

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 410

Thursday, July 8, 2021

City renews contract with Animal Control

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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The Willits City Council approved a contract with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office for another year of patrol services by county Animal Control officers at its June 23 meeting. The new July 1, 2021 to June 20, 2022 contract covers 6 hours of services a week, or 312 hours a year, for a total of \$22,000, the same price as last fiscal year.

Animal patrol services are for Animal Control officers to respond to calls and patrol within city limits, including loose dog impoundment, and cruelty and nuisance complaint investigations, during regular business hours.

The staff report for the agenda item written by Willits Police Department Chief Fabian Lizarraga stated: "In general, city staff is satisfied with the animal patrol services provided by the MCSO. This agreement does not provide 24-hour coverage, but provides for adequate coverage within the contracted amount."

Chief Lizarraga told

Read the rest of
Contract
Over on Page 11

Vaccine clinic at Ukiah Fairgrounds every Friday

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

Mendocino County Public Health will operate a regular COVID-19 vaccine clinic every Friday at the Ukiah Fairgrounds, Fine Arts Building, beginning Friday, July 9. All vaccine types will be available from 9 am to 1 pm and 2 to 5 pm every Friday. Vaccines are free, and no advance registration is needed.

There is much to celebrate in Mendocino County with the reopening of businesses and more social opportunities to see our friends and loved ones. However, we continue to see new COVID-19 cases daily in communities across the county. Almost all of these cases have been among the unvaccinated.

Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren recommends that the safest way to take advantage of the loosened social and business restrictions is to get vaccinated.

With this advice in mind, we intend to provide regular

Read the rest of
Vaccine
Over on Page 11



Above, from left: The Willits Otters Swim Team handed out Otter pops and chanted from atop the float during Sunday's Main Street parade. This minibus from the Mendocino County Office of Education also rolled through the parade. Mendocino County Soccer's float featured a giant soccer ball and a group of players dribbling balls behind as they walked down Main Street.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Hold on, cowboy! The bronc gave this cowboy the ride of the evening, launching him up, over and down before his eight seconds were through at the July 3 CCPRA rodeo.



Above, left: This airborne bull jumps with all his might to dismount this brave cowboy at the July 3 CCPRA rodeo. Above, right: Jesse Carter's classic car was the perfect vehicle to showcase the Good Guys Gym parade entry. At right: Danielle Barry carries the American flag at the July 3 CCPRA rodeo.



Frontier Days Finale

Big weekend of festivities concluded
2021 Fourth of July Celebration

During the last week of events, friends and family gathered to enjoy a smattering of Fourth of July fun including the pancake breakfast, beef barbecue, horseshoe contest and musical rodeola in the park, the Main Street parade, two CCPRA rodeos, junior rodeo, dances, and the carnival. Read about many of these events inside today's paper on pages 5, 6-7 and 8!



Above, from left: The junior rodeo had something for all competitors, including breakaway roping, left, mutton bustin, center, and steer daubing, right.

At left: Los Vaqueros riders carrying an American and a Mexican flag get ready at the start of the parade route near the front of the newly built Little Lake Firehouse.

Supes to grapple with redistricting process

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The effects of COVID-19 on delaying the results of the 2020 U.S. Census may have trickled down to the 2021 local redistricting efforts.

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors heard at their June 22 meeting that although the county will not likely have access to federal census data until the end of October, it is still required to adopt new supervisorial district boundaries by December 15, 2021.

This tight timeline was the rationale behind the County Counsel's Office recommendation that the board use a county staff-based advisory commission to recommend new district lines, to reflect how local populations have changed.

Supervisors decided not to accept that recommendation – which was presented on the consent calendar – after Third District Supervisor John Haschak pulled the item for discussion.

Haschak asked to hear why staff had recommended the staff-based committee option instead of the other two options available

Read the rest of
Process
Over on Page 11

Willits City Hall reopens to public

Submitted by City of Willits

Effective Tuesday, July 6, the City of Willits is pleased to announce the reopening of City Hall. Our customer service representatives will be available in person or by phone during normal business hours (Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 5:30 pm. Customers may also continue to pay their utility bills online (www.cityofwillits.org), by phone 459-4601, or by continuing to drop off payment in the drop box at City Hall.

Planning and Building Services

Our Community Development Department will be open to the public Monday through Thursday, 9 to 11 am and 2 to 5:30 pm. You can make an appointment or schedule an inspection by contacting one of the following:

Davey Bowles, building inspector, 459-7122 or email dbowles@cityofwillits.org

Michelle Johnson, assistant planner, 459-7125 or email mjohnson@cityofwillits.org

Read the rest of
Reopening
Over on Page 9

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

July 2021 update

Community at its best

By Supervisor John Haschak

It was wonderful to have Willits Frontier Days back! The parade, barbeque, Sweetheart Dinner, rodeo, and fair were all well-attended with smiling faces. Much appreciation to all the volunteers who made these events happen! Community at its best!

I walked in the 4th of July Parade with the Promotores de Salud, a county-funded program of health promoters who have been getting COVID-19 information out to the Hispanic community about masking, vaccinating, and staying well. Each month they are doing a 10,000 steps walk around Willits. Next one is August 21.

With the other supervisors voting to greatly expand cannabis cultivation, there are two referendums moving forward. One is to eliminate the language in a footnote allowing 10% of acreage in ag and rangeland. The other is to get rid of the entire ordinance. County counsel says that the elimination of the 10% clause might be too narrow of a focus and that the courts might not allow it. This will be challenged.

There are many people far and wide in support of these referendums. Former Sheriff Tom Allman, cannabis growers who don't want agribusiness takeover, residents concerned about water, environmentalists concerned about detrimental effects on our lands, and many residents who are tired of lack of enforcement and a cannabis industry that seems out of control, support one or the other or both referendums. The people's voice needs to be heard. Fortunately there is a referendum process.

Being in year two of this drought, and with several heat waves already this summer, we need to do everything possible to conserve water. The Drought Task Force Ad Hoc Committee has another meeting this Thursday via zoom. I have been talking with the water managers in the Third District to monitor water capacity and look at water conservation projects that might be ready for state funding.

Covelo will have its Blackberry Festival. Laytonville has a rodeo and Legacy Farms Cannamarket coming soon. The Willits Community Theatre is up and running. Have a great summer! Hope to see you around.

