

Willits Weekly

Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 409

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Interview: The People's Referendum

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

With the new Chapter 22.18 Cannabis Land Use Development Ordinance officially adopted by the county board of supervisors last week, the organizers and volunteers behind The People's Referendum (TPR) to Save Our Water, Our Wildlife, and Way of Life are now working hard to gather signatures in an effort to get the matter on the ballot and have the ordinance completely repealed.

In an interview with Willits Weekly on Tuesday, Kate Marianchild and Ellen Drell, who are both on TPR's steering committee, said that there's about 70-75 volunteers working in several towns around the county, including Willits and Ukiah, attempting to gather at least 5,000 signatures before July 22 to prevent the ordinance from officially going into effect.

If that happens, then the supervisors would have the option to repeal the ordinance voluntarily – an unlikely scenario given the strong support 4 out of 5 have shown for it – otherwise the choice will go to the residents of the county to vote it out or keep it in place.

Read the rest of **Referendum**
Over on Page 13

WPD recovers ATV stolen from wastewater plant

By Sgt. Trent James, for WPD

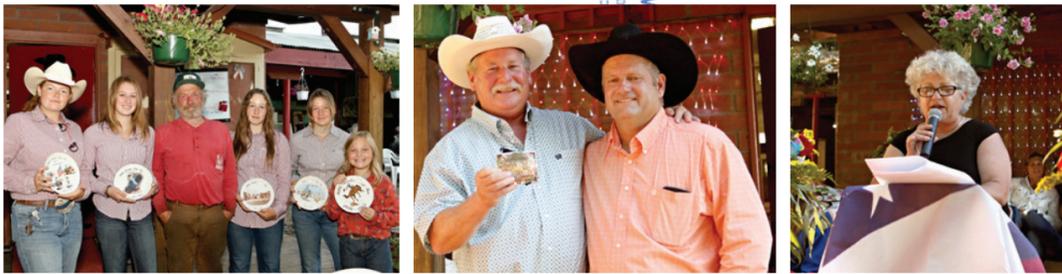
On April 22, 2021 at 3:52 am, Willits Police Department officers were dispatched to the Willits Wastewater Treatment Plant regarding the theft of a City of Willits-owned Kawasaki all-terrain vehicle, which had been stolen earlier in the morning from the above location.

During the course of the investigation, officers were able to obtain surveillance footage, as well as additional information from community members, which led to the identification of the suspect involved in the theft.

Due to the evidence gathered, an arrest warrant was subsequently issued for the suspect: Brandon Langenderfer, 29, resident of Willits. It was learned the suspect was taken into custody in Sonoma County on an unrelated charge and was being held for the warrant out of Willits.

The investigation continued as to the

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



Above, from left: Willits Frontier Days Juniors auctioned off historical plates, won by Grand Marshal Chris Baldo, center. Rod Cavanaugh received a buckle as the Heritage Award Winner. Event emcee and past Sweetheart herself, Kathy Graves, speaks at the podium. Below: 2019/2020 Sweetheart Jaden Doak, left, smiles with newly crowned 2021 Sweetheart Claire Case-Brackett.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

First Big Round for Willits Frontier Days

Carnival opens, Truck Pulls held, Dancing occurred & Sweetheart crowned last week during annual festivities

Upcoming: Friday, July 2: Junior Rodeo at 3 pm; Saturday, July 3: Cowboy Breakfast at 7 am, CCPRA rodeo at 7 pm, Dance following rodeo; Sunday, July 4: Horseshoe contest at 10 am, parade at 11 am, barbecue at noon, musical rodeola at noon, CCPRA rodeo at 4 pm. See full schedule on page 16 for more info.



Photo by Eric Pham



Photo by Eric Pham



Photo by Mathew Caine

Above, from left: Local drivers wait in a line at the back of the arena for their turn against The Terminator at Friday's Truck Pulls. Willits driver and current Willits Frontier Days President Fred Barry readies Time Bandit to pull at the north end of the arena. An attendee at the Street Dance, which followed the Truck Pulls, finally crosses over to drinking age. Below, left: 2021 WFD Sweetheart Claire Case-Brackett gets crowned by WFD President Fred Barry.



Photo by Maureen Jennison



Photo by Eric Pham

No parking on select downtown streets July 4

By Sergeant R. McCoy, for WPD

On Sunday, July 4, 2021 the City of Willits will be hosting the annual Frontier Days Parade. The Willits Police Department seeks the assistance of those residents who live on the parade route, detour route, and parade staging areas in keeping the streets clear on July 4.

During the last week of June, volunteers from the Frontier Days Committee will be going door to door in these areas handing out "NO PARKING NOTICES" as a friendly reminder to residents about the special parking requirements on July 4. The Willits Police Department seeks your assistance and cooperation in making the Frontier Days Parade an enjoyable family experience.

The following streets will be affected by the parade: East Commercial Street, South Main Street, East Valley Street, and South Lenore.

The following streets will be affected by the detour: West Commercial Street, School Street, Pine Street, Coast Street, and West Valley Street.



Photo by Maureen Jennison



Photo by Mathew Caine

Above: Willits Frontier Days President, Fred Barry, center, stands with 2021 Sweetheart Claire Case-Brackett, left, and 2019/2020 Sweetheart Jaden Doak, right.

At left: It doesn't matter who you dance with as long as you have a willing partner at the Street Dance.

School board OKs 17 percent reserve

Joanne Moore
Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

May 26, June 9, and June 16 – the Willits Unified School Board met three times in the space of time it usually meets only once.

There were plan and budget deadlines, and money matters occupied a considerable portion of meeting time.

Revisiting a recurring gripe, departing superintendent Mark Westerburg described what he considered to be "the major problem with school funding in California."

Read the rest of **Reserve**
Over on Page 6

Brooktrails board holds in-person meeting

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board of Directors held its first in-person meeting since March 2020 at the Brooktrails Community Center on June 22.

Directors Ralph Santos, Ed Horrick, Tony Orth, and Tina-Tyler-O'Shea – along with General Manager Tamara Alaniz – were all in attendance in person.

Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer was also in attendance, and Counsel Chris Neary attended via Zoom. Board President Rick Williams, also attending via Zoom, conducted the

Read the rest of **Brooktrails**
Over on Page 6

Redistricting Commission hosts virtual input meeting for North Coast

Submitted by California Citizens Redistricting Commission

SACRAMENTO, CA – On July 1, 2021, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission will host a Communities of Interest virtual hearing to capture North Coast community-specific data that will help the commissioners respect community boundaries when drawing district lines, as is mandated by California's line-drawing criteria. Community members are also invited to

Read the rest of **Redistricting**
Over on Page 6

His perspective provides some insight into why understanding how public schools are funded in California can be so confusing.

“The governor and the legislature are always playing reindeer games with money,” he said.

“Here is the craziness of funding in the state of California,” he went on. “I’ll use EL [English language development] as an example.

“For EL, we get Title 3; we have supplemental concentration; we spend normal district money; we have three different COVID funds that specify using funds towards EL students,” he said.

“So literally, when there’s an EL expense ... [Director of Fiscal Services] Nikki [Agenbroad] and I are, like, ‘Which category do we want to put this in? When does the fund expire? How much money is left in the fund? What are the rules for that fund?’” he said.

“When we’re talking about EL funding, there are about six different pots you go to that never mesh in time frame, in volume, in scope.

“There’s only two things [the state] can do that would really work well. Buy down PERS and STRS [employee retirement systems] or up what they give you in ADA [average daily attendance] per student.

“Every single district would benefit totally equally without exception – charters, public schools,” he said.

“Our normal unrestricted general fund ... should be the bulk [of revenue] ... but it isn’t,” he continued. “If they took all of this and put it in the general fund, then we wouldn’t have 12 plans to sort through. We’d have one set of goals and be focused on the goals.”

One of the plans that has to be sorted through is called the LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan). State funding pursuant to this plan is a significant portion of the district’s revenue, and the plan has to be prepared and approved every three years. This year is one of them.

The LCAP was on the June agendas for a public hearing and board approval, and it was approved on June 16.

“This LCAP is just one more example of, ‘the state gave us this much money, but you’ve got to spend it in this way, in this time, on these students,’” said Westerburg.

He described the plan as “part of our budget, but it is based on kids being what they call unduplicated, which means if [a child is] EL [English learner], low income, and a foster child, [the child is counted as one], not three,” he explained.

“We tend to be around 70 percent is our normal number ... [and] the goal is to try and make sure ... we document this because the more [unduplicated students] we have, the more [money] we get,” he said.

“Certainly, I don’t want kids to be low income, or EL, or foster kids. My goal is ... ‘let’s use that to their advantage to get as much money as we can.’”

“Everything in the LCAP is flexible and changeable.... It’s a living document,” he said. “You can change things in it. You can move things in it.... At least you have a pathway.”

He gave some examples of items that might undergo changes.

“I put the SRO [school resource officer] back in. We may have that, and we may not,” he said.

“We have money in here, \$12,000, to purchase band equipment. It might be \$15,000. It might be \$8,000.

“Hopefully the Summer Gala will kick in again, and we won’t have to spend it,” he said. “But we’ve gone through two years now, and that Summer Gala is a major spike for the music program. They put a significant amount of money into the district, and we haven’t had that.”

The larger financial picture, the 2021/2022 district budget, was also on the agendas for public hearing and adoption.

Revenue came in at just a bit under \$22.4 million in the budget.

Actual revenue for the school year just completed was also reported, and it was a bit over \$23.15 million

Westerburg told the board that “We’re in a good financial place.”

