A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits Donations Accepted Edition No. 466 Thursday, August 25, 2022

Willits EST. 2013 Veek

PG&E choppers replacing power poles

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

Many Willits residents have been curious about helicopters heard flying in the area, which were especially audible last week.

Helicopters contracted by PG&E have been flying in 30 new steel power poles for one of their circuits running through Willits. These new poles, many along Highway 20 west of Willits, are replacing the old wooden power poles.

The choppers have been lowering poles directly to the work sites, and also transporting equipment and people to three landing sites in the general area, said Deanna Contreras, PG&E's North Bay media representative.

The project is part of PG&E's "system hardening efforts" in high fire-threat areas, Contreras said. The work replacing 30 poles started August 12, and was due to be finished August 24.

Two of the helicopters seen working along Highway 20 last week were a Bell UH-1, owned by Salmon River Helicopters out of Nampa, Idaho, and a Bell Rotorcraft, owned by HELIBRO LLC out of Red Bluff, California.

То learn more about PGE's Community Wildfire Safety Program, https://www.pge. visit com/en_US/safety/ emergency-preparedness/ natural-disaster/wildfires/ community-wildfire-safety. page



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Back to School Beautification

Willits Elementary Charter School gets fun, fresh paint and decor in classrooms and bathrooms for new school year

"Willits Elementary Charter freshened its look in two classrooms, following the interests and passions of teachers in grades 2 and 5," explained WECS director Charlene Bredder.

"Rebecca Daun Widner painted a garden theme in the second-grade room, with plants and a 'quiet corner' for calming down," Bredder continued, "and Lisa Shepherd, fourth-grade classroom aide and owner of Drift Wood Homes, painted a space theme in the fifth-grade room, and also gave the bathrooms a big makeover, with the theme of 'Spread Kindness.' The school plans to paint two more classrooms in themes next year," Bredder said.

The artful additions make the campus feel bright, shiny and new for the upcoming year, and for students who will be back in session on Monday, August 29.

To learn more about WECS, call 459-1400 or visit www. willitselementarycharter.com.

- Maureen Jennison





At top: Fifth-grade teacher Mr. N (Ashkan Nahreini) enjoys his space wall and guitar display. Above: Rebecca Daun Widner enjoys her painted - and live - plants in her classroom. At left: Lisa Shepherd

remember releases returned CO BOS to create grants for public records requests

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table 🛈 group

willitsweekly@gmail.com

Forrest Glyer Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

Just a few days after a county ordinance went into effect charging fees for those requesting public records, last week the Board of Supervisors directed staff to create a program to allow local media members to apply for grants to cover their fees, which now range from \$20 to \$150 per hour for staff time used to fulfill the requests.

The ordinance which put the fees in place was enacted by the board July 12, and the idea to allow media members to have their fees covered came after criticism arose from journalists at local outlets including Sarah Reith of KZYX and Kate Maxwell of Mendo Voice.

Reith, Maxwell and others argued that the high fees would obstruct transparency of the county government and impede the ability of the media and others with legitimate interests to obtain records.

The fee amounts are separated by category, with \$20 per hour charged for more simple "search fees" to "locate, retrieve,

Read the rest of Records

Humane Society shelter out of room for cats

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

"We are at catpacity," the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino announced on Facebook over the weekend. "We currently have 193 cats and kittens in our care and are unable to take more until we have some movement with adoptions."

This follow's last week's announcement by the Mendocino County Animal Shelter that their dog kennels are full.

"Our staff works incredibly hard to care for all these cats every single day," the Humane Society's August 20 post continues, "and the food and medical care adds up really quickly. So here's how you can help:

1) ADOPT! Need a forever friend? We have

Read the rest of Shelter

Over on page 13



painted colorful and kind messaging in the bathrooms. Below, from left: Shepherd paints the nebula in the space classroom. Widner holds the inspiration for her calendar painting in the second-grade classroom. Mr. N gets to the bookcase with books - now that the paint has dried!









Charter Directors

Willits Elementary Charter, Willits Charter and La Vida Charter schools directors welcome back their students for the 2022/2023 school year including, above, from left: Charlene Bredder, Mark Page-Botelho and Ann Kelly.

Over on page 6

CAL **FIRE's** new vision' for Jackson Forest Submitted by CAL FIRE

Following months of collaborative discussions and consultations with community members, Tribal leaders, conservation organizations and forest operators, the California Department of Forestry Protection Fire and released a new vision on Friday, August 19, outlining how the Jackson **Demonstration State Forest** will be managed in the age of climate change. The document is available on our website at www.fire. ca.gov/media/nm2pdccu/ jdsf-modernization-vision-8-18-22final.pdf

Shared as a series of action steps - some already taken, with others to be incorporated by the Jackson Advisory Group into future management plans - the vision grounds the Jackson Demonstration State Forest in a foundation of science and equity.

One of the most prominent additions included in the

Read the rest of CAL FIRE Over on page 6

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Goodbye from Dr. Dawson To the Editor:

Dear Willits: It is with a heavy heart but much optimism that I am writing to inform any friends, neighbors, or patients who haven't heard yet that I am closing my orthopaedic surgery practice in Willits.

I am joining a large medical group in Hawaii.

It has been an honor to be treated with so much respect from the community that I grew up in. I will always treasure the old Howard Hospital motto of "Neighbors helping neighbors," as that is what I have tried to do here.

Those who need records can email requests to irhdawson@ willitsortho.com. With much love.

Jeremiah Dawson MD, Willits

Free large item

'Dump Week' in Covelo Submitted by Caltrans

Caltrans, the County of Mendocino, Solid Wastes of Willits, Round Valley Indian Tribes, and the Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council will host a free large item Dump Week this week at the Covelo Transfer Station, 90500 Refuse Road

Dump Week started August 22 and continues through Saturday, August 27, from 9 am to 3 pm or until capacity is reached.

Future Dump Day events include one to be held in Willits: date to be announced.

This Dump Week event, where Covelo area residents can properly dispose of their unwanted, bulky items, is made possible by Governor Gavin Newsom's Clean California initiative, a sweeping \$1.1 billion, multi-year clean-up effort led by Caltrans to remove trash, create thousands of jobs, and engage communities to transform public spaces.

This Dump Day collection is limited to furniture. appliances, mattresses, scrap metal, accumulated trash, tires (limit 9 per load), and other large, bulky household items.

No construction materials, business waste, electronics, hazardous waste, treated wood waste, or asbestos of any type will be accepted.

Clean California Dump Days are open to all residents in the area.

This is part of a series of Dump Day events planned for Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino counties. Future events include Casper and Willits communities. Please remember to secure your load.

Community Foundation seeking field-of-interest grant proposals

Submitted by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County is pleased to announce \$166,000 in available funding from its Field-of-Interest Grant Program. Field-ofinterest funds are established to make grants in specified areas of interest (e.g., the environment or human services), specified geographical areas. or both. Nonprofit organizations throughout Mendocino County are invited to submit proposals online by September 22, 2022, by 5 pm.

Grants will be available from eight different field-ofinterest funds. Available funding includes:

• Arts in the Schools Endowment Fund: total \$6,000; grant range \$1,000 to \$6,000.

· Blood Bank of the Redwoods Legacy Fund: total \$5,000; grant range \$500 to \$2,500.

· Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund: total \$75,000; grant range \$1,000 to \$7,500.

• Environmental Education and Conservation Fund: total \$10,000; grant range \$1,000 to \$5,000.

• Health and Human Services Funds: total \$50,000; grant range \$1,000 to \$5,000

· John and Sandra Mayfield Family Economic Development Fund: total \$15,000; grant range \$5,000 to \$15,000.

• Releaf Tree Planting Fund: total \$5,000; grant range \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Guidelines and a link to the online application are available at www.communityfound.org. Questions about eligibility, guidelines or the application may be directed to Meredith DeLucia, program officer, at 707-468-9882 x103 or email Meredith@communityfound. org.

Field-of-interest funds are created with a specific area of interest in mind, but anyone can contribute to these funds. You can join with others who have a shared passion to help your giving go further together.

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County is a county-wide nonprofit organization that administers permanent charitable funds established through gifts and bequests from individuals, families, businesses. and other organizations. Our mission is to offer people effective ways to engage in advancing the well-being of our communities. For more information, visit www. communityfound.org or call 707-468-9882.

Summer Art Walk, August 27: Make prints at the Museum

Join us this Saturday, August 27 at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits, from 5-to 8 pm, as part of another Willits Summer Art Walk! We will be hosting our final Introduction to Printmaking workshop with Miss Rossi

Bring a friend and learn to create linoleum block prints and contribute a print to our Community Printmaking display.

The fourth-Saturday Art Walks are being held from

June through October this year, inviting residents and

visitors to "stroll the streets of Willits to discover local

artists, new venues, and eateries right here in our

The following participants are sponsors of the Willits

Summer Art Walks: Willits Center for the Arts. 71 East

Commercial Street; Mendocino County Museum, 400

East Commercial Street; Mendocino College, North

County Center, 372 East Commercial Street; BACE,

109 North Main Street (next to Northspur Brewerv):

Kemmy's Pies, 299 East Commercial Street; Scoops,

110 North Main Street; Shanachie Pub, 50 South

Main Street; Art on the Plaza, 99 South Main Street;

illits

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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□ 1 year - \$75 □ Additional donation included \$

(call for details)

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Home delivery: 1 year - \$50 (Home Delivery only available in Willits, Brooktrails & local areas)

and RE Evolution, 15 West Mendocino Avenue.

\$7 material fee applies; workshop is for ages 10+.

own backyard."

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance launches pledge drive, awards

Submitted by Mendocino Cannabis Alliance

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, the premier cannabis trade association in Mendocino County, is undertaking a pledge drive from August 15 to September 19 to support their essential policy advocacy, as well as their business-development work helping members bring their licensed products to market.

The Pledge of Alliance Drive will culminate at the Mendocino Cannabis Advocacy Awards which will celebrate leaders in the Mendocino County community who have gone above and beyond to advocate for our local legacy cannabis cultivators and businesses.

For this inaugural event, MCA will be honoring: Hannah Nelson, attorney and MCA senior policy advisor; Jude Thilman, medical cannabis educator, Dragonfly Wellness Center owner, and MCA president; and Casey O'Neill, co-owner of HappyDay Farms, emeritus member of the MCA Policy Committee, and founding member of MCA.

As the voice of cannabis in Mendocino, MCA makes sure the best interests of the entire community are represented in their advocacy efforts. In 2020 the licensed cannabis operators of Mendocino County generated over \$110M of economic activity within the county in a cultivation footprint of less than 300 acres.

Since then, the wholesale cannabis market has crashed while the cost of living and doing business has increased, and the ever-changing regulatory process has drained the resources from most of our small local businesses.

