

Minimal activity on the Ranch fire Wednesday

By Jennifer Poole

All mandatory evacuations and evacuation advisories in Mendocino County due to the Ranch fire were lifted late Wednesday afternoon, although evacuations remain in place in Lake, Colusa and Glenn Counties. Cal Fire announced Wednesday evening there had been “minimal fire activity” on the Ranch fire Wednesday, and the total acres burned figure in the evening report remained at 361,562 acres – just under 565 square miles – the same figure as in Wednesday morning’s update.

The Ranch fire is still only 67 percent contained,

Read the rest of **Ranch** Over on page 13

Sherwood group seeks fire help from BOS

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Eight members from the Sherwood Firewise Communities Group requested action on several fire-related issues during the August 21 meeting of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

Members stuck to their time limit of three minutes each, and supervisors listened to citizen concerns for some 25 minutes.

Brian Weller briefly described the vulnerability of Brooktrails and its residents, who live in a heavily forested area with

Read the rest of **Sherwood** Over on page 15

Supes switch food providers at juvenile hall

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Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved terminating the food services division at juvenile hall, and instead contracting with the food services division at Mendocino County Jail for food for the county’s teenaged wards.

According to Mendocino County Chief Probation Officer Izen Locatelli, the move is expected to save \$227,962 in the first year and close to \$200,000 a year thereafter.

Locatelli said shutting down the kitchen at juvenile hall was no reflection on the quality of work or the quality of food served by the kitchen staff at juvenile hall. Over the past year, the county’s juvenile hall has

Read the rest of **Food** Over on page 15



Above: Efforts are underway to get everything ready for Saturday's Summer Gala event including, from left: Alisha Rigano, Haley Kvasnicka and Jenn Drew deciding on table decorations; organizing the ever-growing assortment of auction and raffle items; and Andrew Hosford watering the flowers in the Summer Gala's new location for 2018: Danny Mihelcic and Alisha Rigano's Willits ranch.



Above: The Gala crew poses with members of Pavlos Garage who will play at Saturday's event. Below, from top: Wine, a bag by Karen Gridley, a getaway at the Little River Inn, an insulated Yeti cooler bag, and a lapis lazuli necklace are all up to be won at the Gala.



At right: New hosts of the Summer Gala, Danny Mihelcic and Alisha Rigano, smile from their back yard where Saturday's event will take place. Below, left: Pavlos Garage will play for the event, including band members Rick Petreich, Shawna White, Craig Moore, and Todd Stubberfield. Not pictured members include: Bob Green, Steve White and Fred Harsh. Below, right: Members of the group putting on this year's Summer Gala including from left: Jack and Jenn Drew, Kevin and Windi Kvasnicka, Anna and Tim King, and Alisha Rigano and Danny Mihelcic.



A Gala in the Garden

Willits Educational Foundation's Summer Gala set for this Saturday at new location

A transformation has taken place within the workings of the Garden Party – the annual event held by the Willits Educational Foundation to raise money for arts, music and libraries in the schools. A new group of organizers and a new location has also yielded a new name: “The Summer Gala,” but the same fun time is expected to be had this year, this Saturday from 4 to 8 pm.

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“Phil and Kathy Shuster retired after six years of holding the event,” explained one of the Summer Gala organizers, Jenn Drew. “Danny and Alisha graciously offered to host the event moving forward, and we’re all excited to see the event continue running and continuing to help raise money for our schools.”

New location hosts, Danny Mihelcic and Alisha Rigano, have agreed to have the party at their south-of-town property, located just across from Walker Road at 19941 South Main

Street, and invite guests to enjoy the shade, filtered sunset and green grass in a cozy setting while listening to the sounds of Pavlos Garage, enjoying cowboy margaritas and lemon drops, with a catered meal by Hopland’s Melissa Smith, and, of course, bidding on a plethora of donated items.

Smith will be serving up an assortment of appetizers, a fresh fruit salad, a pasta salad, a garden salad and a Chinese cabbage salad all with the option of grilled chicken breast strips to add into the mix. There will also be an assortment of freshly baked focaccia bread, as well as a selection of tasty desserts.

Testa Vineyards is the featured winery for this year’s event and has provided all of the wine. Beer has been donated by Eagle Distributing and Eel River Brewing for the event as well. Members of the Willits FFA will also be on hand serving tri tip and oysters.

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



Measure J ready for November ballot

for November ballot

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The Little Lake Fire Protection District held two meetings over the past month: a special meeting of the board on July 17, and the monthly meeting of the board of directors on August 14.

On July 17, Little Lake Fire Chief Chris Wilkes announced the Mendocino County Elections Office had assigned the title “Measure J” to the firehouse measure in the upcoming November elections.

If passed, Measure J will

Read the rest of **Measure J** Over on page 13

Humboldt, Mendo supes disagree on Potter Valley Project fate

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Supervisors on Tuesday endorsed efforts by the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission to purchase the Potter Valley Project. The joint powers authority consists of five local water entities, including the County of Mendocino Water Agency,

In adopting the resolution, supervisors referred to a resolution adopted by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors on June 5, which calls for decommissioning the

Read the rest of **Potter** Over on page 15

County cannabis permit program update

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Cannabis Program Administrator Chevon Holmes on Tuesday told supervisors the work to draft his unit’s policies and procedures was going well.

“Essentially, we have approvals, permit issuance, and denials, that is where we are in terms of our examination of what the current, status quo, process is, how can it be more streamlined and effectively communicated to all of the applicants,” Holmes said.

The county Department of Agriculture is partnering with the Code Enforcement Division, Planning and Building Services and county counsel “to not only make sure our processes and procedures are

Read the rest of **Permit** Over on page 15

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Phone scam warning

To the Editor:

To the greater Willits and Mendocino County communities: We (Willits Community Services and Food Bank) have just become aware that our phone number, 459-3333, has been hacked and has recently been used as part of a phone scam that attempts to get credit card information from people.

Please be aware that WCS has absolutely no involvement in this scheme and would never do anything like this. We are here, and have been here for over 37 years, serving our community and trying to help people, not take advantage of them.

Please report any suspicious activity like this to the Willits Police Department, 459-6122, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, 463-4411, or your local law enforcement agency.

Also be advised that blocking our number will not stop these criminals, since they are just using our number to fool people into answering. They will then most likely "steal" another local number to continue their scam.

Please call us, Willits Community Services, at the real 459-3333 number, with any questions or concerns regarding this. Thank you.

Jim Marill, executive director, Willits Community Services & Food Bank

See's Candy at the Senior Center year-round

To the Editor:

Hello community, I am glad to announce the Senior Center will be selling See's Candy year-round. This is a great way for us to generate revenue for the programs and services we provide.

It also allows you to purchase delicious See's Candy at the same price you would pay if you bought it online or at the nearest See's store; in Santa Rosa. These are the 1 pound boxes of chocolates we will carry year-round; Milk Chocolates, Dark Chocolates, Nut & Chews and Assorted Chocolates.

Our next order we will be adding 1 pound boxes of Assorted Soft Center Chocolates to our year-round selection. We also have 8 ounce boxes of peanut brittle, butterscotch lollypops, and milk and dark chocolate candy bars. If we do not have your favorite See's Candy on hand, we will take your order and call you once we receive it.

We will have specialized pre-wrapped candy for Valentine's Day and Christmas, making it convenient for those buying gifts for others. We are conveniently located at 1501 Baechtel Road; see the receptionist in the lobby. After writing about See's Candy, I'm going to buy a box and take it home for the family to enjoy.

Richard Baker, director, Harrah Senior Center

Something wonderful

To the Editor:

Every once in a while something wonderful happens, and you feel hopeful and happy again. This happened to me this evening when I attended a play called "The Phantom Toll Booth" at the Willits Community Theatre.

This play starred about 20 beautiful and talented kids and a kid crew. It was produced by Willits Community Theatre Young Actors under the direction of Mana Youngbear. I wasn't expecting to be so blown away by this magical and truly charming "kids show."

I watched this project take shape in the mind of Mana Youngbear and Ileya Stewart, some months ago. Mana had a dream and along with Ileya and many other dedicated artists, parents and teachers, they made it happen. The power of creativity is breathtaking to see in action. It's a bumpy road to a great destination.

The money came from a Community Foundation grant here in Mendocino County, with the help and support of WCT. This wonderful thing happened right here in Willits. The parents must be so proud of their great kids. WCT is a community treasure. Our young people, and people of every age, are learning and laughing and crying and enjoying because WCT is here.

Thank you Mana, WCT, C.F and so many others for making this dream real, and inspiring our community. What a great place to live!

Bill Barksdale, Willits

At right: A small crowd gathered together in front of the new electric vehicle charging station in Willits, including, from left, Madge Strong, Roshan Patel, Jason Wells, Cici Winiger, Ann Cole, Janet Orth, Barb Ivy, Lisa Davis, Doug Kern and Allison Findley.

Below, from left: Janet Orth of the Mendocino Council of Governments recharges her Chevy Bolt EV.

One of four dedicated parking spots for EVs. Ann Cole prepares the libations.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Ribbon-cutting of new electric vehicle recharging stations

The sky at 5 pm Friday was a gloomy orange-gray from the fire east of Willits, and one could taste the smoke, an acrid, oily, gritty sensation that infiltrated lungs. It was almost the perfect backdrop for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new electric vehicle charging stations at the corner of West Mendocino Avenue and School Street, next to the public parking lot.

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This station is one of 13 created throughout Mendocino County through a \$498,040 grant from the California Energy Commission. The project is a joint venture of the Mendocino Land Trust and the Mendocino Council of Governments. In the Willits location, much of the impetus and assistance came from various city staffers and residents who helped find the proper location, worked on permitting, etc.

Whether or not one believes in climate change, it is here, and according to the predominant numbers of climate scientists, it is caused, at least partially, by human-created carbon-based pollution. A good part of that pollution is from gasoline-powered automobiles and trucks.

