

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters
from our readers

Arsenic-contaminated well

To the Editor:

The City of Willits is planning to add a new well to the city's drinking water, the "Long 20" well that is contaminated with arsenic. Currently, city water does not have any detectible arsenic.

Both the state of California and the federal government consider arsenic "highly toxic." Even at the legally allowed maximum of 10 part per billion, arsenic in drinking water is likely to cause bladder or lung cancer in as many as 3 people per thousand, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. With a population of 5,000, that means 15 Willits residents could get cancer from drinking the water, if the city goes ahead with the plan to introduce the new well.

Young children are especially vulnerable to arsenic in their drinking water, according to the World Health Organization: "Early childhood exposure has been linked to negative impacts on cognitive development and increased deaths in young adults."

I do not understand why our city is willing to take such a risk with our lives and our children's lives to add an arsenic-contaminated well when the city has repeated told us that there is no water shortage in Willits, even in this worst-of-drought year.

The city is taking public input until October 11. Email Andrea Trincado, the city's Engineering Project Manager, at engineering@cityofwillits.org or write her at City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits 95490.

Bernard B. Kamoroff, Willits

Mendocino County Water Agency newsletter invites subscribers

The Mendocino County Water Agency is working collaboratively with partners from the Mendocino Resource Conservation District, Russian River Flood Control District, and local water districts and jurisdictions to bring you the latest water and drought related news, information, and resources.

For the latest, please view and subscribe to the bi-weekly Mendocino County Water Agency newsletter, including regular water condition status updates, reservoir storage levels, regional updates, and more. The most recent September 29 newsletter is available here <https://mailchi.mp/mendocinocounty/mendocino-county-water-news-sept-29>

For additional resources please visit the Mendocino County Brought and Water Conservation Resource Page at: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/mendocino-county-water-agency/drought-water-conservation

Feedback and input from the community is welcome. If you have information that you think would be valuable to share please send to mcwa@mendocinocounty.org.

Sherwood Firewise online meeting October 14

Join Sherwood Firewise Communities for their online quarterly meeting, Thursday, October 14, 6 to 8 pm.

- Supervisor John Haschak
- Home Hardening with Guest Speakers
- Chipper Day Update
- "Every Home Needs" Survey Results
- CSA 3 - Emergency Access Routes
- Cal Fire Roadside Fuel Reduction Update

Send questions to info@sherwoodfirewise.org

Join Zoom meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85625036304?pwd=dWVpYXpnSktwQkkwXDRRZd6T3E5dz09>

Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304; Password: 918795

OR

Phone: Dial for audio only without internet or for audio while viewing meeting without computer mic / speaker: 669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304; Password: 918795

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Jackie Cobbs, features editor

Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047
or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

A PROCLAMATION OF THE WILLITS CITY
COUNCIL RECOGNIZING

Soroptimist International of Willits Day

AND TO CELEBRATE THE SOROPTIMIST
ORGANIZATION FOR THEIR 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, the Soroptimist organization, founded 100 years ago on October 3, 1921, works to economically empower women and girls through access to education; and

WHEREAS, Soroptimist International of Willits was formed 50 years ago on April 3, 1971, and has been an integral part of the Willits community during this time; and

WHEREAS, Soroptimist International of Willits raises funds for its projects through selling advertisements and publishing the Willits Community Phonebook and thanks the community for its continued support; and

WHEREAS, Soroptimist International of Willits has endeavored to improve the lives of Willits women and girls for over 50 years by:

- Providing College Scholarships for high school senior girls as well as continuing college students.

- Disbursing Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards to local women to help them obtain the education and training they need to improve their employment prospects and economic standing.

- Holding Soroptimist Dream It, Be It events that have put local girls on the path toward achieving their career goals.

- Working with local sex trafficking and domestic violence organizations to provide women the legal and economic resources they need to break free from their former lives.

AND WHEREAS, Soroptimist International of Willits provides donations to the Willits Kids Club, Project Sanctuary, Willits Literacy Volunteers, and the Willits Seniors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Madge Strong, Mayor of the City of Willits, along with Vice Mayor Saprina Rodriguez, and Council Members Larry Stranske, Greta Kanne, and Gerardo Gonzalez, do hereby proclaim October 3, 2021 as Soroptimist International of Willits Day and extend congratulations to Soroptimist for its 100th Anniversary and to recognize the Willits club for their many contributions to our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of Willits to be herein affixed this 29th day of September 2021.

— **Madge Strong, Mayor; Cathy Moorhead, Deputy City Manager/City Clerk**

More of COVID | From Page 1

Although hospitalizations are down some recently, with for example, 14 COVID cases in medical surgical units plus 4 cases in the county's three ICU units as of Tuesday morning, the county has recently, he said, "seen our first pediatric case in a local hospital."

As far as the latest data, the daily case rate is now 36.67 per 100,000 tested per day, down from a peak in the last two weeks in the range of 50. "Testing in our county has remained high," Coren said. "Although there some logistical errors made by state testing teams last week, this week we hope to correct that, with testing in all the major population areas in the county, one to two times per week."

In Willits, the LHI Mobile Testing Bus will be at the Willits City Hall parking lot, 111 East Commercial Street, on Wednesdays from 9 am to 5 pm.

COVID testing is also available in Willits at Nuestra Alianza at the Little Lake Grange, Room 1, 291 School Street, including on Friday, October 1, from 9:30 am to 4 pm.

You can pre-register for Nuestra Alianza testing at <https://my.primary.health//nuestra>. Call 707-841-7909 or 707-456-9418 for additional screening prior to arrival. Registrese en <https://my.primary.health//nuestra> o llame al 707-456-9418 o 707-841-7909.

Test positivity, while higher than the state rate, Dr. Coren said, "has come down to 6.9 percent from the 10 percent it was a month ago."

Dr. Coren stressed again: "While some vaccinated people have caught COVID and some have passed away, the vast majority overall of severe cases, hospitalizations and deaths are among those who have not been vaccinated."

He also reported the average age of the non-vaccinated

Read the rest of COVID | Over on Page 11



Above, from left: Davhi Hooper's sign with the new name, "Dahvi's Kitchen," hangs out front. This Cambodian salad, lok lak, is served with beef or chicken. Regulars Jeff Shipp and Steve Marston enjoy eating on the newly designed patio. At right: Davhi Hooper smiles with Jesse Robertson and daughter Irie in front of Hooper's Friendship Tree, where customers can leave their name and a message. Far right: Gigi Jergenson is in charge of the kitchen.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Dahvi's Kitchen

101 Burgers and More reopens under new name with the same delicious Cambodian and American food as before

Dahvi Hooper has had an eventful year and a half. She opened a restaurant. She closed her restaurant. She opened again with a drive-through window. She purchased the restaurant from her mother, Thy Sumvan. She got pregnant. She had a beautiful little girl, Irie Rose. She rebranded her restaurant in her name, Dahvi's Kitchen.

During the time that the restaurant was closed or just operating out of the drive-through window, she redid the interior to make it brighter and more friendly, with new white paint, new tables, COVID guards, and a new Friendship Tree, on which patrons can place a colorful leaf with their name and a message. And she is not yet finished. Hooper is constantly searching for new ways to improve her business with new dishes, new looks, and new services.

