

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
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Brooktrails board questions Sherwood Road speed limits

Barbara O'Reardon
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The Brooktrails Township Board of Directors met on Tuesday, September 13, and all board members were present. Director Tony Orth attended remotely via Zoom.

Director Ralph Santos expressed concern about the speed limit signs along Sherwood Road, in light of the fact that there was a recent accident resulting in a fatality. He noted that half of the posted signs are 40 mph and the other half are 45 mph signs. He said, "When I first moved up here the speed limit was 35 mph, and now that it's been raised, people drive up to 60-65 mph and it's becoming very dangerous. It's scary and ridiculous."

Director Tony Orth stated that there was a traffic study done that brought about the uptick in the speed limits that are posted. He further suggested that "cautionary signs" could be posted that might help. General Manager Tamara Alaniz suggested that the board write a letter to California Highway Patrol and the

Read the rest of
Brooktrails
Over on page 10

Wild weather in Willits

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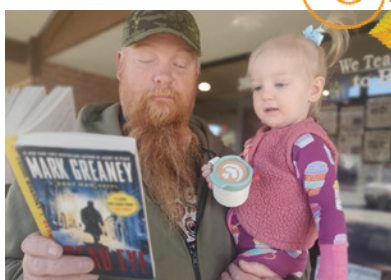
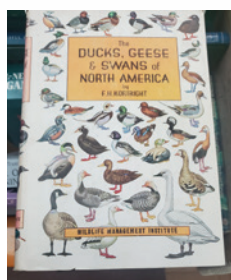
When the weather forecasts started predicting measurable amounts of rain and cool temperatures for a few days, and maybe even thunderstorms, it was surprising enough. But between the first bout of rain, overnight Saturday into Sunday, and the heavy rain Tuesday afternoon, some areas around Willits have gotten over 5.5 inches of rain.

Sunday morning was quiet in town, as rain fell steadily, running down the streets and collecting in the low spots. Late that afternoon, a pause – with a patch of blue sky – allowed the collected rain to drain off the surface.

There were many reports on social media of people getting 2 to 3 inches of rain from that first storm. The National Weather Service Eureka posted a map at 2:44 am Monday morning showing 2.7 inches fallen in the Willits area from midnight Saturday to midnight Sunday.

There was a little more rain here and there

Read the rest of
Weather
Over on page 4



Above, from left: There was something for everyone at the Friends of the Library Book Sale, including this book about the geese and ducks and swans of North America. The banner announcing the sale hangs in front of the library. Matt Jennison gives this Mark Greaney book a quick read to Magnolia while she enjoys her "latte." Rows and rows of books were available to purchase. Below: The great room in the Willits branch of the Mendocino County Library was set up in categories for shoppers to easily buy the used books.



Fall's FOWL Sale

Friends of the Library holds annual book sale much to the delight of readers of all ages

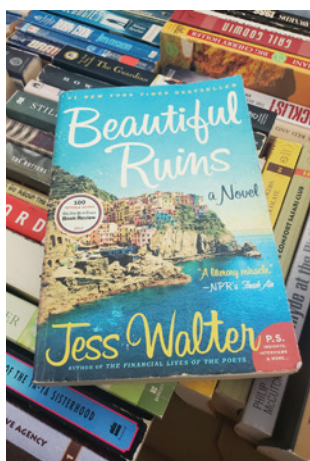
There was a steady stream of shoppers over the three-day book sale put on by the Friends of the Willits Library last weekend at the Willits Branch Library. Starting with 120 boxes of books, they managed to end up with only 50 boxes after things were said and done, and FOWL Treasurer Beth Rosen said that was in line with the group's goals for the sale.

"We were able to get rid of a lot of books fast!" said Rosen. "Children's books are always a hit and went fast."

Read the rest of
FOWL

Over on page 10

Photos by
Maureen Jennison



School board hears update on federal review

Margi Gomez Guhde
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The public portion of the September 14 Willits Unified School Board meeting convened at 5:15 pm at the Willits High School Media Center.

WUSD Superintendent Mark Beebe introduced Arora Chavez, executive director of Student Programs, who gave an update on the federal program monitoring that is currently underway at WUSD, and the district's response.

The federal program monitoring, according to Chavez's Power Point presentation, "is an overall determination of whether the local educational agency is meeting statutory program and fiscal requirements for categorical programs."

Chavez updated the board on the various ways that WUSD is addressing the findings of the federal review, emphasizing the use of categorical funds for literacy for English Learners at WUSD.

Read the rest of
Review
Over on page 11

BOS asks staff to cut some unfilled positions

Forrest Glyer
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On Tuesday, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved directing county staff to consider eliminating about 45 vacant positions from the county books, unless heads of the departments can give good reason as to why they should be retained.

The county currently has around 400 vacant positions, and has been discussing the possibility of eliminating some for several months.

Board Chair Ted Williams and Third District Supervisor John Haschak said their wish would be to put the money saved by the cuts towards those currently working for the county, boosting their salaries or benefits.

This was an idea which some county workers and union representatives have been pushing for, saying the money freed up could be used to enact a sorely needed cost of living

Read the rest of
Positions
Over on page 11

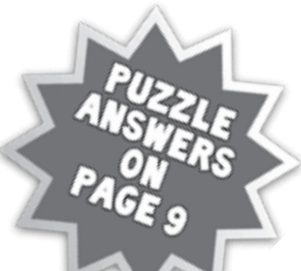


While not a drought buster, it was certainly a welcome sight to see more than 5 inches of rain fall in and around the Willits valley earlier this week. We can hope for more, but it's a great start to the rain year.

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12			13			14		
15							16			17		
	18				19		20			21		
					22	23			24			
25	26	27	28	29								
30								31				
32									33	34	35	36
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					38	39	40		41	42		
					43				44			
			45	46								
47	48					49			50	51	52	53
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63					64	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Fall down
5. Gas usage measurement
8. Golf score
11. A superior grade of black tea
13. Wrath
14. Eating house
15. Delay leaving a place
16. People now inhabiting Myanmar
17. Canadian flyers
18. Walks back and forth
20. Frequently
21. Humans have two
22. Surrounds with armed forces
25. Made proper
30. Medical buildings
31. Patty Hearst's captors
32. Hits with a drop shot
33. Italy's PM 1919-20
38. Promotions
41. En __; incidentally
43. Queens baseball team
45. Commoner
47. Expenses in insurance world (abbr.)
49. Payroll firm
50. Broadway actress Daisy

55. Skipper butterflies
56. Hint
57. Daniel __, French composer
59. English children's author Blyton
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Patriotic women's group
63. The woman
64. Tall, slender-leaved plant

CLUES DOWN

1. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
2. Jump
3. Eaten as a vegetable
4. Residual paresis after anesthesia
5. Brunchtime staple
6. Makes money off of
7. Refined
8. Nocturnal S. American rodents
9. From a distance
10. Officials
12. It helps you see
14. Central Canadian indigenous person
19. Invests in little enterprises
23. They help in tough situations
24. Industrial port in Poland
25. Type of screen
26. Peyton's little brother
27. Alcoholic beverage
28. Newspapers need it
29. Herbal tea
34. Distinctive practice
35. Exercise system __-bo
36. Explosive
37. Belonging to a thing
39. Presidential candidates engage in them
40. Of the Swedes
41. Meadow-grass
42. 'Rule, Britannia' composer
44. Hooray!
45. Greek city
46. One way to do it by example
47. Imitated
48. 'Game of Thrones' actress Headey
51. Swiss river
52. Drought-resistant plant
53. A French abbot
54. One point east of northeast
58. Get free of



Hometown Flavors

Community-minded owners serve up tender slow-cooked meats with friendly service at Smokey's BBQ on Main Street

"We are slow-cooked fast food," declared Simone River N'Doye, who, along with Gane Jackson, has recently opened a new restaurant venue at 42 South Main Street. "We really pride ourselves in putting a lot of time and hard work into making our meats come off as a slow-smoked food, but we're really fast with our service."

If the reviews of their early customers are any indication, they should be around for quite some time. N'Doye owns the building, which she inherited from her mother.

"We have an investment in our community," she said. "There are a lot of people who wanted to buy this building outright. I've never had any interest in selling it. It's all about location. You can't buy the proper location to match the budget. I think we're in the right spot at the right time. This is an historical building right here in downtown Willits. One of the reasons it had so many difficulties in the past keeping tenants, is that it was not actually set up as a restaurant."