Many licensed operators have fallowed parts or all of their gardens to conserve resources while still working to remain compliant in the licensed market. The direness of this situation requires immediate and sustained attention if Mendocino County is to protect this vital component of our local economy.

It is MCA's commitment to continue moving sustainable local cannabis policies forward, and to do this MCA will need the support not only of its members, but of the Mendocino County community at large

Recent MCA advocacy successes have included:

• the adoption of a fallowing program that will reduce the minimum tax for licensed operators who voluntarily reduce the amount of their canopy below certain levels

• a commitment from the Cannabis Department not to deny any applicants engaging with them until an appeals process has been developed and implemented

• a commitment from county counsel and county staff to develop and implement an appeals process for applicants

• the ability for local equity operators to use equity funds for county cannabis taxes

• direction from the Board of Supervisors and the Cannabis Ad Hoc to the Cannabis Department to revise the Equity Manual to allow any uses not explicitly prohibited by the state



Above, from left: Cindy Bodensteiner, who spoke of her experiences as an operating room nurse for 50 years, poses for a photo with her husband, Dr. Gary Bodensteiner, and their two granddaughters. Current Adventist Health administrator Linda Givens speaks with one-time controller Carlton Jacobson. A small but enthusiastic crowd listens to the entertaining stories and memories.

At right: The lions which guarded the entrance to the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital are removed from the grounds.

Below: Attendees who were born in the hospital pose for a group photo: from left, Lorelie Choate, Ken Mace, unidentified, Margaret Eutenier, Laurel Morris, Lee Persico, Randy Weston and Chuck Persico. Photos by Mathew Caine

Hospital Wake

Past staff and patients say goodbye to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, which is scheduled for demolition

"This is a sad occasion and it just broke our hearts to have to make this decision but it cost the Howard Foundation \$10,000 per month for seven years," sighed Margie Handley, president and chairman of the board of the Howard Foundation, as she watched the iconic lions being dismantled and removed from the entrance, the day before the "wake" for the old Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. "That's \$840,000 we've spent trying to keep the building," she said.

On Saturday, August 20, a group of residents and ex-residents. Mathew Caine whose lives had intersected with the old Howard Hospital, gathered L mathew@willitsweekly.com on the lawn at the back of the building to hear stories and memories,

eat food prepared by Gloria Westby and Roots Restaurant, and say goodbye to the beloved building. The old hospital is scheduled for demolition; probably beginning in October, after asbestos and other toxic materials have been mitigated.

"Through the years, vandalism has just trashed the inside," explained Handley. "All the windows have been broken out. Somebody came in and spray-painted all over the wall where people wrote farewells when we moved out of the hospital. We caught a man in the attic about a month ago, lighting matches, trying to burn it down. Somebody saw some smoke, called the fire department.

"At one point in time," Handley continued, "we found people trying to tear all the plumbing out underneath the hospital for the copper. We found a guy living upstairs. Most people didn't even know that was there. It was a space where doctors could go sleep, way back. Some guy was living up there. There were signs that he had been living there a while.









Dump Day events are organized to further the goal of keeping California highways and waterways litterfree as part of the Clean California Initiative. Visit CleanCA.com to learn more about how Clean California is transforming communities with Dump Day events to keep trash from reaching our roads and waterways.

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047 willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633

Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographress / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047

Jackie Cobbs, features editor

Mathew Caine, photographer / features writer / mathew@willitsweekly.com

Forrest Glyer, reporter / forrest@willitsweekly.com

Barbara O'Reardon, Brooktrails reporter / willitsweekly@gmail.com

Danya Davis, Police Log / danya@willitsweekly.com

Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter / margi@willitsweekly.com

Debbie Boone Harry, features writer / debbie@willitsweekly.com

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707- 972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com

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· ongoing stakeholder meetings with Supervisor Haschak, the Cannabis Department, the CEO's office and other appropriate state agencies and local departments

Throughout this drive MCA will be reaching out to businesses across the county who understand the important role that licensed cannabis activity plays in the stability of Mendocino County's future. MCA invites all locally licensed cannabis operators (and anyone who wants to see a sustainable approach to local cannabis regulations) to join as members, or to support as sponsors.

The Pledge of Alliance Drive is a chance for the entire Mendocino County community to come together and ensure that MCA's important work continues in service to all of Mendocino County.

MCA has already received a commitment for a matching-funds donation of up to \$20,000 for funds raised during this drive, making each donation, sponsorship, or new member signup even more valuable to the future of the organization.

OFFIE

free

share

Read the rest of Over on page 15 Cannabis

support good

"The hospital property was appraised for 2.5 million dollars," she said, "so that's what we listed it at. We didn't get any response. We lowered the price and kept lowering it. We had it down to \$900,000. We were even willing to donate it to a non-profit.

"This facility was built in 1928, after Frankie [Howard] was killed in 1926," Handley recounted. "Dr. Babcock told his parents that if there was a hospital here, he probably could have saved his life. He wrote out a check for \$42,000 in 1928 [approximately \$700,000 in today's dollars]. Dr. Babcock had already been raising money for the hospital.

"Some people are calling this a wake," said Handley, "and some people are calling it a 'celebration of life.' For some of the people who have worked here for 40 or 50 years, it's really sad for them. Their whole lives were spent in these halls."

Amongst the tears and sad farewells, laughter was heard loudly, as one by one, those who had experienced the zeitgeist of this institution of healing, spoke about their mostly humorous encounters within the walls.

> Read the rest of Over on page 11 Howard





At top, left: Margie Handley, president of the Howard Foundation, sadly holds the plaque created when the hospital was decommissioned. At top, right: Collages of past staff and doctors are on display. Above: The iconic lions, which have been recently bronzed, await their removal and preservation. At left: The staff posed for this helicopter shot of the hospital's monogram a few years ago. Below: Dr. Tedd Dawson, who has spent 40 years in the operating room, addresses the crowd. Known within the staff as the "Boob Lady," Chris Borycki was the X-ray mammogram technician. Below: A fixture at the hospital since the early 1970s, Dr. Bruce Andich took the MC duties, sharing his quips and anecdotes.





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Willits Weekly's **Puzzle Page**

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

day reporting period.

August 15

August 16

10:27

11:48

12:32

Summary of Active Investigations

and Arrests

2:44 am: Officers initiated a

11:33 am: IRELAND,

Casey Allan (28) of Willits

was contacted in the 1600

block of South Main Street

He was arrested on felony

am:

am:

pm:

responded to a report of

illegal camping in the 300

7:50 pm: HENDERSON,

8:27 pm: Officers initiated a

pm:

pm:

Officers

Officers

8:53

11:51

Officers

Officers

Officers

theft investigation in the 800

block of South Main Street.

		6	2						HOW TO SUDOKU
		3			4	1	6		Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid,
9		8					4		broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku,
		9			7				the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column
				3					and box. Each number can appear only once in each
	5	1	6		8				row, column and box. You can figure out the order
	2							5	in which the numbers will appear by using the
			3			6			numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The
				5		9	3		more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ne puzzle! charges of grand theft. **MAKE THE GRADE WORD SEARCH** August 17 responded to a report of threats in the 200 block of ΤΥΥΟΥ СТ В South Main Street. ΕL ТЅХА J 0 S responded to a report of an 0 NG E Α S G R unwanted subject in the 100 0 D block of East Commercial ΖJΧ C R Street. 0 R S block of Robert Drive. 0 R Ρ D N G RESRU Skylar Ty (23) of Willits was ICLAS contacted in the 800 block G R P Z P A T S S R G J G X S X IR of South Main Street. He I N I Y V G F E A Z Y V E G A R E V A F N R E M E M B E R M A X E Z X B LRZT **AVERAGE** GRADUATE RANKING CLASSROOM HOMEWORK REMEMBER COURSE **KNOWLEDGE** REPORT EDUCATION LEARNING RETAIN EXAM MEMORIZE SCHOOL content of 0.08 percent or FAIL PASS SUPPLIES higher and possession of a GOALS SYLLABUS PROFESSOR controlled substance. GRADES QUIZ TRAJECTORY

theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street. responded to a report of unwanted subjects in the 300 block of Robert Drive. 23

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT **POLICE LOG**

August 15 to August 20 By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

Casey Ireland of Willits.

Eric Petterson of

Lavtonville.

The officers of the Willits Police 272 PC (Contributing to the Delinquency of Department handled **88 incidents** in this 6 a Minor), and on felony charges of cruelty to a child (inflicting injury).

> 7:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Hazel Street and issued a citation.

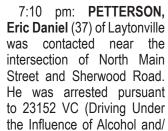
8:13 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

9:13 Officers pm: responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of South Main Street.

August 19

4:10 pm: BOLTON IV, John William (46) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of West Commercial Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 Percent or Higher).

4:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.



or Drugs), and on misdemeanor charges was arrested pursuant to 11364 H&S of driving with a suspended license, (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), 11377 possession of drug paraphernalia, violation H&S (Possession of Methamphetamine), of probation, and a penalty for a second 148 (A) (1) PC (Resisting Arrest), 1203.2 offense within 10 years. PC (Violation of Probation), and on

Street.

misdemeanor charges of driving under the August 20 influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol

1:43 am: VILLEGAS, Damian (30) of Willits was contacted in the 500 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 245 PC (Assault with a Deadly Weapon). 4:53 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial

responded to a report of 8:34 am: Officers responded unwanted subjects in the to a report of suspicious Damian Villegas of Willits. 1700 block of South Main activity near the intersection Street and issued a warning of West Commercial Street and South Main Street and August 18 issued a warning. 11:08 Officers am: 12:21 pm: Officers initiated esponded to a report of an a theft investigation in the 800 unwanted subject in the 100 block of South Main Street. block of West Commercial Street. 8:55 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 5:04 LESLEY, pm: block of Mill Street. Samantha Aline (54) of Willits was contacted in the 600 block Officers 11:52 pm: of Hawthorne Lane. She was responded to a disturbance in arrested pursuant to 273 (A) the 1700 block of South Main Samantha Lesley of Willits. PC (Child Endangerment), Street **Willits Swimming Pool Information** Fall 2022 August 29, 2022– October 28, 2022 Schedule Monday- Thursday 6:00am-9:00am Lap Swim 4:00pm-5:00pm Aqua Aerobics **Admission Price** Lap Swim \$5 \$7 Aqua Aerobics Senior Discount \$6

Eager Leo

Leo always wants to go wherever you're going. He loves hanging out with people, and is great on a leash. He is very responsive and picks up on commands quickly. He knows "sit," "stay," "paw" and "lay down." He is highly treat motivated and excited to

learn more commands! Leo arrived at Milo via the Mendocino County Shelter, and it was quite clear he was looking for, waiting for, HIS person. He was pretty shut down. Well, his person couldn't come for him, so he came to the Milo Sanctuary. It took him some time to

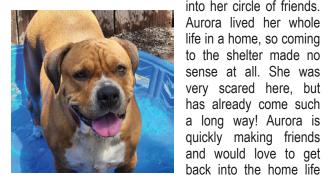
relax and gain trust.

