-based herbal remedies and products, health education and herbal consultations. Wednesday, June 21 from 3 to 6 pm at the parking lot of St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church at the corner of Commercial and Main streets. Friday, June 30 at the Willits Food Bank, from 1 to 4 pm. Staffed with a rotation of community herbalists, nurses, and other health care practitioners. Info: mendocwc@gmail.com

Willits Stamp Club: Wednesday, June 21, 5 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Bring your collection and enjoy time perusing stamps. Refreshments provided.

Thursday, June 22

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market outdoors for the season on Main Street at the old Rexall parking lot. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales" story time from 3:30 to 4 pm.

Willits Frontier Days Truck & Tractor Pulls: Frontier Days kicks off Friday, June 23 with Truck & Tractor Pulls at the Jack Sharp Arena at 6 pm. Adult: \$20, child (3+) \$10. More info and entry forms: www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

Katharine Cole Duo at Shanachie: the former cowgirl from Hopland, Country Kitty Rose, performs with sass and style, Thursday, June 22 at 7 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Willits Frontier Days Street Dance: Friday, June 23 after the Truck Pulls. Featuring Joe Peters. Free. More info: www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

Friday, June 23

CAL FIRE Safety Meeting at the Library: Come to the CAL FIRE meeting at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street, Friday, June 23, 4:30 to 5:30 pm, to

learn about fire safety. Discussions on creating an action plan, defensible space, home hardening, and more. This is a family-friendly event. More info: www.mendolibrary.org or 707-459-5908.

Saturday, June 24

Clay Hawkins Duo at Shanachie: "Late Night, Boot Stomping, Road Music from the Heart" by slide guitarist and songwriter Clay Hawkins and longtime co-conspirator Andrew Robertson on the upright bass. Friday, June 23 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Paws and Tales at the Library: Animal-themed story time with special guest, Casey the therapy dog, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Saturday, June 24, 11 to 11:30 am. Happening on the last Saturday of the month. All ages welcome. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908

Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Judging: Sweetheart candidate Hazel Cooke will be judged on appearance and poise on Saturday, June 24 at noon at the WFD Rodeo Grounds. More info: www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

Fratello Marionettes at the Library: The Fratello Marionettes has produced timeless marionette shows since 1989. Puppeteer Kevin Menegus brings classic stories and vignettes to life through his hand-crafted marionettes. Saturday, June 24, from 1:30 to 2 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908

Hilary & Christiane at Shanachie: Folk-based country and blues and unique vocals and harmony by Sonoma County based multi-instrumental duo Hilary & Christiane. Shanachie Pub on Saturday, June 24 at 8 pm. 50B South Main Street.

Sunday, June 25

Willits Frontier Days Horseshow: Sunday, June 25, starting at 8 am, at the Jack Sharp Arena. Horsemanship judging for Sweetheart candidate Hazel Cooke will take place during the horseshow. More info: www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

Empty THE Shelter

Join us the third Saturday of every month as we try to get EVERY DOG out for a walk! WALKER BEGIN AT 9 A.M.

Third Saturday every month!

MENDOCINO COUNTY ANIMAL CARE SERVICES UKIAH SHELTER
298 PLANT ROAD
707-467-6453

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mendocoinanimalshelter.com

E. COMMERCIAL ST., WILLITS

ART WALK

FIRST SATURDAYS
5:30 - 8:30 PM

JULY 1 | AUGUST 5 | SEPTEMBER 2

TAKE A WALK WITH US!
ART - MUSIC - FOOD - CRAFTS - COMMUNITY

COME DOWNTOWN TO EAST COMMERCIAL ST.

ENJOY WCA GALLERY OPENINGS, MUSEUM EVENTS, AND POP-UP CREATIVE HAPPENINGS!

SEEKING ARTISTS for POP-UPS!
For more information go to willitscenterforhearts.org or email manager@willitscenterforhearts.org

THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE!

Pride Festival at Rivino Winery, June 23

Celebrate LGBTQIA2S+ Pride Month at Rivino Winery, 4001 Rivino Ranch Road in Ukiah, on Saturday, June 23 from 3 to 8 pm. Music by DJ Buho, dancing, Lip Sync Battle, food, and arts & craft vendors. No cover. All ages. "For equality, freedom, empowerment, love." Visit "Mendocino Pride Celebration 2023" on Facebook for more details.

Discover the Blue Zones and Their Power 9 Health Habits

Understand the Life Radius and the Power of People, Places and Policy

What does community action look like, to become a Certified Blue Zones Project Community?

Location: WILLITS Community Center 111 E Commercial St. FREE to the public. Donations appreciated! Wheelchair accessible.

