### A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits Donations Accepted Edition No. 474 Thursday, October 20, 2022

Willits

### School board candidates agree on many issues

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter . willitsweekly@gmail.com

Seven candidates for three seats on the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees agreed on many issues, when answering questions at the October 9 election forum at the Little Lake Grange.

Candidates differed experience in and background, but agreed that they weren't interested in banning books, they thought history should be taught to students, in an age-appropriate way, and generally agreed the district {and Mendocino County in general) was doing a good job in supporting students from low socio-economic backgrounds.

One issue where there were differences was on the size of the financial reserve that the WUSD should be holding, and whether some of those reserve funds should instead be used to raise salaries for teachers and other staff. These differences became clear in answers to questions about how to increase compensation for teachers, and how to attract and retain good teachers for the Willits

Read the rest of Forum



Veekl

Hashed brown potatoes, bacon, waffles and eggs are just a few of the breakfast items now available at Rio's Fish & Chips. **Below: Owner Rene** Paniagua offers up a whipped creamtopped waffle to a grateful community.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



Above: Syrup tops the waffle. Below: Rene's son Oscar wipes down one of the tables at Rio's Fish & Chips.



The griddle at Rio's Fish & Chips is cooking up more than fish and fries these days as the restaurant started offering breakfast to the community just last week from their south town location.

Rene Paniagua, owner of Rio's, was the previous owner for about a decade of Gribaldo's Cafe, a local favorite eatery that closed down around 12 years ago.

confessed non-morning person!) to give all-day breakfast a go, and will be offering plates seven days a week, and expanding the restaurant's hours from 7 am to 8 pm.

The menu includes many favorites like omelets, waffles, pancakes, huevos rancheros, biscuits and gravy, breakfast quesadillas and more and is available for dine in, to go and for delivery though Door Dash.

### 40 +teachers comment to school board about pay

looking

need

MOTHER Calendar

Support good advantageous willitsweekly@gmail.com

Subscribers

organizations

publication

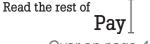
Margi Gomez Guhde Features Writer margie@willitsweekly.com

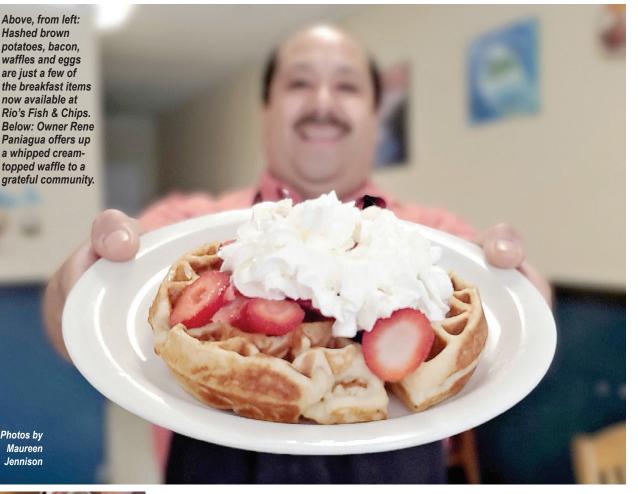
During public comment at the October 12 Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees meeting, more than 40 WUSD teachers spoke to the theme of teacher pay and retention - at the podium, via Zoom, or by submitted written statement.

They each told their stories expressing love for their vocations, with story after story also reflecting their struggles making ends meet. A teacher pointed the money she spends out of her own pocket on monthly supplies for science projects and reading intervention, declaring, "I do it because kids are my life."

"We feel like we're in the middle of a storm," another teacher commented. "We need more pay to keep the talent that we have." An eight-year WUSD veteran related finding himself unable to afford college costs for his own highschooler.

Another longtime Willits teacher said, "After over 20 years of teaching, I just now paid off my student loan,"





color activities

covershar owaso accounting week want

ossible a

today

well

sports

vears

Over on page 6

### **Brooktrails** board urges input into transportation study

Barbara O'Reardon Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

All directors were present for the October 11 meeting, with Director Tony Orth attending remotely via zoom. Township Counsel Chris Neary and Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer were also in attendance.

Board President Rick Williams asked if any directors had anything of note to report, and Tina Tyler-Director "There's O'Shea stated: an additional feedback period that is online for the Mendocino Council of Governments Mobility Solutions Feasibility Study, a study being conducted unincorporated areas in Mendocino County of where there is no public transportation access, which includes Brooktrails.

Brea

**BISCUITS AND** 

**BISCUITS AN** 

BAGEL WITH C

Breakfast S

American ch

mushroom

Breakfast O.

with two sc

topped with

rowns and

Chorizo Bur

cheddar che

topped with

"It's an online feedback period with interactive maps where one can go in and 'pin' identified issues with transportation in our Brooktrails area and also solutions for those, which

Read the rest of Study

Over on page 6



He purchased Chad's Fish & Chips from Chad and has been working with sons Oscar and Reni and employees Gustavo and Mariano to continue Chad's traditional menu.

However, locals who are well aware that Paniagua knows his way around the breakfast table have been asking for the addition of their old favorites onto the menu. Paniagua relented (despite being a self-

"We want to serve our local people, and we're doing it for them!" said Paniagua. "We're happy to be giving our guys more hours and giving the community what they want, we'll see how it goes!"

Rio's is located at 1661 South Main and can be reached at 707-459-3105.

– Maureen Jennison

Below, left: Part of the family team, son Oscar, left, stands with his dad Rene in the family's restaurant. Below, right: Bacon, eggs and hashed brown potatoes are served up to go. At bottom: The breakfast menu at Rio's Fish & Chips is reminiscent of Gribaldo's.



		(707) 459–3105 1661 S. Main St. Willits, CA 95490 Hours 7am-8pm		
kfast Specialties	OMELETTES Dur omelettes are prepared with four fresh eggs, legg	Pancakes/French Toast	Belgium Waffles	SIDES
ID GRANY WITH HASH BROWNS_\$12.99 ID GRANY\$10.99	Our omelettes are prepared with four fresh eggs, legg beaters upon request) and served with one of the following chaices: Hash browns, home fries, fruit includes toast.	French Toast – 3 slices of our Texas toast, egg dipped and dusted with powdered sugar	Blueberry Waffle\$12.99	Hash browns\$4 Bacon\$4
CREAM CHEESE\$3.50 cramble - 3 eggs Ground beef,	Nerver – Ham, onions, bell peppers, cheese\$13.99 Charloo – With Jack Cheese\$13.99	French Toast Favorite - 2 slices of our Texas	Belgium Waffle and Syrup\$9.99	
neese, fried potatoes. Garlic, ; onions and bell peppers all\$13.99	Ham and Cheese\$1399 Cheese Lover's - Cheese and more cheese\$1399 Bacon and Cheese Omplet\$1399	toast, egg dipped and dusted with powdered sugar and served with butter, strawberries, blueberry or banana	Supreme Waffle - Belgium Waffle, two eggs your style with 2 bacon strips or	Datmeal \$6 2 Biscuits \$4
uesadilla – Our large flour tortilla	Ortega - Green chills, cheese and sour cream_\$13.99	unieneitä ni naitaita		Ham\$5
crambled eggs, ham, jack cheese n sour cream, served with hash I Pico de Gallo on the side\$1399	Vegetarian – mushrooms, tomatoes, bell peppers ,onion's toped with acacado and cheese\$1399	Pancake Supreme – 2 pancakes, 2 eggs and 2 pieces of bacon or sausage	Strawberrų Waffle – topped with strawberries and whipped	Toast1
rito – Fresh chorizo and eggs melted eese, wrapped in a flour tortilla and h avocado and a side of salsa\$12.99	Farmers – Cheese, Sausage, onions, bell peppers, hash browns all topped with country gravy413.99	\$12.99 Short Stacks \$8.99 3 pancakes 9.99	cream\$12.99	W.
icheros – Flour tortilla topped with ns, ground beef, 2 eggs your style	Chil Cheese - Stuffed and topped with our home made chill beans, cheese and onions	See 38		
heddar cheese, and Pico de Gallo and e of hash browns or home fries\$13.99	Spanish – Ground beef, bell peppers, onions and Pico de Gallo\$13.99			A CARES

#### Over on page 4

### City council endorses library, fire sales tax measures

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits City Council had their first post-COVID inperson meeting on October 12 in the newly refurbished council chambers at city hall.

Council members heard a presentation from Willits Fire Chief Bill Carter about the local fire chiefs' support of Measure P, the Essential Services sales tax measure put on the November 8 ballot by the board of supervisors to fund countywide fire departments, with 10% for fire prevention. They also heard from Friends of the Library representative Melinda Clarke on the citizens' initiative to support the county libraries, Measure O.

The council endorsed both measures, 4 to 0, with Mayor Saprina Rodriguez absent. See below for the full text of both endorsement resolutions, detailing reasons for the council's support.

499

4.99

4.99

500

6.99

4.99

5.49

The council also heard a presentation on the city's "Annual Water Distribution

### Read the rest of Endorses

Over on page 6

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

### What good theater should be To the Editor:

I saw the Pulitzer Prize nominated play, "Keely & Du," at our own Willits Community Theatre last Saturday. I admit that I was somewhat reluctant to go, but am so glad that I did! I was rewarded by an excellent production as current as today's news.

I was totally engrossed and involved every minute. It was what good theater should be - beautifully acted, good direction, compelling - and it made me think about one of the most important issues of our times. It tore me away from my TV and gave me real live theater. Wow! We're so fortunate to have a real treasure like WCT in our richly diverse community.

I left "Keely & Du" grateful for every person who brought this play to our town, to take that chance to shine light on something important and real – and to do it so well. Thank you, WCT.

### Bill Barksdale, WIllits

### Senior Photos a great opportunity To the Editor:

To those considering doing Maureen Jennison's Senior Photos event at the Senior Center on Saturday, November 12:

Sometimes I hear friends joke about reading the obit section of the paper to make sure they are not in it. I have done that as well, and sometimes I see familiar names, but their photo included in the paper may be 25, 40, even 50 books, programs, and other materials (60%), and for capital years old, and I'm not entirely sure who it is.

My husband. Roger, and I discussed that a few years ago and decided we would have more current pictures of us taken so the family could use them in the paper when the time comes. We contacted Maureen Jennison and set up professional picture since that time.

Roger and I also were able to give our children copies for Christmas gifts the year we had them taken. And it is good for the grandchildren to see photos of what we look like now and for them to remember us when our time comes.

This photo session is a great opportunity for you and your family to have a professional photo to enjoy. These will make excellent Christmas gifts your family will cherish.

#### Vicki Ham, Willits To the Editor:

### Children are our future

#### To the Editor:

It has been my honor to serve on the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees for the past four years. My reason for running at that time was that I care deeply about children. That remains true now; I want what is most helpful for children. Children are only one-third of our population but they are 100% of our future. We need to do our best.

I have been an engaged, informed and elective member of the school board. To this end I have taken multiple courses with the California School Board Association.

I am an independent thinker who gathers information from

family allair over the decades with my husband serving on the board for six years in the 1990s, and my son was the student rep to the school board in his senior year at Willits High School.

I want the children who attend WUSD to receive a stellar education that will prepare them to be successful in life and to be fully engaged citizens.

I hope I have your vote.

Jeanne King, Willits City council endorses library measure

### To the Editor:

The Willits City Council met Wednesday, October 12, in person for the first time since the pandemic, and unanimously voted to endorse the Citizens Initiative for the Library 2022, or Measure O.

Measure O is a citizens initiative, which required and collected more than enough signatures to gualify to be placed on this ballot for November. It will replace Measure A, which passed by 78% of the voters 11 years ago, and has served us well.

Measure A allowed for an expansion of programs, and created a huge increase in library patronage throughout the county. It is sunsetting out soon, so Measure O has come to the rescue. It will NOT increase our sales tax, but will simply continue with a 1/4 cent of sales tax. It will be permanent. And it is earmarked for library use only.

The money engendered will be split between salaries, improvements (40%) which will allow our Willits Library a much-needed new roof, as well as other structural needs around the county. You may go to the Measure O website for further details: vesonlibraries.org.

Libraries are one of the pillars of democracy. They a photo session for this purpose, but I have also taken are places of safety, of curiosity, of inspiration. Please advantage of having the photo by using it when I require a remember to vote in the November 8 election, and tell vour friends. And come visit any of our many Mendocino County libraries, open and welcoming now more than ever.

Thank you for our overwhelming support from area citizens.

Melinda Clarke, president, Friends of the Willits Library, and Willits area representative for Citizens for the Library Initiative

### Election and tax proposals

spend as they see fit at our expense.

(.125%) increase.

they are requesting.

NAME:

PHONE

ADDRESS:

In the mail:

We are getting ready for another November election cycle. With it comes usually different tax proposals, and this election cycle is no different. We live in a state with some of the highest/if not THE highest taxes of any state, i.e., gas, income, property, sales, business, to name a few examples.

