

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
Donations Accepted Edition No. 465 **Thursday, August 18, 2022**

Dog kennels are full at county animal shelters

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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The county animal shelters in Ukiah and Fort Bragg have no more room for dogs, Mendocino County Animal Care Services announced Tuesday evening on Facebook. In an effort to encourage dog adoptions to avoid "the possibility of euthanizing for space," the shelters have reduced dog adoption prices by 50%.

"FYI - Dog Kennels are Full," the post on Facebook read. "Unfortunately, due to many stray dogs being picked up by the Animal Protection Unit and dropped

Read the rest of
Shelter
Over on page 13

School board starts off 2022/23 year

Margi Gomez Guhde
Features Writer
margie@willitsweekly.com

The public portion of the first Willits Unified School Board meeting of the 2022/23 school year convened promptly on August 10 at 5 pm.

Board President Robert Chavez welcomed incoming Superintendent Mark Beebe, thanking him for working closely with staff to get so much accomplished over the summer.

Superintendent Beebe thanked all the staff for their kind words, collaboration and hard work, and expressed his high hopes for the start of school on August 22.

Read more of
School
Over on page 2

Driver dies after hitting tree on Sherwood Road

Submitted by the
California Highway
Patrol, Garberville

On Thursday, August 11, at approximately 10:20 am, Cherie Renee Peck, 66, of Willits was driving a silver 1988 Chevrolet Silverado and traveling south on Sherwood Road, south of Lupine Way.

For reasons still under investigation, the Chevrolet crossed over the double yellow lines into the northbound lanes, and then left the roadway while becoming airborne. The Chevrolet turned in a clockwise direction, while turning to its right, and collided with a tree.

Read the rest of
Fatal
Over on page 2



Above, back row, from left: Willits High School Vice Principal Shane Topolinski; Willits High School Principal Michael Colvig; Baechtel Grove Middle School Principal Chris Kinney; and Willits Unified School District Superintendent and Sherwood School Principal Mark Beebe. Front row, from left: Sanhedrin High School Principal Arora Chavez; Blosser Lane Elementary School Principal Nancy Runberg; and Brookside Elementary School Principal Kathleen Crossman.

Back to School Begins

Willits Unified School District heads back to class on August 22

The final countdown is on to squeeze in the last of all of summer's goodness before the bell rings and class begins on Monday, August 22. This final week of summer offers weather fit for the river or pool, a picnic in the park, or late evening dinners outside under the lights ... and hopefully away from mosquitoes.

This edition of Willits Weekly is our first of two Back to School specials, this one focusing on the Willits Unified School District, and the inside pages are filled with welcome letters from new and returning administrators, bus schedules, the WUSD academic year calendar, sports schedules, and more. Next week, we will focus on the charter and alternative schools which are back in session a week after WUSD.

— Maureen Jennison

A letter from ...

The Superintendent of Willits Unified School District

Mark Beebe



Above: Willits Unified School District Superintendent Mark Beebe.

Greetings Willits community:

My name is Mark Beebe, and I am the proud new superintendent of Willits Unified School District. I am deeply humbled to serve our tremendous students, our amazing WUSD staff, and the friendly Willits community. I am eager for the year to begin and watch our staff connect, educate, coach, transport, feed, and nurture the students of WUSD. I recently moved here and have enjoyed every moment since moving here.

I am beginning my 30th year in education. I have served as a teacher and coach for many years, a high school principal, a superintendent / principal, and most recently the director of student services for Yuba City Unified.

I truly enjoy every aspect of education, and I am deeply committed to student achievement on multiple levels. I am regarded as approachable, willing to listen to any and all concerns, and supportive of our students and staff.

We begin again, and I hope that you are as excited as I am about the possibility of a more standard type of year. I have no idea how the year will unfold, but if my interactions with those I have met here so far are any indication, then the year will be positive and productive for our students, staff, and parents.

Communities everywhere have faced multiple challenges across many spectrums over the past few years. Although I was not in this community until recently, I am certain that the students, staff and community of Willits met these changes and challenges daily with a positive and productive outlook.

A few areas that over time I have developed that are crucial in education:

- Building and establishing a positive culture and climate amongst everyone at our sites and within the district.
- Building positive and productive relationships with our students, colleagues, and community.
- Preparing our Willits students to move to each grade level with the skills necessary to find success on multiple

levels and subsequently graduate college- and career-ready.

- Addressing infrastructure at all of our sites, addressing the safety needs of our students and staff, and working with all stakeholders that they have the tools necessary to meet the needs of our students.

The educational community, students, parents, and community members have faced multiple challenges and changes with COVID protocols and policies in the past few years. We will still need to follow the latest established protocols from the CDPH, Cal/OSHA and our county public health department; however, many of the policies regarding students have moved to a recommended status on multiple levels.

If I have learned anything the past few years is that change is now a constant. We want our students in school as much as possible, yet we must continue to remain as safe as possible.

Below are relevant links for you as we begin this school year:

- California Department of Public Health School Guidance (6-30-2022)
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2022-23-School-Year.aspx>
 - California Department of Public Health Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings (1-5-22)
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>
 - CA Safe Schools for All Hub
<https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/>
 - Mendocino County Public Health Order Page
<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus/health-order>
- Thank you for all you have done, are doing and will do. It is my honor to serve Willits in my role as superintendent, and I look forward to meeting all of you.

County workers

ask BOS for COLA raise

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At the Tuesday board of supervisors meeting several dozen county workers and supporters packed into the chambers in Ukiah carrying signs and wearing SEIU Local 1021 union shirts, urging the board to raise wages to help them afford basic costs of living and to draw in more workers to get staffing up to appropriate levels.

After hearing from the workers during public expression and later having a closed session item

Read the rest of
Workers
Over on page 13

7 candidates file for school board election

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Willits school board race may be one of the liveliest local races on the November 8, 2022 ballot.

There are three seats up for election to the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees, with the three incumbents filing to run again. There will also be four challengers, according to the Draft Candidates List released August 14 by the Mendocino County Elections Office.

Incumbents Robert Chavez, Jeanne King, and Paula Nunez were

Read the rest of
Election
Over on page 13

Brooktrails board: dumping, public transportation, golf course

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Township board of directors met at the Brooktrails Community Center August 9, with Director Tony Orth and Board President Rick Williams attending remotely via Zoom.

Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea announced: "The Mendocino Council of Governments is hosting a series of community listening sessions to understand transportation needs and possible solutions for rural areas in our communities without

Read the rest of
Brooktrails
Over on page 15

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

Willits Sober Grad would like to thank METALfx for choosing our organization for a fundraiser at their recent family day picnic.

Thank you to METALfx for supporting the mission of Willits Sober Grad, and for all they do for our community.

Davina Sentak, president, Willits Sober Grad

Adventist Health and Anthem Blue Cross reach agreement on contract terms

Submitted by Adventist Health Mendocino County

On August 12, Adventist Health and Anthem Blue Cross announced they have reached a new contract agreement that provides Anthem health plan members with continued in-network access to services at Adventist Health facilities throughout Mendocino County.

"We are pleased to continue our long-standing partnership with Anthem Blue Cross and continue to provide excellent healthcare locally," said Judson Howe, president, Adventist Health North Coast Network. "The new agreement aligns both organizations in our shared community health and well-being goals."

"We are pleased to have reached a mutual agreement with Adventist Health that provides our members with continued access to care at Adventist Health facilities," said John Pickett, regional vice president, Anthem Blue Cross. "The successful resolution of our discussions builds on our long-term partnership and shared commitment to providing access to high-quality care for those in the communities we serve."

The new agreement is effective immediately, meaning Anthem Blue Cross members continue to have in-network access to Adventist Health hospitals and physicians in California.

Adventist Health is a faith-inspired, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 80 eighty communities on the West Coast and Hawaii with over 400 sites of care. Founded on Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care agencies, hospice agencies, and joint-venture retirement centers in both rural and urban communities.

Willits Library correction

In the July 28, 2022 edition of Willits Weekly, a feature story mis-identified the new Willits librarian.

Giselle Delotch has been librarian at the Willits Branch Library since June 2022.

Denise Jessie is a library assistant at the Willits Library, and also hosts a storyline event weekly on Wednesdays, at 10:30 am in Rec Grove Park, and also a Stories and More activity at the library once a month.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

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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, August 18: Italian Sub, Chips, Green Salad

Friday, August 19: Chicken Cordon Bleu Sandwich, 3 Bean Salad, Fruit

Monday, August 22: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Tuesday, August 23: Ortega Roast Beef Sandwich, Potato Wedge, Green Salad

Wednesday, August 24: Hawaiian Chicken Sandwich w/Ham & Pineapple, Mac Salad.

Thursday, August 25: Chicken & Rice Casserole, Roll, Green Salad

Friday, August 26: Turkey w/Stuffing and Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Upcoming Special Events

Chili Cook-Off: Friday, August 19, 5 to 7 pm at the Rec Grove. The public is invited to taste and vote for their favorite chili, and enjoy free fresh-baked corn bread muffins. Admission, to benefit the Senior Center, is \$12 for adults, \$10 for Senior Center members, and \$8 for kids. Also features root beer floats for \$4.

Food Bank: Thursday, August 25, 9:30 am to 11:30 am, in the Loflin 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

Grange Pancake Breakfast, August 28

Join your friends at the Grange Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, August 28, from 8 to 11 am. \$9 buys you a plate of the best "scratch" pancakes and local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods.

If you can eat pancakes, choose our Sourdough Wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, or Gluten-free, with Beeler's Quality Bacon, Organic Local Farm Fresh Eggs, Real Butter, Juice, and Organic Coffee or Tea.

All for only \$9, \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for children under 10.

We also can serve you extra sides of Organic Fruit, \$2; Amish Organic Maple Syrup, \$1; Extra Beeler's Bacon, \$1.

Little Lake Grange #670 is located at 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of Main Street)

Fatal

The rest of

Sherwood Road was closed in both directions for just under two hours for the scene investigation and vehicle recovery. It remains under investigation whether or not drugs or alcohol was a factor in this crash.

The California Highway Patrol, Brooktrails Fire Department, and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office all responded to the scene. This collision remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol - Garberville Area.

Fatal accident on the Covelo Road

Submitted by California Highway Patrol, Garberville

On Tuesday, August 16, at approximately 1:20 am, Jose Piedra Villaseor, 28, of Yuba City was driving a red Ford Ranger east on State Route 162, the Covelo Road, with his passenger seated in the front, right passenger seat.

