

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Parking problem

To the Editor:
To all the merchants and all the customers from the Post Office south to Highway 20!

I had a business on Main Street for 40 years and never had a parking problem. Now they put in the bicycle lanes, which I have not seen anybody use, except for a few homeless people.

Us merchants pay a lot of taxes to the city. I had 18 wheelers parked along the street curb with no problems. The side streets are full.

Maybe this is why businesses are leaving California, also the folks! I hope the city can remove this before it is too late. Thanks.

Tom Brunner, Willits

Adventist Health vs. Blue Cross

To the Editor:
Adventist Health owns and operates all the hospitals in Mendocino County including Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits. Last week Adventist Health issued a press release (7/21/22 WW) in which they reported on their negotiations with the health insurance carrier Anthem Blue Cross of California for the rates the insurer pays the hospitals for medical services provided to patients insured by Anthem. In that press release Adventist Health divulged that "Anthem Blue Cross has been paying Adventist Health at substantially lower rates than other similar payers.... Anthem Blue Cross has earned record profits [reported elsewhere in the press release as "reportedly \$32 billion in 2021"] and they've recently raised members' premiums. Yet they continue to pay Adventist Health significantly less than other hospital systems.

"Anthem is one of Adventist Health's lowest-paying health plans," the press release continues, "and we can't continue to care for their patients at the rates they are paying us."

That Adventist Health would go public with what would otherwise be a behind-the-scenes negotiation speaks volumes about the bad faith of Anthem Blue Cross in their obligation to insure the health of their members.

But this expose by the non-profit Adventist Health is also symptomatic of a much larger problem with America's private, for-profit, health insurance system that is utilized by no other country in the world. In effect, private for-profit health insurance is a legalized extortion racket and private health insurance corporations are organized crime syndicates that prey on vulnerable American health care patients.

Why doesn't America have a publicly operated non-profit single-payer health insurance system like other countries? Because private health insurance corporations use your premiums, deductibles and co-pays to bribe our politicians to continue ripping us off for billions of dollars in corporate profits.

Just this past January 2022, California State Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D - San Jose) withdrew his bill to establish a single-payer health insurance system in California due to a lack of votes for passage in a Democrat-dominated State Assembly. If you aren't mad as hell over this grand theft of your healthcare dollars, you should be.

Jon Spitz, Laytonville

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

Willits Weekly

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Town Hall with Supervisor John Haschak, August 4

The public is invited to an online Town Hall meeting with Third District Supervisor John Haschak on Thursday, August 4 at 7 pm. Ask questions and comment in dialogue with our county supervisor on issues facing our community and the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

Among the topics: • Fire safety; • Proposed new ¼ cent sales tax; • Proposed groundwater management ordinance; • County budget; and • New county CEO; • plus your own concerns!

Hosted by WELL (Willits Economic Localization).

Join the Zoom Meeting at <http://tinyurl.com/Haschak-Town-Hall-8-4-22>

Or email mstrong@willitsonline.com or call 707-459-1493 for other options to join this meeting.

Festival in the Redwoods on Saturday at Brooktrails Golf Course

Spend a beautiful day in the shade of old growth redwoods at Festival in the Redwoods, Saturday July 30, held at the Brooktrails Golf Course in Willits.

Enjoy craft beer by Northspur Brewing Co., Mendocino County wine, and gourmet food, and dance to the legendary Ed Reinhardt band. Bid on silent and live auction items.

This inaugural festival and golf tournament is put on by Willits Rotary as a benefit for Willits High School Senior Scholarships and Harrah Senior Center. Golf check-in at 8:30 am. Festival from 11 am to 4 pm. Admission to the festival is \$25, or for BOTH the golf tournament and festival, \$50. Commemorative glass included.

Purchase tickets ahead of time at Willits Furniture or Harrah Senior Center or on the day of the event at Brooktrails Golf Course.

For more details visit the Willits Rotary Club Facebook page or call Ann Alumbaugh at 707-841-1315. It's time to get back out and have a fun time!

Willits Library presents 'Who's Who in American History'

Submitted by the Mendocino County Library

Are you interested in American history? Do you want to know how Americans have changed the world as we know it? Join us at the Willits Branch Library where each month we will explore a different character, or characters, from our past and examine what contributions they have made to American history.

All are welcome to this "Who's Who in American History" event, but the content is best suited to adults and teens. Library Assistant Denise, our resident historian, will lead this program with refreshments following the presentation and discussion.

Please join us on the following dates: July 28, August 25, and September 29 in the Willits Library Meeting Room, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

Space is limited, and we suggest signing up in advance, but drop-ins are welcome space permitting.

For more information or to sign up, please visit www.mendolib.org or contact the Willits Library at 707-459-5908.

Public Health announces 3 new COVID deaths

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

July 26 – Three Mendocino County residents recently passed away with COVID-19 during July 2022. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

Death #132: Female, 91 years old with comorbidities, from the greater Ukiah area.

Death #133: Female, 85 years old with comorbidities, from the greater Ukiah area.

Death #134: Female, 91 years old with comorbidities, from the North Coast area.

COVID-19 is still active across the globe, but we do have the tools to decrease the risk of a bad infection. Safe, effective, and free vaccines are available for everyone, including infants 6 months and older. Getting a booster, as well as masking and social distancing in crowded areas, is also strongly recommended by Public Health in Mendocino County.

If you get COVID, talk with your provider immediately about oral treatments to reduce the risk of serious infection and hospitalization.

If you have questions about boosters or vaccines in general, speak with your doctor, or call Public Health at 707-472-2759. To find the nearest vaccine clinic in your area, please visit the Public Health website at: www.mendocinocounty.org/covidvaccine

Senior Center menu for the week

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

Thursday, July 28: Shrimp Scampi, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, July 29: Turkey & Stuffing w/Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Veggie, Roll

Monday, August 1: Fish Sandwich, Pickle, Chips

Tuesday, August 2: Turkey Curry over Rice, Roll, Green Salad

Wednesday, August 3: Western Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Onion Rings

Thursday, August 4: Hot Dog, Chili, Green Salad

Friday, August 5: BBQ Chicken, Veggie, Baked Beans, Roll

Upcoming Special Events

Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, August 7

Chili Cook-Off: Friday, August 19, 5 to 7 pm

Food Bank: Thursday, August 11 and Thursday, August 25, 9:30 am to 11:30 am, in the Lofin Field parking lot on Commercial Street.

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

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

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

Willits Library hosts Stuffy Camp-Out, August 3

Submitted by the Mendocino County Library

The Willits Branch Library is hosting a Stuffy Camp-Out on the night of August 3. This event is for children's stuffed animals to spend the night in the library and have their own adventure "Reading Beyond the Beaten Path."

Children should bring a stuffy to the library during the day on Wednesday, August 3 (during open hours, 10 am to 6 pm). During the Camp-Out, library staff will take pictures of the shenanigans and post on Facebook and Instagram so the children can see what their stuffed

animal friends are doing.

The stuffed animals should be picked up on Thursday, August 4, during open hours. The stuffies may need a nap when they get home to recover from their exciting night, so please plan their day accordingly.

NOTE: This event is exclusively for stuffed animals – NO children will be spending the night in the library.

For more information, please visit www.mendolib.org or contact the Willits Branch Library at 707-459-5908.