Making these EV charging stations more available to travelers and the public in general can have several positive effects, among which are encouraging the purchase and use of non-polluting vehicles, attracting more travelers to the Willits area, and positioning our town back as an ecologically minded city, a position it held several years ago when it used to put on clean-energy expos and promote solar energy.



Above, from left: Sheba Brown from Congressman Jared Huffman's local office presents Doug Kern with a "Certificate of Special Recognition." One of four ChargePoint rechargers in Willits, available thanks to a grant from the California Energy Commission. Taylor Morrison from state Assemblyman Mike McGuire's local office presents Doug Kern with a "Certificate of Recognition" from the California Assembly.

Far left: Ann Cole cuts the ribbon.

At left: The license plate on Janet Orth's Chevy Bolt EV reads "TRU ZEV" (zero emissions vehicle).

Adventist Christian School has closed

The school board of the Adventist Christian School of Willits announces the suspension of operation of the Seventh-day Adventist School located at 22751 Bray Road. The school which has served the Willits area for over 60 years will no longer be accepting students and offering classes effective this 2018-2019 school year.

Citing low enrollment and dwindling financial support as the key factors, Georgine Hultz, former teacher and principal, stated that "closing the school was a hard decision by the board and congregation of the Willits Seventh-day Adventist Church."

"There are many good memories of the Christian education and activities the school has offered over the years," she continued. "Along with the curriculum, designed to prepare the students for further education, there was music, plays, programs, community involvement, and field trips."

The school facility will continue to support the community, as they have in the past, offering practice areas for youth basketball and, occasionally, meeting space for other groups. Should one be interested in renting the gym or a classroom, please call Georgine Hultz at 707-954-0649.

– Submitted by the Adventist Christian School Board of Directors

Assemblyman Wood: \$300 million annually needed for vegetation management and fuel reduction

Sacramento – As the state Legislature's wildfire conference committee seeks solutions, Assemblymember Jim Wood's statement draws a line in the sand:

"As a member of the Senate and Assembly's Conference Committee on Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness, I won't support a "solution" that doesn't include, quite frankly, what's in the title of this committee – and that's prevention and preparedness. We've lost 58 people to wildfires in the past two years. What more of a wake-up call do we need?"

"Look at all the money we're spending fighting the fires and how little we spend trying to prevent them."

"We need ongoing funding for vegetation management and fuel reduction – \$300 million every year, guaranteed. This money can come from the existing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Historically, we spend a measly 2 percent of that funding on fire prevention. For the past two years, I've fought for additional and sustainable long-term funding. We received one-time funding of \$250 million last year and one-time funding of \$256 million this year, but I shouldn't have to fight this fight every single year."

"Eight of the 58 people who died were heroic firefighters – these firefighters are soldiers in our ongoing wildfire war. We need significant funding to help them. They need early detection technology and the funding to allow them to move resources in place in anticipation of a fire."

"And we need an effective early warning system, like the one Senator Mike McGuire is fighting for in his bill, SB 833. I am a co-author, and it requires our Office of Emergency Services to work with telecommunications carriers, counties and others to develop guidelines for emergency alerts and requires additional training for local emergency office personnel."

"Gov. Brown, who is arguably the country's most outspoken advocate of combating climate change, has to see that any progress we've made with our policies to reduce greenhouse gas has totally been cancelled out by these fires. One major fire alone can release more carbon dioxide than all of California's climate change programs can save in a year. We need the state Air Resources Board to measure the emissions from wildfires – all other emissions are measured. Why not wildfires? Maybe they don't want the answer?"

"I can't support any solution being considered by the conference committee unless it includes funding for ongoing fuel reduction, gives firefighters the support they need to fight these catastrophic fires and requires OES to work toward developing a statewide notification system that could save lives."

Since 2014, Assemblymember Jim Wood (D-Santa Rosa) has represented the 2nd Assembly District, which includes all of Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt and Mendocino counties, plus northern and coastal Sonoma County, including the northern half of Santa Rosa.

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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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Willits Weekly's

Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Advanced

PUZZLE
ANSWERS
ON
PAGE 11

HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12			13			14		
15						16				17		
	18				19					21		
					22	23			24			
25	26	27	28	29								
30									31			
32								33	34	35	36	37
					38	39	40		41	42		
					43			44				
			45	46								
47	48				49			50	51	52	53	54
55					56			57				58
59					60			61				
62					63					64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Sacred bull (Egyptian myth.)

5. One-time European money

8. Disfigure

11. Polish city

13. Move quickly on foot

14. Landlocked West African country

15. Used in aromatherapy

16. The greatest of all time

17. Type of horse

18. Volcanic craters

20. Type of graph (abbr.)

21. Supporters

22. North and South are two

25. Spread

30. Adjusted

31. Vietnamese offensive

32. Nazi architect

33. Nigerian peoples

38. When you hope to get there

41. Ridicules

43. Allied Powers vs. Central Powers

45. Produce

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity

50. Type of sword

55. 'Sin City' actress

56. Female reproductive cells

57. Afflicted

59. One point north of northeast

60. Garland

61. Spiritual leader

62. Negative

63. Tooth caregiver

64. Cheek

CLUES DOWN

1. Form of 'to be'

2. A hand has one

3. Thought

4. Physical body

5. Removes

6. One who perpetrates wrongdoing

7. Make one

8. Kate and Rooney are two

9. ___ Ladd, 'Shane' actor

10. Makes fun of

12. Space station

14. Gene

19. Satisfy

23. Livid

24. It comes after 'et'

25. More (Spanish)

26. Electronic data processing

27. Buffer solution to separate DNA and RNA

28. Primate

29. Scattered

34. Evergreen tree

35. What engaged couples will say

36. Barbie's friend

37. Midway between south and southeast

39. A position from which progress can be made

40. Showed up

41. Insecticide

42. Type of milk

44. Verandas

45. Annoyingly talkative

46. Abba ___, Israeli politician

47. 'Heat' director

48. Plant genus

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. Actor Idris

54. Freedom fighters (slang)

58. Criticize

ACADEMIC WORD SEARCH

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

ACADEMIC	CREDENTIALS	INCLUSION	PUPIL
ACHIEVEMENT	CURRICULUM	INTEGRATED	RESOURCE
ADVANCEMENT	DISTRICTS	MANIPULATIVES	RUBRIC
ASSESSMENT	EDUCATION	PEERS	SCHOOL
BENCHMARKS	ENRICHMENT	PERFORMANCE	STAFF
BILINGUAL	GIFTED	PHONICS	STANDARDS
CAMPUS	GRADES	PLACEMENT	TENURE
CERTIFIED	GROWTH	PORTFOLIO	TEST
CHARTER	IMMERSION	PROFESSOR	TESTING

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

August 13 to August 19

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **202** incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

August 13

8:48 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

2:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

3:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

10:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Northbrook Way.

10:25 pm: GUERRERO, Chris Nunez (28) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Northbrook Way. He was arrested pursuant to 11550 HS (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance), 1203.2 (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

August 14

5:01 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

6:59 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Poplar Avenue and Madrone Street.

9:35 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of California Street.

3:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:28 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

10:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of North Main Street.

10:35 pm: Officer initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

10:57 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

August 15

8:05 am: SANDERS, Rhonda Rennee (57) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 11550 HS (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance).

6:17 pm: BEVENS, Nathan Zane (42) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence), felony charges of willful cruelty to a child with possible injury or death, and misdemeanor charges of blood alcohol content of .08 percent or higher.

9:35 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

August 16

3:06 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Barbara Lane.

4:31 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Bush Street.

5:58 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

7:38 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:21 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

7:14 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

9:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

10:19 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Mendocino Avenue.

August 17

1:52 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

7:07 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:18 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of sexual assault in the 100 block of Hazel Street.





At top, from left: Shannon Gibbs offers a variety of soaps near the entrance to the festival. A sign welcomes visitors to the Round Valley Blackberry Festival. Stephanie Tidwell, executive director of Friends of the Eel River, educates people on the work her organization is engaged in. Far left: The Valley Voices entertain in the center pavilion. At left: Supervisory candidates John Pinches, left, and John Haschak take a break from campaigning to pose for a photo together.

Blackberry Festival

Celebrating life and art – and the delicious summertime fruit – in Round Valley for 36 years

It wasn't really about the blackberries, even though they headlined the event. It wasn't about the beauty of Round Valley this year, because you couldn't see it through the smoke of the recent wildfires. It wasn't even about the classic vehicles that lined the street leading up to the gates.

The Round Valley Blackberry Festival was about the people, the vendors, the musicians, and the residents and outsiders who gathered, as they do every year, to celebrate life and art in Covelo. They celebrate each other, people from all walks of life, ethnic backgrounds, and social strata. All the people spoke with each other, laughed and exchanged ideas, had fun, tasted great food and bought art, some local and some from as far as Fairfield in the Bay Area.

There was Michelle Peñaloza, sitting by the entrance, writing poetry on an old portable typewriter that was perched upon a crate. She offered poems for "\$3 and a little time." You come up with the subject and then return for your original piece, created on the spot.

"I've written poems about moving," she explains, "poems about cherishing harvest, poems about unicorns and Batman, the ocean, best friends, daughters, sons, twins, sisterhood, language, hugs from dad, and blackberries."

Peñaloza comes from the suburbs of Detroit and is a published poet with two books. She comes to the Blackberry Festival because of the people. Her work can be found at www.michellepenaloza.com.

Also near the entrance was a lovely soap vendor, Shannon Gibbs, who started making soap as a hobby for Christmas gifts.

In the main area, which appropriately for Round Valley is circular in configuration, the morning invocation was given by Ron Lincoln, spiritual leader of the native community: "Let the tears happen. Endure, breathe and move on. The only person who is with us our entire lives are ourselves. Be alive while you're alive. Cherish your health. If it's good, preserve it. If it's unstable, improve it. If it's beyond what you can do, get help. Always remember, life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by moments that take our breath away."