For reasons still under investigation, west of mile post marker 8.30 (about 8 miles east of Highway 101), the Ford Ranger left the north roadway edge, became airborne and overturned several times down a steep embankment.

While the Ford Ranger was overturning, Villaseor was ejected from the vehicle. The Ford Ranger then came to rest on its roof, and the passenger, 44, sustained fatal injuries as a result of this collision.

The passenger's name is being withheld until notification to next of kin. Villaseor was airlifted to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital where he was treated for moderate injuries.

The California Highway Patrol, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Laytonville Fire Department, Little Lake Fire Department, and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office all responded to the scene.

This collision remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol - Garberville Area.

City clerk's certification that there are not more candidates than offices to be elected

I, Delores Pedersen, city clerk of the City of Willits, do hereby certify pursuant to §10229, Elections Code of the State of California, the following facts relating to the General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022:

As of the close of the nomination period on August 12, 2022, there are not more candidates than offices to be elected.

The person(s) so nominated are:

Greta Kanne, city council member, 4 years (ending 2026)

Larry Stranske, city council member, 4 years (ending 2026)

That §10229 of the Elections Code allows one of the following courses of action to be taken by the city council:

(1) Appoint to the office the person who has been nominated.

(2) Appoint to the office any eligible voter if no one has been nominated.

(3) Hold the election if either no one or only one person has been nominated.

A notice of these facts will be published on Thursday, August 18, 2022, in a newspaper of general circulation in the city, pursuant to §6061 of the Government Code. After the fifth day following the date of publication, the city council will meet to either make the appointment(s) or direct an election to be held. The person(s) appointed, if any, shall qualify and take office and serve exactly as if elected at a municipal election for the office.

If, by the 75th day before the municipal election, no person has been appointed to the office(s) pursuant to (1) or (2) above, the election shall be held.

If the city council makes an appointment pursuant to §10229, Elections Code, the city clerk shall not accept for filing any statement of write-in candidacy which is submitted after the appointment is made.

— Delores Pedersen, city clerk

More of School

From page 1

Willits Teachers Association's new president, Brandon Ludwig, spoke, initially addressing the need for an additional administrator at Baechtel Grove Middle School. He emphasized that a culture of mutual respect between administration and staff is critical.

Ludwig commended teachers, volunteers and staff for their completion of the new Book Room at Blosser Lane Elementary School, which Ludwig characterized as crucial for building literacy and numeracy.

Ludwig stated that Superintendent Beebe has been available, responsive, and open to hearing concerns and finding solutions. He welcomed Arora Chavez to serve as executive director of Student Programs districtwide, noting the importance of filling positions with qualified candidates while avoiding the perception of conflict of interest, adding that the severe shortage of educators can be traced in part to low salaries and lack of housing.

He gave a shout-out to co-directors Robert Ford and Tim Fischer for helping to make this summer's Gateway to the Stage student production of "Annie" so successful, and to Carolyn Bakewell for preparing the new Peace Garden. He also thanked custodial staff for all their hard work.

Custodial staff reported a very busy summer, despite the shortage of workers. An easing of supply line shortages has meant that many long-awaited parts have been received, and the department is looking forward to a productive time.

Superintendent Beebe welcomed everyone back to school, expressing his pleasure with the new Book Room at Blosser Lane with appreciation for all the help and resources. He addressed concerns about the Adventist Health / Anthem Blue Cross contract negotiations, stating that having spoken with all parties concerned he anticipates a positive announcement soon regarding this critical issue. [Editor's Note: Adventist Health did release a press release this week announcing an agreement between Adventist and Anthem Blue Cross; see Page 2.]

Board Clerk Jeanne King also praised the summer production of "Annie," commenting that it was fun to see everyone working together. She complimented the new Blosser Book Room, adding hopes that the room remain well-organized and will be well-utilized.

Board member Paula Nunez reported on Nuestra Alianza's "Plan Vacacional" summer classes, which offered 80 Hispanic students classes in mathematics, science, art, cooking and dance. She thanked the organizers, expressing hope that the district would contribute again next year, and consider a budget increase for bus transportation.

Nunez complimented the work done by the custodial staff, most of whom are doing the work of two people, stating: "This problem will get worse now that school is starting up again. We need a fully staffed, consistent, stable work force. There have been 30 employee changes this year alone."

Board member and retired teacher Dianne McNeal spoke on the completion of the Blosser Book Room, and its importance to literacy rates. She also complimented FFA participants and their parents for a good showing at the Redwood Empire Fair.

Board President Chavez again thanked all staff who accomplished so much over the summer, noting that many

Fatal

The rest of

Read the rest of School Over on page 15



Above: Pearl Marill, Linda Posner, Michael and Bhavvy Ducharme toast the theater. At right: WCT Managing Director Steve Marston, who was responsible for setting up the dinner in the plaza, explains the sponsor opportunities. At right, below: Guest of honor Kathy Vellis receives her Lifetime Achievement Award.

Gala in the Plaza

Willits Community Theatre hosts matinee and al fresco dinner to honor Kathy Vellis and raise funds to keep doors open

The Willits Community Theatre is alive with rich comedies and dramas and spoken word, poetry and music. The live performance theater is tucked away at 37 West Van Lane, a mostly quiet, small alley street behind Shanachie Pub. For the past 40 years, this one-time VW repair shop has been transformed into a venue wherein can be found local talents creating quality entertainment and providing an outlet for personal and social expression.

Unfortunately, there are still residents of Willits who have never been to the intimate 74-seat theater. In fact, many do not even know of its existence. Never intending to be an inside secret, the venue is reaching out to the public for recognition and for the funding which keeps the lights on and enables its actors, directors, producers and musicians to offer the fruits of their talent and hard work to anyone who appreciates good, quality entertainment that informs and stimulates.

Read the rest of Gala Over on page 15



At left: The plaza behind Cafe 77 is filled with diners for a catered dinner by the cafe. Above: Friends gather together at various tables.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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FIRST	READING	VOCABULARY

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Influential Swedish, Belgian clan
6. Swiss river
9. Nocturnal S. American rodent
13. Like coagulated milk
14. Lima is its capital
15. Lying down
16. Jai __, sport
17. Egyptian statesman
18. Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
19. Renovated
21. Chadic language
22. 18-year period
23. Beverage container
24. Natural logarithm
25. The 'mecca' of basketball
28. A way to darken
29. Mackerels
31. Actor Pitt
33. Places to buy seafood
36. True firs
38. Neither
39. Fencing sword
41. Italian pastas
44. Island nation close to the U.S.
45. Begets
46. Resembles a pouch
48. __ student, learns healing

49. Sodium
51. Indicates position
52. The world has one
54. Partner to pains
56. Photographer
60. Chew the fat
61. Culture of the British Iron Age
62. Weaverbird
63. Advice or counsel
64. Asian nation
65. Brought on board
66. German river
67. Airborne (abbr.)
68. Leaf-footed bug genus

CLUES DOWN

1. Mark left behind
2. Cry weakly
3. Ancient region in modern Syria
4. Farewell
5. Blue grass state
6. Genus of mosquitoes
7. S. Israeli city
8. You can get stuck in one
9. One who mistrusts others unjustifiably
10. First month of ancient Hebrew calendar
11. Tigers legend Fielder
12. Make more attractive

Merry-go-round repair

The merry-go-round at Snyder Park had to be temporarily removed for public safety after breaking free from the center pedestal on Friday, August 12.

This iconic feature of the playground is in the shop for repairs, and once safely operational will be re-installed. The city is projecting this piece of equipment to be restored in the next two weeks.

Thank you for your patience,

– Posted by City of Willits, Public Works Department



Playful Vinny

Vinny, like his sister, Tulip, is very active and outgoing. This 3-month-old short-hair tabby likes to run around and play both with people and other cats.

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 Vinny or our other feline and canine guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com.



Gentle Hodor

Hodor is a loving and affectionate husky boy, who is great with other dogs. He would love to have a canine companion in his new home as he has a best buddy at the sanctuary. Hodor is good on leash and is gentle once he is actually settled in a routine and getting enough attention. He is pretty grounded, gentle, and super sweet!

Hodor loves to play and socialize; he is a very affectionate husky. He is also into adventures, and if you don't have a well-fenced yard, he could well take himself on adventures without you!



Although he doesn't know how to "hold the door" quite yet, he is ready to get out, to love, to learn, to support and protect! He is a fun-loving, spunky guy. He doesn't feel the need to take the throne, just a family and a place to call home.

To learn more about Hodor 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.

Lovely Nina

Come meet our gal Nina! This beauty came to us back in May when her previous home wasn't working out. She is such a bundle of love and is just under 2 years old. Nina is looking for her forever home so she can start building memories. She is a real catch, with energy to match! Come see Nina soon!



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva 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.mendohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Kid's Crossword Puzzle

1			2		3		4
5					6		
8							
9							

- ACROSS
1. One who purchases
5. Pleasant to eat
7. Olive is one type
9. Customer selections
DOWN
1. Hard part of bread
2. Barely enough
3. Time to eat
4. Type of noodles
6. Belonging to you
8. Abbreviation for 'take out'

Answers:

Down: 1. Crust 2. Scan 3. Meat 4. Ramen 5. Your 6. TO 7. Oil 8. Orders 9. Consumer 10. Consumer 11. Consumer 12. Consumer 13. Consumer 14. Consumer 15. Consumer 16. Consumer 17. Consumer 18. Consumer 19. Consumer 20. Consumer 21. Consumer 22. Consumer 23. Consumer 24. Consumer 25. Consumer 26. Consumer 27. Consumer 28. Consumer 29. Consumer 30. Consumer 31. Consumer 32. Consumer 33. Consumer 34. Consumer 35. Consumer 36. Consumer 37. Consumer 38. Consumer 39. Consumer 40. Consumer 41. Consumer 42. Consumer 43. Consumer 44. Consumer 45. Consumer 46. Consumer 47. Consumer 48. Consumer 49. Consumer 50. Consumer 51. Consumer 52. Consumer 53. Consumer 54. Consumer 55. Consumer 56. Consumer 57. Consumer 58. Consumer 59. Consumer 60. Consumer 61. Consumer 62. Consumer 63. Consumer 64. Consumer 65. Consumer 66. Consumer 67. Consumer 68. Consumer 69. Consumer 70. Consumer 71. Consumer 72. Consumer 73. Consumer 74. Consumer 75. Consumer 76. Consumer 77. Consumer 78. Consumer 79. Consumer 80. 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LEGAL NOTICES

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

Lady Buds film, August 19

The Little Lake Grange and the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance present a Friday, August 19 showing of "Lady Buds," a character-driven story that follows six courageous women as they transition from the illicit market to the newly regulated market in the California cannabis industry.