We have two ballot measures proposing additional sales tax increases this November.

Measure P. This is a guarter percent (.25%) hike in sales tax for county fire departments. If you read the ordinance it states "Nothing in the ordinance shall prohibit the county from entering in agreements with the Cities of Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Willits and Point Arena to share a percentage of the

tax for the county libraries. The libraries current tax of

(.125%) percent is set to expire in 2027. However they

wish to revoke the sunset clause with the passage of

this measure, and make it a permanent tax along with

Most people today have cell phones /computers so

libraries aren't as vital as they probably once were. Why

doesn't the library system establish user fees for the

different services they provide? That way those who use

the library would pay directly for the different services

Public transportation, some bridges, and museums

charge a fee (to name a few) for use - shouldn't libraries

do the same? This shouldn't be a taxpayer handout.

Libraries provide a service to some and should charge

Over on page 6

EMAIL:

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

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

those that they are providing the service to.

Letters

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Read the rest of

### WILLITS, BROOKTRAILS FIRE CHIEFS ENDORSE MEASURE P

### To the Editor:

We are writing in strong support of Mendocino County Measure P, which will appear on the November 8 ballot. Our volunteer fire departments urgently and desperately need additional funding. Costs continue to rise for vital equipment, training and firefighter protection. Replacement of a single engine can cost \$400,000 or more. Fire seasons have gotten more intense and will continue to worsen.

Our firefighters and fire prevention crews, many of whom are volunteers, are on the front line for all of us. They need our support now more than ever.

Measure P WILL NOT increase taxes. It will dedicate a portion of the sales tax already collected to the county's 20 fire departments and the nonprofit Mendocino Fire Safe Council, which helps local communities with their critical fire prevention projects. Many of our small departments have struggled to raise money for budgets with BBQs and other fundraisers for years. This measure will give them reliable funding for the next 10 years.

Measure P has the support of all 20 fire chiefs, Cal Fire Local 2881, and Mendocino County sheriffs past and present. Every resident of Mendocino will benefit from this funding to strengthen our fire protection and prevention.

We urge a YES vote on Measure P.

Jon Noyer, chief, Brooktrails Fire Department William Carter, chief, Little Lake Fire **Protection District** 

### THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT **October 2022** update

### By Supervisor John Haschak

Senator Mike McGuire and I conducted a Town Hall meeting in Willits on October 9. It was great to be back to in-person mode, as the bay in the new Fire Station was packed. We talked and answered questions for over two hours. Issues of concern were PG&E's Vegetation Management program, economic development and broadband, homelessness and Care Court proposals, Jackson State Demonstration Forest management, education (especially Career and Technical Education), cannabis, and the Great Redwood Trail.

I appreciate the many people who showed up and Senator McGuire for his accessibility and openness. Senator McGuire is the California Senate Majority Leader, so we are fortunate to have him as our representative. He certainly gets things done on behalf of Mendocino County.

The Mendocino County Museum opened its exhibit "Exploramos Juntos: Nuestra Alianza" on October 9. The exhibit is beautifully done, educational as well as emotionally appealing, and highlights the contributions of the Hispanic community. Of course the opening had increase of the voter approved tax proceeds". Furthermore: fabulous food, dancing, and smiles. As I work with the "The funds from the tax are not legally restricted and may Museum in developing a Strategic Plan, one of the be used for any valid county purpose." Basically these goals is to reach out to all of Mendocino County. This exhibit does just that in an inclusive way. It is open until February 5, 2023, so check it out. Measure O. This is a guarter percent (.25%) hike in sales



Above: The Willits Charter Middle School volleyball team poses for a photo: back row, coaches Jade Clark-Wilson and Amanda Pierson; middle row, Sofia, Maggie, Micaella, Abigail, Izzy, Allie, Amelia, Bayleigh and Zoey; front row (on floor), K'Allana and Chloe.

# **Charter School** Athletics

Sciences now has an athletics program, or at least. the beginnings of a program, which at this time, concentrates on their middle school students.

After many years of not having facilities in which to hold sporting events, the

Mathew Caine school has finally completed Features Writer nathew@willitsweekly.com its building that will double as an assembly hall, capable

of seating approximately 600 people, and a theater with an ample stage for most student productions. The floor of the facility is large enough to host volleyball, basketball, wrestling, and a myriad of other activities.

The first-ever league competition for Willits Charter School, a set of two volleyball matches, was played October 9, against Eagle Peak Middle School of Redwood Valley. Due to the smaller number of students at WCS, the girls volleyball team only had a single "A" team to play in both matches against the "A" and "B" teams of Eagle Peak.

They did well against the B team of their adversary, after a rough start. They did not win, but showed promise. However, in the second match against the A team, their enthusiastic efforts were not rewarded with a plethora of points. Even so, after each play, the team energetically cheered each other on, with chants of "side out" and "dominate." All in all, they obviously enjoyed the competition, as did the

"This is going to be our first game here in Willits, using our new gym," said Mark Botelho, Ph.D., the new school director. "We just got accepted into the [California Interscholastic Federation] last week.

"The kids are really excited to be able to play in here for the first time," said Botelho. "This season is actually unofficial in regards to the league itself, the Central Mountain Conference. That's the official league that we're going to be a part of. We're going to have a meeting with them this week to begin that process. So, next season will be official. This year's season we've been participating with the other schools and have been competing on all the other campuses.

"The goal is to get certain sports that we can be competitive in," Botelho explained. "We have such a small high school that we're looking to do co-ed sports or sports where they can do single or dual participation, like running, cross-country, and golf.

"The dual sports would be badminton or tennis, if we can utilize the courts from the high school. We might be able to do co-ed soccer, basketball, or volleyball. I'd like us to get started in disc golf. We have a great course in Brooktrails that we would like to utilize," Botelho said.

Read the rest of Over on page 11 Charter

Above, right, from top: The post-game routine always includes this show of sportsmanship. WCS Athletic Director Anthony Sylstra addresses the crowd before the inaugural volleyball game in the new gym. This scoreboard-timer was generously donated by METALfx. Below, from left: WCS coaches Amanda Pierson and Jade Clark-Wilson watch their team's progress. Allie returns the ball over the net with a high-flying jump shot. Amelia hits the ball over the net to gain a point.



At left: Anthony Sylstra is the athletic director of the new WCS sports program. Above: Bayleigh shows extreme concentration as she prepares to serve.

Photos by Mathew Caine







WCS sports and theater building completed just in time for a year of new programs The Willits Charter School for the Arts and approximately 60, mostly parental, spectators.

many dilerent sources when considering my vote on any issue that comes before the school board. As a community member, a parent, a grandparent, a retired teacher, I can see through multiple lenses. I have worked diligently to funds will just provide additional monies for the county to support stall and parents during the past four years.

I have skin in the game. I have two grandchildren attending school in Willits Unified. Service on the board has been a

### 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 is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

#### Volume 10, Number 474

3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

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

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

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

Jackie Cobbs, features editor

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

Forrest Glyer, reporter and calendar editor/ forrest@willitsweekly.con

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

Danya Davis, Police Log / danya@willitsweekly.com

Margi Gomez Guhde, features writer / reporter /

margi@willitsweekly.com

Debbie Boone Harry, features writer / debbie@willitsweekly.com April Tweddell, ad sales / 707- 972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com

Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047

or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

Willits Weekly | October 20, 2022 **Pg. 2** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

We just had another Tree Mortality Task Force meeting. We can all see the number of dead trees in the hillsides due to drought, climate change, and bark beetles which are all interconnected. We had a productive conversation. CalFire, Caltrans, Office of Emergency Services, UC Cooperative Extension scientists, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, and others shared their perspectives.

Moving forward, we will propose a Declaration of Emergency and Resolution of the Board of Supervisors. This will be in alignment with Lake, Napa, and Sonoma counties, which will help us solicit state and federal dollars and resources for a regional approach to this problem. According to projections, tree mortality will get worse.

Time to be thinking rain, rain, rain.

OFFIC

years

ewspapersubscribers need

covershare

services today

(call for details)

Please make checks payable to Willits Weekly | P.O. Box 1698 in Willits, CA 95490

Locally Owned | Independent | Editions Every Thursday | Online & In Print

OUESTIONS: 707-459-2633 | 707-972-7047

Web: www.willitsweekly.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/willitsweekly Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Please reach out to me at haschakj@ mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.

free dd

support good

organizations calendar web

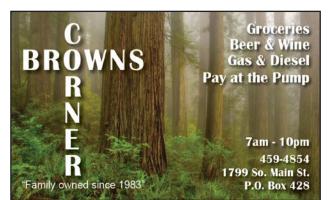


**5 OR MORE** 

Monday - Friday: 9 am - 5 pm

Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm Sunday: Closed

Mike Oglesby 707-489-0755 Sons Electric . Inc. Residential · Commercial · Industrial mike@3sonselectric.net 707-462-1660





ny other named entity. \*These services are not offered through Cetera Financia

## Willits Weekly's **Puzzle Page**

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

							-		
3						1	4		но SUI
		9					5		Sudoku
5				7			2		formatted broken dov
7	9		8						boxes. To the numbe must fill ea
		2	4				7		and box. E appear onl
		5		2				1	row, colum
			6		3	4		9	in which will appea
				4	9		8		numeric provided in
						7			more numl
	the puzzle!								

0 N T 0	NC		-	М	G	A B	E A	U I	P J K	E E C	T R N	J C E	B P C	Y A G	O B I	T I B	N G R	0 W
	0 V	C E	0 R	E	J A	U S	H Y	N L	U U	0 J	H T	G R	A N	W L	H F	V M	Y 0	N S
		AGEL							ART	Y					-	ΓME.		
	BRE	AKF/ JTTE	-						IOT							R-E/	-	
	HUNGRY							PANCAKES										
	JAM							SAUSAGE										
	JUICE							SAVOR										
	MEAL									٦	ΓEA							
EGGS								МО	RNIN	١G					TC	DAS	Т	
ŀ	HASH	BRC	) WN	HASH BROWNS												FFL	-0	



The rest of Pay and continued: "I love Willits. I want to stay.

But when neighboring districts pay so much more, we have to ask ourselves, 'Can we afford to stay?" Some of the comments by this large

From page 1

HOW TO teachers related the lack of overtime pay, SUDOKU inability to pay medical expenses, unpaid

volunteer time, loss of talented colleagues Sudoku puzzles are to other districts, and more. ormatted as a 9x9 grid, roken down into nine 3x3 All of these emotional statements ended oxes. To solve a sudoku, with the phrase. "Professional Pay for he numbers 1 through 9 Professional Services," indicating that nust fill each row, column there is likely more to come on the subject nd box. Each number can of teacher retention and salaries.

ppear only once in each The public portion of last week's meeting ow, column and box. You was called to order at approximately 5:15 can figure out the order pm which the numbers

vill appear by using the The meeting began with the announcement of Students of the Month umeric clues already from Brookside Elementary. Two secondrovided in the boxes. The graders were chosen based on four primary nore numbers you name, traits: Safe, Responsible, Respectful, ne easier it gets to solve and Kind. Tyce Elizondo and Hailee Dyer

> proudly stepped up with their families to eceive their certificates. Willits High School senior Mckenna Thom then introduced nerself as the new student representative on the school board.

Executive director of Student Programs Arora Chavez presented a powerpoint of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, offering comparisons between "English Learners," who have a primary language other than English and are not proficient in English, and "English Only Learners," who do not se another language other than English in heir homes.

Based on the results of California assessment, English Learner students are performing at a significantly lower rate than English Only students. Chaves indicated hat a focus on integrated English language levelopment across all subject areas vould benefit all students. She explained hat the data gives both administrators and eachers a view of needed support across rade levels, also providing strategies for each subject area.

Comments from Willits Teacher Association President Brandon Ludwig began with a thank you to new Student Representative Thom.

Despite the fact that he was prevented, due to student privacy and legal concerns, from speaking about specific incidents, Ludwig assured listeners that WUSD teachers are committed to supporting equity for all students. He acknowledged that much remains to be done in the area of equity and student behavior.

Ludwig then spoke to the fulfillment of purpose that he believes is the driving force behind the work that teachers do,

study confirming that over 80% of teachers identify pay as their No. 1 concern. Area school districts including Round Valley, Covelo, and Ukiah have all raised salaries for educators. Ludwig reiterated that in order to retain teachers, WUSD needs to match these pay raises, at rates ranging between \$15,000 and \$20,000 more per group of Willits teachers ended in tears, as year, concluding: "Professional Pay for Professional Service.'

> Ludwig thanked WUSD Superintendent Mark Beebe, noting the increased supervision and revised policies which are already reflecting improvement in student behavior.

During board comments, Member Alex Bowlds commented on recent meetings with county Supervisor John Haschak, California state Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire, and Superintendent Beebe concerning state funding for WUSD.

Member Jeanne King reported on volunteering in her granddaughter's classroom, a positive experience allowing interaction with the same students and educators over time.