It was time for Mickey the Clown (Michael McCarthy) to introduce Sunday's first act on the stage, situated in the center of the circle of vendors. McCarthy has been with the festival for all of its 36 years, having retired from the big time with the Clyde Beatty Circus and the Circus Vargas in 1981. He

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

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Sun: 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00pm

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Mon-Thurs: 4:45 & 7:30pm

Pg. 4

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Willits Weekly | August 23, 2018

Willits Weekly | August 23, 2018

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Pg. 5

Orth explained that, aside from being fun to drive, EVs are very efficient in terms of maintenance. The engines only have about 20 moving parts as opposed to a couple hundred in an internal combustion engine. Additionally, Orth said: "A gasoline car can only use about a third of the energy you get from the fuel, whereas an electric car uses around 90 percent."

Ann Cole, executive director of the Mendocino Land Trust and Doug Kern, director of conservation at the organization, were also in attendance. Kern was instrumental in writing and securing the charging-stations grant, as well as doing much of the heavy lifting in terms of navigating the endless regulations and requirements necessary for the 13 sites.

Each site needed a relatively close source of electric power and a flat area in order to be ADA compliant. They found they had to relocate the sites as much as four or five times before finding a compatible location. The major part of the construction took a year. The planning and permitting took three years prior to the actual construction.

Many of the stations are located at state parks: Westport-Union Landing State Beach, MacKerricher State Park, Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park, Russian Gulch State Park, Van Damme State Park, Greenwood State Beach, and Hendy Woods State Park. These locations are offering free fill-ups for the first hour during the first year of operation.

The in-town locations are: three Fort Bragg locations – City Hall parking lot, Laurel Street parking lot, and Boatyard Shopping Center; Caspar Community Center; Point Arena downtown parking lot; and the aforementioned Willits location which offers two charging stations.

In attendance at the ceremony were Allison Findley, executive director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce; Madge Strong, Willits mayor; representatives from Representative Jared Huffman's office and Assemblyman Mike McGuire's office who presented Doug Kern with certificates thanking him and his organization for their efforts; Lisa Davis from Scoops; Barb Ivy, president of the Willits Chamber of Commerce board of directors; Roshan Patel from the Old West Inn; Cici Winiger, communications manager for Adventist Health Howard Memorial; Jason Wells, CEO of Adventist Health Howard Memorial; and about 30 concerned Willits citizens. Cole cut the ribbon after talks from Orth, Kern, Strong and herself.

Mayor Strong is attempting to get additional signage on Highway 101 to let travelers know the charging service is available in Willits. The stations should sustain themselves through the fees without further subsidies.

mentions that on Saturday, the festival was extremely busy with hundreds of people squeezed into the small circle and that there were about 50 vendors participating this year.

"We had the street dance here last night," shared McCarthy. "We had a square dance. The library has a big dance. We had bull-riding out at the rodeo grounds. We had barrel racing, and they have a big barbecue over there."

Continuing around the circle, it is easy to make friends and conversations. There was Pat Sobrero of the Round Valley Public Library – the central edifice for the arts in Covelo, since it has computers, public WiFi, a meeting room, board games, and a large-screen TV on which kids can play computer games.

Some of the vendors do quite well at the Blackberry Festival and continue to come back year after year. There were vendors selling balsamic vinegars of every variety at Extraordinary Blends from Sonoma County; jewelry and clothing from Chico; metal art by Bob Gaston. Samba and Mariam sold colorful African art from a variety of countries. They love coming to the festival (since 2006) for the friends and loyal customers they make.

Stephanie Tidwell, executive director of Friends of the Eel River, had a booth to educate people on the work her organization is engaged in, such as the Great Redwood Trail Act which will put hiking, biking, and in some areas, horseback-riding trails on existing Northwestern Pacific Railroad easements for a continuous 170-mile trail, beginning in Willits and continuing to Humboldt Bay.

These were just a few of the friendly, warm humans one could meet at the Round Valley Blackberry Festival. Time passed quickly at this event, and there was plenty for the kids to do, including attending oil and watercolor artist Lynn Zachreson's paint classes and scaling John Gruely's home-built climbing wall which soared to about 15 feet and had kids lined up to try their skills.

And yes, there are blackberries: blackberry slush, blackberries and ice cream, blackberry pie, blackberry green tea, and blackberry jelly.

Mickey the Clown summed it up well: "This is a big weekend here in Covelo. They close up all three stores. Everybody's here. What's the sense of being anywhere else?"



Above: Pavlos Garage will play for the event, including band members Rick Petreich, Shawna White, Craig Moore and Todd Stutterfield.

Live and silent auction items will be available, as well as raffle items. Some of these include: A photo of the famous Henley Oak in Round Valley by Wendy Wilmes; a cord of firewood from Cooley Logging; a Lakeport vacation rental stay at the home of Marvin and Connie Dixon, where folks can fish, barbecue and relax; a picnic table from Parlin Forks; and "Kathleen Lewis will offering her famous cookies again!" noted Drew. "The high bidder of this package will receive five dozen cookies delivered once a month for a year, including the first basket on the night of the Gala," and much more.

Drew and the crew of event helpers, including her husband, Jack, Kevin and Windi Kvasnicka, Anna and Tim King, Andrew Hosford, Jason Korte and Lisa Yokum, and many members of the Willits Rotary Club, are expecting around 400 folks to attend the event. Tickets are still available at Yokum's Body Shop and Cat's Meow, as well as at the gate on Saturday. Tickets are \$30 each.

Last year, monies raised from the event were allocated as follows: Willits High School received \$11,362; Baechtel Grove Middle School received \$7,200, Blosser Lane Elementary received \$8,086; Brookside Elementary received \$9,620; Sherwood School received \$1,587; and Sanhedrin High School received \$1,186.

For more information, contact Jenn Drew at 354-1670.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Loving Piper

Piper loves his volunteer friends but is ready to ditch shelter life. He is 7 years old and requires a bit of medication, but can provide you with all the love you need. This sturdy little Teddy bear thinks single dog life is best and is ready to prove it to his forever person.



Come meet Piper at the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, located at 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Please give us a call at 707-485-0123 if you have questions. You can view all our adoptable dogs and cats on Petfinder or through our website: mendohumanesociety.com. To volunteer or help take the dogs for a walk, please join HSMC on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.



Darling Daisy

Darling Daisy was adopted, but needed to come back. It was with many tears that her guardian of two months returned Daisy to us. Her new home was on a farm, and it turned out that Daisy was a bit too fond of feathered creatures and decided the chickens were fair game. On a very positive note, her guardians report she was house-trained, and loved water, bath time, car rides and toys. She lived with children 6 months to 12 years old and was wonderful with them. Daisy is a 3-year-old spayed female mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 42 pounds. She knows "Sit," "Shake," and "Load up," and learns new commands very quickly. Daisy is sweet, smart and eager to please and will be such a wonderful addition to a family! Just one without chickens!

The Ukiah Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.

OBITUARY |
Michael McGee

Michael David McGee of Willits passed away August 14, 2018 at the age of 68. He was born February 11, 1950 to Jodie Herchal McGee and Minnie "Pauline" "Hix" McGee in Willits, California. He married Lisa "Challand" McGee and they had two lovely daughters, Jennifer and Heather. He loved walking, shopping, watching TV, and his beloved San Francisco Giants.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Jodie and Pauline; stepfather Malcolm Macintosh; and former wife, Lisa. He is survived by his daughters, Jennifer and Heather; his brother, Joe (Denise) McGee; and nephews, Jody and Cory. No services are planned at this time.

Those wishing to may make a memorial contribution in Michael's name to "Northbrook Convalescent Hospital," 64 Northbrook Way, Willits, CA 95490. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



OBITUARY |
Gail McClelland

Virginia Gail Clements was born October 25, 1954 to Virginia and Clarence Clements in Willits, California. She was the oldest of three children. She graduated from Willits High School in June of 1972 and got engaged the same day to Dennis McClelland, and they married on December 16, 1972. She became a mother in January of 1975 with the birth of her daughter Dawn Richelle and again in December of 1976 to Crystal Lee.

She always put her family first! She spent all of her spare time running her daughters around to sporting events and other community activities. Throughout her adult life she worked at A&W, Willits Unified School District as an instructional aide at Mill Creek and Blosser Lane School, as well as at Howard Hospital and for Dr. Stetz. She spent the last 23 years working in the Engineering Department at Metal-Fx (AM&D). She took great joy at Metal-Fx being in charge of birthday cards and celebrating her co-workers' birthdays.

In 1998 she became known as "Nana," with the birth of the first of her three grandsons. Being Nana brought the most joy into her life. She loved going to Disneyland with her family and attending their sporting events.

In July of 2018 she was diagnosed with cancer and lost her battle August 13, 2018 with her husband, daughters and oldest grandson by her side. She is survived by her husband, Dennis, daughters Dawn, and Crystal (James Judnick), her mother Virginia Clements, sister Rhonda, grandsons Matt, Lukas and Benjamin, and as well many cousins, nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her father Clarence, brother Eddie, aunt Betty and her grandparents.

A memorial in her honor will be held Saturday, August 25, 2018 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 265 Margie Drive, in Willits, at 11 am and a light luncheon will follow. The family would like to thank our family and friends who have reached out and shown us love and support during this difficult time.



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Back to School 2018



Caterina Jezica is all smiles for sophomore year!



Lane Quinliven. We are so proud of you!



Happy first day to Sophia Wear.



Lawrence sisters, Madison (2nd) & Macy (preschool) "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose." – Dr. Seuss



Hailey, Courtney, and Ashley Aadland Breen, first day of school.



Alithia Gallups and Kayden Troxler – cousins who school together, stay together.



Happy first day of school to Dane, who is in 8th grade; Gracie who is in 5th grade; and Xander, who is a sophomore.



Our girls Zandria and Arabella Mondo off to learn and grow! Mom and Dad love you both.



Our son Wade Hosford had his first day of TK today (8-20-18) at Brookside School!



Calleigh Jade is all smiles for the first day of 4th grade.