Director of Fiscal Services Nikki Agenbroad added a cautionary note.

“We’re being held harmless for ADA this year and next,” she said. “But if ADA doesn’t go up this year, we’ll see a drop.”

She noted that enrollment was down statewide, which would mean “COLAs [cost-of-living adjustments] are probably

going to happen,” she said.

“There are fewer kids to fund; so they have more money available; so they say, ‘We’re going to give you COLA money,’ agreed Westerburg.

He also added a cautionary note, pointing out that fiscal uncertainty will be a certainty over the next year.

“There are two really important things to think about,” he said. “We have about a six-month gap in our supply chain. Everything is skyrocketing in price, and it’ll take at least six months to come back down.”

And: “This COVID world has had a lot of people retire, and that is going to put pressure on STRS and PERS to increase dramatically to cover that; on top of the fact that there are going to be less students next year, here and in every district.”

“Hopefully the economy will rebound,” he said. “But STRS and PERS costs may skyrocket because they have to pay those obligations. They’re not optional.

“I would be really cautious as you go through the year,” he said. “At this time next year you’ll probably have a good feel for it.... Are we over the COVID thing? Where’s the economy?”

“Be cautious. Get through this year, and I think you’ll see that at the end of next year you should have some clarity.”

Caution was also the watchword for another action the board took in June. By a vote of 4 to 1, they formally designated 17 percent of the district’s budget as a “reserve for economic uncertainty,” commonly referred to as “fund balance.”

“The biggest issue for fund balance is to remember that ... [it] ... isn’t a savings account that’s just sitting at the bank waiting for us, and we just keep throwing money into it,” said Westerburg.

“The fund balance is how much should be left at the end of the year if you spend the budget the way you said you would spend it. It’s not a fund that just sits there with a bunch of money in it. It gets used all the time for cash flow.

“There is currently no board policy on a particular dollar amount,” said Agenbroad. “The state requires 3 percent. That’s a very low amount.”

She recommended 17 percent, which would “get us through two months. Two months is generally regarded as safe,” she said, adding that “our monthly salary and benefits are over a million dollars.”

Trustee Jeanne King told the board that “the average unified school district in California has a fund balance of 18.8 percent ... [and] 3 percent is only nine days’ worth of operating expenses.”

“If we roll the clock back to the last recession, we did not have a fund balance anywhere close to what we have, and the result was massive layoffs and massive changes to programs, and ... we were struggling to find ways to stay above that 3 percent mark that was going to trigger really bad things for us, and I don’t ever want to see us there again,” said board president Alex Bowlds.

“I’m firmly in support of a strong reserve for economic uncertainty,” he continued. “The beauty of that fund is that it does provide two months of operating revenue ... that prevents us from having to make snap decisions or drastic decisions with respect to the elimination of programs and personnel when we have a down year, or worse yet, multiple down years.

“It gives us the opportunity to make calculated incremental changes so that we can maintain as many of our programs and personnel for as long as we reasonably can,” he said.

Trustee Paula Nunez did not agree. “Seventeen percent is too high.... I really need it to be about half that,” she said.

“Our district always used to run 3 percent reserve because that’s what the state required,” she continued. “A few years back we got up to 6 percent. ... At 17 percent we’re around \$4 million. In my mind, that’s an awful lot of money.

“We have a whole district full of employees, excluding administration, that never got any increases to their salaries ... to their benefits,” she said.

“I think with all the help from the bond ... with all the separate little budgets we have going, should push come to shove and our state run into some major problems, the heads of our state will make sure that even if you have to borrow, you will stay solvent.”

Agenbroad commented that she had this year and next,” she said. “But if ADA doesn’t go up this year, we’ll see a drop.”

She noted that enrollment was down statewide, which would mean “COLAs [cost-of-living adjustments] are probably

meeting, and he asked if any directors had anything to report.

Director Tyler-O’Shea said: “The Willits Area Cyclists [WAC] are scheduling their second trail cleanup day on July 11. Fifteen volunteers were present for the first cleanup day a couple of weeks ago, and they got a lot of work done, and it was very successful.” Director Horrick remarked, “I was at the Thimbleberry Trail this morning, and it is unbelievable what they did to clear that trail – they did a great job.” President Williams remarked: “The WAC are warriors. They have done a lot of work!”

Director Santos asked General Manager Alaniz about the Archer Lane water leaks that had occurred the night before, and Alaniz reported that there were three simultaneous, large leaks that occurred in a single pressure zone. She noted that the cause of the leaks involved the topography and older pipes being installed all at once, as well as significant seismic activity, centered in the Willits area, that has occurred lately.

She added: “We were responsive, almost immediately, and customers were very understanding. We worked very late into the night getting those leaks taken care of, and they are fixed now.” The board expressed their gratitude to the Brooktrails crew that worked so hard to get the situation in hand.

Problem neighbor

Alaniz then introduced Brooktrails property owner Travis Benevich, and invited him to speak from the podium. Benevich stated: “I am here on behalf of myself and my neighbors. I live on Ridge Road, the area on top of Goose, and we have had an ongoing issue there for the last 18 months. I am the immediate neighbor of [name redacted], a name that I’m sure everybody here has heard. The situation has continued to evolve to the point that me and my neighbors don’t feel comfortable.

“We’ve pursued every legal action besides coming here in person to try and remedy this, and I’m here to plead and hope that we can move forward to come to some sort of a solution, because this is just untenable. I have four small children, daughters, and my wife doesn’t feel safe at home. I’ve had to quit working.

“And, I understand that you are limited on what you can do. But, then again, on the legal side of it, there have been numerous violations that are in our Brooktrails ordinances that we’re all supposed to abide by that are violated every single day by this individual. I have letters from all of my neighbors in the area.

“My direct neighbors, across the way, are elderly, sweet people that have lived up here

submit their input online by visiting: <https://drawmycacommunity.org/>.

North Coast “communities of interest” include Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Napa, Sonoma and Trinity counties.

The virtual hearing will be held Thursday, July 1, 2021 from 12 to 8 pm. To watch the hearing live, go to: <http://videosscc.com/CRC/> To learn more, visit: https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/july_1_coi_input_meeting

When the commission begins drawing maps using census data, they will need to follow this set of criteria, in this order, as outlined in the California Constitution.

1. Districts must be of nearly equal population to comply with the U.S. Constitution.
2. Districts must comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that minorities have a fair opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.
3. Districts must be drawn contiguously, so that all parts of the district are connected to each other.
4. Districts must minimize the division of counties, cities, neighborhoods, and communities of interest to the extent possible.
5. Districts should be geographically compact such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for more distant populations.
6. Where practicable, each Senate District should consist of two complete and adjacent Assembly Districts, and Board of Equalization districts should consist of 10 complete and adjacent State Senate Districts. This is known as nesting.

Commissioners can obtain the city and county information from those jurisdictions, but they need to get the neighborhood and communities of interest information from Californians directly.

During these input meetings, participants will be asked to describe their community and

for 25+ years. We have never had an issue. Prior to 18 months ago, everyone used to stop and chat with one another as they headed slowly down the hill, and everyone enjoyed walking their dogs and night walks to enjoy the sunsets. None of that can happen now.

“This individual has 12 dogs,” Benevich continued, “and he lives in a trailer with no running water, no sewage. He sets fires almost every night, whether they’re warming fires or barbecues. He has no way to extinguish these fires. We have substantial wind up on the ridge that starts around 3 pm. It’s a fire risk. He’s cut down numerous trees to cultivate cannabis. He has never dealt with any of the brush, which is a huge fire risk, and he’s blocked access on the fire road which is below our home. I’m running out of options.

“I’ve had to file a restraining order to keep my family safe. We’ve exhausted everything we could do besides coming here. I have enough evidence, full surveillance, video and photo evidence of everything that has occurred – from clearcutting trees, burning, and having his dogs knocking down elderly people, having his dogs chase my animals on my property.

“In the past two weeks he’s begun fencing his property, as well as Brooktrails Township property and the neighboring parcel that doesn’t belong to him. He has a trash pile that is 12 x 12 by 5 feet high, and it is often strewn into the street. I could go on for hours. I need to know how to move forward.”

Brooktrails Counsel Neary asked if Benevich had a copy of the restraining order, and he provided a copy to the board. Counsel Neary invited Benevich to a meeting to address the issue with him and General Manager Alaniz that was scheduled for the following day. Alaniz said she was also in receipt of two letters, one from longtime Brooktrails resident Marguerite Arnold, and one from Guy Albert, supporting Benevich’s concerns.

Neary said: “This is a public forum, and we’ve had the issue called to our attention. I think it’s best that we note that we have received this information, and we assure Mr. Benevich that action will be taken and it will be taken swiftly.”

The board then unanimously approved the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$119,812.16, after which the meeting was adjourned.

Special meeting

On Thursday, June 24, General Manager Alaniz notified the board of a special meeting, scheduled to take place at 5:30 pm on June 30, to be conducted remotely, that will include a closed session regarding “violations on district-owned property.”



Photos by Ree Slocum



At left: The galleries fill with masked and unmasked attendees at Friday’s WCA closing party. Above, left: Gary Medina from Ukiah points out embellishments on one of Gail Rushmore’s sculptures to his wife, Kathleen. Above, right: Aeden is enjoying Gail Rushmore’s collage paintings. Below: Artists Linda MacDonald, Laura Corben and Judy Chance Hope are each painters working mainly in oils and enjoying the relief of being at WCA’s artists celebration again. At bottom, left: This clay sculpture by Gail Rushmore is embellished with ceramic under-painting detail. At bottom, right: Lisa Davis from Scoops provided two arrays of delicious appetizers for the closing event.