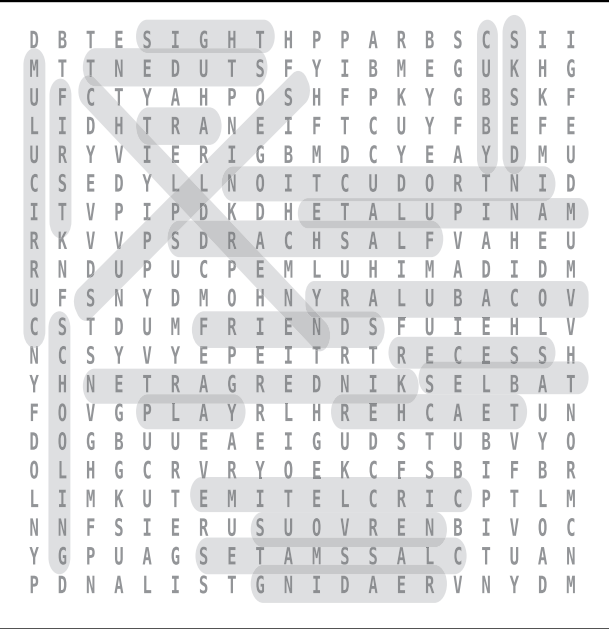


If These Walls Could Talk

A FINAL GATHERING AT THE OLD HOWARD HOSPITAL Saturday, August 20 at 5 pm

1st Outdoor Chili Cook-Off to benefit Willits Senior Center

The Willits Senior Center's 1st annual Outdoor Chili Cookoff is set for Friday, August 19, at the Rec Grove from 5 to 7 pm. This is a fundraiser for the Senior Center, which has not been able to do many fundraisers the last couple of years due to COVID.



Where the Crawdads Sing

The Story: Murder mystery/love story/family drama and natural history travelogue. Kya Clark (Daisy Edgar-Jones) grew up in a shack in the coastal marshes of North Carolina (shot in Louisiana). She's known (unkindly and insultingly) to the townies as "Marsh Girl."

My Thoughts: I read the book. I did not think it would make a good movie. I was wrong. The story captivates. The wildlife and locale is beautifully shot, so shout out to the camera folks and the director. The movie's protagonist, British actress Daisy Edgar-Jones, works as a romantic lead; she's passionate and haunted, and quite fetching. She has an innocence and kindness that makes one root for her.

The murder will keep the audience guessing, which is what one wants from a mystery story. The trial is suspenseful. I enjoyed the flick. My only negative is I really hate the cringe-worthy title. But I got over it. And I have it from an unimpeachable source that despite the complaints from PETA, no crawdads were injured in the production.

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

Round Valley Blackberry Festival this weekend

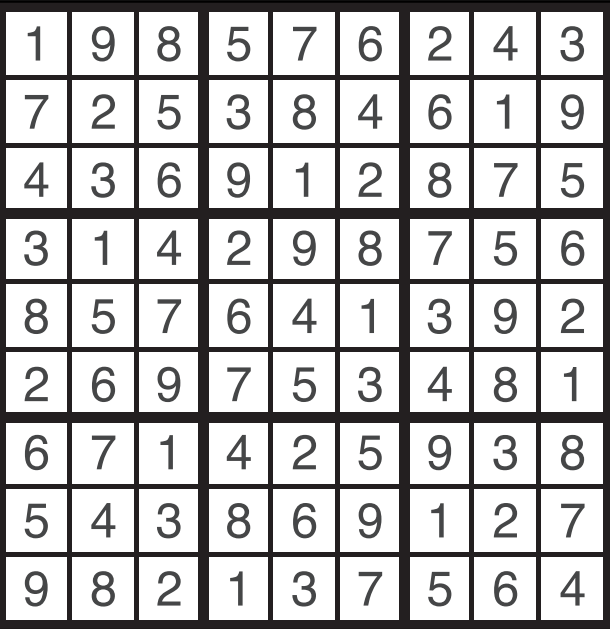
After a two-year absence, the Round Valley Blackberry Festival is back! The 39th annual Blackberry Festival is set for Saturday, August 20, from 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, August 21, from 10 am to 5 pm, at the festival grounds in downtown Covelo. Admission is free.



CLASSIFIEDS

Computer Help, John Ford Ranch Beef, Firewood for Sale, Massage Therapy \$60/hour, Help Wanted, Room For Rent, Indoor Yard Sale - 8/20, RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Mendocino County Invites applications for: Animal Facility Attendant, Building Maintenance Mechanic I/III, Chief Planner, Corrections Deputy, Custodian, Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV, Deputy Director - Public Health Nursing, Deputy District Attorney I/II/III, Deputy Probation Officer I/II, Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II, Deputy Sheriff-Coroner in Training, Eligibility Specialist III, Grounds Maintenance Technician I/III, Human Resources Technician, Juvenile Corrections Officer, Juvenile Corrections Officer - Extra-Help, Planner III, Program Specialist I/II, Public Health Nurse, Public Safety Dispatcher, Registered Nurse, Senior Public Health Nurse, Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D, Social Worker Assistant I/II, Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C, Staff Assistant III, Supervising Public Health Nurse, Vocational Assistant



Back to School The Principal of Willits High School Michael Colvig, Welcome back, Wolverines, It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for a great year at Willits High School.

extra-curricular sports and clubs continues to be a vital aspect of the WHS educational experience. At Willits High School, we have great teachers who spend hours planning and creating classroom activities to engage our students in learning.

Sherwood School welcomes students to 2022/23 school year, Sherwood Elementary School will resume on Monday, August 22, 2022.

It's Back to School Time! STAY ALERT, DRIVE SAFELY, AND KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE, Ukiah Unified [and Willits Unified] a school bus and allow a greater following distance than when you're driving behind a car.

Mphotographress www.mphotographress.com | 707-972-7047 photography by maureen jennison

Back to School The Principal of Sanhedrin High School Arora Chavez, Welcome back to school, Willits!, I hope this message finds you refreshed, rejuvenated, and ready for a new school year.

The Sanhedrin staff is looking forward to an exciting school year. At Sanhedrin, our teachers work diligently to ensure our students feel welcomed, connected, and are engaged in learning. Sanhedrin offers in-person and independent study programs for high school students.

Mendocino County Youth Project North County Back to School GIVEAWAY, 120 N. Main St. Willits, CA 95490, Thursday, August 18th, 2022 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Sanhedrin High School Open to local youth & families

Back to School SALE UP TO 30% OFF CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR, J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY A LOCALLY OWNED MERCANTILE



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!



HERE'S TO A YEAR OF GROWTH FOR OUR STUDENTS!

Monday - Saturday
8 am - 6 pm

Sunday
Closed

Bus 5 Brookside Redlight Crossing *** Students should be to the bus 10 minutes early and be prepared for bus arrive.					
AM 8:10am		PM 2:30pm		Tuesday 1:10pm	
6:48	Sherwood Market	2:30	Brookside	1:10	Brookside
6:50	Intersection of Daphne Way & Poppy Dr	2:42	Catholic Church	1:22	Catholic Church
6:52	Oriole Dr (West Side) Intersection of Poppy Dr & Oriole Dr	2:45	Blosser Lane	1:25	Blosser Lane
6:55	Intersection of Perch & Poppy Dr	2:50	BGMS	1:30	BGMS
6:58	Intersection of Goose Rd & Primrose	2:55	Elm Lane (Intersection of Manor Way & Elm Lane)	1:32	Elm Lane (Intersection of Manor Way & Elm Lane)
7:00	Golf Course	2:57	Hollands Ln	1:35	Hollands Lan
7:12	Valley Oaks Trailer Park	2:59	Walker Rd	1:38	Walker Rd
7:20	Catholic Church	3:03	Berry Court	1:40	Berry Court
7:22	Blosser Lane	3:04	Top of Sandy	1:41	Top of Sandy
7:24	BGMS	3:06	Intersection of East Hill Rd & Center Valley	1:45	Intersection of East Hill Rd & Center Valley
7:30	Elm Lane (Intersection of Manor Way & Elm Lane)	3:08	Mitomkai Way	1:48	Mitomkai Way
7:34	Hollands Lane	3:15	Valley Oaks Trailer Park	1:55	Valley Oaks Trailer Park
7:36	Walker Rd	3:25	Agape Church Lenore & E. Valley	2:00	Agape Church Lenore & E. Valley
7:38	Top of Sandy	3:28	Alameda & Central ***	2:02	Alameda & Central ***
7:42	Intersection of East Hill Rd & Center Valley	3:38	Sherwood Market	2:12	Sherwood Market
7:48	Agape Church Lenore & E. Valley	3:40	Oriole Dr.(West Side) Intersection of Poppy Dr & Oriole Dr	2:14	Oriole Dr.(West Side) Intersection of Poppy Dr & Oriole Dr
7:55	Brookside	3:42	Intersection of Bear Dr & Poppy Dr	2:16	Intersection of Bear Dr & Poppy Dr
		3:43	Intersection of Perch & Poppy Dr	2:17	Intersection of Perch & Poppy Dr
		3:45	Intersection of Goose Rd & Primrose	2:19	Intersection of Goose Rd & Primrose
		3:48	Golf Course	2:23	Golf Course
8-22-22-22					

Bus 7 Sherwood School and North Routes Students should be to the bus 10 minutes early and be prepared for bus arrive.					
AM		PM		Tuesday	
7:15	Creekside Cabin 29801 N HWY 101	1:55	Leave Bus Barn	1:00	Leave Bus Barn
7:20	24320 N Main St	2:30	Sherwood School	1:30	Sherwood School
7:30	BGMS	2:50	Golf Course	1:50	Golf Course
7:35	Blosser Lane	3:05	Blosser Lane	2:05	Blosser Lane
7:40	Brookside	3:13	BGMS	2:13	BGMS
7:50	WHS	3:20	WHS	2:20	WHS
8:00	Golf Course	3:30	24320 N Main St	2:30	24320 N Main St
8:30	Sherwood School	3:45	Creekside Cabin 29801 N HWY 101	2:45	Creekside Cabin 29801 N HWY 101
9:00	Bus Barn	4:05	Bus Barn	3:05	Bus Barn

