

EST. 2013

Donations Accepted Edition No. 427

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

It is up to the supervisors to make the final decision on new district lines, which need to be approved by a December 15 deadline. Redistricting takes place every 10 years, using population data collected by the U.S. Census every 10 years. Counties are required to approve new district maps that are “substantially equal” in population, balancing out areas that may have grown or lost population.

At next week's Tuesday, November 9 BOS meeting, commission members and redistricting staff will present their recommended draft maps for "BOS to identify preferred map with

Read the rest of
Redistricting
Over on Page 15

**By Sergeant Mike Dygert
for MCSO**

On October 21 at about 12:52 am, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to reported gunfire at a residence located in the 2600 block of Mitomka Way in Willits.

Deputies contacted a witness who reported seeing Carlos Taylor-Lopez, 30, discharge a rifle in the front yard of his residence in the direction of other residences in the area.

Deputies went to Taylor-Lopez's residence and located live rifle cartridge and an expended rifle cartridge casing in Taylor-Lopez's driveway.

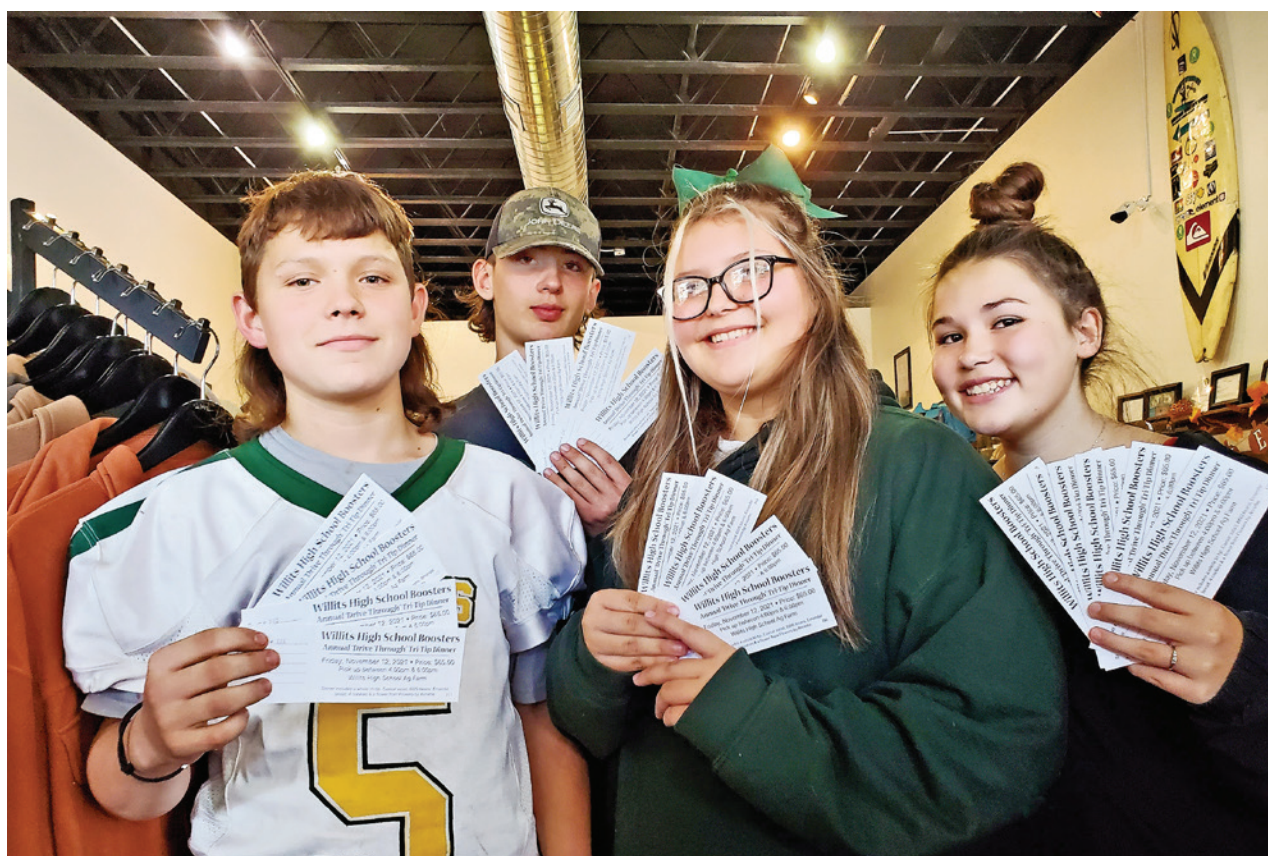
Deputies knocked on the residence and were invited into the residence by Taylor-Lopez's family. Deputies again knocked on Taylor-Lopez's bedroom door, however Lopez did not answer the door.

Deputies left the residence and obtained a search warrant for the

Read the rest of
Negligent
Over on Page 4



Above: Tickets, tickets and tickets are available now for this year's Willits High School Booster Club Drive Through tri tip dinner!
Below: Willits High School freshman football player Caleb Sossaman, left, stands with fellow students Gunner Globe, freshman wrestler and football player; Hunter Britton, freshman cheerleader; and Cassie Esquivel, freshman cheerleader and basketball player; right, at Monkey Wrench Men's and Women's Wear where tickets for the Booster's tri tip dinner are being sold.



Tickets available now for annual WHS Boosters Club dinner

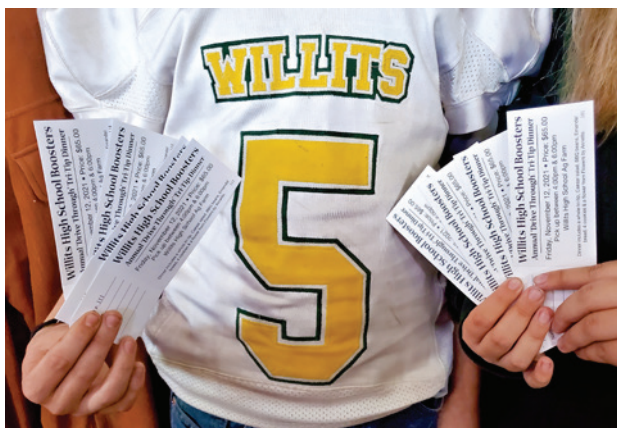
Get ready for a hot and tasty dinner next Friday, when members of the Willits High School Boosters Club will be offering up tri tip, beans, bread and more to those savvy enough to get a ticket now – while they last!

The dinner for four will include a fully cooked tri tip roast; barbecued beans; a Caesar salad; a loaf of bread from Emandal - A Farm on a River; cookies from Schat's Bakery; and a rose from Flowers by Annette. Tickets for the dinner are \$65 each and are available now from Boosters.