Once he started taking walks and spending time with our staff, he began to trust again, and now is full of enthusiasm! Now his tail is up and wagging. He is so happy to go on walks and out to our pasture to play ball! Leo would do best with an active family, and would be happy to be the only dog. He can do well with other dogs, but he is selective.

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

Aurora the Sweetheart

Meet our big, beautiful gal, Aurora! This princess has the sweetest face and is a real doll once she accepts you into her circle of friends.

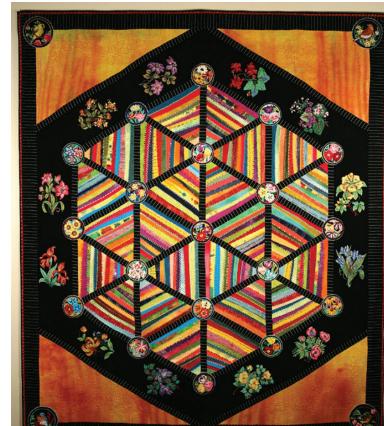


that she knows, and get out of this heat! Aurora enjoys the company of other dogs and is 100 pounds of sensitive love! If you would like to add this beauty to your family, you can apply at www. mendohumanesociety.com

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

Happy Cat

Happy is just what her name implies, happy. This 1-yearold kitty likes to run around and seems more interested in the environment than people. She does, however, come in for head scratches and pets when she wants to.





At left: "String Quartet" by Ann Horton. Above: Appliqué sweater by Laura Fogg. Below: Quilt by Nan Trichler. At bottom: Man and merman dolls by Charlotte

Woven Artworks

Willits Center for the Arts presents fabric creations from 16 artists; opening night this Saturday

Submitted by the Willits Center for the Arts

The Willits Center for the Arts September show presents "Made in Mendocino," a show of what artists can do with fabrics. There will be guilts, installation art, mobiles, and handmade clothes along with a selection of hand-painted clothes by Pearl Marill.

All the artists included are from Willits and Ukiah. The show features work by Laura Fogg, Ursula Partch, Holly Brackmann, Ann Horton, Nan Trichler, Charlotte Tefft, Betty Lacy, Gretchen Moore, and eight other artists.

The show concentrates on the many ways fabric is used for art Lacy has created mobiles of fabric that float with the slightest wind. Fogg presents her complex political statements in a mandala with the United Nations statement of women worldwide embroidered into it. Partch will show an installation piece called "Redwoods Saved," made of woven fibers of cotton and wool. The piece stands 8-feetby-6-feet and will amaze viewers.

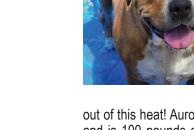
Meet the artists this Saturday, August 27, from 6 to 9 pm. The show runs through September 22. The WCA gallery is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm.

The Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street, next to Noyo Theatre. For more information, call 459-1726 or email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org.

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provide, and refile" records, and up to \$150 per hour for any "specialized search" that requires a county attorney to "review and/or reasonably segregate disclosable public records from the materials that are exempt from disclosure."

In arguing for the fee ordinance County Counsel Christian Curtis said at a June 21 BOS meeting that the county received nearly 5 public records requests per day, which took up a significant amount of their attorneys' time

Curtis said that it was common for business interests to request records for market research and to help create mailing lists, and also claimed that some who were upset with the county would continually make records requests with the goal of purposely wasting its time and resources.

At the August 16 meeting, the criteria to determine who is in "media" and therefore able to have their fees paid with grants was not decided, but Curtis recommended using something like circulation numbers rather than anything to do with the type or quality of journalism.

"I really want to make sure that I'm clear on this up front," he said. "From a First Amendment standpoint, every piece of criteria is going to have to be viewpoint neutral. So we can't look at things like the quality of the reporting, or how accurate we think the information is. It's really got to be something that's tied to things like circulation – something that is showing that this is something that is effectively reaching a sufficiently sized audience to be a worthwhile investment of the public funds and an efficient use of the resources."

Reith pointed out that volunteers sometimes helped out with research for her reports, and she hoped that the new resolution would be broad enough to allow for such workers, who often prefer anonymity, to be included for record request fee grants.

"I really appreciate this effort to make sure the media can have access to this," said Reith. "It's encouraging because I commented on it and a bunch of other colleagues on the media landscape commented, and it really is wonderful to feel like you're being responded to democratically.

"But I just do want to point out that there are a lot of other folks who are just kind of tangentially connected with media, or they're advocacy groups," she added. "And I feel like there are a lot of people who really deserve to have public records and they're not trying to abuse the system ... and so I really want to encourage as much transparency as possible.

Following her comments, Curtis asked Reith if she would give more input "offline" outside the meeting as to how best set up the grant program, and she agreed at the time.

However, she later stated in a KZYX report that while she remains "encouraged by the willingness to consider my input," she "ultimately bowed out of the meeting" with Curtis "after reflecting that I do not personally believe the ordinance is perfectible.

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance Director Michael Katz argued during public comment at the meeting that others in addition to local media should be allowed to have free access to the county's public records.

He said there's been "a lack of transparency in certain things" by the county, and that basic requests for information are often not responded to.

by the supervisors, and Board Chair Ted Williams said The rest of he was hopeful they could strike a balance between the competing interests

"So I have some of the same concerns as the public comment, but I also recognize that it would be possible for somebody to request every document that we have and the county government would be shut down for years," said Williams. "You've got to find that balance of how do we not impede media or the rights of individuals, and at the same time not be subsidizing out-of-state corporations that want to generate mailing lists. Or people who just want to be punitive, giving us requests that they actually don't care about just to use staff time.

"So I'm supportive because I think maybe we found that balance, but I can accept in six months when we review we may have to adjust further," he concluded.

Behavioral Health report

The supervisors also heard an annual report from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board at the August 16 restoring redwood forests; meeting.

As described in their report, the BHAB "consists of 15 board members" from all five districts "who represent consumers, family members, and the public," and advise the board of supervisors and the Behavioral Health director on mental health issues in the county.

The annual report described many successes BHAB was involved in over the last year, but Chair Michelle Rich said at the meeting that there are still many challenges for mental health treatment in the county, especially lack of adequate staffing, housing, and children's services.

Rich said that the effects of isolation during the COVID lockdown era are still reverberating in the community in the form of mental health ailments.

"I think that overall we've seen really extraordinary numbers of people needing behavioral health services at higher levels of severity, largely due to COVID and isolation - restrictions around those - especially with our youth," she said. "At the same time we have had a challenge retaining and recruiting providers at all levels of staffing."

"I know the ... agencies in the county work very hard to be competitive, but the reality is there's just not enough providers across the country, and it's particularly difficult to recruit in our rural area," she continued. "So the challenge is if we can't get people from the outside, we really do need to think about how we can raise our own providers from rehab specialists all the way up through clinicians ¹

Rich and the BHAB advised that the supervisors create an ad hoc committee "to make actionable recommendations on how to create a pipeline, and create recruitment incentives to have more people who can provide these services.'

"I think that the staff that we have in the county who do this work are doing incredible, incredible work," said Rich. "They work very hard, they're very dedicated to their clients. There's just not enough of them, and that does create strain and burden, and high levels of management activities for the forest burnout.'

She also spoke about the struggle to meet demand for children's behavioral health services.

"For many, many years the children's system of care was very stable, and was meeting the needs of our children," she said. "It's been difficult to keep up with the increase in need for children in the last few years. And this has resulted in less timeliness of service, and families not really getting the help they need when they need it most.



future vision: introducing a new forest co-management concept with sovereign Tribal nations that regard the area in Mendocino County as their ancestral home.

The vision also includes guiding principles to inform an updated management plan. Other key items include CAL FIRE and California Natural Resources Agency leaders devoting an added \$10 million to support forest operations, aiming to remove any potential pressure on timber harvests to cover costs. Several new seats have been added to the Jackson Advisory Group, including a Tribal member and a redwood scientist, and CAL FIRE requested an update to the Jackson Management Plan four years early. Specifically, these additions include:

• Updating the 10-year Jackson Management Plan to focus on climate science and research, restoration ecology and economies, and further exploration of the multiple benefits of

• Expanding the Jackson Advisory Group to incorporate a breadth of expertise and experiences as the group advises CAL FIRE on JDSF management issues;

Establishing a Tribal Advisory Council and dedicating percentages of revenue generated from the forest for Tribal priorities, among other activities to come from co-management agreements:

• Dedicating \$10 million in General Fund dollars to cover administrative and management costs, thus alleviating revenue pressures on the forest while seeking permanent funding for implementing the new vision:

• Revising operations so that current timber plans focus on smaller trees and halting removal of trees over 48 inches in diameter, including permanent protection of large, specified trees for enhancing future carbon sequestration; and prioritizing forest management that demonstrates climate resiliency outcomes and large, complex forest conditions.

• Continuing efforts to prioritize communication and public engagement efforts throughout this work.

"We are proud to share this new vision for the future of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest, one that reflects the many different perspectives that cherish the forest as we do," said Deputy Director of Resource Management, Matthew Reischman.

"We've arrived here because of the commitment of many to come to the table and find solutions with us on critically important forest management issues," Deputy Director Reischman continued. "We are proud that months of tough discussions have come together for a historic path forward for forest management in California - and a vision that both aims to fulfill previous commitments while launching new opportunity."

CAL FIRE's and California Natural Resources Agency's new vision was released at the Jackson Advisory Group's regular meeting on August 19, where it was shared in a public forum. The Jackson Advisory Group represents a broad spectrum of natural resource, community, Tribal and conservation stakeholders and serves as the advisory body for reviewing

"This has been a long and thorough process focused on the first steps of modernizing the Demonstration Forest model. We couldn't be more grateful to the Tribal leaders who have been front and center with the conversations, the community around Jackson Forest, CAL FIRE, and the California Natural Resources Agency for all of the incredible time and effort they have put into this endeavor," Senator Mike McGuire said

"Obviously there is much more work ahead with the advancement of the master plan, but I believe this is an excellent start. Refocusing Jackson to be a place of research on the climate crisis and wildfire resiliency is crucial to so many of us on the North Coast and around the state.'





A letter from

The Executive Director of La Vida Charter School

Ann Kelly

Dear Community:

We are happy to be gathering together again and sensing that families are wanting to return to community experiences

such as events and, especially, field trips which the pandemic disrupted.

The plan at La Video Charter School is to offer a number of field trip opportunities that reflect this year's theme of "Animals and People Working Together."

The Donkey Rescue in Hopland, Safari West, Bison, Koi and Sheep ranches, plus Seabisicuit-themed trips (the school mascot), as well as a trip to Angel Island are on the

docket of activities for the year. The fall play, a musical, "The Chinese Zodiac," a panorama of animals in a cosmic race, echoes the year's theme.