Hooper, a Willits High School class of 2014 graduate, grew up in the restaurant business (her mom was owner of 101 Burgers, which is now in the hands of Hooper's sister, Aleta So). It was a natural choice for her to venture into the realm of food service, eventually taking over the family donut shop in 2015, which was later sold and became Happy Donuts. Hooper then worked at Mariposa Market for a couple years prior to creating 101 Burgers and More with her mother, where they offered traditional Cambodian fare along with the same burgers, etc. that were offered at Sumvan's original store.

Last year in October, Sumvan decided to semi-retire and move to Paris, Arkansas, a town with an Eiffel Tower replica. "She wanted to retire a little bit," mused Hooper. "She actually ended up buying a new building and a new restaurant, which will open in January. It was formerly a Chinese buffet, so it's a really large space. She got a good deal on it, so she's going to do burgers as well as Asian food." Sumvan will be back periodically to

help with Irie and the restaurant, for those who wish to see her.

New mom Hooper brings Irie to work with her, adding to the warm family feeling of the restaurant, which is something many of her regular customers love about the place. "This place is so comfortable," remarked Ramona Ranft. "I come in here to relax. Everybody always makes me feel at home. You never feel like you're a stranger. You can come in here and enjoy the place by yourself or with somebody. The food is very good. Dahvi puts a lot of thought into the freshness of the food. She has a good palate and she can blend flavors very well." Ranft also expressed gratitude that she is always greeted by name as are the other regulars.

Customers are beginning to become familiar with the Cambodian cuisine which Sumvan learned early in life in Cambodia. "We have pretty much the same menu as before and we are still adding on more Cambodian dishes," said Hooper. "People buy the American and Cambodian equally but our customers are trying more and more of the Cambodian food. They're repeatedly coming back for the Cambodian as they try it and get used to it.

"We use a lot of galangal (a very flavorful root), lemon grass, basil, tamarind," she explained. "We've added a barbecue-pork sandwich and lok lak (a salad of mixed cucumber, tomato, cooked and raw onions, with a super-flavorful meat on it). It's a light option but still hearty with the meat. Those two are selling outstandingly right now."

The Cambodian menu includes, in addition to the aforementioned dishes, spicy lemongrass basil with beef or chicken, ginger chicken, khor (caramelized chicken with bamboo shoots), satay skewers with chicken or beef and peanut sauce, fried eggrolls, rice crepes (made from rice flour and coconut milk, stuffed with bean sprouts, bell peppers, onion, mushrooms and potatoes),

papaya salad, spring rolls, and her mom's soup (pho with beef, chicken or shrimp). Other dishes are available and new dishes are added periodically.

Her menu on the American side includes several choices of burgers, Philly cheese steaks, fries, onion rings, ice cream and smoothies, to name a few. The local John Ford beef can be utilized as an upgrade for an extra \$2. All her meals are moderately priced, with burgers at about \$6 to \$10 for a double, and Cambodian dishes, the most expensive of which are only around \$11.

"I rebranded the name because a lot of people were getting confused when they were calling in their order," said Hooper. "They would go to the 101 Burgers when they ordered here, at 101 Burgers and More and vice versa. I renamed it Dahvi's Kitchen. It's my kitchen now. We've got new signage and we're working on more flare and even more signage."

Hooper would like to thank her partner and baby's father, Jesse Robertson, "for being such a help, just dropping everything to help me put up signs or come sweep my yard." She would like to let the people of Willits know she is still here and operating six days a week, Monday through Saturday, 11 am to 7:30 pm. People can call or text ahead at 707-354-6777 to pick up or eat in (inside or on the patio).

Hooper wants the people of Willits to know she is still in business and appreciates all of her customers, newbies or regulars. She invites people to leave suggestions, so she can continue to provide the high-quality foods that people desire, whatever their tastes.

Dahvi's Kitchen, 101 Burgers & Cambodian Food, is located at 349 South Main Street. Check out www.facebook.com/101burgersandmore for more information.

Agape Bible Church

290 S. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first
and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Awan: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
707-303-5456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jernigan
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

- Sound of Soul events
- Membership Discourses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More Information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
459-2252
Sunday Mass inside:
9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church

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

St. John Lutheran Church

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

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

707-459-5714
Saturdays: Meeting place
at church located at
399 W. Mendocino Avenue
Bible Study - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
<http://willitsca.adventistchurch.org>
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist

A Christ centered, progressive church
ALL ARE WELCOME
286 School St. (at Pine)
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor
Worship Celebration
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

FUN NIGHT OUT WORD SEARCH
T O E L V S K N I R D W G R E S Y I B R J A
X U R J R V V C P P F F L Y P R U H N E X N J F C
K I G F F A M I L Y I N G O P V U U L C H R Y E R I T O C
R S G X D I N I E D P X N A T U M E A K N D
Z T T R E T S E I Z E R S I A I O R W A X I R A
L A P P E T I Z E R S I A I O R W A X I R A
A T I E P F R C S U N I E C I W G A J B O T
C P N M V U Y S Z M I E C I W G A J B O T
G I A V S E F E L N K F A N A W U P J
S S M K R T T N R J A G U E B Y T O D O U M
U F N P S U T A O E O T F G S G R O S M
M S B O I X A Y C D D T F G S G R O S M
B T H N S E M T C I H A I H O B F S M
B O J C W E M X S I U T M E E I Y G P A C
W U L Z N M K E H E T M B E A N Y O A Z
K S L T R E U S A E L R Y D L T J G R W A
U P S C B Z I A N R E R P T A X I T N V
S T E K C I T L E V E N I N G C N S E K

APPETIZERS BABYSITTER BILL CHEERING CITY CLUB DANCING DATE DESSERT
DINING DOWNTOWN DRINKS ENJOYMENT ENTERTAINMENT EVENING FAMILY FESTIVE FORMAL
FRIENDS GAME GROUP HOSTESS LAUGHING MEAL MUSIC MUSICAL PARTY
PLAY POPCORN RESTAURANT SPORTS STADIUM TAXI THEATER TICKETS TOURIST

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
37 38 39
40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47
48 49 50
51 52
53 54 55
56 57 58 59 60

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Numbers cruncher
4. Creator
10. A type of center
11. About spring
12. Equal to 64 U.S. pints (abbr.)
14. Precursor to the EU
15. Something that can be cast
16. Gold-colored alloy
18. A salt or ester of acetic acid
22. A hard coating on a porous surface
23. A type of detachment
24. Filmmakers need them
26. Promotional material
27. ___ Blyton, children's author
28. Short, sharp sound
30. Feeling of intense anger
31. Popular TV network
34. Island entry point
36. Disfigure
37. College army

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Mother tongue
2. Removes potato skins
3. True
4. Early multimedia
5. The making of amends
6. Discovered by investigation



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!

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

September 20 to September 26

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 167 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

September 20

5:31 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of West Oak Avenue.

10:52 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

4:41 pm: JOHNSON, Brandon Ray (38) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (A) VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol), 23152 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 Percent or Higher), 23578 VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.15 Percent or Higher), 14601.2 VC (Driving with a Suspended License Revoked for DUI), and on misdemeanor charges of a second offense within 10 years.

7:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

September 21

1:57 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and South Main Street.

10:50 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Coast Street.

September 22

12:05 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 Creekside Court.

12:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

6:25 pm: HYRE Jr., Frederick Louis (61) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 245 (A) (1) PC (Assault with a Deadly Weapon) and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance.

7:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

11:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued several citations.

September 23

5:43 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 400 block of Coast Street.

6:02 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

11:10 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

12:15 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1000 block of Magnolia Avenue.