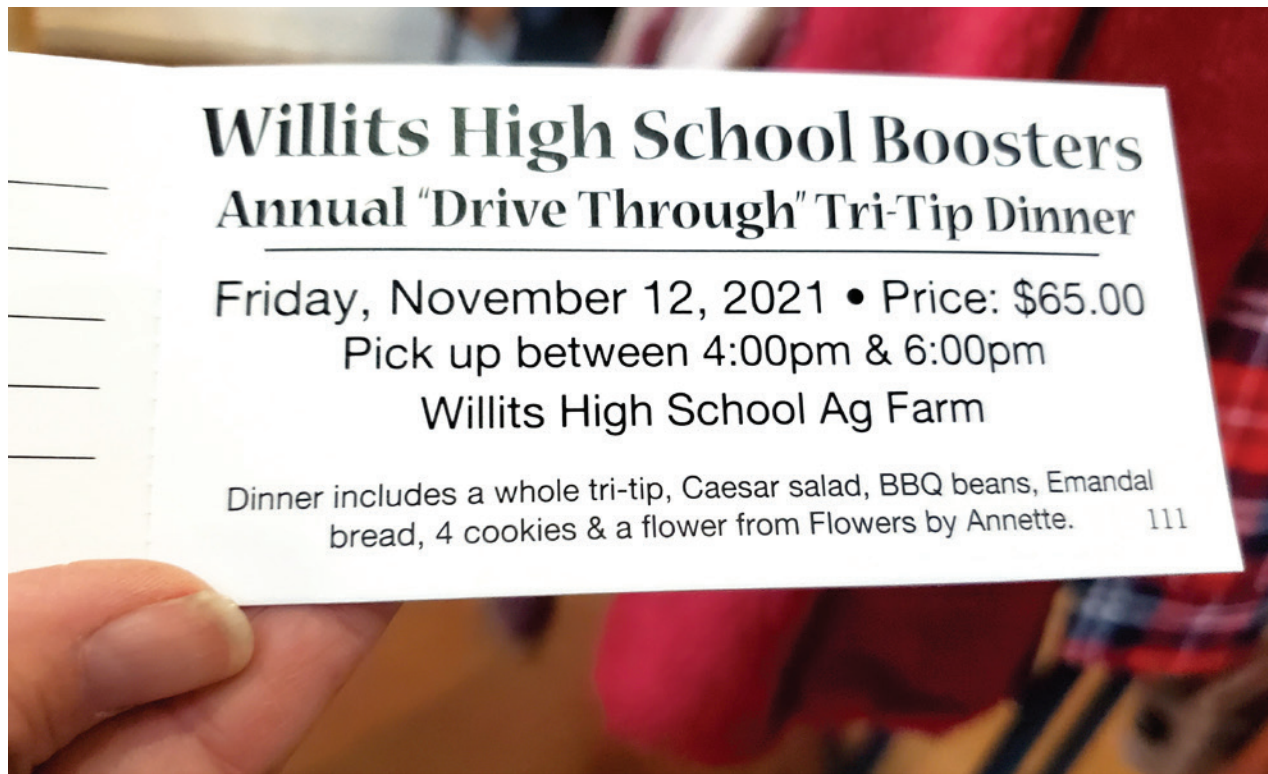
members, 101 Trailer and RV, and at Monkey Wrench Men's and Women's Wear.

Money raised from the event goes to finance the purchase of uniforms for all the sports teams at Willits High School. The dinner will be ready to be picked up on Friday, November 12 from 4 to 6 pm at the Willits High School ag farm. Follow the signs off Main Street for directions or call Shailyn Brewer at 972-1669 for more information.

– **Maureen Jennison**



Above, left: Making sales! Tickets are available for \$65 each for a dinner for four. Above, right: Money from the dinner goes to help fund uniforms for all the sports teams at Willits High School, just like freshman Caleb Sossaman's football jersey, here. Below: Tickets are on sale now, get them while they last! Available at Monkey Wrench, 101 Trailer, and from Willits Booster Club members.



B.B. Kamoroff
Reporter
bb@willitsweekly.com

In 1859, Charles Dickens gave us "A Tale of Two Cities" and its famous first line, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." One hundred and sixty two years later, the Willits City Council, at their October 27 meeting, gave us A Tale of Two Shopping Centers where once again it is the best of times: both the Safeway Shopping Center and the Evergreen Shopping Center appear to be prospering; and maybe not quite the worst of times, but serious problems that have reached a level of concern for the city and, at the Evergreen Center, for the police.

During Creek Cleanup Day on October 16 at Baechtel Creek behind the Safeway, a volunteer crew of city employees, Rotary Club members, and other fine citizens of Willits hauled out a mess of trash including plastic bags, food containers, and cigarette butts, much of it blown into the creek from around the garbage and recycling bins.

Read the rest of
Trash
Over on Page 13

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Following the significant rainfall that our area experienced last week, it was an elated Brooktrails Township Board of Directors that met for the regularly scheduled meeting on October 26. President of the board Rick Williams reported that overnight he had measured 18 inches of rainfall at his Brooktrails home.

General Manager Tamara Alaniz stated, "Right now we have two full lakes, Lake Emily and Lake Ada Rose." And Director Tony Orth said: "By my calculation, we have received 35 percent of last year's total rainfall in the rain season already. So, we are starting out really healthy and the watershed never really got as wet early as it is now today."

The board then approved consent calendar items. First was the accounts payable in the amount of \$160,817.87. Director Ed Horrick made the motion to approve, Director Ralph Santos provided the second, and the board voted unanimously to approve.

Read the rest of
Reservoirs
Over on Page 15

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Veterans Day, November 11

To the Editor:

With a heavy heart, the American Legion, Willits Post 174 will not be offering our "free" breakfast for veterans, first responders (law enforcement/fire/EMTs), and Boy/Girl Scouts on this year's Veterans Day. Out of an abundance of caution for our patrons, we are concerned with their safety as it relates to COVID-19 and the ongoing dining restrictions.

Like others in our community, we are looking forward to returning to "normal" and the continuation of Post 174's activities and programs. Let's hope to have this pandemic

behind us in 2022. I'm looking forward to viewing this health issue "in the rear-view mirror."

There will be no formal, veteran-related activities. Post 174 will conduct a flag raising at the Veterans Memorial (outside the Mendocino County Museum) at 9 am on the 11th. So, if you're driving past that location at that time, perhaps a "toot" of acknowledgement on the car horn would be appropriate.

On this day of remembrance: the 11th day, of the 11th month, at the 11th hour, please pause for a moment of silence in recognition of those who served their country, whether it be during a time of peace or conflict.

Roger Ham, adjutant, Willits Post 174

Senior Center drive-through, walk-up lunches

Willits Senior Center's indoor dining room is closed, but the center is still serving drive-through and walk-up lunches, Monday through Friday, starting at 12 pm and now closing at 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$5 through December.

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.

Thursday, November 4: Spinach Lasagna, Veggie, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, November 5: Chicken Mozzarella Melt, Pesto Spinach on Ciabatta Bread, Cucumber Salad

Monday, November 8: Caribbean Jerk Chicken Sandwich (pineapple, onion, Swiss, lettuce), Chips

Tuesday, November 9: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic, Bread, Green Salad

Wednesday, November 10: Chicken Philly, Onion Rings, Coleslaw

Thursday, November 11: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Veggie, Roll, Green Salad

Friday, November 12: Carnitas Tacos, Rice, Beans

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

Christmas Crafts Fair still accepting vendor applications

Submitted by Community Crafts Fair

Willits Center for the Arts is still accepting applications for vendors for the 34th Annual Holiday Craft Fair, set for December 10 and 11, 2021 at the Willits Community Center.

"We still have two slots to fill the Community Center, said Craft Fair coordinator Bonnie Belt, who added that if they got more interested vendors, they could open the fair at the Upstairs Gallery at the Willits Center for the Arts, too.

This is a two-day show beginning at noon on Friday and ending Saturday at 4 pm. All interested artists, hand crafters, and specialty foods entrepreneurs, who hand-make their own products, should request application forms by e-mail to:

Bonnie Belt at belt.bonnie@gmail.com

Or visit: <https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org> or by mail to: Willits Holiday Craft Fair c/o Bonnie Belt, 2291 Buckeye Dr. Willits, CA 95490 and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The Art Center and City of Willits are requiring some new COVID-19 requirements. All vendors must be vaccinated and submit a copy of your vaccination card with your application. The number of booths in the Community Center will be reduced to allow for social distancing. We also may require everyone to wear masks while inside during the fair.

If you are uncomfortable with any of these requirements please do not apply for a booth.

Please note: Acceptance is subject to quality of work and earliest postmark date. Applications will be accepted until all booths are filled.

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

November 2021 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

With fall colors in abundance and wet ground and creeks running, we are truly fortunate to live in such a beautiful place. Willits has a new firehouse, Laytonville is getting a new ambulance and library, and several projects are brewing in Covelo. COVID numbers are down, students are back in school, and cool skies are filled with rain clouds. We have much to be thankful for in Mendocino County.

Our prayers for rain were answered. Fire season came to a quick end, but the drought is still with us. Before the atmospheric river hit, a reporter from the Washington Post interviewed me about the hauling of water from Ukiah to Fort Bragg and drought conditions in inland Mendocino County. The day after the rain event, he called and asked if the drought was over. I told him that the long-term drought resiliency work is just beginning. We need to be much better prepared next time, that we aren't going to be hauling water to the coast again, and that we need a better understanding of the water we have and have greater storage capacity.