The school community says farewell to much-loved staff members who have moved on, and welcomes a number of new teachers and staff members who express excitement and pleasure to be part of the La Vida team on the beautiful Ridgewood Ranch, home of Seabiscuit.

We now have several faculty members who have relocated from Southern California and are very appreciative of the beauty

is enhanced by optional culturally rich on-site classes two days per week, Monday Tuesday for K-8, and Wednesday, Thursday for high school students. The membership in the Alliance For

Public Waldorf Education is an important influence for the school. At this time the school is full with a waiting list.

The process of measuring student individual growth starts in the first weeks with diagnostics in reading and math, and then growth continues to be measured in the fall and spring with the MAP Test (Measures of Academic Progress)

This is also the year for the WASC Accreditation Self Study (Western Association of

Schools and Colleges). The community is held together through communications via the Parent Square app that allows everyone to receive announcements in their method and language of choice.

May it be a wonderful year of exploration, discovery and accomplishment for all.



WELCOME BACK

TO SCHOOL!

Above: La Vida faculty and staff with their animal totems reflecting the year's theme of "Animals and People Working Together."



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WILLITS CLASSES - FALL 2022

FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

PSY-210 LIFE SPAN & DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY Section #0211 - Late Start 8/2722 - 12/3/22 On Ground meetings: 9/10, 10/8, 11/5, and 12/3 from 9:00-11:50 AM in Room 8030

HST-222 NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY Section #0219 - Late Start 8/27/22 - 12/03/22

On Ground meetings: 9/10, 10/8, 11/5, and 12/3 from 12:30-3:20 PM in Room 8020 BUS-200 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

In the past when items that could easily have been provided by email have not been," said Katz, "it has been a requirement to go through a public records request process in order to get something that would just normally be seen as part of the discourse about how to deal with issues that arise between the regulators and those being regulated."

"So I would encourage, in the spirit of openness that was just expressed," he continued, "that not just media, but also local associations and groups that are invested and dedicated to the future of Mendocino County can also have access to this important tool.

Maxwell said she believed that the county fee ordinance is basically illegal, since it violates the California Public Records Act.

"But I've also spoken at length with county counsel, and also several Freedom of the Press advocacy groups, about what the legal options are to sort of addressing what seems to be the issue at the heart of this," said Maxwell, "which is that residents of California are supposed to be able to have free and accessible oversight over information about the activities of their elected officials and these government agencies.

"One of the reasons that [the California Public Records Act] has been created as a broad act that is not supposed to include intent or create these different classes," Maxwell said, is so that, as Michael [Katz] said, everyone who might have an interest in what their government officials and agencies are doing should be able to have free access to review those records.

"And the burden of that cost is not on the resident. nor should it be on the media applicants to fill out these forms.... It seems like the county is just creating more and more layers of staff time and complications on something that is actually fairly simple under California law."

Curtis countered that the county charging for record requests does not violate the Records Act, though he acknowledged that the act "does not authorize the sort of fees that are covered by this ordinance.'

"However ... the language in the [Records Act] contemplates that the charges might be authorized by other statutes," said Curtis. "And specific to counties, there is a mechanism where fees may be charged by statute if the board chooses to [with an] ordinance, as long as those fees do not exceed the actual cost of the service to be provided."

The August 16 resolution to "direct the creation of a local media organization public records request grant program and fund" was eventually approved unanimously

"And that's really unusual I think in the history of the scope of the children's system of care," she added. "If we don't address the needs of our children now, it's going to create higher levels of need when they're adults when it's more expensive and harder to treat."

Lack of housing was the final point Rich wanted to emphasize to the board.

"I think that housing continues to be one of the prime issues, and I know that's not new," she said. "It's hard to get people stable if they don't have adequate housing. And so the BHAB continues to advocate for housing for the seriously mentally ill population and, really, housing at all levels to keep people from experiencing more serious mental health symptoms."

The BHAB had 10 regular meetings and two special meetings over the last year, and their report talked of the several ongoing Measure B projects which they have been involved with, along with many other mental health activities in the county.

"We had a robust calendar of topics including reports from Behavioral Health Staff on Mental Health Student Service Act, services at the jail, LPS conservatorships, Mental Health Services Act, the Cultural Diversity Committee, and North County Services, outreach and stigma reduction, local training opportunities for law enforcement interactions with individuals experiencing mental health symptoms, housing programs, and Assisted Outpatient Treatment," the report read.

Grand Jury ad hocs

Also at the meeting the board created six separate ad hoc committees, some with just one supervisor, to respond to six different grand jury reports pertaining to the county in 2021-22.

All of the "final reports" of the grand jury were issued in June and July of this year, including one report highly critical of the county's Cannabis Equity Grant Program, subtitled: "Building the Airplane while It's Flying." Other subjects of the reports included an assessment of the county's handling of Measure B projects, maintenance and renovations needed at the county jail, and the short supply of water in the Redwood Valley Water district.

The ad hocs' responses to the jury reports are expected to be presented at the next supervisors meeting on September 13, and to be linked to that agenda prior to management/resource-protection-improvement/demon the meeting

As operational details are further developed for implementation, staff will continue work on previous contractual commitments for the remainder of the year with the actions listed above incorporated immediately into these operations. This includes ongoing government-to-government consultations with Tribal partners and regular public updates to the JAG and others.

"The Nature Conservancy supports this new vision bringing Tribal expertise and critical scientific questions to the center of Jackson's management actions in partnership with CAL FIRE. This new vision will help modernize the management of the Jackson State Forest and inform environmentally sustainable forestry practices in the age of climate change," said Jay Ziegler, director of External Affairs and Policy, the Nature Conservancy.

"Save the Redwoods League is honored to join the Jackson Advisory Group and help shape the future management of this important coast redwood forest," said Sam Hodder, president and CEO for Save the Redwoods League. "The Jackson Demonstration Forest is a living laboratory that will help us answer critical questions about how best to restore California's coastal redwood forests to be a source of resilience and carbon sequestration and biodiversity in an era of climate disruption.

"We are excited to partner with CAL FIRE, indigenous, Tribal, and native people, and conservation partners in shaping future management activities to promote sustainable restoration and recreation management that can be applied across the entire coast redwood geography."

CAL FIRE's nine demonstration state forests, including Jackson Forest, serve as a living laboratory for how to care for and manage California's forestlands for multiple benefits, including ecological and watershed protection, wood products and timber production, recreation, and habitat restoration.

The Jackson Forest provides unique research and demonstration opportunities in a coastal redwood forest, where environmental scientists, foresters, and other researchers can study the effects of various forest management and restoration techniques. Potential Elder Tree retention, road abandonment for improved instream fisheries habitat, forest thinning to increase forest resilience to fire, and regeneration studies are a few examples of research practices underway at Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

For more information about the Jackson Demonstration State Forest, visit: www.fire.ca.gov/programs/resourcestration-state-forests/jackson

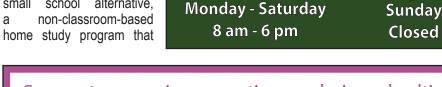
age where former students are returning to La Vida as employees and even as a teacher. Teachers are also fortunate to work with two OF GROWTH FOR highly accomplished Waldorf mentors for classroom

of Mendocino County. The

school has matured to an

support and for school-wide

vision Orientation and Curriculum Check Out kick off the year before the first day of school on August 29. La Vida continues as a small school alternative, non-classroom-based а



HERE'S TO A YEAR

OUR STUDENTS!



Section #0204 - Late Start 8/27/22 - 12/3/22 On Ground meetings: 8/27, 9/24, 10/22, and 11/19 from 9:00-11:50 AM in Room 8020 CDV-180 CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

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

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

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Finn Shipp is looking forward

Eniov life as it is





to another great school year.

to welcome you home to Dylan you are the coolest and Willits! We hope your first mom and dad love you and all day at your new school was of the excitement you bring amazing! everywhere you go!





Ryder Elmore, headed to kindergarten at Sherwood.

vear







A letter from The Director of First day of the 2022-23 school **Willits Charter School**

Mark Page-Botelho

With life returning to normal after many years of pandemic related setbacks and constraints, Willits Charter School is planning on expanding its arts- and sciencebased program this year. The goal of WCS is to create a strong focus towards

> creating learning environments that are tailored to individual student needs and interests. With updated facilities and faculty, WCS is situated to continue to offer its students choice in their academic endeavors.

> With a new regulation-sized gym nearing completion, including a full-sized stage, WCS will be offering indoor athletics and stage performances year-round. Additionally, the new gym will allow WCS to host more community events and to create a learning environment where students can have more opportunities to showcase their skills and projects.

Originally I'm from Half Moon Bay, California. It is the small hometown feel that I grew up with that attracted me to WCS. A good part of my adult life was spent in Eugene. Oregon, which also has

many similarities with Willits in that the community is very diverse in terms of politics and lifestyles. More recently I've been working as an American international teacher/ administrator in many countries around the world

As the new director with a great deal of international school experience, I plan on strengthening the community focus and expanding both curriculum and social development opportunities for our students. I also believe that schools have a duty to mold students to be more aware of their role in a global society.

Leading by example and utilizing my educational technology expertise, I plan on creating a program that helps students utilize technology in both its ability to help students as a learning tool and with new skills to be more competitive in today's technologically focused world.

WCS will continue to offer an authentic learning environment where student individual needs are paramount and where a focus on the arts and sciences takes center stage. With a renewed emphasis and inclusion of social, environmental, and global perspectives, students attending WCS will be positioned to be contributing members of society where confidence and social participation will become a part of their ethos. Preparing our students for whatever career pathway they choose is encouraged by the strong learning community at WCS.

> Willits Elementary

> > Charter

School is celebrating

We would like to thank

the Willits Community

for your continued

support a<u>s we learn and</u>

grow together

ears

of fun and learning!



Daniel Hosford is the big kid on campus as a 2nd grader Alissa and Ella Randrup at Brookside Elementary this Swinney first day of 6th grade.

Habits of Successful Students • use zoom link above



Kindergarten.

Community-submitted well wishes to students

Arabella Mondo is officially a 7th grader! We love you and hope you have an awesome year, love Mom and Dad.



'You're off to great places. School bells are ringing loud Today is your first day! Your and clear. vacation's over. mountain is waiting, so get school is here! on your way!" Archer Payne



Oscar's first day of First Grade.



Wade Hosford is going into 3rd second grade. grade and it's his first day at Blosser Lane Elementar



First day of high school for Happy first day of school to A letter from ...

The Director of **Willits Elementary Charter School**

Charlene Bredder

Willits Elementary Charter School will be opening its doors on August 29 for our 10th year! In celebration of our 10th anniversary, we will have activities throughout the year that reflect our gratefulness for where we have come from and a look ahead to where we want to go.