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

Drought Ad Hoc Committee to host 2nd virtual meeting

On Thursday, July 8 at 4 pm, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Drought Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Supervisor John Haschak and Supervisor Glenn McCourt, will host a virtual Countywide Drought Task Force Meeting. The supervisors will give an update on their current discussions with community partners and staff on drought-related issues.

County Executive Office and Transportation staff will also participate. Members of the public will have an opportunity to hear a brief update and share their recommendations with the ad hoc committee.

Brief agenda is:

1. Regional Water Status Fact Finding Report

2. Urgency Items

3. Possible Board Policy Actions Recommendation

4. Q&A Responses

How to attend:

To join via Zoom, click the link: <https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/88971765675?pwd=Ty9Nczk4MlVGVGZjXkaE82Slc2YndhQT09>

Passcode: 665233

To join via phone, dial: +1 669 900 9128 and enter the webinar ID: 889 7176 5675

The webinar will also be streaming live on the County's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/mendocinocountyvideo>) and the County's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/mendocinocounty/>).

Please send comments or questions to: drought@mendocinocounty.org or call the Drought Hotline at 707-234-6363.

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

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

Volume 9, Number 410

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

P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633 / 707-972-7047

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Sign both referendums

To the Editor:

I will be signing both referendums. This is the best chance that we have of preventing the onslaught of outsiders taking over our county.

We are not Walmart, we are not Costco. We are historically a county which looks to tomorrow as we venture through today. Our water, our resources, and our energy is unlike any other place in the world. Please encourage your neighbors to sign both and be vocal about it.

My sincere sadness is that the board of supervisors knows that one of the propositions will prevail, yet they are fighting their very constituents. Crazyiness runs rampant. It's a "let them eat cake" moment.

Thanks for engaging.

Tom Allman, former Mendocino County sheriff, Willits

A tale of two referendums

To the Editor:

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors' 4 to 1 vote (Supervisor Haschak dissenting) to approve a new cannabis ordinance that establishes the infamous "10% rule" (which permits cannabis grows of up to 10% on parcels over 10 acres), is a direct slap in the face to every legacy cannabis farmer, small business owner, and registered voter in this County.

Imagine: the 10% rule permits a cannabis grow of 100 acres on a 1,000 acre parcel. A 100 acre grow is the equivalent of 435 10,000 square feet grows, the previous maximum size. It doesn't take an economics professor to see that the 10% rule is the death knell for the county's small legacy cannabis farmers, and that the county's cannabis industry will be dominated by a few large corporate entities, mostly headquartered outside the County.

It is clear that the four supervisors who voted in favor of the 10% rule have no problem selling out their constituents for the easy money from deep-pocketed, out-of-county, corporate speculators.

In reaction to the board's effrontery, two ad hoc groups of alarmed citizens formed independently to create countywide referendums to rescind the 10% rule. Apparently there was an attempt made to merge the two groups, but their differences in approach could not be reconciled, so now there are petitions for two separate referendums to repeal the 10% rule being circulated to get on the ballot.

Personally, I was not consulted on either of these referendums, so my opinion expressed below is entirely based on the content of the referendums and not on the identities of the petitioners.

I have been following the debate in the newspapers over the two referendum proposals, and from what I can tell, one referendum would completely rescind the new cannabis ordinance and fall back on the failed permitting process of the past five years, and the other referendum would simply strike out the 10% rule and leave the rest of the new ordinance intact.

As I see it, with the exception of the 10% rule, the new ordinance is not so bad. It includes needed reforms in the permitting process that make it feasible for small

Please return Grange utensils

To the Editor:

Isn't it great that this COVID stuff is (mostly) behind us now? Here at Little Lake Grange Commercial Kitchen we are seeing many more inquiries for kitchen use!

Caterers, new businesses, AND old businesses restarting!!!! Our Grange is starting our famous pancake breakfasts on the 4th Sunday of each month starting in July, too!

I am sad about one thing, though. Over the years, many of our cooking utensils have disappeared. Our 100-quart stainless steel stock pot is long gone, but the 80-quart, 40-quart, and 20-quart stock pots have only disappeared in the last few years.

We have no commercial size frying pans left, only a few small saucepans, and the last of our half-sheet baking pans just recently disappeared. And, believe it or not, our 100-cup coffee urn is missing!

I know that, just like our coffee cups, community members take something home with them expecting to return the item (I've done it myself), and then forget. And, with the whole shelter in place, we haven't been available to receive any of our items.

So this letter is to ask anyone in our community that if you have something that belongs back in the Little Lake Grange Commercial Kitchen, please call 459-9716 (or email willitsgrange@gmail.com) and leave a message at our office, and we will gladly make arrangements to meet you at the Grange to happily welcome our cookware back. Thank you.

Erica Kroesen, 40-year Grange member and business manager, Little Lake Grange



Welcome Back

Willits Harrah Senior Center reopens facility for in-house lunch and event rentals

Last Thursday, July 1, the Willits Harrah Senior Center celebrated opening its doors to the public for the first time in 15 months. Fully vaccinated people or ones with recent negative COVID-19 tests were greeted by volunteers and staff. They were thrilled to invite folks back into the newly remodeled building for the grand opening.

"We missed hearing voices in our dining room and people popping their heads in the admin office to say 'hello' as they went to and from their activities and meetings," said Administrative Coordinator Deb Holcomb.

The sentiment was echoed by Director Richard Baker, Bookkeeper Greg Mudd, and other staff. "The message I want to convey to the community is, first and foremost, the Senior Center is a safe place," stated Baker. "Our entire staff and all volunteers are fully vaccinated or produce a negative COVID test result within the last 72 hours to enter the facility." He requests that guests bring a vaccination card or COVID test results when visiting. At this time, if visitors cannot do either of those things, they won't be admitted into the center.

Entering the Senior Center, one can't help but notice the newness in the lobby: shiny vinyl flooring, contemporary lounge furniture, and fresh check-in counters. All are easily sanitized, Baker assures.

How did they manage to finance the above renovations and more?

They received a grant from the T.R. Eriksen Foundation, a faithful donor for many years, once they heard from Baker about how the pandemic was affecting the Senior Center. With seniors and the general public sheltering in place, there was an increased demand on the Meals on Wheels program. More deliveries, combined with the fact that 30 percent of the center's workforce, being volunteer-driven, was no longer available to assist, created a strain on the over-extended staff. For example, Holcomb and Baker became Meals on Wheels drivers in addition to their usual roles.