Aryka Hensley starting 4th grade; Payton Carey starting 2nd grade.



Kindergarten here I come!! xoxo Ayla.



As free as the ocean! Happy 2nd grade to our Carter LeClair! We love you Cowboy!! Love, Mom, Jordan, Dad, Shelby, Irie, and Baby Coast



Here's to an amazing 8th grade year for an amazing kid (Nikolas Miller), Robert and I love you to the moon and back.



Enjoy the journey sweet Samantha!! Love, Unk and Aunt Jenni.



Jessie Quinliven's first day of 8th grade #2018.



Happy first day to Isabella Wear.



Have a fantastic senior year Tate Campbell. Your dad and I love you to the moon and back. LHS class of 2019.



Have a great junior year Carson Miller and an awesome sophomore year Mandy Thurman. I love you both. Momma Vesey.



Hunter Southwick rocking into 7th grade.



Champ's first day of kindergarten.



Jayci is ready for kindergarten Everybody is excited for school to start.



I can't believe you're a big 1st grader Maddison! We love you so much and are so proud of you!

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A letter from ...

The Principal of Willits Charter School, a Public School for the Arts and Sciences

Jennifer Lockwood

It has been a busy time at Willits Charter School this summer as we have been upgrading our facilities as well as bringing on new faculty and staff members. Billy Hetherington worked hard all summer remodeling the ceramics lab, carpeting some of the classrooms, and creating a covered garden area for our high school students.

High school students will now have the option to eat lunch off campus or in the

Garden Area. This will provide a scenic, quiet area for our high school students to eat lunch.

Willits Charter School for the Arts and Sciences has been fortunate in that we have been attracting new faculty and staff members that will not only help our students achieve academically, but will also help us grow our arts and music programs. This summer we welcomed Ashley Rodriguez as our new school registrar. Ms. Rodriguez brings talents in the area of special FX make-up, and will also teach Friday Academy

classes that will enhance our theater arts program.

We are bringing on math teacher David Strock for our eighth through 12th grade students. Mr. Strock comes to us with teaching experience in Sonoma as well as extensive theatrical experience. Mr. Strock directed the acclaimed musical "Chicago" in Fort Bragg that featured some of our high school students. He will be teaching our CP

Read the rest of
WCS Over on Page 15



Above, from left: Learning about acorns at the Waldorf School of Mendocino County. Picking produce at the Waldorf school garden. Playing music is an important part of a Waldorf education.

A letter from ...

The Waldorf School of Mendocino County

Spring Senerchia
School Administrator

Dear parents, students and friends:

I love this time of year as each day is a little shorter and it seems I can almost catch my breath. At the same time there is intense activity on every school campus as dedicated teachers and staff prepare for a challenging and inspiring year for students. The back-to-school articles showcase all that is offered in our local schools. I am grateful there are so many diverse education options for all kinds of learners in Mendocino County.

At The Waldorf School of Mendocino County, we are proud to offer private Waldorf education for the 47th year. A

Waldorf education seeks to protect and support the whole child – head, heart and hands – through inspiring effective thinking, feeling and doing.

About half of our students live in Willits, along with much of our faculty and staff. Students from Lake County, Laytonville, Willits, Ukiah, Redwood Valley and Anderson Valley arrive to campus via informal carpools or on the Mendocino Transit Authority bus which delivers students right to our leafy 2.5-acre campus.

As we prepare for the 2018-19 school year, I am struck by the sense that change is underfoot. The wildfires, transformation of the local economy, and increase in people moving from and to our county can be disorienting, but also present us with an opportunity. In times of change, it is more important than ever to think outside of the box and respond appropriately. The mission of The Waldorf School of Mendocino County is to graduate students that can think independently and confidently engage with the world.

Based on ongoing reports from people who meet our graduates, I believe we are succeeding. A 2005 survey of 550 graduates revealed a passion for learning, intellectual



independence, integrity in social connections, and a sense of responsibility for the world.

The Waldorf movement is the largest and fastest-growing alternative and nonsectarian education system around the world. This growth is occurring organically, from a felt need for something different. The Waldorf School of Mendocino County is joining with over 1,000 other schools worldwide to prepare for the 100th year anniversary of Waldorf education. Since 1919, Waldorf education has sought to impart meaning, purpose, beauty, academic excellence, and a sense that the individual can make a difference in the world.

Starting in preschool, children are invited to explore their physical and social environments in

Read the rest of
Waldorf Over on Page 11

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LEGAL NOTICES

WW174

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Filed July 27, 2018

CASE NUMBER SCUKCVPT-18-71248

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Petitioner Earl Anthony Thompson filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Earl Anthony Thompson to Earl Antonio Thompson and Earl Anthony Thompson to Earl Antonio Thompson

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petitioner without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: September 14, 2017, Time: 9:30 am, Dept. E,
Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino,
100 North State Street, Ukiah CA 95482

Date: 07/27/2018

s/Earl Anthony Thompson

Pub dates 08/09, 08/16, 08/23, 08/30/2018

WW182

Fictitious Business Name
Statement

2018-F0501

The following person is doing business as S.E.E.D., 5798 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 95490; Rose Raiser Jeavons, 5798 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on August 14, 2018.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on August 14, 2018.

/s/ Rose Raiser Jeavons

Pub dates: 8/23, 8/30, 9/06 and 9/13/2018

WW176

Fictitious Business Name
Statement

2018-F0415

The following person is doing business as Uniq Illusions, 1726 South Main Street, Suite E, Willits, CA 95490; Hung Minh Pham, 531 Capos Lane, Apt. 63, Ukiah, CA 95482.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on July 11, 2018.

Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on July 11, 2018.

/s/ Hung Minh Pham

Pub dates: 8/9, 8/16, 8/23 and 8/30/2018

The rest of
Waldorf From Page 10

emotionally warm and safe surroundings. Their creativity is cultivated through an abundance of imaginative play and stories, along with simple crafts, painting and music. At the same time, they experience self-reliance through cooking and cleaning chores. In first grade, children are introduced to letters and numbers through stories, forming an emotional connection that helps make reading, writing and arithmetic a living experience.

Through the grades, care is taken to ensure that math is understood tangibly. Every part of the curriculum is integrated, including music, mimicking the wholeness found in the natural world. Students learn much about the basic processes and technologies surrounding them, as well as practical skills, so that they leave school as empowered participants in the world around them. Much of their education occurs outside, developing a relationship with the nonhuman world of which people are a part.

This year we are excited to have a strong middle school presence on campus and are happily anticipating more advanced academic subjects: algebra, physics, anatomy, keyboarding. We are increasing our programming for cyber civics, classes that prepare our students to be responsible digital citizens in today's increasingly online world. Our middle school students will be seen more in the broader community as they fundraise for their eighth-grade field trip and participate in local science fairs.

WSMC is currently accepting applications for the 2018-19 school year, from preschool to seventh grade. Please contact us at 707-485-8719 or enroll@mendocinowaldorf.org, or visit us at www.mendocinowaldorf.org.

W

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WW175

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Filed July 27, 2018

CASE NUMBER SCUKCVPT-18-71248

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Petitioner Linda Rose Thompson filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Linda Rose Thompson to Linda Risha Thompson

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petitioner without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: September 14, 2017, Time: 9:30 am, Dept. E,
Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino,
100 North State Street, Ukiah CA 95482

Date: 07/27/2018

s/Linda Rose Thompson

Pub dates 08/09, 08/16, 08/23, 08/30/2018

Mendocino County
is recruiting for:

Health & Human Services Agency
Deputy Director of Substance Use
Disorder Treatment

\$69,721.60 - \$84,739.20 Annually
(3% increase effective October 18, 2018)
Open Until Filled

For more information and to apply:
www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr
EOE

Current Job Openings:

Animal Facility Attendant -
Fort Bragg/Extra Help

Animal Facility Attendant - Fort Bragg

Chief Property Appraiser

Computer Operations Manager

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II

Equipment Superintendent

Librarian I/II

Program Administrator

Program Specialist II

Public Defender Investigator

Real Property Appraiser I/II/III

Road Maintenance Supervisor I -
Fort Bragg

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

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CLASSIFIEDS

'A Woman Hero'

New Year's Day I was attacked in front of Safeway. You helped me and got the ambulance in the parking lot. Please call Prncilla @ Willits Senior Center Outreach: 707-459-6826.

Advert Co-Op

Advert Co-Op for Willits Biz! Print, Radio & Online starts at \$85! Basic Art & Copy build \$25! More Biz = Lower Fee. Contact alysen@diytransitions.com by 8/24

Amazing!!

Beef Special

John Ford Rancher's Choice Box: 50 pounds of steaks, roasts and ground beef. \$300 (\$6/pound), amazing deal! Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call now: 459-5193.

Help Wanted

AH-Home Health & Hospice is looking to fill the following positions: RN, PT- OT- ST & HHA F/T, P/T & Per Diem available. Call H/R Trudy at 707-456-3230 or apply online at adventisthealth.org.

Help Wanted

AH-Home Health & Hospice is looking to fill the following positions: PT- OT- ST & HHA F/T, P/T & Per Diem available. Call H/R Trudy at 707-456-3230 or apply online at adventisthealth.org.

Office Space

for Rent

1 large space 3400'. Several small offices 100' & 270'. Call Megan 972-8776 or Margie 459-6874.

Computer Help

Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamerigin@yahoo.com.

PLEASE THE BEES

Devil's Perennials
363 Boscabelle

Rob-n-Hoe

Backhoe Service

Non-contractor - 45 years experience. Fire clearing lot cleaning, road work, septic system repair, trenching, footings, etc. Small jobs OK, great rates. Call Rob Decker at 707-354-3920

Event Spaces

Available

Event spaces available at the Willits Center for the Arts! • Great Room • Classroom • Ceramic Studio For inquiries, email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-1726. For additional information visit: www.willitscenterforthearts.org/rentals

For Rent

2000 sq ft home, 20 ac, on grid, 20,800 gal rain water storage. Legal grower \$5K mo w \$10k dep, non grower \$2700 mo w \$5400 dep. Call Mars 415-577-8436

SEWING AND ALTERATIONS

Seamstress and Sewing Teacher

Barbara Carlon
Visit my webpage:
Seamqueen.blog
707-367-6182, Willits

Volunteers

Needed

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in the gift shop, information/greeting desk, hospitality cart and the garden. Hours are flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

Yard Sale

26111 Peacock Road, Brooktrails. Saturday, September 1 and Sunday September 2, 8 am to 5 pm. Jewelry, clothes, electrical, chainsaws, and misc. items. No big bills, please.