"Originally, it was the very first Moon Lady when Marie moved to town around 1995. Over the years, we have converted it into a fully functioning restaurant. We've put in plumbing. We've put in an ancil (exhaust) system. We've put in all the kitchen ware. We've developed it into what this town needed, which is a commercial kitchen."

Indeed, the little building, with its distinct style, has been home to many food establishments in the past. Hopefully, the current management team can keep it going.

Smokey's BBQ is named after the huge smoker, situated on the back patio, which is capable of producing great quantities of perfectly cooked meats and fish for large events or small get-togethers, or more often, the customer who wants only one item.

Smokey's chef, Gane Jackson, has a friendly relationship with the device, one of patience and proclivity for creating tender, tasty foods.

"I've been barbecuing since I was in my early teenage years," Jackson explained. "When I was in my early 20s, I ran a restaurant in San Francisco. I was general manager in the Marina District. It's always been a passion of mine. It's always come natural to me."

"I came up here," he said, "when I had an opportunity to purchase some property in Laytonville about six years ago. I took the plunge. I left Los Angeles and moved up north. I originally

had another business partner but she ended up coming down with cancer, which put everything on hold. Then I met and partnered with Simone. She saved the day."

So far, the partnership seems to be working, producing savory smoked meats with plenty of sides to sate even the hungriest of appetites.

"The food brought me down here. I live way out in the boondocks. I got word of this place and I'm here," said one customer in anticipation, braving the road all the way from Third Gate to partake.

Another customer, Vicki, with young Bella in tow, said that she had heard of the barbecue joint from her mother and had to try it out. Word of mouth seems to be working for the fledgling business. Even though they have not had a formal opening, they are enjoying a growing reputation amongst the people of Willits.

It's no surprise that N'Doye would know what would satisfy the locals.

"I call myself 'roots deep,' said N'Doye. "I was born and raised right here in Mendocino County. I was born of the back-to-the-landers generation of wild and flamboyant entrepreneurs that moved from the East Coast to the West Coast and made a conscious choice to be part of a community."

"In my heart, that's the most important aspect of why I'm in this business, so that my kids have something they really feel rooted to and connected to. I want them to feel that they can go anywhere in the world and know that they can always come back to this community and be an integral part of it, somebody that offers to the community, and to keep it as a blue, eco-friendly environment. That's at the heart of everything I do," N'Doye said proudly.

"I am married to a man from Senegal, West Africa. It's very important to me to not only be a part of this community, but to be an example of diversity, make it a safe place for all walks of people to have a connection to a sweet home town."

"Gane and I have a great working relationship," she continued, "where we're constantly lifting each other up and find solutions to difficult problems. Our biggest challenge right now is just letting people know we're open Tuesday through Saturday, 12 to 8 pm."

Daily specials, which may include salmon or crawfish cake sandwiches, are posted in front of the shop or on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/707MendoBbq. Call ahead for special orders: 707-409-4331.



At left: Co-owners Gane Jackson and Simone River N'Doye welcome customers to their new barbecue restaurant on Main Street.

Above, left: Smokey the smoker cooks meat slowly, retaining the flavor and moisture. Above, right: Full meals come with a choice of two sides. At right: Fresh salmon is slow-cooked on the smoker. Below, left: This historical downtown building houses the new Smokey's BBQ. Below, right: Ben prepares vegetables for the sandwiches and sides.



Above: One of the daily specials, a crawfish cake sandwich, is savory and crisp. Below: The menu board tells of the usual fare available at the counter, with daily specials.



LITERARY WORD SEARCH

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

ADVANCE	EDITION	JACKET
ANNOTATED	FLYLEAF	PLATE
AUTHOR	FOLIO	PRINT
BINDING	FORMAT	
BOARDS	GUTTER	PROSPECTUS
BROADSIDE	IMPRINT	PUBLISHED
COPY	INSCRIBED	READING
COVERS	ISSUE	SPINE

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

August 21 to September 3

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 139 incidents in this 14-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

August 21

6:08 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Tuttle Lane.

2:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Madrone Street.

August 22

No incidents to report.

August 23

No incidents to report.

August 24

1:01 pm: DEGURSE, Nathan Paul (24) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of domestic battery, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of metal knuckles, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and violation of probation.

3:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of East Hill Road.

3:42 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of North Main Street.

August 25

6:10 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

8:37 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:11 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:43 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.

4:34 pm: ESTES, Ashleigh Anne (37) of Seattle, Washington was contacted in the 1300 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 11550 H&S (Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance) and on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia.

August 26

12:48 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:38 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of West Valley Street.

August 27

12:40 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Main Street.

6:46 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

August 28

12:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

August 29

4:30 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Marcela Drive and issued a warning.

6:21 pm: MATTSON, Cheryl Kathleen (50) of Ukiah was contacted in the 100 block of Barbara Lane. She was arrested on felony charges of elder abuse and assault with a deadly weapon, and on misdemeanor charges of disobeying a court order and resisting an officer.

10:19 pm: LOPES Sr., Anthony

responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Shell Lane and Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

August 30

6:26 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of Baechtel Road.

6:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

8:47 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 700 block of Central Street.

August 31

5:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

9:42 pm: LANDRUMJOHNSTON, Georgette Mamie (57) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street following a report of an unwanted subject. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of trespassing.

CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit posted a reminder on social media Tuesday about the continuing danger of fire, despite this current break:

"Cooler weather is welcomed, after the hot summer heat, and the rain gives hope that relief is on the way, but don't let these conditions fool you!

"We are beginning to enter the most critical time of year for fire. With California suffering from extreme drought, vegetation is extremely receptive and ready to burn.

"CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit wants residents to remain vigilant when it comes to fire safety. Remember that debris pile burning is still suspended in Mendocino County – NO burning is allowed. Visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org for more information on how you can prepare for wildfire."

Forecasts for the Willits area are predicting the temperature to be in the mid to high 80s this weekend, and sunny.

September 3

9:09 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

The rest of

Weather

From page 1

overnight Monday, but Tuesday was mostly quiet, weather-wise, until late afternoon, when big peals of thunder and startling lightning strikes had a go. From around 4:30 pm to 6 pm, thunder was heard around Willits, and lightning seen.

The National Weather Service called the storm around Willits, slowly moving to the northwest, one of "the most notable current storms" in the area that day. "These storms are capable of producing small hail and brief heavy rain."

Multiple reports of heavy rain and pictures of hail showed up online, and Highway 101 drivers reportedly pulled over to wait out the storm. Flooding was reported in the No. 2 northbound lane on 101 on the Willits grade.

More reports of some areas getting 2 inches, or not quite 3 inches of rain were posted Tuesday evening, including one of 1.5 inches in 1.5 hours. Other local areas didn't get heavy rain during this thunderstorm.

PG&E did report a power outage in Pine Mountain Tuesday afternoon, right after the lightning strikes up in Pine Mountain, with 252 customers affected. PG&E crews achieved restoration of power by 11 am Wednesday morning.

At around 5:30 pm, a possible residential fire on the 3000 block of Ridgewood Road in Pine Mountain was called in. A full wildfire response started, but air attack was held due to the rain and continuing lightning strikes. Then ground response was instructed to stage where they were, as those on the scene were unable to find a fire at first.

They did find a lot of "water dogs" – a weather phenomenon seen after heavy rainfall, as in thunderstorms – wispy cloud forms that can look like columns of smoke from a fire.

But then came the on-scene report: "Not as reported, illegal burn pile, cancel the balance [of fire response], Engine 1152 will handle."

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Thursday, September 22
Happy first day of Fall!

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market at the old Rexall parking lot, downtown. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Thursday, September 22, 3 to 5:30 pm. 90 South Main Street. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales," story time from the Willits Branch Library and the Farmers Market Association, from 3:30 to 4 pm. Tobin will be offering readings of children's books for the community at large.