"And the next thing you know, I got a nice donation in the mail!" Baker exclaimed. The board of directors met. They did an evaluation of the center to determine what would be good to get done while the facility was closed. They didn't want to disrupt any of the usual activities. Then they prioritized the long list. "It's been a lifeline for us," the director added.

More things that were redone or are new include: replacing the 30-year-old heating and cooling system with new HVAC units throughout the center; repairing the roof drain system and fixing leaks; upgrading the kitchen; hiring a Meals on Wheels driver during the shutdown; procuring a temporary receptionist which helped facilitate the center to help 650 senior and community members get vaccinated; purchasing a hot-water heater for the Thrift Shop; and purchasing a Tuff shed needed for medical-equipment storage – an impressive list of improvements and help.

Volunteer Pat Yoxall, left, checks in employee James Howard for lunch; next in line are Sharon Bianchi with husband Paul Uebelhart, both have their vaccination cards ready for signing in for the lunches.

Baker reminds all that the Harrah Senior Center serves the entire community as well as senior citizens. During the pandemic, the facility and staff worked in conjunction with Adventist Health Howard Memorial to provide free transportation to and from vaccination clinics at the Senior Center. Six-hundred and fifty people were served because of these efforts.

In conjunction with Public Health, the Harrah Center was also used to administer COVID-19 testing. "And in the future our facility will be used as a cooling and hydration station and medical-equipment charging center during PG&E shutdowns," Baker informed.

Baker encourages everyone who had meetings or events at the center's facilities to start those again. "We're dependent upon that income stream along with monetary donations. We're dependent upon them to provide essential services like Meals on Wheels, senior transportation, outreach services, and other community needs.

"We would appreciate your support," Baker added.

Please contact Holcomb if you'd like to join the delightful group of volunteers. There are different and interesting ways to volunteer and she enjoys helping people find their perfect place within the organization.

Richard Baker and Deb Holcomb can be reached at 459-6826. Visit the center's website: www.willitsseiorcenter.com or Facebook page: Willits Harrah Senior Center and Thrift Store.



At left: The new upgrades in the Harrah Senior Center include easy-to-clean-and-sanitize vinyl flooring, new chairs, and a couch and table in the lobby. Above, left: Dianna Grigalba provides iced tea for Kenneth Querry who said, "During the shut-down! I got down to eating just a cup of chicken noodle soup for lunch and that was it! I saw meatloaf on the menu today – I always like meatloaf – so I came right down." Above, right: Lance Hodges inspects the Thrift Shop donations for quality before they're put on shelves and hangers. Below: Administrative Coordinator Deb Holcomb, right, seen here with her great-granddaughter, Aaliyah, delivers Meals on Wheels lunches to driver Pandy Denny.



Above, left: Lunch server Linda Gnader shows the generous portions of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy and corn with a roll on the side that are boxed up for one of the Meals on Wheels deliveries. Above, right: The salad bar is provided with the main course.

At left: Senior Center Bookkeeper Greg Mudd delivers lunches to Marta, who is picking up the \$5 lunches for herself and friends.

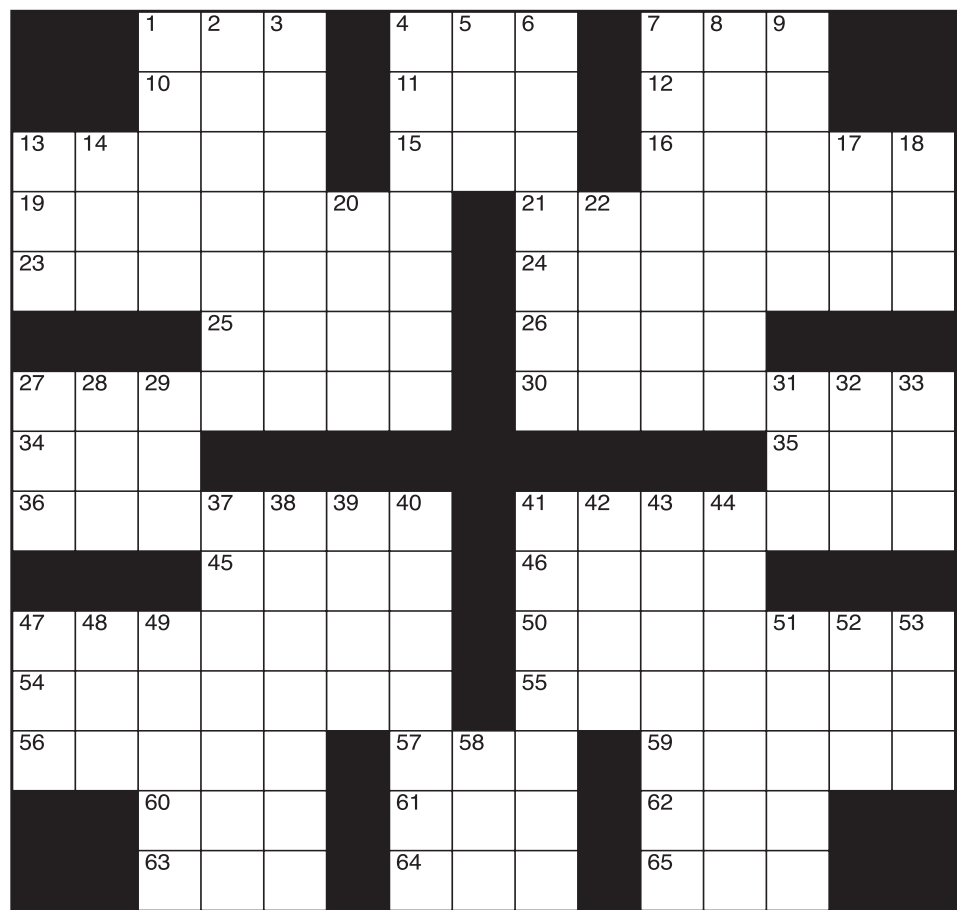
Photos by Ree Slocum

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

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!