Willits Weekly –
the locally owned
newspaper!

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Pg. 10 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Willits Weekly | August 23, 2018

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Pg. 11

The Director of Willits Elementary Charter School

Kara McClellan

Willits Elementary Charter School will be opening its doors on August 27 for our seventh year! Charter schools were created to allow schools to experiment with innovative ideas. At WECS, we strive to offer a top-notch education for our students, as well as impact the broader Mendocino County school community.

We are delighted to announce that WECS will be able to offer nutritious meals to ALL students free of charge when school starts this year, regardless of income level. We offer a healthy brunch and hot lunch each day. We are committed to wellness for our students and our meals focus on whole grains, proteins, fresh fruits and vegetables. We continue to be a sugar-free campus.

Once again, WECS was selected by the Educational Results Partnership and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence as an Honor Roll school. This award recognizes schools with high academic achievement with a narrow gap in the achievement among student populations.

WECS grew this summer! We have added a small classroom and two offices to the administrative building. Most exciting is that the office window and door now are closer to the school gate. All of our drinking fountains have filters and our garden is as gorgeous as ever.

WECS continues to offer strong science, music, art, and Spanish programs. WECS has quality, low-cost before- and after-school programs. We also continue to offer free reading and math support for struggling students and many after-school enrichment clubs for our older students (including guitar, dance, science, yearbook, student council and more).

WECS is a free, public, K-5 charter

school for Willits and other local school district students. Our on-site classes are full with waitlists. However, we have several openings in our Independent Study program that blends home-based learning with on-site activities. Led by Becky Button, a veteran teacher with a Montessori background, a master's degree in teaching, and outdoor education experience, the WECS independent study program offers weekly on-site mixed-age classes as well as home study curriculum.

Ms. Button describes her program: "Independent study is a wonderful place to engage in project-based learning. I love diving deep into students' interests and using the flexibility independent study provides to really explore topics that are meaningful to them."

Some independent study projects include students becoming "Citizen Scientists" and recording bird migration data for Cornell Lab of Ornithology, weekly STEAM challenges (using science, technology, engineering, art and math to solve real-world problems), gardening and cooking units, and field trips throughout the community. Students in the independent study program are also able to attend the after-school program and take part in clubs.

Please call 459-1400 or visit our website at www.willitselementarycharter.com if you have questions or would like to learn more about this year's independent study program. Parents who are interested in enrolling their child at Willits Elementary Charter School for the 2019-20 school year should submit applications before April 30, 2019 to ensure their child is included in our lottery. As always, our goal is to give our students the tools to develop integrity, compassion and confidence through inquiry-based learning. We look forward to another great year!



A letter from ...

The Principal of La Vida Charter School

Ann Kelly

From spirals to Zspace: a year of discovery at La Vida

La Vida Charter School is excited to be embarking on another year with a wonderful faculty and staff who are all working hard to create engaging and fulfilling learning experiences for students and families.

All kindergarten through 12th-grade students at La Vida are in an independent study program that is crafted by highly qualified teachers to be a personal learning pathway. In addition, the majority of the students benefit from the culturally rich onsite program two days per week: Monday / Tuesday for elementary and Wednesday / Thursday for high school.

Orientation

IT'S REQUIRED

Start the year out right! Get Organized! Make Goals! Meet your teacher!

<p>FOR ELEMENTARY</p> <p>August 28th</p> <p>9:30 to 3:10. A FULL DAY</p> <p>Of timed workshops, class meetings & curriculum. Check out. Be sure to arrive on time to start at 9:30.</p> <p>Child care for school age children only. Leave preschoolers with someone you trust. This is adult time. Snacks will be provided.</p> <p>The school will close for lunch from 12-1:30</p> <p>August 29th 10:00-2:00 is an</p> <p>Alumni curriculum check-out time.</p> <p><small>All of last year's curriculum must be checked out before new books can be checked out.</small></p> <p><small>La Vida Charter School 459-6344</small></p>	<p>FOR HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p>August 30th</p> <p>9:30 am to 12:00</p> <p>Or 6:30 to 8:30 pm</p> <p>Timed workshops, class meetings & student curriculum checked out. Be sure to arrive on time.</p> <p>No child care</p>
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La Vida provides a comprehensive curriculum and the majority of core subjects are done at home, with parents playing a critical role in their child's education. Once a month, Morning Institutes help provide parents with professional development and the support they need to do the job as parent educators.

"Academics through Social Engagement" is the motto of the onsite program, which is also inspired by the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, of which the school is a member. After two hours of math each day, including real-world math, students experience specialty electives, such as art, handwork, music, drama, science, American Sign Language, grid beam, herbal studies, rods and staves movement and more.

The fun starts this year with a Native American focus culminating in trips to the new native Wild Gardens Project at the Grace Hudson Museum and day-long workshops in paleotechnics with Tamara Wilder.

La Vida's back-to-school night is the Peace Day Ice Cream Social on September 18, and will be celebrated with the whole community doing a spiral dance. "Spirals in Nature" is the school theme this year. Spirals will be explored in math, art and science through the Fibonacci number sequence, growth patterns, galaxies, and sea shells. Students will study donated sea shells, personally collected from around the world by a local family.

This year's play performed at Thankfulness Feast, "The Pathfinders," is an original, written and directed by Mana Youngbear. Master calligrapher Jerri Jo Idarius will return, and so will Gary Martin, presenting Art Appreciation.

In high school, U.S. history through the Seabiscuit story is back. This year, based on the Seabiscuit story, students will create a hero's journey scenario in virtual reality on the Zspace computers. Science teachers are partnering with the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center for a variety of field trips and research projects.

Faculty and staff are: Marty Hinton, Lisa Burgess, Danielle Canaris, Nicolette Ferro, Andrew Miller, Fawn Bassett, Sarah Clark, Angela Lau, Isaac Hillhouse, Larry Cole, Karen Walsh, Meghan White, Edward Cannon, Kathleen Slowiczek, Michael Charnes, Mana Youngbear, Cody Dooley, Grace Rowan, Dan Miller and Nori Dolan.

Elementary parent orientation is August 28 and high school is August 30, with a morning and evening session. First day of school is September 4. Openings are available in ninth and 10th grade. For info, call 459-6344 or visit www.lavidaschool.org.

La Vida Charter School is located on Ridgewood Ranch, 16200 Highway 101. The ranch is 7 miles south of the center of Willits and 16 miles north of the center of Ukiah.

Where Nature Education Thrives

Openings Available in Grades 9-11

Join Us for Orientation

Elementary Aug. 28 • High School Aug. 30

707-459-6344

16201 Hwy 101, Ukiah

lavidaschool.org

provide the Little Lake Fire Protection District with a new firehouse – without a leaky roof, ADA-compliant, without a mold problem, and big enough for non-custom fire engines – allowing it to better serve the citizens of Willits. The replacement firehouse will be built on the same lot where the East Commercial Street firehouse currently stands.

The special tax Measure J will create if approved by two-thirds of the voters in the November 6 election would not exceed \$39 per unit – paid by property owners in the Little Lake Fire Protection District. A vacant parcel is considered one unit, and a parcel with a residence is considered two units. The special tax is estimated to raise \$409,500 each year it is in effect.

Without local funding, the firehouse project would not be possible. Grant funds are not available, the board was told, as neither state nor federal entities provide grants for projects of this kind.

However, unlike some tax measures, the funding for Measure J will not roll over to another project once the firehouse loan is paid off.

The motion to accept the language and details of Measure J as submitted was approved.

On August 14, discussion concerning the firehouse project and Measure J continued. The loan application for the new firehouse has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The contractor who completed the submission has been working on the loan application since 2012, and intends to see the project through to the end.

A response from the USDA regarding the loan is expected sometime this fall before the November election. Measure J lawn signs will be available at the firehouse in September.

Digital map grant received

Last month, the Little Lake Fire Protection District celebrated the receipt of a digital map grant. Work on the newly approved maps through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant program is underway. A cartographer has been identified and hired with the task of creating a mapping system that will allow firefighters to make accurate, efficient calls and navigate with certainty during a disaster. During the encroaching Redwood fire in 2017, firefighters had analogue maps only, a potential safety hazard.

New radios for Willits firefighters

In addition, a grant from the Volunteer Firefighter Association was approved for new communication radios. This is a 50/50 grant, which allows the department to purchase a new radio and receive another through grant funding. The radios will allow first responders to manage opposite sides of an incident without losing the ability to communicate with each other.

Illegal campfires spark concern

Though not on the agenda, when asked about the issue concerning people living outdoors and lighting campfires in this dry weather, Chief Wilkes mentioned some concern about lighting illegal fires on private property.

"My main concern," he said, "is our polluted creek beds and the lack of a plan for cleanup."

Wilkes also expressed a desire to gather stakeholders on the issue, formulate a plan, and put it into action.

It is important to note that safety regarding hazardous materials at these sites necessitates special equipment and education before action can take place safely. The public is discouraged from organizing clean-up crews without specific safety gear.

LLFD: July 'busiest month of the year'

In his report to the board, Chief Wilkes identified July as the busiest month of the year so far. Fires, traffic collisions, and service calls topped the list at 17, 16, and 18 incidents respectively. There were five calls for medical emergencies, six for miscellaneous hazards, and four for non-threatening events. That's a total of 66 calls in Willits alone.

Firefighters have responded to 380 calls so far this year.

