

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
Donations Accepted Edition No. 468 **Thursday, September 8, 2022**

## Local journalists oppose fees for public records

Forrest Glyer  
Reporter  
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Over the last couple of weeks challenges have continued to be brought against a new county ordinance enacted by the board of supervisors on July 12, which charges fees of up to \$150 per hour to those requesting public records for the county staff time to fulfill the requests.

The First Amendment Coalition wrote an open letter to County Counsel Christian Curtis on August 29 saying the ordinance is “unlawful” and in violation of the California Public Records Act. It cited several legal cases and precedents to back up that claim.

The letter was written and signed by the group's Legal Director David Loy.

In Loy's letter he described the FAC as “a nonprofit public interest organization dedicated to advancing free speech, more open and accountable government, and public participation in civic affairs”.

In addition, Kate Maxwell, publisher and co-founder of the Mendocino Voice, wrote an open letter to the county on August 31 in opposition to the ordinance.

The letter was co-signed by more than two dozen supporters, largely from the journalism community. For transparency, I'll let you know that I've asked Maxwell to be among that list of co-signers.

Others who co-signed the letter include Kym Kemp of Red-Headed Blackbelt, Matt LaFever of Mendo Fever, Chris Pugh of the

Read the rest of **Fees**  
Over on page 11

## Traffic stop leads to arrest

By Sgt. James Wells, for MCSO

On Thursday, September 1, at 10:41 pm, a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a vehicle code violation. The vehicle stopped on Meadowbrook Drive near Della Avenue in Willits.

The driver was contacted and identified as William Young, 34, of Willits. The deputy conducted a records check on Young and was advised his driver's license was suspended and he was on formal probation with a term “obey all laws.”

The deputy further noticed Young was displaying signs and symptoms of being under the influence of a controlled substance. After

Read the rest of **Arrest**  
Over on page 2



Above, from left: Angela Gessner, owner of The Cheesecakery, uses her Instapot to make the cheesecakes. Blueberry and lemon is a classic and beautiful color and flavor combination. No-bake cheesecake parfaits are available in 12 ounce and 4 ounce sizes. Have a special flavor request? That's no problem for The Cheesecakery, this pineapple upside-down cheesecake parfait was created at the request of Howard Hospital, one of her clients. Below: With a simple order, this fresh-berry topped cheesecake could be yours!

Photos by  
Maureen  
Jennison



## Cheesecakery

Angela Gessner bakes - and no-bakes - a large variety of delicious cheesecakes

Like many of us did in March 2020, during the beginning of the pandemic, Willits' Angela Gessner started looking for a new hobby to pass the time. Purchasing an Instapot, Gessner joined some Facebook groups to gain inspiration for her new kitchen gadget.

Maureen Jennison  
Graphics & Photographress  
maureen@willitsweekly.com

What she didn't realize at the time was that two years later, her new-found hobby would turn into a full blown business: The Cheesecakery.

“I saw on one of the groups that someone said you can bake a cheesecake in the Instapot,” said Gessner. “I couldn't believe that was possible, but I tried it out anyway and was amazed at how good it was, especially for being so easy!”

Gessner posted a photo of the creation online, and soon after a friend asked her to make a cheesecake for them, too. Gessner agreed, making them just for the cost of ingredients for friends, but as the orders kept coming in, she decided it was time to make things official.

Gessner filed for permits and licensees through the city and county and started baking in the Little Lake Grange's commercial kitchen, allowing her to advertise her services and sell commercially to individuals, and business accounts.

Currently, her business Facebook page, The Cheesecakery, has 1,142

Read the rest of **Cheesecakery**  
Over on page 9



At top: Gender reveal cheesecakes are a fun way to announce a new arrival. Above: Angela Gessner did her own reveal this way for herself and husband, Nicholas, who are expecting “the newest little cheesecake baker” in February 2023. He will join siblings Oscar, 7, Hazel, 5, and Ellie, 4. Below: The Cheesecakery offers approximately 30 flavors of cheesecake options, including Caramel Apple Pie, Orange Creamsicle, Mint Chocolate Chip, Nutella, Funfetti, Peanut Butter Cup, Pistachio, White Chocolate Raspberry, and more. See their full menu on Facebook under “The Cheesecakery.”

Photos courtesy of The Cheesecakery



Below, right: Angela Gessner uses fresh ingredients that she stores in the large walk-in fridge in the commercial kitchen in the Little Lake Grange. Below, left: Blueberries are carefully placed alongside other fresh berries on the ganache-topped cheesecake.



## Walker Fire flares up Tuesday

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
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The Walker Fire in the Willits Watershed south of town flared up late Tuesday afternoon, sending up plumes of smoke, on a record-setting day of heat around Northern California.

The flare-up, reported at 3:59 pm on September 6, drew a big response with air attack and ground resources.

CAL FIRE Tankers 85, 86, 90, 91, and 96 were all working the flare-up from above, as were fire-fighting helicopters, and numerous ground resources from CAL FIRE and local volunteer firefighting departments.

Talk on the scanner turned to releasing resources by around 6 pm Tuesday. CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit reported in their 7 pm update that “fire activity has moderated,” and also that “ground resources will remain at scene throughout the night.”

“Very receptive fuels in brush, grass, and timber understory,” the update noted.

The Watch Duty app reported “forward progress has stopped” on the flare-up at 9:09 pm.

As per CAL FIRE MEU's

Read the rest of **Fires**  
Over on page 11

## Tuesday's heat broke records

Jennifer Poole  
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It was a record-breaking day for heat in California on Tuesday, September 6, after only a slightly less sweltering Monday. The National Weather Service announced Ukiah broke its official all-time heat record Tuesday, with 117 degrees, 2 degrees higher than the previous record of 115 degrees set on September 3, 1955.

It was 116 in downtown Sacramento Tuesday at 5:18 pm – hotter than the previous record of 114 degrees set in July 17, 1925.

And at 115 degrees, Santa Rosa broke its previous official heat record of 113 set on July 11, 1913.

With some Willits area temperatures reported as 112 degrees or higher, did Willits break a heat record? Well, it's hard to say, as the National Weather Service Eureka no longer reports official temperatures for Willits. The “current conditions” report for Willits used to come from the old Willits Justice Center on East Commercial Street, but some years ago that changed.