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

BEACH	HAZY	SHADY	SWIMSUIT
CAMPING	HOT	SUMMER	TEMPERATURE
COASTAL	LAZY	SUNSHINE	TOWEL
COOLING	OUTDOORS	SUNTAN	TRAVEL
FAN	RECREATION	SWEATING	UMBRELLA
HAMMOCK	SEASIDE	SWIMMING	VACATION



1. Sr. enlisted Army member
4. Payroll firm
7. Monetary unit of Macao
10. Cooking vessel
11. Cow sound
12. Hairpiece
13. Spoon-shaped surgical instrument
15. Mother
16. Remove from record
19. Foolish
21. Mailman
23. Unit of data size
24. Stirred
25. Deceptive movement
26. We all have one
27. Direct from pasture beef animal
30. A person's own self
34. Helps little firms
35. Deep, red-brown sea bream
36. Tumbler
41. A short section of a musical composition
45. Young woman (French)
46. Wings
47. Wine bottles

1. Small stem bearing leaves
2. Female Bacchanalians
3. Mediterranean city
4. Measures electric current
5. Arrived extinct
6. Edible butterflyfish
7. Causing wonder or astonishment
8. Behaviors showing high moral standards
9. Ancient Irish alphabets
13. Footballer Newton
14. Utilize

WILLITS KIDS CLUB
Gateway to our Future

Photos by Matthew Jennison and Maureen Jennison

*Photos by Matthew Jennison
and Maureen Jennison*


– *Maureen Jennison*



(PG13)
2 hrs 13 mins

— **SPECIAL PREVIEW**
Thurs., July 8
5:00 & 8:00pm

Fri. - Thurs.
July 9 - July 11
5:00 & 8:00pm

A movie poster for 'Black Widow' featuring Scarlett Johansson in a white tactical suit, holding a gun, with other characters in the background. The title 'BLACK WIDOW' is at the bottom.**Movie Times for July 9 thru July 15**

(PG)
1 hr 47 mins
Fri. - Thurs.
July 9 - July 15
4:45 & 7:15pm

NOW OPEN 7 DAYS PER WEEK!

(PG13) 2 hrs 23 mins
Fri. - Mon.
July 9 - July 12:
4:30 & 7:30pm
Tues., July 13:
7:30pm
Thurs., July 15:
4:30 & 7:30pm

Private Screenings Available. Call Lois @ 707-354-3295 to schedule.



Above, from left: Willits rider, Grady Fonsen, has his paint dauber ready and poised as he lopes down the arena in the steer daubing event at the annual Willits Frontier Days Junior Rodeo. A young rider tries hard to hold on to the woolly beast, but falls short, in the mutton busting contest. This cowgirl stops her horse quick after poking the steer with her paint-soaked pole. Below, left: The pickup men try just as hard to keep the sheep riders safe, making sure to help the rider if needed. Below, right: Willits rider Danielle Barry reaches hard for the steer as it barrels ahead of her during the steer daubing event. At bottom: This cowgirl's pretty horse barrels down the arena towards the running steer.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Above, from left: This cowboy didn't quite make his 8-second ride at the July 3 CCPRA pro rodeo. In breakaway roping, the cowgirl throws the loop and once pulled taut, the rope snaps from the saddle. The calf always get a bit of a head start as the cowboy tries not to break the barrier too early, earning a time penalty. A special mother/son moment at the July 3 rodeo with Shady Lady, a mare who was bucked out and injured severely in 2019, and who was kept in Willits and nursed back to health in a long and arduous process. She's now not only better, but working on building the next generation of bucking horses, including her stallion colt, Mora, shown here alongside. She also is already in foal again, much to the delight of all. At left: "One, two, three and a hooey!" the mental motto of tie-down ropers as they make the correct tie and knot pattern around three of the calves' legs.

CCPRA Pro Rodeo

Cowboys and cowgirls rope and ride at annual spectator event

The main events each year at Willits Frontier Days are the California Cowboys Pro Rodeo Association rodeos, held in the evening hours on July 3 and in the afternoon on July 4. These rodeos give the professional cowboys and cowgirls from up and down the state of California a chance to show their skills for big money and big prizes – but only if they make the catch, or stay on for the ride.

2021 results from the rodeos included the following winners: All-Around Cowboy went to Miley Bunting of Red Bluff, CA; Tie-Down Roping went to Kolby Bravos from Red Bluff,

CA; Breakaway Roping went to Fallon Ruffoni of Arroyo Grande, CA; Steer Wrestling went to Wes Lockhard of Atascadero, CA; Team Roping Header went to Doyle Hoskins of San Juan Bautista, CA; Team Roping Heeler went to Stoney Boy Joseph of Waianae, HI; Barrel Racing went to Miley Bunting of Red Bluff, CA; Saddle Bronc went to Caden Grisedale of Granite Station, CA; Bareback went to Eric Bettencourt of Modesto, CA; and Bull Riding went to Raymond Mayo of Clearlake, CA.

Results provided by CCPRA



Photos by Maureen Jennison

The up-and-comers

Young cowboys and cowgirls hone their skills in annual Junior Rodeo

Before it's time to join in the roping and riding of the CCPRA rodeo and play with the big guys, young riders get to try their hand at many similar events in the Junior Rodeo, which was held on July 2 at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo grounds.

Results for the Junior Rodeo are as follows:

Dummy Roping: first place went to Dally Sue Hunt; second to Claude Mora; there was a tie for third between Kade Gudel and Willow Peregrina.

Mutton Busting: first place went to Easton Grider; second to Andel Ramirez; third to Ora Sizemore; fourth to Weston Boesel; and fifth to Willow Peregrina.

Steer Daubing, Junior: first place went to Canyon Darger; second to Emerald Meuller; and third to Natalie Marcum-Soto.

Steer Daubing, Senior: first place went to Jace Hower; second to Cole Carmesin; third to Ella Rockwell; and fourth to Rainy Minton.

Goat Tying, Junior: first place went to Emerald Meuller; second to Mazzi Mcallister; third to Stoney Bauer; and fourth to Canyon Darger.

Goat Tying, Senior: first place went to Rainy Minton, and second to Bethany Grieve.

Goat Tail Un-tying: first place went to Russel Johnson; second to Mikayla Black; third to Claude Mora; and fourth to Payton Shull.

Junior/Junior Team Roping: first place went to the team of Stoney Bauer and Richard Ferri, and second to the team of Jace Hower and DJ Albee.

Junior/Senior Team Roping: first place

went to the team of Jace Hower and Brian White; second to the team of Garrett Christiansen and Lane Christiansen; and third went to the team of Rainy Minton and Casey Minton.

Single Stake: first place went to Keirra Felton; second to Mikayla Black; third to Willow Peregrina; fourth to Alina Wilson; and fifth to Kade Gudel.

Pole Bending, Junior: first place went to Canyon Darger; second to Mady Pecora-Smith; third to Triniti Freudenberg; and fourth to Mazzi Mcallister.