To kick off the year, we had a float in the July 4th Willits Parade. We will have more fun events, especially since the theme for the beginning of the year is "Community. We will have field trips and activities to strengthen and recognize the community we are part of and contribute to.

We will focus on strengthening three core essentials for learning. First, continuing to develop a strong professional learning community where all adults focus on the learning of all students, ensuring that students who are having difficulty with a concept get extra support, and students who have mastered the concept get to use their knowledge in challenging ways.

Second, implementing a robust literacy program that provides targeted interventions

to all students who need help with reading. Third, using inquiry-based learning to encourage students to develop more skills outside the traditionally measured skills (such as public speaking, organizing, teamwork, planning, and taking responsibility)

We will continue our leadership-development projects and program with grades four and five. Last year, students planned bake sales to raise money for soccer goals, playground equipment, field trips, and other projects they saw that the school needed

Students in grade four planned a whole-school field trip to Camp Wente (the local Boy Scout camp), which included grades three, four and five sleeping overnight. We know student leadership will continue to work on very cool projects in the coming year and look forward to more student-led adventures as a school.

As in the past four years, WECS will offer nutritious meals to all students free of charge, 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 sugarfree campus.

We will continue our focus on developing empathy for others and responsibility for our own actions. Students participate in daily morning meetings, where problems and challenges are discussed and we grow as a community.

WECS continues to offer strong science, music, art and Spanish programs. WECS has quality, low-cost before- and after-school programs. We hope to be able to have our after-school enrichment clubs for our older students this year (including guitar, science, yearbook and more).

WECS is a free, public K-5 charter school for Willits and other local school district students. We have on-site as well as Independent Study classes. Students in Independent Study complete coursework designed around gradelevel standards as well as students' individual interests.

Becky Button is the Independent Study teacher, and says: "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."

Students in the Independent Study program are also able to attend the after-

We would like to thank the Willits community for all the support throughout the

years. We could not be celebrating 10 years without community involvement and

the heavy lifting of many parents, teachers, and community members. Thank you



year at our beloved little

Emma is off to second grade

Paislev Elmore, headed 2nd

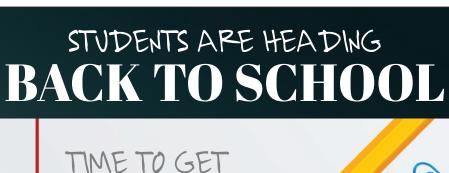
grade Sherwood.

Sherwood School.

going to be an amazing school

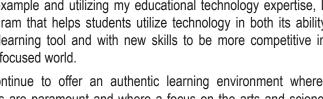


6th grade.





Cailin, 5th grade and Caden,



Congrats to these three beauties! Layla, Mariah and Cassie.

Ellie's first day of preschool.

High With Three Control of the With States of the States o

Christian Ramirez, first day

as a junior. Rickey Ramirez,

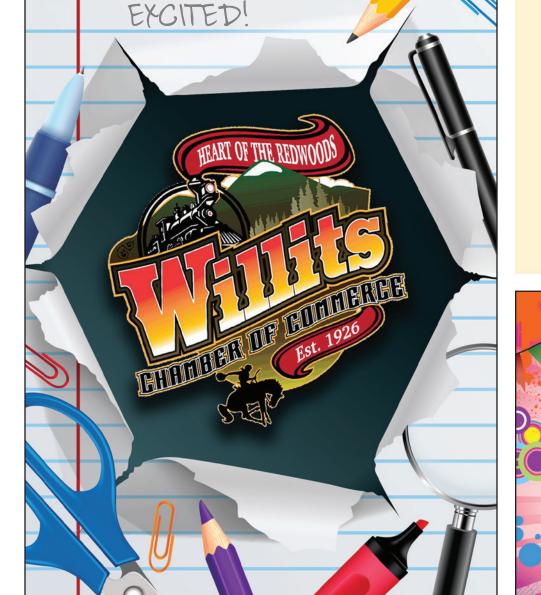
first day as a freshman. Go

Wolverines!!!

arade.

This is Nash. he is 8 and in 3rd





REMEMBER TO PLEASE **SHOP LOCAL** FOR CLOTHES AND SUPPLIES

A MESSAGE FROM THE WILLITS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

rue., August oven 12.00 - 1.20 pm	Organization, campus resources, study tips, reading a syllabus
Tue., September 6th 12:30 - 1:20 pm	Tackling Text Book Reading • use zoom link above Benefits of the SQ3R strategy, bring your text book!
Tue., September 13th 12:30 - 1:20 pm	Test Taking Tips • use zoom link above Multiple Choice and Essay test taking strategies
Tue., September 20th 12:30 - 1:20 pm	Test Preparation and Test Anxiety • use zoom link above Take specific steps to improve confidence and eliminate test anxiety
Tue., November 1st 12:30 - 1:20 pm	Test Taking Tips • use zoom link above Multiple Choice and Essay test taking strategies
Tue., November 15th 12:30 - 1:20 pm	Test Preparation and Test Anxiety • use zoom link above Take specific steps to improve confidence and eliminate test anxiety

MENDOCINO COLLEGE

Zoom Study Skills Workshops - Fall 2022

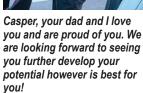
Free: No sign-up necessary - Please login on time

https://mendocino-edu.zoom.us/j/98021296186

All workshops are taught by instructor Tascha Whetzel via Zoom. Please call 468.3151 or email at twhetzel@mendocino.edu if you have any questions.

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A LOCALLY OWNED MERCANTILE

Emma Jones

First day of 2nd Grade for

First day of Kindergarten for

Grayson Jones

more years of education and contribution to our community.

We'll have some more in next week's edition for the other schools, too!

for joining our journey. We look forward to many

Thank you to everyone who contributed a photo for the community collage.

Email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com



School Photo Schedule 2022/2023

It's almost school photo time! I'm excited to see you all again and can't want to photograph all the smil-ing faces! Here's who I am planning to see and when - mark down notes on those calendars and more information will come about times and details as the date approaches!

Monday, 9/19 and Wednesday 9/21: Imagination Station Preschool/Childcare Center Wednesday, 9/28 and Thursday, 9/29: Willits Elementary Charter School Tuesday, 10/4: Sherwood Elementary School Tuesday, 10/4 and Thursday. 10/6: Lavida Independent Study Charter School Thursday, 10/6: Willits Charter: A Public School for the Arts & Sciences Wednesday, 10/12: First Steps Daycare Friday, 10/14: Shanél Valley Academy Thursday, 10/20 and Friday, 10/21: Deep Valley Christian School

Senior photos for Willits High School, Sanhedrin High School and the Willits Charter School will be in January 2023 like usual - more info on those as they get closer, too!



Willits Weekly | August 25, 2022 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 **Pg. 9**

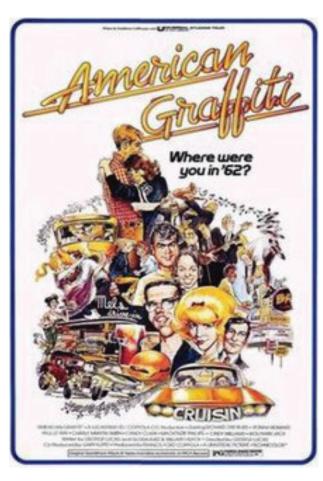
this guy. Year #34 as a public school program and take part in clubs.

school educator, year #25 as an administrator. Year #8 (I think?) as principal of Ukiah









COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'American Graffiti'

The Story: Comedy and drama. It's 1962. Remember high school? The popular kids? The regulars? The nerds? The wild ones who were just a little bit threatening? This flick has them all.

It's a summer night in a small

town. Graduating high school

seniors are cruising Main

Street. On all the car radios,

Wolfman Jack is blasting

Fifties rock 'n' roll. Everyone



Dan Essman

is hungry for something, looking for romance, for sex, or showing off their boss rides. Or just hoping, maybe, to be seen

Teenagers on the edge of adulthood, but no one is quite there, not yet. Some of the teens have plans to get out of town, to change, to see more of the big world. Some are sad and hoping for everything to remain the same. This flick, made by writer/director George "pre-Star Wars" Lucas, weaves together several stories in tribute to summer nights in his home town, a place only a little bit bigger than Willits.

My Thoughts: The tagline on the movie posters is "Where were you in '62?" The Willits High School Graduating Class of 1962 is having their 60th class reunion and asked the Noyo Theatre to run "American Graffiti" as part of the celebration. This well-made and influential movie was released in 1973. That was only 11 years later than the period which the flick memorializes. Even then, that period at the end of the Fifties felt hazy and golden, a kind of a lost paradise.

Maybe it's because the Sixties were so very noisy: LSD, hippies, Vietnam, the Kennedy brothers assassinated, MLK assassinated, the Black Panthers gunned down. Perhaps we were right to mourn and memorialize the era. Today, and I'm not really joking, in celebrating "American Graffiti" we're celebrating nostalgia for nostalgia. It kinda echoes.



Above: Annie Chapman gets her fancy butterfly kite in the air on Sunday, August 21. Above, right: Father and son get their kite high in the sky. At right: Brian Ferri-Taylor shows off his owl kite at the 2nd Annual Willits Kite Fly Up.

Below: Kite Fly Up organizer Greg Suvagian with his handmade

At bottom: A young family flies their sea turtle kite.







'Send it Soaring'

Kites of all colors and shapes fill the sky at the Second Annual Willits Kite Fly Up on Sunday

Enthusiasm was stronger than the wind as kite flyers athered on Sunday, August 21, for the Second Annual Willits Kite Fly Up event, organized by Greg Suvagian.

Fellow kite fans Annie Debbie Boone Harry and Phil Chapman arrived eatures Writer early to help set up the shade tent and chairs, to

create a nice gathering place for the event. Colorful kites were hung up to draw attention, but it didn't take long for fun-seekers to arrive.

A young mom walked up with her two small daughters, who had never flown a kite before. A child-sized butterfly kite was quickly assembled and within moments, the tiny kite caught a breeze and the young girl felt the tug of a kite in flight for the first time.

The wide-eyed excitement on her face was priceless. She instantly proclaimed, "I love flying kites!" Her little sister cried and wanted to fly the kite, too. So, another small kite

> Read the rest of Over on page 11 Soaring

Willits Swimming Pool

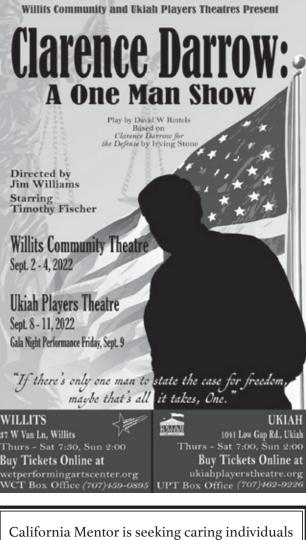
Fall Schedule

The City of Willits has announced the fall swimming schedule for the Willits City Pool, from August 29 to October 28, 2022 The Willits City Pool is located to the north of Willits High

School's main building at 299 North Main Street. The pool will be open Monday through Thursday, from 6 to 9 am for lap swim, and from 4 to 5 pm for Aqua Aerobics.