Blue Zones Team: Top Left to right: Tina Tyler O'Shea- Executive Director, Anicena Chavez-Engagement Lead, Michelle Duarte-Event & Office Specialist, Lucy Bartholomew-Public Policy Advocate, Ryan Veness-Organization Lead

Blue Zones Project Story
Mon. June 26, 6-7pm

Blue Zones Project (BZP) is a community led well-being initiative that encourages small changes that lead to healthier choices. Our team will share the Blue Zones Story, the life habits of the world's healthiest, longest-lived people, as well as explain the importance of our environment in how it impacts our health. Join us to learn how you can get involved!

Our Blue Zones Project Mendocino Team consists of local resident professionals who are passionate about making our community a happier, healthier place to live, work, learn and play.

Call 456-9676 for more information. Email: office@bluzonesproject.org Visit: avenuestowellness.org

Willits Frontier Days Hometown Celebration
Friday, June 30th

Join us on Main Street in Downtown Willits

5pm - 9pm Free to Attend

Food, Aerial Silk Performers, Classic Cars, Motorcycles, Face Painters, Henna Artist, Bounce Houses & More! Live Music by Pavlos Garage

Face Painting by Ashley Rodriguez & Tiffany's Family Circus

Blue Zones with the CRIBUS (Community Resilience Institute) by CircaMecca.org

Willits Art Walks start July 1

Join artists, musicians, dancers, artisans and other creatives for three First Saturday evening Willits Art Walks this summer, on July 1, August 5, and September 2, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Experience art, music, dance, crafts and food as you walk (or bike) from one venue to the next along East Commercial Street. Creators / artists are called to participate at popups along the way: Email manager@willitscenterforhearts.org with "Willits Art Walks pop up request" in the subject line, and info about what you'll do. The Willits Center for the Arts homepage www.willitscenterforhearts.org and the Art Walk Facebook event page will have more details for each date.

Sheriff's Activities League Volleyball

The Sheriff's Activities League Volleyball program's summer schedule began June 12 and goes through August 1. 9 to 11 am, Monday through Thursday, and on Saturday, at the Willits High School gym. For junior high and high school ages. Coaches: Jon and Elsa Jessup. "For now it's one session per time slot, but if we have a larger number of beginners attending, we will add an additional beginner level of instruction to accommodate for the different levels of play." Info: Jon at 707-841-7175.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church
290 S. Lenore Ave. Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. - Worship
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Info: 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street P.O. Box 489, Willits
Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

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

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

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

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

More information? Call 504-224-8703 www.eckankar.org

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment: 459-2252
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

Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

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

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

Willits United Methodist Church
Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort where all are welcome
Pastor Rosemary Landry
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
www.willitsumc.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willitsumc
If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Kenneth Persico

Kenneth Lee Persico of Willits, born September 1, 1959 to Lee and Evelyn Persico, passed away June 7, 2023 in Ukiah, at the age of 63. Kenny is survived by his loving wife of 34 (almost 35) years, two beautiful daughters, a granddaughter, sisters, brother, parents, cousins, mother-in-law, aunts, uncles, and so many friends.



Better known as Ken, Kenny, or KP. Growing up on the P/6 ranch, learning from his great-grandpa the rancher lifestyle. Dabbling in the rodeo scene for a brief moment in his adolescent age, he continued to help behind the chutes for years, aiding many young bull and bronc riders (pulling their rope, pep talk, etc.) right before their ride. He graduated from Willits High, and started working for himself as a carpenter.

Kenny had many talents and hobbies in his lifetime, ranging from but not limited to leather work, wood working, carpentry, welding, mechanics, gardening, cooking/BBQing, and so much more. He was a true jack of all trades, mastering some. His carpentry and wood work were what left many family, friends, and clients speechless with amazement. There wasn't a desire, want, or need in a house, barn, or shop, he couldn't figure out how to incorporate for you.

He was a skilled welder and metal fabricator, creating horseshoe yard art and furniture like no other, and rebuilding many trucks and trailers back in his day. He took great pride in his work and was highly respected in our community.

He had a deep love and passion for hunting, target shooting, the outdoors, his dogs, his buddies, and family. He was our rock and sounding board for all things in life. He taught many of his skills and talents to others, especially if they worked with him, he always wanted to share his knowledge.

Known as a fun-loving, very social, good-time-having guy, with a wealth of knowledge, he will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and the community.

A celebration of life will be held later, to be announced by the family.

Dean McConnell

Dean Allen McConnell, nee Shroyer, 57, died May 23, 2023 in Willits. Dean was born to Donna Lynch and John Shroyer in Ukiah on May 21, 1966.

Dean was raised in Willits by his mother and adoptive father, Roy McConnell, attending Willits High School and graduating in 1984. He had a passion for food and lived a dream he had of becoming a cook at the Luxor in Las Vegas.

Dean enjoyed music and comedy, often able to recite entire skits from memory, and was always known for his quick wit. He cultivated a "family of his choice" and had a personal style that will be remembered by many.

Dean is survived by his children, Tyler and Megan McConnell, and their mother, Kyra Hanson, of Colorado, sister Tina (Charles) Bredehoff, brother Troy McConnell, and niece Kaya. Many aunts, uncles and cousins will keep his memory.