Bus 8 BGMS Students should be to the bus 10 minutes early and be prepared for bus arrive.					
AM 8:00am		PM 2:58pm		Tuesday 1:00pm	
6:45	Sherwood Market	2:30	Brookside pick up Kids Club Only	12:55	Brookside pick up Kids Club Only
6:50	Oriole Dr.(West Side) Intersection of Poppy Dr & Oriole Dr	2:40	Blosser Drop off Kids Club Students	1:05	Blosser Drop off Kids Club Students
6:53	Intersection of Perch & Poppy Dr	2:50	BGMS	1:10	BGMS
6:55	Intersection of Goose Rd & Primrose	3:00	Elm Lane (Intersection of Manor Way & Elm Lane)	1:12	Elm Lane (Intersection of Manor Way & Elm Lane)
7:00	Golf Course	3:05	Walker Road	1:13	Walker Road
7:15	Elm Lane (Intersection of Manor Way & Elm Lane)	3:08	Holland's Lane	1:15	Holland's Lane
7:18	Walker Road	3:10	Top Sandy	1:18	Top Sandy
7:20	Holland's Lane	3:20	Valley Oaks Trailer Park	1:20	Valley Oaks Trailer Park
7:25	Top Sandy	3:30	1810 East Hill Rd	1:30	1810 East Hill Rd
7:30	2450 Center Valley	3:35	Agape Church Lenore & E. Valley	1:35	Agape Church Lenore & E. Valley
7:35	Valley Oaks Trailer Park	3:45	WHS	1:45	WHS
7:40	Agape Church Lenore & E. Valley	3:50	Sherwood Market	1:50	Sherwood Market
7:45	WHS	3:55	Oriole Dr.(West Side) Intersection of Poppy Dr & Oriole Dr	1:55	Oriole Dr.(West Side) Intersection of Poppy Dr & Oriole Dr
7:55	BGMS	4:00	Intersection of Perch & Poppy Dr	2:00	Intersection of Perch & Poppy Dr
8:00	Bus Burn	4:05	Intersection of Goose Rd & Primrose	2:05	Intersection of Goose Rd & Primrose
		4:08	Golf Course	2:08	Golf Course
		4:10	Intersection of Daphne Way &Poppy Dr	2:10	Intersection of Daphne Way &Poppy Dr

A letter from ...

The Principal of Baechtel Grove Middle School

Chris Kinney

Hello, BGMS Cougars!

We are looking forward to greeting students back to Baechtel Grove Middle School on Monday, August 22 at 8 am!

All sixth-graders are welcome and encouraged to attend orientation put on by the eighth-grade WEB students and Ms. Haigounian, starting at 8 am on Friday, August 19, followed by a BBQ hosted by Willits Kids Club.

As the new principal of BGMS I have been working with new and returning staff to continue to make improvements to the programs we offer, and the school as a whole, to best meet the needs of adolescents. This included multiple professional development sessions over the summer related to creating and enhancing academic and social emotional supports for students.

This year the staff is also offering additional elective classes including theater and leadership that are open to all of our students. BGMS is also looking to create a thriving Parent Teacher Organization to help support all activities at the school and create a format for an ongoing dialogue between the parents and the school.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the enthusiasm that the new and returning staff have for middle-school-aged students, and the unwavering commitment they have shown to meet the day-to-day needs of those students.

I look forward to meeting students and families; please don't hesitate to reach out to me by email at chriskinney@willitsunified.com or by calling 707-459-2417. Looking forward to a great school year!

Go Cougars!

A letter from ...

The Principal of Blosser Lane Elementary School

Nancy Runberg

Dear Blosser Lane Elementary Families and Blosser Bears:

On behalf of the staff at Blosser Lane Elementary School, I'd like to extend a warm WELCOME to our new families and a WELCOME BACK to those of you who are returning for the 2022-2023 school year! I hope that your summer was filled with fun and relaxation, and that you made many wonderful memories with family and friends.

At Blosser Lane Elementary, each school day begins at 8 am with dismissal time at 2:40 pm, except on Tuesdays when students are dismissed at 1:20 pm. Bus transportation is provided by the district before and after school. Due to the traffic on Highway 20 and Blosser Lane, bicycles, roller blades, shoe skates, and scooters are not allowed at school; also, students who walk to school are not permitted to cross Highway 20 at Blosser Lane.

Please join us in welcoming a new fifth-grade teacher, Angelina Sage; two new Special Education teachers, Morgan Shook and Carrie Meigs; a new school psychologist, Dan Lamprich; a new PE coordinator, Elia Ramirez; plus, all our returning teachers and paraprofessionals to Blosser Lane.

This year we have five third-grade classes, four fourth-grade classes, and five fifth-grade classes; a full range of special education services will continue to be offered.

We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our students can achieve their highest potential. Blosser Lane Elementary is a place where staff and families come together to ensure that the children entrusted into our care grow to be productive, confident, compassionate, members of a global society.

Please consider becoming involved in our parent community by joining our school volunteer programs, as our students can greatly benefit from your involvement and contributions to the school's program and its operations.

The wonderful Blosser Lane Elementary School staff and I feel privileged to be a part of this school family. We thank you for your continued support as we work together as a school community, inspiring our students to strive for and achieve their goals.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information about Blosser Lane, please feel free to contact me by email at blosserlane@willitsunified.com or by calling at 707-459-3232. I am looking forward to a wonderful year!

Bus 9 Willits High School Students should be to the bus 10 minutes early and be prepared for bus arrive.					
AM 8:00am		PM 3:00pm		Tuesday 1:40pm	
6:43	Sherwood Market	3:00	WHS	1:40	WHS
6:45	Oriole Dr.(West Side) Intersection of Poppy Dr & Oriole Dr	3:13	Brookside	1:42	Brookside
6:46	Coyote	3:20	BGMS	1:50	BGMS
6:50	Intersection of Perch & Poppy Dr	3:27	Elm Lane (Intersection of Manor Way & Elm Lane)	1:57	Elm Lane (Intersection of Manor Way & Elm Lane)
6:52	Intersection of Goose Rd & Primrose	3:32	Easy Living Trailer Park	2:01	Easy Living Trailer Park
6:56	Golf Course	3:34	Parkside Trailer Park(Walker Rd)	2:03	Parkside Trailer Park(Walker Rd)
7:08	Elm Lane (Intersection of Manor Way & Elm Lane)	3:37	Top of Sandy	2:06	Top of Sandy
7:10	Easy Living Trailer Park	3:40	East Hill Rd (Intersection of East Hill Rd & Center Valley)	2:10	East Hill Rd (Intersection of East Hill Rd & Center Valley)
7:13	Parkside Trailer Park (Walker Rd)	3:41	1810 East Hill Rd	2:11	1810 East Hill Rd
7:16	Top of Sandy	3:46	22430 East Side Rd	2:16	22430 East Side Rd
7:19	East Hill Rd (Intersection of East Hill Rd & Center Valley)	3:50	Valley Oaks Trailer Park	2:20	Valley Oaks Trailer Park
7:20	1810 East Hill Rd	4:02	Sherwood Market	2:32	Sherwood Market
7:25	22430 East Side Rd	4:06	Oriole Dr.(West Side) Intersection of Poppy Dr & Oriole Dr	2:36	Oriole Dr.(West Side) Intersection of Poppy Dr & Oriole Dr
7:28	Valley Oaks Trailer Park	4:07	Coyote	2:37	Coyote
7:40	BGMS	4:11	Intersection of Perch & Poppy Dr	2:41	Intersection of Perch & Poppy Dr
7:50	WHS	4:14	Intersection of Goose Rd & Primrose	2:44	Intersection of Goose Rd & Primrose
		4:17	Golf Course	2:47	Golf Course
		4:24	Intersection of Daphne Way &Poppy Dr	2:54	Intersection of Daphne Way &Poppy Dr

Bus 11 Blosser Lane Students should be to the bus 10 minutes early and be prepared for bus arrive.					
AM 8:00am		PM 2:40pm		Tuesday 1:20pm	
6:50	Sherwood Market	2:40	Blosser Lane	1:20	Blosser Lane
6:54	Intersection of Daphne Way & Poppy Dr	2:56	Catholic Church	1:32	Catholic Church
6:56	Intersection of Poppy Dr & Hawk	2:58	Brookside	1:34	Brookside
6:55	Oriole Dr.(West Side) Intersection of Poppy Dr & Oriole Dr	3:02	Little Lake Auto	1:38	Little Lake Auto
6:58	Intersection of Perch & Poppy Dr	3:04	Elm Lane (Intersection of Manor Way & Elm Lane)	1:40	Elm Lane (Intersection of Manor Way & Elm Lane)
7:03	Intersection of Goose Rd & Primrose	3:08	Walker Road	1:44	Walker Road
7:05	Golf Course	3:09	Berry Court	1:45	Berry Court
7:15	Little Lake Auto	3:10	Top of Sandy	1:46	Top of Sandy
7:20	Elm Lane (Intersection of Manor Way & Elm Lane)	3:11	Howard Hospital	1:47	Howard Hospital
7:22	Walker Road	3:13	Intersection of East Hill Rd & Center Valley	1:50	Intersection of East Hill Rd & Center Valley
7:24	Berry Court	3:20	Valley Oaks Trailer Park	2:00	Valley Oaks Trailer Park
7:26	Top of Sandy	3:25	Agape Church Lenore & E. Valley	2:10	Agape Church Lenore & E. Valley
7:27	Howard Hospital	3:28	Alameda & Central	2:15	Alameda & Central
7:30	2450 Center Valley	3:35	Sherwood Market	2:25	Sherwood Market
7:32	Valley Oaks Trailer Park	3:38	Intersection of Daphne Way & Poppy Dr	2:27	Intersection of Daphne Way & Poppy Dr
7:37	Agape Church Lenore & E. Valley	3:40	Intersection of Poppy Dr & Hawk	2:28	Intersection of Poppy Dr & Hawk
7:38	Alameda & Central	3:42	Oriole Dr.(West Side) Intersection of Poppy Dr & Oriole Dr	2:30	Oriole Dr.(West Side) Intersection of Poppy Dr & Oriole Dr
7:50	Brookside	3:43	Intersection of Perch & Poppy Dr	2:31	Intersection of Perch & Poppy Dr
7:55	Catholic Church	3:45	Intersection of Goose Rd & Primrose	2:32	Intersection of Goose Rd & Primrose
8:00	Blosser Lane	3:48	Golf Course	2:35	Golf Course

A letter from ...