3:49 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

5:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Central Street and South Street.

8:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of School Street and West Commercial Street.

September 24

9:09 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:50 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle investigation near the intersection of Poplar Avenue and Madrone Street.

1:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 600 block of Coast Street.

3:56 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

5:35 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Blosser Lane and Franklin Avenue.

September 25

2:30 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street.

6:53 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 600 block of Hawthorne Lane.

9:39 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

9:47 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:54 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of Bittenbender Lane.

September 26

8:02 am: Officers responded to a report of a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Raymond Lane.

1:26 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Nancy Lane.

7:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of West Highway 20.

9:13 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.



Brandon Ray Johnson of Willits.



Frederick Louis Hyre Jr. of Willits.



Public Art Ad Hoc Committee members meet on September 24: from left, Committee Chair Gary Martin; Herb Pruett, former director of the Mendocino County Museum; Willits City Council member Saprina Rodriguez; Josh Gravier, Sherwood Band of Pomo Indians Tribal Administrator; Lexi Halleck and Judy Fisch, WCA board members.

Pinwheel Project
City Council member Saprina Rodriguez advises Willits Public Art Ad Hoc Committee on how to proceed with proposed sculpture installation

On Friday, September 24, six people gathered for the Willits Public Art Ad Hoc Committee where discussions continued around how to proceed from the last meeting.

In attendance were Gary Martin, committee chair; Josh Gravier, the Sherwood Band of Pomo Indians tribal administrator; Saprina Rodriguez from Willits City Council; Willits Center for the Arts board members Judy Fisch and Lexi Halleck; along with Herb Pruett, former Mendocino County Museum director, who sat in on the meeting.

In the two weeks since the last meeting, Rodriguez talked with the Willits City Council to get a clear message about what it wants from the Public Art Ad Hoc Committee.

"I would hate to see [public art] stop at [the Pinwheel Project]," Rodriguez said, "because all these other things that the city council is extremely taxed with, with everything that's going on that they need to prioritize. This is such a wonderful opportunity. If it's going to be on city property, of course we're going to need city approval. But we also want the go-ahead from the city that says we can approach the businesses and private ownership of places. That makes this beautifier count and at the same time makes it more inclusive of everyone in the community." Which is a value shared by all members.

To keep things simple and focused, it was clear that

the city council wants to move on with the Pinwheel Project but they need more information in the form of a recommendation from the ad hoc committee before they can make any decisions around installing the pinwheels on the city's Highway 20 property.

Wearing her city council hat, Rodriguez asked many questions to stimulate the committee to think about the details of the project and find out information in order to move it forward.

Below is a sample of how the myriad details need to be thought about and addressed: Rodriguez asked, "Has the site for the pinwheels been chosen?" Martin said that he and donor Jane Camp met with artist CJay Roughgarden and they found a good place on the Highway 20 site.

Rodriguez's next question was, "Do you know if there are any water lines or electrical lines under that site?" Martin didn't know. Rodriguez replied, "Those are some of the things the council will want to know." She also asked if the artist was set on that spot or could it be moved if there was a problem? Martin said he'd check with the artist.

Shakespeare's classic moments recreated into a comedy show presented by Willits Community Theatre

Submitted by Steve Hellman for Willits Community Theatre

A comedy medley of William Shakespeare's classic scenes will be presented by Willits Community Theatre, October 8 through 24, at the outdoor plaza located at 77 South Main Street. "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged" is a comedy rendition of the Bard's most well-known moments from 37 of his works, from "Hamlet" to "Julius Caesar" and "Romeo and Juliet." Sunday matinees will begin at 4 pm, and the Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening shows begin at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased online at www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the plaza at the time of the show. Patrons will be asked to wear a facial covering while attending the show.



Sam Porter appears as Hamlet.

Rodriguez continued: "How will the sculpture get to the site? Who's going to install the sculpture?" and "Are we asking the city to take the pinwheels out of the truck or trailer?" to which Martin said yes. "Ok, because the city needs to have the staff and skills to be able to lift these. How much do they weigh? Do we need specialized equipment?"

While Martin replied to some of that, he and the rest of the committee began to realize the depth of research which needs to be done if the Pinwheel Project is going to get anywhere with city council.

"There needs to be a budget of time as well as a budget for materials," Rodriguez later added.

Read the rest of Pinwheel Over on Page 9



CLUES ACROSS
1. Numbers cruncher
4. Creator
10. A type of center
11. About spring
12. Equal to 64 U.S. pints (abbr.)
14. Precursor to the EU
15. Something that can be cast
16. Gold-colored alloy
18. A salt or ester of acetic acid
22. A hard coating on a porous surface
23. A type of detachment
24. Filmmakers need them
26. Promotional material
27. ___ Blyton, children's author
28. Short, sharp sound
30. Feeling of intense anger
31. Popular TV network
34. Island entry point
36. Disfigure
37. College army

CLUES DOWN
1. Mother tongue
2. Removes potato skins
3. True
4. Early multimedia
5. The making of amends
6. Discovered by investigation

The rest of Roundup From Page 1
sedan which was later found to have been occupied by Sanderson and another subject.
Deputies issued a Stop-And-Arrest BOLO for Mullins for robbery by force or fear (212.5 PC) and burglary (459 PC).
Mullins was subsequently located and arrested in Willits, and booked into the Mendocino County Jail where she was held in lieu of \$150,000 bail. Sanderson was also located in Willits, arrested for conspiracy (182 PC), and booked into the Mendocino County Jail.

Domestic battery
On September 14, 2021 at about 5:45 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a reported domestic dispute which had occurred in the 20000 block of South Main Street in Willits.
During the investigation, deputies learned an adult female, 47, and her boyfriend, Kelly Fonsen, 50, of Willits, had been in drinking all day and had been in an argument. During the argument the adult female sustained visible injuries from Fonsen, which required medical attention.
Deputies later contacted Fonsen, and he was subsequently arrested for Domestic Violence Battery [273.5 PC] and Battery Causing Great Bodily Injury [243(D) PC].
Fonsen was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$25,000 bail.

Miranda Mullins of Willits.
Jacob Sanderson of Ukiah.
Kelly Fonsen, 50, of Willits.

Orthopedics at Adventist Health
You were made for more. More flexibility. More peace. More movement. More discoveries. That's why Adventist Health offers the deepest expertise in orthopedic treatment options. From hips to knees to spine, from pain management to minimally invasive procedures to joint-replacement options, our experts are ready to see you now. So you can quickly be pain-free and back to doing more.

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Lake Emily & Lake Ada Rose fill from rain & surface runoff.

Lakes are the only source of drinking water in Brooktrails, so everyone has a part to play in protecting our water supply.

Pick up after your pet.

Animal waste contains dangerous bacteria, which can cause illness in people and contribute to the growth of harmful algae blooms.




Put trash where it belongs

and pick up litter and trash spread by animals right away. Trash can harm fish and it pollutes the water.



Never dump fertilizer or chemicals

onto the ground or into the street. Dispose of hazardous materials properly and avoid polluting runoff that is going into the lakes.



Use ashtrays and sharps containers.

Cigarette butts and needles are not biodegradable; littering them can leave harmful chemicals in the water supply.



Source Water Protection Week is September 26-October 2, 2021

Help Protect Brooktrails' Water Supply Sources.

Report water quality threats to our office at 459-2494.