Redistricting is going forward quickly. With the census numbers showing that the Third District has to lose some residents and the Fourth District (Fort Bragg, Caspar, Westport, Branscomb, Leggett) has to gain some, there has been real concern throughout the Third District about how it will affect us. Besides the numbers, we need to consider the communities of interest. Laytonville Water District organized a community town hall (thank you, Jim Shields). Commissioners and staff from the Redistricting Committee attended. They heard the concerns and drafted new maps reflecting the desire of the larger Laytonville community to stay as much as possible in the Third District. That is what representative democracy looks like, and I hope the final outcome reflects those voiced concerns.

The American Legion Posts around the district will be recognizing Veteran's Day on the 11th. Willits Post 174 will raise the flag at the County Museum at 9 am. Your continued service is greatly appreciated.

You can always contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.

Adopt a Family for Christmas

Each year for more than a quarter of a century our community has come together to help Willits children by giving essential items (rain wear, winter coats, shoes, sleepwear, blankets, etc.) and other appropriate holiday gifts.

Persons who wish to assist a single child can select a card from display trees located at various locations around town that will be placed in participating merchants' stores on the Friday after Thanksgiving. These cards present the age, gender, needs and wishes of one child. (Don't hesitate to take a card if you are only able to meet a few of the child's needs. We will make sure that the other items are addressed).

Selection of a single child works for most program supporters, but others have voiced an interest in adopting an entire family. If you or your group wish to adopt a family you are asked to follow a different path.

My name is Marcy Barry, and I am one of the coordinators for the Willits Kids Christmas Program for the Willits Rotary Club. I ask that you contact me so that I may assist you in choosing a suitable family. My email is barrysunch@yahoo.com and my phone contact is 707-272-5395, or contact Alexis England 707-354-0076. Leave a message if I am unable to speak to you, and I will return your call promptly.

In order to be efficient, we need to satisfy requests to Adopt A Family before our usual referral process begins in late November. Please call (the earlier the better), if you want to discuss adopting a family.

— Willits Kids Christmas Program

Do you want to submit a letter to the editor?

It's easy. We print letters from residents of the 3rd District, Just email us!

Ready to begin a new life?

Posted by Soroptimist International Willits

The Soroptimist Live Your Dream: Education & Training Awards for Women program has been helping women around the world since 1972. This program provides cash grants to women who are working to better their lives through additional schooling and skills training.

You are eligible to apply if you:

- Are a woman with primary financial responsibility for yourself and your dependents
- Are attending an undergraduate degree program or a vocational skills training program
- Have financial need

Apply for a Live Your Dream award at bit.ly/LYDA-apply or contact: Soroptimist International of Willits, Vicki Ham, at siwillits@soroptimist.net Visit siwillits.site for more information about the local chapter.

Club deadline to apply for the local \$1,000 award is November 15, 2021. If you are a female head-of-household, attending school, please apply for this wonderful award. There is potential for more award money if your application is chosen as a district winner.



Above, from left: Greg Schindell, aka the Train Singer, is on his 12th year playing guitar, penny whistle and singing for the Enchanted Pumpkin Path. This costume ensemble by Countess Aurora, center, includes her butlers, Ayda on the left and Mia on the right. Joey Vayde does the makeup and costumes for the skits. At left: Costumed and masked kids, parents, grandparents, teachers, and community members gather and wait for their time slot. Below: Jo-Jo crowns Max, played by Sasha, with Cassius and teacher Ms. McCarthy as other wild things in this skit based on "Where the Wild Things Are." At bottom: Cindi Goldberg, left, Rayna Freedman, and Gary and Marlene Freedman with granddaughter Skylar Freedman are a three-generation family from Willits. Rayna made her own and her daughter, Skylar's, Egyptian costumes.



Enchanted Pumpkin Path

Calpella's Waldorf School combines storytelling and music to create an imaginative spin on Halloween

Fantasy, imagination, movement, color, music, community and family are all hallmarks of the Waldorf School of Mendocino County's Enchanted Pumpkin Path that's been going on for almost 30 years. It's definitely what can be expected from a school where learning includes thinking, feeling and doing.

The Halloween event was staged in the late afternoon and early evening last Sunday, October 31. It was outside among the sprawling hillside school campus. There was a colorful parade of mostly homemade costumes. Harry Potter characters, fairies with large feathered wings, spotted and striped animals, cuddly bears, poufy tutus, rainbow-colored hair, and painted faces paraded through the event. Some families dressed up around a theme together as trolls, buccaneers or vegetables.

Over 200 costumed and masked revelers from Ukiah, Willits, and as far away as Covelo gathered at their pre-scheduled times. The 11 time slots were staggered from 4:30 to 7 pm. Each skit was everything from boisterously fun to quiet music and dance or playfully acted storytelling. The groups were led by a volunteer guide to help people move along more easily with COVID-safe distancing.

The eight stages were naturally

Read the rest of **Waldorf** Over on Page 6



Above: Miss Last, the grandmother in "Good Night Moon," tucks in Estelle Clifton for the second time.

Photos by Ree Slocum

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The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

8	5				2			
								6
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9				4		5		
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SPORTS PLAY WORD SEARCH

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ADVANTAGE	GAME	PLAY
BENCHED	HANDICAP	POSITION
CALL	HUDDLE	RECORD
CONTACT	LEAGUE	RULES
DEFENSE	LOSING	SCORING
DIVISION	OFFENSE	SPECTATOR
FAN	OFFICIAL	TEAMMATE
FOUL	PITCH	WINNING

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64					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

- Nuclear undersea weapon
- President of Syria at _
- Partner to flows
- 'Snow' in Welsh
- Famed Mexican painter
- Song
- Sticks outward from the crown
- Doddering
- Resist authority (slang)
- Antsy
- Wrath
- Spills the beans
- Past
- The woman
- One has 24 hours
- Talk
- It can sting
- Astronomy unit
- Halfway
- Chinese dynasty
- Australian river
- Software to transfer audio (abbr.)
- Fabric
- Crucifix
- Defunct European economic group
- 'Hotel California' rockers
- Michael Knight's car
- Actress Ryan
- A digital tape recording

of sound

- Insecticide
- Scientific instrument
- Golden-__ corn
- Israeli city _ Aviv
- Sword
- Ottoman military title
- Aromatic plants
- Cold wind
- Large, semiaquatic reptile (slang)
- Political unit
- Indiscreetly reveal secrets
- Comfort food dish
- Actress Zellweger
- Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

- One point east of southeast
- Italian monetary unit
- Warship prison
- Tropical American tree
- Alias
- Normal or sound powers of mind
- English county
- Not compatible with
- Female deer
- Not late
- La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 'Jupiter's Legacy' activist Leslie
- Impudence

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

October 24 to October 30

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **116 incidents** in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

October 24

4:59 am: Officers responded to a report of roadway flooding near the intersection of South Main Street and Franklin Avenue.

October 25

6:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

6:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Holly Street.

7:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Mill Street.

7:13 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of Della Avenue.

7:40 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

7:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

October 26

5:28 am: FRANSEN, Anthony Ellis Joseph (31) of Willits was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery).

7:28 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

7:30 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

October 27

1:56 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

October 28

1:20 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Mill Creek Drive and West Commercial Street.

11:43 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

12:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue and issued a warning.

1:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

2:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of Baechtel Road.

7:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

7:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

11:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of Locust Street.

11:23 pm: JUAREZ-SIXTOS, Nahu (25) of Stockton was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (A) VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol), 23152 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 Percent or Higher), 12500 (A) VC (Driving Without a License), 4573 PC (Bringing Controlled Substances into Jail), and 11350 H&S (Possession of a Controlled Substance).