Above, left: Ashley Rodriguez sits with her daughter to listen to Tobin Steiskal read. Above, right: The Willits Library plans to do a story time each Thursday at the Willits Farmers Market. At right: Library Assistant Tobin Steiskal displays the variety of books he read during the story time at the Willits Farmers Market. Below: Tobin Steiskal reads "We Are Water Protectors," a book about a girl who fights to protect the water supply of her people from an oil pipeline being installed.



Above: This young lad listens intently to Tobin Steiskal's Story Time at the Market. Below: Some of the books are available to take home for free from the Willits Library.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Summer Story Time

Willits Library invites children and parents to enjoy Story Time at the Willits Farmers Market on Thursdays

"The value of reading to kids is immeasurable, everything from learning language, to skills about communication, to highlighting important social issues that young people face every single day," said Tobin Steiskal, after reading to the kids at the Willits Farmers Market on Thursday.

"As adults," he continued, "we're kind of immune to things during childhood, but it's imperative that kids have a very solid foundation in learning, reading, and utilize those skills that they learned early on, throughout the rest of their lives. I think and hope that it stimulates them to want to learn to read."

Steiskal, a library assistant at the Willits branch of the Mendocino County Library system, began a series of half-hour sessions at the farmers market, in which he reads books, from juvenile to young adult, to any youngster wanting to listen. He was set up under an easy-up tent in the middle of the market, complete with a misting appliance to keep the area cool and provide a pleasant, shady environment in which to enjoy the topical tales and stories.

The program, one of several under the leadership of new branch manager Denise Jessie, will continue each Thursday, from 3:30 to 4 pm. The first session hosted four youths and their parents who listened in rapt attention as Steiskal read from the five books he chose to bring.

"I read 'We Are Water Protectors,' about defense of the

earth, keeping ecology sacred, a very, very good book," stated Steiskal. "Mendocino County Library is part of the Library Reads Program and we got a big grant from the California State Library to purchase books to distribute to patrons for free.

"'We Are Water Protectors' is one of those books. Patrons can feel free to stop in at our library or any branch library in Mendocino County and get their copy. Supplies are limited and free to the public.

"The second book that's for free," said Steiskal, "is called '# Not Your Princess' which is more of a young-adult-centered title. It's by indigenous Native American women who are trying to break down stereotypes and have a more inclusive society.

"The third book, 'Braiding Sweetgrass,' by Robin Wall Kimmerer," he continued, "is also more of a young-adult read, more about ecology, planting with the earth, not necessarily using Earth for utilitarian purposes but rather for the sake of the planet, is also available for free with the Library Reads Program."

Steiskal also read a book titled "Good Night Veggies," which seemed fitting for the farmers market, as well as a book by Colin Kaepernick called "I Color Myself Beautiful," which is a book about inclusion and acceptance, as can be expected by the ex-NFL quarterback who placed his

Read the rest of Story Time

Over on page 4

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



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

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

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

CLUES ACROSS

- America's WW2 President
- Move earth
- Insecticide
- Naturally occurring solid material
- State of fuss
- Bhutanese wine
- Greek island
- Taxi
- Tanzanian ethnic group
- Metrical foot
- Boasted
- Eel-like vertebrate
- Small freshwater lakes
- Morally base
- Not odd
- Where you live
- Fixed in place
- A very large body of water
- Moved quickly
- Winged horse
- Small waterfall
- Hoopster Gasol
- One who mimics
- Tropical plant
- Used of walls

CLUES DOWN

- Marine protozoan
- You use it for your eyes
- Set aside for a later time
- Metrical foot
- Famed journalist Tarbell
- Consumes quickly
- Rewards in a civil suit
- Kamodo are some
- Ballroom dance
- Chum
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- A room to relax
- Commercials
- Six (Spanish)
- Wild party
- Small European viper
- Baseballer Gordon
- Eccentric person
- A way to save for your future
- Young boy
- Midway between northeast and east
- Changed
- Prominent
- Genus of seabirds
- Event regarded as wrong
- Skipped in a lively way
- Multi-function radar (abbr.)
- A country in W. Africa
- Burn a corpse
- Women's ___ movement
- NHL great Bobby
- Coarse, green material
- Treated with calcium oxide
- When you hope to get there
- 'Partridge' actress Susan
- What thespians do

ANIMAL WELFARE WORD SEARCH

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

ABNORMAL	FARM	PETS
AGGRESSION	FERAL	PHARMING
ANIMALS	FREE RANGE	RESEARCH
BIOMEDICAL	GENETICS	RESTRAINT
CAGES	LIBERATION	SHELTER
CARE	MALNOURISHED	TESTING
DECLAWING	NEEDS	VETERINARIAN
ETHICS	OVERBREED	WELFARE

The rest of **Fire** From page 1

direction from 74900 Covelo Road."

By 5:29 pm, CAL FIRE MEU reported the Bank Fire was 10 to 15 acres, and growing at a "slow to moderate rate of spread." That social media post included an aerial photo of the fire that put it clearly into context.

MCSO upgraded its alert to an Evacuation Warning at 6:08 pm, asking residents in the areas of Highway 162 / Dobie Lane and Fairbanks Lane / Wattenburg Lane to be ready to go. But at 6:50 pm, that warning was downgraded again to "situational awareness."

Air resources had been released around 6:10 pm. Ground resources stayed for traffic control, patrol, and mop up for several hours. At 10:56 pm, MCSO released an alert announcing "All road closures and advisories" for the Bank Fire "have been cancelled. No further action needed."

No information about the cause of the fire has yet been released.

Fire info resources

Readers interested in getting live information about local fires as they happen should first sign up for emergency alerts from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and the county Office of Emergency Services. Visit www.mendocinocounty.org and search for "Emergency Notifications and Alerts" for more information about how to sign up for Mendo Alert and Nixle notifications.

MCSO and CAL FIRE MEU have both been posting emergency information quickly on social media: Follow "Mendocino Sheriff" and "CAL FIRE MEU" pages on Facebook or Twitter.

Once you know the fire's name, #BankFire in this instance, you can search Twitter or Facebook for that tag and see everything that has been posted about it. This will include official information, as well as reports of what somebody has heard on the scanner or seen on the ground, including any posts from residents affected by the fire.

One interesting way to keep up with online information about individual fires is Watch Duty - you can follow reports on their website, WatchDuty.org, or download a phone app. Watch Duty is a non-profit

based in Sonoma County that launched statewide in June, and is free to use, although donations are welcome.

They have a crew of volunteers from around the state who report fire information heard on the scanner or from other sources, and who also share official posts from fire and other emergency agencies. One of Watch Duty's Mendocino County contributors is Danilla Sands, known for posting reliable and timely emergency information on her "Mendocino Action News" page on Facebook.

But, as always, any non-official information reported online, including reports heard via scanner communications, should not be taken as officially confirmed. First responders and dispatchers are still figuring out the situation themselves in many cases, and scanner reports can be misinterpreted.

To listen to the scanner yourself, visit www.broadcastify.com and check out the Mendocino County channels, including "Mendocino County Sheriff, Fire, EMS, Cal Fire and CHP" at www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/6248. Broadcastify offers premium subscriptions or will play an ad before starting your session.