Pole Bending, Senior: first place went to Rainy Minton; second to Carmin Pivniska; third to Danielle Barry; and fourth to Harlie Bartolomei.

Read the rest of **Jr. Rodeo** Over on Page 9



At right: The saddle bronc rider tries to hold on with just his legs and the one rope.

At far right: While waiting for the pickup men to come, this cowboy's face says it all about how harrowing a ride it is on a bucking bronco.



At left, below, from far left: Junior Rodeo overall winners included, below from left: The Senior All-Around Cowgirl, Rainy Minton, who received a saddle sponsored by Satterwhite Excavating, left, stands with the Senior All-Around Cowboy; Jace Hower, who received a saddle sponsored by Cooley Logging, 2021 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Claire Case-Brackett smiles with the Junior All-Around Cowboy, Richy Ferri, who received a belt buckle sponsored by Hennessy Funds; the Junior All-Around Cowgirl, Canyon Darger, who received a belt buckle sponsored by Bud Garman Construction; the Young Gun All-Around Cowboy, Claude Mora, who received a belt buckle sponsored by the Willits Wild Bunch; and the Young Gun All-Around Cowgirl, Mikayla Black, who received a buckle sponsored by the Willits Wild Bunch.



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Throwing Shoes

Horseshoe contest at Rec Grove Park rings in winners

Sixteen teams signed up to try to make the perfect pitch and win the title of first place in this year's annual Willits Frontier Days horseshoe tournament at the Rec Grove Park held on Sunday, July 4.

The Fort Bragg team of James and Joe ended up winning that first-place title, followed by Willits' Jeremy Sneed and Travis Dockins (who also chairs the event), and third place went to Rick Jr. and Rick Sr., also from Fort Bragg.

Individual round winners included Fort Bragg pitcher Joe in first place, Willits pitcher Richard in second place, and Willits pitcher Dave in third place.



At top, left: Fort Bragg thrower, Rick Jr., pitches a shoe down the court towards the stake. At top, right: Rick Jr.'s partner in the doubles event, Rick Sr., lines up on the pitching platform, trying to get in the right spot for a perfect throw. Above: Willits' Jeremy Sneed gets ready to pitch a shoe down the court.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Above, left: The Rec Grove was packed with hungry and happy BBQ-goers who enjoyed the annual Willits Frontier Days tradition under the shade of the oak trees. Above, right: Meatmen Jim Scatena, left, and Steve Spackman ham ... no, beef it up for the camera from behind the cook pit. Below, left: Bud Garman of Bud Garman Construction, left, smiles with Mike Smith, Willits Rotarian and owner of Willits Furniture, at the bread station. Below, right: Stephen Arkelian shares a laugh with Buffy Bourassa who scoops up portions of the meaty main dish.

Barbecue in the Park

Rec Grove Park filled with attendees at annual beef barbecue

It felt like things were finally almost all the way back to normal this year at the annual Willits Frontier Days barbecue as hundreds of community members, friends and family gathered at the Rec Grove Park to enjoy a beefy meal.

Tables were full and blankets covered the shady grass at the park, allowing eaters to pick their perfect place to sit and chat, or to watch the horseshoe tournament on the

eastern lawn, or the Country Music Rodeola rocking from the stage.

Willits Frontier Days volunteers cooked up 2,600 pounds of meat, that was sponsored by Geiger's Long Valley Market, to accompany the salad, bread, chili beans and cookie given to the diners by the Willits Rotary Club volunteers who came to serve the meal.

– Maureen Jennison





At top: Sharon Bauman has been a Lions Club member for several years along with her husband, Dean. Above: Past-president Wayne Bashore grills the ham. Above, right: The Willits Lions Club members gather for a group photo: from left, Eldon Miller, Robin Lucier, Virginia Jorge, Jim Holmes, Wayne Bashore, Barbara Holmes, Bill Barker, Dean Bauman, Stan Nelson, Sharon Bauman, Tony Madrigal, Skip Lucier, Jim Hinkle, (not shown but in attendance: Ed Scott, Tom Lucier). Below: Rob Sierra and Stephanie Garbrant-Sierra are photo-bombed by relative Paul Sakuma.



Above, left: The Willits Lions Club is a family affair with several sets of spouses, including Skip and Robin Lucier. Above, right: Tom "Still hungry at 83" Tresler is one of the first customers for the Cowboy Breakfast. At right: Jim Hinkle, left, takes a break from creating beer-batter pancakes to chat with Ed Scott, long-standing member of the Willits Lions Club. Below: There is a steady stream of breakfasters – some take their meals home and others choose to enjoy the open-air tables at Rec Grove Park.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Cowboy Breakfast

Beer-batter pancakes and the works, served up with a side of fun by Willits Lions Club members

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

The Willits Lions Club Cowboy Breakfast began at 7 am last Saturday morning, with not a cowboy in attendance, but there was the Willits Wild Bunch and several early-to-rise local inhabitants, enjoying a hearty meal of fluffy scrambled eggs, ham, light beer-batter pancakes, orange juice, and of course, the obligatory never-ending coffee to help open the eyes of the attendees.

Willits resident Tom Tresler rode his scooter to the not-to-be-missed meal, exclaiming, "I'm still hungry at 86." The afore-mentioned Wild Bunch arrived after a late night at the Willits Community Theatre and an after-party at Digger's Saloon. They dragged themselves, and some of their spouses, out of their warm beds to enjoy the al fresco breakfast in Recreation Grove Park, served from the kiosk by the hard-working and extremely altruistic bunch of Lions Club members, who can often be seen flipping burgers and serving adult beverages at Willits' events to raise money for their worthy causes.

Lions Clubber Eldon Miller was happy to be back with the group after a several-month COVID hiatus, "We have the Cowboy Breakfast going on here for the Fourth of July Frontier Days," he said. "We have a great crew who is coming back after a year of COVID. We are enjoying our time together."

Indeed, spirits were high and the fun quotient was off the charts as they stirred, flipped ham and pancakes, scrambled their eggs, and generally laughed a lot amidst the creative chaos of the kiosk kitchen. They certainly portray a competent and generally knowledgeable experienced visage as they work.

"Make sure the grill is not too hot because then you have to go too fast," stated pancake-griller extraordinaire Jim Hinkle. "Right now, I have it just right. We make our own batter with some beer in them. Our recipe: pancake mix, water, and a can of beer, Coors Light."