October 29

2:37 am: BELL, Robert Wayne (38) of Laytonville was contacted in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road in Willits following a report of an assault. He was arrested pursuant to 69 PC (Resisting an Executive Officer), 148 (A) (2) PC (Resisting Arrest), 664/148 (D) PC (Attempting to Take a Firearm from an Officer), on felony charges of elder abuse and willful cruelty to a child, and misdemeanor charges of obstructing or disrupting a public safety radio frequency.

9:11 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

9:33 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of Robert Drive and issued a warning.

9:58 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.

2:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

October 30

6:28 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street.

10:29 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of South Main Street.

10:50 pm: MATTSON, Cheryl Kathleen (49) of Ukiah was contacted in the 100 block of Barbara Lane following a domestic disturbance. She was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery), 368 PC (Elder Abuse), and 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order).

10:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

The rest of Negligent

From Page 1

residence to search for Taylor-Lopez, any firearms and ammunition.

At 5 am, deputies observed Taylor-Lopez being driven to work by a family member, and deputies conducted an investigatory stop on the vehicle. Taylor-Lopez was taken into custody thereafter.

A search of Taylor-Lopez's bedroom was conducted pursuant to a search warrant, and a rifle and ammunition were located.

Taylor-Lopez was charged with felony 246.3 PC (Discharge of a Firearm in a Gross Negligent Manner), Taylor-Lopez was on Mendocino County misdemeanor probation at the time of this incident and was also charged for violation of his probation.

Taylor-Lopez was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$15,000 bail.

Mendocino National Forest offers Christmas tree cutting permits

Posted by Mendocino National Forest

Keep the family tradition alive this year – or start a new tradition - by cutting a Christmas tree within the Mendocino National Forest. Sales for personal use Christmas tree cutting permits began November 2. The permits can be purchased for \$10 each, limited to one permit per household. The number of permits is limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Permits are good for this year only.

It is important to note that not all national forests offer the opportunity to obtain Christmas trees for personal use, and each national forest has different sale dates. Please check with the national forest in which you are interested to learn about the specifics of their program.

Permits can be purchased by mail or in person at one of the locations listed below. To purchase a permit by mail, send a printed name and mailing address, for each permit purchased, a daytime telephone number, and a check or money order made out to "USDA Forest Service" for \$10 for each permit to either the Willows, Upper Lake or Covelo offices with "Christmas Tree Permit" written on the outside of the envelope. Mail-in requests received after December 14 will not be filled. You can download a Mail Order form here: www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd522349.pdf

Read the rest of Permits

Over on Page 13



Creepy Carnival

Willits Charter School students host two nights of haunted hallways and entertaining games

"We're hoping we scare everyone," said one horribly made-up zombie at one of the last stops of the Willits Charter School's Creepy Carnival. The zombies could be seen playing games in the eerily lit outdoor environment. "You can throw a knife at a zombie. You can throw darts at body parts and you can throw eyeballs in a cup," he explained.

When asked, "How can you do that in the dark?" the zombie replied: "Zombies can see in the dark. They're dead people who have been in their coffins for a while, so they might have adapted. Those of us who still have eyes."

This was indicative of the banter and fun had by the students of Billy Hetherington's theater arts classes, along with his student leadership class and the set-building class, as well as other participants from sixth grade up to seniors. It was two nights of ghouls, goblins, ghosts and lunacy as families lined up to be led through an adventure into the depths of the macabre.

In addition to the haunted house, 12th grader Savanna Hincker Tye created an amazingly amusing room of games and activities for the young kids as her senior project. As the brightly costumed families entered the room through a forest of streamers and balloons, they were treated to an array of fun games at which the children could win prizes of toys and candy.

There was a fishing game at which they could cast their lines over a water-themed wall and magically come up with several kinds of prizes on their line. A giant Plinko game fascinated the kiddies as they watch the ball, which was placed at the top, wend its way through a series of posts, until it reached a prize at the bottom. The prize was gifted to the child whose turn it was.

Another of the amusing diversions was a large game of Kerplunk, which

Read the rest of

Carnival

Over on Page 6



At top, left: Any Creepy Carnival must have zombies – these lurked outside in the dark and played games with body parts. At top, right: The "lost children," who were much creepier in the dark, claw at a window. Above, from left: This zombie has had a bad day since he emerged from the grave. There's nothing scarier than creepy clowns with electric chainsaws that chase the participants out of the yard. Even the students' lockers are filled with scary body parts. Below: The game room at the Willits Charter School's Creepy Carnival is filled with costumed kids trying to win prizes and candy.



Far left: Seven-year-old Phoenix Hetherington, dressed as a gargoyle, picks a prize to take home. At left: Zombie Valerie Modern was dead for several years before emerging to scare the tourists. Below: On the tour of the haunted house, a group of young tourists is confronted by a creepy ghost.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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At left: Cali Anne plays a creepy clown who pops up out of a giant jack-in-the-box.
Above, left: A couple of Black Panthers visit the Creepy Carnival at Willits Charter School.
Above, right: A young fisherman tries to reel in a prize.
Below: Ember Hetherington and Abigail Sherf emerge from a dark and foreboding room.

Photos by Mathew Caine



The rest of
Waldorf From Page 3

decorated with autumn plants and fallen leaves from trees on the expansive property. There were brightly decorated props and gaily costumed actors who took their cues and started performing the playful spoofs to their gathered audience.

Of course, it wouldn't be Halloween without treats. Bags were filled with meaningful offerings: apples, honey sticks, stickers, handmade crowns from "Where the Wild Things Are," a moon charm, a package of seeds, as well as some candy.

Each year there are new Enchanted Pumpkin Path skits. Some of them are based on well-known and loved books or fairytales. Teachers, students, and community members play the characters. This year there were "Where the Wild Things Are" based on a book by Maurice Sendak, "Frog and Toad" based on Arnold Lobel's books, "Good Night Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown, "Mrs. Tittlemouse" by Beatrix Potter, and "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" authored by Eric Carle, to name a few.

Fathers, mothers, grandparents, friends and children were spellbound as the stories unfolded.

Ayda, who's in the fifth/sixth-grade class, said, "I like all the skits and my mom is in one this year." It seems she's gone every year, even the two years she attended a different school.

Arianna, who's in the third/fourth-grade class, said, "My favorite part was the candy. I liked the [skit] with the wolf and the one with the fox and duck," she said.

One small girl whispered to her father in awe, "Look, Dad! There's a dinosaur!"

An example of how the Waldorf School of Mendocino County reimagines some of the more intense stories is one where Olan Cox acted as the third billy goat in the raucous "Three Billy Goats Gruff" skit. He said of the story with the Waldorf twist: "He's no mean troll. Troll is embracing us and we're embracing the troll. This is a cooperative future we're involved in."

"It's not the same as pre-COVID but it's been really amazing to see everybody pull it off," said Megan Prout who's a parent and volunteer guide this year. "Usually there's a café and a community hang-out kind of thing. Now it's different but it's still great."

It'll be interesting to see what new and colorful stories will be acted out in the future and if the café and hang-out will be reinstalled. If not, one can be assured that the Enchanted Pumpkin Path shows will continue to delight!

Donors for the event were Sparetime Supply, Drip Works, Mariposa Market, Ukiah Natural Foods, and Tara Moratti from Coldwell Banker.

For information about the pre-K through eighth-grade Waldorf School of Mendocino County, located in Calpella, visit their Facebook page or www.mendocinowaldorf.org.



Above: The troll, far right, played by Marco Donner, extends a helping hand to the first billy goat played by Sam Senerchia.

At left: "Oh, my goodness, Mr. Jackson never wipes his feet!" exclaims Mrs. Tittlemouse.

Below: Miss Last plays the grandmother in "Good Night Moon." She hands out moon charms to the children as a treat.

Photos by Ree Slocum



The rest of
Carnival From Page 5

involved removing rods above, which held up balls of various colors. The participant who could remove the most posts without dropping balls won a prize. There were also such standards as a bean-bag toss and a dart throw at which they could win prizes. Many of the families went from the sublime silliness of the game room to the ghoulishly scary world of the haunted house.