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M-F 9am -11:30am 1:30pm-4:30 pm	Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic 1245 S. Main Street, Willits	Pfizer 4 days a week Moderna 1 day a week	Best to make an appointment. Do not need to be a patient 459-6861
M-F 9am -11:45am 12:45pm-3pm	Little Lake Health Center 45 Hazel Street, Willits	Pfizer & Moderna	Best to make an appointment. Do not need to be a patient. 456-9600
M-F 10am -12pm 2pm-4 pm	Adventist Health Redwood Medical Clinic 3 Marcela Drive Suite C Willits	Moderna and J&J	Walk ups welcome. Do not need to be a patient. 459-6115
M-F 10am -12:45 pm 2 pm-7 pm	Safeway Pharmacy 845 S. Main Street Willits	Pfizer & Moderna	Walk ups welcome on weekdays. Appointments required on weekends. 456-1790
M-F 9 am -8 pm Weekend 10 am - 6 pm	Rite Aid Pharmacy 1730 S. Main Street Willits	Pfizer & Moderna	Walk ups welcome 459-0554

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Inquisitive Fisher

Fisher is a reserved but outgoing kitten. He is shy at first, but quickly warms up and turns into a curious young guy. Fisher is 4 months old, is neutered, and is a brown and white short-hair tabby.

For more info about Fisher or to see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter's canine and feline guests, and for information about services, programs, events and updates about COVID-19 and the inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: www.mendocinoshelter.com. For information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.



Seeking Ike

Ike is looking to make a love connection! Could you be the one?

HIM: Ike is a 10-year-old dapper gentleman who occasionally loves to be held like a baby. He loves his naps. In fact, Ike loves naps so much that his foster mom is convinced he is a cat trapped in the body of a Chihuahua. Ike loves to cuddle on the couch or in bed with his person. He currently lives in a foster home with other small senior dogs and with dog-friendly senior cats.

YOU: Ike's ideal person will have a home that is on the calm side with no small children and with other mellow animals. He would love to spend as much time with his match as possible, so someone who is home a lot would be most ideal, but this isn't necessarily a deal breaker. Also, you must love to give and receive lots of kisses.

Does Ike sound like your soul mate? Do you want to binge-watch Netflix and chill with this 11-pound sweetie? If so, go to our website at www.mendocinohumanesociety.com and fill out an application today!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Currently we are open by appointment only on Wednesday through Friday, and open to the public Saturday through Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, no appointment needed on the weekends! You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendocinohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



Help Willits Rotary Club Purchase Musical Instruments for WHS!!

Willits Rotary Club is donating funds to the Willits High Music program in order to replace instruments. Help us make a difference in WHS students education!

To donate, stop by our table at the Homecoming football game on Friday, October 1, 2021!

Or mail your checks to: Willits Rotary, P.O. Box 787, Willits, CA 95490. Note that your donation goes to the "District Grant-WHS Band account"

Rotary Club of Willits is an IRS 501(c)(3) charitable foundation.



METALfx featured on Fox Business manufacturing show

Submitted by METALfx

Willits, CA – METALfx, a precision metal fabricator headquartered in Willits, California, is pleased to announce it was featured in a broadcast of "Manufacturing Marvels" on Fox Business Network last week on Wednesday evening.

To view the segment, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pENKc-LLMy4>

The series, produced by award-winning producers Bob and Jerry May and directed by Bryan McCullough, spotlights North American manufacturers and their products, as well as the companies' processes and customers.

"We are thrilled to showcase our team members and facilities," President Henry Moss stated. "METALfx has a unique culture, combining big-city capabilities with small town charm. Our customers know this, and we're excited to share this with a wider audience through 'Manufacturing Marvels.'"

To learn more about all of the services METALfx offers, visit www.metalfx.com.

Founded in 1976 and headquartered in Willits, METALfx is a leading provider of precision sheet metal fabrications, enclosures, and assemblies across a variety of industries, including technology, healthcare, industrial, and others. The company is strategically focused on serving customers who demand quick turnaround times, prototype collaboration, engineering support, and rigorous product standards, and whose parts are highly engineered, complex, and subject to high precision and tight tolerances.



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Dean P. Madsen January 26, 1969 – September 16, 2021

Dean P. Madsen, age 52, of New London, Minnesota, passed away Thursday morning, Sept. 16, at his residence from ALS.

A celebration of life service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 8, at Faith Lutheran Church. Interment will be at the Spicer City Cemetery with military honors provided by the Spicer American Legion Post #545. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 7, at Faith Lutheran Church and will continue for one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials to The Barn Theater in Willmar, The Little Theater in New London, Heart and Sole Running Club / Kandiyohi County YMCA, or the ALS Association are preferred. Arrangements are with the Peterson Brothers Green Lake Funeral Home in Spicer.

Dean Patrick Madsen was born on January 26, 1969, in Hayward, California, the son of Arvid and Vicki (Hoy) Madsen. He grew up in New London, graduated from New London-Spicer High School in 1987 and was enrolled in the drafting program at the Willmar Vo-Tech. Over the years, Dean worked as a draftsman in Elk River, a lab tech at Eco-Agri Labs in Willmar, a machinist at Braun Crow River Industries in Brooten, and a parts and service manager at Family Marine in Willmar.

Dean served as a fitness instructor (boot camp) certified personal trainer, health and wellness director, and was the Associate Executive Director at the Kandiyohi Area YMCA until his retirement in April. From 1986 to 2006, Dean served in the Minnesota National Guard.

Dean was very active in numerous area theater productions. At the Barn Theatre in Willmar, he was first cast in the production of A Christmas Carol as Jacob Marley. He was also involved in productions of Fiddler on the Roof, Addams Family, Kitchen Witches, Sex Please We're 60, Diary of Anne Frank, Our Town, and The Shadow radio shows. At the Little Theatre in New London he was involved in the cast of Those Crazy Ladies in the House on the Corner, 3 Murders and it is only Monday, and Watson. At the Paramount Theater in St. Cloud he was cast in A Christmas Carol, again as Marley, and was in the Laramie Project, in Hutchinson.

Dean was a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Willmar Sertoma Service Club, Heart and Sole Running Club, and former member of Vinje's Tapestry Choir. He also served as Adjutant of the Spicer American Legion Post #545. He was an avid hunter, runner, and outdoorsman.

Per Dean's final wishes: go enjoy the outdoors, be it running, hunting, or just walking your dog.

He is survived by his loving wife, Karen; one daughter, Sonja Madsen; his mother, Vicki Madsen of Willmar; two sisters, Dana (and Richard) Fernelius of Little Falls and Cori Madsen of Negaunee, MI; his step-father, Richard (and Julie) Madsen of Willits, CA; and beloved relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Arvid, his grandparents, and Uncle Gary Madsen (his godfather).