"For the last year and a few months, we've been like everyone else," said Skip Lucier, current president of the club. "We've been hunkered down with the COVID but we're back now. We're all vaccinated and ready to go, looking forward to doing some new projects around town, doing some new fundraisers. We're looking for new members. We're looking for people who want to do something for their community and have a little fun doing it."

The Lions Club is an international organization of altruistically minded citizens who band together for two main reasons: to help others and to have fun, both of which they

do with great aplomb and gusto. They have chapters in over 200 countries, with over 1.4 million members and 47,000 local clubs. They recently in 2017 celebrated their centennial, having been created in 1917 by "Chicago businessman Melvin Jones, who invited business clubs from around the country to a meeting where the Association of Lions Clubs was formed," according to their website, www.lionsclubs.org/en.

The local chapter has approximately 22 dedicated members. "We're looking for new, younger members. We'd like to find some younger people who would like to join us. The only requirement is that they want to do good things for the community. You have to be invited and sponsored by a Lions Club member. You have to come to two meetings and serve at a function," explained Lucier.

They have a president, two vice-presidents, and a secretary, and a Tail-Twister, whose job it is to enforce the rules about wearing the proper club attire to meetings and to keep everyone in line so the meetings can proceed in an efficient, albeit, fun manner.

Upcoming events include the September 11, Firehouse Dedication and Barbecue, which it only seems natural for them to participate in, being that it's a barbecue for 300 people and the fact that two of the members, Skip Lucier and Tony Madrigal, are both on the Little Lake Fire District Board of Directors.

"What the Lions are doing over at the firehouse for the grand opening on September 11 is – working in conjunction with the Rotary and the Soroptimists and just about every other club here in town – we're trying to raise money for the firehouse for things that weren't in the construction money, things that the firehouse needs but are not in the budget," stated Lucier. "Our job is to do burgers. There are going to be a silent auction and a live auction there."

The Willits Lions Club recently remodeled the Scout Hut at Rec Grove Park, for the local scout troops which they sponsor. "The Scouts have been using it but we haven't met much over the pandemic," explained Lucier.

"We're ready now to put on functions there. We're going to rent it out to the public for private events, conferences, anything anybody needs it for. It's a great facility for that. We're excited about that and want to get the word out. I think that the hut is the best-kept secret in this town. We have a full commercial kitchen. We have all-new electrical and wiring, insulation and paint. There's a big-screen TV to use."

For more information about the Willits Lions Club, visit their Facebook page.



Above: This lil cowboy sizes up his woolly ride before getting set in the chutes.

The rest of
Jr. Rodeo

From Page 6

Steer Riding: first place went to Richy Ferri.

Tie-Down Roping: first place went to Garrett Christiansen.

Chute Dogging: first place went to Ky Parrish; second to Cole Carnesin; and third to Kevin Roundtree.

Breakaway Roping, Junior: first place went to Stoney Bauer, and second to Lisa Arkelian.

Breakaway Roping, Senior: first place went to Rainy Minton, and second to Bethanny Grieve.

Steer Stopping, Junior: no qualifying scores.

Steer Stopping, Senior: first place went to Cole Carnesin; second to Sienna Radelfinger; and

third to DJ Albee.

Young Gun Barrels: first place went to Keirra Felton; second to Dally Sue Hunt; third to Mikayla Black; fourth to Weston Boesel; and fifth to Payton Shull.

Barrel Racing, Junior: first place went to Canyon Darger; second to Triniti Freudenberg; third to Mady Decora-Smith; and fourth to Emerald Meuller.

Barrel Racing, Senior: first place went to Emma Pecora-Smith; second to Sydney Smith; third to Abigail Lenny; and fourth to Danielle Barry.

Bull Riding: No qualifying scores.

Results provided by Junior Rodeo Chair Riata King.

Below: The pickup man heads to the rescue to help dismount this mutton buster during the Junior Rodeo.



Free Pato Banton concert at the Mateel

Submitted by Mateel Community Center

All ages are invited to a Community Concert featuring the reggae music of Pato Banton & The Now Generation, Monday, July 17, at the Mateel Community Center, 59 Rusk Lane in Redway. The event takes place from 7 to 10 pm. Admission is free, and donations are encouraged. Food is available from the Mateel kitchen, and beer and wine will be served to those 21 and over. More information is available at www.mateel.org.

Grammy-nominated reggae legend Pato Banton last performed at Reggae on the River in 2012. He has recorded and toured the world with numerous artists including The English Beat, Steel Pulse, UB40, and Sting. His powerful live shows take the form of a rocking reggae party with crowd participation, participatory singing, and dancing to family-friendly lyrics.

The Mateel is honored to host Pato Banton for this free community concert, made possible with sponsor support from Pierson Building Center, Vocality Credit Union, Savage Farms, SoHum Health, Country Club Cannabis, and Skyline Farms.

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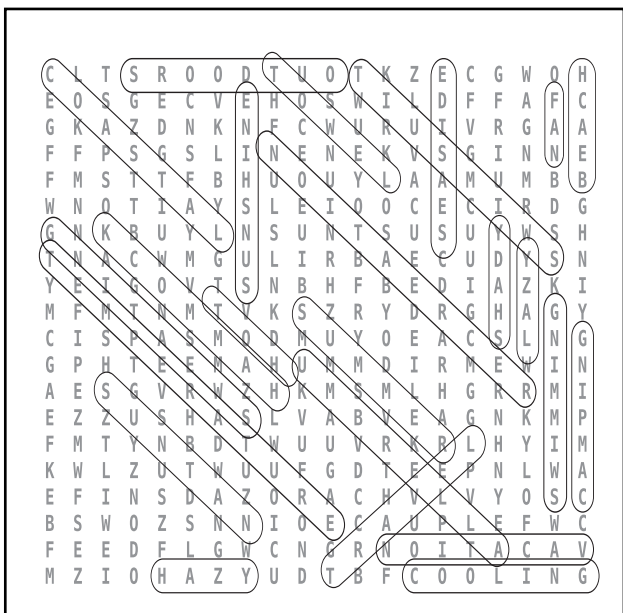
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LEGALS

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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/ Daniele Fierro, Member
Publication dates: June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 2021

LEGALS

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

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Senior Program Manager
Senior Air Quality Specialist

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

The rest of
Reopening

From Page 1

Dusty Duley, Community Development director, 459-7124 or email dduley@cityofwillits.org

Partners and Facility Rentals

All City of Willits parks, including restroom facilities, are open to the public. The City of Willits is now accepting special event applications and reservations for Rec Grove Park and, starting August 1, for the Community Center, subject to COVID mitigation requirements at the time of the event. Please contact Cathy Moorhead at 459-7121 for more rental information.