Several students were assigned to be tour guides through the maze of horrifying zombies and body parts, improving their spiels and introducing the deadly attractions within. After traversing the hall with the ghostly projected visage of a suspended specter, the groups were treated to several eerie scenes: two scary clowns who emerged from the shadows of the control booth; a room where unearthly shadow creatures invited them in to play with their balloons; a dark and foreboding jack-in-the-box; a city of lost children; the zombie game area; and to top it off, they were chased by a chainsaw-wielding clown. There were many screams of both fear and delight.

"This is all kinds of fun," said Hetherington, the theater arts instructor. "We've been plotting and planning this for the last few weeks. This year it was good just to be able to do something. We haven't been able to do this for the last three years, I believe. The year before COVID, it was cancelled due to technical difficulties. This has always been a fun way to bring the kids together for kind of a mid-semester performance, just another stepping stone in meshing the ensemble of kids."

As the slightly traumatized families were leaving the haunted house, one of the zombies could be heard to say, "Bye-bye. See you in your nightmares."

Lovely Lucy

Lucy is our one-eared pup! Lucy is Luna's pup from a previous litter. Both Luna and Lucy were rescued when their owner no longer wanted them. She has not had the easiest life, but she has not let that slow down her happiness. Lucy secured a wonderful foster home where we are learning so much about her!

Lucy enjoys the company of the dogs in her foster home. Lucy loves to run, does little leaps in the air, is an amazing sleeper, and shows how thankful she is daily. Her foster family states she seems to be house-broken, lets them know when she has to go potty, and is overall a good girl. She is just the cutest! Think Lucy will fit in your family? Apply today at www.mendohumanesociety.com. She is waiting and ready for her forever home!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Currently we are open by appointment only on Wednesday



Carter



Lucy

through Friday, and open to the public Saturday through Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, no appointment needed on the weekends! You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Friendly Carter

Carter, a 3-month-old lilac point Siamese cat, can be a bit shy at first but warms up quickly and wants to be your best friend. He likes to be held and pet, and is playful with both people and his brothers.

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

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At left: The Baechtel Fire Station greets visitors with lights and sirens.

At left, below: Rachel and Samantha enjoy a moment of respite between the multitudes of vehicles driving through for candy.

At right: Firefighters Association President Aaron Branscomb gifts this car with a bag of goodies for each kid. Captain Harry So organized the drive-through trick-or-treat event for Brooktrails Fire Department. Shay has a great time helping her dad pass out bags of candy.

Below: A group of ghosts greet the line of cars at the Little Lake Fire substation on Baechtel Road.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Drive-through Halloween

Brooktrails and Little Lake Fire Departments pass out over 1,000 bags of candy to trick-or-treaters on wheels

Although the Brooktrails and Little Lake Fire Departments decided to organize separate Halloween giveaways this year, they still seemed to be working in conjunction in order to get as much candy to the kids as possible. Considering Brooktrails Captain Harry So, a member of both departments, instigated and organized the drive-through trick-or-treat event last year, it would be difficult to separate them into individual events.

Thanks to the generosity of several local businesses, notably Coast Hardware who provided over 100 pounds of candy and encouraged their customers to donate more, the two fire departments were able to load up over 1,000 bags to give to the mobile trick-or-treaters.

Brooktrails Fire greeted participants into the parking lot with a fire tender parked at the entrance with all of its lights flashing. Past that, the Dalmatian-costumed junior firefighter Chad Douglas helped to direct the cars and remind them to drive slowly through the two routes of tables, upon which were piled the brightly

illustrated bags filled with various types of sweets. Members of the community, firefighters, and sheriff's deputies aided the families in obtaining their candy.

Several of the firefighters expressed relief at the end of the fire season which mercifully spared the area this year.

Even though the new Little Lake Firehouse No. 54 was almost ready and soon to be occupied, the department decided to continue holding their event at the Baechtel Road station as it had a more accessible route that the cars could be led through the scenes of dismembered bodies, ghouls, chainsaw-wielding zombies, and varying scenes of carnage on their way to the ultimate candy bag prizes.

Aaron Branscomb, president of the Firefighters Association, added, "This works here because if we get a call, we can get all the machines out." So, expect to see the Little Lake Fire Department Halloween Drive-through at the Baechtel Road location for the immediate future, even after the expected relocation of the main force sometime in the next few weeks.

At right: Cars line up at the Little Lake Fire Department in order to go through their horror course that ends with a bag of candy for each kid in the car. Below, from left: This firefighter didn't emerge unscathed from a fire, all the better to scare the kiddies. Chainsaws and corpses are a staple of any Halloween scare. Little Lake Fire Department Administrative Assistant Michelle Schnitzius is a dartboard for not-very-accurate players. Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer enjoys serving the community. Junior Firefighter Chad Douglas, dressed as Marshall from "PAW Patrol," greets the families as they enter the Brooktrails candy event.



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Above: The trunk of Christine's spider car is filled with candy – kids can take as much as they want if they can brave the spiders.

At right: The second-place winner is the spider car from Christine.

Below, left: Butterfly Rochelle Fielding, with her trunk frog, invites kids to enjoy her candy. Below, right: A young sprite is ready with a bucket to haul off some candy.

Photos by Mathew Caine



At right: Tiffany and Ken won third place with their undertaker theme.

Below, from left: Creepy characters fill the first-place-winning trunk from Joe and Crystal.

This young lion smiles for the camera.

This animated and verbose plant welcomes people to the first-place-winning trunk from Joe and Crystal.



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Cruisin' for Candy

Kids nab candy from the back of decked-out classic cars at trunk-or-treat event on Saturday

William James Smith, instigator of the Willits Cruisin' Knights, was amazed at the turnout for the club's trunk-or-treat event Saturday night at Bud Snider City Park, across from the new firehouse. Kids and their families showed up in droves to see the originality and creativity of the decorated trunks of the cruisers.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

The Cruisin' Knights usually meet on Friday and Saturday nights to enjoy some camaraderie and drive down the main drag of Willits in their automobiles, bikes, trucks, and any other vehicle in their collection. For Halloween, about 10 of the club's participants created scenes out of the back end of their vehicles with spider webs, skeletons, eerie lights, and of course tons of candy for the kiddies who were dressed up as their favorite characters from cartoons, movies, and kid-lit. In order to qualify for the event, participants had to decorate their trunks and have at least one person in costume handing out candy.

Prizes were bestowed for the most-original and best-decorated trunks. The grand prize was taken by Joe and Crystal who, in addition to decorating their trunk with various ghouls and dead things, displayed a giant talking, moving plant, aka Audrey II from "Little Shop of Horrors." They went home \$100 richer for their efforts. Second prize was a black Impala dressed up as a huge tarantula spider by Christine who won \$50. Third prize was won by Tiffany and Ken, who wore ghostly undertaker outfits and dressed their trunk accordingly. They took home a prize of \$50.

Smith would like the people of Willits to know that the Willits Cruisin' Knights will be participating in this year's Toy Run along with the Willits Wild Bunch on Sunday, November 28 at noon at the Evergreen Shopping Center. From there, the bike, car and fire engine parade will make its way to the rodeo grounds for a gathering at which admission to the public is an unwrapped gift for the disadvantaged kids of the community.

If the turnout for this year's impromptu event is any indication, next year's Willits Cruisin' Knights Trunk or Treat should be a great success.



The rest of
Trash From Page 1

at the northeast corner of the Safeway building.

There are similar and very visible problems at the Evergreen Shopping Center: trash escaping from the bins behind the buildings and from overflowing trash receptacles in front of the buildings, exuberantly assisted by the crows (or maybe they're ravens) tossing everything they can reach all over the parking lot.

Whether the glut of garbage is caused by the wayward wind or frisky birds or irresponsible humans, both the Safeway and Evergreen centers have an ongoing trash problem that, according to City Manager Brian Bender, is "hazardous, unsafe and unsanitary."

Bender requested approval from the council to draft a letter to the owners and managers of the two shopping centers asking them to install additional covered trash receptacles and bins for cigarettes. Bender told the council, "We are hoping that the owners and managers will accept they oversee highly visible landmarks, and respond positively to the request."