Not only was July a busy month locally, Willits welcomed the safe return of a strike team sent to Redding to fight the Carr fire from July 26 to August 8. The Little Lake Fire Protection District is home to one of two agency strike team leaders in Mendocino County: a point of pride for the community and an invaluable educational resource for local volunteers.

"People from out of the area call us when they need help," explained Michelle Schnitzius, administrative manager for Little Lake Fire, about the merits of having a professional with strike team leadership experience in the Little Lake district.

Persons interested in volunteering with Little Lake Fire as a firefighter or other community service member, may call 459-6271, or visit the firehouse at 74 East Commercial Street.

County releases Fire Recovery Work Plan

A41-page "Redwood Complex Fire: Recovery Project Work Plan," released in early July, calls for \$75.9 million dollars in expenditures to help rebuild Redwood Valley and create economic resiliency throughout much of the rest of the county. Of that amount, \$10.35 million has already been received, or pledged. Another \$26.1 million has been identified as being available through potential sources of funding.

Assuming the county will receive every grant it has identified as a potential source of funding, \$39.5 million will be needed to fund all the projects identified by the county's Fire Recovery Team as necessary or desirable to allow the central part of the county to recover from the October 2017 fire.

The Fire Recovery Team has asked for public comment on the document. However, the public comment period ended on August 13. The plan may nevertheless be read online at www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=22092.

The main author of the plan, Kirstin Johnson, was hired in spring 2018, but her employment with the county recently ended.

The plan is remarkable in several ways. First, it asks the county to spend \$30 million to build at least 220 new affordable housing units in the Ukiah area. It recommends the county set aside \$7.2 million to be used to aid fire victims without fire insurance on October 8, 2017, or who were underinsured, so they can rebuild their homes. It also recommends the county set aside an additional \$4 million to provide rebates to people who want to use fire safe building materials when they rebuild their homes.

It assesses the cost of rebuilding and retrofitting the Redwood Valley County Water District infrastructure at \$9.3 million. The report notes that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is offering a grant valued at \$5.9 million to replace water mains and laterals needed to upgrade the district's infrastructure, and State Senator Mike McGuire has appropriated \$2 million in the state budget to serve as match money, if the County of Mendocino and the Redwood Valley Water District get the grant.

That would mean there will be a \$1.4 million shortfall if the county gets the grant and McGuire's fire recovery set-aside is still there when needed.

The report states it will cost \$8.1 million to repair public roads damaged by fire. It also notes FEMA has already obligated \$5.8 million for that work, while the Federal Highway Authority

has approved county requests for funding for three projects in Redwood and Potter valleys.

However, the FHA has denied funding requests for two other fire-damage road projects.

The most far-reaching aspect of the report may be the section detailing the county's progress and intention to create the position of Economic Recovery director. To that end, the county has applied for a two-year \$497,000 grant, which funds the position and provides \$50,000 each to West Company and the Economic Development Finance Corporation, who will serve as consultants to the Economic Recovery director.

The report suggests the county should be prepared to invest \$1.5 million to enhance economic resiliency.

It also notes that Ukiah businessman Ross Liberty is seeking a \$9 million grant to develop infrastructure and paved roads on his industrial park at the former Masonite site on North State Street in Ukiah.

Report author Johnson suggested the county develop and maintain what she termed a "whole community approach" to implementing its plans for fire recovery.

She detailed the advantages of that approach. "A whole community approach engages broad inclusion for all who may be affected in the case of an emergency. The County Fire Recovery Team will continue to build partnerships with local tribal governments to collaborate on project planning for the safety of all individuals, families and communities.

"More outreach is needed into other regional areas of the county, including a diversity of age groups, socioeconomic sectors, cultural groups, and non-English speaking communities to assure accessibility and bring forward full participation in both immediate and long-term recovery and to plan for future resilience," Johnson wrote in the plan. "A comprehensive strategy also positions Mendocino County for grant funding to implement identified projects across the functional areas of community emergency preparedness, housing, infrastructure, economic resiliency, health and human services, natural systems, and cultural resources.

"The implementation of these projects," she noted, "will increase the resilience of the areas impacted by the October 2017 wildfires as well as the diverse communities throughout the county in the face of increasing threats from wildfires and other climate change-related disasters."

\$2,000 scholarships available for best student videos featuring special districts

Sacramento – What is a special district? You tell us! Better yet, show us, and perhaps win a scholarship.

The "Districts Make the Difference" 2018 Student Video Contest for high school and college students challenges would-be filmmakers to produce a 60-second video that tells the story of a special district or districts in their community. The goal of each video is to increase public awareness and understanding of California's special districts and the services they provide to residents.

Entries may be submitted between August 27 and September 30. Finalists will be announced November 1, and winners announced in December.

The competition gives entrants an opportunity to practice filmmaking with the potential to win a \$2,000 scholarship while learning about perhaps the most enigmatic arm of local government – often unsung special districts that provide a wide range of specialized, focused services throughout California. Contestants may choose to tell the story of a local sewer and sanitation district, fire or public safety district, water district, or even a cemetery or park district. Contestants may work alone or in a team effort. Some may zoom their cameras in on something as specific as a mosquito abatement, airport, or healthcare districts. Others may choose to explore a complement of special districts that work together and provide a network of essential, specialized services to their community.

The video contest is organized by Districts Make the Difference, the public outreach campaign launched by the California Special Districts Association to highlight the important work of the almost 2,000 special districts in California. "This contest is one of our favorite programs each year," noted Neil McCormick, CEO of CSDA. "It provides students with the opportunity to learn about districts, show off their artistic talents, and express those talents in a way that helps educate the public – and perhaps win a scholarship in the process."

Entries will be judged using four criteria: accuracy and effectiveness, creativity and originality, production quality and entertainment value. Last year, videos were submitted from all over the state. Once submitted, a panel of CSDA officials will select five finalist videos, which will go through a month-long period of public voting to determine the winners. First, second and third-place scholarships will be awarded.

For more information about the contest and review the application and rules, visit: <http://districtsmakethedifference.org/video-contest>.

Formed in 1969, the California Special Districts Association is a 501(c)(6), not-for-profit association that promotes good governance and improved core local services through professional development, advocacy, and other services for all types of independent special districts. CSDA's members provide water, sewer, fire protection, parks, healthcare and other essential local services to millions of Californians.

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The locally owned newspaper!

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See form on Page 2!

Sex offender held for violating parole

A 25-year-old high-risk sex offender is being held without bail in county jail following an August 15 parole search of his Brooktrails home.

Jonathan Hoppner was paroled to Mendocino County in March 2017 following multiple sexual battery convictions in Sonoma County, according to Sheriff's Lt. Shannon Barney.

As a condition of his supervised release, Hoppner was prohibited from having access to social media sites used by minors, Barney said.

Yet during an early afternoon parole search of Hoppner's home in the 24100 block of Birch Place, sheriff's detectives found evidence that Hoppner "had been accessing and engaging persons on social media sites, placing him in violation of the terms of his parole."

Barney added the ages of the persons Hoppner interacted with "are unknown."

Hoppner wasn't at home during the parole search, but detectives returned to his residence shortly after 4 pm and took him into custody.

This report was based on a press release from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.



Jonathan Hoppner of Willits.

however – the expected full containment date is still September 1 – and 3,774 total personnel were still on duty as of Wednesday evening, fighting the record-breaking fire, the largest in recorded California history.

"The Ranch fire continued to burn through portions of grass, timber and brush in the steep terrain in north and northeastern portions of the fire area," Cal Fire reported in its Wednesday evening update. "Fire activity is expected to decrease this evening due to increased humidity and lower temperatures. Firefighters continue prepping for and executing firing operations as conditions allow. Crews will prep around structures to limit the impacts of fire spread around structures within the fire line."

Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman and Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin attended the funeral Monday of Battalion Chief Matt Burchett, of the Draper City, Utah, Fire Department, who was killed on August 13 while working on an active portion of the Ranch fire.

Little Lake Firefighters Association firefighter Dion Beckmann represented the Little Lake Fire District and Willits at the services as well, and brought donations from the Brooktrails and Willits fire departments for the fund set up for Burchett's family, as well as gratitude from the 95490 community.

The U.S. Forest Service announced that as of 7 am Wednesday morning, the California Interagency Incident Management Team 3 had assumed command of the western zone of the Ranch fire, while Cal Fire Team 2 would continue to manage the eastern zone. Ukiah will continue to host the incident command post for the western zone, and a new ICP is being set up at the fairgrounds in Orland for the eastern zone.

Roots Steam-Up

This year's festival is set for September 8 and 9, the weekend after Labor Day

This year we expect the Roots of Motive Power Festival – set for Saturday, September 8 and Sunday, September 9 – will be our best event ever. The weekend after Labor Day, whistles will be tooting and bells ringing at the Roots facility across from the Rec Grove, as Roots steams up for the 40th year in a row.

Historic train rides and old logging equipment demonstrations will be going on throughout the festival featuring: steam locomotives, a steam shovel, steam rollers, stationary engines, and tractors. During the festival, watch out for the famous bandit Black Bart who, with his gang, have been at it again, robbing trains in our area.

On Saturday, September 8, our annual Appreciation Barbecue begins at 4 p.m. We will be serving locally raised pork, lamb and beef (\$15 adults/\$6 kids). Live music, a silent auction and a raffle will fill the afternoon with cheers. And don't miss the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association, our guests in Recreation Grove Park, along with the Willits Shifters Classic Car Club.

Then on Sunday, the antique machine show continues with the addition of Steam Roller Street Printing. Our 1924 Buffalo Springfield Steam Roller will be making linoleum prints with the help of talented artists from around the state. You can try your hand at print-making and say you did it with an antique steam roller!

All in all, it's a unique show you won't want to miss: Save the date: September 8 and 9, 2018 for the Roots of Motive Power Festival. Directions: From Main Street in Willits, turn on East Commercial Street – you'll find Roots at 420 East Commercial Street.