A remembrance will be held July 15, at Little Lake Grange in Willits. <https://gofund.me/cb5def95>



Ed Mitchell

Ed Mitchell beloved husband, father and grandfather passed away on May 29th. He was 74. Born to Helen and Jay Mitchell in Modesto, the family moved to Whitethorn, Ca. when Ed was two. Ed spent many summers working in the woods with his dad and began driving a logging truck when he was 16. He loved working outdoors. He

was proud of his "Thorn" heritage...his early years in the rural mountains of the north coast and the ethics imparted were evident for the rest of his life.

Ed had a ten year career with Bank of America, which taught him the financial aspects of real estate. He then began developing land for residential projects. For 18 years he built many beautiful homes around the town of Sonoma and later in Willits. His most recent accomplishment, working closely with his wife and son, was the Haehl Creek Subdivision in Willits.

Ed was well known for his work ethic, love of family and friends and his generous spirit. He was an avid hunter his entire life. Ed enjoyed entertaining friends and family at his ranch and was a master at the grill. Ed was a unique individual, who could get things done, whether it was at a public hearing, a construction job site, or on his ranch, which captivated his heart. He loved meeting people and was quick to make friends. He always took time to stop and chat with everyone he knew and touched many lives.

One of Ed's dreams was to raise cattle, so in 1986 he and his dad bought his first 16 cows. He took great pride in the healthy, beautiful animals he raised.

Ed delighted in time spent with his son, James. He began coaching him when he was six and continued through High School. They loved to hunt, golf, enjoy water sports and be together with friends and family. They shared a special bond and while it may feel like this happened too soon, the apple did not fall far from the tree.

Ed is survived by his wife Barbara, son James (Christina), grandchildren Claire and Benjamin, brothers Jay and Guy and mother-in-law Arden Fenwick.

A celebration of life will be held on June 24th at 3 pm at Bruce and Linda Burton's barn at 350 Sherwood Road, Willits. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Willits High Booster Club, P.O. Box 2004, Willits 95490.



At left: Unending pancakes, custom eggs, fruit, and sausage or bacon – all with juice and coffee – make this a well-rounded hearty meal. Below: The kitchen crew, Chuck Senter (pancakes), Gloria Westby (plating), Alex Sierra (fried eggs), and Jules Gregory (scrambled eggs).

Photos by Mathew Caine



Second-Saturday Pancakes

Senior Center's monthly breakfast honors Father's Day a week early

There is a pancake breakfast the second Sunday of each month at the Harrah Senior Center at 1501 Baechtel Road, from 8 to 11 am, with delicious, fluffy pancakes (as many as you want), eggs (sunny side up, over, or scrambled), fruit, choice of sausages or bacon, or biscuits with grandma's sausage gravy. The breakfast also includes juice and coffee, and last Sunday, June 11, there was something special on the beverage menu. In honor of the upcoming Father's Day, June 18, all fathers (or single mothers) could receive a complimentary Bloody Mary to enjoy with their meal.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

By the end of the morning, 85 diners were treated to this tasty meal for only \$10 (\$9 for seniors, \$6 for kids under 8 years old). Additional meals were created for the hard-working volunteers who make the breakfasts possible.

Virginia Jorge, a member of the Senior Center Board of Directors and organizer of the breakfasts, would like to find others interested in and able to take over her position eventually as she is preparing to travel cross-country to see the whole of the United States.

"We're not having our Father's Day breakfast on the actual Father's Day, next weekend, because the Senior Center always has their breakfast on the second Sunday of each month," Jorge stated. "Years ago, when I first got on the board, I asked the executive director: 'Why don't we do anything for fathers?' Her answer was: 'Because it doesn't fall on Father's Day.' I said that we should still show our fathers that we, as the Senior Center, want to celebrate them.

"So, I came up with the idea of serving Bloody Marys," Jorge said, "because we always serve mothers mimosas on Mother's Day. But there's a catch. If you're a single parent and a woman at our Father's Day breakfast, you will get a Bloody Mary. We don't discriminate against single parents. We do the same for single fathers on Mother's Day."

Another recent event June 10 at the Senior Center was the Second Saturday of the Month Thrift Store Parking Lot Sale, a clearance event to try and sell some of their slower-moving items. Great deals can be found at this monthly sale; the next one is set for July 8.

Additionally, the center will soon be installing an electronic informational sign to replace the Senior Center banner at the entrance. The sign will provide information about programs and upcoming events. The wiring is currently being installed, and the sign itself has been ordered. The center is also in the planning stages of a flea market.

For more info visit www.willitscenter.com or "Willits Harrah Senior Center & Thrift Store" page on Facebook or call 707-459-6826. The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4:30 pm, and Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm.

The center provides services for seniors, exercise programs, Meals On Wheels, inexpensive healthy lunches, free firewood for members, consulting, and other ways to aid the older population. Becoming a member is simple, inexpensive, and beneficial. Volunteers are always appreciated.