City staff would like to thank the Willits community for their continued support and understanding as we get back to our normal open routine.

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THE SENIOR CENTER is HIRING an Outreach Worker. Earn as you learn. \$14.50 Hour. 32 Hours Weekly. Send resume to wsidirector@willitsseiorcenter.com Please include 3 references or pick up job application at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd.

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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.

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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.

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Counter-clockwise from above, right: The United Methodist Church on School Street has been generous with their space and facilities. The furnishings in the main meeting room are very comfortable. The Willits Manzanita office is used by most of the staff. The entrance to Manzanita Services, Inc. is welcoming and shady during the open house. Jose Salдона and Jennifer O'Neil prepare refreshments and noshes for the open house. A room is available for classes and other functions at the center. Below: From left, staff member Jose Salдона, Peer Specialist Jennifer O'Neil, Program Manager Helen Falandes, and Executive Director Lasara Firefox Allen hang out in the Manzanita Services, Inc. kitchen during last Thursday's open house.



Mental Health Support

Manzanita Services, Inc., specializing in helping people with mental illness find assistance and housing, reopens Willits office

One of the best-kept secrets in the Willits area is Manzanita Services, Inc. who just had their reopening open house last Thursday, July 1. Although they have not been entirely absent over the COVID-19 pandemic, they have had to conduct much of their services over Zoom with some in-house visits and without use of their physical space at the back of the United Methodist Church at 286 School Street, with their entrance around the corner on Pine Street.

The open house was to invite clients and possible new users of their services back to the facility, where they can find a place at which to relax, talk, be referred to outside resources, get help with the myriad of forms to find housing, and other necessary bureaucratic systems.

"Manzanita Services, Incorporated is a non-profit," Program Manager Helen Falandes began. "The Willits Wellness Center is one of two. The other is in Ukiah. We've been here since about 2005. We're a very quiet organization. A lot of people don't know we're here. The people for our work are those who live with severe and persistent mental illness.

"We provide a variety of services," she continued, "some of which are clinical, such as counseling, case management, rehabilitation counseling, and therapy. That's one track and the other track is our wellness centers, which is our focus at this facility. Wellness centers are an open-door drop-in, and people can use us for a variety of services, starting with a simple basic human need to have a place to socialize, to feel safe and welcomed and accepted for where they are at.

"People can come and just grab a cup of coffee, talk or not talk, have a place where they can rest," said Falandes. "That's one end of the continuum. People can come in with their paperwork; folks dealing with agencies. People with disabilities often have overwhelming paperwork. We are very adept at sorting through those kinds of things. We have access for hooking up with services for referral and connection. We help people get signed up for Covered California or Medi-Cal, for Obama Phones, for Cal Fresh [food stamps], for housing support.

"Some people come in just for a quiet and pleasant place to relax, have some social contact. They come in for assistance and referral and connection and for classes and groups."

At the heart of their programs is the concept of peer counseling. "The lived experience is very valued in Manzanita staffing," she added. "We are always looking for people who have their own life experiences. We know that most of us have gone through some challenging rough patches in their lives and / or have family members with different kinds of behavioral health disabilities. The people



Photos by Mathew Caine

who are drawn to work in the field, much more often than not, have their own history as their inspiration."

The organization values highly those who have personal first-hand experience and understanding of the problems encountered by people who require counseling for mental anomalies or addictions.

New, as of April 1, Executive Director Lasara Foxfire Allen comes to the organization after a couple years' experience as executive director of Humboldt Center for Harm Reduction. "Our mission statement is: It is the mission of Manzanita Services to empower our most vulnerable community members to improve their quality of life," Allen explained.

"We are a peer-led organization," she continued, "which values integrity and respect, provides an open door and offers a safe place for anyone in need. 'Peer-led' means that the vast majority of folks who work in our organization are mental-health peers, meaning they either received mental-health services themselves in some point in their life or they have an immediate family member who has. The ethos of our organization is informed by the fact that most of us have experienced the mental-health community from the perspective of a consumer or client."

According to Falandes, "Life skills are not one-size-fits-all. It starts with a conversation about what their dreams are and identifying goals, developing specific action steps to move them towards their goals and dreams. Those action steps are sometimes very concrete.

"If their goal," she said, "is to have stable housing or a place of their own, then their action steps might be around filling out housing applications or housing support, getting into the housing-support system. It might be about building their self-esteem so that they can get out of wherever they're staying. Life skills are that which allows them to move forward around quality of life, relationships, work, education. It's about identifying goals and directions and developing small steps to reach them, and getting support around taking the risk of those steps."

There are a variety of programs available, both at the Ukiah and Willits facilities. Some of the activities, not available in the Willits office, can be accessed through Zoom sessions from a room in Willits. They offer such a wide variety of activities as Life Skills, Anger Management, PEP Group (Peers Empowering Peers), DUAL Diagnosis (overcoming emotional challenges and addiction), WRAP Group (Wellness Recovery Action Plan), and many others.

Those in need can contact Helen Falandes at 707-972-0078 or wellness@manzanitaservices.org. Visit www.manzanitaservices.org for more information. Or just drop in Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 3 pm. Anyone is welcome, no matter their needs, in a non-judgmental, welcoming, and very supportive and caring environment.

Willits residents, MTA Director Jacob King confirmed, can get a free ride to the Ukiah Fairgrounds to get vaccinated on any of MTA's fixed route buses, by boarding the bus and saying they're going to get their shot. "We're doing everything we can," King said, "to help the community out with the pandemic." To see all of MTA's county bus schedules, visit <https://mendocinotransit.org/maps-and-schedules/>.

For a full list of clinics and pharmacies currently offering COVID-19 vaccines in Mendocino County, please visit: <https://www.vaccinateca.com/counties/mendocino.html>

In Willits, those locations reporting currently available vaccines are Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic, Safeway Pharmacy, and RiteAid Pharmacy.

Pfizer vaccines are available at the Ukiah Fairgrounds clinics on

under the law. "This is an important issue," Haschak said. "Redistricting is happening, and I think that when we look at it, we should have citizen involvement as much as possible."

County Counsel Christian Curtis responded: "The thought process on this one was that there's a very truncated timeline at the end of this. There's currently a statutory deadline of December 15 by which to complete the redistricting process, but the bulk of the work is not going to be able to be done [until] the census results are certified, so there's a little bit of concern about how quickly we need to move it through those last couple of months.