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Movie Times for October 1 thru October 7

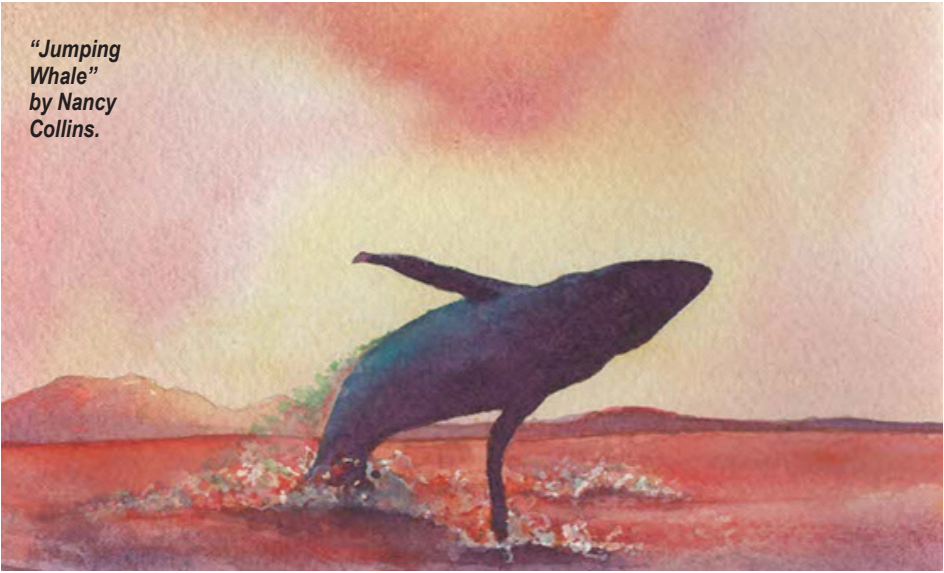
ADDAMS FAMILY 2

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1 hr 33 mins
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3:45, 6:00 & 8:15pm

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Online watercolor workshop taught by Nancy Collins available through Willits Center for the Arts on October 16

Submitted by the Willits Center for the Arts

Willits Center for the Arts is starting to offer online workshops in October. The first workshop will be taught by Nancy Collins. Collins has spent more than 50 years making art. She oozes creativity from every pore. Her true art soul mate is watercolor.

Collins' work has been exhibited around the globe. She's been featured in shows for "Art in the Embassy," Mendocino International Music Festival, Mendocino Art Center, Stanford University, Fioli Gardens, Shraffenberger Winery, Little River Inn, and many more. Her work and writing have been published in "American Artist Magazine," "Watercolor Magic," "Mendocino Arts Magazine," "How Did You Paint That, Volume 6," "Splash 17," and others.

Her latest adventure is a DVD called "Exploring the Truth About Color," which is available to purchase.

Collins is a much-loved and sought-after watercolor instructor. She can often be found on the road, teaching and coaching. A few of the places she teaches regularly include: Mendocino Art Center, Fioli Gardens, Montecito Sequoia Lodge, Princess Cruise Lines, Fin Center, Fallbrook Art Center, Mendocino County Art Association, WASCO and Gualala Art Center.

Her classes cover all skill levels, from beginners to advanced, often professional, watercolorists. Each year Collins builds class projects for new techniques she has developed. Her usual topics include: color theory, watercolor techniques, painting from photos, using fantasy colors, "finish that painting that has you blocked," and many others.

"Nancy Collins: Incredible Colors When Creating Silhouettes" will be offered October 16 9:30 am to noon and 1 to 3:30 pm.

For more information on Collins, please go to www.nancycollinsart.com.

The tuition and fees are \$125. As a special promotion, a watercolor scrub brush will be given to the first 20 students that sign up for this class.

Register at www.willitscenterforthearts.org/events-and-classes.

Registrants will receive a preferred color list, supplies, and templates for four different paintings. If you want to use your own images, the only requirement is that while creating your first silhouette, you will need to follow the class instructions and subject matter.

There are partial scholarships available through the WCA for those in need.

For more information, contact the WCA at 459-1726.



Willits Center for the Arts presents new works by Judy Chance Hope October 1 through 24

There is something very gratifying about Judy Chance Hope's work. It is elemental and direct. "Art is one of the few jobs I've had that allows me to use my own decisions completely," shared Chance Hope. "I paint in oil and acrylic, using a loose realism and a personal palette. I find that the longer I look at the subject, the more colors I can see. My work is a celebration of a subject or place I find meaningful. I try my best to share the childlike awe and joy I see there."

Each person who looks at a painting perceives it a little differently, informed by their own experiences, making the artwork unique over and over. Chance Hope encourages that interaction. Once the work

is out of the studio, it gathers new stories. Her many patrons give her paintings new life and new stories.

Chance Hope was born in California and feels grateful to have lived in the forest most of her life. She lives with her husband, Charlie, their dog, Moe, along with chickens and outdoor cats. Her daughter, Diza Hope, is another renowned artist here in Willits.

Chance Hope's show is open October 1 through 24 at the Willits Center for the Arts, located at 71 East Commercial Street (next to the Noyo Theatre).

For more information, visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-3562.



At top: "Dogwood Flowers" by Judy Chance Hope.

Far left: "Cherry Blossoms" by Chance Hope.

At left: "Eel River III" by Chance Hope.

Local Medical Community Appeals for Covid Vaccinations

We represent the Adventist Health Howard Hospital Medical Staff and the Willits medical community. Howard Hospital has been running for weeks around 140% capacity because of the Covid 19 delta surge. Our ICU is full and deaths are mounting. The cases are overwhelmingly non-vaccinated and increasingly younger. The medical and nursing staff are increasingly overwhelmed and exhausted. Help us.

We see the answer to this community emergency is vaccinations and then more vaccinations. Masking and distancing and hand sanitizing remain important but are dwarfed by the effect of vaccinations. We are presently at 57% fully vaccinated. This crisis has been created by just 7.8% of our population infected in the last 18 months. We have to protect the other 92%. It is not a coincidence that the 3 counties with the lowest vaccination rates in our state have the highest case rates and the highest death rates--higher than any country on Earth. And the 3 counties with the highest vaccination rates have the lowest case rates.

We will not stop seeing all patients, Covid or not, in our hospital, our ER, and our clinics. But we have had to transfer patients elsewhere. We have had to postpone dozens of elective surgeries. We are tired.

We feel our Covid vaccines are very safe and very effective and long-lasting. Our county Public Health lists 50,500 vaccinated people with 339 documented post-vaccination infections for an average efficacy of 99.3% so far. We the medical community are overwhelmingly vaccinated. We are happy to talk with you about the vaccine. After reading the rumors all around you, talk to a health professional. Protect yourself, protect your family and loved ones, protect your community.

Get vaccinated for free. Visit the county's vaccination clinics page at www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations/vaccination-clinics to find out about upcoming vaccination opportunities. Or visit one of these 4 clinics giving free vaccines in Willits and Laytonville: Redwood Medical Clinic Adventist Health, Baechtel Creek Clinic, Little Lake Health Center, Long Valley Health Center.

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Carla Toms, MD
Claudia Petruncio, DO
Paul Charpentier, MD
Miriam Harris, MD
Jeremiah Dawson, MD
Bruce Andich, MD
Tedd Dawson, MD
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Juliet LaMers, MD
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Erin Henckell, RN
Richard Christopher, RN
Anne Retalick, NP
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OBITUARY |

Alex Walker

It is with great sadness that the family of Claud Alexander Walker, "Alex," lifelong resident of Willits, California, announces his sudden passing on Monday, September 20, 2021 at the age of 33.

He will be remembered by his sons Michael Walker and Ryan Hodges, parents Mark and Kathy Walker, grandmothers Claudia Blair and Muriel Hill, siblings Ryan Hill, Christin Strickland, and Linda and Brandi Walker. Along with so many more loved ones. He was preceded in death by grandfathers Robert Walker and Robert Hill, along with aunt Linda Walker and uncle Wilfred Narez.