Board President Robert Chavez related his positive experiences at number of open houses, and commended all concerned on the new dome completed for the swimming pool. He also thanked Student Representative Thom for her representation.

Chavez expressed concern regarding the recent incident that took place at the high school related to equity. Unable to speak directly to the incident due to student privacy concerns, he read several sections from the board's own policies, making clear that there is no room for bias or unlawful discrimination with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, or disability. He said he plans regular meetings with Superintendent Beebe to ensure that proper notifications are going out to both students and parents, ending with: "It breaks my heart to know that people are being hurt in this way."

Career and Technical Education teacher Brian Bowles spoke up on what he called a lack of financial efficiency, citing WUSD as the top district in spending on outsourcing among all other Mendocino County districts. He noted that gutters are full of soil, and that in many cases substantial amounts could be saved by preventative maintenance, He requested more board oversight in this area.

Board member King brought up suicide prevention, stating some sobering statistics with regards to age and gender, adding that hate-motivated behavior is often responsible for child suicide.

Superintendent Beebe stated that despite recent challenges he is confident that teacher integrity and skills will allow WUSD to face problems and find solutions. The Consent Agenda was passed with





# **Bilingual Culture**

Mendocino County Museum opens 'Exploramos Juntos,' a new exhibit celebrating the work of Nuestra Alianza

The vivid colors of Latin America were on full display on Sunday, October 9 at the Mendocino County Museum entrance to the new exhibit "Exploramos Juntos: Nuestra Alianza" ("Exploring Together"), which highlights the role and successes of the local Latino support organization Nuestra Alianza.

### Margi Gomez Guhde Features Writer margie@willitsweekly.com

Nuestra Alianza, which translates to "Our Alliance," is a grassroots Willits-based nonprofit organization, open to all, which is dedicated to making the Willits community safer and healthier for families and children.

People of all ages chattered and exclaimed at the visual spectacle as they entered the museum's Long Gallery, which glowed with the colors and textures of the Mexican culture. The bilingual exhibit, championed by Museum Administrator Karen Mattson, with support from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, showcases many culturally important costumes, art and crafts from the private collections of community members, and features intimate photography from this year's summer program by Lucia Gonzalez Acero and Mathew Caine.

Mattson described the entire exhibit as a work of art and a celebration of community. "I love being a part of a community that cares for each other and learning about Nuestra Alianza's dedicated staff and volunteers."

Nuestra Alianza Coordinator Gracialla "Chela" Botello Gaona, who lovingly curated and installed "Exploramos Juntos," began her work as a teacher in Mexico. Her deep love of children and pride in her native culture was evident at the exhibit opening, as she watched her voung charges present charming

traditional dances to the delight of Read the rest of Over on page 15 Nuestra onlookers in the museum courtyard.





Above, from left: Small handmade gifts, or regalitos, are offered to visitors of the new exhibition. Young lady "bailarinas" enjoy their time on stage. Traditional Mexican women's skirts are on display at the Mendocino County Museum. At left: The Nuestra Alianza dance group, from this year's Plan Vacacional summer program, performs for friends, family and Mendocino County Museum supporters Below: "Exploramos Juntos," or "Explore Together," is the title of a new exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum which delves into the role of the Latino support organization Nuestra Alianza. At bottom: A La Catrina mannequin wears a colorful mask created by Nuestra Alianza.



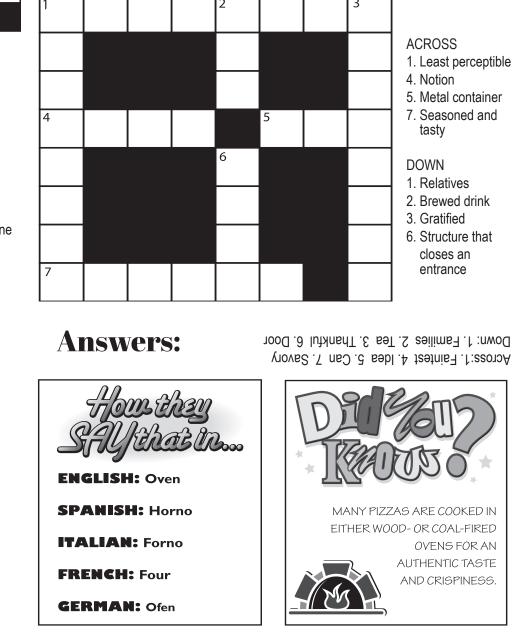




minimal debate. The subject of textbool citing the large amount of volunteerism from WUSD teachers, after school and on acquisition came up, with assurances weekends. He noted that WUSD maintains that all necessary textbooks are all now in a 25% reserve of funds, greater than other place. Concerns continue about the need districts in Mendocino County. for more current resources.

He expressed that Willits schools are at The meeting was adjourned at an important crossroads, citing a recent approximately 7:45 pm.

### **Kid's Crossword Puzzle**



Above, left: Supervisor John Haschak enjoys the food and ambience at the exhibit's opening. Above, right: A Dia de los Muertos altar to Frida Kahlo was created for the "Exploramos Juntos" exhibit.



Willits Furniture Center

> **Celebrating 54 years** serving Mendocino County and the surrounding areas!

Offering up to 50% off almost everything in the store!

Save BIG on everything from sofas and recliners to beds, mattresses and decor

**Offering free delivery!** and 0% financing O.A.C.

We are inviting our valued customers to come help us **SALEBRATE** our 54th anniversary at Willits Furniture Center. Hurry in RIGHT NOW for some of the best deals of the year!

Help keep your shops local, buy local!

775 Central St. Willits, CA 95490 Tel (707) 459-4224 Fax (707) 459-2608 willitsfurniture@willitsonline.com www.willitsfurniture.com Next to Safeway **Price** ~ Quality ~ Service

**Pg. 4** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Willits Weekly | October 20, 2022 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | October 20, 2022 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Pg. 5

FURNIT

CENTE

The rest of From page 1 Endorses

System Flushing Plan" from Public Works Director Scott Herman. The plan documents the city's routine water main cleaning activities, done to reduce occurrences of "brown water" experienced by the city's water customers

"In recent years," the agenda staff report said, "the community has experienced frequent brown water events. Water customers experience brown water when there is a sudden change in velocity in the water system pipes that stirs up any accumulated sediment. Annual flushing of the city's water distribution system reduces these occurrences.

"These maintenance activities are conducted during periods of low water demand," the report continued, "typically between December and April, with possible modified flushing during drought years. With the recent addition of groundwater as an approved source to offset the use of surface water, Public Works can schedule annual flushings on a regular basis."

City Manager Bob Bender mentioned the just-finished City of Willits project replacing 60 feet of corroded 4-inch steel pipe on South Magnolia Street with new 4-inch C-900 plastic pipe. Check the City of Willits Facebook page for an eye-opening photo of the corrosion in the old pipe. The city's ultimate goal is to replace all the old steel pipe in the system over time.

The October 12 Willits City Council meeting was recorded, and is available to watch at https://youtu.be/zM IMRj9R18

### WCC resolution to endorse Measure P

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL** OF THE CITY OF WILLITS PROCLAIMING ITS SUPPORT FOR MENDOCINO COUNTY MEASURE P, A PROPOSED SALES TAX TO FUND FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Willits at its September 28th meeting received a briefing on the proposed Mendocino County Measure P from the Fire Safe Council of Mendocino County and the Little Lake Fire District; and

WHEREAS, Measure P is not a new tax but a reallocation of the existing 5/8 of onecent sales tax to fund fire protection and prevention throughout Mendocino County; and WHEREAS, Measure P is a Ballot Measure set for the November 8th General Election; and

WHEREAS, ninety-percent of the revenue collected from Measure P is earmarked for local Fire Districts and the remaining ten-percent for fire-prevention programs; and WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Willits agreed it is in the best interest of the public safety for Willits' citizens to have the Little Lake Fire District

school district during a time when teachers are in short supply across the country. "I think one of the main things that Willits can do," said incumbent Jeanne King, "and I've seen it be very successful here, is to 'grow our own," to attract young people who grew up in provide solutions for transportation Willits back to be teachers in the district. "I think needs in our area." Director Tony Orth compensation is really really important," King

From page 1

added that the study is also accessible said. "Willits Unified compensates not only on Facebook. with monies, but it has an excellent benefits package, much better than other districts." Orth also reported that "the Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts King also said the district's reserve was Steering Committee is now meeting on a 17%, a "prudent reserve" that "allows the

monthly basis." school district to pay expenses for two months in case there's a catastrophe with the state General Manager Tamara Alaniz budget – it's a way to keep things going so it shared: "Brooktrails water supply is

doesn't stop abruptly." "I strongly believe our district has enough money to increase salaries by a great deal," said incumbent Paula Nunez. "According to our unaudited actuals, which are monies that must be reported exactly as spent to the state, there is an over 25% reserve, even though our

### district has decided that 17% is the max we should go to."

Nunez also mentioned lack of housing, suggesting large property owners in Willits might consider donating or selling their property inexpensively to the district "so we can set up some appropriate teacher housing." "The strategic reserve for Willits is far

higher than any other district in the area," said candidate David Lilker. "It's more than twice as much," maybe more, than neighboring districts. "It's clear we do have the funding" to raise teachers' salaries.

The rest of

Forum

(himself, River Haggard, Tom Allen, The problem of attracting employees is "not and Mark McKee) had made, including just teachers," Lilker said, citing issues with over 200 volunteer hours expended by recruiting and retaining administrative and the group, to improve the golf course classified positions. "Our health care is good, and to prepare Ohl Grove for disc golf but frankly it's not quite as good as it used tournament play were recognized and to be relative to our competitors. I would say salaries is an important reason why we can't noted.

retain teachers.' "If we have reserves that we're not spending on the teachers," said candidate Colby Friend, "we should be ashamed of our ourselves, we should be spending it on the teachers. Let's make their salary competitive with the school districts around us. I don't understand how we could think we're going to keep good teachers

if they're paying more 20 minutes down the road "I think we should incentivize longevity," Friend added. "If you've been here longer, you get paid more. And not just teachers but classified personnel - the bus drivers, janitors, cafeteria workers, and all the other personnel

that help make the school run efficiently." "The first thing for me is salaries." said candidate Jennifer Sookne. "I don't know how people survive" on teachers' salaries. "I've spoken to some teachers at the high school," she said, "and we were talking about salaries

would include walking and biking areas various background information about as well as enhanced traffic conditions. requirements in the agenda report, the Whatever participating individuals want board voted to continue to conduct hybrid to place in this map will be welcome." meetings - in person and remote - until further changes are made to the law. O'Shea further added, "This is a potentially great study that will help Anticipated rate increases

Study

From page 1

The rest of

correction now.)

are recognized."

would be made.

Department last month, as well.

corrections to the previous staff report

Finally, the board focused on Consent Calendar item "Discussion of 2023 Rate Increases for Utilities, Golf and Solid Wastes of Willits Franchise Services to Schedule a Public Hearing on December 13, 2022.'

In 2019, the board approved the current base rates for water and sewer. In 2021, the board approved a small increase in the volumetric water rate good, and the water quality is good. that is currently in effect. The 2022-23 Annual Budget showed a \$6,106 deficit We've experienced additional water in the water revenues and a \$139,129.95 treatment costs recently, and we will be deficit in sewer revenues. Staff has talking about that later in the meeting." developed proposed utility rates for 2023 Joe Haggard, active Brooktrails Golf based on the budgeted expenses for the Course volunteer who heads up the remainder of the fiscal year and to help Basket Beaters Disc Golf Club, went to ensure sufficient utility revenues in Fiscal the podium and wanted to let the board Year 2023-24. know of some points that needed to

A 2.467% increase to the water base be clarified in the previous September 13 meeting staff report regarding the rate (\$60 to \$61.50 per month) will provide revenues to meet Water Division Brooktrails Golf Course. (Joe Haggard's expenses through 2023 until a proposed name was misreported in a previous rate review in 2024. There are significant edition and we are glad to make the increases to the cost of treatment due

to inflationary pressures, energy and Haggard provided receipts totaling fuel cost spikes, supply shortages and \$11,000 for items that his group had chemical availability. These impacts purchased to expedite repairs and require an 8.714% increase to the water updates on the Brooktrails Golf Course. use rate, the largest percentage increase He said he wanted to make sure that the proposed to cover water treatment significant contributions that volunteers expenses. This increase still retains the volumetric rate at less than one half of one cent per gallon, or \$45 for the maximum 9,000 gallon monthly usage.