The city council was 100% in support of the city manager's concerns about trash, but Councilmember Greta Kanne was also concerned about crime, particularly at the Evergreen Center, where a violent attack occurred a few weeks ago: "The community has known for a long time that safety is an issue especially at the Evergreen Shopping Center. There's little to no lighting, there's little to no security presence, many members of our community feel unsafe using those places."

Police Chief Fabian Lizarraga responded that both shopping centers are a "constant focus" of regular police patrols, especially people loitering and camping at the Evergreen: "When they are the focus of being moved they tend to keep moving."

Kanne clarified that she wasn't suggesting that the police weren't doing a fine job, but thinks that the owners and managers of the centers could be doing more to enhance the safety at their centers, specifically brighter lighting, more cameras, and private security patrols.

City manager Bender said all of these concerns would be included in the letter to the centers' owners, and, "We'll see if they want to work with us."

Mayor confesses to breaking the law. Well, it's actually an obscure city ordinance that neither the mayor nor anyone on the city council knew about, that the city attorney says should not be on the books, and that the council is now being asked to remove: a two-sentence law requiring the mayor to attend city staff meetings and report the outcomes to the city council – which the mayor has never done, nor has any other mayor in recent history.

Mayor Madge Strong was visibly upset over learning about the ordinance and any consequences of her violation of it, and repeated several times that she wants the offending offense removed from the books, promptly. (Looking up the ordinance in the city code book, the actual wording of the ordinance requires the mayor and the vice-mayor, or in their absence any other city council member, to attend all staff and department head meetings. The Queen of Hearts would have had a field day here.)

All of the council members agreed that the "required" part of the ordinance should be removed, but Councilmembers Kanne, Saprina Rodriguez and Larry Stranske all want to replace it with a new provision that allows, but does not require, council members to attend staff meeting if council members want to.

"Not a good idea" according to City Attorney Jim Lance, who stated that an ordinance allowing council members to attend staff meetings could lead to confusion over who is in charge of staff, and could undermine the authority of the city manager. Lance felt that city council members should actually be prohibited from attending staff meetings unless invited.

Members of the council, unsure and unified, wanted more time to study the issue – along with an additional 21 pages of proposed changes to city codes – and voted to discuss the proposed changes at a future council meeting, tentatively in December.

Tree troubles. There are 425 city-owned trees in Willits city parks and along city streets. Many of the trees

are ageing, most are not getting the maintenance needed to keep them healthy, and there is almost no money in the city budget to do anything about it. That is the rather blunt conclusion of the Willits Urban Forestry Management Study, a 116 page report presented to the city council by Abby Beissingner and Ryan Allen of Dudek, a Pasadena-based natural resource management and engineering company.

"Urban forest" is the currently preferred term for trees located in a city or town, whether the trees are clustered together in a park or undeveloped land, or lining a boulevard, or standing alone in someone's yard. And the Willits urban forest is desperately in need of help.

The study, which was financed by a grant from CalFire, noted that tree canopies are lacking, mature trees are conflicting with infrastructure, and species diversity is in decline. Ninety-three trees were identified with hazardous deadwood, disease, or broken branches that pose safety hazards. In Recreation Grove, which has 25% of the city's trees, 90% of the trees are mature valley oaks with varying health conditions and a history of tree failures.

The city's annual budget of \$8,000 for tree maintenance is spent almost entirely on "reactive" tree maintenance (fixing problems that come up), leaving no funds for proactive maintenance (keeping the trees healthy). The city also lacks a policy that clarifies tree maintenance responsibility. The city code does not stipulate the party responsible for maintenance of trees on public and private property.

The city council would definitely like to see changes. Councilmember Stranske thinks a big part of the problem is that the city has never had an arborist, and he would like to hire one to oversee the city's trees: "I had a hard enough time just getting the city to water the trees on Main Street." Councilmember Rodriguez inquired about staff time required to maintain trees. The Dudek report calculated, and City Planner Dusty Dooley confirmed, that adequate tree maintenance would require three-quarters of a full-time position, for which there is no budget.

Rodriguez agreed with Stranske that tree maintenance should get high priority: "I don't want to put this off until we have a hazardous situation." City manager Bender, who has been working overtime to finish an already stretched budget, suggested that maybe the council could look at funding tree maintenance and implementing the suggestions in the Dudek report at mid year.

Mayor Strong, cautioned any potential procrastinators: "One of the things I hate is planning documents that get put on the shelf and don't get implemented." Brian Bender calmly assuaged the mayor: "Dusty will never sit on a plan. We'll get this going."

"It's not a bus." Apologies to City Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez for misquoting her in the last city council report, about Willits soon getting the first electric public transit "cutaway vehicle" in California.

A cutaway vehicle is not, as some people may think, an old wreck the fire department sawed apart during Jaws of Life training. It's a multi-purpose vehicle with the cab of a van and the exposed frame of a truck, the body having been "cut away" at the factory (actually never built), allowing an aftermarket addition such as a truck cargo box, or an RV set up, or what will be coming to Willits: a not-a-bus that can hold 10-16 passengers. Which is the perfect vehicle for MTA travel within Willits, and deserving a big Thank You to Rodriguez and Councilmember Greta Kanne for cutting away the red tape to bring this first-in-the-state zero-pollution vehicle to our town.

Lots of water and lots of leaves. Scott Herman of the city water department reported that the big late-October storm, which dropped nearly 10 inches of rain in just a few days, increased the water level at the city reservoirs from 56% to 83% of capacity, 364 acre feet or the equivalent of four months of summer usage, and ending the city's Stage One water conservation warnings.

The storm also accelerated the accumulation of autumn leaves on the ground, and brought an announcement from Solid Wastes of Willits that it is increasing its yard waste pickups from every other week to every week through November, at no additional charge to customers or to the city. The city council wasted no time offering a solid thanks to Jerry Ward, owner of SOW.

The rest of
Permits From Page 4

Persons must be at least 18 years old to purchase the permit. All Christmas tree permit sales are final; no refunds will be made. Christmas tree cutting will be allowed only in specific areas in the Mendocino National Forest. The permittee will receive a map of the forest and a tree tag. Permits may be used to cut a tree in any authorized area within the Mendocino National Forest.

There is a limit of five permits total purchase if a person obtains permits for other families. You must have the name and address for each permit purchased. Permit holders who will be having another person cut their tree must provide a Third Party Authorization, which must be in the possession of the cutter. You can download a Third Party Authorization form here:

www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5397232.pdf

Prevent the spread of Sudden Oak Death

Federal and state quarantines designed to prevent the spread of Sudden Oak Death are in effect for Lake and Mendocino counties. Any Christmas tree cut in Lake or Mendocino county can only be transported into a Sudden Oak Death quarantine county (Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Marin, San Francisco, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma).

Christmas tree safety

To ensure that your visit to the Mendocino National Forest is an enjoyable experience, please follow these important tips:

- Plan your trip: Check the weather forecast, bring plenty of warm clothes, water, emergency food, tire chains, shovel, a saw or axe to cut your tree, and a tarp and rope to bring it home. Make sure you have a full tank of gas when you leave and are prepared for changing conditions in the mountains! Also, let someone know where you are going and when you plan to be back.

- Keep vehicles on designated roads and be aware of changing weather and road conditions. Wet dirt roads can quickly turn to mud, making it possible to get stuck and causing damage to road, soil and water resources. If there are puddles in the road, mud flipping off the tires, or you can see your ruts in the rearview mirror, consider pulling over and taking a hike to look for a tree, or turning around and finding a different area to cut your tree. Be aware of safety hazards when travelling through a burned area.

- Cut the tree early in the season before higher elevations become snowbound.
- Make sure you are cutting a tree on the Mendocino National Forest and not on other federal, state or private lands.
- Cut the tree as close as possible to the ground and leave as little of a stump as possible.
- Attach the permit on the tree where it will be easily visible with the tree packed or tied on your vehicle for transport home.
- To help keep your tree fresh, cut at least one inch off the base when you get home and stand the tree in a container of water in a cool, shaded area, checking the water level daily.