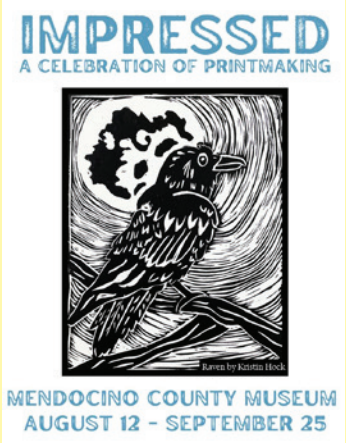
Our Energy Future: Save Money/Save the Climate: A Zoom forum sponsored by Willits Economic Localization. Presenters include Geof Syphers, CEO of Sonoma Clean Power, Keith Rutledge of the Renewable Energy Development Institute, and John Takes, founder of North Bay Solar Electric. September 22, 6:30 to 8 pm. The Zoom link is tinyurl.com/WELL-Energy-Forum. Info: Madge Strong at mstrong@willitsonline.com or 707-459-1493.

BACE Autumn Equinox Celebration: "Join us for a tremendous evening of music, art and movement. Come through early for Movement & Sound bath, amazing bites by @zocalove and check out the new art by @tribe13gallery." Tickets are \$25 pre-sale (available at eventbrite.com), or \$35 at the door. Thursday, September 22 at 6:30 pm. BACE, 109 North Main St.



Friday, September 23

"ImPRESSED, A Celebration of Printmaking": This is the last weekend for this showing at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits. "ImPRESSED celebrates the art of printmaking and community. Prints from local artists, both contemporary and beloved, will come together to inspire an appreciation for the fine art of printmaking. The museum's hours are Friday from 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 pm. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street.



WCA presents: "Bonnie Belt, 40 Years of Art," and "Laura Diamondstone, Paintings and Upcycled Work": "A retrospective of Bonnie Belt's ceramic work from the past 40 years, and paintings by Laura Diamondstone." These new exhibits open Friday, and a "Meet the Artists" event will be held Saturday from 6 to 9 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Open Friday to Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. Exhibits run until October 30.

Kyle Madrigal "Soul Lifting Original Music" at Brickhouse Coffee: "Amazingly gifted local musician" Kyle Madrigal plays every Friday from 11 am to 3 pm. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.

Shanachie Pub: Carlos Selections. "Carlos Hernández and Taylor playing Reggae riddims and Hip Hop beats. Hernández, trumpeter from Puerto Rico, offers diverse music groups with musicians that he has worked with since his first visit to Northern California back in 2016. Genres from jazz to latin, from reggae to funk, to music without labels. Visit www.facebook.com/mayequa. Friday, September 23, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.



"Garraoke" Night at Diggers Bar: Karaoke hosted by Garrett Moore on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month. "8 pm to midnight, then get down until closing!" Friday, September 23. Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street.

Willits High School Football: The Varsity and Junior Varsity football teams take on St. Helena at Willits High School, Maize Field, 299 North Main Street. September 23, JV plays at 5:30 pm, and Varsity at 7:30 pm.

Saturday, September 24

Celebration of Life for Les Tarr: A memorial gathering will be held for Les Tarr, longtime Willits residents and musician "who played bass with just about everyone." Les had a popular radio show, "Eight to the Bar with Les Tarr," and was MC every year at the Willits Toy Run. The memorial will be at the Rec Grove, Saturday, September 24, from 2 to 4 pm, with music and cake! Bring memories and stories to share; bring a dish to share if you like.

Willits Summer Art Walk: "Our downtown is brimming with talented artists and creative activity. Plan to spend the evening exploring art, history, music, and dance." Many local venues are involved, showing art exhibits and displays, and providing food and drinks. These include Art on the Plaza (99 S Main St), Willits Center for the Arts (71 E Commercial St), Re-Evolution (15 W Mendocino Ave), Shanachie Pub (50B S Main St), Scoops (110 N Main St), BACE (101 N Main St), Kemmy's Pies (299 E Commercial St), and the city library and museum. Last two walks of 2022: September 24 and October 29, 4 to 8 pm. For more info visit willitscenterforthearts.org.

Shanachie Pub: Saturday Scramble with Tyler B. Every second and fourth Saturday from 3 to 6 pm. "You're invited to bring any instrument you can play and sign up for a 'band' to perform a 15 minute set with other local musicians. Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!" Saturday September 24, 3 to 6 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S BACK!
What's Happening Around Town

Shanachie Pub: Wormhead. An alternative rock band formed by multi-instrumentalist and frontman Jeremy Cremer. This show features the band playing an acoustic set. Visit wormheadband.com. Saturday, September 24, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Meet the Artists at WCA: Willits Center for the Arts Presents "Bonnie Belt, 40 Years of Art," and Laura Diamondstone, Paintings and Upcycled Work". Meet the artists being showcased in these new exhibits on Saturday, September 25, from 6 to 9 pm. "A retrospective of Bonnie Belt's ceramic work from the past 40 years, and paintings by Laura Diamondstone." Exhibit opens Friday and runs through October 30. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Saturday, September 24, 6-9 pm.

Sarah Rose McMahon, Malakai Schindel and Forrest Glycer at the Willits Community Theater, with Special Guests Kyle Madrigal and Lhasa Summers: This group of longtime collaborating local musicians comes together for a special concert at the Willits Community Theatre. With musical histories that include the Real Sarahs, Schindig and the Dirt Floor Band among other acts, they have a diverse mix of backgrounds and influences that range from Americana and folk to jazz and world music. Tickets are \$20, available at wctperformingartscenter.org, or you can call 707-459-0895. Saturday, September 24, 7:30 pm. Willits Community Theater, 37 West Van Lane.



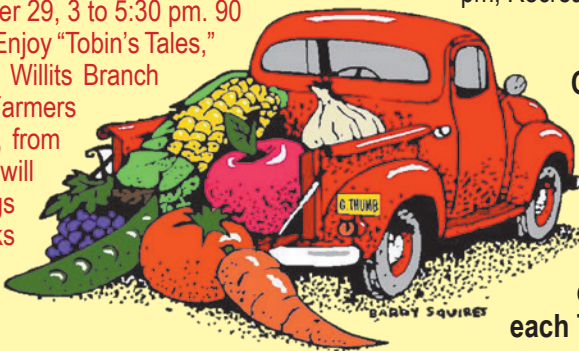
Wednesday, September 28

History Makers: Print and Play with Trains at the Mendocino County Museum: "Children aged 2-6 and their grownups are invited to the museum from 1-3 pm! Use toy trains to create your own railway line and add colorful scenery with stamps and drawings, or enjoy playtime and build a track with our wooden train set." Wednesday, September 28, 1 to 3 pm. Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street.

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic Night: Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises." Every Wednesday. September 28, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Thursday, September 29

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly Farmers Market at the old Rexall parking lot, downtown. The freshest local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Thursday, September 29, 3 to 5:30 pm. 90 South Main Street. Enjoy "Tobin's Tales," story time from the Willits Branch Library and the Farmers Market Association, from 3:30 to 4 pm. Tobin will be offering readings of children's books for the community at large.



Friday, September 29

Kyle Madrigal "Soul Lifting Original Music" at Brickhouse Coffee: "Amazingly gifted local musician" Kyle Madrigal plays every Friday from 11 am to 3 pm. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.



Shanachie Pub: Gonzalo Bergara Quintet Live CD Release Party: "Back for the first time since May of 2016 is Gonzalo Bergara. That Friday and Saturday night were recorded live at Shanachie Pub, and now the CD from that weekend is finally available for us all to take home & enjoy! The all-acoustic group play a modern variant of 1930s Django Reinhardt-inspired gypsy jazz. Composer and lead guitarist Bergara mixes a cascade of arpeggios with the sounds of Paris and his native Argentina." Visit www.gonzalobergara.com. Friday September 30, 9 pm, "limited engagement". Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

KLLG 97.9 Hometown Radio Willits Birthday Bash: "Music and dancing at Little Lake Grange with Funkacillin, Greg and Malakai Schindel, and Wendy Dewitt, plus our world-famous KLLG silent auction. Beer by Northspur Brewery, wine by Frey Vineyards, and food by Turtle Island Tacos. This event is dedicated to the memory of Lanny Cotler, Les Tarr and Mike Burgess." Tickets are \$15, available at J.D. Redhouse, and at the door. Friday, September 30, 7 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Saturday, October 1

Willits Arts Party: "Everyone is invited to the Willits Arts Party, a free fun-for-all-ages celebration of the ARTS, on Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 10-5 at Recreation Grove. Sponsored by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, the Willits Community Theatre, and the Willits Center for the Arts, the Willits Arts Party will showcase performance and visual arts. Attendees can browse art vendor booths and enjoy DJs, original music and dance, hula hooping, food trucks, live art demos, dancing to the soul sounds of Funkacillin, and more!" For more information visit www.facebook.com/WillitsArtsParty, or contact margi@mcn.org. Saturday, October 1, 10 am to 5 pm, Recreation Grove Park.