In the Sewer Division, capital expenses have been about 9% higher than expected with capital reserves available to offset their impacts to the budget. In addition, he and several volunteers However, delays in the manufacture and put in many hours following the January shipping of capital project components 2021 winter snowstorm to clean up have diminished the need to yet access clearing multiple branches and burning reserve account funds. A 2.23% increase brush - to make the golf course playable (\$75 to \$76.67 per month) to the sewer not just for disc golf but also for the ball base rate beginning in January will golf course again. "We are extremely make the reserves unnecessary for cash grateful for Brooktrails Township allowing funding capital projects through 2023.

us to create this disc golf space," Haggard On June 14, 2022 the Brooktrails said, "and we just want to make sure that board adopted Resolution 2022-03 to our volunteer efforts and contributions raise solid waste rates mid-year due to significant cost of fuel impacts. At the Director Ed Horrick pointed out that public hearing Jerry Ward of SWOW Haggard and his group should be informed the board that there would be recognized for the \$5,000 contribution an increase needed again at the start that they gave to the Brooktrails Fire of 2023, as fuel prices continued to rise above what was known and adopted Responding Haggard's comments, in June. Staff is anticipating receiving General Manager Alaniz thanked him calculations for review on a SWOW rate for sharing his information and said that

increase in the near future. Golf rates and green fees have



Above, from left: Jennifer Lutge and Vaness Jimenez of CalFresh offer healthy and refreshing drinks. Nick Buettner, who created the concept, along with his brother Dan, of the Blue Zones Project, speaks on the benefits of healthy lifestyles. A couple attendees pose against the green screen in the instant photo booth. At right: Allegra Foley and Viridiana Rodriguez help people enroll in the CalFresh program and answer questions. Below: Michelle Duarte of Blue Zones watches as Diana Howe pedals the smoothie-maker bicvcle



**Healthy Lifestyles** 

Blue Zones Project of Mendocino County hosts kickoff

saturday

OCTOBER 0

22ND

event to inspire people to live and eat well

Mathew Caine Features Writer mathew@willitsweekly.com

On a beautiful Sunday in Recreation Grove Park, the Blue Zones Project and several like-minded health-oriented entities and services, set up booths in order to educate and inform the people of Willits about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, as well as provide an entertaining couple of

hours for the families. "The event went really well." said Michelle Duarte. senior events and office specialist for the Blue Zones Project in Mendocino County. "We had a lot of families that attended, learning about the Blue Zones Project, and a great turnout of about 150 people.' Several speakers, including the staff of the Blue Zones Project and such local luminaries as author Jed Diamond, Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez, and Third District Supervisor John Haschak spoke about the efforts of the organization and other supporting entities to make the citizens aware of the possibilities inherent in living according to the Blue Zones philosophy. The tenets of the philosophy are to live life well, eat properly, and exercise regularly. The idea was developed a few years ago by Dan and Nick Buettner as they set out to discover what made some areas of the world healthier and have a longer life expectancy than others. They developed a Nine-Point Plan, which will create a healthier life for those who follow it. Nick Buettner was the key speaker of the afternoon. The park was inhabited by several booths, a few of which were by the Blue Zones Project, offering tote insulated bags, tchotchkes, and a passport card to be stamped at each station. Other booths included North Coast Read the rest of Zones









At far left: Tina Tyler, of the Blue Zones Project, thanks Adventist Health for thei sponsorship of the program. At left: Shawna Jeavons signs people up for her yoga and Pilates classes

# THIS WEEKEND!

# OCTOBER 22ND 2-7PM

Willits Chamber of Commerce & local merchants present

Harvest Moon Celebration

receive additional funding to strengthen the fire and emergency services in the City of Willits: and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Willits City Council by adopting this Resolution proclaims its support for Mendocino County Measure P to provide additional funding for fire protection and prevention efforts.

### WCC resolution to endorse Measure O

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL** OF THE CITY OF WILLITS PROCLAIMING ITS SUPPORT FOR MENDOCINO COUNTY MEASURE O. A PROPOSED SALES TAX TO SUPPORT THE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Willits has an interest to ensure the Mendocino County Library System has sufficient funding thereby enabling the System to provide the most complete range of services for the benefit of County residents: and

WHEREAS, the City of Willits hosts one still remain fiscally responsible. of the six Library Branches; and

WHEREAS, Measure O is a Ballot Measure set for the November 8th General Election: and

WHEREAS, Measure O is not a new tax but a reallocation of the existing 5/8 of one-cent sales tax to annually collect an estimated \$4.2 million of which 40-percent is earmarked for capital repairs and improvements for the Library System; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Willits agreed it is in the best interest of the community to advocate for additional funding for the Mendocino County Library System especially as citizens of the Willits benefit by having a local Library Branch; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Willits City Council by adopting this Resolution proclaims its support for Mendocino County Measure O to provide additional funding for the County Library System.

and we were talking about their concerns... There were questions as to whether the district was using all of the money that was being given for salaries, for those salaries, or was it being put aside for other purposes."

Sookne cited her experience working with the county as a social worker and a member of Service Employees International Union when "there were a lot of questions about where #3 in California." the money geared specifically toward salaries

was going. So that would be one thing to look at," she said, as far as finding funds to raise compensation for teachers.

Incumbent Robert Chavez talked about "the magic" that happens between students and teachers. "We have to support [our teachers]," he said. "If it was up to me we'd start our teachers out at about \$200,000, and we'd go up

from there," he said. "However, I'd love to say give teachers all our money, and personally I'd difference in terms of the golf course, give them everything we can, but I also want which is simply one of the most beautiful to be fiscally responsible. In a couple, three places in Brooktrails and in the Willits years, we're looking at a recession and a cliff area on budget, and we do have to keep our district running - so give them as much as we can and

Chavez also commented that keeping a \$105,705.75.

larger reserve than some other small districts had given WUSD, during the last big round of education cuts, "the little edge to keep programs like band and athletics going."

Write-in candidate April Lamprich said she agreed with Chavez that "I would love to give our teachers as much as I possibly can, but I mean if we don't have the money, it's kind

of hard." Lamprich also said that if rewarded with increased "longevity" pay, teachers would stay longer. "The reserve may need to be reevaluated," she said, "to make sure teachers stay.' She also mentioned it's not just teachers: "We don't have registered nurses at any of our schools, they're just certified. I think it's superimportant for teachers to be CPR-certified.

The hospital offers those classes for free, I would love to put an incentive program in to make sure our teachers are being paid for the time they were there. As a parent, I would feel better if teachers were CPR-certified."

emained the same since 2018. Genera Two interesting notes were additionally Manager Alaniz said that after meeting made by Director Orth and Director with golf course operator Marcus Newby Horrick. Orth said: "Historically, the they came up with some increases in golfers were the initial firefighting rates and fees for both ball golf and disc volunteers for Brooktrails. The golf club golf. Increases are proposed, beginning was the first group to man the fire engines in January 2023, as well as for annual originally." Horrick added: "Significantly, memberships for persons 18 years and the Brooktrails Disc Golf Course is rated oldei

For 9 holes the proposed cost would go up from \$17 to \$20, and for 18 Board President Williams said to Haggard: "Please assure your members holes the cost would change from \$22 that the board is firmly convinced that to \$25. Also, annual memberships are without the disc golf activity at the course, increasing by \$100, and the creation of it's very possible that the golf course a new Fair Weather membership from May to October is proposed for \$500. would not have survived as an ongoing entity. You guys came around at the Finally, adopting a new senior annual perfect time. You've done a tremendous membership of \$650/\$450 will help amount of work. You've attracted a lot establish an affordable rate category that of people. You've really made a huge is still marketable.

Revitalizing a Junior Golf Program was discussed. A couple of individuals who are knowledgeable about the game and who are qualified to work with children The board then voted unanimous are the requirements to get the program

approval of the Consent Calendar up and running.

Accounts Payable in the amount of The board approved a public hearing to be held on December 13, 2022 for utilities, golf and solid waste collection Next up was Consent Calendar item "Consideration of Findings Pursuant rates. Following the public hearing, to Assembly Bill 361 to Hold In- the board will consider resolutions Person and Remote (Hybrid) Publicly establishing rates to be effective January Accessible Board Meetings." With 1, 2023.

The rest of From page 2 Letters

With all the different taxes we are currently paying do you think it is a good idea to just continue to raise your families' cost to live in this state? How do other states get by with fewer/lower taxes? The argument is it is not an increase because a tax expires. If a tax expires and reduces our taxes and another tax comes and takes its place then that is an INCREASE in my book.

With the way our cost for everyday living is skyrocketing do you really want to pay additional taxes on the current 9+% sales tax you currently pay on purchases? [Editor's Note: if both Measure O and Measure P passed, the sales tax rates residents currently pay, depending on whether they live inside a city or in the county, would not go up – the current sales tax rate would continue.)

Sales tax is close to \$10 for every \$100 dollars you spend now. When will this insanity end?

Dale Briggs, Willits

Over on page 13



### **KICK OFF FALL AND CELEBRATE A TRADITION THAT** HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF SHOPPING LOCAL.



Thank you to our sponsors



### Thursday, October 20

Willits Farmers Market: At the old Rexall parking lot, downtown, Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm. Fresh local produce, local meat, farm-fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Market will move indoors to the Little Lake Grange for November. "Tobin's Tales" story time from the Willits Branch Library from 3:30 to 4 pm.

Willits Center for the Arts: African Drum & Dance Class: Drum class with Ben Isaacs, 5:15 to 6:15 pm, \$20. West African Dance Class 6:30 to 8 pm, \$15. Take both classes for \$30. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Hardening Your Home Against Fire: The public is invited to this presentation at the Willits Senior Center, "The Importance of Home Hardening and Defensible Space," by Yana Valachovic, a researcher, scientist,



### Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedon

•Sound of Soul events • Membership Discourses •Spiritual Discussions ECK Light & Sound Service More information? Call 530-224-8703

www.eckankar.org

**Grace Community** Church Celebrating Life In Christ 25 Hazel Street, Willits **Modified Worship Service** 

for now

her to carry her pregnancy to term. Starring in the production are Elizabeth Dellett as Keely and Cindi Mohr as Du. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm; Sunday matinee at 2 pm. Tickets are \$15 for Thursday and Sunday, \$20 for Friday and Saturday. Tickets available at the door or online www.wctperformingartscenter.org. Thursday, at October 13 at 7:30 pm. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

> Shanachie Pub: Mitchell Holman: Holman, formerly of the band "It's A Beautiful Day," presents this event every first and third Thursday of the month. Playing bass and singing, and often Ways bringing in guest musicians, a fun night of local music!" Thursday, October 20, 7 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

### Friday, October 21

WNNIE

"Keely & Du" at the Willits Community Theatre: Friday, October 21 at 7:30 pm. See Thursday, October 20 listing for more details. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

Willits Charter School Haunted House: WCS wildfire preparation. presents "Phobias," a haunted house:

defensible Face your fears." Friday, October 21 Learn how and Saturday, October 22 from 7:30 construction to 10 pm. \$5 admission. Kids Room and design can make \$1 per ticket, 1 ticket per activity your home more with face painting, games and prizes. resilient to wildfire. Willits Charter School, 1431 South by Main Street. Info: 707-413-7982. Mendocino County Shanachie Pub: Diane Patterson Fire Safe Council and Pine Mountain "Folk goddess Diane Patterson subverts the dominant paradigm with Firewise. Thursday.

rocking acoustic guitar and ukulele October 20, 6:30 a mighty pen, and a woman's voice. to 8:30 pm. Willits Senior Center, 1501 Visit www.dianepatterson.org. Friday, October 21, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub 50B South Main Street. "Keely & Du" at the

#### Willits Community Saturday, October 22 Theatre: This is the

October

from an abortion

clinic by a radical

religious group, then

incarcerated and

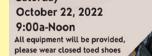
handcuffed to a bed

in an effort to force

final weekend to Brooktrails Dogwood Terrace Cleanup: "Call see "Keely and Du," to action – Volunteer! Help us clean up Dogwood a powerful drama Terrace in Brooktrails. All equipment will be Nirvana and the Beatles had a kid together who

couple more people with trailers





October 22, 9 am to noon. Harvest Moon Celebration: Annual celebration in downtown Willits, presented by the Willits



# What's Happening Around Town

merchants. "Kick off fall and celebrate a tradition buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes that highlights the importance of shopping local. and local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Featuring food, family fun. All-you-can-eat pancakes, choose our Sourdough

music, arts, sales and Improvised shopping. music and movement presented by the Cult of Ours, Circus MeCCA and All-Ascending Aerials students and performers in the city

parking lot by Flying Dog Pizza. Come and join in the dance!" October 22, 2 to 7 pm. downtown Willits.