Locations to purchase Christmas tree permits

Please call the location you plan to purchase your permit BEFORE you leave to check pricing, hours and availability. Christmas tree permits are available from the following forest offices and vendors in Mendocino County:

Covelo Ranger Station, 78150 Covelo Rd., Covelo, CA 95428; (707) 983-6118
Upper Lake Grocery, 160 E. Hwy 20, Upper Lake, CA 95485; (707) 275-4018
M&M Feed, 74540 Hill Rd., Covelo, CA 95428; (707) 983-6273

Keith's Family Foods, 76201 Covelo Rd., Covelo, CA 95428; (707) 983-6633

Mendocino National Forest tree-cutting permits are also available at:
Mendocino National Forest Supervisor's Office, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988; (530) 934-3316

Upper Lake Ranger Station, 10025 Elk Mountain Rd., Upper Lake, CA 95485; (707) 275-2361

Sacramento River Discovery Center, 1000 Sale Ln, Red Bluff, CA 96080; (530) 527-1196

Christmas tree cutting in the National Forest is managed as a recreational experience. It is a chance to head out into the woods and cut a tree the old-fashioned way. For more information, please call (530) 934-3316.

Public Health announces COVID case at Willits restaurant

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

The Mendocino County COVID-19 Department Operations Center has confirmed a positive COVID-19 case among staff at the following location: Slam Dunk Pizza, 1708 South Main Street, in Willits.

Members of the public who visited this facility between the dates of Wednesday, October 27 and Friday, October 29, 2021 may have been exposed to COVID-19, and are advised to seek COVID-19 testing if unvaccinated, or seek testing if exhibiting symptoms while vaccinated.

Slam Dunk Pizza management is responding quickly to the positive case. We appreciate their cooperation to find those who could be exposed, and Public Health only publishes the businesses' names and locations because it is impossible to identify everyone in the public who could have been exposed.

Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren would like to emphasize the importance of staying home from work when exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19. Common symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Other symptoms may include chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, fatigue, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and masking, contact the Mendocino County Public Health COVID-19 Call Center at 707-472-2759 or visit our website at: www.mendocinocounty.org/covid19

Public Health announces 89th COVID death

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

A Mendocino County resident has passed away from COVID-19. Our thoughts are with all of their family and friends.

Death #89: 74-year-old woman from the Ukiah area; fully vaccinated with severe comorbidities.

Public Health asks all Mendocino County residents to think about the ways they are protecting themselves and their families from COVID-19. When in doubt, consult with and follow all CDC and CDPH guidance. Vaccination, masking, and social distancing remain the best tools for combating COVID-19.

Fully vaccinated people over age 65 (or over age 50 with certain health conditions) should strongly consider getting a COVID-19 vaccine booster to improve immunity. Boosters should be given at least 6 months after completion of the initial Pfizer series. If you have questions about boosters, speak with your doctor, or call Public Health at 707-472-2759. To find the nearest vaccine clinic in your area, please visit the Public Health website at: www.mendocinocounty.org/covid19

Seasonal firefighters gain workplace protections

Submitted by the Office of Sen. Mike McGuire

Sacramento – As extreme wildfire conditions have taken hold across the State of California over the past several years, CalFire has become more reliant on seasonal firefighters to protect communities and save lives than ever before. Over 1,600 men and women have signed up to be seasonal firefighters this season alone.

The importance of these seasonal firefighters has also grown exponentially over the last decade with the loss of 4,000 inmate firefighter positions. And even with the increased importance of these 10-month seasonal firefighter positions, these brave men and women aren't protected under the same workplace laws, or the Firefighter Bill of Rights, as their full-time peers. This is in spite of the fact that seasonal and full-time firefighters perform the same work.

This has now changed with the passage of Sen. Mike McGuire's SB 206. This groundbreaking bill extends workplace protections under the Firefighter Bill of Rights to the 1,600 hard-working seasonal firefighters who are keeping California safe.

"Seasonal firefighters are doing the same back-breaking work as their full-time peers. They put themselves in harm's way fighting the largest wildfires in American history and are on the front lines protecting our communities and saving lives. It's past time for the state to provide equal protections for equal work," Sen. McGuire said.

"We are grateful to Governor Newsom for signing this critical bill and are forever grateful for the hard-working men and women protecting our state from wildfires."

The original Firefighter Bill of Rights, passed in 2007, authorizes key workplace protections for full-time firefighters in the state of California. Seasonal firefighters, who work side by side with their full-time counterparts year after year have not been afforded these basic and crucial protections under the Firefighter Bill of Rights.

Under SB 206, seasonal firefighters, after their first year of working a season, will be included in the protections provided in the Firefighters Bill of Rights.

"California has become more reliant on seasonal firefighters over the last many years as the Golden State's fire season has exploded: in 2020, more than 4 million acres – 4 percent of the land in California – burned in a record-setting year. This bill is a critical step in the right direction to protect seasonal firefighters who are protecting our communities," Sen. McGuire said.

‘Last Night in Soho’

The Story: A supernatural thriller featuring two young women in the Big City working their way through the phonies. Eloise (Thomasin McKenzie) is a wide-eyed innocent studying fashion design in London. Every night, Eloise dreams she’s in a 1960s nightclub in Soho where she’s enchanted by



Dan Essman
Columnist

Sandy (Anya Taylor-Joy), a charismatic, stunningly beautiful, artiste/fashionista. Eloise is a country girl far from home and emotionally struggling, while Sandy is a trophy model of enormous self-confidence. It’s no wonder that at times in her haunted dreams, Eloise is Sandy. Bright lights and dancing, love and sleaze, mystery and horror, it’s all in the movie.

My Thoughts: Director Edgar Wright guides his actors with the pop music of Swinging ‘60s London. That era seems romantic. A better time. Glitzy. Therein is the premise of this flick: Just like today, a young girl has got to watch out because the hustlers and suzz-bags of yesteryear were just hustlers in different clothes. This is a glossy movie with much to enjoy. It is also disarmingly nightmarish.

Parents: Not for children: physical and emotional violence, sex scenes.

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



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Contact Jolee White, whitej@ah.org , 707-963-6588 for more information on job opportunities.

Wednesday, November 10 12 – 6 p.m.

Mendocino Office of Education (MCOE)
2240 Old River Rd., Ukiah

Please plan to provide proof of Covid-19 vaccine or negative test.



Willits P.E.O. handcrafted ornaments for the national Christmas Tree

Submitted by P.E.O., Willits Chapter

Members of Chapter XO, P.E.O. Willits have been busy creating ceramic ornaments for the 2021 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, which will adorn the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. This year, the tree will be harvested from the Six Rivers National Forest in northwestern California to represent the USDA Forest Service and our great state.

Members gathered twice in the month of August to handcraft ornaments to represent Mendocino County, which included fish, redwood trees, grapes and abalone shells. XO member Jennie Jergenson spearheaded the project and by the first of September, the completed ornaments, each measuring 9 inches to 12 inches in size were on their way to Washington D.C. to await the tree decoration process.

P.E.O. is a philanthropic organization for women, which offers educational opportunities through six philanthropies, ownership of Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri, and five additional programs that provide educational assistance. Chapter XO offers a yearly award to a graduating high school senior girl from Willits who is enrolled at an accredited college.

Editor's Note: the 2021 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree stopped in Ukiah on October 31, for a welcome ceremony and event. To see photos from Sunday's festivities at the Pear Tree Center, check the "U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree" page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/USCapitolChristmasTree/posts/4615611878533159

Above: Members of Chapter XO, P.E.O. Willits enjoyed making ceramic Christmas ornaments for the 2021 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. Back row, from left: Iralene Holbrook, Bev O'Ferrall, Pandi Denny, Cindy St. Pierre, Gwen Rasmussen, Marina Kyne, Eria Barr, Kay Wright, Arlane Adamson, and Victoria Petty. Front row, from left: Iris De Boer, Linda Marshall, and Karen Graham. Below: P.E.O. members work on the ornaments for the 2021 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.