Gallery Gathering

WCA holds first art reception since relaxing of state COVID restrictions, concluding Rushmore and Gillen show

The Willits Center for the Arts Board of Directors waited for the official loosening of COVID restrictions on the announced June 15 date to have a closing, instead of opening, party for artists Gail Rushmore and Daphne Gillen. “This show is so awesome, we decided to have a closing reception since we are allowed to fully reopen after June 15th,” they stated in a press release.

On Friday night, June 18, people of all ages began gathering in the three-gallery building on Commercial Street to peruse the creations by the two well-known Mendocino County ceramic and multimedia artists, Gillen and Rushmore. It was also a time that other creatives, especially clay artists, gathered to see the duo’s latest offerings.

Of special note who attended were ceramicists Gary Medina, former department head of ceramics at Mendocino Community College in Ukiah, and Mack Magruder, sculptor and former MCC instructor.

Fully smiling faces were, once again, visible. There were pleasant conversations in the galleries. People who didn’t feel comfortable without masks wore them and surely others with concerns attended earlier in the show.

The reopening announcement was full of relief for the WCA. They’d been struggling for over a year to make ends meet. They depend upon opening receptions. They’re fun and it’s a time when people gather to view the latest artistic offerings; enjoy conversation, delicious appetizers, and libations; and purchase pieces of art. Most people want to go to the reception in order to be the first to view and possibly purchase a favorite piece.

WCA is a local gem that is volunteer and donation supported. People from different parts of the county and beyond come to the spacious, well-lit gallery. It has gained a reputation for having interesting and expertly curated, high-quality art thanks to Curator Gary Martin.

Along with membership fees and donations, the art center receives 30 percent from art sales. This helps pay for the director, volunteer coordinator, and business-operating expenses.

The gallery is currently looking for members and volunteers to host the shows. WCA is open Friday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. To become a member, sign up for WCA announcements, make a donation, or volunteer, visit the gallery at 71 East Commercial Street, www.willitscenterforthearts.org, or call 459-1726.

Do it Best WILLITS POWER & HARDWARE

HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT

Lawn & Garden Equipment • Generators

Sales, Parts & Service • Pick-up & Delivery

1600 S. Main St. Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420
Willits, CA 95490 Service: 707 459-0596
willitspower@gmail.com Fax: 707 459-6369



Happy 4th of July, y’all!

Mpho-tog-ra-phress

Photography by Maureen (Moore) Jemison

maurengetsmail@gmail.com | www.mphotographress.com

707-972-7047

Destination: Healthy Kids

You’ll find pediatric care you can trust at MCHC Health Centers.

We welcome kids of all ages.

Every 10 years, after the federal government publishes updated census information, California must redraw the boundaries of its electoral districts so that the state’s population is evenly allocated among the new districts.

In 2008, California voters passed the Voters First Act, authorizing the creation of the independent California Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw new State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization district lines. In 2010, the Voters First Act for Congress gave the Commission the responsibility of drawing new Congressional districts following every census.

For more information, please visit WeDrawTheLinesCA.org.

Call (707) 456-9600 for an appointment

LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER

45 Hazel St., Willits

We accept Medi-Cal, Medicare, Partnership and other insurance. SE HABLA ESPAÑOL.

Office: (707) 462-4514
Mobile: (707) 367-3786

Roofing applications available to fit any roofing need

Online: www.basroofing.com
Ca. Lic # 927007
Email: basroofing@bass.com
W.C. & G.L. insured

Residential & Commercial

B.A.S. ROOFING, Inc

Serving areas of Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties



Above, from left: Willits Frontier Days President Fred Barry poses with past Sweethearts and major sponsors of this year's event including, from left: 2011 Sweetheart Riata King; Taylor Brown and Jennifer Danner of Grocery Outlet; 1988 Sweetheart Nicol Persico Kunka; and Lee Persico of Coldwell Banker.

At right: Willits Frontier Days Juniors hold a quilt made by Rachel Cash, won by Kathy Shuster.

At right, below: Andrew Hosford of Sparetime Supply smiles alongside WFD Junior, Aria Allenbrand, and holds a cinch he won made by Mary Anne Underhill.

At far right, below: Fred Barry smiles alongside friend and 2021 Top Hand Award winner Bruce Cartwright.

95TH ANNUAL Willits Frontier Days

"THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME"



Far right, top: 2021 Sweetheart Claire Case-Brackett smiles for the camera. Far right: Lee Persico talks to the crowd at Saturday's dinner.

Fourth of July fun ahead



This coming weekend will host the second half of Willits Frontier Days festivities and, with a slightly cooler forecast than last weekend, it should be a great way to celebrate Independence Day for all.

On Friday, July 2, the Junior Rodeo will start at 3 pm at the Jack Sharp arena.

On Saturday, July 3, the Lion's Club Cowboy Pancake Breakfast will start at 7 am in the Rec Grove Park; the CCPRA night rodeo will start at 7 pm at the Jack Sharp arena, and the Western Dance will follow.

On Sunday, July 4, the horseshoe contest will start at 10 am; the Main Street Parade will start at 11 am; the beef barbecue and the Country Music Rodeola will start at noon; and finally the daytime CCPRA rodeo will start at 4 pm.

See full schedule on page 16 for more info.

Counter-clockwise from top left: Beef, beans, salad and more are available at the barbecue. Steer Wrestling is a dynamic event at the CCPRA rodeos. Cowboys try their hand at both bareback and saddle bronc riding at the CCPRA rodeos. It all starts with sheep riding (or mutton bustin') at the Junior Rodeo level. Pancakes, ham and eggs are served at the breakfast. The parade offers horses, floats and antique cars to enjoy watching from the comfort of the (hopefully) shade.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Celtic Heritage Destinations
Jenny Senter, Travel Consultant

Custom travel and tours in North America, Europe and Hawaii, and river cruises!

As your professional travel consultant, I will take the time to get to know you and ask you questions so that I can focus on your travel wishes, the time you have available, and your budget. In other words, I focus on you! From the first meeting to your return home, I'm there to help you with your air, transfers, hotels, cars, trains, ferries, tour options, and dining recommendations! Consider me your personal shopper.

Let's connect and start planning your dream vacation!

Call now to book your trip:
707-888-7834

jenenter@celticheredestinations.com | www.celticheredestinations.com
facebook.com/CelticHeritageDestinations | @jls_celticheredestinations

WMI Windsor Mill
QUALITY WOOD PRODUCTS

661 Railroad Ave.,
Willits CA 95490

707-459-4621



Dinner for the Winner

Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart crowned and major sponsors recognized during annual dinner

Last Saturday, under the shady trees at the Willits Frontier Days grounds, members of the community gathered together for the annual Sweetheart and Sponsor Appreciation Dinner where they enjoyed food and festivities honoring the 95th annual event.

Maureen Jennison Graphics & Photographress maureen@willitsweekly.com

Kathy Graves emceed the event, welcoming the crowd and introducing the year's special award winners, major event sponsors, past Sweethearts, and of course, the crowning of this year's Sweetheart, Claire Case-Brackett.

Special award winners included Chris Baldo, named Willits Frontier Days Grand Marshal; Rod Cavanaugh,

Read the rest of Dinner Over on Page 13



At left: 2021 Sweetheart Claire Case-Brackett poses with 2019/2020 Sweetheart Jaden Doak and the perpetual chaps given to each Sweetheart to wear during their reign. Each Sweetheart signs their name to the inside of the chaps. Below, from left: Past Sweethearts who attended the dinner included, from back row, left: Jaden Doak, Hailey Riley, Caitlyn Forrester, Riata King, Ashton Bloomquist and Tina Shull. Front row, from left: Olivia Grupp, Nicol Persico Kunka, Tracey Ford Moody, and Liz Persico Day with granddaughter Kaydance Lopez, 10. 2021 Grand Marshal, Chris Baldo, left, smiles with Willits Frontier Days volunteer Alexis England and WFD President Fred Barry at the dinner. Bear Kamoroff, accountant for Willits Frontier Days, announces Claire's total of ticket sales: a whopping \$96,624.

A bed and breakfast for your dog - Reservations required!

Stay and Play Dog Care

Over-night Stays, Daycare, Pack Walks, Socialization, Training

707-459-1377

Daycare: Tuesday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm | Boarding: by Appointment

Frank R. Howard Foundation Medical Campus

Frank R. Howard Foundation
Three Marcella Drive (north of the new hospital)

COMPLETED:
25-bed Critical Care Hospital
(The new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital)
Medical Offices Building (Lamprich Center)
Commonwealth Garden
Avenues to Wellness Program

IN THE PLANNING STAGES:
Campus Housing • Auditorium
Wellness Center

LAMPRICH CENTER (707) 459-2777
Three Marcella Dr., Ste. A (707) 459-2625 FAX
Willits, CA 95490 amello@howardfoundation.org

www.howardfoundation.org

MENDOCINO COLLEGE
Weekends to Success
NORTH COUNTY CENTER

WORK AND SCHOOL ARE NOW COMPATIBLE!
Attention Northern Mendocino County Students

Full-time class load on weekends only!
WILLITS CLASSES - FALL 2021

First Alternate Saturday Grouping (8/28, 9/25, 10/23, 11/20)
PSY 205-0205 - INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY Instructor: Fernando Calderon
Late Start (8/28 - 12/10) On-ground meetings 9:00AM-11:50AM at NCC Room 8020
First day of class is on-ground 8/28

COM 210-0211 - INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION Instructor: Liz Weiss
Late Start (8/28 - 12/10) On-ground meetings 12:30PM-3:20PM at NCC Room 8030
First day of class is on-ground 8/28

Second Alternate Saturday Grouping (9/11, 10/9, 11/6, 12/4)
BIO-202-0206 - HUMAN BIOLOGY
Late Start (8/28 - 12/10) On-ground meetings 9:00AM-11:50AM at NCC Room 8030
Login 8/28 for the online portion of this class

HLH 214-0213 - FOODS AND NUTRITION Instructor: Greg Hicks
Late Start (8/28 - 12/10) On-ground meetings 12:30PM-3:20PM at NCC Room 8030
Login 8/28 for the online portion of this class

Fridays Only (8/27, 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3)
ENG 200-0120 - COLLEGE COMPOSITION Instructor: Steve Hellman
Late Start (8/27 - 12/10) On-ground meetings 5:30PM-8:20PM at NCC Room 8020
First day of class is on-ground 8/27

ENG 560-0327 - BASIC READING AND WRITING LAB
Late Start (8/27 - 12/10) On-ground meetings 3:30PM-5:20PM at NCC Learning Commons

Hybrid classes are mostly online, with occasional "on-ground" classroom meetings.
Be a full time student on just your weekends!