HOBIAS

7:30PM-10PM

FACE V

5 DOLLAR ADN

5 DOLLAR ADMISSION

KIDS ROOM

I DOLLAR PER TICKET I TICKET PER ACTIVITY

FACE PAINTING GAMES PRIZES

RE

Shanachie Pub: Saturday Scramble with Tyler B: "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,

details. WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane.

discover new genres and explore your creativity!' Every second and fourth Saturday from 3 to 6 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Willits Charter School

"Diggers presents "Phobias." a presents Standup Comedy haunted house: "Face your with John Durnell fears." Saturday, October & Danny Minch": 22 from 7:30 to 10 pm. Comics See Friday, October 21 for Hollywood Improv, more details. Willits Charter Comedy School, 1431 South Main Punchlines Street. Info: 707-413-7982. Tip-based more. "Keely & Du" at the Willits show - VIP tickets Community Theatre: at Eventbrite. For Saturday, October 22 at more info, email 7:30 pm. See Thursday, comedyjunkies@ October 20 listing for more

October 23, 7 pm. Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street Shanachie Pub: Bryan Bielanski. "Imagine

> became an acoustic rock singer Sunday, October 23, at 2 pm. See Thursday, songwriter - that's Bryan Bielanski! October 20 listing for more details. WCT Playhouse, This critically acclaimed artist has 37 West Van Lane.

> been touring the U.S. and the Shanachie Pub: Open Mic Night: Every world for the last nine years." Visit www.bryanssuperhappyfuntime. com. Saturday, October 22, 8 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main

pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Thursday, October 27 Breakfast: Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast, the last of the year, from 8 am to 11 am. \$9

Wholegrain, Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or Gluten-free, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs, organic coffee or tea. \$9; \$8 seniors; \$5 children Willits Branch Library from 3:30 to 4 pm. under 10. Extra sides of organic fruit \$2, Amish organic maple syrup \$1, extra

Beelers Bacon \$1." Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Brookside & Blosser Lane Parent Teacher Organization presents "The Color Run": At Willits High School track and field grounds. "We will have a DJ, merchandise, color packs and food

for sale!" Registration at 8:30 to 9:45 am, Run / walk starts at 10 am. \$20 for 1 child and 1 adult. Willits High School, 299 North Main Street.

"Stone Stories" at the Little Lake Cemetery: The Mendocino County Museum presents an original skit by Don Sampson, featuring dramatized historical obituary readings. Sunday, October 23, 4 to 5:30 pm. Little Lake Cemetery, 801 East Hill

Road Haunted House: WCS



STONE STORIES

AT THE LITTLE LAKE CEMETERY

live.com. Sunday,

"Keely & Du" at the Willits Community Theatre:

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." Wednesday, October 26, 8

Willits Farmers Market: At the old Rexall

parking lot, downtown, Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm. Fresh, local produce, local meat, farm-fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Market will move indoors to the Little Lake Grange for November. "Tobin's Tales" story time from the

Friday, October 28

"High School Monster Dance": "Dancing in the Haunted Ballroom at the Willits Center for the Arts, from 7 to 10 pm, Music by DJ Cali, Costume contest with \$100 first prize. \$10 at the door. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street.

### Saturday, October 29

Willits Art Walk: The final art-walk event for 2022 'This summer-fall, the Willits arts community will showcase the best of Willits! Our downtown is brimming with talented artists and creative activity. Plan to spend the evening exploring art, history, music and dance. This event will be held on the

fourth Saturday of each month from June through October." Saturday, October 29, 5 to 8 pm. Downtown Willits at various venues. Visit www.willitscenterofthearts. org for more info.

Little Lake Grange "The Now and Then Film Series" presents: "Rocky Horror Picture Show": "Celebrate 25 years of midnight-movie madness with us! 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show' is an 'exotic nightmare beyond any measure.' Relive Richard O'Brien's sinfully twisted salute to horror, sci-fi, B-movies and rock music, starring Tim Curry (in his classic gender-bending

Susan Sarandon. Do the 'Time Warp' and sing 'Hot Patootie' with Meatloaf again... and again... and again... More at rockyhorror.com. Your Donation of \$10 will be used to support the Little Lake Grange. Serving organic popcorn with real, organic butter." Thursday, October 27 at 7 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Haunted Ballroom Halloween: "Join us for a spooktacular evening of fun at the Willits Center for the Arts, at our Haunted Ballroom Halloween fundraiser gala! Saturday, October 29, from 7 to 11 pm. Live music by Funkacillin plus DJs. Light dinner and beverages included, catered by Adam Celaya, the Def Chef. Costume Parade with \$250 grand prize! All to benefit the WCA. Tickets are \$50, available at willitscenterofthearts.org. WCA 71 East Commercial Street.

Shanachie Pub Halloween Party: with Moon

George's

Rabbit, Saturday, October 29. "Moon Rabbit is a rock band composed of five accomplished musicians who deliver a unique and modern sound: Guitar and vocals from Pilar Duran, Sean Van Buskirk, Aaron Ford, Rob Marcello on bass, and Tim Cuny on drums. Wear your craziest getup, and hop on down to Shanachie Pub!" Saturday, October 29 at 9 pm. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

### **Ongoing Events**

'Bonnie Belt, 40 Years of Art' and 'Laura Diamondstone. Paintings and Upcvcled Work': A retrospective of Bonnie Belt's ceramic work from the past 40 years and paintings by Laura Diamondstone. Exhibits run through October 30. Sponsored by the Sherwood Band

of Pomo Indians. Willits Center for the Arts. 71 East Commercial Street. The Redwood Empire Food Bank: Twicemonthly 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.

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

Weekly Events at the Willits Library Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library from 1 to 4:30 pm. "All skill levels welcome! Spinning circle 1 to 2 pm, Knitting circle 2 to 4:30 pm.'

Open Source Design. Artistic Expression. and Engineering Club: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3 to 4:30 pm. "Open to everyone with an interest in open source and everyone who wants to develop their creative and engineering skills."

LEGO Club: Wednesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

Games at the Library: 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, 4 to 5:30 pm. "Calling all board, card, and tabletop role playing game players! All ages & player levels welcome. Bring your own games to add to the fun!" Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 707-459-5908.

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



### COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES **'Halloween**

### **Ends**<sup>2</sup> The Story: Slasher movie with familiar

characters. Michael Myers returns after a fouryear hiatus. Everyone in Haddonfield, Illinois thought he was dead; but not Laurie Strode (Jamie Lee Curtis). She's been writing a memoir chronicling

her part in the apparently endless battle

Dan Essman

She has come to believe that Michael is not just "crazy," he is Evil personified, and that his evil is contagious.

with Michael, her

mythic homicidal

older brother.

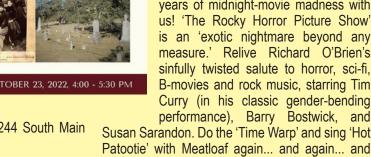
Laurie's granddaughter Allyson (Andi Matichak) takes up with a rather pretty young man Corey (Rohan Campbell). To kindhearted Allyson, he seems to be an innocent muchbullied lambkin: but Grandma Laurie doesn't trust him. She doesn't like the look in his eves. Now, readers, forget about the story. This movie is really about how its characters are killed off in an (occasionally) clever variety of blood-drenched set pieces.

Mv Thoughts: A re-consideration: I realize that slasher movies, zombie movies, mass murder chainsaw slaughter flicks, are mostly dismissed as popular gross-out exploitation trash. These genre-flicks show people trying to run away from death, hide from death, fight against death.

Their frantic behaviors confront us with our own elongated shadows. Perhaps, with these movies' depictions of "in-your-face" butchery, we the audience consciously, and unconsciously, confront and process our own fears of dismemberment and dying. And perhaps all that horrific, high-concept and bloody, chopping-block imagery is actually healthful, like a dietary cleanse. It's a purging process called "catharsis" - "what doesn't kill me, makes me stronger.'

Parents: No. Don't even think about it.

Pg. 9



Willits Weekly | October 20, 2022

Willits Weekly | October 20, 2022 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490







Above, from left: Air Attack 110 flies ahead of the tankers and communicates with the ground and tankers to coordinate the attack. Ray Taglio, battalion chief with CalFire, directs the fire attack from Air Attack 110. Battalion Chief Ray Taglio shows the indicators used in filling the tanks. At left: CalFire Air Tanker 90 awaits any fire incident for which it is needed. Below: A sign marks the entrance to the Ukiah Air Attack Base at the Ukiah Airport.

CAL FIRE

UKIAH AIR ATTACK BASE

Photos by Mathew Caine





Above, left: CalFire Battalion Chief Ray Taglio shows the Mendocino map of air bases. Above, right: Robert Richardson, air tanker base manager, and his trainee-replacement, Sophie Bell, work from inside the Ukiah Air Attack Base. Below: An air tanker drops retardant over the Ridgewood Fire.



### **Higher Vantage Point** A CalFire battalion chief explains the important role of air tankers

### in preventing the spread of forest fires

"We don't put the fire out," said Ray Taglio, CAL FIRE with tanks capable of carrying 1,200 gallons of retardant. Mendocino Unit battalion chief at Howard Forest Station and the Ukiah Airport. "That's not the goal for us. That's one of the misconceptions out there. We don't actually put the fire out. We slow it up enough for the guys on the ground to really get in there and put it out and

Mathew Caine do the mop-up stages.' Taglio explained athew@willitsweekly.com

responsibilities of the air tanker unit: "The air tankers drop retardant and the helicopters drop

The two tankers work in close communication with the OV-10 Air Tactical Aircraft, in which Taglio and others of his rank ride in order to coordinate the overall attack on the fire incident

"We're not a spotter plane as the general public would believe," explained Taglio. "We really don't go up looking the for fires. We only go flying once we're dispatched to an incident and our job is aircraft safety coordination between the ground and the incident commander and to give periodic updates as the fire is progressing



Invites applications for: Agricultural/Measurement Standard Specialist III Assessor-Clerk Recorder Technician I Auditor/Appraiser Building Maintenance Mechanic I/II/III Corrections Deputy Department Application Specialist Deputy District Attorney I/II/III Deputy Probation Officer I/II Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II Environmental Health Specialist I/II Juvenile Corrections Officer Juvenile Corrections Officer -Extra-Help Planning Technician I/II **Public Health Nurse** Public Safety Dispatcher **Registered Nurse** WW400 Senior Auditor/Appraiser Senior Program Manager–Family & Children's Services Senior Public Health Nurse Social Worker Assistant I/II Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C Vocational Assistant For a complete list of current job openings and to apply: www.governmentjobs.com/careers/ mendocinoca EOE The rest of From page 3 Charter

"I teach volleyball for the Friday Academy class," explained Coach Jade Clark-Wilson. "The girls in the class wanted to have an actual after-school team. This has been their first real experience with having volleyball as a sport. Most schools have been able to have their kids watch the programs from the sixth grade on, but these kids have had to start fresh.

"They've learned a lot," said Clark-Wilson, "not just in volleyball, but in how to be a good teammate and what it means to be a dedicated player on a team. Sports was the one thing that was lacking here [at WCS] and now it's coming together. Right now, we're just starting at middle school level sports and hopefully, eventually, it will also move up to the high school level."

### LEGAL NOTICES **CLASSIFIEDS**

#### WW401 **BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP** COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of

Brooktrails Township Community Services District will conduct Public Hearings on revisions to the water base rate, volumetric/ water usage rate, and sewer base rate, as well as golf rates/ green fees. effective January 1, 2023. The public hearing will be held in person and remotely (hybrid meeting) at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 13, 2022. nformation on remote access to the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda at its publishing. At or prior to this time, any interested person, including all people owning property in Brooktrails Township Community Services District, may appear personally or submit a written presentation on any matter relating to the proposed revisions. The General Manager will submit a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 based on increased utility base rates and volumetric/water usage rate. The monthly water base rate would increase by 2.47% to \$61.50; the volumetric/water usage rate would increase by 8.71% to \$0.03718 per cubic foot; and, the monthly sewer base rate would increase by 2.23% to \$76.67. The proposed increases are necessary based on the

ncreased cost to provide water and wastewater services. Golf rates will be increased for the first time since 2018 and are related to significant cost increases over the last five years. A copy of the proposed rates is available for review during normal business hours at the Township Office, 24860 Birch Street, Willits, California or by request from btcsd@btcsd.org. Dated: October 12, 2022 Signed by: Tamara Alaniz, General Manager/Secretary to the Board of Directors

Publication Date: October 20, 2022

### **BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP** COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Brooktrails Township Community Services District will conduct Public Hearings on revisions to the rates for Solid Wastes of Willits garbage collection and curbside recycling in Brooktrails effective January 1, 2023.

The public hearing will be held in person and remotely (hybrid meeting) at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 13, 2022. Information on remote access to the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda at its publishing. At or prior to this time, any interested person, including all people owning property in Brooktrails Township Community Services District, may appear personally or submit a written presentation on any matter relating to the proposed revisions

The proposed increase is necessary based on the increased cost to provide services, especially fuel costs. Furtherjustification for the rates and franchise fee will be provided at the Public Hearing and in the agenda packet.

A copy of the proposed rates will be available for review during normal business hours at the Township Office, 24860 Birch Street, Willits, California or by request from btcsd@btcsd.org. Date: October 12, 2022

Signed by: Tamara Alaniz, Secretary to the Board of Directors Publication Date: October 20, 2022

"I was coaching basketball last year. They started out 0 and 5. Guy Vaccaro came in and said 'let me show you some things.' The girls won four in a row.