Willits Weekly's Centerspread Calendar is back! Please send listings and digital graphics to willitsweekly@gmail.com by our deadline, end of day Monday for each Thursday edition.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

Classic Film Series: 'Shaun of the Dead'

The Story: Very British Horror-backslash-Situation Comedy festooned with zombies and ripped flesh butchery. All quite sickening and funny.



Dan Essman
Columnist

Shaun and his best buddy/couch potato Ed are working class guys. (Well, Ed deals weed, but is out of product at the moment). Shaun works as a salesman of electronic paraphernalia, stereos, cassette players, and such. He sincerely tries.

But honestly, they're dead-enders. Losers, really, but not unhappy. And of course: there's always the pub. Then, the streets are full of the walking dead. Hungry zombies on the prowl. Shaun learns to whack 'em in the head. He finds his inner manhood and realizes he has to save his friends, his girl, his mum. The odds seem to be against them. Will they survive?



My Thoughts: The title rhymes with "Dawn of the Dead" and the flick is clearly an homage. Dreary folk wandering around London on their daily whatever's. Then we see the zombie folk wandering around London. The joke is obvious, but worth telling.

Simon Pegg is Shaun. He wrote the screenplay. He's done more than 100 movies. He's produced, written, directed, done voice over; he's done everything and knows what he's about. This movie has a cult following – fans rave. Rotten Tomatoes gives it 92% critics score, and 93% audience score. This is truly a party movie. Watch it with friends. It will be even better.

Parents: "Shaun of the Dead" is rated "R" because ... "hungry zombies." So, no children. Teenagers will probably love it.

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



Bonnie Belt, '40 Years of Art', Willits Art Center, through October

The Willits Center for the Arts Presents: "Bonnie Belt, 40 Years of Art," a retrospective of Bonnie Belt's ceramic work from the past 40 years. Also featured is "Laura Diamondstone, Paintings and Upcycled Work". Bonnie's work sells internationally. For the past 40 years, she has immersed herself in ceramics, creating exquisite objects to delight and amaze people with her skill. A native of Needles, California, she moved to Willits in 1994, and tells us, "An artist must make the choice to be a professional or just have her art as an accompaniment to another life."

SF Bay Area native Laura Diamondstone is now nestled in Anderson Valley tending to home, land, and animals, Laura is "grounded with belief in nature, research, inspired people, the arts, and giving back, all of which inform my creative process." Laura's paintings sing with color and wait till you see her unbelievable work with bubble wrap.

The show opens Friday, September 23, and you can meet the artists on Saturday, September 24 from 6 to 9 pm. Exhibits run through October 30. Sponsored by the Sherwood Band of Pomo Indians. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Talk on prehistoric art, Willits Senior Center, October 3

Join us for a trip to the pre-historic era and view artworks from as early as 42,000 BC. This Monday, October 3, 1:30 pm presentation, "Art: The Invention of a System, Prehistory," will be on the new big screen in the Willits Senior Center dining room. Join us for a new look at old art. Presented by the Willits Center for the Arts. Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.



KLLG 97.9 Hometown Radio Willits Birthday Bash, Little Lake Grange, September 30

"KLLG is having a Birthday Bash, celebrating six years of being your Community Radio Station, and also in dedication to Larry Cotler who started KLLG, and Les Tarr, host of an excellent blues show, and Mike Burgess! They will be greatly missed! We will have live music by Wendy Dewitt, Greg and Malakai Schindel and Funkacillin. Northspur Brewery will provide beer and Frey Vineyards will provide wine. Turtle Island Taco Truck will be serving food. A silent auction will be happening with donations from our awesome local businesses, including Ace Copy, Art in the Plaza, Brewed Awakening, Brickhouse Coffee, Buster's Burgers, Coast Hardware, Clark's Trailer Park, Davhi's Kitchen, Edie's Smokeshop, J.D. Redhouse, Little John's Bar, El Mexicano, Mazahar, Mirror Mirror on the Wall, Sparetime Supply, Smokey's BBQ, Cafe 77, Taqueria Bravo, Unique Boutique, Willits Furniture and Wild West Express. Event sponsors include the Community Foundation of Mendocino County and Rob Smith. So come and help us celebrate September 30, Friday, 7 to 10 pm (doors open at 6 pm) at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Tickets available at J.D. Redhouse and also at the door for \$15. Hope to see you there!"

– Cheryl Abney for KLLG Radio



All-star local musicians, WCT Playhouse, September 24

Mendocino County musical stars Forrest Glycer, Malakai Schindel, Sarah Rose McMahon, Lhasa Summers and Kyle Madrigal will perform together in a special series production at Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, September 24 at 7:30 pm.

The five were all raised in the Willits area and have been playing together for many years, in various combos. In this unique show they bring together a wild and eclectic mix of musical backgrounds and influences including Americana, Blues, Country, Folk, Rock, Psychedelia, Jazz, Electronic and World Music.

WCT Playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$20 and available at the door, or online at: wctperformingartscenter.org.

Ongoing Events

"Garraoke" at Diggers Bar: Karaoke night the second and fourth Friday of every month, with host Garrett Moore. From 8 pm to midnight, "then get down until closing!" Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street.

Kyle Madrigal "Soul Lifting Original Music" at Brickhouse Coffee: "Amazingly gifted local musician" Kyle Madrigal plays every Friday from 11 am to 3 pm. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.

Willits Garden Club: Meets on the second Tuesday of every month, 11:30 am, with the next on October 11. Potluck lunch, garden-related speakers and programs. Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse. More information at www.willitsgardenclub.org

Free Home Hardening Inspections Still Available: To apply contact info@sherwoodfirewise.org

The Redwood Empire Food Bank: Twice-monthly food distribution in Willits, now located in the parking lot of the soccer and baseball fields. Groceries To Go, Senior Basket (for low income seniors 60 or older), and Diapers, all distributed the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

The below all take place at the Willits Center For The Arts, 71 East Commercial Street:

Lifeline Life Drawing: Drop in Life Drawing Group. Thursdays, 1-4 pm. Sliding scale. For info call Margaret at 459-9251.

The Willits Photography Club: "invite you to join us for friendship, inspiration, and sharing. Beginners to professionals are welcome." Meetings are the second

Saturday of each month, with the next one taking place on October 8 at 10 am. **Family Capoeira:** "Community, Confidence, Wellness". Mondays and Wednesdays in September, 5-7 pm. For info call Tony at 831-332-3684.

West African Drum and Dance: Every Thursday. Drum class with Saturnin Ba from 5- 6 pm, and dance class with Marshailena from 6:15-7:45 pm. Each class is \$15, or take both for \$25.

Ceramics Open Studio: Fridays, 12-5 pm during regular gallery hours. "We invite experienced potters that are familiar with ceramic arts to join us during our open studio".

The below all take place at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street:

Open Mic Night: Every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises."

Mitchell Holman: First and third Thursday of each month. "Formerly of the San Francisco iconic band, It's A Beautiful Day, Holman will be playing bass and singing, and often bringing in guest musicians. A fun night of local music!". Starts at 7 pm.

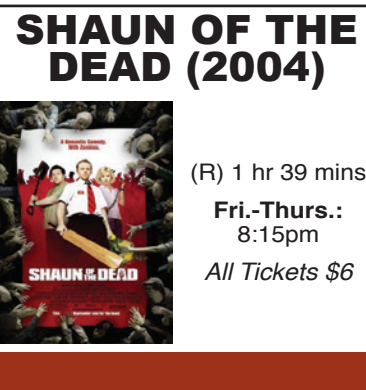
Saturday Scramble with Tyler B: Second and fourth Saturday of each month. "You're invited to bring any instrument you can play and sign up for a 'band' to perform a 15 minute set with other local musicians. Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!". From 3-6 pm



Holiday Crafts Fair Call for Artists

Willits Center for the Arts is now accepting entries for the 35th Annual Holiday Craft Fair, December 9 and 10, with space at both the Willits Community Center and Willits Center for the Arts. "Calling all artists and crafters! This is a 2 day show Friday, December 9, noon to 7pm and Saturday, December 10, 10am to 4pm. All interested artists, hand crafters, and specialty foods entrepreneurs, who hand-make their own products, should request application forms by email from Bonnie Belt at belt.bonnie@gmail.com."