Another interesting resource is www.flightradar24.com. This website shows "live air traffic" around the world, when zoomed way out, or local air traffic, including air resources fighting a local fire, when zoomed way in. Moving icons of helicopters and fixed wing planes can be clicked, to find out details about that chopper or airplane, or to show their routes and destinations. Commercial air traffic is shown, too.

For the #BankFire, you could see the icons for the T90 and T91 tankers turning around and heading back to Ukiah after air resources were reported released on the scanner. Flightradar24 gives users quite a lot of free time, but subscriptions offer premium features.

The www.alertwildfire.org website is another online resource that shows views from cameras positioned around the state. To see a list of North Coast cameras, visit www.alertwildfire.org/region/northcoast and scroll down. Smoke from Sunday's Banks Fire was visible from the "BigJohn" camera.

The rest of **Fair** From page 1

looking good this year too, and I'm excited to take him to the fair. We're proud to be raising our animals locally and sustainably and consider ourselves to be entrepreneuring women."

In addition to their motivation and focus on showing for the fair, the pair are also working hard in school, preparing for their future post-high school next year.

Ochoa is hoping to graduate with honors next June, and is scheduled to take several AP classes, and hopes to complete them with a 4.0 GPA. Ochoa will receive her FFA state degree this year and hopes to become an esthetician for her future career.

Nava has plans to attend a four-year college, possibly Cal Poly or Santa Barbara where she will hone in on her major at a later date. She has interests in animal science and enjoys participating in cheerleading, FFA speaking, and job interview competitions, and has received her FFA state degree.

The girls both expressed their excitement to attend the in-person fair this year and look forward to seeing the community out and about.

The Redwood Empire Fair

The rest of **Story Time** From page 3

career on the line to bring notice to racial injustice.

The final book to conclude the half hour of Story Time at the market was "Farmer's Market Day," a book about a family being at the farmers market and collecting veggies and interacting with their community.

"Today was about testing the waters," said Steiskal, "seeing how many people are interested. This is something the library wants to engage in and cooperate with the Farmers Market Association."

runs from August 4 through 7 at the Ukiah Fairgrounds with the auction starting at 10 am on Saturday.

"The fair will feature a traditional livestock auction and exhibits, as well as live entertainment and a full carnival with rides and games for guests of all ages. A wide array of fair food will also be available throughout the weekend."

Admission is \$9 for adults; \$7 for seniors 65 and over and children aged 6 to 12; and children 5 years and under are free.

The carnival will be back, and presale unlimited-ride one-day wristbands (purchased before August 4 at 2 pm) are available for \$30 at J.D. Redhouse in Willits and other locations throughout Ukiah.

The fair opens at 3 pm on Thursday, August 4 and Friday, August 5, and at noon on Saturday, August 6 and Sunday, August 7.

A complete list of events and much more information about the fair is available online at www.redwoodempirefair.com or by contacting the fair directly at info@redwoodempirefair.com or 707-462-3884.

The Willits Library has an extensive selection of children's and young adults' reading materials, everything from juvenile books, to easy reader books that are arranged by grade level, to a juvenile non-fiction collection which spans the Dewey decimal system. With the library's expanded staff, the branch manager would like to expand its education and outreach programs. Look for more fun and educational opportunities in the near future.



Above, from left: Artist Jazz-minh Moore displays a tiny watercolor set that was discovered by her young daughter, Circi. Almost any genre of art supplies, prints, and art books is available at the Yart Sale. Young Circi Grace is fascinated by the potter's wheel and other ceramic processes. Below, left: Emmy Good brought her vast collection of rubber stamps to the sale. Below, right, bottom: Suzanne Farris found a mostly intact art set with which to create.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Rummage for a Cause

Shoppers hunt for creative deals at Yart Sale fundraiser, in support of the Willits Center for the Arts

The Willits Center for the Arts' "Yart Sale" finally returned this weekend after a pandemic hiatus, yielding a couple thousand dollars toward helping keep the organization's doors open and a lot of great deals for the attendees.

On display and for sale were a myriad of art books which sold for only \$0.50, art supplies of every kind, rubber stamps, a matchbook collection, fine-art prints, and much more.

The ceramics department, in conjunction with the Yart Sale, had a separate, colorful sale of student- and teacher-created pottery, the receipts of which were to be used to repair an element on their kiln.

Tours of the ceramic studio were also available, fascinating the kids and providing insight into the methods of producing these age-old art forms. Attendees could see the various stages of the production, including students "throwing" pots on the wheel.

"The sale's going really well," said ceramic-studio head Nancy New. "We're having a great time. We have a lot of people who are going to come tomorrow and Sunday. I

have a class going right now. There are some great prices on the ceramics."

Top-hatted Emmy Good, as usual, brought her vast collection of artistic and whimsical rubber stamps from her now-defunct Good's Shoppe, as well as an intriguing collection of matchbooks, some dating as far back as the 1940s. Several of Good's stamps had topical messages that are very germane to the political causes of today.

"There's a complete set of all of my rubber stamps, the 5,000 rubber stamps that we produced, at the high school," stated Good. "They're all in trays by category. The teachers can borrow them and use them in their classrooms."

"Some of my stamps have come back to being politically correct again," said Good. "I have a whole set of stamps that say things like 'Abortion, keep it legal and safe,' 'Abortion: against one, don't have one.' These go back 30 years ago."

"I would love to find somebody who buys my whole matchbook collection. Many of these go

Read the rest of **Yart Sale** Over on page 9



At far left: Jill Walton throws a pot in the ceramics class that is going on during the Friday session of the Yart Sale. At left, top: WCA Curator Gary Martin shows a couple of his Salvador Dali lithographs which he is selling for greatly reduced prices. At left: A young girl is fascinated by the colors of the ceramics. Above: An arrow points the way to the Yart Sale.

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Above: Potter Valley 4-H and FFA members smile together at Acme Rigging in Ukiah. At left: Laytonville's Johnny Whitley tells Stacey about his market hog at Donahoo, Inc.



Bid & Buy

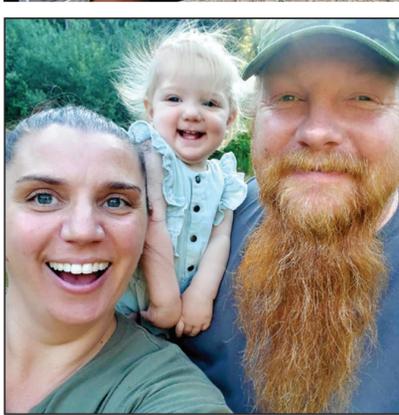
Youth exhibitors invite businesses to upcoming auction at Ukiah fairgrounds

The annual Redwood Empire Fair and Junior Livestock Auction will be held on August 4 at Ukiah Fairgrounds and will be back in-person after two years of online only due to COVID. Young exhibitors were out hand-delivering invitations and information to prospective buyers around the county. Interested in buying? Sign up and get information online here: <https://bit.ly/3OinML>

—Maureen Jennison

At left, above: Johnny Whitney delivers a buyer's letter to Carly at Hertz Rentals. At left: Exhibitors want to remind the community to "Stop! Stop what you're doing and hurry to the auction!" Below: 4-H members deliver more letters, including some to Giacomini Enterprises in Ukiah.