"It's not just about winning," he added. "There's sportsmanship, leadership, integrity. You got to show up ready to play that sport, but you also have to [keep up with] your schooling, and how you treat other students comes into effect."

Currently, the athletic program is aimed at middle school, with soccer, basketball, volleyball, badminton, wrestling,

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	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.
disposed of by October 22, 2022. Business for Sale	Moving Sale 9 am to 3 pm. Oct 21- 23. Golden Rule Mobile Village, Sp 63. 6 miles
Kenny's Barber Shop, turn key business. Month to month rent at 1569 South Main Street. 3 chairs and 3 sinks,	south of Willits Furniture. Kitchen items, books, tools, antiques, and lots of miscellaneous items.
TV, Fridge, 6 waiting room chairs. \$10,000 all included. Call Don Keith - 949 677 5334	Moving Sale Everything must go. 1701 Perch Road, Willits. Land Line (707) 459-5464. 2 Saturdays
The Chamber needs YOU! Willits Chamber of Commerce is looking	459-5404. 2 Saturdays and Sundays, (10/15 & 10/16) and (10/22 &10/23) 10 am to 6 pm.
for volunteers to help answer phones, meet and greet the public, help with fundraising and mixers and much more! Interested in getting involved? We need enthusiastic, energetic and excited people to help with all the Chamber needs.	Room for Rent Master bedroom and bath, private entrance, no shared spaces, refrigerator, no range; includes utilities. You need to have a job. 1 person only. In town. \$700. 805-259-9155
Paid, part-time position also available for the right fit. For info: please email 8atscoops@gmail. com (preferred ) or call 707-272-2396.	RV/Trailer Space for Rent Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to
Computer Help Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and	Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at http://www. oaknvine.net/tp
IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearbhaill@gmail.com	Wanted Propane stove with oven pilot light (not electric ignition). Call or text Kip @ 707-459-6098.
Firewood for Sale 1 true cord of 16 inch firewood, fir starting at \$250 and up Plus	Yard Sale Saturday 10/29/22 and

#### fir starting Saturday 10/29/22 and at \$250, and up. Plus Sunday 10/30/22 at 555 delivery. Call Dave at Mill Street in Willits, from 9 am to 2 pm. Items include new and used men's and women's For (Almost) Free clothes and accessories, sports and household Willits Weekly runs our items, some furniture. classified ads for just

You Noticed

That's the great thing

People look through

them just to look through

them and it makes it a

perfect place to place an

ad! Extra bonus - they're

super cheap! \$10 for 30

Classified ads

are \$10 for 30

words for 2

words for two weeks!

classifieds:

about

707-459-2868.

\$10 for 30 words for

two weeks - in print and

online, too! Add yours by

emailing willitsweekly@

For Rent

2 Bdrm. 1 Bath Apt., in

a quiet complex, close

to shopping, newly

redecorated. Washer

& Dryer on site. \$1,100

per month & security

deposit. Armco 707-459-

9601

gmail.com

Best WILLITS **POWER & HARDWARE** HONDA · HUSQVARNA · STIHL · MQ · CARHARTT Lawn & Garden Equipment 
Generators Sales, Parts & Service Pick-up & Delivery 600 S. Main St. Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420

Willits, CA 95490 Service: 707 459-0596 Fax: 707 459-6369 villitspower@gmail.com





Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery

water. The air tankers can carry water but we use fire retardant as an agent to slow down the progression of the fire. That's the goal of the aircraft.

"We drop the retardant in front of the fire or parallel," he said. "If you figure, the fire has these parts: the heel, the head, and two flanks. We use fire retardant very similar to fire engines using a fire hose or dozers putting in a dozer line. We'll try and make our way around the head and come back down the other flank."

The fire retardant is a mixture of detergent chemicals made from a combination of wetting agents and foaming chemicals, fertilizers (ammonium and diammonium sulfate and ammonium phosphate) mixed with thickeners (guar gum) and corrosion inhibitors (for aircraft safety). The retardant has a red color for visibility.

The Ukiah unit has two tankers, S-2T double-engine aircraft with the designations 90 and 91. Acquired from the US Navy, where they were formerly utilized from 1958 to 1975 as anti-submarine craft, in 1996 by CalFire, they were refitted with powerful turboprop engines and fitted

TO-GO OR DINE-OUTDOOR | 459-5702



WHAT'S SOUNDS GOOD? I KNOW, EL MEX!



AM - 8:30P MON - SAT

6 SOUTH MAIN ST Restaurant El Mexicano

"From our vantage point," he said, "we can see the overall picture where the guys and gals on the ground can only, unfortunately, see what's in front of them. We're constantly giving updates on the fire, where the fire's headed, what it's doing, is it slowing down or stopping, is it outrunning them, do we need to get way out in front to take care of it?

There are occasions where the OV-10 will send out a puff of smoke to designate the desired retardant drop area.

"The goal for CalFire is to have aircraft at an incident within 20 minutes. There are bases placed periodically all over the state, helicopter and fixed-wing, so, strategically, we can be over an incident within 20 minutes," said Taglio, showing the various regions on a wall map in the headquarters.

Depending on the terrain and the materials burning,

Read the rest of Over on page 15 Tankers



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



**Pg. 10** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Willits Weekly | October 20, 2022 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

The Willits Charter School now has an athletic director named Anthony Sylstra to oversee the new programs. "Last year, our official [California Interscholastic Federation] sports were soccer, basketball, wrestling," explained Sylstra. "The City of Willits allowed us to use the city soccer field. We got track and field added last year, and badminton. Baseball has been approved for us for the girls. I have to coordinate with Saprina [Rodriguez] about using their fields.

"Volleyball is going right now," continued Sylstra. "They haven't gotten an official win yet but they're having fun.

for a teammate

A WCS volleyb player sets the ba

		s	E	Ν	D		
A G E L S O E C I U J L U T L V G K A	v	Α	R	T	Е	D	
T T V N F B (B E T T U B) R L E H R P R I U P J G E P V A H U <u>S I L W F M</u> T Q	Т	С	E	В	Е	R	G
ILKG JAG BRMT (HEARTY) V (M)	А	R	С		т	Е	Ν
JWLVNFAOISELWUHTNCE MHFCRAKLIMJAFJWFCYA	L	U	Т	Е		G	ι
		М	0	R	т		s
BKJVP(SNIFFEM)BTP(TVYK EHVELLHSLX(SAV, OR) ENI			R	0	0	т	
NGJTSACERKVEMMSLWAA FWWSTISCECOMAWAUCH				D	R	Υ	s
O H P Y O W B C C F B B O O W E U N A			Ρ	Е	Е	R	E
G 0 B L E 0 R S 0 U S T K G L M R U S J T J A S 0 J E J K G A S M U T N H H		Р	0	D		0	Ν
H C E M I G W M U C U H H Y O A U U B	Е	R	R			s	A
S U B S B N G S Y P E I J B Y O T N R V I S Y I B A B U J E R C P A B I G O	D	Е	С	Α	Р	I	Т
FAUINGBAIKCNECGIBRW	А	s	I	Ν	I	N	E
NCCO(EJUHNUOHSAWHVV) OVEREASY)LUJTRNL)FMO(S)	М	Е	N	А	С	Е	
		т	E	s	т		

and cross-country. "I would love to have boxing here. Swimming would be good if we can get pool time," said Sylstra.

Sylstra explained the value of having a sports program: "The main goal I get out of sports, whether teaching or learning it, is leadership. I've taken what I've learned doing sports and used it in my life, getting a job. I teach the kids sports but also leadership and sportsmanship. I believe that sports are what keep schools and America together."

The Willits Charter School is located at 1431 South Main Street. Call 459-5506 or visit www.willitscharter.org for more information.

> weeks! **Marc Komer** Legal Document Assistant An Affordable Non-Attorney Service (707) 459-2775 245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** um not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction

-	_											1										
	Ν	D						R	0	М	Е			3	2	8	9	6	5	1	4	7
	T	Е	D				Ρ	0	L	I.	Ν	G		0	2	0	5	0	5	_ '	Т	/
	В	Е	R	G		В	А	Т	I	S	Т	Е		1	7	9	2	3	4	6	5	8
		Т	Е	Ν	Ν	T	S	С	0	U	R	Т										
	Е		G	U	Е	s	s			S	Е	А		5	4	6	1	7	8	9	2	3
	R	Т		S	Т	Е	W		D	Е	Е			7	9	3	8	5	1	2	6	4
	0	0	Т		S	С	0	R	Е	D				'	~	<u> </u>			-		~	
	D	R	Υ	S		Т	R	I	G					8	1	2	4	9	6	3	7	5
	E	Е	R	Е	D		D	0	R	R					0	_						
1	D		0	N	U	s		Т	Е	Е	s			4	6	5	3	2	1	8	9	1
			S	А	М	А	s		Е	L	Е	Α		2	5	7	6	8	3	4	1	9
	Α	Р	I	Т	Α	Т	Е	D		I	Ν	N		~	0	"		0		<u> </u>	'	0
1	Ν	Ι	Ν	Е		Е	Е	R	I	Е	s	т		6	3	1	7	4	9	5	8	2
	Α	С	Е				s	А	L	v	Е	s	1									
+	S	Т					-	В	L	Ē	D	-		9	8	4	5	1	2	7	3	6
	0	'						U	L	L												

Photo by Mathew Caine



Slinky Tiki Tiki, like her brother and sister, is quite shy and reserved. Tiki would likely do best in a home with no young children, as she can be a bit nervous and hissy at first. She

gets along well with other cats and plays with toys once she is comfortable.

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



Bilingual patient navigators Mayte Sanchez, left, of the Cancer Resource Centers' Ukiah office and Keily Becerra Sánchez of the Fort Bragg office, assist all clients, including those who are primarily Spanish speaking. Photo by Maureen Jennison

### Bilingual help is available at the **Cancer Resource Centers**

### Submitted by Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County

A cancer diagnosis can feel overwhelming, but in Mendocino County, help is available, free of charge. The Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County is pleased to announce that each of its offices now has a bilingual patient navigator, ready to help anyone in the Latino community who is primarily Spanish speaking.

Keily Becerra Sánchez joined CRC in July and works in the coastal office at 510 Cypress Street, B-200, in Fort Brage. Keily most recently worked for Promotores de Salud during the earlier phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. She is a graduate of the University of San Diego with a degree in ethnic studies.

Mayte Sanchez started at CRC in May and works in the inland office, located at 275 West Gobbi Street in Ukiah. Mayte graduated from Sacramento State University with a degree in gerontology. She has experience working in community outreach for Pediatric Dental Initiative and has helped raise money for a breast cancer charity.

"I am very pleased and proud that the Cancer Resource Centers now has bilingual and bicultural assistance for anyone faced with cancer in Mendocino County, in each of our offices," said Executive Director Karen Oslund. "This has been our goal for several years and we have found two outstanding people to help us achieve our vision that no one will face cancer alone.

Services available at CRC include benefits counseling, medical-appointment preparation, medical-appointment accompaniment, recording and summarizing, translation, and modest financial help, such as with the cost of transportation to medical appointments.

### Golden Mac

Mac is our Mexican-born sweetheart! He's house-trained and crate-trained and is dog-friendly to boot! He does need a bit of training since he's only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years old and he can be mouthy, so we recommend an adult home with no children. To learn more about Mac 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 Mendocino to COVID-19. Please complete a petlocated at 9700 Uva adoption application before requesting Drive in Redwood an appointment. You can reach the Milo Valley. Foundation at 510-900-2275. open

### Clever Layla

and Saturday and This beauty with two colored eyes is Sunday from Layla. She was previously adopted but am to 3 pm. Closed unfortunately it wasn't the right match Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available and was a sad decision for everyone. dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety. Layla is a nice medium size and is com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com. extra smart. She would love

an active home where she OBITUARY |

can thrive! Layla is

under the age of 2

and looking for the

perfect place in this

world for her young,

eager self. Could

Society for Inland

from 1 to 5 pm

Humane

We are

Friday

11

Wednesday

is

that be with you?

The

through

Pomella Joyce (Brewer) Cartwright Brewer and wife, Gail, nephew Marc, and passed away at home on September 30, niece Jessica of Oregon.

2022. She was born Sept. 6, 1939 to Albert and Pat Brewer in Eureka. She moved with her mother to Richmond and eventually back to Willits

Pom was the majorette in the Willits High School marching band and graduated in 1957. After school she attended business school in Berkeley then moved back to Willits.

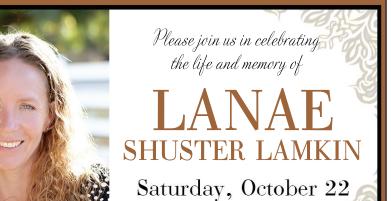
Pom married Percy Cartwright in November, 1959. They were married 63 years.