Admission price is \$5 for lap swim; \$7 for aqua aerobics; \$6 senior discount.

for more information, call: 1-707-459-5778.



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Invites applications for:

Animal Facility Attendant – Extra-Help

Corrections Deputy

Senior Center

menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$7. Thursday, August 25: Chicken & Rice Casserole, Roll, Green Salad

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

Monday, August 29: Beef Enchiladas, Rice, Beans Tuesday, August 30: Chicken Parmesan, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

over Rice. Roll Thursday, September 1: Turkey w/Amish Noodles, Green Salad, Roll

Wednesday, August 31, Kielbasa w/Peppers & Onions

Friday, September 2: Cheeseburger, Mac Salad

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

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

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

Mariposa Market **Customer Appreciation** Day, August 27

Customer Appreciation Day at Mariposa Market is Saturday, August 27, from 10 am to 4 pm.

The 43rd year celebration of WIllits' organic and natural foods store features Live Music, Face Painting, Tasty Bites, Raffle Baskets and more.

Mariposa Market is located at 500 South Main Street in Willits. Visit www.mariposamarket.com or the "Mariposa Market" Willits page on Facebook.

The rest of From page 3 Howard

Dr. Bruce Andich, who was part of the influx of "young Turks" from the Bay Area in the 1970s, deftly handled the master of ceremonies duty with his guips and anecdotes from his many years at Howard Hospital, having seen so many come and go over his time.

"This institution was the melting pot," Andich recounted. "Evervone came here at some time. There were two hospitals in Ukiah but that was a long way and there was nothing north of here until Eureka or Fortuna. The 'young Turks' are old codgers now."

Blue Angel fighter jet kite. Parents joined in with their kids Andich introduced all the speakers with, "And this person and kites rose up from all over the large field. needs no introduction," prior to introducing Handle one-time hospital controller Carlton Jacobson; Dr. Tedd Dawson, surgeon for 40 years; Cindy Bodensteiner, a 50-year operating room nurse; and Chris Borycki, known affectionately as the "Boob Lady" for her many years of work in mammography. Each of the speakers had stories of the people they had known and worked with, conditions of the staff administration and facilities through the years, tales of personalities, and fist fights in the parking lot.

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For Rent Clean and Quiet Studio Apt. walking distance to downtown, garbage pd. \$725.00 per month plus deposit. Armco Management. 707-459-	helping others cope naturally with their aches and pains. Evening availability. In home service available. Conditions apply. Call 707-518-0086.
Help Wanted Senior Center has (2) Employment Opportunities: Outreach	Room For Rent Room for Rent. Must have job and references. No pets. No drugs. \$600/ month and \$200 deposit. 1-707-354-0287.
Worker, entry level (32 hours weekly), and Transportation Dispatcher (40 hours weekly). Pick up applications at 1501 Baechtel Road or email resumes to wsidirector@ willitsseniorcenter.com	RV/Trailer Space for Rent Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call
\mathbf{W}	Tony (707) 972-4696. See at http://www. oaknvine.net/tp

The rest of From page 10 Soaring

was unpacked and their mom joined in the fun, also.

As soccer players left the field, kites started filling the sky with color and shapes of all sort. Aside from the traditional kite styles and newer, triangular "Delta" kites, novelty kites of all types added a delightful whimsy to the aerial show.

Not one, but two turtles took to the sky. Annie Chapman's colorful and frilly butterfly kite was probably the most beautiful kite at the event, but its fancy design struggled to stay aloft, as the wind subsided

Brian and Kathleen Ferri-Taylor brought their realisticlooking owl kite, which was a good flier. Brian explained that his owl kite not only flies for fun. It has a dual-purpose, serving as a woodpecker deterrent on his property. So, it's a "working kite."

As more kite fliers joined in, there was a "fly over" by a

Parents: It's (horny) teenage humor. So, teens and up. Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.



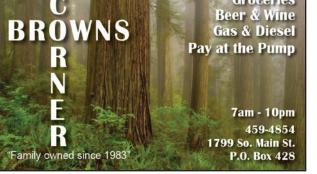


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Saturday August 27th 10am-4pm Deputy County Counsel II/III/IIV Deputy District Attorney I/II/III Deputy Probation Officer I/II Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II Eligibility Specialist III

Juvenile Corrections Officer Juvenile Corrections Officer -Extra-Help Planner III Public Health Nurse Public Safety Dispatcher **Registered Nurse** Senior Public Health Nurse Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D Social Worker Assistant I/II Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C Supervising Public Health Nurse Vocational Assistant For a complete list of current job openings and to apply: www.governmentjobs.com/careers/ <u>mendocinoca</u> EOE

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Andich told one such story: "The married Irv Stoeller, administrator, ran away with Janis, the otherwise alsomarried director of nurses," mused Andich. "There was absolutely no warning or notice. We woke the next day to a hospital with a serious leadership deficit. Jann Lamprich seized the moment and became the administrator.

"The spurned Mrs. Stoeller then began a relationship with the new anesthesiologist, who came to us from San Francisco with high recommendations but failed to mention his serious addiction to cocaine which came to light when he ran his Porsche into a tree.'

Amongst the laughter, there was a serious feeling of loss and sadness, as if the fond memories were trying to overcome the inevitable destruction of this muchbeloved building. Through the years, science and politics have created many changes in an ever-evolving medical practice, but they do nothing to erase the love of this hospital in which so many were born and treated, and in which many have died or spent their entire professional careers.

S N O W S H O E S

GALOP JIMMYFALL

AVAIL

MASSY

WB

ADO

MENAGE

After a few hours, as the sun lowered toward the western hills, the winds calmed, challenging the skills of the kite fliers. Switching to lighter kite styles bought more flight time for some, but eventually the wind gusts became gentle breezes and it was time to pack the kites away for the day.

The field slowly cleared of people and kites, as the wind died down. Then, event organizer Suvagian brought out a handmade kite he built. It was a box-type kite, but a more intricate design. When the other kites were grounded for lack of wind, Suvagian's delicate creation came to life in the smallest wafts of air.

Packing up was a time to share stories of the fun day and plan for the next Kite Fly Up event, which may happen this spring.

So, stay tuned and "let's go fly a kite and send it soaring!"

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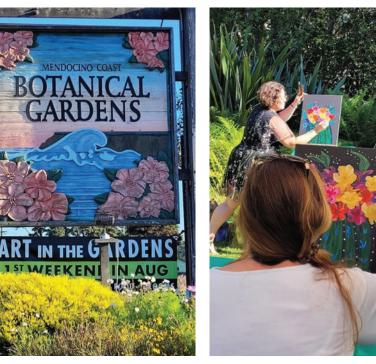
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Above, from left: John Fisher and Sandy Oppenheimer, who have offered their beautiful artwork at Art in the Gardens since 2012, smile at this year's event. The Real Sarahs take the stage. The dahlia gardens are an eye-popping highlight of the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens for many visitors. At right: This pop-up labyrinth offers some active meditation time at Art in the Gardens. At far right: Memorial benches allow hikers to rest and reflect along the "Path to the Sea" at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. Below: Miss Rossi's Paint & Sip classes are a big crowd-pleaser at the 2022 Art in the Gardens event. At bottom, left: The sign for Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens welcomes visitors to Art in the Gardens on Saturday, August 6 and Sunday, August 7. At bottom, right: A painter enjoys participating in Miss Rossi's Paint & Sip class.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde











'Art in the Gardens'

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg hosts annual event of art vendors and live music

Colorful flags billowed in the breeze as morning fog kissed the Mendocino coast. Anticipation was in the air at the 29th annual Art in the Gardens event, at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg on August 6 and 7.

Margi Gomez Guhde nargie@willitsweeklv.com

The vibe was mellow but focused as artists and craftspeople set up their booths and displayed their wares on the garden's large events lawn. Friends who had not seen each other through the COVID years shouted out greetings and chatted happily.

Over 40 vendors set up at Art in the Gardens this year, with mediums ranging from homemade pet products to high art. Jewelry, paintings, ceramics, mosaics, silk-screens, woodwork, and other unique and diverse offerings offered shoppers much to choose from.

The range of art media was stunning, from whimsical mosaic birdbaths and birdhouses, to giant pomegranates and pinecones in wood-fired ceramics. Wood sculpture and landscape, figurative and abstract paintings to please every taste proved that the universal appeal of art and nature was the main draw at Art in the Gardens.

This was the 29th year of the Art in the Gardens event. Attendence, on average, has been around 1,200 people for the two-day event, but this year the organizers saw around 1,600 visitors. Events coordinator Jamie Campione laughed when I asked how long this much-anticipated event took to

Read the rest of organize. Over on page 15 Gardens "I work on [Art in the Gardens] all



A look back:

the August Complex fires

Fog in the morning again in Willits the last couple of days has kept the temperatures lower and the fire danger less.

Two years ago, in mid-August 2020 the August Jennifer Poole Complex lightning fires were on their way to Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com becoming the largest wildfire in California history

burning 1 million acres across seven counties. The fires also produced a huge amount of smoke across Northern California.

On September 8, 2020 in Willits, there was so much smoke that it was dark as midnight at 3 pm, and all the streetlights came on - with videos to prove it. All that smoke also helped put down the local Oak Fire, which was a potential threat to Willits until the wind changed.

CAL FIRE's Forest Health program published a look back at these fires this week, titled: "August Complex: A Wildfire Resilience Success Story: Forest Health treatments yield important management insights."

"Even the most devastating incident provides an opportunity to learn," CAL FIRE posted on Facebook about this story. "The 2020 fire year was unprecedented, with more than 4.3 million acres burned and citizens across the state kept under a blanket of smoky air for months.

"Despite the devastation, there were successes and lessons learned about how fuels reduction projects interact with wildfire and fire suppression tactics. The August Complex, the first California wildfire to reach more than 1 million acres, began on August 18 after several days of dry lightning produced more than 12,000 strikes.

"As a result, more than 90% of the Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Project in the Mendocino National Forest was burned over. At the time of the fire, just more than half of the planned fuel reduction treatments had taken place and were in different stages of completion. How the treatments fared and the lessons learned is the subject of this featured success story."

Below is the text; to see the full story with photos and maps, visit https:// storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1a0a88e7872e48919831793fd496b814

In mid-August, 2020, a plume of moist air from Tropical Storm Fausto headed northwards, mixing with a hot, dry, high pressure system that had been situated over California and Nevada. The resulting atmospheric instability produced an unprecedented dry lightning storm. Between August 16 and August 18, more than 12,000 lightning strikes were recorded, resulting in some 585 ignitions.