The Principal of Brookside Elementary School

Kathleen Crossman

Dear Brookside Students and Families:

We are off to a great start at Brookside Elementary School, Preschool and Grades Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through Second. We're eager to welcome over 150 new TK and Kindergarten students to the Brookside Family on August 22nd!

Please join us in welcoming our new staff members! Marian Lohne will be a reading coach, and Leigh Logsdon will be a Reading Specialist in the Brookside literacy team.

We are happy to welcome Liz Sedano as a para-educator for the TK program, and Briana Sanchez as one of our bilingual para-educators. Jaclyn Luna will be teaching First Grade, and Jenny Nelson will work with Lisa Mey teaching First Grade.

Kourtnei Klee is joining us as our new campus supervisor. We are excited about our new team members and send them a warm welcome!

During our days before school began, our staff had lots of professional development to best support our students. We learned more about positively supporting student behavior, and high-quality initial instruction. We also closely examined our student standards for learning and developed plans for teaching.

Our TK classes will look a bit different this year. We will now have two TK classrooms, taught by Mrs. Cyndi Pfingsten and Ms. Kari Rescina. Students who turn 5 years old between September 2, 2022 and February 2, 2023 are now TK eligible. Incoming Kindergarten students must be 5 years old by September 1, 2022. If your child meets the age requirements, please call our office at 707-459-5385 and speak to our registrar, Erica Buzzard, as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to Brookside Bobcat Spirit Dress-Up Days with Blosser Lane students every week! Students wear green and gold school colors or spirit gear (every Friday). Friday, September 2 is our first Spirit Day! Friday, September 16 is our first theme day, Polka Dot Day!

We are eager to help students in every way we can and are excited to make this a successful year of learning! I'm available to help, at kathleencrossman@willitsunified.com.

STUDENTS ARE HEADING BACK TO SCHOOL



REMEMBER TO PLEASE SHOP LOCAL FOR CLOTHES AND SUPPLIES

A MESSAGE FROM THE WILLITS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in New York on January 25, 1981. I studied at the Professional Performing Arts School. I am the first singer to receive five Grammy Awards at once after releasing my debut album. I also sang on a Jay Z New York-themed song.

Answer: Alicia Keys

Pg. 8 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | August 18, 2022

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Congrats |
Tammy Carlson
Mendocino College posted their congratulations to North County Center Assistant Tammy Carlson for her 30 Years of Service at Mendocino College with flowers and a plaque commemorating her efforts.

Weekends to Success

WORK AND SCHOOL ARE NOW COMPATIBLE!

Registration is now open for Fall

Take a full-time class load on weekends only!

WILLITS CLASSES - FALL 2022

FRIDAYS
ENG-200 COLLEGE COMPOSITION
Section #0120 - Late Start 8/26/22 - 12/9/22
On Ground meetings: 8/26, 9/9, 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18 and 12/2 from 5:30-8:20 PM
North County Center - Room 8020

SATURDAYS
PSY-210 LIFE SPAN & DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
Section #0211 - Late Start 8/27/22 - 12/3/22
On Ground meetings: 9/10, 10/8, 11/5, and 12/3 from 9:00-11:50 AM in Room 8030

HST-222 NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY
Section #0219 - Late Start 8/27/22 - 12/3/22
On Ground meetings: 9/10, 10/8, 11/5, and 12/3 from 12:30-3:20 PM in Room 8020

BUS-200 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING
Section #0204 - Late Start 8/27/22 - 12/3/22
On Ground meetings: 8/27, 9/24, 10/22, and 11/19 from 9:00-11:50 AM in Room 8020

CDV-180 CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
Section# 0181 - LATE START 8/27/22-12/3/22
On Ground meetings: 8/27, 9/24, 10/22, and 11/19 from 12:30-3:20 PM in Room 8030

Hybrid classes are mostly online with on-ground (in-person) meetings.

ACCELERATED WEEKEND LEARNING FOR FULL-TIME SUCCESS!

www.mendocino.edu/enroll

BACK TO SCHOOL

Are You Ready?

☒ School supplies

☒ Sports physical

☒ Dental checkup

☒ Immunizations

Make sure to put us on your Back-to-School checklist. Call now to make an appointment. We'll make it easy.

30 years of Caring

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

(707) 456-9600

LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER
45 Hazel St., Willits
We accept Medi-Cal, Medicare, Partnership and other insurance. SE HABLE ESPAÑOL.

Coupon good until 8-31-22

272-9646

Whether you get there by bus, car or the Heel Toe Express, Willits High School will continue with their **normal start time of 8 am, with the first bell ringing at 7:55 am on Monday, August 22!**

The perfect lunchbox brownie

Made in a cast iron skillet, this fudgy, crispy, crunchy dessert is the perfect way to treat a lunchbox right – if you can stand to turn on your oven! (It's worth it!)

Originally posted on www.CastIronRecipes.com, this recipe is one of the best that I've found when you really just want a REALLY good ooey, gooey brownie with a crunchy crust and medium rare interior. There's no special techniques, there's no fancy ingredients just an easy, one-bowl, one-pan, one BIG slice of deliciousness kind of recipe. I did make my own special modification to the original, however: the inclusion of a pineapple-upside-down-esque brown sugar "Crispy Bottom" crust on the underside of the brownie, which, I guess could be optional if that's really how you want to live your life. Read on, friends ... after preheating your oven and skillet, that is.

Brownie ingredients:

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, melted

2 cups white sugar

1/2 cup cocoa powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

3 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2/3 cup all-purpose flour

Crispy Bottom ingredients:

1/4 (half stick) butter, melted

1/2 cup brown sugar

Directions:

Preheat your oven to 350 with a 12-inch skillet inside. Allow your skillet to preheat as oven does, too.

The brownies will continue to cook a bit after being pulled out. Allow them to cool completely (about an hour) before cutting.

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September 30	Cloverdale	Cloverdale	JV @ 5:30 Varsity @ 7:30
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August 31	Credo	Willits	4:30
September 6	Credo	Credo	4:30
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September 9 - 10	McKinleyville Invitational	McKinleyville	TBD
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1st Day of School Monday, Aug. 22nd

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Girls Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
August 17 - 20	Tyler Duncan Memorial	Upper Lake	TBD
August 23	Technology HS	Technology	4:30
August 25	South Fork	Willits	5:30
August 29	Upper Lake	Willits	4:30
August 30	St. Bernards	St. Bernards	6 / 7:30
August 31	Credo	Willits	4:30
September 6	Credo	Credo	4:30
September 7	South Fork	South Fork	5:30
September 9 - 10	McKinleyville Invitational	McKinleyville	TBD
September 12	Upper Lake	Upper Lake	7:15
September 22	Middletown	Middletown	4:00
September 29	Clear Lake	Clear Lake	4:00
October 4	Lower Lake	Willits	6:15
October 6	Ft. Bragg	Willits	4:30
October 11	Middletown	Willits	6:15
October 18	Clear Lake	Willits	6:15
October 20	Lower Lake	Lower Lake	4:00
October 25	Ft. Bragg	Ft. Bragg	6:15

Boys Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
August 17 - 20	Tyler Duncan Memorial	Upper Lake	TBD
August 23	Technology HS	Technology	



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

involving labor negotiations, Board Chair Ted Williams gave direction to staff "to come back with a future agenda item with a plan to close out positions that are general fund, have been vacant for more than 18 months, are not public safety, and not revenue generating."

That was something which SEIU 1021 Local Field Representative Patrick Hickey had urged the county to do in order to free up some money to give the current workers a 5% cost of living adjustment, given the high inflation and other challenges they're facing.

Both Hickey and SEIU Local 1021 President Julie Beardsley said they didn't believe the county's claims that there was not enough money for workers to receive a COLA this year.

"So now in our new contract negotiations with the San Francisco law firm the county's hired, we are told there is no money for a cost of living adjustment," said Beardsley. "We're told that we should suck it up and tighten our belts because it's so cheap to live in Mendocino County. And the figures they provided as proof were so low, they were about a decade off.... I personally found that presentation insulting to our good faith negotiations."

"While we've suggested several solutions to affording a modest 5% cost of living adjustment in a time of a 9% inflation, the county hasn't brought forth a single recommendation or idea of how to support employees or increase recruitment," she continued.

"We've examined the budget and the claims of no money just don't add up. So stop pointing fingers. Instead of being risk-averse, what we need is leadership. If your board members don't have a clear picture of the county budget, that needs to be remedied. We know the county needs to live within its means, but we also know the board has a range of tools it can and should use to finance this modest increase."

Hickey said that in examining the last few years of county budgets, the revenue from taxes is routinely underestimated in projections while expenses from salaries and benefits are generally overestimated, leading to a false sense of where the county stands in terms of money available.

"We've been hearing that the county can't afford a cost of living increase because there's a financial crisis, but is there?" asked Hickey. "In a word, no. The financial crisis is concocted, it's an illusion. The only potential funding shortfall is in cannabis taxes, which everyone who was paying attention knew was coming. But every other funding stream is increasing."

As county workers got up and told their stories of working in challenging jobs with understaffed departments and struggling to make ends meet, their fellow activists often cheered them on in the chambers.

Kim Nailor said she has worked for the county for 7.5 years, and has "seen a lot of people come and go."

"I was born and raised in this county, but my husband and I moved to Lake County to be able to live the American dream of owning a home," she said. "How pathetic that we with two salaries still had to move out of county to make that happen. We are underpaid for the job we do. We have been for years, and yet you still will not offer a COLA? You should be ashamed of yourselves. We've had enough."

"I currently work in the employment and family assistance services," Nailor continued. "We are losing workers left and right to outside agencies where they make better income. With so many in our community that need our services, this is shameful to not be able to help them in a timely manner. Has anyone investigated how many employees we have out on medical leave due to stress because of the lack of help?"