> Pom was well known in Willits for her work at Bank of America, and at Hot Rocks and Harrah Industries. She served

as a Bluebird/Campfire Girl Leader. was active in her local sorority and RV club, and always made time to help family and friends

She is survived by her husband, Percy; daughter Rhonda Cartwright-Ladendorf and husband, Barry, of San Diego; son Bruce Cartwright of Willits; brother Carl Simonson and wife, Katie, of Santa Rosa; brother Bob Simonson and wife, Kathy, and nephew Matt Simonson of St. Louis; sister

Donations in memory of Pom can be made to the Diabetes Research Institute at https://support.diabetesresearch.org Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuarv. Lucy Simonson of Ukiah; and brother Jeff



deeply missed.

Methodist Church.



### 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'

Auditions for the classic play "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" will be held at 7 pm on Monday, October 24 and 7 pm Wednesday, October 26 at the new gymnasium at the Willits Charter School at 1431 South Main Street in Willits.

The play, presented by Willits Community Theatre, will be directed by Billy Hetherington. It was written by Dale Wasserman and is based on the 1962 novel by the same name by Ken Kesey. Set in a mental hospital, it tells the story of how institutional power and the need to control people and make them conform can crush the human spirit.

The director is seeking four women and 13 men, ages 16 to 70. You can find an online version of the script at www. Iths.net/cms/lib/IL01904810/Centricity/domain/767/visual%20 word/acting%20chpt%207/One%20Flew%20complete%20 play.pdf

To find the Willits Charter School gymnasium, go through the gate at the east end of the parking lot, and head east. The gymnasium is the large building behind the main building of the school.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" will rehearse in December and January and will open on February 10, 2023. It will play for nine shows and will close on February 26.

For more information about the play or about auditions, call the director at (707) 367-5724.

### Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechte Road, Price is \$7.

Thursday, October 20: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, October 21: BBQ Chicken, Beans, Veggie, Corn Bread

Monday, October 24: Fish Tacos, Rice & Beans

Tuesday, October 25: Chicken Florentine Pesto Pasta, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Wednesday, October 26: Ground Sirloin, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Thursday, October 27: Chili Mac, Corn Bread, Green Salad

Friday, October 28: Turkey Dinner, Veggie, Roll, Cranberry

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

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

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

### School bus lights flash to save children's lives Submitted by CHP, Sacramento

School bus safety is a two-way street - a responsibility shared by professional school bus drivers and every motorist on California's roadways. The California Highway Patrol is bringing awareness to the role we all play in ensuring students throughout the state travel safely to and from school as part of National School Bus Safety Week, October 17-21.

"School bus safety is part of the CHP's mission, and we take our mission very seriously," CHP Commissioner Amanda Ray said. "This week is a reminder that everyone should do

### Fire training towers purchased with PG&E funds

### By Darcie Antle, CEO, Mendocino Countv

September 2022 – Settlement funds received from PG&E are being put to good use in Mendocino County. Money provided to local fire agencies by the County of Mendocino has been used to purchase and install training towers in Hopland, Manchester and Laytonville.

The towers, built and installed by Affordable Drill Towers out of Austin, Texas, are 13 feet by 18 feet, and five stories high, with a top floor at 32 feet. These towers provide several anchor points to allow firefighters to practice high angle rescue.

Additionally, the towers can be used to conduct ladder drills, practice fire hose usage through a 2.5 inch standpipe that provides water to three levels of the structure, and to train with fire suppression systems like fire sprinkler heads. Training with fire sprinkler heads and high angle rescue are particularly valuable, as there are limited opportunities to train without access to these types of specialty towers.

These facilities will be available regionally for various fire agencies throughout the county. Two additional large towers, also partially funded by the County of Mendocino's PG&E fund allocation, should be installed within the next eight to nine months. The County Training Officers Association is developing best practices for use of the towers to ensure participants' safety and maximize training opportunities.

When asked about the towers, Greg Smith, assistant fire chief, wanted to give special thanks to the team at Affordable Drill Towers and the County of Mendocino. He further stressed how important these towers will be for future training of local fire agencies during this period of high wildfire danger.

For further information, please contact the Executive Office at 707-463-4441 or Monday-Wednesday 9 am ceo@mendocinocounty.org. to 5 pm

### MTA to offer free bus rides in November

Mendocino Transit Authority is offering "No Fare November" - free bus rides from November 1 to 30 on all fixed-route buses.

Mendocino County residents are encouraged to give MTA a try for free.

All public transit buses in the county are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

For more information on MTA and its services, visit www.mendocinotransit.org or call (800) 696-4MTA.



MTA de forma gratuita. Todos los autobuses de transporte público en el condado son accesibles para personas con discapacidades.

Planifique un viaje en la MTA

Mendocino Transit Authority

Se alienta a los residentes del

condado de Mendocino a probar

ofrece viajes gratuitos del 1 al

30 de noviembre en todos los

autobuses de ruta fija

Laytonville

Fall Arts &

Crafts Bazaar

seeks artists

Sunday, November 13 or

November 20 for the 3rd

Annual Laytonville Fall Arts

& Crafts Bazaar, from 10

am to 4 pm at the Harwood

Park ballfield in Laytonville

If it rains on November

13, the bazaar will be held

on the following Sunday,

November 20. If it rains

on both weekends, the

event will unfortunately be

If you are a local artist who

would like to participate.

please call Healthy Star

at 707-984-8089 to obtain

a vendor application, open

cancelled.

Save the date for either

Para obtener más información sobre MTA y sus servicios visite www.mendocinotransit.org; (800) 696-4MTA.

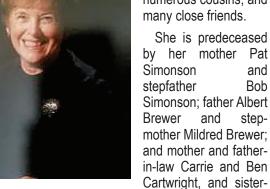
### 'Graveyard Bash' at the Willits Library, October 29.

The Willits Branch Library will host their annual Halloween Party for kids and families on Saturday, October 29th from 2:30 to 4 pm. The theme this year is "the Graveyard Bash,' and it will be both safe and spooky.

Weather permitting, the event will be hosted in the parking lot next to the building. The area will be blocked to ensure safety from vehicles. Parking will be available in front of and behind the library

There will be games, activities, a book patch, photo opportunities, prizes, candy, and special prizes for kids who come in costume.





numerous cousins; and many close friends. She is predeceased by her mother Pat Simonson: father Albert and stepmother Mildred Brewer; and mother and father-

in-law Gale

Pom is remembered fondly for her

Her memorial service will be held on

November 1 at 10:30 a.m. at the Willits

sweetness and generousness and will be

and

Bob

CRC has a lending library with resources about cancer, some in Spanish, and specializes in helping clients understand their diagnosis and get the information they need to make decisions about their care.

The Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County is a small grassroots organization that got its start 27 years ago. It was founded by a local breast-cancer patient who did not find the help she was looking for when she was first diagnosed with cancer. CRC provides help to people of any age and with any type of cancer.

More information is available at www.crcmendocino.org or by calling 707-937-3833.

COVID-19 vaccines are here for children 6 months and older. Help protect your little ones.

(707) 456-9600 LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER HEALTH CENTERS 45 Hazel St., Willits We accept Medi-Cal, Medicare, Partnershi HILLSIDE | DORA ST | LITTLE LAKE | LAKEVIEW and other insurance. SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

MCHCINC.ORG · MCHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

from 1-4pm at the home of Phil and Kathy Shuster 1650 Center Valley Road, Willits





their part each day to remain alert behind the wheel, particularly when you see a school bus or children at bus stops.'

With few exceptions, California law requires drivers to stop in both directions when a school bus has flashing red lights on. Drivers must stop until the red lights are off, and school bus drivers are trained to only turn their flashing red lights off when they are certain the children are safely out of the road and seated on the bus.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, riding a school bus is the safest way for students to get to school - 70 times safer compared to other modes of transportation. School buses are one of the most regulated vehicles on the road

On average, more than 50,000 certified school bus drivers transport more than 1 million students each year in California, traveling approximately 243.5 million miles.

To help ensure the safety of students, the CHP inspects more than 20,000 school buses annually and launched the Vehicles Illegally Passing a School Bus enforcement project in 2017. During these VIPS enforcement operations, CHP officers ride on school buses and patrol bus routes, watching for vehicles that do not stop for flashing red school bus lights.

The VIPS enforcement project also encourages people to report drivers who illegally pass a school bus - a violation that last year resulted in citations to 218 motorists. For non-emergency complaints, you can contact your local CHP area office at https://www. chp.ca.gov/find-an-office or call 1-800-TELL-CHP.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of "Safety, Service, and Security."

### Funding available for

### 'Earthouake Brace + Bolt' Program Submitted by Mendocino County Executive Office

Mendocino County's Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation Division encourages homeowners in Willits, Redwood Valley, Ukiah, Fort Bragg, and Mendocino to take advantage of grant funding to offset the cost of seismic retrofitting of their primary residences.

The Earthquake Brace + Bolt Program, jointly administered by the California Earthquake Authority and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, offers eligible homeowners grants for up to \$3,000. The grants help offset the cost of seismic retrofits that brace the cripple walls of older homes, when present, and bolt houses to their foundations, making them less vulnerable to earthquake damage.

Eligible homeowners can apply online for grants during the registration period, October 18 through November 29, 2022. Thanks to additional FEMA funding that is administered by Cal OES, EBB grants will be available to homeowners in 521 zip codes in more than 270 cities and communities. In Mendocino County, zip codes eligible for EBB grants are 95437 (Fort Bragg), 95460 (Mendocino), 95470 (Redwood Valley), 95482 (Ukiah), and 95490 (Willits).

Income-eligible homeowners may also qualify for available supplemental grants. The amounts vary depending on the region and type of retrofit completed. These supplemental grants, which are available for households with an income at or below \$72,080, may be able to provide up to 100% of the funds needed to cover a seismic retrofit. Grants are

contingent upon meeting eligibility requirements and available funds. For more information on the EBB grant program please visit: https://www. earthquakebracebolt.com/How-Our-Program-Works/See-If-You-Qualify

This event is open to all ages, but is best suited for families with children. The staff will be dressed in their spookiest attire. Please bring your friends and family down to the Willits Branch Library Halloween Graveyard Bash.

For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Library at 707-459-5908.



Above: Dahvi Hooper of Dahvi's Kitchen passes out free samples; Tom Mann and an employee of Brickhouse Coffee prepare samples in the background. At right: Cici Winiger prepares the wheel so that participants can win healthy prizes. Photos by Mathew Caine

The rest of From page Zones



Opportunities, Redwood Coast Regional Center, Adventist Health, Thrive Yoga, Women Infants and Children, and one of the most popular, the smoothie bike on which people pedaled to make a blender whip up delicious smoothies. Dahvi's Kitchen, Brickhouse Coffee, and Thanksgiving Coffee provided welcome free samples of their products.

As a special treat, several young dancers from the Nuestra Alianza exhibit, across the street at the Mendocino County Museum, entertained the crowd with their colorful demonstration of Latino culture.

Duarte wished to thank her volunteers: Stepheni and Jim Lotten, Carlos Duarte, Joan Hamilton, and Itzel Chavez, without whom the event would have been much more difficult to produce.

"We came to the conclusion that everyone cares about their community, the food policies, the tobacco policies, and the people," said Duarte. "We're very stoked that we live in a community where people care about people and want to make the community healthier.

Willits Weekly | October 20, 2022 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 13 Below, from left: Calendula like to sprout in cooler weather and bloom much of the year. This is a great time to plant them for winter and COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month spring bloom. "Sunshine Flashback" is an original variety from farmer Frank Morton. Winter squash that are fully ripe, picked before frost, properly cured, and kept in a dry, frost-free place should provide many meals all winter. Love-in-a-Mist is best sown now, and

makes a perfect companion for poppies in spring. Poppies come in many styles, and every color but blue. These Shirley poppies bloom over a very long period. Sow them now for spring bloom.





At left: This is the time to revel in the fragrance and flavors of your garden produce. These zinnias, cucumbers, crookneck squash, and basil will soon succumb to frost. Below, left: Delicata squash is a sweet treat for fall and winter. They don't keep as long as other winter squash, and should be used by Christmas. Below, right: Cold weather develops brighter colors in hardy vegetables like this chard.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier





Above, from left: Growing your own garlic is easy and gives you lots of choices for the flavors and types you want. Now is the best time to plant. Turnips are dependable winter crops that come in a variety of colors. Tomatoes will ripen indoors if they are full-sized and pale green. Those that are undersized and dark green should be cut off now and composted. Winter Density is a classic lettuce that you can plant now for harvest through most of the winter

Below, from left: Criolla Sella is a pepper from the Andes that overwinters well indoors or in a greenhouse. Picking the whole outer leaves from the base of your lettuce increases the yield and gives a very good quality leaf that keeps well. For best flavor, harvest tomatoes on a sunny afternoon. Be sure to pick any that are close to ripe if either rain or frost threatens. Fava beans (and bell beans which are small favas) are winter cover crops that are also food crops. Now is the best time to plant.