Alex will be remembered as a kind, loving young man who always had a smile on his face, and who lived his life to the fullest. He made a lasting impression and was loved by so many of his peers.



The rest of Pinwheel | From Page 5

To which Gravier said: "And who's responsible for what parts as well. What's the expectation of the city and what's the expectation of the [ad hoc] group and the donor?"

Being a tribal administrator, Gravier has vast experience dealing with these issues and stepped forward to work with Martin and help think about each step and come up with solutions or questions for potential or known problems.

Fisch volunteered to take the information gathered by the group and compiled by Martin to "put it in a format that's easy to look at."

There was some discussion about having a sculpture park. Again, Rodriguez had perspective from the city around the problem of parking and the use of that strip of Highway 20 property. "There won't be any money for parking in the short term," she said. "There's been tons of discussion through the Revitalizing Committee and the Tourism Board. A few years back we discussed what we'd like that stretch to look like but there isn't the money right now to develop that. It'll take city money to install the pinwheels and possibly create the sculpture park. Later we can discuss parking."

For right now Rodriguez counseled the committee: "The task of this committee is very labor-focused on achieving moving the Pinwheel Project forward," she said. "In doing that, it will help the momentum of getting the park developed and the arts council started. Creating a working arts council will grease the wheels and make the process with the city manageable and doable. And why shouldn't Willits have an arts council instead of an ad hoc committee?"

The next meeting of the Public Art Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled for Friday, October 22, 10 to 11 am at Willits City Hall, 111 Commercial Street. The public is invited. Masks and distancing are required. Contact Willits City Hall at 459-4601 or Willits Center for the Arts at 459-1726 for further information.



At top: This image is a Photoshop mock-up showing Jane Camp standing with the first installation of public art and where it may be placed on Highway 20 behind the Arco gas station on Main Street. The kinetic pinwheels will be painted silver and black and twirl in the breeze. At left: "Here in My Car" is a rendering by artist Jesse Jesse that inspired Jane Camp's imagination to have a set of pinwheels of varying sizes like his art piece.

WW 335

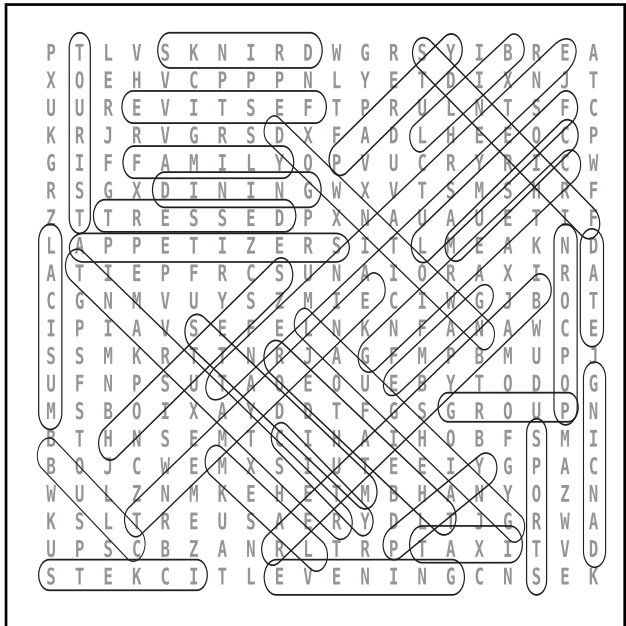
CITY OF WILLITS

Groundwater Resiliency Improvement Project:
Revised Draft Initial Study Available for Public Review & Comment

Revisions to the Draft Initial Study and Environmental Checklist for the Groundwater Resiliency Improvement Project are complete. The Study and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration are available for review on the City's website: <https://cityofwillits.org/147/Engineering>. The Study will be open to public comment from September 10th - October 11, 2021.

The City will be accepting public comments on the Study until 5:00 pm on October 11, 2021. Comments can be submitted to the attention of Andrea Trincado Slater, Project Manager, at engineering@cityofwillits.org.

Publication Dates: September 16, 23, 30, 2021



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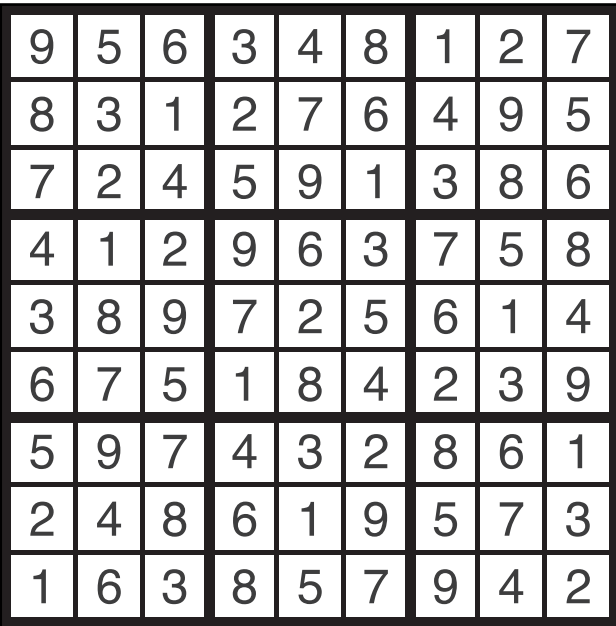
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Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearbhall@gmail.com

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Gleaners Update

Willits Grateful Gleaners harvest fruit to share with people in need. If you have extra or if you are willing to help, call (707) 367-7391.

Gym Yard Sale

Giant Gym Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley (across from the Broiler). Saturday, October 9 - 8 am to 4 pm only.

Help Wanted

Part-time Program Assistant for Willits nonprofit. Must be vaccinated and comply with Covid guidelines. Assist in serving hungry clients with varied needs, help with office functions. Compassionate with those less fortunate. Call 459-3333 or apply at 229 E. San Francisco Street, Willits

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Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 510-5895. See at <http://www.oakrvine.net/tp>

willitsweekly@gmail.com

Help Wanted

Merchandise Processor /Stocker. \$14.50 Hour. Part Time (24 hours weekly) Send resume to wsdirector@willitsseniorcenter.com. Please include 3 references or pick up application at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd. or call Richard Baker at 459-6826 for more information.

Help Wanted

Outreach Worker. Earn as you learn. \$15/Hour. 32 Hours Weekly. Send resume to wsdirector@willitsseniorcenter.com (please include 3 references) or pick up job application at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, or call Richard Baker at 459-6826 for more information

Huge Yard Sale

Huge Yard Sale: Saturday, October 2 & Sunday, October 3. 9 am to sunset, 84 School Street, Willits. No early birds! Lots of treasures to find. 50 years of accumulation. Wearing mask appreciated.

Multi-Space Yard Sales

Multi-Space Yard Sales at Golden Rule Mobile Village, Fri, Sat and Sun, Oct. 1, 2 and 3, 9am - 2pm. Tools, clothing, holiday, books, crafts, antiques, furniture, household, much more. From Willits: S 101 about 6 miles, right at Ridgewood Ranch. From Ukiah: N 101 about 15 miles, left at Ridgewood Ranch. Follow signs to Mobile Village.

Piano for Sale

Older baby grand piano, medium-brown wood finish, reasonable condition, needs tuning. No bench, but ready for your living room! Asking \$200, must pick up yourself. Located in Brooktrails. 707-951-7812, leave message.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers needed at Willits Food Bank! Office help and Warehouse help. Must be compassionate about hungry and underprivileged people. Must be vaccinated against COVID and follow County guidelines. Call 707 459-3333 or visit 229 East San Francisco Street, across from Sparetime Supply.