Read the rest of **Hot hot hot**  
Over on page 11







Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page
Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

9x9 grid for Sudoku puzzle

BAKING TREATS WORD SEARCH
Grid containing letters for word search

- BAKING, BROWN, BUTTER, CAKE, CONFECTION, COOKIES, DESSERT, EGGS
ICING, INGREDIENTS, LEAVENER, MIXER, OIL, OVEN, RISE, SHEET
SIFTED, STIR, SUGAR, SWEET, TASTE, TEMPERATURE, TEST, WHIP

42x42 grid for crossword puzzle

- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Autonomic nervous system, 4. Kids love it in summer, 8. Dashes, 10. Polynesian sarong, 11. Chapter of the Koran, 12. Evildoer, 13. Japanese commercial city, 15. A way of binding, 16. Early Christianity French historian, 17. Kids' term for bugs, 18. Beloved family holiday activity, 21. Work unit, 22. Bundle, 23. A number or amount not specified, 24. Military official (abbr.), 25. Queens ballplayer, 26. Type of gibbon, 27. Norma Jean's stage name, 34. Places, 35. Bluish greens, 36. Argued publicly, 37. Having the shape of a cube, 38. They star at weddings, 39. Indian god associated with reproduction, 40. Ocean sunfishes, 41. Slowly leak through, 42. Plant part, 43. Midway between south and southeast, CLUES DOWN: 1. Accumulate on the surface of, 2. Not a good feeling, 3. Got smaller, 4. Helped a golfer get around, 5. Military forces, 6. Partner to ways, 7. Low, one-horse sleigh, 9. Japanese seaport, 10. Inclined to favor, 12. Avid reader, 14. Lead singer of Heart, 15. Pigeon sound, 17. Vital part, 19. People who are not Jewish, 20. Shed tears, 23. Pokes holes in the ground, 24. Beverage receptacle, 25. Stone used to surface roads, 26. French-Belgian river, 27. Type of phone, 28. Long-lasting light bulb, 29. Type of medication (abbr.), 30. German city, 31. Animal disease, 32. They're in martinis, 33. Get away from, 34. Dormouse, 36. Database management system



Above: The Roots yard is filled with antique equipment, much of which is operating during the September event. At right: A print of a VW truck is removed from the inked block.

Roots of Motive Power 2022

SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

9 am: Operations begin on main track - Port of Olympia #2; Railroad Crew; Bucyrus Erie 50 B steam shovel moves to pit at rear of facility; Kelly Springfield steam roller heads to park for Street Printing
11 am: Willamette exercises Washington Duplex Loader; Tractor group demonstration, all day; Bucyrus Erie 50B Steam Shovel Demonstration begins at pit at rear of property; Street Printing begins in Park with Buffalo Springfield until 3 pm; Kelly Springfield Steam Roller
12 pm: Bluestone Heisler takes over Passenger Operation until 4 pm; Estep Diesel start and run at Loading Spur; Willamette exercises Skinner Engine & Erie Engine
1 pm: Ohio Locomotive Crane Operation; Kelly Springfield Steam Roller; Bucyrus Erie 22B Demonstration at pit; Mountain Quarries #202 on the Main 180 degrees behind B M&S #1
2 pm: Willamette exercises Eureka horizontal spool donkey
3 pm: Bucyrus Erie 50B Steam Shovel demonstration at pit (rear of property); Ohio Locomotive steam crane demonstration; Kelly Springfield steam roller at Engine House
3:30 pm: Estep Diesel start and run at Loading Spur; Willamette, Bucyrus Erie 50B, Ohio, Kelly steam down
4 pm: Railroad operations conclude
4 pm: BBQ begins in park; auction and raffle



Above: Free train rides are always a hit with the community. At left: Auction items filled the table at the 2021 barbecue on Sunday at the Roots of Motive Power steam up. Below, left: Roots' Chris Baldo holds a Willits Weekly logo print made by a certain newspaper gal, who failed to notice until after it was printed that images needed to be carved in reverse (duh)! Let this be a reminder! Below, right: Wendy Wilmes holds tomatoes she grew that were included in the 2021 auction.



The rest of Claws From page 3

cooked filet mignon, surrounded by fresh vegetables from Ridgewood Ranch. The lobsters, efficiently boiled by members of the Willits Rotary, came with lots of clarified butter and bibe for the messy but tasty treat.
After the dinner, with the bids closed for the silent auction, and the band, The Heat Strokes, having retired for the evening, the live auction began. The first item, a selection of whiskeys, some from the local distillery Low Gap, started the excitement with a winning bid of \$550.
A two-night stay at Holly Madrigal's "Casita" in Mendocino was sold twice due to her generosity and MC / auctioneer Tom Allman's suggestion. A two-night stay at Ridgewood Ranch's new not-yet-ready-for-occupancy refurbished coach house bed and breakfast came with a plaque that would commemorate the first winners to stay at the new facility.
The Icebox gelato wagon's party for 100 people was also sold twice to the first- and second-place bidders. A wine refrigerator



Above, from left: One of the more colorful booths is this offering from Ginny Ozelton. New dispensary Element 7 was one of the sponsors of the event. Willits Lion Dean Bauman and his wife, Sharon, work the drink and raffle table. This was a fun event for attendees of all ages who danced the afternoon away. Below, from left: Recreation Grove park is filled with locals who wanted to finally get out and enjoy the sun, music, and each other. Slide guitar bluesman Roy Rogers plays with his Delta Blues Band. Blue Luke warms the crowd up with his energetic blues rifts.



Blues & Brews

Roy Rogers and Blue Luke get people up and dancing at free concert in Rec Grove park
The weather was perfect, especially in the shade of the stately trees of Recreation Grove Park. The music was unbeatable for aficionados of several genres of the blues. The food was tasty and filling. The beer and wine flowed throughout the afternoon.
Mathew Caine
It was a time to dance or a time to just sit and appreciate that over 400 of the local residents could finally get together and share an event with their families and friends in the beautiful outdoors with room to relax and breathe.
The event was billed as Little Lake Blues & Brews. It featured the performances of local guitar luminary Blue Luke and the headliner, one of the best and best-known slide guitarists in the country, Roy Rogers (not the cowboy).
hope there are a lot of families here today. This is a celebration for Willits. The Willits Lions Club is happy to put it on. It's a celebration of our town's resiliency. We've been through a few things and we'll have a few more to go through but today is a day to celebrate our little community.
"Pooba Freeman, my fellow Lion," continued Duley, "came up with the idea for this celebration. This is his dream, his vision, and the Willits Lions Club was happy to help turn it into reality and that's exactly what's happened today. The community came up with almost \$10,000 to help support this event, as sponsors. We really didn't have anyone say no when we asked them for funds.
Read the rest of Blues Over on page 11

MENDOCINO COUNTY FAIR & APPLE SHOW
SEPT. 23RD - 25TH, 2022
OPEN 9 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY!
FRIDAY, 9/23:
Free admission for children under 12
Admission is \$6 for seniors 65 and over
5 pm: Apple Bowl - Football
8 pm: Dance - Scott Forbes Band
SATURDAY, 9/24:
8 pm: CCPRA Rodeo
9:30 pm: Dance - Dean Titus & the Coyote Cowboys
SUNDAY, 9/25:
10 am: Sheep Dog Trials
10 am: Vintage Car Show
Noon: Parade
2 pm: CCPRA Rodeo
6 pm: Dance - Los Cautivos & Los Elegantes DTC
GENERAL ADMISSION:
ADULTS \$10 | JUNIORS 13-18: \$8
KIDS 7-12: \$6 | 6 AND UNDER: FREE
Apple Tasting | Livestock | Wool & Fiber Show | Exhibits
BOONVILLE FAIRGROUNDS
See full schedule online: http://mendocountyfair.com/



Starlight Lounge  
Poetry Reading  
at Willits Community Theater

Two nature poets, Maya Khosla and Geri Hulse-Stephens, are featured readers at a Starlight Lounge Poetry Reading at the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, September 10 at 7 pm.

Maya Khosla is a wildlife biologist and writer. Her poetry books include "All the Fires of Wind and Light" from Sixteen Rivers Press (2020 PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Literary Award), "Keel Bone" from Bear Star Press (Dorothy Brunsman Poetry Prize), and "Web of Water: Life in Redwood Creek" (from Golden Gate Parks).