Photos by Taylor Whitley



Congrats and Happy 1st Birthday to Magnolia Jennison

It's amazing to think it has already been a whole year with Magnolia "Maggie" Jennison in our lives, as she gets ready to celebrate her first birthday on Sunday, July 31.

She continues to be an absolute delight, a great sleeper and an excellent eater, enjoying strawberries, graham crackers and frozen green peas the most.

Her sweet spirit, amazing attitude, bright smile and (my hairdresser tells me it IS indeed) red hair; she is everything we'd hope she'd be and can't wait for what's to come as she continues to grow and learn.

We love you #TheLittlestLadyJennison – thank you for being such an amazing baby and being so good about being in that backpack!

— Love, Mama and Papa



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Rambunctious Randall

This active boy loves to run around and explore. Toys are his favorite pastime and he will play with them for hours. Randall can get a bit nippy when he gets excited so he may do best in a home with no young children. Randall would also like to be the only cat in his new home, as he gets jealous easily.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Randall or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendocinocountyanimalshelter.com.

Enthusiastic Rosey

Who is the cutest girl in the world? It's Rosey! This silver-faced gal might be

considered a senior at 9 years old, but she still has plenty of spunk left! Rosey loves to bounce around in the yards and she makes friends with every person she meets. Come meet her soon!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Iva Drive in Redwood Valley. We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendocinohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Easy-going Dinga

Dinga is a special girl! She is a patient, compliant, and a mellow house dog looking for a human / household that is similarly relaxed and ready to spend the rest of their lives together.

Dinga is a curious girl who really

appreciates socializing and bonding time. She is quietly affectionate. Dinga is enjoying free-reign at our Sanctuary and staying at the founder's house. She has met pigs and chickens, and is curious about them, and is making friends with lots of new canine pals. She is not a barker, has learned to use a dog door, likes riding in a car and cuddling on a couch, and is so ready to meet her people / person and perhaps a canine buddy or two, either way, she is an easy-going gal, well suited for country and rural life, as well as suburban. No cats for this gal.

To learn more about Dinga 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.



Flower friends, from left: Lily Madison, Kendra Mottern, Dimitri Calderon, Taylor Valente, Trinity Ward, Valerie Mottern and Ruby Lane pose with their flowers.

Flower Fun

Students of the Willits Charter School summer program fabricate and install metal sculptures

No. The giant flowers growing out of the façade at the Willits Charter School are not a new colossal species, they are not a project of the Willits Garden Club gotten out of hand and overtaking the indigenous plant life of the Little Lake Valley. Rather, they are part of an art project spearheaded by local artist and gallery owner Morgan Rex along with new Willits Charter School teacher Heather Wilson.

The colorful display, easily visible to passing vehicles at 1431 South Main Street, is the product of a class, involving several students, who wanted to do something creative with their summer recess. They constructed these large metal flowers, having learned how to cut, prime, paint and fashion them to their own individual designs, under the direction of Rex, who at his Art in the Plaza Gallery, behind Cafe 77, crafts metal fountains, flowers, and other attractive works.

"You've seen the big flower on my gallery building," said Rex. "Jennifer [Lockwood, the WCS director up until recently] saw that and posted something about wanting flowers on the charter school building. I said, 'how about doing a class?' She and Heather managed to get a grant for the project. It pays for me to teach the class and all the materials we are using."

The grant, from the Arts Council of Mendocino, is known as the Get Arts in the Schools Program. It was started in 2005 with the purpose of funding artist workshops and live performances in Mendocino County schools.

"The goal of the program is to infuse the arts in the core curriculum and to deliver quality, educational, curriculum-based artistic experiences in K through 12 students," per the Arts Council

literature.

"It's a \$1,000 grant for us to create a flower sculpture for our new gymnasium," stated Wilson. "We wrote a proposal with a whole plan and were given the funds to have Morgan here for a workshop. This is a summer drop-in program so some of the kids don't come in every day. It's casual."

"We basically have the same kids for this workshop," continued Wilson, "but occasionally a child will drop in and we have to find a project for them to work on. Sometimes, they will help the other students with the painting or cutting on their projects. We have some little personal projects for them to do and take home, like these smaller flowers. Morgan has provided us with a variety of projects besides the main project of the flowers."

When installing the flowers on the new gymnasium proved less than tenable due to the inability to find a viable location on the building, the new placement on the main school building was proposed so that the flowers could be more easily seen by more people.

The students learned several new techniques from Rex, including how to safely cut, paint and attach the petals to the glass centers. Each of the flowers were designed and crafted to each student's own specifications and each one is unique to their experiences and personalities.

"This project was a lot of fun," beamed Taylor Valente. "I liked making and shaping the petals. Mine was the polka dot one. I went with smaller petals. I looked at all the others and saw that no one else had polka dots. I like the way it stands out against the other flowers."

One of the students, Valerie Mottern, saw the project as an homage to her grandmother: "When I lived with my grandmother, she had a lot of sunflowers in the yard. My flower made me think of that."

Wilson was extremely impressed with the way the project turned out. "I'm ecstatic," she said. "It looks super good on the building. The kids had a great time. I hope we can do more with Morgan. We would love to have him come for regular Friday Academy classes to maybe teach more sculpture art."

"This is kind of what I envisioned when we began this project," added Wilson. "This project started about a month ago. This is like summer camp. We have credit recovery for the high schoolers and summer camp for the middle schoolers. They also do academics but we try to have various activities. This was a very hands-on project that they'll get to see all year. It's a long-lasting project with a good impact for the school."

It took a couple classes for the project to catch on with the students.

"In the beginning, these kids were not so motivated," said Rex. "When they began to realize what the end result was going to be, they got a little more excited about it. It's summer. They're kids. I don't know how many of them really wanted to be here but they seemed to get behind it as the project happened. But to them, for the upcoming school year, they're going to be able to go 'I did that. That's my flower.'"

"This is fun," said soon-to-be eighth-grader Lily Madison. "I really like painting. If I weren't here, I'd probably be at home watching TV. This is better. I get to make something."



At left, top: Valerie Mottern proudly displays the smaller project she is working on while the petals dry. At left, below: The installed flowers make a colorful addition to the front of the Willits Charter School.

Above: Valerie Mottern, Ruby Lane and Kendra Mottern spent the month creating both the large flowers and smaller versions out of aluminum cans. At right: Valerie Mottern helps hand the flowers up to Morgan Rex. Below: Morgan Rex explains a technique to Dimitri Calderon.

At bottom, left: The class enjoyed seeing their creations mounted on the front of the building where any passerby could see them. At bottom, right: Artist Morgan Rex explains a technique to Taylor Valente.



Photos by Mathew Caine



'Community Bear Stories' at the Museum, July 29

Submitted by the Mendocino County Museum

"Community Bear Stories" with special guest Susan Snyder will be held in the Mendocino County Museum Wonacott Room and Courtyard, on Friday, July 29 from 6 to 8 pm.

Come enjoy some s'mores and an evening of bear stories with guest storytellers, including Susan Snyder, author of "Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly."

Also joining us is Laura L. Smith, who has been a Mendocino County resident for 40 years, dedicating 20 of those years as a federal park ranger at Lake Mendocino, where she has had many positive black bear encounters to share.