Above, left: Board member Virginia Jorge would like to find a volunteer to teach how to run a monthly pancake breakfast. Above, right: Anita and John Wagenet tell Diana Mann what kind of eggs and sides they want with their meal. At right: It was an excellent opportunity for old friends to enjoy a meal together. Below, left: The Senior Center monthly breakfast is a great place to meet with friends and enjoy a healthy breakfast. Below, right: Volunteer Carol Ponkevar is ready with the drink tray, including juices and the makings of Bloody Marys.



WW441

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

(CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso): 22CV01021

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (Aviso al Demandado): Raul Carrillo Escareno, YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (Lo Esta Demandando El Demandante): Rocky Top Rentals, LLC, NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Website (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en forma legal correcta si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de

Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desahar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la cortes es): Mendocino County Superior Court 100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado es):

Alexander C. Rich, Esq.
Carter Rich PC
305 N. Main Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

Date: (Fecha) November 18, 2022
s/J. Lozano/Clerk (Secretario)
s/Kim Turner/Deputy (Adjunto)

Publication Dates: June 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2023

WW436

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MARTHA MAGALINE ANDERSON AKA MARTHA M. ANDERSON

CASE No. 23PR00084

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: MARTHA MAGALINE ANDERSON AKA MARTHA M. ANDERSON

A Petition for Probate has been filed by BENJAMIN SCOTT ANDERSON in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that BENJAMIN SCOTT ANDERSON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: June 23, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482.

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

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

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

Attorney for Petitioner: MARGARITA S. RICE, ESQ., CARTER RICH PC, 305 N. Main Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. Telephone: 707-462-6694

Publication Dates: June 1, 8, and 15, 2023

LEGAL NOTICES

WW440

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF Karen Lorene Thrilkill, aka Karen L. Thrilkill, Decedent

Case No. 23PR00093

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: KAREN LORENE THRILKILL, aka KAREN L. THRILKILL

2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Christine Thrilkill in the Superior Court of California County of: Mendocino

3. The Petition for Probate requests that: Christine Thrilkill be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: July 13, 2023, Time: 2:00 p.m. Dept: TM Address of Court: 700 So. Franklin St., Ft. Bragg, CA 95437

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

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

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

10. Attorney for petitioner: Christopher J. Neary (#69220)/ Jennifer M. O'Brien (#278821), Address: Neary and O'Brien, 110 So. Main St., Ste C, Willits CA 95490 Telephone: 707-459-5551

Publication Dates: June 8, 15 and 22, 2023



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138 Mill Creek Drive in Willits, Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and June 25 from 9 am to 5 pm both days. Women's clothing, jewelry, books and much more.

Interested in local news?

Willits Weekly needs help covering local news. If you've got news experience, and are interested in covering a news beat, that's ideal. If you're interested in local news, but you don't have experience, let's talk. Email willitsweekly@gmail.com Thanks

John Ford Ranch Beef

John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$375.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$160.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.

Email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com

LEGAL NOTICES

WW442

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF Alleen Doratheia Recio, aka Alleen D. Recio, aka Alleen Recio, aka "Bobbie" Recio, Decedent

Case No. 23PR00091

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Alleen Doratheia Recio, aka Alleen D. Recio, aka Alleen Recio, aka "Bobbie" Recio

2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Lorena Dye and Danielle Sherman in the Superior Court of California County of: Mendocino

3. The Petition for Probate requests that: Lorena Dye and Danielle Sherman be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

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

6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: July 20, 2023, Time: 2:00 p.m. Dept: TM Address of Court: 700 So. Franklin St., Ft. Bragg, CA 95437

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

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

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

10. Attorney for petitioner: Christopher J. Neary (#69220)/ Jennifer M. O'Brien (#278821), Neary and O'Brien, 110 So. Main St., Ste C, Willits CA 95490 Telephone: 707-459-5551 Publication Dates: June 15, 22, and 29, 2023

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Above, from left: If you want to see butterflies this summer, plant zinnias. They are a great companion for vegetables. I use them to mark the ends of the rows. Then there are plenty for cutting as well as the butterflies. Cosmos are another great garden companion that attracts pollinators and blooms until frost. They cast so little shade that you can put one anywhere. Marigolds are a quintessential summer flower, and very easy to grow from seed or transplants. Below, from left: Cherry tomatoes are available in all kinds of sizes and shapes. They are a favorite garden snack, but are also good roasted. Zucchini is in almost every summer garden, and Cocozelle is an Italian zucchini with rich flavor. The abundance of summer is just around the corner. There is still time to plant everything in this basket – summer squash, zinnias, tomatoes, chard, cucumbers, and basil.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier



COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

June: Four priorities

Now that the weather has warmed up and perennials have reached their full growth, I suggest four priorities for June.

First, this is the window of opportunity for planting direct-sown crops that love heat, and to add summer vegetables you may have missed or not been sure about. You can still plant most of the summer crops until July, and expect to get a harvest.