Her writing has been featured in documentary films including "Village of Dust, City of Water," about the water crisis in rural India. Maya served as Sonoma County Poet Laureate from 2018 to 2020, and, as such, brought Sonoma's communities together through poetry gatherings and field walks after the 2017 fires.

Little Lake Valley resident Geri Hulse-Stephens has been writing poetry for over 30 years. On New Year's Day of 2020, before the word "pandemic" had integrated into our daily vocabulary, she resolved to write a poem every day for a year. She mostly succeeded, with the exception of about five nights that year. This poetry fetish continues, but with slightly less regularity,

Geri's poetry is inspired by her devotion to nature and to spirit. In midlife, she worked in the field of counseling, as she used esoteric healing techniques to promote personal transformation. For the past 20 years she has worked as a botanical consultant and wetland specialist.

Of her work as a botanist, Geri writes: "I work much of the year as a botanist, which means I spend most days from dawn to the close of day outside, in wild places, and in all kinds of weather. These places feed my poetry. They shake me into new perspectives and sometimes offer up surprising sights and insights."

An open reading will follow the featured readers. Entrance to the reading is by donation, but no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. With regard to COVID-19, masking and vaccinations are recommended but not required.



At left: Geri Hulse-Stephens, left, and Maya Khosla are featured poets at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, September 10.

2Much Fun! plays at Szechuan Asian, September 17

There's a new band in town, and they're "2MuchFun!" Check them out at the Szechuan Asian Restaurant, 47 East Mendocino Avenue in Willits, on Saturday, September 17, from 6 to 8:30 pm.

2MuchFun! is multi-instrumentalist, Paul Haley, and guitarist/vocalist, Dave Pierce. They've teamed up to dish out a tasty buffet of family-friendly, musical favorites, sprinkled with original songs.

Both men grew up in Los Angeles neighborhoods – Paul, in North Long Beach, and Dave, in Echo Park – but didn't meet until settling in Willits. The two met through volunteering their musical services at Howard Memorial Hospital.

2MuchFun! draws their inspiration from a diverse range of musical influences – from The Beatles to The Zombies.

You can check out a sampling of some of their offerings at their website, <https://operationjazzrescue.com/> or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/2MusicGuys](https://www.facebook.com/2MusicGuys). Reach them by email at [dpierce@dnpierce.com](mailto:dpierce@dnpierce.com), or 530-518-9550.

At right: 2MuchFun! is multi-instrumentalist, Paul Haley, left, and guitarist/vocalist, Dave Pierce.



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COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

Classic Film Series:  
"The Sting"

The Story: Depression Era suspense/ comedy/ gangster/ crime thriller, with just the right amount of drama, i.e. "just enough for you the audience to care."

Henry Gondorf and Johnny Hooker (Paul Newman and Robert Redford), two impossibly charming, devil-may-care confidence maesters, are devising an elaborate con.

All should go well, but there's some serious risk involved. It seems their mark is the notorious gangster Doyle Lonnegan (Robert Shaw). Lonnegan is prideful, ruthless and brutal, one might even say "murderous."

My Thoughts: This is a great movie (underline "great" and add exclamation point!). Normally, when it comes to spoilers, I am the very soul of discretion. But in this case, I must warn you all, some fancy cast members you well-seasoned audiences (jaded movie-goers) would expect to be invulnerable, well ... they will get shot. And there will be blood. But no more spoilers. I've said too much already, and will say no more.

What is absolutely necessary for me to reveal is the following: "The Sting" won 10 Oscars in 1974. Best Picture. Best Director (George Roy "We'll jump off that bridge when we come to it" Hill). Best Actor Robert Redford. Best Original Screenplay. Best Costume Design. Best Film Editing. Best Production Design. Best Original Score (resurrected the name and tunes of Scott Joplin). Best Cinematography. Best Sound Mixing. This flick will thrill you all, and keep you guessing until the very end. I promise. So, attention Willitsians: this movie is brilliant fun!

Parents: Probably a little too confusing for younger children. Poker. Booze. Tobacco. Murder. A dead body or two, maybe more. Fisticuffs. Face slamming. Pretty women on the burlesque stage. Pretty women from a brothel on a merry-go-round. No, I think we can all agree that this is not a movie for the kiddies. That noted, I'd have absolutely loved "The Sting" when I was 12.

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



Above: On behalf of United Disaster Relief of Northern CA, Danilla Sands, left, receives a check from 100+Women Strong of Inland Mendocino County volunteers Kasie Gray, Holly Madrigal, Sarah Marshall, Carolyn Welch and Karen Christopherson.

Northern California Disaster Services  
is 100+ Women Strong recipient

Submitted by 100+ Women Strong

100+ Women Strong of Inland Mendocino County congratulates the winner from their latest gathering on June 3 at Rivino Vineyards. After presentations by three nonprofits, more than a hundred local donors cast the most votes for United Disaster Relief of Northern California.

Formerly the Mendo-Lake Complex Fire Relief organization headed by Danilla Sands, director of disaster resources, during the 2017 fires, United Disaster Relief of Northern California has since expanded services in Mendocino County and neighboring communities.

"[United Disaster Relief of Northern California] is very grateful for this opportunity, not only to win the funds to help secure our new building, but also for the opportunity to share our story and the great work our team of volunteers have accomplished over the last five years," says Sands, who started her volunteer work in disaster relief in 2015 during the Valley Fire in Lake County.

"I found I enjoyed helping others, navigating the donation material processes, and connecting the dots to resources for fire victims," she shares.

In 2017, when the Redwood Fire started in her own community, Sands started a Facebook group and within two weeks gathered donations in a building along with other volunteers and community support.

"After a few months, when other donation centers would close," says Sands, "I knew, working directly with fire survivors, that they needed services long term. Many were still in hotel rooms or trailers and could not store the material donations that were being given to them at the early stages of their recovery.

"Clients also needed help," she continues, "navigating the grants that were available to them and the deadlines of those grants. We helped them fill out FEMA paperwork, deliver furniture, help connect building resources, and so much more. We continued to keep our doors open and each year we have helped new disaster clients, and with COVID-19 we helped the community with personal protective equipment and other supplies.

Willits' Vicki Ham elected governor  
of Founder Region Soroptimist

Submitted by Soroptimist International

August 30 – Vicki Ham, of Willits is serving a two-year term as Founder Region governor of Soroptimist, a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

As region governor, Ham will serve as the top administrative officer for Soroptimist clubs in her geographical territory, which covers Northern California, the State of Hawaii, the U.S. Territories of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Ham is a member of Soroptimist International of Willits, one of 3,100 Soroptimist clubs that improve the lives of women and girls through volunteer projects in the community. A member since 2008, Ham has held several leadership positions including region treasurer, region governor-elect, club treasurer, club vice-president, and club president.

"As a Soroptimist," Ham states, "I am focused on helping women and girls achieve their goals through access to education. As a woman, I want to help these women overcome the obstacles in their paths to achieve their dreams and goals. We can all 'Dream Big and Bee the Dream!' When we educate women, we improve the lives of their families as well as our communities."

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Ham received her Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors in Dramatic Arts at University of California, Santa Barbara. Ham is a retired accounting manager for recruitment firm Robert Half International. Ham is also active in the American Legion Auxiliary, PEO, and is church council secretary of St. John Lutheran Church.