After our featured storytellers, community members are invited to share their own bear tales, poems, or songs. Please limit time to 10 minutes or less.

This event is free to the public, open to all ages, and is sponsored by the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum and the Mendocino County Museum.

For more information, please visit www.mendocinocounty.org/museum or contact the Mendocino County Museum at museum@mendocinocounty.org or 707-459-2736.

Mendocino County Museum
Community Bear Stories

July 29, 2022
6:00 - 8:00 pm

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Nope'

The Story: Alien invasion horror movie. OJ (Daniel Kaluuya) and sister Emerald (Keke Palmer) breed and train horses for the Hollywood movie industry. Their ranch is in a dry, remote Southern California valley. OJ doesn't talk much, he just works hard. Emerald is focused on fame and on big success. And she's a talker!

When OJ sees what he thinks is a flying saucer, Emerald is convinced that if they can capture the UFO on film, they might even get on Oprah. It's their big chance! They buy a fancy remote control camera system from Angel (Brandon Perea) at Fry's Electronics. They are all set! Then things turn ugly for a whole bunch of folks.

OJ and Emerald and Angel realize that the sinister saucer seems to be stalking horses, their riders, and also any random passersby. Maybe for food. It sucks 'em all right up like a giant Roomba in the sky. Much blood is involved. Shrieking too.

My Thoughts: It's five in the morning. I just woke up, and I'm wondering if this flick was a weird dream. I'm glad it wasn't. "Nope" was written and directed by Jordan Peele. I'm just a movie reviewer, he's a genuine auteur. This flick delivers horror chills, thriller action, uncanny visuals and pointed commentary on the pointlessness of fame. Some moments are over the top blood-spattered and terrifying, and at the same time surreal and really kinda funny. And it's never Hollywood stupid, or soaked with woke.

I have to tip my hat in admiration to the whole cast and crew. I loved the flick. It's visually brilliant and quirky, even twisted. Audiences will scream and cringe (and sometimes laugh). It's a darn good time at the moviehouse.

Parents: Too scary and bloody for children. Don't bring 'em.

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



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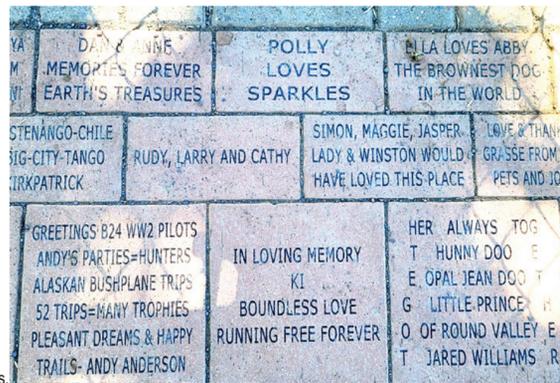
Opening reception for new WCA exhibit to coincide with Willits Art Walk on July 30

Submitted by the Willits Center for the Arts

Willits Center for the Arts presents ceramics by Mary Marsh and works by Laura Wiecek. The show will be on view from July 30 through August 24, 2022. A reception for the artists, including a talk by Marsh and Wiecek about their artwork, will take place Saturday, July 30 between 6 and 9 pm.

Please also join the Willits Art Walk on July 30 (more info on the art walk at www.willitscenterforthearts.org).

The gallery is located at 71 East Commercial Street (next door to the Noyo Theatre). Gallery hours are Friday to Sunday 11 am to 5 pm.



Canine Community

Willits Frank Grasse Dog Park provides a space for pups and their people to socialize and play

By Margi Gomez Guhde

Some folks love the Willits Frank Grasse Dog Park because it gives them an excuse to go for a walk before the heat of the day. Some appreciate the opportunity to meet and play with other dogs in the coolness of the evening. Others who live alone with their canine companions enjoy the chance to be social in a safe and pleasant environment.

Erin Fitzpatrick, one of the founders of the dog park, along with her husband Ian, has used the community space for the past 12 years. She can often be found at the park with her 13-year-old dog, Abby, and the new member of the family, a one-year-old rescue dog named Rupert.

"We used to meet up with Sally and Lewis Rohlicek and their dog, Bob," said Fitzpatrick, "back when this was just open space. We started organizing, and Willits really rallied around the idea." She points out trees the group planted from saplings. "Everyone was for it."

The park was built in honor of veterinarian Frank Grasse, whose East Hill Veterinary Clinic cared for Willits animals for decades. Grasse began his practice serving large animals and livestock, eventually expanding to open a full-service veterinary hospital. The dog park, which opened in 2010, was named after Grasse in honor of his lifelong devotion to his work.

The Frank Grasse Dog Park is really two dog parks in one, offering a larger space with a covered picnic table for bigger, well-socialized dogs, and a smaller space where more timid dogs can safely run and play. The dog park is frequented by many locals, but is also visited by travelers looking to stretch out after the confines of their car. The park is located on East Commercial Street, adjacent to the Roots of Motive Power and the Willits Skate Park.

The enclosures themselves are built with safety in mind, and double gated to allow a transitional entry and exit area



dispensers, water spigots, and shade structures.

The Book Juggler bookshop owners Greta Kanne and Chris Harper were also there at the beginning.

"Our Zeus was a puppy then, and he's 12 years now!" Kanne recalled. With their rambunctious new dog, the couple joined with the Fitzpatricks and the Rohliceks to hatch the plan for the park.

"The city was amenable, and we managed all the fundraising without using any city funds," said Kanne. "Once the space was secured, we raised \$15,000 with lots of help from individuals and volunteers. A lot of local businesses helped out, too. Olenik Fencing gave us a deep discount on our cyclone fence, and even trained volunteers on how to install it."

Harper emphasized that the community effort made all the difference. "We had a LOT of help, holding bake sales and even selling T-shirts." One fundraiser involved the bricks used to pave the double-gated entry areas. "The bricks were purchased individually by folks," said Harper, "and we had them engraved to memorialize the love of people for their pets."

The Frank Grasse Dog Park, owned by the City of Willits, is open every day, year-round, dawn to dusk.

At top, left: Neighbors meet up to share "dog time" at the Frank Grasse Dog Park. At top, right: Brick pavers memorializing beloved pets helped to build the dog park on East Commercial Street.

Above, left: Doggie "parents" are encouraged to keep the park clean and tidy. Above, right: Erin Fitzpatrick enjoys the park with veteran Abby and newbie Rupert.

Below: The Frank Grasse Dog Park has been serving Willits dogs and their people since it opened in 2010.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW392
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2022-F0350
The following person is doing business as Tooth Gems By Tali, 201 School Street, Apt. K, Willits CA 95490.
Registered owner: Tatyana Renee Viale, 201 School Street, Apt. K, Willits CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on July 13, 2022.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 11, 2022.
/s/ Tatyana Renee Viale
Publication dates: July 28, August 4, 11, 18, 2022

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

WW391
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: EDNA ROSE KNIGHT, aka EDNA R. KNIGHT, aka EDNA KNIGHT
CASE NO. 22PR00102
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate of both of EDNA ROSE KNIGHT, aka EDNA R. KNIGHT, aka EDNA KNIGHT
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Patricia Hals and Robert S. Knight in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino.
The Petition for Probate requests that Patricia Hals and Robert S. Knight be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: August 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in Dept.: TM of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 700 S Franklin St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437.
If you object to granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the **later of either (1) four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner: Jennifer M. O'Brien, NEARY and O'BRIEN, 110 S Main St., Ste. C, Willits, CA 95490, Telephone: (707) 459-5551.
Publication Dates: July 14, 21, 28, 2022

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Celebration of Life for Barney St. Martin

A celebration of life for Barney St. Martin will be held on Saturday, August 6, 12:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post 174 at 191 N. Main Street in Willits.
Potluck luncheon to be served afterwards. If you would like to bring something, cold finger food like chicken or little sandwiches, salads or desserts would be appreciated. The rest will be provided. Hot food is discouraged.