Tracy Wright said that she'd been a county worker for nearly 22 years.

"There's not many of us left anymore," she said, "because when we took the hit before, everybody retired and left, but I stayed. I've dealt this last year, I've gone through cancer, I've worked three months undergoing chemo because I didn't want my work to fall on my co-workers. That's the kind of dedication to family that we have here, but we can't keep it because you won't pay us what we're worth. We're not asking for your guys' salary, we're asking for a decent salary."

Beardsley said that in the recession year of 2009, county "employees were faced with layoffs and salary cuts of 20% or more," and that "salaries remained stagnant" over the next 10 years. She acknowledged there was finally a pay increase given in 2019 of 9% total over three years.

"That helped, but we are still way below market value, and we struggle to retain employees," she said.

Cannabis Equity Grant Program

Also at the meeting, there was a long discussion about concerns surrounding the Cannabis Equity Grant Program.

It came during the Consent Calendar portion of the meeting, when an agenda item was pulled about adding \$83,000 in back pay to a company, Elevate Impact, who had been contracted to help with the grant program.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak was skeptical about approving more money for Elevate, since he said they were only doing about 50% of the work on the grants, instead of the 95% they were originally contracted to do.

He also noted the slow pace with which the equity grant program had been happening, with just five checks issued so far since it began in February 2021.

"The whole cannabis department needs to reevaluate how we're dealing with equity grants," he said. "The board gave utmost ability to be lenient with these grants and to use the state guidelines where applicable and that whatever the state allowed we would allow.... And we're seeing that through this process with Elevate and the cannabis department that we're making it much more onerous on the applicants, and we should be making it as streamlined as possible."

The board did eventually approve the extra money for Elevate – largely due to concerns about slowing down the grant process even more – but asked for an

accounting assessment of the work done and charged by the company.

The cannabis equity grants come from a state program meant to assist those harmed by the war on drugs in transitioning to becoming licensed and legal operators, by providing funds for direct cash grants, cannabis fee waivers, and technical business assistance.

The county has received about \$3 million in state money so far for the grants, which 10% of can go towards administrative costs, or around \$300,000.

With the \$83,000 increase, that puts the total money given to Elevate at nearly \$295,000, and Haschak felt there should be more money given to county departments for their work on the grants.

"I would just like to see the county compensated rather than these outside entities," he said.

In July a Mendocino County Grand Jury report called "Building the Airplane While It's Flying" was highly critical of many aspects of the county's Cannabis Equity Grant Program, including having Elevate coordinate it.

"The contractor chosen to implement the grants, Elevate Impact, has worked primarily in urban areas and lacks the capital project expertise needed to support and escalate the speed of [Local Equity Entrepreneur Program] grant distributions," the report read.

In another section, it stated "Elevate Impact had no experience in rural cultivation projects, and a lack of resources in the [Mendocino Cannabis Department] led to significant delays in approving direct grant applications."

Overall, the report summarized: "It is apparent from reviewing the ordinance, listening to multiple community discussions, and reviewing statistics, that the permitting program is in disarray."

According to the report, as of July 8 there were still 36 other applicants in the county's "Cobblestone pipeline" awaiting official approval, and only five checks distributed thus far.

At the meeting the board and staff noted there was a looming August 31 deadline to distribute the grant money they had received so far, and the county could be in danger of losing that money or similar grants in the future that they are hoping to receive if they miss that deadline.

Cannabis Program Manager Kristin Nevedal said she was "optimistic" that the county would get the checks out to those applicants who meet the requirements by August 31.

"We certainly hope that we'll meet those deadlines by the end of the month," she said. "We're working all hands on deck with staff and the department as much as we can afford to do and with the Elevate team."

Nevedal also said that if the board were to eliminate Elevate from the equity grant process, the cannabis department would not have the staffing to continue it on their own.

"If the board were to not proceed with the Elevate contract, we would have to cease processing equity applications until such time as we had allocations from the board specific for staffing for this program," said Nevedal.

During the same discussion, the board made the decision that cannabis issues will start being directed to the General Government Standing Committee, which can then bring proposals to the entire board of supervisors.

This will mean having open public meetings on cannabis with set dates every other month, rather than the looser ad hoc committee approach the board has been using for the issue over the last several years.

The grand jury report recommended that change, as have many advocates in the cannabis community.

Bond refinancing

Also at the meeting the board approved the refinancing of some certificate of participation bonds to free up \$10 million for capital improvement projects, most of which is planned to go towards the new wing at the county jail that is currently projected at around \$7 million over budget.

According to the county's "Municipal Advisers" KNN Public Finance, the bond money must be spent on capital improvement projects, but the county has flexibility in choosing which capital projects.

A suggestion from union representative Patrick Hickey was that the board use some of the millions in new money from the bonds for capital projects budgeted this year with general fund money, to free that money up for county workers.

The board did agree to look into that, although County CEO Darcie Antle said she thought it was unlikely that any capital projects were using only general fund money in the current fiscal year's budget.

KNN suggested to the board that they use the bonds to free up somewhere in the range of \$6 to \$10 million for the county, and the supervisors chose to go with the \$10 million option.

This will add to the overall debt the county will owe over the next 20 years, but maximize the amount they will have available for capital projects now.

In addition to having money to put towards the jail, other projects the county is considering putting some of the bond money towards include replacement of roofing and HVAC systems for the County Administration Center, replacing shingle roofing for the Agriculture & Farm Advisor Building, and replacement of the heating and cooling system in the Fort Bragg Justice Center.

The KNN representatives were generally encouraging of the idea to finance the capital projects with the bond money, saying that the "interest rate environment remains favorable," and that the county's overall debt situation was relatively low compared to other similar agencies.

As part of the plan the county will refinance some 2012 COP bonds to be paid by 2030, which KNN said will lead to some savings.

Based on one KNN chart it appears the county will be paying more than \$25 million in "level fiscal year payments" for the 2012 and 2022 COP bonds until June of 2043.

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

all elected to the school board in 2018 and will be seeking re-election to another four-year term.

Challengers include: Colby Friend of Willits, who'll be IDd on the ballot as "father, farmer, lawyer"; David Liker of Willits, IDd as "retired teacher"; Jeffrey Ritchley of Willits, IDd as "educator"; and Jennifer M. Sookne of Willits, IDd as "social worker / teacher."

Incumbent Jeanne King and challengers Colby Friend and Jennifer M. Sookne, as per the candidates list, have chosen to have a candidate statement printed on the November 8 ballot, in English and Spanish. The other four candidates, two incumbents and two challengers, will not have a statement on the ballot.

The Elections Office requires a deposit to print candidate statements, \$300 for WUSD board candidates to print statements in English, and \$500 to print statements in English and Spanish. The final fee depends on actual printing costs.

August 12 was the deadline to file to run in the November 8 election and also the deadline to submit candidate statements.

According to an August 15 press release from the Elections Office, there were 28 local races around the county that had the August 12 deadline extended to August 17 due to incumbents not filing to run again.

Most of these races were for special districts, school districts and fire boards, but the deadline to file for Fort Bragg City Council and Point Arena City Council was also extended.

In the Third District, only two races had extended deadlines, the Covelo Fire Protection District, and the Round Valley County Water District,

Willits City Council

Two seats on the Willits City Council were up for election this November, but as only the two incumbents filed to run, both sitting city councilmembers will be appointed to further four-year seats without an additional election.

Incumbents Greta Kanne and Larry Stranske will be representing City of Willits residents for another four-year term, starting January 2023.

Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors

Two seats were up for election on the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors. Both incumbents filed to run for an additional four-year term, but with no challengers filing, both incumbents will be appointed without an additional election.

Board members Tom Herman of Willits and Skip Lucier of Willits will both be representing Little Lake Fire Protection District residents for another four-year term, starting January 2023.

Brooktrails Township Board of Directors

In Brooktrails, three board seats are up for election on November 8, 2022, with three incumbents and one challenger running.

Brooktrails directors Ed Horrick, Tony Orth and Rick Williams all filed to run for another four-year term. Challenger Joanne Cavallari, who'll be IDd as "retired" on the ballot, will also be running. None of the Brooktrails candidates filed candidate statements for the November ballot.

Local ballot measures

There will be two countywide ballot measures on the November 8 ballot, one submitted by citizens' petition organized by Friends of the Library groups, Measure O, and the other approved for the ballot by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, Measure P.

Measure O will ask voters: "Shall the Citizens of Mendocino County amend Chapter 5.170 of Title 5 of Mendocino County Code, adopting a permanent one-quarter cent (0.25%) sales tax, raising approximately \$4.2 million annually, for the specific purpose of maintaining and improving library services in Mendocino County; and create a special fund to ensure these funds cannot be used for any other purpose. At least 40% is reserved for capital investments such as building improvements."

Measure P will ask voters: "Shall Ordinance No. 4510 be adopted to impose as general tax, an additional transactions (sales) and use tax of one quarter cent (0.25%) within Mendocino County to fund essential services, including fire protection and prevention? Such tax is estimated to raise \$4,000,000 annually for ten (10) years, after which it will expire."

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

off by citizens recently, our dog kennels are full.

"We have no available dog kennels. We are not able to take in stray dogs at this time."

This is not the first time local shelters have announced being at capacity – a similar announcement was made in June earlier this year.

"We need dog owners that know their dog(s) are here to come to the Animal Shelter to reclaim their lost dogs ASAP," the August 16 announcement read. "We ask that citizens who find a stray dog(s) to please attempt to locate the owner."

"Citizens can also send us their contact info, a picture of the lost dog, and the location the dog was found to [Mendocino County Animal Shelter] page on Facebook], and we can post the lost dog(s) picture and information on our Facebook page."

"Due to the dog kennels being full, we will also be looking at the possibility of euthanizing for space," the post continued.

"We encourage anyone that is wanting to adopt a dog to fill out an adoption application at www.mendocinocounty.org/government/animal-care-services/adoption-application

"We have reduced our adoption prices by 50%." Dog adoption fees, at half price, will range around \$65 or \$75 depending on the dog. Every adoption includes: spay/neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations, flea prevention, de-wormer, FeLV test for cats, heartworm test for dogs and a 1-year Mendocino County dog license.

For more information or to look at adoptable animals, visit www.mendoanimalshelter.com.

"Any assistance that we can get from the community would be greatly appreciated," the Animal Care Services post concluded. "Thank you."