Jamie Chevalier, Columnist
Indeed, melons, okra, and peppers are just now getting the weather they need to thrive. If you already have bush beans, corn, greens, determinate tomatoes, and other crops with a concentrated or single-cut harvest, remember that you need to sow again for a continuous supply.

I love that the Four Sisters (corn, beans, squash and sunflowers) can be sown direct in the ground – make a hole, put in a seed. Not a little, has-to-be-thinned-on-your-hands-and-knees kind of seed, but a big fat seed you can see and hold between thumb and forefinger. Then up comes a big, fast-growing, plant that shoulders aside obstacles and grows.

In addition to the simplicity and fun of it, my experience has been that direct-sown plants catch up with transplants, and have a deeper root system. The African Sisters – okra, watermelon, sorghum, and cowpeas – are just as easy and rewarding to direct-sow in warm soil.

Second, add diversity to your garden. Once the main crops are in the ground, it's important to add flowers, herbs, tea plants, foliage plants, and less-common vegetables to the mix. This is the best way to make your garden more pest-resistant, more beautiful, more dependable, and more fun.

Summer annuals like zinnias, tithonia, marigolds, coreopsis, and cosmos are easy to direct-sow, and will repay you with armloads of blooms for the house, the yard, and to attract pest-fighting insects. Herbs like dill, cilantro, and basil are fast, easy, and beneficials love them.

Third, grab a cold drink and really look at your whole landscape now that everything is leafed out. Are the paths getting crowded? Where do things look bare or boring? Where are the problem spots with weeds, drought, steep slopes, rocks, parking, or access?

Are there pleasant places to sit both morning and evening? Is there enough shade for comfort and enough sun for growth? How about wind: Are the places where you'd like to relax or to grow things swept by wind, or suffering from not enough fresh air circulation?

This is the time to see what works in your yard and what is keeping you from full enjoyment of the space. Sometimes, things have changed so gradually that we don't notice how pinched and confined a space has become. Or we are so used to a fence, shrub, tree, or shed that we never think

about what the space would be like without it – more or less private, useful, satisfying, or uplifting.

Fourth, observe how much sun your garden gets, and modify it if necessary. Our normal summers are so hot that most vegetable crops – including beans, tomatoes, squash, and cucumbers – can shut down from heat stress. Tomatoes and beans may drop their blossoms and stop bearing. Squash can wilt. Cucumbers get bitter.

For best yield and highest quality, professionals often use 30% shade cloth whenever it's hotter than 85 degrees. Most plants enjoy the same conditions humans do – warm but comfortable, not too windy, with good hydration. Natural alternatives to shade cloth include cotton sheets, wood or bamboo latticework, taller plants, and planting to the east of buildings or trees. Containers are a great way to grow salad crops under trees without trying to dig and plant among existing tree roots.

Corn uses sunlight in a way that's unusual in our gardens but more common in tropical plants, called "C-4 photosynthesis." Plants that use C-4 photosynthesis have a different structure and chemistry that enables them to keep their pores closed during the heat of the day, minimizing water loss and enabling them to harvest large amounts of energy in sunny weather. This trait makes corn and sorghum extremely fast-growing and productive right through hot weather and midday sun. You can site them in your brightest, hottest places.

Mulch is even more important with tomatoes than with other crops because fluctuating soil moisture causes cracking and blossom end rot in the fruit. Tomatoes are also subject to sun scald, as are peppers. Possible remedies include keeping good leaf cover, shade cloth, and sites with a bit of afternoon shade. Planting to the east or north of a block of corn can be helpful.

Consider pairing peppers with bush beans, basil, or other bushy companion to give shade from the side, where the hanging peppers are vulnerable to scald. In traditional Central American milpas, they are planted among taller plants like corn, or surrounded by beans, or under the dappled shade of tomatillos.

Now, when things are growing fast, any problems will be more obvious than in cooler, slower weather. Everything can change quickly. It helps to remember that only half the work of gardening is physical. The other half is thoughtful observation.

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.



At left, from top: Rose campion is one of the best perennials for Northern California. It has silver foliage and bright flowers all season. It needs very little water, and it is not eaten by deer. It grows easily from seed and thrives in our climate.



Rattlesnake is an extremely heat-resistant pole snap bean, perfect for our summers.



Morning glories are an easy way to cover a stump, shed, fence, bank, or wall. All it takes is some soil, a little water, a few seeds, and something to climb.