Yard Sale

Huge Yard Sale: Saturday, October 2 & Sunday, October 3. 9 am to sunset, 84 School Street, Willits. New and used items.



Above, from left: Ember Hetherington brought her mini-drone to photograph the colorful event. This middle-schooler's outfit is complete with pink boa. The Rainbow Crew dressed to complement each other's colors.

Far left: Teachers Michel Chenelle and Leea Joi, along with interim director Robert Chavez, jump in on the fun.

At left: Leea Joi did her nails in a rainbow motif.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Happy Flashbacks

Willits Charter School students dress on-theme to show off their school spirit and build lifelong memories

"This week is about building school spirit, building unity amongst the classes," explained Robert Chavez, interim director at Willits Charter School. "I think a bigger part that people don't think about is the memories that you carry into adulthood. You remember that time that you dressed silly and you did this or that, or that so and so dressed silly."

"Those are the things," continued Chavez, "you have conversations about later, when you're an adult, when you're an alumnus. 'Remember when Dave did this or we did that?' So, I think a big part of this is building those memories that they will have for the rest of their lives. It builds school spirit but those memories become so important as we grow older."

On the Wednesday that Willits Weekly attended the early-morning festivities, the Spirit Week day was all about color. Tie-dye, wigs, colorful hats, bright red shoes, and other accessories were in vogue as the students amassed on the athletic field's bright-green Astroturf to show off their school spirit and hobnob with the other gaily dressed middle and high-school classmates. Popular theater and student leadership teacher Billy Hetherington, himself festooned in a rainbow wig, utilized the electric megaphone to excite the crowd and lead the presentation of participating students who could win merits in several categories.

"Merits are like incentive points which students can earn for being compassionate, responsible, engaged at school," explained Hetherington. "They can spend their merits at the student store which contains school supplies, stickers, and other fun prizes."

The students roared their approval at the display of vibrant colors and creative manners in which they were presented. One by one, the students were introduced to thunderous applause, shouts, and the occasional cat call.



Above: Lily Madison brought her yellow friend, Pikachu.

At left: Lacking colorful clothing, this student decided to present himself with a stack of hats.

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The rest of COVID From Page 2

locals who recently passed away was 68, compared with the age of those who were vaccinated, "who were 95 years old, with significantly more comorbidities."

Additionally, Dr. Coren said, "eight who passed away in the last two weeks were from two nursing home outbreaks, each with low staff vaccination rates. And in those skilled nursing facilities, the staff who tested positive were predominately unvaccinated."

"So though the surge in Northern California is affecting predominately unvaccinated at a rate of 10 to 1 it is also having fatal consequences on those who are vaccinated and vulnerable, who are populations in contact with the unvaccinated caregivers," he said.

"It is because of experiences like this that vaccines are being mandated for health care workers, school teachers and staff, and our county EMTs, fire and law enforcement personnel, as well as other first responders."

Dr. Coren then went on to update the board about the four ongoing outbreaks Public Health had been focusing on. The two local nursing homes with outbreaks, Redwood Cove in Ukiah and Sherwood Oaks in Fort Bragg, are "working with state resources to control and mitigate their outbreaks," he said.

He updated the board on the COVID outbreak in the Round Valley / Covelo / Northern Mendocino area: "Fifty-six cases have been identified, and they're experiencing a continued outbreak," he said, which he said the Round Valley Indian Health Center is "working heroically" to contain, with the help of a state Outbreak Response team.

The Mendocino County Jail, which "successfully contained and closed" an earlier outbreak, Coren said, has had a second COVID outbreak, with six new COVID cases, due to "a new arrestee who came in with COVID."

Dr. Coren said Public Health was continuing to

The rest of Jail From Page 1

the last few years during a presentation for the board.

"The guiding principles for the project were established in alignment with the mission statement as a guide for the design of the facility," said Fadnass. "The intent is to achieve a therapeutic and supportive environment that is ligature free, safe and secure for the staff and inmates. Also to design for future flexibility and integration of technology and to design for a 50-year lifespan, and reduce maintenance costs."

Some of the other "guiding principles" for the facility stated were to provide spaces for "educational and behavioral health programs," and an environment "comfortable for staff [to] minimize stress."

A state grant will be paying for \$25 million of the cost of the facility, and Fadnass showed that initially in January of 2017 the "total project funding" was set at just over \$26 million, meaning the county would need to pay for just over \$1 million.

However, the projected cost has since ballooned to \$31.1 million, which Fadnass said was largely due to "unprecedented" increases in construction costs.

He and County Deputy Chief Executive Officer Steve Dunicliff both talked about some of the causes of these steep increases.

"In recent years there's been a number of historic impacts to construction costs," said Dunicliff, "starting with rebuilding thousands of housing units lost to regional wildfires, then tariffs on construction material, and supply chain impacts due to the ongoing global pandemic."

Fadnass said that the construction management company Vanir hired by the county had come up with the projections, and had used the California Construction Cost Index as a tool.

He said that since June of 2019, the construction cost estimate for the county jail facility project had increased by 14.5%, much larger than the typical 3.5% per year that is usually seen.

While the skyrocketing construction costs contributed to the overall increase in cost, Fadnass showed that even back in 2017 the original projections for the facility began at around \$2.7 million higher than the \$26 million the county was aiming for, and so Nacht & Lewis began pursuing many cost reduction strategies for the project.

One of the primary ones was to completely alter the design of the facility from a two-story structure to a one-story building at a different site on the Low Gap complex, although still near to other jail housing buildings there.

Fadnass listed around two dozen other cost reduction methods they pursued in their design including lowering square footage of the building

focus on schools. "It has been reassuring so far," he said, "there have been a total of 28 COVID exposure events [at schools countywide] involving students or staff. These were all identified and contained through the robust testing programs and contact investigation and tracing being performed by school staff, with Public Health oversight and consultation."

"In spite of all these events there have been no outbreaks in Mendocino County schools so far," he said. "These generally have been infections that were detected that were brought into the schools from the community, from home. This is a credit to the staff who are being pushed to the limit while still carrying out their usual responsibilities for the children."

Turning to statistics about vaccination, which Dr. Coren called "our best hope for returning to normal," he reported: "As of this morning, in Mendocino County, we've administered a total of 106,078 vaccines. This represents full vaccination of 69.4 percent of our eligible population, and 79.2 percent of those eligible have had at least 1 vaccination."

He also touched briefly on the continuing – but lessening – gap in local vaccination rates between non-Hispanic Caucasians and Hispanic residents. In Mendocino County, eligible non-Hispanic Caucasians are 65.7 percent fully vaccinated. "This is greater than the state average," Dr. Coren said. "Among Hispanics in our county, 55.9 percent are fully vaccinated, and this is greater than the California average."

"We can see there is continuing to be a gap between Hispanic and non-Hispanic Caucasians, but that gap is narrowing with an increased rate of uptake in our Hispanic community. And this, in many ways, is through the educational work of our Promotores, in the county."

Only 52 percent of eligible Native American residents in Mendocino County have been recorded as being fully vaccinated, Coren said. "This data is questionable and may underestimate the numbers slightly due to reporting issues, but there's clearly a major disparity, and that tragically is fueling, in many cases, the outbreak in Round Valley."