Soroptimist (www.Soroptimist.org) is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. Soroptimist celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2021. If you want to help in improving the lives of women and girls in our community, contact the Willits Soroptimists at [siwillits@soroptimist.net](mailto:siwillits@soroptimist.net).

**THE STING (1973)**  
(PG) 2 hrs 9mins  
Fri.: 4:00 & 7:00pm  
Sat./Sun.: 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00pm  
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:00 & 7:00pm  
All Tickets \$6  
Movie Times for September 9 thru September 15

**THE LORAX (2012)**  
(PG) 1 hr 26 mins  
Fri.: 4:15 & 6:30pm  
Sat./Sun.: 2:00, 4:15, & 6:30pm  
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 6:30pm  
All Tickets \$6

**TOP GUN MAVERICK**  
(PG13) 2 hrs 11 mins  
Fri.: 4:30 & 7:30pm  
Sat./Sun.: 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30pm  
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:30 & 7:30pm  
Over 21 Club/ Luxury Recliners  
Masks Optional

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE - TRAIL TREK  
2007 BRONACH SAM 2021  
5k & 10MI  
SEPT 2022



Celebration of Life Brooktrails Trail Trek,  
September 24

Submitted by Crystal Bowles

Crystal and Davey Bowles are hosting a "Celebration of Life Trail Trek" through Brooktrails, with the help of North Coast Striders, on Saturday, September 24.

The Trail Trek is in memory and honor of their son, Sam, and his perseverance through all of the struggles he constantly endured, and for their daughter, Bronach, for her supporting spirit, strength and continuing zest for life.

Bronach and Sam were best friends, reveling in the time and antics they shared together. These kinds of memories and those shared with family and friends give us courage to face the difficult moments that are present throughout each day.

Sam was not competitive – he lived in the moment, literally taking life in stride and finding every moment "worthwhile," a word he found deep and personal meaning in.

We are hoping this will be a fun way for families to get together, to enjoy the outdoors and each other's company. It is not exclusive to athletic enthusiasts, but open to everyone. Though running is not required, we will have some prizes for top finishers of the 5k and 10

mile treks, and a pin for all participants.

Any profits above the costs of putting the event on will be donated to the three charities linked to registration: Tyler Robinson Foundation Inc., Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeastern CA and Northern NV, and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital Inc.

The Brooktrails trails are minimally maintained and can be rugged and rough terrain – appropriate attire recommended.

Trail Trek options on September 17 include: the Nutmeg / Par Course loop, approximately 1 mile long and you can do as many as you like; a 5k figure-eight trek through the Par Course and the trails along Lake Ada Rose and the park; and the 10 Mile Trek, starting at the Par Course and wandering through the mixed fir, oak, and regrowth of redwoods forest.

To sign up visit <https://endurancecui.active.com/new/events/81713931/select-race>

If you want to volunteer time on the day of the event, pre-event trail cleanup, or help with event planning or donations, please contact Crystal Bowles at [crystalbowles7@gmail.com](mailto:crystalbowles7@gmail.com)



Above: The Bowles family, Sam, Davey, Bronach, and Crystal. Below: The September 24 Trail Trek in Brooktrails is a Celebration of Life for Sam Bowles.



**RANCH RODEO**  
COMING SOON TO  
WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS  
SAVE THE DATE:  
**OCTOBER 8, 2022**

SAVE THE DATE  
Ranch Rodeo  
coming up on  
October 8 at  
Rodeo Grounds

The 11th annual Ranch Rodeo is coming up, and this year's event will see the return of the BBQ Cook-Off and the return of rodeo riders doing ranch-oriented tasks on horseback and on foot.

There will also be the addition of a cornhole tournament as well as bull, bronc and ranch bronc livestock riding events, too. The all-day event starts at 9 am at the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds.

If you are interested in participating, contact chairpersons below and stay updated by watching the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Facebook page for more info.

Cornhole: Steven Spackman: 707-391-4675

BBQ Cook Off- Mattie Owen: 707-367-5550

Ranch Rodeo: Marcy Barry: 707-272-5395

Bulls Bronc and Ranch Broncs: Marcy Barry: 707-272-5395

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Above: Rotary Club members and food vendors from the July 30 Festival in the Redwoods fundraiser: from left to right: Ann Alumbaugh, Kitty Norris, Barbara O'Reardon, Judy Ann Corzine, Della Bennet, Jennie Jergenson, Victoria Petty, Jaylene Johnson with her baby Nyjah with Kellan Thomas, Cathie Gernhardt, Adam Celaya, Richard Baker, Jenny Senter, and Jennifer Sookne. In front, Allisha Rigano and Stephanie Garabrant-Sierra, Rotary Club of Willits president.

## Willits Rotary honors food vendors from Festival in the Redwoods

Submitted by Willits Rotary Club

At a recent meeting of Rotary Club of Willits, members honored the food vendors who played a big part in making our first annual John Cross Memorial Festival in the Redwoods a huge success! Representatives of Soroptimists, PEO, The Zocalo Collective, Adam Celaya, and Willits Senior Center were in attendance. Unable to attend were Smokin G's and Big D's BBQ, Kemmy's Pies, Future Farmers of America, and Northspur Brewery. A

representative of longtime supporters of Rotary Club of Willits, Sparetime Supply, was also unable to attend.

The numbers are final: The net profit from the July 30 fundraiser at the Brooktrails Golf Course was \$17,000, which will be divided between Willits Senior Center and the scholarship fund for Willits area high school graduates.

## Now & Then Films, September 16

The Now & Then Film Series presents "The Need to GROW," an award-winning documentary narrated and executive produced by Rosario Dawson. Friday, September 16 at 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street in Willits.

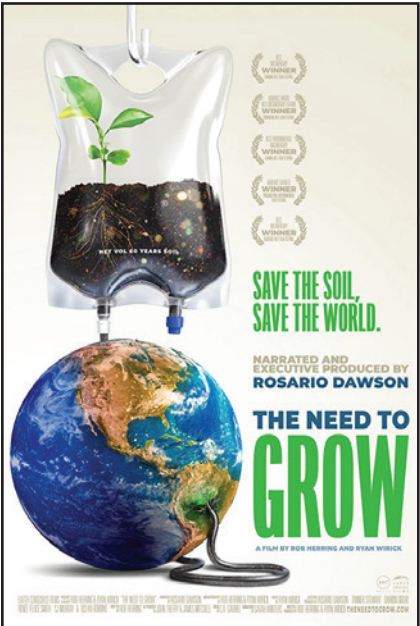
Brilliant and inspiring, this film should be shown in all communities, worldwide, to educate everyone from childhood that preserving our natural resources is the best way to thrive on earth.

It is estimated that there is approximately 60 years of farmable soil left on Earth.

"The Need to GROW" follows the personal journeys of innovators working to heal our broken food system and their solutions to regenerate our planet's dying soils.

For more info, visit [www.earthconsciouslife.org/theneedtogrow](http://www.earthconsciouslife.org/theneedtogrow)

Your donation of \$5 to \$20 will be used to support Now & Them Films' showing of these important movies. Serving organic popcorn with real organic butter



Above: This photograph postcard of Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is from around 1928.

## Museum remembers old Howard Hospital with a pop-up display

Submitted by Mendocino County Museum

September 6 – Through the month of September, Mendocino County Museum will have a small pop-up display honoring the old Howard Memorial Hospital (1928-2015).