For further information visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org/holiday-craft-fair, or call Bonnie at 707-459-4792. Booth space starts at \$80. Acceptance is subject to quality of work and earliest postmark date. Applications will be accepted until October 15, 2022 or until all booths are filled.



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Is a food assistance program. You can be on Social Security, have money in the bank, own cars and still receive CalFresh benefits. Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment to see if you qualify. 707-459-6826

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WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS'

RANCH RODEO

October 8, 2022 at 10 am
\$5 Entry at Gate & \$15 to Eat and Vote for BBQ

RANCH RODEO: 10 AM CORNHOLE: 11 AM
BBQ: NOON OPEN BRANDING: AFTER LUNCH
BULLS & BRONCS: 5 PM

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John Ford Ranch - Geiger's Long Valley Market
Alfred Kerr - Brown's Corner - Boot Barn
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OBITUARY |

Helen Scott

Helen "Bea" Scott died on June 23 at the age of 99 after a long and eventful life. Bea moved to Fort Bragg 20 years ago after constructing a new home along with her beloved friend Dave Hope. They lived just outside the fog belt, and enjoyed landscaping their new home with many rhododendrons and a lovely fish pond.

She is survived by her three children Thelma Pyatt of Eugene, Oregon, Eddie Scott of Willits (Karen), and Janice Scott (Bob) of Concord.

Bea loved her artwork and continued to paint in oils into her early 90s. She especially loved to paint seascapes and learned more to enhance her style after moving closer to the ocean.

Bea and Dave had a well-loved companion – a beautiful and loyal Welsh terrier dog named Sandy who died recently – we're sure of a broken heart due to her missing Bea.

She and Dave enjoyed 18 years together prior to his death in 2020. Bea previously lived in Willits for more than 50 years with her husband, Noble E. "Scottie" Scott, who died in 2001.



Bea was predeceased by her parents William and Corda Barker, five brothers and two sisters. She is also survived by a favorite nephew William "Bill" Barker (Lori) of Willits and six grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and 20 great-great-grandchildren.

Bea created a set of family history books (her and Scottie's lineage) which included personalized stories and photos and was embellished with pen and ink. The family was thankful that she managed to get through a serious health problem in her 50s and went on to live a long and healthy life.

Bea loved improving herself and spent several years in the Willits Business and Professional Women's organization and worked her way through their district offices. After retirement she spent many hours painting, doing embroidery projects, and working crossword puzzles – working a 3 foot stack of them in recent years

A memorial service will be held at the burial site in the Little Lake Cemetery, 801 East Hill Road in Willits on September 30 at 11 am.

Alive With Memories

Little Lake Cemetery and the Willits Cemetery are historic places to celebrate life

Before Willits was incorporated, in 1888, local residents gathered at Little Lake Cemetery to lay loved ones to rest and celebrate their lives. Names of the first settlers can be seen and recognized, as they are familiar around town, on buildings and streets. The dates on some of the headstones go back to the mid-1800s. One early settler was born in 1799.

In some cultures, there is a holiday around the death of ancestors, where everyone goes to the cemetery for a colorful celebration. We now have gatherings on Memorial Day, at our cemeteries, to honor local military veterans at rest.

These days, both the Little Lake Cemetery in the valley and the Willits Cemetery on Hwy 20 are places to celebrate life. Love ones have created beautiful and intimate spaces to sit with their departed ones and talk with them, perhaps raise a glass to toast them, or listen for a message felt in their heart.

The well-tended grounds offer a scenic place for quiet contemplation and savoring memories. Many of the sites feature personal vignettes portraying the lives of those not forgotten. The engraved names come to life as a violinist, a truck driver and a father that loved motorcycles. Flowers, rocks and seashells create loving spaces to honor those who are cherished and missed.

Our local cemeteries offer a peaceful place to remember loved ones and reflect upon our own lives.

It has been said, "The only place where you can find equality is in the cemetery."



At top, from left: An angel trumpets the joy of life. A winged cherub sits with a loved one. Statues can be found at the Little Lake and Willits cemeteries, like this one of a child delighting in a butterfly.

At left: Silk flowers and decorations make for a peaceful spot to sit with a loved one.

Photos by Debbie Boone Harry

DVD Sale at Willits Library

Friends of the Willits Library is sponsoring a DVD sale at the Willits Library in September, during open hours. Sale will continue until September 30, or until all DVDs are gone.

Willits Library is located at 390 East Commercial Street; 707-459-5908. Open hours posted online are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 7 pm; Fridays from 10 am to 6 pm; and Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm.



OBITUARY |

John Haydon

John Preston Haydon, born July 7, 1942 in Willits, California, passed away August 6, 2022 at the age of 80 years old. He was proceeded in death by his parents James Franklin Haydon and Ina Bell Cameron.

He is survived by his daughters Stephanie Contreras (Sal), Connie Duran, Rebecca Whitman (BJ); grandchildren Marcela Peech (Tomas), Isabella Duran, Stephen Haydon, Michael, Danielle, Anthony Contreras, Samantha Haydon, and Sophia Whitman; and great-grandchildren Dominic Lopez and Natalia Peech.

He is also survived by his brother Donald Haydon (Nancy); nieces and nephews Christina, J.J., Lisa, Michael Haydon; and Jacqueline McGehee (Daniel).



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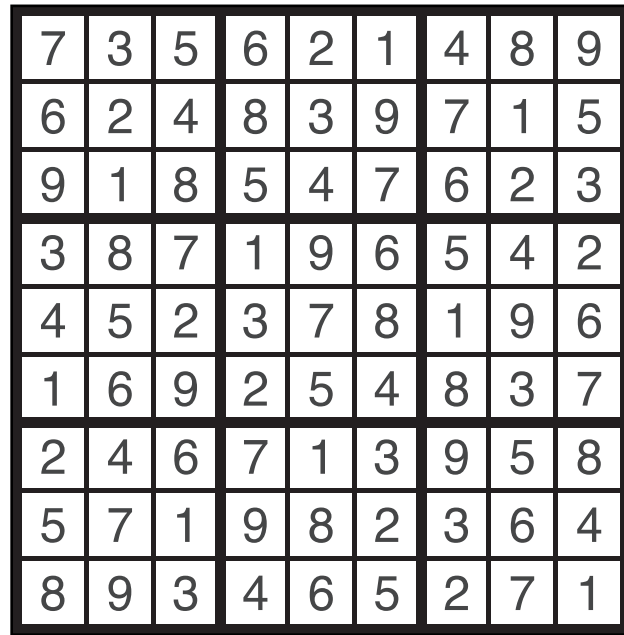
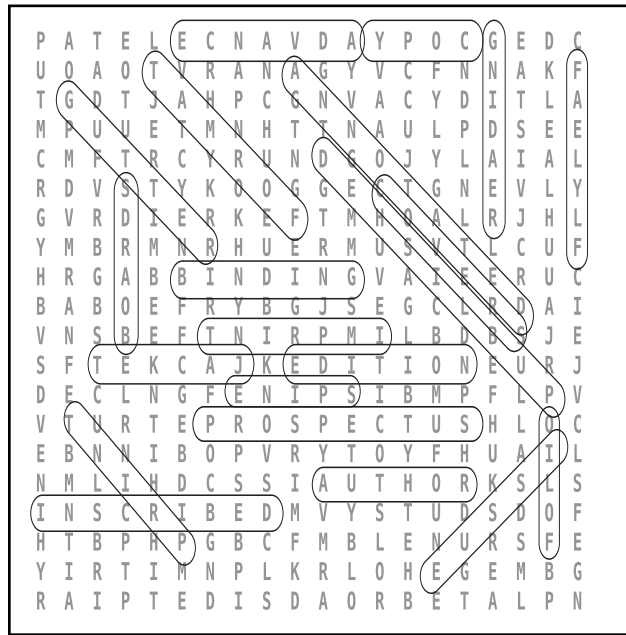
To apply or to get more information contact Mindy Slaughter at mindy@sportautocenter.com or 707-964-5915

Employment Opportunity – Office Assistant III – Community Development
Annual Salary is \$44,513.79 – \$54,106.79 DOQ/DOE
Performs specified clerical and analytical duties in support of Community Development (Planning, Building and Code Enforcement functions).
See full job description on our website: cityofwillits.org