"I do want to note," Curtis continued, "that the process does require at least four public hearings, and a significant amount of public involvement. The fact that staff would be administering does not mean that there wouldn't be public meetings, opportunity for public input, and the opportunity for the public to participate in a number of ways."

According to the staff report by Assistant County Counsel Charlotte Scott, the options are different than they were in 2011, thanks to legislation passed since the last redistricting process, including AB 849, "The Fair Maps Act" in 2019.

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The rest of Process From Page 1

access to COVID-19 vaccines in the Ukiah Valley with the new Friday clinic. We are also grateful that the Mendocino Transit Authority is now providing free rides to vaccine sites across their service area. Proof of vaccination or appointment is all that is needed to get a free ride to a COVID-19 vaccine clinic. For Dial-A-Ride in Ukiah, call 707 462-3881 or Fort Bragg 707 964-1800.

Willits Weekly he thinks Willits does pretty well as far as issues with animals. "I think we're pretty good about it," he said. "It's not something that we get overwhelmed with as far as those types of calls, but we do appreciate when residents call in and say, you know, there's a dog in a car and it's hot, or there's a hurt dog or cat out in the street, those kind of things. It shows that they're looking out for their neighborhood, and they're compassionate. Our guys, we're all pet lovers and animal lovers, so we appreciate those calls."

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COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

‘Boss Baby 2: Family Business’

The Story: A cartoon comedy satire of a touching father-daughter relationship, and serious social commentary on ITBS (irritable talking baby syndrome). Apparently, the baby in the featured Templeton family is the Baby Boss from the previous feature who works for a secret baby organization. I think it's in another dimension, though that's never spelled out.



Dan Essman
Columnist

Tim Templeton, a nice enough stay-at-home dad, joins his type-A irritating uber successful CEO brother Ted to thwart a plot by an Evil Genius to give control of the world to (omg!) babies. Tim and Ted ingest a magical formula that turns them into babies so they can spy on the Evil Genius. Nothing goes easy for the two spies. I don't want to be a spoiler, but disasters seem inevitable.

My Thoughts: Yeah, the flick's funny. But I really wondered how it got made. Hollywood hates babies. They are accidents. They're noisy, dirty, have special needs. What are babies good for? Cutesy goo-goo plot points, dirty diapers, and poop jokes. That's all. On the other hand, Hollywood adores children. Old enough to buy tickets, simple-minded enough not to care what for.

Not to get all NPR on you readers, but our country's birthrate is down, and the very idea of a terrifyingly expensive baby fills the average American with dread. Consider Ridley Scott, the sadist director of "Alien," he knew this when he choreographed his screechy xenomorph birthing scene: "In suburbia, no one can hear you scream." I've thought about all the why's of it, and truthfully I think "Boss Baby 2" got made mostly because it's a sequel. But it also got made to make us all feel better about our terrible life choices.

Parents: Sure the flick had its problems, but kids will love it. Maybe they'll understand it, or they just won't care. Raisinets and popcorn will fill in the blanks.

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

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home Sweet Rosie

Have you met our new chocolate love bug yet? This beautiful gal is only 7 months old, and we cannot figure out why she is still here. Sadly, her previous home had to give this beauty up due to their landlord not allowing her breed. Rosie has lived with kids prior and currently is living in a foster home with other dogs. She knows basic commands such as "Sit," "Shake," and "Lie Down." Her previous family describes her as friendly, outgoing, sweet and loyal. All the makings of a wonderful dog! Rosie would love to get right back into family life with you! Apply to make this sweet girl's dream come true at mendohumanesociety.com.

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



Smart Raven

Raven is a mixed-breed female dog, 2 years old, who weighs 70 pounds. She can be shy at first, but once she becomes comfortable, she is outgoing, fun, and very playful with toys. Raven seems to be a very smart dog who understands what you're saying or asking of her! She knows "Sit," "Down," and "Shake" – with both paws. Raven is easy to walk on a leash and has good indoor manners. What a doll!



For more info about Raven 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.

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Photos by Colleen Nowlin

Above: Willits swimmers Shelby Bowen, Estrella Mendoza, Kathia Mendoza, Mia Chavez, Sophie Chavez, and Emelia Owsiany hold American flags during the Penta Squad Meet. At right: Willits Otters swimmers Leah Blakeley, Stormie Nowlin, Serenity Nowlin, and Serenity McCartney. At right, below: Swimmer Emelia Owsiany works hard at the Penta Squad Meet hosted by the Willits Otters in June.

Willits Otters host Penta Squad Meet in June

On June 19, the Willits Otters Swim Club hosted a swim meet with four other swim clubs from Mendocino, Ukiah, Humboldt, and Emeryville. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent relaxation of the COVID-19 restrictions, the swim meet was allowed with a reduced number of clubs participating.

The Otters family extends a special thanks to Lucy Kyne, Otters board president; Derek Hutchinson, Mendocino Sea Dragon coach; Andy Downs, meet referee; Barbarie Gonzalez; Carol Larson; Ukiah Dolphins; and Kevin Twohey, Waves Aquatic coach for supporting us in holding a sanctioned swim meet.

The Otters representing the Willits community were Eva Semisch, Serenity McCartney, Aedan Lockwood-Chenelle, Nikolai Ritchley, Larsen Brunner, Ahanu Casey, Sophie Chavez, Serenitee Nowlin, Kathia Mendoza, Clair McIvor, Michael Gillaspie, Archer Casey, Mia Chavez, Leah Blakely, Stormie Nowlin, Olivia McCartney, Estrella Mendoza, Fisher Kuhn, Miles Mattson, Macy Davidson, Cora Brunner, Gracie McIvor, Shelby Brown, Emelia Owsiany, and Kingston Casey.

The Otters had an outstanding performance with seven swimmers improving their time by 20 or more seconds. Aedan Lockwood-Chenelle led the pack with an improvement of seventy-three seconds in the 200-yard IM. There were eighteen Otters placing in the top three with eighteen first places. The Otters next event is in Ukiah on July 24th and are looking for another exceptional outing.

GO OTTERS!



Photo by Vicki Ham

American Legion Beer Wagon raffle winner

American Legion, Post 174 Adjutant Roger Ham congratulates Willits resident Tom Bond, left, who won this year's Beer Wagon Raffle. This wagon full of craft beer will make for one big beer bash. The Post thanks the community for supporting this fundraising activity.

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