Empty the Shelter Pack Walk

Friends of the Ukiah Animal Shelter invites dog lovers to an "Empty the Shelter" pack walk this Saturday, August 20, starting at 9 am at the Ukiah shelter at 298 Plant Road. "Help us get these lovely dogs out for a morning walk! Open to the public, no prior volunteer orientation is needed! Please remember to wear close-toed shoes as the dogs may step on your toes because they're so excited to see you! Hope to do it every third Saturday."

Mark Haselswerdt

The family of Mark Haselswerdt is sad to share the news of his passing on August 9, 2022 in Sacramento, California at the age of 72.

Mustachioed and gruff-voiced, satirical and self-deprecating, Mark will be impossible to forget. A long-suffering fan of the Detroit Lions, he was also a CNN enthusiast, a lover of Sudoku, a rescuer of felines, and an aficionado of fine gin. Most of all, however, Mark was an engaging and witty story-teller, one who loved nothing more than to weave his yarns and make those around him laugh.



But Mark was first and foremost a caring and nurturing husband, a loving father, and a devoted son.

Born in Willits to Vivian and Vernon Haselswerdt, Mark was educated at Willits High School and Sacramento Community College. In 1970 Mark married Pamela Rowan, and they began a lifelong adventure of love and commitment in which they raised two remarkable sons, Travis and Austin, and were blessed with seven grandchildren.

During that adventure, Mark and Pam loved and laughed together, side-by-side, with travels ranging throughout Northern California all the way to Northern India. Celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary during the pandemic, the inseparable couple spent their day together, looking at photos, listening to the music they loved, and enjoying their beautiful view of Clear Lake.

Mark had a long career as a talented field engineer at Microphor in Willits. In the 1990s, he started a co-venture to modernize the rail systems in Suzhou, China before doing the same a few years later in New Delhi, India. He later returned to Northern California and, following in the footsteps of his grandfather and father, started an electrical and plumbing business.

After retiring, he and Pam became committed caregivers to the elderly in Willits. Carrying on his legacy are his family and his many, many friends.

At Mark's request there will be no service, but if desired, a listen to the Rolling Stones' "You Can't Always Get What You Want" would give him immeasurable pleasure.



Terry Elaine Baker

January 4, 1950 - July 21, 2022

We are sad to announce the passing of Miss Terry Elaine Baker, age 72, of Willits, California, at the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital on July 21, 2022 from multiple medical conditions.

Daughter of Mary Ellen Carpenter and Gerald Wright Baker, of Omaha, Nebraska, Terry was born on January 4, 1950 in Pigeon, Michigan. She graduated from Hastings High School, Hastings, Michigan in June 1968.

Terry was raised and lived in Pigeon, with her mother and her maternal grandparents, Frank Leslie Carpenter, a Telegrapher for the C. & O. Railroad, and Grace Belle Carpenter, a Telephone Operator for Michigan Bell Telephone. Communications seems to have been in her DNA.

Terry's mother was often away at Merry Central School of Nursing in Grand Rapids, where she graduated in 1942. She worked as a Registered Nurse and later was enlisted in the military nurses corps. Terry's fondest memories were of her mother and her grandparents, of whom she spoke often and lovingly.

After Terry's grandfather died in 1970 and her grandmother in 1974, Terry and her mother sold the family home "for \$10,000!" and two days later they had packed up and were headed for a cross-country whirlwind, glorious vacation, and a new job in San Francisco. Terry kept a daily diary of their adventures and their new apartment in Potrero Hill. Terry was excited to encounter her favorite film and TV stars filming nearby. She was of drinking age, and she says often in her diary that she and her mother "would giggle all the way home."

Her mother retired, they saw an ad for Redwood Meadows in a magazine, and in 1996 they moved to Willits where they became avid TV sports fans, knowing stats and bios of almost all the players in the leagues. Her mother passed away in 2000. This was a devastating loss for Terry, with no next of kin.

After Work Force trial placements in the Library and Mental Health offices, Terry began her 15-year association with the Willits Senior Center by volunteering as a receptionist. She was subsequently hired as their Transportation Director on July 30, 2007, where she worked until a few months before her death. The Senior Center coworkers became her new family.

Terry was an avid reader and had over 300 books, from the Book Juggler, the Senior Center Thrift Shop, and many full collections of authors from the Book Club.

Her favorite book was "A Place Called Paradise" by Essie Summers, a Harlequin Romance.

Terry was a Charter Member of the National WWII Museum and supported the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to these two organizations and the Willits Senior Center.

Memorial services will be held Friday afternoon, August 26, 2022, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm, at the Willits Senior Center. Please enjoy old music, readings from Terry's 1974 diary, a slide show of her photo album, and testimonials from friends, coworkers and riders.



Angelique Tompkins

Angelique Lois Tompkins, 67, passed away June 26 at her home in Willits. She was the only child of Jean Winslow Mossi. She is survived by her step-daughter Rebecca Dutra from Ukiah and her granddaughter Octavia Tompkins from Rohnert Park, along with numerous cousins in Humboldt County.

She was preceded in death by her mother Jean Mossi, her daughter Jennifer Kidder, and her husband Richard Tompkins.

Angie was a resident of Willits for 45 years. She worked at Howard Memorial Hospital and Willits Unified School District. She loved gardening and cooking and was exceptionally good at both, also hosting many holiday gatherings.

She enjoyed her time with family, friends and cousins and her past students.

Please join us for Angie's memorial on Saturday, August 27 at 1650 Center Valley Road, Willits, at 1 pm. Please park in back of garden and walk through back gate.

She is loved and missed beyond measure.



Johnie Lee Deaton

Johnie Lee Deaton was born April 7, 1939 in Calhoun, Oklahoma and passed away on August 3, 2022 in Sacramento, California.

His family moved to Mendocino County when he was 13 years old. He has been a Willits resident since 1967.

Johnie worked in the lumber industry most of his life. He loved spending time with his family and friends. He loved playing gospel bluegrass music and making gifts in his woodshop as well as doing upholstery and restoring classic vehicles.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Margie, their children (Donna Frost, David Deaton and his sisters (Jean Holmes and Kaye Gartermaker). Their grandchildren, Kristan and Seth Frost and his sisters (Jean Holmes and Kaye Gartermaker). Their youngest daughter (Marilyn Rex) passed away in 2017.

He was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

Services will be held at the Agape Bible Church in Willits on Saturday, August 20, 2022 at 1 pm.

Daniel Chesser

Daniel Wesley Chesser, who was born on August 31, 1927, in Black Rock, Arkansas, to John and Maudie Chesser, passed away at his home in Willits on August 12, 2022 at almost 95 years of age.

After his mother's death when he was only 2, he was raised by his grandparents in Arkansas, and finally, when he was 14, in Visalia, California. He joined the Merchant Marines at age 17, and was part of the

effort that delivered troops and supplies to Iwo Jima and Okinawa during World War II. After the war he was drafted by the army for occupational troops, and was stationed in San Antonio, Texas for a short time.

In the early 1950s he moved his family to Ukiah, where he worked in the woods, and at Masonite, until moving to Willits in 1960. He eventually established Chesser Trucking, and hauled logs for local loggers, and for many years for Dick Bozarth Logging.

In 1982 he bought John's Place, a local bar and Kwik Stop he happily ran for 22 years. He sold out in 2004, only to return later to manage the bar until it burned in 2014. He reopened a smaller version of John's and finally retired in March of this year.

Dan is survived by his wife of 38 years, Jeanne, his daughter Sandi Gamble of Willits, and his son Michael (Linda) of Idaho, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son, Daniel Eugene Chesser, and his great-granddaughter Kayla Chesser.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, August 20, at 2 pm, at the American Legion Hall, North Main Street in Willits. Donations in his name may be made to the local Hospice at 100 San Hedrin Circle, Willits, CA 95490.



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Last Sunday, the Willits Community Theatre offered a special day of laughter, food and prizes to its patrons in the form of a matinee and an al fresco dinner in the plaza behind Cafe 77. The meal, catered by the aforementioned cafe, was a tie-in to the Italian meal portrayed by the actors of the current comedic offering at the theater.

The hilarious "Breaking Legs" is directed by Rod Grainger, and stars Daniel Brewer, Lindsay O'Neill, Anis Vellis, Cortlandt Wilson, Pat Nunes and Jeff Shipp (who also acted as bartender and MC at the dinner).

The entire evening was steeped in an Italian theme to correspond with the play, which was set in the back room of an Italian Mafia restaurant. The set pieces portrayed authenticity, as most came from the unfortunately now-defunct Mario's Restaurant in Redwood Valley.

"The gala is to recognize and celebrate," said Steve Marston, managing director of the theater, "those who have donated to us in the recent past and to bring all the Lifetime Achievement Award winners together to honor our next recipient, Kathy Vellis, and to thank them for all the work they have done over the years.

"It also doubles as a fundraiser," continued Marston. "We will be asking for donations for both facility projects and upcoming performance projects. The dinner is pasta with a choice of three different sauces, following in the theme of the play, 'Breaking Legs' which takes place in a restaurant.

"There will also be a hearty salad and cannoli for dessert," he added. "There will be a good selection of wines from Graziano Wineries of Redwood Valley, because that's the name of the family in the play. We're also serving our usual, Bonterra wines." The dozens of cannolis were lovingly and deliciously crafted by Marston's significant other, elementary school teacher Fawn Bassett.

During the dinner, Jeff Shipp and Liz Delleit, frequent actors at the theater, channeled their best Pat Sajak and Vanna White, wandering from table to table to offer raffle tickets to the diners, for prizes such as the 50 / 50 raffle which was won by Michael Ducharme and netted \$872.50 to both the theater and Ducharme.

Other prizes included season tickets to the Willits Community Theatre and to the Ukiah Players Theatre (with whom WCT is co-producing a one-man show, "Clarence Darrow," starring Tim Fischer, the weekend of September 2 through 4 in Willits and the following weekend in Ukiah), a 60-minute massage by Kelly Foutz, a Graziano Family of Wines gift box, a Northspur Brewing Co. gift box, a pair of tickets to a Giants game, and the pièce de résistance, two excellent seats to the San Francisco Ballet production of "Romeo and Juliet."