ACCELERATED WEEKEND LEARNING FOR FULL-TIME SUCCESS!

www.mendocino.edu/enroll



WILLITS MINI STORAGE, LLC
willitsministorage.com

261 Franklin Ave. (707) 459-2529
Willits, CA 95490 Fax (707) 459-6509

Healing Central Chiropractic
"The power that made the body heals the body"

DR. SHAWNA HANDSCHUG AND DR. ISRAEL PERRY CHIROPRACTORS

750-A Central Street
Willits, California 95490
Telephone: 707-456-1030

HOUSE DOCTOR PAINTS
459-4383

COMPUTER COLOR MATCHING, AIRLESS PAINT SPRAYER RENTALS
POWER WASHER RENTALS AND SO MUCH MORE!

65 NORTH MAIN ST. WILLITS, CA
HOUSEDRPAINTS@YAHOO.COM
EXCELLENT, ONE-OF-A-KIND SERVICE BY A LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS

Willits Property Management
Caring for People and Property

Douglas Johnson
President

Realtor®
CalBRE # 01888600

New Location
Summer 2018!

(707) 459-5975
bjpm@instatrace.net

284 S. Main St.
Willits, CA 95490

Have a Happy, Healthy Summer,

Use sunblock, drink plenty of water, have fun and call us if you need us.

MCHC HEALTH CENTERS
HILLSIDE | DORA ST | LITTLE LAKE | LAKEVIEW

LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER
(707) 456-9600 • 45 HAZEL ST., WILLITS
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Guiding You Home
COLDWELL BANKER MENDO REALTY

1460 S. Main Street
Willits, CA 95490
(707) 459-5389

Tara Moratti, Owner / Broker 367-0389
Kejsi Ryan, Agent 621-1818
Roxanne Lemos-Neese, Agent 484-6489
Karina Jolley, Agent 354-2999
Dara Collicott, Agent 513-7825
Randa Craighead, Agent 841-7778
Nicole Flamer, Agent 354-2301
Audrey Low, Agent 972-0524
Lee F. Persico, Agent 459-5389

Kim Golding, Agent 380-3311
Bill Barksdale, Referral Agent
Patsy Broeske, Referral Agent
Jerry McCann, Referral Agent

mendocinocountyproperties.com BRE#02116789
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

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
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
707-303-5456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jernigan
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

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 530-224-8703
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 Batimadam
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 Brunetti

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
707-459-5714
Saturdays: Meeting place
at church located at
399 W. Mendocino Avenue
Bible Study - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
https://willitsca.adventistchurch.org
All are welcome!

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

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'F9: The Fast Saga'



Dan Essman
Columnist

The Story:
Action internal combustion scenario with magnets ...

big magnets. Part 9 of the rumbling muscle car series of macho women and steroidal men. Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel) gets an emergency message. The world is in trouble, but what that trouble is, well, it's a bit fuzzy. So Dom and his right-hand-woman Letty (Michelle Rodriguez) plus all the other guys (whom we know from part 1 through part 8) go somewhere in a jungle-sort-of-place with cliffs and mucho mas soldados with bad attitudes. There's some noisy gunplay involved and land mines. But why is the whole world in trouble? That's still mysterious, and the icy unusually beautiful Cipher (Charlize Theron) is involved, as well as tough guy baby brother Jakob Toretto (John Cena).



My Thoughts: Fast and Furious is a trustworthy brand. Despite all the gunfire and bang bangs and car crashes, this is a family picture – sex free and sentimental. Families come as families to the Noyo to sit in a row of seats and enjoy the togetherness. All the characters are familiar and trustworthy. And dependably, the Toretto gang saves the world, and those smirking snotty super-rich pricks who are up to no good get their entitled butts kicked. Is this a great flick? Well, as they know for a fact in Hollywood, if one sequel is good, eight more sequels are clearly eight times better. It's just math.

Parents: Sure, it's all a bit stupid, but the kids will enjoy it. And yeah, it's noisy but the good guys are good guys, and they're self-sacrificing and brave, and their courage is rewarded. Plus, the kidlings can make noise in the theater without anyone being bothered, or even noticing.

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



Above: The old projector, left, and the new projector, right, both offer a great show, but the new projector promises that "You'll definitely see and hear the difference!" Come see it in action! Below: Speakers project sound through openings in the walls behind the movie screen.

Ready for the Show

Noyo Theatre installs third projector allowing more shows and upgraded experience

The Noyo Theatre has recently made some upgrades to their cinema equipment thanks to the generosity of Willits patrons who made donations to the GoFundMe page created by owners Lois and Jeff Hoover. The couple asked the community for help saving the historical theater after COVID-19 nearly put them out of business. The Hoovers were able to raise enough money to replace and repair broken equipment.

Their newly installed projector, a Barco SP2K-9, uses laser light instead of the old high-intensity xenon bulbs. Laser lights last a very long time and they run cool enough that extreme ventilation is not required.

Noyo also replaced a bad set of speakers with three loudspeakers developed specifically for smaller cinemas. These are monsters that weigh 100 pounds each! Noyo owner Jeff Hoover had to rig a block and fall to get them up and behind the screen.



The server, which is a computer that operates the projector, has evolved from a very heavy unit mounted in the stand, to a side-in card mounted inside the projector. It all operates through a web browser.

The new equipment is hooked up, speakers are tuned, and the projector is all focused and framed. This week Noyo Theatre is planning on using the improved gear for one extra show per night of the movie "F9" at 6 pm. It'll also be used for private shows and the future "Over 21 Club." You'll definitely see and hear the difference!

– submitted by Noyo Theatre

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Purrfect Mia

Mia is a very sweet girl who loves attention and being close to you. This 1-year-old brown tabby is playful and would be perfectly happy lounging around in your lap.



For more info about Mia or to see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter's canine and feline guests, and for information about services, programs, events and updates about COVID-19 and the inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. For information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

Elegant Pearl

Pearl is a sweet, sensitive girl looking to bond with someone special. She is lean and lanky, elegant with a hound's barrel chest. She can sit, shake, and lie down. Pearl loves to chew on her bone and play with her Kong. She can be a bit nippy and territorial but is crate trained and potty trained. Pearl definitely needs to be placed with someone who has a lot of property because she is high energy.

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



LEGALS

WW328
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2021-F0366
The following Limited Liability Company is doing business as Mendocino Munitions, MKBX Consulting, 431 Sherry Drive, Ukiah, CA 95482.
Registered owner: The MKBX Group LLC, 431 Sherry Drive, Ukiah, CA 95482.
This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business names listed above on June 15, 2021.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on June 16, 2021.
/s/ Danelle Fierro, Member
Publication dates: June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 2021

Willits Weekly can run your legal notices including fictitious business name statements, foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and more. Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@gmail.com

WW327
CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE TO BIDDERS
PROJECT NO. 2021-02
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed bids for: The work shown on the project plans entitled: **CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PROJECT PLANS**
For: **2021 Dig-Out & Pavement Preservation Project - Project No. 2021-02**
This project includes grinding and replacing 4" and 6" deep asphalt dig-out sections and thermoplastic pavement marking restoration
IN
City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California &
The work described in specifications books entitled: CITY OF WILLITS - BID BOOK & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS CITY OF WILLITS - PROPOSAL PACKET CITY OF WILLITS - AWARD PACKET
For: **2021 Dig-Out & Pavement Preservation Project - Project No. 2021-02**
IN
City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California will be received by a designated representative, of the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, until the hour of 2 p.m., July 15, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers, of the City of Willits, located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California.
CITY OF WILLITS: s/Cathy Moorhead, Deputy City Manager/ City Clerk
DATED: 06/14/21
Publication Dates: June 17, 24 and July 1, 2021

Marc Komer
Legal Document Assistant
An Affordable Non-Attorney Service
Divorce, Living Trusts, Evictions, Probate, Incorporation, Name Change, etc.
www.mendocinolegaldocs.com
459-2775
104 W. Mendocino, Willits
I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.