Application Deadline:
Tuesday, October 4, 2022, by 4:00 P.M.
Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email Kstevenson@cityofwillits.org

LEGAL NOTICES

WW394	WW395
Fictitious Business Name Statement	Fictitious Business Name Statement
2022-F0399	2022-F0409
The following company is doing business as Sparetime Supply Distribution, 300 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490..	The following person is doing business as Dark Gold Computer Solutions, 1635 Padula Drive, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Sparetime Supply, Inc., 475 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490.	Registered owner: Aaron Unroe, 1635 Padula Drive, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by a corporation.	This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 20, 2017.	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 10, 2022.	FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on August 17, 2022.
/s/ Jaime L. Wilkes, Vice President	/s/ Aaron Unroe
Publication dates: September 1, 8, 15, 22, 2022	Publication dates: September 8, 15, 22, 29, 2022



CLASSIFIEDS

2005 Harley Davidson
Softail Duece (FXSTD1), Glacier Pearl White, 30,000 hwy miles, 5 speed, fuel injected, removable windshield, leather saddle bags, many extras etc., New tires, dealer maintained with logs, always garaged, like new condition. \$7,000 obo. Call Shawn @ (707) 459-2580 or (707) 972-6551

For Rent
2 Bdrm. 1 1/2 bath Townhouse close to shopping area in a nice 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

Attention
Anyone with generator, small engine or misc. equipment located at "Alternative Power Solutions" in the care of Derek Stamps – please contact Tanya at 707-272-8668 to claim your property. Proof of ownership required. All remaining items will be disposed of by October 22, 2022.

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.

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 uicearbhail@gmail.com

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.

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
130 sq ft office space with shared waiting room, a/c, off street parking, utilities included \$200/month. 707-354-2473

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

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.oaknvine.net/tp>

WW396

NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of UCC Section 535 of the Penal Code and provision of the Civil Code. The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 1st day of October, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at GLENMARK NORTH 395 North Main Street, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California the following:

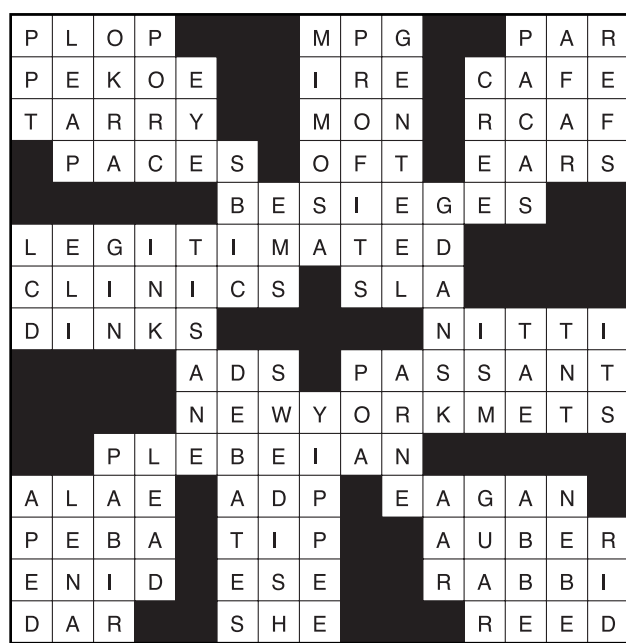
Cynthia Davis	196
Clive Lightwood	106
Clive Lightwood	240
Larissa Malnerich	511
Hannah Mizner-Welch	230
Kharma Noel	124
Janice Orvis	201
Jessica Schneider	160
Joseph Tetteh	623
Deborah Watts	122

The goods are described as: Tools, bicycle parts, camping gear, furniture, misc totes

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of the sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and the obliged party.

Glen Green
Bond-#70784656
(707) 459-4628

Publication Dates: September 22 and 29, 2022



CAULIFLOWER SANTA ROSA

(5 or 6 servings)

Elmo Martini, Martini & Prati Wines, Inc., Santa Rosa

1 large head cauliflower

1/2 cup butter or margarine

1/4 cup flour

1 cup rich milk

1/2 cup California Rhine, Sauterne or other white dinner wine

1/2 cup water

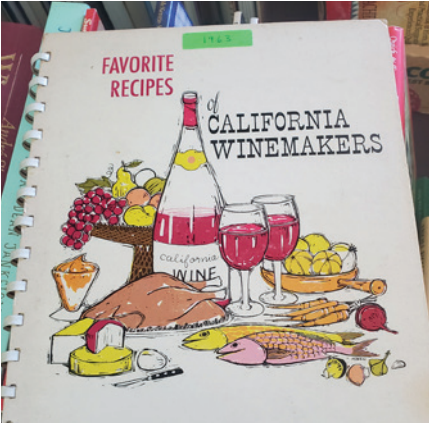
1/2 cup shredded, blanched almonds

Salt and pepper

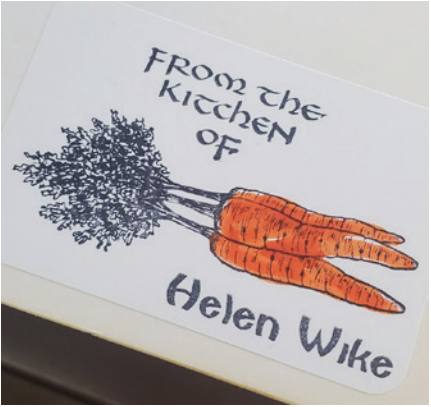
1/4 cup grated Cheddar cheese

Trim and wash cauliflower; separate into flowerets. Drop into boiling, salted water; cook 10 to 15 minutes, or just until tender when pierced with a fork. Meanwhile, prepare sauce. Melt butter and stir in flour. Add milk, wine and water; cook, stirring constantly, until mixture is thickened and smooth. Add almonds, salt and pepper. Drain cauliflower carefully; place in greased baking dish. Pour over sauce and sprinkle with grated cheese. Bake in moderately hot oven (375°) for 20 minutes.

NOTE: Deserves a good steak or roast beef, with California Claret or Rosé served with the dinner.



Above: A 1963 copy of "Favorite Recipes of California Wine Makers" available at the book sale. Below: The stamp inside the book shows a previous owner. At left: Two recipes from this cookbook, one even marked with an asterisk, a potential sign of a winner, indeed!



The rest of Brooktrails

county Department of Transportation asking questions about recent accidents in relation to the speed limit signs that are posted. The board agreed that a letter would be a good way to start the process of addressing the issue.

Counsel Chris Neary reported that within the past couple of months he has worked to get nonprofit status for the county Fire Chiefs Association. He also said, "We are now working for the Brooktrails Firefighters to have the nonprofit status so that they can receive charitable contributions."

General Manager Alaniz updated the board on the recent cleanup of the Dogwood Lane and Dogwood Terrace dumping area. She shared that on Saturday, September 10, about 30 people came out and made good progress in clearing out the area. There will be an additional cleanup day scheduled in the next month.

Alaniz continued: "We are going to have to have discussions about raising rates and fees in this coming year. Base rates and volumetric rates and fees will have to be raised in the near future. There will also be an 8% rate increase for trash pickup – Solid Waste of Willits, due to the high cost of fuel. I'm mentioning all of this now in order to 'prime the pump' so to speak, to prepare everyone for what is going to be coming."

The board then voted unanimously to approve the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$245,303.71.

There is an election coming up for the representative for independent special districts at the Mendocino County Local Agency Formation Commission, known as "LAFCo." The Brooktrails board unanimously approved candidate Candace

The rest of FOWL

Two boxes of children's books were taken to the Willits Community Services and Food Bank after the sale, to allow those picking up food to also have a book for their kids to enjoy, too.

Books are collected year-round in the bins behind the library and categorized for the sale. Anyone is welcome to come donate books. Plans are in place for a few small pop-up sales before the larger sale in the spring.

While many remember the sale being held at the Willits Community Center, overhead cost and the "lugging boxes effort" have both made the larger room at the library an ideal location to hold a more cost- and effort-effective sale.

As with many things, the sales are run on volunteer effort, and there is currently an opening on the board of directors. Rosen noted that applications are available at the library, and there is always a shelf of books available to purchase to help fund FOWL.

The group returns those funds by supporting the library and programs held there, including purchasing books and periodicals (including a subscription to the New York Times and Wall Street Journal which are both now available to read in print at the library). They also support the summer reading program and other special events held at the library.