Out of tragedy, came a Willits icon. The Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital came into fruition after the untimely death of its namesake.

After an automotive accident, and lack of a "real" hospital in the area, 15-year-old Frank R. Howard passed away due to his injuries in 1926. This led his father, Charles S. Howard, owner of Seabiscuit, to donate \$30,000 (~\$510,000 in today's money) to begin construction on the hospital, with a donation from Dr. Raymond Babcock of \$42,000 (~\$715,000), and others in the community following.

In 1927, groundbreaking began, and by 1928 the first patient was admitted. Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital kept expanding, eventually growing out of its walls, requiring a new building to be constructed to continue providing services to the area. The new hospital opened in October 2015.

Now that the old building is slated for demolishing, we at the Mendocino County

Museum want to add our respects to the history, the workers, the patients, and the legacy of the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital.

We invite audiences to visit our pop-up display and share their own fond memories of Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Were you born there? Or know someone who was? Worked there?

Write a little note about your memories on our provided notepads and add it to the display, so we as a community can stand together and fondly remember this fallen icon.

Photograph postcard of hospital around 1928.

The Mendocino County Museum is located at 400 East Commercial Street. Regular open hours are Wednesday through Friday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 4 pm.

This weekend, September 10 and 11, the museum will be open – with free admission - from 10 am to 4 pm as part of the Roots of Motive Power's 40th annual Steam Festival.

For more information, please contact the Mendocino County Museum at 707-459-2736 or [museum@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:museum@mendocinocounty.org).



### Invites applications for:

Account Specialist II/III  
Administrative Secretary  
Chief Planner  
Corrections Deputy  
Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV  
Deputy District Attorney I/II/III  
Deputy Probation Officer I/II  
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II  
Environmental Health Director  
Food & Laundry Services Supervisor  
Information Services Operations Manager  
Juvenile Corrections Officer  
Juvenile Corrections Officer - Extra-Help  
Library Assistant – Part Time  
Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist  
Office Services Supervisor  
Payroll Manager  
Public Health Nurse  
Registered Nurse  
Screener – Fort Bragg  
Senior Department Analyst  
Senior Planner  
Senior Public Health Nurse  
Sheriff's Services Technician  
Staff Assistant III  
Substance Abuse Counselor I/II  
Supervising Public Health Nurse

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:

[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca)

EOE

The rest of  
**Cheesecakery**

From page 1

followers, and she produces orders for events for Costco of Ukiah and Adventist Health's local hospitals, too.

"I'm so excited to be making so many orders for individuals as well as for local events and businesses," said Gessner. "I am also excited to talk to some local businesses about carrying my goods in their retail stores, too!"

There's quite a variety of options, too.

Gessner offers full-size, 7.5 inch and small-sized, 4 inch cheesecakes, and no-bake cheesecake parfaits in 4 ounce and 12 ounce sizes and also bite-sized cheesecakes.

The large sizes are ordered individually, as well as the 12 ounce parfaits. The small cheesecakes are ordered in sets of two. The 4 ounce parfaits and bite-sized cakes are sold by the dozen.

The Cheesecakery also offers a three-layer cheesecake cake, with two layers of traditional cake, and a third layer of cheesecake in the middle, all filled and topped with frosting and decorations.

Traditional recipes with Oreo or Graham Cracker crusts are available, as are keto, sugar-free and gluten-free options.

Orders can be placed for catering jobs at birthdays, weddings, baby showers, work or family functions, or just because it's Tuesday, and you really need a double-crusted cheesecake to make it through the week.

Gender reveal cakes are a fun new trend Gessner is enjoying making – including one for her own family! She baked a cheesecake with a little blue batter inside to announce the upcoming arrival of she and her husband, Nicholas' son, in February 2023.

"I've never been a baker," laughed Gessner, who said she'd mildly helped her mom bake some cookies before. "It's just not my thing, I've always preferred cooking – including pasta and chicken dishes in my Instapot – but this has turned into such a fun and amazing business, and I really enjoy coming up with new creations and flavors for my growing number of clients!"

If you would like to support this local, woman-owned business by placing an order, or would just like to know more, contact Gessner through Facebook at her "The Cheesecakery" page, on her website <http://Thecheesecakery707.com/>, or email her at [thecheesecakery707@gmail.com](mailto:thecheesecakery707@gmail.com), or text or call 408-469-7481.

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW394

### Fictitious Business Name Statement

2022-F0399  
The following company is doing business as Sparetime Supply Distribution, 300 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Sparetime Supply, Inc., 475 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 20, 2017.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on August 10, 2022.

/s/ Jaime L. Wilkes, Vice President

Publication dates: September 1, 8, 15, 22, 2022

WW395

### Fictitious Business Name Statement

2022-F0409  
The following person is doing business as Dark Gold Computer Solutions, 1635 Padula Drive, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Aaron Unroe, 1635 Padula Drive, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on August 1, 2022.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on August 17, 2022.

/s/ Aaron Unroe

Publication dates: September 8, 15, 22, 29, 2022

## SPORT CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE RAM

Service Technician Wanted \$28-\$35/hour Plus Performance Based Bonus

Technician Intern Wanted This is an opportunity to become part of a first-class service team

\$18-\$22/hour to start Plus Performance Based Bonus

Both positions include: Medical Insurance | Dental Insurance Vision Plan | 401K

Employee Discounts on vehicles, service & parts We are proud to be a family-owned business on the Mendocino Coast. Join our team today! Inquiries are confidential.

To apply or to get more information contact Mindy Slaughter at [mindy@sportautocenter.com](mailto:mindy@sportautocenter.com) or 707-964-5915

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### Computer Help

Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email [uicearball@gmail.com](mailto:uicearball@gmail.com)

### 'Experience The Sound of Soul'

Wednesday, September 21, 6 to 7 pm at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 E. Commercial Street. Welcome to the worlds of HU (pronounced "hue"), an ancient, universal name for God. This sacred word can spiritually uplift people of any religion, culture, or walk of life. It is freely given – a gift beyond measure. Love is Love. And you are that. HU is the Sound of Soul. Information? Call April, 707-972-2475 or visit [www.TheSoundofSoul.org](http://www.TheSoundofSoul.org)

### Firewood for Sale

1 true cord of 16 inch firewood, fir starting at \$250, and up. Plus delivery. Call Dave at 707-459-2868.

### For Rent

2 Bdrm. 1 1/2 bath Townhouse/Condo in nice country setting. Washer & Dryer hook-up, garbage paid. \$1100.00 plus Sec. Deposit. 707-459-9601. Arcco Management Company

### For Rent

2 Bdrm. 1 1/2 bath Townhouse close to shopping area in a quiet complex. Washer & Dryer facility, garbage paid, \$1200.00 per month plus Sec. Deposit. 707-459-9601. Arcco Management Company.

### For Rent

Clean and Quiet Studio Apt. walking distance to downtown, garbage pd. \$725.00 per month plus deposit. Arcco Management. 707-459-9601

### Help Wanted

Senior Center is hiring a Transportation Dispatcher (40 hours weekly). Pick up applications at 1501 Baechtel Road or Email resumes to [wsdirector@willitsseiorcenter.com](mailto:wsdirector@willitsseiorcenter.com)

### Help Wanted

Food Bank General Associate: Part time position joining a compassionate and efficient team to deliver food and services. Kindness is essential. COVID vaccinations and booster and negative test, masks and monthly home tests are required. We provide tests. General office skills necessary. Assist in warehouse handling food, work directly with hungry and food insecure people in a COVID protected area, support executive director in a variety of tasks. Apply or drop resume in Willits Food Bank mailbox at 229 East San Francisco Street or call 707-459-3333 or 707-354-3960.