### **October: More and better** harvests

These sunny days of October are great for planting garlic, sowing cover crops, and transplanting out the hardy vegetables that will feed you all winter. It's also harvest time

With summer crops, the goal of Jamie Chevalier harvesting is to save everything usable, before the damp and cold ruin them. With greens and winter vegetables, the goal is to keep the plants healthy and productive over the winter. Success with both depends on how and when you harvest.

Tomatoes are many folks' first concern. Prevent mold and rot by removing dead leaves and keeping plants off the ground. Ripen fruit faster by topping the plants, so they put all their energy into ripening the fruit that has a real chance of being usable. Small, dark green tomatoes will not ripen, either indoors or on the plant. They can be used for pickles or chutney, composted, or fed to animals.

When frost or heavy rain threatens, pick all red or pale green fruit, and set them upside-down in a single layer in a frost-free, dry place to ripen. Other options are to make a big batch of sauce, salsa, or chutney with them all, regardless of color. Or, do as the Italians do and use green tomatoes in salad.

Peppers are another crop that can't stand frost. All peppers are susceptible to mold, but keep an especially close eye on sweet peppers. Your best bet is to pick them now, cook them (try oven-roasting with a light coating of oil) and freeze.

Any pepper, hot or sweet, can be dried in a dehydrator, but the air is too wet in Willits to dry peppers in strings (ristras) this time of year. The less-fleshy hot peppers will usually dry if you clip off the green cap and spread them in an airy place.

Small pepper plants do surprisingly well as houseplants, if you have the room and ambition for pots indoors. If you have many green, unripe peppers, you can just cut off whole branches and hang them in a frost-free place for indoor ripening. They ripen far better on the branch.

Squash, both summer and winter types, must all be picked by frost. Most people don't know that zucchini keeps in a dry, airy place (or even the kitchen counter) better than in the fridge, where they quickly mold. Use the smallest first; larger zucchini will keep up to a month.

> Read the rest of Over on page 15 Garden



The rest of From page 10 Tankers

Taglio must decide what retardant coverage is needed. "We have different coverage levels," said Taglio. "We have coverage one through eight. If I call for 'coverage four' on a fire, that's going to give you four gallons of retardant in a 100-square-foot area, a 10-by-10-foot spot. So if we do a level one, that's going to give us a long drop but not with a lot of retardant in the areas versus a 'coverage level eight,' a max coverage which will be a short area but with a thick coating of retardant

"It depends on the vegetation, what coverage level I'm looking for. As an example, for a grass fire with oak woodland, I usually call for a coverage level four. But if I'm dealing with brush and timber, I usually call for a level six or a max coverage level."

As huge as the air tankers seem on the outside, with a wingspan of 73 feet, they seem rather cramped inside, most of the interior is taken up by the tanks. A single pilot, unless with a trainee, operates the aircraft, and their experience serves to allow them to target the correct areas with precision.

Taglio, having been on the job since 2009 and year range.

The rest of Garden

From page 14 Winter squash should be wiped if muddy but not washed, then put in a warm dry spot to develop full sweetness. After a couple of weeks indoors, they're ready to eat. Delicata and acorn types are good until Christmas, while maxima and butternut keep all winter All squash can be cooked

any way you like it and then frozen. It will have no loss in quality when thawed. Don't forget that squash The rest of blossoms. immature

Nuestra squash, and even the tips of the vines are edible and Botello Gaona shared that it was an honor for delicious in stir-fry or in her to participate in the museum project. "What soups like minestrone. made the biggest impact on me was seeing

The way you manage the happy faces of people of all ages as they explored the exhibition, and found something of and harvest salad greens themselves there," she smiled. "Thank you to can make the difference between a slug-ridden, the Mendocino County Museum!"

unpalatable crop and one Traditional costumes including skirts and you can use and enjoy all dresses of satin, ruffles and ribbons, crafts, winter. This is especially including a seed and bean "mural," weavings, true of lettuce. papier-mâché guitars, large crepe-paper Rather than harvesting

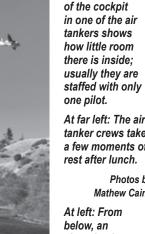
flowers, and ceramic pieces contributed to the whole heads, harvest the other-world feeling of the exhibit. A life-sized outermost leaves weekly. "La Catrina" mannequin, part of Mexico's Dia This prolongs the life of de los Muertos celebration, and an elaborate the plant in several ways. altar created as an homage to artist Frida Kahlo. Not only does it leave the added to the glitter and glow that illuminated the plant alive and growing, exhibit.

but it actually changes the Of course no Latin American celebration life cycle of the plant to would be complete without a lovingly prepared keep it in more vigorous and delicious lunch, which included traditional

whose goal is to retire at the end of the next fire season, gives a positive spin on the current season: "In the 10 years or more I've been doing this, this, by far, is my slowest fire season ever. I think the reason for the slow season may be several factors. Over the last five to eight years, the general public has seen several huge fires, so they are being more cautious and we haven't had a serious lightning bust in a long time. They're actually thinking about what they're doing. There are not a lot of accidental fires.

"Our prevention bureaus up and down the state," he continued, "have been really good about catching arsonists. The drought plays a huge part in it once the fire gets started. If you don't have starts, you don't have big fires.

"Our goal is to keep all fires to 10 acres or less," said Taglio. "We're pretty good at it. You never hear about the one-or-two-acre fire that we got retardant around. The guys on the ground just smashed it. You hear about the big fires. We're very close to those [10 acres or less] numbers if you look at the one-or-two-



Photos by Mathew Cain air tanker is seen dropping retardant over the Ridaewood Fire. Photo by CalFire

Alianza also assists families and individuals

with tax preparation, and offers activities,

presentations and guidance about drug and

Third District Supervisor John Haschak was

also at the exhibit's opening, and expressed

his delight in the colorful exhibits and the

shared personal stories on display. "Nuestra

Alianza's contributions to and enrichment of the

community encourage greater participation in the

broader community. As an organic, grassroots

organization, they have accomplished much,"

he noted, adding, "I'm proud that the county

museum and Nuestra Alianza collaborated on

Juntos: Nuestra Alianza" will be on display at the

Mendocino County Museum through February

The Mendocino County Museum, located

at 400 East Commercial Street, is open

Wednesday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm,

alcohol use and gang activities.

From page 5 new life in the United States.

Hutton believes that the secret to Nuestra Alianza's long success is its stability and grassroots connections. "We are of the community and for the community," she said, explaining that most of the staff and board are first-generation immigrants. "We've all learned a lot over the years and we're still learning," she added Nuestra Alianza began as a conversation that took place in Hutton's English as a Second Language class at Mendocino College in the

vear 2000. Students shared their vision of a place where the variety of services, programs and activities could be accessed by immigrant families, and a place that could act as a cultural hub for that community. That small group

this fabulous exhibit." As visitors left the exhibit, they were invited to take handmade gifts, or regalitos, as a symbol decided then and there that they would do what of friendship, a meaningful gesture which added they could to make their vision a reality for their to the spirit of camaraderie that created this cross-cultural artistic exchange, "Exploramos

5, 2023.



# OPP

You're made for more advancement. That's why we've created a variety of non-clinical opportunities for professionals of all types who love serving their community as they progress their careers. We're now hiring across our three hospitals in Fort Bragg, Ukiah and Willits. Enjoy generous benefits and a nurturing environment that encourages you to grow every day. The next great step in your career awaits.

Learn more: AdventistHealthMendocino.org/HealthcareCareers



growth. The plant responds to this "renewal pruning" by red and green pozole with all the fixings. growing faster, and staying longer in its vegetative, dedicated to the transformational life cycle of or "teenage" stage, when the monarch butterfly. There are two butterfly the leaves are juicier and sanctuaries in the state of Michoacán, Mexico, sweeter called El Rosario and Sierra Chincua, where

Commercial many of the founders of Nuestra Alianza were salad growers clip the plants with born

a sort of mower. But you Dina Hutton, currently board president of will get better quality and Nuestra Alianza, believes that the butterfly has a many more harvests per spiritual meaning for many, mirroring the journey plant if you pick leaves by hand instead of cutting: left their beloved native countries to embrace a the organization's events and classes. Nuestra

Grasp the leaf you want to harvest at the very base,

pinch, and twist. The leaves will be bigger and stay fresh longer, while the plant will

surfaces that host rot. Fastest regrowth occurs when you leave six to eight leaves in the center of the plant. This leaves enough leaf surface for the photosynthesis that fuels growth. Commercial operations that cut a bed of greens straight across often get only one to three cuttings, while hand harvesting outer leaves can give you 12 to 15 harvests per plant. Make sure to remove and compost any yellow or pest-eaten outer leaves. Slugs primarily target old moribund leaves, so keeping plants tidy will prolong their life and vigor. This is true of every plant you grow. Whether it's lettuce, rhubarb, tomatoes or peonies, removing yellowed leaves or those that are down in the mud will reduce pest populations and keep your plants healthier.

Twenty-two years later, Nuestra Alianza's varied services include the popular Plan Another striking part of the exhibit was Vacacional, a summer program taught in Spanish

and open to all children ages 6 to 12, centered on the history, art, culture and sports of Mexico. The organization also offers tutoring in Spanish

friends and neighbors.

and English to high school students, along with the use of computer and copy machines to their clients

Immigration assistance and referrals are offered to individuals who need assistance with naturalization, as well as ESL classes. Parenting of young immigrants who are themselves classes are offered in both English and Spanish, undergoing a profound transformation, having and child supervision is available for many of

and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 pm. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$2 for children ages 6 to 17; children under 5 are free. Admission is free on the first Saturday of every month, and is free every Wednesday for Mendocino County library card holders. For more information, visit www. mendocinocounty.org/government/culturalservices-agency/museum or call 459-2736.

Below, from left: A traditional mariachi outfit is exhibited at "Exploramos Juntos." The Long Gallery at the Mendocino County Museum beckons with the vivid colors of the current "Exploramos Juntos" exhibit. This Mariposa costume reflects the deep sentiment for butterflies in the Jalisco and Michoacán regions of Mexico.

Photos by Margi Gomez Guhde





# **Skeletons for St. Jude**

### Spooktacular house on the corner of East Valley and Penn streets provides plenty of scares while raising money for pediatric diseases

Creepy crawlies, goblins, ghosts, things that go bump in the night, and Lil 206 are the things of childhood thrills. Lil 206 is a 12-foot skeleton looming



menacingly over the graveyards and ghoulish specters at East Valley and Penn streets. Named for the number of bones in the human body, she beckons passersby to enter this creepy world of eerily lighted creatures.

The giant skeleton also brings awareness to the plight of many children who, due to cancer, are not getting the chance to join their friends, dressing up as their favorite movie and TV characters, collecting bags full of precious sweets, and enjoying Halloween night with their friends.

For the last two years, Krystle Coffman and her husband have created a stunning display of frightening creatures that entice the populace to come closer and explore the scary but benign pastiche of horror icons. The purpose of which is to get the people to donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The St. Jude mission is "to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. Consistent with the vision of our founder Danny Thomas, no child is denied treatment based on race, religion or a family's ability to pay."

It effectively, according to its website, has increased the "overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to more than 80 percent since it opened more than 50 years ago." No child or family pays a penny for this treatment.

"The display is to help raise money for Skeletons for St. Jude," explained Coffman. "It's a nationwide fundraiser. We have over 400 houses participating this year. This is our second year of participation. We just found out today that we've broken \$75,000 that we've collectively raised. Our goal is \$100,000 and we're still 17 days away from Halloween. I think we're going to make it."

Signs with a QR code that take you to the fundraiser page are hanging in Coffman's yard. The donations are tax deductible and all the money goes to St. Jude.

"We'll have some live performances and some music on Halloween night. I've made close to 200 treat bags to hand out. All the treat bags will have the card with the QR code so their parents can choose to donate. They can even choose to become part of the Skeletons for St. Jude Facebook page. Anyone can join. All you have to do is print out a sign, decorate, take a photograph of the sign in front of your decoration, and they'll put you on what they call, 'the map,'" said Coffman.

Stop by on Halloween. Lil 206 would like to see all the children.

For more information on St. Jude or the Skeletons for St. Jude, visit www. skeletonsforstjude.org, www.stjude.org, or the Facebook page "Skeletons for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital."





At top, left: Krystle Coffman sports her Skeletons for St. Jude sweatshirt as a friend looks on. At top, right: You never know what is going to rise from the grave on Halloween. Above, left: A watchman seems to say, "Don't axe me any questions, and get off my lawn." Above, right: Lil 206 looms over the display with glowing evil eyes. At left: This witch floats menacingly above the displays. At right: Krystle Coffman is dwarfed by the huge skeleton, Lil 206.

Photos by Mathew Caine