MENDOCINO COUNTY
1850
Current Job Openings:
Agricultural Measurement Standards Specialist I/II/III
Chief Planner – Fort Bragg
Code Enforcement Officer I
Corrections Deputy
Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV
Deputy Director HHS – Public Health Nursing
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
Disaster Recovery Field Operations Coordinator
Eligibility Specialist III
Grounds Maintenance Technician I/II/III
Human Resources Manager
Planner I/II/III
Revenue Recovery Specialist
Screeners
Staff Assistant I
For a complete list of current job openings and to apply: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources
EOE

Tom Wake Plumbing
Serving in Mendocino and Lake Counties
Full Service Residential, Commercial
•Faucets & Tubs •Garbage Disposals •25 YEARS EXPERIENCE
•Toilets •Pipe Repairs
•Gas Lines •Fixture Replacement
For Fast Service Call 707-391-4343 Lic. #884811

The rest of **Recovered** | From Page 1
whereabouts of the stolen ATV, and several leads were followed. The investigation eventually led officers to a residence located off of Muir Mill Road in Willits.
On June 24, 2021 at approximately 5 pm, officers arrived at the residence located on Muir Mill Road and were able to locate the stolen ATV, as well as positively confirm it had been taken by the suspect initially identified as being responsible for the theft. The ATV was recovered and returned to the City of Willits Wastewater Treatment Plant.
Due to the commitment of WPD officers in gathering evidence and working with citizens that came forward and provided information throughout the course of this investigation, this case was successfully closed.
Editor's Note: Brandon Langenderfer was booked into the Mendocino County Jail on June 14 by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, on felony charges of second-degree burglary, grand theft of money/labor/property, violations of mandatory supervision and county parole, and misdemeanor charges of failure to appear. Total bail was \$80,000.



Brandon Langenderfer, 29, of Willits.

CLASSIFIEDS

www.WillitsWeekly.com

Big Sale
Agape Thrift Store Big Sale, July 3, 9 am to 3 pm, 354 North Main St. 30% off total purchase price.

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

For Rent
Room for rent. Must have job. No pets, no drugs. \$525/month. 354-0287.

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

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

The Fruit Group
PESTICIDE FREE: Tree Ripe Freestone Peaches & Nectarines, also vine ripe tomatoes, arriving in July & August. Brenda 485-4294 or 459-9335 email thefruitgroup95490@yahoo.com

Handyman Wanted
Wanted: Experienced Handyman to do a variety of home repairs. 459-3702.

Willits Weekly
www.WillitsWeekly.com

Willits Swimming Pool Information Summer 2021
REVISED: June 22, 2021 – August 20, 2021
For more information: (707) 459-5778

| Schedule | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Monday- Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 6am-9am Lap Swim | 6am-10am Lap Swim | 10am-12pm Lap Swim |
| 8am-9:30am Otters Practice | 12pm-1pm Aqua Aerobics | 12pm-1pm Aqua Aerobics |
| 9am-12:30am Swim Lesson | 1pm-4pm Public Swim | 1pm-4pm Public Swim |
| 12pm-1pm Aqua Aerobics | | |
| 1pm-4pm Public Swim | | |
| 4pm-6pm Swim Lesson | | |
| 5pm-6pm Aqua Aerobics | | |
| 5pm-8pm Otter Practice | | |

Admission Price

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Public Swim | \$5 |
| Lap Swim | \$5 |
| Lap Swim Pass (20 entries) | \$80 |
| Aqua Aerobics | \$7 |
| Senior Discount | \$6 |
| Aqua Aerobics Pass (20 entries) | \$125 |
| Swim Lesson | \$50 |

To continue complying with County of Mendocino Health Orders

- Proper sanitation for any shared equipment/spaces
- Require sign-in of all attendees
- Swimmers must bring their own goggles, caps, towel, and sunscreen

Pool Closures: Sunday & Monday - July 4th & 5th
Sunday, July 27th
Revised 6/22/21

Willits Swimming Pool Information Summer 2021
REVISED: June 22, 2021 – August 20, 2021
For more information: (707) 459-5778

The fee for each session is \$50.00 and there is a sibling discount of \$5.00(up to 4 swimmer).
Swim Lesson Sessions - No make-ups & refunds for missed days

The City of Willits offers a variety of American Red Cross swim lessons for individuals of all skill levels. Weekly sessions are Monday – Thursday. Registration is required one week prior to the designated session. Openings are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Session 5 June 28 – July 1 | Session 9 July 26 – July 29 |
| Session 6 July 5 – July 8 | Session 10 August 2 – August 5 |
| Session 7 July 12 – July 15 | Session 11 August 9 – August 12 |
| Session 8 July 19 – July 22 | |

MORNING LESSON TIMES:

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 9am – 9:30am | EVENING LESSON |
| 9:30am – 10am | TIMES: 4pm – 4:30pm |
| 10am – 10:30am | 4:30pm – 5pm |
| 10:30am – 11:00am | 5pm – 5:30pm |
| 11am – 11:30am | 5:30pm - 6pm |
| 11:30am – 12am | |
| 12am – 12:30am | |

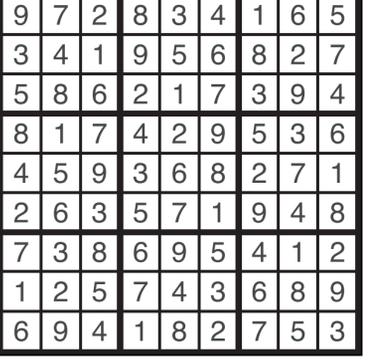
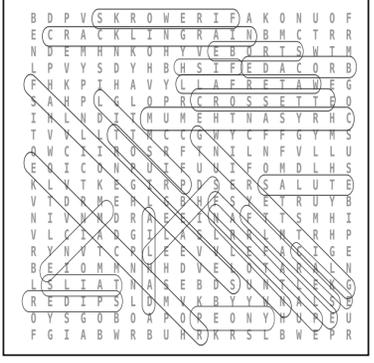
We look forward to see you at the pool this summer!

HSIMC is searching for foster homes

Do you love animals? Want to help the homeless cats and dogs in the community? Miss the cuddles and companionship of an animal but not sure if you can make the permanent commitment of ownership? Well, we have the answer for you – fostering! Here at HSIMC, we have a wonderful foster program that allows for you to help an animal out for a couple days to a few weeks.

We have cat and dog foster coordinators who help match you with a foster that would best fit in your home. You get to bring the animal home to spend time with you and they get a break from their kennels. While in your home, it gives us a chance to learn so much about them, such as if they

Read the rest of **HSIMC** | Over on Page 13



EAT. SLEEP. CAMP. REPEAT.



BUSHWHACKER TRAILER GIVEAWAY

July 5 - July 25
Earn Entries Daily

200 points = 1 Entry

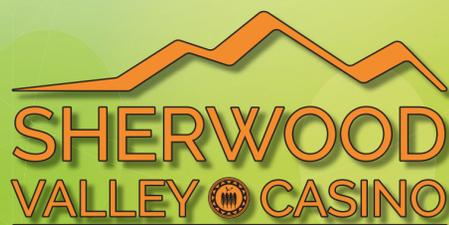
May redeem points for extra entries.

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING
JULY 25 AFTER 6 PM

You could win the
2021 Bushwhacker
Travel Trailer!



Actual make, model & color may vary. Winner is responsible for any taxes, fees and licensing. Non-transferable. For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.



[WWW.SVRCASINO.COM](http://www.svrcasino.com)

100 Kawi Place • Willits, CA 95490 Tel: 707-459-7978

The rest of Referendum From Page 1

Marianchild said that so far the efforts are going smoothly. "I think it's going really well," she said. "I'm sort of the communications hub for the [referendum], and I'm just constantly fielding questions, people wanting more petitions.... It seems like it's mushrooming. I've never done it before, and I'm really excited. I'm loving being out and gathering signatures."

Both Drell and Marianchild are clearly very passionate about their efforts with the referendum, and have put a lot of time and energy into the cause.

They were helping to train volunteer signature gatherers weeks ahead of the ordinance being approved, and said that less than a day after 22.18 passed, they were printing out petitions with the final version of the ordinance and preparing them for the volunteers.

"The pressure's on," said Drell. "We were waiting, ready to go."

"It's the fight of my life," said Marianchild. "I feel more passionate about it than I've ever felt."

Drell and Marianchild said their group is opposed to any expansion of cultivation sizes without the county first undergoing an environmental impact report to provide information on the cumulative impacts such expansion would cause.

Currently the maximum size allowance is 10,000 square feet in the county under the ordinance 10A17, and the new ordinance has language that could allow cultivation sites up to 10% of parcel size, though the board is considering temporarily reducing that. The supervisors passed the ordinance just prior to a July 1 deadline where they would have been required by the state to do an EIR.

Marianchild and Drell both spoke about the dizzying aspects of trying to follow what the county is doing with cannabis, and the difficulty in getting clear information on the subject.

"This is the most complex issue I've ever been involved in," said Drell, who has been an environmental and community activist in the area for many years. "There's more moving parts in this issue than anything I've come up against."

Drell said she was immediately alarmed when she first saw a draft of the Chapter 22.18 ordinance – particularly by the expansion in size allowed, the allowance of new grows in Rangeland zones, and lack of an EIR requirement.

In addition she's very concerned about the lack of transparency of the board and county staff, including in the process which produced the ordinance.

"The version that was presented to the public came out of left field really, which is part of the problem with this ordinance," said Drell. "It was pretty much a back-room deal. And just an indication of that is ... this was a cannabis cultivation ordinance, and there was at the time a cannabis cultivation ad hoc committee of John Haschak and Ted Williams. And when it appeared on the agenda for consideration by the board of supervisors back in January of this year, Haschak hadn't seen it before it appeared on the county's website. That's how hidden the whole process was."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak is the only supervisor who has opposed the ordinance, continually voting against it.