### Indoor

### Yard Sale - 9/17

Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley (across from the Broiler), Saturday, September 17 – 8 am to 4 pm.

### John Ford Ranch Beef

John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$325.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$150.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.

### Massage Therapy \$60/hour

Professional and friendly male massage therapist. 9 years' experience helping others cope naturally with their aches and pains. Evening availability. In home service available. Conditions apply. Call 707-518-0086.

### Room For Rent

Room for Rent. Must have job and references. No pets. No drugs. \$600/month and \$200 deposit. 1-707-354-0287.

### RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tp>

Email us your ad copy on Monday for Thursday publication!

### Marc Komer Legal Document Assistant

An Affordable Non-Attorney Service

(707) 459-2775

245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.





## Free Harvest Sharing at the Grange, September 25

Submitted by the Little Lake Grange

At this time of gratitude for the bounty of harvest, you are invited to a Harvest Sharing at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, on Sunday, September 25, from 9:30 to noon.

This is in conjunction with the Grange Pancake Breakfast that will be that morning.

The Harvest Sharing will be outside in the back of the Grange with tables ready for your donations of food-related items to give away, and for you to come and get whatever you and your family may need for FREE! (no money involved)

Bring extra harvest from your garden, and food related items like extra dried or home-canned goods.

Herbalists are also invited to bring culinary and/ or medicinal herbs, fresh or dried. There will be a table specifically for herb-related items.

Items may be dropped off between 9:30am and noon – the event will be staffed throughout the morning, so you can drop your goods and leave, if need be.

This event is sponsored by The Elderbroads weaving and mending community.

Co-sponsored and hosted by Little Lake Grange.

# PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Sunday, September 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
**8 to 11 am**

**Outdoor Dining Available**

**Adults - \$8**  
**Children under 8 - \$6**  
**Senior Center Members - \$7**

**Menu Choices**

- 1. Pancakes with eggs cooked the way you like them. (Choice of Sausage or Bacon.)**
- 2. Biscuits & Gravy with eggs cooked the way you like them.**
- 3. Meat Sides:**  
**3 slices Bacon - \$2.00 • 3 Sausage links - \$2.00**



**Harrah Senior Center**  
**1501 Baechtel Road • 707-459-6826**

# IMPRESSED

A CELEBRATION OF PRINTMAKING



**MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM**  
**AUGUST 12 - SEPTEMBER 25**

# Library Fall Book Sale is Back !



**September 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**at the**  
**Willits Branch Library**  
**Conference room**

<b>Friday Sept. 16</b>	<b>10 am to 5 pm</b>
<b>Saturday Sept. 17</b>	<b>10 am to 5 pm</b>
<b>Sunday Sept. 18</b>	<b>10 am to 3 pm</b>

**Sunday all books only \$3 a bag!**

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial St., Willits  
(707) 459-5908



At left: Manager Anthony Wilcutt, Javier Gutierrez, HR Director BJ Gutierrez, and Stephanie Wilcutt enjoy Metalfx Family Day at the Rec Grove.

Below, left: METALfx Associates Justin Taylor, Roger Patereau and Eldon Milner.

Below, right: The "Family Day" banner at the Rec Grove for the employee party.



## METALfx throws Family Day Party in the Rec Grove

Submitted by METALfx

METALfx is sounding more and more like a great place to work these days, recently treating their employees to a fun-filled "METALfx Family Day" party in Willits Recreation Grove Park. Enjoying perfect weather and a high turnout, the family-friendly event provided a great opportunity for the entire METALfx family to socialize outside of work, let loose, and have some fun together.

One of the most popular activities of the day was the unique opportunity for METALfx employees to let off some steam (or show their love) for their management team by throwing down \$1 for three tries to dunk their favorite manager, or \$20 to simply run up and push the dunk button, all which resulted in raising a whopping \$2,250 in donations to support Willits Sober Grad.

Below, left: "Dunked" METALfx managers Anthony Wilcutt, Rick Hendrix, Adrian Lopez, Sean Convery, Kristy Moss, and President Henry Moss with the check for Willits Sober Grad they raised by being dunked. Below, left, bottom: METALfx Associate Sean Adams' daughter Cypress Adams, left, with Kara Lynn Reiter and her mother, METALfx Associate Chrystina Patterson. Below, right: METALfx Associates Rick and Jennifer Sneed, with Gattlin Sneed and Remington-Rose Sneed.



## The rest of Hot hot hot | From page 1

After more recent changes, too, these days when you go to the National Weather Service Eureka website and search for "Willits CA," you are presented with current conditions for "Soda Creek" which, based on the latitude and longitude reported on the NWS page, is a good 20 miles east of Willits – and generally hotter in the summer.

People like to argue about the weather – and about how hot it was at their home or business in "Willits" or "Ukiah." But even with the most accurate devices, temperatures (and precipitation) in local microclimates can differ widely – even in the City of Willits, let alone in the 95490 zip code.

National Weather Service has "cooperative weather observers" that report official temperatures from their weather stations. The observers use highly accurate devices, called "maximum/minimum temperature sensors," which use electrical resistance to record the temperature. The devices are also placed and used under controlled conditions.

But there are other non-official local weather stations to look at, including many at the Weather Underground website, in the Willits area: [www.wunderground.com/weather/us/ca/willits/95490](http://www.wunderground.com/weather/us/ca/willits/95490)

If you go to that link, then click "CHANGE" near the top, left, the page will reload with a selection of Willits area stations – zoom in or out to see more or less – all showing temperatures.

At 3:45 pm on Tuesday, September 6, Willits area stations showed a range of temperatures from a "low" of 105.8 degrees to 112.3 degrees.

### No rolling blackouts

Despite advance warnings about rolling blackouts due to excessive demand on the power grid – and an urgent warning Tuesday evening asking Californians to conserve energy, the California Independent Systems Operator has not instituted any rolling blackouts – yet.

The Flex Alert warning, and plea to residents to use less power between the hours of 4 to 10 pm, has now been extended through Wednesday evening.

The Willits area doesn't generally have to worry about rolling blackouts designed to force-save electricity, as residents are on the same power circuit as essential services like the hospital, and the Willits Police Department which can't be shut down in a rolling blackout.

What PG&E calls "PSPS" – public service power shutoffs – are a different story. When PG&E shuts down power proactively due to fear the power system may start a wildland fire, essential services are not exempt.

### Cooling Center

The City of Willits opened the Willits Community Center at 111 East Commercial Street as a Cooling Center Tuesday and Wednesday, also now on Thursday. The center is open from 8 am to 6 pm (possibly later). "Please come and enjoy the cool air, bring a book, games, and relax," the City of Willits Facebook post said.

## The rest of Blues | From page 5

"This is a fundraiser for our Willits Lions Club," he said. "With the event paid for by the sponsors, all the money we raise today goes to the good causes that the club supports. We have alcohol donated by Barra and Frey Winery, Northspur Brewery, and Hare in the Forest. All the alcohol sales go directly to the Lions Club."