The rest of **Grants** | From page 1

total nearly \$104,300 – more than twice as much as last year's! – to implement 16 projects throughout the county. They will pay for all or part of these inspiring wildfire-safety purchases and projects:

- Anderson Valley Fire Department is purchasing an equipment trailer to store and transport tools and equipment for prescribed burns.
- Black Bart Fire Safe Council is working to clear brush along its roads, to slow wildfire and make evacuation and first-responder access faster and safer.
- Hopland Fire Prevention District is installing water tanks at either side of its service area.
- Hulls Valley Fire Safe Council (north of Covelo) is also purchasing a water tank and pump equipment.
- Long Valley Fire Protection District (Laytonville) is providing defensible-space home assessments, to help individual homeowners know how to be best prepared.
- McNab Ranch Fire Safe Council (south of Ukiah) will get new road signs and reflective address signs, after roads were re-named and parcels re-numbered.
- Navarro Fire Safe Council is installing a tank for 10,000 gallons of additional emergency water feeding a new hydrant system.
- Point Arena Fire Safe Council is training Fire Safe Ambassadors, printing outreach materials, and presenting a wildfire-safety component at a community event.
- Redwood Coast Fire Protection District is purchasing a commercial-grade thermal-imaging drone, including certification training for its operators, for uses such as fire detection, scouting rural roads and terrain, and mapping.
- Ridgewood Ranch Volunteer Fire Department (south of Willits) is purchasing and refurbishing a used fire engine.
- South Coast Fire Protection District will purchase Knox Locks and Knox Boxes to facilitate emergency access through locked gates.
- String Creek and Tartar Canyon Fire Safe Council (outside Willits) is installing a water tank.
- Westport Fire Safe Council is collaborating with several groups to accomplish roadside clearing and other fuel-reduction projects.
- Whale Gulch Fire Safe Council (North Coast) is focusing on clean-up from winter storms, to clear downed trees and brush encroaching on access roads.
- Wildwood Fire Safe Council (Laytonville) will purchase new water tanks and re-locate existing ones to more accessible locations.
- Yorkville Fire Safe Council received funds in support of the Galbreath Wildlands Preserve's Prescribed Burn education, outreach and planning project.

Most of the Micro-Grant proposals include an additional match consisting of volunteer time, donations, other funding, or donated supplies or equipment to round out the budget to get more done through cooperative effort from multiple sources. Matching contributions, collaborations with other like-minded groups, and thorough preparation and motivation tended to help the proposals score higher in the ratings.

Where possible, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council will continue to work with groups whose proposals were not funded, either to strengthen future applications or to help find other ways to achieve their goals. MCFSC strives to assist any local group motivated toward meeting its own locally identified fire-safety needs, and encourages local organizers to ask about projects that require extra assistance or funding.

If your neighborhood was not prepared to participate in this round of funding, now is a good time to start planning for future projects and ideas! MCFSC wants to help your neighborhood become as prepared for wildfire as possible.

Find out how to join or organize a Fire Safe Council in your area by visiting the MCFSC website at <https://firesafemendocino.org/> and looking in the "Prepare your Neighborhood" menu tab. Or, if you become an MCFSC member (see the "Join Us" tab), you will receive important updates, alerts and information in MCFSC's monthly email newsletters, among other benefits.

Funding for MCFSC's 2023 Micro-Grant Program was supplied in equal parts by a grant from Pacific Gas and Electric Company and matching funds from the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council.

For more information on Micro-Grant funding parameters, visit <https://firesafemendocino.org/2023-micro-grant/>, or contact the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council at 707-462-3662 or admin@firesafemendocino.org.

Willits murderer sentenced to life, plus 66 years

Posted by Mendocino County District Attorney

June 8 – Defendant Christopher Wayne Gamble, age 48, of Willits, returned to the Mendocino County Superior Court Thursday afternoon, June 8, to hear the sentence he will be serving as punishment for murdering two men by means of death by firearm.

The defendant was convicted by jury in early May of the murders of both Ulises Andrade Ayala and Anwar Ayala Rodriguez at a marijuana site the defendant was operating on Sherwood Road in Willits.

Even if he were so inclined, the law afforded the sentencing judge, Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Keith Faulder, very little discretion as to the ultimate outcome and final sentence that could be ordered.

For the murder in the second degree of Andrade Ayala, defendant Gamble was sentenced to 15 years to life in state prison, the only sentencing option allowed by law for this crime. Because the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a firearm to cause Ayala's death, an additional 25 years to life was imposed, to run consecutive to the 15 years to life for the murder.

For the murder in the first degree of Ayala Rodriguez, the law required an "LWOP" sentence, meaning life in state prison without the possibility of parole. The jury had found true a special circumstance in May alleging that defendant Gamble committed at least two murders, with at least one of the two being murder of the first degree. This finding requires an LWOP sentence.

Again, because the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a firearm to cause Rodriguez's death, an additional 25 years to life was added to the defendant's overall sentencing ledger.

Finally, the defendant was sentenced to the low term of 16 months – consecutive to the murder sentences – for his conviction for felony animal abuse involving hurting and killing roosters.

In total, defendant Gamble was sentenced to LWOP plus just a few months over 66 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The law enforcement agencies that developed the evidence supporting the jury verdicts and findings entered in May were

The rest of **Busts** | From page 1

In response to inquiries last week by two online outlets, Redheaded Blackbelt and Mendo Fever, California Department of Fish & Wildlife Information Officer Janice Mackey provided further information about the enforcement actions on Bell Springs Road north of Laytonville, which she shared with Willits Weekly.