P.E.O. Yard Sale

The P.E.O. fundraiser yard sale is set for Saturday, November 6, from 8:30 am to 12 pm, at 63 Northbrook Way, Willits.

Come check out our crafts, household treasures, baked goods, scrubbies, Christmas ornaments and more.

Sponsored by P.E.O. International, Willits Chapter. This is a fundraiser for a local scholarship. We have been awarding this scholarship for the past 15 years, and your continued support is much appreciated. Look forward to seeing you there, weather permitting.



Above, from left: 2021 Arts Champion Corine Pearce; 2021 Arts Champion Blake More; and 2021 Arts Champion Larry Wagner.

Arts Council of Mendocino County announces Arts Champions

Submitted by the Arts Council of Mendocino County

The board of directors of the Arts Council of Mendocino County is pleased to announce the 19th Annual Mendocino County Arts Champion Award recipients. Arts Champions, nominated each year by community members and selected by the Arts Council board, will be formally recognized with a proclamation by the board of supervisors on November 9, 2021.

The 2021 Arts Champions in the following categories are: artist category, **Corine Pearce**; arts organization, **Gualala Arts Center**; business, **Black Oak Coffee**; educator, **Blake More**; individual, **Larry R. Wagner**; honorable mention, **MEDIUM Gallery**.

Corine Pearce, Arts Champion in the artist category, is a basket weaver, herbalist, dancer, and storyteller who has taught classes on basket weaving, traditional uses of native plants, land stewardship, fire ecology, and traditional ecological knowledge for over 25 years. She authored "Pomo Cradle Baskets: An Introduction," and her basketry has been featured in numerous media articles, art galleries, and museum exhibits, including an upcoming collaborative show at the San Francisco de Young Museum (see www.corinepearce.com).

Gualala Arts Center is honored for its years of diverse arts programming, and for rising to the challenges of the pandemic with grace, never abandoning its mission to support and encourage arts in the community of the South Coast. In the words of its nominators: "Gualala Arts implemented online exhibits, outdoor concerts, and kept art alive in our community even during the pandemic," and, "with COVID raging and art centers closing their doors, reimagined itself using low-cost tools to create an online platform, ... dedicated resources to assist artists with the transition to online, [and] shared this acquired knowledge and experience with other arts organizations."

Black Oak Coffee, the 2021 Business Arts Champion, is an award-winning locally owned coffee roaster that has supported more than 100 community organizations making a difference in Mendocino County and beyond. In the words of their nominator: "They offer an inviting and well-visited gallery space free of charge to local artists [and] have hosted gallery shows for advanced art students from Ukiah High School. This is a place that feels like it belongs to the youth as much as anyone else in our community."

Blake More, honoree in the education category, elevates teaching art and poetry to rock-star status for her students. She radiates energy and skill in a head-

spinning number of categories: literary arts, digital media, performing arts, fashion design, clothing construction, and more. She might arrive to lead a Poetry Out Loud workshop in a bedazzled art car, dressed in a handmade costume. She ignites a passion for poetry recitation at the high school level year after year, calling forth the dreams, hopes and feelings of students in classrooms throughout the county in original poetry.

Larry R. Wagner, this year's Arts Champion in the individual patron category, "lives and breathes supporting the arts" according to his nominator. He has been a major donor, supporter and volunteer for the arts since moving to Fort Bragg in 1993. Larry has donated thousands of hours over many years as a professional photographer for numerous local not-for-profit organizations including Symphony of the Redwoods, Mendocino Center for Circus Arts, Flynn Creek Circus, Winesong!, Mendocino Music Festival, and the Mendocino Film Festival.

Wagner has published three volumes on "Artists of the Mendocino Coast," and just completed the design of "Lost and Found: Assemblage Artists of Northern California," presenting the work of eight Mendocino County assemblage artists. He assisted in the development and formation of the Mendocino Promotional Alliance, consulted with the Mendocino Art Center Leadership Team in assuring its survival through the pandemic, and teaches photography classes for MAC and the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens.

MEDIUM Gallery, a new exhibition space in Ukiah that presented its first exhibit, "Prologue," in July 2021, was awarded an honorable mention for the grit, determination, and inclusive vision of its three founders: Chris Pugh (an ACMC board member), Lillian Rubie, and Meredith Hudson. In the words of their community nominator: "This group of Inland Mendo locals worked to achieve their goal of a new community space for artists of all levels and styles to share their work free of charge ... They are engaging the community with thought-provoking calls for entry, and it is great to have a fresh place for more art in Ukiah. The more voices we hear and see, the better!"

The Mendocino County Arts Champion Awards are annually announced in October to coincide with National Arts and Humanities Month, a coast-to-coast celebration of culture in America. For more information about the Mendocino County Art Champion Awards and other Arts Council of Mendocino County programs and services, visit www.artsmendocino.org or call 707-463-2727.

The rest of
Reservoirs | From Page 1

Agreement for emergency-vehicle access

Next was the consideration of a license agreement for an emergency-access route at Primrose Drive to Exley Lane and State Highway 20. Alaniz provided some background information: On March 26, 2019, the board of directors approved a memorandum of understanding with owners on the FirCo Road for an emergency-access route. On September 24, 2019, the board of directors approved an MOU with property owners on the Willits Creek sewer easement for an emergency-access route.

The adopted MOUs protect both the district and property owners, while providing alternate routes for emergency services to respond by in Brooktrails, especially if both lanes of Sherwood Road are being used to evacuate the public in a state of emergency. This agreement mirrors the previously adopted MOUs with the changes to owner names and locations incorporated.

It does not identify the route as a second access to Brooktrails or an alternate transportation route for residents' evacuation use. It establishes that the district has permission from the property owners to use the route for emergency-vehicle access and maintenance. As in any emergency in the county, the sheriff maintains the ability to direct traffic as the situation dictates, and this agreement has no bearing on or relation to that authority.

Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea said: "Thanks go to Counsel Chris Neary and General Manager Alaniz and Supervisor John Haschak for being so proactive and really working on improving our environment in Brooktrails. When we have these emergency-access routes, we are a safer community."

Neary echoed O'Shea's comments and added: "We should really thank our Supervisor Haschak who has done some heavy, silent work here. He's actually met with some of these people [the property owners] and taken them out on the route, and that is a supervisor at work. I am very impressed with Mr. Haschak."

The entire board wholeheartedly agreed with that statement. Following the discussion, Orth made the motion to approve and Horrick seconded the motion. The board then voted unanimously to approve the agreement.

The rest of
Redistricting | From Page 1

any requested changes." Staffers expect this item to start around 1:30 pm.

Commissioners at the October 27 redistricting meeting asked if they were required to send multiple map options, and the short answer was "no."

Those who'd like to see which draft maps commissioners selected for the supervisors to consider, can see them when the agenda is posted for the November 9 BOS meeting. The agenda is posted on Fridays, in this case Friday, November 5, on the "Agendas and Minutes" page at www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors/agendas-and-minutes

The next step is a special BOS meeting on November 18, with approving a final redistricting map on the agenda. Staffers expect this item to start around 1 pm. Then comes the two required meetings to introduce a new ordinance with the approved new district maps, and then to perform the "second reading" of the ordinance, are set for December 7 and 14.

The redistricting timeline published by the county also indicates that November 11, 2021, is the "deadline to publish final map to be considered by the board of supervisors."

To watch the November 9 BOS meeting online, visit Mendocino County's YouTube channel at:

www.youtube.com/c/MendocinoCountyVideo/videos



Funds for the Firehouse

Willits Rotary Club donates over \$23,000 to furnish new Little Lake Firehouse Station 54

Above: The Willits Rotary Club presents a check to the Little Lake Fire Department for \$23,529.20 to help furnish the new firehouse.
At left: Administrative Assistant Michelle Schnitzius, Firefighters Association President Aaron Branscomb, and fire board President Skip Lucier accept a check from the Willits Rotary on behalf of the Little Lake Fire Protection District. The money was raised at the Firehouse Dedication on September 11.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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