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The rest of **Yart Sale** From page 5

back to the '40s in San Francisco and Hollywood and Beverly Hills. Some of these places still exist.

"I had a whole category of pin-ups," she added. "They are pretty tame by today's standards. There are some really fun matchbooks in here."

Curator Gary Martin brought his personal collection of fine-art prints to sell, some Salvador Dali works, and other "name" artists, which he was selling at a fraction of their value. In addition to the famous artists, there were tables with \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20 prints and fabrics for sale.

As an added treat on Saturday, Lisa Kvasnicka of Scoops created some extremely yummy smoothies which could be purchased for a donation to the Willits Center for the Arts.

Local artists came by to see if they could find deals for some of the materials they use in creating their art. Jazz-minh Moore brought her young daughter, Circi Grace, to peruse the array of products.

"I'm here hunting for treasures for myself and Circi. I found a very tiny watercolor set from Jerry's Artorama. Circi found all of this," Moore said, motioning to her daughter's selections. "Tempura paints. So far, I've just been browsing. I'm having to hold back. As an artist, there is so much here that I could use."

Alexi Halleck, the board member responsible for the event, expressed her optimism and gratitude to the people who donated art to the Yart Sale, "I'm really excited about it. We got everything set up yesterday. I was really grateful for all the stuff that got donated for the sale. It came from different people around the community. They really pulled through for us and donated some really amazing stuff."

"There're tons of watercolor paper," said Halleck, "which is usually pricey. There're art supplies that are insanely pricey that are here and we're selling them for insanely low prices. We're asking people to just make an offer on a lot of these goods."

"With the things that are left over," explained Halleck, "we'll save them for a future event, similar to the Yart Sale. We might use some of it for various classes here. We were talking about possibly doing a 'Sip and Collage' class in the winter for people to get together and do some collages and sip some wine."

Although the Yart Sale provided great deals and fun for the participants, the Willits Center for the Arts still has several needs which must be addressed, mostly the lack of funding due to the COVID pandemic which reduced the number of fundraising possibilities.

"With the money we get," said Laura Wiecek, treasurer of the WCA, "we're going to try and keep the place open. It's been difficult, with COVID and the increasing prices of everything."

The Willits Center for the Arts is a local treasure, one that Willits needs to nourish and support as part of the aesthetic ethos of the town.

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Redwood Empire Fair
AUGUST 4-7, 2022



Open
Thu & Fri:
3 pm
Sat & Sun:
Noon

NIGHTLY MOTORIZED SPORTS ACTION

- THURS 6 PM: Side by Sides, Quads, Motorcycles and Monster Trucks
- FRI 6 PM: Mudd Boggs and Monster Trucks
- SAT 6 PM: Truck & Tractor Pulls
- SUN 6PM: Boat Races, Junior Mudd Boggs, and Jalopies



EXCITING FAIR ATTRACTIONS

- A Walk on the Wild Side Exotic Animal Exhibit
- Dinosaur Discovery
- Nightly Entertainment on Willow Tree Stage



JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Saturday, August 6, 2022 at 10 a.m.
Racine Pavillion



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT WILLOW TREE STAGE

- THU 6PM & 9PM: Karaoke with DJ Ken Steely
- FRI 5PM: Ukiah Idols Finals "Little Idol & Junior Idol"
- FRI 6PM & 9PM: Fake News
- SAT 6PM & 9PM: Warehouse 21
- SUN 4:30 PM: Ukiah Idols Finals "Grand Finals"
- SUN 7PM: Banda Pacifica

Fair Admission

- Adults: \$9
- Children (6-12 yrs): \$7
- Children (5 yrs & under): FREE
- Seniors: (65 yrs & over) \$7
- Parking: \$10

Carnival

- All-day wristbands: \$35



RedwoodEmpireFair.com

OBITUARY |

Steven Rubin



Steven M. Rubin was received into eternal life on June 2, 2022 after a brief illness.

He is survived by his loving wife and best friend of 38 years, Frances Proteau Rubin.

He is also survived by sisters and brothers-in-law, Rochelle Herman, Sally Taylor, Leslie and Robin Proteau, Brian and Diane Proteau, Frank and Sandy Proteau, Dennis Proteau, 10 nieces and nephews, and eight grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Steven was preceded in death by his parents Milton and Jeanette Rubin of Los Angeles. Sadly, his brother Shelly Herman passed away one month after Steven.

Steven was born on July 17, 1945 in Los Angeles. After graduating from Fairfax High School in Los Angeles he traveled to Northern California and enrolled at San Francisco State University. He worked his way through college working for the U.S. Postal Service. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry with his specialty in molecular biology and oncogenes.

Steven became a licensed Clinical Laboratory Scientist returning to Los Angeles to work at UCLA Medical Center. He later returned to Northern California to work at hospitals in Marin County. Wanting to move further north, he moved to Santa Rosa, working at Central Pathology Laboratory where he met Frances in 1983. In 1990 they moved to Willits, with Steven working at Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic.

Steven went on to work for the State of California at Pleasant Valley State Prison as laboratory manager and transferred to Laboratory Field Services as a state/CLIA examiner and blood/tissue banks examiner. Having commuted for 14 years from Willits, he retired in 2008 to spend time with his beloved Frances and their sheep dogs.

Steven loved playing the piano and composing jazz. He loved riding his motorcycle, with Frances on the back, to the beautiful coast of California. He loved traveling to other countries and U.S. road trips, with Frances always by his side.

Steven will be remembered for his sense of humor, sharp wit, smile, love for life, and his love for dogs and animals.

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In Loving Memory
Derek Ronald Stamps



Derek Ronald Stamps was born January 12, 1971 in Santa Rosa, CA. He spent his early childhood in Colorado where he learned to love the mountains. Derek learned to ski at 6 years old and looked forward to ski trips with his family. He caught his first fish, approximately a 7 pound rainbow trout, at Nederlands Reservoir. It was so big it would not all fit in the pan to be cooked. Derek became an avid outdoor fan. He went hiking and camping with his family regularly in the Rocky Mountains.

Derek and his family moved to Willits, CA in 1980 where his father grew up. This way the family could be closer to extended families of grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles in Mendocino and Lake Counties.

Derek started attending school in Willits at Baechtel Grove School where he became involved with Pop Warner football. He continued his love for sports during his high school years at Willits High School through JV and Varsity Football. Derek was a lifelong Denver Broncos Fan. Derek also became involved in BMX bike racing. He competed in local events around Mendocino and Lake Counties. Derek also found a love for motorcycles. His first motorcycle was a Suzuki 150. He enjoyed riding through the local mountain areas with his friends. Derek graduated from Willits High School in 1989.