"On June 7, 2023, wildlife officers with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife served three search warrants in the 5900 block of Bell Springs Road.... Support was provided by a CDFW environmental scientist, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force, and the State Water Resources Control Board," Mackey's email stated.

"Prior to serving the search warrants, a thorough records check was conducted on the properties to determine what steps may have been taken to secure a county permit or state license. In this case, no permit or state license on the sites to cultivate commercial cannabis were obtained.

"The sites were located on Twin Rocks Creek and its tributaries, in the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed. CDFW has documented many species of concern in this watershed including coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, pacific lamprey, red-bellied newt, and foothill yellow legged frog.

"Several environmental violations and impacts were observed on the sites, which included:

- Two water diversions on a tributary to Twin Rocks Creek
- Five hoop houses constructed directly within streams, which were graded to accommodate the operation's buildings
- Remnants of a landslide, caused by poor road design and maintenance, delivering sediment into a stream
- Unpermitted and improperly installed stream crossings constricting stream channels and delivering sediment

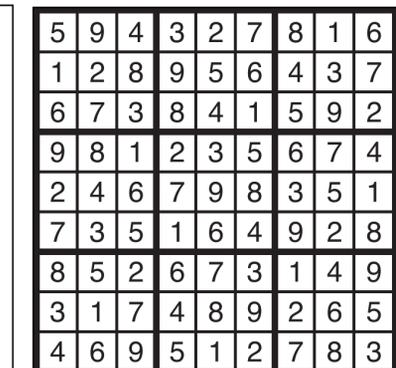
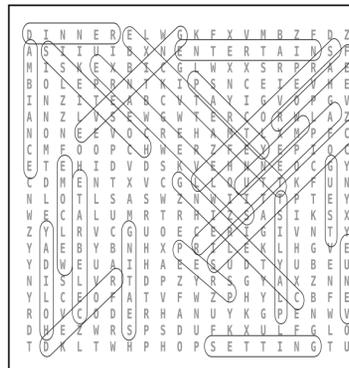
"Over 5,900 illegal cannabis plants were eradicated. This is an ongoing investigation. No other information is available at this time," Mackey's email concluded.

In his June 9 post, Sheriff Kendall stated: "I continue to receive calls regarding illegal marijuana-related issues in Mendocino County. Although we have been seeing a decline in illegal marijuana cultivations in many areas, it continues to be a problem.

"We are continuing to combat several issues directly linked to illegal cultivations," Kendall's post stated, "including violence, environmental damage, and general intimidation of residents in our communities.

"Many folks who have come to our county to make a quick buck aren't concerned with being good neighbors nor good stewards of our resources. Drug trafficking organizations are not good for any community.

"I am currently working with state and federal partners to put more resources on the issue. I am optimistic we are making headway."



the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force, the Department of Justice crime laboratory, and the District Attorney's own Bureau of Investigation.

Special thanks are again extended to the Department of Anthropology at Chico State for their forensic assistance in the investigation, as well as to the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority for their fire investigation assistance.

The prosecutor who prepared the people's case against defendant Gamble and represented District Attorney David Eyster at the June 8 sentencing hearing was Senior Deputy District Attorney Scott McMenemy.

The rest of **Bomb** | From page 1

explosive device made of PVC pipe.

WPD officers coordinated with MCSO deputies, who contacted the Humboldt Sheriff's Office for assistance. The Humboldt Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad responded and determined the IED was operational and in working condition.

Based on statements from the parties, and no evidence of the manufacturing of destructive devices at the residence, there is believed to be no danger to the public.

WPD would like to thank MCSO and Humboldt Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad for their valuable assistance in this case.

The rest of **Budget** | From page 1

Julie Beardley, president of Service Employees International Union, Local 1021, led off public comment from workers. "I'm here to ask you today – I feel like this is déjà vu all over again because we were just here last year – I'm asking you to please budget in a COLA for our staff.

"As president I hear stories about our staff literally putting their life on the line," she said. "You know, CPS workers that go out to remove a child from an abuse home. Our Environmental Health workers that have to get up in the middle of the night for an oil spill. C'mon, these people are really hard-working. They deserve a cost of living adjustment to keep up with inflation."

In response to questions from Supervisor Ted Williams, CEO Darcy Antle estimated a 1 percent COLA for 2023/24 would cost \$1.3 million. When asked: "What sort of staff reduction would we need for a 3 percent COLA," she responded that "33 positions would need to be reduced, general fund positions."

Supervisor Williams then asked Antle, "I think I know the answer, but could you fit a 2 or 3 percent COLA expense into the proposed budget?" "I can not," CEO Antle replied. "I don't know where I would get the revenues unless I was directed to use reserves, and using reserves continues the spiral that you're in, you're using \$7 million of one-time right now, and you dip into the reserve, you will continue down that path."