For more information about the sale or the Friends of the Willits Library, visit the library at 390 East Commercial Street or call 707-459-5908.

Horsley to run for a four-year term in the 2022 LAFCo Special District Seat Election.

Finally, the board considered Resolution 2022-04 "Making Findings on the Golf Course Operations Agreement." Brooktrails Golf Course Managers Marcus and Jacqueline Newby were present to answer any questions that the board members had. Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea made a motion to approve what was identified in the board agenda packet as "Draft One" – to defer the capital reserve contribution that the operators have been previously assessed, through this year until June 2023, and to further approve the Tuesday closure of the golf course that the operators have requested.

Golf Course Manager Marcus Newby went to the podium to answer questions from the board members. Director Orth asked him to make a statement regarding why the board had been asked to take the action regarding the deferral of the capital reserve contribution and the requested Tuesday closure of the golf course.

"We took over the management of the course in 2019," Newby said, "and when COVID hit, the course had to be closed for two months, and we had to take out a massive business loan. Business declined immensely, and we've been under water ever since. Prior to COVID we had 16 to 20 events every summer, and last year we had one, and this year we've had three.

"The bigger entities such as Adventist Health and the Lions etc. have not scheduled golf tournaments because of COVID," Newby said. "The Festival in the Redwoods that the Willits Rotary Club had a few weekends ago was a wonderful event, and we are hoping other organizations will realize that our golf course is a beautiful, safe venue to stage similar events."

Director Ed Horrick then complimented Newby on his excellent management and the long hours that are put in and said, "In looking over the figures, I can see that the Newbys, in the final analysis, are making the minimum wage for all of the hours that are devoted to the golf course management."

The meeting then came to an end with the board voting unanimously to approve the Golf Course Resolution.

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The rest of Review

Chavez pointed out that while some of the issues flagged have already been addressed, several others are still being dealt with. A request for a continuation of the WUSD response has been submitted.

The federal program monitoring review concerns a wide range of issues, including English Learners identification and assessment, the use of Title 1 and Title 3 funds, the re-classification of English Learners based on changing proficiency scores, professional development for teachers and staff regarding English learning and literacy, English Language Advisory Committee representation, parental notification, teacher evaluations, and more.

Chavez indicated that meeting the goals of the project will be a lengthy and challenging process, especially at Sanhedrin High, but that teachers have been working hard to ensure the coordination between all school sites in this effort. She expects that WUSD will be granted the requested extensions, ensuring that English Learner students have access to all school programs, and that all staff are trained in the curriculum, from reading to PE, with a goal to making all learning inclusive, equal, and accessible.

Superintendent Beebe thanked Director Chavez for her focused efforts, remarking that despite the difficulties involved in a federal review, they can provide a wealth of useful data and feedback.

Three Brookside Elementary staff, Principal Kathleen Crossman, and teachers on Special Assignment Marian Lohne and Diane Johnson, then weighed in with another Power Point presentation updating progress on literacy at Brookside.

Many steps have been taken and are still being implemented. Through use of a grant allowing for a new learning specialist position, and in coordination with Ukiah schools, they examined data obtained before, during, and after the distance learning required during the COVID pandemic, incorporating learning comprehension and word recognition, making data-driven decisions, and applying these factors across all curricula.

They identified Brookside as an important literacy learning laboratory, and invited both parents and board members to work alongside them as learning partners.

Board member Alex Bowlds thanked both Chavez and the Brookside staff, indicating that he'd like to see the district do better regarding to issues at Baechtel Grove Middle School. He expressed his gratitude for the rising literacy numbers, noting that supply chain issues regarding computer chips continue to impact the Blosser Fire Alarm project.

Member Paula Nunez reiterated the importance of making sure that decisions about inclusion are based on science and best practices. Board member Robert Chavez also commended the three presenters, noting that they are doing, "the important work" for students and families.

Willits Teacher Association President Brandon Ludwig spoke next, thanking Director Chavez and the Brookside Elementary team, referring to them as the "Brookside rock stars." He commended all the Willits educators who have been prepping classrooms, taking professional development trainings, and improving campuses.

Ludwig reiterated that WUSD still suffers from staff shortages, having seen many teachers move to nearby school systems which are able to offer higher salaries and improved working conditions. Blosser is particularly short-staffed, requiring teachers to fill the gaps.

He spoke directly to issues at Baechtel Grove Middle School, including staff shortages, weak discipline, and safety issues. He emphasized inadequate supervision of students at that site during lunch and break times, inviting parent supervision for this cohort of children who are undergoing the often-difficult transition to their teenage years.

The WTA has organized break time visits by both teachers and board members, soliciting their feedback and suggestions. He noted that some positive progress has been made, pointing to the new fire safety system, and improved communication systems, and thanking the board for their participation.

A short report was received from Custodial Services, indicating progress on many fronts, despite short staffing.

Board member Paula Nunez also thanked Chavez for her efforts, commenting that it is fortunate that much-needed changes have been made at Baechtel Grove, and stressing the importance of not allowing anyone to fall through the cracks. She also complimented the Book Room at Blosser, with hopes that all the needed books are on their way, and thanking the WTA for their work and reporting.

Superintendent Beebe commended the Brookside Literacy Team, adding that he hopes their approach will be contagious throughout the district, and expressing his excitement at the upward trend in literacy data. Beebe concluded with hopes that there be a similar literacy component in all district schools.

Board member Jeanne King thanked Superintendent Beebe for his efforts in building relationships and trust with all the parties, and noted the positive increase in public attendance at the board meeting.

Public input began with a big thank you for the Blosser Book Room. This was followed by a comment regarding the need for student lockers at Baechtel Grove from a parent who has watched his daughter and other students have to carry heavy books and supplies to all of their classes and activities. Discussion followed, noting both advantages and disadvantages to lockers, including cost, noise, and sanitation concerns. Feedback from the board concluded with a suggestions that the parent reach out to the Baechtel Grove Site Council on this matter.

Nikki Agenbroad, director of Fiscal Services, responded to a question with regard to several maintenance-related expenses, concluding that proactive maintenance may allow for savings in the long term.

All agenda items were approved, with discussion around chaperone ratios, charter school sports, parent involvement at Blosser Lane, and textbook adoption.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

The rest of Positions

adjustment raise to help them deal with high inflation among other challenges.

The supervisors directed that any positions being considered for elimination must be vacant for at least one month, and that they exclude those that are revenue-generating, related to public safety, or non-general fund positions.

Initially the board was looking at only considering eliminating positions which have been vacant for 18 months or more.

However, County Human Resources Manager William Schurtz said that once you factored in the other criteria for eliminating positions, that would leave only four positions available to consider cutting. And only one of those was currently being funded and not being recruited for – an animal facility attendant.

The board then considered dropping the time of vacancy down to 12 months before eventually settling on one month.

First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty cast the lone dissenting vote on the motion, which was put forward by Haschak, saying that one month was too short a time for positions to be vacant to consider eliminating them.

"I would like to see this pushed out a little bit more because there are probably some departments that are in recruitment, they probably will fill the position," he said. "I think six months is more reasonable."

However, Williams responded that he thought looking at positions after one month of vacancy would help to examine whether there is rapid turnover for certain jobs, and whether they should remove them or reclassify them.

"The reason I support one month is I think some of the positions at one month likely have churn, and I'd like to understand why," he said. "So if the department comes back and says, 'We keep hiring people and they get promoted,' well that's fine, we'll keep it open. But this at least gives us a way to get some eyes on it, to understand why those positions are vacant."

Schurtz said that HR does have quite a bit of flexibility in allowing requests from department heads to hire people at higher or different job classifications.

"If they need to bring somebody in at a higher step, a new hire, they can do that," he said. "It's just that code requires that it be approved through Human Resources.... In my tenure here, we have never denied a higher step to hire someone into county employment."

"There are other things where departments can under-fill other positions with a different type of classification as long as it doesn't cost more," he continued. "So they can meet those changing needs ... and then come back later and make some permanent adjustments if they need to

"I think that Human Resources is very aware of the challenges that a lot of the departments have," Schurtz said. "And we're happy to entertain any kind of brainstorming or whatever we can do to make it easier and have a better result with the departments."

Early on in the discussion, Chair Williams and others seemed to have some hesitancy about getting rid of county positions, saying that some were very much needed in understaffed and overworked departments like Planning & Building.