– Submitted by Roots of Motive Power

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor, Bill Nobles
Information: 456-9668
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
•Sound of Soul events
•Membership Discourses
•Spiritual Discussions
•ECK Light & Sound Services
More Information?
Call 707-456-9934

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service & Children's Church - 11 a.m.
Mid-week Bible Studies
Potluck every 2nd Sunday
Alan Klier, Lead Pastor
459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Saturday confessions - 4:45 p.m.
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass
9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
We welcome All Walks of Faith

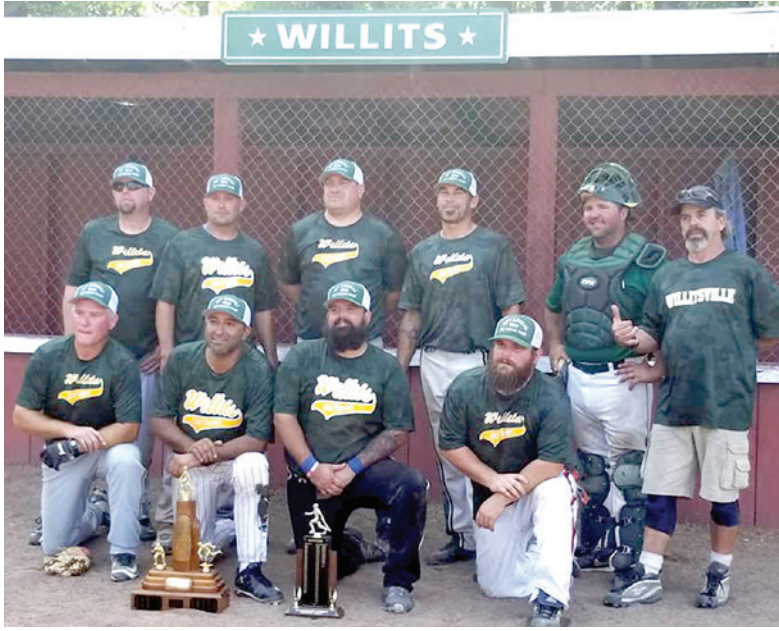
St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-459-3066
Church Services / Communion & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Healing Prayer 3rd Sunday
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Brunetti

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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If you want to be included in this column please call:
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Congratulations to the Willits Old Timers team for their narrow victory against Laytonville, in the 81st annual Old Timers Baseball Game on Saturday. Willits won 11-10.

The Old Timers Baseball Game is a celebration of America's national pastime, played each August at Harwood Park in Laytonville. It's a long-standing friendly rivalry between two neighboring towns.

Willits won in 2017, too, and will now get to keep the traveling version of the Boomer Kelton Trophy for another year.



Above, left: Roots of Motive Power's Heister steam locomotive. Above, right: The 1924 Buffalo Springfield Steam Roller heads for the barn. Far left: Heading to the Trainmaster's Office for tickets for rides on the historic train. At left: The crowd enjoys the Roots BBQ at the Rec Grove.



Above, left: Members of the Willits Team pose together with their trophy.

Photo by Johnetta Thomen

Above: The commemorative ball cap for the 81st annual Old Timer's Game.

Photo by Holly Madrigal

The rest of **Potter** | From Page 1

project and removal of Scott Dam, which forms Lake Pillsbury.

The two counties are almost diametrically opposed in their assessment of the Potter Valley Project, a tiny hydroelectric power plant that siphons water from the Eel River, runs it through a tunnel to generate 9.2 megawatts of power in Potter Valley. The project also channels an average of 159,000-acre feet of water a year from the Eel River into the Russian River.

When full, Lake Mendocino holds 122,400-acre feet of water.

"Since the completion of Coyote Valley Dam in 1959," the resolution notes, "the water released from the Potter Valley Project has been impounded and stored in Lake Mendocino and used for irrigation of crops, as well as domestic, municipal and industrial water supplies and has also provided significant recreational and environmental benefits and supports a hydroelectric project at Lake Mendocino.

"The direct and indirect economic value of this water supply annually derived from agricultural production within Mendocino County has been estimated at \$775 million with additional significant economic benefits in Sonoma County."

The Mendocino County resolution also points that more than 500,000 people "benefit directly or indirectly from the Potter Valley Project."

The Humboldt County resolution, however, looks at the Potter Valley Project differently:

"Residents and communities within Humboldt County depend on the Eel River for water supply, fishing, recreation, and many other uses," it notes, and Humboldt County "recognizes the importance of the Eel River to the Wiyot Tribe, Bear River Rancheria, Blue Lake Rancheria, Round Valley Indian Tribes, and other affected tribes for ceremonial, medicinal, practical, and subsistence uses."

The Potter Valley Project, Humboldt County claims, "has contributed to habitat degradation, declining fish populations, economic losses, and loss of recreational opportunities" and "redistributed the natural wealth of the Eel River to the detriment of downstream communities in Humboldt County," depriving those residents of "fully utilizing the resources of the Eel River."

The Mendocino County resolution, on the other hand, affirms "the Potter Valley Project provides a critically important section of [the county's] water supply infrastructure, and because of this fact, the [county] supports and will protect the continued diversion of water from the Eel River through the Potter Valley Project at current rates, amounts and timing."

The county also will continue "to actively participate in the hydropower relicensing process administered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and will work in good faith with all stakeholders, in both the Eel River and Russian River watersheds, who share the goals of preserving riverine beneficial uses while enhancing riverine conditions that will result in attaining sustainable populations of listed species of concern in both rivers."

The county endorses "the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission's desire to acquire the Potter Valley Project from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and to continue producing hydroelectric power under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's license conditions," as well as "regional fisheries' restoration efforts."

The county believes "it is incumbent upon all affected stakeholders to work diligently in a collaborative process to protect our shared water and public trust resources in both the Russian and the Eel Rivers."

Humboldt County, however, "believes that decommissioning and full or partial removal of the Potter Valley Project is inevitable due to the aging infrastructure,

The rest of **Sherwood** | From Page 1

only one main road in and out.

Weller asked supervisors to direct Dow and Associates, the staff for the Mendocino Council of Governments, to assist the group in obtaining copies of previous studies for the Brooktrails Second Access project.

Brooktrails resident Doreen Blumenfeld wants supervisors to create an early warning system to alert county residents when a disaster occurs in their neighborhood. Blumenfeld thanked the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office for recently adopting the Nixle system, but said that either the county or the Sheriff's Office should also hire a public information officer to work with Nixle. "Otherwise it's like using a flashlight with no batteries, when it's dark," she said.

"Facebook is not enough. Reverse 9-1-1 is not enough. We need an early warning system so we can choose to leave," she said.

The Sheriff's Office already had – and will continue to utilize as well – an emergency alert system through Everbridge which allows residents to receive alerts through a home or mobile phone, email, or texts.

Third District supervisorial candidate John Haschak, who has been attending meetings of the board of supervisors regularly for the past three months, urged the board to continue to work on expanding ingress and egress routes for Brooktrails and for other isolated communities in the county, and to work on Brooktrails Second Access issues.

Brooktrails Board of Directors member Tina Tyler-O'Shea asked the county to grade and maintain the western fork of Sherwood Road, which runs from the junction heading north to Laytonville westward to Fort Bragg.

She also asked the county to direct the Department of Transportation to apply for a Caltrans' climate adaptation planning grant, which would provide money for county transportation staff to work on issues like Brooktrails second access and Brooktrails emergency ingress-and-egress routes.

She told supervisors that Director of Transportation Howard Dashiell told Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey he did not have enough available staff in his department to apply for the grant.

Tyler-O'Shea noted there were other departments in the county that could work on the grant application – and named several.

Maria Bates said she wanted the county to put up sirens in the Brooktrails area to notify residents in case of emergency.

Paloma Hill suggested the county create an early warning system. "The county has an evacuation notification system. That's it," Hill said. "In the last three weeks, there were eight fires adjacent to the Sherwood Road corridor. There was no notification, but we managed to pick it up and to notify each other with our phone system. We are picking up information that the county already has, and we are not getting it directly from the county. Please set up a system to address this."

Keith Rutledge told supervisors that various sources of funding are now available to assist local groups working on vegetation management along private roads. He asked supervisors to provide additional funding to the Mendocino

The rest of **Permit** | From Page 1

clear and communicated, but that they continue our compliance and our understanding of the ordinance," Holmes told the board.

"One of the things that has been very challenging is to make sure that what is actually happening at the sites is represented in the document we all use to regulate the sites," he said.

"After over a year of being involved, we have been making the best progress I have seen since coming on board with the county," he added.

Holmes said he has been working with Code Enforcement Manager Trent Taylor "in determining what our final policies are."

"Yes, the permit lives in the Department of Ag," Holmes said, "but as [Commissioner of Agriculture Harinder] Grewal has said, our goal is to create a collaborative effort among all the departments involved in cannabis. That is complicated, but it is moving forward. And we're proud of that."

In the end, Holmes said, "we will finalize exactly how folks can go about renewing their permit, completing their tasks so they can either go on a notice of an application stay, or take a break if they've been issued a permit.

"Everyone has needs we are trying to get to," Holmes noted. "It is taking us some time. But if everyone continues to work with the department, I believe we will continue to see success."

Latest permit numbers
At the supervisors' August 7 meeting, Commissioner Grewal presented the latest report on the county's cannabis cultivation permit program.

As of July 30, the county had received 973 permit requests, issued 180, approved 47, and issued and approved 227. Forty-four permit requests have been withdrawn, 20 have been denied, 496 are under review, and another 186 are awaiting action.

During Grewal's report to the board of supervisors, Second District Supervisor John McCowen asked whether there was "a plan to expedite permit review?"

Grewal replied he and his staff were compiling a list of policies and procedures for the cannabis unit, and once they were in place "we'll be able to move more quickly. That is the plan. That is my hope. That is my belief: that it will speed up the work."

At Tuesday's board meeting, Grewal referred supervisors to the July 30 figures as being the most current.