Workers also commented that with the county already below "market" wages, and with difficulties in hiring already occurring, not having a cost of living raise in 2023/24 would make it even harder to hire needed staff.

As SEIU Shop Steward Leif Farr said, "Without some maintenance of COLA, to soften that blow of higher inflation, how are we to hire to provide services?"

Supervisors discussed ideas for "reducing the footprint" of the county in future, including the possibility of selling of county-owned properties, and for improving revenues. The board would like to see increased efforts by the county to get untaxed properties on the books and discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant to get that done.

They also discussed increasing transient occupancy taxes, the taxes paid on temporary lodging in hotels and similar accommodations. Supervisor Maureen Mulheren suggested the possibility of working with "community partners to identify functions of the county that could be more effectively delivered by nonprofits."

A meeting had been noticed for Wednesday, June 7, but was cancelled as supervisors approved the budget at their Tuesday meeting. The budget will be formally adopted at the June 20 meeting.

WILLITS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you live within the 95490 zip code and want to help? Join us to create the vision, plans and implementation for the economic and quality of life development within the City of Willits. Be a volunteer on the Revit-Ed Committee (**Three Vacancies**). We are accepting applications now through June 29, 2023, at 5:00 PM.

(3) Terms ending 6/30/2027

For more information or to apply, please visit or call the City Clerk's office at (707) 459-7113, or email: dpedersen@cityofwillits.org



Oh Happy Day

City of 10,000 Buddhas finally reopens its Jyun Kang Vegetarian Restaurant

One of the best examples of “if you know, you know” is eating at the Jyun Kang Vegetarian Restaurant situated in the heart of Talmage’s City of 10,000 Buddhas. It’s a total Mendocino County treasure. And they’re open again. FINALLY.

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

The restaurant has been closed since the pandemic, and the public – especially yours truly who may or may not have literally called at least monthly to check in and ask if the restaurant is open yet only to be told “no,” and “not yet” time and time again – have been anxiously awaiting its reopening, an event which finally took place over Labor Day weekend.

The once multi-page menu has been reduced to a single sheet – but that’s OK because the main staples of what really matters are still present: dumplings, satay sticks with peanut dipping sauce, the house special noodles, and the sweet and sour soy protein balls are all still available to order. There was talk at the register about increasing the menu as the crew and public get back in the swing of things at the restaurant. This is also exciting news.

Interestingly, all of the Malaysian-Indo-Chinese dishes are only vegetarian, you get to order by photo from the menu, and they are cooked in the sattvic style – one without onions, garlic, green onions or chives – and you don’t even miss it – or the meat – which is amazing for vegetarians, and non-vegetarians alike.

Membership to the “if you know, you know” club is easy – GO EAT THERE! You can dine in, or take meals to go. A big thing to remember, however, is that the restaurant is cash ONLY so come prepared. Meals eaten in the restaurant are served family-style with a rotating lazy Susan in the middle of the table to facilitate sharing.

Pro tip: Make a dumpling dipping sauce of a 75% vinegar and 25% soy sauce using the tea cup on the table for mixing and dipping. Add a little chili oil if you really want the best experience.

The restaurant is open Monday and Thursday: 11:30 am to 2 pm, and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11:30 am to 3 pm. They are closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

To get there, drive out Talmage Road, headed east, until the stop sign at the intersection of Talmage Road, Old River Road and Sanford Ranch Road. You will be facing the three-arched gates of the City of 10,000 Buddhas. While you used to be able to enter through the gates, you now need to take the road just to the right of the gates and drive through the little residential area, past the office and around to the restaurant. Follow the signs, or ask any friendly face you see on the grounds to point you the right way. Just avoid asking the myriad of peacocks that freely roam the grounds – sense of direction isn’t their strong suit.

The grounds also are home to many residents, several schools, and halls, including the Hall of 10,000 Buddhas (where yes, the walls are lined with many small Buddha statues). Tour and event information and more can be found by visiting the on-site office and welcome center, or by going online to <http://www.cttbusa.org/index.html>



Above: Jyun Kang Vegetarian Restaurant is open five days a week. The hours are short and sweet – 11:30 am to 2 pm on Mondays and Thursdays, and 11:30 am to 3 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Above, right: Two of the restaurant staff include Elie Okay, left, and Yuan Zhou, who hold the new, condensed menu.

At right: While “Sweet and Sour Protein Balls” sounds potentially terrible, they are legitimately one of the most delicious items on the menu. It’s not tofu, it’s not fake-flavored meat, it’s something indescribably better, and it’s covered in homemade sweet and sour sauce and mixed with chunks of pineapple, cucumber, and green bell pepper.

Below, left: The satay sticks with spicy peanut dipping sauce are the perfect bite of savory deliciousness. Five sticks come with a serving – perfect for sharing, if you can stand it.

Below, right: The new menu – with some old favorites – available at the Jyun Kang Vegetarian Restaurant.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



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