Of those ignitions, 37 would go on to constitute the August Complex. Producing fires that were substantial in the own right – such as the Elkhorn and Doe fires – they would eventually merge, leaving a millionacre footprint across seven counties.

The August Complex burned from August 18 to November 12, 2020. It ultimately consumed 1,032,648 acres, around 1% of the state's total

landmass.

The August Complex burned across three national forests – including Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity, and Six Rivers - and seven counties, including Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, Tehama, Glenn, Lake, and Colusa.

Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership Project

Critics wouldn't look at a "giga fire" like the August Complex and find much success in it. However, every incident provides an opportunity to evaluate the result and adapt future practices based on that result.

The Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership provided one such opportunity. Under a CAL FIRE Forest Health grant awarded to the Tehama County Resource Conservation District, in collaboration with the Mendocino National Forest (Paskenta), and Crane Mills, the August Complex allowed for a comparative study in fuels management practices that will guide management decisions well into the future.

The area has an extensive fire history, but all prior incidents dwarf in

Willits man killed in motorcycle accident

Submitted by the California Highway Patrol, Garberville

of Ukiah was attempting to merge his white 2013

the ramp from Talmage Road. At the same time,

the Willits man driving a blue Harley Davidson

motorcycle was on Highway 101 southbound to

Road.

Talmage Road.

On Sunday August 14, Douglas Prado, 70, Talmage Road. The motorcycle was struck by the of Willits, while driving a 2009 Harley Davidson SUV traveling the wrong way. motorcycle, was killed after being hit by a wrong-

As a result of the collision, the driver of the way driver on Highway 101 southbound at Talmage motorcycle sustained fatal injuries, and the driver of the SUV was unharmed. Sarenius remained on At approximately 6:25 pm, Ronald Sarenius, 83, scene and cooperated with authorities.

Alcohol and drugs do not appear to be a factor in Toyota Venza onto Highway 101 southbound on this collision. This incident is an active investigation.

Editor's Note: Last week's CHP press release did not include the name of the driver of the motorcycle, pending notification of his next of kin, but Mendocino Sarenius turned from Talmage Road and drove County Sheriff's Office confirmed this week it was the wrong way onto Highway 101, southbound to Douglas Prado of Willits.





in need of being rehomed," HSIMC posted on cats of every age, size, and temperament! Come Facebook on August 19. "While we can't say yes in and visit us and we can match you with the perfect pal. To see adoptable cats, visit https:// to every request we want to help provide solutions, mendohumanesociety.com/adoptable-cats including something new: "Adoptions by Owner."

2) FOSTER! Have some space in your home, but aren't too sure about having a furry friend for description of pets needing a new home, after more than a few weeks? Fostering helps the shelter immensely by opening up space and staff time to accommodate new cats.

3) VOLUNTEER! We usually only have about four staff or so a day to help care for our cats onsite, so they could really use the extra attention from volunteers! Grooming, cuddling, and playing with our kitties helps them stay happy and healthy.

4) DONATE! Whether it be food, toys, blankets, or even money, we could not care for all our cats without your help! We strive to keep our adoption prices as low as we can to prevent it from being a barrier to pet ownership, but our \$100 fee barely covers the medical costs of an adopted cat's spay/ neuter and vaccines. We use all other donations to care for the cats in all the other ways, and with almost 200 cats, it definitely isn't cheap. Our food bill is about \$500 every month for the cats alone!

However you can help, our staff and our animals are grateful for your contribution to the care of the homeless felines in our community! Thank you!!

completing an "Owner and Pet Information" form. "Please include the following information about your pet: pet description, age, spay/neuter status, and any other information that will help find the right home for your pet - including your contact information. Pet owners and potential adopters are

Pet owners are invited to upload a photo and

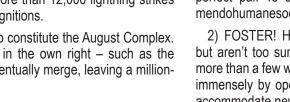
responsible for communications as far as veterinary records and other needed information.' To submit a pet that needs to be rehomed go to:

https://mendohumanesociety.com/adoptions-byowner

Kritter Karnival & Silent Auction

HSIMC also announced plans for the return of the Kritter Karnival & Silent Auction on Sunday, September 18, at the HSIMC facility at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. The first Kritter Karnival was in 2019, but has been on hiatus thanks to COVID.

It's a Family Fun Day, with free admittance, live music by Chicka Boom, kids activities, temporary tattoos, silent action, bounce house, petting



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comparison to the August Complex.

At the time of the fire approximately 2,500 of the planned 4,054 acres of the Tehama Mendocino Fuels Reduction Partnership had been treated

Treatments across the project area focused on basal area reduction, and included mastication, manual hand-cut/pile, mechanical cut/pile, and mechanical thin/biomass removal.

Some 90% of the project footprint area was burned over by the August Complex fires.

Differences among treatments provided an opportunity to observe how treatment prescription may have influenced fire behavior and overstory mortality.

Lessons learned

A review of the landscape post-fire suggests that fire behavior was influenced by all basal area reduction treatments. Fire activity was moderated, transitioning from crown fire to surface fire where basal area - and therefore canopy density - were reduced.

Despite the moderation in fire activity, complete overstory mortality was observed in all treatment areas where biomass had not been removed. These treatment areas experienced a rearrangement of fuel such that the thick mat of masticated or piled material acted as "jackpots," eventually killing the roots of overstory trees as they smoldered and emitted heat.

Areas within the footprint that were treated at least four years prior did not experience overstory mortality, likely because the resulting fuel mats had decomposed or the piles had been burned previously.

Minimal mortality was observed in treatment areas where the biomass was removed from the site (in this case, utilized for bioenergy production). Long fire residence time in the fuel bed likely resulted in root damage and eventual mortality to the residual overstory.

The interval between treatment and the occurrence of wildfire allowed the material to decompose, resulting in beneficial fire effect and minimal overstory mortality.

A Forest Health success story

While the treatment areas in the Tehama Mendocino Fuels Reduction Partnership project did reduce wildfire activity, this event constitutes a different kind of success story. By providing a rare opportunity to compare fuels management practices, this project will help guide biomass management decisions to come. This small case study suggests that biomass generated from Forest Health fuels treatments should be removed from the site if managers want stands to be resilient to wildfire in the near term.

Forest Health practitioners can take these lessons and use them to guide management decisions going forward.

Learn more about CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program at www.fire. ca.gov/programs/resource-management/climate-change-and-energy/ forest-health

Adoptions by Owner

zoo, a fire truck courtesy of Redwood Valley Fire HSIMC also announced a new tool last week for Department, and beer, wine and lunch available for those who need to find new homes for their pets. purchase.

More info: 707-485-0123 or info@hsimc.org. "We know times are hard, and many pets are



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SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape **Bible Church** 290 S. Lenore Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Where love is first and the Bible is central. Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. - Worship Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.: Info? 707-459-1905

www.agapebiblechurch.com **Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church** 803 Coast Street

P.O. Box 489, Willits 707-303-5456 Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m

Pastor Burton Jernigan EVERYBODY IS WELCOME The Church of **Jesus Christ of** Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive Willits, CA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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www.eckankar.org **Grace Community**

Church Celebrating Life In Christ 25 Hazel Street, Willits Modified Worship Service 10 a.m. Other ministries suspended for now. For appointments call: (707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua **Catholic** Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave Willits, CA 95490 Father Aaron Bandanadan Mass times: Confessions by appointme 459-2252 Sunday Mass inside: 9:00 a.m. English 10:30 a.m. Spanish Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m

Covid guidelines apply Ne welcome All Walks of Fait St. Francis **Episcopal Church**

North Main Street, Willits 707-272-0177 Sunday Service - 10 a.m. In-person and on Zoom Call for information. ALL ARE WELCOME The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

St. John Lutheran Church Church Service: Sunday 10:00 to 11:00 (707) 459-2988 24 Mill Creek Drive





Above, from left: Pat Yoxall entertains with her ukulele at the Willits Physical Therapy table. Ellie "Bean" Bruce and Robert "Legz" Smith serve chili for the Little Lake Grange. The Willits Wild Bunch brought their secret chili recipe. Richard Baker, Harrah Senior Center executive director, oversees the event. Below, left: The "Mike Tobin Method" utilizes a cupcake pan to methodically sample the chilis. Below, right: Every chili has a distinct look as well as taste and kick.





Fiery Competition

Chili Cook-off returns with some tasty entries to help raise money for the Willits Senior Center

Fourteen entities vied for the right to be called the "Best Chili" at the Willits Senior Center's annual contest (with a couple lost years due to the pandemic) last Friday. Although this year's

entries were moved to Recreation Grove Park, the sense of fierce, but Mathew Caine friendly, competition remained. Each chili was unique in its presentation atures Writer athew@willitsweekly.com of flavor and ingredients, even the table decorations in which they were ensconced and offered to the hungry public were unique.

Amid the light-hearted competition, each proud purveyor of the varying degree of spicy-hot comfort food gladly extolled the tasters with tales of how they were created. Although, some played it closer to the vest than others, preferring to let the results do the talking.

At the Willits Rotary table, Tamara Alaniz boasted: "We have winning attitudes. We have Hammer-Smashed Chili, Chicken Chile Verde. Everything has actually physically been smashed by a hammer at some point. Every chili, every tomato can, everything. Every piece of meat, every onion. Every shallot, every garlic. Everything.

"And there's no beans," continued Alaniz. "This is Texas-style chili. This is based on the band Cannibal Corpse's song 'Hammer Smashed Face.

"[This is a] no fart zone – gluten-free, tootin' free," she joked. "Rotary doesn't fart around. I want o win. I want to enter the first chili cook-off I've ever entered and win and then retire as champion."

The Little Lake Grange entry was stewarded by Ellie "Bean" Bruce and Robert "Legz" Smith.

"There's a lot of stuff in the chili," said Bruce surreptitiously. "This is locally sourced Grange chili. It has our secret Grange seasoning. It has ground beef that Mike Adams, one of our Grange members raised in town. It has tomatoes and

Read the rest of bell peppers and onions and garlic, all from the Over on page 15 Chili Farmers Market. The black beans are from the

At left, above: Elizabeth Basterrechea of Willits Physical Therapy is, obviously, a Cincinnati Bengals fan. At left: Adam Celaya presents his chili in an ice cream waffle cup.



The rest of The rest of Botanical

Chili

has a little kick at the end."

nonetheless wanted to win.

Grange Grain Project. This chili

Gloria Westby of Coast

"We are the Patriotic Chili."

she said proudly, wearing a

T-shirt that had "Merica" printed

on it. "It's just hamburger and

seasonings, kidney beans, and a

The Wild Bunch, on the other

hand, declared that their chili

was mostly unstated ingredients "It's a secret what's in the chili,

said Richard "Pops" Venturi

"A little bit of 20-50 weight (oil)

That makes it go through easier.