County Resource Conservation District, so it can leverage available funding to assist various local groups engaged in that work.

Louis "Bigfoot" Schultz decried the lack of a second access route for Brooktrails and the stalemate he claimed resulted when the owner of the St. Francis Ranch, just east of Brooktrails, denied technical staff access to his property. "To me, this is an eminent domain issue. I talked to Howard Dashiell and he told me the owner of the land won't allow anybody on his land to do an EIR. And if he doesn't allow anybody on his land to do an EIR, then nothing moves forward.

"The second option ... would be through the KOA. The owner of KOA," Schultz claimed, "doesn't want the second access through his property, even an emergency second access.

Schultz asked supervisors to pressure property owners to cooperate. "In terms of a long-term second access," he said, "it's got to be one or the other."

"I just really wanted to commend the Sherwood Firewise group and the Brooktrails area," said Third District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey. "The firewise group had died down, and there's new life in it, and they are doing a lot for that area.

"I've had worked with them on some of the memoranda of understandings and signage, but they are doing a lot for their area, and even for people who are not involved, I hope they realize how much the firewise group is doing for this community."

Supervisor John McCowen and Sheriff Tom Allman said they would like to see the general item agendized for a future board meeting. Board Chairman Dan Hamburg replied the item had already been agendized for discussion and potential action at the September 25 board meeting.

The rest of **Food** | From Page 1

housed, on average, about 14 youths per day. The average jail population is about 300 inmates a day.

"It's a question of scale," Locatelli said.

Supervisor Dan Gjerde said the ad hoc committee recently appointed by the board to identify cost-saving measures at the hall is looking for more ways to save money there.

When county staff submitted a proposed budget to supervisors on June 5, county CEO Carmel Angelo recommended closing the hall and transporting youths, who otherwise would be destined for the hall, to the juvenile hall in Sonoma County. Supervisors rejected Angelo's proposal and instead found an additional \$1.18 million to keep the hall open.

However, at the time it was recognized the decision to keep juvenile hall open was potentially temporary. In the board of supervisors' response to the grand jury's report on the juvenile hall, the supervisors' ad hoc committee charged with drafting responses to the grand jury wrote: "Absent significant cost savings or additional revenue, the decision to keep juvenile hall open may be revisited.

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‘Follow My Ride’

Cowgirl makes a stop at Ridgewood Ranch on 150-mile ride through California and Oregon

By Roni McFadden

A lot has been said about the downside of social media. But, sometimes, some very good things happen because of it. One such case in point is the story of Deanne Sanderson.

I first heard of Sanderson's story when she contacted me through social media. The 56-year-old woman was looking for a place for her and her 17-year-old Arab / Morgan cross mare, Paris, to stay on her return trip during a month-long journey throughout California and Oregon.

Sanderson started planning her trip in February. Using a good old-fashioned road atlas, she mapped her course. Sanderson knew her destination in Salem, Oregon, but needed stops along the way and wanted to find people to show her the trails.

That's when she went to Facebook to find fellow equestrians. "Old Cowgirls Never Die – We Keep Riding" and "Horse Trails & Camping Across America" were great places to make contact. Not only did people offer to show the trails, some offered their ranches for overnights. The plan was put into action.

She started out July 2 in her hometown of Escondido. Her ultimate goal was to meet up with her daughter, Michaela, and camp around Oregon for a few weeks.

So, north she went, stopping to camp at places such as Shasta Valley Ranch, and finally reaching Salem and the home of her daughter. Together they went to many different spots in Oregon, sometimes just a day ride and sometimes camping for several days at horse camps. Those three weeks went by fast and before she knew it, it was time to head home. Her original route home took her east to the Lassen area, but she had to change those plans because of the fires.

So, back to social media Sanderson went. She got on the "Old Cowgirls" page and started looking for members of the page who lived along the 101 corridor instead of the planned route on I-5. She scanned some names and then saw my profile with a picture of my leopard Appaloosa horse. That was a

perfect fit since Michaela's 25-year-old horse, Dottie, is also a leopard appy!

Sanderson contacted me and asked if I knew of anywhere in Willits that an old cowgirl traveling alone with her horse could hold up for the night. I said, "I just might! How would you like to stay at Ridgewood Ranch, home of Seabiscuit?" Since I am on the board of the Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation, I quickly arranged for Sanderson to stay at the Ridgewood Ranch overnight.

On August 1, after spending two nights in Orick and riding through the redwoods both from Orick Rodeo grounds and Cuneo Creek, Sanderson pulled her truck and trailer into the ranch and parked in front of the historic mare barn where Paris got to spend the night in one of the stalls.

Ellen Bartholomew and Jacqueline Cooper graciously invited her to join them for dinner. She got a tour of the ranch and was fascinated by the history, past and present. Thursday morning started off with a horseback ride that included the two redwood groves on the ranch with Bartholomew and myself. Time went by far too fast and soon it was time to wish this newfound friend a safe journey home.

I asked her what made her decide to do a trip like this. She said the main thing was riding and camping with her daughter who is in her last year of college. The timing was right as both she and Paris are fit and healthy.

In all, she spent 153 miles in the saddle, and the most ridden in one day was 15.5 miles. She drove four to five hours each day from one destination to the next and logged 3,451 miles on her trusty Ford truck, rolling over 200K miles while on the trip. Asked what her favorite part of the trip was, she said being with her daughter, and all the new friends she made along the way. Her plan was to be home on August 4.

Sanderson has a Facebook page devoted to her journey called "Follow My Ride," if you would like to know more.

Roni McFadden is the author of "The Longest Trail" and "Josephine – A Tale of Hope and Happy Endings."



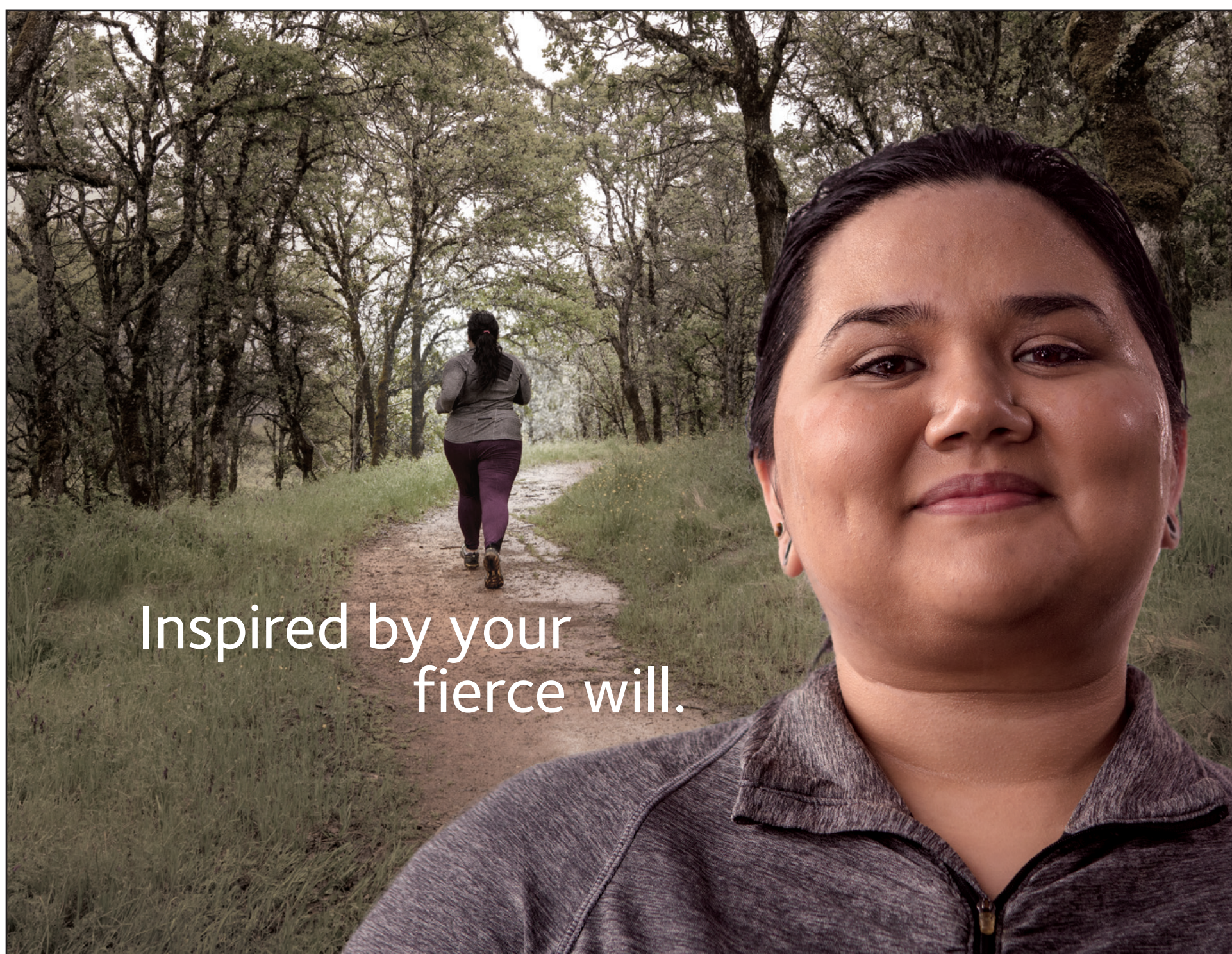
At top: Deanne Sanderson's horse trailer advertises her Facebook page called "Follow My Ride," which is devoted to her journey.

Above, left: Ellen Bartholomew on Biscuit, Roni McFadden on Taylor, and Deanne Sanderson on Paris tour the Ridgewood Ranch on horseback. Above, right: Paris rests in Seabiscuit's historic mare barn.

At left: Paris checks out the Seabiscuit memorial statue.

Below: Deanne Sanderson sits atop her 17-year-old Arab / Morgan cross mare, Paris, in front of the stud barn at Ridgewood Ranch.

Photos submitted by Roni McFadden



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