County Chief Executive Officer Darcie Antle agreed with that assessment.

"It's something that we've looked at in depth with Deputy CEO [Cherie] Johnson and William Schurtz," said Antle. "And I don't think removing these types of positions is beneficial, especially in considering the situation we're at right now with not enough employees to carry out the mandated core services that we need, and also the revenue generating positions."

But Williams at one point in the discussion changed direction saying, "I've convinced myself to flip as I've been listening and looking over this list."

"Although I look at a lot of these positions, and I know we have a need, we're not going to be able to pay our employees what they deserve, we're not going to retain them," said Williams. "And if I have to choose between having another 100 positions where people come and go, or investing in the people we already have, I'd rather keep the people we already have. They're working, they're rooted here, they're invested in the county. I don't want them to leave."

"And I recognize it may be mutually exclusive," he continued. "I may not be able to say I want to keep all these positions open and fill them, and bump up salaries long-term."

"And I know, we have county employees that are on state subsidies of various forms," he added. "We're the Walmart of employers in many cases. I think one of our core values that we put in our Strategic Plan is moving away from that model. Paying people enough that they can feel that they have a job that's dignified, they work for the county, they can afford to live in our community. That's not the case today."

As he has at several recent meetings, Patrick Hickey, field representative for the SEIU Local 1021 union which represents many county workers, spoke during public comment in support of the board shifting money from vacant positions to current workers.

"The county will be lucky to fill a quarter of these positions over the next year," he said. "In fact for years, for every new hire, the county loses an employee. So the county has over \$30 million budgeted for these positions.... The big picture that the board needs to focus on is that the majority of these positions will not be filled, and the money is better spent providing increases to help retain current employees and raising salaries to the level that will help with recruitment. "

"But honestly you don't even need to eliminate any of the positions," Hickey added. "You know as a board that this money is in the budget and that the majority of these positions will not be filled, leaving those funds available....

"You can act to support county employees by providing a reasonable COLA, and at the same time increase the county's ability to recruit qualified staff for the hundreds of vacancies. This has gone on for way too long. It's time for the board to move from supportive words to taking action."

Williams described how he envisioned the process moving forward to consider removing positions.

"I think if you ask department heads, 'Do you have any positions you want to close?,' the answer will be 'No,'" he said. "We've gone through this exercise before. I think it would create a different dynamic if we were to decide we're closing all of these unless you come forward and tell us why it's critical that it remain open and how you plan to fill it."

"If you can show us otherwise, we'll keep it open," he added. "But we need to talk about why they're vacant for months and months, because a position that's been vacant for a year – we can decide to keep it funded, but we're probably not going to fill it.

"If nobody applied who was qualified within 12 months, why do we think in the 13th month that'll change?" Williams asked. "We probably need to fund those positions at a different level or change the job description."

While it remains to be seen how many positions will be eliminated and how much money saved by the county, one list presented by HR Manager Schurtz during the meeting showed a plan using the board's criteria could free up around \$1.6 million annually.

Cannabis Equity update

An update from the Mendocino Cannabis Department was approved in the consent calendar at the meeting, and there was some good news in the report regarding the county's Cannabis Equity Grant program.

While there previously had been concern that the county would not get out their initial allotted state money for equity grants to applicants in time, the update said they had met the deadline and are now on track to continue receiving state funding.

"The department is pleased to announce the processing of over \$1.5 million in direct grant checks issued as of September 2, 2022," the report read. "Additionally, the county has completely spent down Round 1 grant funding and anticipates completing the spend down of Round 2 funding by the end of September. The recent spend-down amounts mean the county has met the benchmarks established to ensure eligibility to apply to [the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development] for a fourth round of funding this fall."

According to a table in the report, out of about \$2.46 million in cannabis Local Equity Entrepreneur Program grant funding for "Rounds 1 and 2," about \$2.38 million had been allocated to applicants as of September 2.

And out of 283 completed grant applications, the report showed that 206 have been "certified equity eligible." The Cannabis Equity Grant program is meant to assist some in the county enter the legal cannabis market.

Another chart in the report showed more specifically what categories the funding had been spent on by the various grant recipients: \$312,420 went towards "solar projects that reduce the use of internal combustion engines – improving air quality"; \$251,975 was spent on "fixtures and equipment"; \$188,727 went towards "water storage upgrades"; \$151,064 was used for "CEQA compliance, environmental clean-up, and remediation projects"; and \$116,495 was spent on "supplies ranging from electrical wire to soil and amendments."

As stated in the MCD update, one of the main hold-ups previously for dispersing the equity grant money was that "County Counsel flagged the direct grant program due to concerns raised over the county's responsibility should a LEEP awardee misuse direct grant funds."

The update stated that they had received guidance from the governor's business office on what was required, including informing applicants of eligible uses, "periodically collecting and reviewing documentation" from applicants, and attempting to recover any misspent funds.

Once the policy was made clear to applicants and put in place, "County Counsel reviewed and approved all pending agreements" according to MCD.

In another announcement in the update, MCD is now teaming up with various state entities to launch a new "Technical Assistance Pop-Up meeting series" to help cannabis applicants complete the permit process.

The series will be "focused on assisting applicants and permit holders with achieving local permits, California Environmental Quality Act compliance, annual state licenses, environmental permits, and grant funding."

The "meetings are available to applicants and permit holders with active AG numbers and are by appointment only," according to the update.

Some of the agencies staffing the meetings include the Department of Cannabis Control, the State Water Resource Control Board Water Rights Division and Water Quality Division, and Mendocino County Planning and Building Services.

The meetings take place at various locations around the county, with the next in Fort Bragg on September 23 followed by Laytonville on September 30.

Lake Mendocino

NEEF National Public Lands Day

Clean-up & Activities

Army Corps of Engineers

State of California

"Giving Back Together"

Saturday, September 24th

9 am – 11 am

South Boat Ramp

Come join us for a day of service and celebration of public lands! Help clean up the lake and check out some other family-fun activities put on by various local organizations.

Hope to see you there!

New Willits Arts Party set for October 1

Submitted by Willits Arts Party

Everyone is invited to attend the new Willits Arts Party, a free, fun-for-all-ages celebration to be held on Saturday, October 1, 2022 at Recreation Grove.

In collaboration with the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, Willits Center for the Arts, and the Willits Community Theatre, the Willits Arts Party will showcase both performing and visual arts in the Northern California area.

Attendees can browse diverse art and craft vendor booths, watch and engage in live art demos, enjoy DJ and original music and dance, hula hooping, super-funk band Funkacillin, and more.

Activities will include multicultural performing and visual arts activities and experiences for youth as well as adults, and provide an opportunity for area artists to show and sell their work. Food carts will provide a range of diverse foods and beverages, and local civic and nonprofit organizations will offer wellness, community and arts-related outreach.

For more information about the Willits Art Party or to inquire about vending opportunities, email margi@mcn.org or call 707 813 4048. To keep up with the latest about this new event, visit "Willits Arts Party" on Facebook.



Bonded Pair Shayla and Minnie

Here comes double trouble! Meet Shayla! This happy girl has a daughter, Minnie. They are bonded, so they need a family who wants to bring two new loves into their life.

Shayla is the yin to Minnie's yang. These two girls are the perfect combination. They are sweethearts with big smiles and lots of wags! These two Chihuahua-mix dogs are kid and dog friendly.

To learn more about Shayla and Minnie 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.



Harry the Hunter

Harry was surrendered to us when his owner could no longer keep him. They described him as sweet and loving, as well as being a great "mouser," catching

anything from mice to small lizards. This 3-year-old cat likes his quiet time, and loves pets and head scratches. Could this handsome boy be a part of your family?

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an

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

Devoted Rosey

Meet Rosey the sweetheart senior! This happy girl has SO much love to give. Even when recuperating from surgery, she's happy as a clam (and sometimes looks like one)! Her propeller tail and wiggly butt never stop moving. She even takes treats gently.

At age 9, she is where we all hope to be in our golden years. Rosey has pep to her step, and is strong, curious and nimble, and really loves her walks. However she is most content snoozing (snoring) on the couch.

Rosey would love someone who is able to give her the same devotion, love and care that she will give. Also this senior girl requests a nice comfy forever couch! Which we don't think is so much to ask, right?

Apply to adopt Rosey 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.



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