During his early twenties, he explored different types of jobs. He worked for several companies including Davee Tree, Ukiah Construction, traveled to Las Vegas to work on cooling towers, and worked as a mechanic for various trucking companies in the Willits area. Derek ultimately settled on a career with small engine repair and generator service. Derek provided generator support for many of the local agricultural community.

One of his unique business model objectives was to provide service for off-grid remote customers that would otherwise not have service and repair support. He began his business out of the back of his pickup truck utilizing a storage unit for spare parts and repair. Eventually his business grew to repair motorcycles, off road vehicles, and generators in a 5000 sq ft shop.

In October 2021 Derek was diagnosed with stage 4 T-cell Lymphoma. He had not been feeling well for a few months. Ultimately, after a fierce but unsuccessful battle, Derek decided to spend his final days at home with his immediate family.

Derek was surrounded with love and support during his final hours of July 11, 2022 as his parents, sisters, brothers-in-law, nephews, and best friend Luke and best girl Sabrina gathered around him to share memories and precious time.

Derek is survived by his parents, Charles "Ron" Stamps & Joyce Stamps. His three sisters, Tanya (Greg) Musgrave, Michelle (Michael) McCaffrey, Alicia (Gage) Stamps-Haneir, his three nephews Devin, Owen, & Cedar, his aunts and numerous cousins.

There will be a celebration of life on Saturday, August 6 at the Willits City Park at 10:30 am. All Derek's friends and family are invited to attend. We encourage anyone who is interested in sharing more time with the family to join us at Derek's family residence following the celebration of life. The family welcomes a potluck style gathering of appetizers and snack food to share with others who are in attendance.

707.459.5193

JOHN FORD RANCH
RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No hormones, fastured in Willits, California



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

Rehabilitation Specialist was hired for the team in late 2021, and Miller said that since then the unit has responded to around 440 calls from law enforcement, and also helped with other local services.

"When they're not with law enforcement, they're also doing other community outreach," she said. "There are times that a community provider may call and say, 'Hey we need someone to check on this individual,' so that they'll go out if they're not involved with law enforcement."

Miller said that the mobile team has been helping with a new program called "Heads Up," which she described as a "combo program between Social Services and Behavioral Health," where law enforcement and others give tips on those who may need help.

"And we're getting a decent amount of Heads Up calls," she added. "They're not all behavioral health. It's been a great program that we started.... So [the mobile crisis teams] are out whether it's a law enforcement call or a call from the community or a call maybe from our general crisis provider."

Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall had high praise for the mobile crisis program, calling it "an extreme success for us," at the July 25 BOS meeting.

He said that the number of emergency room referrals by sheriff's deputies and their time spent in ERs was significantly down since the mobile teams started, as was the number of those transferred out of the county with 5150 designations – where they are deemed a danger to themselves or others and placed in a lockdown PHF.

Sheriff Kendall said the mobile teams are taking "very proactive approaches," and meeting those in crisis "before the moment when they deteriorate and actually become 5150," he said.

"They're getting them into services; they're getting their needs met prior to this actually becoming a serious emergency," said Kendall. "And also the connections these folks are making in the communities are reducing those – what I would call a 'super-user' of services – because they're actually nipping the problem in the bud before it becomes a huge problem."

He said he hoped the availability of the mobile crisis teams would become even greater for the sheriff's office in the future.

"Whether it be a SWAT operation or a barricaded subject or something like that, these folks are extremely valuable to us," he added.

According to Miller, the county is planning to expand the staff and upgrade the vehicles for the mobile team, thanks to a state grant they were awarded.

Miller said that the Crisis Residential Treatment facility in Ukiah, which opened on April 25 and has been named "Phoenix House," has served 17 people in need so far.

As described on the county's website, "The CRT facility is an eight-bed short-term voluntary residential program with a duration of up to 30 days for adults 18 years or older experiencing a psychiatric crisis."

It says that CRTs provide "intensive and supportive services in a home-like environment through an active social rehabilitation program."

At the meeting Miller said that the CRT essentially functions as a "medium layer" landing place for those who are not designated 5150, but "are not really ready to go home" due to their mental state.

Redwood Community Services provides the treatment at Phoenix House, and Miller said there has been pretty much constant activity there.

"We have been getting more and more clients into that facility," she said. "I haven't had a day I've talked to them when they haven't had a client in there.... I know that they've been keeping it pretty full and keeping it at capacity as much as they can and as they need."

Miller noted that while currently the clients at Phoenix House are primarily those on MediCal and the "indigent population," there have been ongoing discussions with health insurance providers to hopefully cover CRT costs for their customers as well.

"They have gotten some headway working with them," she said of the discussions. "They're hoping to see a change within the next six months."

As for the Psychiatric Hospital Facility planned on Whitmore Lane in Ukiah, the \$19.5 million building project contracted out by the county to Nacht & Lewis is still in its early stages.

Miller said they are still working on the designs for the PHF building, and preparing for the demolition of the old structure there.

"We've spent a lot of time making sure the facility will meet both the county's needs and the contractor Telecare's needs," she said. "And to make sure that it also meets Medicare obligations – as we've talked about building it as a 'super-PHF' so that we are able to take Medicare or private insurance there.... As soon as those designs are finalized, we definitely will get those to the board."

General Services Agency Director Janelle Rau said that the PHF was still on pace as originally projected for being completed by fiscal year 2025/26.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak asked if there was any concern that the \$19.5 million price tag projected by Nacht & Lewis may increase due to recent high inflation.

Miller responded that the contractors had built in inflation to the original projected cost, but had acknowledged that the "worst case scenario" would be that it could come in at \$1 million higher once completed.

Other Measure B projects currently operating in the county include an aftercare program for patients when they leave mental health facilities, and the new Behavioral Health Regional Training Center in Redwood Valley.

Miller said that the aftercare program was designed to help those without MediCal with that treatment, and so far 281 clients had been served through the program.

As for the training center, Miller said there had only been about two training events per month so far there, but they were hopeful this would increase soon with more marketing and with decreases in COVID-19 related concerns.

The county website says the training center is meant to help "first responders, law enforcement, mental health professionals, and other individuals vested in mental health" to develop "skills to detect and handle mental illness more efficiently."

Another Measure B project is the "Community Education, Awareness and Support Program" being facilitated by the National Association of Mental Illness.

The program is meant to "reduce discrimination and stigma" regarding mental health issues, and to "assist individuals and families in navigating the community resources and services," according to the county website.

"NAMI has been out in the community really working with a lot of community partners," said Miller, "attending a lot of events and getting material out there. Working with the Native American community to really understand their needs, what are their lack of mental health services, and how could we better serve that community."

Grand Jury Measure B report

The Mendocino County Grand Jury released a report regarding Measure B projects on July 19, and their overall assessment of the county's work was positive, though there were some critiques.

"After a slow start, the funds generated under the Mendocino County Mental Health Treatment Act ... have made considerable contributions to mental health services available in Mendocino County," their report summary reads. "The slow start actually contributed to the generation of an increased budget for new facilities and funding of pilot programs for four years."