Drell said the process of how the board and county staff work together to create policy such as Chapter 22.18 has become increasingly "insular," without really taking into account the input of their constituents, despite hundreds of letters and phone calls opposing 22.18 from the public.

"And so there's this incestuous relationship between the board and staff," said Drell, "and that's how this absurd ordinance came to be. In that case they also had input from some mysterious group of big growers who were weighing

in on this new ordinance, and we can see their handprints on this thing. The 10% [expansion] is one of these things."

Mariangold, author of "Secrets of the Oak Woodlands," said she became more passionate about opposing the ordinance and its allowance of expansion into Rangeland after researching and writing her book, and then traveling around the state. She described the Rangeland zones as "the rolling hills that surround our inland valleys."

"They're mostly covered with oaks, and sometimes oak woodlands, oak savannah grasslands and some chaparral," she said. "And oaks support more life forms than any other tree species in North America.... And so when you put that together with the fact that we have the most pristine and unfragmented oak woodlands that I've seen in California, and I believe that exist in the West, that means that our Rangelands are a biological preserve of unequal importance in the western United States."

"And to see them riddled with roads and fences and hoop houses and water tanks and irrigation lines and all that stuff would just break my heart, and it would break Ellen's heart too. And that's why we teamed up like this."

Marianchild and Drell said they are skeptical about some provisions in the 22.18 ordinance that are supposed to provide environmental protections such as the requirement that Rangeland parcels show proof of "previous agricultural activity" in order to receive a permit. They thought that protection was written vaguely and contained loopholes, and that the county had not shown itself to be capable of adequately enforcing regulations under 10A17 anyway.

"Part of the background here in the county is we've had a cannabis cultivation ordinance since 2017," said Drell, "and the county has been utterly negligent in enforcing almost any of its provisions, certainly in a fair and equitable way."

She urged that the county should focus on enforcing current rules and getting the roughly 1,000 cannabis applicants still in limbo processed before any expansion is allowed.

"Why don't you take a couple years, enforce the existing ordinance, show us that you can actually do it," Drell said of the county. "That you have a regulatory program and enforcement program that actually works – a program that actually gets legitimate growers through the process. Then we might consider some amendments or some changes, or some expansion in some places. But to just dump an expansion ordinance of this magnitude on the public in the context of a totally failed regulatory system is an outrage."

Drell said she was not encouraged by the supervisors' actions at their last meeting on June 22, when a few hours after they approved Chapter 22.18, including the "10% rule," they then directed staff to bring back a separate ordinance which would put a smaller cultivation cap size in place, potentially scaling from 2 to 10 acres over a six-year period.

"To me it's an appeasement," Drell said of the tactic. "It's trying to fool the public into thinking that [the board] didn't really want 10%, they wanted something less.... It's an indication of how confused or how duplicitous the board is, and of course the result is an even more confused public.... What are they basing [the numbers] on? Where are their aquifer studies? Where are their upper watershed hydrology studies?"

TPR isn't the only referendum challenging the Chapter 22.18 ordinance. A group called "Small Is Beautiful" is attempting to repeal just the expansion to 10% of parcel size.

According to a recent editorial from Small Is Beautiful organizer Charles Sargenti in the Mendocino County Observer, if that referendum passes, it would set the maximum cultivation size back to 1 acre.

Sargenti had some strong words in that editorial challenging the approach that TPR has chosen.

He called the tactic of repealing the whole referendum an "alarmist" "burn it all down" approach.

The rest of Dinner From Page 8

named WFD Heritage Award winner; and Bruce Cartwright, named WFD Top Hand. Willits Frontier Days President and WFD volunteer Alexis England spoke about each of the award winner's importance to the community and connection to the organization and presented them with silver buckles and a pocket knife, inscribed with their titles.

Major sponsors of the event were also honored with plaques to display on their business walls and posed for photos with President Barry. Barry also posed for photos with each of the past Sweethearts who attended the dinner, and finally was able to place the crown on the winner of this year's title: Claire Case-Brackett, who sold a total of 8,796 tickets amounting to \$96,624 in sales.

Along with the title, Case-Brackett received a silver tiara, a set of silver spurs, a silver belt buckle, a bouquet of flowers, and the honor of wearing the perpetual America leather chaps given to each Sweetheart to wear during her reign.

See Case-Brackett, and other visiting royalty, during the Grand Entry of the upcoming CCPRA rodeos on July 3 and 4, as well as at the Main Street Parade on July 4, and other Willits Frontier Days events coming up this weekend.

The dinner concluded with an auction for the Willits Frontier Days Juniors club, who was able to raise \$3,250 for their Christmas program. The Juniors supply stockings for every child in coordination with the Willits Christmas Kids Program and use this money to purchase supplies and gifts.

The Juniors auctioned off three items: a set of vintage Willits Frontier Days plates, that were purchased by Chris Baldo; a Western saddle cinch made by Mary Anne Underhill, purchased by Andrew Hosford; and a colorful quilt, handmade by Rachel Cash that was purchased by Kathy Shuster.

The rest of Letters From Page 2

require a minor or major use permit.

Two groups have launched referendums to overturn either the whole Phase 3 ordinance or just the 10% provision. Either referendum would require approximately 4,000 signatures within 30 days after the June 22 adoption date. If qualified, such referenda would then go to the BOS which can either adopt one or both of them OR can schedule a special election to be brought to the voters. It's possible both referenda could be approved (over 50% voting yes); so far the county has given no guidance on what would happen in that case.

The two groups call themselves "Small Is Beautiful" to repeal just the 10% provision; and "The People's Referendum to Save Our Water, Wildlife & Way of Life" to repeal the whole ordinance. In brief, the former group is concerned that throwing out Phase 3 would make getting legal permits going forward very difficult. Some also prefer a 1-acre cap (allowed with site-specific EIR under the new Phase 3) rather than the current limit of 1/4 acre on grows (expandable to 1 acre only after a county-wide EIR).

The "total repeal" group feels that an EIR is essential to understanding the impacts before any major expansion of cannabis grows, in acreage and through new permits in rural zoning districts where it is currently prohibited. Without analysis or EIR, they argue, Mendocino County has no idea how many acres of grows they're talking about, nor how much water those grows would be pumping from our aquifers

(not to mention impacts on roads, wildlife corridors, etc.).

Based on Supervisor John Haschak's extensive work with involved agencies, they believe that existing small-scale operations CAN be successfully permitted – that Mendocino County has (intentionally or incompetently) held these "heritage" growers hostage for years with its failures to process permits or to enforce.

Already, we are seeing "small" grows, legal and illegal, proliferating at an alarming rate, people's wells running dry, hoop houses, lights, roads over-used, land prices skyrocketing, etc. Phase 3 seems likely to exacerbate these problems!

Bottom line: BOTH referenda would be an improvement over the BOS action, so feel free to sign both if you wish. If they both end up on a ballot, you can also choose to vote "Yes" on both.

But I personally strongly prefer repealing the ordinance so we can have a proper EIR. This would stop all expansion until and unless we know the consequences and enforce the rules! I believe rejecting the BOS phase 3 ordinance is the appropriate remedy. Then all of us can fight together for solutions going forward, including legalizing our responsible heritage growers.

To volunteer for the "People's" (total repeal) petition, contact katem@mcn.org; for the "Small" (No on 10%) petition, contact charlessargenti@gmail.com.

Madge Strong, Willits

"Folks that want to shut down the whole new ordinance are reacting out of anger," he said. "Acting from anger is always a bad policy choice."

Drell thought this was an unfair characterization, noting that TPR's position is to keep the current ordinance 10A17 in place, not to "burn it all down."

She acknowledged that 10A17 isn't perfect and is in need of some amendments – and possibly should be replaced eventually – but she felt the main problems from the last few years have been due to the county's incompetence in running the cannabis program, not in the ordinance itself.

And Marianchild pointed out that she and Drell are not opposed to cannabis in principle, just the massive expansion of a crop without an EIR.

Drell said she felt the TPR team was more eager than the Small Is Beautiful group, including Sargenti and fellow organizer Jim Shields, to really take on the county.

"Part of the referendum saying 'no' to the whole ordinance is saying to the supervisors this whole process – not only the content of this ordinance, but the way it came about and the way you're cramming it down the throat of the public is not acceptable," said Drell.

Overall, she and Marianchild feel that allowing Chapter 22.18 to move forward could lead to real danger for the local environment and community in the upcoming years, including decreasing the water supply and increasing fire danger.

"You show me a place, anywhere east of Willits that has one extra drop of water to spare," said Drell. "I mean you look at the landscape, it's suffering. The further you go west the less you see it, but as you go east it's pretty frightening to see what's happening to our landscape, and this [ordinance] just defies reason. It's not grounded in reality."

There is some uncertainty on what will happen if both referendums end up on the ballot and if they will be competing, but for now Drell, Marianchild and TPR's team will be focused on getting the signatures, and then campaigning for the referendum once it is headed for the ballot.

For those interested in volunteering to help collect signatures, you can contact Marianchild at katem@mcn.org, or reach her by phone at 707-463-0839.

For those interested in adding their names to the petitions, you can look for signature gatherers with "I'm A Volunteer" buttons and clipboards at various locations in the community, including Safeway, Mariposa Market, First Fridays in Ukiah, and at Willits Frontier Days activities.

The rest of HSIMC From Page 11

are house-broken, cat-social, dog-social, kid-friendly, or maybe best in a single-animal home.