The money brought in will help the club continue its altruistic work in gifting scholarships to Willits High School seniors and several other worthy projects.

Around 30 vendors were arranged in booths at the outer edges of the party, offering art, information, and very tasty food. Maria Alatorre brought her machine for cooking "Elotes" (corn on the cob) with various dressings, which were a big hit. Jaynene "Mama J" Johnson with Zocalo Collective occupied the kiosk and served a selection of treats from a spicy bean salad to her signature "Love Handles" (fried pastries with meat and veggie fillings.) Smokin G's and Big D's BBQ's "Dirty Fries" could be seen along with their other carnivorous fare throughout the park.

Several craft booths were also offering their wares, such as Ginny Ozelton, whose brilliant paintings attracted passersby. Tim Cerrato and his wife, Veronica, had a selection of colorful crafts. Sienna Reno and Carlos Hernandez showed imported earrings from Colombia. Crystal Thompson's "Crafted by Crystal" booth offered a selection of loom-knitted monsters and celebrities.

Melissa Galliano, who is setting up Fridays at the Luscious Beauty Boutique & Day Spa had her "permanent bracelets" on display. Element 7, the newest dispensary, was giving tastes (without medication) of their gummies.

There was a solemn moment as Pooba dedicated the concert to his friend, Doug Prado, who had recently been in a fatal motorcycle accident.

"A very dear friend, if I can hold myself together, a friend I have laughed with, shared music with, gone to shows with, and someone who has inspired me to never give up," said Pooba as he asked for a moment of silence for all who had been lost.

"People have been really on edge and we have needed this so much," declared Pooba. "I promise you and the Lions promise you, and all the people who put this on promise you that this will not be the last one. In the spirit of those people who are not here to enjoy it anymore and for the people who are here to enjoy it, not only for us but for our children.

"This is a crazy, crazy town," he continued. "I moved here about 25 years ago and everybody knows that I'm a little nuts anyway [murmurs of agreement], but I care about this town a lot. I kept talking about wanting to have this show and until recently, I wondered if anyone was listening. I'm not sure if they got on board because they wanted to shut me up, but I think it's because they really wanted to have this happen, so I really thank you all."

## The rest of Fees | From page 1

Fort Bragg Advocate News, Bruce Anderson and Mark Scaramella of the Anderson Valley Advertiser, and Sarah Reith who works with several media outlets including KZYX.

In an August 25 email Sarah Reith said that when she contacted FAC over concerns about the ordinance, "They got right back to me ... because they already had this ordinance on their radar as one of the worst in the state!"

In Maxwell's letter, she cited several groups who had also expressed opposition to the ordinance including Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, California News Publishers Association, and Society of Professional Journalists Northern California Chapter's Freedom of Information Committee.

In an attempt to alleviate some of the concerns about the fee ordinance, on August 16 county supervisors approved a resolution to set up a grant program for journalists to cover their fees for public record requests.

However, the criteria for how to decide who is in "media" and therefore able to have their fees covered was not put in place at that point, although Counsel Curtis recommended something related to circulation numbers.

In Maxwell's letter, she expressed frustration at the vagueness from the county of how the fee ordinance and the grant program would be put in effect.

"Details of how this fund will be created, administered, and implemented are still not publicly available weeks after the fee ordinance took effect, demonstrating the lack of due diligence county supervisors and counsel have put in," the letter read.

She asked that the county repeal the ordinance, agreeing with FAC that it was in violation of the California Public Records Act.

"The supervisors and county counsel have publicly stated their intent with these fees is to reduce the number of requests as well as to assess them based on the perceived intent of the requester, which is a clear violation of state law," said Maxwell.

At the August 16 board of supervisors meeting, Curtis talked about what kind of criteria would be best to use to determine who could have their fees covered by grants.

"We can't look at things like the

## The rest of Fires | From page 1

7 am update on Wednesday, September 7, the Walker Fire has now burned an additional 25 acres with the flare-up, up to 124 acres burned, and is 85% contained.

Four firefighters have been injured at the Walker Fire, two injuries were first reported on CAL FIRE's 7 pm report on Friday, September 2, and two additional injuries were first reported in the 7 pm update on Tuesday. One of the new injuries was an ankle injury.

On the first day at the Walker Fire September 1, a medic crew responding to pick up a firefighter down with a shoulder injury had to turn back, after getting to an unsafe area of the fire where "a minute before trees were falling," one of the medics reported on the scanner. The injured firefighter was instead brought out to Highway 101 to meet the medic crew.

Some of the burning spots during Tuesday's flare-up were on the west side of Morris Reservoir, some were on a peninsula jutting into the reservoir, surrounded on three sides by water – and one flare-up was on an island. Scanner chatter included communications about acquiring a boat.

CAL FIRE released a video Wednesday showing firefighters gaining access to that fire with a boat: [https://twitter.com/CALFIRE\\_MEU/status/1567576942123286528](https://twitter.com/CALFIRE_MEU/status/1567576942123286528)

A beautiful night-time photo posted on Twitter by Press Democrat photographer Ken Porter, shows trees alight on that island.

Ground access to any of the flare-ups in timbered areas was not easy: Ground resources were assembling at 33710 Old Boy Scout Road, and the dozer had to pause to find out if the bridge ahead could take the dozer's weight.

The Walker Fire originally started on Thursday, September 1, around 3:45 pm, as three small fires right to the east of Highway 101 at mile marker 43.50.

The fires burned east into the Willits Watershed, up towards Morris Reservoir. The Willits Water Plant, west of 101 not far from the start of the first across the highway, was evacuated that first day, and there was concern the fire could threaten the water plant structures, but the fire did not cross the highway, either that first day or during the flare-up.

Initial response on September 1 was a full wildland turnout, too, with CAL FIRE MEU's initial September 1 report listing 176 responders, including 14 engines, 4 water tenders, 2 helicopters, 4 crews, 3 dozers, fixed-wing aircraft, 25 overhead personnel. In addition there were multiple water tankers making drops on the fire.

An Operational Update video by CAL FIRE MEU reported more than half the engines on the ground were from local fire departments, constituted mostly of volunteers.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office put out evacuation warnings for Pine Mountain and the Ridgewood Ranch Road subdivisions on September 1, and the slow lane of northbound Highway 101 was closed, causing traffic delays. After Caltrans inspected the lane for damage, both lanes were reopened.

quality of the reporting, how accurate we think the information is," he said. "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 investiture of the public funds and an efficient use of the resources."

The fees in the ordinance – called "No. 4507" – range from \$20 per hour of staff time for more simple search requests to up to \$150 per hour for requests that necessitate the county's attorneys to be involved and determine what information is disclosable.

The idea for the ordinance largely emerged from concerns of Curtis and others at the county that too much time and resources were being expended for unnecessary record requests.

However, in her letter Maxwell suggested that the combination of the ordinance and the new media grant program could be "a boondoggle that will cost the county more than it saves in staff time and potential legal fees" due to the bureaucracy it adds to the records request process.

"The creation of a media fund will inevitably take additional staff time, generate public comment and debate, and increase administration costs on county staff by creating an additional layer of applications, administration, labor, and grant dispersals on top of the public records request process required by state law," the letter read.

"If the goal is to reduce staff costs, as supervisors and county counsel have expressed," the letter continues, "neither this ordinance nor the media fund will accomplish this, and is likely to have the opposite effect. Moreover, the creation of the fund does not address the fundamental issue, which is ensuring public access to these records."