During dinner, the well-known and loved songstress Paula Samonte sang standards (and a few of her own) while wandering between the tables. After the raffle winners were announced, WCT Board President Robert Ford presented Kathy Vellis with her Lifetime Achievement Award for all of her excellent work on stage and as costumer, most recently for "Breaking Legs" and the Kid's Camp production of "Annie, Jr." where she costumed over 30 kids.

Upcoming in the season, the WCT will present the aforementioned "Clarence Darrow," the controversial, thought-provoking, presently topical, and suspenseful drama, "Keely and Du," and the annual Christmas play, which this year will be the historical musical, "All's Calm."

In addition, look for announcements of the newly reinvigorated concert series of excellent local and traveling musical acts such as The Real Sarahs, Dirty Cello, Bug Guts, Funkacillin, the Mendocino Dance Company, and many more. There will also be spoken word and poetry performances, second stage and experimental theater.

Season ticket holders can attend any and all of the productions throughout the year. With a full liquor license, the theater now serves Mendocino Distillery, Northspur Brewing Co., and Bonterra Vineyards as well as a variety of soft drinks.

For more info, visit www.wctperformingartscenter.org or call 459-0895.

"We're a small organization of first responders up there that rely heavily on donations from our community to survive and stay well-equipped. We are often the first responders to an incident because we know the way there. You can often see a fire and not know how to get to it. We assist CalFire in that way."

Fordyce, known in the area for her efforts to entertain the masses and bring causes to light through events and entertainment, is a volunteer firefighter.

"We had a Bell Springs fire recently," Fordyce said. "It was actually viewable from my house. We were having a meeting to organize this fundraiser when we got the call. We were at Tan Oak Park – myself, my fire captain, and another firefighter. We immediately had to reschedule the meeting.

"The department is made out of mostly community members," she explained. "We have one fire truck, three quick-attack vehicles, 25 members. We have some people who have worked with CalFire previously, so there are some professional firefighters, but we are all volunteers on this crew."

Bell Springs, a few miles north of Laytonville and up a hilly road to an elevation of 3,600 feet, is a loosely connected community of hill people whose gathering place is a gravel pit where a weekly open-air market brings typically over 100 people together to purchase food and to enjoy each other's company. Bell Springs got its name from the cowbells found at the site by Jim Graham in 1861.

Tan Oak Park on Highway 101 donates its space to non-profits who need a place to meet and enjoy the beautiful surroundings, offering campsites and cabins. It originally was a facility for people impacted by AIDS. Part of the proceeds (\$1,000) of the day's event will go to the Tan Oak Park Leggett Fire Water Project.

"We're planning on putting in a 62,000-gallon draught-able fire emergency tank at the base of our driveway with hydrants along Highway 101," said Jessica Roemer, manager of the park. "It'll be the only water that's available for the firefighters between Leggett and towards Laytonville. It's needed. When they come up and dump out of their water tenders, it's almost a two-hour trip for them to go back to Laytonville.

"We're about two miles from Bell Springs Road," continued Roemer, "and about three-and-a-half from Spyrock. For any fire that occurs along the corridor, this might give them enough water to get it out, before it spreads too much. We even have the space to bring in helicopters if they bring in an inflatable pool they can dip out of. The project is going to cost right around \$135,000. At this point, we're up to \$96,000."

"Our crew varies in size, from four or five, to 10 or 15," explained Will Emerson, fire chief of the small brigade of volunteers. "I got into the fire industry in about 2008 when there were lightning fires and we realized we had to protect our neighborhood. We got together and decided to create our own fire department. We had the help of our chief at the time, who was a retired CalFire captain. He trained us and got us going. We had a lot of help from other local fire departments.

"We need money for fuel, insurance, and the purchase of more equipment," explained Emerson. "We lost a few lengths of hose in that fire. They cost about \$300 per 100 feet of hose. Our big project is that we would really like to build a firehouse to house some of our equipment. We keep them in a barn and in people's houses. Our equipment is suffering from being in the weather. It would be nice to have a central location that we can work out of, where everything is protected."

Judging from the over 100 cars in the parking lot and the crowd of people dancing, laughing, eating, playing, listening to the music provided by several local luminaries, and otherwise enjoying the setting and the day, the event was a tremendous success, according to Fordyce. Hopefully, the Bell Springs Fire Department will be able to continue their needed work in protecting their neighborhood, people and wildlands.

To learn more about Bell Springs, the fire crew, or to donate, visit www.bellsprings.net. For more information on Tan Oak Park, visit www.tanoakpark.org.

public transportation. Brooktrails is one of those communities. The Community Listening Session is set for Friday, August 26, from 11 am to 12:30 pm at the Brooktrails Community Center."

The public is invited to attend and share concerns and desires regarding establishing public transportation for the Brooktrails Township. "There is also an online opportunity," said Director Tyler-O'Shea, "for those who are unable to attend the in-person meeting, where individuals can select their community on a map and identify different areas and list your concerns on that platform."

Brooktrails General Manager Tamara Alaniz shared a couple of items. "We are continuing to work with the county and other agencies at this point to clean up and secure the Dogwoods," she said. "We know that there's a lot of illegal dumping out there. We have shut the water off, the valve to the hydrant there so we aren't seeing any more water theft out there. There have been a couple of small fires there, so fortunately our first responders know that that hydrant is shut off, so we can handle that.

"It's probably going to be a little bit longer process than we like," Alaniz noted, "but there a lot of pieces we are coordinating, and Supervisor Haschak, who is here tonight, has been instrumental in getting that ball moving forward. Our water supply is good. If you get an opportunity to drive by our lakes, take a look – they are both full.

"We did begin this month sending out our high-usage notifications to customers who are using over the 9,000 acre feet limit," she said. "We've had some feedback from customers who have received the letter, and that is always good so we can have a dialogue and find out what's going on in those instances."

General Manager Alaniz also reported on the Rotary Club's "very successful inaugural 'Festival in the Redwoods,'" held at Brooktrails Golf Course on July 30. "We had a heckuva turnout," Alaniz said. "It looks like we're going to bring in about \$15,000 for high school scholarships and the Senior Center. We are splitting it 50-50. We were just really thrilled with the way it went."

During the public comment part of the meeting Third District Supervisor John Haschak spoke about the cleanup of Dogwood Terrace and Dogwood Lane saying: "I think we do have a plan moving forward, and I appreciate the collaboration that we are getting now with the county and Mendocino Recycle. We just need to get a few OKs from the sheriff and CHP – and we have the fire department, of course. So, we are getting that moving along with the idea of closing these areas off so it [illegal dumping] doesn't happen again."

Supervisor Haschak also encouraged residents to give input for the MCOG Listening Session on August 26: "if there's any kind of input, whether it's active transportation or walking trails, or anything like that – that would be appreciated, too. Certainly we are working on our emergency access routes, and as I am on the MCOG board, we would like to hear those concerns too."

The Brooktrails board then voted unanimously to approve the August 9 Accounts Payable in the amount of \$117,201.72.

They also voted unanimously to approve, as per Senate Bill 361, holding "In-Person and Remote (Hybrid) Publicly Accessible Board Meetings in order to be able to maintain a properly legal quorum and take action if you have three or more board members who are remotely in attendance."

The board also discussed the Brooktrails Golf Course Operations Agreement.

maintenance and food service workers did not get a summer break, and will need one sometime soon.

He expressed his profound appreciation for the student production of "Annie." "It was an especially heartwarming performance, and twice brought me to tears," he said. He added that he is looking forward to the new school year.

Superintendent Beebe spoke about the 23 days he has spent on the job, attending the Redwood Empire Fair, attending sports practices, and meeting many of the district teachers and staff. He concluded, "We still have a lot to do, and staff are putting their best foot forward. We have a long way to go – I like to recall the adage that a journey of 1,000 miles begins with one step, exhorting, let's go to work!"

Public comments had one staff member stepping forward with a salary issue. He was assured that his situation would be considered and resolved well before the next board meeting.

The consent agenda was passed and approved.

Updates to the 45-day budget revision reflected help from the state in the form of higher attendance reimbursement rates, with

"This item is before you after several months of back and forth with the golf course operator," General Manager Alaniz said. "There are two key issues identified that the golf course operator would like for the board to consider. The first item is a request by the golf course operator to again delay the capital reserve contribution that the board considered last year and actually re-adopted and changed the contract to suspend the payment by one year due to COVID.

"The second item is a request for the golf course to be closed on Tuesdays. I don't really see a problem with that," Alaniz commented. "This is a family-run business, and they are making a reasonable request based on their experience with the people who come to the golf course."

Alaniz said it was "within the board's purview" to make findings that the contract with the golf course could be adjusted to allow being closed on Tuesdays, and still be compliant with their contract terms.

Board members then engaged in considerable discussion regarding both of the items, and it was explained by the general manager that the current agreement is in effect until 2026.

All of the board members said they were sorry that the golf course operators, Marcus and Jacqueline Newby, were not at the meeting because there were several questions that they would have liked to ask the operators.

The general tone of the discussion was affirming and supportive of the operators. Director Orth spoke to the present situation and said: "Having been through the golf course for many decades now, I can only compliment the current operators for the way they have brought up the condition of the course.

"They're very welcoming of the disc golfers," Orth continued, "and the bottom line shows why that is a good thing. And, I don't think they would make a request of us if it wasn't necessary by their business model at this time. COVID is still amongst us. We are not in normal times, so I'm quite willing to go along with their request for this one-year [delay]."

Board President Williams asked the general manager about how the capital contribution in the amount of \$2,535.60 was calculated. She explained that it was calculated based on 3% of the green fees that are recorded and reported to the board by the operator. Alaniz said that the average green fees is about \$5,000/month (gross receipts).

Notably, the capital reserve contribution has not been received from any operators for several years. The contribution is (would be) the only revenue that the district realizes from the golf course.

Brooktrails Counsel Chris Neary suggested that since the operators had recently purchased a rather expensive lawnmower for the course that the cost of the mower could be recognized as a contribution.

President Williams suggested the board continue the discussion to a date when the operators were available to participate. He further suggested: "that the language used in the contract regarding the capital reserve contribution be seriously considered. Do we want to use 'deferral' or do we want to use 'it will be excused'?"

He then polled the board, asking them whether they preferred "to defer" or to "forgive" the payment of the contribution. Four board members responded with "forgive," and one said "1 year deferral."

The next meeting of the Brooktrails board is set for Tuesday, September 13.

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