Easy in, easy out. If it has a little

burn goin' down, that would be

the whiskey. You can have it in

Shay, of Full Spectrum Paint,

who brought his family to man

the booth, said: "Our secret

several spices and some goop,

some of our leftover paint. We

Brokeback chili, 'wish I could guit

lot of love.'

bowl.

va."

Hardware was pitted against

From page 14

From page 12

year long!" Campione explained. "But most of the planning and logistics begin falling into place between January to August. It takes a solid six to seven months, around 40 volunteers, and almost 20 staff members!" Campione was enthusiastic about

the Sip & Paint event hosted by Miss Rossi. "Most people really enjoy spending a few hours in the garden getting their creative juices flowing. You can't really ask for a more beautiful setting to enjoy a glass of wine and create your own piece of art!"

A variety of food purveyors participated in Art in the Gardens, including the ever-popular Cowlick's Ice Cream, and the Botanical Garden's Rhodie's Cafe. Fort Bragg's iconic Thanksgiving Coffee was on hand selling coffee by the pound, and offering free cups to all comers. As the gate opened for visitors, musicians tuned up on the ample stage. Art in the Gardens has long a separate glass or all in one featured some of the best musical talent in Mendocino County, and 2022

was no exception. Fingers snapped and bodies began to sway as bands from diverse genres took the stage. New Nashville West with Gene ingredient is pork sausage and Parsons, the Real Sarahs, Moon Rabbit, and Mama Grows Funk made sweet music all weekend, attracting have to get rid of it somewhere. locals and visitors to the grassy "dance floor," while others hung out with friends in the circle of hay bales

or at cocktail tables spread around the lawn. Button Quinn was the featured artist this year, and her silvery blue painting

of the coastal cliffs was chosen for this year's poster. She told me that the staff at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens could not have done more to make her feel special. "Art in the Gardens is magical," Quinn said. "Great weather, wonderful food, so many happy faces. I haven't smiled and talked so much in years." Dynamic artist duo Sandy Oppenheimer and John Fisher presented their work for the 10th year of Art in the Gardens. Fisher is an accomplished marble sculptor, whose work "Prayer" was purchased

by an anonymous buyer, and was then donated back to the Botanical heath and heather collection Oppenheimer is a master collage

artist who described her work as, "painting with paper." She was the featured artist back in 2012, and she said Art in the Gardens is one of her



Above: Sophia, left, and Joselyn enjoyed their own plates at the July breakfast. The girls help out by serving juice and also helping to set up and clean up. Above, right: Little Lake Grange Business Manager Erica Bruce-Kroesen sells breakfast tickets at the July Pancake Breakfast.





Photos by Jennifer Poole

Elizabeth Basterrechea of Willits Physical Therapy offered Cincinnati-style chili, designed to Above: Cathy Welling tends a batch of fried

be eaten over spaghetti. As she eggs on the griddle. prepared the food, Pat Yoxall serenaded on her ukulele. At the

next table, Virginia Jorge ran the Senior Center Bean-Go Chili. a nod to the weekly bingo game which she will be restarting at the first of the year.

Northbrook Healthcare Center had the unique Bi-Tri Chili, made from bison tri tip. "The chili has beans, veggies, three kinds of meat," explained Brittany Adams. "We've got bison, tri tip, hamburger.

Nearby, Adam Celaya served just plain chili. "This chili has no name," he claimed. "Just plain Gardens. It is now living amongst the chili, not the world's hottest, spiciest chili. Simple chili with flavor and seasoning, that's all.

It's just chili. How hard can that be?" His entry was served in an ice cream cone.

Little Lake Fire with Harry So

Shorin-Ryu

"We have real chili," insisted

Plus Monthly fourth-Sunday breakfast back into the swing

at the Little Lake Grange

Don't forget it's the Little Lake Grange's Pancake Breakfast this weekend, Sunday, August 28, from 8 to 11 am. The monthly Pancake Breakfast returned from its COVID hiatus in July, and plans to continue every fourth Sunday

The three choices of pancakes - Sourdough Wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, or Gluten-Free - are the stars of the breakfast plate, but the organic local eggs, Beeler's Quality Bacon, and a delicious organic fruit salad are also tasty, with real butter, juice and organic coffee or tea, plus Amish Organic Maple Syrup for \$1.

Tickets are \$9, \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for children under 10.

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



Above: Checking in for a Sunday morning family breakfast, from left, Gracie, Maureen, Magnolia and Matt Jennison. Above, right: Barbie Svendson loads up a plate of breakfast goodies in the Grange Kitchen. Below, left: Richard Jergenson shows off his three pancake batter dispensers, from left: Buttermilk, Gluten-Free and Sourdough. Below right: Volunteer server Mark, center, helps Lynn and Rick Williams with the details of their breakfast orders.



07-459-5714 Friendly, open worship Saturdays Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. Vorship Service - 10:45 a.m. Zoom Transmission Available Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 6:00 p.m. 399 W. Mendocino Ave All are welcome!

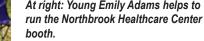
Adventist Church

Willits United Methodist Christ centered, progressive church

ALL ARE WELCOME 286 School St. (at Pine) ev. Rosemary Landry, pasto Worship Celebration Sundays - 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m. 459-2855 acebook: www.facebook.com

f you want to be included in this column please call: April Tweddell

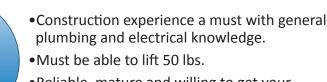




Below, from left: Here is an example of the proper way to serve Cincinnati chili. The Little Lake Fire District booth is manned by Harry So and Samantha Sundvold. Willits City Finance Director Manuel Orozco samples some Rotary Club chili



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very favorite art fairs. and Samantha Sundvold brough "Once your work is featured," said

a fire engine in case anyone's Oppenheimer, "the gardens sets up a chili was too over-the-top hot, tent and panels for you, which makes like the Hillbilly Chili next door, it much easier. The hometown feel is created by Michael Pitts. what makes this event unique. Most of The winner of both the Best the vendors and musicians are local. Chili and the Best Decorated

It's like one big garden party." Table was Mike Tobin's In addition to the formal art, there Matsubayashi were also areas set up for unique Sheriff's Activity League Karate art experiences, such as an on-site Club. community painting project from

the non-profit Flockworks, and a Tobin. "This is not chili with meditative walking experience from beans. This is actual Texas chili artist William Grace Frost, who creates made with meat, not California temporary and permanent labyrinths. Willits' own Miss Rossi presented two chili where they put beans in it. days of "Paint & Sip" to an enthusiastic That's chili with beans." group, offering a beginner painting experience that included some of Hottest Chili award. "We got Mendocino County's finest wines. complaints in the past," quipped Art in the Gardens was just part of Richard Baker, Senior Center all there was to see at the Mendocino executive director. "People Coast Botanical Gardens on August were making the chili so hot 6 and 7. Areas of dahlias, heathers, that it fried people's taste buds. rhododendrons, succulents and more They couldn't taste anything were just a walk away from the events afterwards. I tried to encourage lawn. The ample vegetable garden people to eat those chilis last. It displayed fabulous edibles and skyjust escalated over time. high sunflowers and herbs of all kinds. As always, several handmade several years in a row," said benches could be found, adorned with Baker, "until Little Lake Fire won

bronze plaques etched with poetry and names, memorializing departed loved ones and offering the opportunity to sit and take in the beauty of this special place. Sea birds and even whales can often be spotted from this unforgettable path to the sea, which leads the walker through unspoiled nature, to where the blue Pacific beckons at the edge of the world.

The Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens is located at 18220 North Highway 1 in Fort Bragg. They are open 10 am to 5 pm daily. Tickets cost \$15; \$12 for seniors 65 and older; \$8 for children ages 6 to 14; children 5 and under are free. Call 707-964-4352

would have to have people sign a medical release and have an ambulance on site."

So, whatever one considers "real chili," the variety and creativity exhibited at the Harrah Senior Center's Chili Cook-off was a treat for the piquant-

minded epicures. In addition to the chili, the Senior Center sold their traditional root beer floats, or visit www.gardenbythesea.org for and provided free corn bread sustainable economic development, education and further information. muffins to accompany the chili. public-policy initiatives.

The rest of From page 2 Cannabis

The Mendocino Cannabis Advocacy Awards and Dinner will take place from 4 to 7 pm at Cafe Beaujolais on September 19, 2022. Tickets can be purchased Sadly, this year there was no www.eventbrite.com/e/mendocino-cannabisat advocacy-awards-dinner-tickets-399750724177.

Ticket prices include world-famous pizza from Cafe Beaujolais, farm-fresh salad and raspberry lemonade from MCA member Radicle Herbs, delectable local dessert, coffee, music, goodies from our members' personal gardens, access to our very special silent auction, and more

MCA has sponsorships available for this event and the ongoing work of the organization. Visit https:// mendocannabis.com/sponsors for more information. "I think Hillbilly Chili won To join MCA as a locally licensed cannabis business, visit https://mendocannabis.com/join. one year. Hillbilly came back Individuals without licensed cannabis businesses

with chili just so hot that nobody who wish to support our efforts can go to https:// could stand it. People had to mendocannabis.com/register/individual-nonrush to the bathroom. I think a business-supporters to become an MCA supporter. couple people also vomited. We Those wishing to donate funds to support the work of MCA without becoming a member or

> sponsor can visit www.efundraisingconnections. com/c/MCA to make a digital donation, or email info@mendocannabis.com for alternative donation options.

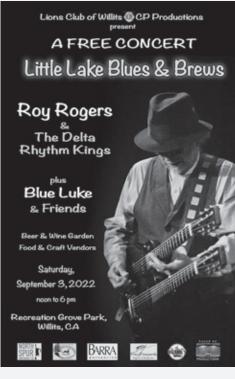
MCA is a not-for-profit California Mutual Benefit

Corporation, but donations are NOT tax deductible. The Mendocino Cannabis Alliance serves and promotes Mendocino County's world-renowned cannabis cultivators and businesses through

Little Lake Blues & Brews, September 3

Lions Club of Willits and CP Productions present a Free Concert. LITTLE LAKE BLUES & BREWS, featuring Roy Rogers & The Delta Rhythm Kings plus Blue Luke & Friends.

Little Lake Blues & Brews is set for Saturday, September 3, 2022, from noon to 6 pm, at Recreation Grove Park in Willits. Also featuring a Beer & Wine Garden and Food & Craft vendors.



Willits Weekly | August 25, 2022 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 15

TURNING UP THE HEAT HOT SEATS FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 6 – 10PM

It gets hotter every hour with Free Play prizes increasing from \$25 – \$100. At 10pm, we're turning up the heat even more with **\$150 Free Play plus 10 entries** for the 5,000 Degrees Grand Prize Drawing on Sept 30 to win \$5,000 Cash!

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1000 DEGREES (1000 pts earned) = \$25 Free Play For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club.

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At 7 pm, 5 winners who earn 200 same-day points will spin to win up to \$100 Free Play.

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Management reserves the right to cancel or modify any promotion at any time without notice. For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club. Gamgling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.