In return, your insight helps get the animal adopted. It's a win-win. We would love to expand our foster team. We have many cats on-site in need of fosters as well as adult dogs. If this sounds like a fit for you, please fill out our foster application on our website at www.mendocinohumanesociety.com. Once an application is filled out, one of our foster coordinators will be in touch.

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

The rest of Repeal From Page 2

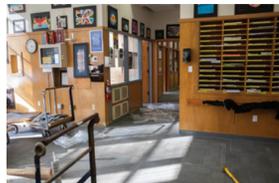
process legitimate applications to cultivate cannabis, and let in hundreds of clearly illegitimate applications that are now clogging the system," said Jenkins.

Dennis Slota, also on the steering committee and retired hydrologist with the Mendocino County Water Agency, says: "This major cannabis expansion has a profound and long-term impact on water, wildlife, land and communities. To proceed without an EIR is irresponsible and reckless, which is why the public needs to repeal this ordinance."

Signature gatherers for the People's Referendum will be out in front of stores and other public places with clipboards, petitions, and "I'm A Volunteer" buttons, as well as informational handouts for the next three and a half weeks.

"Engaging in this process keeps democracy alive," said Kate Marianchild, author of "Secrets of the Oak Woodlands" and outreach coordinator for the People's Referendum. "We're proud to be out on the streets 'petitioning our government for redress.' A big Thank You to all the volunteers, the cooperating stores and public venues, and especially to all the citizens who engage with us, ask questions, sign the petition, and help make all of our voices heard," says Marianchild.

At right: The Willits High School auditorium serves as a substitute office while the offices are being re-carpeted. At far right: Principal Michael Colvig, outgoing Superintendent Mark Westerburg, and new Superintendent Joe Aldridge pose for a photo during the tour. Below, left: The offices at Willits High School are under construction. Below, right: The students are transforming part of the campus into a garden and a place to meet. Further below, center: Mark Westerburg explains about the new innovations at the ball fields. At bottom, left: The science-lab rooms have all-new tables, working sinks, and other new equipment. At bottom, right: Principal Michael Colvig brings his puppy, Izzy, during repairs.



Investing in Education

Rotary members tour repairs and improvements made to Willits Unified schools thanks to bond Measure I

"Thank you. I've enjoyed my experience," said Mark Westerburg, outgoing superintendent of the Willits Unified School District. "The people have been great. It's a great place to live. We had a year and a half setback with COVID but I consider it an accomplishment to get through it. The school is in a better place than when I got here. That was the goal."

Indeed, there have been several improvements to the schools of Willits Unified, both physical and in the curriculum. Several of the curriculum changes are due to the physical improvements which have presented new possibilities and new tools for the staff and students.

Many of the improvements are due to the recent bond issue which the people of Willits voted in, enabling the school district to begin repairs to the aging infrastructure of the buildings and equipment. Other improvements have been gifted from grants

and the generosity of local businesses, who have either donated time, funding, or both.

The June 17 meeting of the Willits Rotary Club was held at the Willits High School library and media resource room, which was attended by Westerburg, incoming Superintendent Joe Aldridge, and WHS principal Michael Colvig. The purpose of the lunch, aside from the normal Rotary business, was to say farewell to Westerburg, who is moving to Minnesota to work and be close to family. The lunch was also held to greet Aldridge and to tour the improvements and repairs to the high school.

The improvements are a direct result of the diligent work of Westerburg in promoting and securing the funding, and they are also a show of the generosity of the people of Willits, many of whom have either graduated from the school or currently have children enrolled.

Read the rest of **Education** | Over on Page 15

Matthew Caine
Features Writer
mcaine@willitsweekly.com

Great American Freedom Fly-in held at Willits airport on Saturday

The Willits Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 1027 Inc. had a great day at Willits airport on Saturday, June 26, celebrating our freedom to fly with the Great American Freedom Fly-in. More than a dozen aircraft attended the event throughout the day, and the airport got a real boost in Avgas sales as most aircraft topped off at Willits.

As a special treat, a U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter jet did a fly-over of the airport and a wing-dip to salute our celebration of freedom, it then did a climbing turn-up into the Maxwell MOA. Marilyn Harden reported that people in downtown Willits heard the F-16 approach the airport from the south, and many came out of buildings to see what it was.

To learn more about the Willits EAA and upcoming events, visit www.eaa1027.org.

— Paul Trexel, president, Willits EAA Chapter 1027



At top: Farmer's Toy heads down the arena with The Terminator in tow. Above: The smoke cloud from this truck almost obliterates the view from the driver of The Terminator.

Below: The Whip driver gets ready for his turn to pull. At bottom: This black truck shows off for the gathered crowd.

Photos by Eric Pham

The rest of **Dance** | From Page 5

who is known only by his first name, Zach. The band was rounded out by bass guitarist Todd LaCasse and drummer Robert Romano.

Most of the attendees did not pay attention to whether this was the performance or a sound check. Their first priority upon entering was to find the watering hole to wet their whistles, socialize, and begin to feel the beats, and then they migrated toward the stage. Once the first couple began to move their feet to the music at this decidedly adults-only event, many others began to follow suit over the course of several songs until the dance area was full of gyrating bodies, their inhibitions mitigated by their liquid refreshments.

The crowd made ample use of the ability to gather outdoors sans masks to emerge from the lockdown, see faces that had been hidden for over a year, to laugh loudly, leave their inhibitions at the door, and enjoy their new freedom. The Street Dance, alternately known by many of the locals as the Street Fight, lived up to its reputation for a couple quick moments when some of the attendees decided to discuss matters with their fists. These incidents were short-lived, at least while Willits Weekly was in attendance, and the crowd went back to their quest for movement therapy, entertainment and beer.

By all indications, judging by the smiles and laughter, a great time was had by almost all the attendees. There will be another chance to dance the night away after the rodeo on Saturday, July 3. Willits Frontier Days are back, hopefully for good.



Mic Rueb and Theadora Grusky-Foley spend most of their time in the dance area in front of the stage.
Photos by Mathew Caine

American Legion Post 174 invites you to a

BEER WAGON RAFFLE

American Legion Post 174 of Willits invites the community to help fund Post 174's Boys State and High School Scholarships. Enter their 4th of July raffle to win an all-terrain Radio Flyer wagon, loaded with craft beer. "Once the wagon is full, secondary winners will receive the overflow!"

Raffle tickets are \$10 each or three tickets for \$25. Must be 21+ to participate. Drawing held July 4 – need not be present to win. To buy raffle tickets, contact any of Post 174's Legionnaires, or stop by Willits Furniture and ask for Legionnaire Curtis Dashiell. For further assistance, call Roger: 456-5898 or Bob at 707-272-1997.

Please drink responsibly!

The rest of **Education** | From Page 14

After the lunch, the group, led by Westerburg, ventured out to the grounds of the campus for a short tour, highlighting the work that has been done or is currently being accomplished. First stop was the Peace Garden that is being created by the students.

"We're doing the work incrementally over the next 10 to 12 years," Westerburg stated. "We'll continue to fix things as we find a need. What you're going to see is really what's important about Willits is not necessarily about the bond. We appreciate the help and support, but you're going to see things like a Peace Garden is being built by the kids."

"You'll see dug-out roofs," he continued, "and other things that the student construction class has done. You're going to see an ag farm that is a beneficiary of a donation that somebody left us. There were local contractors that came in and basically worked for free just to get the materials to fix it and make it work."

There has been a renewed emphasis on vocational training tracks at the high school, training students to have the ability to go into various fields directly from graduation. Knowing that many will not attend college as they leave school to continue their lives has shifted focus to learning courses that will prepare them to become productive and independent members of society. Many of the projects shown by Westerburg were created and built by students in the vocational tracks.

The group of Rotarians followed Westerburg to the agricultural farm on the southeast side of the campus where there have been improvements, most notably, three barns, one of which has multiple uses as a show place and training center for the FFA classes, with customizable internal fencing to emulate fairs and other showplaces. This main barn can and has also been utilized during COVID as a place to hold events, such as the senior prom and the Sober Grad party. There have also been inquiries about renting the facility to outside groups for events. The smaller goat barn is being built by the construction class.

A practice athletic field is being built on railroad property

behind the football field. The baseball fields, both for the boys and the girls have fencing and new scoreboards that have been partially paid for by Les Schwab Tires. At the football field, "the goalposts were fixed and repainted. The press box was redone with the help of some local folks. It's new. If you were ever in there a long time ago, it had an OSHA-nightmare ladder to get up into it. That's gone. The bleacher boards were redone by the student construction class. They replaced all of them with new boards."

Not all the improvements are aesthetic. While digging out the old asphalt in the front parking lot, two huge containers of no-longer-usable diesel fuel were discovered, holding 2,000 gallons each that were originally used to heat the pool. This had to be removed, which pushed the project back a couple weeks and cost some of the bond money.

The pool is getting an inflatable cover / tent that will make it available for use by the students and public during the fall and winter. All the schools have new hydration stations for use by the students. All schools are getting new roofs and new heating and cooling systems. The high school has new floors and some carpeting. The science-class rooms, which had several problems with its sinks and other facilities, are now up to par with all-new table tops and working utilities.

The gym at Baechtel Creek has been redone. "It's the most used school space other than the high school," Westerburg stated. "There are tons of community activities that go on in the Baechtel gym. The entire roof has been done. The floor has been re-sanded. The walls are all painted. There is new LED lighting. It's super bright and light. It's a good facility. It's a community space that we're fortunate to have."

Many of the improvements are proving to be beneficial to the community, as the facilities are open to the public for use on a limited basis. Under Westerburg's leadership, along with Colvig and the generous community companies that have donated their time and equipment, the many improvements underway at the local campuses will help to make the town a better place for years to come.