In the First Amendment Coalition letter, the group went into some detail about why they believed the fee ordinance violated the CPRA, even with the county grant program intended to pay for journalists' fees.

"The California Public Records Act does not authorize fees for locating, reviewing, and redacting records, and no statute authorizes a county to impose fees not otherwise allowed by the CPRA," the letter stated. "To charge up to \$150 per hour for responding to record requests creates a financial barrier that deprives many people of transparency rights guaranteed by the CPRA and California Constitution. The

The board of supervisors said that they would likely continue discussions on the fee ordinance matter in their meetings this month, and regular meetings are scheduled for September 13 and 20.

CAL FIRE announced "Forward progress has been stopped" in its 7 pm update the day the fire started, September 1. CAL FIRE continued to put out updates over the next few days, with slowly growing containment figures, and noting ongoing mop-up and repair work.

Another CAL FIRE MEU video during this repair period is about how "falling modules" mitigate hazard trees after a fire, and shows a single firefighter at the Walker Fire using an ax to chop down a tree with a fire smoldering in its middle – with northbound 101 traffic in the background. See that video on Twitter at [https://twitter.com/CALFIRE\\_MEU/status/1566246946385170433](https://twitter.com/CALFIRE_MEU/status/1566246946385170433)

CAL FIRE lists cooperating agencies on the Walker Fire as : Laytonville Volunteer Fire Department, City of Willits, Little Lake Fire District, Hopland Fire Protection District, Potter Valley Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, California Department of Transportation, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, California Conservation Corps, and the California National Guard.

The cause of the Walker Fire is still being investigated.

### Trailer fires

A full wildland fire response was also dispatched after reports of fires at the Valley Oaks Trailer Park east of Willits on Tuesday, and at Bertha Keys Way on Wednesday. Bertha Keys Way is on the Sherwood Valley Rancheria way up Sherwood Road, way past Brooktrails and past the First / Second / Third Gate subdivisions.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office also put out "situational awareness" warnings via Nixle for both fires.

The fires were both "fully engulfed" trailers, with a risk of fire spilling out onto surrounding vegetation, but reports were that there was very little spread. Both situational awareness alerts were cancelled in just about an hour. No injuries were reported.

Brooktrails Fire Department posted Wednesday afternoon about their response to the September 7 fire on Bertha Keys Way.

"Today around noon, we responded to a structure fire on the Old Sherwood Reservation," the post read. "We were assisted by Little Lake Fire, CAL FIRE and the CAL Office of Emergency Services pre-positioned task force of engines, a water tender and dozer.

"Upon our arrival, a well involved structure was burning and starting to extend into the surrounding vegetation. With the help of a helicopter and crew, we were able to retard the spread of the vegetation fire until ground resources arrived.

"Also the Mendocino Sheriff's Office responded and issued a warning to surrounding residents.

"There were no injuries, and the Red Cross was called for the displaced residents. The cause is under investigation," the Brooktrails Fire post concluded.



Gentle Pretzel

Pretzel is a senior gentleman (7 years old) who loves people and really enjoys the company of other dogs. Don't let him spend his golden years at a shelter; come bail this handsome guy out!

Notes from Pretzel's foster parent: "Pretzel may be a senior but he is still spunky as ever! We went on a long walk tonight and he wasn't pulling or stalling at all. He would make a great fit for a family dog as he is super kind and loving. He made sure to stay by my leg anytime a stranger walked past and was not aggressive whatsoever! He gets along so well with my little dog. Seriously the best foster I've had so far. He still wants to play but is very easy to simmer down. A very loving well behaved dog!"

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](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com), our Facebook page, and on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).

Joyful Jingles

Meet Jingles! He is a special guy whose tail jingles a mile a minute. He is a happy fella that may have been born with or experienced some previous trauma that has led to what we think are some minor neurological issues. This doesn't seem to inhibit him from living a normal



Pretzel

life, and wanting to have fun! This 1-year-old will need to find a family that not only has experience with herding breeds, but are also willing to take on the quirks that make him so special.

He will need to meet everyone in the family prior to adoption, including any children (older are recommended), and any dogs to make sure

that everyone meshes together as a good fit. Positive reinforcement training is recommended to help teach him manners and to help him bond with his new family!



Jingles

To learn more about Jingles or view other adoptable animals, visit [www.milofoundation.org](http://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.

Frisky Honey

Honey, like most kittens, is playful and loves to run around and explore. She is playful and friendly both with her siblings and with people. We think she would do well with children and with other cats.

Honey is available for adoption at the Fish Out of Water pet store in Willits. If you would like to view other adoptable animals from the Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, please make a reservation by calling 707-467-6453. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com).



Honey

OBITUARY |

Douglas Prado

Family and friends are grieving the loss of Douglas Prado who died suddenly in an auto accident on August 14, 2022. Douglas was born in San Jose to Bert and Martha Prado. After graduating Lick High School, in 1970, Doug worked as an auto mechanic for many years, becoming a journeyman at Hinman's Evergreen Garage.

He met the love of his life, Anne Rosamond Crowder, in 1980; they married in 1986 while Doug attended De Anza College's Parks Management Program.

He continued at Chico State University where he got a BA and MA in Recreation and Parks Management (1992). He volunteered at and worked numerous part-time jobs for county parks, national parks, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Eventually Doug became a full time park ranger/ law enforcement officer for the Bureau of Land Management out of Ukiah. His patrol sector covered 370,000 acres in nine counties. Much of his patrol time was spent on a KTM dirt bike. He took assignments on numerous other federal lands, wrote grants, officiated at OHV races, and did security for fire camps.

On days off Doug worked hard to create a fine homestead and to collaborate with Rosamond's performance art extravaganzas. As Rosamond's "Right Hand Man," with his tools and ingenuity, he helped create her 35 giant puppets and perform the One Heart Ceremony. For 17 years, they created, grew, and performed parades at the High Sierra Music Festival together.

Joyful and playful, Doug loved to host a party and to help people. His wide range of interests included cooking, meeting interesting people, backpacking, homesteading, motorcycles, swimming, listening to recorded and live music, and completing projects of all kinds. Many remember his infectious laugh.

Doug is survived by his wife Rosamond Crowder; his sister Susan Prado (his sister Kathy Corriea preceded him in death); nieces Christine Maurici, Alexa Morris, and Melanie Wade; and nephews David Corriea and Thomas Wade.

A good neighbor, a fabulous friend, a caring, kind, beautiful soul, Doug will be profoundly missed by all those he touched. A celebration of Doug's life will be held at a later time.



OBITUARY |

Mary Amick

Mary Mabel Amick, 84 of Willits passed away in her home August 13, 2022. Mary and her husband, Willard Amick, were longtime residents of Willits.

Mary is survived by her 10 grandkids, 24 great-grandkids, six great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Willard, all her siblings, her daughters Vicky, Mary Sue, and Sally Ann, and her granddaughter Lacey.

Mary was a homemaker, raising her three children as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and living to see her great-great-grandchildren. Mary loved going camping, hunting, and fishing with her husband, Willard, in Quincy, California.

Mary was a stubborn, sweet and strong woman who will be missed terribly by all of her family. May she rest in peace.

A memorial potluck will be held for her on September 10, 2022 at Alasia's residence. Contact her for address.

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