The rest of Jail From Page 1

and altering the exterior "envelope" and insulation of the building.

However, the cost reduction methods couldn't keep up with the soaring construction costs, and at three previous board meetings supervisors had already agreed to increase the amount the county would pay towards the project to nearly \$2.8 million.

This still left them about \$3.6 million short of the \$31.1 million projection that Fadnass showed them Tuesday.

County Chief Executive Director Carmel Angelo said that it was very likely the county would be paying the entirety of that shortfall.

"I do not think that there is any additional grant money or outside money but I could be wrong," she said. "So we would have to check on that, but my guess is that this would be all county money."

The timeline for the new jail facility is to send out bids for the project in June of 2022, begin construction a few months later and complete it by March of 2024.

Fadnass said that the county should expect continued rising construction prices to cause the project's cost to increase even more by the time it gets sent out for bids next June, and suggested the county would be wise to set aside around \$4 million rather than just \$3.6 million.

This prompted Third District Supervisor John Haschak to ask Angelo "the best way to go about" finding \$4 million to finish the project.

"I think at this point the board would have to look at all their funding streams and see what's available," she replied. "We know that we have a reserve account if we really need to tap the reserves for this building, and certainly any fund balance that we would have may be applicable as well."

"We certainly know that this is needed," she continued. "So we would definitely find the dollars, and then it would be your decision if that was the option you wanted to take."

The rest of Charter From Page 10

Charter School is finally going to begin construction of their new much-needed gym and auditorium. "Eric's [Eric Glassey, president of the board of directors] been working hard on getting the gym / auditorium building constructed," explained Hetherington.

"They'll be constructing it while the kids are in session," he continued, "and they'll get to watch it grow. They're going to be that class that was here when it was constructed. That's pretty neat. They also get to see the new subdivision under construction. The kids can come out and go, 'wow. There's a world growing around me.' It kind of counters that dreary 'it's the end of the world [COVID] feeling.'"

In order to mitigate the instances of the pandemic, each student at WCS is tested once a week on a rotating schedule, depending on which class they are in. Temperatures are taken daily. Masks are required at all times, except when eating (mostly outdoors). Distance learning is available with the school's Independent Study Program and contingencies are available if the pandemic hits the school's students in force. So far, there have been no instances of the kids contracting COVID and the school is doing its best to keep that record going.

The rest of Measure B From Page 1

According to one attachment provided by Miller, Measure B – the act passed by county voters in 2017 which implemented an increase in sales tax to put towards mental health services – has raised around \$28.8 million in revenue since 2018, and the county has currently spent nearly \$3 million of that.

Regarding the Crisis Respite facility in Fort Bragg, Miller said it would be a space with mental health services and beds provided for those in need, but for shorter term stays than the 30 days allowed at a Crisis Residential Treatment facility.

She said it would likely have 4-6 beds available, and they're considering remodeling a building located at the Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Hospital campus in Fort Bragg to use for it.

Miller said the idea was brought to the Measure B Committee in August by the Fort Bragg Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee, and the Measure B group supported it, along with the City of Fort Bragg and the Fort Bragg Police Department.

With their vote Tuesday the county agreed to provide \$240,000 per year for four years for the City of Fort Bragg to work with Redwood Community Services to run the facility.

Miller added that the city, RCS and the county's Behavioral Services will be looking for grants and other funding to keep it going after the four years.

She said the money the county is providing will enable the new crisis facility to be able to treat everyone who needs to use it, regardless of whether they have insurance which covers it.

She emphasized that it will be a great help for those going through a crisis in the coastal area, providing more local support and preventing the need for the lengthy transport to Ukiah which has been the norm.

She noted that those with a 5150 designation – determined to be a danger to themselves or others – would not be permitted in the new facility due to regulations.

"If the person isn't meeting the 5150 criteria, but they really can't safely go home, it gives them a couple days of somewhere to go," said Miller. "[To] kind of get some services, help to transition back into their community, help get connected to [other] services. So it's an intermediary between the different services we have."

She said there is currently a Crisis Respite facility in the inland area of the county, and "it has worked very successfully in reducing the number of individuals that need to go out of the area to get hospitalized," and also "been very effective in moving people out of the [Emergency Room] quicker because you can give them somewhere to go."

The supervisors voted unanimously to approve the new project.

"I'm very supportive of this because when people are having a crisis they need to be seen and cared for right away," said Fourth District Supervisor Glenn McGourty. "And adding another hour and a half onto their misery to transport them to Ukiah really doesn't make a lot of sense in my thinking."

"It's cost-effective, it's in line with the tax voters passed," added Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams. "I think the public wants us to support this, I certainly support it."

Fort Bragg Mayor Bernie Norvell called in to the meeting to express his hopes that the board would approve the funding, and to assure them that the City of Fort Bragg had "a clear understanding ... of the responsibilities that comes with a request for sums of this size," he said.

"It is important to me that you know we have this understanding and that we do not take this request lightly," said Norvell.

"We already have in place a mechanism for tracking these kinds of calls which gives us a baseline for where we are today."

"If this service is funded we plan to report back annually to the supervisors to update you on our success," he continued. "Success in my opinion is fewer clients occupying beds in our ER, fewer calls for service with our PD, and most importantly our clients utilizing this service and staying out of crisis."

Mobile Crisis Response Team

Regarding the new Mobile Crisis Response Team, Miller said they have started working with the Sheriff's Office and are seeing good results.

She said in a report that a mental health rehabilitation specialist or "MHRS" had been hired and trained for the team, and another is being transferred there.

"To date the MHRS has responded to 20 calls with the Sheriff's department and 30 calls with either Redwood Community Services Crisis, Mobile Outreach and Prevention Services, or Homeless Outreach Team," the report reads.

"It's been a great experience, the sheriff's department's very happy with this," she said at the meeting.

Miller said that they "have struggled with getting qualified candidates" for the team, but a recent recruitment effort looks like it could be promising.

All construction for the new Crisis Residential Treatment facility in Ukiah is expected to be completed by November 1 according to Miller, and it appeared that the project will come in at or below what was budgeted.

"The project is really coming along," she said "It looks great... We're really excited about that. We're working with the provider Redwood Community Services to get licensed so we can actually start serving individuals in that crisis center and essential treatment facility. And so we're really excited that this is almost completed and we will be able to start serving clients soon."

As for the county's ongoing efforts to create a PHF unit – typically a lock-down style facility for 5150 type patients – Miller said they are hopeful that a feasibility study, which is focused on the possibility of using a building on Whitmore Lane in Ukiah, will be finished by January.

She said it was her understanding that the study, being done by the firm Nacht & Lewis, would be very "comprehensive," and will look at the logistics of using the Whitmore building compared to other options, look at remodeling the building versus "starting from scratch," and many other aspects.

The county has chosen the company Telecare to help develop and operate the PHF unit in the county, and Miller reported that the county's Behavioral Health Services department is working on a memorandum of understanding between the two parties.

She said at the meeting that Telecare has been helpful in the feasibility study process.

"They bring a lot of years of experience with them so it's been really wonderful to have them being able to work with the team," said Miller, "and talk about what their experience is with the rest of the group."

Other Measure B projects in the county that Miller gave updates on included a "Behavioral Health Regional Training Center" which she said was nearing completion; a mental health "Community Education, Awareness, and Support" program set to begin soon; and a "Crisis Assessment and Psychiatric Hospitalization Aftercare" program which began July 1.

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