Above, left: Four thousand gallons of diesel fuel, originally used to heat the pool, were discovered under the parking lot during construction. Above, right: After the removal of the diesel fuel, the re-topping of the parking lot continued.

At left: This outdoor auxiliary basketball court was created from leftover materials.

Photos by Mathew Caine

The rest of **Pulls** | From Page 3

World Stock Diesel Truck Class: Jr Silveira, driving Night Shift, pulled 309.79; Juan Estupinan, driving The Hoodlum, pulled 302.68; James Farmer, driving Little Smoke, pulled 298.86; Jason Soiland, driving White Hammer, pulled 297.35; and Kyle Field, driving Whiskey Dent, pulled 270.59.

Limited Pro Stock Diesel Truck Class: Trevor Massetti, driving All Smoked Out, pulled 319.55, and Matthew Orsetti, driving Purple Haze, pulled 298.14.

Pro Stock Diesel Truck Class: John Esteves, driving Smkn Max, pulled 307.21.

Stock Diesel Truck Class: Jason Whitby pulled 281.83; Randall Parker, driving Old Iron, pulled 271.28; Mathew Miner pulled 270.03; and Steffen Cantua, driving Silver Bullet, pulled 259.48.

Pro Modified Truck Class: Larry Lopes, driving Young Guns, pulled 315.08; Bob Griffin, driving Long Shot, pulled 310.04; Mike Robers, driving Vindicator, pulled 305.29; Trevor Massetti, driving Yellow Fever, pulled 303.62; John Boer, driving Code3, pulled 296.19; and Willits' own and current Willits Frontier Days President, Fred Barry, driving Time Bandit, pulled 293.42.

Results provided by MLM Motorsports.



Made for more poses



Paul Charpentier, MD Total Joint Specialist
Ephraim Dickinson, MD Orthopedics / Sports Medicine
Brian Gould, DO Sports Medicine
Yoshihiro Katsura, MD Spine Specialist

You were made for more. More flexibility. More peace. More movement. More discoveries. That's why Adventist Health offers the deepest expertise in orthopedic treatment options. From hips to knees to spine, from pain management to minimally invasive procedures to joint-replacement options, our experts are ready to see you now. So you can quickly be pain-free and back to doing more.

Orthopedics at **Adventist Health**

Take an orthopedic health assessment today at www.MendocinoCountyOrtho.com

Frances Lawrason

Frances Ann Lawrason was born July 3, 1942 in Los Angeles, to George Winchester and Ann Melton. She passed away on June 7, 2021 in Willits, just one month shy of her 79th birthday.

Fran is survived by her children and their spouses: Danny Lawrason, Bruce (Deanna) Lawrason, Melinda (Kirk) Graux, and Bernice (Phillip) Colvard, as well as her stepdaughters Janet and Sandy. She leaves behind her grandchildren: Holley, Rikki, Joshua, Michael and Wyatt, in addition to her great-grandchildren: Laylla, Kylee, Myah, Annalissa, Aiden, Isabell and Deborah.

She is also survived by her sisters Mavis Curtis and Ruby (Jim) Pietrzak and brother Elmer (Sandy) French, as well as many nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, her stepdad Harold Melton, brother Eugene Winchester, nephew Eddie Pietrzak, and great-niece Madi Curtis.

Fran lived the majority of her life in Willits. She was a rural postal route carrier for 35 plus years where she worked six days a week. She took great pride in her job where she knew all her customers along her route all the way to Garberville and back.

In her younger years, Fran enjoyed working in her garden. The past 10 years, Fran found great joy in fishing and camping in Fort Bragg with her sister Ruby and her good friends Marcie and Joyce. She also enjoyed spending time with nieces Denell and Emily and nephews Angel and Andrew, where there was never a dull moment. She loved nature, flowers, and animals, but most of all, Fran loved cats.

Services have been held, and interment is at Willits Cemetery.



Congrats to Clayton Cooley

Willits cowboy Clayton Cooley, 14, is making a name for himself in the junior rodeo circuit. Cooley attended the California Junior High School Rodeo State Finals Rodeo held in Red Bluff back in May, where he won third place in the bull riding event.



The top four riders in each event were able to advance to the California Junior High School Rodeo National Finals Rodeo held in Des Moines, Iowa last week. Cooley attended and rode two bulls; unfortunately he was bucked right off the first bull, but did last the 8 seconds needed for a qualified ride on the second bull and earned himself 47th place in the world, out of 100 riders from across the United States, Mexico, and parts of Canada.

Cooley has been riding bulls competitively just this year, and also enjoys competing in team roping and steer wrestling. He plans to join the California High School Rodeo Association team next year, as he enters Willits High School as a freshman this fall.

Come cheer on Cooley at the upcoming Willits Frontier Days Junior Rodeo, held on Friday, July 2 starting at 3 pm. He will be competing in the bull riding and chute dogging events.

John and Sherry Honeycutt

In loving memory of Johnny (John) and Sharlene (Sherry) Honeycutt, 10/19/1945 to 4/22/2021 and 1/20/1948 to 5/28/2021.

John and Sherry are longtime Willits residents who enjoyed spending time with their family and friends.

They are survived by their daughter, Johnnieann and her husband, Matt Johnstone, their son, Coy Honeycutt, and granddaughters, Julia and Jamie Johnstone. They were preceded in death by daughter, Jonella and unborn baby.

John is survived by three sisters and two brothers. John is preceded in death by a sister and brother. Sherry is preceded in death by a brother and sister. John and Sherry are both survived by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Friends and family are invited to attend a Celebration of Life, Saturday, July 17, 2021 from 1 to 3 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street.



Linda Blum

Linda Blum was born in Trevos, Pennsylvania, on November 29, 1948 to John and Eloise Ramsden. She was married to Robert Blum on May 27, 1968, and from that date they enjoyed 53 loving years together. They had two children: Wendy, and Bob, Jr.; and four grandchildren: Kaitlyn, Jackson, Ethan and Alex.

Linda was a loving homemaker, mother and wife, and loved the Lord with all of her heart. She was a continual Christian influence to all of her family and friends. She and Bob were members of Agape Bible Church since moving to Willits in 2003.

Linda will be greatly missed by her family and friends. May God Bless her Soul. All are welcome to come celebrate Linda's life with us on July 17 at Agape Bible Church starting at 11 am.

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

95TH ANNUAL

Willits Frontier Days

"THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME"

Entry forms and additional information online:
www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Friday, June 18: HOMETOWN CELEBRATION: 5 to 9 p.m. Main Street – Downtown Willits Free</p> <p>Saturday, June 19: SWEETHEART JUDGING: TBA Appearance & Poise</p> <p>Sunday, June 20: HORSE SHOW: 8 a.m. Jack Tharp Arena Free</p> <p>SWEETHEART JUDGING: Horsemanship: During Horse Show Jack Tharp Arena</p> <p>NATIONAL ANTHEM: 12 p.m. Rodeo Grounds Free</p> <p>Friday, June 25: CARNIVAL: Next to Rodeo Grounds</p> <p>TRUCK PULLS: 6 p.m. Jack Tharp Arena \$20/Adults, \$10/Kids (5-12)</p> <p>STREET DANCE: with Flat Busted Following Truck Pulls Rodeo Grounds Free</p> <p>Saturday, June 26: SWEETHEART CROWNED: Rodeo Grounds</p> | <p>Friday, July 2: JUNIOR RODEO "Under the Lights": 3 p.m. Jack Tharp Arena \$15/Adults, Kids free</p> <p>Saturday, July 3: LIONS COWBOY BREAKFAST: 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. Rec Grove Park \$15/Adults, \$10/Kids (5-12)</p> <p>CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO: 7 p.m. Jack Tharp Arena \$20/Adults, \$10/Kids (5-12)</p> <p>WESTERN DANCE: with Chad Bushnell Following CCPRA Rodeo Rodeo Grounds Free</p> <p>Sunday, July 4: HORSESHOE CONTEST: 10 a.m. Rec Grove Park Free</p> <p>MAIN STREET PARADE "There's No Place Like Home": 11 a.m. Main Street – Downtown Willits Free</p> <p>BEEF BARBECUE: 12 p.m. Rec Grove Park \$25/Adults, \$15/Kids (5-12)</p> <p>COUNTRY MUSIC RODEOLA: 12 p.m. Rec Grove Park Free</p> <p>CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO: 4 p.m. Jack Tharp Arena \$20/Adults, \$10/Kids (5-12)</p> |
|---|---|

Thank you to our major sponsors:

BUD GARMAN

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC
Lic# 679517

707-459-5859

Environmental Restoration - Ponds
 Septic & Water Systems - Site Development
 Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery

24900 N. HWY 101 IN WILLITS GARMANCONST@GMAIL.COM

Taxes* | Investments | Insurance
 Real Estate* | Payroll & Bookkeeping*

Nicholas Casagrande, EA

855.240.6606

675 S Main St, Willits, CA 95490
 105 W Clay St, Ukiah, CA 95482

nicholas@ncfinancialgroup.com
 nicholas.casagrande@ceterafs.com**

NC Financial Group

EA # 00105934 • CA DRE # 01854336 • CA Insurance LIC # 0H68496
 Advisory services offered through Cetera Investment Advisers LLC. Securities offered through Cetera Financial Specialists LLC (doing insurance business in CA as CFGS Insurance Agency), member FINRA/SIPC. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity. *These services are not offered through Cetera Financial Specialists LLC **Investment email