One of the critiques in the report was that "the voter-approved ordinance directive for specific substance abuse programs were not funded with Measure B funds."

However, Director Miller said that at a recent Measure B Committee meeting, the Ford Street Project-Ukiah Recovery Center had come forward with such a proposal asking for \$4.1 million in funding from the tax money.

She said the committee asked that representatives from Ford Street come back to their next meeting in September to continue those discussions.

"I do believe there will be an item coming forward to the board regarding this," said Miller.

For more details and updates on the Measure B projects, you can go to www.mendocinocounty.org/community-mental-health-oversight-committee/projects

Satellite contract

Earlier in the meeting an item to approve a \$351,000 one-year contract for satellite imagery services with Planet Global PBC was pulled from the consent calendar by Supervisor Haschak, who said he had heard some comments from the community about it.

"The concern is that this is the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant money," he said. "And the concern expressed was that this only be used for helping out with getting people to their annual [cannabis] licenses which is the intent of the [LJAG]."

In previous meetings the board and county staff have discussed plans to use the satellite imagery program for multiple purposes, including illegal cannabis enforcement and looking at structures on properties to assess tax rates.

During public comments, Mendocino Cannabis Alliance Executive Director Michael Katz expanded on the concern spoken about by Haschak.

"The LJAG requirements are very clear in what these funds are to be used for," said Katz. "They are to be used for specifically helping to transition existing local licensed applicants from their provisionals to their annuals. What is [also] provided is a list of ineligible costs for what funding could not be used for and one of those items is, 'Enforcement costs related to measures to ensure compliance with local or state commercial cannabis laws or regulations.'"

Katz went on to say that the county has indicated it would use the imagery system for enforcement and other purposes, and he was concerned that could lead to the state discontinuing the grant money altogether.

"We must make sure that firewalls are put in place so that this program will only be used for the purposes as outlined," said Katz, "as inappropriate use by code enforcement and/or law enforcement of this tool could lead to a loss of these essential funds."

Willits resident Ron Edwards said he was worried that the county had no real structure for using the satellite program.

"I see Mendocino County's Cannabis Department once again putting a program in place without guidelines," he said. "There is no manual on the use of this satellite imagery. I would really like to see before any type of use of the system that there be a strong policy manual in place, that that policy be placed on the cannabis website so that the public is aware and the department is aware of the clear guidelines."

In response to the public comments, Cannabis Program Administrator William Riley said: "I have no problem putting a policy in place for the proper use of these satellite images. I think that actually is a good idea."

Eventually the satellite imagery contract was approved by the board, but with an addition to "direct the cannabis department to work with the County Counsel's Office to see if there's a need to bring back any finetuning of the policy about the use of those funds."

Fire sales tax measure

Also approved on the consent calendar without any further discussion was the 1/4 cent "Essential Services Transactions and Use Tax" to go toward fire services in the county.

That final vote by the board officially sends the tax on to the ballot for county voters to decide in November.

July Summer Art Walk this Saturday

Submitted by Willits Center for the Arts

The July Summer Art Walk is set for Saturday, July 30, from 5 to 8 pm. Grab a friend or your family and stroll the streets of Willits to discover local artists, new venues, and eateries right here in our own backyard.

Our downtown is brimming with talented artists and creative activity. Plan to spend the evening exploring art, history, music and dance.

The 2022 Art Walks are held on the fourth Saturday of each month through October: July 30, August 27, September 24, and October 22.

The following participants are sponsors of the Willits Summer Art Walk: Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street; Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street; Mendocino College, North County Center, 372 East Commercial Street; BACE, 109 North Main Street (next to Northspur Brewery); Kemmy's Pies, 299 East Commercial Street; Scoops, 110 North Main Street; Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street; Art on the Plaza, 99 South Main Street; and RE Evolution, 15 West Mendocino Avenue.



The 21 firearms found behind a false wall after MCSO served a search warrant in Laytonville.

Photo courtesy MCSO

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

marijuana in various stages of processing, with an estimated weight of over 200 pounds. Two other containers had approximately 20 pounds of bud marijuana packaged in 1 pound increments. Deputies further located growing marijuana plants on the property.

Deputies further located 21 firearms hidden behind a false wall in a trailer. The firearms included two AR-10 rifles and a Polymer 80 9mm handgun, all of which did not have serial numbers. These firearms are commonly known as "ghost guns."

Deputies further located a homemade firearm suppressor (silencer).

There was also a short barrel shotgun and a stolen pistol, along with hundreds of rounds of ammunition. Deputies located numerous ballistic vests, a collapsible baton, metal knuckles, and miscellaneous firearm items.

Brett Tucker was found to be a prohibited person, who is not legally allowed to possess firearms, or ammunition.

Tucker was arrested on multiple charges including: 29800(A)(1) PC (Possess firearm by prohibited person); 30305(A)(1) PC (Possess ammunition by prohibited person); 33410 PC (Possession of a silencer); 21810 PC (Possession of metal knuckles); 11351 HS (Possession of controlled substance for sale); 11378 HS (Possession of controlled substance for sale); 11358 (C) HS (Unlawful cultivation of marijuana); 11359 (D) HS (Unlawful possession of marijuana for sale); and 22210 PC (Possession of a billy club)

Tucker was booked into the Mendocino County Jail to be held in lieu of \$25,000 bail.



Brett Richard Tucker, of Laytonville.

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

this year's Grand Jury foreman.

"The Civil Grand Jury is Mendocino County's only independent watchdog of government agencies and services," a Grand Jury brochure produced by the county states. "Composed of 19 citizen volunteers, it investigates and monitors the performance of county, city, and local governing entities, including special districts [and school districts]. It has the responsibility to make recommendations to improve local government."

As per the press release announcing this year's jurors, "Court operations and federal or state governmental agencies are outside the scope of local Grand Jury review."

Each year the county Grand Jury is required to perform oversight on local correctional facilities, and look at the operations of at least one county department. "Investigation topics are generated internally via committee work, or via citizen complaint," the press release states.

A series of reports is then issued to the public, and findings and recommendations are listed in the reports. Departments investigated by the Grand Jury are required to respond to the reports.

"Each of California's 58 counties swears a new Grand Jury in to service each year," the press release notes. "The Mendocino County Grand Jury has existed over 100 years, and must operate under a strict code of confidentiality required by law. Under misdemeanor penalty, Grand Jury members are forbidden from divulging identities of complainants or those providing information to the grand jury, nor to name any sources in any public reports."

This year's full reports and summaries can be viewed at www.mendocinocounty.org/government/county-organization/grand-jury/2021-2022-reports

HIGH, LOW, RED, OR BLACK

SAT JULY 16, 23 & 30
7PM - 11PM

Get 1 entry for every 50 same-day points for a chance to play the "High, Low, Red, or Black" card game and win up to \$200 Free Play.

Drawings every hour.

For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club.

SUMMER SUNDAY COOKOUTS

SUNDAYS JULY 17, 24, 31
6PM - 10PM



Actual model may vary.
For complete rules and
details please visit the
Players Club.

Redeem 150 same-day points to get an entry to win the Weber Traveler 1 Burner Liquid Propane Portable Grill at 9pm. One winner each Sunday. Plus Hot Seats for Cash and Free Play from 6-10pm.

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For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.